



ODCSSS 2009



This year, eighteen students from ten countries are taking part in this twelve-week internship programme. Between June and August each student will work, supervised by a member of the academic staff, on a project around the theme of "Bridging the Digital Physical Divide: Sensing the Environment".

Friday the 17th of July saw Dr. Aaron Quigley the UCD director for ODCSSS welcome everyone to DCU for the 4th annual mid-term ODCSSS research day. The day started with a lab tour by Professor Alan Smeaton the deputy director for CLARITY. Following this a seminar was presented by Ryan Spicer of Arizona State University on "Telling Reactive Organizational Stories with Multiple Paths through Content". The mid-term research showcase lasted from 11.15 until 1.15 where all 18 research interns were able to demonstrate their progress to date. Many students were able to demonstrate impressive progress just 7 weeks into their summer research projects.

The afternoon consisted of research seminars from IBM. IBM's Chief Technologist, Mike Roche gave a presentation on "Smart Work for a Smarter Planet".

While (under NDA) we heard from an IBM Extreme Blue team who gave a presentation on their smart media commercial research project. This IBM team included John Reddin an ODCSSS alumni from 2008 who recently graduated from Trinity College Dublin. John recently had a paper based on his internship in ODCSSS published with his supervisors in the Lecture Notes in Computer Science series. This year's ODCSSS program was represented by Ben Kirwan who presented on "Long-term sensing in aquatic environments using autonomous yachts" and Catalin David who presented on "Sensing and modelling radio channel conditions for mobile users".

We were also pleased to have Prof. Patrick Cunningham the Chief Scientific Advisor to the Irish Government present an inspiring talk entitled "We are Serious about Science". As well as project work the Programme also involves several days offsite including visits to both Intel and Microsoft as well as Newgrange. An end of programme research day is planned to coincide with AICS 2009 at UCD on August 21st.



Number	Question	1	2	3	4	5
1	The CPSC has a welcoming atmosphere	0%	0%	3%	50%	47%
2	The CPCS Staff motivated you to study	0%	3%	44%	41%	12%
3	The CPCS staff have good teaching abilities	0%	0%	9%	50%	41%
4	The CPCS has helped me understand the module material better	0%	3%	6%	44%	47%
5	The CPCS has suitable opening hours	0%	3%	12%	66%	19%

Table 2: CPSC survey results for 6 of the 17 questions, where 1 = “Strongly disagree”, 2 = “Disagree”, 3=“Neither agree or disagree”, 4 = “Agree” and 5 = “Strongly agree”.

This high percentage highlights the CPSC invaluable ability to aid the students to pass the modules they found difficult.

To conclude, we will continue to evaluate the CPSC practices and accommodate student needs. We will also continue to refine our current support methodology and look for more effective ways to enhance the student learning and programming skills. If any member of staff is interested in viewing a more detailed analysis of the problems experienced by students taking their module or modules, please e-mail Martina Naughton at martina.naughton@ucd.ie, and your request will be accommodated. The CPSC tutors this year included a team of seven senior postgraduates: Edwin Costello, John Doody, Brendan Sheehan, Steven Knox, Damir Kahvedzic, John Stafford and Abey Campbell. The coordinator would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank them for their hard work during the year.

References

- Duncan, E. (2002), ‘Making the analogy: Alternative delivery techniques for first year programming courses’, In Proceedings from the 14th Workshop of the Psychology of Programming Interest Group, 89-99.
- Naughton, M. (2009) The UCD Computer Programming Support Centre Evaluation Form: [Internet] School of Computer Science and Informatics, University College Dublin Available from: <http://www.csi.ucd.ie/content/-cpsc-visitor-evaluation-form> [Accessed 10 June 2009]



