



## UCD - Fudan Partnership Extended



*UCD Registrar, Dr. Philip Nolan attended the UCD-Fudan contract signing, witnessed by Education Minister Batt O'Keefe*

October 2008 saw the continuation of our thriving partnership with [Fudan University](#). UCD has been delivering courses on the software engineering degree programme at Fudan University, Shanghai, since the inauguration of the university's software school in 2002/2003.

UCD Registrar, Dr. Philip Nolan travelled to Shanghai to sign a new contract which will see the partnership extended beyond 2013. Education Minister Batt O'Keefe, who was leading a trade delegation to Shanghai at the time, kindly agreed to witness the signing of the contract.

Moving forward, it is hoped that the links between the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics and the software school in Fudan will continue to develop.

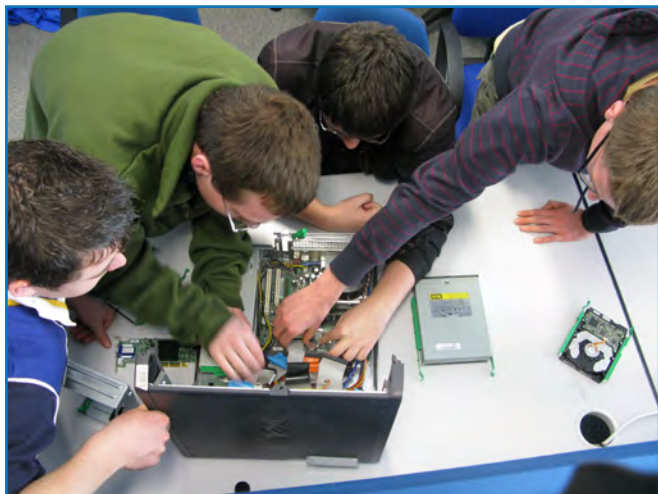
The Fudan undergraduate programme is largely based on the UCD Computer Science syllabus and continues to go from strength to strength.

Once the formalities of the contract signing had been completed, guests and dignitaries alike were treated to a reception by the Minister, including a performance of the 'Yellow River' dance by the Fudan Irish Dance Troupe.

UCD's ever-growing involvement with Fudan was further highlighted by the presence of current students on the Bachelor of Commerce with Chinese Studies programme who attended the reception. That programme is now in its third year with the first students visiting Fudan this semester.



## Official Launch - ICSP 2008



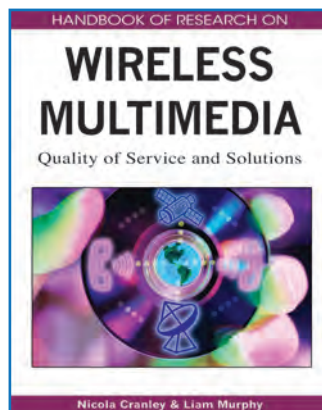
Second Level Students disassembling a PC on the opening day of ICSP 2008

On November 8th 2008, UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics officially launched [ICSP 2008](#), our new distance learning module for second level students, sponsored by Google.

Under the guidance of [Dr. Michael O'Neill](#), the module covers a range of areas from within Computer Science and Informatics and is aimed at tackling some of the misconceptions currently held, by second level students, about the study of computers at third level. Through exploration of computer science fundamentals, we hope to stimulate interest among school-leavers in pursuing a computer science degree programme here in UCD.

With 24 students from across the nation attending the inauguration of this initiative, the school was represented superbly by our postgraduate demonstrators and staff alike. With growing pressure on Ireland's universities to provide high-quality graduates for technical careers, it is hoped that initiatives such as ICSP will foster a new interest in Computer Science among the nation's youth for years to come.

## New Book launched by Prof. Liam Murphy



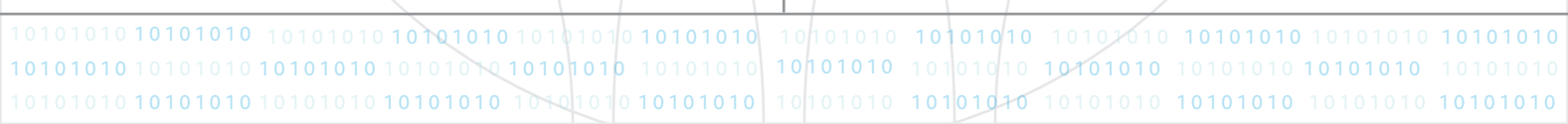
"Handbook of Research on Wireless Multimedia: Quality of Service and Solutions"

by Professor Liam Murphy

Wireless and mobile technologies have had a huge impact on many people's lives in the past 20 years or so, and promise to continue to revolutionize how people communicate and interact for the foreseeable future. One aspect of wireless applications which has been the subject of intense research and development is multimedia communication, although its potential has to date been largely unfulfilled in practice.

