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UCD Archives unveils the de Valera collection



4

Alumni honoured at Foundation Day dinner



5

A vision for Human Sciences at UCD



8

UCD's new graduate schools



9-12

Over 4,000 sixth-year students come to December Open Days at UCD

## UCD Horizons Open Days

Over the course of two days, Friday 9 December and Saturday 10 December 2005, over 4,000 Leaving Certificate and mature students descended on the UCD campus to discover more about the new opportunities at UCD and its new modular curriculum: UCD Horizons.

More than 65 information stands with displays and demonstrations were constructed in UCD's O'Reilly Hall to accommodate the five colleges, 35 schools, services and other facilities that now make up the university. Staff, researchers and current students were available at stands to meet with browsing students who wanted to discuss how particular academic disciplines matched their career ambitions.

Visiting students could also attend open talks and Q&A sessions on UCD programmes at various times over the two days. Speaking at one of the open talks, Professor Gerry Doyle, UCD Dean of Undergraduate Studies, encouraged students to consider studying abroad for a semester, and to look at different combinations of subjects in their degree: "With modular programmes the opportunities for international study are greatly improved. The Grade Point Average system makes it easier for students to transfer marks between countries. So they can spend time abroad and return with a clear and specific amount of credit for any study they completed while abroad. With modular programmes students also have the

option of broadening their studies to include, for example, Psychology modules within their Engineering Degree or International Language modules within their Business Degree."

"It makes the learning experience more effective for each individual student", he continued. But as Professor Doyle pointed out, students are not able to choose a completely random set of modules. Rather they select a limited number of free electives to add to their structured degree programme, allowing a broader learning experience.

Sixth-year students at UCD Open Days



# what's inside

**3** Update on UCD's strategic plan/  
New senior appointments  
at UCD

**4** De Valera revealed  
Minister Micheál Martin's  
address at the unveiling of UCD  
Archives' de Valera catalogue

**5** Annual UCD  
Foundation Dinner

**6** An dá thrá a bhfreastal  
le Majella McDonnell

**7** Melanoma prefers males  
Berni Dwan reports on Dr William  
Gallagher's research into why men  
are more likely to develop aggressive  
melanoma than women.

**8** A vision for Human  
Sciences at UCD  
Professor Brigid Laffan has taken  
up her new position as Principal of  
UCD's College of Human Sciences.  
Jane Suiter reports

**9** UCD's new graduate schools  
The establishment of five new  
graduate schools will make UCD the  
'university of choice' for postgraduate  
research and education.

**13** Connecting research  
and industry  
Sigmoid Biotechnologies has teamed  
up with Dr Cormac Taylor's team at  
the UCD Conway Institute to develop  
an enhanced drug delivery system.  
The partnership is supported through  
a Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)  
industry research supplement grant.  
Claire O'Connell reports

**14** Rickard solves cocktail  
party problem  
Dr Scott Rickard talks to  
Sean Duke about his move to  
Ireland and the research which led  
to his SFI President of Ireland  
Young Researcher Award (PIYRA).

**18** Sports scholars announced for  
2005/2006 academic year  
Gavin Cumiskey meets  
Eimear Ni Fhallúin, UCD Sports  
Scholar (handball) and 1st-year  
physiotherapy student.

## UCD Horizons: A greater degree of choice... but how do we let them know?

When we launched UCD Horizons this time last year, we knew, of course, that an enormous amount of work had yet to be completed and that module descriptors would not be ready for months. However, we faced the reality that students must complete their CAO applications by the end of January 2005 and in the absence of full details, they needed some information to explain the core elements of modularisation in order to guide their selection.

One year on, we have successfully enrolled the first intake of students under UCD Horizons but the need to get the message out to this January's applicants remains crucial.

Over the past number of years the number of students listing UCD degrees as their first preference on their CAO forms has been falling. The reasons for this trend are many and varied but they cannot go unchecked.

As curriculum reform and other measures are put into place, a communications plan sets out to tell prospective students and their advisors what we have done - and why. The better their understanding of the changes, the easier it is for them to appreciate the potential benefits.

The Horizons messages are concise and clear:

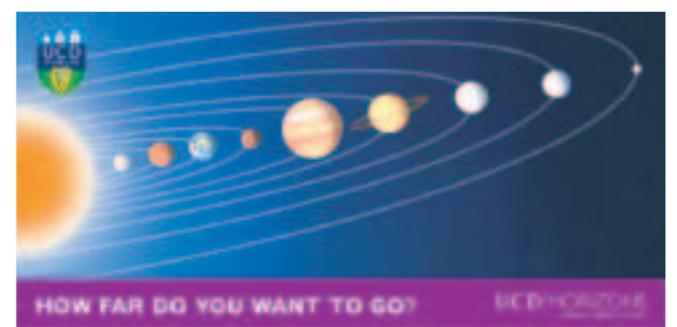
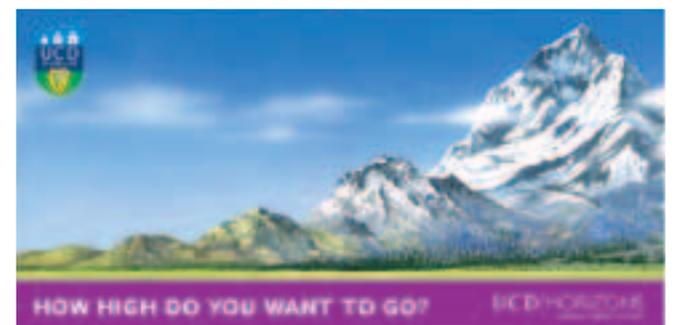
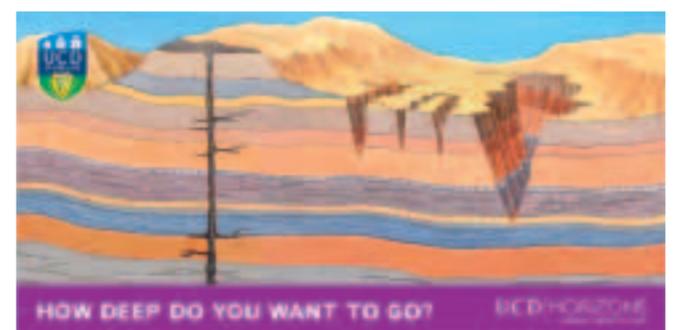
1. There is a new curriculum
2. It offers students greater choice and flexibility
3. The learning experience is ultimately better

Through imagery and strap lines we reinforce the message, inviting prospective students to investigate further and to tailor their choices to their own ambitions.

The advertising provides us with a very effective mechanism to create awareness and positive perceptions in a large market. It aims to prompt students to pick up a prospectus, go to the website, visit the campus on open days and seek advice. Each channel provides a layer of information that helps the students make informed decisions about their CAO choices.

Of course, as modularisation is still evolving, so too is the communications plan. Listening to feedback prompted us to focus on explaining that UCD Horizons is not an à la carte of pick-and-mix modules and that the 10:2 core:elective balance guarantees the academic robustness of the existing degree.

We are also taking time to explain that the choice of elective modules can be to complement a student's core degree or to pursue



an interest for its own sake. Either route is valid, and both outcomes have a value in terms of the learning experience for students.

Undoubtedly we will continue to invite students to ask themselves, *how high, how deep* and ultimately *how far* they wish to go.

Eilis O'Brien  
Director of Communications

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*In the compilation of this publication,  
every care has been taken to ensure  
accuracy. Any errors or omissions should  
be brought to the attention of UCD  
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# 2006

# UCD's Strategic Plan 2005-2008: progress to date

Since the beginning of this academic year, UCD has gone through great change with the introduction of new academic structures and the UCD Horizons curriculum.

This bold new initiative, UCD Horizons, has been a great success. Almost 40% of first year students chose to broaden their learning experience outside of their subject area, while the remainder deepened their knowledge by choosing electives within their field of study. UCD Horizons is creating excitement outside of the university and confirming UCD as Ireland's leading innovator in teaching and learning.

In tandem, we have improved our student services through the introduction of on-line registration for first years, a new central Student Services Desk, a new student email system, new student advisors, extension of library opening hours (now the longest in Ireland) and the provision of out-of-hours reading rooms, and ongoing upgrades to student residences and facilities for clubs and societies.

UCD scholars published well over 1,000 research articles and books during 2005. Research grant applications rose impressively from 685 to 1,074. UCD researchers led the way in such landmark projects as the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training. Major initiatives in children's and ageing research, materials science, informatics and suicide research, to name but a few, are underway.

UCD continues to play a leadership role in the field of innovation and technology transfer. UCD's Applied Neurotherapeutics Group recently received international acclaim for its partnership with Wyeth. The success of this programme was undoubtedly a factor in persuading Wyeth to locate a discovery research group in UCD's Conway Institute.

Our promotions system has been radically overhauled to ensure that we can retain our talented staff at UCD and attract world-class scholars from other institutions. Promotion rounds to Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor and Professor will take place during 2005/2006, and it is our intention to hold these on an annual basis. I hope that the provision of clearer criteria for all promotions, together with published timeframes will assist all staff in planning their career development. Excellence should be the benchmark for everything that we do and we are committed to rewarding it.

The UCD Change Programme continues to be delivered at value for money for the Irish taxpayer. Through the tremendous efforts of UCD staff, the core change programme to date has been delivered for less than 1% of our overall budget. Major investment is needed if we are to compete and win on the increasingly competitive international stage and I am very confident that the commitments made in the recent budget will be honoured.

Key priorities for the coming year include a new recruitment drive, investing in infrastructure, establishing the planned graduate schools to meet the ambitions of 4th Level Ireland and finalising the process of modularising all undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

The 4th Level Ireland initiative, announced by Minister Cowen in his budget speech, represents a unique opportunity for UCD as we are the leading producer of PhD students in Ireland (currently approx 1,700 PhD-track students). It is essential that we rapidly put in place the right physical and structural environment to enable our talent in teaching and research to shine.

**Dr Hugh Brady**  
UCD President

## New senior appointments at UCD

### College Principals:

The following four College Principals have been appointed, and will join Mr Paul Haran, who was appointed Principal of UCD College of Business and Law earlier this year.



### Professor Mary E Daly

PRINCIPAL,  
UCD COLLEGE OF ARTS AND CELTIC STUDIES



### Professor Brigid Laffan

PRINCIPAL,  
UCD COLLEGE OF HUMAN SCIENCES



### Professor Brian McKenna

PRINCIPAL, UCD COLLEGE OF LIFE SCIENCES

### Professor Nick Quirke

PRINCIPAL, UCD COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING,  
MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Professor Owen Lewis will continue to serve as Interim Principal of UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences until Professor Quirke's arrival from Imperial College London during the summer of 2006.

### Other senior appointments:



### Professor Thomas Begley

Professor Thomas Begley has been appointed Dean of the UCD School of Business and with his team will be maintaining and enhancing its international position.



### Dr Marc Caball

Dr Marc Caball, former Director of the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) was appointed Director of the UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland (HII).



### Dr Janet Allen

Dr Janet Allen has been appointed Director of the UCD Conway Institute. Dr Allen joins UCD from Inpharmatica Discovery Biology Laboratories in London where she was Director of Discovery Biology since 2001.



### Professor James Heckman

Professor James Heckman, 2000 Nobel Prize Winner in Economics, has accepted UCD's Professorship of Science and Society.

## De Valera revealed

Speaking at UCD Archives' unveiling of the full de Valera catalogue, historian and Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment, Micheál Martin, stressed how popular perceptions misrepresent the complexity of the man and his place in Irish history.

Eamon de Valera was indisputably one of the defining figures in the creation and building of independent Ireland. He was not just a national figure - but perhaps also the one Irish leader of the last century who was widely known outside of this country. His prominence amongst his contemporaries has been followed by a major part in historical works dealing with his times.

It has long been commented that the Irish have an unusually high interest in debating their politics and history. Unfortunately, one downside of this can be a tendency to seek to overly-personalise debates - often leading to crude stereotyping and the reduction of complex figures to empty caricatures. Where history is popularised without being built on a foundation of diverse and rigorous scholarship, as it often is, what we end up with is not an understanding of our past, but a distorted tale.

It has to be said that in recent decades Eamon de Valera has suffered at the hands of those seeking an easy way of representing the real or imagined problems of his time. He has been an all-purpose vehicle for people wanting to present a bleak narrative of cynical, clerically-dominated and inward-looking politics. To reduce a substantial figure such as de Valera in this way is both absurd and a-historical. The only real answer to this is, of course, scholarship

- and in this the opening of the full archive of de Valera papers represents a major step forward.

The de Valera papers are extensive, and cover many aspects of a varied and distinguished career, here in Ireland and abroad. Nonetheless, there is a certain unity about them, in that they reflect what you could say was Eamon de Valera's great passion: the integrity of the Republic.

In one sense, this passion was rooted in the later nineteenth century, and in the decisive influences which the Home Rule movement and Sinn Féin had on de Valera's thinking. Although these movements are often represented to the contrary, their nationalism was generous and inclusive, always in principle, and often in practice. Of course, it was also a nationalism that was geographical, in the sense that it was equated with the island of Ireland. As such, it was never religious, or racial, and despite de Valera's deep Catholicism, he was always determined that Protestants and other minorities would be recognised as equal citizens in independent Ireland. One particularly clear example of this was his consultation with representatives of these minorities while he was involved in drafting the 1937 constitution.

Along another line, the integrity of the Republic would also be defined by de Valera's foreign policy and, especially, by neutrality. On one level, it is easy to see this policy as one which was driven by anti-British sentiment, as Churchill famously did in 1945. Of course, most modern historians do not see it in these terms. Instead, they focus on a policy which was, in Professor Ronan Fanning's words, the "ultimate expression of Irish independence", in this case, within the international community. A careful balancing between this policy, and other types of international engagements, notably at the League of Nations, and later, at the United Nations, made the point. And over the years, it has given our Republic a status and an integrity which have been at odds with our small size.

