

UCD

ISSUE 11, 2006

CONNECTIONS

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN ALUMNI

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EU Enlargement

SPORTSFILE

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Raising Sam

DRAMATIC LICENCE

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WELCOME TO UCD CONNECTIONS

Welcome to our new-look magazine which we hope reflects the dynamism of both the university and its wide network of alumni. Its primary purpose is to tell you, our alumni, about what your fellow alumni are up to and to inform you of developments taking place at UCD.

While UCD Connections is an important channel of communications for our alumni, in this issue we also announce a new channel of communication, the UCD Alumni Online Community (page 47), which takes our communications into the internet age with a website that will allow alumni to locate, update and communicate with former classmates and friends from college.

I hope that you enjoy UCD Connections and that you will let us know what you think so that we can continue to improve your magazine and have it reflect the type of articles you would like to see covered.

Gerry Looby
Director of Development

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When Conall Ó Móráin met with UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady, he was struck by his clear ambition to make UCD one of the world's leading learning institutions



NEW HORIZONS

DR HUGH Brady surprised many in medical circles when he took on the challenge of running the country's largest educational establishment, but it's a role that he clearly relishes. Until his appointment, this quiet-spoken, precise man had spent over 20 years in medicine, along the way becoming a world-recognised expert on nephrology. He was a leading figure in biomedical research into diabetes and kidney disease and was one of three colleagues who pioneered the setting up of the Conway Institute at UCD, where work is done to understand and create new molecules in an effort to develop new and refined drugs that will deal more effectively with disease.

Brady was also involved in the setting up of the Dublin Molecular

Medicine Centre, a highly focused research partnership in the life sciences between UCD, TCD and, more recently, the Royal College of Surgeons. But, after two decades of medicine, he says he was "ready for new challenges" and opted to head up UCD for a one-off term that ends in 2013.

As a student Brady loved the whole university experience. As well as studying he played good rugby and enjoyed societies such as the L&H. When he speaks about his plans for UCD he does so with an air of calm certainty while exuding great fondness for the university. His vision for the future is very clear. UCD will become "research led" because he wants it to be "the country's premier fourth-level institute" — he has already introduced a new emphasis on postgraduate learning.

Numbers at the university have dramatically increased since 25 years ago, when there would have been some 10,000 students and staff on campus. Today, that figure stands at close to 25,000, including part-time students and staff, giving UCD a population greater than the town of Sligo. In the future, says Brady, a quarter of those UCD students will be postgraduate, research-driven students. He wants to change the feel of the campus — to make it a centre of learning and living. With 3,000 students living on campus now, Brady's aim is to double that number over the next five years. He wants UCD to be a place where you feel a sense of scholarliness just by walking through it.

And he wants the general public to be part of that community as well. That's why he had the hedges cut. It was a simple but effective statement of "Let the public see their college". Now, when you drive along the Stillorgan Road you can view many of the buildings and facilities, whereas previously the campus was distant, shrouded in mystery, a 'no-go area' to outsiders.

It is a theme that is reflected in the latest building plans, already well in train. They will see an iconic Gateway Complex being built to the front of the campus, from the main entrance on the N11, right up to the Tierney (Administration) building, which will house a range of facilities from cafes and retail spaces to an art-house cinema. Before the year is out, there are plans to announce a major architectural competition for this complex, which should go a long way to defining the whole new feel of the campus.

Independent of this, the students have recently voted to increase the levy charged on themselves to pay for a swimming pool, a new gym and a student centre with a space for the performing arts.

Development on this scale requires significant external investment.

'This year UCD had the largest increase in first preference CAO choices'

Significant funding for some of the more recent new building developments on campus was donated by Irish-American philanthropist, Chuck Feeney, and by some of our best-known business figures, Tony O'Reilly, Michael Smurfit and Lochlann Quinn. While we have not reached the heights of US academia where this type of giving is commonplace, we are, it seems, well ahead of British universities in terms of donations. But more will be needed, which makes positive re-engagement with graduates all the more important, says Brady.

During his time as a professor at Harvard, he saw the American model at work where a student is "engaged" with the seat of learning from the day he or she enters the university. Of course, business gets something back on its investment as well. Today, for

example, UCD hosts a new Centre for Chinese Studies and some 150 students put down the new Business and Chinese degree as their first preference this year — clearly some clever students with an eye to the future.

Brady has also been busy streamlining the number of Faculties. He has integrated them into five Colleges. This change caused some heated debate within the college but Brady's idea is to take the various departments and get them working together, creating an opportunity to "spark off each other" and generate new clusters where diverse disciplines would create new lines of ideas and research. The second reason for restructuring stems from an educational imperative. The overall pool of potential students in the country is getting smaller and the choice of educational establishment available to those undergraduates is getting wider. Competition to attract students is hotting up but the introduction of the new UCD *Horizons* programme, along with a high-profile advertising campaign, has meant that this year UCD had the largest increase in first preference CAO choices — by 10%.

The UCD *Horizons* programme is quite radical for Ireland. According to its own literature, "it has taken the bold step to revise the entire undergraduate curriculum and redesigned all degree programmes into a fully modular, semesterised system...now each full-time degree programme comprises 12 modules each year, 10 to be taken from the student's subject area and two free electives that can be chosen from throughout the university." The upshot is that, under the UCD *Horizons* programme, for example, Sociology students can take modules in Law, Medical students can study a Philosophy module, or Science students can take a Business module. It's also easier for students to switch to and from other programmes in Ireland, Europe and beyond.

Interestingly, from a business perspective, Brady says that "the money follows the students", so an element of internal competition arises to make these optional courses attract a greater number of students. This is likely to drift on to the web as well, as yet another of Brady's plans is to offer its most internationally sought-after courses, such as Irish Studies, to students around the globe, via the web, possibly within two years. Already, UCD is a member of Universitas 21, the network for international higher education which facilitates collaboration and co-operation between leading universities.

UCD and the third- and fourth-level universe in which it operates are changing at warp speed. Under leaders like Brady standards are being driven higher. The changes that have already been introduced at UCD, and those that are proposed, seem positive. You could argue that the debate that has arisen from such change is a good thing, as it shows that people care enough to have, and to express, a view. The future looks bright for UCD under its visionary president. Time, and future graduates, alone will tell.

Conall Ó Móráin (BA '79) is a professional broadcaster who now runs communications company, the Media Group. He became RTÉ's first Business Correspondent and subsequently practised as a stockbroker for eight years. He presents the Sunday Business Show on TodayFM and while at UCD he edited the student publication Gobshout.



FOURTH LEVEL

The aim of UCD's fourth-level strategy is to establish the university as an international leader in graduate education and postdoctoral training, says Professor **Michael P. Ryan**

FUELLING

THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

THE GOVERNMENT'S recent commitment to provide significant investment for the establishment of Fourth-Level Ireland is a clear acknowledgement of the vital role of higher education in the future economic development of this country. Through the Strategic Initiative Fund, some €300 million will be provided to help Irish third-level institutions to gear up for fourth level. Further investment of up to €2 billion may be provided from 2006 to 2010 to the higher education sector through the National Research Plan — part of the next National Development Plan. At UCD, our challenge is to establish the highest quality postgraduate degrees in order to both attract the best talent to the university and produce the most highly qualified individuals to help bring Ireland towards a

knowledge-based economy.

UCD has already undergone a major restructuring programme, merging 11 Faculties into five new Colleges, and 95 Departments into 35 Schools. In keeping with this new structure, we have now established Graduate Schools for each of the five Colleges. Within each of these Graduate Schools, we have appointed a Director and an Administrator, as well as Postgraduate Co-ordinators for the constituent Schools. The Schools will be taking in their first graduates, including doctoral students, under the new Graduate School organisation this September.

Through these Graduate Schools, we intend to establish the UCD Research Master's and PhD as premier research training programmes. Our vision is to make UCD the 'University of Choice' for graduate research and education, both on the

national and international stages. To achieve this vision, we are introducing a range of innovative initiatives based on the best practice guidelines of the Bologna principles, which were developed by the European Universities Association and cover the structure and organisation, financing of doctoral programmes, supervision and quality assurance measures, innovative practices and joint doctoral programmes. Our current focus is to enhance our research programmes, but shortly we also will be introducing a range of new developments in the taught programmes.

In line with our objective of making UCD a leading research-intensive university, we intend to become a much more international university, starting at undergraduate level.

A feature of the Graduate Schools is the modularisation of postgraduate

programmes. Traditionally, there has been a perception that the PhD was akin to training for the academic world. In fact, nearly eight out of 10 PhDs end up working outside of academia. Because of this, we want to provide doctoral students with the opportunity to broaden their existing skill sets. We are therefore introducing a menu of transferable and generic skills modules that will be offered in addition to the PhD students' core research. As regards the generic skills, we will be developing high-level courses around specific research areas to enable postgraduate students to cross disciplines. Transferable skills, meanwhile, will include subjects like research methodology, project management, communications and entrepreneurship.

Another new feature is the introduction of a research and personal development plan for all research graduate students. At the beginning of their postgraduate programme, each student will undergo a skills analysis which will allow them to assess their existing skills and identify the areas they may need to brush up on in order to achieve their long-term objectives. This will enable each student to make more informed module choices as well as make it easier for each student to gain a more complete set of skills.

There will also be a major change to the way in which research students are supervised. While most PhD students currently work with a lone supervisor, they

will now have additional access to a supervisory committee, including a mentor. We believe that working with a committee on a range of areas, including the personal development plan, will be beneficial to students. Students will also be able to enter into thematic PhD programmes in selected areas of research.

The duration of doctoral programmes will in future be limited to four years, except in special circumstances. An assessment will be carried out at the end of the first 12-18 months of the PhD programme and, if it becomes apparent that the student is not suitable for the PhD, there will be an exit strategy with a master's degree at that stage.

In addition, we want to introduce greater flexibility as regards how research is presented at the end of a doctoral programme. The traditional thesis will continue to be an acceptable format. The second option will be a compendium of published papers with a discussion linking them together. The third will be a book or books outlining a piece of research. The fourth option could be creative material, such as a piece of music, artwork or a computer program, which would be linked with a thesis putting it in an academic framework.

Other areas we will be focusing on will include more connections outside UCD and a greater emphasis on providing graduate students with lifelong learning and career development pathways. In particular, we will be looking at postdoctoral training schemes

and career path support over the next year.

We also want to internationalise the programme, primarily to give our students the opportunity to work abroad for a period of time. But it will be a two-way process and we would intend to recruit some of the best international students. In the coming year, we will establish 10 scholarships for Chinese research graduates. Links will also be forged through UCD's membership of Universitas 21, a worldwide organisation of leading research-intensive universities.

To mark the start of the new Graduate Schools, we have launched the UCD Ad Astra Research Scholarships (see page 18), and we aim to offer over 100 scholarships in the coming academic year. This will certainly help to drive implementation of the new PhD programme as we will have a core of 100 of the best and brightest people who will be funded for four years. We are also working with the Development Office to attract funding from donors and philanthropy for these scholarships into the future.

Through our current and planned developments, we believe that fourth-level research students will get a high-quality experience at UCD and, ultimately, that they will be in an excellent position to go out and contribute to the knowledge economy and the knowledge society.

Professor Michael P. Ryan is Dean of Doctoral Studies and Postdoctoral Training at UCD and Project Director for the implementation of the Graduate Schools.

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SHINING LIGHT

Conor McPherson has come a long way from his days in Dramsoc.

Belinda McKeon met the playwright in New York as he prepared for the opening of his play, *Shining City*, on Broadway

IT'S A sunny Saturday morning in Manhattan and Conor McPherson (BA '91) walks down West 47th Street with the step of a man who feels right at home. In a couple of days, his play *Shining City* will open on Broadway to rave reviews from *The New York Times*, among others, and McPherson will be the toast of a glittering after-party.

Of course, McPherson doesn't know this yet. Today is just another day of waiting, hoping that the New York production of the play he directed himself last year in Dublin and London will work onstage, that the mix of Irish and American actors will be a successful one, that the accents will be convincing and the performances strong and true. His apprehension is unnecessary, as his new work has already earned two Tony Awards nominations for Best Play and Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play (Oliver Platt).

Some playwrights would be all apprehension in his situation, some all arrogance and bluster, but as he settles into a booth in an Irish bar near his hotel, McPherson seems unstressed, even content, a ripple of self-deprecating humour beneath every word.

Then again, the New York theatre scene is hardly unfamiliar terrain to the 34-year-old; *Shining City* marks his sixth play here in the last eight years. *This Lime Tree Bower*, *The Good Thief*, *Dublin Carol* and *St Nicholas* have all had off-Broadway runs, while in

1999, his best-known play *The Weir* took him to the glittering strip itself for the first time.

It's not with nostalgia that McPherson looks back on the excitement of those earliest years in his career, though, but with a sort of disbelief. Part of him still can't be sure how it happened. "It was weird," he says, half-smiling, half-wincing, "because it should have been impossible to do something like that. But suddenly you've got a review in *The New York Times* and I was only 25 or whatever. And I found that my own opinion of my work was not as high as what others were saying about it."

What they were saying, and what they're still saying, is that McPherson is one of the most original and important playwrights of his generation; that he has made the monologue form superbly his own; that his writing exhibits an almost unnerving intuition for the rhythms and the power of language in the vernacular, and kicks new life into the tradition of story-telling.

"I thought that it shouldn't be so easy," he remembers, "to be here and be doing this and for it to be working." Wondering where the catch was, maybe? "Or just worrying that the standard was very low. Seriously, I thought it was mad that I was getting away with it. I was being told that I had 'arrived', you know? And I felt like I wanted to go a little bit farther before I 'arrived'."

Whether he liked it or not, however, McPherson had very definitely 'arrived'; after all, he had been just two years out of university when his play *This Lime Tree Bower* caused a serious stir at the Dublin Fringe Festival and nabbed for its writer the eager attention of two major London theatres, the Bush and the Royal Court. Both theatres gave him the time (not to mention the money) to work on a number of new plays, and one of those — *The Weir*, commissioned by the Royal Court and premiered in London in 1997 — became one of the most talked-about plays of the decade.

At this stage, McPherson had also written the script to his first feature film, *I Went Down*, which also appeared in 1997 to positive reviews. Between Dublin, London and New York, McPherson was



Photograph: Paula Court

kept busy. But then, business is something he'd got used to years previously, during his time as an undergraduate at UCD.

"I didn't want to go to college at all," he shrugs now, remembering how reluctant he was, at the age of 17, to choose studies in English, Philosophy and Psychology over time spent working on Teenage Fanclub-inspired songs with his band. What were they called? "Squidinky," he laughs, shaking his head. "We sort of saw ourselves as knowing what good songwriting was."

Yet Belfield proved the stronger pull — though a gentle push from his parents was definitely a factor in getting him into the Newman Arts building — and by his second year there, not only had his subjects begun to make a lot more sense, even to be exciting, but he had also developed an interest in a new kind of writing. Theatre had already begun to weave its spell. And it's no surprise to learn that the play that caught the eye of the young McPherson was one which positively pulsed with the visceral power of speaking, with the forcefulness of language itself.

"I read *Glengarry Glen Ross* by David Mamet and when I saw the swearing..." he exhales deeply, as though struck anew by the brutal impact of Mamet's words in his masterpiece from 1984, "I just thought that was the energy and power of the unconscious animal, trying to articulately say something. I just thought that the dialogue was so much more..." — he searches for the right word — "expressive. Stupid thing to say, but it was so much more interesting than rational, considered language; it just seemed like music, somehow. That fascinated me and I decided I wanted to try to do that. So I wrote a little one-act play, which was very much trying to imitate that in Dublin, really. And then I brought it down to Dramsoc." And then? And then, it seems, the work was only just beginning. McPherson was about to discover that there's more to making a play than putting pen to paper.

"I thought I would just come back in a few weeks to watch it, but they were like...well, who's going to direct it? And I was like, well, I don't have a clue and then I realised I'd have to put it on and I'd have to cast it." Another laugh. "So I just had to get on with it."

That was the first play, and in a Dramsoc buzzing with eager and innovative young theatre-makers — several of his colleagues would also go on to become players in the Dublin theatre scene, with one of them, Jason Byrne, currently directing a Brian Friel play on the Abbey stage — plenty more hard graft was to follow. After that first play, *Taking Stock* was produced, McPherson wrote two others — the enigmatically-named *Michelle Pfeiffer* and *Federal Scenes*. The workload was intensive. Yet somehow, neither English nor Philosophy got left behind. As well as being caught up in the whirl of acting and directing as well as writing, McPherson was a serious student where both his subjects were concerned. In fact, it sounds like he might have been the most serious student in the whole of the Newman Arts building; he did something, on a regular basis, that most students can only manage when faced with the panic of final exams.

"I used to get up at seven in the morning and do two hours of study so that I'd be ready to work at Dramsoc for the whole evening," he

'I used to get up at seven in the morning and do two hours of study so that I'd be ready to work at Dramsoc for the whole evening'

says almost bashfully. "Yeah, it was mad, but it was great fun. I really had a great time." So much did he enjoy college, in fact, that he stayed on to do a two-year master's in Philosophy, writing a thesis on ethics, with Sr Joan Newman as his supervisor. Philosophy attracted him "because of how it seemed achievable in some way, logical. There was a neatness to it, which was kind of against my nature. I don't know, maybe I was looking for a way of working through."

With some of his colleagues from Dramsoc, McPherson went on to form a theatre company, Fly By Night, after graduation and it produced a number of short plays in small, unfussy venues like the International Bar and the Crypt. "You look back and realise that that was probably the best time of your life really," he says. "Because it was so unconscious, so enjoyable."

Very soon afterwards, however, came huge success for McPherson. And with it, as by now widely known, came a serious alcohol problem that came close to costing him his life in 2001. It was a tough battle — but, as McPherson himself says, he came out the winner. "I'm free now. I'm totally free." As a writer, he means, as well as a person. "Now that I don't drink, and haven't for five years, my writing has more points of view than it used to. It used to be quite monolithic...this huge weight of one thing. I don't know what that one thing was, but there was this one thing there, always, always, always. But now my writing has more avenues. It's freer. So that's where I am now."

As McPherson shines on Broadway, as audiences get to their feet to applaud *Shining City* at the Biltmore Theatre, his years at UCD and in Dramsoc are, somehow, always in the back of his mind. "It was a huge experience for me and it stood me in great stead," he says. "Everything I know, I learned there, really. I don't know much," he laughs, "but I learned it there."

Belinda McKeon graduated from UCD with an MLitt ('05). Based in New York, today she works as a freelance journalist and contributes regularly to the Irish Times.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ANOTHER YEAR

May 2006



Visit by Australian Prime Minister, John Howard

Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, took in a trip to UCD on his first official visit to Ireland last month.

He spoke on international affairs and took questions from UCD postgraduate students in history, politics and Australian studies. UCD has taught Australian history since 1971 and has one of the longest-running programmes of Australian studies in the world. During his visit, Prime Minister Howard announced that the Australian government would provide funding of AUS\$1.5 million to support the continuation of the Keith Cameron Chair of Australian History at UCD.

UCD Ulysses Medal awarded to global philanthropist

On May 13, Professor Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum, was awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal in recognition of his work for entrepreneurship in the global public interest over the past 35 years. The ceremony took place in the UCD Smurfit School of Business and was followed by an address by Professor Schwab entitled *The Global Economy 2006: Implications for Ireland*.

International Conference on Pervasive Computing

Pervasive, widely recognised as one of the

premier conferences in pervasive computing, held its Fourth International Conference in Dublin 7-10 May and UCD was the host. Professor Paddy Nixon, Head of the newly formed Systems Research Group (SRG) in the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics, was General Chair of the conference; while the Conference Chair was Dr Aaron Quigley, also of SRG.

April 2006

The Ultimate College Ball

On 21 April, UCD held its first ever college-wide ball on the campus at Belfield. Some 3,000 students and alumni enjoyed over 15



acts on four stages, with high-profile headline acts including Bell X1, Damien Dempsey and Republic of Loose. A black-tie event, the ball was a huge success and looks set to become a permanent fixture on the UCD calendar.

Business alumni go back to the future

Over 100 graduates returned to the UCD Quinn School of Business on 6 April. As part of this year's CommDay activities, the class of 2006 invited alumni to come and see for themselves just how much business education had changed at the university. The event, which was sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers, set out to highlight how technology has impacted on and enhanced the learning environment of students. Pictured below at the Back to the Future evening (from left) were: Feargal O'Rourke, PricewaterhouseCoopers; Michelle Kurtz (BComm); Senator Feargal Quinn (BComm '59); Rebecca McCready (BComm); Paul Haran, Principal, UCD College of Business & Law; Mark Byrne (BComm).

Dramsoc tops Student Drama Awards again

April saw UCD Dramsoc win the two top accolades in the Irish Student Drama Awards (ISDA) 2006 in Cork. Harold Pinter's *The Homecoming*, one of UCD's two sub-

missions to the festival, took Best Overall Production and Best Director for Simon Ashe-Browne and Steven Jones. It was the second year running the society has scooped the top awards. In 2005 Dramsoc was named National Society of the Year after hosting

YEAR IN REVIEW



and winning the most prestigious award at the ISDA, Ireland's largest amateur theatre festival. This year the society gained a total of 12 nominations and won three further awards.



UCD-Mater GRU opens

On 3 April, An Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney TD, (pictured above) officially opened the UCD-Mater Genome Resource Unit (GRU) and met with volunteer patients who play their part in the international human genome project. The ultimate goal is to use this information to develop new ways to treat, cure or even prevent the diseases that afflict millions of people. Here in Dublin, scientists and doctors work in tandem, using the genome project to help real patients with real diseases. At the UCD-Mater GRU, the goal is 'translational research', an approach that seeks to substantially reduce the time from disease discovery to appropriate treatment by harnessing the power of genome sequence and new technologies.

Conference marks 40th anniversary of Flann O'Brien's death

In April an academic conference was held to mark the 40th anniversary of the death of Flann O'Brien, one of our illustrious literary alumni. O'Brien first began writing while he was a student at UCD, with his early writings published in a student magazine called *Comhthrom Féinne* under the pseudonym Brother Barnabas. Speakers at the conference included Declan Kiberd of the UCD School of English and Drama and Keith Hopper of the University of Oxford.

Choral Scholars Spring Concert

The UCD Choral Scholars, under the direction of Desmond Early, performed Mozart's Coronation Mass and Fauré's Requiem in St Ann's Church on Dawson Street.

March 2006

UCD wins O2 Ability Award

UCD has received an O2 Ability Award for its leadership position on disability. The Certificate in Citizenship and Advocacy for Students with Intellectual Disabilities was launched in 2004 and was the first of its kind in Europe. It allows students with an intellectual or other disability to participate in university life by enrolling in UCD and attending classes part-time for one year. The O2 Ability Awards, now in its second year, rewards organisations who recognise the contribution that people with disabilities make to business. Pictured top left at the



awards were (from left): Caroline Casey (BA '92, DBS '96, MBS '97), founding CEO of the Aisling Foundation and the O2 Ability Awards; Dr Pádraic Conway, UCD Vice-President for University Relations; Frank Fahey TD, Minister of State at the Department of Justice; and Danuta Gray, CEO, O2 Ireland.

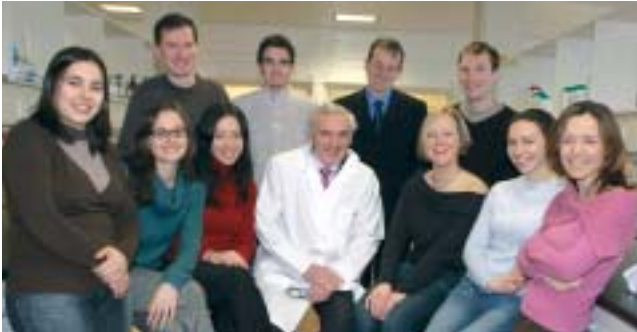
UCD Ladies Hockey win Leinster Cup

UCD displayed its sporting prowess in March when the ladies hockey team won the Leinster Cup Final. UCD Ladies Hockey First XI claimed victory over Railway Union in an exciting match on St Patrick's Day. The win came after Roisin Flinn (pictured above, in UCD's blue and white) scored twice for UCD in the second half of the game. It was the first time since 1951 that the UCD Ladies First XI won the Leinster Cup Final. The winning team was captained by Jane Bourke, coached by Tom O'Donoghue and managed by Pete Johnston.

February 2006

Taoiseach opens UCD Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology

UCD played its part in the creation of a fourth-level Ireland earlier this year with the opening of the new UCD Centre for



Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB). The CSCB, a UCD-led collaboration with Trinity College Dublin and the Royal College of Surgeons, was funded under a €26 million grant from the Higher Education Authority through the Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions. The 2,300sqm building comprises six state-of-the-art laboratories, for synthetic chemistry, mass spectrometric and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopic facilities. Pictured above is An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, TD, with Dr Paul Murphy, CSCB Principal Investigator (back row, second from right) and his research group.



UCD celebrates Mozart's 250th birthday

A number of celebrations took place in UCD to celebrate the 250th birthday of musical genius,

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The UCD School of Music began the celebrations in February with an international conference in Newman House. Some of the world's leading Mozart experts attended, with Cliff Eisen of King's College London (pictured above) presenting the keynote address entitled *Mozart and the Tyranny of Biography*. DVD screenings of five of Mozart's Master Operas also took place, as did DVD screenings of the movie *Amadeus*. A series of lectures on Mozart was held in April and RTÉ's Universities' Concert took place in March. The College Choir also put on a concert in

April, while British pianist Tim Horton gave a recital.

UCD Symphonia annual NCH performance

The UCD Sinfonia presented an eclectic programme which included Copland's *Rodeo* and Rodrigo's

Concierto de Aranjuez. The soloist was guitarist, Redmond O'Toole.

Training bugs to eat plastic

Scientist Kevin O'Connor and his research team at UCD are set to play a significant role in the reduction of polystyrene waste each year. The team, along with Professor Walter Kaminsky of the University of Hamburg, has produced a new technology that shows how a combination of chemistry and microbiology can help transform polystyrene into a u s e f u l biodegradable plastic. If it gains widespread recognition and is put into practice, it could go a long way in saving the environment. Professor Kaminsky uses a technique called pyrolysis, which



uses heat in a vacuum to break down the plastic into a crude pyrolysis oil. The oil is then fed to tiny bugs that transform it into a biodegradable heat-resistant plastic.

January 2006

Chomsky comes to UCD

Noam Chomsky, world-renowned linguist and public intellectual, paid a return visit to UCD to deliver a series of lectures in January.

See page 30 for Deaglan de Bréadún's report on the visit.

ITENIBA Conference at Geary Institute

A politically important and intellectually exciting conference took place at UCD in January, when the ITENIBA (Intergenerational Transmission and Ethno-national Identity in the Border Area) conference was held in the Geary Institute. The event provided a comparative perspective on a question currently being researched at the Geary Institute — the intergenerational transmission of ethno-national identity in the Irish border area. Some of the best contemporary international scholars attended, giving their educated views and analyses of global political economy. The conference focused on the constitution of ethno-national identity and identity shifts in the context of macro-level political change. ITENIBA is supported by a EU programme for peace and reconciliation.

December 2005

Intellectuals and the Nation-State Conference

On 30 November and 1 December, a conference was held at the Clinton Institute for American Studies which examined the role and effect intellectuals have in the making and contesting of national identities and state policies. Speakers included Terry Eagleton of the

YEAR IN REVIEW



University of Manchester, Eric Lott of University of Virginia, Slavoj Zizek of the Institute for Sociology, Ljubljana/Birkbeck College, University of London, and UCD's Declan Kiberd.

UCD Conway makes it to Scrip Award shortlist

The work of the Applied Neurotherapeutics Research Group (ANRG) at UCD Conway Institute was recognised in December when it was nominated and shortlisted for a Scrip Award. The group was shortlisted for the Best Partnership Alliance award with Wyeth Research. Hundreds of industry leaders gathered at the ceremony, which was held in London, and were given the opportunity to recognise the work taking place throughout the pharmaceutical and biotech industries globally. Fully operational since January 2004, the ANRG has its main centre in the UCD Conway Institute. Other members are based at Trinity College Dublin and at Wyeth Neuroscience Research in the US. Pictured on previous page (from left): Prof Frank Walsh, Senior Executive Vice-President, Wyeth Research; Prof Ciaran Regan, Co-ordinator, ANRG; and host John Sergeant (journalist and broadcaster).



UCD Horizons Open Day

Over the course of two days, Friday 9 and Saturday 10 December, over 4,000 leaving certificate and mature students descended on the UCD campus to visit Open Days to discover more about the university and its new modular curriculum, UCD *Horizons*. Having already heard about the new modular curriculum at UCD, students wanted to get answers to their questions straight from the horse's mouth. More than 50 information stands with displays and demonstrations were constructed in UCD's O'Reilly Hall to accommodate the five Colleges, 35 Schools, services and other facilities that now make up the university. Pictured top left are students exploring the UCD campus.

