



# UCD today

JUNE 2005

## University College Dublin

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Dr David Browne on the futuristic approach of UCD in interview with Pat Leahy

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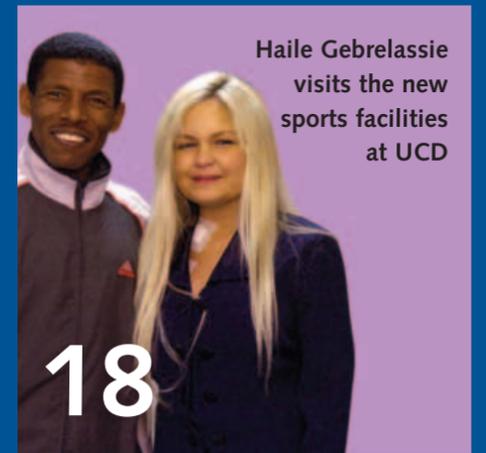
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## New Horizons

**UCD is on course for the introduction of UCD Horizons, the new modular curriculum, in September 2005. An extraordinary amount of work has been done to shape the ground rules for the modular approach, define the learning outcomes and course content of modules, and specify the support systems required for students and programmes.**

The move to modularisation is an enormous change, but UCD has risen to the challenge, and by implementing a genuinely modular system is now poised to reap the benefits in terms of student choice, flexibility of progression, student mobility and curricular development.

Dr Philip Nolan, Registrar remarks, "It is clear that many academics are already using modularisation as a vehicle for innovation and reform. There is a clear move to the use

of learning outcomes and innovative forms of assessment, the development of new options and electives, and new subject combinations or fields of study (such as Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy). We are currently developing exciting new options for CAO entrants in 2006."

"There are two key challenges in the coming months. First we must carefully integrate our modularisation and academic restructuring projects to ensure appropriate supports for students and programmes, a smooth transition, and the ongoing delivery of existing programmes. Second, we must complete the implementation of accurate, effective, user-friendly information systems to support our more flexible approach."

"The momentum of this project is exceptional and the implementation target of September 2005 will be achieved, due entirely to the commitment and hard work of each member of UCD staff involved," comments Dr Nolan.



## UCD most successful university in latest SFI funding round

The recent announcement by Science Foundation Ireland of the results of its Research Frontiers Programme was welcome news for UCD. Of the 128 grants awarded nationally, 34 were to UCD researchers, placing UCD first in the third level sector. In total, UCD researchers will receive a little over €5 million. "This is a great achievement, reflecting the efforts of scientists

across all of the disciplines", said Des Fitzgerald, the Vice-President for Research. "It is also encouraging to see so many young investigators being supported by SFI. I want to congratulate all of the awardees. It is through your efforts that UCD will achieve its goal of becoming a leading European university." *For a full list of the successful recipients see [www.ucd.ie/news](http://www.ucd.ie/news)*

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### Contributors:

Suzanne Bailey, Majda Bne Saad, Claire Cave, Gavin Cumiskey, Gareth Dyke, Kyran Fitzgerald, Colm Harmon, Adam Hyland, Anne Marie Harvey, Teresa Iglesias, Frank Kennedy, Ann Lavan, Pat Leahy, Niamh Milne, Brian Morrissey, Brian Mulkeen, Christopher Murray, Philip Nolan, Breandán Óg Ó hAinídh, Elaine Quinn, Eoghan Rice, Eileen Scott, Mark Simpson, Paul Ward

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Eilis O'Brien, Victoria Bruce, Dominic Martella

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Loman Cusack Design

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*In compilation of this publication, every care has been taken to ensure accuracy. Any errors or omissions are purely unintentional and should be brought to the attention of the UCD Communications Office.*

## UCD Today... and tomorrow

**During the strategic planning process the issue of our identity has been repeatedly raised. Sometimes people have complained about our name, in other cases it has been the use, or rather misuse, of our heraldic crest that has caused upset.**

In order to tackle the range of issues around brand identity, we put together an identity group drawn from stakeholders in the University; staff, students and graduates. The members of this group are listed on the Communications webpage ([www.ucd.ie/communications](http://www.ucd.ie/communications)).

We have drawn on existing market research and commissioned further research to test various hypotheses. We also circulated a questionnaire to draw on colleagues' thoughts and opinions. The questionnaire prompted nearly 700 replies. The report on the findings of this research exercise will be published on the Communications webpage in early June.

From all of these inputs we will draw together a report which will be presented to the Governing Authority on 14 June and will set out our recommendations for specific actions relating to the UCD identity and brand. This in turn will influence the direction we take for our visual identity. Work on visual style guides will take place during July and will be rolled out throughout the University over the coming months.

In addition to the identity project, UCD is turning its attention to a number of communications projects that will improve the flow of information internally and externally.

A new emphasis on marketing has already begun with the *UCD Horizons* campaign that aims to demonstrate the distinctiveness of our modular curriculum for undergraduates arriving on campus in September. The initial external campaign aimed to raise awareness that changes were afoot. The *UCD Horizons* webpage ([www.ucd.ie/horizons](http://www.ucd.ie/horizons)) has been continually updated with programme and module descriptors and a communications programme to students who expect to enter university in 2006 will begin in the autumn.

Other communications projects include a revamp of the UCD website. The plan is to introduce a new design template, incorporating the new identity, before September and to roll out a 'content management system' during the next academic year, which will database core sources of information and facilitate a single input source to appear in a variety of locations throughout the website. The overall aim is to improve navigation on the website, eliminate duplicate material, bring information of relevance and interest to the fore and present the University in the best possible light.

Eilis O'Brien

Director of Communications

# 2005 celebration

# Ad Astra: UCD heads for the stars

**IMPRESS (Intermetallic Materials Processing in Relation to Earth and Space Solidification) is a pan-European integrated project involving 42 leading research groups in metallurgy, chemistry, computer modelling, environmental engineering and industrial product development. The five-year project, begun in late 2004, brings together research partners from 15 European countries, including three new member states and Russia, under the coordination of the European Space Agency.**

A team based in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Belfield is playing a key part in this European-wide project that will push the boundaries of what metals can be expected to do. What is their part in the enterprise? Designing a furnace that can test new alloys at temperatures of up to 1,500 °C. Actually, that's the easy part. The difficult bit is that the furnace will be operated in space, in the laboratory of the International Space Station, to be precise.

Dr David Browne leads the UCD input into the project. He supervises the work of two research fellows, Dr Marek Rebow and Dr Mingming Tong, both of whom work full-time on the project. It's the group's second involvement with the European Space Agency.

The project aims to produce metal alloys which will withstand the pressures and temperatures of turbine engines - but which will be lighter and stronger than the existing components.

"The blades of the turbines reach temperatures of over 600 °C," explains Dr Browne. "Obviously if they soften in an airline engine, the plane is in trouble. So what we're

trying to do is to make them lighter but still strong at high temperatures."

Lighter metals used in airline engine turbines have obvious benefits. They increase fuel efficiency, extend flights, and may lengthen the lifespan of the engine. Dr Browne also suggests that the technology would have applications in turbines used in power generators and in industrial gas turbines.

It's this immediately practical application of the technology that has persuaded industry leaders such as Rolls Royce to join the IMPRESS project. Explains Dr David Jarvis, the project co-ordinator, "One of the most sensible ways is to develop more efficient, cleaner technologies. Turbine blades made from titanium aluminide will be used for aero engines and gas turbines, because they are 50 per cent lighter than current nickel superalloys. That gives them a huge competitive edge. Also by reducing the weight of the blades, it's possible to increase the thrust/weight ratio of the turbine, which means far better fuel economy and reduced exhaust pollution."

**It's this immediately practical application of the technology that has persuaded industry leaders such as Rolls Royce to join the IMPRESS project**

Why do it in space? Experiments done at zero gravity enable researchers draw a better picture of the metal's properties. "Obviously we don't want to build a factory in space," says Dr Daniella Voss of the IMPRESS project management team in the Netherlands. "But we want to understand more fully the properties of the metals. We can then build better computer models of the processing of these new materials".

This entails, says Dr Browne, heating the special metal alloys, called intermetallics, to temperatures of up to 1,500 °C and then re-solidifying them, while their performance is monitored. This will be done in the furnace currently being designed in UCD.

"On earth, gravity makes it hard to measure some properties - as it masks some properties. In space - at micro-gravity - you can measure some things without the effect of gravity-driven flow in the liquid metal," says Voss.

"When it goes into space," continues Browne, "the astronauts will be pushing the buttons and following the instructions of the research teams. We've got to consider what experiments are to be carried out, but we've also got to make sure they're user-friendly for the astronauts who can't be expected to be experts in every discipline. Also, we've got to make sure it's safe - the astronauts can't just jump out if something goes wrong."

The experiments in space, however, are not the only micro-gravity opportunities. This September, IMPRESS hopes to start experiments on specially commissioned airliners that can attain micro-gravity conditions by describing an arc in flight - so-called parabolic flights. However, such flights offer only about 20 seconds of micro-gravity. Later, the teams will use sounding rockets - unmanned rockets that attain micro-gravity conditions on board for 6-12 minutes during free fall.

There's no doubt that the space-bound experiments have the teams excited. This summer, the space shuttle is due to start flying again, which will increase traffic to the International Space Station, although the UCD-designed experiments are unlikely to take place on board until 2008-9, the final year of the IMPRESS programme.

The UCD team is also involved in designing computer models for a further set of experiments on fuel cell catalyst powders, some of which will also be conducted in space. Hopes are high for the short-term practical gains that the series of experiments offers. According to the EU Commission, which is funding the project, IMPRESS input to turbine and fuel cell technologies promises Europe a leading position in both areas, where world demand is estimated at €45 billion by 2011. IMPRESS also has the potential to make a major contribution to meeting the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> emissions under the Kyoto Protocol. "What we're trying to do with the IMPRESS project," says Voss, "is invent a new way of doing things."

For more information on IMPRESS visit <http://spaceflight.esa.int/impres/>

*Pat Leahy (BCL 1993) is the Sunday Business Post's political reporter*

**The architecture of UCD has always given the campus a slightly futuristic, even science-fictional air. But in some parts of the UCD community, creating the future is the daily staple. Pat Leahy reports.**

*Dr Browne inside a model of Columbus - the European Microgravity Lab which will be flown to the International Space Station by the US Space Shuttle*

Research in space

# Building UCD's future

**As Chief Executive of the IDA throughout much of the Nineties, Kieran McGowan played a key role in the successful rollout of Ireland's economic growth strategy, a strategy which has hinged on the attraction of inflows of foreign investment on a large scale. One of the key selling points relied on by the IDA as it set out to sell the country in corporate boardrooms across the US, in particular, was the fact that we could guarantee a steady supply of well educated employees to firms setting up operations here.**

These days, Mr McGowan is plying his trade in the private sector, with a number of directorships counted among a wide portfolio of activities.

A former Chairman of the Irish Management Institute, he retains an active interest in the education sector and since January 2004, has served as Chairman of the Governing Authority at UCD. As Chairman, he is in a position to assist to a significant extent in the development of a strategic vision for an institution, which is operating in an increasingly competitive environment against a background of financial constraint.

Our interview commences and the Chairman cuts immediately to the chase. "The competition that universities face is at least as great as that faced by the IDA in the race for investment projects. We are competing for the best students. The loss of top quality students to other institutions is the equivalent of the loss of an investment project to an overseas competitor."

"We face a big challenge to retain top quality staff and attract in academics of international renown. The competition for

talent is amazingly intense. The reality is that other universities - in the UK, for example - are also reforming themselves. To stand still in itself would be a feat. However, the President, Dr Hugh Brady, has set himself the target of moving UCD from the top three hundred and into the list of the top thirty universities in Europe."

The scrapping of undergraduate tuition fees and the requirement to self fund increased costs due under various national pay agreements means that institutions such as UCD must compete with at least one hand tied behind their back, this at a time when countries such as the UK and Australia have moved to introduce student fees.

**The competition that universities face is at least as great as that faced by the IDA in the race for investment projects"**

The Chairman accepts that the University has benefited from a significant increase in funding through the Programme for Research in Third Level Education and through initiatives backed by Science Foundation Ireland. Neither of these sources of funding existed ten years ago.

"There has been a very significant improvement in funding for research. After a slow start, UCD has become much better at securing support from SFI."

"However, UCD is constrained in terms of funding and the University needs to become more efficient and more successful at winning support from benefactors and from business."

The Chairman accepts that potential benefactors will have to be persuaded to provide support of a different kind to that most commonly made available up to now. "Securing recurrent funding for people as opposed to once off assistance for buildings is a much harder sell. The challenge is to come up with packages that are attractive to would-be donors."

One thing is clear. Funding from outside sources cannot be used as an excuse by the State to ease up further on its financial commitment to the University sector.

"Business will not do something just to save money for the Government."

The Chairman accepts that the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, TD, is faced with many competing demands. After all, repairing the leaking roofs of primary schools counts for more in constituencies across the country than investments in activities which may only bear fruit decades down the line, if ever.

