

Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha
Bord na Gaeilge
University College Cork

Annual Report
2014 ~ 2015

Dr Ciarán Dawson: Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha, UCC

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Staff of Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha

Professor Pádraig Ó Macháin: Director

Ms Caitríona Budhlaer: Manager of Dún Chíomháin

Ms Nuala de Búrca: Teacher/TEL Assistant

Dr Ciarán Dawson: Teacher/Senior IT Coordinator

Ms Ann Ní Ghadhra: Senior Executive Administrator

Ms Gobnait Ní Loingsigh: Executive Administrator

Ms Claire Ní Mhuirthile: Teacher/Administrator

Ms Marian Ní Shúilliobháin: Teacher/Administrator

Mr Cearbhall Ó Colmáin: Teacher/IT Coordinator

Mr Cormac Ó hAodha: Translator/Teacher

Mr Seán Ó Laoi: Teacher/Administrator.

Membership of Bord na Gaeilge

(a) EX-OFFICIO Members:

The President, Dr Micheál Ó Murchú nó his/her nominee

Chair appointed by the President Mr D. Ó hAodha

The Registrar, Professor Caroline Fennell

The Professor of Modern Irish, Professor Pádraig Ó Macháin

The Professor of Old and Medieval Irish, Professor John Carey

The Students Union Irish Language Officer, Seán Ó Riabhaigh

(b) Members elected by The Governing Body:

Mr Diarmuid Ó Mathúna

Dr Marian Nic Cárthaigh

(c) Members nominated by the Academic Council and Elected by the Governing Body:

An tOll Emer Rogan

An tOll Cathal O'Connell

(d) Members nominated by the four Colleges:

An Dr Colm Ó Tuathaigh: Coláiste an Leighis agus na Sláinte

An Dr Seán Ó Conaill: Coláiste an Ghnó agus an Dlí

An Dr Caoimhín Ó Muirí: Coláiste na nEalaíon, an Léinn Cheiltigh agus na nEalaíochtaí Sóisialta

An Dr Pádraig Mac Cárthaigh: Coláiste na hEolaíochta, na hInnealtóireachta agus na hEolaíochta Bia

(e) Members co-opted:

An Dr Orla Ní Dhubhghaill

An Dr Stiofán Ó Cadhla

Secretary of Bord na Gaeilge: Ms Marian Ní Shúilliobháin

Preamble

Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha is a pan-university teaching centre functioning under the **Office of the Registrar of University College Cork** with the remit of fulfilling the responsibilities of the University in relation to the Irish Language, informed by a wide range of legislation and policy documents at the institutional, the local, the national, the European, and the global levels.

- **UCC's Strategic Plan 2013 - 2017** under **Goal 3 - Pre-Eminence in Internationalisation, External Engagement and Contribution to Society** lists among its strategies: *to promote the Irish language within the region and on campus.*
- **Article 8 of Chapter E of National University of Ireland, Cork's Statute** decrees the establishment of **Bord na Gaeilge** and defines its duties and membership.
 - E.8.a. Duties of An Bord. There shall be established in the University, Bord na Gaeilge ("An Bord"). The duties of An Bord shall be to make proposals to the Governing Body in relation to:*
 - 1. the provision of courses which include instruction through Irish leading to university degrees or other distinctions of the University, in subjects or disciplines in which such instruction is already provided through English;*
 - 2. the establishment of courses of instruction through Irish in areas or disciplines in which courses are not provided through English;*
 - 3. the provision of adequately trained staff who will be capable of conducting and teaching such courses through Irish; and*
 - 4. extending and improving the use of Irish in the University generally.*
- The **Universities Act 1997** in **Part III, Chapter 1** specifies amongst the objects of a university:
 - to promote the official languages of the State, with special regard to the preservation, promotion and use of the Irish language ...*
- The **Good Friday Agreement**, April 1998 states:
 - ... participants recognise the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including in Northern Ireland, the Irish language...*
- The **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages** (1992) states among its objectives and principles:

... the provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages;

... the provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire.

In **Part III, Article 8 - Education** the **Charter** goes to specify that Parties (of whom the Republic of Ireland is one) undertake:

- i. to make available university and other higher education in regional or minority languages; or*
 - ii. to provide facilities for the study of these languages as university and higher education subjects; and*
 - iii. to offer such languages as subjects of adult and continuing education.*
- **UNESCO's Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights (1996) in Section II - Education** makes the following statements.
 - i. Education must help to foster the capacity for linguistic and cultural self-expression of the language community of the territory where it is provided.*
 - ii. Education must help to maintain and develop the language spoken by the language community of the territory where it is provided.*
 - iii. Everyone is entitled to receive an education in the language specific to the territory where s/he resides.*

The central importance of **Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha** in a modern Irish University such as UCC is further underpinned and highlighted by several studies which reflect a desire on the part of Irish people to see Irish flourish and grow in modern Irish society. The most recent of these, **Attitudes towards the Irish Language on the Island of Ireland (2015)** by Darmody and Daly on behalf of Foras na Gaeilge made the following points.

- i. At present, there are approximately 60 minority languages in Europe, with different statuses. The survival of such languages largely depends on public attitudes towards the language as well as the extent to which it is used by members of a community*
- ii. Over two-thirds of the respondents in the South of Ireland (67 per cent) and almost half in the Six Counties (45 per cent) reported a positive attitude to the Irish language.*
- iii. The policy framework that protects the Irish language on the island of Ireland is linked to broader human rights policies*

as well as policies specifically designed to promote the Irish language.