It is these kinds of contrasts, in both domestic and international affairs, that make de Valera's career such an interesting and challenging subject. When I myself was a graduate student, but regretfully before these papers were available, I spent some happy times working through some of the complementary collections which are kept at UCD. UCD Archives had only really begun its efforts to develop its now widely-recognised expertise as perhaps the leading repository of 20th century political collections.

Since then, much has happened, especially in the structures which are now available for supporting research. Of crucial importance, of course, has been the establishment of the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences which, as Minister for Education and Science, I set up in 1998.

It was astonishing that until 1998 Ireland did not have any serious mechanism to support an area of research which is so central to our intellectual development and cultural understanding. Now, the Council has an annual budget of €8 million and funds a number of different research activities.

The new era in research which is now underway has, through the PRTL and SFI in particular, seen nothing less than a revolution in the level and quality of research funding and outputs from our universities. Much of this is obviously concentrated in the sciences - but at all stages we have ensured that the humanities and social sciences have benefited. The reason for this is clear - you simply cannot have world-class universities, or a sustainable world-class economy, without intellectual diversity and social enquiry.

*A presentation copy of the de Valera catalogue was presented to Mr. Micheál Martin TD at Newman House on 30 November 2005. Pictured at the presentation are Caoimhin O'Laoidé, OFM and Mr. Micheál Martin TD*





From the Archives: Eamon de Valera with Jacqueline Kennedy, Washington May 1964

I am personally very proud of the fact that we have ended the situation of past times, where research students of history, as in so many other subjects, had to go abroad or undertake an unreasonable teaching load in order to obtain funding for their research.

As the support for research has expanded, so has the willingness of the state to participate in the commemoration of our past. The commemorations, first, of the Great Famine, and more recently of the 1798 and 1803 rebellions, gave our historians and literary critics opportunities to look back on issues which have shaped the memory of the past, and to discuss those issues in an informed way.

The Taoiseach has recently announced that the Government will soon put in place a similar committee to mark the 1916 rebellion, and the circumstances in which our Republic was founded. No country should be afraid of its past. In the nature of things, however, history and memory never sit still. They are often distorted as much by the selected realities of the present, as by the selective interpretation of



From the Archives: Eamon de Valera at Richmond Barracks, 1916

the past. It is not for nothing that historians sometimes end up being assigned, or indeed assigning themselves to "schools" or towards labels. All this reflects the healthy state of academic life.

It has been argued that our intentions relating to commemorating 1916 are inappropriate or party-political. Exactly the opposite is the case. Only by the state taking a lead in ensuring a diverse and suitable commemoration can we avoid our history being taken over by the self-appointed guardians of that history. The people of this country are proud that it exists and of the persons who helped create it. If we step back from commemoration, and allow others to manipulate this pride, then our history is more a prisoner of party-politics than it has ever been. What we need is an open-minded and generous approach to commemoration - which serves as a catalyst to greater understanding as

well as an outlet for people to demonstrate their appreciation. This is what the Taoiseach's proposal will do and I believe it should be welcomed by people of good-will.

The opening of this archive in a fully accessible form is a significant event in the study of de Valera's times. When he signed the act which enabled our membership of the European Economic Community, he epitomised an Ireland which could sit comfortably in international halls and help shape the wider world of which we are now an active part. It was the same type of self-confidence and generosity which would lead us towards the Good Friday Agreement and towards the celebration of a republicanism which, in objective terms, placed the integrity of the citizen at the heart of our island, and of the various communities which make up our island.

## UCD School of History and Archives

Dr Michael Laffan is the Head of the UCD School of History and Archives. With almost 30 full-time academic staff, the school is able to offer a wide range of undergraduate modules - in Irish and European history from the fifth century to the present day, and in American, Australian and Asian history from the eighteenth century onward. The school currently has over 1,000 students taking history modules in undergraduate programmes. At postgraduate level the school has over 130 diploma, masters and doctoral students, and offers the only professional education of archivists in Ireland.

The UCD Archives' acquisition policy centres on political private papers of individuals who were active in the revolutionary and post-independence periods of modern Irish history. A developing relationship with the Order of Friars Minor has resulted in the transfer of papers from the Franciscan Library Killiney to the Archives, as well as a renowned collection of Irish-language manuscripts. The wide range of material held by Archives can be seen on the website at [www.ucd.ie/archives](http://www.ucd.ie/archives).

As well as engaging in individual research, members of the School are active in existing or planned projects such as the Dictionary of Irish Biography, the Mícheál Ó'Cléirigh Institute, the Irish States Project, the Centre for the History of the Media and the Centre for the History of the Body.

## Former President of Ireland, Dr Paddy Hillery, honoured at UCD Foundation Day Dinner

Pictured at the UCD Foundation Day dinner were, left to right: Dr Paddy Hillery; Mrs Maeve Hillery; Dr Hugh Brady and Dr Michael Smurfit



On Friday 4 November UCD's annual Foundation Day Dinner was held to mark the foundation of the Catholic University in 1854, the antecedent of University College Dublin. The event brought together over 600 UCD friends and alumni from politics, business, education, religion and sport, for a celebratory evening at O'Reilly Hall.

The highlight of the evening was the awarding of the UCD Foundation Day medal, which was presented to former President of Ireland, Dr Paddy Hillery. Speaking of Dr Hillery, the president of UCD, Dr Hugh Brady, said that UCD was singing a belated song to a too-long-unsung hero of modern Ireland - as well as an outstanding UCD alumnus.

As Minister for Education (1959-1965) Dr Hillery set up the Commission on Higher Education whose report, Investment in Education (1965), was a landmark in shaping Irish education for the rest of the 20th century. His comprehensive schools initiative (1963) achieved a vision of equality of educational opportunity by offering both academic and applied subjects open to all pupils within a 10-mile radius.

### Awards for outstanding achievements

In a new addition to the UCD Foundation Day format, awards were given to two young graduates for outstanding achievements in their



Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin (BSc) and Brian Dooher (MVB) both received UCD Foundation Day awards for outstanding achievements in 2005

fields. The awards were presented to Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, the 2005 Rose of Tralee, who was recently conferred with her first-class honours BSc degree in Theoretical Physics, and who is a passionate advocate of the study of science at third-level, and to Brian Dooher (MVB 1998), Tyrone Gaelic football Captain, and winner of a Sigerson Cup medal for UCD in 1996.

# An dá thrá á bhfreastal

Mac léinn le staidéar an airgeadais agus na hachtúireachta is ea Majella Mac Donnell a thug faoin modúlú le díograis i mbliana. D'éirigh léi scoláireacht iontrála de chuid na hOllscoile a bhaint amach mar aon le háit ar Scéim Chónaithe Ghaeilge Bhord na Gaeilge UCD



Mic léinn ó Scéim Chónaithe Bhord na Gaeilge UCD. Majella Mc Donnell, an chéad bhean ón mbarr, ar chlé

Is iomaí duine a chreideann gur ag cinn difriúla an speictream scolaíochta atá an Ghaeilge agus an mhataimic. Tagaim féin leis sin go deimhin: is fada na figiúirí ó na Fianna. Chuaigh sé dian orm a chreidiúint, dá bhrí sin, go raibh córas nua ceaptha a ligfeadh dom dhá speis de mo chuid a thabhairt liom san Ollscoil. Réabhlóid oideachasúil a bhí i 'UCD Horizons' a cheadaigh domsa is do go leor daoine eile cúrsaí uathúla ilghnéitheacha a dheardh dúinn féin.

Chláraigh mise sa chéim Achtúireachta i mbliana le Scoil na nEolaíochtaí Matamaitice UCD. Is amhlaidh go raibh luí agam riamh le huimhreacha is le cúrsaí loighce, agus d'fháig sin gur rogha réidh agam an cúrsa sin. Ach céard faoi mo phaisean eile...mo dhúil sna teangacha? De thoradh an chórais nua

mhodúlaithe in UCD, áfach, chuaigh agamsa modúl amháin a roghnú sa Nua-Ghaeilge laistigh de Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh, Bhéaloideas Éireann, agus na Teangeolaíochta, UCD agus modúl eile sa Fhraincis laistigh de Scoil na na dTeangacha na Litríochta agus na Scannánaíochta UCD. D'éirigh liom an dá thrá a fhreastal. Bíodh is nach sórt Jekyll agus Hyde atá ionam, tá claonta contrártha neamhchosúla i m'intinn istigh. Is féidir an dá thaobh díom a shásamh agus a shaothrú anois: rang matamaitice ar maidin, rang Gaeilge um thráthnóna.

Cuid an-mhór dem' shaol Ollscoile is ea an Ghaeilge dar ndóigh. Bhí sé d'ádh orm i mbliana scoláireachtaí a ghnóthú ar Scéim Chónaithe Ghaeilge Bhord na Gaeilge UCD, scéim a thugann lóistín do mhic léinn ar champas a

bhfuil an Ghaeilge ar a dtoil acu agus atá gníomhach i gcur chun cinn na teanga. Cónaím in aontíos le cúigear mac léinn déag eile; cuid acu ar chainteoirí dúchais iad agus cuid eile (mise cur i gcás!) nach ea. Bíonn cairdeas agus craic an-mhaith eadrainn féin agus bíonn muid gníomhach in imeachtaí Gaelacha a eagrú ar champas. D'eagraigh triúr againn tráth na gceist dátheangach le déanaí agus bhí an-spórt againn. Seasann an scéim go mór liom sa mhéid is go mbíonn breis ama agam a bheith rannpháirteach i saol na hOllscoile trí chéile: scríobhaim alt Gaeilge do nuachtán na mac léinn, mar shampla, agus is mór agam an scríbhneoireacht chruthaitheach agus an ceol. Bhuaigh mé duais i gcomórtas gearrscéalaíochta de chuid Oireachtas na Gaeilge le déanaí agus táim ag ullmhú faoi láthair do chomórtas idirnáisiúnta piano (AXA Dublin). Murach an scéim, bheinn i mo staic fhuar ag stad an bhus lá i ndiaidh lae agus uaireanta luachmhara ligtha agam dá bharr.

Tá mé ag baint spraoi as saol na hOllscoile. Toisc 'UCD Horizons' a bheith ina scéim nuashalaithe, is rídheacair a bhfuil i ndán di a mheas ach b'aobheann liom leanúint de na modúil Ghaeilge is Fhraincise atá idir lámhe agam faoi láthair. Ní heol dom go fóill an mbeidh sé sin indéanta ach go deimhin, chuirfinn fáilte an -gheal roimh a 'bhfaoiseamh' ó uimhreacha mearbhlacla na matamaitice!

Tá tuilleadh eolas ar sheirbhísí an Bhoird le fáil ó: Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Oifigeach Gaeilge ag ríomhphost: [oifigeach.gaeilge@ucd.ie](mailto:oifigeach.gaeilge@ucd.ie), suíomhidirlín: [www.ucd.ie/bnag](http://www.ucd.ie/bnag)

Majella Mc Donnell is a first year student of Actuarial and Financial studies in the UCD School of Mathematical Sciences who has embraced modularisation. She was awarded a UCD entrance scholarship as well as a place on the Bord na Gaeilge Irish language student residence scheme.

A multi-talented student, Majella admits to having two halves. Thanks to modularisation, her aptitude for both languages and mathematics is being cultivated. Majella is one of the 16 students chosen to participate on the Bord na Gaeilge Irish Language Student Residence Scheme. She and her housemates in 'Teach na Gaeilge' have been instrumental in organising many cultural events throughout the year. Majella herself is a welcome addition to the scheme, as she has already been awarded numerous prizes for journalism and creative writing. When she is not 'learning about figures or the Fianna', she is practising piano for the AXA Dublin International Piano competition.

Further details of Bord na Gaeilge services are available from Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Irish Language Officer, Email: [oifigeach.gaeilge@ucd.ie](mailto:oifigeach.gaeilge@ucd.ie), website: [www.ucd.ie/bnag](http://www.ucd.ie/bnag)

## UCD PhD student wins RIA/ Irish Times chemistry essay competition

An Italian scientist and former UCD PhD student has won the Royal Irish Academy / Irish Times Prize for Young Chemists 2004. Dr Manuela Tosin won the prize with her essay on the sugar structures that support the complex interactions between living cells.

Dr Tosin began her PhD research at UCD under the supervision of Dr Paul Murphy, UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, in the area of 'carbohydrate chemistry'. The aim of her PhD research was to create sugar molecules that could interact with protein receptors in a specific way, to trigger a specific type of signalling.

On completion of her doctorate, Dr Tosin entered the Royal Irish Academy competition, which is sponsored by The Irish Times and AGB Scientific. Winning the competition enables



Dr Tosin to go forward to compete for an international prize for young chemists, sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

## Honorary MSc awarded

Mr John Moran was awarded an honorary MSc (de jure officii) on 8 December. Mr Moran joined the staff of UCD in 1955 and took early retirement from Botany on 31 December 2004. Throughout his career he provided sustained and excellent service to Botany, to generations of academic and postgraduate researchers and

to undergraduates for the mycology courses. His promotion to Section Head Technician in Botany on 1 April 2003 recognised the excellence of his technical skills in mycology and the broad supervisory role he played in Botany.

Mr John Moran pictured with Dr Hugh Brady



# Melanoma prefers males

Dr William Gallagher of UCD's Conway Institute has been investigating why men are more likely to develop aggressive melanoma than women. Berni Dwan (BA 1981) reports.

**Malignant melanoma is one of the most dangerous forms of skin cancer, and the importance of Irish-based research for an Irish population cannot be overestimated since pale or fair-skinned, fair or red-haired, and blue-eyed people are at highest risk according to the Irish Cancer Society.**

Another interesting observation is that men appear more likely than women to develop a more aggressive type of melanoma - something that has been the focus of concerted research in the UCD Conway Institute. The resulting new scientific evidence explaining why this is so was recently published in the journal *Carcinogenesis*.

