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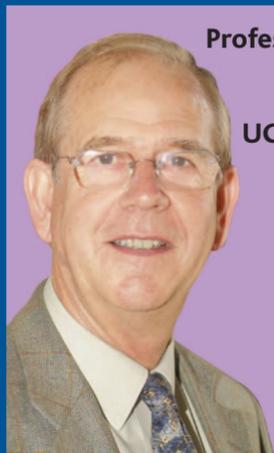
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New round of academic promotions announced

The UCD Governing Authority has approved a new round of 107 academic promotions, reflecting the high standards and achievements of the UCD academic community and the university's commitment to rewarding excellence. The promotions demonstrate that a key tenet of the UCD Strategic Plan 2005-2008 - the development of a full suite of recruitment and reward mechanisms for academic staff - is now in place.

This current round of promotions is highly significant, as, for the first time, a procedure for promotion to Professor was implemented and a total of 24 promotions to Professor were made. Also for the first time, promotions to Associate Professor did not take place under a quota system, and 48 promotions to Associate Professor were approved. A new benchmarking system for promotion to Senior Lecturer, which gives candidates clear targets to strive for, resulted in 35 promotions to Senior Lecturer.

To see a full listing of the academic promotions, go to www.ucd.ie/news



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UCD - Sunday Times University of the Year

When, in the midst of radical change, someone outside says 'we like what you're doing', it's a welcome boost to all those who put in Trojan work to make that change happen. This month *The Sunday Times* awarded UCD the title University of the Year for "excellence across a wide range of indicators." Coming in a year when we witnessed a 15% swing in CAO first preferences (from -4.6% to +10.4%) and strong growth in research income (to almost €80 million) this indicates that the implementation of our strategic plan does not go unnoticed.

Competitive comparison of universities on this island and internationally is a reality. Statistics on students' results, research income, research output, staff:student ratios all go into a mix to produce league tables which are used to rank and rate the universities. *The Sunday Times* adds a separate qualitative element - the use of questionnaires to get a broader picture of campus life through the eyes of students and to assess the university's role on the national and world stage.

From a student perspective, UCD is beginning to capitalise on its size rather than falling into the space that equates size with anonymity. The breadth of modules is a real plus for students choosing electives - 40% of first years chose from outside their study area. Scale is also a help in terms of participation in elite performance sport. Last year

UCD awarded 105 sports scholarships. Other positive changes, such as the increase in on-campus residences to almost 2,500, impact directly on opinions and choices among students.

Size also influences the diversity of research activities and facilitates academic collaboration between colleagues from other disciplines here on campus as well as with other universities. The recent round of IRCSET- IRCHSS applications demonstrates the value of size and diversity. Of a total of 23 UCD-led applications, 9 are internal while 14 involve inter-institutional collaborations. UCD is part of a further 8 collaborations led by other Irish universities.

The coming academic year holds new challenges as UCD actively promotes 4th level education through the five new graduate schools. Over 100 Ad Astra scholars join the ranks of 400 new researchers to boost UCD's PhD programmes.

Much of the work involved in making strategic changes happens quietly, in the background. All the planning, the policy-development, the operational alignment takes long hours and tremendous effort. Receiving *The Sunday Times* University of the Year award is a public acknowledgement that these changes are having the desired impact.

Eilis O'Brien
Director of Communications

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2006

Interdisciplinary research yields new insights into childhood development

Preparing for his new role as UCD Professor of Science and Society, Nobel laureate James J. Heckman tells Louise Holden how his international team plans to create a new field of study in Ireland.

Is there a genetic disposition towards crime? Towards grammar acquisition? Towards heart disease? These simplistic ruminations betray our general innocence of the interplay of biology and environment. Scholars and scientists are starting to realise that in order to gain true insights into human development, an interdisciplinary approach is required.

Ireland welcomed a lot of visitors during the summer, but arguably none as influential as Nobel laureate Professor James J. Heckman. Professor Heckman came to Belfield in June 2006 to accept the UCD Ulysses Medal for his work in the field of economic science; this most recent accolade follows the John Bates Clark Award of the American Economic Association in 1983, the 2005 Jacob Mincer Award for Lifetime Achievement in Labor Economics and the 2000 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.

Professor Heckman has been singled out for his work in economics because he is crossing into previously unexplored areas of knowledge, crossing disciplinary boundaries to forge new fields of knowledge in the area of human development.

He will visit Ireland again this autumn to illuminate academics and policymakers on his findings in the area of economic interventions in early childhood. Like many biologists, sociologists, linguists, epidemiologists and other scientists, he believes that early childhood is the richest period of human development, and that infants and young children are the most receptive beneficiaries of positive intervention. From a policymaker's point of view, investment in early childhood is the most effective use of resources that any government can make.

This is not news. The difference in Professor Heckman's case is that he is working with academics from a variety of disciplines to measure the effects of various interventions in early childhood.

"We are trying to improve the lot of children, especially disadvantaged children, in Ireland by investigating the effects of interventions at the earliest possible junctures: pre-natal, post-natal, during infancy and early childhood. We know that heredity has a central role to play in human development. We also have evidence that family and environmental factors can change outcomes for individuals."

For centuries, specialisation has been the tradition in academic study. Heckman believes that much insight may be lost due to the propensity of scholars to learn 'more and more about less and less'.

"In human development, so many factors feed into individual outcomes. In our research at the University of Chicago [where Professor Heckman currently holds the position of Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics] we are working with epidemiologists, biologists, primatologists, social scientists and economists to examine all the

factors feeding into human development, and to appraise the value of targeted interventions in later-stage development."

Heckman is focusing his work on Ireland for a number of reasons. First, thanks to the support of the Atlantic Foundation and the government's Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions (PRTL) fund, Professor Heckman will soon take up his new role as Professor of Science and Society at UCD, a joint initiative between the UCD Geary Institute and UCD Conway Institute. Drawing on the expertise of UCD notables such as Professor Janet Allen, Professor Cecily Kelleher, Professor Colm Harmon and UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady, together with academics at his own department at the University of Chicago, Professor Heckman will train the spotlight on Irish children in order to examine the various interventions that might offer better futures to all children in Ireland, regardless of economic background.

Professor Heckman will train the spotlight on Irish children in order to examine the various interventions that might offer better futures to all children in Ireland

"It is troubling that in Ireland, and all across the world, there is a growing underclass of children that are offered less than the full opportunity to lead successful lives," says Professor Heckman. "Growing numbers of teenage mothers are not educated about the obligations and potential pitfalls of childrearing. A greater percentage of children are born into relative disadvantage when compared to their middle-class peers. Many do not receive the kind of stimulation at home that is conducive to the acquisition of reading, writing, social and other skills."

Despite the fact that many middle-class parents lament the incursion of working life into family time, parents with adequate financial resources and high levels of education still have greater opportunities to offer children the best of interventions from day one. If a child experiences a learning or social difficulty in a middle-class home, help and professional guidance is usually sought early. This is not the case in many disadvantaged homes, and Professor Heckman suggests that if the state intervened earlier in the life of the child, a great deal of money could be saved on costly interventions later on.

"The family home is a major source of inequality and has been for thousands of years, but we are only beginning to investigate this now. Relative to the home, school and training etc. are unimportant."

Professor Heckman has raised some hackles with his perceived suggestion that learning supports in school and beyond are a waste of money. For those who have lobbied long for educational interventions in the teenage and adult years, the idea of scrapping resource teaching and state-sponsored literacy training is an insult.

Of course, Professor Heckman is suggesting no such thing, but he does believe that the requirement for costly school and training supports would be greatly reduced if money was spent on children earlier in their lives.

"If a child is experiencing literacy difficulties, it is much more expensive to intervene at 13 than it is to intervene at three," Professor Heckman explains. "If a child is not exposed to a rich language environment in the early years, when skills such as grammar and syntax are being laid down, it is almost impossible to develop these skills later. There is a sensitive period of language acquisition that is finished after the age of three."

By studying the interventions of government agencies around the world, including a slate of new interventions underway in Ireland, Professor Heckman and his team hope to gather evidence of successful interventions that harness what linguist Steven Pinker has described as the maturational timetable of the child. By providing targeted support at the key life stages of the child, costly, and often ineffective, later interventions can be avoided.

In order to identify these critical points, a vast spectrum of expertise is required.

"A synthesis of fields is what we really need to discover what is required, and when, and how much it will cost," says Professor Heckman. "In this regard, the work of UCD and the University of Chicago is truly revolutionary. We are bringing together primatologists, neuroscientists, sociologists, economists and many others to unlock the relationships between biology and environment insofar as they impact on human development. Using this information, we hope to help policymakers draw up effective and practical intervention policies in the early years. Then these can be complemented by, rather than replace, later supports provided in older childhood and adulthood."

Given that Ireland is currently behind other European countries when it comes to the provision of early-years education, is Professor Heckman confident that his research findings will gain the ear of the government?

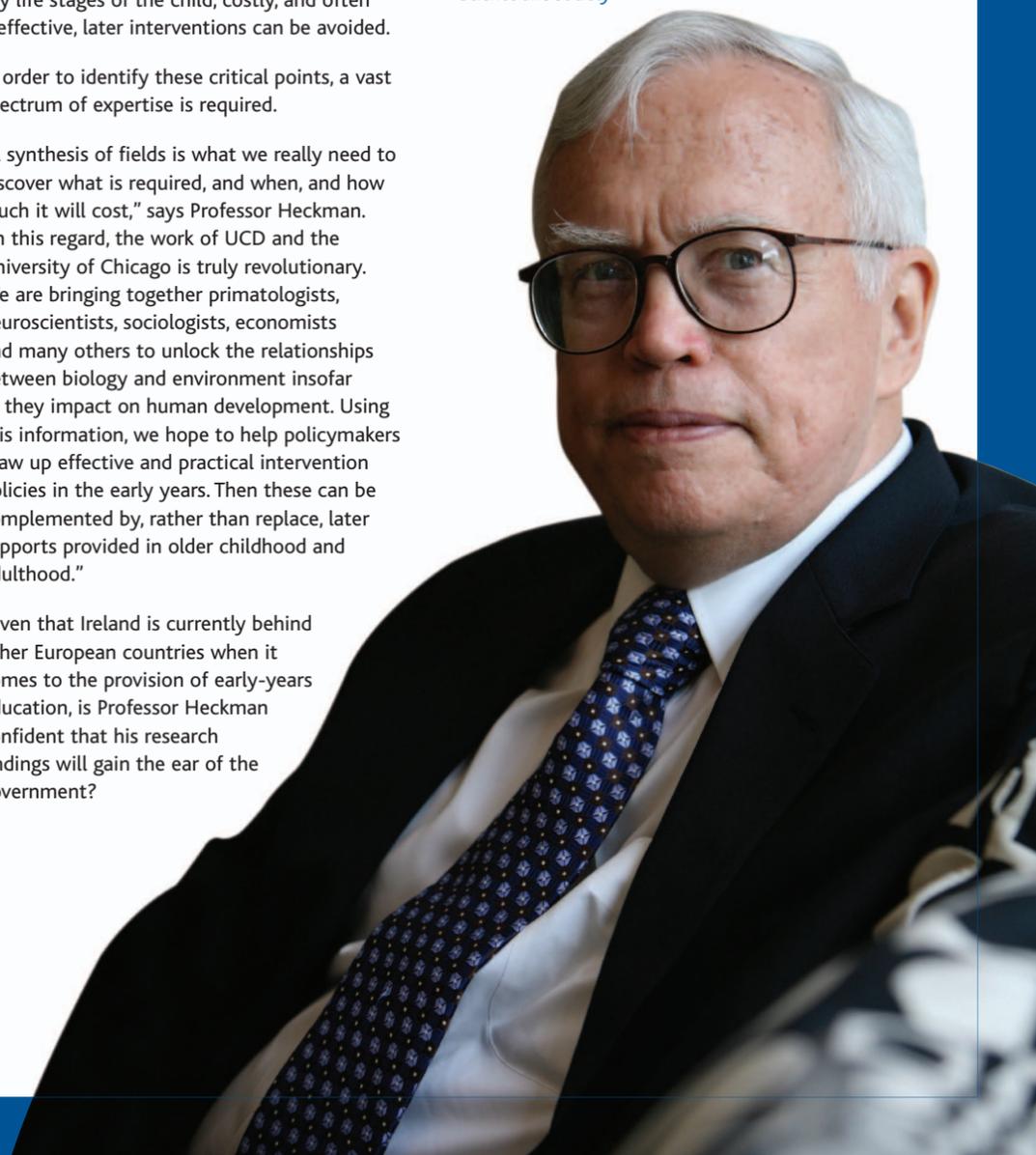
"Ireland has improved tremendously in the last 10 years. The signs are that policymakers are interested in making this country even more productive than it is. I do not wish to come here, as an American, and start offering policy advice to the Irish government, but I am willing to interface with interested parties. The commitment of PRTL funding to this project is a very positive statement about the Irish government's interest in effective early-childhood intervention."

Professor Heckman believes that his work with the UCD Geary Institute and the UCD Conway Institute holds great promise beyond Ireland, as the confluence of expertise and the research focus is quite unique.