Yet many of the economic gains secured since 1990 are the fruits of investments in education sanctioned as far back as the late 1960s. According to McGowan, the Government accepts the need to make similar commitments to third level education, today. It is a regular refrain in speeches delivered by senior Ministers. However, there remains a gap when it comes to actual follow through.

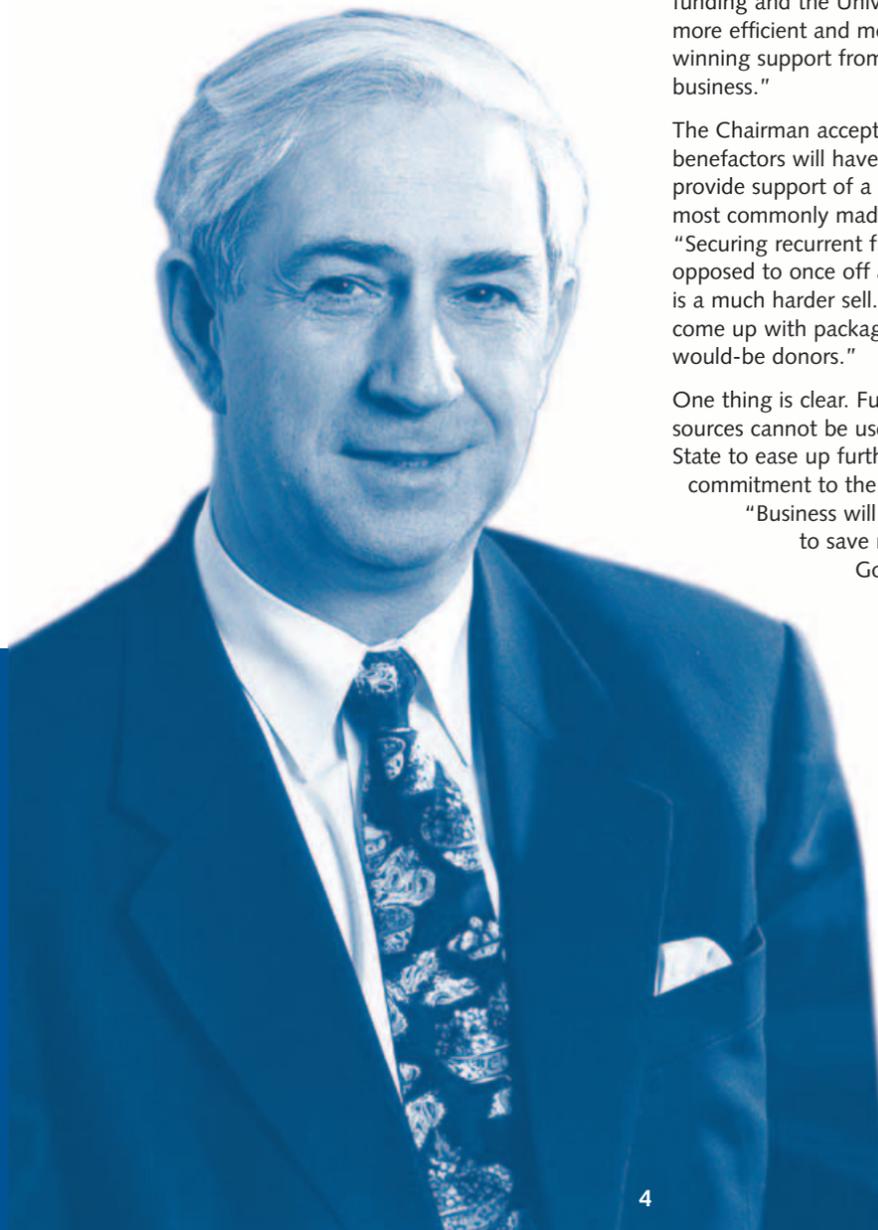
He admits that he has found it very difficult to secure the sort of commitment from Government that was available to the IDA during his tenure there. "The IDA's budgets were never really an issue even in the worst of times in the Eighties." The key difference lies in the IDA's ability to deliver jobs within a relatively short time frame.

"Job creation is very close to the hearts of most politicians whereas third level education until recently has been seen as something for the privileged." What perplexes the Chairman is that this lack of real financial follow through comes during a period, "when the country is awash with money."

And the consequences of continued Government neglect of third level? "The expectations we have will not be realised - unless the deficit can be made up from the private sector, through cutbacks, or through borrowings."

If UCD was a business, how would he as its recently appointed Chairman view it? "As one that has been very successful in the past, as having played a huge role in society and in the development of Ireland in the past thirty years, but as a business operating in a very fast changing environment, one that is in need of a new strategic plan - like the one we have just agreed."

The key goals set out in the Plan, as he sees it, are for the University to become much more research intensive and to move forward with a more nimble structure. He also believes that, "UCD's product offering will be enhanced by the introduction of the UCD Horizons Programme". This modularised curriculum allows students to take courses outside their core area of activity and to tailor studies to their individual requirements, while providing the strengths of traditional degree programmes.



**Kieran McGowan,  
Chairman of UCD's  
Governing Authority,  
speaks with Kyran  
Fitzgerald about UCD's  
Change Management  
Programme**

leaders

However, the combined effect of these changes has left senior staff, in particular, facing a big challenge, the Chairman accepts.

McGowan rejects any suggestion that the reforms could result in an increased paperwork burden for staff. "The aim is to achieve exactly the opposite. Under the new structures, there should be far more collaboration and far less unproductive duplication."

"Part of the Plan involves new methods of recruitment and promotion, more streamlined procedures and the advent of international search and selection for senior people."

How does the task facing UCD compare with that facing the Irish Management Institute, an organisation which he also chaired? "The IMI has had to change because its surrounding environment had changed. It has had to seek out a number of areas where it could be 'best in class'. In that sense, the challenge it faces is similar to that facing UCD. However, the challenge of turning around UCD is much bigger. UCD is like a super tanker. It is a more complex, diverse place."

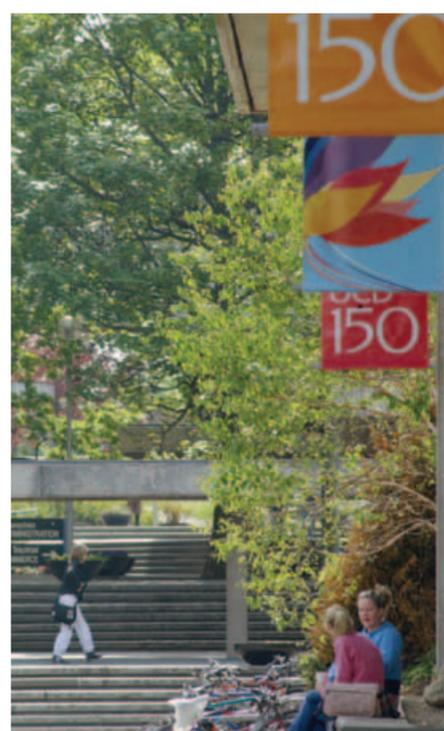
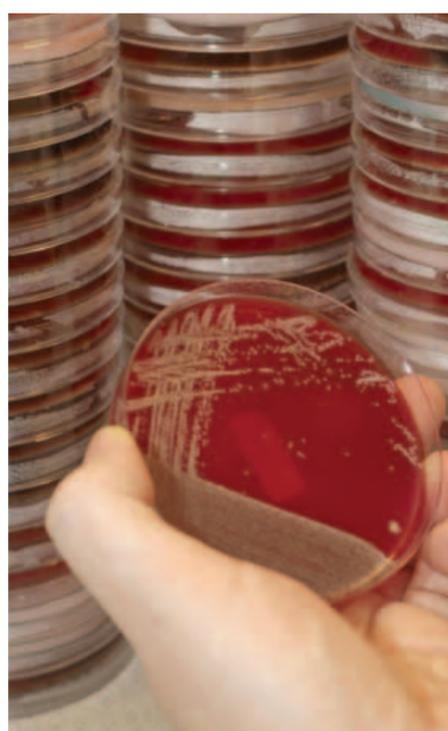
"UCD has to change itself like a business yet it does not operate like a business. It is not a simple, straightforward challenge. We will be benchmarking ourselves in terms of the percentage of Science Foundation Ireland projects that we can win and also in terms of student intake, the percentage of people choosing UCD as their first choice in the CAO."

Looking ahead, the Chairman's vision for the UCD of say, ten years time is as a place that is viewed internationally as, "one of the very significant national assets of Ireland, as a centre of culture, research & creative knowledge, excelling at teaching in a number of different areas. Such an institution would be capable of drawing in lots of activities as diverse as our recent successes with the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT) and the Austin Clarke papers. I would expect UCD to attract in more world class research institutions which will connect with companies already engaging in Research & Development."

The Chairman accepts that this is a, "utilitarian vision, but that is where I am coming from. Where this vision would connect with that of Cardinal John Henry Newman is through the idea of a knowledgeable people leading in their field."

*Kieran McGowan (BComm 1973) served as Chief Executive of the IDA and as a member of the Boards of numerous Irish and multi-national companies including CRH plc, Elan Corporation plc, Irish Life & Permanent plc., United Drug plc., Enterprise Ireland, An Post National Lottery Company and Drury Communications Limited. He was a founder member of InterTradelreland and was Chairman of the Expert Advisory Group on National Spatial Strategy set up by the Department of Environment and Local Government in May 2000. Kieran McGowan previously served on the Board of the UCD Foundation and as Chair of the Board of the Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre.*

*Kyran Fitzgerald (BA 1976) is a freelance journalist specializing in business*



# New Academic Structure

## College of Arts & Celtic Studies

- School of Archaeology
- School of Art History and Cultural Policy
- School of Classics
- School of English and Drama
- School of History and Archives
- School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics
- School of Languages, Literatures and Film
- School of Music

## College of Business and Law

- School of Business
- School of Law

## College of Human Sciences

- School of Applied Social Studies
- School of Economics
- School of Education and Lifelong Learning
- School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy
- School of Information and Library Studies
- School of Philosophy
- School of Politics and International Relations
- School of Psychology
- School of Social Justice
- School of Sociology

## College of Life Sciences

- School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine
- School of Biological and Environmental Science
- School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science
- School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
- School of Medicine and Medical Science
- School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems
- School of Public Health and Population Science
- School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science

## College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences

- School of Architecture, Civil Engineering and the Designed Environment
- School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering
- School of Computer Science and Informatics
- School of Engineering: Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical
- School of Geological Sciences
- School of Mathematical Sciences
- School of Physics

\*Provisional School names

## The (Un)dead Zoo: UCD's Museum Collaboration Collects Awards Big Time!

UCD's Department of Zoology and the National Museum of Ireland's (NMI) Division of Natural History are engaged in an exciting teaching and research collaboration - the 'Collections-based Biology in Dublin' (CoBiD) project, which is helping to unlock the Natural History collections of the NMI as a major education and research resource for UCD students, staff and general community.

Run by Julia Sigwart of the Zoology Department, CoBiD provides the first third science course in collections-based biology in Ireland. This programme has been awarded two UCD President's Teaching Grants. And in January it was honoured at the All-Ireland

Museum of the Year Award for 'Best Access and Outreach Programme 2004'. This prestigious Irish national award, presented by Angela Smith M.P. (UK Minister for Culture, Arts & Leisure) recognises the scope of the comprehensive education programmes run by the UCD-NMI CoBiD initiative.

Last autumn Sigwart also ran a course in collaboration with UCD's Adult Education program, 'Dead Zoo: Behind The Scenes at the Natural History Museum' aimed at mature non-scientists. CoBiD has significantly improved collections access at the museum by publishing digital catalogues at [www.ucd.ie/zoology/museum/](http://www.ucd.ie/zoology/museum/)

For more information contact Julia Sigwart at 716 2195 or [julia.sigwart@ucd.ie](mailto:julia.sigwart@ucd.ie)



Left to right: Julia Sigwart, director of CoBiD, UCD; Angela Smith M.P., UK Minister for Culture, Arts & Leisure; Nigel Monaghan, Keeper of Natural History, National Museum of Ireland

## Irish Universities Annual Law Study Tour of the EU Institutions

Irish university law students recently spent a week visiting EU institutions. Students visited the European Parliament, where they participated in a conference with five of the Irish MEPs on the institutional challenges facing the European Parliament. The students met with EU Commissioner Charlie McCreevy who spoke on the imminent challenges facing the development of the EU Internal Market, in particular the upcoming EU Services Directive. The group also attended the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg where they were invited to sit in on a competition law hearing before the European Court of First Instance.



Pictured with the Irish Universities Annual Law Study Tour to the EU Institutions group are Sean O' Neachtain MEP, Simon Coveney MEP, Prof Irene Lynch, (NUI Cork), Dermot Cahill (UCD), Pronsiáis De Rossa MEP, Eoin Ryan MEP and the 32 strong law student group from Cork, Galway, Trinity & UCD.