The Contribution of Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha to UCC

Since the retirement of its director, Pól Ruiséal, an tIonad has been under the direction of the Interim Director, Professor Pádraig Ó Macháin, Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge. Staff of **An tIonad** comprise of a senior executive assistant, an executive assistant, three teacher/administrators, one translator/teacher, one senior TEL coordinator/teacher, one TEL coordinator/teacher, one teacher/TEL assistant, one manager of Dún Chíomháin and one keeper in Dún Chíomháin. An tIonad also maintains a pool of part-time teachers whom it employs in various roles as the situation dictates, particularly on the evening classes for the general public.

While the main physical space of **An tIonad** is on the ground floor of the O'Rahilly Building on the main UCC Campus, it has several other units strategically placed throughout the campus in Cork City and in Dún Chíomháin, the Gaeltacht campus in Corca Dhuibhne, thus ensuring an effective availability of Irish to the students and staff of the University. In addition to this, the centre's strategic positioning under the **Office of the Register** places it ideally to interact with students and staff of UCC's four colleges in making its vital contribution to the advancement of the aims and objectives of **Sustaining Excellence, UCC's Strategic Plan 2013 - 17**. Through its various schemes and courses the highly dedicated, professional and motivated staff ensures that Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha contributes to a range of elements contained in **Sustaining Excellence** that go beyond the teaching and promotion of Irish language.

Internationalisation

Reports on attitudes towards the Irish language such as Darmody and Daly (2015) have consistently shown that Irish people regard their language as a significant badge of identity; they cherish it as that which marks their individuality in a world dominated by three major languages, one of which (English) is the primary working language of Irish people. We in **Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha** play a central role in ensuring that the Irish language is a central element in the vision of UCC as a University that connects our region to the world. We do this in several ways.

- Through our flagship courses GA1120 agus GA1121 (Introduction to Modern Irish and Intermediate Modern Irish) we have taught Irish to over 5000 overseas students from each of the five continents. Newly-appointed staff from overseas also frequently take these courses as part of their efforts to integrate with Irish society.
- Through MX1004 (Introduction to Modern Irish for Medical Students) we have taught Irish to over 100 medical students from abroad.
- Most recently Irish has become a central element to the USAC Summer School in UCC.

- We have a long standing relationship through the Erasmus Programme with the Ruhr University Bochum, Germany and the University of A Coruña in North Western Spain where we have taught Irish language and culture on Masters and PhD programmes. We have also delivered similar courses in Poland, France and in Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean.
- Through our participation in the new BA in World Languages we introduce students to the contribution of the Irish language to the study of language and its development in a global context.
- We have shared our expertise in Teaching and Learning Irish at international conferences throughout Europe.
- We participate in CIRTL's Programme for Visiting Lecturers by providing an overview of the Irish Language and offering classes in Beginners Irish to our colleagues from abroad.
- We have had a continuous relationship with Asian Studies and with the project to connect UCC with China through various initiatives including the production of **Bunchúrsa ar Theanga agus Chultúr na Síne**, the first Irish Medium course for learning Basic Chinese, which was recently showcased by the Minister for Education in the Embassy in Beijing.
- Dún Chíomháin, our Gaeltacht base in Corca Dhuibhne, has hosted students from a wide range of countries as far apart as China, South Africa, the US and Australia.
- Our staff regularly answer questions and queries regarding Irish from other academics across the world as widely as Tokyo and Moscow.

It is not only through its efforts in the realm of internationalisation that Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha plays a vital role in achieving and sustaining excellence as outlined in UCC's strategic plan to 2017. In performing its primary function as leaders in promoting the Irish language on the campus and in the region, the centre contributes to the broader strategies, projects and targets of **Sustaining Excellence** in the following ways.

Promoting Student Learning

In Bilingualism: Consequences for the Brain the authors reach the conclusion *"that lifelong experience in managing attention to two languages reorganizes specific brain networks, creating a more effective basis for executive control and sustaining better cognitive performance throughout the lifespan"*.¹ Having learnt Irish since beginning school at the age of 4 or 5 it can be said that the majority of students in UCC are bilingual to some degree or another. In encouraging our students to maintain and build upon this established bilingualism we not only keep them empowered with their own language and encourage them to learn

¹ Bialystok, E; Craik, F; Luk, G; Trends in Cognitive Science, April 2102; 16 (4).

others, we also increase their ability to engage their higher-order thinking skills and become better learners.

Enhancing the Student Experience

Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha's various activities and courses are central to the experience of UCC's student body. Áras Uí Thuama, Seachtain na Gaeilge, the Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme, and Dún Chíomháin along with support for student societies such as An Chualacht, An Cumann Drámaíochta and Cumann an Cheoil all combine to ensure that the Irish language is a central element of student life on and off the campus.

Advancing Diversity

Through the work of Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha in creating a bilingual/multilingual environment and making our language available to all our students and staff, Irish has become one of the main drivers of diversity on the UCC campus.

- Classes in basic and intermediate Irish for visiting students and staff have ensured that no one feels neglected or isolated on the multilingual campus.
- Our full participation in the activities of UCC+ places the Irish language at the heart of the drive for equity of access to higher education.
- **Bhuel**, the Irish language newsletter is an integral part of the multicultural tapestry that is campus life.
- Our determination to make our residential centre in the Gaeltacht accessible to all shows our deep commitment to **Universal Design for Learning**.

Events such as the annual presentation on Bríd's day ensure that an Ionad is an integral part of the drive to create and maintain the pluralist, multicultural yet Irish nature of the campus community.

Addressing Societal Needs

The central role played by languages in promoting social cohesion has long been recognised. The numerous Gaelscoileanna and Gaelcholáistí in the region, combined with the high level of participation in Irish language activities and societies such as Conradh na Gaeilge and Gael-Taca reflect the deep ambition of the people of Munster for Irish to play a central role the life of their cities, towns and rural communities.