"Through this joint collaboration between the Atlantic Foundation, the PRTL, UCD Conway Institute, UCD Geary Institute and the University of Chicago, an unusual opportunity has been created. We stand to make a substantial contribution to knowledge in this area. In fact, we are set to create a new field of study, with international application, centred right here in Ireland."

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

Professor James J. Heckman, UCD's new Professor of Science and Society



€1m grant for research into urban environment

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded UCD Urban Institute Ireland €1m to spearhead a collaborative research project that will produce a new way of analysing the urban environment.

The Urban Environment Project (UEP) will apply a computer model developed by the EU Joint Research Centre in Italy to the Irish context. The end result of the collaboration will be a new model that integrates environmental dimensions into data on land use in the greater Dublin area.

In Ireland, the rapid growth of the economy over the past decade has resulted in increased

urban pressures on the environment. In the greater Dublin area alone, the population has increased by over 135,000 in the last four years. And although the Irish environment is cleaner than the European average, policymakers must be able to understand and assess the environmental impacts of development.

During the three-year research project, researchers will collect and analyse data on air quality, urban transport, biodiversity, climate change and urban sprawl. The data will be integrated into the computer model and Ireland will, for the first time, have the analytical capacity to link development, space and the environment.

Prof Frank Convery, Project Director, UCD Urban Institute Ireland; Sheila Convery, Project Manager, UCD Urban Institute Ireland; and Larry Stapleton, Director, EPA, at the project launch on 24 July



Dublin-Oxford Glycobiology Laboratory to be formed

Oxford University, the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT) in Dublin, and UCD are delighted to announce that the Glycan Sequencing Group at the Glycobiology Institute, Oxford (directed by Professor Raymond Dwek, FRS) has transferred to Dublin. This exciting development will allow the formation of the Dublin-Oxford Glycobiology Laboratory and enable the group to expand its academic research and technology base, forming part of a glycobiology network for Ireland.

The group will be led by Dr Pauline Rudd, who will be the first NIBRT professor to start an independent research group in the newly founded institute. Dr Rudd and Professor Dwek will also have appointments at UCD.

In the last 10 years the Oxford group has published more than 125 papers and filed 3 patents. Their pioneering work has provided state-of-the-art technology for glycan analysis that is now used by many laboratories worldwide. Most recently, the team has developed a high-throughput technology platform that opens the way for large-scale screening of glycosylated therapeutics and disease biomarkers.

Initially, the Dublin-Oxford Laboratory will be based within the UCD Conway Institute where, in addition to expanding their academic programme, they will open up a new area by developing a glycobiology training program as a resource for academia and the pharmaceutical industry.

Human Sciences Principal selected for international review panel

Professor Brigid Laffan, Principal of the UCD College of Human Sciences, has been appointed to an international review panel responsible for assessing the standing of Politics and International Studies research in the UK. The panel will consist of 10 leading international academics. It will be chaired by Professor Bob Goodin at the Australian National University.

The international review panel was formed at the request of the steering group that benchmarks UK research against international standards in the areas of economic and social research, political studies and international studies. This steering group is chaired by Professor Jonathan Tonge, Political Studies Association and Professor Caroline Kennedy-Pipe, British International Studies Association, and includes leading UK academics, research funders and users of political research.

Professor Brigid Laffan, Principal, UCD College of Human Sciences



NASA's first female shuttle commander honoured by UCD

Eileen Collins, the first woman to pilot and command a NASA space shuttle, was conferred with an honorary Doctorate of Science by UCD on 14 June. Before the award ceremony, she spoke to a group of 400 primary school children in UCD's O'Reilly Hall.

"What I do is encourage young people to choose careers in maths, science and engineering, and to choose those subjects at school," said Collins. "Russia is planning on sending robotics missions to the moon and China has ambitions to send people on more extensive missions... it's about time Ireland had its first astronaut."

To prepare the children for their meeting with the NASA astronaut, Leo Enright, chairman of the government's Discover Science & Engineering programme, presented them with a short multi-media presentation called *3D Mars Safari*. The 3D show consisted of all the latest images of Mars taken by satellites and space vehicles.

Eileen Collins has spent a total of 872 hours in space. She was born in Elmira, New York, to Irish-American parents. She has an associate degree in science, an MSc in operations research and an MA in space systems management. Alongside her academic studies, she trained as a US Air Force pilot, qualifying in 1979, after which she worked as an instructor pilot in various air force bases, and later became professor of mathematics at the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

While attending the prestigious US Air Force Test Pilot School, she was selected for NASA's astronaut programme. She graduated from the programme in 1991 and she became the first woman to pilot a

NASA space shuttle on the STS-63 *Discovery* mission in 1995. This was the first flight of the new joint Russian-American space programme, and the *Discovery* crew was the first to rendezvous with the Russian Space Station *Mir*.

In 1997, she piloted the STS-84 *Atlantis* to dock with *Mir*. And two years later she became the first woman to command a shuttle flight when she led STS-93 *Columbia* to deploy the highly powerful Chandra X-Ray telescope, the heaviest and most powerful x-ray telescope ever launched into space.

In 2005, she undertook her most recent space flight as commander of the STS-114 *Discovery*, the first shuttle flight since the *Columbia* broke up on re-entry two years earlier. *Discovery* was NASA's return-to-flight mission to test safety improvements and re-supply the International Space Station. During this flight, she became the first astronaut to fly the space shuttle through a complete 360-degree pitch manoeuvre.



Eileen Collins and Dr Hugh Brady (UCD President) at the honorary conferring on 14 June 2006

Confucius Institute established at UCD

UCD, in partnership with the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), and Renmin University of China, has established the first Confucius Institute in Ireland. The primary aim of the institute is to foster stronger economic, cultural and educational links between Ireland and China.

Under the auspices of UCD's Centre for Chinese Studies, Ireland's Confucius Institute will offer courses in Chinese language and culture. The first of these is the BComm with Chinese Studies, which sees its inaugural intake of students in September. The institute will provide the language teaching module for the degree course.

Dr Liming Wang, Director of the UCD Centre for Chinese Studies, and his team are working on the first phase of setting up the institute, to be based in Belfield. At present they are fundraising for a purpose-designed space for the institute and organising seminars and public lectures in Chinese language, culture and business studies.

The vision for the future is to create, by 2010, a nationally and internationally recognised centre of excellence for Chinese studies, which makes a significant contribution to the development of cultural and economic links between China and Ireland. It will achieve this practically, through the provision of language courses, training resources for local professionals teaching Chinese and a centre for examinations. On the strategic side, by staging cultural events and hosting scholars from China, the institute hopes to promote Chinese links with government, business and the wider community.



Confucius statue at Xufu, China

Lack of iodine in Irish women's diets can affect unborn children

Irish women of child-bearing age have low levels of iodine in their diets, a deficiency which could harm the neuropsychological development of their unborn children, according to the preliminary results of UCD research published in the *Irish Journal of Medical Science*.

The preliminary research, funded by the Health Research Board, has been undertaken by Dr Peter Smyth, UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science and a principal researcher at UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research, and Professor Colm O'Herlihy, National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street.

They have found that not only has dietary intake of iodine by Irish women declined since the mid-90s, but it is now significantly less than the level recommended by the World Health Organisation. If the results are confirmed by a more comprehensive investigation, it may indicate a need to increase the dietary iodine supply to both pregnant women and those of childbearing age.

Dietary iodine deficiency represents the single greatest form of preventable brain damage and diminished IQ worldwide. The children of iodine-deficient mothers are at risk of not reaching their full intellectual potential. For the first 13-15 weeks, the developing foetus relies solely on the presence of maternal thyroid hormones to ensure neuropsychological development - it does not itself possess a functioning thyroid gland until after this gestation period. The availability of these maternal hormones is dependent on an adequate supply of iodine in the diet of the pregnant mother.

Iodised salt is the primary dietary source of iodine, and many countries have introduced systems of either voluntary or mandatory universal salt iodisation (USI). Ireland and the UK are at the bottom of the USI league table, with iodised salt making up only 3.3% of all salt sold. This compares poorly with many of our European neighbours, the United States, Asia and even African countries, where between 60-90% of households use iodised salt.

Chinese government officials take part in UCD/Foreign Affairs internship

Nine government officials from Shanghai and its surrounding areas travelled to Dublin to take part in the fifth annual internship programme hosted by the UCD Applied Language Centre (ALC), and funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The annual programme aims to foster awareness of Ireland, its economic, political, social and administrative structures and its rich historical and cultural traditions, as well as offering the Chinese interns the opportunity to develop proficiency in English.

Each year the content is designed collaboratively by the DFA and the ALC. English language classes are core to the programme, but important elements include corporate

briefings and visits to government, semi-state and cultural organisations.

Launching this year's programme, Professor Rodney Thom, Head of UCD School of Economics, highlighted the growing links between China and Ireland and paid tribute to the success of this initiative.

To date, a total of 20 interns have come to UCD and have been based here for a 2-3 month period. Interns on the 2006 programme came from the cities of Hanzhou, Suzhou, Wuxi, and Shanghai.

Two of this year's interns will travel to Cork, Shanghai's twinned city, and will spend time in UCC and Cork City Council.



Pictured are the 2006 interns with (front row, second from left) Majella O'Connor, DFA; (front row, third from left) Mary Ruane, Director, ALC; (front row, third from right) Chinese Ambassador Zhang Xinsen; and (front row, second from right) Prof Rodney Thom, UCD School of Economics

UCD telescope captures early images of gamma-ray burst

A mere 19 seconds after receiving the co-ordinates of a gamma-ray burst from NASA's Swift satellite on 26 May, the UCD 'Watcher' robotic telescope in Boyden Observatory, South Africa, automatically began observations. The UCD telescope was the first to respond to the alert, recording observations just 36 seconds after the explosion.

Gamma-ray bursts are immensely powerful bursts of high-energy radiation that are believed to occur when a star collapses. They are by far the most brilliant sources in the universe, occurring roughly once per day, and can last from about 30 milliseconds to 1,000 seconds.

PhD student John French was sitting at his computer in the UCD School of Physics when the telescope began taking images of the explosion. He immediately began downloading the images on to his computer. The UCD School of Physics is currently piecing together the detailed physics of this burst and its afterglow, by combining the x-ray and gamma-ray data from Watcher and other robotic telescopes.



The Watcher robotic telescope in Boyden Observatory, South Africa

Watcher is the first exclusively Irish research telescope at a high-quality astronomical site. It began commissioning operations in late March 2006, and had only started its routine scientific observations just a few weeks before recording visible light from the recent gamma-ray burst. Funded by UCD and the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology, Watcher is operated in collaboration with physicists at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Annual Medical Gala Dinner 2006



Dr. Conor Hensey, recipient of three UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science awards

The Annual Medical Gala Dinner, which celebrates the graduation of the final year medical class, took place on Friday 9 June in O'Reilly Hall. Graduates, their families, friends and UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science staff, together with staff from the teaching hospitals attended the dinner and the following awards ceremony.

Premier Awards for Excellence in Teaching, as nominated by the final year medical class of 2006, were awarded to: Dr Koon Meng Chan; Dr Amanda McCann; Dr John Moynihan; Dr Gerry Sheehan; Mr Gerry McEntee; Dr Eric Heffernan; Mr Stephen Richards; Dr Niall Tubridy; Dr Mary Higgins; Prof Colm O'Herlihy; Prof Oscar Traynor and Dr John Seery.

Outstanding Teaching Department of the Year Awards, as nominated by the final year medical class of 2006, were awarded to Surgery and Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Helen Mohan was awarded the Brian McGovern Perpetual Medal, in memory of Dr Brian McGovern (1955-2003), after obtaining first class honours in every year so far of her programme.

The Sean Malone Medal in Psychiatry was awarded to Dr Sinead Barry, who obtained honours and first place in Psychiatry in the final medical examination.

Dr Conor Hensey, who graduated with first class honours, was the recipient of three awards: The D.K. O'Donovan Medal, which is presented to the student who has obtained honours in the whole final examination in Medicine and has gained the highest marks in Medicine; The Surgeon Hugh Boyle Kennedy Bequest, which is awarded to the student who, having secured honours in the whole final medical examination, obtains the highest marks in Surgery for the current year; and the 1941 Medal, which is awarded to the student with the highest total marks in Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Psychiatry.

MGA Student of the Year Award, as nominated by the final medical class of 2006, was awarded to Dr Wen Yuan-Chung. The MGA award is presented by the Medical Graduates Association and sponsored by Pfizer Healthcare.

The honorary fellowship award, which is given annually to distinguished graduates of the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, was given to Dr Alasdair McDonnell MP. Dr McDonnell graduated in 1974 and has combined a busy general practice in Belfast with a commitment to additional service to his community by active involvement in the political process.



Award winners (back row, l-r): Prof Colm O'Herlihy, Dr Koon Meng Chan, Dr Wen-Yuan Chung, Dr Niall Tubridy, Mr Stephen Richards, Prof John Fitzpatrick, Dr Conor Hensey, Dr Gerry Sheehan, Dr Mary Higgins, Dr John Moynihan, Prof. Niall O'Higgins (front row, l-r): Dr Amanda McCann, Ms Helen Mohan, Dr John Seery, Prof William Powderly, Dr Sinead Barry, Dr Eric Heffernan, Prof Oscar Traynor.



