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Julia Sigwart tells Claire O'Connell about the captivating Blaschka models



3

Dr Niamh Hardiman speaks to Louise Holden about Irish Social and Political Attitudes



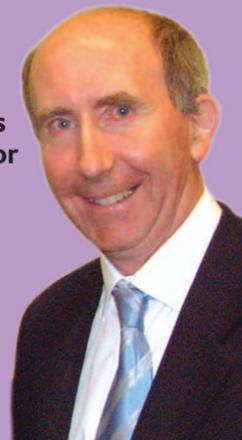
7

Dr Jens Nielsen explains the applications of enzymes to Sean Duke



8

Eoghan Rice discovers the wisdom in Irish proverbs with Professor Aidan Moran



11

Students are ambassadors for UCD

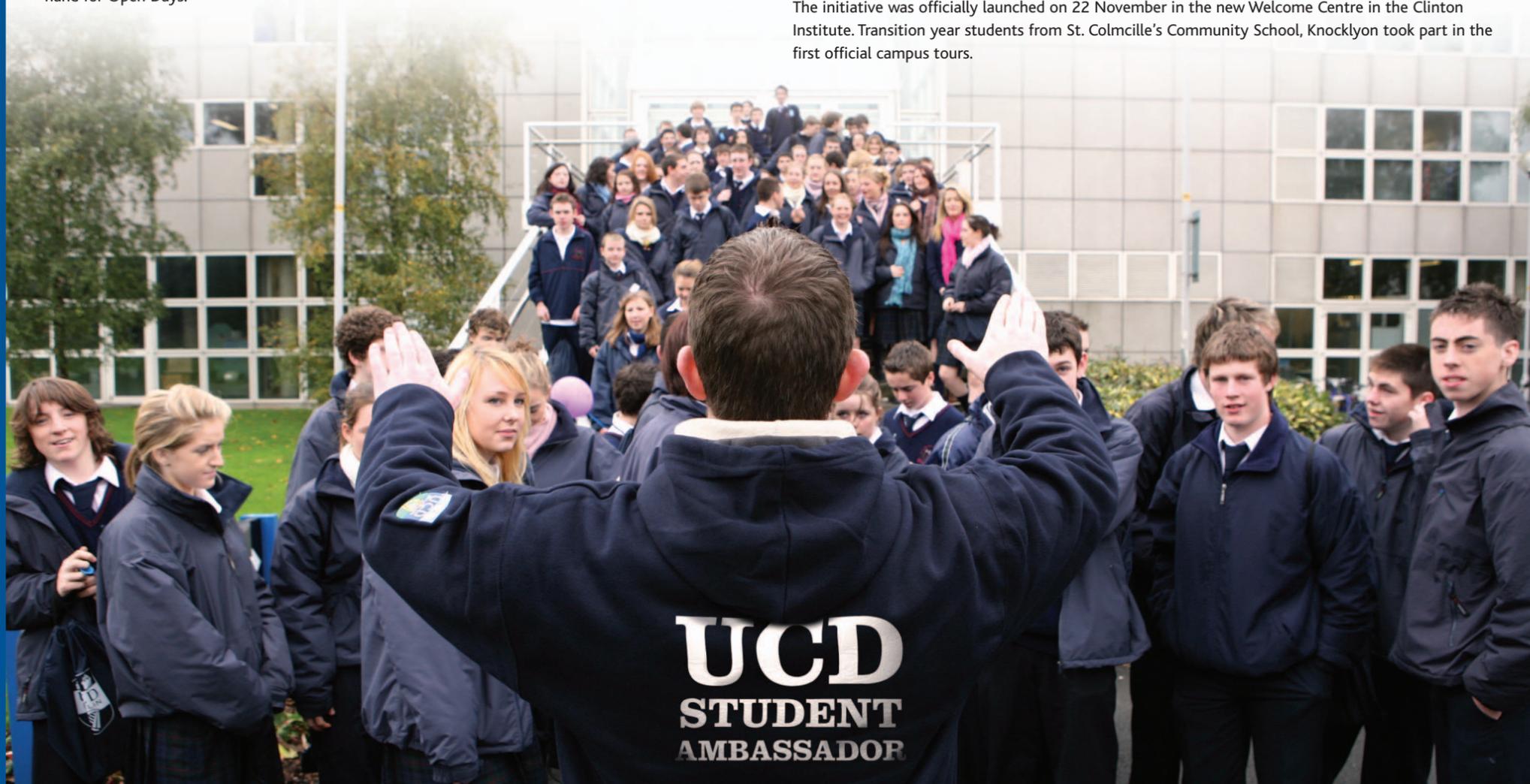
Thirty exceptional UCD students have been selected to represent the university to prospective students as part of the new Student Ambassador programme. One of their key tasks is to conduct tailored campus tours for schools, groups or even individuals.

The Ambassadors are important points of contact for potential students when they visit the university and even before they set foot on campus. They are contactable by email and there are plans for them to visit secondary schools alongside UCD staff on schools liaison. They are also on hand for Open Days.

The Student Ambassador programme aims to ease the transition to third level education by giving prospective students the opportunity to speak to an existing university student in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

The Ambassadors, who were nominated by UCD staff, are from diverse backgrounds and areas of study. All are "high-achievers", typically with experience as team leaders or class reps. They have all completed at least one year of study and some are at postgraduate level.

The initiative was officially launched on 22 November in the new Welcome Centre in the Clinton Institute. Transition year students from St. Colmcille's Community School, Knocklyon took part in the first official campus tours.



what's inside

3 Crystal creatures on display

Julia Sigwart tells Claire O'Donnell about the fascinating, anatomically-correct glass models of marine animals to be found in the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science

5 Research brought to life in unique image competition

Captivating images from the recent *Picture This* competition, showcasing the depth and diversity of work from UCD's research community

7 Inside the mind of the Irish voter

Dr Niamh Hardiman speaks to Louise Holden about the recently-published *Irish Social and Political Attitudes*

8 Enzyme answers

Dr Jens Nielsen explains to Sean Duke some of the applications of enzymes and how their performance can be improved

11 Wise old words

Professor Aidan Moran, co-author of *Timeless Wisdom* explains to Eoghan Rice why some old Irish proverbs are as relevant now as they were centuries ago

17 Out and about

Photos and stories from the Foundation Day dinner, the Ruby and Silver Jubilee celebrations and other social events

18 UCD Sports

A round-up of recent sporting events, including the Dublin Senior Football Championship and the 97 sports scholarships awarded to UCD sporting stars

Ambassadors and scholars - students show their mettle

With forty-one students entering UCD on 600 points and a further 107 on sufficiently high points to earn an entrance scholarship across thirty-eight degree areas, there is ample evidence that UCD is attracting a substantial percentage of Ireland's top students.

With places still at a premium it is not surprising that 19 of the 20 students on entrance scholarship to medicine achieved 600 points in their Leaving Certificate. Of greater interest are the many school students who choose degrees that do not require exceptionally high points. These students are spread across eleven degree programmes ranging from psychology to commerce, from architecture to arts. The extraordinary 900-point student, Ronan McGovern from Newbridge, Co Kildare chose omnibus engineering.

There is a belief abroad that choosing a degree requiring lower points than a student expects to achieve is "a waste of points". Not so, as the ten BA scholars with well over 200 points "to spare" demonstrate. Those of us inside the education system know that students who choose their degree on the basis of interest will particularly enjoy their university life and perform better.

Our undergraduate prospectus aims to describe and explain each degree to students so that they can make informed choices in respect of their CAO application. The information includes the minimum CAO point for students entering in the previous year.

This year the average CAO points were also included to give a more realistic picture of the range of students. For example, the minimum CAO points for omnibus science was 330 but the average was 420.

The breadth of degrees and the national reach of UCD means that talented, bright students are not just those who attain entrance scholarships.

Our new student ambassadors are drawn from throughout the university to guide prospective students around the campus and to give them a sense of what student life is really all about. These ambassadors display consistent qualities in community participation, many excel at sport, others have Gaisce awards, held class rep and captain roles at school and club level and all have adapted to university life with great enthusiasm.

They are, as their name suggests, true ambassadors for the university. School students have a greater comfort level talking to someone closer to their own age. Stepping foot on campus can be daunting. The friendly face and welcoming hand helps overcome anxieties and the practical advice plays an important role in helping students make the choices that are best for them.

Eilis O'Brien
Director of Communications

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We also welcome your suggestions for articles in future editions.

This publication is also available online at www.ucd.ie/ucdtoday.

2006

Crystal creatures on display

Julia Sigwart tells Claire O'Connell (BSc 1992, PhD 1998) about the fascinating, anatomically-correct glass models of marine animals to be found in the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science.



Julia Sigwart, programme director of CoBiD

UCD's corridors hold many hidden treasures, but some of the most spectacular are glass models of marine animals that nestle unassumingly in the zoology cabinets of the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science.

Crafted by father-and-son team Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka more than a century ago, these faithful glass reproductions of marine and microscopic creatures are a visually stunning fusion of art and scientific detail.

UCD and the Natural History Museum (NHM) hold between them the largest collection of animal Blaschka models in the world, explains Julia Sigwart, museum collections researcher at the UCD School of Biology and Environmental



Radiolarian - Copyright National Museum of Ireland

Science and programme director of CoBiD (Collections-Based Biology in Dublin).

And with other, smaller collections in Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork and NUI Galway, Ireland has an unusually high density of the rare glass models. 'We are swimming in them!' says Sigwart.

The NHM and Irish universities first started to invest in Blaschka models in the 1870s, steadily building up collections totalling over 500 models, mainly of soft-bodied marine animals such as squid, cuttle-fish and octopus. The real creatures on display in museums were preserved in alcohol, which maintained their anatomical features but dulled their vibrant colours, and the glass models provided more life-like, aesthetically pleasing alternatives. Glass models could also enlarge small, even microscopic, creatures to better display their beauty and complexity.

The creators, Leopold Blaschka (1822-1895) and his son Rudolf (1857-1939), came from a family tradition of glass craftsmanship dating back to the 15th century. Originally from Bohemia, they moved to Dresden in Germany and built up a reputation for crafting life-like glass models of marine animals, reflecting the Victorian craze for exploring rock pools and the seaside.

Interested naturalists, the Blaschkas at first modelled their creations on drawings of marine



Sea Anemone - Copyright National Museum of Ireland

creatures then later set up salt-water aquaria to keep and observe their subjects in real life. While the Irish collections focus on marine biology, the largest individual Blaschka collection is a series of 4,000 plant and flower models commissioned by Harvard University in Boston.

But despite their global recognition, the Blaschkas and their methods remain something of an enigma, with few recorded notes about their lives or techniques. They kept largely to themselves as they provided museums all over the world with exquisite and scientifically accurate models that bridge art and science. Knowledge about their collections remains fragmented, which is why Dublin held the first annual Blaschka Congress last September, explains Sigwart, who chaired the organising committee.

The aim was to put experts in the same room so they could swap information and join up some of the dots.

Speakers included the botanist Susan Rossi-Wilcox, who manages the Harvard Glass Flowers collection, and David Whitehouse from the Corning Museum of Glass in New York.

Zoologist Martyn Gorman from Aberdeen highlighted the anatomical correctness of the models by using the example of a Portuguese man-o'-war: many of the different cell types



Octopus - Copyright National Museum of Ireland

seen in the live animal are faithfully reflected in the glass model.

Sigwart, a marine biologist who specialises in molluscs, agrees that the models are highly accurate. 'They are fantastic,' she says. 'The Blaschkas wouldn't have known the biology of every group, they were gentleman naturalists, but what comes out is that they had a remarkable eye for detail which is really a crucial skill for being an organisational biologist.'

Blaschka models are on permanent display at the Natural History Museum, Merrion St, Dublin 2. A special, temporary display of 'Crystal Creatures', which include many of the UCD-held models, will run until after Christmas on the ground floor of the museum. For opening hours visit www.museum.ie

Claire O'Connell
(BSc 1992, PhD 1998)
is a freelance journalist.

Mind the glass: conserving the Blaschka creations

The Blaschka glass models of marine and microscopic animals are a museum curator's dream, but the fragility of these antiques can also bring nightmares.

Work is ongoing at the Natural History Museum (NHM) to discover how best to preserve and clean the valuable models, explains Nigel Monaghan, keeper of the natural history division at the National Museum of Ireland.

'Nobody's in a hurry to scrub these things clean until we understand what they are made from and how to they behave,' he says. 'The simple message is that they are made from a variety of types of glass and they also have plaster of paris, papier-mâché, metal wiring, glues coatings and pigments, sometimes in the glass structure. The one real worry about Blaschka models is that they are over one hundred years old and very brittle. The glues have degraded so they are very crunchy. Just think about how long sellotape lasts - it flakes off within years.

By their nature, adhesives are not destined to last forever.'

So far there have been no major disasters, but the NHM is not in a hurry to tempt fate by moving the precious models about too quickly. 'Vibration and moving around as part of an exhibition is very scary stuff,' says Monaghan. 'We have exhibited them at other museum sites [in Dublin], but that involved driving across town at about three miles per hour.'

Collections-Based Biology in Dublin

Historically, UCD and the Natural History Museum (NHM) enjoyed strong links when UCD's science department was based in Merrion Street, before moving to the Belfield campus.