Through active participation and membership in these organisations and through the support offered by way of transferring knowledge or making available our facilities, Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha ensures that UCC is to the fore in addressing this vital societal need.

In an Gaeltacht Dún Chíomháin has become a hub of activity, providing leadership to the local community with the manager representing UCC on numerous committees and local groups.

Lifelong Learning

Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha's programme of evening Irish classes for the community is a central element of Lifelong Learning in UCC. Attracting several hundred learners every winter these classes have provided a springboard for many people to re-enter formal education. The Diploma in Applied Irish has become a core vehicle for individuals and organisations to upskill in order to meet the requirements of the Official Languages Act (2003). In Dún Chíomháin, an tIonad cooperates with Kerry County Council in developing and delivering syllabi and courses for adults who need to improve their languages skills in order to live and work in the Gaeltacht.

Teaching and Learning

Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha has been a strong advocate of Teaching and Learning in UCC since its inception at the turn of the millenium. The centre has been active in Ionad Bairre and CIRTL and was represented on the committee that designed the Certificate, Diploma and Masters programmes in Teaching and Learning. A member of an tIonad staff is a CIRTL Fellow and ensures the continuation of an tIonad's contribution to the advancement of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in UCC through assisting in the Certificate programme and supervising Masters students.

Innovation and Technology

Since pioneering the development of Blackboard, the Mobile Computer Lab and Wireless Networking, the TEL unit within Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha has continued to play a central role in the advancement of Technology Enhanced Learning in UCC and in the region. An tIonad's courses take an increasingly blended approach to teaching and learning, and this groundbreaking work on the use of Google Docs, Lecture Capture, and the Virtual Learning Environment has been the subject of several papers written and presented at conferences at various European venues. Most recently the potential of the flipped classroom to improve the student experience is being examined in several courses. However technology is far from the only manifestation of innovation within Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha. Áras Uí Thuama, the block of apartments where students learn by living through the medium of Irish at the heart of the campus is but one example of the novel and innovative ways of learning driven and administered by Ionad na

Gaeilge Labhartha. Through the Gaeltacht scholarships and the weekends in Dún Chíomháin the learning space of UCC students has been extended to incorporate Smerwick Beach, the Great Blasket Island and the peak of Mount Brandon.

Creativity and Independent Thinking

Schemes such as the yearly award of Gradam na Gaeilge have been a stimulous for students to engage in innovative and creative methods for learning and promoting Irish on campus. The series of public talks has for many years provided a forum for original thinking and brainstorming on a range of topics related to Irish in the modern world, while an Seomra Caidrimh has hosted numerous book launches and art collections by new and upcoming authors, poets and artists in several languages. More recently an tIonad has begun to expand its suite of credited modules across the disciplines with the aim of integrating the learning of the Irish language with the students' fields of study and delivering learning outcomes at the higher end of Bloom's Taxonomy.

Developing the Infrastructure

In addition to the various offices and teaching spaces administered on the main campus where an tIonad has developed a modern fit-for-purpose language learning facility in its primary teaching room, the centre has responsibility for the maintenance and development of Dún Chíomháin. Over the years this Gaeltacht campus has been developed to incorporate best practice in teaching and learning, effective use of technology, UDL, and the protection of the environment.

Income Generation

Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha has proven successful in locating new sources on income and in streamlining many of its activities with a view to making more efficient use of its current resources. Most recent developments have been the involvement with the USAC Summer School and the shift towards credited modules across the disciplines which have created a new stream of FTE income. It is hoped that the eventual appointment of a full-time permanent director will enhance the ability of Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha to develop further sources of funding and finance going forward.

The Activities of Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha

As the primary department tasked with fulfilling UCC's strategic aim to promote the Irish Language within the region and on campus, Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha offers a broad range of credited and non-credited courses, and schemes.

The Diploma in Applied Irish

The Diploma in Applied Irish is a two-year part-time diploma directed at those seeking a career through Irish and those who wish to enhance their career prospects by enabling them to work through the medium of Irish. This blended course consists of six modules, two of which are taught entirely online. During the course of the Diploma students must spend four periods of time in the Gaeltacht where they are introduced to members of various professions who work through the medium of Irish.

Due to the retirement of the course coordinator the diploma was not offered in 2014/5 but will recommence in autumn 2017 under a new course coordinator.

GA1120: Introduction to Modern Irish

GA1120 is a five credit, 10 week course in basic Irish language which is offered in both semesters. It consists of three contact hours each week which are reinforced with a broad range of online materials including audio files and interactive exercises. It is assessed by in-class tests, an oral exam and a final written exam. While the primary target group for this course is the undergraduate students visiting UCC for their year abroad, the course is frequently taken by new staff and postgraduate students from overseas who are eager to learn Irish as part of their integration into Irish society.

In 2014 to 2015 **GA1120** was taken by **two hundred and forty two** students.

GA1121: Introduction to Modern Irish/Intermediate

GA1121 is ten credit, 10 week course taught in the second semester as a follow on from GA1120. It consists of four contact hours each week, one of which is focused on the life and culture of the Irish language. The course includes a weekend in Dún Chíomháin where students get to experience Irish in the Gaeltacht. It is assessed by in-class tests, an oral exam and a final written exam. While the primary target group for this course is the undergraduate students visiting UCC for their year abroad, the course is frequently taken by new staff and postgraduate students from overseas who are seeking to learn Irish as part of their integration into Irish society.

In 2014 to 2015 **GA1121** was taken by **twenty four** students.