Dr Philip Nolan, UCD Registrar, with Alasdair McDonnell MP, winner of the Honorary Fellowship Award

Alt Gr + Guta! Is fada fairsing saol na Gaeilge

Níor chuir míonna ciúna an tSamhradh aon bhac ar phobal Gaeilge UCD. Breis is daichead duine a d'fhreastal ar dhianchúrsaí Bhord na Gaeilge i mí an Mheithimh agus eagraíodh bricfeasta ina n-onóir ag ceann na míosa. Ní ranganna teanga a amháin a bhí ar bun áfach. Cuireadh cúrsa de chineál eile ar súil i mí Lúnasa: scileanna ríomhaireachta agus an Ghaeilge a bhí idir lámhe an uair seo. 'Teicneolaíocht an Eolais agus an Ghaeilge' ba théama don chúrsa praiticiúil seo agus bhí sé dhírthe ar dhaoine a dhéanann roinnt/formhór a gcuid oibre trí mheán na Gaeilge agus gur spéis leo eolas a fháil ar na háiseanna ríomhaireachta atá ar fáil sa teanga mar aon le háiseanna foghlamtha teanga. I measc na rannpháirtithe bhí taighdóirí, riarthóirí agus mic léinn aibí.

Is iomaí duine san earnáil phríomháideach agus san earnáil phoiblí a bhfuil fonn air tabhairt faoina chuid oibre i nGaeilge ach nach léir dó na háiseanna agus an cuidiú atá ar fáil chuige. Bhí sé mar aidhm ag an gcúrsa eolas praiticiúil a chur ar fáil do na rannpháirtithe chun cur ar a gcumas: obair a dhéanamh ar an ríomhaire sa bhaile nó san oifig trí mheán na Gaeilge gan deacracht, an Ghaeilge a léamh gan dua, Gaeilge níos cruinne a scríobh agus úsáid éifeachtach a bhaint as na bogearraí agus as na háiseanna ar líne Gaeilge go léir atá ar fáil anois. Le linn an chúrsa tugadh eolas agus deis cleachtaidh do rannpháirtithe ar sheiceálaithe litrithe agus cúrsaigh innill Gaeilge, foclóirí leictreonacha agus pacáistí ríomhaireachta don fhoghlaimoer teanga. Chuir Bord na Gaeilge an cúrsa seo ar fáil i gcomhar le Gaelchultúr Teoranta (www.gaelchultur.com), Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge (www.comhdhail.ie) agus Seirbhísí Teicneolaíochta Fáisnéise UCD (www.ucd.ie/itservices). Más spéis le héinne sainchúrsa den cineál seo a dhéanamh i rith na bliana ba cheart dó dul i dteagmháil leis an Oifigeach Gaeilge ag oifigeach.gaeilge@ucd.ie.

UCD's Irish language-speaking community continued to be active throughout the summer. The June language courses concluded with an Irish language breakfast. In August, *IT and the Irish Language* was the subject matter of a day's training course also organised by Bord na Gaeilge UCD (www.ucd.ie/bnag) in association with Gaelchultúr Teoranta (www.gaelchultur.com), Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge (www.comhdhail.ie) and UCD IT Services (www.ucd.ie/itservices). The course provided participants with the practical knowledge necessary for computer use in Irish, detailing Irish language spellcheckers, search engines, electronic dictionaries and educational packages. Should you be interested in the above and/or other specialised courses you can contact the Irish Language Officer at: oifigeach.gaeilge@ucd.ie.



Bricfeasta le Gaeilge (l-r): Ilona Hunek, UCD Michael Smurfit School of Business; Evelyn Gilmartin, Corporate and Legal Affairs Secretary's Office; Ashwin Babu Kailasa, James Joyce Library; and Liam Mac Amhlaidh (Bord na Gaeilge tutor), all attending the Bord na Gaeilge Irish language breakfast in the Newman Building, having completed an Irish language summer course.

Micheál Ó Dubhshláine (1942-2006)

Ba mhaith linn ár gcomhbhrón a dhéanamh le muintir Mhichíl Uí Dhubhshláine (Dún Chaoin, Contae Chiarraí) a d'imigh ar shlí na fírinne ó chuireadh an teagrán deireannach de *UCD Today* i gcló. Ba dhuine é Micheál a bhí chun tosaigh go mór i gcúrsaí Gaeltachta Bhord na Gaeilge.

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Micheál Ó Dubhshláine (Dún Chaoin, Co Kerry), who passed away since the publishing of the June edition of *UCD Today*. Micheál contributed greatly to the Bord na Gaeilge Gaeltacht courses.

humanities

Discovering the artisan in the artist

The new MA in Creative Writing offered by the UCD School of English & Drama aims to teach the craft of writing creatively. Head of School, Professor Andrew Carpenter, tells Olive Keogh (BA 1979, MA 1984) how to make a practice out of an art.

As a nation, we are good with words and even better at telling stories. As a result we have produced more than our fair share of world-class novelists, poets and dramatists.

Many of those who have achieved international recognition as writers have passed through the doors of University College Dublin. James Joyce, Flann O'Brien, Mary Lavin and John McGahern are all graduates, as are contemporary writers Colm Tóibín, Emma Donoghue, Marina Carr and Roddy Doyle. In 2005, the university marked its connection with Ireland's great literary tradition, both past and present, with the publication of *The UCD Aesthetic - celebrating 150 years of UCD writers*, edited by Dr Anthony Roche, associate professor in the UCD School of English & Drama.

To ensure UCD continues to retain its strong links with the writing community, the UCD School of English & Drama is launching a new MA in Creative Writing, which will have its first intake of students this September. "The School of English and Drama has a long history of

fostering literary talent and for many years its calendar has included readings, writing workshops and seminars by writers-in-residence," says Professor Andrew Carpenter, Head of School. "But the MA is our first structured programme aimed at helping committed writers to develop their potential within a supported framework. Personal writing will be central to the course but it will be combined with the study of the theories and practices of modern writing."

One of the goals of the course is to help students distance themselves from the emotional act of writing and to see it more objectively as a craft.

One tends to assume that literary geniuses are born not made, but Professor Carpenter believes that creative writing is as much about learning the skills of working with words as it is about having the ideas that inspire them. "What we will be teaching is not so much 'creative writing' as the craft of writing creatively, and how one can hone one's technique to create a better result," he says. The course has a strong practical element, including plenty of opportunities for students to write, but time is also being devoted to examining how established writers have tackled the traditionally problematic aspects of literary construction, such as beginnings, endings and dialogue.

Student numbers for the new programme have been kept small deliberately; there are just 12 places on this one-year taught programme, which is fully subscribed for its inaugural run. The first group of students comes from diverse backgrounds and varies in age and experience from young writers at the start of their writing careers to seasoned professionals in search of new stimuli.

The programme will focus primarily on poetry and prose and will comprise lectures, seminars and workshops, and one-to-one tutorials between students and their assigned writer-tutor. There are two writer-tutors attached to the programme: the novelist, James Ryan, and the poet, Harry Clifton. "Both are very talented writers and teachers with a lot of experience to offer our students," Professor Carpenter says.

One of the goals of the course is to help students distance themselves from the emotional act of writing and to see it more objectively as a craft. One of the practical ways in which this will be achieved is through a course on the 18th-century novel. "The 18th century was pivotal in the development of the novel form. No one knew which way it was going to go and the literature of the period presented lots of different possibilities," Professor Carpenter explains.

"To a large extent the novels of this period were experiments, so you have someone like Daniel Defoe trying out the first-person narrative in *Robinson Crusoe*, while Henry Fielding stands back and talks to the reader. It is a very interesting period to study for this reason, and it will allow the students to look at

the ways in which other writers solved problems similar to the ones they are experiencing three centuries later."

As part of the course, students will also study editing techniques. As their assignment for this strand, they will select and edit a themed anthology of poetry or prose. "The students will put all aspects of their collections together, from selecting what is included to writing the introduction (in which they will have to defend their choice of material) to completing a detailed bibliography," Professor Carpenter says.

Apart from working with academic staff, students will also have the opportunity to interact with guest writers including Frank McGuinness, Paul Durcan and Edna O'Brien, the recently appointed adjunct professor of creative writing. There will also be seminars from those on the commercial side of the writing business, including publishers, editors and literary agents.

The MA in Creative Writing is open to all committed writers, and academic qualifications are not essential. However, some familiarity with the academic approach to writing and analysis would make life easier for students, Professor Carpenter says. "We're not necessarily looking for people with BAs or other degrees but it will be more difficult for them if they have never prepared an academic assignment before. We're not saying they have to write traditional-style essays as they can choose different methods of assessment, but it would help if they knew how to research and structure one."

Olive Keogh is a freelance business journalist.

UCD School of English & Drama launches Ireland Life-Writing Archive

The UCD School of English & Drama is behind the recent launch of the Ireland Life-Writing Archive. The archive will be dedicated to preserving previously unpublished accounts of life in Ireland from all perspectives and on all subjects.

"Ireland has changed dramatically in recent decades and the archive is looking for material which documents life here during these changes," says Professor Carpenter, Head of School. "It is envisaged that the Life-Writing Project will become an important resource for researchers in social and cultural studies in the future."

All of the material submitted to the archive will be read, catalogued and added to the research database. The archive will accept material from anyone prepared to write down his or her experiences. "We're looking for accounts of life which can be preserved for future generations, and everything people have to share is of value," Professor Carpenter says. Details of the archive are available at www.ucd.ie/englishanddrama

Professor Andrew Carpenter, Head, UCD School of English and Drama

10-million-year-old bone marrow found in fossilised frog

Following the remarkable discovery of bone marrow in a 10-million-year-old fossilised frog, scientists can help to unravel crucial questions about how now-extinct species lived. Eoghan Rice (BA 2003) reports.

It is the first time intact bone marrow has ever been discovered in the fossil record, according to Maria McNamara, a palaeobiologist at the UCD School of Geological Sciences, and leader of the study group that made this startling discovery. What makes it even more remarkable is the quality of preservation of the marrow.



10-million-year-old fossilised frog specimen held by the Museu de Geologia del Seminari, Barcelona, Spain

Usually only hard tissue, such as bone, survives this length of time. However, fossils of seven frogs and one salamander (out of a total of over 120 fossils examined by the scientists) have yielded soft tissue marrow. The marrow may yet prove to contain DNA from 10-million-year-old species.

The finding was made in the Teruel province of north-eastern Spain. Several deep lakes once existed in the region, which has led to many ancient species of frog and salamander being uncovered there.

The research team, which included scientists from the UK, USA and Spain, was examining fossils in the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales in Madrid, when they came across what they suspected was marrow tissue in the bones of a 10-million-year-old frog fossil. According to McNamara, they did not believe that they could have stumbled upon a discovery of such major importance. The fossils had been held in the museum for over 50 years and previous examination had not uncovered the bone marrow - although the international team's study was extremely thorough, and was aided by the use of a binocular microscope.

"We saw a bit of red inside the bone but thought that it would be too good to be true for it to be bone marrow," she said. "We brought it back to Ireland for analysis and we really couldn't believe it when we found out that it was."

Marrow is the tissue that fills the centre of large bones. There are two types of bone marrow: haematopoietic (where blood cells are produced) and fatty (consisting mostly of fat cells). The bone marrow discovered in the frog

and salamander fossils retained the original texture and red and yellow colours of both types of marrow.

Although preserved red blood cells were discovered in the fossilised remains of the leg bone of a Tyrannosaurus Rex last year, this is the first time fully preserved marrow has been uncovered. The fossils on which the marrow was discovered were found in a fossil-rich deposit dating back to the Miocene Epoch, the period of time that extends from about 5.3 to 23 million years ago. The frog and salamander fossils in this case were found to be 10 million years old.

McNamara says that the bone marrow was preserved because the bones acted as a protective shell, preventing microbes from invading the soft tissue.

According to McNamara, the discovery will allow researchers to build up unprecedented profiles of how extinct species lived. If scientists could find bone marrow from dinosaurs, it could help resolve the debate about whether the creatures were warm-blooded or not, she said.

The species of frog from which the marrow was extracted is now extinct, although the families to which it belonged still roam the earth. But already, fascinating differences between the modern species and their ancestors have been uncovered. For example, the researchers found red bone marrow in the salamander, which shows that its blood cells were produced in the marrow. That is not the case with modern salamanders, which produce blood cells in the spleen.

If scientists could find bone marrow from dinosaurs, it could help resolve the debate about whether the creatures were warm-blooded or not

Although preliminary testing was carried out on the fossils in Spain, researchers hope that further testing may uncover protein or DNA, which will enable scientists to draw up an unprecedented profile of the extinct species. In order to do this testing, the fossils on which the marrow was discovered have been transported to top-class facilities in the University of Bristol for further testing. Researchers will study the material for traces of organic molecules, such as protein and DNA. The timeframe of the study is not yet known, although researchers hope to discover information quickly.