Advanced multimedia applications give rise to a new set of challenges in providing Quality of Service (QoS) when delivering these services over wireless networks. The Handbook of Research on Wireless Multimedia: Quality of Service and Solutions, edited by [Professor Liam Murphy](#) of the School of Computer Science and Informatics and Dr. Nicola Cranley and published by US-based IGI Global in July 2008, highlights and discusses the underlying QoS issues that arise in the delivery of real-time multimedia services over wireless networks.

This cutting-edge book presents state-of-the-art solutions from leading researchers active in the field to address the QoS issues for different wireless multimedia applications. The book contains 18 Chapters, divided into 4 sections on Network Layer QoS, Application Layer QoS, End-User QoS, and Cross-Layer Solutions.



## New Book launch(cont'd.)

The Foreword was written by Professor Abbas Jamalipour of the University of Sydney, who is the Editor-in-Chief of IEEE Wireless Communications, the top-ranked publication venue in the telecommunications area. According to Professor Jamalipour, "The Handbook of Research on Wireless Multimedia: Quality of Service and Solutions will stand out as a long lasting reference book in the field of mobile multimedia for many years to come". The publishers expect researchers, practitioners, educators, managers, and students in a full range of IT-related fields will benefit from this book.

## ChangingWorlds acquired by Amdocs

Amdocs, the US-quoted technology company (NYSE: DOX), and the leading provider of customer experience systems has signed a definitive agreement to acquire [ChangingWorlds Ltd](#), a spin-out company from the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics.

ChangingWorlds is a provider of personalization and intelligent portal solutions for mobile service providers. Under the terms of the agreement, Amdocs has agreed to acquire all of ChangingWorlds' shares for \$60 million in cash, net of cash on hand, subject to post-closing adjustments. Additional consideration may be paid later based on the achievement of certain performance metrics. The acquisition is subject to conditions customary to such transactions, and is expected to close during Amdocs' fiscal quarter ending December 31, 2008.

ChangingWorlds was co-founded in 1999 by Professor Barry Smyth and Paul Cotter to commercialise their research into personalization and artificial intelligence technologies. ChangingWorlds maintains a strong strategic link with the University as its ongoing R&D activities are taking place in [NovaUCD](#), the Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre at UCD.

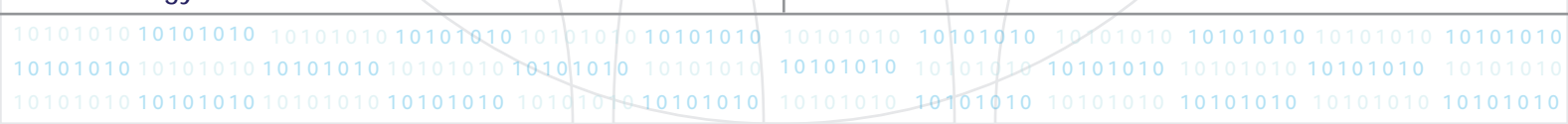


*Education Minister Batt O'Keefe with the Fudan Irish Dance Troupe*

## TRIL wins Irish Healthcare Award

The Irish Medical Times awarded [TRIL](#) the 'Best Use of IT in Healthcare' at the annual Irish Healthcare Awards. The prestigious awards took place on 16th October. The awards began in 2002 and have attracted increasing number of entries from individuals and groups all around the country. Companies and organisations that develop innovative IT solutions which are applicable in healthcare delivery were invited to send an outline of their services and products into the panel of judges.

The award TRIL received was for "the innovative use of information technology in a healthcare context to improve efficiencies in the health service and deliver better patient care". This is an amazing achievement for TRIL as a whole and specifically for the TRIL clinic . On behalf of everyone in the TTP in TRIL we would like to congratulate everyone in TRIL who helped make the winning entry for this award possible.



## SFI Principal Investigator Award



Dr. Michael O'Neill, SFI Principal Investigator for the EDGE project

Dr. Michael O'Neill has been awarded an SFI Principal Investigator grant for the EDGE Project (Evolution in Dynamic Environments with Grammatical Evolution).