MX1004: Introduction to Irish Language for Medical Students

MX1004 is a five credit module which is offered in the first semester to second-year medical students from overseas. It consists of two weekly classes over the

twelve week semester and is assessed by oral exam and by course work. The course also includes a weekend in the Gaeltacht where students get to experience the language at its primary source. While the primary target group is second-year medical students, the course can also be taken by overseas postgraduate students of the College of Medicine who wish to learn Irish as part of their integration into Irish society.

In 2014 to 2015 **MX1004** was taken by **fourteen** students.

MX1007: Advanced Irish for Medical Students

MX1007 is a five credit module which is offered in the second semester to first-year medical students who already have a high level of Irish. It consists of two weekly classes over the twelve week semester and is assessed by oral exam and by written exam. The course also includes a weekend in the Gaeltacht where students get to experience the language at its primary source and meet medical personal who practice medicine in the Gaeltacht.

In 2014 to 2015 MX 1007 was taken by **sixteen** students.

The Voluntary Irish Language Programme

The Voluntary Irish Language Programme is a non-credited, non-assessed course in spoken Irish offered to students across the four colleges in UCC. The objective of the course is to enhance the student experience and increase their future employability by engaging them in a bilingual environment and, as far as possible, by integrating their improved knowledge of Irish with their academic discipline.

In 2014 to 2015 **The Voluntary Irish Programme** was taken by **one hundred and ninety seven** students.

Evening Irish Language Programme

An integral element in UCC's drive to meet societal needs and a primary part of UCC's strategy to "promote Irish within the region", the evening Irish language programme responds to the desire of Irish people to enhance their ability in the Irish language as expressed in Darmody and Daly (2015). These two-hour evening classes in spoken Irish take place Monday through to Thursday during both semesters; learners are given the opportunity to spend a weekend in the Gaeltacht afterwards.

In 2014 to 2015 **the Evening Irish Language Programme** was taken by **one hundred and fifty** adult learners.

The Evening Class in Irish Grammar

The Evening Class in Irish Grammar is directed at those who wish to enhance their employability by bringing an excellent ability in Irish to their professional lives. This programme attracts adult learners of all ages and walks of life from a wide range of locations throughout the region. Many of these

lifelong learners have gone on to establish Irish language book clubs, conversation circles and walking clubs in their own communities. In 2014 to 2015 **the Evening Programme in Irish Grammar** was taken by **seventeen** adult learners.

Course in Spoken Irish for University Staff

Designed to meet the demands of the Languages Act (2003) **The Course in Spoken Irish for University Staff** is a two-hour weekly class aimed at enhancing the ability of UCC staff to perform their functions through the medium of Irish, particularly when dealing with the general public and the student body as a whole.

In 2014 to 2015 **the Course in Spoken Irish for University Staff** was taken by 17 learners.

Irish Language Course in Information Technology for UCC Staff

This long-running skills course is aimed at addressing the specific needs of the minority language user of information technology. Always staying up to speed with latest developments, over the years it has moved from classes in basic word processing, through digital editing, to the use of smart phones.

In 2014 to 2015 **The Irish Language Course in Information Technology for UCC Staff** was taken by **ten** students.

USAC Summer School

The **USAC Summer School** is a five-week class run in UCC aimed at giving its American students a broad range of knowledge and experience of Irish life, including the Irish language.

In 2014 to 2015 **nine** students took part in USAC summer school.

Áras Uí Thuama: The Irish Language Residence

Since its early inception as Brú na Laoi in 1993 this residential scheme has been a mainstay in UCC's efforts to promote diversity on campus. It is a central element to the University's Irish Language network with residents taking part in Irish language life on the main campus and in the Gaeltacht. Irish is the daily language of communication in Áras Uí Thuama, and Bord na Gaeilge awards a scholarship of €500 at the end of the academic year to every resident who participates in the active elements of the scheme.

In 2014 to 2015 **twelve** students stayed in Áras Uí Thuama

The UCC Families Gaeltacht Scheme

Furthering the University's strategic aim to promote Irish amongst its staff, Dún Chíomhain is available to UCC staff and their families at a reasonable cost so they can easily access the Gaeltacht. A Language Assistant stays in the house to assist staff and their families with Irish and to provide them with local knowledge.

In 2014 to 2015 **ten** staff members and their families availed of this opportunity.

The Schools Liaison Scheme

Forming a bridge between UCC and Irish medium second level education in the region, the Schools Liaison scheme exists to underpin the support of the University for Irish medium secondary schools by explaining the academic, Irish language and social life of UCC to senior classes. One member of staff and two students from various disciplines in UCC normally constitute the various panels that annually visit every Irish-medium secondary school in the Munster region.

In 2014 to 2015 **ten** schools were visited by **thirty** staff and students.

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta

An integral part of UCC's strategy to promote Irish on campus and in the region, the Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme provides all students with an opportunity to enhance their linguistic skills by living with an Irish speaking family in the Gaeltacht. A broad range of special activities are organised for participating students, including learning sessions, trips, walks, music sessions, céilithe, dancing classes and talks on local history, archaeology, and literature.

In 2014 to 2015 **sixty nine** students accepted scholarships for the Gaeltacht.

Scoláireacht Uí Ríordáin

Awarded annually by Bord na Gaeilge in the President's Office to a pupil nominated by the school principal and the fifth-class teachers, the award consists of a scholarship to spend three weeks on a summer course in the Gaeltacht.

Gradam na Gaeilge

University College Cork prides itself in its success in encouraging and promoting creative and independent thinking amongst its student population. In this vein the Executive Committee of Bord na Gaeilge decided in 2002 to award a prize to the student found to have most promoted Irish in the University in any given year. Originally sponsored by Bank of Ireland, the €1000 award is now sponsored by Dr Diarmaid Ó Mathúna.