McNamara and her co-authors, Dr Patrick Orr (UCD School of Geological Sciences), Dr Stuart Kearns (Department of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol), Dr Luis Alcalá (Fundación Conjunto Paleontológico de Teruel-Dinópolis, Teruel), Dr Pere Anadón (Institut de la Ciències 'Jaume Almera', Barcelona) and Dr Enrique (Quique) Peñalver-Mollà (Division of Invertebrate Zoology, American Museum of Natural History, New York), will all remain involved in the project, which was made possible by funding from Enterprise Ireland and

supported by a higher education grant awarded by South Tipperary County Council.

Dr Orr and McNamara will travel to Bristol to conduct testing at the university's state-of-the-art Organic Geochemistry Unit. Dr Kearns will contribute to the testing process carried out at the unit, which is one of the best in the world. The scientists in Spain, who aided the initial discovery, will also collaborate on future research.

"What we intend on doing now is analysing the composition of the marrow," says McNamara. "The structure of the marrow has been very well preserved, but it is not yet clear whether that means that the biomolecules inside will be preserved. Because the marrow was so well preserved, we are hopeful that the biomolecules will be too, which will enable us to learn more."

McNamara says that testing on fossilised bone is difficult because researchers must get to the centre of the bone before they can test for marrow. Marrow may exist in already-exhumed fossils but may have been missed because detection required breaking the bones apart.



Maria McNamara, Palaeobiologist, UCD School of Geological Sciences

"We were lucky in that the bones were fractured already, and this allowed us to examine them," she says. "We can't go around smashing up bones in museums so we will have to use x-ray equipment if we want to examine any more specimens."

The red blood cells discovered in the Tyrannosaurus Rex leg last year were found only after researchers were forced to break off parts of the bone in order to fit it into a helicopter. After breaking the bone, the scientists noticed the cells.

News of the discovery of bone marrow inside the 10-million-year-old Spanish fossils has already caused headlines around the world. As well as being featured in several prominent science journals, the UCD-led discovery has also been featured by *BBC*, *RTÉ* and *New Scientist*.

If further research on the marrow proves as successful as it is hoped, interest in the fascinating tale of the 10-million-year-old Spanish frog will only grow.

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

Hotel Rwanda humanitarian honoured

UCD conferred an honorary Doctorate of Laws on Paul Rusesabagina for his humanitarian actions during the Rwandan genocide of 1994. During his visit to the university on 2 June, Rusesabagina also addressed a group of UCD academics and students. He told of his experiences during the horrific genocide, the terror and the helplessness of the people he sheltered, and the ways in which governments, NGOs and ordinary people need to work to prevent this type of mass genocide from ever happening again.

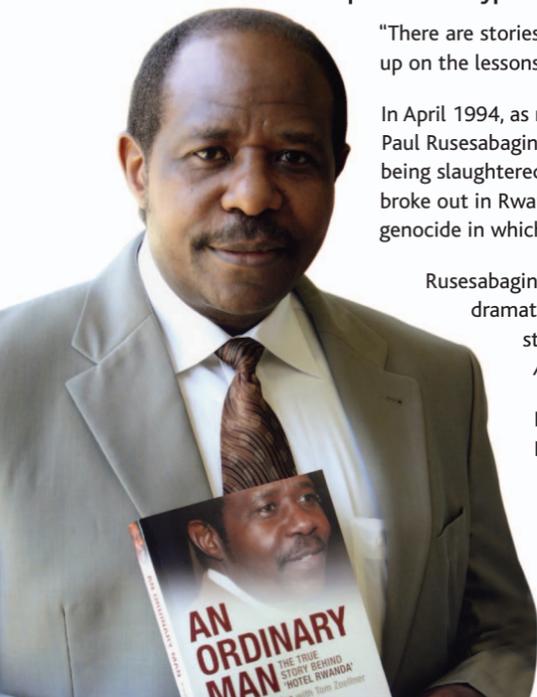
"There are stories to be told that must not be forgotten. We can never give up on the lessons learned from Rwanda."

In April 1994, as manager of the Hotel des Mille Collines in the capital, Kigali, Paul Rusesabagina sheltered over 1,268 Tutsis and moderate Hutus from being slaughtered by the Interahamwe militia when a wave of mass murder broke out in Rwanda. His great courage saved them from the 100-day genocide in which over 1 million people were brutally murdered.

Rusesabagina's humanitarian actions during the genocide were dramatised in the Academy Award-nominated film, *Hotel Rwanda*, starring Don Cheadle, and his autobiography, *An Ordinary Man*, was published in 2006.

In 2005 he founded the Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation to provide financial assistance to children and women affected by the genocides in Rwanda and other African nations. Its mission is to eliminate the conditions and climate that lead to instances of hatred and genocide. What started as a personal mission of education on the lessons of Rwanda has become an international movement to put an end to all instances of genocide.

Paul Rusesabagina, humanitarian and author



UCD postgraduate student triumphs at national science competition

Stephen Nolan, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science and UCD Conway Institute, won first prize at the national 'Science Speak' competition for the presentation of his scientific research in a non-scientific manner.

He and six other postgraduates - one from each of the Irish universities - dispensed with technical jargon to deliver presentations to a public audience and a panel of celebrity judges. The celebrity judging panel included Adi Roche (Director, Chernobyl Children's Project), Peter Brabazon (Programme Director, Discover Science and Engineering, Forfás), Kathriona Devereux (Presenter, RTÉ Scope), Paul Reynolds (Crime Correspondent, RTÉ) and Dick Ahlstrom (Science Editor, *The Irish Times*). Pat Kenny (Presenter, RTÉ) was compère on the night.

Nolan's winning presentation, *Kidney Disease - When Good Cops Go Bad*, explained what happens in kidney disease at the cellular level, and how sometimes our white blood cells - the body's own defense mechanisms - can cause more harm than good. As a UCD postgraduate student, he is currently investigating the effect of white blood cells on kidney cells and how they can contribute to kidney damage. The ultimate aim of his research is to prevent this 'self-attack' phenomenon and to reduce the frequency and severity of kidney disease.

The event was hosted by the seven Irish universities, in association with the RDS and *The Irish Times*. The prizes, sponsored by Wyeth Biotech, were presented by Mary Upton TD.

24-hour communication

UCD has installed one of the largest voice-recognition call-answering systems in Europe. The new system puts callers directly through to UCD staff simply by speaking the name of the person into the phone. It becomes available to callers when operators cannot answer in person, helping to operate a 24-hour university where staff and students can communicate via telephone out of normal hours.

The system, called 'Direct 24', was supplied by the communications provider Damovo, which has committed to delivering an accurate call-completion rate of 95%. To do this, it had to work closely with UCD Buildings and Services to make sure that the software could recognise all the names of the people included in the system's directory.

Because UCD has a broad multicultural community of staff, the directory had to be customised to recognise all names, including those with Irish or other spellings.

The directory has a capacity for 10,000 names, allowing for several variations of a person's name to be stored: for example, their full name or their academic title and surname. It is also integrated with other directory services, which ensures that Direct 24 is updated whenever other systems change. This reduces the need for double entry of names, making management simpler and easier.

In the future, Direct 24 will be able to provide callers with voice-activated access to static information such as building opening hours and other campus information.



Testing the new Direct 24 voice-recognition system (l-r): John McCabe, Managing Director, Damovo Ireland; Tadgh Corcoran, Head of Physical Plant, UCD Buildings and Services; Cxema Pico, Systems Manager, UCD Buildings and Services

Life through a lens

The relationship between the city and photography was the subject of a recent conference hosted by the UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies. *Photography and the City* brought together 90 academics and practitioners to examine and illustrate the role of photography in representing urban life and landscapes, and in shaping urban ways of seeing.

The conference ran from 29 June to 1 July in the William Jefferson Clinton Auditorium, Belfield. Plenary speakers included Peter Hales, photographer, University of Illinois, Chicago; Camilo Vergara, photographer; and Paul Seawright, photographer, University of Wales College, Newport. The conference was organised to coincide with an exhibition of Camilo Vergara's work, *American Ruins*, at the Gallery of Photography in Temple Bar, Dublin.

Various themes emerged during the conference: the multiple roles photography has taken on in relation to the city - as document, witness, survey, archive, ethnographer, advertisement and artefact; the relationship between photography and urban change; how photography shapes issues of identity, place and citizenship within the city; and the aesthetics of urbanity, especially the erotic and spectacular variety of street life.

The UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies was established in 2003 to provide a focus for research and postgraduate teaching in the field of American studies, and to promote American studies nationally and internationally.



Participants at the Photography and the City conference, taking a break outside the UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies

Edna O'Brien receives Ulysses Medal

Irish novelist, playwright, screenwriter and essayist Edna O'Brien was bestowed with the UCD Ulysses Medal on 15 June for her global contribution to literature.

The first book Edna O'Brien bought was *Introducing James Joyce* by T.S. Eliot. She once said that Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* made her realise that she wanted to spend her own life writing. So, it was fitting that the award ceremony took place in the Physics Theatre in St Stephen's Green, where Joyce himself attended lectures and took part in the L&H Society debates, and which inspired scenes in *A Portrait*.

O'Brien's first novel, *The Country Girls*, created a sensation in 1960 and has remained ever since one of the best-selling and most beloved of the Irish classics. *The Country Girls* trilogy is now regarded as one of the glories of modern Irish writing. The books tell the stories of the problems faced by women in what was a male-dominated society.

O'Brien's literary preoccupations range from fiction and children's books to non-fiction about Ireland and her other great inspiration, James Joyce. *Mother Ireland*, O'Brien's tribute to her homeland, includes seven autobiographical essays in which she weaves her own personal

history with local customs and ancient lore. She wrote a study of Joyce's marriage, *James and Nora*, and penned a full-length critical study of the man himself, *James Joyce*, in 1999.

She has received several literary awards, including the Kingsley Amis Award for fiction in 1962, the Yorkshire Post Novel Award in 1971, and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in 1990 for *Lantern Slides*, a collection of short stories set primarily in Ireland.

Edna O'Brien, Adjunct Professor of Creative Writing at UCD



Related news

UCD recently accepted 20 large boxes of manuscripts including drafts, revisions and corrected proofs of Edna O'Brien's books and novels, of her critical work (including her important study of Joyce), her radio plays and short stories. The material will be added to the Special Collections in the UCD James Joyce Library.

UCD also announced the appointment of Edna O'Brien as adjunct professor of creative writing. The MA in Creative Writing, launched by the UCD School of English and Drama, will begin September 2006 (see page 7).

Queer Interventions book series launched

Future Queer, a two-day international, interdisciplinary conference on the potential future directions of queer studies was held in UCD in June. The conference marked the launch of the Queer Interventions book series, edited by UCD fellows Dr Noreen Giffney, UCD Women's Education, Research and Resource Centre, and Michael O'Rourke, UCD School of English and Drama.

The *Queer Interventions* series is designed to publish innovative, experimental and highly theoretical work in the burgeoning field of queer studies. It publishes scholarly monographs and collections of essays by established and emerging scholars. The series has already attracted a lot of interest from leading thinkers working on queer and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex research projects.

The first book that will be published in the series is Professor Sally R. Munt's *Queer Emotions: The Cultural Politics of Shame*, which will be published in 2007.

The *Future Queer* conference was a meta-theoretical event, and speakers included the foremost experts in the field of queer studies: Professor David M. Halperin (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), Professor Sally R. Munt

(University of Sussex, UK), Dr Luciana Parisi (Goldsmith's College, University of London, UK) and Dr Nikki Sullivan (Macquarie University, Australia). The proceedings of the conference will be published as a collection of essays in the *Queer Interventions* book series.

Further details about the *Queer Interventions* series can be found at www.ashgate.com

Report recommends Irish archaeology shift its focus

A recent Foresight report published by UCD School of Archaeology has highlighted the need for Irish archaeology needs to be repositioned by the year 2020 to address the mounting backlog of unpublished excavations in Ireland.

According to the report, *Archaeology 2020: Repositioning Irish Archaeology in the Knowledge Society*, the focus of development-led archaeology needs to be shifted from information generation to knowledge creation. This requires a fundamental change in mindsets within many public organisations and private companies concerned with archaeology.

The current development-led boom has fundamentally changed Irish archaeology. Today, virtually all archaeological excavations are undertaken in response to infrastructural and other developments, whereas before the boom they were dominated by research concerns. Developers are now required by law to hire archaeologists to undertake excavations before they can begin construction work, but in

many cases the archaeologists are not given enough time or financial support to publish the reports.

Added to this problem is the lack of storage and exhibition space for findings. Museums do not have the capacity to cope with the influx of archaeological material. Ongoing deterioration of the quality and usability of archival material and unprocessed environmental samples makes the process of transforming archaeological excavations into meaningful knowledge about the past increasingly difficult.

Although this may not be a new issue, it has become an intractable problem over the last decade. The number of unpublished excavations may now be as many as 4,000 for the island as a whole.

Recent estimates point to the discovery, on average, of a previously unrecorded site every 2km on infrastructural routes. Over 2,000 archaeological excavations, of varying scale and complexity, are now being carried out each

year. The archaeological profession has coped well with the unprecedented demand, but the structures are experiencing extreme pressure.