CoBiD (Collections-Based Biology in Dublin), a joint programme between UCD and the NHM, was set up in part to maintain the association between the two institutions.

'The aim is to make the museum's scientific collections available to students and

researchers at UCD. I feel we have a mandate that UCD students learn how to use the museum because that's an important part of making them good and internationally mobile scientists,' says Julia Sigwart, who works closely with the museum and with the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science and the UCD School of Geological Sciences.

The partnership offers students and researchers the opportunity to tap into the enormous reserve of museum-based collections here, explains Sigwart. For example, CoBiD now

offers undergraduate students from all over the world the chance to conduct research each summer through Science Foundation Ireland's UREKA programme.

'It could be anything from working on fossil corals to looking at bat DNA to cellular biology to looking at how plants cope with low oxygen environments. The projects are linked together because they have the museum collections in common,' she says.

treasures

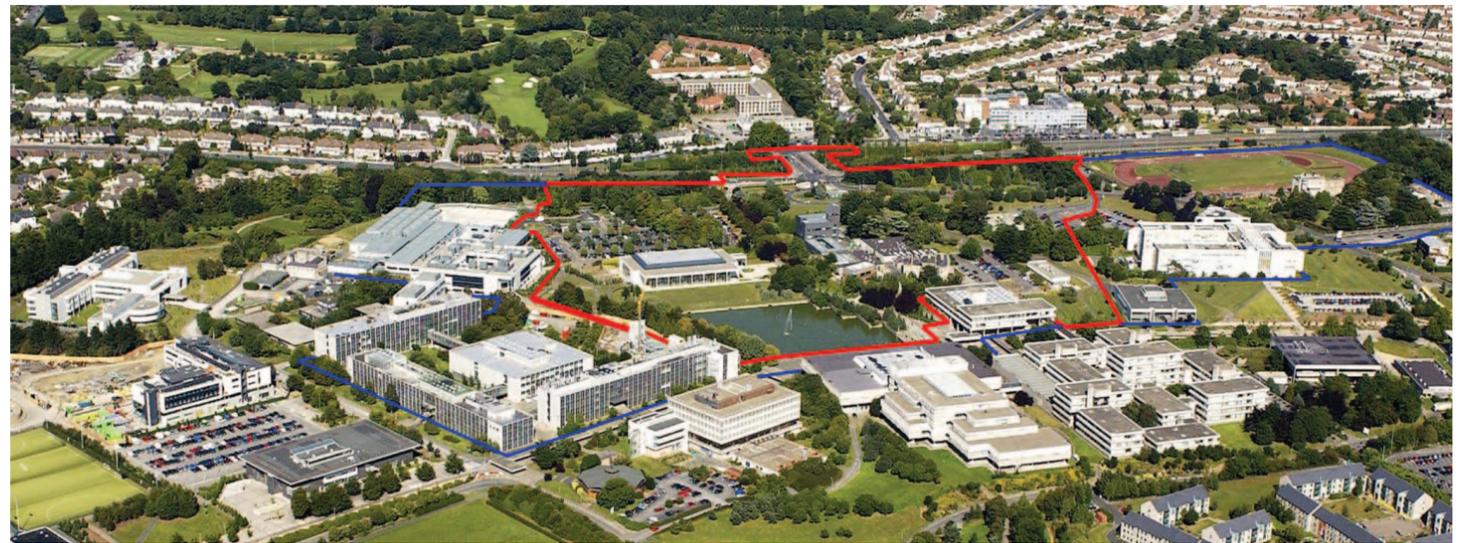
Prestigious Gateway architecture competition underway

In October, UCD launched a major international architecture competition for a new development at Belfield - the Gateway Project. The Project, comprising cultural, academic, leisure and business facilities, represents the start of the 15-year UCD Campus Development Plan.

The challenge to architects is to devise a defining structural feature for UCD that will serve both as an internationally recognisable landmark and also meet extensive functional requirements.

The Gateway Project and the wider Campus Development Plan aim to create a sustainable learning and living environment, moving the university towards a 24-7 campus and creating a greater level of interaction between the university, the local community and the wider visiting population to Dublin.

The core competition area consists of 9.86 hectares at the main entrance to the Belfield campus on the N11. On completion, the new mixed-use development will include; a cultural centre with art house cinema/film studies facility, a university welcome and graduate centre, student residential accommodation and services, retail outlets, a medical centre,



Aerial view of UCD, Belfield campus. Red line indicates outline of competition boundary. Blue line indicates zone of architectural consideration

a crèche facility, conference facilities, a hotel, offices for knowledge-intensive businesses, meeting rooms and a provision for multi-storey car parking.

The Project also incorporates the redesign of the pedestrian and road network with emphasis on rectifying the dangerous and congested

entrance; the improvement of public transport and the creation of public plaza with significant landscaping and pedestrian space. In particular, the Project aims to improve linkages from the Gateway area to other campus precincts.

The University invited submissions from leading architecture firms from around the

world, with a closing date of 6th December 2006. A jury of internationally-renowned architects will produce a shortlist of three to five candidates in January 2007 before selecting the winner next April.

For further information, visit www.ucd.ie/gatewayproject

UCD commended at local Tidy Districts competition

UCD's efforts to improve the environment for the benefit of the wider community were recently acknowledged at the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's annual Tidy Districts Awards.

The university won the Best Educational Institute category for its initiatives to keep the campus clean, tidy and free of graffiti and for actively encouraging recycling. Projects such as the oak walk, boundary woodland development and wildflower meadow were praised as valuable resources for both UCD and the wider local community.



UCD Conway Institute with wildflower meadow in the foreground. (Picture: Gayle Fitzpatrick, UCD Quinn School of Business.)

IT Data Centre supports research needs

UCD's researchers have increasingly sophisticated Information Technology requirements for gathering, storing, manipulating and displaying data. To meet this need, a high density computer facility has been installed in the Daedelus Building.

The new Research IT Data Centre, which was officially opened by UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady on 15 November, has the capacity to host the high-performance computers which are required by some research projects.

"In a 160 square metre facility, we can host dedicated high-end research computing, together with large storage and backup capacity," said Mary Crowe, Chief Information and Technology Officer at UCD. "And a dedicated expert support team are on hand to provide specialist high-end technical assistance to the research community who wish to use the facility."

The Research IT Data Centre is one of the most technologically advanced hosting and data storage systems available today and was introduced at a capital cost of some €2million. It provides researchers with a cost effective structure for working on data-intensive projects and offers hosting and storage capacity that is both secure and extremely reliable. Funding

for the facility was provided by UCD, the HEA and SFI.

With this new facility, UCD will be able to lead and support computationally-intensive research projects at national and international level. One example of this type of project is 'CAVE' - a brand new computer-aided virtual environment (CAVE) that provides a 360 degree collaborative space where researchers can visualise data from different viewpoints.

The CAVE, or visualisation room, is a series of rank mounted computers, each one the equivalent of two desktop machines and equipped with the most powerful computer video cards available along with IBM's Deep Computing Visualisation software. Within the room, researchers can work, separately or in collaboration, using a Diamond Touch controlled desktop panel. Their results are projected as a single, continuous surface wrapped around the entire room.

The CAVE is currently being used for an automotive software engineering project as part of an SFI-funded Lero CSET project. "The table surface offers astounding potential to automotive designers and software engineers for exploring how design changes could impact on the automobile software system in next

generation cars," explained Dr Aaron Quigley from the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics who is leading the automotive visualization project.

According to Dr Quigley, the CAVE allows researchers with different inputs to work together using a centre panel and to witness the results of their collaboration take shape, both on the panel and on the surrounding walls. "It allows team co-ordination when the information space is very complex, voluminous and multidimensional."

With the new Research IT Data Centre at UCD and an expert technology support team in place to support its use, Dr Hamish Carr, a visualisation researcher in the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics, is confident that CAVE will be available as a shared resource across the university.

Research groups can approach the research IT expert support group to

discuss their potential needs and in turn liaise with the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics about using CAVE as a shared resource. "This will mean that the CAVE will potentially be used by research groups across the university rather than it remaining locked away for use by only specific projects," said Dr Carr.

Pictured at the Research IT Service Launch were from left: Mary Crowe, Chief Information & Technology Officer, UCD; Prof David J Fegan, School of Physics and Prof Ciaran Regan, Chair, Research IT Steering Group



Research brought to life in unique image competition

On 24 October, O'Reilly Hall was filled with fascinating images showcasing the depth and diversity of work from UCD's research community.

The unique image competition and exhibition, entitled Picture This, was open to all UCD researchers who wished to submit an interesting image created in the course of their research. Hundreds of absorbing images were entered, representing all key academic and research disciplines including Arts, Life Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities, Engineering and Physical Sciences.

Commenting on the competition, Professor Desmond Fitzgerald, Vice-President for Research in UCD, said the range and quality of the images submitted was exceptional. "The images submitted to this competition are unique and compelling and the scope of research interests in UCD is clearly visible. From both a research and a visual perspective, the competition succeeded in capturing the extent and diversity of the research underway at UCD."

Images were judged by an independent panel of experts who considered the originality, composition (aesthetic and technical) and overall impact of each submission. The twelve winning images will be featured in the first research calendar for UCD.

The overall winner was Noreen Barron, formerly of the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore & Linguistics for her image of the celebration of St John's Eve (23 June) taken in Sruwaddacon Bay, Rossport, Co Mayo. In second place was Elizabeth Shotton from UCD School of Architecture, Landscape & Civil Engineering with her image of Foreign Bodies in the Grand Canal Locks. The third prize was awarded to Yolanda Alvarez of UCD School of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science and the UCD Conway Institute for her image of eye veins.

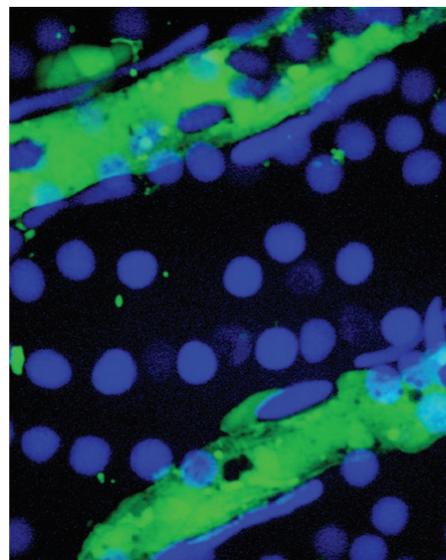
A full list of winners, short-listed images and images that received judges' recognition is available on www.ucd.ie/research. Details of next year's competition will also be available on the site in due course.



St John's Eve (Image: Noreen Barron)



Grand Canal Docks (Image: Elizabeth Shotton)



Eye Veins (Image: Yolanda Alvarez)

Graduate Research Welcome Event

Professor Michael P. Ryan, Dean of Doctoral Studies and Postdoctoral Training, hosted the inaugural UCD Graduate Research Welcome Event in October. The event was designed to welcome new researchers to UCD and to create a sense of community. It also gathered together all the key UCD service providers so that the new researchers could get a feel for the support and other services available.

UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady, officially welcomed the new research graduates. This was followed by talks from PhD students outlining their research, best practice and advice for research at UCD. Professor Michael P. Ryan, Dean of Doctoral Studies and Postdoctoral Training made the keynote address. The event ended in a reception for the graduate research students.



New UCD researchers at the welcome event in October

Mental health research continues after Craig Dobbin's passing

Craig Dobbin, Canadian industrialist and philanthropist who recently passed away, was enlightened and visionary in his generous financial donation for a fellowship in mental health research at UCD.

The current incumbent of the Craig Dobbin Newman Fellowship in Mental Health Research is Aoife O'Donovan, who is based in the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health Research, St. Vincent's University Hospital and UCD.

Aoife is conducting novel research into biological aspects of major depression within a multidisciplinary team that includes

psychiatrists, immunologists, genomic biologists and psychologists. The work is focused on identifying biological pathways by which depression affects physical health. Such research has the potential to influence the treatment of patients with major depression as well as physically ill patients who are experiencing psychological distress.

Speaking about her research, Aoife said, "I hope that our findings will emphasise associations between mental and physical health and encourage awareness of mental health issues throughout our health service."

Craig Dobbin passed away in Newfoundland, Canada on October 7th 2006.

How do rural communities see themselves?

Rural groups from Ireland, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Italy and France recently completed work on an innovative project about visually representing rural identities to community leaders and politicians.

In Ireland, the *Imaging Rural Identities in an Enlarged Europe* project was led by Dr Deirdre O'Connor, Dr Jim Kinsella and postgraduate researcher, Julie Tritz, from the UCD School of

Biology and Environmental Science. The UCD team worked in partnership with two local action groups; IRD Duhallow Ltd (North Cork and East Kerry) and Rural Resource Development Ltd (Co Clare), to produce high quality photographic and video images. These images were then displayed in October at a two-day exhibition in Brussels.