November 2005

UCD Under-21s retain Dr Tony O'Neill trophy

In November, the UCD Under-21s beat Shelbourne 2-1 at Tolka Park to retain the Eircom Under-21 League. First half strikes from Conan Byrne and Ronan Finn were enough to secure the victory for the

experienced students despite a late fightback from Shelbourne. The home side did get on the score sheet with 16 minutes remaining when Daniel Ennis powerfully headed home a Brian King corner but despite some late scares, UCD clung on and nearly grabbed a third goal in injury time when Seamus Long struck the crossbar from close range.

Photographic exhibition reflects UCD's past

A photographic exhibition, *Images of UCD*, which reflected life in UCD through the decades, took place in November. The exhibition was the culmination of the efforts of the UCD Women Graduates' Association, which two years ago asked its members to gather their UCD photographs for a photographic archive they were creating of life at UCD. Stretching back over 100 years, the UCD Women Graduates' Association continues to thrive and members are keenly involved in many aspects of life at UCD. The photographs are currently lodged in the UCD Archives. Pictured above is the 1958/59 First Year Botany class on a field trip to the Botanical Gardens, Glasnevin, led by Pat Boyle.



Former President awarded Foundation Day Medal

Dr Paddy Hillery, the man who, long before he was made President of Ireland, established comprehensive schools ensuring both academic and applied subjects were made available to all pupils within a 10-mile radius of their homes, was honoured by UCD and awarded the UCD Foundation Day Medal last November. Paddy Hillery, BSc '44, MB BCh BAO '47, DPH '52, LLD '62, was presented with the UCD Foundation Day Medal by the President of the university, Dr Hugh Brady, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the formation of modern Ireland and for his constructive support to his alma mater. Pictured (above) at the UCD Foundation Day dinner (from left) were: Dr Paddy Hillery and his wife Maeve; Dr Hugh Brady and Dr Michael Smurfit.



PSNI footballers welcomed to Belfield

In a historic first the Garniville Gaels (the PSNI training college Gaelic football team) played UCD on a rainy October day at Belfield to mark the Northern Irish team's inclusion in the Sigerson Cup — the Gaelic football competition for third-level colleges. "The game was much more than just about the result," said Brian Mullins, UCD's Director of Sport. "Sport is a great leveller. It breaches political and other barriers and shows the next generation what can be achieved. We are delighted that UCD hosted the first game of Garniville Gaels in the colleges' competition." PSNI's Paddy Linnig is photographed below testing the UCD defence.

October 2005

Launch of Irish Universities Association

The representative body of the seven Irish universities changed its name from the Conference of Heads of Irish Universities (CHIUI) to the Irish Universities Association (IUA) as it believed the new name better

represents the objectives of the organisation and its work. The IUA provides a forum for the presidents and senior officers of the universities to identify the strategic challenges facing the university system and to agree on the policies and plans for tackling them and developing the sector. It also unveiled its new website www.iua.ie.

September 2005

UCD researchers win President of Ireland Awards

Two UCD researchers were among five recipients to receive over €4 million from Science Foundation Ireland under its President of Ireland Young Researcher Award (PIYRA) scheme over a five-year

YEAR IN REVIEW

period. Dr Jarlath Nally and Dr Scott Rickard are UCD's recipients of the PIYRA awards. A graduate of UCD, Dr Nally is currently a postdoctoral fellow in UCLA and will be based in the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, in the College of Life Sciences. Scott Rickard, a graduate of MIT and Princeton University, is a lecturer in the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering.

UCD's class of 1955 returns to college

September saw a get-together of more than 150 veteran UCD alumni from the class of 1955 who gathered at a special ceremonial event in the O'Reilly Hall to mark the golden jubilee year of their graduation. Following an ecumenical service, the alumni were each presented with a commemorative scroll by UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady. Among the veteran alumni at the event was Professor Cathal O'Neill who had become a world authority on architecture since graduating from UCD. He told of how he had studied in a totally different environment at Earlsfort Terrace, at a time when the student number totalled around 2,000.

Government announces €72 million research investment

The government has approved a proposal from IDA Ireland to fund the establishment of the National Institute for Bioprocessing, Research and Training (NIBRT) which is to be established by UCD, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University and Sligo Institute of Technology and will be based at the UCD Industry Park. It will receive in excess of €72 million over the next seven years in state support to establish the Institute, its world-class research and training programmes and a 9,000sqm facility with a substantial scale-up capacity. The NIBRT will be a centre of excellence in bioprocessing and biomanufacturing technology training and research to support the rapidly growing biopharmaceutical industry in Ireland.



August 2005



UCD launches new crest

As part of the strategic planning process and as an expression of the university's objective to become one of Europe's top universities, UCD launched its new crest, designed to reinforce its strengths in terms of academic excellence and national significance. The university undertook market research among students, staff, graduates and the outside community on their perceptions of the university and its identity. The revised crest focuses on the strong and powerful images that match the perceptions of the university. The redrawn crest reflects a forward-looking confidence while including iconic images representing the university's heritage and influence. Those who like the more traditional style need not worry as the university re-established the 1911 crest for formal items such as graduation parchments.

IUATM symposium on impact biomechanics

Many scientific nuisances in the area of impact biomechanics were addressed at a major four-day conference hosted by UCD on 10 August. Topics explored included how the various limbs, organs and tissues of the human body would react to moderate or severe impact forces or blast loads and how appropriately designed injury protection systems can reduce injury severity and the number of fatalities. The conference, which was attended by 100 delegates and speakers from 19 countries, helped to define future research challenges. Papers presented at the event were published following international peer review. Prof Michael Gilchrist of UCD's School of Engineering organised and chaired the conference.

ChangingWorlds opens new R&D centre at NovaUCD

A new research and development (R&D) centre was opened by UCD spin-out and technology provider ChangingWorlds at NovaUCD on 2 August. The team of software engineers employed at the centre collaborate with researchers at UCD's Smart



Media Institute to build a pipeline of advanced personalisation technologies for the mobile telecommunications industry. ChangingWorlds was co-founded in 1999 by Professor Barry Smyth and Paul Cotter to commercialise their research at the Smart Media Institute. The company is now a leader in the provision of personalisation and mobile portal solutions. Its software has been deployed by more than 20 mobile network operators worldwide, including Vodafone and O2. Pictured opposite page (from left): Vincent Ryan, Vice-President Sales & Marketing, ChangingWorlds; Dr Pat Frain, Director, NovaUCD; and Luke Conroy, CEO, ChangingWorlds.

July 2005

UCD International Summer School

The UCD International Summer School ran during July and explored Irish history and politics, culture and identity, through a combination of lectures, interactive workshops and fieldtrips over a two-and-a-half week period. The programme featured lectures on topics across many fields,

including art, archaeology, folklore, theatre, music, history and politics.

June 2005

Honorary doctorates awarded

As the UCD 150 celebrations drew to a close, four honorary doctorates were awarded to recipients who had made an impact on the world through their artistic, scientific and academic work. The recipients were Bob Geldof, Neil Jordan, Robert Gallo and Carole Pateman. Dr Hugh Brady said they each reflected the guiding principles of the university and would be "an inspiration to current and future generations of students".

Women's Rowing win at Henly Regatta

The UCD Senior Eight crew recorded an historic victory at the Women's Henly regatta, beating a very strong international field from the US and the UK. The same crew also won the Senior Eight event at the National Rowing Championship in July.

UCD 150 alumni garden party

Friday 24 June saw the culmination of the UCD 150 anniversary celebrations at a garden party for graduates in the surrounds of O'Reilly Hall in Belfield (pictured above). All alumni had been invited and they came out in force with more than 600 alumni spending a nostalgic evening with former classmates and friends. The event was a great success and rounded off the UCD 150 celebrations in style.

The UCD Aesthetic book launched

Bloomsday (16 June) saw the launch of *The UCD Aesthetic: Celebrating 150 Years of UCD Writers*. Compiled by our own Dr Anthony Roche, the book demonstrates the remarkable crop of talented writers that the university has produced since its inception. The 28 authors celebrated include John Henry Newman himself, James Joyce, Flann O'Brien, Frank McGuinness and John McGahern, while many of the contributors are acclaimed writers themselves, such as Colm Toibin, Declan Kiberd, Conor McPherson and Joseph O'Connor. Joseph O'Connor's essay on John McGahern is reproduced on page 44 of this magazine.

As the 100th Newman Fellowship is launched, the university hopes to match the scheme's success with an exciting range of postgraduate scholarships under the Ad Astra banner.

Ann O'Dea reports



Reaching for the STARS

THE PRESTIGIOUS Newman Fellowship programme reached a milestone this year with the funding of the 100th Newman Fellow in Archaeology by the National Roads Authority. Such external funding is essential to support the research agenda at UCD and to attract only the most talented students and researchers. To date, some 70 Irish and international companies, semi-state bodies, voluntary organisations and individuals have donated over €8.6 million to fund the Newman Fellowship Programme.

"The Newman Fellowships have been very successful in attracting an extremely high

calibre of candidate," says Gerry Looby, Director of Development at UCD. "Many of our Newman Fellows have gone on to highly successful careers in both academic and other sectors of society."

He points to prominent Newman fellows like Kevin Whelan, one of Ireland's best-known and widely published historians and historical adviser to the Irish government on the Famine and the 1798 Rebellion. Whelan is also Smurfit Director of the Keough Notre Dame Centre in Dublin, the international centre of excellence in Irish Studies.

Other fellows have gone on to prominent positions within the university itself like Brigid Laffan, Principal of UCD College of

Human Sciences. Laffan was the founding Director of the Dublin European Institute, UCD, in 1999 and in 2004 she was elected as a member of the Royal Irish Academy. She is an adviser on EU enlargement to the Oireachtas Foreign Affairs Committee and a member of the Irish Government's High Level Asia Strategy Group.

External funding is key to expanding and enhancing the research opportunities offered, says Looby, who adds that funding from external donors for Newman Fellows has been extremely generous since their inception back in 1989. "The Newman Fellowships are very prestigious and so successful that we have been delighted to

'The Newman Fellowships are very prestigious and so successful that we have been delighted to find many donors renewing their funding for fellowships'

find many donors renewing their funding for fellowships."

Each Newman Fellow is endowed for a two-year period and undertakes a major research project that generates numerous publications. UCD provides facilities for these scholars and supports them academically during their tenure.

As part of its bid to enhance and expand postgraduate research opportunities, UCD launched its new Ad Astra Research Scholarships in April, the name derived from the UCD motto. These new scholarships are open to all students undertaking research degrees, especially PhD, in any subject within the university.

At a time when the world's leading research universities are competing fiercely for the most talented postgraduate students, UCD needs to not only retain its best candidates but also to attract the best and brightest postgraduates from other

countries and universities. By offering a very attractive package of supports for master's and doctoral research students, the Ad Astra scholarships should help UCD do just that.

This year, UCD will offer over 100 Ad Astra Research Scholarships across the university, representing €8.5 million in funding, some of which will come from the university, but much of which will be through the generosity of external donors. Already five Ad Astra scholarships have been sponsored by the Bray Lions Club, Denis Kelliher and the 3Ts (Turning the Tide of Suicide), the latter sponsoring three scholarships in Suicide Studies.

The first Ad Astra scholarship in Suicide Studies has already been awarded to textile artist Seamus McGuinness, who will take up his post at the School of Medicine and Medical Science in September, in a move which sees an intriguing marriage of Science and the Arts. Originally from Donegal and a lecturer in textile design at the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, McGuinness has been working in the area of suicide for several years. He will work under the direction of UCD professor of psychiatry Professor Kevin Malone and their intention is to move from awareness to the acquisition of new knowledge around suicide.

"I'm very excited about the new scholarship, which will allow me to concentrate my time 100% in the subject matter," says McGuinness. "By looking at the area of suicide from two very different angles of science and art, we're hoping to acquire new knowledge in the area of suicide in modern Ireland and place it in a language that people will understand."

Looby says UCD is also looking to its alumni to assist in the funding of these important scholarships and will launch a major fundraising programme with alumni later this year.

Pictured are artist Seamus McGuinness (left), UCD's first Ad Astra scholar, with Professor Kevin Malone standing within McGuinness's 21 Grams installation. He says the shirts depict the lives lost and the empty shell of early manhood left behind with the destruction in the wake of suicide.

Access all areas

Alumni support is also contributing to expanding access at undergraduate level through initiatives such as the New ERA Access programme and the UCD Sports Development Fund

At undergraduate level, UCD alumni have supported the provision of scholarships to the New ERA Access programme and the Sports Development Fund. Simply through using the UCD AIB affinity credit card, alumni have contributed over €600,000 toward the two initiatives in the last six years.

The aim of the UCD New ERA Access programme is to increase access and participation in higher education among those who for a variety of socio-economic reasons have traditionally been under-represented at third level. Launched in 1997, the New ERA initiative has seen some 350 students enrolled in courses across all faculties who traditionally might not have opted for third-level study. Some 111 students entered UCD via the UCD New ERA Access programme during 2005 alone.

Donations from the affinity cards go towards financial scholarships that help New ERA students with rent, living expenses, travel and book costs. Since the programme's inception in 1997, there have been a total of 132 graduates, with 75% of these achieving first or second class honours degrees.

A sporting chance

Funds from the affinity cards also go toward the UCD Sports Development Fund, which provides financial support for several sports activities at UCD, such as the all-important Sports Scholarship Programme which has proven to be an integral part of UCD remaining at the forefront of national and international sport. In the 2005/06 academic year, 105 UCD students were awarded sports scholarships in 15 different disciplines, including soccer, GAA, rugby and basketball. *See profiles of some of our leading sports scholars on page 56.*

GRAND DESIGNS

A recently published footprint of the next generation of the Belfield campus contains ambitious plans for its buildings and amenities over the coming decade



Proposed land use zones to encourage 24-7 campus life

THE UCD Belfield campus has undergone several facelifts since its inception in 1964 to reflect and accommodate the dynamic nature of its inhabitants and surroundings. The original 1964 campus plan, drawn up by Andrej Werjchert for President Michael Tierney, set out to create an infrastructure to meet the primary teaching and research objectives of the university through an expansive environment where students and academics could engage and work. This principle was maintained when the campus underwent the subsequent design revisions in 1973, 1986, 1998 and 2002 that were necessitated by social and physical changes.

As much as each of these periods of change was greeted with welcomed excitement, nobody could have anticipated the explosion of development that occurred over the last five years when more than 75,000m² of new buildings was constructed.

A new vision of the campus was once

again deemed necessary in 2005 and following a tendered competition, the task of drawing up the blueprints was awarded to architect firm Murray O’Laoire.

The Belfield campus currently consists of 48% green space, amenity and development land, 29% sports facilities, 10% roads and car parking, 9% building and 4% managed woodland – a wonderful campus that compares favourably with any international university. With an estimated daytime population of 20,000 it is a hive of activity during term time. The combination of on-campus amenities and facilities – academic, sporting, residential and recreational – make it the best university campus in Ireland.

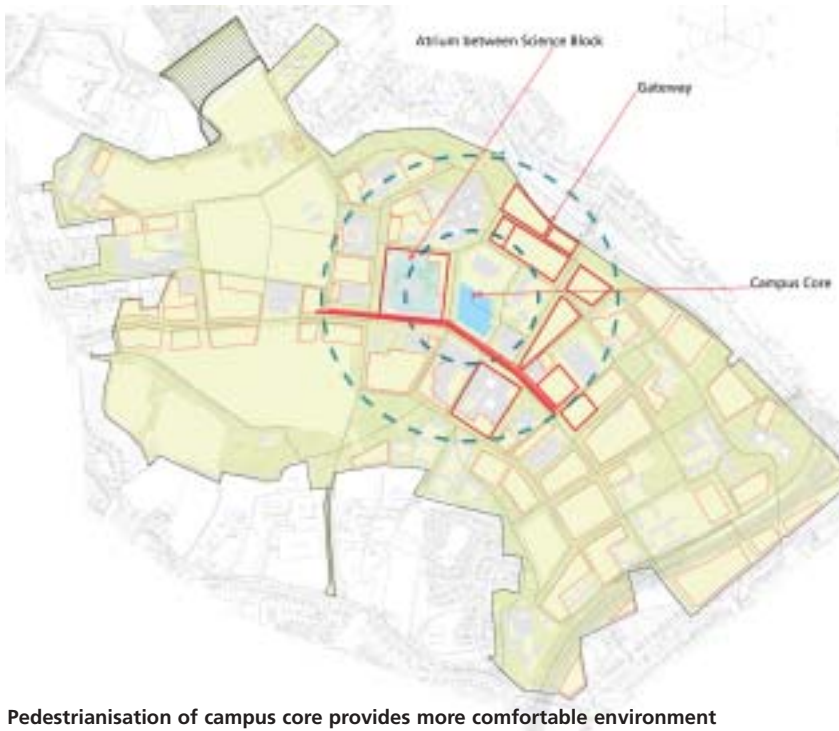
The campus is regarded as Arcadian, with its leafy surroundings and vast open spaces giving students and staff a sense of openness and self-containment. Conversely, the nature of university life leaves the campus empty and quiet in the evenings and out of term. The university now wishes to rotate its inward focus and engage with the wider community. This

objective requires the development of a sustainable and living campus, the provision of facilities – be they commercial, educational or cultural – in locations that invite in the outside community of Dublin city and visitors.

The Gateway Project, which promotes the idea of year-round use of facilities by students, staff and outside communities, is central to this plan’s success. The development of economically viable facilities will ultimately benefit the student body and the academic community and in so doing, the seed of increased public engagement is sown.

From Arcadia to Utopia

The first step in any campus development plan is to address the existing woes. At Belfield they include: the volume of cars; lack of parking spaces; creaking transport infrastructure; dead space in the evenings, at the weekends and out of term; lack of urban heart that encourages people to stay on campus; reduced local private rental accommodation; inadequate facilities to display our historical and



Pedestrianisation of campus core provides more comfortable environment

'The university wishes to rotate its inward focus and engage with the wider community'

cultural treasures; wasted opportunities to promote the university to the thousands of visitors and conference delegates who spend time here; and of course the inevitable lack of working space for staff and communal spaces for students.

The plan proposed by Murray O'Laoire tackles these and other infrastructural issues. It divides the campus into five distinct land uses:

- the academic core, centred on the lake with a main pedestrian avenue running from UCD Quinn School of Business to the Sports Centre
- the Gateway area, which runs from the main entrance to the core and incorporates new cultural, amenity,

academic, alumni, retail and commercial facilities

- the residential areas that intensify on-campus residences, create a more vibrant living campus and reduce commuting
- consolidated Sports on the west side of the campus, building on the current facilities to international standards
- the innovation park on the eastern end of the campus with the addition of NIBRT to the NovaUCD complex at Merville House.

Core to good planning are embedded principles covering transport, green space and amenity, land use density and utility services.

Despite the fact that the largest bus terminus in Dublin is located on campus, the significant increase in private car usage by students and staff has threatened Belfield's Arcadian setting. Since temporary surface car parks are neither desirable nor sustainable, the plan sets out locations for a number of multi-storey and semi-basement car parks outside an extended pedestrian rim.

Good architectural design favouring higher-density development in designated areas rather than small building extensions or stand-alone pavilions is the key tenet to the protection and conservation of its open spaces. The plan also proposes an evaluation audit of some of the existing buildings with a view to long-term planning for replacement or increased height extension. The plan also recognises the value in retaining the original demesne houses of Roebuck Castle, Merville House, Belfield House, Ardmore House, Woodview and Richview.

The landscaping strategy aims to enhance the biodiversity of the campus through tree planting, amenity walks and the extension of the surface water feature from the lake through the Gateway area. The enhancement of UCD's parkland, much of which was planted during the development of the original estates in the 18th and 19th centuries, will include a 6km perimeter route designed for jogging, walking and cycling.

The UCD campus has, since its inception, played a key role in the local area, as a major employer and a valuable recreational and sporting amenity for the local community. The new vision for the campus hopes to extend that relevancy to an even wider community, whether they be Dubliners, or the growing number of overseas visitors attending major conferences here. It's an ambitious plan, but it's a vision which is ultimately attainable.

UCD will be hosting public open days on campus, when full details of the Campus Development Plan will be available to view. Keep an eye on www.ucd.ie where we will be posting details of times and venues.



Plans for the move from Earlsfort Terrace to Belfield will include the provision of a new home for the Kevin Barry window. The window is truly one of UCD's treasures and will be given pride of place on the Belfield campus.



END OF AN ERA

The imminent move from Earlsfort Terrace finally sees the realisation of Michael Tierney's dream of 40 years to bring all disciplines on to one campus. But it is not without sadness that we'll bid farewell to the old city campus

Today only Medicine and Civil Engineering remain at Earlsfort Terrace, but the imposing building was designed as the headquarters of UCD back in the late 1910s and early 1920s.

Designed by Rudolph Maxmilian Butler, Earlsfort Terrace was built to house the entire university. Maxmilian Butler was a leading church architect at the time, editor of the prestigious *Irish Builder* and head of architecture in UCD from 1924 to 1943.

The old campus was always wrapped up with the early development of the Irish State, with many of the staff and students participating in the Easter Rising in 1916 and the subsequent War of Independence. One of Earlsfort's best-loved features is the marvellous Kevin Barry window (pictured left) in the eponymous seminar room on the concourse. It commemorates the young UCD medical student who was hanged for his part in an ambush on

British soldiers during the War of Independence.

As the university outgrew Earlsfort Terrace in the 1960s, various parcels of land were purchased at Belfield and the campus faculties were gradually moved there, under the auspices of UCD president Dr Michael Tierney who had a clear vision for a unique suburban campus. The final move from Earlsfort marks the realisation of Tierney's dream, but it will be with some nostalgia that students and alumni alike say farewell to the old campus.

The 2007 issue of UCD Connections will include a major retrospective of the Earlsfort Terrace campus. If you're an Earlsfort Terrace alumnus, we'd be delighted to hear of any memories, anecdotes or photos of your time there. Please send all materials to: Alumni Development Office, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4 or email: alumni@ucd.ie.



**Forward I am heavy,
but backwards I am not.
What am I?**

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Thinking beyond the obvious

As Secretary General of the European Commission, Catherine Day (BA '74, MA '75) is the first woman to take on the role of the EU's most senior official. **Jane Suiter** spoke to her on Europe, enlargement and globalisation

DAY IN THE LIFE

CATHERINE DAY, Secretary-General of the European Commission, the most senior EU official and one-time architect of enlargement, is a distinguished graduate of the old Group IX degree of the UCD Arts Faculty of Economics and Politics. At the time Group IX was taught by some of the university's most illustrious economists — Paddy Lynch, James Meenan, John O'Donovan and Garret FitzGerald — many have gone on to distinguished careers in the public and private sector.

Yet Day was in the front rank of such graduates, with first honours in both her BA and MA in International Trade and Economic Integration. She was conferred with an honorary Doctorate of Laws two years ago.

She was very much a local at UCD. Brought up in Mount Merrion, she attended Mount Anville before going on to study at Belfield. "It was a really stimulating and enjoyable time to be at UCD," she

'I am confident we can enlarge further and increase the prosperity and future well-being of all our people'

recalls. "Ireland joined the EEC in 1973 and we were all excited and looking to the future. It was the topic of all our debates."

Day's first job was with the Investment Bank of Ireland before moving to the Confederation of Irish Industry, IBEC's forerunner, as EC information officer. By 1979, however, she had joined the Commission and by 1982, when Richard Burke became Commissioner for the second time, he appointed her to his cabinet.

"Up to that point I had been involved with technical work. This was a totally different side to the Commission and overtly political as opposed to technical." Day excelled and it was the start of a 14-year unbroken run in four cabinets. At the same time, she also managed to help set up a UCD alumni chapter in Brussels that still meets intermittently. "It has between 150 and 200 members and it is usually a great social evening."

Quickly spotted for her extraordinary capacity for hard work, within two years Day was working for Peter Sutherland and was suddenly responsible for state aid policy, where vested interests were tackled. Day says these were the times when the foundations were laid for the opening up of the airlines and telecommunications sectors to competition.

Unusually, when Sir Leon Brittan took over the post in 1989 he made sure to retain Day. Now, on top of her responsibility for state aid policy, she was given the job of looking after relations with central and eastern Europe, namely the new accession states and the Russian Federation.

By 1996 she was Deputy Chef de Cabinet to Brittan and had responsibility for developing a new transatlantic agenda, as well as looking after the Balkans, Cyprus and Malta. "Working in the cabinet was fascinating, as you see the problems through a political spectrum," she notes. "Given that I was involved with competition policy and we were putting the internal market in

place, it was also very substantive work. I was also lucky enough to work with very reform-minded commissioners."

Her progress continued to be meteoric. Courteous and good humoured, but with a will of steel, she surmounted every challenge Europe threw at her. Before enlargement she was promoted to deputy director in Chris Patten's external relations Directorate General (DG). "My job was to help the countries understand and prepare for enlargement," she explains. "In one way we were actually working on both sides of the fence. We had to help them get there, but we also had to decide if they had come far enough. It was enormously stimulating and I would say in many ways it was the most exciting and rewarding part of my career."

It was also a great preparation for her current role, a large part of which is taken up with dealing with ambassadors from the various member states and offering the overall Commission view to the European Parliament. In fact, she says her entire career path turned out to be a preparation for the top job. "I have experience of the political and can grasp the technical. I have good experience of a range of DGs and of dealing with the outside. It was all to ultimately prove to be the best training ground."

Day was subsequently to become deputy director general for relations with the western Balkans and the Mediterranean before becoming Director General for the environment. This was a real break from her background in trade.

Summit of success

Finally she became Secretary-General, the top job in the EU, succeeding another Irish colleague David O'Sullivan. She says their shared nationality is coincidental but that it is also a testament to how well thought of the Irish are in EC circles. "In many ways it would be difficult to have two people following each other from some of the bigger countries such as France, Germany or the UK."

The challenge now she says is to consolidate all the different departments across the EU and ensure that they work together. But her capacity for hard work will certainly be called upon. The EU, she admits, has received a "few knocks" and the 'Nos' from the French and the Dutch referendums provided a salutary reminder that the public needs to be brought along.

"I am eternally optimistic, however, and I really believe we are coming out of that crunch period. After all, the prime ministers were able to reach agreement on the budget in December which many had doubted beforehand."

But she stresses the real task ahead is to persuade the people of Europe that globalisation is an opportunity and not a threat. "We can only deal with it by working together. People are worried about their pensions, healthcare, climate change and that we will be overwhelmed by the rise of China, India and Brazil. But together we can ensure that Europe has an important role to play and has values that others respect. Other countries such as China and Russia want Europe to be a key world player. Our multinational, negotiated approach based on rules is really the only fair way," she points out.

She is also optimistic about future enlargement, with Romania joining the ranks in the next year or so, to be followed by Croatia and Turkey and finally the rest of the Balkans. "We have to acknowledge the concerns of our citizens but the last wave was very successful, even if a lot to digest all at once. I am confident we can enlarge further and increase the prosperity and future well-being of all our people."

With Day at the helm, this enormous task somehow seems all the more achievable.

Jane Suiter is a financial and economics journalist and for many years wrote for The Irish Times. She graduated with a BA in Economics and Politics ('89) and is today pursuing a PhD in Political Science.

Don Godson's management style and business foresight formed the cornerstone of CRH's phenomenal success worldwide. **Grainne Rothery** spoke to him about his long and illustrious engineering career since graduating from UCD in 1961



CONSTRUCTION SIGHT

DON GODSON (BE '61) sometimes wonders how his life might have panned out if he'd left Ireland in 1961 to take up a scholarship on offer from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Others may well wonder how CRH would have developed without his involvement, initially as development director, then as head of US operations during a pioneering period of acquisitions in the US, and later as group chief executive from 1994 to 2000 when profits grew from €150 million to nearly €600 million.

As it was, after graduating from UCD with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1961, the former Synge Street student decided to start work straight away instead of accepting the scholarship. His first job was with DuPont in Derry, where the company was building a major chemical plant. Godson says DuPont was an exciting and innovative company, a leader in critical path scheduling, project management and site safety. His early exposure to US management would influence his own management style later.

When the project was nearing completion, he applied for a US visa and, while waiting for it, took a job in the Irish Sugar/Erin Foods research centre in Carlow. In 1964, he set off on the first of many trips to the US, travelling to San Francisco with Dr Tadhg Twomey, director of research at Irish Sugar, to look at new developments in food

processing. On his return, Godson helped to re-design an innovative freeze-drying plant in Mallow.

He subsequently joined Cadbury and was involved in a major expansion of its Coolock plant, which applied new chemical engineering techniques to chocolate manufacturing. Around that time, he started a Master of Industrial Engineering degree programme at UCD, which updated his primary engineering skills, provided new insights into operations research and design of production systems, and also included accounting, marketing and HR programmes from the Business School.

Cementing relations

At the beginning of 1968, he was on the move again, this time to Roadstone, which was the leading Irish company in aggregates, asphalt and concrete, with annual sales of around €12 million. He was taken on as development manager under Dr Bill Murray. On hearing that Godson had previously been involved in several major projects, Tom Roche, Roadstone's visionary and entrepreneurial founder, put him in charge of building a giant quarry at Belgard Castle in Clondalkin. He looked to the US for inspiration and, together with two senior designers, embarked on a tour of leading US quarries, developing the main design concepts for the project on the road.