The criteria for the award are:

- activities with which the candidates are involved, especially activities which they organise themselves (for example music, dance or drama activities);
- Spraoi Cois Laoi;
- St Patrick's Day activities;
- "Idir Súgradh is Dáiríre" activities;
- Irish language debates;

- Campus Radio;
- Irish writing;
- the activities of Áras Uí Thuama; and
- special projects or duties which raise the profile of Irish in the University and the media.

In 2014 to 2015 Gradam na Gaeilge was awarded to Faye Ní Mhurchú, Hanna Ní Shíthigh, and Rachel Ní Aodha.

An Seomra Caidrimh

A centre-piece of UCC's tapestry of diversity, the University's Irish language common room is a hub of activity incorporating the full range of languages taught and spoken on our multi-lingual campus. This versatile room is used as a centre for music, meetings, book launches, dance, and drama by all language departments and groups. The room is used as a tea/coffee room, as a centre for public lectures, and as an Irish classroom. It is a centre of display for books, periodicals, magazines and artwork of a high standard. As there are few places available in the city for speaking Irish in a natural environment, An Seomra Caidrimh fulfills this vital societal need by facilitating Irish language groups within the city and greater region.

In 2014 to 2015 **1398** people used the Seomra Caidrimh.

The Translation Unit

The Translation Unit was established as a result of the Quality Review carried out in 2003 and for the purpose of complying with the provisions of the Official Languages Act on behalf of the University. The Translation Unit provides translation, proof reading and interpretation services for the University community as well as serving the needs of other organisations. Amongst these are the University of Limerick, Dublin City University, Cork Institute of Technology, The National Statistics Office, The Department of Education and Science, The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, The Health Services Executive, Kerry Education Service and the Parliament and Council of Europe.

Dún Chíomháin

UCC's Gaeltacht campus addresses a raft of societal needs from the preservation and promotion of the Irish language to Life-long Learning. A full-time manager and a part-time warden run the centre in conjunction with an administrator on the Cork campus. Adult Education courses, language schemes and cultural activities are held in the Dún for the communities of both the University and the Gaeltacht. During both semesters students of an tIonad and the Department of Modern Irish attend weekend residential courses where they gain valuable experience of life in Ireland's Irish-speaking regions. Outside the semesters students of other higher level institutions in Ireland and abroad attend week-

long courses facilitated by the manager. Dún Chíomháin also hosts the UCC Families Gaeltacht Scheme.

In the academic year 2014/15 **427 students** attended 26 courses and **454 staff and students** stayed overnight in the centre.

The TEL (Technology Enhanced Learning) Unit

The TEL Unit was established in 1997 in response to the increasing importance of what was then referred to as CALL, Computer Assisted Language Learning. There are several aspects to the work of the TEL Unit: Technology Enhanced Learning, training, management of equipment, and the maintenance of the various websites, and Facebook and Twitter accounts. The TEL Unit advises Ionad staff (and Irish language staff in general) about information technology and its application to Teaching and Learning. In addition to this it gives courses in basic and intermediate IT skills to the University staff in general. The unit has presented and published several papers highlighting its work at major conferences at various European and domestic venues.

The Staff of Ionad na Gaeilge

Caitríona Budhlaer

As manager of Dún Chíomháin, UCC's campus in the Gaeltacht, Ms Budhlaer performs a crucial role in the University's mission to address vital societal needs throughout the region.

During 2014/15 Ms Budhlaer taught and examined a wide range of learners in Dún Chíomháin. In addition to providing courses to the local community in Corca Dhuibhne and student teachers from University of Limerick, she taught students from the Ruhr University Bochum, and the Catholic University of America.

In addition to her contribution in the classroom, Ms Budhlaer leads and coordinates a multiplicity of activities and courses on behalf of UCC in this key Irish speaking region. The following is a synopsis of her activities in 2014/15.

- She collaborated with several regional groups in developing learning resources aimed specifically at the local dialect.
- In conjunction with Kerry County Council she produced a series of written and oral materials in the Irish of Corca Dhuibhne for levels A1 and B1 of the European Certificate in Irish.
- She produced an Irish language version of the exercise book Coreskills.
- She proof-read the Irish language magazine Breacadh and a cookery book recently translated into Irish.
- She supported Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne in promoting excellence in the learning materials used in its classrooms, as well as ensuring that they accurately reflect the richness and diversity of this Gaeltacht region.
- She organised and coordinated residential courses for students and teachers from the Ruhr University, the Catholic University of America, and University of Limerick.
- She coordinated the weekend courses for UCC students and lifelong learners throughout the year by organising guest speakers and providing information on key local events.
- She coordinated the use of the IT resource room by local community groups to create opportunities for continuing professional development for language assistants and childcare workers.

Through her various collaborations with Kerry County Council and her active membership of Iarthar Dhuibhneach Family Support Committee and the Language Planning Group of Corca Dhuibhne, Ms Budhlaer positions Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha at the heart of UCC's strategic aim to promote Irish throughout the region.

Nuala de Búrca

Ms de Búrca is the editor of **Bhuel**, UCC's Irish Language newsletter and takes responsibility for advertising and publicising much of an Ionad's activity. She succeeded in producing and distributing in hard copy and digital format, four editions of the newly designed publication.

During 2014/15 Ms de Búrca taught and examined Irish language across the full range of levels as part of GA1120, the Voluntary Irish Course, the Staff Irish Course, the Conversation Classes of the Department of Modern Irish, and the new Daytime Course for Student Teachers. She brought her classes to Dún Chíomháin and accompanied students during their week on scholarship in Corca Dhuibhne.

