

Outstanding Success of the MPT Students in the National Programming Olympiad

The Department of Computer Science at University College Cork has been running an outreach programme, the Munster Programming Training (MPT) since 2004 in order to engage secondary school students in working with IT. Given the lack of IT training provided by schools, UCC is attempting to offer a significant introduction into the field, to educate students about what really happens in IT-related work, and to attract good talent into the field.

This year MPT Outreach programme training involves 35 students from 12 different secondary schools from Cork area. They are coming to UCC for 20 Saturdays between 10 am and 1 pm for formal lectures and practical classes in Computer Programming, Algorithms, Web Design and Video Animation. The classes are delivered by the CS staff and postgraduates in a volunteer base.

At the end of January 12 MPT students participated to the All Ireland School Computer Programming Competition that took place in DCU. The students had to sit a 5 hour test which consisted of 5 very difficult programming problems. We are proud to mention that the MPT students won 6 medals in both the Junior and Senior sections. The winners of the sections were

- **Senior Gold and Trophy: Brian Walsh, St Colman College, Fermoy**
- **Senior Silver: David McCarthy, CBS, Midleton**
- **Senior Bronze: Jared Auty, St Colman College, Fermoy**
- **Senior Bronze: Katie O'Mahony, St Aloysius School, Cork**
- **Under-17 Gold: Paul McGarry, St Peter Comm School, Passage West**
- **Under-17 Silver: Ruairí Kenny, Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal, Blarney**

As consequence of this outstanding result Brian Walsh, David McCarthy, Jared Auty and Katie O'Mahony were invited to make the Irish panel that will participate to the 2008 International Olympiad in Informatics in Egypt. This panel of 4 students will be coming to UCC for a series of specialised classes in Algorithms and Problems Solving as preparation for this international competition.



In photo: Brian Walsh of St Colman College in Fermoy, Paul McGarry of St Peter Comm School in Passage West, Minister Hanafin, and Dr Sabin Tabirca, the MPT Programme Coordinator.