## Twentieth International Grassland Congress to be held in UCD



Pictured at the launch of the twentieth International Grassland Congress are Prof Maurice Boland, organising committee; Mary Coughlan, Minister for Agriculture and Food; Dr Philip Nolan, Registrar; and Prof Jim Roche, organising committee

**More than 1,000 of the world's leading experts will be in Ireland next June to participate in the country's biggest ever grassland congress.**

Details of the six-day congress, which opens in UCD on 26 June, were announced by the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Mary Coughlan T.D. The Congress is sponsored by AIB, Bord Bia and FBD Trust amongst others and is supported by the Department of Agriculture and Food, Teagasc and UCD. It will be attended by leading scientists and policy makers from throughout the world as well as Irish and British farmers and executives from the agriculture and food industry.

Minister Coughlan said that the conference will put Ireland's competitive advantage as a

producer of milk, beef and lamb from nutritious grass centre stage. "Grassland is Ireland's most important crop occupying 90% of the country's agricultural land base.

Internationally through the work of Bord Bia and others, Ireland trades as 'the Food Island', with our green image of grass based production being used to promote over €7 billion worth of food exports."

The conference will also debate the role of grass-based food production in alleviating poverty in developing countries as well as the environmental issues related to agriculture. This is the first time that Ireland has hosted this major world event, which was inaugurated in Leipzig, Germany in 1927.

## Smurfit School UCD showcases the Full-time MBA Class of 2005

The Smurfit School MBA CMC (Career Management Centre) has launched their new MBA CV Booklet for 2005 produced to aid prospective employers in their search for talented staff. Of this year's class of 60 students, 80% have worked overseas and close to half are international students from Europe, North America and South-East Asia. The group includes accountants, dentists, doctors, marketing managers, HR and IT professionals and engineers.

See [www.ucdbusiness.ucd.ie/pages/nw.news.asp](http://www.ucdbusiness.ucd.ie/pages/nw.news.asp) for more news

David Hearn, Partner-in-charge, Management Consultants, Deloitte Ireland; Prof Mary Lambkin, Dean, UCD Business Schools; Sean Dorgan, Chief Executive, IDA Ireland at the launch of the new MBA CV Booklet for 2005



## UCD's World Heritage programme part of €1m international partnership

The World Heritage Management Master's degree program at UCD has joined with international universities and heritage agencies in a pilot cooperation to exchange 80 Masters students in a unique programme of advanced studies in cultural and natural heritage called 'Sharing our Heritages'. This initiative has been created by a €1 million partnership between four European and four Australian universities and supported by the involvement of institutions associated with UNESCO and ICOMOS.

The core of the exchange will involve a semester of study in one of the Australian partner universities and two Master Classes in Heritage Management - one in Paris at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and one in

Kakadu in the outback of Australia. The Australian partners in the program are Curtin, Deakin, Western Sydney and Charles Darwin universities. This gives students access to a wide range of diverse and multidisciplinary programmes including indigenous culture, heritage site interpretation and management, museum studies and cultural tourism. UCD's European partners include Universidad Politecnica de Valencia in Spain, Brandenburgische Technische Universität at Cottbus in Germany and Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium.

For any further information, contact Dr Claire Cave at tel 716 8703 or email [worldheritage@ucd.ie](mailto:worldheritage@ucd.ie).

## PhD degree for work on Einstein's Theory of Gravitation

Emer O'Shea, an outstanding student of the Mathematical Physics Department, was recently conferred with her PhD degree for her work using Einstein's Theory of Gravitation (General Relativity) to study gravitational waves propagating through the universe. Emer has published four substantial papers in *The Physical Review*, the journal of the American Physical Society and submitted her thesis just two years and ten months after she began her PhD studies.

## International Flavours at the Conway

International researchers became head chefs, Irish researchers assumed commis chef roles and specialty dishes from around the world were on offer to the hungry masses in an international food fair held in the Conway Institute on 18 February in aid of the Asia tsunami disaster. The event was initiated by Conway Institute researcher Chandralal Hewage, originally from Sri Lanka, who set himself the challenge of raising money to build a fishing boat for his village. The event was a great success raising €14,000, enough to build four boats. A number of the Conway's suppliers also supported the event, namely Sigma-Aldrich who presented Chandralal with a cheque for €3,000 and Tony Lumsden and Ann Marie Jennings of the Seapoint Rugby Club and Jennings Truck Centre.



Dr Susi Keck

Andrew Gaffney & Jayesh Kattl



## RoboRugby: Teamunderscoreten triumphs

It is said that good defence beats good offence. This truism was reaffirmed last April when Teamunderscoreten dominated the inaugural Siemens RoboRugby Autonomous Robotics Competition, beating The A-Team 3-0 in the final.



Teamunderscoreten, designed and programmed by Vasily Sliouniaev, Hugh Nolan and Eric Downey, featured a defensive wall to block opponents from pushing balls across the try line - and as a result, only one team managed to score against them. And that was when the over-confident Teamunderscoreten robot scored an own goal while grandstanding for the audience. In second place was The A-team, of Sarah Borinsky, Nicola Greene and Caomhin Ó Briain, with a nimble robot that could score from afar by flicking the balls into the conversion zone using a rotating turbine. The prize for innovative design went to Massey Ferguson's Combine Harvester, designed by Sean Dunne, Laurence McKenna and Niall Molloy. The Fastest Try Award was won by Bigger Is Better, designed by Paul McKenna and Neill O'Connor.

RoboRugby is a design exercise for first year engineering students, created and run by the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering lecturers Dr Scott Rickard, Brian Mulkeen, and Dr Paul Curran. The challenge is to design, build and program a small robot, which scores points by moving balls into the 'try zone' at the end of the competition table, in a game very loosely based on rugby. There is no remote control here - the robots make their own decisions, while their designers watch anxiously from the sideline. A total of 40 first year engineering students created fifteen very different robots. Siemens sponsored the competition and contributed over €4000 in prizes. The development of RoboRugby was assisted by a UCD President's Teaching Grant.

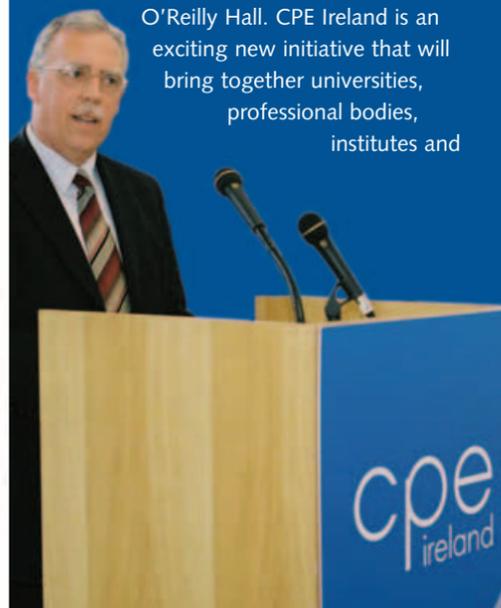
For further information on the event go to [www.roborigby.org](http://www.roborigby.org).

## Launch of 'CPE Ireland'

The Centre for Continuing Professional Education (CPE) recently launched 'CPE Ireland' at their Annual CPE Open Evening on Wednesday 23 March in O'Reilly Hall. CPE Ireland is an exciting new initiative that will bring together universities, professional bodies, institutes and

private sector enterprise to promote areas of common interest. 'CPE Ireland' will strive to foster a positive national policy on professional upskilling, to co-ordinate strategy and the adoption of best practice in professional education as well as influence Government policy and represent Ireland on international CPE forums. At the launch Tony Killeen T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, paid tribute to the importance of professional education and lifelong learning in the development of third level institutions, as well as to the Centre for Continuing Professional Education for its pioneering vision.

For further information on CPE providers at UCD and CPE Ireland see [www.ucd.ie/cpe](http://www.ucd.ie/cpe).



Tony Killeen T.D., Minister of State at the CPE Ireland launch

# innealtóireacht

## Taighde PhD

**Connalach ó dhúchas is ea Breandán Óg Ó hAinidh ar bronnadh scoláireacht spóirt air cheana. Ball de chuid an Údarais Rialaithe is ea é, faoi láthair. Déanann sé cur síos anseo ar a chuid taighde ar an innealtóireacht radaimhíochta agus micreathoinne.**

**Breandán Óg Ó hAinidh is ainm dom agus is mac léinn iarchéime (PhD) mé i Roinn na hInnealtóireachta Lecitreonach agus Leictreach, i nDámh na hInnealtóireachta agus Ailtireachta.**

Tá mo chuid taighde dírithe ar innealtóireacht leictreonach radaimhíochta agus micreathoinne. Sa bhliain 2000, tar eis dom céim a bhaint amach san innealtóireacht leictreonach anseo i gColláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath, chinn mé ar iarchéim a thosú faoi stiúir an Ollaimh Thomas J. Brazil, mar bhall den Ghrúpa um Thaighde Innealtóireachta Radaimhíochta agus Micreathoinne. Tá béim ar leith dírithe ag mo chuid taighde ar shamhaltú ciorcaid choibhéseacha neamhlíneacha a úsáideann trasraitheoirí den chineál leathsheoltóir ocsaíd mhíotail (MOSFET) agus iad ag obair ag ard-mhínicíocht.

Tá fás mór tagtha ar thábhacht na hinnealtóireachta leictreonach radaimhíochta le cúpla bliain anuas, go háirithe de bharr fás na cumarsáide mhóibíleach dhigitigh ar fud na cruinne, ach freisin de bharr forleathnú teicneolaíochtaí eile "gléasanna gan sreang", atá in úsáid le haghaidh feidhmeanna cosúil le WLAN, GPS, seachaint imbhualte ghluasteáin agus araile. Mar shampla, tugadh isteach le déanaí an córas cumarsáide mhóibíleach den tríú glúin (UMTS/IMT2000), a chuireann ar fáil rátaí sonraí úsáideoirí chomh hard le 2 Mb/s (2 Megabit/soicind). Baineann na feidhmeanna nua leas as gléasanna radaimhíochta agus micreathoinne a oibríonn sa raon mínicíochta 300 MHz suas

go 300 GHz, mar aon le gléasanna i gcóir cumarsáid domhanda agus satailít, radar, téamh, réalteolaíocht agus araile. Ag an am céanna, is mó an tábhacht a bhaineann le teicnící innealtóireachta micreathoinne sa leictreonachas dhigiteach ard-mhínicíocht mar a bhfuil rátaí cloig anois i bhfad thar 1 GHz, agus san optaileictreonachas, áit a bhfuil rátaí sonraí ardaíthe thar 40 Gb/s.

Is í príomhaidhm an Ghrúpa um Thaighde Innealtóireachta Radaimhíochta agus Micreathoinne ná forbairt a dhéanamh ar shamhaltaithe dearadh ríomhchuidithe (CAD) agus ar phacáistí nó uirlísí bogearraí le haghaidh feidhmeanna neamhlíneacha in innealtóireacht radaimhíochta agus micreathoinne. Ag an am céanna, ní mór bailíochtú na n-uirlísí sin a chinntiú trína gcuid réamhfháisnéiseanna a chur i gcomparáid le tomhaiseanna trialacha. Tá méadú mór tar éis teacht ar ghníomhaíochtaí an ghrúpa, in éineacht le breisiúchán saoráidí tástála, tomhais agus ríomhaireachta, agus méadú mór ar an mhéid atá tuilte ó chonarthaí taighde.

Tá mo chuid taighde féin dírithe ar shamhaltú agus tomhais ciorcaid choibhéseacha neamhlíneach de thrasraitheoirí CMOS. Baineann an-tábhacht leis an saghas seo oibre de bharr an claonadh i dtreo ciorcaid comhtháite ollmhóra (VLSIs) a fheidhmíonn ag radaimhíochta. Tá

sonraíocht speisialta ag baint le leagan amach córas nó ciorcad ag an mhínicíocht ard atá i gceist anseo. Caithfidh an samhaltú neamhlíneach a bheith cruinn i gcomparáid leis na tomhaiseanna, agus, ag an am céanna, ní mór dó a bheith dlúth i dtaobh an méid paraiméadair atá aige agus cé chomh héifeachtach is atá sé i leith ríomhaireachta. I rith mo chuid taighde, d'fhorbair mé agus leathnaigh mé samhaltú, a dtugtar COBRA air, a cruthaíodh cheana sa Choláiste anseo do dheiseanna leath-sheolaí mar PHEMT and MESFET. In éineacht le bunchóip an tsamhaltaithe, tá forbairt déanta agam ar thuairiscí indifreálte éigríochta matamaiticiúla le feidhmeanna lucht lán-coimeadach. Chuir mé toraithe fíoraithe an samhaltaithe neamhlínigh i gcomparáid le tomhaiseanna trialacha a rinneadh ar dheiseanna trasraitheoirí MOSFET ar shliseog. Tá an-chostas ar an trealamh speisialta atá riachtanach dár limistéir taighde chun na tástálanna seo a dhéanamh, agus táimid an-bhuíoch de Agilent Technologies lena scéim ollscoile a tháinig i gcabhair orainn. Chomh maith leis na "crua-earraí", is gá ar ndóigh bog-earraí, chun ionsamhlaithe a chur i gcomparáid leis na tomhaiseanna trialacha: chuige sin úsáidimis pacáistí bogearraí ríomhairí cosúil le ADS (Agilent Technologies), agus bogearraí agus ríomhcláraithe eile atá cumaithe againn féin in ár saotharlann.