The research led by Dr William Gallagher, Senior Lecturer in the UCD School of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science and the UCD Conway Institute, may have found 'a molecular clue' to the commonly-held belief that men are not only more likely to develop melanoma but that it tends to be more aggressive. The clue is found in the gene TSPY, which is turned off by a chemical process, which is in turn linked to aggressive forms of melanoma. TSPY is found only on the male Y chromosome, and consequently may represent a novel marker for gender-specific aspects of melanoma progression.

The *Carcinogenesis* paper also describes how Gallagher's team has slowed tumour growth by treating skin cancer cells with DAC (2'-deoxy-

5-azacytidine), which reactivates the TSPY gene along with another group of melanoma markers being studied.

Gallagher's team, which primarily focuses on melanoma and breast cancer, is trying to identify potential biological markers that could flag aggressive forms of melanoma. Following the use of GeneChip technology, their work has now focused on 66 genes that undergo changes as a melanoma moves from a non-aggressive to an aggressive state. They have discovered that a common feature among a significant percentage of these genes is that they have been chemically altered by a process called DNA methylation.

Gallagher, who obtained a PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the Cancer Research UK Beatson Laboratories in Glasgow and received the BACR/AstraZeneca Young Scientist Frank Rose Award in 2004 explains, "We are planning to expand on the technology to look at a set of 250 formalin-fixed clinical melanoma samples. It will be a challenge though, since this archival material is usually quite degraded. But if we can get it working, we will be able to test a huge number of different samples."

Dr Gallagher is collaborating with Spanish scientist Dr Manel Esteller, Director of the Epigenetics Laboratory at the Spanish National Cancer Center (CNIO) and an expert in DNA methylation.



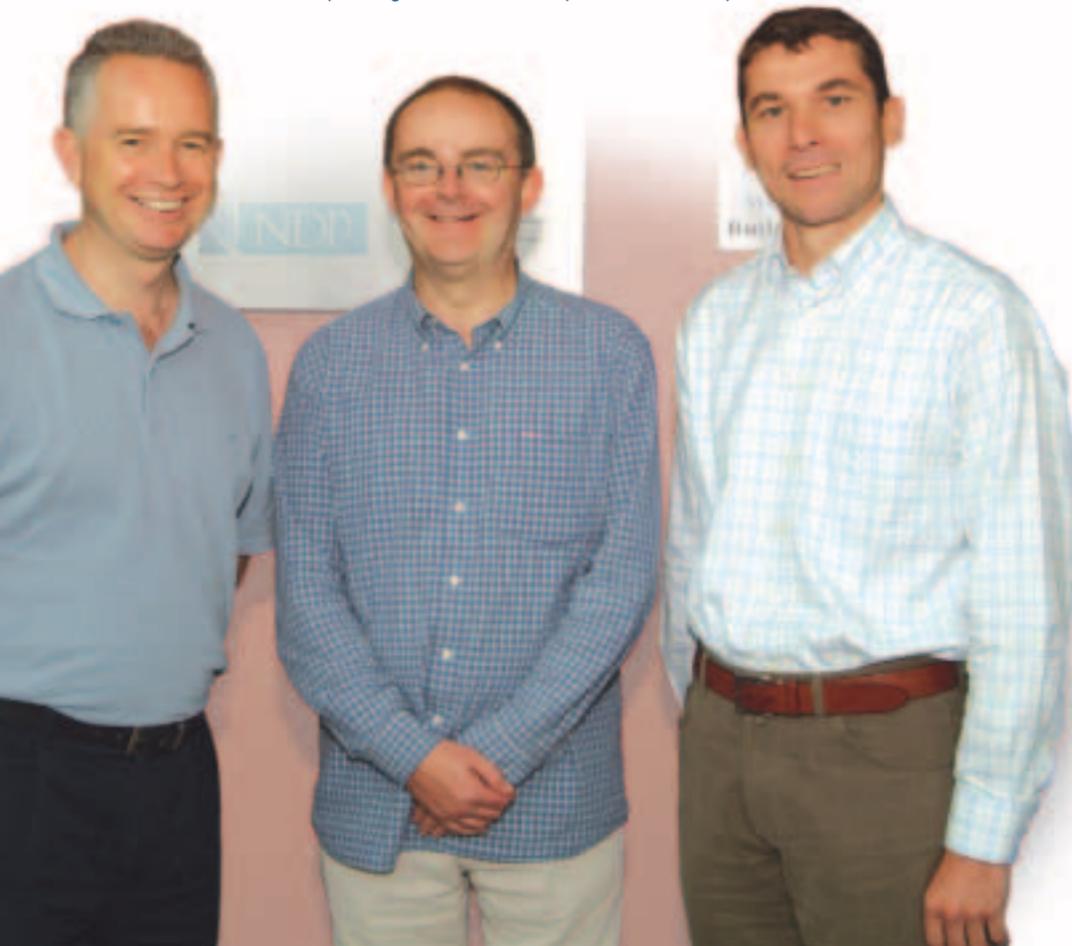
*Dr William Gallagher*

"Some of the genes that we are looking at have been shown previously to have a functional relevance in tumour development and progression, and one gene in particular is already being used in a gene therapy protocol - a melanoma differentiation-associated gene called MDA7. It has been used in clinical trials before as a tumour suppressor gene and is turned off during melanoma development."

"Not only has this research work formed the basis of a submitted patent application, but licence and research agreements have also been signed between UCD and OncoMethylome Sciences, a US-based biotechnology company focused on cancer diagnostics", concludes Dr. Gallagher.

# Two international economics conferences held at UCD

*European Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics Series Organisers Prof Andrew Jones (left); Dr Owen O'Donnell (right) and Dr David Madden (local organiser, UCD School of Economics, middle)*



*Plenary speakers at the European Trade Study Group (from left) Prof Ron Jones (Rochester); Prof Elhanan Helpman (Harvard); Prof Peter Neary (UCD School of Economics and chair of the local organizing committee)*

Last September the UCD School of Economics was host to two prestigious conferences on the international calendar. The first of these, the largest-ever conference in international trade, was the seventh annual conference of the European Trade Study Group, held in the Newman Building from 8-10 September 2005. Over 250 delegates from Auckland to Zaragoza listened to a packed programme of plenary and contributed sessions over two and a half days. The event was organized by the UCD Geary Institute with generous support from both the UCD School of Business and the UCD School of Economics.

Later the same month, the UCD School of Economics hosted the 14th European Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics.

## Retirement of Dr Terence Grimes



*Dr Terence Grimes, BVetMed, PhD, DVR, DvOphthal, DECVO, MRCVS*

**Dr Terence Grimes, one of UCD's longest-serving staff members, retired in November 2004 but continued in his teaching role until the end of the academic year.**

Dr Grimes was employed by UCD as a College Lecturer in the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacology, Veterinary College of Ireland, UCD in 1967. A graduate of the Royal Veterinary College, Dr Grimes was one of the first recipients of the Diploma in Veterinary Radiology of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. However, it was ophthalmology that was his interest and passion for the rest of his professional life. He became a diplomat of both the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists.

Terry taught medicine and ophthalmology to veterinary undergraduates. Most will remember his characteristic style and enthusiasm for his subject. He played a significant external role in supporting the Irish Guide Dog Association for the Blind from 1970, where he conducted examinations twice yearly on guide dogs and young puppies to see if they were suitable for future guide dog work. Terry also completed several visits and exchanges abroad, where he taught undergraduate students in universities in the USA, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia.

Terry has made a lifetime contribution to veterinary medicine in Ireland. Colleagues and students acknowledge his expertise and knowledge, a world specialist in large animal ophthalmology and recognise the contribution he has made to veterinary medicine.

However, that booming laugh will continue to reverberate around the clinic corridors... as Terry will complete weekly ophthalmology clinics in the UCD Veterinary Hospital.

## A vision for Human Sciences at UCD

Jane Suiter (BA 1989) meets Professor Brigid Laffan, who was recently appointed Principal of UCD's College of Human Sciences.

It is easy to see why Professor Brigid Laffan was appointed Principal of UCD's new College of Human Sciences. Sitting in her office in a corner of the Arts block she is obviously brimming with ideas and enthusiasm for the job, yet she also brings a capacity for serial multi-tasking and administrative control and a reputation for success whether in public campaigning for Europe or institution building.

Professor Laffan is only a few months into the five-year job, yet her first ideas for the development of Human Sciences are already sitting on her desk. Plans include a new graduate school to attract large numbers of new doctoral and post-doctoral scholars, attracting significantly more funding into the Human Sciences and ensuring UCD enables academics to do their very best teaching and research.

The task is a huge one. The new UCD College of Human Sciences is UCD's second largest and is responsible for almost a fifth of all the university's students. It has a large number of undergraduate students, masters' students, professional courses and outreach programmes in the community. It encompasses the UCD Schools of Applied Social Science; Economics; Education and Lifelong Learning; Geography,

Planning and Environmental Policy; Information and Library Studies; Philosophy; Politics and International Relations; Psychology; Social Justice; and Sociology.

Professor Laffan appears to relish the challenge. She is no stranger to institution building, having set up UCD's highly regarded MA in European Studies in 1996 as well as the Dublin European Institute in 1999. Indeed it is this focus on the global that really energises Professor Laffan, the former Jean Monet professor of European Politics. "Already UCD has seen major change. When I arrived in 1989 I was the first non-UCD person in the politics department, having completed my PhD in Trinity. Now there are seven nationalities in that school." She is also a board member of the Institute for European Affairs and the Government's Asia Strategy High Level Group as well as the National Economic and Social Council.

**"Already UCD has seen major change. When I arrived in 1989 I was the first non-UCD person in the politics department... now there are seven nationalities in that school"**

For now, she is obviously relishing the challenge of getting the new college up and running, and has spent most of her time simply "listening" and talking to people in all the different areas. She has also been compiling a report of all research undertaken in the Human Sciences over the past five years. A bulky folder sits on her desk. Gathering the information has helped her to identify core areas of excellence across the schools. These are public policy and governance, human values and human behaviour and broad processes and patterns of social change at all levels from the mainly local and national to the global.

Her focus, she says, is to ensure that the college works to its research strengths and that there is further innovation in teaching and learning. "We need to position Human Sciences in the university and deepen our strengths by hiring in focused areas. Our collaboration with the UCD Geary Institute will also help."

The overall goal, however, is good scholarship. "Quality matters. It is important for academics to have an international and not just a national frame of reference and to publish in their field in high quality journals. At the end of the day we need international benchmarks, academics should give papers at important conferences and act as externs for good universities. After all we live in an internationalising world and it is becoming much more international especially in terms of the academic jobs market."

She points out that the Irish academic community is quite small. "I think we will see more cooperation down the line with different universities offering joint courses."

In the meantime she looks forward to the opening of UCD's new graduate schools next September. "Irish universities were originally designed to train and educate large numbers of undergraduates. Now as the OECD has pointed out, the emphasis has moved to include the doctoral level. Our new college will offer courses in quantitative and qualitative techniques as well as philosophy of the social sciences while also allowing students to avail of the myriad of courses in our masters programmes."

She will also be ensuring that as many students and staff as possible apply for and win funding under the IRCHSS and under the 6th and 7th framework programmes in the EU. "The amounts available are far better but do need to be enhanced further," she argues. "Even small amounts can make a really big difference to us; research in the Human Sciences is not as expensive as the life sciences."

There will also be a focus on teaching and Professor Laffan wants all courses delivered to the highest pedagogical standards. The School of Education and Lifelong Learning is very involved in giving seminars and workshops as well as running a certificate and diploma in teaching. Innovative teaching, she says, is a challenge with a very broad mix of students as up to 20 per cent of students in social science come from non-traditional backgrounds.

Her own rise has been meteoric. An academic since she was 22, Professor Laffan arrived in UCD as a Newman Scholar in 1989 and has moved onwards rapidly. Even now she insists that she will be in this job for five years only. "I probably will not want to leave in five years' time but I will."

She is also insistent that she will not be giving up on her research entirely and she is planning to block off a day a week to concentrate on her five PhD students and to finish off her most recent book. In between times her husband and three children will keep her grounded.



# UCD graduate schools: developing 4th level at UCD



The introduction of five new UCD graduate schools, and the appointment of five graduate school directors, will provide a framework to support and enhance the existing international reputation of UCD's postgraduate and researcher training. The implementation of these graduate schools, which is sponsored by the office of the UCD Vice-President for Research, will be led by Project Director, Professor Michael P. Ryan, Dean of Doctoral Studies and Postdoctoral Training.

## 4th level

The Irish Government's recent statement on its commitment to the establishment of 4th Level Ireland indicates the national imperative to provide innovative programmes for postgraduate and researcher training of international status. The 4th Level Ireland initiative, together with the acknowledgment that the intellectual capital provided by institutions of higher education was the single greatest contributor to Ireland's current prosperity, highlights the way for future developments in the Irish education sector.

UCD is leading the way with the introduction of five new graduate schools - one within each college - which will have students enrolled by September 2006. They will work with the schools in each college to coordinate, facilitate and add value to existing and new post-graduate programmes.

This ambitious and farsighted approach to structured 4th level training will play a critical role in UCD achieving its ambition of becoming a top research-intensive university. The graduate schools will also be closely linked with the appropriate research institutes.

## Making UCD the university of choice

A key objective of the graduate schools is to establish the UCD PhD as a premier research training programme of international repute, making UCD 'the university of choice' for postgraduate research and education, and attracting scholars of the highest international standing. Central to this is achieving consistency in the professionalisation of UCD PhD training and development in every area of the university. By adopting a programmatic approach for modular taught elements, the graduate schools will coordinate the provision of novel, innovative programmes for postgraduate and researcher training.

The guiding principles of lifelong learning, interdisciplinarity, career guidance, diversity and internationalism, together with the establishment of social, cultural and economic linkages with external stakeholders will be fundamental to the development of the graduate schools. A focus on interaction with external employment sectors, work experience, and the provision of generic transferable skills (e.g. communication, publishing, research methods and ethics, career development, business and entrepreneurial skills) to all scholars, will be a key part of the graduate school programmes. The development of transferable skills is essential as at least 7 out of 10 PhD students contribute to society in ways other than through academia. Postdoctoral training will also be addressed by developing a researcher career structure.