'I never went to work without looking forward to it'

Towards the end of that project, he was involved in evaluating a cement plant at the same location. At that time, Irish Cement had a monopoly in the Irish market and Roadstone was its major customer.

Godson was friendly with a number of people in Irish Cement's senior team, including Brian Kearney and Jim Walsh, who were also UCD engineering graduates. Indeed, he and his family were on holiday in west Cork with Kearney and Walsh and their families when the news came through that Roadstone had made a hostile bid for Irish Cement. In the midst of all that, Readymix UK made a hostile bid for Roadstone.

Input from the common shareholder, Irish Life, resulted in Roadstone and Irish Cement merging to become Cement Roadstone Holdings (CRH) in 1970. Godson says it took a while for the two different cultures to gel. "Roadstone was Tom Roche-style, low key and entrepreneurial, whereas Irish Cement had an establishment view of things," he explains. Having won a Fulbright Scholarship to attend the UC Berkeley Business School, Godson was glad to take a brief break from it all.

When he returned to Ireland, Jim Culliton was appointed CEO and he himself became CRH development director. At the time, the company was almost completely dependent on the Irish market. With limited scope for domestic growth and indications that things were going to get tougher in the Irish construction industry, Culliton set goals for CRH to grow internationally while continuing to upgrade the core business in Ireland.

In the early 1970s, CRH expanded in the UK and the Netherlands, and managed projects in Iran, Kuwait and Nigeria during the first Oil Crisis. But, with its US\$400 billion construction market, Godson saw the US as a land of opportunity for CRH. From 1977, he commuted to New York for a year before moving over full-time. He acquired CRH's first US company in 1978. CRH is now the largest construction materials company in the US. "We had a very good growth model,"

he says. "We bought family-owned businesses. Owners felt comfortable with CRH's management style and stayed on to grow their businesses."

Before leaving Ireland, Godson had been advised by a top management consultant that CRH had no transferable skills to bring to the US. "I realised later that the transferable skill was the ability to work with entrepreneurs," he says. "I met a lot of Tom Roche-style owners over there. They continued to lead their companies. Value was created by building a learning organisation that captured best practice from every company rather than handing down corporate edicts on tablets of stone."

Man of stone

Godson returned to Ireland in 1994 as group CEO. During his time at the helm he reorganised to facilitate the development of the company in Poland, Ukraine, Finland, the Baltic States and South America. He remained on the board until 2004 and still stays close to former colleagues with whom he shared a 36-year adventure. CRH continues its strong growth under CEO Liam O'Mahony. Last year, pre-tax profits reached €1.28 billion. The group now employs 66,500 people at 2,600 locations in 25 countries and has delivered compound annual growth in total shareholder returns of 19.5% per annum over the past 35 years.

Today Godson is on the board of the UCD Graduate School of Business and is a director of AIB. He's also chairman of Ireland's leading engineering firm, Project Management (PM), founded by his ex-UCD and CRH friends, Jim Walsh and Brian Kearney, and now led by another UCD and CRH graduate, Pat McGrath. "My contribution has been to try to encourage PM to do a bit of the CRH thing and grow overseas," he says. "PM has developed in the UK and Poland and is looking further afield to Asia and the US."

Although he has always had an interest in the arts, Godson believes that his engineering training stood him in good stead throughout his career. "It provided a good basic skill set for structuring and solving problems, be they in engineering or in business," he points out. And he has no regrets about passing up the opportunity to go to MIT in 1961. "I've had a lot of fun and friendships and frequent flyer miles and I never went to work without looking forward to it," he says.

Grainne Rothery graduated with a BA in History of Art and German ('86) and now works as a freelance journalist and writer.

Mind's

EYE

Professor Ciaran Regan has been researching the highly complex area of nerve connections in the brain for over a generation. He talks to [Claire O'Connell](#) about his achievements in neuroscience

AS YOU read this magazine, something amazing is starting to connect deep in your brain. Signals are racing along circuits of interlinked brain cells, circuits that can rewire like a network exchange to create new routes for information. This fizzing maelstrom of connections is the basis of how we process new experiences, how we learn and remember. And if those connections go awry, disease can result.

UCD neuroscientist Professor Ciaran Regan has spent more than 25 years looking at what makes brain cells 'plastic', or able to forge these new links. And whether he is figuring out the basics of how the brain wires itself, or collaborating with industry to look at brain disease, he has built a sterling scientific career on making the right connections.

He currently directs the Applied Neurotherapeutics Research Group (ANRG) based at the UCD Conway Institute, which has teamed up with Wyeth Pharmaceuticals to look at the molecular events involved in brain connections during memory formation and in diseases such as schizophrenia and depression. They aim to develop new approaches to detecting and treating these conditions.

It all started when he graduated from UCD with a zoology degree, going on to pursue a PhD in the proteins that help mediate vision in fish species. He moved to the University of Nijmegen in the late 1970s and while there he met a mentor called John Marshall who was interested in how the brain regains speech function after damage. Their evening discussions over Bordeaux wine — Marshall's other interest — fuelled the young researcher's intrigue about the notion of nerve connections changing in the brain.

"I had become absolutely captivated by this whole idea," recalls Regan. "In those days this was really quite novel, outrageous thinking and we were talking about neuroplasticity before the term had even been invented."

Regan developed this interest in brain cell connectivity with the Medical Research Council in London, where he looked at proteins on the surface of nerves and helped identify a 'sticky' protein called N-CAM that seemed to play a pivotal role in linking connecting nerve cells.

He moved back to UCD, this time to the pharmacology department, to set up his own research group and in the early 1990s they made a groundbreaking discovery that set a new paradigm in the field of memory research. "It took me ages to try to figure out what was going on and it suddenly struck," says Regan of the breakthrough, which showed how and when N-CAM is involved in processing memory in rats. They found the animals first overproduced sticky connections between nerve cells in the hours after learning a new task and then slowly weeded out the non-essential ones over two days.

Regan is particularly fond of the three papers his group published in 1992 to describe the seminal results. "To this day they are cited in any paper on this subject, so that for me is just great, 14 years and still rolling," he adds.

Pharma field

More recently, his research focus has shifted towards drug development and he is no stranger to collaborating with industry. While such associations are commonplace today, back in the 1980s and 1990s the research climate in Ireland wasn't as supportive of ties with big business. But this didn't deter Regan, who established a series of fruitful associations with biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies.

And again, connections came into play. All Regan's collaborations with industry have arisen through personal contacts and trust. "Because when you think about it, the pharma industry is taking very substantial career risks — if it goes wrong, it is in very serious trouble," he points out.

As his interest in the drug-related aspect grew in the late 1990s,

Regan took a sabbatical and went to GlaxoSmithKline in the UK to get an inside view of drug development. "I thought UCD was quite insightful in allowing me to fly the coop for a year to spend my sabbatical in the pharma industry, because the tut-tutting from the academic community was loud — it was thought that I had taken the king's shilling and just gone to industry," he recalls.

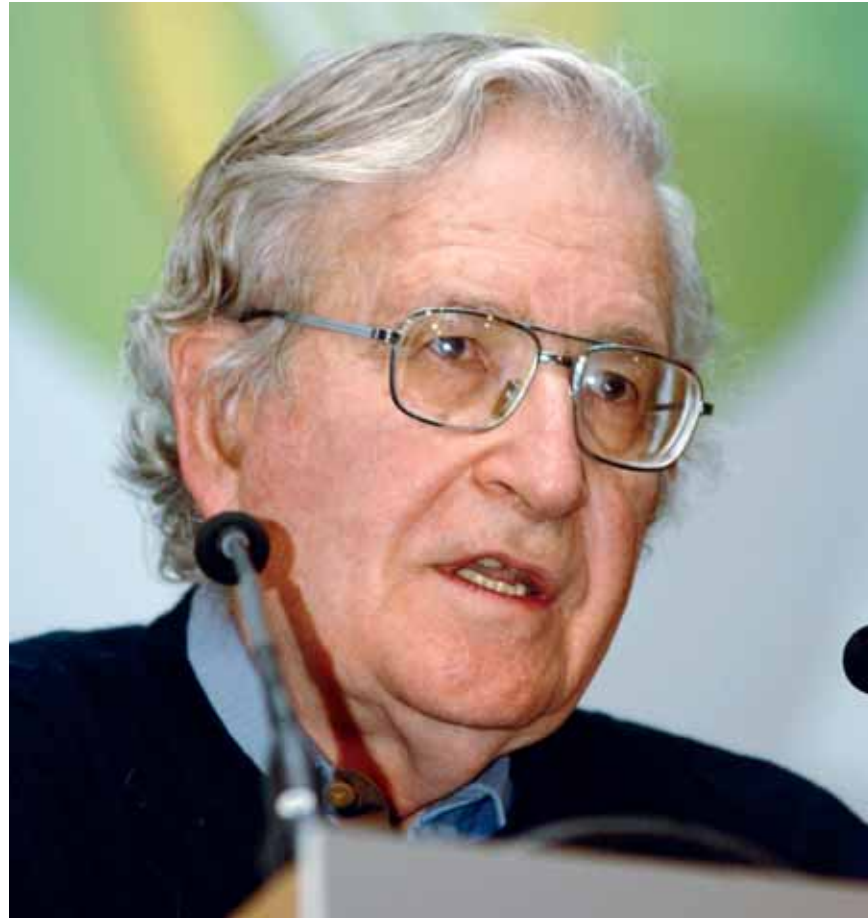
But it was all part of a larger plan. Regan came back to UCD and in 2003 got support from Science Foundation Ireland and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals to set up an interdisciplinary research cluster, the ANRG, to look at brain disease. With funding of €10 million, it was the largest collaboration between basic research and the pharmaceutical industry that Ireland had ever seen.

The ANRG hopes to improve on our current anti-depressant and anti-psychotic drug therapies, which were discovered by serendipity in the 1950s and have advanced little since, explains Regan. By going back to the drawing board, the researchers use animal models of memory and disease to look for molecular events involved in plasticity changes in the brain. Ultimately, they want to find the molecules that differ between healthy and diseased states, most substantially in schizophrenia, but they are also working on depression and Alzheimer's disease.

This molecular approach can identify 'biomarkers' that indicate the early stages of a brain condition, allowing for early treatment. And it can find new targets for developing drugs to treat that disease. But Regan points out that the work is pre-clinical and that any human therapies arising from this research will take around 10 years to develop.

And while the plasticity research forges ahead, Regan also takes time to reflect on the wider connections between drug use and culture, which was the subject of his popular science book, *Intoxicating Minds*. "It has resulted in many invitations to speak at interesting forums, which has been a lot of fun," he concludes. It's all about connections.

Claire O'Connell graduated from UCD with a BSc in Botany ('92) and a PhD in Pharmacology ('98). She works as a freelance science journalist and is a frequent contributor to The Irish Times.



THE AGE OF DISSIDENCE

For three nights in January, the world-renowned linguist and political dissident Noam Chomsky held a packed O'Reilly Hall to rapt attention. Irish Times journalist and UCD graduate [Deaglán de Bréadún](#) recalls chairing one of the lectures

ONE OF the best titles for a magazine article I have ever seen was *UCD As I Forget It*, a beautifully written piece by novelist Kate O'Brien that was published in *University Review*, reminiscing about her student days when the college was located in Earlsfort Terrace.

Drowned in the well of forgetfulness, some of my own old memories came back to life as I sat in O'Reilly Hall on 17 January waiting for Noam Chomsky to give a lecture. As we waited, a series of black and white photographs from the university's past flashed before us from a screen at the back of the stage.

Among them was a picture of the late John Feeney addressing a mass meeting in the Great Hall at Earlsfort Terrace during the Gentle Revolution, the dramatic student upheaval of 1969. It's a marvellous photograph, which captures Feeney's conviction and certainty, his shock of hair thrown back in a gesture of rebellious insouciance.

'The crowds that came for Chomsky reminded me of those that flocked to hear famous Catholic preachers in the past: humankind clearly craves certainty'

In the background the faces of the crowd are tiny specks. I know I'm there somewhere because I was in the audience for that speech and every other oration that was given in those heady days. Tragically, Feeney himself — who went on to become a journalist — died in a plane crash in 1984.

Dissent is never safe but in those days it was decidedly dangerous. Feeney and others came close to expulsion from the college for their activities. The powers-that-be did not welcome disagreement and challenges to their authority.

Given that background, it was decidedly refreshing to see Professor Chomsky, the dissident's dissident, getting so warm a welcome from such enormous crowds during his Irish visit. Most of his talks and lectures — covering such topics as the role of intellectuals, the threat of nuclear warfare and different aspects of US foreign policy — were given in Belfield and it was heartening to see the College President himself, Dr Hugh Brady, making a short speech of introduction for the distinguished visitor. UCD and Ireland have grown up and matured.

It fell to myself to chair one of the Chomsky lectures, held under the auspices of the Literary and Historical Society and the Philosophy Society. The massive audience of perhaps 1,300 people was very well behaved, but chairing Chomsky is still not an easy task. He is not a man for sound-bites and I suspect most of the people who queued up to ask questions at the end failed to get a hearing.

Filling the O'Reilly Hall on three separate nights and crowding the RDS for an Amnesty lecture as well, Chomsky was the hottest ticket in town. How to explain this phenomenon? Obviously the man's intellectual achievements must be part of the reason, although we have had other fine minds visiting our capital city who did not attract the same level of interest: a recent example was the Polish intellectual and founder-member of Solidarity, Bronislaw Geremek.

It wasn't just Chomsky's eminence and distinction but the fact that, like John Feeney and his co-thinkers all those years ago, he was the

right person in the right place at the right time. With the Bush administration at war in Iraq and rattling sabres over Iran and other places, people are concerned about world peace. As an articulate and iconoclastic dissenter from within Fortress America, Chomsky was bound to get a good hearing.

Thirst for truth

Ireland is finding its feet intellectually and every other way at the present time. Successive scandals combined with the rise of materialism have seriously undermined the position of the Catholic Church. Indeed the crowds that came for Chomsky reminded me of those that flocked to hear famous Catholic preachers in the past: humankind clearly craves certainty. A video webcast of the main Chomsky lectures at UCD is available on the internet at www.ucd.ie/news/jan06/011306_chomsky.htm and readers may judge the events for themselves.

Chomsky is a trenchant critic of the modern mass media and the advance coverage given to his visit seemed to confirm his strictures. He was reported as having called the Taoiseach a "shoeshine boy" for George W. Bush. Following up these reports, I made contact with Professor Chomsky, who denied ever having made such a remark. It turned out he had given a telephone interview to an Irish journalist the previous May where he made a disparaging comment about certain European leaders who were prepared to "shine the shoes" of the Bush administration by supporting the Iraq War, but the comment was directed at governments in what Donald Rumsfeld calls "New Europe" and not at Bertie Ahern at all.

Happily, this more accurate version of Chomsky's views was published in *The Irish Times*. I know my article was read in the Department of Foreign Affairs under Minister Dermot Ahern TD and that it influenced its thinking when a major dilemma arose in relation to the Chomsky visit. Immediately prior to his planned departure from Boston for Dublin, he discovered that his passport was out of date (no jokes about absent-minded professors please!). The minister waived the usual entry requirements and the visit went ahead.

Although he expressed gratitude for the gesture, Chomsky did not hold back in his views on the alleged use of Shannon Airport as a stopover for the "extraordinary rendition" of CIA prisoners on their way to Guantanamo Bay or some other, more obscure place of detention. The US Embassy has denied that any prisoners are being transported through Ireland but, at the time of writing, the controversy still rages.

Some enterprising MA student at UCD should write a thesis about the Chomsky visit as an instance of how one man, an intellectual of uncompromising seriousness, could so readily be adopted as a figurehead by so many Irish people. It could tell us a lot about Chomsky, but it might tell us even more about ourselves.

Deaglán de Bréadún is the Foreign Affairs Correspondent of The Irish Times. A UCD graduate in English literature, he is author of The Far Side of Revenge: Making Peace in Northern Ireland (Collins Press, 2001) and Scealloga, a collection of short stories in Irish (Comhar Teoranta, 1991).

FRIEND OR FOWL?

As the threat of avian flu continues to dominate headlines, **Danielle Barron** asks the experts if it is really a clear and present danger

Bird flu outbreak at Norfolk Road Farm, North Tudenham, Norfolk in April 2006

Photograph: Jason Bye/Rex features

AVIAN INFLUENZA, known colloquially as bird flu, has dominated news reports in recent months. The H5N1 virus first emerged in poultry and wild birds in South-East Asia in 1997. Since 2003 there have been 196 people infected and over half of these cases were eventually fatal. But is avian flu really a global threat, edging its way ever closer to Irish shores? And is Ireland adequately prepared in the event of bird flu becoming a real and present danger?

Last February the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Mary Coughlan TD, established an expert group to advise on and review current control measures regarding avian influenza. Professor Michael Monaghan from the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine acts as chair of this group, with a pivotal role also being played by Professor William Hall, Director of the Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases. Hall also chairs the Influenza Pandemic Expert Group, which was set up by the Department of Health and Children in 2000.

Monaghan had a similar role during the foot and mouth disease outbreak in 2001. As chair of this group, he says they are concerned with the impact that a potential outbreak of avian flu could have on Ireland's poultry industry, and the consequent risks to human health. "What we're interested in doing is trying to reduce the risk of the virus carrying into the poultry industry. All our efforts are directed towards protecting both the industry itself and the people who work in it, since those in the front line are most at risk," he explains.

Monaghan adds that as the poultry industry is controlled by a relatively small number of people, it is much easier to communicate effectively within the industry. There is a challenge as regards people with small private poultry holdings, though Department officials believe that the majority of such holdings are now registered.

EU regulations currently dictate that all birds in an affected flock be slaughtered and restriction zones of three to ten kilometres be placed around the area. Monaghan sees as encouraging the fact that during the recent outbreak in France, avian flu was rapidly identified and controlled by the quick implementation of such a protocol. Ireland is apparently similarly prepared. "The Department of Agriculture has all the measures in place that are required to manage it," he says.

Remote risk

With bird flu having entered people's vernacular, it is no wonder that there are some popular misconceptions about the nature of its transmissibility. When news of its presence in Italy broke, poultry sales dropped some 70% in two days.

Monaghan says, however, that once chicken is cooked thoroughly, there is no chance of contracting the disease from it. "The reality is that chicken needs to be cooked properly for all sorts of other reasons. But the possibility of the virus being present in the chicken we buy in the shops is so remote as to be negligible."

At present, the only means of contracting H5N1 is from close contact with sick or dead birds. Monaghan explains that this was a

major factor in the case of bird-to-human transmission in East Asia where there were many small, privately owned poultry flocks, with the families concerned in regular intimate contact with infected birds. There is no confirmed evidence of human-to-human transmission with H5N1 as of yet.

Monaghan believes that the recent discovery of the dead swan in Scotland that was found to have been infected with H5N1 only marginally increased the risk of an outbreak in Ireland. "It meant that the disease was geographically closer than it had been up to that point but the risk is only marginally greater...and that risk has always been there."

He goes on to explain that H5N1 has already mutated and combined with other avian viruses in a process known as re-assortment, so that there are now five distinct forms of H5N1 in existence. The current concern is that the virus could mix with another human or animal virus and create a new virus that infects humans easily.

Hall admits there is a chance of this happening, saying it's difficult to predict how pathogenic a virus is going to be. "The virus is constantly changing but that doesn't necessarily mean it will infect humans."

It is, however, something the Department of Health must consider, admits Hall. The Influenza Pandemic Expert Group was first set up in 2000 to prepare Ireland's influenza pandemic preparedness plan, based on World Health Organisation recommendations.

Hall says this is an ongoing dynamic process, with the plan constantly updated during recent outbreaks to incorporate new scientific data and experience obtained. The plan does not just concern H5N1, but is a contingency plan in the event of any new influenza pandemic, something Hall says is a probability.

"No one can say when it will happen, how it will happen, or what the virus will be," says Hall. "But it happened three times in the last century and is probably likely to happen again."

In a recent study published in *The Lancet* medical journal, the pandemic flu plans of 25 EU member states were analysed. Ireland was found to have one of the best overall plans, along with the UK, France, Germany and the Netherlands.

While Hall admits that the recent human fatalities are "alarming", he says the number is relatively small compared to the millions of birds that have been infected and the many thousands of people that would have been in close contact with them.

The grim reality is that while it is difficult to catch bird flu, it has a high mortality rate, killing over half of those infected. And nobody can say for certain if the virus will mutate into a form that transmits easily between humans. Hall says it is something we will have to "watch carefully", but is insistent there is no need to panic. "Right now there is no evidence to suggest that the current H5N1 virus is a significant human threat."

Danielle Barron graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Pharmacology ('05) and is currently pursuing an MSc in Science Communications in DCU. She works as a freelance science writer and has contributed to both the Irish Examiner and The Irish Times.



Concern is mounting about the increasing rate of unhealthy eating and childhood obesity in Ireland. Louise Holden reports on the weighty issue affecting our younger generation

CHOCOLATE-FROSTED cereal for breakfast, Coke and crisps for lunch, chips and sausages for dinner and an endless stream of sugar, salt, additives, preservatives, artificial flavourings and fat throughout the day — this is the diet of a growing number of Irish children.

'Childhood obesity in Ireland' — the phrase has a certain resonance as health experts in the country have been pushing the subject in the national media for several years. But the true extent of the problem is stark and has grim implications for the next generation of Irish adults — a point to which many of us may have become inured.

One in five Irish children aged 5-12 years is overweight or obese (Irish Universities Nutrition Alliance, 2005; Economic and Social Research Institute, 2005). That's 300,000 people at increased risk of diabetes, heart disease and cancer. According to UCD nutritionist Eileen Gibney, the problem is growing exponentially. "Already children are presenting with chronic disorders normally only seen in adulthood, such as Type 2 Diabetes," she says. "What will happen to these children in adulthood? Arthritis? Heart disease? Cancer?"

The important point for families, schools and government to take on board is that many of the risk factors associated with excess weight can be reduced or removed by a change in lifestyle, says Gibney. That is why it is so important for the government to act now to address the problem.

This time last year An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD was presented with the Report of the National Taskforce on Obesity, which included recommendations on removing vending machines from schools and establishing a new training programme for health professionals, as well as guidelines for the labelling of foods, a review of fiscal policy and guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of overweight and obesity.

Few or none of the recommendations contained in the report, *Obesity — the*

'A change in children's health might, for many families, start with a basic cookbook'

Policy Challenges, have been implemented, according to Gibney.

"The report highlighted the need for 'joined-up' policy, cross-collaboration between all key stakeholders and real practical engagement by both the public and the private sectors. Childhood obesity is a hard nut to crack, however, because so many diverse and complex societal factors are feeding the problem."

In a recent presentation to the European Heart Network, Maureen Mulvihill, Health Promotion Manager with the Irish Heart Foundation, showed a chilling set of images. The traditional food pyramid, almost entirely consisting of complex carbohydrates, fruit, vegetables and low-fat proteins, with just a tiny fraction set aside for fatty and sugary foods at the apex, was displayed alongside the advertising food pyramid, a monolith to junk. Made up almost entirely of sweets, crisps, fizzy drinks and processed foods, only the slimmest stratum was left for healthy food at the bottom of a pyramid representing food advertised in the media. With the might and wealth of the advertising industry so firmly on the side of bad foods, children who watch up to

four hours of television a day are sitting targets.

Active sense

This brings us to the next part of the problem — lack of exercise. "Many schools offer no opportunity for physical activity to children because they lack the resources," says Gibney. "In some cases they are even not allowed to run in the playground for insurance reasons. For reasons of safety many children are driven to school and are not allowed to play on the street. The opportunities for physical activity are narrowing all the time."

The most immediate problem of all, however, is intake. One fifth of Irish children's energy intake comes from sweets and processed snacks such as potato crisps and biscuits. Daily intake of soft drinks such as Coke and Sprite averages about two glasses. Not only are these foods flooding children's systems with dangerous levels of sugar, fat and salt, they are also replacing the nutritious foods that should be providing children with essential vitamins and minerals such as calcium, iron, vitamins A, C and D, storing up problems for the future.

The risk from this nutritional deficit is just as serious as the risk from excess weight itself, says Martin Higgins, CEO of the Food Safety Promotion Board. "Forty per cent of children have a daily fat intake that is above the recommendation. Because they are consuming so much fat and energy from low-nutrient foods they are losing out on key minerals such as calcium. Almost a third of girls in Ireland are not getting enough iron and this has implications for energy levels and concentration."

Higgins says organisations like his own need to work harder to explain the fundamentals of a good diet to a public confused by technical jargon and distracted by advertising. "The Food Safety Promotion Board is working to educate the public about good eating habits and response to the campaign has been positive. So far we have run a billboard campaign and established an information website for children, parents

and other stakeholders at www.safefoodonline.com. The site has had 22,000 visits in two months," he says.

Higgins acknowledges the role of industry, advertising, government and the health sector in addressing the problems of Ireland's overweight and obese youth. However, he believes that in order to effect real change, the public must be empowered with knowledge.

"It must become a matter of economic necessity for food producers to offer and market healthier food options," he says. "It's an ongoing process to educate the public about safe eating so that they can pass that demand on to retailers."

Even as food manufacturers start to move towards healthy options, however, the consumer must remain vigilant. It's easy for a product to make glib claims to health advantage without actually offering consumers much more than the full-fat or full-salt alternatives. Even products which now offer to fulfil a portion of the day's fruit and vegetable intake need to be approached with caution, says Higgins. "A glass of fruit juice offers some of the nutrients of the original fruit, but not all." Consumers need to reduce the amount of processed foods that they are eating and eat more whole foods in their original state.

Gibney worries about the ability of many parents to produce healthy meals at home when so few people have the time or the skills to cook fresh food from scratch. A change in children's health might, for many families, start with a basic cookbook.

Getting children on the right dietary course for life will take a whole family, whole school, whole country approach. In reality, however, parents are the people with the greatest motivation to push for change, as we face into the dystopian possibility of an Ireland where mothers and fathers outlive their children.

Louise Holden is studying for a Masters in Education at the UCD School of Education & Lifelong Learning and has been writing on education matters for 10 years. She is currently Education Correspondent with The Irish Times.

THE DRAGON EMERGES

Grainne Rothery looks east to see what trade fortunes Irish business can share with the strengthening Chinese market

IT HAS taken a while, but Napoleon Bonaparte's prediction that the world would shake when China wakes is finally coming to pass. Since 1978, the Chinese government has introduced and implemented a series of reforms that have gradually transformed what was a former USSR-style centrally planned system into a market-driven economy. As a result, China's GDP has increased more than tenfold since the late 1970s and the most populous country has now also become the world's largest developing economy.

China's economy is now ranked fourth in the world when measured against the official US dollar exchange rate. However, in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP), it's ranked second, with a GDP of more than US\$8 trillion in 2005. According to the World Trade Organisation, growth is continuing at a rapid pace: in 2005, GDP increased by 9.9%. And China's not about to take its foot off the accelerator: its latest five-year plan has called for a 45% increase in GDP by 2010.

With the country now ranked third in the world in terms of total trade value, its impact on the global economy is obviously enormous. "Most economists believe that China is the engine behind global economic growth because it is such a big potential market for the rest of the world," says Dr Liming Wang, director of UCD's Centre for Chinese Studies. Although China has a population of 1.3 billion people, it's estimated that the actual market for Western goods and services consists of around 300 million people, most of whom are located in the country's coastal regions, where economic development has been fastest.

Breaking into China

For Ireland, as with most of the rest of the world, the Chinese market offers huge opportunities. Michael Garvey, Director of Asia at Enterprise Ireland, points out that Greater China, which includes Hong Kong and Taiwan, is now the second largest market in Asia for Irish companies. When diplomatic relations were established between Ireland and China in 1979, trade between the two amounted to US\$6.9 million. In 2000, this figure had grown to US\$714 million, with China exporting US\$336 million and importing US\$377 million worth of goods. In 2005, the total value of trade between the two countries was more than US\$4.5 billion. While Ireland's exports to China more than doubled to US\$900 million in those five years, imports increased tenfold to approximately US\$3.6 billion.

As the figures show, much of Ireland's move into the Chinese

market has occurred in the past decade. When An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD, led his first trade mission to China in 1998, just five Irish companies had offices or bases in the country. Following this visit, a strategy committee was set up to guide development and increase business engagement with Asia. Today, 55 Irish companies, including Glen Dimplex, Kerry Group, Glanbia, Iona Technology and EPS, have either production or sales and marketing operations in China.

"There are more Irish companies in China now than there are in any other Asian country," says Garvey. Enterprise Ireland's China-based staff, meanwhile, has increased from three to eight people since 1998.

The agency is working primarily with companies in the ICT sector and says there are particular opportunities in telecommunications, mobile handset and equipment production and e-commerce and business-to-business portals. Another active area, according to Garvey, is education services. More than 3,000 Chinese students are currently studying at Irish third-level institutions, but there is huge scope for growth. "For us, it's a key economic sector," explains Garvey. "Business is all about getting to know people. When these students go back, they'll know Ireland, will have friends here and hopefully will do business with us in years to come. This is a very important platform for the future of Irish trade with China."