Ag éirí as na torthaí atá faighte agam cheana féin, d'fhoilsigh mé roinnt pháipéar in iriséin gairmiúla éagsúla, agus léirigh mé na torthaí ag comhdháileanna sa tír seo agus i dtíortha eile, mar shampla sa Ghearmáin agus san Iodáil. Mar is eol do gach taighdeoir, ní hé an dúil sa taisteal thar lear is sprioc leis seo, ach toisc gur cuid an-tabhachtach den obair í ná na torthaí a fhoilsiú, go háirithe má tá iarracht ar siúl chun feachtas chomhoibríthe a thosú nó a chothú. Mar shampla, thaisteal mé chun na Síne ar feadh míosa chun cothú agus leathnú a dhéanamh ar aontú comhoibríthe le hollscoil Nanjing atá i bhfeidhm ag ár ngrúpa le dhá bhliain anuas.

Agus mé ag druidim i dtreo deireadh mo chuid taighde, tá tionscnamh mór amháin fós fágtha le críochnú, sé sin le rá, an tráchtas féin a scríobh

Ní mór buíochas a ghabháil leo siúd a thug cabhair airgid dar saotharlann; ina measc siúd, tá SFI, Enterprise Ireland, IRCSET, HSIM Project, TDK Ltd. Ireland, agus Parthus Plc.

*Breandán Óg Ó hAinidh*

**I began my PhD studies with the Radio Frequency and Microwave Research Group in the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering under the supervision of Professor Thomas J. Brazil in 2000. The focus of my research is on nonlinear equivalent circuit modeling of high-frequency MOSFET transistors.**

In the last number of years, there has been an increase in the importance of RF electronic engineering due to the expansion of the communications industry and other wireless applications. Data rates in their megabits per second have found various uses in global communications, satellite, radar and other technologies in the 300 MHz to 300 GHz frequency range.

The Microwave Research Group develops CAD, software packages and tools for RF nonlinear modeling, and verifies them against measurements of fabricated components and other devices, including RF CMOS devices. The importance of this technology is evident in the increasing number of transistors found in chips. The equipment used for measurements and characterization is highly specialized.

The models must be accurate and computationally efficient. The original COBRA model, developed in UCD, has been adapted for use in CMOS devices with infinitely differentiable global mathematical and charge-conservative descriptions. Using sophisticated equipment, on-wafer measurements have verified simulations conducted with in-house software and ADS (Agilent Technologies) software simulator.

These verifications, which will form a part of my thesis, have resulted in publications in Journals and International Conferences in Germany and Italy. By attending these international conferences and by speaking on a broader platform, we are facilitating many international collaborative initiatives, including the initiative which already exists, between UCD and a University in Nanjing, China.

Our lab would like to thank our funding agencies and other sources of aid to our research lab including Science Foundation Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Parthus Plc., the TARGET initiative and Agilent Technologies.

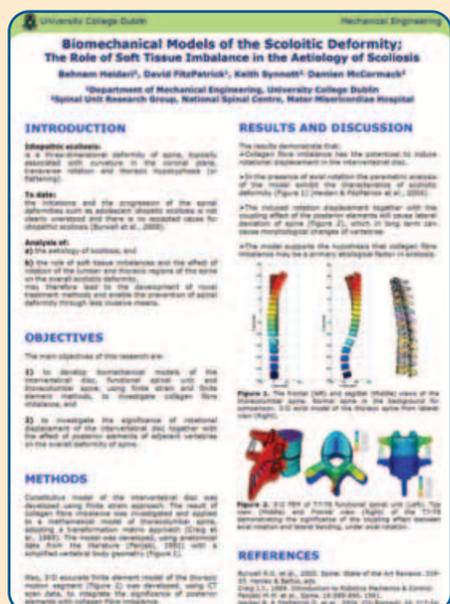
*Breandán Óg Ó hAinidh is a member of the Governing Authority. He is a recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Student Activities and a former captain of the UCD Gaelic Football Club.*

# Realizing Visions

The Faculty of Engineering and Architecture held a celebration of the past, present and future on 12 April for an audience of graduates, staff and government and business representatives. Professor Vincent J McCabe launched the publication project 'History of the UCD Faculty of Engineering and Architecture'. A number of postgraduate students gave short presentations on their research in UCD and an exhibition of posters and architectural models illustrating faculty research was on display. Professor P J Dowling, UCD alumnus and Vice Chancellor of the University of Surrey, addressed the audience on the theme of building closer business and academic linkages.



Behnam Heidari, PhD student in Mechanical Engineering, is presented with his prize for the Best Poster Prize by Prof Mary Clayton, Vice-President for Students. Behnam's work was entitled 'Biomechanical Models of the Scoliotic Deformity: The Role of Soft Tissue Imbalance in the Aetiology of Scoliosis'



Heidari's Winning Poster

# Focus on Neurodegenerative Diseases at Major Irish Conference

'Neurodegeneration Ireland', recently hosted by the Conway Institute, brought together many of the world's leading scientists and clinical specialists for the largest conference of its kind ever held in Ireland. Neurodegenerative diseases are the reality of aging populations with Alzheimer's disease affecting 20% of those over 85 years of age. The event highlighted the latest research being carried out internationally on neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's as well as current treatment regimes for these debilitating conditions. Among the internationally renowned experts who spoke at the conference were Professor Dennis Selkoe, Harvard Medical School, widely regarded as the leading expert in the field of Alzheimer research; Professor John Hardy, director of the Laboratory of Neurogenetics, National Institutes of Health who discovered the first

mutation associated with Alzheimer's; Professor Karen Ashe, University of Minnesota, who made the first mouse model of a neurologic disease; and Dr Martin Citron, head of neurodegenerative research, Amgen, who was nominated by Time magazine in the nineties as one of the 'most intriguing people of decade'.

According to Professor Brian Lawler, Mercer's Institute of Research on Ageing (MIRA) at St. James' Hospital: "This meeting was a milestone for Alzheimer's disease research in Ireland in that it brought together clinical and basic scientists in an interactive forum. We believe that this approach has the potential to increase the likelihood of producing translatable research that can impact on the quality of life of person with Alzheimer's disease and help those who are at risk of cognitive decline."

# Launch of the International Centre for Newman Studies

**On 21 February, the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies launched the International Centre for Newman Studies (ICNS) in Newman House, where the centre is now located. ICNS is an academic centre established by UCD in partnership with the Newman Foundation of Ireland. The centre aims to preserve, continue and develop the academic legacy that Newman has left to UCD, to the city of Dublin and to Ireland as a whole.**

The centre's work has several dimensions: the study of the entire work of Newman from a literary, historical, philosophical, educational, theological and artistic perspective; the study of Newman in Ireland from 1851 to 1858 related to his great educational project, the founding of the Catholic University of Ireland, the precursor to UCD; the internationalisation of UCD's work on Newman; and the academic contribution to an integrative relationship between the humanities and scientific

knowledge, which is a vision at the core of Newman's system of thought.

ICNS houses the Newman Research Library which began with 75 volumes left on bequest to Newman House by the late Dr James Bastable. There are now about 900 books in the library, which include those of the Newman Foundation library on permanent loan to UCD. Other books have been donated to the library by UCD academics and graduates such as John O'Meara, F X Martin, J M Porter, Fergus D'Arcy, Colm Tobin, Betty Crowe and Brendan Purcell. The Centre aims to have the most comprehensive Newman library in the country.

ICNS recently published a facsimile edition of the first full version of Newman's *Idea of the University*. Copies of this book are available for €20 in the UCD campus bookshop.

For more information about ICNS see [www.newmanstudies.com](http://www.newmanstudies.com)

*Prof Mary Lambkin, Dean, UCD Business Schools; Dr Joseph Dunne, Philosophy of Education, St Patrick's College, DCU; Dr Pádraic Conway, Vice-President for University Relations; Dr Teresa Iglesias, Department of Philosophy & Director of Centre for Newman Studies; Professor Donal McCartney, Emeritus Professor of Modern Irish History*



# celebrate



# 150 years



## Oireachtas members celebrate the university's 150th anniversary

UCD recently welcomed past and present Oireachtas members to a special 150th anniversary event in Merville House.



Left to right: Seamus Brennan TD & Cllr Tom Harrington



Left to right: Moore McDowell, David Andrews, Pat O'Malley, Helen Keogh and Paddy Hayes



Dr Ann Lavan & Marian Harkin TD



Senator Mary O'Rourke & Prof Seán Dineen

## Conference highlights key role farmers play as the principal custodians of Ireland's rural environment

The impact of farming on Ireland's flora and fauna was discussed at a one-day EPA/UCD conference on biological diversity in the Irish countryside. The conference focused on building a scientific baseline to support the development of agri-environmental policy. The central theme of the conference was *Ag-biota*, a large agri-environmental project funded by the EPA as part of its research programme. Coordinated by Dr Gordon Purvis of the Faculty of Agri-Food and Environment, the project investigates the impact of farming practice on biological diversity within the wider landscape. The €1.3 million project is part of an overall €32 million investment by the EPA in research on the environment and sustainable development.

Key speakers at the conference included Frank Rath, main policy advisor on Ireland's agri-environmental schemes with the Department of Agriculture and Food, Dr Gordon Purvis, UCD; Professor Michael B. Usher, Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Stirling, Scotland; and Dr Jim McAdam, Queen's University Belfast.



Pictured at the recent Ag-Biota conference jointly hosted by the EPA and UCD is Dr Gordon Purvis, project co-ordinator, Faculty of Agri-Food and the Environment and Larry Stapleton, EPA Director

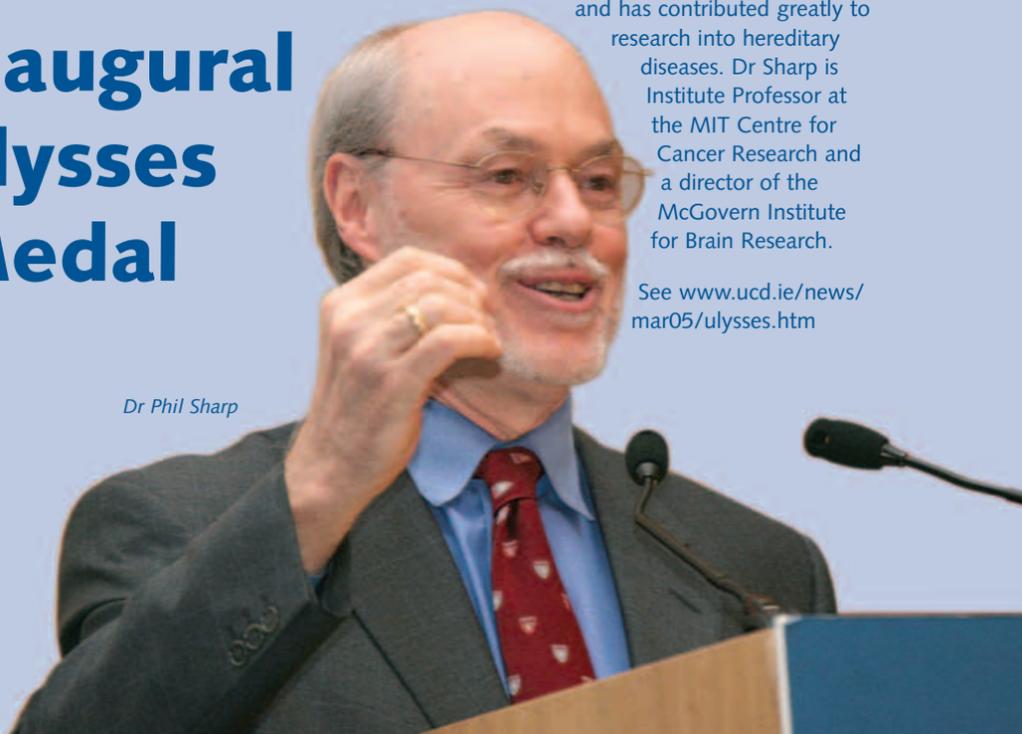
Ag-Biota researchers presented papers on a wide range of topics such as indicators of the long-term effects of farming on flora and fauna, the link between biodiversity and various crop husbandry practices and measures to promote biodiversity within the farmed landscape.