The exhibition, which allowed participants from the various countries to exchange experiences,

recognized diversity and also identified common ground on issues such as farming, land management and the environment. The exhibition was visited and supported by Irish MEPs including Brian Crowley, Sean O'Neachtain and Marian Harkin as well as senior European Commission officials. Jean-Michel Courades, Policy Officer Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, who officially opened the exhibition, said that the imaging rural identities

concept had potential to assist the expanded EU LEADER Programme (2007-2013) to empower and engage rural communities across Europe.

An image-based publication entitled *Imaging Rural Identities: An Innovative Approach to Informing Rural Development Policy in Europe* (working title) is being drafted with a projected publication date of early 2007.

Mar a fheiceann pobail tuaithe iad féin

Tá críoch curtha le gairid ag grúpaí tuaithe as Éirinn, Poblacht na Seice, an Ísiltír, an Iodáil agus an Fhrainc le hobair ar thogra nuálach chun 'conas a mhairimid' a léiriú ó amharc do cheannairí pobail agus do pholaitheoirí.

Ba iad an Dr Deirdre O'Connor, an Dr Jim Kinsella agus an taighdeoir iarchéime, Julie Tritz as Scoil na Bítheolaíochta agus na hEolaíochta Comhshaoil UCD a stiúraigh an togra *Imaging Rural Identities in an Enlarged Europe* in Éirinn.

D'oibrigh foireann UCD i gcompháirt le dhá ghrúpa gníomhaíochta áitiúil; IRD Duhallow Teo (Corcaigh Thuaidh agus Ciarraí Thoir) agus Rural Resource Development Teo. (Co. an Chláir) chun na híomhánna fótagrafacha agus físe d'ardchaighdeán ar baineadh úsáid astu ag taispeántas dhá lá sa mBrúiséal i mí Dheireadh Fómhair a sholáthar.

D'aithin an taispeántas - a cheadaigh do rannpháirtithe as na tíortha éagsúla a gcuid

taithí a mhalairt - ilghnéitheacht agus d'aimsigh siad bunfhadhanna coitianta maidir le cúrsaí feirmeoireachta, bainistíocht talún agus an timpeallacht. Thug baill na hÉireann den Aontas Eorpach, Brian Crowley, Seán Ó Neachtain agus Marian Harkin cuairt ar an taispeántas chomh maith le hoifigigh sinseartha ón gCoimisiún Eorpach. Dúirt Jean-Michel Courades, Stiúrthóir Ginearálta don Talmhaíocht agus d'Forbairt na Tuaithe a d'oscail an taispeántas go raibh sé d'acmhainn ag an gcoincheap maidir le íomhánú

fhéiniúlacht na tuaithe cabhrú le cumasú EU LEADER (2007-2013) agus dul i ngleic le pobail tuaithe ar fud na hEorpa.

Tá foilseáchan íomhá-bhunaithe *Imaging Rural Identities: An Innovative Approach to Informing Rural Development Policy in Europe* (teideal oibre) á dhréachtadh faoi láthair agus tá súil é a fhoilsiú go luath i 2007.



Brian Crowley TD MEP (centre) with members of the Banteer Youth Group



A grandfather sits on the remains of an old fort in Rathmore Co Kerry where he tells stories of it and the community, keeping alive the local heritage



Adult education leads to new skills and opportunities; men and women work with the seaweed harvest in West Clare

Sami Language Council visit UCD

Thug baill de chuid Comhairle na Teanga Sámi cuairt ar UCD ar an Máirt, 14 Samhain 2006. Chuir an tOllamh Seamas Ó Catháin fáilte rompu ina dteanga féin agus rinne Bord na Gaeilge UCD ócáid a reáchtáil ina n-onóir. Bhí deis ag baill de chuid na Comhairle castáil leis an 16 mac léinn atá ar Scéim Chónaithe Ghaeilge na hOllscoile agus dreas cainte a dhéanamh leo. Thug an Dr Iarflaith Watson (Scoil na Socheolaíochta) léacht uaidh ar chúrsaí Gaeilge agus pholasaithe teanga anseo, mar chuid d'imeachtaí an lae agus thug lucht Sámi cuairt ar Choláiste Eoin, Gaelscoil áitiúil.

Members of The Sami Language Council visited UCD in November. They were welcomed in their native language by Professor Séamas Ó Catháin of the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore & Linguistics. A reception was hosted by UCD Bord na Gaeilge at which members of the Council had the opportunity to meet and converse with the 16 students on the Irish Language Student Residence Scheme. The day's schedule included a lecture by Dr Iarflaith Watson from UCD School of Sociology on Irish language issues and policies and also a visit to the local Gaelscoil, Coláiste Eoin.



Dr Iarflaith Watson, UCD School of Sociology; Tor Magne Berg; Gudmund Johnsen; Heidi Andersen; Arne Johan Turi; Rolf Olsen Chairman of Sami Language Council; Ingar Nicolaisen Kuoljok; Professor Séamas Ó Catháin UCD Bord na Gaeilge; Clár Ní Bhuachalla UCD Bord na Gaeilge

Early and Medieval Irish texts now available online

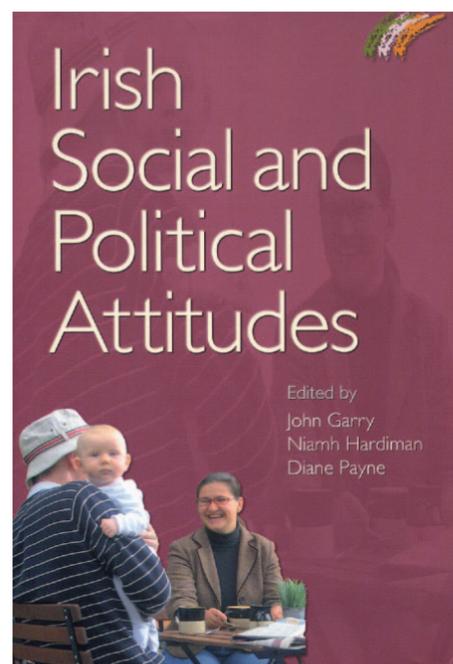
A new online facility called *Thesaurus Linguae Hibernicae* provides web access to digital editions of texts in Early and Medieval Irish to scholars and teachers.

The website, (www.ucd.ie/tlh) will provide digital texts of the Franciscan A manuscripts, new diplomatic transcriptions of published and unpublished texts from other medieval manuscripts, along with scholarly editions no longer easily available.

The project, led by Dr Patricia Kelly of the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore & Linguistics, was made possible by the generosity of Professor Marianne McDonald of the University of California (San Diego), through The Ireland Funds.

Inside the mind of the Irish voter

Hoping to better understand Irish voting patterns and the issues that drive change in the twenty-first century, Louise Holden speaks to co-editor of *Irish Social and Political Attitudes* Dr Niamh Hardiman.



Electoral forecasting is a tricky business in Ireland, as the Irish voter is a complex character. Motivated by a range of factors that can include everything from civil war politics to house prices, the Irish voter often falls into an unusually large constituency of floating voters that require a wide net to catch. In a new book entitled *Irish Social and Political Attitudes*, edited by sociologists and political scientists from UCD and TCD, the Irish voter is scrutinised from a number of angles to illuminate his or her path to the ballot box.

Using a large-scale academic survey, editors John Garry (formerly TCD Department of Government, now QUB), Niamh Hardiman (UCD School of Politics and International Relations) and Diane Payne (UCD School of Sociology) have focused on the issues that currently drive change in Ireland. Our breathtaking transition from a high tax, high unemployment economy fifteen years ago to a wealthy nation today has impacted on the Irish lifestyle in ways that we are only coming to terms with. This book attempts to document how these changes have affected our beliefs and attitudes, and in turn, our voting behaviour.

Co-editor Dr Niamh Hardiman of UCD School of Politics and International Relations explains the approach. "Instead of focusing on some of the immediate debates that so often occupy the airwaves, such as house prices or childcare costs, we interviewed potential voters on some of the wider issues that effect their lives and voting patterns. First, Irish economic development has attracted unprecedented numbers of immigrants to Ireland and the country has become much more multicultural than it used to be. Are Irish people living up to the stereotype of being friendly and welcoming or do the new immigrants face hostility?"

In the book, Dr Michael O'Connell and Dr Nessa Winston have explored the extent to which attitudes to racial minorities may have changed. They also compare the findings to results from surveys in the early 1990s. A rise in hostility towards racial and ethnic minorities is documented, and this backs up with hard evidence anecdotal stories of racism in Ireland.

Socio-demographic profiling is used to identify what kinds of groups in society are least (and most) tolerant.

"The second chapter examines how economic development has affected concerns about the environment," says Niamh Hardiman. "Has development made Irish people more aware of, and concerned about, the environment, or are material concerns still uppermost in citizens' minds?"

In this chapter Brian Motherway and Mary Kelly distinguish between 'extreme' green attitudes and the more moderate 'sustainable development' approach. To what extent has the latter approach now become mainstream? The authors use responses to the 2002 ISPAS survey and compare those responses to those given to the same questions in 1993. The authors conclude that concern for the environment in 2002 remains as high as it was in 1993 but such concern has become less 'extreme'.

In the third chapter of the book Betty Hilliard looks at changing family structures in Ireland and dramatic increases in female participation in the labour force. How have these societal shifts affected the roles and behaviours of men and women in relationships? Hilliard asks questions about marriage, work, gender roles, children and domestic tasks and duties and concludes that Irish attitudes to gender roles are moving, often quite dramatically, in a non-traditional direction.

The fourth area of interest to the authors was the attitude of Irish people to poverty in an era of increasing wealth. Diane Payne, Niamh Hardiman and Tony McCashin have explored the extent to which citizens prioritise equality and fairness in relation to wealth distribution. Do Irish citizens, like many of their US counterparts, see individuals as primarily responsible for the economic situations they find themselves in? Is poverty the fault of the inept poor and wealth the result of the talented rich? If not, are Irish voters uncomfortable with the idea of a wealthy society that leaves so many people impoverished? Are they prepared to vote for greater equality of wealth distribution in Ireland?

Along with examining the social issues feeding into voter behaviour, the book examines the crucial question of why a large and growing constituency of potential voters never make it to the polling station. In a chapter on political alienation and political apathy, John Garry provides evidence on the level of alienation across a range of areas: interest in politics, 'personal' and 'system' efficacy (competence), trust in institutions, and political knowledge. Do Fianna Fail supporters have more trust in the system than Sinn Fein supporters? Do Fine Gael Voters display more political knowledge than Green voters?

The work also maps some of the fundamental political cleavages at work in the Irish psyche. Political allegiances stemming from 1918 are still at play,

compounded by strongly held views on a range of interim developments such as the Troubles, EU membership, the free market and the separation of Church and State.

If Irish election managers read one book this year, let this be it. A comprehensive, academically rigorous and evidence-based exploration of Irish voting patterns, it also provides a very accessible snapshot of Irish social attitudes at the beginning of the 21st century. The work also reveals, in a lamentably unique fashion, some of the loftier concerns of Irish voters.

"Regrettably, much of this new diversity in underlying values is not being reflected in political debate," says Hardiman. "It would appear that a growing rift is taking place between popular opinion and the political system. Some of this is reflected in more widespread political alienation and political apathy, and in the large floating vote. Irish political opinion is exceptionally unstructured compared with other European countries. Nevertheless, there are clear underlying patterns of values and priorities, across a broader spectrum of opinion than is normally articulated in public life."

As politicians and the media obsess on the selfishness of the Irish voter and his perceived preoccupation with Stamp Duty and the Red Cow Roundabout, this book reveals how many Irish people are moved to vote by bigger concerns such as the environment and social justice.

Co-editor Niamh Hardiman.



Some findings of the survey on Irish social and political attitudes:

- Irish attitudes have become more individualist. For example, 78% endorse such statements as 'Some people don't make the effort to help themselves' while 66% agree that 'People with talent or ability will always make money.'
- 29% of respondents are committed liberals who see individual effort as the most important; 25% attribute poverty to social factors; about 15% are 'free-floaters' and one third (32.7%) are 'left-libertarians' who believe that individual effort and hard work matter but that social class and background influence opportunities.
- While most respondents said they were not at all disturbed by the presence of people of another race or nationality, about a third did find the presence of other groups at least a little disturbing. Moreover, about a quarter felt that there were too many people of another race living in Ireland.
- There has been a decline in sympathy for political refugees. In 1995, 22.3% strongly agreed that they should be allowed to stay. In 2002, 14.9% felt this way.
- In 1994 and 1998, half of respondents believed that a pre-school child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works. Less than one third of respondents hold that view now.
- The days of each party relying largely on its 'own' voters are gone. Most voters are 'available', open to persuasion from more than one party and potential support for each party overlaps substantially with that for at least one other.
- There have been changes in attitudes to individual parties since 1989. Sinn Fein is less clearly identified as being on the extreme left, and the Progressive Democrats are placed marginally closer to Fianna Fáil, while the Greens now fit between SF and Labour. "Despite the growth of small parties with apparently distinct social and ideological appeals, electoral politics in 2002 looks like a war of all against all," says chapter author Michael Marsh.