In addition to her contribution in the classroom, Ms de Búrca has responsibility for the creation and dissemination of a wide range of digital learning resources. She also collaborates actively with her colleagues across the schemes and courses through which Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha succeeds in maintaining the prominence of the Irish language and culture in this multilingual, multicultural campus. The following is a synopsis of her activities in 2014/15.

- She succeeded in producing and distributing in hard copy and digital format, four editions of the newly designed Bhuel.
- She produced a range of learning resources both digital and hardcopy, including:
 - an 86 page booklet for students of GA1121;
 - a selection of digitised Irish Language television programmes with accompanying scripts and work sheets;
 - a comprehensive list of Irish Language websites; and
 - a catalogue of the Irish Language DVD's held by Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha.
- She was one of the principle organisers of Áras Uí Thuama, UCC's on-campus Gaeltacht. In addition to being centrally involved in the selection of candidates for the scheme and attending regular meetings with the students, the committee, and the administrator, she organised and attended five social events aimed at underpinning the cohesion of this unique learning community. She gave continuous support and assistance to residents and met regularly with the Vice-President for the Student Experience, UCC counsellors and the management of student accommodations.
- As an organiser of Scoláireacht Uí Ríordáin (The Ó Ríordáin Scholarship), she liaised with the principle and staff of Gaelscoil Uí

Ríordáin to facilitate the awarding of this annual scholarship to a fifth-class pupil of the school in the President's Office.

- In addition to her normal teaching duties she gave talks on UCC to a range of both primary and secondary school pupils as part of Scéim na Scol and Scoláireacht Uí Ríordáin.

Through her membership of Gael-Taca and through the broad range of her activities Ms de Búrca maintains strong relationships with the Irish speaking community in the region.

Ciarán Dawson

As senior coordinator of Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha's Technology Enhanced Learning Unit since 1997, Dr Dawson is responsible for a wide array of innovations in Teaching and Learning which have informed best practice in UCC and abroad.

During 2014/15 Dr Dawson taught and examined Irish language across the full range of levels as part of GA1120, MX1004, MX1007 and GA1020. He brought his medical students to Dún Chíomháin where they met with and interacted with medical professionals working through the medium of Irish.

In addition to his contribution in the classroom, Dr Dawson is widely published and is the coordinator of several principle courses and activities in Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha. The following is a synopsis of his activities in 2014/15.

- As the coordinator of the Irish language modules in the College of Medicine, MX1004 and MX1007 he designed and delivered the syllabi and assessments, and organised the weekends in Dún Chíomháin. In particular he made innovative use of Google Docs in the formative and summative assessment of MX1004.
- In conjunction with the Confucius Institute he published *Bunchúrsa ar Theanga agus Chultúr na Síne*, a textbook for teaching Chinese in Irish medium primary and secondary schools.
- As part of his special class on legal translation to second year BCL Law and Irish students he continued to advance his innovative use of Google Docs in formative and summative assessment.
- His innovative work on using Google Docs in formative and summative assessment in the modules in medicine and law was the subject of his paper *USING GOOGLE DOCS TO ENHANCE THE LEARNING DIMENSION OF SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT*, which was presented and published by Edulearn15 in Barcelona (July 2015).
- As coordinator of Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha's contribution to UCC+, he presented on the Irish language in the University at the UCC+ induction in September, and organised and carried out a range of activities for prospective students from DEIS schools in April.
- Under the Erasmus programme he travelled to the Ruhr University Bochum, in June where he taught courses in Irish to beginner, intermediate and advanced learners.
- As part of the Programme for Visiting Lecturers run by the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching and Learning, he gave a series of workshops on the Irish language and culture to visiting lecturers from Anhui

University of Finance and Economics (AUFE) and from the Inner Mongolian University of Finance and Economics (IMUFE) in China.

- As part of WL1002, Language Learning Strategies, he organised two workshops on the use of reflective learning journals and coordinated the administration and assessment of the students' journals in the first semester.
- As part of WL1001, Language Sounds and Structures, he organised and delivered a series of workshops on the development of the sounds and structures of Irish from Primitive Irish to Modern Irish in the second semester.
- He gave a talk on the northern conflict to fifth-year history students of Coláiste Choilm, Ballincollig.

As a teaching fellow of UCC and an associate member of the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning, Dr Dawson is the bridge by which best practice and innovation developed in Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha is shared with the wider University community.

Ann Geary

Ms. Geary, as the senior executive assistant, situated in the main office of Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha is frequently the first point of contact with those accessing an tIonad's courses and services for the first time, whether it be in person, by internet or by telephone.

During the academic year 2014/15 Ms. Geary performed many invaluable roles in the recruitment and registration of students to all Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha's courses and schemes, in particular GA1120, GA1121, the Voluntary Irish Class, the Evening Classes for the Public, the Gaeltacht scholarships, the weekend courses in Dún Chíomháin, an Seomra Caidrimh, and the Ó Ríordáin Scholarship. The following is a synopsis of her work over the year.

- She regularly dealt with a broad range of correspondence and matters subsequently arising from it.
- She accepted and processed a wide selection of enquiries and applications from students, staff, and members of the public.
- She produced and maintained reports and records of the Centre's activities, including examination results and application forms.
- She organised departmental meetings and typed and distributed, where appropriate, minutes and agendas.
- She typed and laid out policy documents, examinations, and much of the Annual Report.
- She communicated regularly with other departments and centres of the University on behalf of the Director and her other colleagues.
- She processed most of the financial transactions of an tIonad, including purchasing of equipment, payment of travel and subsistence costs, payment of part-time staff, and management of petty cash, always strictly maintaining meticulous records and receipts where appropriate.
- She negotiated the travel arrangements and food for the weekends in Dún Chíomháin, meeting the students on Friday afternoons and directing them to the bus to the Gaeltacht.
- She organised and booked rooms for seminars, workshops, classes, interviews, and other special events.