## Leading medical researcher receives inaugural Ulysses Medal

UCD awarded the inaugural Ulysses Medal to Dr Philip Sharp (MIT) in March 2005 for his outstanding contribution to biomolecular discovery and to advances in medical treatment of diseases such as multiple sclerosis, hepatitis and cancer. Dr Philip Sharp was awarded the Nobel Prize for his discovery that an individual gene does not have to be a single, continuous stretch of DNA, but instead can be made up of several DNA segments. This discovery had major implications for genetic discovery and has contributed greatly to research into hereditary diseases. Dr Sharp is Institute Professor at the MIT Centre for Cancer Research and a director of the McGovern Institute for Brain Research.

See [www.ucd.ie/news/mar05/ulysses.htm](http://www.ucd.ie/news/mar05/ulysses.htm)

Dr Phil Sharp



# Students celebrate UCD 150

The UCD 150 Student Week ran from 28 February to 4 March and featured various cultural and musical events. On 2 April, UCD's Literary & Historical Society hosted the Grand Final of the Irish Times Debate. This competition is the oldest and most prestigious debating competition in Ireland and the L&H has won the competition more times than any other university. Kings Inns won the team prize. Frank Kennedy, Auditor of the L&H, took the individual prize, with Ross Maguire also of UCD the individual runner-up. The motion for the evening was "This house would link development aid to human rights".

## UCD Library Special Collections

As part of the University's 150th anniversary celebrations, the UCD library held a very special exhibition for 25 April to 13 May that displayed some of the treasures from the Library's Special Collections.



During the week DramSoc staged a special performance of 'Reduced Shakespeare', featuring all thirty-seven of the bard's plays in ninety-seven minutes. The week featured musical performances by UCD Choral Scholars, the Camembert Quartet, Ardal O'Hanlan and the Classic Beatles.

UCD 150 Student Week culminated with the UCD Arts Fashion Show held in Dublin's Point Theatre. All proceeds from this year's show were donated to the Tsunami Relief Fund.



From UCD Library Special Collections

## UCD Choral Scholars' triumphant performance of Handel's 'Messiah'



UCD Choral Scholars, UCD Baroque Orchestra and guest soloists gave a wonderful and unique performance of 'Messiah' by G.F. Handel in St. Ann's Church on 6 and 7 April under the direction of Desmond Earley. The current group of Scholars was joined by alumni to form a chamber-choir of 30 voices that imitated in scale the number of voices employed by Handel at the Dublin premier in April 1742.

## L&H launch 150th anniversary volume

This year the L&H, like UCD itself, is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its foundation by Cardinal Newman. To mark the anniversary the Society has published a new history, which was launched in Belfield on 5 March. The history is available in two volumes: a re-print of the centenary history which was published in 1954 under the editorship of the late Professor James Meenan and a new history of the past 50 years *The Literary and Historical Society 1955-2005*, edited by barrister and historian, Frank Callanan, who was auditor in 1977-78. The new history contains some 60 contributions from former auditors and members of the Society, including Maeve Binchy who described the L&H as "the sex of the fifties"; former Supreme Court Judge, Hugh O'Flaherty, who remembers the fifties in the L&H as "the golden age for debating" and Owen Dudley Edwards who can recall "no audience so frightening". Other contributors include Adrian Hardiman, Aidan Matthews, John Horgan, Vincent Browne, Kevin Myers, Dara O'Briain and Maev-Ann Wren.

Copies of both books are available at [www.landh150.com](http://www.landh150.com) or in the UCD campus bookshop.

## UCD Sinfonia makes its National Concert Hall debut

On 23 February, the UCD Sinfonia gave a concert featuring in the National Concert Hall featuring Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue with celebrated pianist Philip Martin. The UCD Sinfonia was established in October 2002 in order to provide an arena of music making for UCD, and its ranks now includes many talented players from the staff and student body of UCD.

## Celebrating 150 years of UCD writers

On Bloomsday on 16 June, UCD will publish a very special volume: *The UCD Aesthetic: Celebrating 150 Years of UCD Writers*, edited by Dr Anthony Roche of the School of English. This book includes 28 essays on writers associated with UCD from Newman, Hopkins and Joyce through the 1930s generation of Flann O'Brien, Denis Devlin, Brian Coffey and Kate O'Brien to the present day. The book is aimed at the general public and the writers of the essays are the cream of UCD's School of English past and present and contemporary writers who have themselves attended UCD. Copies of the book will be available in the campus bookshop.

# celebrate





# The End of Poverty

On 4 April, UCD and Dr Majda Bne Saad, Director of the Centre for Development Studies, welcomed Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Anann for the Irish launch of his new book **The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time**.

"Extreme poverty can be ended, not in the time of our grandchildren, but in our time," was Jeffrey Sachs' forecast. Sachs focuses on the causes of poverty, the role of rich-country policies, and the very real possibilities for a poverty-free future. Dubbed 'the world's best-known economist' by *Time* magazine, Sachs provides a conceptual map

of the world economy and the different categories into which countries fall, explaining why wealth and poverty have diverged and evolved as they have and why the poorest nations have been so markedly unable to escape the cruel vortex of poverty. Singer Bono writes in the forward, "[Sachs] is an economist who can bring to life statistics that were, after all, lives in the first place. He can look up from the numbers and see faces through the spreadsheets." Sachs provides an understanding of how solvable the world's problems are, and why making the effort is both our ethical duty and a self-interested strategic necessity.

Left to right: Prof Jeffrey Sachs, Dr Garrett FitzGerald, Chancellor of NUI and Minister of State Tom Kitt TD



# years

## Retired Staff Party at UCD 150

UCD recently welcomed past and present Oireachtas members to a special 150th anniversary event in Merville House.



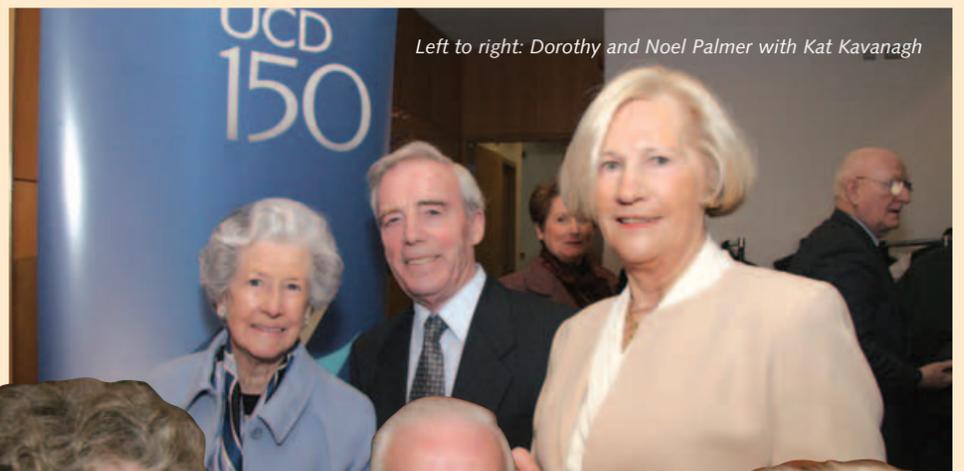
PJ Daly, Margaret MacCurtin and Maribel Foley.



Left to right: Walter and Elizabeth Cootte, Madlin Curran and Arnold Carr and Dolores Corr



Tara Maguire and Rory Murphy from UCD DramSoc perform for retired staff



Left to right: Dorothy and Noel Palmer with Kat Kavanagh



Left to right: Joe Dempsey age 92 and Margaret Frain age 90, UCD's golden staff



Left to right: Pauline O'Crowley with Hugh and Rosemary Clyne

# 150

# Next generation UCD Connect has arrived

**Due for launch in June, the next generation Connect is uniquely positioned to meet the growing requirements of staff and students. UCD Computing Services' new role based Connect system will have different user functions available to match the users role within the university. The next generation system is organised into information channels and each channel is fed by its own source. Users will be able to choose from a selection of optional channels to create their own personalised system.**

"In order to design the service around the needs of the user we engaged in a 'proof of concept' with a broad sample of the UCD population," explains Brian Morrissey, IT Project Manager. "Both the layout and the provision of channels were heavily informed by feedback from trial users." And he says, "The result is web access to a consistent computing environment which can be personalised to suit your particular needs."

Once logged on to the new version users will select from a wide variety of services and information sources on the menu. "Users will be able to personalise their computing environment by grouping together services and information sources of their choice. And they will not be restricted by physical locality either, because the new service will also be

accessible off campus," says Morrissey. "Users will be able to access it from anywhere in the world."

Let us take the example of the user as a university lecturer who wants direct access to their Blackboard courses, information on news and events from their favourite UCD club and access to online journals provided by the UCD library. No problem. The new service will provide the user with access to this dynamic information in the form of selected channels.

**Both the layout and the provision of channels were heavily informed by feedback from trial users**

The next generation Connect will also have a channel that will keep users up to speed on UCD news. Users will be able to read short UCD news pieces and, if they choose, they can follow the links given to read more comprehensive news and see photographs. A separate channel will provide users with daily updates on UCD in the press and media. From this channel users will be able to view, download and print press articles that refer to UCD.

An information channel, 'University Announcements,' will be available on the next generation Connect. This channel will deliver information of university-wide relevance that affects staff and students. Where necessary, these announcements will carry links to more comprehensive documents and webpages containing further information.

So the next generation Connect will have a great deal more choice than its predecessor when it comes to useful and interesting channels of information but there are other improvements too.

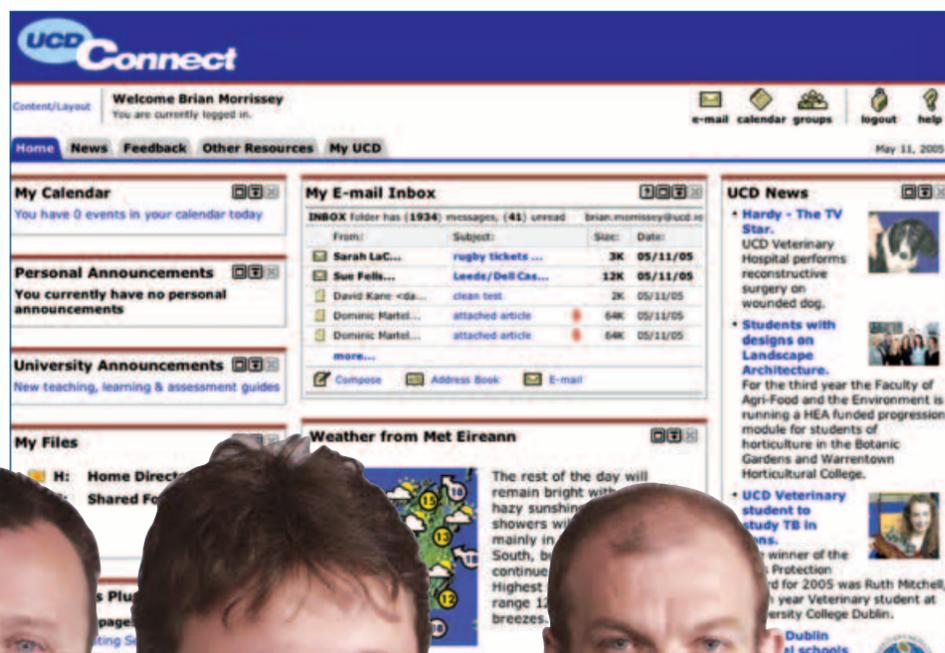
This new version will give the user a much improved email service through a new e-mail client called *Messenger Express*.

Brian Morrissey points out that with the next generation, users will be able to share files among group members - a service that trial users predicted would be extremely popular. "As a member of a group users can upload files to be shared with other members of their group. This makes the sharing of any documents (minutes, proposals etc) easier than ever before. And also, for the first time, group leaders will be able to 'pre-populate' a group rather than having to invite members to join," he says. He notes that staff and students with existing group information need not be concerned because all this will be automatically copied over to the new Connect environment.

Even the calendar has been given a buff and a shine. And all existing calendar entries will be automatically transferred to the new generation environment when it arrives.

If the trial users during 'proof of concept' sessions are right then the next generation UCD Connect looks set to impress users when it arrives in June. Brian Morrissey believes "Connect is on its way to achieving its ultimate goal of providing staff and students with access to all the information and services they need whether on or off campus."

*Every Monday afternoon and Friday morning, UCD Computing Services hold short workshops to explore how the next generation UCD Connect can improve your working environment. For details contact [justin.rowe@ucd.ie](mailto:justin.rowe@ucd.ie).*



Screen shot from new generation UCD Connect



# trial

**With so many staff and students requiring remote access to a wide range of information services, there was a need to upgrade the UCD Connect system and to develop its versatility to serve a broad range of users.**

# international

## Internationalising the UCD experience

**Exposure to diverse ideas, cultures, languages and experiences is a critical component of modern life and should in equal measure be a central element of the UCD experience.**

One of the main aspirations of the UCD Strategic Plan 2005 is to further the internationalisation of the University, to 'internationalise the UCD experience', as part of the University's development. In many ways UCD is already living this aspiration.

UCD already attracts a wide range of leading international researchers and academics. This number is growing with the University offering excellent infrastructural and academic support as well as providing a good international working environment.