Irish Social and Political Attitudes is published by: Liverpool University Press. 2005. For further information visit: www.liverpool-unipress.co.uk

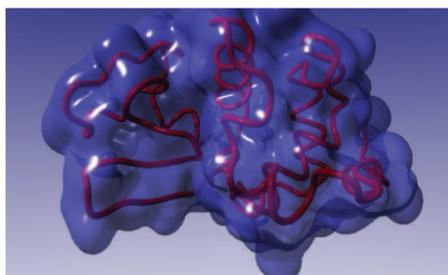
Louise Holden is a journalist with the *Irish Times* and is currently enrolled on the MED programme at UCD.

Enzyme answers

Want to make a better enzyme? Whether it is needed for brewing better beer, baking better bread, or making a new food product with medical properties, UCD's Jens Nielsen can provide some of the answers, writes Sean Duke (BSc 1987).

Enzymes are tiny, busy little proteins that are crucial to the brewing, baking, and detergent industries. They are natural, entirely organic, and present in all animals and plants. They are simply everywhere. Jens Erik Nielsen, a Danish researcher based at UCD, and recipient of an SFI President of Ireland Young Researcher Award (PIYRA) has developed a theoretical model, in the form of a computer programme that can help anyone that wants to improve an enzyme for almost any purpose. This programme is free to academics, with a small charge for industry and is available online.

Jens Erik Nielsen did his undergraduate studies at the University of Copenhagen and for his MSc he worked with a Danish company called Novozymes, which is the world's largest user of industrial enzymes.



3D structure of Hen Egg White Lysozyme

After Jens completed his MSc, Novozymes provided him with further financial support to pursue his doctorate at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany. There he worked with the Dutch researcher Gert Vriend, who had similar research interests to Jens. Following completion of his doctorate in Germany, Jens took up a post-doctoral position at the University of California, San Diego, and spent two and a half years there, soaking up the sun, and learning more about enzymes.

On completing his post-doctoral studies, Jens secured a lectureship at the UCD Conway Institute. He was attracted to UCD by the improving climate for research funding and the sense that things were happening in Ireland generally in the sciences. The UCD Conway Institute's philosophy of sharing equipment and

resources appealed to him and perhaps most importantly for a 'theoretical researcher,' he would have the opportunity to establish his own experimental research lab. 'Theoretical research benefits from access to experimental data because it means you can actually test your models,' explained Jens.

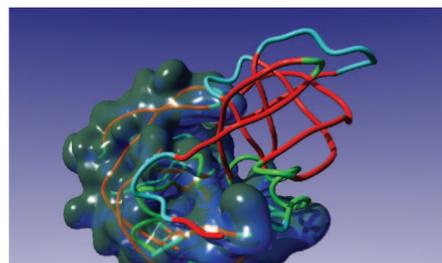
Shortly after his arrival, Jens was awarded a prestigious President of Ireland Young Researcher Award. This firmly established Jens on the Irish research map, and greatly increased his profile here. He now has SFI funding of €1.2 million and HRB funding of €160,000 to support his work.

Industrial enzymes

Enzymes are vital biological entities that make things happen in the body; they can break one material down into another, they can facilitate a chemical reaction, and they can even help to repair DNA.

Industrial enzymes are enzymes that are used to facilitate industrial processes. For example, enzymes have long been used in washing powders. Typically when clothes get dirty there is deposition of organic substances such as starch, fat or blood. Enzymes were developed that were capable of breaking down these materials and thus cleaning the clothes. In the past, the enzymes that did this work required high temperatures, so high temperature washes of 95 degrees Celsius were sometimes needed. Scientists then developed enzymes that could work at much lower temperatures, of perhaps 30 degrees Celsius and when these enzymes were added to washing powders, there were huge environmental and energy savings.

Similarly, enzymes are used to facilitate the manufacture of carbonated drinks. In the production sweeteners for such drinks, syrupy mixtures are boiled for several days in huge cooking vessels to break down starch. However, an industrial enzyme can speed up this process, and ensure that starch is broken down more quickly.



Structure of HIV-1 protease

Another example is the baking of bread. The bread that is on sale in Ireland today does not get stale as quickly as bread did in the past because a group of enzymes called CGTases have been added to the dough.

Making enzymes

So, clearly enzymes are very useful to a range of industries. Jens Nielsen and Barbara Tynan-Connolly, a PhD student in Jens' group, have constructed a theoretical model, a computer programme that can be of value to anyone who wants to improve an enzyme. If a person wants to change the pH-optimum of an enzyme, they can punch in the desired value for the pH-optimum, and in a matter of minutes the programme will provide a number of structural modifications that will be required in order to change the pH-optimum of the enzyme, and thus enable it to perform a specific task.

Jens initially dealt with just the pH-optimum of enzymes, but now he is moving his research onto the next level by developing a theoretical model that can provide answers to more questions.

It was possible to perform this analysis in the past, but it was done manually and it took several days rather than a few minutes to run through the various calculations.

Jens' model is up and running online and he is constantly improving it by using experimental data produced by his group at the UCD Conway Institute, testing the results, and making improvements accordingly. The more data that is used to construct the model, the more accurate the predictions by the model become.

Next level

Jens initially dealt with just the pH-optimum of enzymes, but now he is moving his research onto the next level by developing a theoretical model that can provide answers to more questions.

'We are constructing a database, which has lots of algorithms for predicting various things,' said Jens, 'protein stability, protein dynamics, ligand binding, folding, and solubility. All of that will be integrated into the database system which will be released in December 2006.'

'I am hoping that the programme will be useful to companies producing enzymes for industrial processes. We have already had some interest from industry, and it is hoped that they will use it to generate new products, or improve their existing ones.'

'If we had the capacity to do it, we would like to engineer enzymes ourselves, but we are a research group of eight or nine people, more than half of which are PhD students. We can't compete with a companies like Novozymes who have 2,000 full-time researchers,' said Jens.

Future

There are enzymes in everything we eat, and they are perfectly natural. Generally, Jens said, people don't have a problem if an engineered enzyme performs a task, such as making bread last longer, but is rendered inactive by the time the bread is eaten. However, Jens added, there might well be a different public reaction if people thought that they were consuming engineered enzymes that were still active in foods. This is likely to be a sensitive element of enzyme research, but an important one in coming years.

There is also likely to be huge growth in the use of engineered enzymes for medical purposes, he said. For example, enzymes could be engineered to detect the early signs of disease - a diagnostic kit. Or an engineered version of the blood clotting protein Thrombin could be developed to either promote blood clotting (perhaps in the case of hemophiliacs, for example) or to prevent clotting (perhaps in the case of patients in the post-operative period).

These medical applications would, however need to undergo a rigorous approvals regime, requiring clinical trials. In terms of his own work, Jens said, there is the possibility that his theoretical models could be applied to the pharmaceutical industry. Developing drugs is a costly process, and often hit and miss. Other researchers have developed theoretical models that speed up drug development. These programmes attempt to aid the development of new drugs and also indicate how to make existing ones cheaper or more effective. The possibilities are endless.

"The Commissioner of the US Office of Patents in the late 1800s reportedly said that everything that can be invented has been invented! I won't make that mistake," concluded Jens.

Sean Duke is a UCD graduate and joint editor of Science Spin.



Marie Curie Excellence Grant funds research into plant responses to climate change

The European Commission has awarded a €1.75 million Marie Curie Excellence Grant to Dr Jennifer McElwain of the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science for work on, "Biodiversity dynamics at the Triassic-Jurassic mass extinction event (200 million years ago): A novel approach to studying ecosystem responses to global climate change."

Dr McElwain, who received the award in collaboration with Professor Bruce Osborne, will use the grant to establish a Marie Curie Excellence team of six scientists to investigate ecosystem responses to a natural global warming event which occurred 200 million years ago. This prehistoric event is of similar magnitude to the human-induced climate change that is currently predicted. The results from the project will be extremely valuable for improving our understanding of how plants

may respond to future global warming and will help inform current conservation policy.

The group will develop a novel and highly multidisciplinary research program which strongly complements existing research priorities in UCD. Experiments will be conducted on 'living fossil plants' such as Ginkgos and Cycads growing in climatic and atmospheric conditions which simulate those which existed during the 'dawn of the



200 million year old fossil seed fern leaf.
Copyright Mark Widhalm, Field Museum

dinosaurs', 200 million years ago. To do this, a new state-of-the-art plant growth room facility will be constructed on campus at UCD, with financial support from the UCD College of Life Sciences.

This is the first time Marie Curie funding for Life Science has been awarded in Ireland.

Scientists capture CO₂ from exhausts before it reaches the atmosphere

With development in Ireland continuing at pace, we will burn fossil fuels on an increasingly massive scale. Transportation, homes, businesses and industries all currently rely on fossil fuels for power and heat and therefore release huge amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere. But all this could be about to change.

Professor Don MacElroy and Dr Damian Mooney from the UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering are collaborating with Dr Matthias Tacke and his research group from the UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology to develop an inorganic membrane technology that will separate and capture

carbon dioxide after combustion. In short, new technology capable of capturing CO₂ from exhaust streams before it reaches the atmosphere.

"No membranes have been developed to separate carbon dioxide at temperatures of greater than 400°C from combustion or other high temperature process gases," explains Professor MacElroy. "But our preliminary results have shown that ultra-thin nanoporous membranes can separate carbon dioxide from nitrogen at 600°C."

After CO₂ is captured, it may be stored long-term or recycled. Oceans and forests act as

natural carbon dioxide reservoirs but underground caverns, old gas wells and saline aquifers are also used.

"Carbon dioxide could be recycled by returning it to an artificial carbon cycle. It is a valuable commodity. Under the appropriate processing conditions there is a chance of converting it into low molecular weight chemical commodities or recycling it into methanol. Recycling captured carbon dioxide might well become part of the global quest for renewable energy sources" Professor MacElroy concludes.

To focus the international response to climate change and reverse the global upward trend in

greenhouse gas emissions (widely believed to contribute to global warming), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change introduced the Kyoto Protocol in December 1997. This protocol sets legally binding greenhouse gas emission targets for each developed country signed to the agreement.

Under the protocol, Ireland has agreed to reduce its emissions to 13% above 1990 levels by 2008 to 2012. However, according to the EPA, in 2004 Irish emission levels were 23% above 1990 levels - a considerable way from meeting agreed targets.

Linking climate change and ecology

A recent workshop on 'Climate Change and Ecological Response - Strategic Directions for Research' brought together international scientists from many disciplines and emphasised the importance of scientific research in evidence-based policy making on climate change.

The workshop was run by Caroline Brophy and John Connolly of the Environmental and Ecological Modelling Group in the UCD School of Mathematical Sciences in November. In opening the Workshop UCD President Dr Hugh Brady stressed the timeliness of this work.

The aim of the workshop was to provide a forum to generate research ideas and grant proposals. Speakers included Dr Kristina Stinson (Harvard University) and Dr Andreas Lüscher (ETH & FAL Zurich).

From left to right: Dr John Connolly and Caroline Brophy from UCD School of Mathematical Sciences; Dr Kristina Stinson, Harvard University; Dr Andreas Lüscher, ETH and FAL Zurich



UCD archaeologists conserve Viking weaponry find

When archaeologists working on the N25 routeway in Waterford recently uncovered a Viking find of larger proportions than at Wood Quay in Dublin, they sent a magnificent collection of iron weapons to specialists at the UCD School of Archaeology for conserving and analysis.

Some time around 850, an unknown Viking warrior died - possibly in battle. His comrades would have wrapped his body, dug a pit and with due ceremony, broken his weapons before they set him in the ground. 1150 years later, archaeologists commissioned by the National Roads Authority, discovered the pit - but no body. What happened to the Viking warrior's body remains a mystery which may never be solved, but the weapons themselves tell an interesting story.

Found some distance from the main archaeological site in Woodstown Co Waterford, the block of earth containing the grave was carefully preserved and extracted from the

ground. The weapons - a full sword, broken into three pieces but with some of the scabbard attached, a shield boss (the convex piece of material at the centre of the shield designed to deflect blows), a spear head, a wooden handled knife (embedded in stone), a bronze cloak pin and a sharpening stone, provided confirming evidence that the site was of significant importance and helped to date it to within 50 years of the arrival of the first Vikings to Ireland in the 9th century.

Conservation specialists Claudia Koehler and Susannah Kelly from UCD School of Archaeology painstakingly cleaned each item, which had arrived like blobs of rusty metal, using an air abrasive machine to reveal their secrets.

"It's been perhaps 120 years since a shield boss was unearthed in Ireland and to discover a sword is always special," says Susannah Kelly. "A full-weaponry find like this is very unusual." The condition of the weapons tells the conservators



Axe before conserving work

something of what happened all those centuries ago. "The corrosion on the breaks in the sword proves that it was broken as part of a ceremony rather than through disturbance of the grave later on. The iron running lengthways along the centre of the sword is narrower - probably to lighten its weight and the handle is quite small so that the warrior could wedge his hand in tight preventing it from slipping in battle," adds Claudia Koehler - who specialises in Viking artefacts.



Axe after conserving work

UCD School of Archaeology provides a full-support service to professional archaeologists in the field. Conserving uncovered artefacts is just one example of how the university works to support the curation, conservation and analysis of archaeological objects recovered in the remarkable boom in archaeological excavations in Ireland today. The World Archaeological Congress will be held UCD in 2008.

Kevin Kiely wins Kavanagh Fellowship Award

Down-born poet and author Kevin Kiely has been awarded the €8,000 Patrick and Katherine Kavanagh Fellowship 2006.