With her professional efficiency, her constant willingness to assist her colleagues, and her flexible approach to her work, Ms. Geary is an invaluable member of staff who ensures the success of all the work of Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha.

Gobnait Ní Loingsigh

Ms. Ní Loingsigh, as the executive assistant, situated in the main office of Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha is frequently the first point of contact with those accessing an tIonad's courses and services for the first time, whether it be in person, by internet or by telephone.

During the academic year 2014/15 Ms. Ní Loingsigh was on leave.

Claire Ní Mhuirthile

Ms Ní Mhuirthile organises and presents the display on St Bríd in the O'Rahilly Building every February, which annual event has become a primary and essential element of the multi-cultural tapestry which is UCC today.

During 2014/15 Ms Ní Mhuirthile taught and examined Irish language across the full range of levels as part of GA1120, GA1121, the Conversation Classes of the Department of Modern Irish and the evening programme for the Professional Masters in Education. She also taught and examined on the new five-week intensive Irish language programme which is a central element of the USAC Summer School in UCC. As an integral part of her teaching, she accompanied her students to the Gaeltacht on weekend courses and during their time on scholarship in Corca Dhuibhne in September.

In addition to her contribution in the classroom, Ms Ní Mhuirthile is the primary administrator of several of the core schemes at the heart of Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha's contribution to furthering the strategic aims of UCC. The following is a synopsis of her activities in 2014/15.

- As the administrator of Dún Chíomháin she organised the timetabling of the weekends in the Gaeltacht in conjunction with her own colleagues, staff and students of the Department of Modern Irish, and staff of other third level institutions in Ireland, Europe and the United States. She liaised with the Manager and Keeper of Dún Chíomháin in arranging travel, events and guest speakers for the students.
- As the administrator of Gradam na Gaeilge, she organised and sat on the committee which assessed the applications for the prize, as well as organising the main event in An Seomra Caidrimh when the awards were made.
- As the administrator of Áras Uí Thuama she had primary responsibility for advertising the scheme and shortlisting the selection of candidates to be interviewed. She organised and chaired the selection committee which interviewed all students before making final offers. She supported the events coordinator by facilitating and attending the initial reception and other events during the academic year.
- As the administrator of Scéim na Scol she liaised between staff and students of UCC and the careers teachers of the schools in question in order to ensure that each school was visited by a panel of two students and one staff member representing a broad range of curricular and non-curricular elements of the UCC experience. She hosted the final end of year event consisting of lunch followed by a feedback session in An Seomra Caidrimh.

- As administrator of Scéim na dTeaghlach she organised and coordinated the scheme whereby staff of UCC and their families had the opportunity to use Dún Chíomhain outside the academic year in order to enhance their ability in Irish and to gain experience of the bilingual world that is modern Ireland today. She organised a language assistant who ensured that the families were enabled to take full advantage of this invaluable opportunity to spend time in the Gaeltacht.
- As the Health and Safety Officer and Fire Steward of Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha she had responsibility for the maintenance of the First Aid Kits and the successful evacuation of buildings when necessary. She wrote the annual health and safety report.

Ms Ní Mhuirthile is the external examiner for Cumann Tráchtála Chalafort an Chóibh and conducts oral examinations with the school children who enter the competition. She organises Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha's contribution to the Adult Education Event in the City Hall every September and regularly gives interviews on radio, television and in other media on the promotion of Irish and the multilingual environment of UCC.

Marian Ní Shúilliobháin

Ms Ní Shúilliobháin is the secretary to Bord na Gaeilge in which role she organises meetings of an Bord and provides a bridge between staff of an tIonad and the members of the Board.

During 2014/15 Ms Ní Shúilliobháin taught and examined Irish language across the full range of levels as part of GA1120, GA1121, the language Classes of the Department of Modern Irish, and the Irish language programme for the Professional Masters in Education. She also taught and examined on the new five-week intensive Irish language programme which is a central element of the USAC Summer School in UCC. As an integral part of her teaching, she accompanied her students to the Gaeltacht on weekend courses and during their time on scholarship in Corca Dhuibhne in September.

In addition to her contribution in the classroom, Ms Ní Shúilliobháin is the coordinator of several of the principal courses and schemes through which Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha fulfills its role as the main agent of UCC's strategic aim to promote Irish on the campus and in the region. The following is a synopsis of her activities in 2014/15.

- As the coordinator of the credited modules GA1120 and GA1121 she liaised with her colleagues in Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha and the International Office to enhance the UCC experience of overseas students and to facilitate their integration into Irish society by providing them with an opportunity to learn basic to intermediary Irish language as part of their academic programme. In order to reinforce students' linguistic knowledge with hands-on experience of the culture of the language community, she organised as part of GA1121 a range of visits to key organisations in the city and region which are active in the language movement: for example Gaeltaca, Gaelscoileanna Uí Ríordáin and Uí Riada, and the Muskerry Gaeltacht. This was further reinforced by inviting a panel of guest speakers from a broad walk of life who have become themselves synonymous with the Irish language in Cork: for example Seán Óg Ó hAilpín and Gearóid Ó Catháin. In consultation with her colleagues she designed the syllabi, and written and oral assessment of both modules.
- As the coordinator of the programme of Evening Irish Classes for the Public, she organised the initial advertising and the enrolling of these lifelong learners before assigning each to a class in accordance with her/his ability and motivation for learning Irish. She laid out syllabi for various levels, and provided mentoring and training for the panel of part-time teachers employed by Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha to teach these courses across both semesters.