Professor Hilary Carey is the Keith Cameron Chair of Australian Studies at UCD, specialising in Australian history. The position is, "a wonderful opportunity to take Australian history to an Irish audience and to the world", says Dr Carey, a task she sees as, "very enriching intellectually".

For Carey it is fascinating teaching her national history to an Irish audience, getting their perspective on stories and situations that they can relate to - Ned Kelly, colonialism, convictism.

Although Carey concurs that, "Australia is more cosmopolitan [than Ireland] and this is reflected in its universities". She believes that changes are happening very quickly in Ireland too. "The best way to learn about other societies is to encounter them",

according to Carey and to have international students come and study the local culture and history leads to a much livelier academic environment.

Dr Jamal Ouhalla is Professor of Linguistics at UCD. Originally from Morocco, Dr Ouhalla previously worked at Queen Mary, London University. He joined the university in 1989-90 before it had a Linguistics Department. In 2001 Queen Mary's Linguistics Department was awarded a 5\* rating making it the top department in the *Times* league table in Linguistics in the UK. "It was mission accomplished. I felt I needed a change of atmosphere and a new challenge, and Ireland and UCD seemed to provide both," remarks Ouhalla.

### The best way to learn about other societies is to encounter them

Ouhalla's most recent research project has focused on the birth and evolution of 'hybrid languages', or languages that include major features from two pre-existing languages right from birth. His research initially focused on Spanish Arabic that evolved in Spain in the 9th century and it has demonstrated that there was no large-scale immigration of Arabic speakers to Spain. The limited migration to Spain between the 9th and 15th centuries seems to have involved mostly students, artists and scientists attracted by the legendary liberal and tolerant values of the local communities.

Ouhalla feels that there is lesson to be learned from this experience. "The ability of US universities to attract the best and brightest of students and academics from abroad has had a lot to do with the perception of the US as a melting pot and an essentially egalitarian society. I suspect a similar kind of perception is associated with London, and may be responsible for its phenomenal success at attracting international students and academics."

Dr Chanralal Hewage is from Sri Lanka and runs the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Lab at the Conway Institute. He came to Ireland from Edinburgh, seeing his current post as, "a good future opportunity" and UCD as, "a good place to come, with a lot of potential". "It's becoming very multicultural here, with 20-30 different countries represented in the Conway Institute."

Hewage has won numerous awards and fellowships from the Commonwealth Association, BBSRC, Wellcome Trust and

Enterprise Ireland. Apart from his hectic work schedule he has his own research programme on NMR based Drug Discovery and has published more than 30 research articles in peer reviewed journals.

Dr Rosemary Clyne, from the United States, is in the process of setting up her lab in UCD, also at the Conway Institute. Her research is focused on how chromosomes are accurately distributed during cell division, using biochemical and genetic techniques in yeast. She was attracted to UCD because, "The Conway Institute is world-class and the possibilities for biomedical research funding in Ireland were quite attractive. I have already been able to establish collaborations within UCD that will impact my research directions significantly." She has since been awarded a grant from Science Foundation Ireland to fund her studies.



Dr Jamal Ouhalla

If internationalisation is to be fully realised, Dr Clyne feels that bilateral student exchanges should be promoted across all disciplines. Academics and researchers also should be considered. "The international experience of the faculty is very impressive. Additional opportunities for faculty sabbatical and exchange could enhance the internationalisation even further." Indeed these are among the objectives that the Strategic Plan aims to meet.

Dr Chengliang Huang, Enterprise Ireland Newman Scholar, is based in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. For Dr Huang, Ireland and UCD provide him with all the support and infrastructure he needs to continue his research work. Huang's research uses a cutting-edge computer simulation technique, phase-field method, to study austenite/ferrite transformation in steel. This research is of considerable commercial importance, given that steel is by far the most widely used and most important structural metallic metal. Since Huang's arrival at UCD, the Department has formed significant links with his home institution, the Institute of Metal Research (IMR) in Shenyang, China and in 2004 signed a UCD-IMR Academic Exchange and Research Cooperation with the institution.



Dr Rosemary Clyne

Esther Sanz is the International Officer at the Quinn Business School. Originally from Spain, she first came to Ireland ten years ago to learn English and now has two postgraduate diplomas from UCD. She acts as the contact person for international students at the Quinn School, monitors exchange programmes and provides support to UCD Business students abroad. Having studied in France before moving to Ireland, Esther can relate to the difficulty of integration but believes that UCD is a welcoming environment for international students.

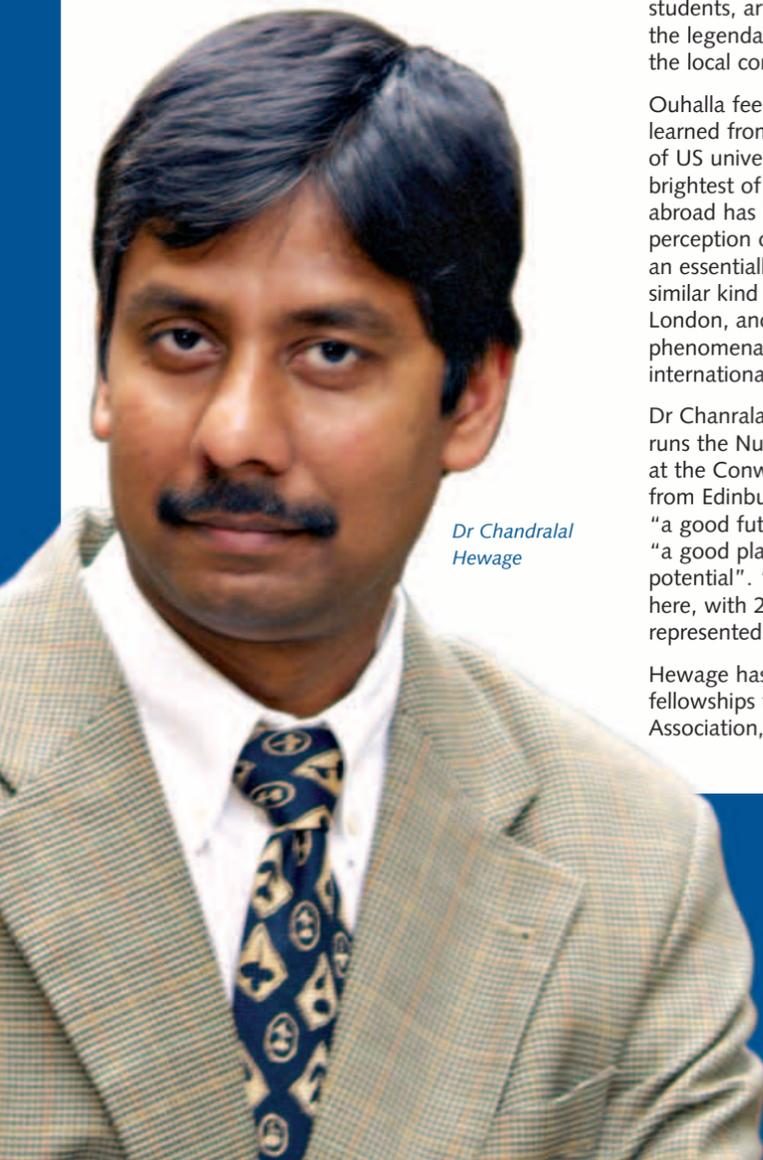
Echoing the thoughts of UCD academics and researchers, a main aim of the Strategic Plan is to identify and target specific high quality universities around the world to engage in student exchange programmes. The Quinn Business School currently has exchange agreements with 44 universities and business Schools around the world, from Europe to Canada to Australia and New Zealand, to Hong Kong and Singapore.

As some have pointed out, UCD still has work to do regarding its plans to fully "internationalise the UCD experience". But it is good to see that the University is already living some of these aspirations and well on the way to fulfilling the objectives of its strategic plan.

Adam Hyland (BA 1997, MA 1998) is a freelance journalist and editor.



Esther Sanz



Dr Chandralal Hewage

**The internationalisation of UCD's staff and study body is a key element of the University's Strategic Plan. Adam Hyland meets some international staff and asks them about their work and research in Ireland.**



## Celebrating the tenth anniversary of UCD-CESUGA

**In April, the Tenth Anniversary celebrations of UCD - CESUGA (Centro de Estudios Superiores Universitarios de Galicia) took place in the Contemplative Space in the Quinn School of Business.**

Before CESUGA established formal links with UCD and first opened its doors to fifty students in 1995, students in Galicia in the north west of Spain had to leave the area for quality university education. Once they had left the area to attend universities in other parts of Spain, especially Barcelona and Madrid, very few students ever returned to work in the region. A major aim of CESUGA, supported by the

Government of the Autonomous Community of Galicia, was to lessen this brain drain and, as a result, help develop the local region.

To date, some two hundred and forty five students have graduated with the BComm Degree offered through CESUGA. A number of these graduates have proceeded to the Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business to follow the Master of Business Studies Programme. In 2004, the BArch was started with a first in-take of fifty students. Between Architecture and Commerce there are over two hundred and fifty students on the CESUGA Campus. Over time, it is expected that other degree programmes will be added to CESUGA.

*Presentation to the president of CESUGA - from left: Prof Pat Gibbons, Vice-President for Staff and Administrative Systems; Prof Frank Bradley, Director of B Comm (Spain) Programme; and Mr José Varela, President of CESUGA*

## UCD academics feature highest among new members of the RIA

**Six of the twenty new members of the Royal Irish Academy elected on the 16 March are UCD academics. This is the greatest number of elected members from any one university in 2005. Election to membership of the Academy is the highest academic honour in Ireland and denotes academic achievement of international renown.**

New UCD Members of the RIA include: Thomas Brazil, Professor of Electronic Engineering; Donald Fitzmaurice, Professor of Nanochemistry; Jonathan Paul Malthouse, Professor of Biochemistry; Maeve Cooke, Associate Professor of German; Mary Gallagher, Senior Lecturer in French;

Brigid Laffan, Jean Monnet Professor of European Politics. Those elected are entitled to use the designation 'MRIA' (Member of the Royal Irish Academy) after their name.

At the same meeting of the Academy, Dr Howard Clarke (UCD History Department) was elected as Secretary of the Academy in succession to Dr James Slevin who was elected as President.

The RIA is an all-Ireland, independent, academic body that promotes study and excellence in the sciences, humanities, and social sciences. It is the principal learned society in Ireland and has approximately four hundred and twelve Members elected in recognition of their academic achievement.

*For further information visit [www.ria.ie](http://www.ria.ie)*

## President's Awards for Excellence in Student Activities

**Dedication, compassion and commitment are the types of qualities that recipients of the President's Awards for Excellence in Student Activities have been shown to possess. They have displayed these qualities across a broad range of areas including volunteering, fundraising, sporting activities, working with societies and working with the students union.**

On 9 June, the following students will be honoured with a President's Award for Excellence in Student Activities:

Gerald Bloomer, 3rd Year Student, Faculty of Law  
 Michael Clark, PhD Student, Faculty of Science  
 Darragh Gaffney, 4th Year Student, Faculty of Science  
 John Harvey, MSc Student, Faculty of Commerce  
 Anthony Kelly, 4th Year Student, (BBLs) Interfaculty  
 Liza Kierans, 4th Year Student, Faculty of Engineering & Architecture  
 Gearoid Neligan, 3rd Year Student, Faculty of Commerce  
 Andrew Nolan, 3rd Year Student, Faculty of Arts  
 Morgan Shelley, 4th Year Student, (BBLs) Interfaculty

## Publish or Perish? The future of academic publishing

**On 26 April, at the Geary Institute, UCD's Sociology Department held its third annual research day titled "Publish or Perish? The Future of Academic Publishing." Among the guest speakers were Lindsay Waters, Executive Editor for the Humanities, Harvard University Press; John B. Thompson, Professor of Sociology at Cambridge University and Director of Polity Press; and Fergal Tobin, Publishing Director of Gill & Macmillan and Chairman of the Irish Publishers Association. Together with Professor Stephen Mennell, Chairman of the Editorial Committee of UCD Press, the panel discussed the current situation in academic publishing.**

Lindsay Waters spoke of his American experiences with academic publishing. He urged the academic community to no longer just do the counting while outsourcing or avoiding the difficult question of identifying distinguished scholarship and research by leaving such crucial judgement to the University Presses.

Professor John Thompson stressed that publishers like Harvard University Press and presses like Princeton and Yale, were the exception. He noted that their resources allowed them to cope better with the crisis in academic publishing; a crisis he explained is inextricably linked to the stranglehold that international publishers of scientific journals had gained over library budgets since the 1970s. However, he predicted hopeful times for small and mid-sized publishing houses due to the production economies arising from new technological advances. But Professor Thompson also noted that these advances could drive a gap between academics who are inclined towards the publication of highly specialised research and publishers who want to reach a much broader readership.

Fergal Tobin described how UCD Press had overcome such difficulties. Professor Stephen Mennell, one of the founders of UCD Press, also stated that the press is becoming an international player in the field.