The award, which was announced by Irish poet Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin on behalf of the trustees of the estate of Katherine Kavanagh, uses royalties from Patrick Kavanagh's works to help Irish poets during 'that period of their creative life when they have established that they are capable of work of merit.'

Kiely won a Bisto Honour Award in 2006 for *A Horse Called El Dorado* (O'Brien Press, Dublin 2005) a novel for young readers. He is currently working on a PhD at UCD under the supervision of Professor Andrew Carpenter, Head of the UCD School of English and Drama, on the Irish-American philanthropist, John L. Sweeney, curator (1942-1969) of the Woodberry Poetry Room at Harvard.

To Conjure Up - by Kevin Kiely

*I went absent leaving you for Chicago
the hotel became a hospital
I signed my committal form at reception*

*at the Sears Tower in the elevator,
a silver walled room, powered by jet engines
thrust me with strangers to the 110th floor*

*from this height through the windows - the lights
in the towers of the city, the moving lights
of traffic and street lights still, far below.*

*a snowy cloud passed across the window, dimming
the scene of the black and the lights and the towers
with you missing I could only conjure you up.
and then I said: I will give you all of this city*

*below us from this mad height if you bow down
and adore me. I bow down and adore you by the waters
of Lake Michigan breaking and breaking in waves
without salt*

*and she said: I will bow down and adore you.
so I gave her the city
with pleasure I gave her the city of Chicago*

Conference highlights importance of humanities and social sciences in modern Ireland

The recent Irish Universities Association conference, "Humanities and Social Sciences in 21st Century Ireland - Delivering the Knowledge Society" highlighted the vital role of humanities and social sciences in the development of a balanced, prosperous society with a sustainable quality of life.

The conference, which was organised in association with the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences, brought together Irish and international experts from across the spectrum of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS). Addressing the conference, Mary Hanafin T.D, Minister for Education and Science, said "Ireland is proud to market its highly educated workforce to potential international investors. Our graduates of the Humanities and Social Sciences are eminent among the bright, creative, flexible and innovative talent for which Ireland has become renowned."

The Minister went on to state how, in the discussions of the Knowledge Society, there is a great focus on the "hard" sciences but it must not be forgotten that the bulk of graduates are in HSS.

The conference dealt with diverse topics such as the influence of emerging digital technologies (for example the €15million Irish Research eLibrary "Irel") and the role of HSS in policy-making. Speakers also gave views on globalisation, human rights and economic development.

The conference concluded that The Knowledge Society requires many different kinds of knowledge and this diversity can only emerge when there is enough support for a range of models of teaching and research.

HII Distinguished Guests lecture series continues with Professor Philip Esler



Professor Philip Esler and
Dr Marc Caball, HII Director

The most recent speaker in the Humanities Institute of Ireland's Distinguished Guest Lecture series was Professor Philip F. Esler, Chief Executive of the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, who spoke on *The Contribution of the Arts and Humanities to the Production of Public Value*. The lecture was chaired by Dr Don Thornhill (Chairman of the National Competitive Council).

Professor Esler was previously Professor of Biblical Criticism at St Andrew's University where he was also Vice-Principal for Research. Before becoming an academic, he worked as a litigation solicitor and then a

barrister in Australia. He published very extensively, particularly in the social-scientific analysis of New Testament and other biblical and apocryphal texts. From 1999 to 2003 he served as a Board Member of Scottish Enterprise Fife and has a strong interest in knowledge transfer and the commercialisation of research.

The previous lecture on Language and genes in China and East Asia, from Professor Alain Peyraube, took place on Thursday, 26 October.

The HII's distinguished guest lecture series aims to attract world-class academic speakers to Ireland and to raise the profile of the human sciences in the development of Ireland's knowledge society.

For further information on this series or to be added to the UCD Humanities Institute mailing list for events please contact Valerie Norton on 01-7164690 or email hii@ucd.ie

Problem vs method: Ian Shapiro gives inaugural address to UCD College of Human Sciences



Prof Brigit Laffan, Principal, UCD College of
Human Sciences with Prof Ian Shapiro of Yale University

Professor Ian Shapiro of Yale University presented the Inaugural lecture of the College of Human Sciences with a talk entitled "Problems versus methods in the social sciences. Which come first?"

Ian Shapiro is the Sterling Professor of Political Science and the Henry R. Luce Director of the Yale Center for International and Area Studies. His research interests centre on sociological aspects of economics and political theory.

In particular, he has written extensively on theories of justice, democracy, and resource distribution, and the prospects for sustainable democracy in countries emerging from authoritarian political systems. Shapiro has won several awards and fellowships, including election as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2000. He has also taught at Oxford and the University of Cape Town.

In his lecture, which was opened by Professor Brigit Laffan, Principal of the UCD College of Human Sciences, Professor Shapiro addressed the fundamental debate regarding method- and problem-centred approaches to studying social and political events.

For a synopsis of the lecture, visit www.ucd.ie/spire

proverbs

Wise old words

Professor Aidan Moran, co-author of *Timeless Wisdom: What Irish Proverbs Tell US About Ourselves*, explains to Eoghan Rice (BA 2003) why some old Irish proverbs are as relevant now as they were centuries ago.

They are phrases that we all grew up with - 'there's no place like home'; 'don't count your chickens until they're hatched'; 'every cloud has a silver lining'. But where do proverbs come from? And what do they tell us about ourselves?

These questions form the basis of fascinating new research by UCD's Professor Aidan Moran and Dr Michael O'Connell. In their new book, *Timeless Wisdom: What Irish Proverbs Tell Us About Ourselves*, Moran and O'Connell, who both work in the UCD School of Psychology, explore Irish proverbs and the role they played - and continue to play - in Irish society.

The proverbs that are still commonplace in conversations around the country today were used in much the same fashion hundreds, if not thousands, of years ago. That proverbs relating to human behaviour centuries ago are still applicable today is one of the most fascinating aspects of the new research.

"A lot of proverbs are as relevant now as they were 1,000 years ago", explains Professor Moran. "A proverb such as 'eight views, eight recollections' says that people recall events in different ways. Likewise, 'what a child sees, he does' shows that children learn through observation. There are also numerous proverbs dealing with gambling, all of which warn gamblers from believing their luck is about to change when in reality they are just losing more".

While proverbs are not a uniquely Irish phenomenon - just think of how many times you read of 'old Chinese proverbs' - Irish proverbs do take on a uniquely Irish fashion. One distinctively Irish trait is the 'triad' - a figurative expression in which three things are

grouped together for the purposes of comparison. Many of these triads contain witty observations, such as this one that reveals the three things most difficult to comprehend - 'the labour of the bees, the ebb and flow of the tide, the mind of a woman'.

The use of animals in proverbs, say Moran and O'Connell, is another one of the key characteristics of an Irish proverb. For example, selfish people are referred to as cats, 'a cat purrs for himself'; people of limited intelligence are referred to as donkeys, while people who work hard are compared to horses.

Animals play another crucial role in the Irish proverb, however, and that relates to man's attempts to second-guess weather patterns. Throughout the centuries, Irish people have used the behaviour of animals as a way to plan for the coming day's weather.

"Our forefathers had a vested interest in trying to predict the weather, so they used animal behaviour and the pattern of the sky to guess what the weather would be like", says Moran. "It shows the kinship between man and nature".

In researching this book - a feat that took over two years - Moran and O'Connell came across one very obvious problem: it is not possible to translate all proverbs from Irish into English. While there are hundreds of Irish proverbs that made the switch into English and are today widely used, others did not translate.

"There are literally thousands of proverbs, many of which are extremely difficult to translate", says O'Connell. "Others lose meaning when they are translated. In Irish the proverb might rely on the repetition of the same sound, and you lose that by translating it into English, in



"Ní hé lá na báistí lá na bpáistí" ("The day of rain is not the day of children"): St Patrick's Pilgrimage. (Photographer: Horst Munzig. Copyright UCD Delargy Centre for Irish Folklore and the National Folklore Collection.)

the same way as you would if you translated Irish poetry into English".

Amongst the most fascinating proverbs are those relating to alcohol and to women. The authors admit that they were surprised that the attitude to both alcohol and women was largely negative in traditional Irish proverbs.

Proverbs connected with alcohol are almost entirely one sided, forming a long note of warning against drinking too much. While the Irish of centuries ago were as fond of a tippale as the Irish of today, they did not indulge without a fair degree of warning. Many of these warnings revolved around the monetary problems associated with drinking. For example, 'the three faults of drink: a sorrowful morning, a dirty coat, and an empty pocket'. Other proverbs, meanwhile, focused on health warnings - 'wine drowns more men than water'.

Interestingly, *Timeless Wisdom: What Irish Proverbs Tell Us About Ourselves* argues that proverbs offered a negative view of alcohol because they were an early form of public warning. Whereas today we have government warnings on cigarette packets, centuries ago people had only the warnings of their peers.

"Proverbs acted as health warnings" says O'Connell. "Society requires a brake on certain issues, such as alcohol, and so the proverbs stress the negative in order to warn young men off drinking too much, or to help women warn their husbands not to drink too much".

One other interesting issue is the treatment of women. Although there are some positive proverbs relating to women, by and large women are treated harshly. Proverbs tended to show women in a negative light, suggesting in no uncertain terms that men are better off on their own - 'every expensive thing, the wish of every woman', 'the dowry disappears but the woman remains a fool'.

Likewise, Irish proverbs also warn any would-be groom of the ill-effects of marriage - 'the only cure for love is marriage', 'from the day you marry, your heart will be in your mouth and your hand in your pocket'.

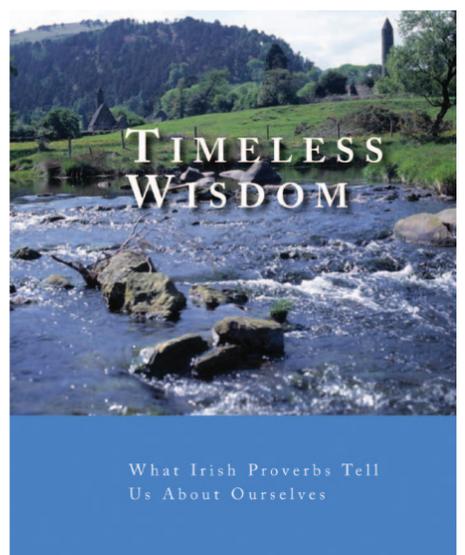
Moran and O'Connell explain this by pointing to the structure of traditional society, which placed women very much below men. The marginal role of women in society allowed men to ridicule them at every opportunity.

It is also worth remembering, they say, that the Irish marriages of centuries ago were likely to be at least semi-arranged for reasons other than love. This perhaps offers a warning that is still relevant today against jumping into marriage without knowing your partner fully. After all, you should never judge a book by its cover.

Timeless Wisdom: What Irish Proverbs Tell Us About Ourselves, by Aidan Moran and Michael O'Connell, is published by UCD Press.

Eoghan Rice is a Sunday Tribune journalist and former editor of the College Tribune.

Dr Michael O'Connell (School of Psychology, UCD), Ms Eanna Ni Lamhna (President, An Taisce; who launched the book) and Prof Aidan Moran (School of Psychology, UCD)





Prof Patrick Wall

UCD Professor to chair European Food Safety Authority

Professor Patrick Wall, Associate Professor of Public Health, UCD School of Public Health and Population Science, has been appointed as the new chairman of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The European Parliament established the EFSA in 2002, to provide independent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks associated with the food chain.

A medical doctor and veterinary surgeon, Professor Wall has worked in the areas related to Food Safety since 1979. He served as the first chief executive of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

The EFSA is committed to providing information based on risk assessments and the scientific expertise of its Scientific Committee and Expert Panels. In the event of a food safety crisis, the Authority's role is to provide scientific and technical advice to support the European Commission and Member States in managing the issue.

The EFSA is based in Parma, Italy.

BAgrSc 150 Scholarship Programme

Ten scholarships, each valued at €20,000, were awarded to students entering the BAgrSc degree programmes at the recent Entrance Scholars ceremony.

€5,000 per year will be available to the students to fund their education over the four years of their degree. One scholarship was

awarded per programme to the student that achieved the highest Leaving Cert result in a designated subject.

The sponsors of the scholarships were Kerry Ingredients, Murray & Associates, Green Belt, Bord Bia, Bord Na Mona, Dawn Meats, Devenish Nutrition, Alltech, SAP, Richard Keenan and Co. Ltd.

As well as financially supporting the students, the industry partners will have the opportunity to host that student for a period of time as part of the Professional Work Experience (PWE) module of their degree.

New range of anti-cancer drugs discovered by UCD researchers

Dr. Margaret McGee from the UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science and investigator at the UCD Conway Institute is developing a new range of targeted anti-cancer agents.

Through a successful collaboration involving a team of chemists, structural biologists, and cell biologists, the research group has designed and synthesised a series of compounds that block the action of a cancer promoting protein at very low doses, and which leads to the induction of programmed cell death of the cancer cells.

"The newly synthesised drugs display strong anti-cancer activity against a range of human cancers, and they have little or no effect on normal cells," says Dr McGee.