## Inter-institutional and international collaborations

The UCD graduate schools programme will also foster the establishment and development of postgraduate and postdoctoral collaborative programmes and exchange arrangements with other institutions in Ireland and with leading universities throughout the world.

## Student-focused

To align the governance of postgraduate education and training, UCD will develop a range of improved support services, facilities and infrastructure, in conjunction with the development of the graduate schools. These structures will allow for new measures in the areas of recruitment, selection and registration and the development of scholarships, external partnerships and incentives - all contributing to making UCD the university of choice for 4th level training.



# Professor Michael P. Ryan Dean of Doctoral Studies & Postdoctoral Training

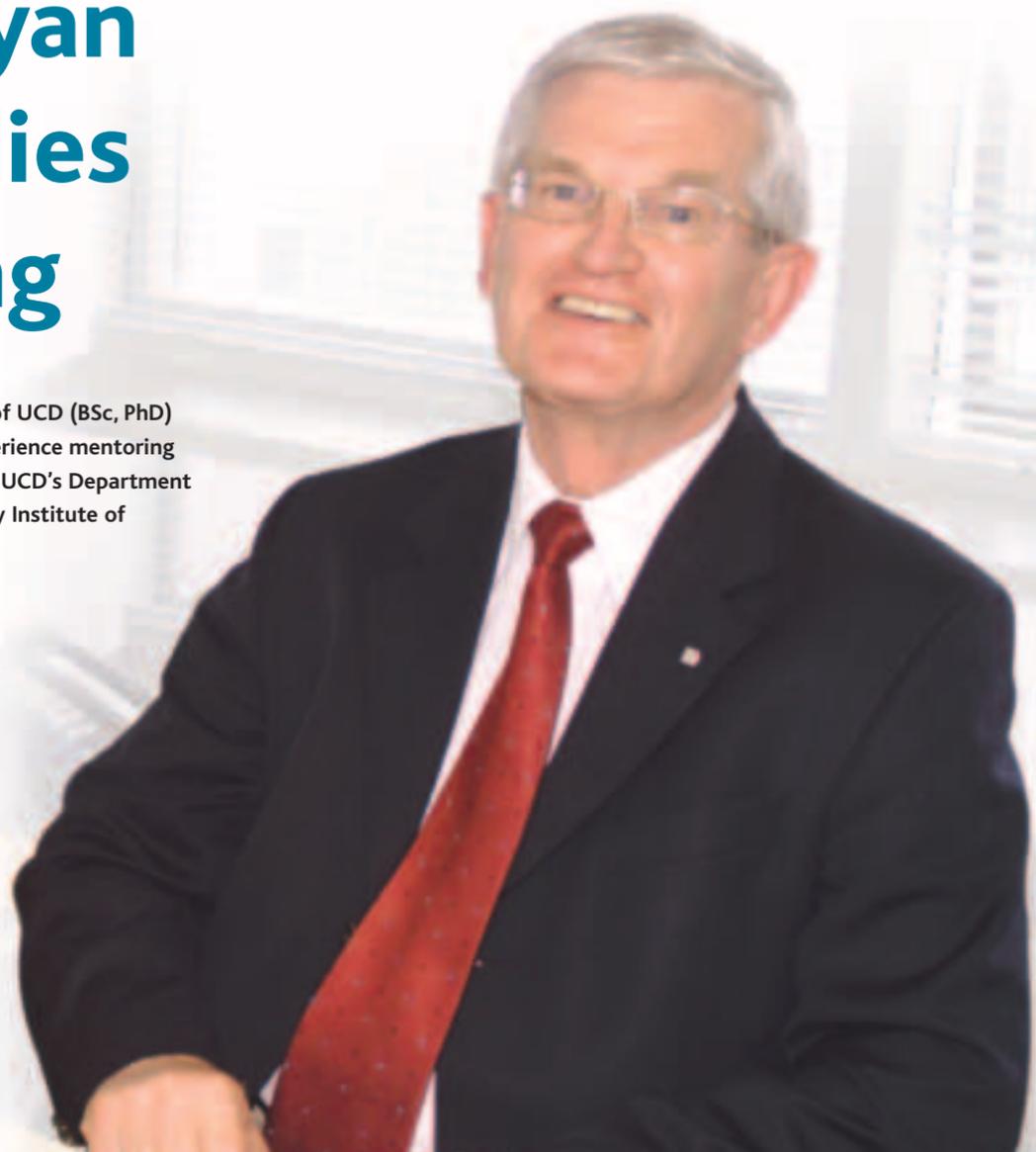
Professor Michael P. Ryan is Dean of Doctoral Studies and Postdoctoral Training at UCD. A graduate of UCD (BSc, PhD) Professor Ryan undertook his postdoctoral studies at York University, Toronto. He has extensive experience mentoring undergraduates, postgraduates and postdoctoral fellows. As Professor of Pharmacology and Head of UCD's Department of Pharmacology from 1991 to 2005, he was one of the initiators and promoters of the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research.

Professor Ryan continues to lead a large research group of postdoctoral fellows and postgraduate research students in the UCD Conway Institute with extensive competitive funding from Irish and international agencies including the EU 6th Framework Programme (three projects currently funded).

Professor Ryan is Chairman of the Irish Medicines Board (IMB) Pre-Clinical Advisory Committee and is a member of the External Scientific Advisory Committee to European Centre for Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM), Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy. He is also on the board of St. Luke's Hospital Cancer Research Institute; the Scientific and Medical Research Advisory Committee of

Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children Crumlin; the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI); and the Board of the Office of Tobacco Control and was involved in the introduction of the smoking ban in work places in Ireland. He is a former President of the Irish Society of Toxicology, and former Chairman of the Irish Association of Pharmacologists.

The Dean is working with the directors of the graduate schools in the five colleges to implement the UCD Graduate School Programme across all areas of the university. This group will also be developing postdoctoral training and career development programmes for postdoctoral fellows in UCD.



# UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies Graduate School

The UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies Graduate School will recognise both the key role that leading individual scholars play in research and in directing doctoral and postdoctoral students and the potential to expand the exciting programmes of team-led, multi-disciplinary research that are coming to the fore in humanities research.

Within the eight schools of the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies (Archaeology; Art History and Cultural Policy; Classics; English and Drama; History and Archives; Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics; Languages, Literatures and Film; Music) there is a diversity of disciplines and fields of research covering the full range of the humanities. The College has very close links with a number of UCD's Research Institutes. The Humanities Institute of Ireland, The Clinton Institute for American

Studies, The Global Irish Institute and The O'Leirigh Institute are focused on multi-disciplinary research programmes which revolve around doctoral and postdoctoral research. The UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies research programmes demonstrate its established reputation as a world leader in the study and understanding of the richness, complexity and diversity of peoples, cultures and identities in Ireland from earliest times to the present day. This is complemented by a research focus on North America and Europe with the study of the Irish diaspora providing an important link between these areas. The College is the most distinguished community of humanities scholars in Ireland and has a diverse and internationally important range of archival and library collections covering a range of disciplines.

# Professor Gabriel Cooney

The Director of the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies Graduate School, Professor Gabriel Cooney, served as Head of the UCD Department of Archaeology from 2001 to 2004 (now the UCD School of Archaeology). He was elected a Member of the Royal Irish Academy in 2004. During 2004-5 he was an IRCHSS Government of Ireland Senior Research Fellow. He is a member of the editorial board of the journal *World Archaeology*. Professor Cooney leads a research programme within the PRTL-funded Humanities Institute of Ireland on material culture and memory and also plays a leading role in two of the UCD School of Archaeology's research clusters.



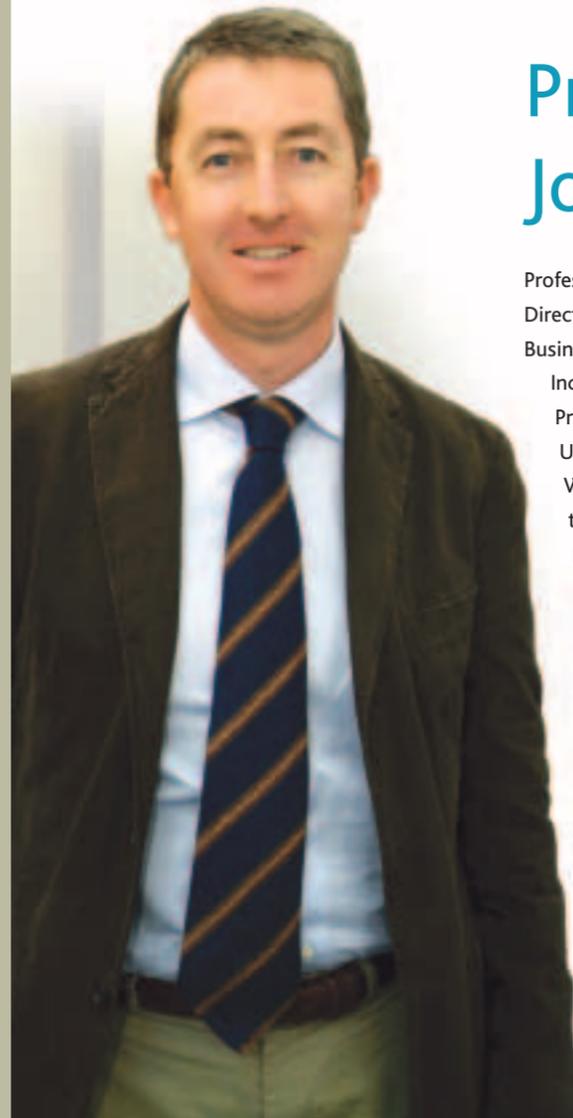
# UCD College of Business and Law Graduate School

The UCD College of Business and Law embraces two schools, the UCD School of Business and the UCD School of Law. The UCD School of Business is Ireland's premier business school and enjoys an international reputation of the highest standards. The UCD School of Business is comprised of an undergraduate school, the UCD Quinn School of Business on the Belfield campus, and the UCD Michael Smurfit School of Business in Blackrock where taught and research postgraduate studies are conducted. The UCD School of Business consists of six main subject areas: Accountancy; Banking and Finance; Industrial Relations and Human Resources; Management; Management Information Systems; and Marketing. The UCD School of Business has over 3,000 students, a third of which are engaged in postgraduate study.

A range of postgraduate degrees are provided including taught programmes such as the Master of Business Administration, Master of

Business Studies, Master of Accounting, Master of Quantitative Finance, as well as two research-based degrees, the Doctor of Philosophy (Commerce) Degree (PhD) and the Master of Commerce (MComm.).

The UCD School of Law is the largest and most richly diversified law school in Ireland and currently has over 1,000 students. A new building is under construction to facilitate the expansion in postgraduate education. It has a full-time teaching faculty of 30. It hosts the Irish Centre for Commercial Law Studies and the Institute for Criminology. The UCD School of Law offers two taught postgraduate degrees, the Master of Laws in Commercial Law and the Master of Laws in European Law. There is also a Master of Laws by Research (LLM). The Law School also contributes to a range of interdisciplinary postgraduate degrees offered in other UCD colleges. The School of Law offers two doctoral degrees, the Doctor of Laws (LLD) and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).



## Professor John Geary

Professor John Geary MA, D.Phil (Oxon.) is Director of Doctoral Studies at the College of Business and Law. He is Associate Professor of Industrial Relations and Human Resources. Professor Geary holds a doctorate from the University of Oxford and worked at Warwick Business School prior to coming to UCD. He was Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence (2001-2002). Professor Geary has published widely in leading international journals and books across a range of topics, including developments in Irish and European employment relations, labour law, work organisation, employee voice, and industrial relations and HRM practices in multinational companies.

# UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences Graduate School

The UCD Graduate School of the College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences caters for over 840 graduate students, two thirds of which are enrolled on research programmes and the remainder on taught programmes. The programmes are centred around a wide variety of activities spanning basic, strategic and applied research from the diverse range of disciplines covered by the Schools of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering; Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering; Computer Science and Informatics; Geological Sciences; Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering; Mathematical Sciences and the School of Physics. Underpinned by the

recent success of initiatives such as NIBRT and by an excellent track record in attracting significant SFI, European and industrial funding to support the many research activities within the College including ICT, Energy and Materials research, the UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences will continue to promote excellence in postgraduate training. The range of interdisciplinary taught Masters programmes now available within the college and initiatives such as the Computer Science and Informatics structured PhD programme, mean that the graduate school is ideally placed to offer innovative 4th level training programmes.

## Dr. Julie Berndsen

Dr. Julie Berndsen, Director of the UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences Graduate School, is Senior Lecturer at the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics. She received her BA in German and Mathematics from Trinity College Dublin in 1986 and her PhD from the University of Bielefeld in 1993. She then worked as a *wissenschaftliche Assistentin* (assistant professor) at the University of Bielefeld until 1998 when she joined UCD. In 2002 she received a Science Foundation Ireland Investigator Award to undertake research in the area of multilingual ubiquitous speech and language technology. She has been Faculty Fellow at the IBM Centre for Advanced Studies in Dublin since 2003 and recently won a prestigious IBM Innovation Award.



# UCD College of Human Sciences Graduate School

The UCD College of Human Sciences, with over 200 staff and almost 4,500 students, consists of 10 schools that bring together the traditional social sciences, other disciplines including psychology, geography and philosophy, and a range of interdisciplinary areas. Academics in the UCD College of Human Sciences have received research awards from the Irish Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS), the Royal Irish Academy (RIA), North-South Bodies and public bodies in Ireland and Europe. Building upon this established track record of excellence, the graduate school's role is to offer added value to the wide range of fascinating, challenging and

socially-relevant programmes offered within the college and to the large body of research and doctoral students enrolled in its schools.