*From left to right: Mr Lindsay Waters, Prof Stephen Mennell, Prof John Thompson and Mr Fergal Tobin*



## A better quality of life

**On 25 April, Professor Peter Clinch gave his inaugural lecture titled 'Planning for a Better Quality of Life: The Role of University College Dublin.'**

In May 2003, Professor Clinch became the youngest professor at UCD when he was appointed to the post of Professor of Regional and Urban Planning. He was also awarded a personal chair by the European Union - The Jean Monnet Chair of European Environmental Policy.

In his opening remarks, Professor Owen Lewis, Dean of Engineering & Architecture, acknowledged the great advances the Department of Planning & Environmental Policy had made in its international reputation in research under Professor Clinch's direction. He also mentioned the Department's involvement in numerous multi-million Euro international research projects and its active collaborations with research teams in universities around the globe.

Professor Clinch began his inaugural lecture with a dedication to the late Alan Nolan. He then introduced his topic by saying "Planning has never been more relevant and important for Irish society and has never been more on the minds of the public and the politicians." He continued to discuss why planning is such a controversial area in Ireland and suggested where the university sector and UCD could contribute to addressing these problems.

The Minister for the Environment, Mr Dick Roche, TD, gave his response to the lecture followed by some closing words from the President, Dr Hugh Brady.

## One for all and all for one -three Dublin medical schools form single research and teaching entity



*Sitting from left: Dr John Hegarty, Provost, Trinity College Dublin; Mr Michael Horgan, Chief Executive Officer and Registrar, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland; Dr Michael Kamarck Chair of DMMC Board and Senior Vice President, Wyeth BioPharma; and Dr Hugh Brady, President, University College Dublin*

*Standing from left: Prof Niall O'Higgins, University College Dublin and President of Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland; Ms Mary Hanafin, TD, Minister for Education and Science; and Dr Pierre Meulien, Chief Executive Officer, Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre*

**On 25 April, the Minister for Education and Science, Ms Mary Hanafin TD attended the signing of an agreement to extend the ownership of the Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre (DMMC) from its founding universities - Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin - to include the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.**

Founded in 2002 with funding from the Higher Education Authority (HEA), the DMMC's primary aim is to undertake biomedical research, which can ultimately translate into patient treatments in a range of illnesses.

International experience shows that in order to make significant breakthroughs, clinical researchers need to be working in a population in excess of one million people. By combining the patient populations of their affiliated teaching hospitals, the DMMC delivers this critical mass.

Michael Kamarck, Chairman of DMMC and Senior Vice-President at Wyeth BioPharma stated, "Instead of individual medical researchers working in isolation in a single hospital, we can, through the DMMC, genuinely share our patient studies and maximise our ability to find and develop treatments for a number of diseases."

Over the past three years, the DMMC's mechanism to invest in and share high-cost, large-scale equipment has enabled the development of complementary high technology platforms that are shared by the research community.

## Counting, Measuring & Valuing - Four Decades of Social Science Research at UCD

**The Royal Irish Academy and the Social Science Research Centre hosted a seminar titled "Counting, Measuring & Valuing - Four Decades of Social Research at UCD" in early April.**

Leading academics in social science research attended the seminar where they discussed

the value and application of social science research today.

For over forty years the Social Science Research Centre at UCD has produced research in the fields of health and illness, social exclusion, new ethnic minority communities, attitudes to the environment, and participation in higher education. This

research has been used to inform government policy and government decision-making. The Centre is also a member of the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP), a cross-national collaboration programme that brings together social science research from thirty-nine member states.

**In April, Computing Services officially launched the Laptop Centre in the Daedalus Building.**

Professor Pat Gibbons, Vice-President of Staff Affairs and Administrative Systems, welcomed the guests. He explained that the Laptop Centre is a new concept in access to IT Services and noted that it is just one of many initiatives which reflect the University's objective to offer an increased range of technology interactions and supports for staff and students. He also mentioned that the Laptop Centre concept is being rolled out throughout the University. Professor Gibbons presented James Kenny, a 4th year student in Experimental Physics, with a Dell Latitude Laptop as a prize for winning the competition to name the centre.

At the event, Mary Crowe, Director of UCD Computing Services invited guests to sample a range of mobile IT services available to users at UCD. Guests could try out the new version of *UCD Connect* due for launch in June and a mobile laptop cart capable of handling up to twenty-five laptops allowing greater connectivity in the classroom for staff and students. They could also view new online maps for wireless campus hotspots and computer laboratory locations, as well as new signs to help users identify where wireless service is available.

For more details visit [www.ucd.ie/computing/mobility](http://www.ucd.ie/computing/mobility)

## The Laptop Centre: A New Concept in Access to IT Services



*Wireless hotspot signs on campus*



*Pictured at the launch are (from L to R) Prof Ann Lavan, Associate Dean, Faculty of Human Sciences; Dr Patricia Kelly, Dean, Faculty of CelticStudies and Mary Crowe, Director, UCD Computing Services*



# British plan to fight off Napoleon with hemp from Irish bogs



Bog Commission Map of Sally Gap, County Wicklow

**In the early years of the nineteenth century, such was Napoleon's strength that the British became convinced that they were next on his hit list. Terrified of a Napoleonic invasion, the British racked their brains for alternative raw materials to keep their army strong. At the forefront of this quest was a desire to strengthen their navy, to protect the seas from the much-feared French.**

In 1808 they thought they had found the raw material to rescue them: hemp from the bogs of Ireland. It was suggested that hemp from the Irish bogs would support the mass production of sailcloth for British navy vessels. So the largest ever survey of Irish land was commissioned in order to assess the viability of the project - and the Bog Commission was born.

Fast-forward almost two hundred years later and the results of the Bog Commission are found at auction in Dublin. A tip off is passed to UCD's Geography Department and soon the fifty maps are on their way to Belfield and into the hands of Dr Arnold Horner.

Dr Horner is now working to reproduce the maps that the commission submitted to the British crown all those years ago. By adjusting the scale of the maps, reprinting them and transferring them to CD, Dr Horner hopes to make new and exciting discoveries about the Ireland of the early nineteenth century.

"The maps themselves are of a very high standard", he says. "They show us the extent to which Ireland was covered in bog at the time, but they also mapped in roads, towns and churches so they give us a fascinating look at what Ireland was like back then. It is the social dimension to the maps that make them very interesting".

In 1809, the young Richard Griffith and Richard Lovell were among the team of engineers who travelled to Ireland to survey its bogs. The commission would last four years and would ultimately cover one-tenth of the entire island. The study focused on the midlands, north Munster and large parts of Connaught. Although the team of engineers had hoped to travel further north and into Ulster before the commission was re-called to Britain and the plans to use Irish hemp to expand the British navy were cancelled.

By 1814, twenty years before the first Irish Ordnance Survey map was created, the Bog Commission had compiled four reports and fifty maps for presentation to the British parliament. So the Bog Commission maps are effectively the earliest maps of Ireland ever created. They offer unique insight into pre-famine Ireland because thirty years later the

famine would devastate Ireland, forever changing its landscape and demographics.

When the Napoleonic threat had eased, the commission was closed down and its work was locked away into the annals of British history. And although the work of the commission is known, it has suffered neglect from academic interests. But no more. With the assistance of the Heritage Council, Horner has been able to re-publish the maps produced by the great Alexander Nimmo, who later made his name as a road-builder. Nimmo's maps cover 197,000 acres of Co. Kerry, mostly around the Kenmare area.

## The Bog Commission maps are effectively the earliest maps of Ireland ever created

According to Horner, the maps show Kerry as it was before the development of modern towns and villages. Yet the map also shows a county thickly populated on the better land and details over nine hundred buildings, most of which are long gone.

Horner has managed to reproduce other maps that covered the area surrounding the Wicklow Mountains. Originally produced by Richard Griffith, the maps show the county just a decade after the 1798 Rebellion and just after the military road and its associated barracks had been completed. These maps, says Horner, allow us the first detailed look at how Irish landscape and settlement has changed over the past two hundred years.

Indeed, Ireland is only just returning to its pre-famine population and the Ireland surveyed by the Bog Commission shows a

Dr Horner during fieldwork in the bogs of County Wicklow.



densely populated island. In his report of 1814, John Longfield made the following observations about Co. Roscommon:

"The population of the county of Roscommon (although generally considered as a grazing county) is exceedingly great, so much so, that every little island or peninsula in the bogs contains more than an ordinary proportion of inhabitants; as an instance of which, I shall mention one island near Lough Glynn of 107 acres, called Cloonborny, that contains no less than 21 families, being little more than five acres to each house, and for which they pay a rent of not less than 40 shillings per acre. It is therefore not to be wondered at, that multitudes of those poor peasants emigrate annually to England... I never met men who would go farther or labour harder for a shilling than Connaught men".

According to Horner, it is this sort of social commentary included in the commission's reports that makes the topic so fascinating.

In an age where the issue of binge drinking is a hot topic, it is interesting to recall some of Longfield's comments made in 1814 in relation to illicit distillation of alcohol in Roscommon,

"[Illicit distillation] is now a disgrace to the country in general, and a serious loss to those fair dealers who are not concerned in it...What the full extent of this trade amounts to, or how far the revenue of Ireland is injured by it, I am not prepared to say; but this much, I verily believe, that in the County of Roscommon, nay, I might say in the whole province of Connaught, there is not one gallon of licensed spirits in every hundred gallons of its consumption".

Ultimately, the Irish bogs were never drained to mass-produce hemp for sail cloth for British navy vessels to fight off Napoleon. The threat posed by the French leader eased and the British soon forgot about the Irish bogs. Indeed, as noted by Dr Horner, it was a plan that was never really fully thought out.

"The political aspect to the Bog Commission was very surprising", he says. "The British were so worried about Napoleon that they were looking for anything that might help supplies. It was hysteria similar to the recent pre-Iraq war hysteria, where people were talking about weapons of mass destruction. It was a madcap scheme and there were never any tests conducted to see whether it would even work".

From the British point of view, the Bog Commission may have been fruitless, but as Dr Horner's research reveals, they captured a fascinating view of the physical and social development of Ireland two hundred years ago.

Details of the re-published bogs maps can be found at [www.glenmaps.com](http://www.glenmaps.com)

*Eoghan Rice (BA Politics & Economics 2003) is a Sunday Tribune journalist and former editor of the College Tribune*

**Napoleon's march through Europe may never have made it to our island on the far northwest of the continent, but the French crusade did not leave Ireland untouched. Eoghan Rice reports.**

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# Breakfast of Champions - Nutrition, biochemistry and physical training

**While in Ireland recently, Haile Gebrelassie the greatest long distance runner of this or any generation visited the new sports facilities at UCD.**

**Born in 1973, Gebrelassie is the Ethiopian version of Roy Keane, Brian O'Driscoll and DJ Carey all rolled into one. He hails from the small town of Assela, situated 8,000 feet above sea level - an altitudinal positioning that undoubtedly aided him in the 18 world records he smashed in a career that reached its zenith at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, where, in the final stride of the most exciting 10,000 metres in Olympic race history, he swept past his great Kenyan rival Paul Tergat to claim gold.**

He has since used the fame he garnered from the track fittingly by working with Trocaire, setting up schools in Ethiopia. So it was no surprise that when accepting his honorary degree from the NUI, he spoke about the development work in his native Ethiopia.

While on the UCD campus, Gebrelassie visited several new sporting facilities. First he visited the new and improved High Performance Centre. Established in 2002 by the Department of Sport, the Centre is run as an elite facility for athletes whose sports require maximal power development. To date, under the directorship of Lisa Regan, the Centre, which has just moved to an exclusive gym, has catered for a wide range of sporting disciplines.

Lacking the natural benefit of high altitude, European athletes may always trail behind African athletes in long distance running. However, the Centre's Beijing Programme is UCD's contribution to improving the return for Irish athletes generally. This sees Enfer Scientific sponsoring seven elite athletes for the 2008 Games to the tune of €120,000. The sponsored athletes include high jumpers Adrian O'Dwyer and Deirdre Ryan, hammer thrower Padraig White, para-olympic javelin thrower Lisa Callaghan and sprinters Fiona O'Friel, Rob Daly and Joanne Cuddihy.

With a BA in Sports Science and an MA in Biochemistry, Regan's expertise allows her to adopt a very proactive approach to crucial physical training in response to the Athens

Review. With Sonia O'Sullivan as the exception, for too long Irish athletes have been castigated for not being competitive on the world stage, even though the tools for success were never supplied to them. "Athens was brutal. As a former athlete, my heart goes out to them," says Regan. "They were not given the correct nutritional or biochemistry preparation yet the backlash is all on them." Regan's reservoir of knowledge on sports science is utilised by an array of groups and individuals including an FAI goalkeeping academy, international men's hockey players based in Dublin, and even a young figure skater.