Many of the most challenging problems facing researchers and decision makers are those with a dynamic nature in which the optimal solution changes over time. The process of evolution has been particularly successful at producing organisms that can survive and adapt to ever-changing environments. Inspired by the workings of biological evolutionary processes, this project develops a novel method and associated software tools which can be applied to solve hard dynamic problems.

The EDGE project will analyse and improve the ability of Grammatical Evolution (GE) to find solutions in these challenging real-world problem environments. GE breeds solutions to problems using an artificial evolutionary process exploiting computing power to speed up the search. These Evolutionary Algorithms are now capable of routinely producing solutions to problems which are competitive and in some cases superior to those produced by human experts.

## 2008 QUP Award of Distinction

Performance Engineering Laboratory (PEL) news: Dr. Sean Murphy and Vasken Genc, a Ph.D. student of Dr. John Murphy's, were honoured recently with a "2008 QUP Award of Distinction" by [Scalable Network Technologies](#) for their work on developing an IEEE 802.16j Simulation Model for QualNet. SNT is an industry leader in parallel processing technology for network performance emulation and simulation, and QualNet is their flagship product. Only 3 awards were made in 2008 to university researchers, and the UCD PEL team were the only awardees outside the U.S. The awards will be presented at the QualNet World conference, November 19-21, 2008 in San Diego, California.

## Best Paper Awards

### Identifying and Isolating Aberrant Nodes in Wireless Sensor Networks

Michael Collins, Simon Dobson, Paddy Nixon

ICITST 2008 - The 3rd International Conference for Internet Technology and Secured Transactions - June 23-28, Dublin, Ireland

### A Secure Lightweight Architecture for Wireless Sensor Networks

Michael Collins, Simon Dobson, Paddy Nixon

UBICOMM 2008 - The 2nd International Conference on Mobile Ubiquitous Computing, Systems, Services and Technologies - September 29-October 4, Valencia, Spain



## UCD Host CARMEN Project Meeting

The CARMEN project is a Specific Targeted Research Project (STREP) co-funded by the European Commission under the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7). The 3-year project started in January 2008. CARMEN has 8 European partners: 2 network operators (British Telecom and Deutsche Telekom), 2 equipment vendors (Alcatel-Lucent Deutschland and NEC Europe), 1 research institute (Fraunhofer FOKUS), and 3 universities (AGH University of Science and Technology, University Carlos III de Madrid, and UCD). UCD's involvement is through the Performance Engineering Lab (PEL). From 13th to 16th January 2009 PEL will host a 4-day event in the School of Computer Science and Informatics which representatives of all CARMEN partners will attend. This meeting will review progress and map out the next phase of the CARMEN work-plan.

The main objective of the CARMEN project is to design a WMN architecture capable of delivering carrier grade triple-play services at significantly lower capital and operational expenditures than comparable wired backhaul networks. There is a particular emphasis on providing a solution for both fast deployment and transient usage scenarios. This objective presents a number of significant research challenges. One key challenge is to reduce the investment required to deploy and operate WMNs. This will be achieved by applying advanced self-configuration and management techniques in all stages from planning to deployment and operation. In order to develop a robust and long-lasting solution, the CARMEN architecture will not be bound to a specific radio technology. Rather, the architecture design will support the flexible integration of heterogeneous radio and MAC technologies, such as IEEE 802.11, 802.16, and DVB, within CARMEN systems

## Outreach and Recruitment Activity

Over the coming months and years, we will be seeking for suggestions from staff and students with regard to potential initiatives and approaches we may take to promote both the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics and computer science as a discipline at third level.

Following on from the success of our outreach activities to date, we would hope that people within the school might contribute to our ongoing efforts.

If you have any suggestions as to how we may revitalise interest in computer science and, in parallel, increase the attractiveness of our school to potential undergraduate and postgraduate students, please email us at the address below.

## Angela Logue Retirement



*Dr. Joe Carthy, Angela Logue and Patricia Geoghegan at Angela's retirement function in St Stephen's Chaplaincy.*

Angela Logue, Computer Science secretary for 8 years, retired recently. On behalf of the whole school, we would like to thank Angela for her service and wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

If you have any news items you would like included in the next issue, please contact: [karl.abbey@ucd.ie](mailto:karl.abbey@ucd.ie)