The aim is to enrich both the research culture of the university and the life experience of our graduate students. This will entail developing new initiatives and building on initiatives already in place, for example an advanced programme in graduate research and methods training in the social sciences has been running for four years, and was organised this year jointly with the UCD College of Business and Law.

# UCD College of Life Sciences Graduate School

The UCD College of Life Sciences Graduate School caters for over 1,500 graduate students in taught and research programmes. Doctoral studies and vocational higher degrees are offered in the eight constituent schools. The challenges faced by this graduate school are matched by the opportunities afforded by the rich diversity of talent, experience and tradition available in its schools.

Spanning activities as diverse as agriculture, biosurveillance and epidemiology, biosystems engineering, human and veterinary medicine and including the allied health professions, as well as the basic sciences which underpins each of these, the UCD College of Life Sciences will continue its role in promoting graduate

student training. An example of an existing training programme in the UCD College of Life Sciences is the Marie Curie PhD training in Neuroimmunology led by Dr Clare O'Connor in the UCD Conway Institute. Past graduates are currently engaged as leaders in academia, a wide range of industry, politics and in health care. Building on strengths and recent initiatives including the UCD Conway Institute, the CSCB, relationships with other organisations such as Teagasc and the Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre, the UCD College of Life Sciences is well poised to lead in the development of postgraduate talent, to help fully equip and encourage postgraduate research students to complete their studies and make a successful transition to their future careers.

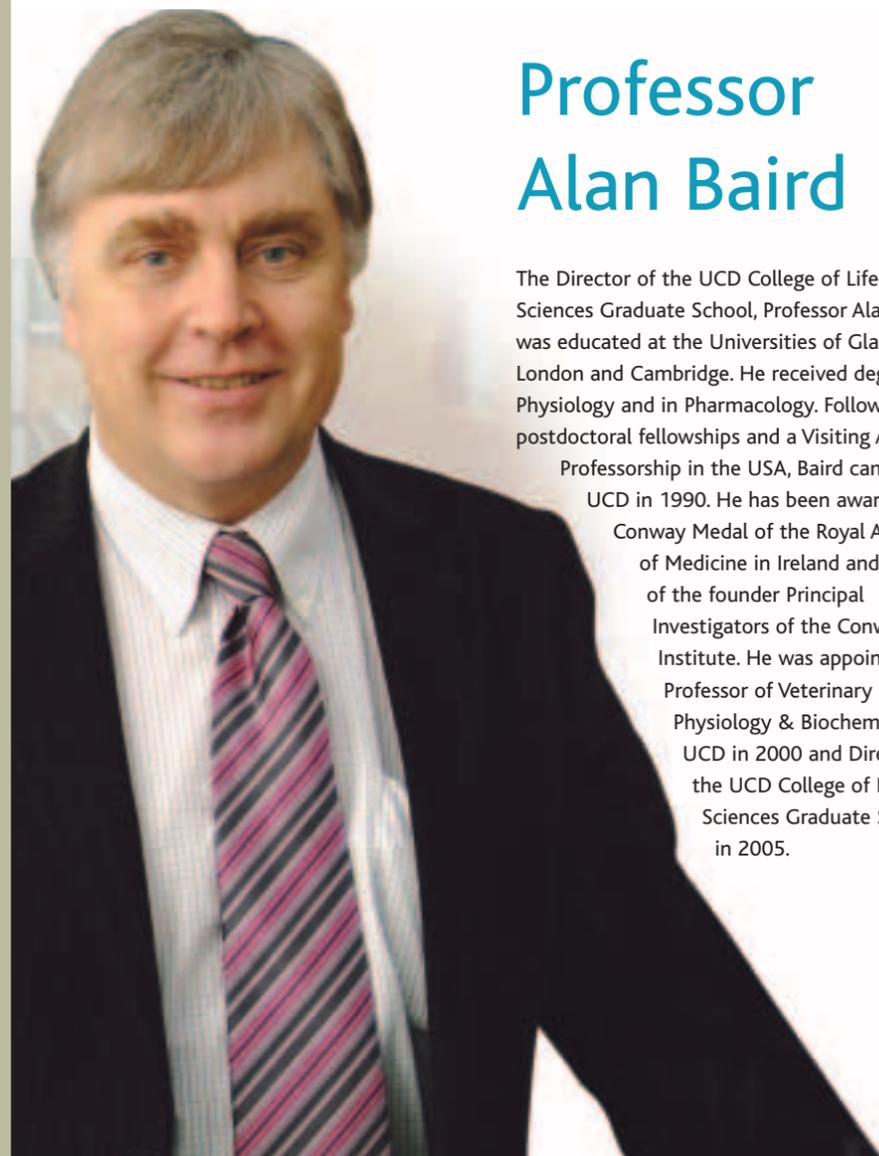
## Professor Ben Tonra

The Director of the UCD College of Human Sciences Graduate School is Professor Ben Tonra, Jean Monnet Professor of European Foreign, Security and Defence Policy and Director of the Dublin European Institute (DEI) at the UCD School of Politics and International Relations. Professor Tonra was previously a Lecturer at the Department of International Politics, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, at the Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin, and a Research Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington DC. He is a graduate of the University of Limerick (BA and MA) and was awarded his PhD from Trinity College Dublin.



## Professor Alan Baird

The Director of the UCD College of Life Sciences Graduate School, Professor Alan Baird, was educated at the Universities of Glasgow, London and Cambridge. He received degrees in Physiology and in Pharmacology. Following postdoctoral fellowships and a Visiting Assistant Professorship in the USA, Baird came to UCD in 1990. He has been awarded the Conway Medal of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland and is one of the founder Principal Investigators of the Conway Institute. He was appointed Professor of Veterinary Physiology & Biochemistry at UCD in 2000 and Director of the UCD College of Life Sciences Graduate School in 2005.



# Connecting research and industry

Dr Cormac Taylor, UCD Conway Institute, has been awarded a Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Industry Research Supplement grant. The two-year grant will facilitate research conducted in Dr. Taylor's laboratory in association with Sigmoid Biotechnologies, to develop an enhanced drug delivery system. Claire O'Connell (BSc 1992, PhD 1998) reports.

It's not often that scientists get noticed for their musical abilities, but for Dr Cormac Taylor, front-lining his band in the US forged connections that led him to his current research post at the UCD Conway Institute.

At the time, Taylor - a UCD graduate - was a biomedical researcher at Harvard University. He and some American friends had set up a band, The Grass Cowboy, and were asked to play at an academic conference in Boston. In the audience that night was Dr Hugh Brady, who got to know Taylor and convinced him to come home to Ireland to further his career in scientific research.

It's a career that started in 1992 when Taylor embarked on a PhD at UCD's Pharmacology Department, where he discovered the pharmacological mechanism of berberine, an ancient Chinese remedy used to counteract bowel complaints.

In between experiments Taylor set up his first band, This Black Cactus, with other science and engineering students and played frequent gigs at Dublin's Rock Garden, but they broke up when Taylor moved to the US to work with Dr Sean Colgan in Harvard, who recruited the UCD graduate as his first post-doc. It's a career move that Taylor doesn't regret: "One of the pieces of advice I'd give to people is to get in with somebody young and hungry rather than one of these big, established labs."

While in Boston, Taylor became interested in looking at oxygen and how it relates to cell function. "In a number of diseases like cancer or chronic inflammation, the oxygen level in the tissue drops," he says. "The tissue responds by switching on genes that are directed to getting oxygen back into the tissue quickly."

While this adaptive system is designed to get oxygen back into the tissue, in cancer it can help tumours survive. To understand the process, Taylor studied the molecular mechanisms of how cells respond to hypoxia, where oxygen demand outstrips supply.

When Taylor left Ireland in 1996, there had been little scope for pursuing scientific

research, but he says that four years later, Dr Hugh Brady assured him that the funding landscape was changing here: "He was able to convince me - and it has come to pass - that there was a buzz in investment in research, that it was tangible."

So in 2001, Taylor took up a post at UCD's Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, which he admits was a leap of faith at the time. "I could see the potential that there was going to be an investment, and I think it was a little bit of a gamble, but it seemed there was a real interest in developing research as a serious business in Ireland."

And when his research group moved into the state-of-the-art UCD Conway Institute two years later, he knew he had backed the right horse.

Today, he leads a nine-strong research team that looks at how cells in the intestine respond to oxygen deficit and how it affects drug uptake from the gut. In particular, he wants to develop effective ways of targeting drugs to areas of the intestine damaged by disease by taking advantage of differing permeability in the gut wall. "For example, in Crohn's disease the patches of intestinal tissue which are inflamed are hypoxic, so to deliver drugs to those areas we could use a formulation that's selectively taken up in that tissue," says Taylor.

To do this, his research group has developed a realistic, lab-based model that uses an oxygen-controlled chamber to investigate how oxygen levels affect the gut's permeability to orally-administered drugs.

It's an approach that attracted the attention of Dublin-based company Sigmoid Biotechnologies, who teamed up with Taylor's lab to test their new drug formulation, LEDDS. "It's an oral-controlled release technology for drugs that are optimally formulated as liquid or emulsion drugs - so basically drugs with solubility and/or permeability issues," says Sigmoid CEO and UCD pharmacology graduate Dr Ivan Coulter.



Dr Cormac Taylor

He says the proprietary technology, which he estimates will be worth €12.5m within five years of launch, aims to make a wide range of drugs more bioavailable and also more convenient for patients.

The collaboration came about through academic-industry meetings organised by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), who went on to support the partnership through an Industry Research Partnership Supplement grant of €134,000 that augments Taylor's core SFI funding (see panel below).

According to Taylor, it's a mutually beneficial, synergistic matching. "Sigmoid get us to test their formulations and we get to understand how changes in epithelial physiology alter drug uptake. That is really important because we have all these really great drugs but if you can't get them to where they are needed in the body, it's not much use."

In addition to his own research and collaborations, Taylor is also head of the vascular biology strand within the UCD Conway Institute. "My ethos in heading up the strand is that we have to value productivity and that's predominantly measured by publications and funding brought in. So if we can get people who are well published and well funded together and get added value then that would be a big step forward."

In the meantime, he continues to forge his musical career playing solo gigs around Dublin, and he's happy to be back working in Ireland.

"I didn't come back to set my roots down - I thought I'd come back for three or four years and probably go to Europe. But I'm pleasantly surprised to still be here five years later, and part of that is because of SFI and a huge part of that is because of the new developments in UCD which give a voice to young researchers. They put a value on research and it has made it a very attractive place to work for a relatively young researcher."

Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), which is funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, awards grants for basic research that underpins the biotechnology or information and communications technology (ICT) sectors.

In addition to investing in basic research, they also promote appropriate links between their funded researchers and industry, says SFI Programme Officer Dr Ruth McCaffrey.

"If there's a synergy between our researchers and industry, we encourage them to collaborate," says Dr McCaffrey, who explains that the Industry Research Partnership Supplement provides funds to facilitate that teamwork.

The industry supplement programme is open to researchers who are currently funded by SFI, and the proposed collaboration must fulfil certain criteria to be eligible for the additional funding. See [www.sfi.ie](http://www.sfi.ie) for more details.

Research

## Rickard solves cocktail party problem

Sean Duke (BSc 1987, Joint Editor of *Science Spin*) meets Dr Scott Rickard (UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering) one of two UCD researchers to be awarded funding under the SFI President of Ireland Young Researcher Award (PIYRA).

Ever been at a party, gripping your glass tightly, while listening intently to a colleague's theory on some important subject? Behind, there is persistent and loud laughing in your vicinity. Irritating isn't it? Why? Because you are struggling to eliminate interference so that you can listen to the information you need.

This is one of many problems that Dr Scott Rickard, 35, winner of the prestigious President of Ireland Young Researcher Award, providing €1 million over five years, aims to solve.

Rickard reckons that he has found the key to solving the problem. In the past, those that looked at such problems believed that five microphones were needed in a room to pick up the voice of one person and eliminate the voices of the other four. The rule was five for five, if you like, or four for four, three for three and so on.

However, Rickard has found a way to use two equations to solve five unknowns, or in this case, use two microphones to pick up the voice of one person, when there are five people talking in the room. This is a huge breakthrough in the area.

It is a paradigm shift, Rickard says. It has huge implications for the transmission of data across networks where interference could be eliminated, and it could also help to reduce the number of 'dropped' mobile phone calls, where the call is cut off.

Dr Rickard is the kind of guy whose very presence in Ireland symbolises the massive changes that have taken place. The award gives Rickard funding of €1 million over five years. It gives him the freedom to think long term, and to go about building a team. "It would have been impossible for me to get this kind of funding in the US at this stage of my career and I couldn't be in a better place," he comments.

Rickard is married to Irishwoman Dr Elva O'Sullivan (BSc Chemistry UCD, PhD Clarkson University, New York) and the couple have three young children. Elva has worked in industry, and is also interested in teaching, and has developed teaching materials to encourage interest in science among young children (for more information see [www.sciencewithme.com](http://www.sciencewithme.com)).

The couple had been on the point of moving to Japan, when Rickard, who had sent an email to UCD in response to an advertisement, was called for interview, and subsequently accepted his current post at UCD.

Rickard also has a strong interest in music, and both plays the trumpet and sings in choirs. He also has a self-deprecating sense of humour, something that the Irish understand well.

"I played the trumpet when I was in High School, at Wild Lake High School in Maryland. We got to play in the Lincoln Centre in New York, and play real music like Schubert. In Princeton they had a big choir and I sang in the choir, and I sang with them in Carnegie

Hall. I must be the least talented person ever to perform in both the Lincoln Centre and Carnegie Hall".

At the age of 17 Rickard had decided, however, that music was not a viable career for him, and he decided - after reading several popular science articles - that he wanted to be a plasma fusion scientist, and enrolled as a freshman at MIT.