Foresight is a process that advocates the formulation of collective strategic actions to influence policy change. The Archaeology 2020 report concludes that three overarching

enabling measures are required to reposition Irish archaeology by 2020: an Archaeological Knowledge Implementation Partnership; a Bureau for Archaeological Publication; and an Inter-Institutional Collaborative Funding System.

The full text of the report can be accessed via www.ucd.ie/archaeology.



Pictured at the official launch of Archaeology 2020 at the Royal Irish Academy are (l-r): Dr Muiris O'Sullivan, Head, UCD School of Archaeology; Dr Liam Downey, UCD School of Archaeology; Prof Gabriel Cooney, UCD School of Archaeology; Mr Dick Roche, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government; Prof Jim Slevin, President, RIA and Prof Desmond Fitzgerald, Vice-President for Research, UCD

architecture

Beyond the hall door

The architectural secrets and peculiarities of the capital's structures are uncovered in *Dublin: The Buildings of Ireland* by Dr Christine Casey, senior lecturer in the UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy. Jane Suiter (BA 1989) finds out that there's more to architecture than beautiful buildings.

Ever wondered why the Custom House is built of two different stones? Or where and how the tolls around the Phoenix Park worked? Or indeed, who built any individual structure between the canals in Dublin? If so, then Dr Christine Casey's book on the buildings of Dublin will surely provide the answers.

The product of a decade's research, the book is so densely packed with information that it seems almost every secret of Dublin has been given up. Dr Casey has produced what is the essential reference work for the entire architecture of Dublin from the earliest times to the 20th century, for both the academic and interested reader. As one reviewer said, her book is very like its author - small, intense, fiery and full of information.

Through Dr Casey's genial yet critical eyes we see the Dublin of the Vikings, the splendour of Georgian times, the degradations of the Victorian age, through to the modern-day developers and architects. With many Joycean references, the streets come alive to the sights and sounds of the changing city. Indeed, Dr Casey has always been interested in the people, the societies and the economics behind art.

The detail is simply astounding; Dr Casey personally visited every structure between the canals and bounded by the North and South Circular roads. At the gestation of the project in the early 1990s she persuaded the government to set up a FÁS scheme with six research assistants to start reading secondary source books as well as 19th-century newspapers and 18th-century leaflets. In this way she assembled a topographical archive. But then came the hard part, when she visited every building, producing a cross-section of the city from basement to attic.

Most people, she says, were helpful, allowing her access for the project - although some houses, which were in flats, were difficult to get access to and some lawyers were very suspicious. There were also memorable moments. When she was examining one public building, the porter carefully locked her in, saying he would return in half an hour; several hours and obviously a few pints later he returned when he remembered his charge. "I almost thought I would be spending the night there," laughs Dr Casey.

On another occasion, dressed in her trademark black and white, Dr Casey was up a ladder in Aungier Street church, examining the stained glass inscriptions at the bottom of the window. One poor parishioner emerged from the confession box below, and nearly fainted when she thought she saw a floating vision above her at 8.30 in the morning.

The intention behind such attention to detail is clear. This is the first time that the entire architecture of Dublin has been described, analysed and matched to historical evidence. "In the past, architectural history tended to focus on beautiful buildings for their aesthetic merit," she says. "Not, for example, on the fact that the Custom House was the biggest collection-point for the Irish revenue, or that it was supported by a whole series of docks and warehouses. Rather, attention might be drawn to its beautiful white gleaming Portland stone, in contrast to the grey dome. But the reason that the dome is grey is that it is Irish limestone and there was huge opposition in the Free State to importing stone, despite the wishes of the architect. Thus

the grey dome is a reflection of the political reality of the 1920s, when there was enormous pressure to only use native materials."

We also learn that horsepower calculated the old tollbooths on the North Circular Road from the Phoenix Park: a penny ha'penny for one horse, a shilling for six, with tolls being doubled on Sundays. Dr Casey is keen to stress the importance of looking at the relationship between capital and buildings. "Patterns of building are often directly related to surges of capital and that is something not really given sufficient attention by architectural historians."

This is the first time that the entire architecture of Dublin has been described, analysed and matched to historical evidence

In fact, Dr Casey would love to get some cross-disciplinary research linking economics to art history. "I know that economics may not reach into the core of the building or art work, but there is an important linkage between the patronage of paintings and buildings and their design and making, and this relates to why particular genres or subjects are fashionable at different times."

The book came out of the *Buildings of Ireland* series first begun by Professor Alistair Rowan of the former art history department in UCD. He had established the series in the 1970s, with the first volume in 1978 focusing on north-west Ulster and the second on north Leinster. That volume was co-written with Dr Casey before she took on Dublin on her own. All three are part of the well-known series started by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, who left Nazi Germany and began an extended survey of the buildings of England. Starting with the westernmost county,

Cornwall, the tour eventually encompassed all of England and was then extended to Wales and Scotland.

After 10 years' hard labour, as she puts it, Dr Casey is now moving on to new pastures. Professor Rowan has established a charitable trust for the *Buildings of Ireland* to accelerate delivery of the series. His aim is to raise approximately €2 million over the next 12 years to fund the research and writing of two volumes on Connaught, three on Munster, two more on Leinster and Ulster, one on greater Belfast and another on the suburbs and county of Dublin.

So what now for the former curator of Newman House? This summer she has been writing a smaller book for the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The department is putting together an inventory of architecture for every county in Ireland in order to raise public awareness of architectural heritage. Dr Casey has written the book on Louth, her home county, which will be published in 2007.

She already has the next project lined up, a book for Yale University Press on 18th-century Dublin townhouses. Going back to her research interests, the book will be a study of how these houses were not only designed and built but also occupied, and their economic and social place in the political arena of the 18th century. "Hitherto the literature on our Georgian residential architecture has been primarily concerned with aesthetic issues," she says. In January she is heading off to Europe to do the general European background archival work for the project: leaving Dublin behind, then, but not for long.

Dublin: The Buildings of Ireland (Yale, 2005) by Christine Casey is available from bookshops.

Jane Suiter is a financial and economics journalist.



Dr Christine Casey,
UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy

technology

Self-monitoring to reduce pressure on Irish hospitals

Within 15 years, new technology could allow us to monitor non-acute illnesses in the comfort of our homes. Professor Conor Heneghan, winner of the NovaUCD 2006 Innovation Award, tells Shane Hickey (BA 1999) how this could ease the pressure on the Irish health service.

Queues for appointments and treatment are now common characteristics of the Irish healthcare system. The vital way to alleviate this, according to Professor Conor Heneghan, senior lecturer in the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic & Mechanical Engineering, is health monitoring - encompassing new technologies.

"For example, the big medical challenge in heart failure is trying to stop people being hospitalised acutely," says Professor Heneghan. "You want to be able to monitor a patient to see if they are deteriorating. There is a big incentive on everybody to see if we can monitor heart failure in the home and keep them out of hospital as long as possible and avoid this acute situation. In the US it is the number one cause of hospitalisation for people over 65. I would imagine it is similar over here."

It is hardly a surprising belief considering Professor Heneghan's research for the last number of years has been focused on the area of home health. In June he was awarded the NovaUCD 2006 Innovation Award in recognition of his success in commercialising research carried out at the university.

Along with Dr Philip de Chazal and Dr Conor Hanley, Professor Heneghan set up BiancaMed in 2002, aiming to provide health-monitoring equipment for day-to-day use. Already, BiancaMed has seen considerable success with the LifeScreen Apnea™ product, which allows for the screening of sleep apnea using overnight recordings of a patient's cardiac signals.

Sleep apnea, which affects about 20 million people in the US, is a condition where the breathing of an individual is interrupted while they sleep.

At present, BiancaMed is developing a product which will monitor heart and respiration - focusing on those suffering from conditions such as heart disease, respiratory failure and diabetes.

With a long-standing career in academia behind him, including positions in research in Boston University and as director of Tele-Informatics at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, the move into the commercial field of medical technology has been a change for Professor Heneghan. The motivations for the new venture are twofold.

"It is quite satisfying from both aspects. When you do get involved in personal work you get exposed to the real problems," he says. "There is

always a risk in the university setting that you solve problems which are intellectually interesting but are not the critical issues.

"I'm very interested in the company being a success and, by definition, for the company to be a success it has to make money. But setting up a technology company in Ireland is not the easiest way of making money, so I would say I am motivated partly by a desire for financial return and partly by a desire to do something different, which ties back into things that I am interested in."

Having completed an engineering degree in UCD in 1990, the 38-year-old Dubliner went on to study for his PhD in Columbia University and worked in the US before he returned to Ireland.

"I liked academia and I was interested in a career in research. In the US you pretty much need a PhD to get a job either in universities or in a professional position," he says.

Because the population is ageing, and at the same time has greater access to information than ever before, health awareness has become a priority

He joined UCD in 1997, and now spends four days a week in his college position and the rest of his time working on BiancaMed, a situation which he intends to change in the near future.

"I would like to be able to spend more time on the company side to get it up and running, but I wouldn't necessarily say that I am the best person there to be running the actual business in the long run. It wouldn't be my key strength. However, an early-stage company needs the full commitment of its promoters to have any chance of success and the three co-founders will continue to work flat-out over the next few years to make this company a success."

Already a named inventor on four UCD patent applications, he sees home care as a vital part of the future for medicine worldwide. Because the population is ageing, and at the same time has greater access to information than ever before, health awareness has become a priority.

"With the internet, people have got a lot more self-aware about diseases and their own health and I think that will go on," he says. "People nowadays go online after they've been

diagnosed to find out about their illness. The internet generation is a health-aware generation.

"It seems a bit bizarre to me that you are totally reliant on others to pick up problems with your health. I think there are a lot of people who would like to go down to their local supermarket and pick up a quick home diagnostic kit and get more involved in their own health.

"The whole area will be driven by a consumer approach. Ultimately, there is a lot of information out there and people have to take some responsibility in how they use it."

The company is eager to incorporate new technology in the upcoming plans for home health. Progress seen in other countries will inevitably form part of how future healthcare is delivered.

*Professor Conor Heneghan,
UCD School of Electrical,
Electronic and Mechanical
Engineering*

"One of the things you could do with a mobile phone is to use it as a portable heart monitor, to monitor someone who has had a heart attack for a six-month period afterwards," explains Dr Heneghan. "You can wear a small sensor which talks to your phone. A couple of companies in the US have pioneered the model and found success."

Professor Heneghan hopes that by promoting the idea of home health, along with pioneering developments in technology, via BiancaMed, the pressure on the Irish healthcare system will be eased.

"There is a drive for private healthcare to try and raise the bar in terms of the quality of the health service in this country," he says. "We have to do something different in Ireland because, despite having excellent doctors and nurses, and international-quality medical education, we have a relatively poor-quality health service for the society we are living in, and part of that solution will be home health. It can reduce cost and it can improve the quality of services. I think there will be a change in Irish healthcare."

Shane Hickey is an Irish Independent journalist.



The crystal maze: researching new treatments for osteoarthritis

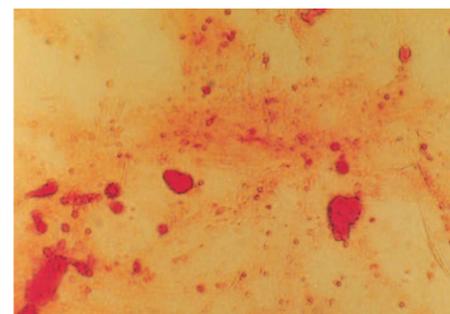
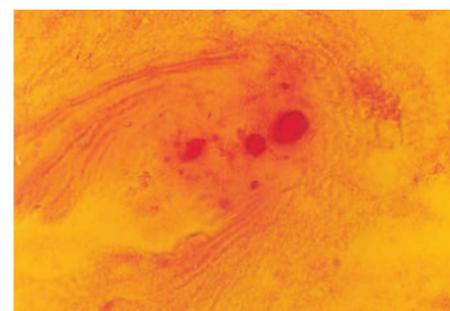
Professor Geraldine McCarthy, consultant rheumatologist at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and principal investigator at the UCD Conway Institute, is leading the first ever Irish investigation into the causes of osteoarthritis (OA). OA is the most common form of arthritis worldwide and no drug currently exists to reverse or prevent the progression of the disease.

Professor McCarthy is looking to crystals in her search for a treatment for OA. Following more than two decades of extensive research examining sub-microscopic, calcium-containing

particles called basic calcium phosphate (BCP) crystals, Professor McCarthy and her team have discovered that BCP crystals are not only present in 70% of joints with OA, but that they actively contribute to joint degeneration, promoting abnormal thickening of the joint lining and producing important matrix-degrading enzymes and other inflammatory factors.

With the help of collaborators such as Dr Gillian McMahon, analytical chemist at the School of Chemical Science at Dublin City University, Professor McCarthy hopes to

develop a user-friendly test to detect the presence of BCP crystals in OA joints. She also hopes that the research may lead to the development of specific drug therapy to modify disease progression. Ongoing support and funding from agencies such as the Wellcome Trust, Health Research Board and the HEA, and international collaborators, has enabled Professor McCarthy to expand her research programme to investigate similar crystal-like calcification found in both malignant breast tumours and in atherosclerosis.