Speaking of the discovery, Dr Patrick Corley of Cancer Research Ireland said: "the research group has discovered potentially clinically-relevant anti-cancer drugs using x-ray crystals of an immunosuppressant drug called Cyclosporin A." Dr Corley has confirmed that Cancer Research Ireland will fund the next stage of drug development, which will initially focus on "killing breast cancer cells."

Breast cancer is the most frequent cancer in women worldwide. On average, 2700 women are diagnosed with breast cancer in Ireland every year. And incidence rates for Ireland are increasing by 1.5% per year.

Cancer Research Ireland is the research division of the Irish Cancer Society. CRI is the largest single voluntary funder of cancer research in Ireland and is investing over €2.6 million in cancer research over the next 12 months.

New Dean of Veterinary Medicine



Prof Grace Mulcahy

Professor Grace Mulcahy will take up the role of Dean of Veterinary Medicine at UCD at the end of this year, succeeding Boyd Jones, who has held this role for the past six years.

Currently Professor of Veterinary Microbiology and Parasitology, Professor Mulcahy returned to her Alma Mater in 1991, to take up a position as lecturer in Veterinary Parasitology, having spent five years as a research scientist at the Institute of Animal Health, Pirbright. Since that time she has built up a research group focusing on host-parasite relationships. As Dean of Veterinary Medicine, she aims to promote UCD's degree in veterinary medicine (the only one on the Island of Ireland) as one of the top programmes of its kind in Europe. She also hopes to continue to develop the new, successful programme in veterinary nursing, and to ensure veterinary medicine plays a prominent role in advancing UCD's mission.



Research commitment to global diabetes epidemic

In an effort to address the ever-increasing numbers of diabetes sufferers and the devastating consequences of the disease, a new Diabetes Research Centre has been established at UCD. The aim is to provide a multidisciplinary collaborative research matrix to accelerate progress towards discoveries that will improve the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes and associated diseases.

Diabetes is a lifelong condition with relative high risks of developing serious medical complications over time. Latest WHO figures estimate 177 million sufferers worldwide and this figure is set to jump to at least 300 million by 2025. The current direct cost of healthcare provision to sufferers worldwide is also estimated at over \$286 billion.

In the Republic of Ireland alone it is estimated that up to 14% of the population over 40 years of age has diabetes. Every year over 2,000 of these die from diabetes-related diseases.

Due to these figures, as well as a number of important breakthroughs in the area of diabetes and diabetic disease over recent years, UCD has selected the area as one of its core research themes. The university has internationally-recognised expertise in diabetic kidney disease (diabetic nephropathy), diabetic eye disease (diabetic retinopathy), diet and diabetes (diabesity), quality of life, and clinical and genetic epidemiology of diabetes.

On a visit to UCD Conway Institute for the opening of Wyeth Research Ireland, the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin

welcomed UCD's commitment to create a global centre of excellence in diabetes research which will build on existing expertise at UCD and facilitate collaboration with hospitals, universities and pharmaceutical companies in Ireland.

'Guided by an international advisory board of experts from leading centres in Europe and the US and working together with our national and international network of collaborators in academia and industry, the Centre will work towards discoveries to prevent, treat and cure diabetes and its complications' commented Dr Hugh Brady, President of UCD.

Minister for Education and Science, Ms. Mary Hanafin pictured at the official announcement of the new UCD diabetes research centre

Chinese Vice-Premier officially opens UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland

During his official state visit to Ireland in September, the Chinese Vice-Premier, Mr Zeng Peiyan formally opened the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland. This joint venture between UCD, the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) and Renmin University of China, offers courses and programmes in Chinese language and culture and aims to facilitate the expansion of economic ties between China and Ireland.

The Chinese Government plans to have an international network of 100 Confucius Institutes established across the globe by 2010. The Institutes will spearhead the teaching of Chinese language and culture worldwide and strengthen economic and business ties between China and countries around the world. More than 85 institutes have been established to date in the United States, Canada, Europe, South Africa, Australia, Central Asia, India, and Japan.



Pictured at the official launch of the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland: Dr Hugh Brady, President, UCD; H.E. Mr Zeng Peiyan, Chinese Vice- Premier; Dr Liming Wang, Director of the UCD Centre for Chinese Studies, and Mr Zhang Xinseng, Chinese Ambassador to Ireland

Scottish First Minister visits UCD Conway Institute

As part of his first official visit to Dublin, Mr Jack McConnell took a tour of the UCD Conway Institute. Mr McConnell was accompanied by the British Ambassador to Ireland, Mr David Reddaway and the newly appointed science advisor to the Scottish Executive, Professor Anne Glover.

Professor Janet Allen, Director of the UCD Conway Institute, led the delegation on a tour of the world-class infrastructural facility which supports multi-disciplinary, translational biomolecular and biomedical research.

During his visit, Mr McConnell also took the opportunity to meet with a group of students from Patrician High School, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan who happened to be at the Institute as part the UCD Conway Institute's Science4Schools outreach programme. The boys explained to him the science behind several of the experiments that they were busy conducting on the day - extracting DNA from a banana and blowing up balloons with carbon dioxide released from the fermentation of yeast.



Scottish First Minister, Mr Jack McConnell (left) and the science advisor to the Scottish Executive, Professor Anne Glover (right) discuss DNA with a student from Patrician High School, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, at the UCD Conway Institute

Strengthening links between Norwegian and Irish veterinary scientists

A memorandum of understanding between UCD and the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science (Norges Veterinaerhogskole) has opened up new opportunities for Irish and Norwegian veterinary scientists.

The agreement, which was witnessed by HM King Harald V of Norway at a recent veterinary conference, will allow the universities to exchange students, researchers and scientific materials of mutual interest.

The universities have also announced their intention to establish a jointly funded

interdisciplinary Chair who will create and operate research teams across each institution in the fields of food safety and security, immunology and other areas of strategic research in veterinary medicine.

'The agreement will generate strong practical collaborations between the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science and UCD in both teaching and research,' said Dr Hugh Brady, President of UCD. 'We are excited by the opportunities that this agreement will present and look forward to a most fruitful partnership with Norges Veterinaerhogskole.'



HM King Harald V of Norway (centre left) on his visit to UCD, accompanied by Dr Hugh Brady, President, UCD

Graduate Diploma in University Teaching and Learning

The first cohort of UCD staff studying on the *Graduate Diploma in University Teaching and Learning* graduated recently. There were staff representatives from all the five Colleges in UCD, the Audio-Visual Centre, Computer Services and the Library. This is the first programme of its kind in UCD and it is situated in the Centre for Teaching and Learning, in the UCD School of Education and Lifelong Learning.

The programme built upon some of the professional development workshops already in existence in UCD, in particular those provided by the Centre for Teaching and Learning and the Audio-Visual Centre.

The programme deliberately focused module activities on the actual work of participants, and has produced evidence of beneficial change to teaching at individual and curriculum level in UCD.

The programme participants, the staff of the Centre for Teaching and Learning, Dr Bairbre Redmond (Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning) and the Registrar, Dr Philip Nolan (centre front).



First Sutherland Chair of European Law delivers inaugural lecture

As the first Sutherland Professor of European Law at UCD, Professor Imelda Maher gave her inaugural lecture on the relationship between EU Law and national law. Her lecture entitled 'Paradox and Law in the European Union' explored an apparent inconsistency that lies at the heart of EU law: its status as a new legal order.

Peter Sutherland was guest of honour at the lecture. A UCD graduate, Mr. Sutherland is an Irish businessman and former politician, associated with the Fine Gael party. He is a barrister by profession, and is also Senior Counsel. He served as Attorney-General in

Ireland and as a European Commissioner in the governments of Garret FitzGerald. He has also served as Director General of the World Trade Organisation, and Competition Commissioner for the EU. In 2005, he was appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the UN Industrial Development Organisation. He is Chairman of BP and Goldman Sachs International and currently a non-executive director of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group.

Imelda Maher is the first Sutherland Professor of European Law at University College Dublin. Her main research interest is in law and governance and her work straddles two

domains of competition law and EU law. Prior to her appointment as the first holder of the Sutherland Chair, she worked at the London School of Economics. She has also held academic posts at the Research School for Social Sciences, The Australian National University, Birbeck College, University of London and Warwick University.

A transcript of the lecture will be made available at www.ucd.ie/law



Prof Imelda Maher and Peter Sutherland

UCD professor provides Department of Justice with insights into child pornography cases

In a recent report commissioned by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Professor Ian O'Donnell of the UCD Institute of Criminology investigated child pornography and the criminal justice system.

The report, which was compiled with research assistant Claire Milner, looked at the number and nature of child pornography cases that came into the Irish criminal justice system from 2000 to 2004. It considered the roles played and decisions made by the authorities involved.

Using in-depth interviews with the Gardai, judges and other parties, the study detailed the grading of offences, the considerations involved in cases, the rationale behind sentencing and ultimately the sentences passed. In addition to this, the study gave some indicative demographic information on the characteristics of suspects.

In the period 2000-2004, 204 individuals were suspected of committing one or more offences contrary to the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998. This includes cases arising out of the "Operation Amethyst" co-ordinated raids of May 2002.

The great majority of the cases involved possession of child pornography only (i.e. no other charges ran concurrently). In most instances the cases involved only photographic images; videos and text were rare. The number of images varied greatly and covered the full spectrum of sexual activity. Those investigated for these offences were typically middle-aged men with no previous criminal record.

Most cases dealt with by An Garda Síochána resulted in a crime being detected (87%) and

three quarters of these resulted in a file being sent to the DPP. In two thirds of the cases considered by the DPP, a prosecution was initiated and most of these led to a conviction. A small number of individuals pleaded not guilty and each of them was acquitted.

Imprisonment, usually immediate, was the only sanction used for the most serious offences of child trafficking, exploitation or the distribution of child pornography. For possession offences, a variety of sentencing options were utilised.

When assessing offence seriousness, judges were strongly influenced by the nature of the images. A number of them had consulted guidelines published by the Sentencing Advisory Panel. They gave a discount for a guilty plea and took account of participation in treatment and the likelihood of future offending. Judges were divided about whether any consideration should be given to expressions of remorse or the stigma associated with prosecution. The sentencing exercise involved finding a balance among a wide range of aggravating and mitigating factors.

The report concluded that the advent of the internet has made child pornography more easily available. Increasing computer use and growing broadband availability, combined with the fact that users are becoming more sophisticated at covering their tracks, mean that it is likely that this type of criminal activity will become more prevalent and more difficult to eradicate. Effective policing of the internet requires continual monitoring and the ability to respond rapidly and flexibly. The extent of this challenge cannot be underestimated.

Fulbright award for American poetry scholar

Dr Nerys Williams from the UCD School of English and Drama has been awarded a Fulbright Scholars Award for a research project based at UC Berkeley during 2007 for six months.

Her research proposal, entitled "The Collaborative Impulse in Lyn Hejinian's Poetry", will examine the poetics of the San Francisco Bay Area during the seventies and eighties.

The focus of the study will consider the relationship between ideals of community and linguistic experimentation in contemporary American poetry.

For more information on the Fulbright Commission visit www.fulbright.ie



Dr Nerys Williams receiving her award from Dr. Don Thornhill, Chairman of the Fulbright Board

Library studies research highly commended in Emerald/EFMD awards

The work of post-doctoral research fellow, Dr Claire McGuinness from the UCD School of Information and Library Studies was highly commended by the judges in the recent Emerald / European Foundation for Management Development Outstanding Doctoral Research Awards.

The work, which was in the "Information Science" category sponsored by the Journal of Documentation, was on "Collaborating for information literacy development: exploring the dynamic effect of academic-librarian relationships on information literacy development programmes in undergraduate education."



From left to right: Dr Ian Cornelius, Deputy Head, UCD School of Information and Library Studies; Dr Claire McGuinness, Post doctoral research fellow in the UCD School of Information and Library Studies; John Peters, Chief Executive of Emerald Group Publishing Limited; Griet Houbrechts, Director of the Business School Services Unit, EFMD

UCD's first Director of International Strategy



Dr Erik Lithander joined UCD in early September in the newly-created position of Director of International Strategy.

Erik was previously at the University of Auckland, where he held the position of Associate Director for International Relations. Originally from Sweden, Erik holds a BSc from the London School of Economics and an MPhil and PhD from the University of Cambridge. His research interests lie in contemporary Latin American literature.



Global Irish Institute

Mr Brian Jackson has been appointed Director of the Global Irish Institute. Before joining UCD, Brian was Managing Director of the Abbey Theatre. He is also a director of Theatre Forum, the advocacy and lobbying group for the performing arts sector in Ireland. Before this, he was Managing Director of an IT company in the UK, worked in the BUPA group in the UK and the corporate tax consultancy division of PWC in Dublin. His research interests include catholic culture and the organisation and structure of the religious orders in early modern Ireland.

Dr Simon Dobson appointed to the Board of ERCIM

Dr Dobson of the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics has been appointed to the Board of Directors of European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM), which coordinates a number of multi-million, multi-country EU projects. ERCIM aims to foster collaborative work within the European research community and to increase co-operation with European industry.

The organisation runs working groups in areas such as the semantic web, dependable systems and e-learning. It also builds and maintains a network of researchers, organises workshops, and prepares common project proposals.