**"Rickard has found a way to use two equations to solve five unknowns"**

At MIT he recognised that he was more interested in the area of 'discrete' mathematics, where there is a definite mathematical alphabet, rather than continuous mathematics. Discrete mathematics is the language of computers, and that was the direction he now headed in. For a time he worked at Draper Labs in MIT, which has links with the US Department of Defence. They were using discrete mathematics to try and find a way to locate and destroy mines in the Persian Gulf. This was the time of the first Gulf War, and Saddam Hussein had mined the gulf as a defensive measure.

Did the system work? "I don't know," said Rickard. "They never told me much".

Aside from the cocktail party problem, Scott is very interested in the research areas of machine learning, also known as artificial intelligence, and neural networks.

"If we can build a perfect simulation of what happens in the human brain, and it is actually made up of a bunch of wires, it doesn't matter that it is a bunch of wires. It amounts to the same thing. The simulation of consciousness and being conscious is the same thing".

The study of neural networks is essentially the study of the brain's wiring system, how the neurons link together, and how they adapt and adjust relative to each other. Neural networks are interesting from the academic standpoint, but the area also, like many things in basic science, has a strong application to industry.

Neural networks are very good at looking at inputs and outputs and designing a better, more efficient production process, said Rickard. This is because humans, which use neural networks, are very good at recognising patterns, and indeed will often seek out patterns even where no patterns exist, he explained.

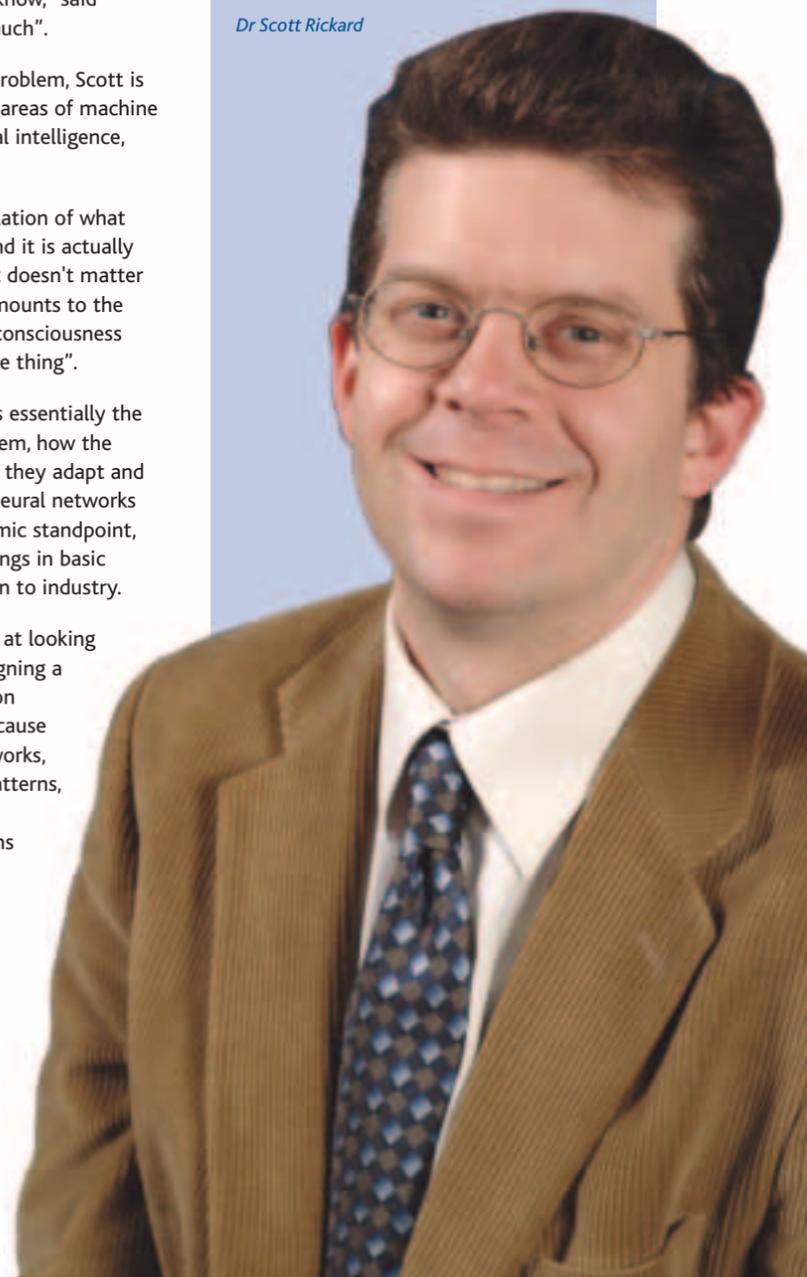
The President's Award has increased Rickard's visibility and personal reputation in the science world, he said, and has resulted, for example, in an invitation to speak at Princeton as a 'distinguished' alumnus.

### UCD PIYRA Winners

Dr Jarlath Nally and Dr Scott Rickard are UCD's recipients of the PIYRA awards. A graduate of UCD, Dr Nally is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Department of Medicine, UCLA. The title of his research is 'Characterization of the proteome and transcriptome of *Leptospira* during acute and chronic infection'. Dr Nally will be based in the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, in the UCD College of Life Sciences.

Dr Scott Rickard is a lecturer in the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering. His Bachelor of Science and Master of Science were awarded by MIT and his PhD by Princeton University. The title of his research is 'Time-frequency/time-scale analysis, sparse signal representation theory, and finite field theory for signal processing applications'.

Dr Scott Rickard



## UCD PhD student takes first prize in NovaUCD's 2005 entrepreneurship programme

Campus company Vocal Health Screen, founded by UCD PhD student Rosalyn Moran, was the overall winner of the 10th NovaUCD Campus Company Development Programme (CCDP).

Rosalyn Moran is a PhD student working with Dr Richard Reilly, Senior Lecturer and Vice Principal for Research and Innovation at the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering. She is currently developing a unique remote screening tool for voice diseases to be used by patients of Ear Nose and Throat Clinics worldwide. Her remote screening tool is designed to replace screening and follow up endoscopy examinations, potentially saving patients considerable time and money. Detection is carried out using a two-second voice sample from a telephone call with results computed automatically and sent to a password-protected web page.

The unique aspect of Rosalyn's project has been the development of specialist speech analysis research combined with a Web-based infrastructure based on the emerging telephony interface standard for voice/web communications VoiceXML. Patients place a call from any telephone and are then guided through an on-line testing structure that acquires several voice samples. From there, analysis algorithms extract features from these samples and input the findings to an automatic



Rosalyn Moran

classifier that produces a decision on the existence of a vocal pathology with an accuracy of nearly 90%. This information is then available to the Consultant or GP to combine with other patient information to form a diagnosis.

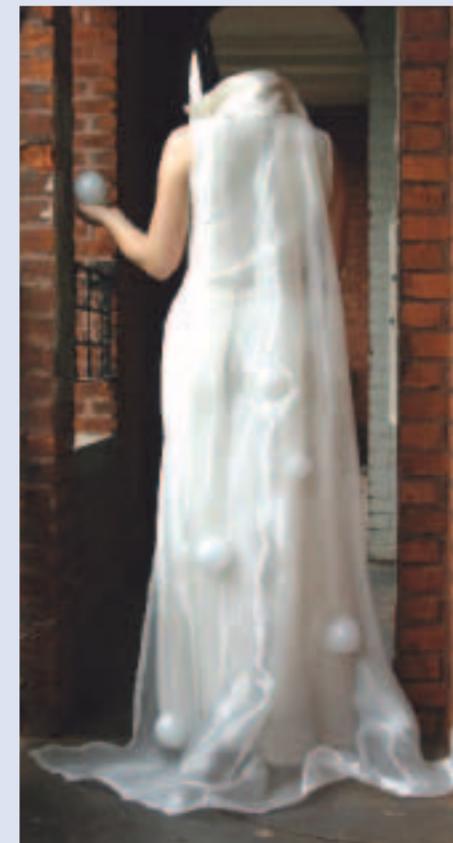
The CCDP, which is sponsored and supported by BT Ireland and Enterprise Ireland, is a NovaUCD programme established to assist entrepreneurs in establishing new ventures to commercialise the output of UCD research programmes. The next CCDP commences in Spring 2006 and applications are now being invited from prospective entrepreneurs developing new knowledge-intensive ventures.

## Clothes reveal wearer's physiological state

The SFI-funded Adaptive Information Cluster (AIC) is investigating the boundaries of garment-integrated wearable technology research, exploring the next generation of wearable technology and presenting huge opportunities for monitoring users' general health and well being.

Lucy Dunne, a researcher based in the Adaptive Information Cluster (AIC), is carrying out this research in 'Expressive Garments'. She has produced a set of expressive evening gowns, which reflect aspects of the wearer's physiological state through lights embedded in the garments. Each gown is designed to respond to a specific physiological signal - laughter, pulse, alertness and the startle reflex - with sensors in the garment detecting these physiological changes and interpreting them through changing light patterns on the garment surface.

One of these garments, pictured here, entitled "Alert" responds to changes in the wearer's galvanic skin response (a measure of alertness) by increasing or decreasing the luminosity of glowing orbs suspended in the garment's outer layer. The garments will be on display in the Brigham Young University Museum of Art in



Utah, USA starting in December 2005. They will appear as part of a year-long exhibit titled "Nostalgia and Technology".

## Defibrillation programme could save lives

The UCD Safety Office has recently initiated a defibrillation programme, which has already resulted in the purchase of eight Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) and training of 39 staff in their operation. The AED programme is dedicated to the saving of life which may be lost unnecessarily. 11,000 people die of cardiovascular diseases in Ireland each year. 6,000 of these deaths occur suddenly, 70% of them outside a hospital or medical environment.

To date the AEDs have been placed in the following areas:

- UCD Newman Building
- O'Reilly Hall
- UCD Sports Centre
- UCD Science Education and Research Centre
- UCD Student Centre
- Carysfort campus
- Earlsfort Terrace
- Lyons Estate

AED training is provided by the Safety Office. For further details please contact 716 1318.

## UCD Quinn School of Business in case study challenge

**From 25-29 October, UCD Quinn School of Business was invited by the Fisher School of Business at Ohio State University (USA) to take part in its annual international CIBER Case Study Challenge. This was a prestigious invitation as the UCD Quinn School of Business was the only European business school selected to take part. A team of the top four students from across the School was chosen to participate (pictured below) with Dr Sean Cassidy as the academic adviser.**

Case study analysis involves the identification, evaluation and analysis of the issues plus the preparation of a game plan relating to the specific problem faced by the company. All teams received the same case study, which

related to a company in China with commodity sourcing problems, and were given 24 hours to prepare their submission.

The UCD Quinn School of Business presentation was extremely well received by the judges. However, at the end, Singapore Management

University were awarded victory. The Director of the UCD Quinn School, Dr Martin Butler, was delighted with the efforts of everyone at the UCD Quinn School; it was a tremendous accolade to be invited to become involved with the competition.



Left to right: Paul Haran, Principal, UCD College of Business & Law; Michael Curley, BComm Student; Aoife Duggan, BComm Student; Dr Martin Butler, Director, UCD Quinn School of Business; Justin McAleese, BComm Student; Ellie Dunne, BComm Student; Dr Sean Cassidy, UCD School of Business; Walter Hendrick, Dell Ireland (Sponsors of the trip)

## Visit of Australian parliamentary delegation

Australia's long-established links with Ireland and with UCD were highlighted by the visit of an Australian parliamentary delegation on 26 October. The delegation visited the Australian Studies Centre, viewed Australian material in the UCD Archives, and discussed future developments for Australian Studies with Professor Mary E. Daly, Principal of the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies, and Professor Hilary Carey, Keith Cameron Professor of Australian History.

Senator Alan Ferguson led the delegation whose deputy leader, Senator Ursula Mary Stephens, is one of two Irish-born members of the Australian federal parliament. Senator Stephens was born in Wicklow in 1954, and migrated to Australia as a child with her extensive family. Hosted by the Oireachtas, the nine-member delegation was made up of parliamentarians from both houses and included representatives from three major Australian parties.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation, Senator Ferguson reflected on the nature of Australia's links to Ireland. Up to a third of Australians claim Irish ancestry, making Australia the most Irish of all societies outside of Ireland. UCD also has a tradition of teaching and research in

Australian history which dates back to the early 1970s. At the Australian Studies Centre, Professor Carey explained that Australian history courses were popular with Irish and visiting American JYA students, and that exchange agreements with Australian universities have made it possible for increasing numbers of Australian students to study at UCD and for Irish students to take courses in Australia. In addition, there was an Australian Studies research seminar and conference program hosted by the Humanities Institute of Ireland.

Introducing the delegation to a display in the UCD Archives of Australian material in the papers of Eamon de Valera and Frank Aiken, Professor Daly stressed the significance of political contact between Australia and Ireland in the post-war era. Ongoing research into Australian history at UCD reflected the depth of the existing relationship between the two countries and the quality of the resources available at UCD for Australian Studies. In final discussions, the delegation agreed to seek Australian government support for Australian Studies at UCD, and recognised the significance of the Global Irish Institute as a base for ongoing international research on the Irish overseas.



Left to right: Mr Philip Barresi, MP; Senator Gavin Marshall; Professor Mary E. Daly, Principal, UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies; Senator Ursula Stephens; Professor Hilary Carey; Keith Cameron Professor of Australian History; Senator Alan Ferguson; Senator Andrew Bartlett; Mr Kerry Bartlett, MP

## Launch of Irish Universities Association (IUA)

The Conference of Heads of Irish Universities (CHIUI), the representative body of the seven Irish universities, has announced the change of its name to the Irish Universities Association (IUA). The new name better represents the objectives of the organisation and its work on behalf of the seven universities. The IUA provides a forum for the presidents and senior officers of the universities to identify the strategic challenges facing the university system and to agree on the policies and plans for tackling them and developing the sector.

For more information, visit the IUA's new website at [www.iua.ie](http://www.iua.ie)

## Gold medal for Ranelagh school

Mr John Tuomey and Ms Sheila O'Donnell, Studio Lecturers in the UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering and founders of O'Donnell & Tuomey Architects have been presented with the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) Gold Medal, by President Mary McAleese.