Another area where Ireland may carve out a niche is in Chinese tourism, which is now the fastest growing market of its kind in the world. According to the World Tourism Organisation, just over 20 million tourists travelled out of China in 2003. Outbound tourism is expected to increase to 50 million by 2010 and to 100 million by 2020. In an attempt to capture a slice of this market, Tourism Ireland set up an office in Shanghai in 2005.

The Irish government continues to forge links with China: it has been involved in a number of high-profile trade missions over the past few years and also recently established an IDA Ireland office in Shanghai in an effort to encourage inward investment. However, Victor Huang, a council member of the Ireland China Association, believes there needs to be a wider effort in terms of educating Irish people about China and its potential benefits. "China is now officially the fastest-growing trading partner with Ireland," he says. "People need to be aware of what China can offer them in terms of economic benefit. Otherwise they will miss out on this big wave. And the people who will miss out will be the Irish, not the Chinese."

Centre for Chinese Studies at UCD

The recent establishment of a Centre for Chinese Studies at UCD is a clear indicator of the growing importance of Ireland's relationship with China. The new centre's main objective is to facilitate economic and cultural ties between the two countries by offering teaching programmes to Irish students, recruiting Chinese students, developing research programmes and introducing outreach activities.

There has already been strong interest in the first study programme set up in association with the centre, a new four-year BComm with Chinese Studies, which will start this September and will include a year's study at a partner university in China. The centre is currently working with other schools within the university to develop a range of joint programmes with a Chinese element.

Recruitment of Chinese students to UCD will also be a significant element of the centre's function. Other plans include the establishment of programmes to improve links with the community, including the large Chinese population in Ireland, and the provision of consultancy services for both the government and for companies interested in doing business in China.

UCD has also recently been chosen as the location for a Confucius Institute: the Chinese government is currently setting up 100 such institutes around the world to promote Chinese culture and language and to facilitate research and economic links. With very similar objectives, the new institute will work alongside the UCD Centre for Chinese Studies.

Grainne Rothery graduated with a BA in History of Art and German ('86) and now works as a freelance journalist and writer.



A nursery of innovation, NovaUCD is continually producing home-grown companies that provide a valuable contribution to the Irish knowledge economy. [Jane Suiter](#) reports on its latest progeny

Prof Barry Smyth, co-founder of ChangingWorlds and nominee for the Ernst & Young 2006 Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the International Services category

A NEW BREED OF ENTREPRENEURS

THE INNOVATIVE knowledge companies in NovaUCD, the Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre at UCD, are a crucial part of building the Irish economy for the future, according to leading scientists and researchers.

The companies, which are at the cutting edge of new research, specialise in commercialising scientific academic research, from developing new and better drugs to improving voice testing and building better mobile communications.

Dr Cormac Kilty, chairman of the Irish BioIndustry Association and NovaUCD board member, is fulsome in his praise for the

centre and what it is trying to do. "NovaUCD is crucial to developing indigenous knowledge-intensive firms. The government and Enterprise Ireland recognise this and have provided great support. On top of that Science Foundation Ireland provides the funding to attract the best researchers to Ireland.

"But the key is that it is so hands-on in the same way that Yale is in the US. NovaUCD will assist start-ups and even help pull in seed capital, will help with patent applications and offer introductions to the local venture capital community."

Kilty is no stranger to the process of commercialising a scientific discovery. He holds a PhD in Zoology from UCD and is

founder of Biotrin Holdings, a diagnostics company with a niche in emerging viruses and pathogens, as well as a newer company spun out of Trinity College Dublin, Opsona Therapeutics. He stresses that the most important lesson that NovaUCD teaches academics is to always review commercialisation possibilities before publishing.

"It is vital that academics realise they should not disclose information before it is commercialised and patented," he warns. "Otherwise they are simply disposing of an asset that could be of great value to themselves and to the country as a whole. It is always possible that the idea could be the next Elan or Microsoft. Technology transfer

is also the key to the nation getting return on its investment."

Dr Pat Frain, the director of the centre, echoes these sentiments. But his focus is also on attracting more UCD alumni in a variety of roles. "Whether you are an academic and thinking of returning to Ireland, or someone experienced in business or marketing in knowledge-intensive industry we would love to hear from you," he says. "Many of the companies here are technically driven but we

good at, which is research and design. When we were a stand-alone operation in Sandyford we had to look after everything including the lighting and the rates. Now NovaUCD looks after it all. There is also always expert advice on hand including financial and legal, while the networking opportunities are enormous. It means we can focus on the business."

Keen to stress that at heart NovaUCD is a community of entrepreneurs, Frain points

Informatics, ChangingWorlds is a market-leading provider of intelligent personalisation technology to the mobile telecommunications industry.

The company has now rolled out its flagship ClixSmart™ Intelligent Mobile Portal platform to over 30 mobile network operators worldwide, including Vodafone, O2, TeliaSonera, Mobilkom and Wataniya Telecom groups. More than just a NovaUCD company, it already employs over 870 people and has opened offices in San Francisco and Kuala Lumpur to support its business development activities in North America and Asia.

Also focusing on the mobile telecoms sector and other wireless communications is the aforementioned Duolog Technologies, founded by Dr Ray Bulger and Mark O'Donovan. The company's designs are included in high-volume products such as mobile phones, internet devices, home/industrial gateways and set-top boxes. Duolog has now expanded its operations to Galway, Bangalore and Budapest to take advantage of the lower cost base. The challenge, according to Bulger, is to ensure that wireless connectivity becomes seamless. Its client list reads like a who's who of blue-chip firms from Texas Instruments to IBM, Sky TV, the European Space Agency and Intel.

Other companies include BiancaMed, a spin-off from UCD's School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering, which specialises in products to diagnose sleep apnoea. Its first product, LifeScreen Apnea™, allows a standard outpatient electrocardiogram (ECG) to be used to identify people with sleep apnoea and has already won FDA clearance. Other innovations at various stages of development are its combined ECG and oximeter, which will provide a more refined assessment of sleep apnoea and its impact on the heart, and a home-based sleep-quality monitor to aid insomniacs.

Another hugely successful NovaUCD spinout is Celtic Catalysts, founded by Dr Brian Kelly and Dr Declan Gilheany. The company specialises in the niche area of chiral catalysts, a technology that has been



Prof Paul Engel, head of Enzolve Technologies

also need management teams and seed capital in particular."

Crucially NovaUCD is already supported through an innovative public-private partnership that includes AIB, Arthur Cox, Deloitte, Enterprise Ireland, Ericsson, Goodbody Stockbrokers and Xilinx. These private sector companies take a maximum of 6% share in all firms locating there.

The results speak for themselves. The companies at NovaUCD represent some of the best young, knowledge-intensive start-ups in Ireland. Dr Ray Bulger, who moved his company Duolog Technologies from Sandyford back to NovaUCD, is typical and is effusive in his praise. "NovaUCD's support means we can concentrate on what we are

out that companies get two years and nine months to stay before they have to stand on their own feet, while life sciences get a little longer. "NovaUCD is not simply good value rental space," he adds. "The first companies will be moving out soon and newcomers will take their place."

Professor Barry Smyth of ChangingWorlds, another of the 23 companies based at NovaUCD, has also moved its advanced research unit and 17 software engineers back into the UCD campus. In recognition of his efforts, he has been shortlisted for the Ernst & Young 2006 Entrepreneur of the Year, in the International Services category. Perhaps one of the best-known spinouts from UCD's School of Computer Science and



Dr Pat Frain, director of NovaUCD



Cormac Kilty, founder of Biotrin Holdings and chairman of the Irish BioIndustry Association

in development at the university over the past 10 years. Kelly explains that the word 'chiral' comes from the Greek word 'kheir' meaning 'hand'. Some 75% of all drugs in pharmaceutical pipelines are known as 'handed' or chiral compounds. This means that on a molecular level the drugs exist in mirror-image forms — just as one's left hand is a mirror image of the right hand. The problem is that while one image may be active, the other causes unwanted side

effects, the most quoted example being thalidomide. The desired aim is to produce a drug that only exists in the one wanted form, thereby increasing effectiveness, reducing costs, lowering the necessary dosage and crucially helping eliminate unwanted side effects.

The company has recently added two experienced industry players to its board: Brian Elliott, formerly of the IDA and of Jensen Pharmaceuticals and a UN negotiator

charged with getting AIDS drugs into the developing world, has been appointed chief executive, while Nobel Prize winner Barry Sharpless is chairman of the scientific advisory board.

Chiral compounds are also the scope of Enzolve Technologies, headed up by Professor Paul Engel. This biotechnology company focuses on the commercialisation of novel enzyme products arising from UCD research, particularly in the area of protein engineering. The first campus company to locate in the bio-incubator at NovaUCD, Enzolve provides novel enzyme-based solutions, for example in the areas of diagnostics such as PKU testing for infants, synthesis and food. Put simply, the company modifies nature's enzymes and broadens them to enable them to take up new traits.

Berand is another name in the NovaUCD biotechnology field, which provides specialist consultancy services to the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. The company is run by Dr Andrew Foley, who has developed novel neurotherapeutics for the treatment of neurological and psychiatric disease.

One of the newcomers is Vocal Health Screen, founded by PhD student Rosalyn Moran (BE '04) who was the overall winner of the 10th NovaUCD Campus Company Development Programme. She is currently developing a remote screening tool for voice diseases for use in ear, nose and throat clinics worldwide. It is designed to replace screening and follow up endoscopy examinations and has the potential to generate significant savings for both patients and specialists. Detection is carried out using a two-second voice sample from a telephone call with results computed automatically and sent to a password-protected webpage.

These sorts of commercial applications are all key if Ireland is to continue to build its reputation as a knowledge economy, says Kilty. "NovaUCD is where the entrepreneurs of the future can get vital support to get off the ground."

Jane Suiter graduated with a BA in Economics and Politics ('89) and is today pursuing a PhD in Political Science.



BUILDING BRIDGES IN HAITI

The demand for places on UCD Volunteers Overseas trips certainly debunks the cliché of the self-serving student. **Eoghan Rice** reports

WHILE TODAY'S students are often portrayed as self-serving and little concerned with global issues, one organisation in UCD is proving that quite the opposite is true. Since its establishment in 2004, UCD Volunteers Overseas (UCDVO) has sent almost 200 students abroad in a bid to improve housing and tackle environmental issues in some of the world's poorest areas. UCD students have already participated in projects in India, Haiti and Niger, while next summer will see the scheme further expand into South America.

"Demand amongst students to do volunteer work overseas is huge, but there had been no on-campus group co-ordinating these efforts," explains UCD Chaplain Fr Tony Coote, one of the founders of UCDVO. "We have grown phenomenally since we first set up and we are looking at expanding our projects again next summer."

One student to take part in voluntary work is Sean McKeon (BSc '05), pictured above, who is currently researching a PhD in chemistry

in UCD. He was one of 36 students to travel to Haiti last July, where they took part in several crucial projects. It was an experience, he says, they will never forget.

"It was certainly a bit of a culture shock when we first arrived," he recalls. "There were no roads in the area we were in and all you could see were tin sheds. The locals were great though and were very friendly towards us."

While in Haiti, UCDVO renovated a home for the elderly, constructing a patio at the rear of the building for the residents to sit out. The students also worked in a sports camp, teaching games and sports to local children. The third project involved digging trenches along the hillside to counter the effects of the monsoon season.

"Although you wouldn't think it, Haiti is actually a very green country, but there is a big problem with deforestation," says McKeon. "In the monsoon season, they suffer from mudslides, which destroy crops and houses. So we constructed trenches along the hillsides to try to slow down the slides."

The organisation is primarily aimed at students, although three members of staff travel with them each year. According to Coote, the university has been very supportive of their efforts and university president Hugh Brady has given "great backing".

This summer, nine UCD computer science students will travel to Ethiopia as part of an innovative aid programme that aims to bring IT skills to the developing world. The trip has been organised in collaboration with Camara, a charity that sends refurbished PCs to Africa. The students will instruct local teachers in basic IT skills.

Fundraising is of crucial importance to the organisation. While students pay for their own flights and accommodation, the organisation must raise money to fund the projects themselves.

This year, for the first time, UCDVO has received a government grant for its plans to construct a bridge in Delhi later this summer. To supplement the grant, students organised various events on campus and held collections outside church throughout the year. While the grant will not cover the full cost of the project, Coote says it is an important step towards securing further funding in the future.

While UCD students are the driving force behind the organisation, Coote is eager to point out that local communities are heavily involved in all stages of the planning and construction of projects. UCDVO is linked with local non-government organisations, which help with the choosing of projects to undertake.

Aside from the obvious benefits to local communities, UCDVO also offers important skills to the students themselves, adds Coote.

"All the students who have gone on trips have said it has been a life-changing experience for them," he says. "Seeing the poverty that exists in some countries gives students great perspective at a young age. Students are also given important leadership and communication skills."

Membership of UCDVO is open to all UCD staff and students and application forms are available at www.ucdvo.org.

Eoghan Rice is a Sunday Tribune journalist. He holds a BA in Politics and Economics ('03) and was former Editor of the College Tribune.

BUSINESS AT CENTRE STAGE

Following his recent appointment to the board of the Abbey Theatre, Declan Kiberd shares his thoughts with [Deirdre Mulrooney](#) on theatre, literature and the meeting of business and art

UCD'S PROLIFIC professor of English and Drama, Declan Kiberd, puts his voracious appetite for plumbing the depths of Irish identity down, lightheartedly, to "wannabe Irishness". Nothing if not an original thinker, his great-grandfather Kiberd arrived to these shores from Germany via Liverpool in black '47 — "the least likely year in human history for anyone to come to Ireland", the year of the Great Famine.

So, has he simply been overcompensating for this by producing tome upon tome of critical writing? Yes, he proffers, pondering his 30 years assiduously publishing weighty books on Irish literature, "in a futile attempt to make myself at one with a culture that will always be foreign to me!" Or, it occurs to him, a split-second later, that he might actually be an Irish counterpart to TS Eliot, who "spent his life trying to define the nature of English culture as a club that he could then enter".

Kiberd's immediate ancestors were well-to-do merchants in the rag trade, with an umbrella and hat shop on Parnell Street. They became involved in supporting Parnell and the constitutional nationalist movement. "But one of the first effects of independence was to slap surcharges on imported textiles, which actually destroyed

their business," he recounts. "They were kind of ruined by the success of their own politics."

Add into the mix a mother who hailed from a Gaelic League family and attended Louise Gavan Duffy's all-Irish Scoil Bride, and you have got a recipe for some pretty interesting perspectives on Irish literature and the universe.

As a nine-year-old city boy, Declan experienced a wake in the Connemara Gaeltacht involving a dead man laid out on the kitchen table and drunken tricks being played on the poor corpse throughout the night. This all somehow led him to write his ground-breaking PhD thesis in Oxford on Synge and the Irish language.

But that was then. Kiberd always seems one step ahead, embracing the future with relish. Excited by the new multicultural Ireland, he takes Jewish Irishman Leopold Bloom as an example of how "a lot of the texts of Anglo-Irish literature could be seen to be rehearsing for multiculturalism".

Mixing business and pleasure

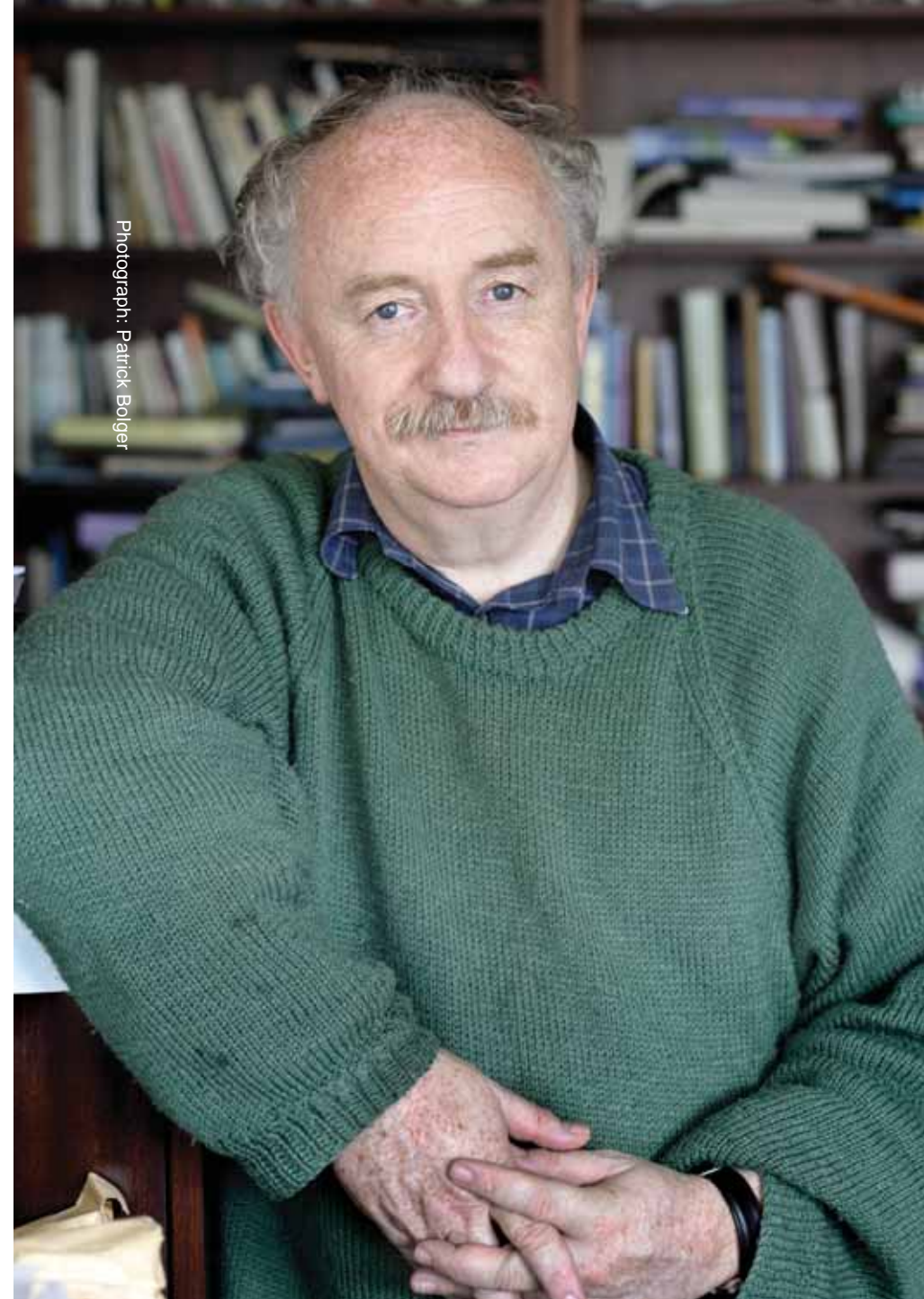
New Ireland, new money and new business are the latest phenomena to be woven into Kiberd's critical canvas: "Generations of Irish kids were brought up to believe that there was something reprehensible about money. The radicalism of the 1960s created an

allergy to business, confusing it with the more Jane Austen-type contempt for people in trade," he says. Kiberd, however, is proposing the unorthodox theory (in this country anyway) that business people and artists actually have a lot in common. "Both are brokers in risk. If you have a business idea, it's a hunch that may take years of hard slog to put to the test. And it may not work. But that's what Joyce had with *Ulysses* — a hunch. It's no accident Joyce himself was a businessman — he set up the first commercial cinema in Dublin.

"The climax in *Ulysses* is unique in modernism in that it is a meeting between a small businessman, Bloom, the ad canvasser, and a fellow called Stephen Dedalus," Kiberd continues. "It's the only high modernist text where the businessman and the bohemian sit down and make sweet music." To Kiberd, who is re-reading *Ulysses* again for, he estimates, the 36th time, it is ultimately about "abolishing the distinction between bohemian and bourgeois".

"The main thing that was lacking in the past in this country was money," he states. Kiberd, who never suffered from ivory tower syndrome, bought his own house in the 1980s when mortgage interest rates were 21% and Bob Geldof was refused a loan because of his scruffy appearance. "Now you can get your hands on money if you are young, which is a great thing. It has created a different mindset. People are willing not just to imagine things, but to do them and to believe in their ability to do them."

As opposed to the staple fare of dotty grannies, tortured priests and put-upon sons, he feels "it's time the artist engaged



Photograph: Patrick Bolger

with business people and put them on stage or in novels. It's a pity business people here don't write autobiographies the way they do in America. Those books — always homespun philosophy and aesthetics — are quite useful and interesting."

Just as Alain de Botton wrote *How Proust Can Change Your Life*, Kiberd is currently two-thirds of his way through producing a self-help *Ulysses*, "which would fit the interface between business and the arts. Especially seeing as Joyce was a frustrated businessman himself". The synopsis?

"Young UCD graduate, overburdened with his philosophical learning, doesn't know how to process it. Wanting to learn certain things, he meets a man who is perhaps simpler, but wiser, because he is older." Kiberd sees it being about this search for an authentic guru.

The example of key businessman Dermot Desmond being interested in a new building for the Abbey Theatre and engaging in a newspaper debate with Bruce Arnold last summer is exactly the type of thing that delights Kiberd.

Newly appointed to the Abbey board, Kiberd believes the whole idea of a national theatre in the 21st century is to be questioned and debated. "It's important because you need something to counter the huge pressure of global culture. It's part of the duty of a national theatre to resist commodification."

Though by virtue of being the national theatre "anyone feels they can criticise it, because their taxes are going towards it, which induces caution or defensiveness". Kiberd defends the Abbey's right to fail because it has the subvention. "It also has the right to try things that don't always work. Then you can get work being audacious. The audience should be surprised by newness."

Kiberd considers the Abbey's main remit is to allow the community to talk to itself. For example, he notices "a huge contradiction in the economy, which is basically American naked market force on the one hand, and on the other we have a set of laws that are still somewhat social democratic in their understanding. There is a total cultural clash between this type of market capitalism and the more old-style socialist notion that the state should protect — the French idea. That clash is inherently dramatic".

Considering Ireland a laboratory for the world, Kiberd advocates that the new generation of playwrights should harness that energy, in the belief that "these clashes will result in new literature". This phenomenon will also apply to the experience of the immigrant community, says Kiberd.

"The only question is, will the first Polish-Irish playwright write in Polish or in English? And will it be on in Warsaw or in the Abbey? I hope it's the Abbey."

Deirdre Mulrooney, BA ('90), MA ('91) and PhD ('98), is a lecturer in drama and a freelance journalist who has contributed to Rattlebag, Artszone and The Irish Times. Her new book, Irish Moves – An Illustrated History of Dance and Physical Theatre in Ireland, is published by Liffey Press.

READING JOHN MCGAHERN

In memory of the recently deceased John McGahern, we reproduce this essay from *The UCD Aesthetic: Celebrating 150 Years of UCD Writers* (New Island Books, Dublin), edited by Anthony Roche

BY JOSEPH O'CONNOR (BA '84, MA '86)

THE FIRST short story I wrote was a work of genius. It was austere and lovely, full of elegant sentences and sharp insights. Any reviewer would have called it a *tour de force*. Because the first short story I wrote was by John McGahern.

It's called *Sierra Leone* and it appears in the 1979 collection *Getting Through*, a copy of which had been purchased by my father and was lying around the house. In the story, a couple meets in a Dublin bar to analyse their complicated affair. I was 16 that year. Complicated affairs interested me. My English teacher, John Burns, a wonderful man, said writing could be a beneficial hobby for teenagers. It was the one thing he ever told us that was completely wrong.

Writing was like attempting to juggle with mud. I would sit in my bedroom, gawping at a blank jotter, wishing I had the foggiest inkling as to what might be written. McGahern often wrote about rural Leitrim, but we had no hedgerows or loys in the 1970s Dublin estate I called home. We had no thwarted farmers, no maiden aunts on bicycles, no small-town solicitors, no cattle-dealing IRA veterans. Simply put, there was nothing in Glenageary to write *about*. You could call it the original failure of the creative imagination without which no writer ever got going.

Whenever I tried to write, there was only frustration. I felt as pent-up as McGahern's lovers. That's how I recollect these youthful efforts at fiction: a haze of self-conscious fumbblings and awkward gropings,

Image courtesy of Faber & Faber Publicity

second-hand sentences, sentenced to fail. One evening, in dismal hopelessness, I found myself copying out *Sierra Leone* word for word. I ached to write a story. So I wrote one of his.

I must have felt that the act of writing would make the words somehow mine. But, if so, it was an act of literary adultery. I smouldered to know what that feeling was like: to write out a beautiful text from start to finish. I suppose this was comparable to wannabe pop-stars throwing shapes and pulling pouts in the bathroom mirror. But something richer and more interesting was going on, too. McGahern was teaching me to read, not to write: to see the presences hidden in the crannies of a text, the realities the words are gesturing towards. Perhaps this is what pulses at the core of the desire to read: the yearning for intense relationship with words we love. Not just with what they are saying, but with the words themselves. Perhaps every reader is rewriting the story.

The next evening, I transcribed the McGahern piece again. This time I dared to alter a couple of names. The male lead became Sean (my father's name). I christened his girlfriend Deborah (after the punk singer Debbie Harry). Our next-door neighbour, Jack Mulcahy, had his name nicked for the barman. This felt taboo. It was like editing the Bible. I was raised in a home where books were revered. My parents considered it disreputable even to dog-ear a volume's pages. To interfere with a story would have been regarded as a form of sacrilege. Under the spell of McGahern, I became a teenage blasphemer.

Every few nights I'd guiltily rewrite the latest adaptation, changing the grammar here, a phrasing there. I'd move around events, break up the paragraphs, or tell the same story but from a different point of view. I must have written a hundred versions. The heroine's beautiful hair became auburn or black, and finally — exultantly! — strawberry blonde. I learned the importance of punctuation in a story. A question mark could change things. A well-placed full stop had the force of a slap. Before long, I was murdering McGahern's characters, replacing them with my own pitifully scanty puppets. The pub became a discothèque, the couple acquired flares; I engaged them, married them, bought them a house in the suburbs, then a collection of Planxty records and a second-hand lawnmower. The lovers in the story were starting to seem familiar. They would not have appeared out of place in Arnold Grove, Glenageary.

I rechristened them Adam and Eve, after a church on the Dublin quays. I altered their appearances, their way of speaking. I was afraid to admit it, but I knew who they were becoming. They roamed this fictive otherworld, this Eden designed in Leitrim, talking to each other about all sorts of things: how much they loved novels, how books shouldn't be dog-eared. I could almost feel the firelight of that pub on my face as I watched my parents materialize through the prose.

I'd look at *Sierra Leone*. It became a kind of friend to me. I wanted to know it better, to learn how it ticked. At one point in those years, I feel almost certain, I could have made a fair stab at reciting the entire text by heart. It was breathtakingly simple, as though it had taken no effort to compose. In that, and in other ways, it was like an

old Connemara ballad, of the kind I had often heard with my father on our holidays in Galway: so direct, so alluring, so subtly economical. It reminded me of *The Rocks of Bawn*: you wanted to know how it would turn out. It read, in fact, as though nobody had written it — as if it had somehow grown on the page. I recall one of the sentences: 'Her hair shone dark blue in the light.' That strange ache in the heart caused by precise words.

Each man kills the thing he loves. And so the vandalism continued, night after night, with me editing and rewriting this once perfect story, until gradually, over the span of my teenage years, every trace of McGahern was squeezed out of the text. *Sierra Leone* had become Glenageary. The story had been desecrated, but at least the resulting ruin was mine.

Perhaps all writers have the story they will tell forever, the idea they will go on exploring, consciously or not, until they run out of masks or find their own way of seeing the world. McGahern's *Sierra Leone* helped me find mine. Every fiction I've begun, every story I've struggled and failed with, has been an attempted reaching-back to that heart-stopping moment of first encountering the power of his art. It's a desire as doomed as any in the history of love stories. But you could spend your time chasing worse.

The Joan Miró Foundation in Barcelona, a city about which McGahern has written with great grace, is somewhat unfashionably arranged by chronology. You start with the child-artist's naïve little doodles: his cartoon faces and multicoloured animals. Then you walk through the rooms organised year by year, through a life of struggle to say anything worth saying. You think of Patrick Kavanagh as you move through the still rooms: a man who dabbled in verse, only to have it become a life. Here are the pictures from the young Miró's figurative phase, the bowls of fat oranges, the wine bottles on windowsills. Then the warped guitars, the twisted limbs and mouths. You see him wrestle with the central question of Kavanagh's career: how to balance the satirical impulse with fidelity to the sacred.

And then the stuff gets stranger, wilder, more revolutionary. The faces are leering, the bodies apparently yearning to flee their frames; the world turns upside down before your eyes. And now paint itself begins to be abandoned: there are crazy collages, sculptures, ceramics, electric with the colours of the Catalonia Miró loved. It is a stunning experience to enter the last room and see the three vast canvases that dominate its walls. They hit you the way the opening notes of Beethoven's Fifth do, or those last short plays of Samuel Beckett, in a way you know you will never quite forget. Each painting is an unadorned field of vivid blue, with a yellow snaking line bisecting the plane. The simplicity moves you with incredible force, the idea that at the end of such a long search there is only the very simple, the plain line across colour, the desire to leave a stain on the silence. To stand before these images always brings McGahern to my mind: the man who knew, again like Kavanagh, that in art there will always be two kinds of simplicity. The simplicity of going away and the simplicity of coming back.