Alizarin Red S staining of joint fluid containing clumps of calcium hydroxyapatite crystals

UCD honours author, businessman, aid worker and Nobel laureate

UCD awarded honorary doctorates to four exceptional people, whose work has inspired and continues to inspire generations of students, at a ceremony on 16 June.

Anthony Cronin was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Literature for his contribution to the arts. Cronin is the author of several books of verse, including *The End of the Modern World* and *The Minotaur and Other Poems*. He was cultural and artistic adviser to former Taoiseach, Charles J. Haughey, and is the founding member of Aosdána, the affiliation of creative artists in Ireland.

One of Ireland's most successful businessmen, Peter Gleeson, received an honorary Doctorate of Laws from UCD. He is Chairman and CEO of Castle Knitwear and has successfully consolidated and enhanced the company's commercial success in an extremely competitive climate. He is a committed philanthropist to medical and educational causes.

Humanitarian aid worker, Michael Kelly SJ, received an honorary Doctorate of Laws for his contribution to the complex subject of HIV/AIDS. He was instrumental in the development of a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS by the Ministry of Education in Zambia. His work combines the highest standard of scholarship with compassion and courage.

José Saramago, the Portuguese journalist, translator and writer, was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Literature by UCD. In 1982, the publication of *Baltasar and Blimunda* first brought him to the attention of an English-speaking readership. He has also written poetry, essays, plays and a journal, and won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1998.

(l-r) Dr Peter Gleeson, Dr José Saramago, Dr Hugh Brady (President, UCD), Dr Anthony Cronin and Dr Michael Kelly SJ at the honorary conferring on 16 June



Getting to the roots of art and religion

Continuing the Humanities Institute of Ireland's Distinguished Guest Lecture series, Professor Merlin W. Donald gave a lecture entitled *The deep cognitive roots of art and religion* on 25 May. The lecture was chaired by Professor Ciarán Benson (UCD School of Psychology) and was the third in the series.

Professor Merlin W. Donald is a professor in the Department of Psychology and Faculty of Education, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. He is currently working at Case Western Reserve University as chair of Cognitive Psychology. A cognitive neuroscientist with a background in

philosophy, he is the author of many scientific papers and two influential books: *Origins of the Modern Mind: Three stages in the evolution of culture and cognition* (Harvard, 1991) and *A Mind So Rare: The evolution of human consciousness* (Norton, 2001).

The next lecture in the Distinguished Guest Lecture series, *Languages and genes in China*, will be given on 26 October by Professor Alain Peyraube, Director of Research at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Paris, France, and professor of Chinese Linguistics at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS).

(l-r) Dr Marc Caball, Director, UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies Graduate School; Prof Merlin W. Donald, Dept of Psychology, Queen's University, Ontario; Prof Gabriel Cooney, UCD School of Archaeology; Prof Ciarán Benson, UCD School of Psychology



Celebration of 400 years of the Irish college in Louvain

In 2007 the UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute will celebrate the 400th anniversary of St Anthony's College in Louvain, Belgium, by organising a quatercentenary programme of events on behalf of the Irish Franciscans.

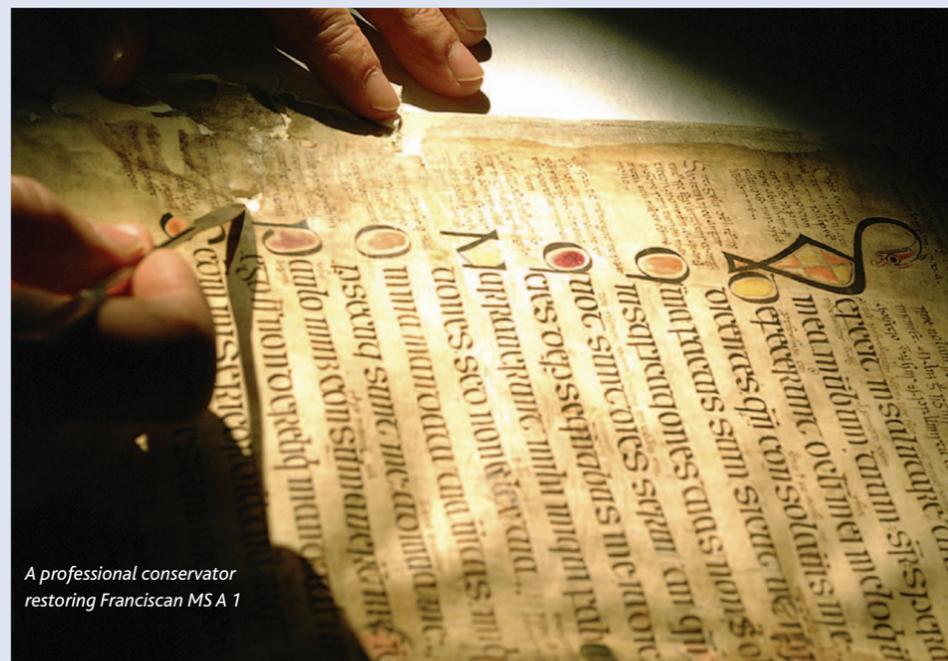
Since its beginning in 1607, St Anthony's College has been a significant cultural and religious centre for the Irish community in Europe. In early modern Europe, the college was a major centre for religious and scholarly pursuits. It also served as a focus for political activity among the Catholic exile community. The history of the college, and of its alumni, is, in effect, the history of active Irish engagement with early modern Europe.

Outside of Rome, the college's archive is the single most important collection for the history of the Counter-Reformation in Ireland, and of the involvement of Irishmen in the Counter-Reformation on mainland Europe. At the heart of the collection are the papers and library of Luke Wadding, one of the most

politically significant figures in the history of Ireland and of the 17th-century church. The entire collection encompasses the administration of the seminary at Louvain and the activities of Irish Franciscans across Europe. It includes an autograph copy of the *Annals of the Four Masters*, perhaps the most iconic work on the history of Ireland and Irish civilisation, together with a number of incunabulae and medieval works on vellum.

The programme of events to mark the anniversary includes an international conference at the Catholic University of Louvain and a series of exhibitions around Ireland. These events will help to elucidate the very central role played by Irishmen in the history and development of modern Europe and their profound influence on our understanding of Ireland, its history, culture and language.

A full calendar of events will be launched in autumn 2006. A selection of the Franciscan manuscript material can be viewed online. For further details see www.ucd.ie/mocleirigh.



A professional conservator restoring Franciscan MS A 1

The UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute is part of a unique partnership between the university and the Irish Franciscan province to create a centre of excellence for research in medieval and early modern Irish studies.

At the core of the project is the conservation, management and utilisation of the manuscript collection of the Franciscan province, which is in the process of being moved from Dún Mhuire, the Franciscan house in Killiney, Co. Dublin, to the archives at UCD. This collection includes the records of

the Irish Franciscan province as well as priceless documents from Irish Franciscan foundations in Europe, including the archive of the most important of these foundations, St Anthony's College, Louvain. Over time, these archives have been moved across Europe for safe-keeping, avoiding the ravages of revolution, invasion and political upheaval. UCD takes this opportunity to sympathise with the Irish Franciscan province on the recent death of Fr Benignus Millet OFM, who did so much to preserve the Irish Franciscan archive.

UCD participates in creation of digital learning resource

UCD is currently involved in a new initiative for the creation of a digital teaching and learning resource, funded by the Higher Education Authority. The National Digital Learning Repository (NDLR) will enable the development and sharing of digital learning resources between Irish universities and institutes of technology.

David Jennings, assistant lecturer, UCD Centre for Teaching and Learning, is representing UCD in the pilot project, along with representatives from all seven universities and 14 institutes of technology.

With the development of e-Learning, demand has risen for a quality resource to ease the burden on university staff of having to provide all of the teaching materials used in their courses. The NDLR aims to investigate and pilot a framework for a digital learning repository, including tools and guidance for its use.

HEAnet is an associate partner on the project, hosting the NDLR website and the repository itself.

For more information consult www.ndlr.ie

Denial and concealment of pregnancy still exists in Ireland

A report by the Women's Education, Research and Resource Centre (WERCC) at the UCD School of Social Justice shows that concealment of pregnancy is still present in Irish society today.

The report, entitled *Concealed Pregnancy: A Case Study in an Irish Setting*, is the first of its kind in Ireland. It was jointly commissioned by the Crisis Pregnancy Agency and the HSE West, and authored by Catherine Conlon, research co-ordinator at WERCC.

Data from 51 women that concealed their pregnancies between July 2003 and December 2004 was used, along with interviews from 13 women. The research involved two hospitals, one rural-based, one urban-based, and is

reflective of the situation in those hospitals, rather than being nationally representative research. One of the most striking aspects of the study is that women of all ages, of all social backgrounds, both married and single, were in the sample group.

The study found that the primary reasons for concealing or denying the pregnancy were fear of the social stigma attached to becoming pregnant in unconventional circumstances, and fear of the reaction of relatives.

Concealment is categorised in two ways: 'conscious denial', where the woman recognises that she is pregnant but denies it to herself and to others; and 'concealment of pregnancy',

where a woman acknowledges the pregnancy to herself but hides it from others.

The report offers a series of recommendations, including the development of a national policy and framework of services responding to concealed pregnancy in medical, social, counselling and support service settings throughout Ireland.

The full report is available at www.crisispregnancy.ie and www.hse.ie.

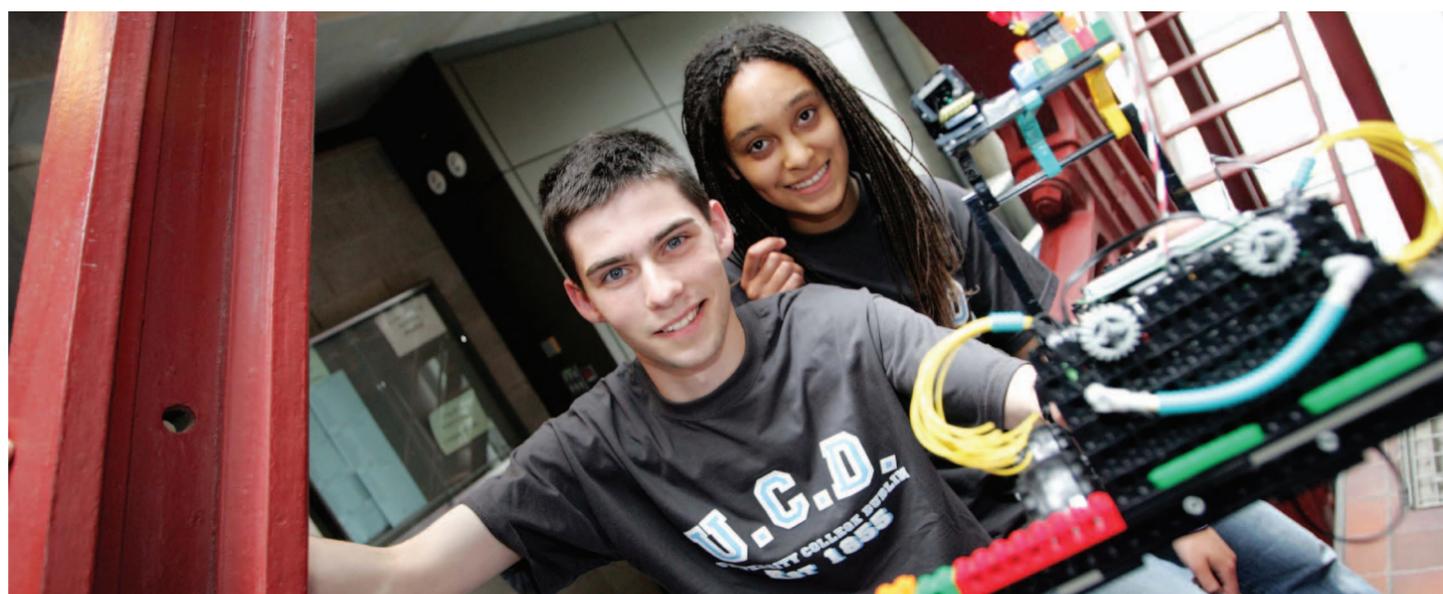
At the launch of the report on 23 May are (l-r) Cathy Fox, Manager, Crisis Pregnancy Support Service, Portiuncula Hospital, HSE West; Catherine Duffy, Development Officer, Primary Care Services, HSE West; Olive Braiden, Chair, Crisis Pregnancy Agency; Catherine Conlon, Research Co-ordinator, WERCC, UCD School of Social Justice



Secondary-school students attend UCD Engineering summer school

Getting their summer holidays off to a great start, 18 students from 13 secondary schools across the country attended the UCD Electronic and Electrical Engineering summer school. The students experienced a week of lectures, project work and site visits, including visits to the ESB, Lucent and RTÉ.

The programme was created to help students who are interested in mathematics and science to make an informed decision on pursuing a degree in electronic/electrical engineering by providing an insight into the areas of biomedical engineering, electrical power, signal processing and optoelectronics. This year's event finished up with the Lego Mindstorm Robot Building competition on 23 June, and a reception attended by parents, sponsors and teachers.



