

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Study Abroad: UMBC 2009



### Greetings from UMBC

I just wanted to drop you a quick note to let you know we're all settled over here, into the swing of things and having a really fantastic time. This is really proving to be such an exciting experience for us.

Brian met us on arrival at UMBC and brought us to our apartments. The following morning he conducted orientation with all of the new international students for the Spring Semester.

Registration for classes was a fairly seamless process. Jeff in the I.S. Dept. has been assigned as our Student Advisor and he outlined the courses we would be taking (Introduction to Management Science, GUI Systems using JAVA, Decision Support Systems & Data Warehousing & Mining) - and after that it was just a matter of registering ourselves within the 'myUMBC' utility.

We're centrally located on campus. The apartments are old and shaken, but do the job all the same. We are about a 12-minute walk to the ITE Building where the majority of classes are held. Class sizes are very similar, but the lecturing style is slightly different with more of a 'group' focus to the class. It's something we're adjusting to. The facilities here (both academic and extra-curricular) are second-to-none. The food on campus (something we were somewhat anxious about on arrival) is actually quite good. Some of us have taken Meal Plans, so it's just a matter of scanning our Campus Cards on the way into the Dining Hall.

The I.S. Faculty and Staff have been extremely accommodating with us. All our lecturers have been pre-advised there are five visiting students from NUIG, and they have been making sure we're familiar with Blackboard etc,

and have offered to take any questions we might have. We've also been asked to introduce ourselves at the beginning of the classes. If we learn anything here, it will be public speaking! They held a reception for us on February 23rd to introduce us to some staff, and to discuss similarities and differences between the two universities.

Myself, Kathleen and Neil are currently looking into the opportunity for Work Placement in the U.S. at the moment too. The Shriver Center here on campus conducts internships and we have been given some information about this.

The Americans have already made quite an impression on us - we may not come back to Ireland!  
David



### Partner Universities

- University of Maryland, Baltimore County, MD
- Clarkson University, NY
- American University, DC