Much more could be said about McGahern and Kavanagh, two rural-born Irish writers who chronicled versions of Dublin more

UCD WRITERS

memorably than did many a native. Again and again, the city appears in McGahern's work, sometimes at a distance but often centrally. The exquisite short stories are peopled by migrant characters who see the metropolis as a labyrinth of possibilities. Here is a Dublin of tatty dancehalls and uneasy courtships, of kisses in damp doorways and unfulfilled hungerings. His citizens are stalwarts of the city's rural-born workforce, who take the first available bus home to the countryside on a Friday evening and the last one back to bedsit-land on a Sunday night. They are, in short, like most Dubliners were at the time, and as many are now, despite the new prosperity. Their flings and farewells make for writing of extraordinary beauty, with the city as a forlorn backdrop to the search for love. Anyone who has ever lived away from home will find bittersweet beauty in these pages.

McGahern's work acknowledges that Dublin (like capitals everywhere) is largely a community of migrants with conflicted loyalties. And I think of his explorations as opening a way for a number of subsequent writers. In that context it is striking that much of the most compelling fiction about the city has been produced by authors who grew up somewhere else. Ulsterman Patrick McCabe's *The Dead School* and London-born Philip Casey's *The Fabulists* offer powerful reflections on a place that changed radically in the 1970s, as political failure and corruption began to wreak havoc. In *The Book of Evidence*, Wexford-born John Banville produced a gripping novel set in the Dublin of that furtive era, a night-town of whispered secrets and compromised positions. I find it hard to imagine how these novels could have been written without the presence of McGahern on the Irish scene. For me, he looms behind everyone: an Easter Island figure. Every subsequent Irish novelist owes him a debt.

At UCD in the 1980s, encouraged by Declan Kiberd and the late Gus Martin, I read *The Barracks*, *The Dark* and more of the stories. I found them strange and haunting; always enthralling. At the time, the vogue among my friends was for Latin American Magic Realism. In those years it often seemed that no novel was worthy of the name unless it contained a talking leopard or a 15-page sentence. Against this blizzard of vowel pyrotechnics McGahern's work stood solid, starkly implacable, like a dry-stone wall in the sweep of a windstorm. I loved its quiet faith, its insistence on its own terms. And then came his masterpiece *Amongst Women*, the most important Irish novel of the late-20th century.

So much has been written and said about this sparely magnificent book. It does what was done by Joyce, George Eliot and Miró, by Muddy Waters and Bessie Smith, the Sex Pistols and Miles Davis: it conjures a world that is absolutely specific to itself, down to the most minuscule, seemingly inconsequential detail, but in so doing manages the alchemy of saying something about every life. Not for nothing did this novel become a bestseller in Ireland, as well as being garlanded with literary awards. The family it depicts is somehow every Irish family of a certain era, held together by its secrets, bound by its evasions, by a nexus of loyalties only one of which is love. Indeed, it is difficult not to read the Morans as embodying the profoundly uneasy nation in which they exist.

The book draws so subtly from that bottomless well of Irish familial



images and returns them to us re-imagined, made wholly new. Moran, the disillusioned republican, burnished hard by pain, walks through the book like a living ghost, through drifts of memories of nights on the run, promises broken, responsibilities ducked. The women in the book, especially the elderly women, are so utterly real, so achingly recognisable that you forget they are products of someone's imagination. They talk about the rain, about children and food, and you know something else is being discussed all the time. And the episode near the end, at Moran's funeral, is the most powerful fictional scene I have read since my adolescence, when its author helped me first know what it is to read. We see the local hacks of the two conservative parties snickering together in the rural cemetery, as the embittered old revolutionary is buried. Sometimes great writers know things they don't know. This tableau was composed a decade before the Tiger padded into Ireland, but it is the most forceful comment imaginable on that ambiguous, sharp-toothed beast.

His most recent novel, *That They May Face the Rising Sun*, took 11 years to make and surprised many of its creator's admirers by addressing that rarest of Irish literary sub everyday syncopations — yet, as ever, McGahern unearths resonant beauty. Gossip is a currency, as always in Ireland, and his dialogue, so subtle and carefully poised, abounds with the juiciness of popular speech. It is his most audaciously structured book, almost completely devoid of plot, suggesting reams about its characters while rarely telling you anything about them. Reading it is like reading everything he has written: like moving to a place you've never lived in before, where you don't know the neighbours or how things work. But thanks to McGahern, you want to know them, because somehow coming to know them, even though they might be nothing like you, is to come to know yourself and those you love, and to understand that there is still a kind of hope. The everyday miracle of fiction, perhaps; one of the reasons why we want to read at all, wherever that grace is revealed to be available, in suburban bedrooms, or in bedsits, alone.

Joseph O'Connor's novel *Star of the Sea* is published by Vintage/Random House.

Announcing the new UCD Alumni Online Community

Sign up, log on, communicate

The new Alumni Online Community will provide you with a range of services that allow you to communicate with your former classmates and friends over the web. You can update and share your contact details online while retaining the ability to reveal as much or as little information as you choose.

We all know that we should make more of an effort to stay in touch with our college mates but, given the hectic pace of life, this doesn't always happen. Well now you can let them know what is happening in your life by submitting class notes online and for those who may be creatively challenged the system will even automatically generate your notes for you.

Take the hassle out of having to distribute your new email address to friends and family when you change jobs or email provider by signing up for a permanent email forwarding address from the Alumni Online Community. So no matter where you go in the email world you will always be contactable at your alumni.ucd.ie email address.

The main services offered by the UCD Alumni Online Community include:

- A password-protected online directory where you can update your details and search for your classmates and friends
- A class notes section where you can post updates and photos of your family, career and interests
- A permanent email forwarding address that will automatically forward email messages to an existing email account, so that you can avoid having to let everybody know your new email address each time you move job or email provider
- Access to all the latest updates on overseas chapters, clubs and graduate associations
- An events and reunions calendar listing alumni and university events, updated weekly by the Alumni Office. It will also allow you to book and pay for events online
- Online newsletters that will update you regularly on details of alumni events and developments taking place within UCD.



Registering is quick & easy

- Go to www.ucd.ie/alumni
- Select 'Online Community'
- Select the 'Register Now' link
- Follow the simple four-step instructions:
 - Find your record on the database
 - Enter your name and year of graduation
 - Select your record from the list displayed
 - Verify your record
 - Check the details displayed
 - Enter your date of birth
 - Create your user ID and password.

PORTRÁID DEN PHOLAITEOIR AGUS É INA FHEAR ÓG



Photographs courtesy of UCD Archives

Tá líon mór bailiúchán tábhachtach i gCartlann Choláiste Ollscoile Bhaile Átha Cliath agus ina measc tá 170 éigin bosca ina bhfuil páipéir phríobháideacha de chuid de Valera. Le cabhair cuid den chomhfhreagras, d'éirigh le **Michael Kennedy** léargas níos leithne a fháil ar an bhfear — an réabhlóidí idéalach, an t-athair ag éagaoín, an státaire.

BHÍ SÉ dian ar an Maorshairsint Complachta, i 5ú Reisimint Lincolnshire (Sir Lincoln), James Mason, na litreacha a scríobh. Ghabh sé leithscéal i gcuid acu faoina chuid “iairglifi”, á mhíniú gur toradh iad ar chréachta a bhain dó i 1917 ag Passchendale.

Is amhlaidh i 1936, gur mhúscail bás fir óig cuimhní ann, ó 20 bliain roimhe sin. Chuir Mason peann le pár óna thigh cónaithe i gCleethorpes, i Sir Lincoln Shasana. Scríobh sé mar a dhéanfadh “seansaighdiúir amháin go seansaighdiúir eile” go hUachtarán Chomhairle Feidhmeannaí Shaorstát Éireann, Éamon de Valera, ag déanamh comhbhróin leis i mbás a mhic, Briain, in aois a 21, a d'éag i dtimpiste marcaíochta.

Thuig Mason go bhfaigheadh de Valera a lán litreacha comhbhróin. Ní raibh aon choinne aige go mbeadh cuimhne ag an Uachtarán air, cé gur bhuail sé féin agus Mason le chéile 20 bliain níos tuisce i mBaile Átha Cliath agus Aiséirí 1916 ag teacht chun deiridh.

I bpeannaireacht chreathach thug Mason de Valera siar go dáta a mbeadh cuimhne mhaith ag an Uachtarán air: an Domhnach, 30 Aibreán, 1916. Ar 2 i.n. an lá sin ghéill an Ceannfort de Valera, agus é ag feidhmiú ar orduithe ó Phádraig Mac Piarais, agus thug sé suas garastún Mhuilte Uí Bheoláin, 117 fear an Tríú Cathláin Bhriogáid Bhaile Átha Cliath de na hÓglaigh, d'Oifigeach Ceannais Mhason, an Captaen Edward J. Hitzen. Bhí an tAiséirí thart ó 4 i.n. an lá roimhe sin, i ngan fhios do de Valera. Bhí Mason i láthair ag faire. Cé go raibh de Valera cloíte ag an



De Valera as a young man / De Valera agus é ina fhear óg
Above/os cionn: Prisoner in Richmond Barracks, 1916 /
Príosúnach i mBeairic Richmond, 1916

troid “mhúscail a iompar mo chomhbhá agus mo mheas”.

Ba chuimhin leis an gCaptaen Hitzen níos déanaí gur “labhair de Valera go mall, mar a bheadh sé spionta: ‘Bhuel, tá sé go léir thart. Tá ordaithe dom géilleadh.’ Príomhoifigeach a bhí sa bhfear ard, tuirseach seo, a raibh cuma ghioblach air agus ar baineadh siar go hiomlán as ag an ordú géilleadh. D’fhéach sé níos trí chéile ag a raibh

le déanamh aige ná ón tuirse.”

Tá grianghraf iomráiteach ann ina bhfuil de Valera ag máirseáil ar dheis Hitzen, agus é ag treorú a chuid fear feadh Bhóthar Northumberland chun go ndéanfadh na Sasanaigh príosúnaigh díobh. Tá an bheirt fhear gar dá chéile sa phictiúr, d’fhéadfadh fiú go bhfuil siad ag comhrá.

Nuair a thug de Valera Fianna Fáil chun cumhachta i 1932, lean Mason an scéal “agus suim mhór agam in obair agus i saothair de Valera i réimse na heacnamaíochta”. Lean sé babhtáí aighnis de Valera le “J.H. Thomas righin” Rúnaí Stáit na Breataine um Ghnóthaí na dTiarnas, ina iarrachtaí cúrsaí idir Éire agus an Bhreatain a fheabhsú.

Dúirt Mason le de Valera conas mar a bhí “meas agam ar do bhuachaill”, i rith an Aiséirithe. Anois, sa bhliain 1936 “ós rud é gur bhuaileamar le chéile an uair úd, níl aon ní is mó a chránn mé ná do cheannaithe a fheiceáil léirithe i nuachtáin shuaracha na tire seo amhail is dá mba duine diabhláí mallaithe thú”. Dá mbeadh pictiúr ina sheilbh aige den Uachtarán “a leithéid de phléisiúir a thabharfadh sé dom a bheith in ann Ecce Homo a rá!”

Choimeád de Valera an litir ó Mason. Tá sí anois i measc a pháipéir phríobháideacha, agus ó 2003 i leith is féidir iad sin a scrúdú aon uair i gCartlann Choláiste Ollscoile Bhaile Átha Cliath (CCOBC). Tá 150 bosca cáipéisí, 20 bosca grianghraf maille le roinnt taifead gutha agus scannán, sa chnuasach.

Ar bhás de Valera sa bhliain 1975, fágadh na páipéir ag na Bráithre Proinsiasacha, agus aistríodh iad go COBC in Iúil na bliana 1997 faoi théarmaí páirtíochta idir na Proinsiasaigh agus CCOBC. Is iad na Bráithre uinéirí an bhailiúcháin, ach is iad CCOBC na coimeádaithe. Páirtíocht COBC-OFM a thugtar ar an socrú sin agus níl a leithéid de chonradh déanta ag aon ord rialta eile, is é sin, cáipéisí ina seilbh a aistriú go cartlann ollscoile chun iad a choimeád agus a chaomhnú.

Do CCOBC, atá ina cuid de Scoil na Staire agus na gCartlann i COBC ó Mheán Fómhair 2005, baineann páipéir de Valera le bunsraith de bhailiúcháin atá aici, ag baint le Fianna Fáil. San áireamh ansin tá cartlann pháirtí Fhianna Fáil agus páipéir phríobháideacha thriúr de dhlúthchomhghleacaithe de Valera sa chaibinéad, Proinsias Aiken, Séamus Ó Riain agus Seán Mac an tSaoi.

Tá páipéir phríobháideacha mórán daoine tábhachtacha i gCumann na nGaedheal agus i bhFine Gael ag CCOBC, mar shampla Earnán de Blaghd, Pádraig Mac Giollagáin, Deasún Mac Gearailt agus Seán A. Ó Coistealbha.

Is acmhainn a bhfuil tábhacht idirnáisiúnta léi don ollscoil, páipéir phríobháideacha mórán de phríomhphearsana polaitiúla na 20ú haoise in Éirinn a bheith ar coimeád aici i gCartlann i leataobh faoi fhoirgneamh na Leabharlainne i mBelfield.

Tugann na bailiúcháin scoláirí ó gach áit ar fud na cruinne chun taighde a dhéanamh in COBC, agus is leis na bailiúcháin chéanna is tuisce a chuireann staraithe óga COBC faobhar ar a scileanna taighde. Tá saothar na gcartlannaithe in COBC ag dul ar aghaidh i gcónaí. Leanfaidh siad orthu ag fáil páipéir ó gach aird.

In Aibreán 1938, scríobh Mason arís go de Valera. Luaigh sé chomh “sásta is a bhíos lenar bhainis amach le déanaí”, an conradh cosanta,

geilleagair agus airgeadais leis an mBreatain ar ar tugadh An Conradh Tripháirteach Angla-Éireannach 1938. Bhain Mason sásamh go háirithe as gur thug Príomh-Aire na Breataine, Chamberlain, déshúiligh (binoculars) ar ais do de Valera (an Taoiseach an tráth sin) a bhí tugtha ar láimh aige don Chaptaen Hitzen. D’fhreagair de Valera ag gabháil buíochais as an “litir chaoin a fuairas le déanaí agus as an litir a scríobhais chugam nuair a fuair mo mhac bás”. Luaigh sé mar a mheas sé a thíocfadh feabhas ar an gcaidreamh idir Éire agus an Bhreatain: “Lenár linn féin chifimid bunaithe idir an dá mhuintir, an caidreamh ba cheart a bheith idir dhá chomharsa chairdiúla, agus na seanchaidrimh thruamhéalacha á gcur i leataobh mar rud atá thart.”

Scríobh an Captaen Hitzen go de Valera chomh maith i 1938 ag tréaslú an chonartha leis an mBreatain leis: “Ba thragóid a bhí ann an uair dheireanach a bhuaileamar le chéile. Tá súil agam go bhféadfaimid lámh a chroitheadh le chéile nuair a bhuaifimid le chéile arís.”

Ocht mbliana is fiche ina dhiaidh sin, scríobh Hitzen, agus é 80 bliain d’aois, go de Valera, in Aibreán 1966, cothrom 50 bliain an Aiséirithe. Ní fhéadfadh sé “ligint don Cháisc áirithe seo dul thart gan tréaslú ó chroí leat as 40 bliain den ‘idéal’, ar labhras liom faoi ar thuras cinniúnach áirithe, a bheith curtha i gcrích”. B’fhéidir gur rugadh ar an mbeirt fhear ag comhrá ar an ngrianghraf gráinniúil úd tar éis an tsaoil.

Dhein Hitzen turas dá chuid féin i 1966. Bhuail sé le de Valera ag Muilte Uí Bheoláin le linn na gcuimhneachán. Bhí pictiúr den bheirt le chéile ar *Scéala Éireann (Irish Press)*.

Cuirtear de Valera i láthair go minic mar dhuine fuaranta, dúranta, gléasta in éide dhubh, samhail ar mhórán mícheart le hÉirinn in anallód. I ndornán litreacha ón gcartlann idir triúr fear a raibh sé de nasc eatarthu gur throid siad i mBaile Átha Cliath le linn Aiséirí na Cásca 90 bliain ó shin i mbliana, tagaimid ar phictiúr níos leithne de de Valera: réabhlóidí idéalach 1916, an t-athair ag éagaoín, státaire na 1930idí ag iarraidh an caidreamh Angla-Éireannach a fheabhsú sula dtíocfadh anord an chogaidh sa mhullach ar an Eoraip.

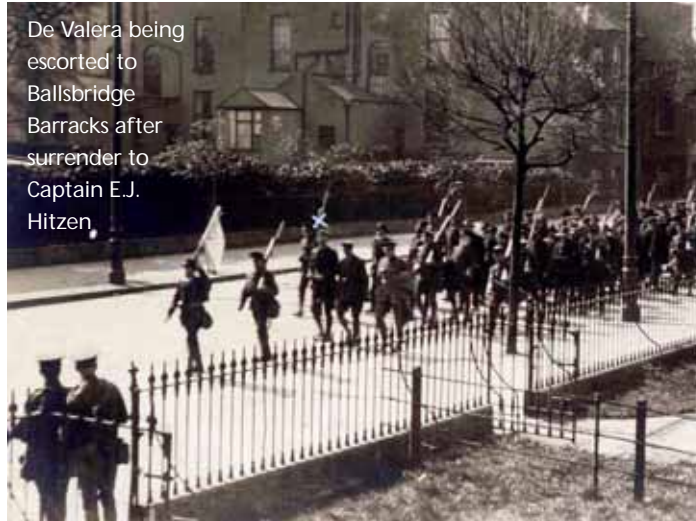
Chímid tarraingt phearsanta as an ngnáth de Valera agus mar a sháraigh sé imeacht aimsire, náisiúntacht agus easaontas cogaidh.

Tá an ceathrú duine sa scéal seo. Chuaigh iníon Hitzen, Vivien, isteach i Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha na Breataine. I 1967, ar fhilleadh ón Nigéir di, ceapadh í i bpost in Ambasáid na Breataine i mBaile Átha Cliath. Níor chaill de Valera riamh a dhraíocht. Thug sé cuireadh di bualadh leis in Áras an Uachtaráin. Ba “phléisiúir agus pribhléid iontach é” a scríobh sí ina litir buíochais. Bhí sí ag tnúth lena cuairt a phlé lena hathair a raibh “barr measa aige ar an Uachtarán, mar atá againn go léir, go deimhin”.

Tá iomhánna eile ó Pháipéir de Valera agus eolas faoi bhailiúcháin eile i gCartlann Choláiste Ollscoile Bhaile Átha Cliath ar fáil ag www.ucd.ie/archives.

Tá Michael Kennedy (BA, 1990; PhD, 1993) ina Eagarthóir Feidhmiúcháin ar Cháipéisí Acadaimh Ríoga na hÉireann ar Shraith Pholasaí Eachtrach na hÉireann.

PORTRAIT OF THE POLITICIAN AS A YOUNG MAN



De Valera being escorted to Ballsbridge Barracks after surrender to Captain E.J. Hitzen

Among the many major collections in the UCD Archives sit some 170 boxes of de Valera's private papers. Through some of the correspondence, [Michael Kennedy](#) encounters a broader picture of the man — the idealistic revolutionary, the father in mourning, the statesman

COMPANY SERGEANT Major James Mason of the 5th Lincolnshire Regiment found it difficult to write. He apologised in letters for his 'hieroglyphics', explaining that they resulted from wounds he received in 1917 while engaged in battle at Passchendale.

Now, in 1936 the death of a young man had stirred memories from 20 years before. Mason put pen to paper from his home in Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire. He wrote "from one old soldier to another" to the President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State, Eamon de Valera, to offer his condolences on the death of de Valera's 21-year-old son Brian in a riding accident.

Mason knew that de Valera would receive many letters of sympathy. He never expected the President to remember him, though he and Mason had met 20 years earlier in Dublin during the final hours of the 1916 Rising.

In shaky handwriting Mason brought de Valera back to a date the President would remember well: Sunday, 30 April 1916. At 2pm that day Commandant de Valera, acting on orders received from Padraic Pearse, surrendered the Boland's Mills garrison, 117 men of the Third Battalion of the Dublin Brigade of the Irish Volunteers, to Mason's Commanding Officer, Captain Edward J. Hitzen. The Rising had been over since 4pm the previous day, unknown to de Valera. Mason looked on. Though worn out from fighting, de Valera's "demeanour evoked my sympathy and admiration".

Captain Hitzen later recalled that de Valera "spoke slowly, almost



Eamon and Sinéad de Valera on their wedding day, 8 January 1910

wearily: 'Well, it is all over. I have orders to surrender.' This tall, weary man of unkempt appearance was a senior officer and one who was dumbstruck by the orders to surrender. He seemed more dazed by what he had to do than from fatigue."

A well-known photograph shows de Valera, on Hitzen's right-hand side, marching his men along Northumberland Road into British custody. The two men are close in the picture; they could even be talking.

When de Valera brought Fianna Fáil to power in 1932 Mason followed de Valera's "work and labours in the field of economics with great interest". He followed de Valera's rounds with "the egregious J.H. Thomas", the British Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, in his quest to improve relations between Britain and Ireland.

Mason told de Valera how during the Rising he had "admired your lads", now in 1936 "having so closely met you, nothing so aggravates me as to see in the yellow press of this country your features portrayed which are made to view as malevolent and diabolical". Had he a picture of the President in his possession "what a pleasure it would give me to be able to say Ecce Homo!"

De Valera kept the letter from Mason. It is now amongst his private papers, since 2003 open for inspection at the University College Dublin Archives (UCDA). The collection runs to 150 boxes of documents and 20 boxes of photographs as well as a number of voice and film recordings.

Left to the Franciscan Friars on de Valera's death in 1975, the papers were transferred to UCD in July 1997 under the terms of a partnership between the Franciscans and UCDA. The friars retain ownership of the collection, but the curatorship of the collection is with UCDA. Known as the UCD-OFM Partnership, this is a unique arrangement, no other religious order has undertaken such an agreement to transfer papers in its possession to university archives for safeguarding and conservation.

For UCDA, part of the UCD School of History and Archives since September 2005, the de Valera papers belong to a matrix of collections in its care relating to Fianna Fáil. This includes the archives of the Fianna Fáil party and the private papers of three of de Valera's longest serving cabinet colleagues, Frank Aiken, James Ryan and Seán MacEntee.

UCDA also holds the private papers of many important figures in Cumann na nGaedheal and Fine Gael, such as Ernest Blythe, Patrick McGilligan, Desmond FitzGerald and John A. Costello.

Holding the personal papers of many of the key political figures from 20th-century Ireland makes the UCD Archives, housed in a purpose-built repository in the James Joyce Library, a resource of international importance for the university.

The collections bring scholars from across the globe to research at UCD and they are also where many young UCD historians first hone their research skills. The work of the archivists at UCD is an open-ended process. They will continue to acquire papers from all backgrounds.

In April 1938, Mason wrote again to de Valera. He expressed his

"delight at your recent achievement", the defence, economic and financial agreement with Britain known as the 1938 Tripartite Anglo-Irish Agreement. Mason was particularly pleased that British Prime Minister Chamberlain had returned to the Taoiseach a set of binoculars that de Valera had handed over to Captain Hitzen. De Valera replied thanking Mason for the "kind letter recently received and also for the letter you wrote to me on the occasion of the death of my son". He predicted how British-Irish relations would develop: "We shall in our time see established between our two people the relations that should normally exist between friendly neighbours, leaving the old tragic relations behind as a thing of the past."

Captain Hitzen also wrote to de Valera in 1938 congratulating him on the agreement with Britain: "Our previous meeting was a tragedy and I hope at the next we may shake hands."

Twenty-eight years later, Hitzen, now 80, wrote to de Valera in April 1966, the 50th anniversary of the Rising. He could not "let this particular Easter pass without sending you my heartfelt congratulations on your survival to enjoy the accomplishment of 40 years of the 'Ideal' of which you spoke to me on a certain fateful journey". Perhaps the two men had been caught talking in that grainy photograph after all.

Hitzen made a journey of his own in 1966. He met de Valera at Boland's Mills during the anniversary celebrations. The two men were pictured together on the front page of the *Irish Press*.

De Valera is often portrayed as a distant, dour and black-clad figure representing much that is wrong with Ireland's past. In a handful of letters from the archives between three men who shared the common bond of having fought in Dublin during the Easter Rising 90 years ago this year, we encounter a broader picture of de Valera: the idealistic revolutionary of 1916, the father in mourning, the statesman of the 1930s seeking to improve Anglo-Irish relations before the chaos of war descended on Europe.

We see de Valera's extraordinary personal appeal and the manner in which it transcended time, nationality and the divisions of war.

There is a fourth person in this story: Hitzen's daughter Vivien, who joined the British Foreign Office. In 1967, on finishing a posting to Nigeria, she was posted to the British Embassy in Dublin. De Valera never lost his ability to charm. He invited her to meet him in Áras na Uachtaráin. It was, as she wrote in her letter of thanks, "a tremendous pleasure and privilege". She looked forward to discussing the visit with her father who "holds the President in the very highest esteem, as indeed we all do".

Other images from the de Valera Papers and information about other collections in UCD Archives is available at www.ucd.ie/archives.

Michael Kennedy (BA, 1990; PhD, 1993) is Executive Editor of the Royal Irish Academy's Documents on Irish Foreign Policy Series.

AN UNLIKELY CONSPIRATOR

As we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Easter Rising, **Michael Laffan** looks back at the role of one of its seven leaders and former UCD Lecturer in English, Thomas MacDonagh

IN THE UCD Staff Common Room two busts face each other, a few metres apart. They represent the two members of the university's academic staff who were most directly associated with the Easter Rising — Eoin MacNeill and Thomas MacDonagh.

The two men were friends as well as colleagues, although their roles in Easter Week could not have been more different. MacNeill was convinced that an insurrection would not be morally justified and he did all he could (short of informing the British) to prevent it from taking place, while MacDonagh was one of the signatories of the proclamation, one of the last commandants to surrender and one of the first rebel leaders to be shot. MacNeill's actions have been the subject of much research and debate, but MacDonagh has remained a relatively neglected figure.

Forty years ago F. X. Martin edited a book entitled *1916 and University College Dublin*, in which Michael Hayes wrote about MacDonagh with insight and affection. He reminisced about UCD shortly before the outbreak of the First World War, contrasting it with the changes that would soon come, before moving on to describe one particular member of the academic community:

“at the Cumann Gaelach in the year 1912, you could see Eoin MacNeill presiding, hear Pearse making a speech, meet Piaras Beaslaí and others like him on the platform, or in the hall, without suspecting that in a year's time MacNeill would be presiding at another, an enormous meeting, in Dublin to found the Irish Volunteers, or that in four years' time Pearse would be reading the proclamation of the Irish Republic in O'Connell Street. The men in the hall at that time who were to follow Pearse little knew what was in store for them. In seven years' time MacNeill would be a member of Dáil Éireann and of an Irish republican government. The youngest and most junior member of the academic staff in January 1912 — myself — was little more than 10 years later to be presiding over an Irish parliamentary assembly ...

MacDonagh was a small man with a very pleasant, attractive face, crisp, curly hair, full of talk, eager for argument, but not intolerant. No man ever seemed to have more zest for life, more interest in everything about him. He was easily angered, just as easily soothed and he had the great gift of enjoying a joke against himself. He did not look a bit like a conspirator ...”

It is true that in most respects MacDonagh was an unlikely conspirator. He was a literary critic, a poet, a schoolteacher and an inspirational lecturer. Hayes wrote of him that “at no moment was there evidence of any kind of gloomy forebodings about his own fate. He had made conscious, and very arduous, preparations to fit himself for a university post ... He had made every preparation for a successful academic career ... His line of research, had he lived, would have led him far. He had a broad view of life and a clear understanding of the various strains which go to make up Irish nationalism”.

But when the Ulster Volunteers challenged the UK government and parliament and when they formed a paramilitary force that could resist Home Rule, MacDonagh was caught up in the excitement that their defiance provoked among many Irish nationalists. He became active in the Irish Volunteers and he played an important role in the Howth gun-running.

After the First World War broke out and John Redmond had urged the Volunteers to enlist in the British army, the movement split in two. MacDonagh soon became an influential figure in the smaller, radical faction that was led by MacNeill and was influenced by the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He was appointed Director of Training and commander of the Second Battalion. He became ever more distracted from his teaching and his research, with the result that his book *Literature in Ireland* appeared only a month after his death.

Perhaps partly as a result of his close friendship with P. H. Pearse and Joseph Plunkett he drifted towards the radical faction within the Volunteers that planned an insurrection against the British. But he was co-opted to the IRB military council only weeks before the Rising, and the rebels may have been wise or fortunate in



drawing him into their plans at such a late stage. On Wednesday, four days before the rebellion was due to begin, he remarked incautiously, “We are not going out on Friday. But we are going out on Sunday.” This was reported to Dublin Castle by a police spy, but it was one of many warnings of trouble ahead that went unheeded by the British authorities.