Students participating in the UCD Engineering summer school

UCD moves up in academic ranking of world universities

The newly published Shanghai Jiao Tong University Academic Ranking of World Universities 2006 ranks University College Dublin among the top 301-400 universities in the world. University College Dublin's relative position has moved up from the 401- 500 rank last year.

The Shanghai Jiao Tong University Academic Ranking of World Universities ranks the top 500 universities in the world, and has been published since 2003. Using data from publicly available sources of information, it applies six indicators to reflect the quality of education, faculty, research output and size.

Life work of Professor Michael Hayes celebrated

On the occasion of his 65th birthday, and in recognition of over 40 years of scientific work, a collection of papers originally written for a symposium held in his honour has been published.

Professor Hayes is Emeritus Professor of Mathematical Physics, and is being celebrated for the breadth of scientific influence he has had in the areas of continuum mechanics and wave propagation in finitely deformed materials.

The symposium in his honour, *Mathematical Problems in Elastodynamics and Related Continuum Theories*, was held in Italy in 2003, and the collection includes papers by contributors from 12 different countries. The papers first appeared together in the journal *Mathematics and Mechanics of Solids* in 2005. The new collection, published by Sage, has been



(l-r) Prof Owen Lewis, UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences with Prof Michael Hayes, Emeritus Professor of Mathematical Physics

especially extended, and includes a biography of the life and work of Professor Hayes.

Further details on the publication are available on www.ucd.ie/eem/news.htm

Junior doctors

On Monday 4 September at 9.30 pm, RTÉ aired the first of a new four-part weekly series entitled *Junior Doctors*. The series follows the progress of four graduates from the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science (Paul Carroll, Paddy Barrett, Catherine deBlacam and Sinéad Beirne) from their first day of internship at St Vincent's Hospital to the completion of their intern year. The series, which was made

by Mint Productions for RTÉ, shows them adapting to their new roles on their first days, trying to navigate the hospital system and enduring their first nights on call. It deals with the professional and personal challenges facing them, the long working hours, the trials of hospital life and how these four young talented doctors adapted.



Quinn School to host European conference on management education

UCD Quinn School of Business is to host a conference in October entitled *What got us here won't get us there!*, covering topics such as the importance of China to business schools and the impact of technology-enhanced learning on the classroom.

The conference is being organised by the European Foundation for Management Education (EFMD), an international membership organisation that provides a forum for networking, research and debate on best practice in management education. The EFMD is also a global accreditation body, and controls the awarding of the EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System) standard of quality in management and business administration.

In 2000, UCD School of Business (UCD Quinn School of Business and UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business) became the first Irish business school to be accredited with the EQUIS award. UCD was reaccredited in 2005, and remains the only business school in Ireland with the award.

The EFMD conference will be attended by deans from business schools in Europe, America and Asia. It will offer the first opportunity to showcase the UCD Quinn School to the EFMD community, as well providing a forum for discussion on the issues affecting business education today.

For further information, or to make a submission to the conference, see www.efmd.org



Over 90% of incubation space at NovaUCD occupied

Over 90% of the incubation space at NovaUCD, the Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre at University College Dublin, is occupied one year ahead of schedule, and 150 people are currently employed in its community of entrepreneurs, according to the centre's latest report.

The first cycle of client companies will soon "graduate" to make way for a new community of enterprises. NovaUCD currently houses 23 knowledge-intensive companies including BiancaMed, Celtic Catalysts, ChangingWorlds' Advanced Research and Development Centre, and Duolog Technologies.

NovaUCD helps UCD researchers to take innovative ideas from proof-of-principle to full commercial success. The centre provides entrepreneurs and knowledge-based start-up

companies with incubation facilities and a comprehensive business support programme. It also acts as the main point of contact for companies seeking partners for collaborative research, advice on licensing and other commercial opportunities, and is responsible for the development of co-operation with industry and business. The centre is also responsible for the implementation of UCD policies relating to the commercialisation of intellectual property (IP) arising from UCD's research programmes, and for the provision of advice on the identification, protection and exploitation of this IP.

NovaUCD has been funded through a unique public-private partnership that includes AIB Bank, Arthur Cox, Deloitte, Enterprise Ireland, Ericsson, Goodbody Stockbrokers, UCD and Xilinx.

NovaUCD, the Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre



Bridging business and politics

A group of 27 students and staff from the MBA programme in the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business visited Belfast to learn the realities of negotiation and conflict resolution. Following from a course on the MBA programme that teaches the basics of negotiation dynamics, the students spent two days in July meeting political and business leaders and benefiting from their experiences in conflict resolution.

The interactive forum allowed students to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges facing northern leaders in tackling the long-term future of Northern Ireland. Speakers included representatives from the main political parties: Martina Anderson, Director of Unionist Engagement, Sinn Fein; David

McClarty, Chief Whip, Ulster Unionist Party; Alex Attwood, Chair, Social Democratic and Labour Party; David Ervine, Leader, Progressive Unionist Party; and David Ford, Leader, Alliance Party of Northern Ireland. The DUP were unfortunately not in a position to provide a representative at the forum.

Open discussions also took place with representatives from the PSNI and Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, as well as with PricewaterhouseCoopers Northern Ireland and Invest Northern Ireland.

The aim of the trip was to show a real-life case study of conflict resolution, and to enhance the understanding of Irish political and socio-economic life for both international and Irish MBA programme participants.



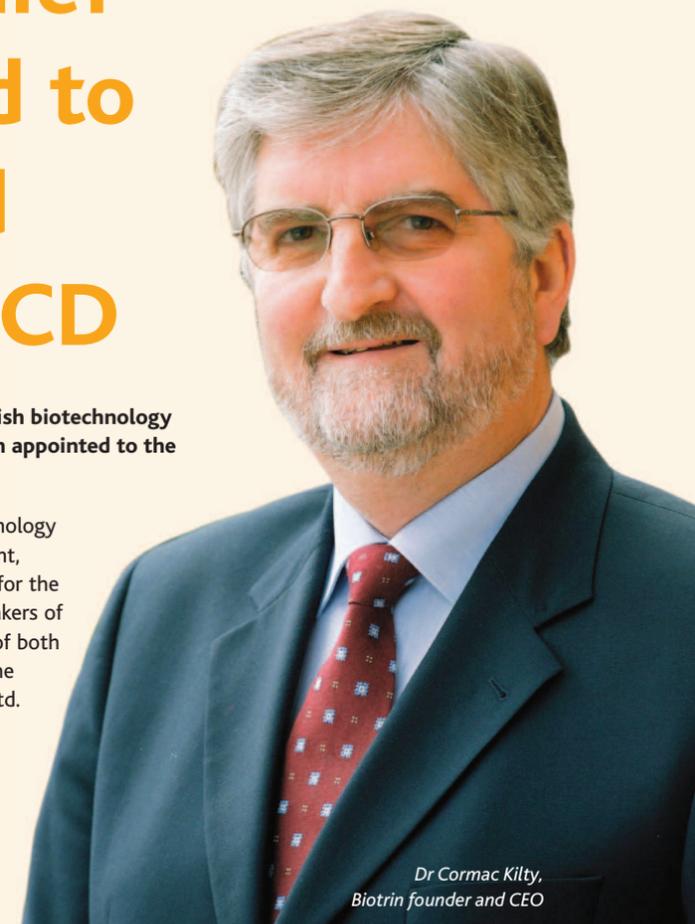
(standing l-r) Alex Attwood, Chair, SDLP and Kealan O'Reilly, MBA class 2005/06

Biotrin chief appointed to the board of NovaUCD

Dr Cormac Kilty, founder and CEO of Irish biotechnology company Biotrin Holdings Ltd, has been appointed to the board of NovaUCD.

Biotrin is one of Ireland's leading biotechnology companies, specialising in the development, manufacture and sale of diagnostic tests for the detection of new viruses and novel biomarkers of organ damage. Dr Kilty is also Chairman of both the Irish BioIndustry Association and of the start-up company Opsona Therapeutics Ltd.

The NovaUCD Board advises University College Dublin on the commercialisation of research and comprises senior representatives of industry, the public sector and the university.



Dr Cormac Kilty, Biotrin founder and CEO

UCD Carnival Day

A record number of UCD staff, with their families and friends, attended this year's Carnival Day, held in the UCD Sports Centre and surrounds on 17 June.

Children were treated to attractions such as the Jungle Rumble, Laser Zone and Mega Slide, as well as races, hair wrapping, face painting, a bouncy castle and merry-go-round. The recently refurbished Rosemount Crèche was specially opened for tours during the day.

The day wouldn't have been possible without the help of the 2006 UCD Carnival Day Committee, or the sponsors. Committee members were: Professor Mary Clayton, Dr Pádraic Conway, Mr Michael Rafter, Ms Siobhan Kelly, Ms Rosaleen Loughman and Mr Peter McKiernan. The event was sponsored by Belfield Bike Shop, ISS facility Services, ABACUS Fire and Safety Ltd, Dublin Sanitary Disposals Ltd, Albany Office Supplies, Dell Computers, Eamon Macken painters and Snowwhite Cottage Laundry.



Science bursaries awarded to UCD staff

UCD academics have been awarded 3 out of 20 RDS *Science Live* bursaries. The bursaries are given to educators for the purpose of creating interactive and exciting presentations to bring science to life for primary and secondary school students.

UCD has a long tradition of participation in the *Science Live* lecture series, and the three UCD winners will give presentations in their specialist areas in October and November.

Dr Annette Byrne, senior research fellow with the Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB) and UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research, is to present her seminar, *From Molecules...to Man: How to make a Cancer Drug in 60 minutes!* She will talk to senior students (ages 15+) about the process of novel anti-cancer drug development, from the time that the chemist and biologist propose an idea for a novel drug to delivery to a patient by the oncologist. Students will have the opportunity to see fluorescent drugs taken up by tumour cells and will compete for the coveted title of 'Superbrain 2006' at the close of the seminar.

Dr Orla Donoghue, CSCB communications officer, will answer the question, *Do Sparks Fly when Chemists and Biologists meet?* Senior students will find out how chemists and biologists work together to discover new medicines, formulate beauty and healthcare products and find solutions to environmental problems. The interactive talk will give students an opportunity to build molecular models of chemicals found in everyday products. At the end of the session they will be invited to take part in 'Science Bingo', where they can test their general knowledge of chemistry and biology.

Dr Sean Callanan, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine and UCD Conway Institute, will present *Inflame your Brain*, an interactive presentation on how the blood brain barrier (BBB) protects the brain from cells, chemicals and micro-organisms.

For further details of the 2006 demonstration lecture programme please see www.rds.ie/sciencelive

SPORT



Deirdre Ryan holds the Irish high jump record of 1.92m. Photo courtesy of Sportsfile

Former UCD sports scholars shine at European Championships

O'Rourke, Cuddihy and Ryan mix it with the best in athletics in Gothenburg



Derval O'Rourke, European silver medallist and new Irish record holder. Photo courtesy of Sportsfile

Derval O'Rourke, Joanne Cuddihy and Deirdre Ryan all delivered career-best performances at the European Athletics Championships in Gothenburg in August.

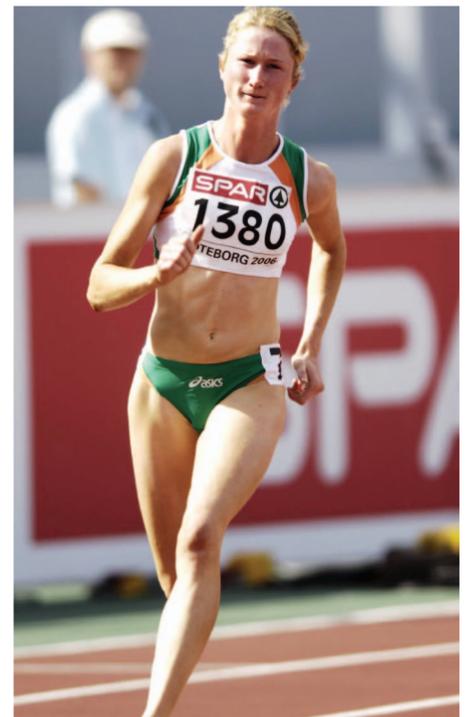
Derval O'Rourke reaffirmed her position as one of the world's best sprint hurdlers when she took joint silver in the 100m. She also set a

new Irish record, finishing in 12.72 seconds. Suzanna Kallur took the lead to finish first for Sweden in 12.59 seconds, but Derval pushed for second place alongside Germany's Kirsten Bolm. A photo finish and an appeal by the German Federation led the judges to award joint silver to Bolm and O'Rourke. The silver was Ireland's only medal at the European Championships.

Joanne Cuddihy's 8th-place finish in the final of the 400m displays her continued determination to become a new star in Irish and international athletics. She finished in 51.46 seconds, after achieving a personal best of 51.09 seconds in the semi-final. This is the 22-year-old's first major competition and marked the first time since 1962 that an Irish female athlete has reached the European Championships final of the 400m. The title went to Vanya Stambolova of Bulgaria, who passed the line in 49.85 seconds.