**We try and build collaborations and partnerships with coaches and technical advisors to ensure it's a circle of expertise in nutrition, physiotherapy, strength and conditioning**

Brian Mullins, the lynchpin in Dublin's Gaelic Football glory days of the 70's and 80's, is the director of Sport at UCD. He is the driving force behind current developments in the UCD sporting environment. "We try and build collaborations and partnerships with coaches and technical advisors to ensure it's a circle of expertise in nutrition, physiotherapy, strength and conditioning. Whether you are a javelin thrower or a prop in rugby. If you don't have that type of circle you are only gesturing to compete with the elite."

While visiting UCD, Gebrelassie also attended the new Sports Pavilion, a much-needed facility to accommodate the changing needs of outdoor sports on campus. Partially funded by Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism to the tune of €700,000, the Pavilion includes four top class international standard changing rooms. The new changing rooms are large enough to hold team talks and pre-match talks. They also incorporate physiotherapy rooms and ice

baths, both of which are exceptionally beneficial to players when it comes to recuperating more quickly, reducing fatigue and reducing injuries. The proximity of the new facilities to the Belfield Bowl means that rugby is the immediate beneficiary and so too is the Irish National Hockey Association.

Other new facilities include synthetic five-a-side and floodlit training pitches built adjacent to the Pavilion. UCD funded the €1 million cost of this project. Both pitches have the UEFA approved Prestige surface. The soccer club play Superleague games on this pitch during midweek and on weekends. This reduces the pressure on the natural grass pitches and it also means more certainty of games because wet weather does not affect the playability of the surface as it does with natural grass pitches. Superleague is one of the biggest soccer leagues in the country. Recognised by the FAI, the league has over fifty student teams that compete on weekly basis in four divisions.



*Haile Gebrelassie with Lisa Regan, Director, High Performance Centre*

With the increasing number of gaelic teams, there is huge pressure in accommodating training and competitive fixtures. The upgraded lights on Devlin park and the hurling pitch coupled with the availability of the Prestige surface pitch for training have greatly enhanced the opportunities for UCD students to train and compete in the evening time. Increasing academic pressures mean it is now very difficult to train or compete during the day, so more and more competitive fixtures are being played at night. Rugby teams train on the Prestige pitch at least once a week and this helps preserve the main rugby pitches from the usual wear and tear.

The result of all this sees UCD, the country's premier University campus, brought to par with other universities worldwide. According to the President, Dr Hugh Brady, "Given the most recent public discussions and debate about modern lifestyle patterns, the role of sport in the lives of our future generations has to remain a priority. UCD is fully committed to continuing to pioneer new and exciting projects to progress the "Sport Agenda" in order to serve the needs of the communities at Belfield and beyond. These facilities are an indication of that intent and are also indicative of the inclusive nature of UCD".

A place situated less than 8,000 feet above sea level may never produce a Gebrelassie type natural running talent, but Belfield fully intends to provide the native talent we have with the support it truly deserves in the form of world-class facilities and professional expertise.

*Gavin Cumiskey (BA History & Politics 2001) is a sports journalist with the Irish Times*

*Haile Gebrelassie with Rob Daly in the High Performance Centre*



# a comment

## Christopher Murray on writing a biography of O'Casey

**Writing a biography of a writer is a funny business. You delve into someone's life; you read letters both private and public; you read all the publications by and on the subject; you sit down and you try to write yourself, knowing that you can't write as well as the person you're writing about, and knowing that while you're judging him he's also judging you. You have to resist painting him up, creating scenes, making coherent what is incomplete in the story. You end up accepting that every life, including your own, is a gathering together of bits and pieces, motives known and unknown, selves shaped and re-shaped, and that any finality is really an illusion. And yet the whole business is fascinating.**

So, when I was asked by publishers Gill & Macmillan some seven years ago to write a biography of playwright Sean O'Casey, I was both powerfully attracted and at the same time terrified. I knew that O'Casey, while seeming to be a fairly simple, straightforward subject, was complex, turbulent and full of contradictions. I knew there were two O'Casey biographies already in existence, the more recent one not then ten years published. Would I have anything original to say? Can the working academic do this kind of re-creation well? Or is the academic's touch, as many artists believe, the kiss of death to the whole project of writing about art of any kind? Even now, when the book is done and in the public domain I don't know the answers to those questions. I only know

that the challenge was exhilarating and the nature of the undertaking-moving into someone else's life and history-as exciting as it was daunting.

The work brought me into libraries and archives, of course, but it also brought me into contact with the O'Casey family. This was a great privilege and a great source of domestic information. O'Casey married at age forty-seven in London, following the success at the Abbey of his three great plays, *The Shadow of a Gunman* (1923), *Juno and the Paycock* (1924) and *The Plough and the Stars* (1926). They settled in England. Eileen, a beautiful London actress, was a lot younger than Sean. Years later I met her when she lived for a time in Dun Laoghaire. She was still beautiful, and touchingly

devoted to Sean's memory and to his works without being in the least sentimental. The way she said 'Sean', lovingly preserving the Irish pronunciation, was memorable. They had three children, one of whom, Niall, died from leukaemia at age twenty-one. I tried to capture the grief of that experience in a chapter I called 'A Death in the Family', set in the year 1956. The other two children, Shivaun (a theatre director) and Breon (an artist) have been an enormous help to my biography. As curator of her father's papers Shivaun generously allowed me access before she donated them to the National Library of Ireland.

One of the things which impressed me greatly about O'Casey as I learned more about his daily routines was his total

dedication to life itself, to its fullness and to all things of the spirit, from education through to all the arts. Were he somehow to visit UCD today he would wonder at the sight of so many young people on campus, free, well-dressed, bursting with vitality. He would love to engage them in talk, about their plans, their philosophy, their dreams. I have no doubt they would be captivated. He was that kind of man.

*Sean O'Casey, Writer at Work: A Biography, is published in hardback by Gill & Macmillan.*

*Professor Christopher Murray, School of English*

## Clash of the Titans - Students Clash for the double but the Cup goes to Belfield

**The UCD v Trinity fixture is becoming a regular occurrence in the world of under-21 rugby in Leinster and Ireland. Both teams are very strong and the display of rugby between the two is an example of the strength of under-20 rugby in Ireland. With Trinity newly crowned All Ireland Champions and UCD fresh from their JP Fanagan League win; this fixture was one to watch. UCD were the eventual and deserving winners and the Belfield students began their exams content in the knowledge that they did the double. The double has only been done once before and this was by the Blackrock dream team of 1997, captained by Barry Gibney. So this is a feat that is to be reckoned with.**

UCD have had a very strong season and this team is solid having worked hard to create a unit that has been practically unbeatable. The JP Fanagan league was won with ten wins out of ten. They narrowly lost to Lansdowne by 9-6 (extra-time) in the All Ireland semi-final and bounced back to beat Terenure very comfortably in the semi-final of the McCorry Cup a week later. Physically and mentally, this squad is strong and these players are the ones to watch when the World Cup squad is being announced in 2011.

The match started out with Trinity holding forth after scoring a fine try by Michael Kavanagh. However by half-time UCD had bounced back with two penalties to lead 6-5. The second half saw two penalties scored by both teams, taken by Robert Kearney (UCD) and Johnny Watt (Trinity). As the game came to a close, UCD led by the narrowest of margins but up stepped Killian Lett in the closing minutes to score a drop goal to secure UCD the league and cup double for 2005. Although only two players were on the score sheet for UCD, the game was secured by a tremendous team performance, which has been evident all season.

**UCD Team:** R. Kearney, M. Hickey-Crowe, S. Grissing (Capt), R. Harrison, F. Carr, K.Lett, C. Willis (B. O'Neill 25), P. Walsh, R. O'Byrne (L. McInerney 60), B. McGovern, C. Doyle (R. O'Hara 59), S. O'Dwyer, A. Franciosi, A. Brennan (K. McLaughlin 50), E. Fitzgerald

Replacements (Not Used) - M. Regan, D. Nyhan, E. Deasy

*3 March 2003; UCD players celebrate at the end of the game after victory over Dublin University. J.P Fanagan Under 20 League Premier Division Final. Dublin University v UCD. Donnybrook, Dublin.*





# Calendar of Events UCD 150

June - September 2005

Date	Event	Place / Time	Organiser
9-12 June	35th annual meeting of Husserl Circle	H11	Philosophy Department Contact: dermot.moran@ucd.ie
14-15 June	North-South Programme for Collaborative Research, H11 & Queen's University Belfast Conference	H11	H11 Contact: roisin.higgins@ucd.ie
15 June	'The Settler Contract' lecture by Professor Carole Pateman	Newman House 5pm	Politics Department Contact: john.coakley@ucd.ie
16 June	'The UCD Aesthetic: 150 Years of UCD Writers' book launch	Newman House 6pm	Communications Office
16 June	Honorary Conferring	O'Reilly Hall	Presidents Office
17 June	HIV International Conference	O'Reilly Hall	CRID
23-25 June	Feasta conference: food security in an energy scarce world	Faculty of Agri-food & the Environment	Faculty of Agri-food & the Environment Contact: food@feasta.org
24 June	UCD 150 Alumni Garden Party	O'Reilly Hall 6pm	Alumni Development Office
26 - 30 June	International Grasslands Congress	O'Reilly Hall	Faculty of Agri-Food & the Environment Contact: mark.simpson@ucd.ie
2 July	Carnival Day	UCD	President's Office
14-22 July	Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS) Conference	Geary Institute	Geary Institute Contact: susan.muldoon@ucd.ie or www.esf.org
7 Sept	'Beyond the Human Genome' Festival of Science event	TBC	Conway Institute. Contact: elaine.quinn@ucd.ie
7 -10 Sept	European Conference on Educational Research	O'Reilly Hall + UCD Campus	Education Department See www.ucd.ie/ecer2005
8 - 10 Sept	European Trade Study Group Conference	Arts Building	Geary Institute Contact: susan.muldoon@ucd.ie
8 - 10 Sept	DeValera's 30th Anniversary Conference	H11	Dr Anne Dolan Contact: Anne.dolan@ucd.ie
14 - 17 Sept	Health Econometrics Conference	Geary Institute	Geary Institute/ Department of Economics Contact: David.madden@ucd.ie or www.york.ac.uk/res/herc/EW.html
15 Sept	5th Annual Conway Festival of Research	O'Reilly Hall	Conway Institute Contact: elaine.quinn@ucd.ie
15 - 17 Sept	'The March in the Medieval West - 1000-1500' Conference	H11	Micheál O'Cléirigh Institute /H11 Contact:emmettobyrne@hotmail.com

## Emerging PhD Research at the Geary Institute

**On 20 and 21 April, the Geary Institute showcased current research projects being conducted by PhD students. The symposium covered the broad areas of Economics and Public Policy Research, Politics Democracy and Knowledge Society and Children and Citizenship.**

The two-day forum provided PhD students from the Department of Politics, the Department of Economics, the Department of Library and Information Studies, the Dublin European Institute, the Department of Social Policy & Social Work and the Department of Sociology, with the opportunity to identify common themes, concerns and methodologies.

## UCD Professor named Fulbright New Century Scholar

**UCD Sociology Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences Patrick Clancy has been named 2005 Fulbright New Century Scholar. The New Century Scholar Programme brings together each year a group of 25-30 outstanding research scholars and professionals from around the world. Participants engage in multidisciplinary research on a topic of substantial global significance.**



*Prof Patrick Clancy*

Professor Clancy's scholarship in the area of higher education uniquely equips him to contribute to the NCS theme for 2005 which will focus on: 'Higher Education in the 21st Century: Global Challenge and National Response'. For the past twenty-five years Clancy's national surveys on access and participation in higher education in Ireland have played an important role in planning and policy making in Irish higher education. Clancy's expertise and reputation in this field have led to his involvement in several

government appointed advisory bodies and committees of inquiry. The NCS Programme is administered in Ireland by The Fulbright Commission.

*For further information on this and other Fulbright Programmes see [www.fulbright.ie](http://www.fulbright.ie).*

## Cultivating Person Centred Planning Conference

**On 5 May, the Centre for Disability Studies and Rehabcare co-hosted a conference entitled 'Cultivating Person Centred Planning'. This approach to planning health and social supports make sense from the individual's perspective, rather than relying only on what professionals can provide. The planning team locates the person in his or her community and uses all available resources, especially family members and friends, to implement it.**

Participants in the conference included people with disabilities, family members and professionals from service organizations

around Ireland. Peter Kinsella, Paradigm, UK, addressed the management system changes that are indicated in reshaping services so that an individual's plans are prioritised. Eric Emerson, Lancaster University, presented research evidence on the outcomes of person centred initiatives in the UK. Mary van Lieshout highlighted the role of the NDA in identifying standards for services in Ireland. Paul Sillitoe, an accomplished mountaineer and advocate from the UK gave his personal testimony on how successful he found the method.

*For more information visit [www.ucd.ie/~include](http://www.ucd.ie/~include)*

*Left to Right: Prof Patricia Noonan Walsh, Centre for Disability Studies; Angela Kerins, RehabCare; Peter Kinsella, Paradigm, UK; Eric Emerson, Lancaster University; and Paul Sillitoe, Mountaineer, UK*