- As the coordinator of An Cúrsa Deonach Gaeilge (The Voluntary Irish Course) she oversaw the design of the brochure and its distribution in the fresher packs of all first-year students. Subsequent to students registering for this extracurricular course she assigned them to groups according to their ability in Irish and, where appropriate, their academic programmes.
- As the coordinator of the Irish Language course of the USAC Summer School, she designed the syllabus and organised the five-week intensive Irish Language course incorporating language classes, cultural classes, cultural trips, and language and cultural events. She designed and administered the written and oral assessment.
- As administrator of the Gaeltacht Scholarship scheme she organised the initial interviews and meetings with students applying for the scholarship. Having applied for and received financial assistance from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, she arranged accommodation for the students with families in Corca Dhuibhne. Over the seven day period of the scholarship in September she laid out the syllabus for the Irish course, organised the classes, and provided mentoring for the teachers. She also organised a range of activities for the students including music sessions, workshops, trips to the islands and hiking. During the week she successfully enhanced the students' experience of the Gaeltacht by introducing them to a broad spectrum of local people, including archaeologists, artists, writers, business people, journalists, and sports personalities.

In all schemes and courses Ms Ní Shúilliobháin sought to improve the engagement with students by regularly evaluating their learning experience, resulting in several strong recommendations aimed at enhancing the student experience going forward.

Cearbhall Ó Colmáin

Mr Ó Colmáin has primary responsibility for maintaining the websites of Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha and Bord na Gaeilge. He also maintains Facebook and Twitter accounts for an tIonad and attends all major events to acquire photos and videos to upload to these.

During 2014/15 Mr Ó Colmáin taught and examined Irish language across the full range of levels as part of GA1120, the Voluntary Irish Course, the intensive Irish language element of the USAC Summer School in UCC, and the Conversation Classes of the Department of Modern Irish. In addition to teaching Irish he organised and taught two courses on the use of computers, smart phones, and tablets through the medium of Irish.

In addition to his contribution in the classroom, Mr Ó Colmáin plays a full role in many of an tIonad's schemes and programmes. The following is a synopsis of his activities in 2014/15.

- He implemented several innovative initiatives in Technology Enhanced Learning by providing podcasting to GA1120, and creating and uploading sound files for the USAC Summer School.
- He maintained communication with the student societies and the Student Union's Irish Language Officer, and was available to advise them on the use of Irish in their activities
- He gave a talk to newly appointed members of staff on the work of an tIonad and on the importance of Irish in UCC.
- He participated in the Adult Education Exhibition in the City Hall in September by assembling an tIonad's stand and being at hand to meet the public and promote the evening courses.
- He assisted in the registration of the evening classes and attended several times at An Seomra Caidrimh during coffee breaks to meet with the learners.
- In addition to advertising the Gaeltacht Scholarships on the web he was involved in interviewing and selecting candidates for the scheme.
- He regularly assisted his colleagues and visitors to an tIonad with the use of technology in teaching and learning, and frequently gave advice on a range of educational apps and hardware.
- He attended Seomra na Gaeilge during the Cork Fleá in Ballincollig in May where he engaged with the public through the medium of Irish.
- He published an article in The Irish Examiner in September titled "Evening Courses in Spoken Irish" and gave an interview on WLRFM on Technology Enhanced Learning.

Through his membership of Gael-Taca and through the broad range of his activities he maintains strong relationships with the Irish speaking community in the region.

Seán Ó Laoi

Through his involvement in the many language groups throughout the city and the region Mr Ó Laoi ensures the transfer of knowledge of Irish from the University into the areas where it is needed.

During 2014/15 Mr Ó Laoi taught and examined Irish language across the full range of levels as part of GA1120, the Voluntary Irish Course, the Staff Irish Course, the Conversation Classes of the Department of Modern Irish, Language Scheme classes, and the Advanced Grammar Class.

In addition to his contribution in the classroom, Mr Ó Laoi coordinates several courses and activities. The following is a synopsis of his activities in 2014/15.

- He gave regular support to students who were seeking to promote Irish on and off campus through advising them on their grammar and spelling.
- He gave regular talks and lectures on and off campus to Irish language activist groups like Gaeilgeoirí Cois Laoi.
- He maintained active membership of Gael-Taca and other Irish language groups, assisting frequently at conversation circles, Irish classes and other learning networks.
- He gave regular assistance to teachers working in primary and secondary level with Irish language.
- He developed strong links with Gaeltacht regions in Munster and Connaught.

With a reputation for his efforts to promote the Irish language within the community Mr. Ó Laoi is the first point of reference for many who approach UCC seeking help and support with Irish language activities.

An overview of the numbers using Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha 2014/2015.

<u>Courses</u>		<u>Schemes</u>	
GA1120	142	Áras Uí Thuama	12
GA1121	24	Scéim na dTeaghlach	40
MX1004	14	Scéim na Scol	30
MX1007	16	Scoláireachtaí	69
An Cúrsa Deonach	197	An Seomra Caidrimh	560
Na Ranganna Oíche	150	Dún Chíomhain (UCC)	454
Ruhr Bochum	59	Dún Chíomhain (Corca Dhuibhne)	53
Scoil Samhraidh USAC	9		
An Rang Gramadaí	17		
An Cúrsa Foirne	17		
IT Courses	10		
Total: Courses	605	Total: Schemes	1238
Total Users of Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha 2014/15			1843