As a friend of MacNeill, MacDonagh was involved in the rebels' attempts to prevent him from disrupting their plans. They failed and the Rising took place a day late because of his countermanding order. MacDonagh commanded one of the rebel battalions, but his role in Easter Week was not particularly significant. Contrary to the original plans his garrison ended up in Jacob's Biscuit Factory and it was virtually ignored by the British forces who concentrated on other, more central targets. Charles Townshend, whose recent *Easter 1916: The Irish Rebellion* has become the standard work on the Rising, is critical of the Second Battalion's actions and inaction and he describes how most of the garrison “stayed in the biscuit-filled mausoleum for the rest of the week waiting for an attack that never came”. The atmosphere in

the factory appears to have been relaxed and easygoing.

When MacDonagh received Pearse's order to surrender he was astonished and dismayed; he had led members of his garrison to share his belief or fantasy that the rebellion would last for months. Eventually after long discussions with the British commander General Lowe he was convinced that further resistance was futile, so he surrendered and led his men into captivity.

Together with Pearse and Tom Clarke, MacDonagh was one of the first of the rebels to be tried and sentenced to death. His recently released court-martial record reveals that he said virtually nothing at his trial — which, like the others, would seem to have been brief and perfunctory. William Wylie, who was one of the prosecuting counsels, later expressed particular regret that MacDonagh had been shot. But since he was a signatory of the proclamation, a battalion commander and one of the earliest to be tried (before the Irish public began to react against the executions), it is hard to imagine how he could have avoided a death sentence.

We know much more now about the Easter Rising than an earlier generation did 40 years ago, when Michael Hayes wrote his appreciation of MacDonagh. We have a vastly more detailed and nuanced appreciation of the Rising's background, course and consequences. But in some respects traditional impressions and judgements have been endorsed. Shortly after the executions had come to an end James Stephens, who knew many of the rebels and who had kept a diary of moods and events during Easter Week, wrote that “No person living is the worse off for having known Thomas MacDonagh, and I, at least, have never heard MacDonagh speak unkindly or even harshly of anything that lived.”

Thomas MacDonagh was not a great military commander, but few people are, and his background and training would have made this an unlikely role. In some respects he seems to have been out of his depth as a rebel leader during Easter Week. But for almost a century his image has survived as that of a much-loved man who was brave, scholarly, imaginative and idealistic.

Dr Michael Laffan is Head of the UCD School of History and Archives. His published works include The Partition of Ireland, 1911-1925 (Dublin, 1983) and The Resurrection of Ireland: the Sinn Féin Party, 1916-1923 (Cambridge, 1999).

Image courtesy of the National Photographic Archive

‘No man ever seemed to have more zest for life, more interest in everything about him’



RETURN TO TARA

For decades the fruits of the most productive archaeological dig at Tara Hill were left undocumented. Eoghan Rice reports on the eventual unveiling of the secrets that lay undiscovered for thousands of years

IT WAS a daunting task to undertake. Stored away inside UCD's School of Archaeology were hundreds of boxes of bones, maps, drawings, artefacts waiting to be examined, sorted and catalogued. The boxes had been moved to the university in the 1950s following an ambitious, but ultimately aborted, attempt to research one of Ireland's best-known treasures, the Hill of Tara. And there they remained, collecting dust.

It is almost 20 years since Dr Muiris O'Sullivan decided to take up that challenge to document the findings of the 1950s excavations. Last month, those findings were finally published, following painstaking work by O'Sullivan to chronicle the items retrieved from the great dig.

For O'Sullivan, it has been a long journey from that day in 1987 when he opened up the first box of items. "It's almost a bit embarrassing to say that it has taken this long, although I have been working on a lot of other projects in between," he jokes.

The product of that work, *Duma na nGiall*, published by Wordwell, offers a fascinating insight into the complexity of the monuments at Tara and more specifically the Mound of the Hostages, the burial

tomb on which the 1950s excavations were focused. The book brings to life the site, revealing the people and items that were buried there away from the world's view for over 5,000 years.

"The book is the equivalent of an excavation report, only it is 50 years after the excavation," explains O'Sullivan. "Everything that they found during their digs is recorded, together with a lot of documents, field notes, drawings and photographs."

If a 50-year gap between the excavation and the publication of the findings seems a bit long, it is put into perspective by the time frame of the Mound of the Hostages itself. Over 300 people are believed to have been buried or cremated at the site, with some human remains dating as far back as 3500 BC. Indeed, the site was used for burial purposes for 2,000 years, which also gives an indication of how exclusive a burial site it was — with a rate of one burial every six or seven years, it is clear that not just anybody was allowed into the Mound of the Hostages.

Burials continued at the site right up until 1700 BC, well before it is thought burials were carried out at the Hill of Tara itself. This would seem to suggest that the Mound of the Hostages predates the Hill of Tara and was originally considered a more important site.

For four years during the 1950s, researchers from UCD carried out the most extensive excavations ever conducted at Tara. Work first began in the summer of 1955, when Sean O'Riordain, Professor of Celtic Archaeology at the university, led a team of researchers to the site in a bid to uncover its secrets. Strangely, given the massive importance of the Hill of Tara in Irish history, this was the first major examination of the area.

O'Riordain and his team carried out work throughout the summers of 1955 and 1956. However, their work was dramatically halted in 1956 when O'Riordain died suddenly.

For a period it seemed as though the plans to excavate the Mound

of the Hostages would die with O'Riordain. That was, however, until his successor as Professor of Celtic Archaeology, Ruaidhri de Valera, decided to take up where O'Riordain had left off, bringing a team of researchers back to the site.

De Valera, son of former President Eamon, continued the research throughout the summer of 1959. It was during this dig that the true importance of the Mound of the Hostages was revealed.

Guarding the central tomb, the researchers discovered three cists containing the remains of 55 adults, three children and four infants — more than most megalithic tombs have produced in total. As startling a discovery as it was, it paled in comparison to what lay waiting inside the tomb itself. Inside the tomb, the remains of an astonishing 250 bodies were uncovered, making it arguably the most valuable burial tomb in Europe.

"What makes the site so interesting is that, although it is far smaller than sites such as Newgrange, the Mound of the Hostages contains far more than any other site," explains O'Sullivan. "No other site in Europe has such a collection of material as the Mound of the Hostages."

Despite the startling discovery, work on the site halted in the summer of 1959 and the recovered items were brought back to UCD, where they have remained ever since. Only now, due to the tireless work of O'Sullivan, have those discoveries finally been documented.

However, the work does not end here. As with all archaeological research, the findings of the 1950s excavations have thrown up almost as many questions as they have answered.

By teaming up with the UCD Conway Institute, O'Sullivan is hoping that further analysis of the human remains may uncover one of the greatest secrets of sites such as the Mound of the Hostages — who was buried there?

It is hoped that further research may provide crucial clues towards solving this mystery. For example, were the people buried in these mounds members of powerful local families? Or could they have been brought from far away, possibly even abroad, in order to be buried at Tara? The second possibility would further prove the massive importance of Tara to the ancient world, both in Ireland and Europe.

"There is still a lot to learn about the remains themselves," says O'Sullivan. "For example, we do not know whether there is a genetic link between the people buried in the site. Most of the remains were cremated, but some were not burnt and that will enable us to carry out further tests."

Could it be that the research of 50 years ago will finally help to unlock the secrets of this ancient and fascinating landscape?

Eoghan Rice is a Sunday Tribune journalist. He holds a BA in Politics and Economics ('03) and was former Editor of the UCD College Tribune.



Left: The excavation team led by Ruaidhri de Valera in the 1950s

Above: Excavations at the Mound of Hostages in the 1950s

ON YOUR MARKS

Gavin Cummiskey speaks to some of this year's recipients of sports scholarships on the challenges of combining training with their studies



Rena Buckley



Brendan Walton

REMEMBER STUDENT life? Late to bed, late to rise. Idling away the time between social ventures. Always stony broke. Occasional visits to the library.

Well, there is another species that walks among the Belfield populace. These people are different; they are leaner, busier and can usually be identified by some form of representative tracksuit. They are the sports scholarship students.

Many of Irish sports' present-day superstars passed through UCD, namely Brian O'Driscoll, Denis Hickie and a host of current GAA players, including former UCD striker Jason Sherlock. The most recent graduate to burst on to the global stage is hurdler Derval O'Rourke (see panel).

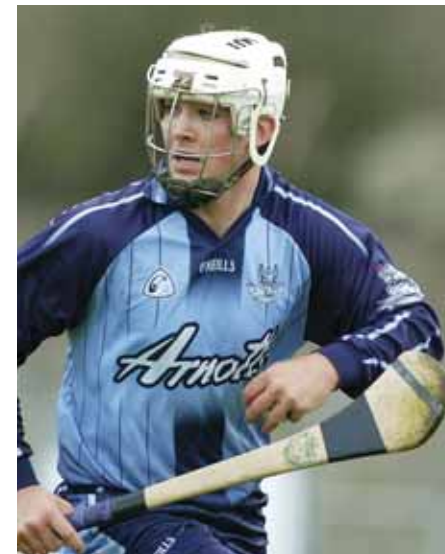
But what about those who are currently on campus? I spoke to five current scholarship students — Emer Fallon, Tom Brady, Brendan Walton, Conan Byrne and Catriona Buckley — to see how they balance a professional attitude with their studies.

Two UCD rugby players — Conor McInerney and Kevin Sheahan — were understandably unavailable having just returned from the under-19s World Cup in Dubai where Ireland finished a respectable fifth. Their attentions turned immediately to the Business and Legal first-year exams.

For a scholarship student, attaining a degree or diploma is backup in case a sporting career fails to materialise. The trick is to maintain equilibrium. Sport is the priority but exams must be passed, and some downtime is also essential.

The budding players

Take emerging handballer Emer Fallon, who is in the first year of a BSc in Physiotherapy and Performance Science. She hoped to add a senior world title to her under-17 success in 2003 but now finds she has to give physics another shot in the summer. "Having to repeat physics means I can't go to the World Championships in Canada this summer," she reveals. "It was my first time doing physics and it was totally over my head. But I intend to get my head around it. I have to!"



Tom Brady (left), in action with Dublin, and Conan Byrne



Fallon's day will come. Already this year she gave World No. 1 Fiona Shannon a scare in the semi-finals of the Irish Open. She also made an impressive first dip into the US. "In Arizona I won the US Junior Nationals in singles and doubles. In my first Collegiate competition in Texas I beat Maria Daly [main rival] for the first time. I was seeded third and I got to the final, but was beaten, so I was happy with that for my first season."

Cork football and camogie player Rena Buckley has already entered the history books with the unique achievement of Cork capturing both All-Ireland titles in 2005.

If it is not Cork, then it is UCD or the home club that seeks her presence. And yet, Buckley refuses to complain about the sacrifice she makes on a daily basis. "Life would be much more difficult if I wasn't playing sport. It is a fantastic opportunity."

Tom Brady is a hurler, footballer and engineering student on UCD scholarship, all at the age of 18. When not playing for the Dublin senior hurlers, there are club commitments with Na Fianna in football and hurling. Then there is the Dublin under-21s, in both codes of course. And this is not forgetting his UCD obligations.

This year he didn't have the time to play in the Fitzgibbon or the Sigerson Cups, but he did squeeze in a championship run with the Freshers. "We had a very good team," he recounts. "Waterford IT beat us in the All-

Ireland semi-final. I love playing in UCD." Brady could train every night of the week and then play up to four games on the weekend, but people like Dave Billings in UCD ensure he is cut the necessary slack. Studying is also included in this multitasking lifestyle. "I tend to do a lot of work at the weekends and in college," Brady adds. "I would have a lecture at 9am and then another at 2pm so I would get a lot of study done between them."

Brendan Walton is a nephew of Philip Walton — most famous for sinking the winning putt at the 1995 Ryder Cup. He is currently on the Sports Management diploma, which allows him plenty of time to fine-tune his game on the Island golf course in Donabate. "It's been quite a good experience and pretty easy actually," he admits. "I prefer it to school as I have more time on my hands to practise. I'm doing the diploma so it is a one-day-a-week course but because I'm on scholarship I also go to the gym three times a week."

UCD soccer player Conan Byrne is probably the best person to give an insight into the comparisons between student life and being an actual professional. Byrne was on the books of Millwall before choosing the Leaving Certificate over the make or break life of English football.

"At Millwall you were on your own two feet without a doubt. I was 15 when I first

Gold for O'Rourke



Congratulations to Derval O'Rourke. On 11 March 2006, she won the 60 metre hurdles at the World Indoor Championships in Moscow.

Two hours before the final O'Rourke won her semi-final in 7.87 seconds — an Irish record. The UCD graduate would need to run faster to beat the world-class field. She ran the final in 7.84 seconds. This was a remarkable achievement, considering she only broke eight seconds the previous month.

went over. The longest I stayed was three weeks in a row and I wanted to go home after one. I loved the football side of things. You were down at the training ground at 9am and finished by 2pm. But after training you are in somebody else's house. You had to ask could you watch TV or anything else."

Being a professional footballer is the stuff of dreams but he could do without the solitude. In two years' time Doyle will still be playing football but he will have options.

That's the bottom line for sporting scholars: options.

Gavin Cummiskey graduated with a BA in History and Politics (01). He attained a MA in Journalism from Dublin City University in 2003. He is currently a sports reporter for The Irish Times.

A COUNTY PRACTICE

Brian Dooher followed in the footsteps of four previous UCD alumni when he raised the Sam Maguire Cup last September. Eugene McGee talks to the Tyrone captain about balancing life as a practising vet and a Gaelic footballer

WHEN BRIAN Dooher (MVB '98), as captain of the Tyrone Gaelic football team, was presented with the Sam Maguire Cup last September in Croke Park, it was the sixth occasion on which a graduate of UCD had achieved this honour. The previous All-Ireland-winning captains from UCD were Sean Flanagan (Mayo, 1950 & 1951), Donie O'Sullivan (Kerry, 1970), Mickey O'Sullivan (Kerry, 1975) — who was unable to receive the cup after being injured in the game and it was instead presented to Pat Spillane — and Denis 'Ogie' Moran (Kerry, 1978).

Dooher graduated from UCD with a degree in Veterinary Medicine in 1996, having helped the college to a Sigerson Cup final victory that same year. He admits it was something of a culture shock when he first went to UCD in 1993. He had been born and reared on a farm at Aughabrack, Co. Tyrone, right on the Tyrone-Derry border and about 10 miles from Strabane. His secondary education was at St Columb's College, Derry, about 15 miles from his home, so when he arrived in Dublin 4 it was a significant change of scene.

"I adapted quickly enough and, as I was keen to be a vet, it was a question of getting into UCD or having to travel to a university in the UK," says Dooher. "Thankfully I got the three As in my A-level exams, which at that time was sufficient for entry to UCD."

He had indicated early proficiency at Gaelic football, playing for the Tyrone Under-18 minor team that won the 1993 Ulster championship, later losing the All-Ireland semi-final to Meath. Dooher, however, did not immediately get involved in sport at UCD.

"I was going up and down to my home most weekends for club football and it was a quite a journey so that, along with my studies, it occupied most of my time," recalls Dooher. "But later I did join the college senior panel and I really enjoyed my three years in the UCD colours. I was fortunate that we had a team good enough to win the coveted Sigerson Cup in 1996 — for the first time since 1985.

"By UCD standards, that team was unusual in that we had very few

well-known county players but instead we had a very dedicated bunch of men from all over Ireland. Possibly the best-known player on the team was Trevor Giles, who went on to win two All-Ireland medals with his county."

Upon graduation, Dooher returned to his native county to join a four-person large-animal practice in Claudy, Derry and remained there for seven years.

As the Tyrone football team moved closer to the top of the national Gaelic football scene, winning their first All-Ireland in 2003, however, Dooher found that the ever-increasing demands of training made it impractical to continue in general veterinary work.

"The demands of training with Tyrone were such that I always found myself swapping around with other vets in the practice and inconveniencing them. In reality I was burning the candle at both ends and something had to give."

In May 2005, Dooher decided to quit the practice and took a veterinary job with the Department of Agriculture in Omagh, offering a more regular nine-to-five day. It was perhaps no coincidence that this move was closely followed with Dooher's appointment as captain of the Tyrone team in March 2005.

The appointment came about following the tragic circumstance of the sudden death of then captain Cormac McAnallan, who died of a viral heart infection. McAnallan had also played for UCD while studying for his Higher Diploma and he too had won a Dublin senior championship with the university. The event sent shockwaves throughout Irish sport but particularly in his native Tyrone.

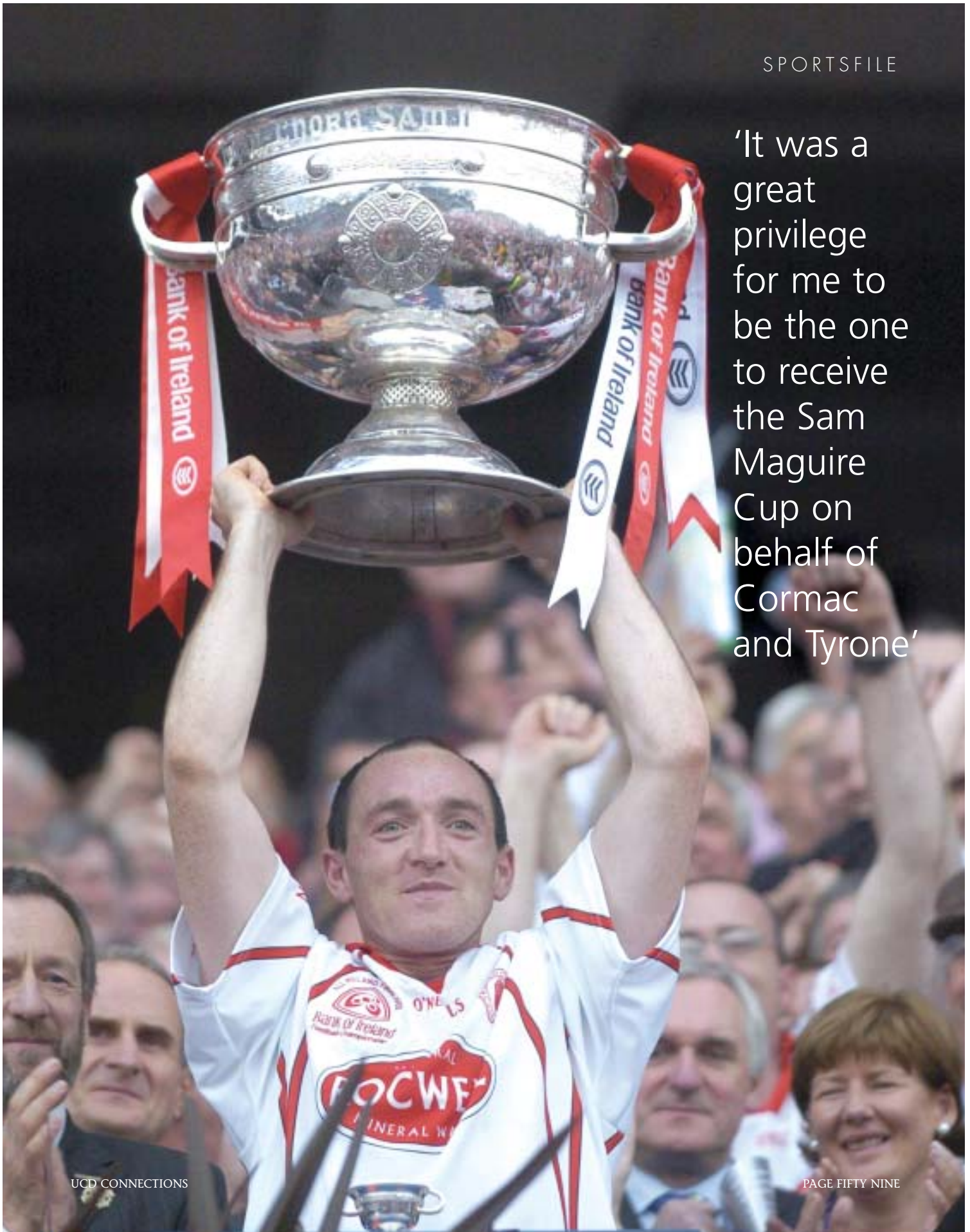
"I had grown to know Cormac since he had joined the Tyrone panel back in 2000," says Dooher. "He was clearly an exceptional person, not just for his brilliant prowess as a footballer but also for his qualities of courage and leadership that set him apart.

"When Cormac died so tragically, the rest of the Tyrone players were determined that his wish to win a second All-Ireland would be fulfilled," says Dooher. "The memory of Cormac sustained us through a record 10 hard championship games until we triumphed over Kerry in the final. Little wonder that many tears were shed by players and supporters that day and it was a great privilege for me to be the one to receive the Sam Maguire Cup on behalf of Cormac and Tyrone."

Dooher married May from Clonbridge last December and the couple intends to build a new home in his native parish. He says he was very honoured to receive a UCD Foundation Award last autumn.

Eugene McGee is a BA and HDip graduate of UCD. He coached UCD to six Sigerson Cup wins as well as two Dublin championships and two All-Ireland club titles in 1974/75. He later managed Offaly to All-Ireland success in 1982. McGee recently retired from the position of Managing Editor of The Longford Leader and writes a weekly column for the Irish Independent.

'It was a great privilege for me to be the one to receive the Sam Maguire Cup on behalf of Cormac and Tyrone'



UCD CHAPTERS

UCD chapters are created when graduates living overseas come together in specific regions to network and socialise. There are currently more than 50 UCD chapters and overseas contacts, the details of which can be found at www.ucd.ie/alumni. If you are a UCD graduate living abroad and there is no active chapter in your region please contact UCD Alumni & Development on tel +353 1 7161447 or email alumni@ucd.ie for information on how to set up a UCD chapter.

NEW CHAPTER/OVERSEAS CONTACTS 2005/06

JAPAN

Ambassador Brendan Scannell (BA '73)
(www.ucd-alumni-japan.com)

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

Ahmed Elwakil (PhD '00) elwakil@sharjah.ac.ae

WASHINGTON DC



Isobel Murray is the Chapter President for Washington DC and can be contacted at isobelm@comcast.net.

Ambassador Noel Fahey (DPA '67, BA '71) was presented with the Centenary History

of the Literary & Historical Society by Isobel Murray (BCL '85), former auditor of the L&H and President of the Washington DC Chapter at an alumni event hosted by Ambassador and Mrs Fahey at their residence in April 2005

JAPAN



Rachel Crotty (BA '85) at St Patrick's Day Parade, Tokyo

The Japan Chapter got off to a good start this year with a number of events including a Chapter Dinner, participation in various St Patrick's Day parades, a joint event with alumni from EM Lyon and NUIG, as well as an informal dinner with visiting UCD representatives.

The Chapter President and founder John Bourke (MBA '93) of

Nichiai handed over the reins to Brendan Scannell (BA '73), Ambassador of Ireland to Japan.

Log onto www.ucd-alumni-japan.com to check out the events.

FRANCE



Gerry Collins (BE '91) is the Chapter President for France and can be contacted at gerry_collins@hotmail.com.

The UCD Chapter in France is active and had a great night out for their Christmas dinner. They have regular pub nights and are currently planning a summer outing. They are a relatively small band and Gerry would welcome contact from new members living in France.

GERMANY



Nina McGuinness (BA '00) and Cáit Kinsella (BA '00) are the contacts for the UCD Chapter in Germany and can be contacted at info@ucd-alumni.de. They held an event in September and would be delighted to welcome new members to the chapter. Log onto www.ucd-alumni.de and check out their website.

UK



The UK Chapter meet on the third Thursday of every month. To find out the location of the next meeting, contact Myles Farrell (BComm '98, MBS '99) at ucduk@hotmail.com. Their recent events included a dinner in October 2005, a table quiz in February 2006 and they also participated in the London New Year's Party for Irish universities. A summer boat cruise on the Thames is being organised for Thursday 6 July 2006. Further details are available on www.ucd.ie/alumni.

BRUSSELS



Adeline Farrelly (BA '84) (a.farrelly@europabio.org) and Brendan Cardiff (BA '66, MA '67) are the co-chairs of the UCD Belgian Chapter and would be delighted to hear from graduates living in and visiting Belgium. A graduate dinner will be held on 26 June 2006 in Brussels with guest speaker, UCD graduate, Catherine Day, Secretary General of the European Commission. For an update on the dinner log onto www.ucd.ie/alumni.

GRADUATE ASSOCIATIONS: MEDICAL



MEDICAL GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION GALA DINNER

The School of Medicine & Medical Science, formerly the Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences, celebrated the graduation of the final medical year class of 2005 on 11 June 2005 in O'Reilly Hall, UCD, Belfield. The evening was a fantastic success and was attended in record numbers by the graduates, their families and friends and by the staff who were involved in teaching in UCD.

Dato Dr Leslie Lam (MB BCH BAO '67, BSc '69, DipCH '75) was awarded with an Honorary Fellowship Award of the Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, UCD. Dr Lam is a distinguished cardiologist and runs The Cardiac Centre based in Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre, Singapore. Dr Lam attended the evening together with his wife Dr Ivy Yap (MB BCH BAO '69, DipCH '77), who is also a UCD graduate, and a delegation from Singapore.

The MGA Student of the Year award — nominated by the final-year class and sponsored by the Medical Graduates Association and Pfizer Healthcare — went to Dr Aileen McCabe. In true altruistic style Dr McCabe could not be there on the evening as she was volunteering with Sunshine House, a project that provides services to children from disadvantaged areas of Greater Dublin.

Teaching Awards were presented to the top 10 teachers, as nominated by the final medical year class of 2005. The winners were Dr John Seery, Dr Eric Heffernan (MB BCH BAO '98), Professor William Powderly (MB BCH BAO '79, MD '88), Dr Jurgen Mulsow (MB BCH BAO '00), Mr Arnold Hill (MB BCH BAO '88, MMedSc '90), Dr Koon Meng Chan, Dr Donal O'Shea (MB BCH BAO '89, MD '97), Professor Colm O'Herlihy (MB BCH BAO '73, DipCH '74), Dr Brian Barry and Professor Oscar Traynor (MB BCH BAO '74, PhD '84). The Departments of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Surgery and Paediatrics were each presented ex aequo with Department of the Year awards. Congratulations to all!

Pictured above: Drs Manley, Bacon and Donnelly at the gala dinner

PAST EVENTS

The School of Medicine and Medical Science Gala Dinner took place on Friday 9 June 2006. Check www.ucd.ie/alumni for an update.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The AGM, Annual Scientific Meeting and Distinguished Graduate Award will take place on 29/30 September 2006. For more information contact Martin O'Donohoe (MB BCH BAO '83, BSc '85, MCh '92) on +353 (0)1 860 0190 or mkodonohoe@eircom.net.

CAREERS GUIDANCE SEMINAR

The Annual Career Guidance Seminar was held on Wednesday 22 March 2006. It was organised by the MGA and the UCD Medical Society. This year, programme directors in Medicine, Surgery, Anaesthetics, Pathology, Paediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Psychiatry and General Practice gave a short overview of entry into basic training in their individual specialities. This was followed by the usual one-to-one advice given by professors, lecturers and specialist registrars. Generous sponsorship was obtained by the Medical Society and the event was a great success thanks to Karen O'Connell, Ronan Sugrue and the other organisers.

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

The Annual Scientific Meeting coupled with the AGM and the presentation of the Annual Distinguished Graduate Award was held at the Catherine McAuley Centre at the Mater Hospital followed by dinner at the Medical Board Building, 59 Eccles Street. The scientific session comprised short talks from UCD graduates recently awarded Newman Professorships. Professors John Crowe (MB BCH BAO '70), Aidan McCormack (MB BCH BAO '79) and Stephen Eustace (MB BCH BAO '86, MSc '93) provided interesting insights into the cutting edge of their own disciplines. The meeting concluded with the AGM of the MGA.

The Distinguished Graduate Award was presented to UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady (MB BCH, BAO '82, BSc '84, PhD '93, MD '94) at the dinner that followed in the Medical Board Building. All at the meeting were particularly impressed with the facilities which Dr Brady had developed at the Catherine McAuley Education Centre at the Mater.

Pictured above: Award Winners

GRADUATE ASSOCIATIONS: ENGINEERING



ENGINEERING GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION

The Engineering Graduates' Association (EGA) is open to all graduates of engineering in UCD.

The 2006 Annual Luncheon will take place in O'Reilly Hall in Belfield on Friday, 30 June. All graduates are welcome and may invite colleagues or take a table. For more information or to make a booking please contact Caitriona Boushel (BE '03) at caitriona.boushel@ee.ucd.ie or tel +353 1 7161853.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The Annual Golf Outing of the Association was held in Elm Park Golf Club on 30 September 2005. A great day was had by all and all the prizes went to just one team! Nearest The Pin was Martin Hussey (BE '88); Longest Drive went to Liam Carroll (BE '72) and, complete with their captain Michael Gilchrist, UCD Team 3 was awarded the 2005 Vincent Dodd Perpetual Trophy by the President of the EGA, Simon Kelly (BE '75). Congratulations to all! Details of the 2006 outing will be available at a later stage on www.ucd.ie/enggrad.