Deirdre Ryan, a Smurfit School graduate and former athletics scholarship student, qualified for the final of the high jump competition by equalling her Irish record of 1.92m. She set this record at the British AAAs just two weeks before she equalled it at the European Championships semi-final. She finished in 13th place in the final, with a height of 1.84m.

James Nolan, also a former UCD sports scholar, competed in the 1500m in the European Championships. He had been in excellent form, finishing 3rd in the 5000m in the National Championships in July. He reached the semi-final in Gothenburg with a time of 03.49.94.



Joanne Cuddihy finished in 8th place in Gothenburg. Photo courtesy of Sportsfile

Ireland and UCD at the Lacrosse World Championships

Members of the UCD Lacrosse Club were present on the Irish national teams that participated in both the Lacrosse World Championship and the Festival of Lacrosse, which both took place in Canada in July.

Twenty-one countries were represented at the championships, including Bermuda, Hong Kong, the USA and New Zealand. Michael Kennedy, captain of UCD Lacrosse Club, also captained the Irish side, which featured UCD's John Kelly, Leonard Skelly and Eric Timmreck.

Ireland recorded a sweep of victories in the preliminary group stage of the championships, challenging Hong Kong, Italy, Scotland and Wales to win the group. They went on to compete for a final placing, losing to Australia and Japan, but eventually defeating Germany to

secure 7th place overall. Canada won the title for the first time in 28 years, beating the US 15-10.

Other UCD Lacrosse Club members, Conor Walsh, Eoin O'Keeffe, Dara McCreary, Springer Browne and Paddy O'Leary gained valuable high-level experience at the Festival of Lacrosse. The festival was run in conjunction with the World Championship as an event for lacrosse players at both junior and senior levels.

The next major international tournament will be the Celtic Cup, taking place in Ireland in the summer of 2007.

For more information, see www.dublinlacrosse.com

UCD Ladies' Boat Club wins at home and away

The UCD Ladies' Boat Club has had a hugely successful summer, proving yet again that it is the leading Irish club of its kind. The club competed at Henley in June, winning an event at the Women's Henley Regatta for the third year in a row. They returned home with the Elite 8 title, beating the Scottish commonwealth team in the final. The crew also became the first ever Irish crew to be seeded (4th) in an event (The Remenham Cup) in the prestigious Royal Henley Regatta.

Women's Henley Regatta Elite 8s final

Back at home in July, the UCD Ladies won the Irish National Championships for the fourth year in a row, winning the senior 8 and senior 4 events.

Earlier this month, the UCD Ladies' senior 4 boat, which won the Irish University Champions title last August, was the only Irish crew invited to compete in the European University Championships in Brive, France, where they took 3rd place.



Belfield Bowl to expand with €1.25m government grant



A general view of action between UCD and Clontarf at the Belfield Bowl 4 March 2006. Credit: Damien Eagers/ SPORTSFILE

Belfield Bowl is to be upgraded with the help of a €1.25 million award under the government's Sports Capital Programme 2006. The project, which is part of the university's Campus Development Plan, will see the activities of the UCD Soccer Club transferred from its current home, Belfield Park, to the Belfield Bowl, the home ground of the UCD Rugby Club.

The National Lottery-funded Sports Capital Programme, which is advertised on an annual basis, allocates funding to projects that are directly related to the provision of sports facilities and are of a capital nature. This means that the project must involve improving or building an asset or buying sports equipment that is securely stored and will be used for at least five years.

The substantial work proposed will increase spectator accommodation by 840 seats, provide additional permanent spectator facilities, enhance floodlighting and carry out required drainage and site work to accommodate both soccer and rugby games. If planning permission is granted, both UCD clubs hope to be playing in the refurbished stadium by 2008.

Lernihan wins Leinster Youths Amateur Open

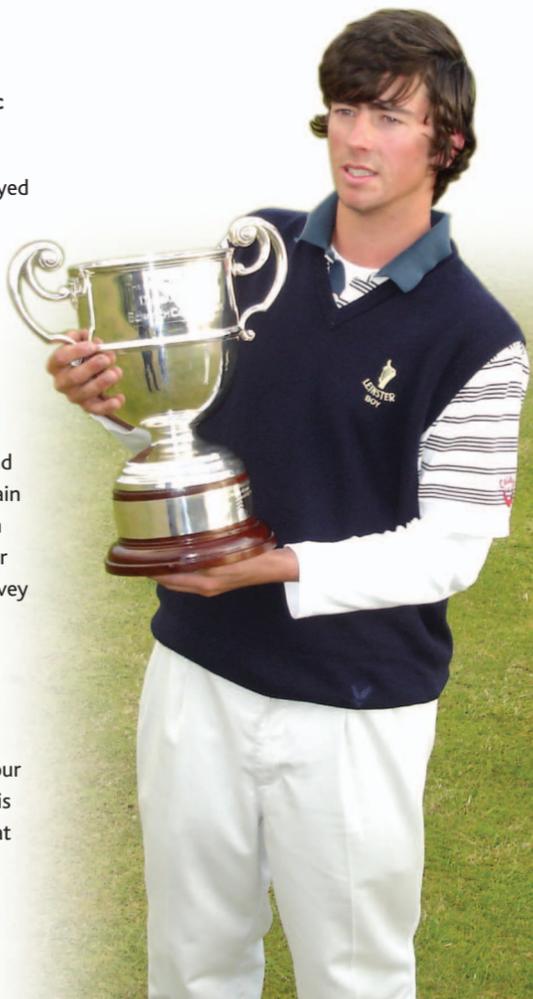
Dara Lernihan, a UCD golf scholarship student, won the Leinster Youths Amateur Open Championship, defeating the 2004 champion, Ciaran McAleavey, in a dramatic play-off.

Lying six shots off the halfway lead, Dara played steady golf to tie with McAleavey (Banbridge Golf Club) after the regulation 72 holes. He was the only competitor to break 80 in all four rounds in very breezy conditions at Seapoint Golf Club. With scores of 77, 77, 75 and 79, he won a total of 308 against a competition standard scratch score of 306.

In the three-hole play off, Dara fell one behind at the first and then only managed to maintain this differential by getting up and down from off the second green. At the third hole, his par was enough to see him draw level as McAleavey took a bogey.

The championship was now to be decided on sudden death. After McAleavey was forced to take a penalty drop from a gorse bush, Dara played his approach to the par five hole to four feet and, after watching his opponent miss his par putt from 15 feet, took the two putts that brought home the prize.

Dara Lernihan, Leinster Youths amateur champion



Irish victory at the Boyd Quaich International Students' Golf Championship

UCD golf scholar, Niall O'Connor, won the Boyd Quaich International Students' Golf Championship at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St Andrews (R&A), in the tightest of finishes.

Niall, who had rounds of 75, 70, 73 and 71, tied with Canadian Justin Fluit from the University of Waterloo in Ontario on 1 over par 289 after two rounds over the old course and two rounds over the new.

Because the rules of the Boyd Quaich do not cater for a play-off, and on a countback O'Connor had a 71 over the old course to Fluit's 72 in the final round, O'Connor was declared the winner. He is the first Irish winner since renowned golfer and UCD graduate, Dr David Sheehan.

The Boyd Quaich competition was first played in 1946 and is a memorial to brothers Quentin and Anthony Boyd, who were killed in the summer of 1944 while they were students at St Andrews.

UCD has established a Golfing Centre of Excellence, thanks to support from the R&A Foundation Bursary Scheme. UCD is the only third level institution in the Republic of Ireland to be a member of the scheme.

The progress of all golf scholarship recipients in terms of both golf and academic performance is constantly monitored by UCD Sport. A tailored strength and conditioning programme is devised for each student and supervised by Lisa Regan, UCD's director of High Performance.

Coaching is provided by the individual's own coach, as well as by John McHenry in the K Club and Neil Manchip in Carton House, who supervises the development of all UCD scholarship golfers. In addition, the scholars have access to renowned sports psychologist Dr Aidan Moran.

As well as having access to the practice ground and the course at Elm Park, the scholarship students also have membership of both Royal Dublin and Portmarnock golf clubs.

150th anniversary of the University Church at St Stephen's Green

The Newman University Church at 87 St Stephen's Green first opened its doors to parishioners on Ascension Day, 1 May, 1856, fulfilling John Henry Newman's priority to "recognise the great principle of the university, the indissoluble union of philosophy and religion".

The site at No. 87 was purchased in 1855 and building began almost immediately. Newman enlisted the help of his friend John Hungerford Pollen (1820-1902) as architect, painter and decorator of the new building. The Byzantine style was, however, dictated by Newman, who had been influenced by the ancient basilicas of Italy. The church was constructed in the gardens behind and beside the house at number 87 (originally built in 1730), which served as the church's presbytery until 1988, when it was sold.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the church, and a series of lectures, masses, music and events was held to celebrate.

The organising committee included Fr Pearse Walsh, parish priest of University Church, and Dr Teresa Iglesias, director of the International Centre for Newman Studies at UCD.

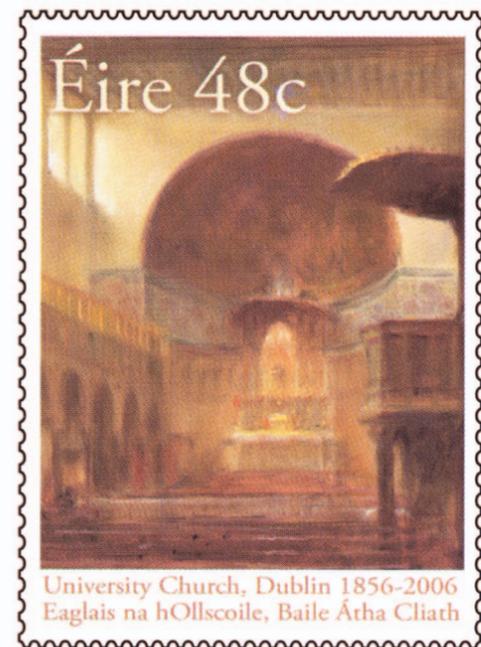
In the week following Ascension Day (17 May), liturgies and choral celebrations were held in the church, as well as a series of cultural and artistic events. A commemorative stamp was issued, featuring a painting of the interior of the church by Dr Thomas Ryan, former president of the Royal Hibernian Academy. A website (www.universitychurch.ie) was established to reference the history of the church, Newman, and the Catholic University. Dr Patrick Masterson, former president of UCD, gave a lecture on the position of the university today. And *Newman's Dublin Sermons*, a collection of eight sermons Newman preached after the opening of the church in 1856, was published.

To open the celebrations, the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, attended an unveiling of some recopies of *The Lives of the Apostles* by Raphael. These

recopies by New York-based artist, Levent Turner are to replace the 19th-century copies of the Raphael tapestries and frescoes after several attempts to restore them. The originals hang in the Abbey Church of Tre Fintane, outside Rome.

University Church has, since 1974, been the parish church of a new parish created from St Kevin's, Harrington Street. Although the church no longer houses the Catholic University faithful, its legacy survives in the Tierney Building in Belfield, where the bell that was in the church belfry is now on display. A set of electronic chimes tolls in University Church in its place.

48c stamp, issued by An Post on 25 May 2006, bearing a painting of the interior of University Church by Dr Thomas Ryan, former president of the Royal Hibernian Academy



International reaccreditation for UCD engineering courses

In one of the largest single reaccreditation events ever undertaken by Engineers Ireland, all of UCD's engineering undergraduate programmes have been reaccredited from 2006 to 2010 under the Washington Accord.

Current signatories to the Washington Accord include: Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland (Engineers Ireland), Japan, New Zealand, South

Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. In June 2006, Singapore joined as the 10th signatory.

All UCD graduates from these accredited programmes will now have their degrees accepted and recognised in the other signatory countries, as though they had graduated in those countries.

The courses reaccredited are: BE (Honours) in Biosystems Engineering, BE (Honours) in Civil Engineering, BE (Honours) in Chemical Engineering, BE (Honours) in Electronic & Electrical Engineering and BE (Honours) in Mechanical Engineering.



Professor Gerry Byrne, Dean of Engineering

Publication in honour of Helen O'Neill, Emeritus Professor of Economics

***Trade, Aid and Development: Essays in Honour of Helen O'Neill* has been published by UCD Press to honour Helen O'Neill, Emeritus Professor of Economics.**

Professor O'Neill has had a distinguished career in development studies, and particularly in development economics. During her time at UCD she founded the multidisciplinary Centre for Development Studies and was the Centre's director for 10 years. She was associate professor of Economics at UCD from 1993 until

her retirement, and now holds the title of Emeritus Professor. Since 2004 she has been a member of the Advisory Group to the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid.

The collection of essays, edited by Majda Bne Saad (current director of the UCD Centre for Development Studies) and Maura Leen, examines the theory and practice of development co-operation over the past half century. The essays highlight how national and

international political agendas influence the policy choices that are made on trade and development.

The diversity of analyses and perspectives on globalisation, trade, aid and development running throughout the book is testimony to the continuing importance and relevance of development studies at a critical juncture in international relations.