At a recent event at the RIAI in Merrion Square, Ranelagh Multidenominational School was



announced as the winner of the medal, the premier award in Irish architecture, for the period 1998-2000. The purpose of the award is to encourage the development of architecture in Ireland and to give public recognition to architects of distinction. The award is made three to five years after completion so that buildings can be judged in a mature state.

## Establishing connections through folklore

The UCD Delargy Centre for Irish Folklore and National Folklore Collection recently played host to visiting groups of staff and students from the Seminar für Volkskunde/Europäische Ethnologie, Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck, Austria, and from the Department of Ethnology, Åbo Akademi University, Åbo/Turku, Finland, respectively.

The Austrian group of 32 students was led by Professor Ingo Schneider, and by Oliver M. Haid who had studied Irish Folklore at UCD. The Professor of Ethnology in Åbo, Dr. Anne-Maria Åstrom, led the Finnish students and staff. Both groups were pleased to re-affirm the long-standing contacts between their institutions and Irish Folklore in UCD and to explore the possibility of more extensive co-operation and



Visitors from Leopold-Franzens-Universität, Innsbruck, Austria

networking arrangements. The desirability of student exchange was also high on their agenda in the light of the recent modularisation of courses at UCD and the evident attractiveness of Irish Folklore as an undergraduate and postgraduate course of study and research.

## UCD researchers and Wyeth Research win award

The Applied Neurotherapeutics Research Group (ANRG) at the UCD Conway Institute won first place for Best Partnership Alliance with Wyeth Research at the international Scrip Awards in December 2005 for their co-operative work on brain illness treatments. They were shortlisted for the award alongside Allergan India PVT and Ranbaxy Laboratories - Medicines for Malaria Venture. Presented in London, the Scrip Awards are designed to recognise the excellent work taking place throughout the pharmaceutical and biotech industries globally, and give deserved recognition to people in pharma and biotech who routinely exceed and excel, and whose work benefits mankind.

The ANRG research cluster, which is funded jointly by SFI (Science Foundation Ireland) and Wyeth Research to the tune of €10 million, forms a unique, world-class team of scientists focused on building a research and development initiative to provide a new generation of drugs to be used in the treatment of brain disease. This interdisciplinary group of scientists is co-ordinated by Professor Ciaran Regan whose task is to develop a dynamic, international research hub at UCD's Conway Institute.

Pictured from left: Prof Frank Walsh (Senior Executive Vice-President, Wyeth Research); Prof Ciaran Regan (Co-Ordinator ANRG) and host Mr John Sergeant (journalist and broadcaster)



# The new UCD website is an active voice



The Internet developed in the early 1960s as a result of visionary thinking that recognised the potential value in enabling computers to share information.

On 29 Oct 1969, Professor Kleinrock and his team of engineers at UCLA launched the first Internet message from UCLA to the Stanford Research Institute. 35 years later in 2004 Professor Kleinrock reflected that "this marked the birth of a new method of global

communications that has forever changed the course of business, politics, entertainment, education and social interaction. Now... the Internet has become so pervasive that even my 97-year-old mother uses it."

Today the Internet may be far removed from its humble beginnings but its basic core principle remains the same: to share information.

Remaining faithful to this core principle, the new UCD website is designed for efficient, coherent and intuitive information sharing. It was designed to support the strategic vision of the university and to incorporate the new UCD brand and the new academic structures of the university.

"To establish a solid foundation for the modular interface, the new UCD website templates support a universal grid system. Using this grid system it is easier to keep navigation and content organised as the website develops over time," explains Dominic Martella, UCD Website Re-branding Project Manager.

The Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), more commonly referred to as Style Sheets, employed by the new design offer a simple way to control the style of a web document without compromising the structure.

"Keeping visual design elements separate from the structural logic of the page, CSS gives

control over the visual aspects of the page without sacrificing the integrity of the data. And this maintains the usability of the web pages in multiple environments," says Martella.

Style Sheets define page layout and typographic design from within a single block of code, thus enabling faster downloads, streamlined site maintenance and instantaneous global control of design attributes across multiple pages.

To add to this, Martella continues, "The UCD homepage is no longer a passive voice. With the new design, UCD can proactively showcase its key messages on the homepage. Striking images and news stories, linking to other areas of the website, can be published on the homepage which visitors will immediately engage with." Recently, the advertising images used to promote UCD Open Days were placed on the homepage to give message continuity to visitors and to provide them with immediate access to relevant information. "The Quick Find menu that has been added also enables proactive communications. Now direct navigations can be added to the homepage as required in accordance with the analysis of visitor statistics and seasonal activity" he says.

The new web template design meets the W3C-WAI Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 - AA standard as set by the National

Disability Authority. This ensures that visitors with disabilities can access the information on the site.

The re-design also introduces a level of universal navigation across all Colleges and Schools. This makes navigation easier for visitors and, says Peter McKiernan, UCD Web Editor and Web Content Management System (WCMS) Project Manager, "it will accommodate the future introduction of a university-wide Web Content Management System."

Currently in its early stages, the WCMS project is managed by UCD Communications in association with UCD Computing Services. "This new system will form the foundation for future improvements to our website. It will streamline the publishing process with user-friendly authoring tools, integrate with UCD Connect to deliver sophisticated intranet publishing, reduce content duplication, increase content accuracy, and improve the search interface," says McKiernan.

With visitor traffic that has been increasing dramatically over the last 5 years - from a base of 600,000 page impressions per month to an average of near 7 million page impressions per month, with almost 800,000 unique visits - the new UCD website is confidently poised for further significant development and growth.

## Role of intellectuals in the Nation State



Professor Slavoj Žižek, with Professor Liam Kennedy, Director, UCD Clinton Institute

From 29 November to 1 December 2005, the UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies hosted an international conference on 'Intellectuals and the Nation State'. The conference considered the role and effect of

intellectuals in the making and contesting of national identities and state policies. A public opening lecture titled 'The Ignorance of Chicken, or the Limits of the Freedom of Thought' was given by Slovenian-born political philosopher, cultural critic and world-renowned public intellectual Professor Slavoj Žižek, International Director of the Birkbeck Institute for Humanities.

Professor Žižek is one of the most important cultural theorists working today. He has written over 50 published books, which have been translated into more than 20 languages. Infamously idiosyncratic in his work, he believes that 'political issues are too serious to be left only to politicians,' and he aims to promote the role of the public intellectual.

Speakers at the conference included Professor Terry Eagleton (University of Manchester), Professor Donald Pease (Dartmouth University), Professor Eric Lott (University of Virginia) and Professor Declan Kiberd (University College Dublin).

## Infection in early childhood is linked to diseases of adult life

An important study carried out by the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, the UCD School of Public Health and Population Science and Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin showing that the *Helicobacter pylori* infection is acquired in children before the age of five years will be published in the world's leading journal in gastrointestinal diseases, *Gastroenterology*, in January 2006.

*H. pylori* causes peptic ulcer disease and stomach cancer in adults. Infection with *H. pylori* is life-long unless treated. Stomach cancer is the third leading cause of death from cancer worldwide. The findings have major implications for future research strategies on stomach cancer and peptic ulcer disease. It suggests that strategies aimed at preventing stomach cancer by eradicating *H. pylori* should be aimed at children and young adults rather than in later life. It also shows that strategies to prevent transmission during infancy may be much more effective than treatment of *H. pylori* in reducing the prevalence of stomach cancer in adults.

The research study, which was funded by The Wellcome Trust, was carried out in conjunction with GPs in Dublin, Mallow and Kingscourt, Co. Cavan. Over 327 children between 24 and 48 months of age and their families participated for five years to determine when and if they became infected with *H. pylori*.

Remarkably this study indicates that while stomach cancer and peptic ulcer disease are diseases seen in adults, often late in life, the infection that causes these conditions is acquired during the first few years of life.

(The authors of 'Age Specific Incidence of *Helicobacter pylori*' are Marion Rowland, Leslie Daly, Anna Higgins, Marian Vaughan, Billy Bourke, Brendan Drumm.)

## Astellas USA Foundation award for UCD senior lecturer

Dr Paul V. Murphy, a senior lecturer at the UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology and a principal investigator at the UCD Centre for Synthesis & Chemical Biology (CSCB), has received an Astellas USA Foundation award. Awards from the Astellas USA Foundation are usually based on nominations from internationally distinguished scientists and nominees are subsequently invited to make a formal application to the Foundation. Dr Murphy's research interests are in carbohydrate

chemistry, in particular the design and synthesis of bioactive agents based on carbohydrates. These compounds have the potential to form the basis for new drugs for the development of new therapeutics for HIV, Hepatitis B and C infection, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, arthritis and cancer. Dr Murphy plans to use the donation provided by the Astellas USA Foundation for the funding of a PhD student at UCD's CSCB.

# sport

## 2005 UCD sports scholars announced



Professor Mary Clayton (UCD Vice-President for Students) congratulates Eimear Ní Fhallúin

The Vice-President for Students, Professor Mary Clayton announced the names of the 105 UCD sports scholarship recipients for the 2005/2006 academic year. Gavin Cummiskey (BA 2001, staff journalist with *The Irish Times*) met handballer and sports scholar Eimear Ní Fhallúin (1st-year Physiotherapy, All Ireland winning medalist and a carded athlete with the Irish Sports Council).

Just two weeks before the recent intervarsities, Eimear Ní Fhallúin suffered a fractured index finger while training. Medical advice insisted she rest up if competing against the world elite was to become a reality for her next year.

Eimear had a better idea. She played one-handed and won the 'B' category. UCD had unearthed yet another star.

Due to a lack of female competition on campus, Ní Fhallúin regularly trains with "the lads", which is ideal preparation for what lies ahead.

"This weekend I'm off to Cavan for a training camp with all the top young handballers in the country so they can see how we are getting on. Next up is the team intervarsities on 9 and 10 December; I'm on the men's B team. Using the men's ball. It's a lot heavier and harder so it takes more effort to get behind it, I can't just flick my wrist, but I'm used to it as I have been getting bruised bones since I was 13", says Eimear.

Then came the real test. On 27 December she set off to Phoenix, Arizona to test her ability against American professionals in the USHA trials, despite having never played in the senior ladies' All-Ireland. "I'll be travelling alone over Christmas but that's where you have to go for the competition. The handball community is fairly close so I will know plenty of people."

After that there will be club championships and single intervarsities 40 x 20 before the UCD team heads over to Texas to play intervarsity over there.

So how did the sports scholarship come about? "I didn't even apply for it!" Eimear explains. "I thought I wouldn't get the points for UCD so I accepted a course in DCU that also caters for sports people. Within five minutes of finding out I was going to UCD, I was on the phone to Dave Billings' office (UCD GAA Executive). I told them I play handball and they told me to send in the titles I had won and any recommendations. I had the portfolio ready to go, so I sent it on and that was it."

Eimear was introduced to the game by her father Donal Fallon - the vice principal of the local primary school at home in Kildare who learned his trade at St Mel's College.

"In my first competition I was about eight. I won my first All-Ireland when I was 12, the Cumann na mBunscoil. I was just playing matches for fun at that stage and didn't realise it was an All-Ireland title until they came to the school and presented me with this huge trophy."

Currently Eimear has just taken her Christmas exams in 1st-year Physiotherapy. On achieving a degree in four years' time she intends to be the leading handballer in Ireland and hopefully beyond.

## UCD Sports Scholarship Recipients 2005/2006

### Athletics:

Padraig White (Kildare), Joanne Cuddihy (Kilkenny), Stephen Darcy (Carlow).

### Basketball:

Richard Cahill (Dublin), Kevin Foley (Dublin), Barry Drumm (Dublin), Conor Meany (Dublin), Ian O'Boyle (Kildare).

### Camogie:

Louise Mahony (Laois), Sharon Daly (Offaly), Emily Darmody (Kilkenny), Ciara Lucey (Dublin), Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford), Cathriona Buckley (Cork), Mary Leacy (Wexford).

### Ladies' Gaelic Football:

Grainne Nulty (Meath), Aisling O'hAinle (Wicklow), Nuala O'Shea (Mayo), Jacqueline Shiels (Meath), Marie O'Connell (Galway), Niamh Duggan (Galway).

### Men's Gaelic Football:

Stephen Gallagher (Westmeath), Craig Rogers (Laois), Sean Brady (Cavan), Peter McNulty (Laois), James Sherry (Fermanagh), Austin O'Malley (Mayo), Dermot Geraghty (Mayo), John McCarthy (Limerick), John Murphy (Carlow), Mark Delaney (Laois), Cathal O'Dwyer (Meath).

### Ladies' Golf:

Sinead O'Sullivan (Galway).

### Men's Golf:

Brendan Walton (Dublin), Ciaran O'Connor (Westmeath), Dara Lernihan (Dublin), Liam Mulligan (Dublin), Niall O'Connor (Dublin), Ross Dunne (Wicklow).

### Handball:

Patrick Finnegan (Cavan), Eimear Ní Fhallúin (Kildare).

### Ladies' Hockey:

Christine Quinlan (Dublin), Jane Bourke (Limerick), Lisa Jacob (Wexford), Niamh Herlihy (Waterford).

### Men's Hockey:

Colin Cunningham (Meath), Robbie McFarlane (Dublin), Rowan Pearson (Dublin).

### Hurling:

Damien Fogarty (Kilkenny), Paul Ormond (Tipperary), Eoin Quigley (Wexford), Andrew Smith (Galway), Dara Walton (Kilkenny), Bryan Barry (Kilkenny), Tommy Fitzgerald (Tipperary), Brendan Murphy (Offaly), John O'Connor (Wexford), David Prendergast (Kilkenny), Keith Burke (Wexford), Patrick Nolan (Wexford), Patrick Morrissey (Tipperary).