Pictured above from left: Martin Hussey; President of the EGA, Simon Kelly; Liam Carroll; and Prof Michael Gilchrist

ANNUAL LECTURE

The Annual Lecture was delivered on 4 April 2006 in lecture theatre 326 of the Engineering Building, UCD. Entitled *Future Trends in Engineering Education*, the lecture was delivered by Professor Gerald Byrne, Dean of Engineering, UCD. Professor Byrne addressed the needs of future engineering education in the context of the recent changes to the structures in UCD. The talk was followed by a panel discussion and question and answer session. A vote of thanks was delivered by Tony O'Brien (BE '74, MBA '83), Treasurer of EGA.



ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARD

The Annual Luncheon of the EGA was held in O'Reilly Hall, Belfield on 8 April 2005. At the event, on behalf of the Association, the President of the EGA, Simon Kelly, awarded the 2005 Distinguished Graduate Award to Professor Jim Dooge (BE '42, BSc '42, ME '52). Professor Dooge entertained the guests with his stories of engineering in UCD over the years and of his career. Previous recipients of the award were PJ Rudden (RPS-MCOS, 2002), Joe O'Donovan (Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers, 2003), Vincent O'Doherty (Superquinn, 2004).

Professor Dooge began his career in 1942 with the Office of Public Works. In 1946 he joined the ESB. Between 1954 and 1956 he was research associate at the Department of Civil Engineering at University of Iowa. In 1958 he became Professor of Civil Engineering at University College Cork and then a Professor at UCD in 1970. Between 1984 and 1987 he worked at the Department of Engineering Hydrology at University College Galway. In 1988 he returned to UCD to the Centre for Water Resources Research.

As well as having a distinguished career as an academic, Professor Dooge has led a very active political life. From 1961 to 1977 he was a Senator in Seanad Éireann, having been nominated by the Institute of Engineers of Ireland. He served as Cathaoirleach from 1973 to 1977. In 1981 he was appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs. In 1981 he returned to Seanad Éireann and served until 1987.

He was Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the World Climate Impact Studies Programme (1980-1990), President of the International Commission on Water Resources (1971-1975), President of the International Association for Hydrological Sciences (1975-1979) and President of the Royal Irish Academy (1987-1990). Elected as a foreign member of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2000, he is the recipient of the 2005 Prince Philip Medal of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Nominations for future awards are invited from members and should be sent to Caitriona Boushel, contact details above.

Pictured above: Prof James Dooge addressing the Annual Luncheon

GRADUATE ASSOCIATIONS: UCD WOMEN

The UCD Women Graduates' Association (WGA) is affiliated to the Irish Federation of University Women (IrFUW), University Women of Europe (UWE) and the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), which has consultative status within the UN. Membership forms can be by writing to the Honorary Secretary, UCD-WGA, UCD, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2 or email women.graduates@ucd.ie. Annette Durkan (BA '63, HDipEd '64, EDipEdAdm '92) is the current UCD WGA President.

IMAGES OF UCD



The WGA's main project in 2005 was the UCD Photo-Call, which aimed to collect photographs for the university archives. This culminated in the mounting of an exhibition of the photographs submitted — *Images of UCD* — which was held in November 2005 in the Quinn School. The response to the exhibition was very encouraging and requests have been received for permission to use some of the photos.

The WGA is still appealing to all UCD graduates to send in photographs from their time in UCD. Photos should be accompanied by a Photo-Call form that can be found online at www.ucd.ie/alumni/wga or can be requested by writing to UCD Photo-Call, Room 10, Arts Annexe, Woodview, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4. Soft copies of photos should be emailed to women.graduates@ucd.ie.

Pictured above: Some members of UCD WGA and guests enjoying the PhotoCall Exhibition

EGA GOLD MEDAL AWARDS

The 2005 EGA Gold Medal Awards were presented to the best students in each of the six graduating engineering classes. The unusual event of a tie in Electronic Engineering meant that seven medals were presented. Recipients were:

GEA Tuchenhausen Gold Medal (Biosystems Engineering): Roger McDermott

ESSO Gold Medal (Chemical Engineering): Gráinne McDonagh

RPS-MCOS Gold Medal (Civil Engineering): Páraic Quirke

Electricity Supply Board Gold Medal (Electrical Engineering): Ronan

Thomas FitzMaurice

Ericsson Gold Medal (Electronic Engineering): David Looney and Aishwarya Moni

CRH Gold Medal (Mechanical Engineering): Barry Hogan



EVENTS HELD IN 2005

In June 2005, the Annual Conference of the University Women of Europe was held in Cork. It was preceded by a friendship visit to Belfast and then Dublin. These events attracted a large number of overseas members.

The WGA heat of the Irish Federation's (IrFUW) Public Speaking Competition for Girls Under Fifteen was held in February 2006. The team award went to Loreto College, St Stephen's Green, Dublin and the Individual Best Speaker was Melanie Schlaschl from St Killian's German School, Clonskeagh. These four speakers represented the WGA in the national final of the competition, which took place in Belfield on Saturday, 4 March 2006.

Some other activities during the year included an outing to the Collins Barracks Museum to see the exhibition *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*, and two talks, one on *Studying Burmese Manuscripts* by Sinead Ward and the second on *Trafficking in Persons: The Facts, Roots & Branches* by Dr Maura O'Donohoe, MMM. We also had a visit to the Office of the EU on Molesworth Street, which included an information session and lunch.

Our fundraising activity this year was in the form of a bridge evening, held in April with the proceeds going to UCD Choral Scholars.

Pictured above: UCD WGA President Annette Durkan with the winning team from the UCD heat of the Public Speaking Competition — Estelle Purcell, Rosalind O'Sullivan and Hannah Lucy of Loreto Secondary School, St Stephen's Green, Dublin

GRADUATE NEWS: LAW



ADJUNCT SCHOOL OF LAW

Among those participating in the UCD School of Law's Adjunct School of Law programme were Judge John

Cooke (BCL '65, LLB '66), Court of First Instance of the European Communities, and former EU Commissioner, David Byrne.

Pictured (from left): Joanne Blennerhassett, UCD School of Law; former Commissioner David Byrne; Hugh Mohan, Chairman of the Bar Council

INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY



Dr Ian O'Donnell was appointed Director of the UCD School of Law's Institute of Criminology. The institute completed a number of major research projects, including the Study of Child Pornography and the International Self-Reported Delinquency Survey. Among the academic studies published was *Crime and Punishment in Ireland 1922-2003: A Statistical Sourcebook*. In its Distinguished Visiting Lecture series lectures were given by Professor Eric Dunning, Dr Harry Kennedy, Professor Joseph Kennedy, Professor Phil Scranton and Dr Julian Roberts.

In its Distinguished Visiting Lecture series lectures were given by Professor Eric Dunning, Dr Harry Kennedy, Professor Joseph Kennedy, Professor Phil Scranton and Dr Julian Roberts.

Pictured: Dr Ian O'Donnell, Director, UCD Institute of Criminology

JOHN MAURICE KELLY MEMORIAL LECTURE



The 12th John Maurice Kelly Memorial Lecture was delivered by the distinguished Roman and comparative lawyer, Professor Alan Watson, Ernest P. Rogers Professor of Law at the University of Georgia. The title of Professor Watson's lecture was: *The Romans: Not a Legalistic People*. The lecture was delivered before a distinguished gathering of legal practitioners and academics in the William Jefferson Clinton Auditorium, Belfield, on 28 April this year.

The lecture was delivered before a distinguished gathering of legal practitioners and academics in the William Jefferson Clinton Auditorium, Belfield, on 28 April this year.

Pictured (from left): Michael Collins, SC; Delphine Kelly; Prof Alan Watson; Nils Pettersen-Hagh, Advokat; Patricia Rickard-Clarke, Law Reform Commission



ANNUAL STUDENT PRIZEGIVING CEREMONY

The 29th annual Student Prizegiving Ceremony was held in Newman House, St Stephen's Green, on Thursday, 15 December 2005. This ceremony, since its inception, has been sponsored by Bank of Ireland. The adjudicator for the essay competition was Justice Hugh Geoghegan of the Supreme Court (BCL '61, LLB '63).

Back row (from left): Mr Spooner, on behalf of Joe Spooner, 2 BCL Silver; Niall McGoldrick, 1 BCL Silver; Margaret Murray, 1 BCL Gold; Paul Ward, UCD School of Law and event organiser; Grace O'Connor, 1 BCL Bronze; Noel McGrath, 3 BCL Bronze; Mark Murphy, 3 BCL Silver. Front row (from left): Des Crowley, CEO Retail Financial Services Bol; Justice Hugh Geoghegan, Supreme Court, essay adjudicator; Dr Hugh Brady, President of UCD; Prof Paul O'Connor, Dean, UCD School of Law



FORDHAM SUMMER LAW SCHOOL

The fifth annual Fordham Summer Law School organised in conjunction with the UCD School of Law and the School of Law at Queen's University, Belfast took place in July 2005. The curriculum comprised the subjects of International and Domestic Dispute Resolution, International Organisations, International Human Rights and Comparative Criminal Justice.

Pictured at a reception in King's Inns for the participants in the Summer School are (from left): Prof Joseph Sweeney, Fordham Law School; Alice Sweeney; Justice Roderick Murphy, Irish High Court



IRISH EUROPEAN LAW FORUM - NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The ninth annual conference of the UCD School of Law's Irish European Law Forum was held in Newman House on 10 December 2005. The title of this year's conference was *Enhancing Corporate Governance in Europe*.

Back row (from left): Dan O'Keefe SC, Chairman, Irish Takeover Panel; Prof Klaus J. Hopt, Director, Max Planck Institute for Private Law, Hamburg; Paul Appleby, Director of Corporate Enforcement; David Devlin, European Corporate Governance Forum; Prof Gérard Hertig, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich); Prof J. A. McCahery, University of Amsterdam; Prof Jonathan Rickford, British Institute of International and Comparative Law; Prof Paul Davies, London School of Economics. Front row (from left): Dr Blanaid Clarke, UCD School of Law; Prof Janet Dine, Queen Mary University of London; Prof Paul O'Connor, Dean, UCD School of Law; Prof Eilís Feeran, University of Cambridge; Prof Irene Lynch-Fannon, University College Cork



BROADCASTING, SOCIETY AND THE LAW LECTURE SERIES

The 10th lecture in this series, organised jointly by RTÉ and the UCD School of Law, was delivered before an audience of more than 500, by Michael McDowell TD (BA '72), Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform. The title of the minister's lecture was *Society and Broadcasting: Rethinking Roles*.

Pictured: Cathal Goan, Director General, RTÉ and Minister Michael McDowell TD



UCD SCHOOL OF LAW LAUNCHES PROCUREMENT RESEARCH PROJECT

The TenderWise project, led by Dermot Cahill of UCD School of Law, was launched recently in O'Reilly Hall with the holding of an international conference addressed by leading experts in the field. Internationally, the modernisation of procurement practices is becoming a major strategic objective for governments and regional authorities charged with spending public monies.

Since 2004, an international research project between the UCD School of Law and the Enterprise Unit of Trinity College Carmarthen, Wales, has been investigating procurement issues. Underlying the research was the search for the reasons as to why more small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are not seeking to win government business awarded by way of public tender. Also the objective is to educate the public sector on the problems faced by SME tenderers.

The project's current research output can be found on www.tenderwise.com or by contacting Dermot (Dermot.Cahill@ucd.ie) for a free copy of the TenderWise DVD-Rom. The TenderWise Research Team is pictured above.



Prof Michael Quayle, University of Glamorgan; Dr Barbara Allen, University of Birmingham; Dermot Cahill, UCD School of Law, Project Leader; Dr Brian Clarke, Trinity College Carmarthen

ORGANISE A REUNION



BArch Class of 1955 on the day of their graduation

The BArch Class of 1955 as they are today

GOLDEN JUBILEE 2005

More than 140 UCD alumni from the class of 1955 proudly gathered at a special ceremonial event in O'Reilly Hall to mark the Golden Jubilee of their graduation. They returned to witness a much-changed university where they met with old friends, some of whom they had not seen for more than 50 years.

Among the alumni at the event was Sister Cora Richardson (70). She completed an Arts degree at UCD before joining the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary and leaving Ireland to work in Africa. As a missionary, she is currently working with people suffering from AIDS in South Africa.

Also at the event was Mieczyslaw Swiatkowski (81) who studied dental surgery at UCD after fighting for the Free Polish Forces during World War II.



Cora Richardson and Mieczyslaw Swiatkowski

UCD Alumni & Development offers a support service and reunion pack for those wishing to organise a reunion. We can also provide you with the contact details of your former classmates. Call us on tel **+353 1 7161447** or email alumni@ucd.ie for more information. We'd be delighted to include your photos in next year's magazine

RUBY AND SILVER JUBILEE 2005

Saturday 19 November 2005 saw graduates from the classes of 1965 and 1980 return to UCD for their Ruby and Silver Jubilee.

Ambassador Thelma Doran spoke to graduates of her memories of UCD in the pre-Belfield era. The ambassador graduated with a BA in 1965 and followed this with a HDip in Education in 1966. Representing the class of 1980 was MEP and BAgSc graduate, Mairead McGuinness.



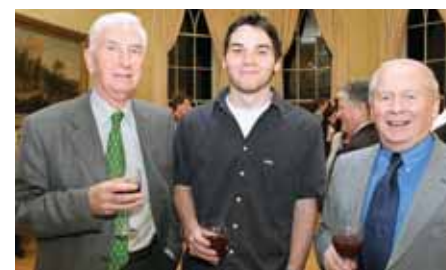
Cliona de Bhaldratthe Marsh, President Hugh Brady, Mairead McGuinness and Thelma Doran



MVB graduates from 1965 with their guests and Professor Boyd Jones, Dean of Veterinary Medicine. Back row: D.J. O'Driscoll, John Cassells, Tom Cusack, Tom Dillon, Pat Brophy and Prof Boyd Jones. Front row: Dr Mona McGarry, Nuala Cassells, Enda O'Driscoll, Deirdre Cusack, Kathleen Brophy and Dr Yvonne Groarke



Carole Devlin, Sean Mac An Bhaird, Angela Cooney, Emer Condon



Desmond Ormsby, David Ormsby, Louis Knowles



Terence Doyle, Maura Doyle

HOMECOMING RECEPTION 2005

Dr Philip Nolan, Registrar of UCD, welcomed more than 200 UCD graduates, staff and their guests to a reception in Newman House.



Sinead MacBride, Jennifer Allen and Catherine McNally



Sheelagh McHugh, Patrick Mercer, Renagh Holohan and Helen Keogh

150 ALUMNI GARDEN PARTY

Friday 24 June 2005 saw the culmination of the UCD 150th anniversary celebrations at a garden party for graduates in O'Reilly Hall, Belfield. The garden party was attended by more than 600 graduates who spent a nostalgic evening sipping wine and reminiscing about the non-academic activities of their student years.

MB BCh BAO 1986

A reunion is being planned for the medical class of 1986 in Mount Juliet Hotel on 3 and 4 November 2006. Should you wish to find out more please contact Mary Horgan at mary.horgan2@mailp.hse.ie or catherineE.cronin@mailp.hse.ie.

BSc (BIOCHEMISTRY - HONS) 1989

Dr Eilis Boyle-Walsh is planning a reunion for the BSc Honours Biochemistry class of 1989 in August 2006. Contact Eilis at yillee1@yahoo.co.uk.

UPCOMING REUNIONS

MB BCh BAO 1951

UCD medical class of 1951 are holding a reunion at Glenlo Abbey Hotel in Galway 17-20 October 2006. Any 1951 medical graduate who has not already received notification of the reunion and who is interested in attending please phone Dr Eithne Conway-McGee at +353 (0)91 522015 or mobile +353 (0)86 8641183. If you know the whereabouts of Dr Maura Cowley (Mayo), Dr Ivan Crowley, Dr Patrick Walsh (Carlow/Germany), Dr Thomas Hunt, Dr Jeremiah Healy, Dr Peter Kelly (Kildare), Dr Patrick Lavin, or Dr Dermot Ryan (Mayo), please contact Eithne.

GOLDEN JUBILEE

The 2006 Golden Jubilee for the class of 1956 will take place on Friday 20 October 2006. Please contact alumni@ucd.ie for more information.

BE & MEngSc 1966

There will be a reunion on 1 September 2006 for the BE & MEngSc class of 1966. The format will be a golf outing followed by dinner at the Marriott Druid's Glen, Newtownmountkennedy. Please contact Courtney Murphy at murphycj@iol.ie.

MB BCh BAO 1966

The reunion for the MB BCh BAO class of 1966 will take place in September 2006 in Killarney. For further details please contact Dr John Murphy class66@iolfree.ie.

RUBY & SILVER JUBILEE

The 2006 Ruby & Silver Jubilee for the classes of 1966 and 1981 will take place on Saturday 4 November 2006. Please contact alumni@ucd.ie for more information.

PAST REUNIONS



BAgSc 1965

The BAgSc class of 1965 held a 40th reunion on 22 September 2005. Peadar Murphy organised the reunion, which was held at the Agricultural Science Association National Conference banquet in the Mount Wolseley Hilton Resort.



BSc (BIOCHEMISTRY) 1974

There were nine graduates in Biochemistry in 1974 and five of these met on 10 March 2006 in The Merrion. Pictured above are Donal Danagher, Claire O'Connor, Marian Devitt, Mary Murphy (now Wallace) and Kieran Geoghegan, who came all the way from Connecticut.

BCL 1980

The BCL class of 1980 held an informal reunion on Friday 18 November 2005 in the Teachers Club, Parnell Square West, Dublin. They had a great turnout (approximately 50) and plan a 30-year reunion in 2010!

BCL 1985

Mairead Ruane, Ken Casey and Niall Farrell organised a reunion of the BCL class of 1985. The event was held in October in Newman House and was a great success as people travelled from as far as the UK to attend.

CLASS NOTES

Thank you to all our graduates who sent in material for our Class Notes section. Due to the large number of submissions received, we have edited them considerably. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

[1940s] [1950s]

RITA KIRWAN MB BCh BAO '41

After graduating from UCD, Rita completed her internship at St Vincent's Hospital in St Stephen's Green, following which she became a GP on Dublin's northside. Rita is a proud member of the Alumni Association and likes to keep in touch with developments in medical education at UCD through her grandson Ruaidhrí (see Class Notes 2000s).



RICHARD WILSON BSc '56, PhD '59, DSc '91

After graduating, Richard took up a position with the Agricultural Institute, now Teagasc, and stayed until retirement. The post allowed him the flexibility to lecture in chemistry for many years at NUI Maynooth and at UCD on a part-time basis. He served on both the Council for The Institute of Chemistry of Ireland and as a judge in the Young Scientist Competition. Currently retired, he remains active with voluntary work and writing about Irish scientists. For Hamilton Year 2005 he wrote a series of 10 articles published in *Rush Community News*. In 1961 he married Penny McGrail (BSc Hons Biochemistry '60); they have six children and 11 grandchildren.

KEN WLASCHIN MA '57

Ken graduated in 1956 from Dartmouth College in the US. He worked on newspapers in the US (*Star-Herald*), Rome (*Daily American*) and in London (*Daily Sketch*). He was drama series editor for London Weekend Television (1968), director of The London Film Festival (1969-1984), director of The American Film Institute's Film Theater in Washington DC and of The Los Angeles Film Festival (1984-1993), and director of AFI Film Preservation (1994-2005). His books include *Encyclopedia of Opera on Screen* and *Encyclopedia of Movie Stars*. He lives in Palm Springs, California and on the Isle of Wight. He is married to Maureen Kennedy Martin and has a son, Scott. Ken can be contacted at beachwoodprs@earthlink.net.

REV. FR BERNARD JOHN RAYMOND BA '58

Bennie worked in the Traffic Department of Aer Lingus at Dublin Airport. In 1959 he went to Nigeria to work as a teacher in a mission college in the diocese of Ibadan. After four years Bennie joined the SMA Fathers in Ireland in 1963. He returned to Ibadan Diocese in 1968 having being ordained in December 1967. Bishop Richard Finn SMA asked him to edit a Catholic weekly paper which he had founded in 1960. After two years, he went back to teaching in Fatima College, Ikire, and St Mary's Grammar School, Iwo. In 1994 Bennie came home to work in the Archives in Cork and still works in the Photographic Department. He can be contacted at raymond301131@eircom.net.

PATRICK J QUINN BArch '54

Patrick is currently Institute Professor Emeritus (formerly Dean) of Architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is also a director (and former president) of the Eastern New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Among national and international awards for his design projects he is proudest of an AIA National Honor Award. He received an MArch from University of Pennsylvania. He was captain of the UCD Athletic Club and has competed internationally in Masters swimming and in amateur golf.



DR MAURA P. IMBERT (NÉE COOKE) BSc Hons '53

After graduating, Maura travelled to Trinidad to marry Desmond Imbert (BE '53, ME '59), now Professor Emeritus of Engineering. Highlights of her career include: obtaining an MSc and a PhD from The University of The West Indies; founding the Trinidad & Tobago Astronomical Society in 1966; retiring as principal researcher from the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute in 1994 where she was head of the Food & Chemistry Division; and obtaining an online master's degree in astronomy in 2005 from James Cook University, Townsville, Australia.

FR JOHN ARCHBOLD BA Hons '55, HDipEd '60

Fr John Archbold OMI spent 25 years teaching in Belcamp College, Raheny, the last eight as headmaster. He spent a sabbatical year in South America followed by a year at Boston College. He returned to Ireland where he spent three years in parish ministry at St Michael's, Inchicore. He served as Assistant Pastor in the Basilica of St Patrick, Fremantle, Australia, where for four years he also was chaplain to the newly-founded Catholic University of Notre Dame, Australia. Fr John is presently in ministry at Fremantle.

AUSTIN HEALY BA '55, HDipEd '57

After being ordained in 1962 Austin travelled by boat to Freetown, Sierra Leone, Africa. From 1964 to 1968 he taught French and English in the Holy Ghost Secondary School, Segbwena, where he was principal until 1972. He then moved to Sewafe Secondary School and was principal there until 1982. Austin went on to become parish priest in 1988 in Kailahun and moved to St Martin's Freetown until 1996. He studied at the Institute of Philosophy, Ejisu, Ghana from 2001 to 2004 and moved to Ireland in 2005 where he now resides as curate in Kimmage Manor parish.

INVITE FOR SUBMISSIONS

If you would like to submit material for inclusion in our next edition of *UCD Connections* please contact **Sinéad Dolan**, UCD Alumni & Development on tel + 353 1 7161698 or email sinead.dolan@ucd.ie. Submissions should be no more than 100 words and photographs are welcome. We look forward to hearing from you!

If any information is printed incorrectly, please contact UCD Alumni & Development on tel +353 1 7161698 and the error will be corrected in the next issue.

[1960s]



FERGUS CASS BA '67

Fergus retired from Unilever in 2003. During his career he worked in financial and general management and lived in the UK, Ireland, the US, Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi and Romania. He recently completed an MA in the political economy of eastern Europe at the School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies at University College London and plans further postgraduate study. He undertakes consulting assignments in eastern Europe. Fergus is married and has one daughter. He lives in London and can be contacted at fergus.cass@btinternet.com.

BREANN DAN MOORE MB BCh BAO '68, DCH '70

Breann dan obtained the FCAP from The American Board of Pathology in 1976 and the FRCPI from the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland in 1989. He is currently a consultant physician in the Division of Transfusion Medicine and also director of the Histocompatibility Laboratory at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. He married Mary Teehan in 1969 and has two children, Enda and Anna. Breann dan can be contacted on +1 507 284 8710 or at moore.breann dan@mayo.edu.

[1960s]

**FR FERGUS MICHAEL KELLY BA '66**

Fr Fergus Kelly CM was a student for the priesthood in the Vincentian's community when he studied in UCD, and the daily trip by bicycle from St Joseph's, Blackrock to Earlsfort Terrace had to be done come hell or high water. Fergus recalls being introduced to the mysteries of philosophy by Fr Desmond Connell, the intricacies of Shakespeare's first folio by Professor Jeremiah Hogan and what the medieval men and women were up to by F. X. Martin. Since then he has worked with deaf people, taught in Armagh during The Troubles and is presently assisting the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul in their work in the UK.

**ROGER CUMMISKEY BComm '65**

Roger tried to retire some years ago without success. He is a painter in watercolours (www.rogercummiskey.com) and lives most of the time in sunny southern Spain with his wife.

**MARTIN SHEEHY MB BCh BAO '68**

Martin has been the Regional Medical Director for Liberty Mutual Insurance Group for the past eight years, serving as adviser for its Workers' Compensation product line, west of the Mississippi, US. Prior to that he served for more than 20 years as a medical director of various pain centres in New York City and Phoenix, Arizona. Additionally he is involved with the American College of Medical Quality and the American College of Physician Executives (as he once upon a time supplemented his MD degree with an MBA) in a sometimes vain attempt to bring order out of chaos to what is loosely described as healthcare in the New World. The photo above taken at Hallowe'en in 2003 is his photo 'for all seasons', being suitable for St Patrick's Day, July 4th Independence Day, Bastille Day, Hallowe'en and All Saints Day. He is the 'Lord' Sir Richard Attenborough lookalike to the right on the photo; the lady on the left represents a very green Lady Liberty, thus its pertinence to his current corporate milieu.

**JOSEPH O'CONNOR BA '68**

Joe obtained a HDipEd from UCG in 1970 and taught in Vocational School Newport, Co Tipperary between 1968 and 1969. He moved to St Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish Point, Co Clare, in 1969 and taught there until 2002. Joe took early retirement from teaching in June 2002. He received a DHP from The Institute of Clinical Hypnotherapy/ Psychotherapy in July 2003. Joe is married to Veron and they have two daughters, Sanchia and Ursula. Joe presents traditional music programmes on Clare FM and Radio Corca Baiscinn and he can be seen regularly on Doonbeg, Kilrush and Spanish Point golf courses and at singing sessions around the country. He is enjoying retirement.

[1970s]

**CIARAN O'BROLCHAIN BE '71**

Ciaran is Managing Director of Minstrel Systems, a telecommunications and utilities consultancy in Hindhead, Surrey. He spent several years in software consultancy with assignments at companies such as ICL, BT, British Gas and Nortel. He is currently president of Grayshott Tennis Club. He can be contacted at www.minstrelsystems.com or +44 (0)1428 608485.

SR MARGARET ANNE MEYER MB BCh BAO '64

Margaret obtained a DCH from the College of Surgeons in 1971, a DRCOG from London in 1976 and a qualification in Leprosy Studies in Ethiopia in 1989. It is now four years since Margaret left medical missionary work in Africa. She worked as a general practitioner in Uganda and Tanzania for 24 years in Medical Missions of Mary Hospitals. In 1990, she went to Nigeria to engage in leprosy and TB work where she stayed for 12 years. Leprosy was on the decrease but TB was increasing due to the rise of HIV/AIDS. Margaret had never seen AIDS patients in Uganda for the 12 years she had worked there (1966 to 1978). She wrote a paper which she presented at her 40th Medical Reunion in which she spoke of some of the clinical situations she was faced with and how the good clinical training she received in UCD helped her to face these challenges. Now Margaret is travelling by car throughout the US talking to grade-school and high-school students about the missions and about how people can help African children through prayer and sacrifice. This keeps her close to the plight of the beautiful African people who suffer so much from famine, drought, sickness, war and corruption. She passed the ECFMG exam to practise in US in 1964 but her heart was always in Africa and still is.

**TERENCE M GREEN MA Anglo-Irish Studies '72**

Terence received a BA (Toronto) in 1967 and a BEd (Toronto) in 1973. He taught English in Ontario secondary schools until retirement in 1999. He is the author of eight books (seven novels and a collection of short stories), two of which were finalists for the World Fantasy Award. *Shadow of Ashland* (1996) saw more than a quarter of a million copies printed, was broadcast on CBC radio across Canada and optioned for feature film six times. Currently, he is a lecturer in creative writing at the University of Western Ontario. He and his wife and three sons live in Toronto. You are invited to visit his website at www.tmgreen.com.

Shadow of Ashland (1996) saw more than a quarter of a million copies printed, was broadcast on CBC radio across Canada and optioned for feature film six times. Currently, he is a lecturer in creative writing at the University of Western Ontario. He and his wife and three sons live in Toronto. You are invited to visit his website at www.tmgreen.com.

FR JOHN FOGARTY BSc Hons '76

John obtained an STL from The University of Fribourg, Switzerland and taught physics (1976-78) at Sunyani Government Secondary School, Ghana, Africa. John was ordained a missionary priest in 1981 after graduate studies in Switzerland. He returned to Ghana in 1982 and worked initially in parish ministry (1982-1986) and subsequently as rector of The Spiritan Institute of Philosophy at Ejisu (1990-1994). He has served in various administrative posts in the Congregation of the Holy Spirit in Ireland (1986-1990; 1994-1998) and most recently as Vice Superior General of the Congregation at its headquarters in Rome (1998-2004). John is currently Director of the Centre for Spiritan Studies at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, US. John can be contacted at fogartyj@duq.edu.