For further information see www.ercim.org



Professor Niamh Brennan appointed Chairman of Ulster Bank Ireland Ltd and First Active plc



Professor Niamh Brennan, the Michael MacCormack Professor of Management in the UCD Quinn School of Business, has been appointed Chairman of the Boards of Ulster Bank Ireland and First Active plc, subsidiaries of Ulster Bank Group. A chartered accountant by profession, Prof Brennan is also Academic Director of the Institutes of Directors' Centre of Corporate Governance.

NovaUCD Director elected chair of council of AURIL

Dr Pat Frain, Director of NovaUCD, has been elected Chair of the Council of Association of University Research and Industry Links (AURIL).

AURIL is the professional association representing Knowledge Transfer practitioners in the UK and Ireland and it is the largest knowledge transfer association in Europe with more than 1600 members from UK and Ireland universities, NHS trusts and public sector research establishments.

Dr Frain is the first representative of a university from the Republic of Ireland to chair the council since AURIL was founded in 1995.



SpeedNetworking

At a recent management development conference at the UCD Quinn School of Business, a unique 'SpeedNetworking' session allowed delegates to discuss possible future international partnerships with more than 50% of conference attendees.

The theme of the 2006 European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) Undergraduate Conference was "What Got Us Here Won't Get Us There!" Over the course of the three day conference, delegates heard submissions from industry and from international academia on the growing importance of China to business education and the impact of technology on business and business education.

More than 100 Deans and Undergraduate Deans of Business from around the world attended the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD)

Undergraduate Conference which took place from 12th - 14th October.

"This was the first opportunity we had to showcase UCD Quinn School of Business to the European Foundation for Management Development and AACSB communities" said Dr. Martin Butler, Director of the UCD Quinn School of Business.

The EFMD is globally recognized as an accreditation body of quality in management education and has established accreditation services for business schools and business school programmes, corporate universities and technology-enhanced learning programmes.

Based in Brussels, the EFMD is an international membership organization with more than 600 member organizations from academia, business, public service and consultancy in 65 countries. It provides a unique forum for information, research, networking and debate on innovation and best practice in management development.

CEMS Master's in International Management moves up FT rankings

In the second Financial Times (FT) ranking of "pre-experience" Master's in Management degree programmes, the Community of European Management Schools and International Companies' one-year Master's in International Management (CEMS MIM) programme has moved up to the number two spot from third place in last year's ranking.

Launched in 2001 and conceived by academic and business leaders, CEMS MIM is specifically designed to equip multilingual and multicultural managers with the skills to thrive in an international environment. Students are selected by academic and corporate representatives together among the 17 CEMS schools in Europe (of which UCD is one) and 4 associate schools outside of Europe.

Students participate in a dedicated pan-European programme and are awarded the CEMS Master in conjunction with a Master degree from their home school. The incoming class of 2006 - 2007 includes 600 students representing 45 nationalities. The programme has a strong practical and international component with students required to spend a semester at another CEMS school and to complete an internship abroad.

To find out more about this and other programmes visit www.ucd.ie/business

FitFone wins NovaUCD 2006 entrepreneur award

Founder of FitFone,
Dr Conor O'Brien

A new platform technology, which when embedded into a mobile phone facilitates remote health and fitness assessment, won the 11th NovaUCD Campus Company Development Programme (CCDP).

The *FitFone Exercise Physiology System*, grounded in detailed medical and physiological science, is a health and fitness assessment application containing a Global Positioning System embedded into a mobile phone. The system measures an individual's fitness level based on personal statistics (e.g. age, weight and height) combined with the time taken for an individual to complete an exercise such as walking a certain distance.

This fitness measurement, which is available instantaneously via mobile phone, can be used by the individual and his/her fitness instructor/doctor/coach to design and implement programmes of exercise to improve the individual's fitness. The FitFone device can be used to monitor the improvements in the individual's fitness levels over time which can result in improved health outcomes and increased life expectancy.

The founder of FitFone is Dr Conor O'Brien, a consultant neurophysiologist and physician in sports and exercise medicine. He was chairman of the Anti-doping Committee of the Irish Sports Council (1999-2005) and is Chairman

of the Irish Heart Foundation Council for Exercise and a former Irish Olympic Team doctor.

The CCDP is a programme sponsored and supported by BT Ireland and Enterprise Ireland that assists academic entrepreneurs establish and develop new business ventures and commercialise the output of their research. In the last eleven years, over 125 projects and 175 individuals have completed the NovaUCD CCDP. Previous winners include AV Edge, BiancaMed, ChangingWorlds and Vocal Health Screen.



Enterprise Ireland Informatics Commercialisation Award for UCD professor

In recognition of his achievements in commercialising university research, Professor Barry Smyth, Head of the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics, has been awarded the "Enterprise Ireland Informatics Commercialisation Award 2006."

The annual award is presented to a researcher, research group or institution that demonstrates commitment, innovation and success in relation to the commercialisation of university research. Through these awards, Enterprise Ireland hopes to encourage commercialisation across the informatics research arena.

"Prof Smyth has achieved a harmonious balance between academic and commercial success. He has maintained a strong track record of research excellence while managing to commercialise his work through the company Changing Worlds" said Fergal O'Morain, Director of Applied Research Commercialisation at Enterprise Ireland.

The award was presented at the recent Enterprise Ireland Informatics Technology Commercialisation Showcase 2006 which featured Irish informatics research projects with commercialisation opportunities including UCD projects on *E-commerce Recommender Systems* and a *Quality Oriented Adaptive Scheme*.

Prof Barry Smyth, Head of the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics receiving the "Enterprise Ireland Informatics Commercialisation Award 2006" from Fergal O'Morain, Director of Applied Research Commercialisation at Enterprise Ireland



Stockbyte founder speaks at "Entrepreneurs Live!" seminar

"Entrepreneurs Live!", the seventh Enterprise Seminar Series organised by NovaUCD in association with the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Enterprise Board, was launched in October by Jerry Kennelly. Earlier this year, Jerry Kennelly sold his two companies, Stockbyte and Stockdisc for \$135 million to Getty Images. The companies had amassed a library of over 85,000 royalty-free images.

Speaking at the opening seminar, Jerry Kennelly stressed the value of employing a highly motivated and skilled team that was dedicated to producing top quality images for sale to global advertisers and publishers. He added that the management systems which his team had

developed in-house had given the company a vital competitive advantage that was extremely important when his companies were bought by Getty Images.

In the "Entrepreneurs Live!" seminar series, leading Irish entrepreneurs speak about their experiences of setting-up and running their businesses. They also share some of the lessons they have learned along the way. The seminar series aims to promote a spirit of entrepreneurship among the academic, research and student population at UCD. Other speakers include Dylan Collins of DemonWare, Colum O'Sullivan of Cully & Sully and the co-founder of the UCD spin-off ChangingWorlds, Professor Barry Smyth.

Jerry Kennelly, founder of Stockbyte, speaking at the launch of the "Entrepreneurs Live!" seminar series



Foundation Day Dinner



Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin with Christopher Westdal, Canadian Ambassador to Ireland and his guest Ms Sheila Hayes pictured at the UCD Foundation Day Dinner

The Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, TD, gave the keynote address at the UCD Foundation Day Dinner, held in O'Reilly Hall, Belfield on Friday 3rd November 2006. Over 450 friends and supporters of UCD heard the Minister speak of Ireland needing strong universities and a strong wider network of support for them. She also paid tribute to the role of UCD in promoting reform within the sector.

At the event, UCD graduates, Ciara O'Brien and Ciaran Lawlor were presented with Outstanding Achievement Awards.

Ciaran Lawlor was honoured for his outstanding contribution to UCD student societies, particularly for his work in promoting debating. He was the driving force behind UCD's successful bid to host the World Universities Debating Championships in 2005 - the largest student event in the world outside of sport.

Ciara O'Brien was honoured for her outstanding achievements in sport, having achieved some 103 Caps for Ireland in Senior Hockey. In addition to her playing abilities, she also played a pivotal role in the development of the UCD Ladies Hockey Club.

Ciara O'Brien and Ciaran Lawlor receive their outstanding achievements awards at the UCD Foundation Day Dinner



Ruby & Silver Jubilee Celebration

UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady welcomed back graduates from 1966 and 1981 at the Ruby & Silver Jubilee celebration in O'Reilly Hall on Saturday 4th November 2006.

Over 320 alumni attended on the night. The group had travelled from all corners of Ireland, UK, USA, Canada and many parts of Europe.

Dáithí O'Ceallaigh BA '66 and Heather Ann McSharry BComm '81 were guest speakers on the night.



Pictured left-right: Mary O'Neill MVB '66, Mary Cummins, Harry Cummins MVB '66 pictured at the Ruby & Silver Jubilee Celebration

Chemical Engineering at UCD celebrates 50 Years

In November, a gala banquet at O'Reilly Hall marked 50 years of Chemical Engineering at UCD. Almost 400 graduates and guests attended, including members of the 1956 and 2006 classes.

The event was a celebration of the Irish and international contribution of the 1,158 UCD Chemical Engineering graduates. Special honours were made to Dr. Eddie O'Connor of Airtricity, (class of 1970) and Mr. Pat Kenny of RTE, (class of 1968). The director of ceremonies for the event was Mr Peter McKenna, Croke Park Stadium Director, (class or 1985).

From an initial class of 3 (1956), 2006 saw the largest ever graduating class of Chemical Engineers (47). This growth in numbers has mirrored the vibrant health of the Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Bioprocess and allied industries in Ireland.



The Chemical Engineering graduating class of 1956: Timothy McCarthy, Michael O'Keefe, Peter O'Callaghan

The UCD Chemical Engineering degree is accredited by both Engineers Ireland and the Institute of Chemical Engineers (MEng-level accreditation) and is ranked in the top 10 Schools of Chemical Engineering in Europe.



Professor Tom Begley, Dean UCD School of Business (back row, centre), hosted a breakfast on Friday 10 November to mark the recent baby boom among the School's staff. It was a delightful event for parents and babies and was held in the Laurence Crowley Board Room in the UCD Michael Smurfit School of Business.

sport



The UCD players and management celebrate with the cup. Picture courtesy of Sportsfile

Triumph in Dublin Senior Football Championship

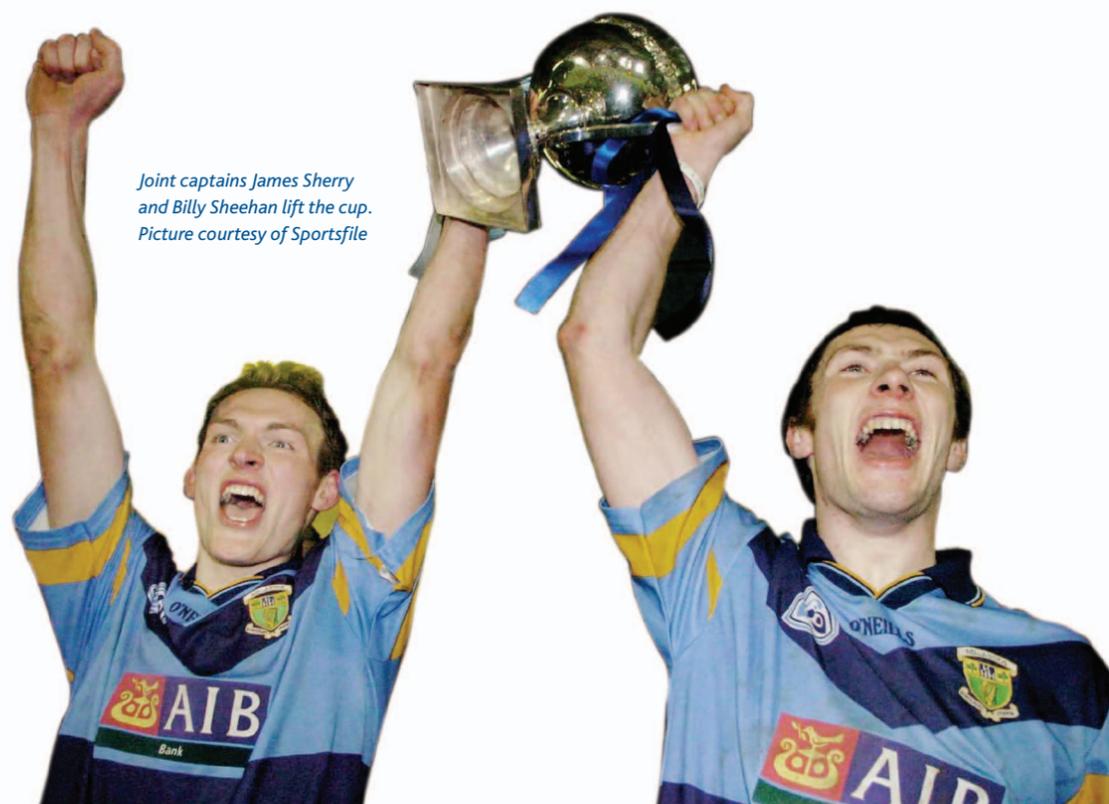
In November UCD footballers won the Dublin Senior Football Championship for the second time in five years in a close encounter with old rivals St Vincent's at Parnell Park. UCD overcame a four point deficit and the vocal opposition of most of the 8,000 crowd to prove victorious thanks to an injury time point from Louth county star Shane Lennon which left the final score at UCD 0-10, St Vincent's 0-9.