### Rugby:

Robert Kearney (Louth), Killian Lett (Wexford), Brian McGovern (Kildare), David Nyhan (Dublin), Michael Fanning (Dublin), Conor Geoghegan (Dublin), Stephen Grissing (Dublin), Michael Hastings (Tipperary), Morgan Hickey-Crowe (Dublin), Ken Kennedy (Dublin), John Anthony Lee (Dublin), Ross McCarron (Dublin), Kevin McLaughlin (Dublin), Cillian Willis (Wicklow), Conor McNerney (Dublin), David Gilchrist (Dublin), Fergus McFadden (Kildare), Gerard Moran (Dublin), Ian Keatley (Dublin), Jamie Hagan (Dublin), Kevin Sheahan (Dublin), Richard Sweeney (Dublin), Sean O'Brien (Carlow).

### Ladies' Soccer:

Eimear O'Herlihy (Donegal), Nicola Sinnott (Wexford).

### Men's Soccer:

Kieran Harte (Donegal), Seamus Long (Cork), Aaran McEneff (Dublin), Conor Sammon (Dublin), Brian Shortall (Dublin), Conan Byrne (Dublin), Damien Kelly ( ), David Last (Dublin), Declan O'Donnell (Donegal), Eoin O'Conneide (Dublin), Francis Moran (Dublin), John Brophy (Dublin), Ronan Finn (Dublin), Shane Flynn (Dublin), Stephen Hurley (Wicklow), .



## PSNI welcomed to Belfield

**In an historic first the PSNI training college Gaelic football team played UCD at Belfield on Tuesday 11 October. The final score of 1:16 to 1:12 reflected the tightly fought game played in extremely wet and difficult weather conditions, with the visitors winning a deserved victory.**

The match was the result of an invitation from Brian Mullins, UCD Director of Sport, to Damien Tucker of PSNI Gaelic Athletic Club to mark the inclusion of the PSNI in the Sigerson Cup.

In a robust and competitive game, the visitors took an early lead with a first half goal. Paddy Linnig had a virtuoso performance. He clocked up a series of well-taken points from frees

showing that the newcomers should not be under-estimated when they take on the University of Ulster in their next match.

The captain of the UCD team, John Murphy from Carlow, paid tribute to Conor Fingleton who, despite having a penalty saved by PSNI goalie, scored 2 points for the students.

"The game was much more than just about the result" said Brian Mullins. "Sport is a great leveller. It breaches political and other barriers and shows the next generation what can be achieved. We are delighted that UCD was the first third-level institution to host the PSNI Gaelic Football team and that Minister Michael McDowell was here to witness the event."

## Under 21s soccer are top of the league

**Congratulations to UCD's under-21 soccer team for winning the Dr Tony O' Neill under-21 Eircom league for the second year running.**

The UCD team finished second in the South Leinster group, putting them through to the quarter-finals, where they played Cork City away, and won 1-nil (Conan Byrne). In the semi-finals they played Bohemians at Belfast Park, winning 2-nil (Ronan Finn, Brian Gannon). Finally, they played Shelbourne at Tolka Park, and the final score of 2-1 (Conan Byrne, Ronan Finn) secured them their place as league champions.

## Survey of GAA Intercounty players by UCD Centre for Sports Studies highlights concerns

Since the foundation of the GAA, Gaelic football and hurling have been an integral part of Irish life. The growth of media coverage, improved marketing and the development of mass "spectatorism" have affected many sports. None more so than Gaelic games, which have reached new heights of popularity in recent years. The games themselves have also changed. Skill levels have increased, tactics have become more sophisticated and the highest levels of fitness are expected of intercounty players. While welcome, the modern approach to matches and training have increased the demands placed on players. Concerns about player welfare led in 1999 to the foundation of the Gaelic Players Association (GPA), which now has 1,400 members, representing 85% of senior inter-county Gaelic footballers and hurlers.

Many factors, both on-field and off-field affect the welfare of players and there have been debates about a number of issues. While individual players have made their views known, there has been no systematic expression of the representative voice of intercounty players. The GPA, as the players forum, was anxious to ascertain the views of their members on a range of welfare-related topics. Conscious of the need for an independent analysis, the GPA sought the advice of the UCD Centre for Sports Studies as to how this should be best done.

Professors Conal Hooper and Ivan Waddington, and Ms Fiona McVeigh, undertook an independent survey that presents, for the first time, the collective views of Senior Intercounty Gaelic footballers and hurlers on a wide range of issues, relevant to their personal welfare. Their report has raised a number of important issues including health and welfare, the provision of gear and equipment, and the financial concerns of players. The opinions expressed, while those of the authors, are based exclusively on the responses received. The report concludes by stating that:

"there must be engagement and dialogue between the players and the GAA authorities to establish arrangements which would both address the legitimate financial and welfare concerns of the players and maintain the traditions from which the GAA and its games derive their strength."

With a response rate of 37%, the survey takes on board the responses of 680 intercounty players.

Half the respondents feel that being an intercounty player has a positive impact on their professional life while only a small number feel the opposite. Nevertheless, over half find it difficult to combine their sports career and their occupation. Even more (62%) found that their personal life suffered as a result of their sporting commitment, although only a very small minority (5%) have experienced media intrusion into their private lives.

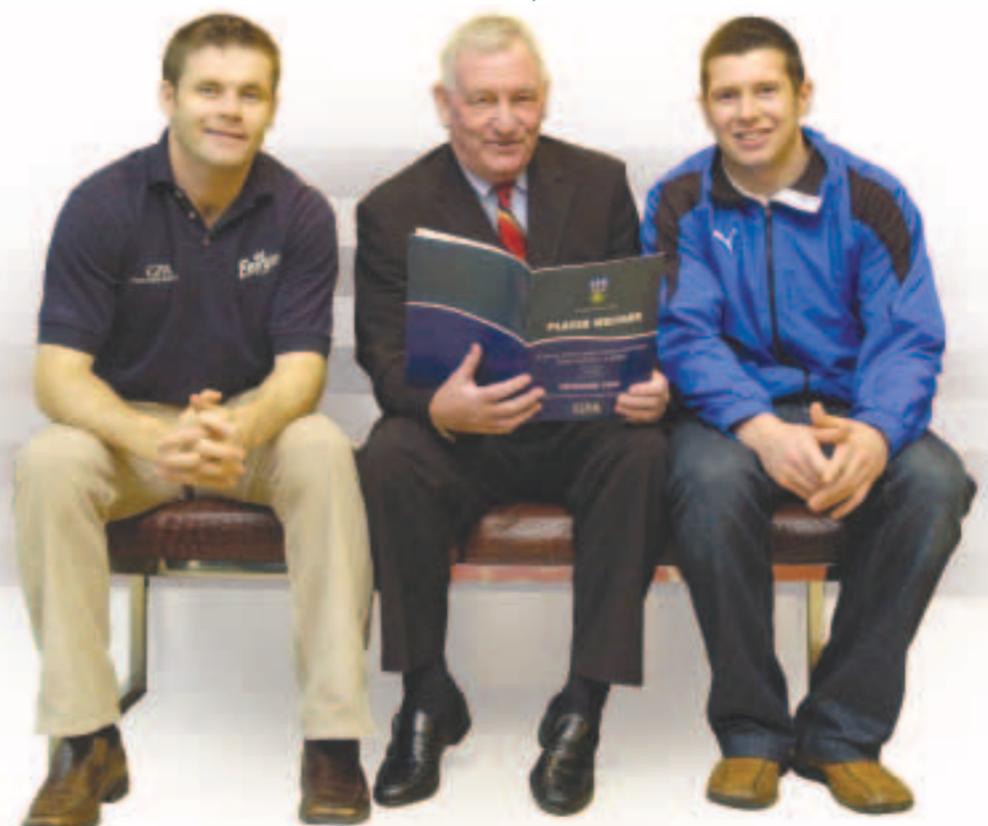
The responses highlight the major demands placed on players, the difficulties which they encounter and the pressures which they face. County Boards, in general, are making serious efforts to provide proper support for their elite players and this is recognised by the broad level of satisfaction among players about the facilities provided. Nevertheless deficiencies continue to exist in a number of important areas. A significant number of players lack critical information about some important issues, particularly anti-doping programmes. Many players are not being provided with the type and amount of gear and equipment recommended by Ard Chomhairle. Related to this and despite the serious safety implications involved, the supply of protective equipment is clearly inadequate. There is also a need to ensure the presence of appropriately trained doctors at all Intercounty matches. It is also clear that hurlers fare worse than their

footballer colleague in many regards, a situation which must be redressed if the game is to be successfully fostered and promoted.

The survey restates the long-felt need of players for membership of the decision-making bodies of the GAA and for the recognition of the GPA as their representative voice. For their part, the players recognise the need for the GAA and the GPA to work together to maximise media and advertising income and to agree an equitable basis for the sharing of such income. Recent events have underlined the need for such agreement.

Perhaps the most significant responses to the questionnaire relate to financial matters. A large majority of players seek adequate recompense for their commitment to senior Intercounty competition or, at the very least, expect to be protected against consequential financial loss. A large majority would also favour a move to semi-professional status. This must be a matter of serious concern for the GAA authorities who are committed to the retention of the present amateur status.

[The UCD Centre for Sports Studies is part of the UCD School of Public Health and Population Science.](#)



*Left to right: Dessie Farrell, Chief Executive of the GPA; Professor Conal Hooper, co-author of the GPA report and Tyrone footballer Sean Cavanagh pictured at the UCD Centre for Sports Studies*

## National Science Week at the UCD Conway Institute

Over 250 secondary school pupils from Wicklow, Monaghan and across Dublin took part in the UCD Conway Institute's *ScienceWorks* programme during November's National Science Week. During these half-day workshops students got stuck into some hands-on scientific experiments in the laboratories, and discovered the many career paths that science opens up.

The young science enthusiasts modeled and extracted DNA, saw the chemistry behind some

amazing scientific illusions, followed the development of *Xenopus* frogs and explored the effects of bacteria and enzymes in our bodies.

Also during National Science Week, the UCD Conway Institute played host to The Bubble Show a - show that examines the science behind bubbles and soap. And in a number of school visits, DNA was brought to life for primary school pupils in Sacred Heart National School, Killinarden, Tallaght and Donard National School, Donard, Co. Wicklow.



Students from the Patrician High School, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan during National Science Week at UCD

## UCD School of Music celebrates Mozart's 250th birthday

In 2006 the world will celebrate the 250th birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (born 27 January 1756). The UCD School of Music is planning a series of events around this anniversary, addressing students and staff on campus, the scholarly community, and the wider audience all over the Dublin area.

A highlight will be the conference entitled 'Mozart in the 21st century', on 3 February 2006 in Newman House. The participants will include the key-note speaker Cliff Eisen (King's College, London), Simon Keefe from London City University, and both Harry White and Julian Horton from the UCD School of Music.

In addition to this conference, there will be a series of three lectures in Newman House. Hugh Gough (UCD School of History and Archives), Julian Horton (UCD School of Music) and Wolfgang Marx (UCD School of Music) will speak on Mozart and the Viennese

Enlightenment, aspects of his symphonic music, and his requiem.

Five acclaimed DVD recordings of Mozart's operas will be screened in the Newman Building, room E114, in January and February. The selection contains 'Die Entführung aus dem Serail', 'Le Nozze di Figaro', 'Don Giovanni', 'Così fan tutte', and 'Die Zauberflöte'. All operas will be shown in the original language (German or Italian) with English subtitles.

The UCD College Choir is preparing a performance of Mozart's Coronation Mass early in March, while the young British pianist Tim Horton will give a recital featuring piano compositions by Mozart. In addition to that, the National Symphony Orchestra will present its annual 'Universities' Concert' with an all-Mozart programme on 21 March 2006.

Please check the UCD School of Music's webpage for further details on all these events. ([www.ucd.ie/music](http://www.ucd.ie/music))

## Correction:

In the September 2005 issue of UCD Today (page 5) a photograph of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr Micheál Martin and Mr Enda Connolly, Manager, Education Skills & Research, IDA Ireland was published. Mr Enda Connolly was mistakenly named as Mr Sean Dorgan, Chief Executive, IDA. UCD Today would like to apologise to both Mr Enda Connolly and Mr Sean Dorgan for this error.

## UCD Women Graduates' Association photo-call

The UCD Women Graduates' Association has launched a new project that aims to collect photographs dealing with life in UCD over the decades. The material will be lodged in the University Archives. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact the

Women Graduates' Association, care of the Services Desk, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, or at [women.graduates@ucd.ie](mailto:women.graduates@ucd.ie). Any photographs received will be copied and returned to you, if you so wish. If you are happy to donate the photographs, they will be gratefully received.



66 years after her graduation, Margaret (Madge) Murphy at her grandson Paul's graduation in 1973. Madge is pointing out to President Thomas Murphy that she deserves an honorary DLitt as mother and grandmother of seven UCD graduates



A picnic on Dalkey Island c. 1959; M. Neligan, V. Keelan, C. Wood, C. Wren, O. Plunkett, J. O' Neill, V. Keaveney and N. May. One of many trips and picnics, which were very popular amongst students in the 1950s and 1960s

## Some UCD books recently published:

Gerard M. Fealy (2005)  
**A History of Apprenticeship Nurse Training in Ireland**, Routledge

Gary A. Boyd (2005)  
**Dublin, 1745-1920: Hospitals, Spectacle and Vice**, (the Making of Dublin City series, editors Joseph Brady and Anngret Simms), Four Courts

Christine Casey (2005)  
**Dublin The Buildings of Ireland** (Pevsner Buildings of Ireland series), Yale University Press

Professor Da-Wen Sun (2005)  
**Handbook of Frozen Food Processing and Packaging**, CRC Press;

Professor Da-Wen Sun (2005)  
**Thermal Food Processing: New Technologies and Quality Issues**, CRC Press;

Professor Da-Wen Sun (2005)  
**Emerging Technologies for Food Processing**, Elsevier

This is a new section in UCD Today. If you have any new publications that should be included in the next issue, please contact [communications@ucd.ie](mailto:communications@ucd.ie)