PAULA E LEMASS BA '73

Paula has completed a short course in TEFL with the view to teaching in Malta/Gozo. She is considering returning to UCD to do a further degree in teaching English as a foreign language.

PHILOMENA MURRAY BA Hons '78

Philomena's new book came out late last year. It is called *Australia and the European Superpower: Engaging with the European Union* and is published by Melbourne University Press.

[1970s]



CONOR O'CARROLL
BSc '76, MSc '77, PhD '88

As head of the Research Office at the Irish Universities Association, Conor is responsible for the co-ordination of research policy across all seven Irish universities. He is also responsible for the Marie Curie Programme and Network of Mobility Centres in Ireland. He is a physicist by training and after completing his doctorate in Italy he worked for both industry and academia in Ireland, Scotland and Germany. He has extensive experience of policy formulation, having worked in the European Commission's DG Research and with Forfás, the Irish science policy advisory agency. He has also deep experience of the operations of funding agencies through his time on the Marie Curie Programme and key involvement in the establishment of Ireland's newest funding agency, Science Foundation Ireland. He is married and living in Dublin with a daughter and son.

MARY O'GORMAN
BSocSc '72

Mary has postgraduate qualifications in community development from University of Swansea, 1977 and in health education from University of Leeds, 1984. She is presently living and working in Zimbabwe in training, research and capacity-building in the health and community-development sector. Mary is the founder and main fundraiser for Shingirirai Women Zimbabwe, a community-based organisation providing peer education, training and psychosocial support to orphans and vulnerable children, particularly in the area of early learning development for 3-7 year-olds, and income-generating programmes for vulnerable women and girls. Mary previously worked in Kenya and Ethiopia for a variety of UN and NGOs on a consultancy basis in population education, community development and health, especially HIV/AIDS. She is married to Charlie Davies, ex UNFPA, and they have two children, Russell and Ceri, both studying in University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Mary can be contacted at melogo@gmail.com.

DERMOT RYAN MB BCh BAO '77 DCH '79

After completing the Dublin Regional VTS for general practice, Dermot worked in Canada, Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe before settling into practice in Loughborough in the UK. He has a particular interest in primary care respiratory medicine and was chairman of the General Practice Airways Group. He has a part-time appointment as clinical research fellow at the University of Aberdeen where his current research interest is the use of mobile phone technology in the management of asthma. Dermot has three boys aged 15, 17 and 19, none of whom will be following in their father's footsteps.



CLÍODHNA DEMPSEY
BA Hons '73

Following graduation, Clíodhna spent a year in Brittany working at the Lycée in Guingamp and was fortunate enough to find a post teaching at an agricultural training college nearby. On her return to Ireland in 1977 her most saleable commodity was her fluent French. Through a series of fortunate contacts Clíodhna was offered a contract at the European Parliament. Since November 1977 she has been living in Luxembourg working in the general secretariat of the European Parliament. She is currently Head of Unit for Financial Planning & Management, in the Directorate for Infrastructure & Logistics.



FR MICHAEL FRANCIS O'SULLIVAN
BSocSc '74

Michael has a BPhil (1976) and a BD (1981) from The Milltown Institute. He also has an MTh (1986) from The University of Toronto, an STL (1986) from Regis College, Toronto and a PhD (2005) from HETAC. Michael is a Jesuit priest and a member of the Faculty of Theology at Milltown Institute, Dublin. He was a pastor with the economically poor in Chile (1982-1984) and has also worked in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia. He lived and worked with economically disadvantaged people in Ballymun and inner-city Dublin for many years and has written over 70 articles concerning the relationship between Christianity and social and gender justice. His PhD thesis was a theological treatment of the relationship between salvation in Jesus Christ and male violence against women.

If you would like to submit material for inclusion in our next edition of *UCD Connections* please contact **Sinéad Dolan**, UCD Alumni & Development on tel + 353 1 7161698 or email sinead.dolan@ucd.ie. Submissions should be no more than 100 words and photographs are welcome.

MARY HARTE BA History/Political Science '76

After a short spell teaching in Greenhills Comprehensive School Mary joined the EC Press Directorate in Brussels, working towards the first direct elections to the European Parliament. She returned to Ireland in 1979 to work as a freelance journalist with the *Irish Press*. She was appointed special adviser to the late Jim Mitchell, Minister for Justice during the short-lived Fitzgerald-led coalition government in 1981. Mary joined BBC Northern Ireland as a broadcast journalist in 1984 reporting on The Troubles. She has worked as a producer with the BBC Radio 4 flagship news programme *The World At One* in London. She spent a year in Tokyo contributing to BBC World Service before returning to BBC Radio Foyle in Derry where she continues to work as a producer/presenter. She graduated with a Diploma in Archaeology in 2003 at St Angela's Campus in Sligo and lives in her native Donegal with husband Peter Nolan (BL) and two children, Daire and Naoise.

CHRISTINA HUNT MAHONY MA '71, PhD '88

Christina is the Director of the Center for Irish Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. She recently served as the Executive Director of the Forum on the Future of Irish Studies held at the European University Institute in Fiesole in October, 2005. The proposals of the forum will be published by the Charles University Press, Prague in August. Christina has also edited *Out of History: Essays on the Writings of Sebastian Barry* (Carysfort Press, 2006).



STEPHEN O'BEIRNE
BComm '77, HDipEd '78

Stephen has worked in various financial roles in the Health Services, mainly with the GMS (Payments) Board. He moved to the Health Board in 2002 and also recently qualified as an accountant. He is now Area

Accountant for the HSE NA. He is married to Martina and has three children, Stephen, David and Patricia. He is very involved locally in coaching basketball and soccer with Tolka Rovers. He can be contacted at stephenandmartina@eircom.net.

[1980s]



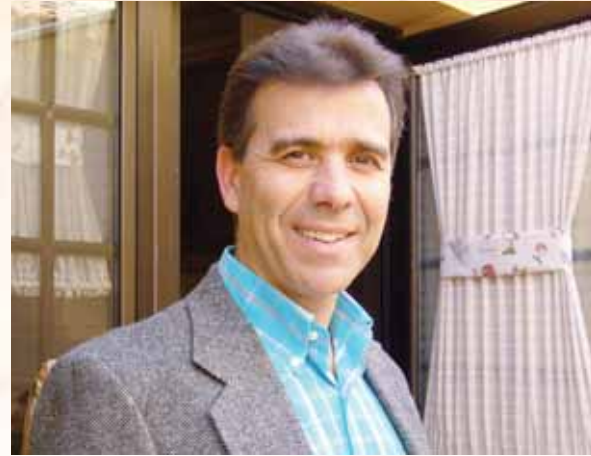
BARRY ANDREWS
BA '88, MA '90 BL

After graduation, Barry was a school teacher for seven years in Ballyfermot Senior College, Sutton Park School and Bruce College. He was called to the Bar in 1997 and practised as a barrister until 2003. In 1999 he was elected to Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and in 2002 was elected to Dáil Éireann. Barry is married and has one son.



PATRICK SHALLOW BA '81, HDipEd '82

Patrick taught in Dublin and Donegal before settling down in the Royal & Prior School, Raphoe. He lives near Buncrana, Co Donegal with wife Catherine and three children aged 15, 13 and 10. Patrick can be contacted at shallowp@eircom.net.



DR FELIX CLAVERIE-MARTIN PhD '84

After completing his PhD thesis, Felix went to the US for his postdoctoral training at the University of Georgia and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was a senior research associate at DNAX Research Institute, Palo Alto, California and a medical research fellow at the Department of Genetics, Stanford University. In 1997, he returned to his home town in Tenerife (Canary Islands) to set up a research laboratory in the Nuestra Señora de Candelaria University Hospital. He is currently Director of Research. He is married to Noriela and has three daughters, Sara, Andrea and Laura. He enjoys playing basketball. Felix can be contacted at fclamar@gobiernodecanarias.org.



MIRIAM FOLEY
BSocSc '84

Miriam has been living on Long Island, New York for a number of years and was looking for a firm with a real connection to the Long Island community that would provide a quality and diversity of work to enhance her professional growth. She worked as an associate at the Global Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions Group at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy. She joined Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C. (www.msek.com) recently and believes that MSEK will not only allow her to realise her career objectives but also that the firm's historical connection to national and local politics is an added bonus for a political and policy enthusiast like Miriam. She is a 1996 graduate of New York University School of Law and has also worked as an actress and producer in New York and Ireland.



CONRAD BURKE
BSc '89, MSc '94

Conrad is CEO of Innovalight. His roots are in sales, marketing and physics and he was a fast riser at AT&T and its Lucent spin-off. In 2000 he joined an optics firm called OMM Inc. that tanked with the telecoms sector in 2003. Stints with a venture-capital firm and optical-component maker Bookham Inc. followed. Conrad is pictured standing above the East Bay near Oakland, California and believes his nano-silicon crystals will light up the future.



SHARRON ROANTREE
BA English/German '88

Sharron moved to Philadelphia in 1991 where she is the manager of the Communications Center for City of Philadelphia/Philadelphia International Airport. The Communications Center is a 24-hour operation. In addition to many duties, the Communications Center staff handles all aircraft and medical emergencies. Sharron is also involved in various charitable organisations such as the SPCA. She can be contacted at sharem@aol.com.

DOTS SHERWOOD MVB '87

The travel bug brought Dots from the UK to Zimbabwe to Peru and back. She finally set down roots in beautiful Homer, Alaska where she lives with her husband Gary and their two sons. In early 2006 Dots became the owner of Homer Veterinary Clinic and looks forward to the 20-year class reunion in Ireland in 2007. Dots can be contacted at homervet@acsalaska.net.

JACQUELINE BROPHY BCL '88

Jacqui attended the King's Inns from 1992-1996 and was called to the Bar in 1996. She chose not to practise at the Bar and has been working in the UK for the past few years in human resources. She is currently the Head of HR in an ethical bank based in Bristol. Jacqui lives in Cheltenham with her partner, Peter, and they have two boys, William and David. Her work and personal life takes her back to Dublin often and Jacqui would love to hear from other members of the class of 1988. brophyjacqui@hotmail.com.

ANNA MARIE DOWLING BSc '87, HDipEd '88, DipPsych '95

Anna Marie worked as a teacher of science and mathematics in The Seychelles between 1988 and 1989. On returning to Ireland she worked as a research assistant in Computer Science in TCD (1990-1993). On graduating with DipPsych in 1995 she has been working as a psychologist in the health service in the west of Ireland. She is currently living in Castlebar, Co Mayo and employed as a Senior Clinical Psychologist in Community Care and is also a visiting lecturer to the DPsych Clinical Psychology training course at NUIG. While working she completed an MSc in Applied Psychology (2000) at The University of Ulster, Jordanstown, a postgraduate diploma in Professional Clinical Psychology (2001) from The Psychological Society of Ireland and an Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge (2004) from NUIG.

KAREN FITZSIMON BAgSc Landscape Horticulture '88

Karen works as a chartered landscape architect and since 2001 has been the principal of Karen Fitzsimon Landscape Architecture based in north London. The practice works in public regeneration projects and in the top-end domestic gardens market. Prior to this she worked in west London for a large local authority as Principal Landscape Architect and latterly as Landscape Manager. She completed a postgraduate diploma in landscape architecture in Birmingham in 1994. Karen is married to a fellow Dubliner and they have two children. She regularly returns to visit family and friends in Ireland. She still considers her UCD days as the best of her life! KFLA@blueyonder.com.

BREDA HALLORAN-SINGH BA English & Psychology '87

Breda moved to the US in 1989 and married Deepak Singh in 1992. They live in Maywood, New Jersey, with their two children, Jai and Ian. They own a number of Indian restaurants in northern NJ and would be more than happy to feed any old friends from UCD if they happen to wander in. After moving to NJ, Breda continued her studies in the area of tax accounting and is currently employed by Atlas Copco North America as a tax accounting supervisor in the ASAP Division.

[1980s]


NIALL TIERNEY BA
Philosophy & History
'88

Grandson of the late president of UCD Dr Michael Tierney, Niall was called to the Bar in 1993 and qualified as a Registered Trade Mark Agent in 1994. Niall then moved to London and qualified as Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales in October 2002. Niall currently works as an intellectual property lawyer with Clifford Chance LLP, Canary Wharf, London.

MICHAEL F. MCCORMACK MA Anglo-Irish
Literature & Drama '81

Mike has been working as a director of contracts in the publishing industry in New York for the past 20 years. He lives with his wife Jane, daughter Emily and son Connor on Long Island and wants to hear from others who were in the MA programme 1980-1981 — where are you Aidan Hayes, Margie Waters, Kevin Phippard, etc? Mike can be contacted at mccormack1957@hotmail.com.

PATRICIA CULLEN BSc '83, PhD '86

Upon graduation, Patricia was employed as a chemist by Loctite Research & Development Centre. Loctite was acquired by Henkel in 1997 and Patricia is currently Director of Product Development Europe for Henkel Industrial. Post-UCD and during her employment, she completed an MBA and a marketing degree.


MARTIN MCELROY
BE Ag & Food '85

Martin has an MBA, DIC ('93) from The Imperial College London. He is a senior consultant with the Centre for High Performance (www.chpd.com) in London. Martin was the coach of the British Men's rowing eight that won gold at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000. Martin's rowing career started at UCD. Martin married Grainne Brennan (BE Civil '85) and they have two daughters.


TONY FARRELL MB BCh BAO '86, MSc '93

Tony is an interventional radiologist in Chicago. He is a brother of Richard Farrell (MB BCh BAO '90, MD '98), James Farrell (MB BCh BAO '92) and the late Mary Farrell (MB BCh BAO '88) all graduates of UCD. After completing his radiology training at Beaumont Hospital in 1993, Tony did radiology fellowships at Duke University and Washington University in St Louis. He recently obtained his MBA from the University of Colorado. His interests include cycling, skiing and opera. Tony can be contacted at tfarrell@enh.org.

KEVIN O'CONNOR MB BCh BAO '80

Having qualified in 1980, Kevin moved to England in 1983 and has been a GP in Wolverley, near Kidderminster in Worcestershire since 1988. The practice is semi-rural with a list size of 3,000. Together with a female partner they employ 11 part-time staff. From 1984 to 2004 Kevin was the Medical Officer for Kidderminster Harriers FC. The highlights were three visits to Wembley in the FA Trophy and promotion to the Football League under Jan Molby. Kevin is married to Andrea and they have two children, Liam and Francesca.

MARIE KEEGAN FINN BSc Hons '81

Marie has also obtained a HDE (1982) from Maynooth and a Diploma in Applied Finance (1999) from the IMI. She spent 11 years in California, where she taught high school chemistry and biology. She returned in 1997 and with her husband set up Hydro International and Hydro Pure, which provide technology for industrial and domestic water treatment and cleaning. She lives in Navan and has three children. Marie can be contacted at marie@hydrintl.ie.

[1990s]


TARA COSGROVE
(NEÉ MEAGHER)
BCL '90

Tara qualified as a solicitor in 1994 and worked on high-profile multi-party class actions in Ireland, Sydney and London. She now runs her own property search business helping people locate property in Dublin for residential or investment purposes. She is married with two children and can be contacted at taracosgrove@propertylocators.ie.


ALISON ANN MOORE
BA '96, MLitt '99

Since graduating in 1999 Alison spent a year travelling around Australia and New Zealand before returning to Dublin. Putting her time as Editor of UCD's *College Tribune* to good use, she has

been working in medical journalism since 2001. Alison is currently assistant editor of two nursing publications. As chairperson of the Irish Tennis Umpires' Association she officiates at tennis events in Ireland and overseas.


LISA MADDEN
BArch '96

After graduation Lisa worked in Dublin for two years before moving to New York for a change of scene. She is a project manager at GWK Architects, working in the fields of healthcare and retail, both high-end residential and commercial. She got married this year and spends every weekend hiking, running and rock-climbing with her husband.

REMIGIO ACHIA
MDevSt '99

Remigio obtained a BStat from MUK and a MSc from DCU. He is from Uganda and was elected as a Member of Parliament for Pian County in the recently concluded presidential and parliamentary elections in Uganda. Remigio can be contacted at reach28@yahoo.com.

COLIN O'CARROLL
BA Psychology '96

Colin completed his MSc and subsequently PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Edinburgh. His research interests focus on neuronal plasticity and the mechanisms underlying memory formation. He spent two subsequent years in academia pursuing postdoctoral research in Italy and London. He is currently working in California for a biotech company in the Bay Area. Colin can be contacted at cmocarroll@yahoo.com.


PATRICK (PADDY)
CULLINAN BSc Hons
Cell Biology and
Molecular Genetics
'97

The year following his graduation from UCD Paddy began a PhD at the University of Chicago, where his research focused on the regulation of T cell activation. Paddy then moved into the corporate biotechnology world. He is a medical writer for a small but promising company in suburban Chicago called NeoPharm Inc. He is also the regional chairperson of BioLink Ireland, a networking organisation for Irish people in the biological fields working in the US. Paddy married an American woman who he had met in UCD in his final year and they have two children, Emmett and Erin.

[1990s]



DR AISLING D. O'SULLIVAN BSc '95, PhD '02

Aisling worked in scientific research with CSIRO in Canberra from 1995 to 1996 before returning to UCD to pursue a PhD in constructed wetland technology. From 2002 to 2003 she worked as a research/teaching Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Oklahoma, US before taking up a lecturing position at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand (www.nre.canterbury.ac.nz).

COLM FURLONG BA '95

Colm moved from Dublin to London in 1996 and pursued a career in financial software. Following senior roles at Royalblue and Man Financial in equity trading systems, Colm now works in London as Product Manager for software firm SunGard. He lives in Brighton with his partner Genni and daughter Layla.

NAOMI MASTERSON BComm '96, HDMP '97, MBS (MIS) '98

Naomi worked as an analyst in Merrill Lynch on the EMU transition project. She moved in 1999 to Ulster Bank Investment Services which then became Northern Trust Investment Services as Analyst/Programmer. She is now a Senior Business Process Analyst responsible for the development of the Outsourcing & Trade Services product at Northern Trust.



ALEX VALENTINE PhD '97

After graduating, Alex moved to South Africa to join the Department of Botany at the University of Stellenbosch. He completed an MPhil in Science Journalism at this institution. In 2004 he moved to the Department of Horticulture at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

DONAL FITZGERALD BAgSc Animal & Crop Science '95

Donal has worked full-time in the agri-trading business, starting in July 1995 as a sales rep for Southern Fuel & Farm Supplies in Cork, and moving to Goldcrop Ltd in 1999. He has progressed within Goldcrop to become Sales Manager in 2003 and was appointed General Manager of Agriculture in 2005. Donal lives in Shanagarry and is married to Helen. They have one daughter, Keely.

HUGH O'CONNOR BBS, MBS '99

Hugh is a Senior Consultant and Director of the Dublin based strategic research and consulting company OCS Consulting (www.ocsc consulting.ie). Hugh specialises in qualitative and business-to-business research and has also lectured in services marketing and marketing management at the Institute of Technology in Carlow.



STEPHEN MULLIGAN BE '94

Stephen joined JBA Software in Ireland in September 1994 as a software engineer. While there he met another electronic engineer, Gillian, but from DCU (boo!), who later became his wife in 1998 and is now the mother of their three children, Cian, Caoimhe and Áine. After six months in Dublin, Stephen moved to Rochester, Minnesota to work in the IBM Facility for JBA as a technical trainer (Apr-Oct 1995). They both moved to San Francisco, California (April 2006), working for Workgroup Management Inc., a start-up consultancy firm in Oakland. That company was bought out in December 1997 by Documentum. They both worked with Documentum until 2000 when they returned to Ireland. Gillian went to Eircom.net and Stephen to Accuris. In July 2001 Stephen moved into Eircom IT and has been there since.



DAVID GRIFFITH BA '95

David received a National Diploma in Personnel Management from the National College of Ireland in 1998. He is currently employed in the Public Appointments Service as a careers advisor. He also treads the boards playing bass as well as singing with various musical societies.

JOANNE O'CARROLL- MINERVA MB BAO BCh '94

Joanne is a consultant child psychiatrist in private practice in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her husband Pierre Minerva (RCSI 1994) is a rheumatologist also in private practice. They have two children, Justin and Siobhan.

AILBHE ROE BAgSc '99

Ailbhe worked with Mouchel Parkman for four years on various infrastructure projects in Ireland, including the Corrib Gas Pipeline. She is currently part of the National Roads Design Office in Westmeath and is involved in the construction of the new N6, Kinnefad to Athlone dual carriageway. She lives in Tyrrellspass, Co Westmeath. eroe@wccprojectoffice.ie.



NIALL BYRNE BA '90, HDipEd '91

Niall taught in Blackrock College from 1991 to 1993 before going to Botswana with APSO and Viatores Christi from 1994 to 1996. On his return to Ireland, he resumed his teaching position in Blackrock College where he is to date. He ran as a candidate in the local elections in 2004 and is now a member of the Green Party in Wicklow, where he lives with his wife, Annette Cleary, a professional cellist, and their two daughters, Sarah and Anne. Niall can be contacted at byrneclarey@eircom.net.

RAKESH ARORA BE '92, DipMathSc '93

Rakesh recalls UCD as a university that facilitated the pursuit of excellence in academics as well as sports. From 1992 to 1993 he worked as a demonstrator and tutor in the computer science department. On the sports front he represented UCD in badminton and trampolining, a club for which he was also the auditor during the 1994 to 1995 academic year. Rakesh was also the elected president of the International Society during the 1995 to 1996 academic year. For details of his career see www.xentex-consultancy.com.

AMANDA (MANDY) NOLAN BSc Chemistry '95, MSc Engineering Technology '96

Mandy has worked across a number of industries during her career in quality assurance: Industrial Chemistry (Iralco); Chemical Processing (Labscan); Logistics/Supply Chain Management (Exel) and Service Industry (Mason Technology). She is currently working as a Quality Manager for Mason Technology, a supplier of equipment and instrumentation to laboratory, process and production areas. Markets serviced by Mason Technology include pharmaceutical and chemical, healthcare, food processing, electronics and engineering. Mandy can be contacted at mnolan@masontec.ie.

MICHELLE MULHERIN BCL '92

After graduation, Michelle trained and qualified as a solicitor and works in a private practice at Denis M Molloy Solicitors, Ballina, Co Mayo. Michelle is a Fine Gael elected member of Mayo County Council since 2004 where she serves as Chair of the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee. She is also a Councillor on Ballina Town Council since 1999 and is currently Deputy Mayor of the town. Michelle is a board member of Ireland West Tourism and was recently appointed as member of the EU's Committee of the Regions. She is also a member of Ballina Arts Events.

ALAN EDWARD O'CONNOR MB BCh BAO '90

Alan is an Emergency Physician, currently Director of Emergency Medicine at Peel Health Campus, about 80km south of Perth in Western Australia. He is married to Amanda and they have three children, Jack, Daniel and Ella. Since leaving UCD Alan has worked in the UK, Australia and New Zealand but is now settled in Australia where he has been for the last six years and is loving it. Alan can be contacted at alan.oconnor@peehc.com.au.

DR PETER L. DOLAN BSc '90

Peter has obtained a DPhil (1997) from Oxford University and a JD (2002) from Temple University. Peter is a US patent attorney and is currently Director of Global Patent Litigation at Sanofi-aventis in Bridgewater, New Jersey. He is married and living in Manhattan. Peter can be contacted at peter.dolan@sanofi-aventis.com.

[2000s]



DANIEL DAJMAN MDevSt '04

Daniel Dajman of Mexico City married Jami Feinberg of Vineland, New Jersey in Mexico City in 2005. Jami completed her BSFS in Regional & Comparative Studies in 2002 and her MSc in Legal Anthropology at the LSE in 2004. She is a Field Administrator for the Middle East Region with PAE Government Services, Inc. in Arlington, Virginia. Daniel completed his BS in International Business in 2000 and a Masters in Development Studies at UCD in 2004. He is the Business Development Manager for the Latino Economic Development Corporation in Washington DC. The couple now reside in the Washington DC area.



RUAIDHRÍ PATRICK KIRWAN MB BCh BAO '00, MSc '02

Ruaidhrí completed his internship at the Mater Hospital in Dublin and the Mid-Western Regional Hospital in Limerick. He is now a trainee on the Dublin Ophthalmic Surgery Training Scheme and a fourth-year

PhD student at the Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Research, UCD. In 2006, he was awarded an International Travel Scholarship from the prestigious Association of Research in Vision & Ophthalmology in the US and was a recipient of one of UCD's Open Postgraduate Scholarships from the College of Life Sciences.



MICHAEL HO YIP FEI MSc Information Management '00

Michael is from Hong Kong and is a flight lieutenant in the Hong Kong Air Corps. Michael feels that the MSc programme provided him with cutting-edge knowledge in his career development.

AMY ROE BA '02

Amy currently works as an English teacher in a secondary school in Kent. Her subjects were English and Spanish and she was also involved in Dramsoc. Amy can be contacted at aroe22@eircom.net.



SHAHBAZ KHAN MSocSc '04

Shahbaz obtained an MA in Social Work from Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan. He worked as a community organiser and social worker for an NGO, as a Community Development Officer in the Public Health Engineering Department and as Medical Social Officer/Social Welfare Officer in Social Welfare and Women Development Department in Pakistan. He is a qualified social worker with The National Social Work Qualification Board Ireland and General Social Care Council UK. His area of specialisation is social case work (patients, children and families), gender and community development and anti-oppressive social work. He is a member of the Irish Association of Social Workers and Council of Social Sciences, Pakistan.



JONATHAN SHIRLEY BE Civil '00, MMangtSc '01

Jon travelled for more than a year after finishing college and ended up in Brisbane, Australia where he currently resides. He worked for two years with a civil engineering consulting practice in Brisbane (www.wadeconsult.com). Here he was involved with designing structures and FEA software development. Jon's current position is Senior Engineer for a mining consulting company that specialises in dragline productivity (www.gbi.net.au).

BERNARD KENNEDY MSc '04

Bernard Kennedy is a priest of the Dublin Diocese. He received a MSc degree in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy from the School of Psychotherapy based in The Department of Adult Psychiatry at St Vincent's University Hospital. Bernard previously received an MA in Psychoanalytic Studies from the Department of Psychiatry, University of Sheffield in 2002. He is presently a doctoral student at the School of Psychotherapy, researching on the Unconscious Formation of the Symptom in Freud and Lacan. He was ordained in 1979 and presently is a curate at Beechwood Avenue Parish, Dublin. He has written a number of poetry books and articles for psychoanalytical and theological journals.

DR THOM BROOKS MA Philosophy '00

Thom obtained a BA in Music and Politics from William Paterson University in New Jersey, a MA in Politics from Arizona State University and a PhD in Philosophy from University of Sheffield. He is a lecturer in Political Thought at the University of Newcastle, UK since August 2004. He is the author of *Hegel's Political Philosophy* (Edinburgh University Press, 2007) and editor of *Locke and Law* (Ashgate, 2006) and *Rousseau and Law* (Ashgate, 2006). Thom was a member of the Dublin jazz scene when a postgraduate student, playing both the guitar and electric bass at the Viper Room. He plans to do the same in Newcastle.

CECIL DUNNE MDevSt '01

Having finished his Masters in Development Studies Cecil immediately found employment with Concern as a project manager in south Sudan. From there he moved to Afghanistan as a programme co-ordinator, then to Liberia as an emergency co-ordinator, and is currently a programme advisor with Concern in Sri Lanka.



KAYAWE NKUMBWA, HDipDevSt '00, MDevSt '02

Kayawe obtained a BALS from The University of Zambia and a PGD Housing & Urban Development Studies from The Institute for Housing & Urban Development Studies (NL). After graduating from UCD in 2002 Kayawe worked as Regional Co-ordinator for the EC-Microprojects Programme in western Zambia. In 2004 he took up an appointment at the University of Zambia as Strategic Planning Manager under the Vice-Chancellor's Office. Kayawe lives in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, with his wife and daughter.

SEAMUS MACSUIBHNE MB BCh BAO '02

Seamus is on a Dublin University Postgraduate Training Scheme in Psychiatry. He has worked in Naas General Hospital, Tallaght Hospital and St Patrick's Hospital. He has contributed book reviews and articles to the *Times Literary Supplement*, *The Guardian*, *The Spectator* and *The Scotsman*. seamus.sweeney@campus.ie.

KATHRYN G. EDWARDS MB BCh BAO '03

Kathryn is finishing her paediatric residency in June 2006 and will join a private paediatric practice in Suffolk, Virginia, US, in July 2006.

ORNA RYAN BSocSc '00, MBS Human Resource Management '02

On graduating in 2002 from the Graduate School of Business Orna joined The Centre for Distance Learning at the UCD School of Business and is the Learning Support Officer for the Bachelor of Business Studies (part-time programme). She has recently achieved a Higher Diploma in University Teaching & Learning here at UCD and is now completing her doctorate at University of Edinburgh in the field of tertiary educational policy for mature students.