At the end of a close first half, St Vincent's led by 0-4 to 0-2 with five of the six points scored coming from placed balls. At the start of the second half, Vincent's threatened for a while to overrun UCD with some magnificent points from play leaving the score at 0-7 to 0-3 after 39 minutes. The introduction of Austin O'Malley in the 40th minute proved crucial, however, as the more fluid combination play and direct movement of the UCD players began to prevail, even when the opposition had more of the

possession. UCD narrowed the margin from 0-7 to 0-6 but when Vincent's pulled away again to lead 0-9 to 0-6, the small band of UCD supporters feared the worst as it looked like Vincent's would gain revenge for their loss to UCD in the 2002 decider.

Points from Lennon and O'Malley (2) brought UCD level with four minutes to go and then Lennon's decider broke Vincent's hearts and left the 8,000 crowd largely stunned into silence. Joint captains James Sherry of Fermanagh and Billy Sheehan of Laois accepted the cup after the game and vocal and emotional tribute was paid by the UCD players to Dave Billings, Mr GAA at UCD.

Also in the crowd at last night's game were UCD greats from yesteryear including Dr Pat O'Neill, Chair of the UCD GAA Scholarship Committee, Mr Justice Brian McMahon, Colm O'Rourke and Benny Gaughran.



Joint captains James Sherry and Billy Sheehan lift the cup. Picture courtesy of Sportsfile

Fantastic volleyball Intervarsities for hosts UCD

The UCD Volleyball Club hosted the annual Irish Intervarsity Volleyball competition welcoming 24 teams from all over Ireland to compete in the three-day tournament in UCD Sports Centre from Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 November 2006.

This year's competition resulted in the men of University of Ulster, Jordanstown reclaiming their title for the second year in a row, while the hosts University College Dublin ladies battled it out to claim their record-breaking 6th title in a row!

In the plate competition, University of Ulster Jordanstown emerged victorious in the ladies final, after a tough match against Athlone Institute of Technology. The men's plate final saw Athlone Institute of Technology once again defeated, this time by NUI Galway.

Most Valuable Player awards for the tournament on the ladies side were awarded to UCD captain and setter Pauline Walsh, and UCD player Noemi Kuncik. The male MVP awards went to a deserving David Hamilton from Queens University Belfast, and setter Mark Fulton from University of Ulster Jordanstown.

UCD awards 97 sports scholarships

UCD has awarded 97 scholarships to students selected for their outstanding sporting ability. This is the largest ever number of sports scholarships in an Irish university.

Amongst the recipients was Irish 200 metre and 400 metre national champion, Joanne Cuddihy. In total, thirteen sports were represented in the scholarship awards.

Since it was initiated in 1979 by Dr Tony O'Neill to help talented soccer players who wished to stay in education, the UCD sports scholarship programme has expanded and supported over 600 students across athletics, basketball, camogie, cycling, ladies gaelic football, men's gaelic football, golf, handball, ladies hockey, men's hockey, hurling, rugby, and ladies soccer.

Some of Ireland's best known sports figures are former UCD sports scholars including the current international rugby players, Brian O'Driscoll, Paddy Wallace and Ronan McCormack, captain of the Dublin County Gaelic team, Collie Moran and team mate Alan Brogan, Meath star, Trevor Giles and the late Cormac McAnallen, from Tyrone.

The UCD sports scholarship programme aims to develop elite athletes who can compete at the highest national and international level. The scholarship guarantees access to top coaches, training facilities and the support and services of the UCD High Performance Centre, where athletes are already preparing for Beijing 2008 and London 2012.

At the reception for the announcement of the 2006 UCD sports scholarship recipients are, from left, UCD Rugby Scholars Cian Aherne, Andrew Cummiskey, Cathal Doyle, Paul O'Donohoe, Robert Shanley and Vasily Artimiev. Photo courtesy of Sportsfile



Double All Star for Rena Buckley

Following her camogie All Star Award, UCD's Rena Buckley received a football All Star Award at the O'Neills/TG4 All-Stars banquet and awards ceremony on 18th November.

Rena was among four of the Cork All Ireland winning side to receive an award. Ulster Champions, and All Ireland finalists Armagh picked up three awards while Leinster Champions Laois were rewarded with two awards. The remaining awards went to Kerry, Limerick, Waterford, Meath, Sligo and Galway.

It has been a fantastic year for Rena with double All Ireland success and now double All Star success. Rena was one of the recipients of the UCD Sports Scholarships 2006.

Rena Buckley receives her All-Star award from Tadhg Kennelly, footballer with the Sydney Swans, in the company of Liz Howard, President, Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael. Photo courtesy of Sportsfile



UCD retain men's road title

UCD student and former Olympian James Nolan showed excellent early season form at the Irish Universities Road Races in NUI Maynooth in November. Nolan equaled the two-mile record he set last year with a 9.01mins in the penultimate leg of the relay event. UCD went on to retain their men's title with an overall time of 41.07mins. seven seconds ahead of close rivals DCU. While in the women's event UCD finished a credible third.



First Colours loss in 10 Years for UCD 1st XV

Dublin University 16 UCD 13

DUBLIN University broke a 10-year jinx that included nine losses and one draw to beat UCD in the annual Colours Match at a freezing cold Donnybrook on Friday 17th November.

UCD opened the score with a penalty from Fergus McFadden. However, Trinity responded with a superb try for winger Shane Monahan, which was converted by Johnny Watt.

Another McFadden penalty left the minimum between the sides and the Ireland U19 centre

did even better just before the break, hurtling onto a pass from out-half Ian Keatley to dive over. He converted for a 13-7 lead at the break.

In the second half try scorer McFadden went off with an eye injury. UCD came close to scoring a spectacular try but Killian Lett was tackled into the corner flag. Meanwhile Watt bagged his first penalty in the 60th minute. He added a second penalty moments later to draw the sides level.

When it looked as if a draw was on the cards Trinity converted a penalty with 90 seconds to go to give them their first Colours since 1996.



UCD's Fergus McFadden goes over for a try. Photo courtesy of Sportsfile

Festschrift on retirement of Professor Muiris X. FitzGerald

The UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science honoured Professor Muiris X. FitzGerald, who retired recently as Dean of the School and as Professor of Medicine & Therapeutics. The occasion was marked with a Festschrift celebrating his distinguished career as a medical educator, researcher and mentor. The term "Festschrift" originates from the German words "Fest" (a celebration) and "Schrift" (writing).

Professor FitzGerald graduated from UCD's Medical School in 1964 and after postgraduate training in St. Vincent's University Hospital, New Jersey College of Medicine, Birmingham University and Boston University Medical School, he returned to Dublin in 1971 as a consultant at St. Vincent's University Hospital. In 1977 at the age of 36, he was appointed to the Chair of Medicine and Therapeutics at UCD and at St. Vincent's University Hospital. In 2000, he became Dean of the then Faculty of Medicine overseeing a major period of unprecedented growth.

The author of over 150 published papers in peer-reviewed journals, during his career Prof FitzGerald advanced considerable academic and translational research in cystic fibrosis and lung diseases. The many students and doctors who he mentored testify that as a clinician, his approach to Medicine was always patient-centred. Professor FitzGerald has also contributed enormously to Irish medicine and

the Irish Health Service. He served on numerous national committees including four terms on Comhairle na nOspidéal, fifteen years as a member of the Medical Research Council/Health Research Board including two terms as Chairman. He has also been Chairman of the Irish Chartered Physiotherapy Board and a member of An Bord Altranais.

The Festschrift opened with a series of lectures by clinicians who had been mentored by Prof FitzGerald. Dr Seamas Donnelly (UCD), Dr Hugh Brady (President, UCD), Professor Martin Tobin (Chicago USA), Professor William Powderly (UCD), Professor Michael Murphy (UCC) and Professor Arnold Hill (RCSI) paid generous tribute to Prof FitzGerald and highlighted his impact on each of their careers. The diversity of scientific research and clinical practice described by each presenter speaks volumes of this inspirational leader.

UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady presented Professor FitzGerald with a bound copy of his collected published works. A portrait of Professor FitzGerald by artist Ms Maeve McCarthy was unveiled and will be hung in the St. Vincent's University Hospital gallery. The Festschrift culminated with a formal dinner at O'Reilly Hall in his honour, where he was presented with a specially commissioned inscribed wooden chair to symbolise his tenure as Chair of Medicine & Therapeutics at St. Vincent's University Hospital.

Denis O'Brien conferred with honorary Doctor of Laws

One of Ireland's leading businessmen and entrepreneurs, Denis O'Brien was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by UCD in November.

Denis, a loyal UCD Alumnus, graduated from UCD in Politics, History and Logic in 1977 and went on to complete his MBA in Boston College in 1982. He was voted Ireland's Entrepreneur of the Year in 1998 in the inaugural running of the worldwide competition organised and sponsored by Ernst & Young.

Among his many exceptional achievements, he founded Esat Telecom Group which, in October 1997 listed on the NASDAQ in New York and

subsequently on the Irish Stock Exchange. Over a five year period, the company raised \$1 billion in equity, establishing itself as the number two telecommunications company across the full spectrum of telecom services.

In 2001, Denis O'Brien established Digicel, one of the fastest growing cellular companies in the world, as well as purchasing Quinta do Lago, one of the most renowned golf courses and property companies in Europe with ties to the PGA Tour.

In addition to his entrepreneurial achievements, Denis O'Brien was appointed Chairman of the Organising Committee for the Special Olympics in 2003 and, in a three year period, brought fundraising to the sum of €73 million to finance Ireland's hosting of this event. He is a director of Concern Worldwide, and chairman and co-founder of Frontline, the international Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

Denis O'Brien at Newman House



The Lion and the Unicorn - Gladstone vs. Disraeli

In an era when Britain practically ruled the world, two men locked horns for almost five decades, each aiming oratorical barbs to unhinge the other as they battled for the ultimate prize: First Lord and Prime Minister of Great Britain and leader of a global superpower.

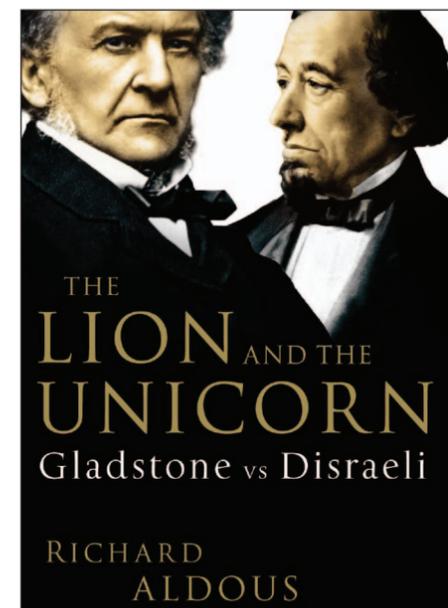
The clash between William Gladstone and Benjamin Disraeli was about more than ideology and political expediency: it was deeply personal. This battle between these titans of the Victorian Era is brilliantly told in Dr Richard Aldous's most recent book "The Lion and the Unicorn, Gladstone vs. Disraeli", published by Hutchinson.

Richard Aldous, Head of the UCD School of History and Archives, is a writer of extraordinary talent and in this book demonstrates an ability to translate and interpret history for the lay reader, fellow historians and students alike.

Disraeli, a 3rd generation Jewish immigrant with an extravagant lifestyle, succeeded in becoming the favourite of the temperamental Queen Victoria. Gladstone meanwhile - a product of English capitalism, Oxford and fervent Anglo-Catholicism - earned only her ire, but ultimately

appealed over the Queen's head direct to voters as "The People's William".

Aldous's book draws on extensive research on the two men and ties together their personal lives and political actions in a "must read" biography that explains the consequences of their bitter relationship.



Royal Irish Academy awards gold medals to UCD academics

Former Minister for Foreign Affairs and emeritus professor of civil engineering at UCD, Professor James Dooge has been awarded a Royal Irish Academy gold medal in engineering sciences. Professor Dooge, who was president of the Royal Irish Academy from 1987 to 1990, is widely regarded as one of the founding fathers of modern hydrology.

Professor James Peter Neary, professor of economics at UCD from 1980 to 31 August 2006, and currently on career break to Oxford University, has also been awarded a Royal Irish Academy gold medal in the social sciences. Undoubtedly Ireland's most distinguished academic economist and a leading figure world-wide, Professor Neary's main field of

research is international trade theory, where he works on trade and industrial policy, globalisation, and competition.

Speaking at the presentation of the awards by President Mary McAleese on 20 November 2006, RIA President, Professor James Slevin said: "Professors Dooge and Neary are among a small elite of academics in Ireland that set the international hallmark of excellence in their fields of study."

Each year, two outstanding academics are awarded Royal Irish Academy gold medals. The medals, sometimes referred to as 'Ireland's Nobel Prizes,' are sponsored by the Higher Education Authority and the Irish Independent.



Prof Peter Neary (right) and Prof Jim Dooge (left) receive their awards at an official ceremony in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin