

UCD today

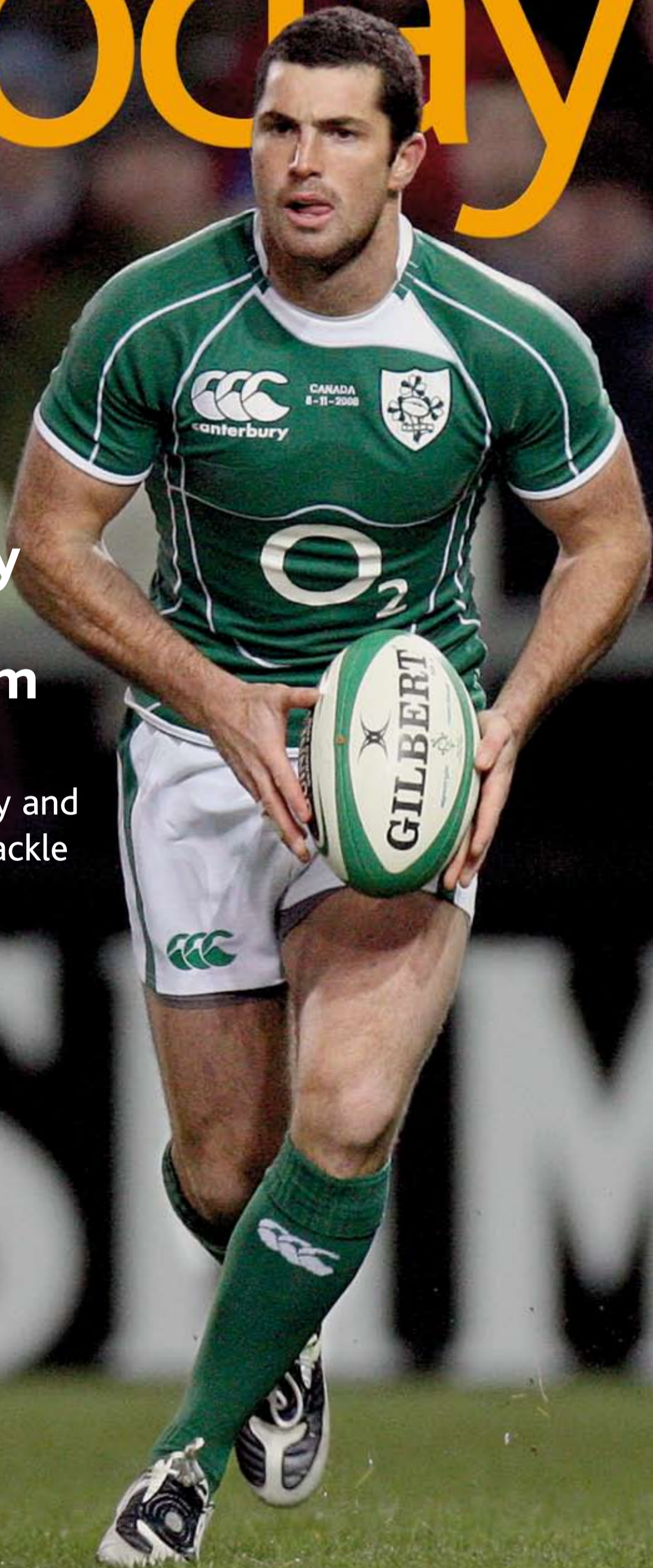
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SUMMER 2009



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How Rob Kearney and Gordon D'Arcy tackle study and sport



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HPAT — The mixed blessing?

Another strong performance in CAO first preferences keeps UCD ahead as the university of first choice in the Republic of Ireland. Our first preferences rose by 431 from 7,073 in 2008 to 7,504 this year. The number of applicants for level 8 degrees nationally increased by 4.4% while the UCD first preference rate of increase was 6.1%.

Our communications have consistently focused on the benefits of Horizons and concentrate on the values and strength of the education offered by the university. Over the past number of years interest in specific disciplines has been adversely affected by external sectoral factors and this year is no exception as degrees relating to the built environment, such as architecture and civil engineering, experienced a sharp decline in first preferences. However, omnibus entry to engineering, science and arts all attracted strong interest reflecting a return in student choice to broad degrees with options to specialise at a later stage.

But the big (and expected) "winner" this year is Medicine. Undergraduate entry first

preference applications rose 46% from 504 in 2008 to 736 in 2009. This can be directly related to the introduction of the Health Professions Admission Test (HPAT). The graduate entry path to medicine also rose by 27% from 117 to 149 demonstrating increased awareness of UCD's GEM (Graduate Entry Medicine) programme. In total, the number of students giving UCD their first preference grew by 42.5% while the national increase grew by 22%.

At a recent meeting with the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, we discussed the inevitability of an increase given students' expectations that they may gain a place with a good HPAT score and lower leaving certificate points. The HPAT also offers a second chance to students who have completed their Leaving Certificate within the last two years. However, the scale of UCD's first preferences outperformed the other medical schools and points to a number of other factors. Academic reputation is undoubtedly crucial but market research tells us that most undergraduates are not in a position to make comparative

judgments at this stage in their education. More likely they are influenced by factors such as peer and sibling experience, physical environment, familiarity with the campus, student engagement programmes and awareness of status. At this stage we do not know the pattern of performance among students taking the first HPAT. If it mirrors the leaving cert points then applications may well fall back next year.

Aware of the challenges in the future, the School is now developing new-media content covering the benefits of teaching methods, the network of partner hospitals, and the range of specialisms that all contribute to the quality of our medical degrees. And, although personal engagement with prospective students remains an important influence on students' choice of university, this added web-based focus will reach out not only to Irish applicants but to overseas students interested in high quality medical education.

*Eilis O'Brien
Director of Communications*



Cover Image

3rd year Arts student and Irish International rugby player, Rob Kearney at Ireland's historic Six Nations Championship winning match in March 2009

UCD thanks ...

Contributors:

Karl Abbey, Julia Barrett, Carla Briggs, Jane Butler, Michelle Butler, Adrienne Coleton, Sinead Connors, Mike Cooke, Richie Curran, Desmond Earley, Niamh Hardiman, Paul Harkin, Lorraine Heffernan, Vincent Hoban, Louise Holden, Eamonn Jordan, Caroline Kinsella, Francesca Martini, Juno McEnroe, John McNerney, Ian Mercer, Gina Molloy, Sue Murphy, Clár Ni Bhuachalla, Claire O'Connell, Gregg O'Neill, Fran O'Rourke, Gary Perry, Gordon Purvis, Elaine Quinn, Therese Smith, Theresa Urbainczyk, Micéal Whelan

Produced by:

Eilis O'Brien, Claire Percy, Dominic Martella, Edwina Shine

Design: Loman Cusack Design

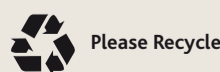
Print: Fine Print

Thanks to:

Pádraic Conway, JP Donnelly, Catherine Godson, Ann Lavan, Maurice Manning, Cliona de Bhaldrathie Marsh, Damien McLoughlin, Patrick Wall

In the compilation of this publication, every care has been taken to ensure accuracy. Any errors or omissions should be brought to the attention of UCD University Relations (communications@ucd.ie). We also welcome your suggestions for articles in future editions.

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Innovation through education

While the national debate about how Ireland can get itself out of the current recession rages on, UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady is very clear about the role of universities in that process in his discussion with Richard Curran. He believes that universities have to play their part in helping to develop a new rejuvenated and sustainable economic model for Ireland.

"It has to be knowledge and technology based. That is where we need to be." For Dr Brady, UCD is already playing its part in helping to build that new knowledge-based 'smart economy'. The university's Innovation Alliance, which it signed with Trinity College Dublin could be a cornerstone of that new development.

The Innovation Alliance has several initiatives, including a joint venture in enterprise development and the new 4th level UCD/TCD Innovation Academy. Brady summarises the core importance of the move when he says the decision to formally place innovation as a third pillar of education, after the traditional teaching and research, is meaningful. "Don't underestimate the significance of making innovation the third pillar. It influences how you think about things in the future and how you do things."

Traditionally, those working as academics had the idea that if they started up a company they were taking time out of what they do, says Brady. That approach should change through the development of an innovation culture. Inevitably, placing innovation in such an elevated position implies a major reaching out to the wider world, both private and public sector.

Dr Brady is keen to state that it is wrong to assume that innovation just applies to collaboration with industry, but in fact includes the realm of the public sector particularly in areas like public policy. "Innovation applies to the policy process and the delivery of public services, and in a new environment we know that this is something that has to change," he says.

If universities have what he calls a "responsibility to respond" to the current economic challenges, then the new alliance is an important part of that. The scale of the project is ambitious, targeting the creation of 300 new enterprises with advanced technology centres to support indigenous industry. Modelled on the IFSC it hopes to focus on the creation and scaling up of indigenous knowledge and technology intensive enterprises.

These are very ambitious targets. But even if the Government's smart economy strategy

actually works, then surely it would take 15 to 20 years to deliver really big sustainable job numbers?

Brady acknowledges that the knowledge economy will take time, but he believes Ireland is already reaping the benefits of its educational investment of recent years. He points to how exports, during the current downturn have been surprisingly resilient. "Agriculture and exports have not fallen that much. They have survived because they are already knowledge and technology-intensive."

"Research investment of the last ten years is already paying dividends and is already sustaining what we have," he says.

With UCD and TCD conducting half of all university research in the target areas in Ireland, including technology and engineering, the alliance forms a good start. But Brady is the first to admit, that it has yet to be delivered.

When asked to respond to criticism from other third level institutions that UCD and TCD just went ahead and did this, he doesn't rule out the possibility of other universities getting involved. "It can include others where it makes sense. But it wouldn't do for all these areas. It's hard enough doing it with just two universities," he reflects.

Critics of the plan, who suggested that the two biggest players in the sector just did a deal with Government, voiced their concerns about a lack of openness in the process. But Brady points out that it would have been impossible to hold those kinds of discussions in public and that simply could not have happened.

He cites the success of Molecular Medicine Ireland (formerly Dublin Molecular Medicine) centre, which he was involved in setting up with TCD, as a model for how other institutions may become involved. This was expanded later on to include the Royal College of Surgeons, National University of Ireland Galway, and University College Cork, and is now a national body. He sees no reason why the new alliance cannot foster similar developments, which evolve in that way.

However, the talks behind the Innovation Alliance had taken two years. He confirmed that the discussions included the entire gambit of co-operation between TCD and UCD, including a full merger. "We discussed everything from a merger of the two universities to a looser co-operation," he says. The merger scenario didn't get very far and Brady seems quick to rule out a merger on his watch.

"With one or two exceptions internationally, mergers of universities don't work." Brady adds that they would have spent one or two years discussing the historical heritage issues of both institutions and even longer working out the legislative issues. "A merger made no sense and would have been a distraction," he says.

Five years into his tenure as president of UCD Hugh Brady has already overseen an enormous change programme at UCD. This has covered everything from the introduction of a modular curriculum and restructured academic units, to changes in the promotions processes.

He can point to several important successes along the way. CAO first preference choices for UCD have shot up. UCD is the leading institution in the country in PhD numbers and has moved well up the rankings, which is particularly important for international students. There are 3,500 international students at UCD. It has almost 6,000 fourth level students and 1,700 PhD students, a figure that has nearly doubled in the last five years.

He now finds himself in charge at one of the most challenging times for leaders in education. "When it comes to funding universities there is a fundamental rethink of everything," he says. Just as universities should contribute to forming part of the longer term economic solution in Ireland, they are also being hit with the cutbacks associated with the downturn.

Brady believes that the current challenges facing government regarding education are fraught with danger. He believes it is imperative to get things right when it comes to the longer term investment in education. "Taxpayers recognise the value of education and higher education in

particular. But there has to be a re-balancing if we are to approach the investment levels of our international competitors," he stresses. Brady believes that universities in the future will have to be less dependent on State funding, but at the same time, the State has a vital role to play at this point in time in relation to investment in education.

Brady has always brought his wider international experience to the job. He constantly eyes what is happening abroad and how Ireland and UCD compares with that. When asked about his biggest achievement to date in the job, he states there is an imperative to deliver on the Innovation Alliance, and "I'll be proud when we deliver on that."

So far he believes the scale and speed with which the change programme was delivered was particularly satisfying. "It couldn't have been delivered without people being ambitious for the university." He says UCD brought in changes in five years that it would have taken some universities 20 years to introduce.

When it comes to morale in the university he says that throughout the country people are worried about their future. He believes that having put in place the radical restructuring of the change programme, UCD is now a more flexible place to weather the storms that are around. "We have the nuts and bolts in place and we can now enter a more creative phase with the likes of the alliance," he suggests.

"We need to have our eye on what is happening internationally." Brady reflects that there is still an inclination to think locally. When Dr Brady and TCD Provost, John Hegarty, recently briefed the heads of the State agencies on their alliance plan, they found the discussions to be frank and open. For Brady, Ireland's small size can be used to our advantage in getting the right people talking to one another. "We are well placed to think global and act local. That is our strength."

Richard Curran is deputy editor of The Sunday Business Post.



Pictured at the launch of the UCD-TCD Innovation Alliance (l-r): An Taoiseach, Mr Brian Cowen TD; UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady; TCD Provost, Dr John Hegarty; An Tánaiste, Ms Mary Coughlan TD

Moral and political philosopher, Alasdair MacIntyre, honoured at UCD

Professor Alasdair MacIntyre, leading contemporary philosopher, whose influence has extended to economics, business, management and politics, was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Letters by UCD in March 2009.

Delivering the citation, Professor Fran O'Rourke, UCD School of Philosophy, noted, "There is no such thing as a MacIntyrean philosophy; rather the MacIntyrean practice of seeking ground-making answers."

Alasdair MacIntyre has written widely in philosophy since his first book, *Marxism: An Interpretation*, appeared in 1953. He has taught at Oxford University, Princeton University, Brandeis University, Boston University, Wellesley College, Vanderbilt University, Duke University,

and the University of Notre Dame. In 1989 he was a Luce Visiting Scholar at the Whitney Humanities Center of Yale University. He has also served as President of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association.

He is the author of over thirty books, and has made prominent contributions to the history of philosophy, moral philosophy, political theory, philosophy of the social sciences, and philosophy of religion.

The UCD School of Philosophy, whose expertise in the area of Continental Philosophy was recently ranked as one of the top ten globally by *The Philosophical Gourmet*, hosted the International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry at UCD in March 2009.

Prof Fran O'Rourke, UCD School of Philosophy, with philosopher Prof Alasdair MacIntyre, who was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Letters in March 2009



International Council for Traditional Music Ireland

The UCD School of Music hosted the inaugural conference of the International Council for Traditional Music Ireland in February 2009. ICTM Ireland, a branch of the UNESCO non-governmental organisation, the International Council for Traditional Music, was founded in 2006, with UCD's Dr Thérèse Smith as the inaugural Chair. The association had previously held three one-day symposia (2006, 2007, and 2008), but this was their first two-day conference with associated activities.

The conference was dedicated to the memory of the folksong collector and scholar Hugh Shields, and had as its central theme, "Recording". The two-day conference featured twenty-seven presenters representing virtually all third level institutions in Ireland, north and south, in addition to delegates and contributors from the UK, Europe, and the USA. Representative from the Arts Council, the Irish Traditional Music Archive, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, and R.T.E. also attended.

The keynote address for the conference was given by Susanne Ziegler of the Berlin *Phonogramm-Archiv*, and the conference saw the repatriation of the 1905 Richard Henebry (1863-1916) wax cylinder recordings of traditional Irish music, held by that museum to Ireland.

Journal recognises radon risk map paper as highlight of 2008

The Journal of Radiological Protection has chosen a paper by Dr Patrick Murphy (UCD School of Mathematical Sciences) and Catherine Organo (Radiological Protection Institute) as one of its ten highlights of 2008.

The paper, entitled 'A comparative study of lognormal, gamma and beta modelling in radon mapping with recommendations regarding bias, sample sizes and the treatment of outliers' looks

at mathematical approaches to the prediction of indoor radon levels.

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, naturally-occurring, radioactive noble gas that is formed from the decay of radium. Health studies have linked radon with lung cancer, and remedial action is recommended if indoor radon levels exceed 200 becquerels per cubic metre.

I bhfeighil an Tí

Bunaíodh scéim chónaithe Bhard na Gaeilge UCD sa bhliain 2000. An chaoi go n-oibríonn sí, cuireann dream mac léinn fúthu (24 i mbliana) i 'dTeach na Gaeilge', áras atá suite i gcoilár an champais, in Ionad Cónaithe Merville, Belfield. Is í an Ghaeilge teanga an tí agus bíonn ar lucht na scéime ócáidí a eagrú ar son mhic léinn UCD i gcoitinne agus cur i ngach slí, le saol bríomhar seach-churaclam na hOllscoile.

Ní haon rud beag é áit a ghnóthú ar an scéim. Cuireann slua iarrthóirí sár-chumasacha isteach uirthi chuile bhliain, daoine óga as gach réimse léinn, as gach cearn den tí. Is deas an rud é go mbeadh an meascán sin ann. Casann an t-ábhar tréidlia ar an bhfealsúnáí i dTeach na Gaeilge, cuirtear an cuntasóir in aithne don dochtúir leighis. Foghlaimíonn mic léinn an tí óna chéile, an chaint ar fad uathu i nGaeilge.

Ní bhaineann an Ghaeilge le saol an tí amháin, gan amhras. Eagraíonn na mic léinn imeachtaí an-phroifisiúnta 'Ach ní obair atá i gceist leo' adeir Tadhg Walsh-Peelo, mac léinn de chuid na scéime 'mar go mbíonn an méid sin craic ag na hócáidí go mbíonn sé éasca go leor an Ghaeilge a spreagadh i ndaoine tríd am maith a bheith acu agus tríd an nGaeilge a labhairt.' I measc na n-ócáidí dá dtagraíonn sé, bhí turas chuig Oireachtas na Gaeilge (i gcomhar leis an gCumann Gaelach), Féile

Drámaíochta na gColáistí, Clár Gaelach ar Belfield FM, Seó Talainne, Comórtais Pheile etc. Ní hiad na himeachtaí is tábhachtaí b'fhéidir, ach na ceachtanna saoil a thugann na mic léinn leo agus iad á réachtáil. 'Foghlaimíonn tú go leor faoin tsíceolaíocht, ag eagrú imeachtaí duit le daoine eile' adeir Eoghan Ó Murchadha, mac léinn de chuid na scéime. Bliain eisceachtúil is ea í- taithí saoil, snaidhmeadh cairdis.

Tá gné acadúil leis an scéim, dá phléisiúrtha í. Bíonn deis ag na rannpháirtithe freastal ar an modúil 'Scileanna Cumarsáide' faoin gclár Horizons, agus creidiúintí Ollscoile a ghnóthú faoi Scoil na Gaeilge, An Léinn Cheiltigh, Béaloideas Éireann agus na Teangeolaíochta UCD. Ambasadóirí teanga is ea na mic léinn agus tugann Bord na Gaeilge UCD gach tacaíocht agus treoir phraiticiúil dóibh sa ról tábhachtach sin. In 2009-10, beidh an scéim deich mbliana ar an bhfód- táimid an-mhórálach as ambasadóirí uile an tí.

Reáchtálar an scéim seo le maoiniú ón Údarás Um Ardoideachas.

Glossary

- seach-churaclam-** extra-curricular
- tréidlia-** vet
- faoin tsíceolaíocht-** about psychology
- eisceachtúil-** exceptional
- na rannpháirtithe-** the participants
- an-mhórálach-** very proud



Student Aoghan Ó Murchadha with poet Liam Ó Muirthile and singer Muireann Ní Cheannbháin during Seachtain na Gaeilge UCD 2009



Jeffrey Donaldson MP, MLA provided the keynote address at a joint event run by the UCD Institute for British-Irish Studies and the Irish Association in April 2009 on 'North-South relations after the boom: the impact of the credit crunch on mutual relations and understandings'. A podcast of the lecture, along with information in other recent IBIS events is available at www.ucd.ie/ibis

Early warning systems

Early warning systems aim to accurately estimate the magnitude of an earthquake within the first seconds of rupture. New research suggests that the techniques underpinning some current warning systems may underestimate the magnitude of large earthquakes.

In a paper recently published by the Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America, Dr Shane Murphy, UCD School of Geological Sciences and Stephan Nielsen, Instituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Rome, looked at the idea that an earthquake's final size can be determined during its initiation, rather than something that only becomes apparent at the end of the rupture. They found that, while this may be true over a small range of earthquake sizes, it is unlikely to hold for the larger magnitudes, limiting its applicability for early warning systems.

Dermot Gallagher appointed Chairman of UCD Governing Authority

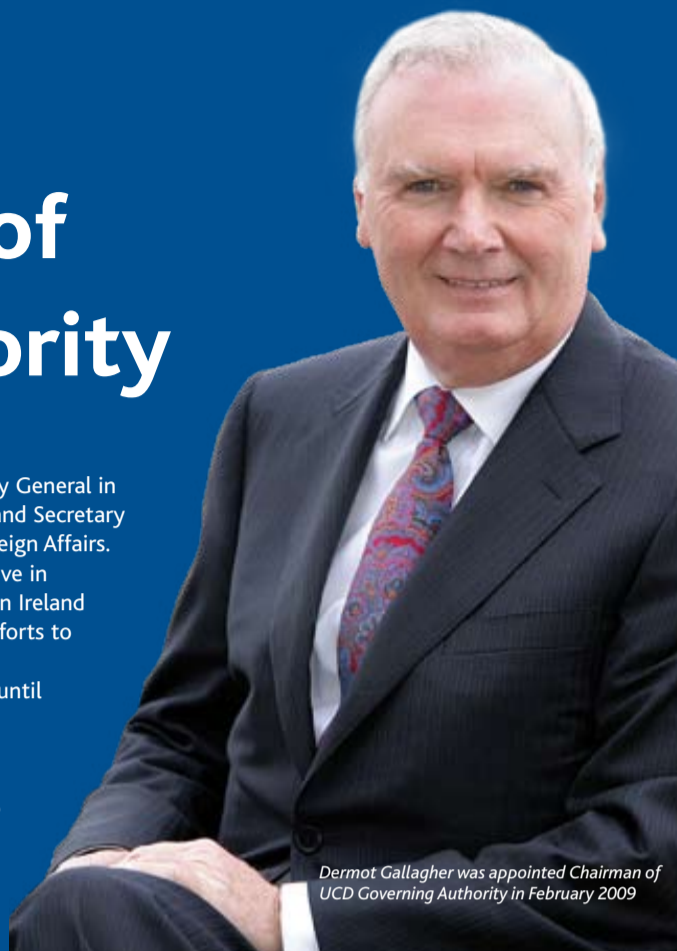
The Governing Authority of UCD approved the appointment of a new independent Chairman, Mr Dermot Gallagher on Tuesday 24 February 2009. Mr Gallagher replaces Mr Kieran McGowan, who chaired the Governing Authority since February 2004.

Working as a diplomat has brought Mr Gallagher to international posts in San Francisco; at the United Nations in New York and London; as a deputy *chef de cabinet* with the European Commission; and as Ireland's ambassador to Nigeria and to the United States of America.

Returning to Ireland he has held the posts of second secretary general with responsibility

for British-Irish relations; Secretary General in the Department of An Taoiseach and Secretary General in the Department of Foreign Affairs. Mr Gallagher continued to be active in diplomatic relations with Northern Ireland and was closely involved in the efforts to establish a stable power-sharing administration. He held this post until he retired in January 2009.

A UCD graduate (BA, MA), in February 2009 Mr Gallagher was nominated by the Government to be Chairman of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission.



Dermot Gallagher was appointed Chairman of UCD Governing Authority in February 2009

Maurice Manning elected Chancellor of NUI

UCD Adjunct Professor of Politics, Maurice Manning has been elected the fifth Chancellor of the National University of Ireland. He succeeds former UCD colleague Dr Garret Fitzgerald in this role. Maurice lectured in Politics at UCD for over 30 years before leaving to become the first President of the Irish Human Rights Commission, a post which he still holds. Dr Manning is also Chair of the European Group of National Human Rights Institutions.

President of Stanford receives Ulysses Medal

Stanford University's 10th President, John L Hennessy has been awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal in recognition of his outstanding global contribution to academic research, innovation and university education.



President of Stanford University, John L Hennessy receiving the UCD Ulysses medal in March 2009

Established in 1891, Stanford is one of the world's leading universities. Its entrepreneurial spirit, the result of its California location, proximity to Silicon Valley, and the legacy of Leland and Jane Stanford, has helped create more than 3,000 companies in high technology and other fields including: Google, eBay, and Cisco Systems.

In October 2006, President John L Hennessy announced a university-wide programme to seek solutions to the century's most pressing global challenges, enhance the education of future leaders and strengthen Stanford's academic excellence. To enable that effort, the university launched "The Stanford Challenge," a five-year, \$4.3 billion fundraising campaign.

John L Hennessy was inaugurated as Stanford University's 10th president in October 2000. From 1999 to 2000, he was the provost of the university; its chief academic and financial officer.

As provost, he continued his efforts to foster interdisciplinary activities in the biosciences and bioengineering and oversaw improvements in faculty and staff compensation.

Niamh Brennan – Dublin Docklands Development Authority

Niamh Brennan, UCD management professor, was confirmed as the new chair of the Dublin Docklands Development Authority (DDDA) in March 2009.

Professor Brennan replaces businessman Gerry McCaughey in the role. She is one of the Ireland's leading authorities on corporate governance, and is academic director of the Centre for Corporate Governance at UCD. She is regarded as an expert in the area of forensic accounting.

Previously, Professor Brennan held non-executive positions with Lifetime Assurance, Bank of Ireland's life assurance subsidiary; Coillte, and Co-Operation Ireland, a voluntary body dealing with north-south relations in Ireland.

Professor Niamh Brennan



Royal Irish Academy Secretary

Professor Thomas Brazil MRIA has been elected Secretary of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA). The holder of the Office of Secretary is responsible for the conduct of the general business of the Academy and is a member of the Executive Committee.

Professor Brazil's research in the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic & Mechanical Engineering focuses on the area of microwave and high frequency circuits and devices. He has made fundamental contributions to understanding the effects of non-linear behaviour of circuits and devices at microwave frequencies. Many of his results have been incorporated in design processes by the leading international companies in the field. He was elected as a member of the RIA in 2005, and is a member of the Engineering Committee, Chair of the URSI sub-committee and a member of Council.

Remembering the War Dead

UCD historian, Fergus D'Arcy has been presented with a special award by the judging panel of the Ewart-Biggs Memorial Award for his book 'Remembering the War Dead'. The history of the 3,000+ war dead buried in the Republic of Ireland, how they came to be there, and how the Irish Government came to be responsible for the graves, is outlined in the book.

The accolade was given in response to the book's 'powerful and judicious' exploration of

how the Irish State and people have remembered their war dead. There are at least 3,100 such war graves in the Republic of Ireland and some 2,600 in Northern Ireland.

The 2009 Ewart-Biggs Memorial Award went to novelist, David Park for his book 'The Truth Commissioner.' The award recognises works that promote peace and reconciliation in Ireland. Former winners include Brian Friel, Brian Keenan and Sebastian Barry.

100 years of UCD Business Schools

The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, presented the UCD Ulysses Medal to Irish business leaders Dr Michael Smurfit and Lochlann Quinn at the UCD Business Schools Centennial Dinner in April.

At the event, to mark 100 years of UCD Business Schools, President McAleese also presented outstanding UCD Business Alumnus Awards to Philip Berber and Professor Michael MacCormac, and UCD Business Student of the Year Awards to Andrew Flood, Bachelor of Commerce graduate and Claire Kennedy, Master of Accounting graduate.

"Tonight is a celebration of what UCD has been able to accomplish with the help of philanthropy, and a statement of intent about its determination to be a harbinger of the best business culture, the best business climate, the best business values, the best business graduates and the best Ireland in the century ahead," said the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese.



Pictured (l-r) at the UCD Business Schools Centennial Dinner: Dr Michael Smurfit; Mr Philip Berber; Mr Lochlann Quinn

Royal Irish Academy elections

Two UCD academics, Professor Anne Fuchs, UCD School of Languages & Literatures and Stephen Mennell, Professor of Sociology, were recently elected to the RIA.

Anne Fuchs is Professor of Modern German Literature and Culture at UCD. Her research covers areas such as German cultural memory, German-Jewish Literature, German modernism, travel writing and contemporary German and Austrian Literature. She is author of four monographs, the most recent of which, *Phantoms of War in Contemporary German Literature, Films and Discourse*, won the CHOICE "Outstanding Title Award" in the United States in 2009.

Professor Mennell, with his wife Barbara, founded UCD Press in 1995, and he served as chairman of its Editorial Committee until 2006. From 1999 to 2002 he was founder Director of the Institute for the Study of Social Change (now the Geary Institute). His work looks at sociological theory and comparative-historical sociology and he played a leading role in bringing the work of Norbert Elias to a wide intellectual audience. His 1985 publication, *All Manners of Food: Eating and Taste in England and France from the Middle Ages to the Present*, helped to establish the research area of the sociology of food and eating.

The RIA vigorously promotes excellence in scholarship, recognises achievements in learning, directs research programmes and undertakes its own research projects, particularly in areas relating to Ireland and its heritage. The RIA charter dates from 1785 and it has a regular membership of about 380 members that are chosen by peer election.

UCD Drama Studies

The Performance Project module in UCD Drama Studies recently presented the Irish premiere of *Shoot/Get Treasure/Repeat*, written by British playwright Mark Ravenhill.

The module is designed to test and teach aspects of professional practice in theatre process and performance within a university context. It is conceived and moderated by Finola Cronin, lecturer in UCD School of English, Drama & Film and benefits from the directing skills of Una MacNulty, a graduate of Drama Studies' MA in Directing for Theatre programme.

Also in spring 2009, Dr Patrick Mason, former Artistic Director of the National Theatre Society (Abbey and Peacock theatres), was appointed Adjunct Professor in Drama Studies. To mark this the school hosted a public talk by Dr Mason in March 2009, entitled "Between Sodom and Begorrah: Directors and Directing in the Irish Theatre." Professor Frank McGuinness, who spoke of Patrick Mason's influence on Irish Theatre over the past three decades, introduced Dr Mason.

Dr Mason will work closely with students in Drama Studies on the MA programme 'Directing for Theatre'.

Master classes in nursing and midwifery education and practice

In February 2009, the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery Health Systems launched a series of master classes to bring academics and practitioners together to discuss emerging issues in nursing and midwifery education and practice. The first master class explored the developing role of the advanced nurse practitioner in the community and was facilitated by Linda Latham and Neil Dunne, both of whom are Advanced Nurse Practitioners working in Primary Care.

The second master class in the series looked at development of clinical skills teaching for clinical practice, and was facilitated by Professor Maggie Nicol, CETL Director and FACT Theme Leader at City University, London.

For more information or to view the sessions as podcasts, visit the news and events section of www.ucd.ie/nmhs.

New Judge in Residence at UCD Law School

Mr Justice Nial Fennelly of the Supreme Court has joined the UCD School of Law as its Judge-in-Residence for the current academic year.

UCD is the only Law School in Ireland to have a *Judge-in-Residence* programme, which provides an interface between members of the judiciary and the academic legal community through lectures and seminars. During the course of his residency, Mr. Justice Fennelly will speak on: EU citizenship: decisions of the Court of Justice; the status of the European Convention on Human Rights in the Irish legal system; the right to privacy: a constitutional

right; the doctrine of precedent: Irish, English and European attitudes.

Following a distinguished career at the Irish Bar, during which he was elected Chairman of the Bar Council, UCD graduate Mr Justice Fennelly served as Advocate General at the European Court of Justice from 1995 to 2000. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2000. He has retained a keen and active interest in the law of the European Union and, in particular, the constitutional relationship between the Union and the Member States.



Prof Paul O'Connor, Director of External Relations, UCD School of Law; Mr. Justice Nial Fennelly and Prof John Jackson, Dean, UCD School of Law

Body fat and the immune system

Dr Lydia Lynch, who is investigating links between obesity and the immune system, has won a L'Oréal-UNESCO 'For Women in Science' fellowship to develop her research in Harvard University. She speaks with Claire O'Connell (BSC 1992, PhD 1998).

It's easy to think of body fat simply as storage - useful for cushioning, insulation and holding energy reserves, but little else. But that inert picture of fat is fundamentally wrong. Increasing evidence points to fat playing an active role in the body, sending and receiving hormones and other chemical messengers.

And now UCD research is shedding light on how our body fat can also act as an immune organ, which when it fails can pave the way for serious disease.

In obesity, fat can become chronically inflamed, much like a joint becomes inflamed in arthritis, explains Dr Lydia Lynch, a senior scientist in the obesity research group at St Vincent's University Hospital.

"Obesity is a chronic state of low grade inflammation, so the fat of an obese person is inflamed, whereas in a lean person it's not," says Dr Lynch. "And obese people have a hugely increased risk of cancer, they get more infections, they take longer to heal after a burn or a cut and they need longer treatments with antibiotics than a lean person does. So it suggests that the immune system is involved."

To test that theory, Dr Lynch works closely with Professor Donal O'Shea, Associate Clinical Professor at the UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science. He directs the weight management clinic at St Columille's Hospital in Loughlinstown and sees patients who have a body mass index (BMI) of greater than 30, and so are medically obese.

Particular patients started to pique interest because despite having very high BMIs, they appeared to be metabolically healthy, explains Dr Lynch. "There were two people that came in with a BMI of 71," she recalls. "One was typical — diabetes, high cholesterol, on lots of drugs for different things. The other one was a fellow aged 46, no diabetes, no high cholesterol, normal fasting blood glucose, normal triglycerides, normal blood pressure. So he was essentially healthy."

Looking closer they found that around 18 per cent of very obese patients had this "metabolically healthy" profile. Other researchers have found similar levels of metabolically healthy people among obese patients. But what is protecting these people from the metabolic symptoms normally associated with excess weight?

To find out, Dr Lynch compared patients' immune cell profiles. Taking blood samples, she measured levels of the body's own "natural killer cells" (ANK), which the immune system

uses to fight infection and could even protect against cancer.

Lean and metabolically healthy obese people had normal levels of natural killer cells, but killer cell counts were low in the metabolically unhealthy patients. And to add further insult, the natural killer cells present in the metabolically unhealthy obese patients seemed to function poorly.

"On a one-to-one basis, a natural killer cell from a metabolically unhealthy obese patient killed much less cancer in a test tube than one from a lean patient," says Dr Lynch.

She then turned her attention to the immune cells within the visceral fat or omentum, a metabolically active sheet of fatty tissue deep within the belly that protects the abdominal organs.

There she found a trove of natural killer T-cells, which have been shown to fight cancer in mice, but had not been found in substantial numbers in humans until now.

Dr Lynch also found that very obese people have reduced numbers of these cells in their visceral fat, whether they are metabolically healthy or not. "We found them in the omentum in everybody," she explains. "But they were much lower in patients with obesity — despite their huge amount of fat they had fewer of these cells."

Dr Lynch is currently in Harvard University working with Prof Mark Exley, who is trialing



Dr Lydia Lynch

the use of immune cells as anti-cancer therapies in humans.

Meanwhile the research continues in Dublin, including tracking how the immune profiles of obese patients change as they undergo bariatric surgery and lose substantial amounts of weight over time.

"We are going to get their natural killer cell levels and function and see have they changed, and I would hypothesise that they have because their cancer risk reverses," says Dr Lynch. "The huge cancer risk that obese people have goes away if they have surgery and lose weight."

And the obesity group keeps strong links with the UCD Institute of Food and Health, working particularly closely with Professor Mike Gibney and Professor Helen Roche.

"They want a complete translational centre and the only way to do that is to have work at the bench and the bedside," says Dr Lynch. "And because we are working with patients at the clinic and on their profiles and their bloods, we are at the bedside end of it."

Claire O'Connell (BSc 1992, PhD 1998) is a freelance journalist.

For women in science

From an early age, Dr Lydia Lynch has been inspired by women scientists. At school in Greenhills, Dublin, her teacher Sister Elizabeth instilled a passion for science in the classroom and prompted Lynch to study cell biology and genetics at UCD.

And while at college, Professor Cliona O'Farrelly's enthusiasm in lectures encouraged Lynch to specialise in immunology. Eventually the young graduate went on to do a PhD in O'Farrelly's lab, looking at stem cells in fat.

Dr Lydia Lynch pictured (first on left in the back row) with the other international recipients of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science fellowships at the awards ceremony in Paris in March 2009

Now it's Lynch's turn to inspire. She is the first ever Irish recipient of a L'Oréal-UNESCO 'For Women in Science' fellowship, an annual initiative for the promotion of women in science that to date has honoured almost 700 women in around 70 countries.

To enter, Lynch outlined work she wanted to do in Harvard with Professor Mark Exley on using immune cells from visceral fat to help fight cancer. She called her proposal "The human omentum as an immunological tool".

Lynch got the email last December inviting her to the award ceremony in Paris in March. "I couldn't believe it, I was so happy," she recalls, describing how her father, Jimmy, partner Paul and children Erin and Luka are to accompany her on her travels to the US.

The UNESCO/L'Oréal partnership is providing \$40,000 (around €31,000) to support her move to Harvard, where she will spend around 14 months in total, working alongside world-renowned experts in obesity.

"We are going to get their natural killer cell levels and function and see have they changed, and I would hypothesise that they have because their cancer risk reverses"



EU Foreign Policy Chief, Javier Solana, honoured

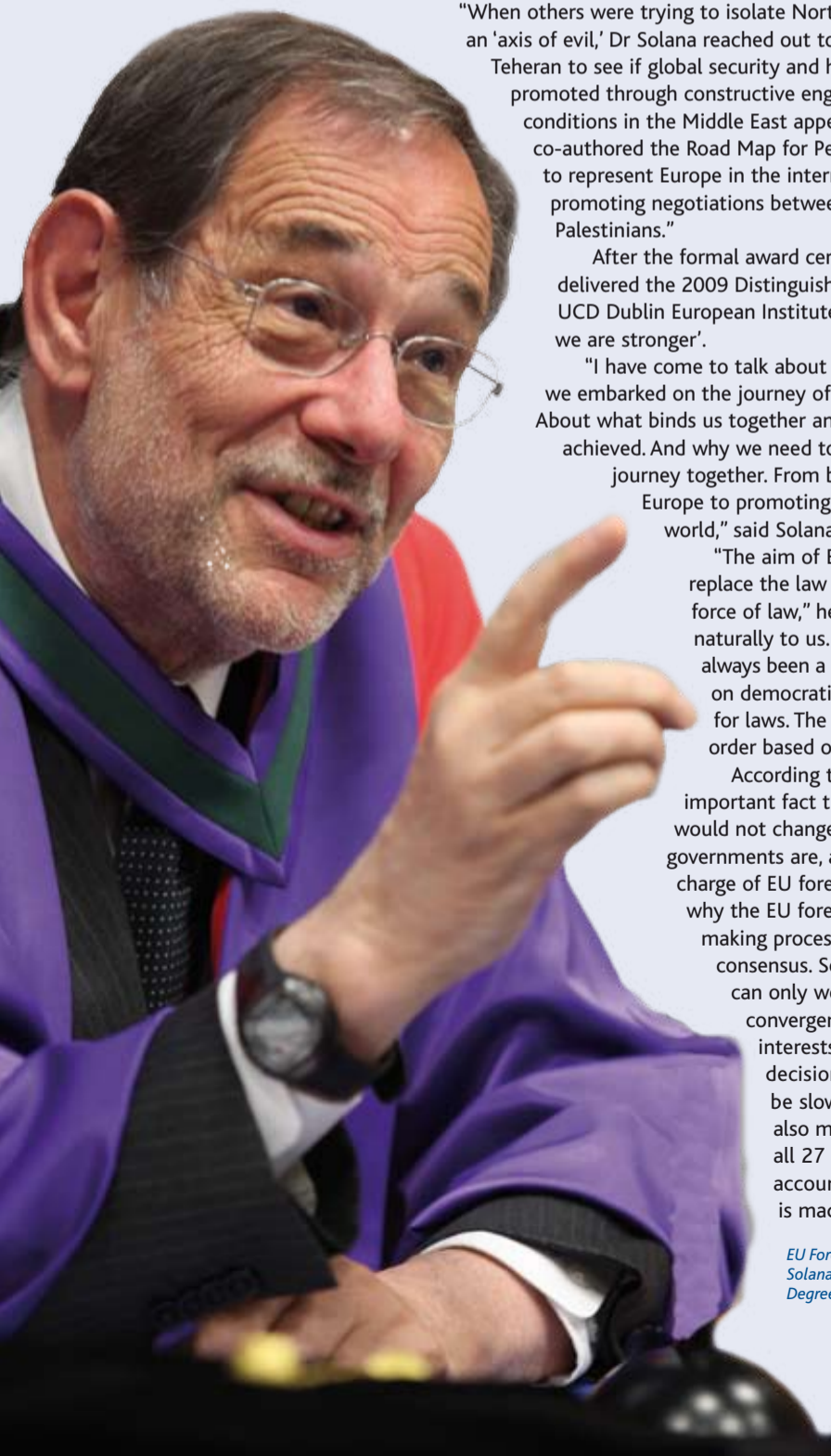
Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, has been awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from UCD in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the academy and public sphere.

"I am especially pleased to receive an honorary doctorate in Law," said Dr Solana. "Most of my professional life I have worked to create and develop institutions, relations, based essentially on laws. It is my deep conviction that the rule of law is the only possible cornerstone of social life and international relations."

Dr Solana assists the EU Council in foreign policy matters, through contributing to the formulation, preparation and implementation of European policy decisions. He acts on behalf of the Council in conducting political dialogue with third parties.

"In response to today's terrorist threats and environmental challenges, Dr Solana drafted an unprecedented European Security Strategy that sets out how the EU can be a force for a fairer, safer and more sustainable world," said Professor Daniel C Thomas, Associate Professor of European Governance and Society at University College Dublin, who read the citation at the award ceremony in April.

"The aim of EU foreign policy is to replace the law of force with the force of law"



"When others were trying to isolate North Korea and Iran as an 'axis of evil,' Dr Solana reached out to Pyongyang and Teheran to see if global security and human rights could be promoted through constructive engagement. When conditions in the Middle East appeared bleak, Dr Solana co-authored the Road Map for Peace and he continues to represent Europe in the international Quartet promoting negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians."

After the formal award ceremony, Dr Solana delivered the 2009 Distinguished Lecture of the UCD Dublin European Institute entitled: 'Together we are stronger'.

"I have come to talk about Europe. About why we embarked on the journey of European integration. About what binds us together and what we have achieved. And why we need to continue this journey together. From building peace in Europe to promoting peace around the world," said Solana.

"The aim of EU foreign policy is to replace the law of force with the force of law," he said. "This comes naturally to us. The EU, after all, has always been a peace project founded on democratic values and respect for laws. The EU wants a world order based on the rule of law."

According to Solana, 'one important fact the Lisbon Treaty would not change is that the 27 governments are, and will remain, in charge of EU foreign policy. "That is why the EU foreign policy decision-making process is based on consensus. So EU foreign policy can only work if there is a convergence of 27 national interests. This means the decision-making process can be slow and difficult. But it also means the opinions of all 27 are taken into account before any decision is made."

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EU Foreign Policy Chief, Dr Javier Solana received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from UCD

Memory and the uses of the past in Ireland and Australia

The Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Anne Plunkett was at Newman House in February 2009 to launch a research programme, Memory and the Uses of the Past in Ireland and Australia, at the UCD Australian Studies Centre. The programme, which will be co-funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) and the Australian Academies for the Humanities and Social Sciences will look at the phenomenon of 'history wars' in Ireland and Australia. It will explore how contested histories emerge and how they influence debate and opinion in diverse areas of public life – ranging from politics through to urban planning.



Pictured at the launch, are, l-r: Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Anne Plunkett; Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheál Martin T.D.; Professor Stuart Ward, Keith Cameron Chair of Australian History at the UCD Australian Studies Centre; and the Chair of IRCHSS, Dr Maurice Bric

Pictured are a group of UCD Tanzanian students with Mr Mizengo Peter Pinda (MP), Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania (fifth from left, back row) and Professor Jim Phelan, Dean of Agriculture (second from right, back row). The students, who are studying a range of disciplines at UCD funded through a HEA/Irish Aid Research Grant, met Prime Minister Pinda on the occasion of his visit to UCD to give a lecture entitled "How Tanzania is meeting its development challenges"



Can China save the world from the current global financial crisis?

In a recent public lecture at UCD, Dr Liming Wang, Director of the UCD Institute for Chinese Studies, analysed the extent to which China, the world's most dynamic emerging economy, has been affected by the global financial crisis.

According to Dr Wang, the Chinese government has announced a huge \$600 billion fiscal-stimulus package and various measures to stimulate domestic demand in response to the global financial crisis.

The second largest economy in the world based on Purchase Power Parity, with close to \$2 trillion in foreign reserves, a \$29 billion trade surplus, and a potentially undervalued currency, the yuan, it may seem that China is immune from the crisis — at least from a fiscal perspective. Unlike the rest of the world, China is not in debt.

Recent figures of a 9% GDP growth rate in 2008 down from 13% in 2007, while still impressive, is fresh evidence of a serious slowdown caused by the global financial crisis. According to Dr Wang, apart from the current shrinking stock market and sluggish housing market in China, there are signs of a loss of momentum in the real economy, in sectors like export-oriented manufacturing, tourism, construction, steel and automobile industries.

"The future of the Chinese economy will surely hinge on not only the effectiveness of China's fiscal stimulus package at home but its relationships with the US and European Union abroad," says Dr Wang. The new round of economic growth and prosperity of the world will depend to a large extent on the health of the Chinese economy and other emerging markets like India. "China can not save the world, but the world can not now be saved without China," concluded Dr Wang.

PhD Profile - The sands of time

Katerina 'Katka' Stolfova is exploring how sedimentary basins along the North Western European Atlantic margin were formed – research that may potentially be used for future oil and gas prospecting.

Her work looks at Permo-Triassic basins, approximately 299-199 million years old, which are made up of thick sedimentary deposits (sandstone, mudstones and salt) and volcanic rocks. Working with Professor Patrick Shannon and Dr Peter Haughton, in the UCD School of Geological Sciences, Katka aims to describe the geometry of these basins and to reconstruct their complex evolution. The project also involves detailed studies of sediments recovered from deep sea drilling which will help to establish what the environmental conditions were during that period.

The basins are buried deeply below the sea bed, off the coast of Ireland, often making it

difficult to identify details using seismic data. To overcome this, Katka travels to areas where Permo-Triassic rocks are exposed onshore in areas of England, Northern Ireland, Spain and South East Canada.

'These exposed sediments are the possible equivalent of the subsurface deposits that I am studying using geophysical methods (seismic reflection data), because the western and eastern margins of the North Atlantic were much closer to each other in Triassic times than they are now.'

A graduate of the Charles University Prague and University of London, Katka has some memorable experiences of her field work in Canada, particularly in the Bay of Fundy, which at 16 metres, has the largest tidal range in the world. 'For this reason the beaches in my field area are equipped with ladders which allow you to escape if you are cut off by the incoming water — fortunately we didn't need them.'



These centimetre-scale ovoid cavities, found in Nova Scotia, Canada, are partially filled with calcite and quartz crystals and surrounded by basalt. These erupted as the ancient supercontinent of Pangea split up during the Triassic Period, leading to the formation of the Atlantic Ocean. These volcanic rocks are similar to those found in the Permo-Triassic basins in Katka Stolfova's research area.

Rahner Conference

The life and work of one of the leading Roman Catholic theologians of the 20th century, Karl Rahner, was commemorated at a conference in UCD Newman House in March. The date marked the 25th anniversary of Rahner's death.

'It is entirely appropriate that a leading European theologian should be commemorated by UCD in this way as Ireland was a constitutive part of the history of Christianity in Europe and had been since the first millennium journeys of Columbanus and his monastic successors, commemorated in Cardinal John Henry Newman's essay: "The Isles of the North", said Professor Brigid Laffan, Principal of the UCD College of Human Sciences who formally opened the conference hosted by the UCD International Centre for Newman Studies.

Dr Declan Marmion S.M., editor of The Cambridge Companion to Karl Rahner, gave the keynote lecture at the conference entitled: Karl Rahner - Theologian for the 21st Century? Marmion affirmed that Rahner, while temporarily out of fashion in official circles, is a more promising resource for Christian theology in the 21st century than many of his currently more popular contemporaries.

At the conference, Dr Fáinche Ryan of the Mater Dei Institute spoke of the relationship between Rahner and Thomas Aquinas. Dr Pádraic Conway, Director of the UCD International Centre for Newman Studies, outlined the parallels between Newman and Rahner as men of letters. And Dr Jim Corkery S.J. described the long and complex relationship between Karl Rahner and his younger compatriot Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI.

His Excellency Dr Walter Haag, Ambassador of Austria to Ireland, chaired the concluding roundtable session. According to Dr Haag, Rahner, who spent many long years at Innsbruck, held Austrian citizenship, as well as German, because citizenship is automatically awarded to all who achieve the rank of professor in Austria.



Pictured at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UCD and INTERPOL were: Dr Joe Carthy, Head of UCD School of Computer Science & Informatics; and Dale Sheehan, Director of training at INTERPOL. At the ceremony, the UCD Centre for Cybercrime Investigation also signed a similar Agreement with IMPACT (The International Multilateral Partnership against Cyber Threats)

CSI-Google module for second level students

Introduction to Computer Science and Programming (ICSP), the new second-level outreach module offered by UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics, came to a successful end on the 28th March with students and staff members attending the closing ceremony in headquarters of the module sponsors, Google Ireland.

The module, which commenced in November 2008, aimed to dispel some of the uncertainty about Computer Science among second level students. Using a blend of on-site instruction and online virtual classrooms, sixteen students from around the country covered a broad range of materials from Hardware to Robot Programming.



"Thinking Inside the Box" – students of the Introduction to Computer Science and Programming module investigate the inner workings of a computer

Pictured (centre) is Órlaith Burke, UCD School of Mathematical Sciences, the winner of the UCD Conway Institute's AccessScience 2009 competition. She is shown here with judges (l-r): singer/songwriter Cathy Davey; Dublin's 98 FM broadcaster Siobhan O'Connor; travel writer and broadcaster Fionn Davenport; comedian Paddy Courtney. Órlaith presented her paper, "Safe As Houses? Using Statistics To Safeguard Your Health" to 250 secondary school students, and explained in jargon-free language how her research looks at the accurate measurement of indoor radon concentrations in Irish homes, schools and offices. AccessScience also includes a poster competition, the winners of which will be displayed on DART trains and stations as part of the Science Track series, a joint initiative between Iarród Éireann and UCD Conway Institute



100 Years of Education at UCD



St Josephs School in Silchar in Assam, India is one of the schools involved in the Global Classroom initiative

Enhancing teaching and learning overseas

In the Northeast of India education is limited and teachers are challenged by enormous class sizes, poor resources and scant training. Teacher training, where it exists, is often inadequate with many teachers having no formal training at all. The citizens of the region stand to gain a great deal from access to better teaching standards that would equip future generations with the skills to lift themselves out of poverty. UCD's Global Classroom is working to address this.

Founded by Ms Gwen Brennan and Dr Garret Campbell (Lecturer in Maths Education, UCD School of Education), Global Schoolroom is funded by Cornmarket, one of Ireland's largest firms of financial advisors. In 2007 eight skilled Irish teachers and two Cornmarket staff went to continue the teacher training started in 2006. During that summer over 350 Indian teachers took part in Global Schoolroom programmes.

In July 2008 the first set of modules of a three-year, tailor-made Diploma in Teacher Education were delivered in five locations in the Northeast of India. UCD will offer 60 European Credit Transfer System credits and an undergraduate Diploma in Teacher Education to Indian teachers who successfully complete the programme. Fifteen Irish teachers and three Cornmarket staff were involved in the delivery of this programme to almost 200 Indian teacher participants. Irish teachers who work with Global Schoolroom in India will be able to register on a new UCD Masters in Education in Mentoring degree course.

Enhancing teaching and learning in Ireland

The National Pilot Project on Teacher Induction was established in 2002 in answer to growing concerns about the challenges facing newly qualified teachers and their need for mentoring in their early years of teaching. This project is based on a partnership initiative including the three Teacher Unions (the Association of Secondary Teachers in Ireland; the Irish National Teachers' Organisation and the Teachers' Union of Ireland), the Department of Education and Science (DES), the University Education Departments and the Education Centres. The project aims to develop and evaluate models of induction and to identify best practice as a basis for future policy in the area. The project has both a developmental and a research function and is currently working with over 300 Newly Qualified Teachers and 150 mentors in 21 counties throughout the Republic of Ireland.

Primary, secondary and special needs students from Holy Faith Primary School in Ballygall, Dublin; Scoil Cholmcille Sinsear from Knocklyon, Dublin; St Paul's Secondary School, Greenhills in Dublin; and Marino Special School, Bray in Co. Wicklow; along with their art teachers submitted works of art to an exhibition to mark the centenary of the UCD School of Education. The pieces included wheelchair art, 3-D pieces, puppets and portraits, as well as the more formal styles of art





Educating the educators

Education touches every facet of public life, every community, every individual. The UCD School of Education has played its part in the formation of teachers and students in Ireland for 100 years. In conversation with Louise Holden (MEd, 2008), Head of School, Dr Marie Clarke, reflects on the place of the School in Irish life and the changes that a century has made to the process of educating the educators.

"Education is extremely important to all societies, as it facilitates the enhancement and expansion of life possibilities," says Dr Clarke, who took up the headship of the School in 2007 just as the School was preparing to move to its custom-designed premises in Roebuck Castle. "The functions that education serves in society are far more fundamental than people commonly consider; it plays a role in curing disease and relieving suffering, elevating living standards, creating opportunity, facilitating good governance within a stable political system, enabling commercial enterprise and wealth creation and widening access to our cultural heritage."

The School takes pride in contributing to the global store of knowledge, and, just as a teacher is not a teacher until he or she passes the learning on, education researchers thrive on sharing their discoveries with as wide an audience as possible.

It is from this vantage point that staff at the School of Education views its place in the wider society and, like an individual on a lifelong journey of education, the School itself is a learning organism. "In the 21st century we are exposed to diverse cultures and lifestyles — with associated differences in thought, approach, and practice," Dr Clarke explains. "Regardless of the particular sector of education in which we work, we need to acquire intercultural sophistication, a global perspective and intellectual agility to enable us to take what we know and apply it in multiple arenas."

To this end, research activity at the School has grown increasingly diverse and sophisticated over the years. Growing numbers of PhD students in the new facilities at Roebuck pursue ground-breaking research in areas such as, educational psychology, teacher education, educational disadvantage, public policy, educational leadership, special educational needs and childhood studies. The School takes pride in contributing to the global store of knowledge, and, just as a teacher is not a teacher until he or she passes the learning on, education researchers thrive on sharing their discoveries with as wide an audience as possible.

"We make our work available to the widest possible audience through publication in international peer-reviewed journals and by presenting our research at national and international conferences," says Dr Clarke. "We also contribute to government reports, so that others, in turn, can build upon our research. This belief in practice makes us the authoritative co-dependent academic community in the field of education."

Third and fourth level education has changed radically in recent decades, taking a vastly different approach to teaching and learning than previous generations. Much of the progressive theory on which such changes are based originates in schools of education. At UCD, the Structured PhD programmes in Education and in Educational Psychology are major recent initiatives in the academic programme of the School.

"Within our PhD programme in Education we will be hosting for the first time ever an All-Ireland Doctoral Studies Conference with Queens University Belfast for PhD students in education on the island of Ireland," Marie Clarke reveals. "As part of our structured PhD in Educational Psychology, members of the Psychological Society of Ireland attend modules for their own continued professional development. The MLitt programme provides students with a wide variety of educational issues from a range of methodological approaches and academic areas."

If you want to get a sense of how connected the School of Education is to a wide range of communities in Ireland, you have only to look at some of the agencies that fund their path-finding research. As well as government departments, the School receives support from a diversity of sources including Atlantic Philanthropies, Development Co-operation Ireland (DCI), the National Office for Suicide Prevention, the National Council for Special Education, the Equality Authority of Ireland, the Standing Conference on Teachers North and South (SCoTENS), the Psychological Society of Ireland, the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) and IBEC.

However, the core role of the School is to train teachers. "We take our obligations in this regard very seriously, because we know that the impact we have goes far beyond the students with whom we work," Dr Clarke contends. "We know that in a short while our students will be teaching and supporting future generations of students within schools, who will, in turn, come to university and in time become members of professions, citizens, parents, neighbours and who will be, in some cases, the political leaders of the future in both the national and international contexts."

The changing Irish classroom needs expansive and resourceful teachers, willing and able to deal with learners as they find them, rather than teachers who try to usher individuals along narrow paths of learning.

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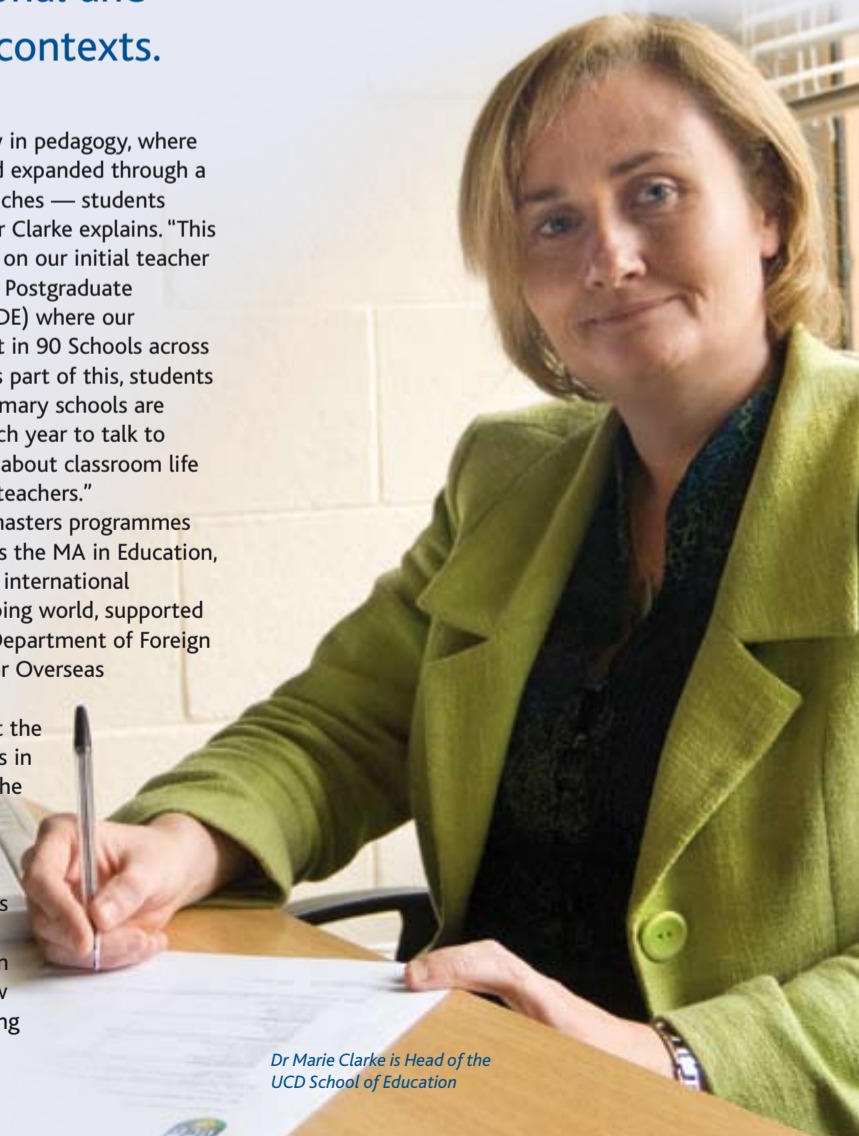
"We promote diversity in pedagogy, where education is enhanced and expanded through a variety of different approaches — students learn in different ways," Dr Clarke explains. "This is particularly emphasised on our initial teacher education programme the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) where our students are on placement in 90 Schools across the greater Dublin area. As part of this, students from a number of post primary schools are invited into the School each year to talk to students taking the PGDE about classroom life and their expectations of teachers."

The School's various masters programmes reflect this agenda, such as the MA in Education, a programme which hosts international students from the developing world, supported with scholarships by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Irish Council for Overseas Students (ICOS). Other specialised programmes at the School include the Masters in Educational Psychology, (the only programme in the Republic of Ireland that trains educational psychologists), the Masters in Special Educational Needs, the MA in Education (Mentoring) and in the new MA in Education (Mentoring in Global Schoolrooms).

After a century the School of Education remains a unique entity in the wider UCD community. Feeding back, as it does, into its own sector and reaching out to such an enormous constituency beyond the university, the School is as embedded in Irish public life as an academic body can be. It stands as a model for the national objective of bringing academia, the economy and society into closer alignment. "As teachers we know that the knowledge that we have gained and everything we have learned here at university and before is not ours until as true teachers and researchers we pass it on," says Dr Clarke. "We transmit it and transform it for others and that, in many ways is the secret underpinning our work."

As part of the centenary celebrations staff in the UCD School of Education are writing a book entitled *Education in Ireland: Challenge and Change* edited by Professor Sheelagh Drudy and will be published by Gill & Macmillan in December 2009.

Louise Holden (MEd 2008), is a journalist with the Irish Times.



Dr Marie Clarke is Head of the UCD School of Education

Importance of Ireland retaining an EU Commissioner

A report by Professor Richard Sinnott, UCD School of Politics & International Relations, and the UCD Geary Institute indicates the importance of Ireland retaining an EU Commissioner. This was the perspective of Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin, TD at the launch of the additional report on voting behaviour in the Lisbon Treaty referendum.

The report indicates that a prime concern was that there should always be an Irish member of the European Commission, with 80% of Irish people believing this to be an important issue.

The report sheds further light on the reasons behind last year's referendum result. It highlights public concern at the time that Ireland would lose its right to a European Commissioner.

Commenting on the report, Minister Martin said that "Ireland has now secured an important agreement which responds directly to various public concerns that are highlighted in Professor Sinnott's study."

The report indicates that the positive Irish attitude to the EU was the strongest single factor affecting those who voted yes and that a low level of knowledge about Europe and about the Treaty made people more likely to abstain or to vote no.

Minister Martin said that "The Government has learned lessons from the last referendum. We are embarking on a new drive to communicate the facts about Ireland's EU membership clearly and honestly to the Irish people."

A research team from the UCD Geary Institute led by Richard Sinnott and including Jos Elkind, Kevin O'Rourke (TCD) and James McBride, was engaged by the Department of Foreign Affairs to assist with the design and analysis of the Government-commissioned, Millward Brown IMS research into the reasons underlying the result of the Lisbon Treaty referendum.

The full text of the report is available for download at UCD Geary Institute website, <http://geary.ucd.ie>.

Honour for UCD plant pathologist

Professor Mike Cooke, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science, has been awarded the Butler Medal by the Society of Irish Plant Pathologists (SIPP).

SIPP was established in 1968. The Butler Medal was initiated in 1982 and is awarded on an occasional basis to members of SIPP who have deemed to have made a major contribution to the science of Plant Pathology on the island of Ireland. The medal is named in honour of Edwin J. Butler, born in Kilkee, Co. Clare in 1847, and considered to be one of the most distinguished plant pathologists in Ireland. During the existence of SIPP there have been only five recipients of the Butler Medal.

Professor Cooke will give the Butler Address at the autumn 2009 meeting of the society. The lecture, on the topic of 'Cereal Killers!', will give overview of the important fungal pathogens of cereal crops.



Dr Kevin Clancy, President of Society of Irish Plant Pathologists presents Professor Mike Cooke with the Butler Medal in recognition of his work on cereal pathogens

Irish biodiversity loss linked to intensive farming practices

The final results of the five-year Ag-Biota project were presented to scientists, policymakers and other stakeholders at a conference in Dublin in March. The research, conducted by UCD on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that the abundance and diversity of bees, birds and other species of insects and plants have suffered serious losses as a result of changing farming practices in Ireland.

Approximately 80 per cent of agricultural land in Ireland is devoted to grass-based farming systems. The increased use of machinery, the removal of hedgerows, and the greater use of chemicals has led to landscape simplification and degradation and, as elsewhere in much of Europe, a reduction in the diversity of species across the Irish countryside.

"While bumblebees as a group are still readily found on typical farmland, our findings reveal that their abundance and diversity on moderately-to-intensively managed farmland may have declined by at least 50 per cent over the past 20-30 years," says Dr Gordon Purvis from the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science who led the five-year Ag-Biota project.

Commenting on the research findings, Mr Larry Stapleton, EPA Director says, "What was different about this study was its focus on the intensively farmed countryside, which makes up a high proportion of the land in Ireland. The research gained important insights into how the biological diversity of such farmland can be efficiently measured."

The project has made a significant contribution towards Ireland's obligations under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), and subsequent agreement by EU member states to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010.

HIV antiretroviral medications linked to heart attacks

New research findings help to explain why some HIV patients treated with antiretroviral medications experience increased incidence of heart attacks.

The late-breaking data was presented by researchers from the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Sciences, the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland at the Retrovirus Conference in Montreal, Canada, in February 2009.

A major international study, published in 2008, identified a higher than expected incidence of heart attacks among patients being treated with antiretroviral drugs for HIV. Building on this research, scientists at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland developed a novel test tied to HIV to measure platelet activity in blood. Platelets are essential for blood clotting when

the skin is broken but, if they are dysfunctional within the bloodstream, they can cause clots within arteries which lead to heart attacks.

Using this new test, the team from UCD and the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital undertook clinical trials to investigate the activity of platelets among HIV patients in Dublin. These findings show a significant increase in platelet reactivity among patients taking certain antiretroviral medications.

"These findings will significantly affect the management of patients with HIV and have important implications for the treatment of HIV worldwide," says Dr Paddy Mallon, consultant in Infectious Diseases at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and UCD lecturer, who leads the group researching drug toxicities in HIV.

Hidden Treasures of UCD



Visitors to the UCD Health Sciences Centre may wonder at the glass case containing eight skeletons positioned in the 'O'Briens' stairwell. This collection of anthropological specimen models and bones at the UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science includes the skeletons of an orang utan and a chimpanzee, pictured here. The collection, which is housed near the UCD anatomy and pathology collections, is used in the teaching of forensic anthropology. UCD has had the majority of the pieces in the collection since the 1920's although some pieces are older than that. The collection, which is unique in Ireland, was purchased by the school from dealers throughout Europe.



Exploring South Tyrolean Culture

UCD historian Dr Georg Grote (UCD School of Languages and Literatures) has published a history on the German-speaking minority in Northern Italy, which serves as a new reference on the area and its people.

"*I bin a Südtiroler!*" *Kollektive Identität zwischen Nation und Region im 20. Jahrhundert* " looks at collective identity - a hotly debated issue in the area of South Tyrol which was separated from Austria in 1919 in the treaty of St. Germain and handed to Italy as a war bounty. Since then the German-speaking minority has attempted to preserve its cultural and historical roots. They have finally managed to do so by securing the widest-reaching regional autonomy granted to an ethno-linguistic minority in Europe.

Employing the history of South Tyrol, Grote's work demonstrates how historical models of national emancipation (through nationalist means and revolutionary acts) have been replaced in western Europe by a regionalist approach.

Once autonomous in the early 1990s the region has begun to develop a strong local identity and has established its own regionalist culture of memory. Moreover, the region has employed internationally accepted regionalist policies (as outlined in the Madrid Treaty of 1980) to emancipate itself as much as possible from Italy and to conduct its own economic and foreign policy through the European region Tirol-Südtirol/Alto Adige-Trentino, which in turn impacts on policy-making in Rome and Vienna.

Internally the region is constantly challenged by the existence of two parallel societies in South Tyrol, the Italian and the German-speaking population who connect rarely with each other. Dr Grote's book has reached audiences on both sides however – local media from both sides, including ORF (Austrian broadcaster with a strong presence in the area) and the Italian RAI covered the launch of the publication.



Dr Georg Grote

UCD Professor to lead academic planning for 23rd World Congress of Philosophy

Professor Dermot Moran MRIA, UCD School of Philosophy, has been elected President of the Programme Committee charged with organising the XXIII World Congress of Philosophy to be held in Athens in 2013. He will chair an expert committee that includes 5 international philosophers and 5 philosophers from Greece to decide all aspects of the academic programme of the next World Congress.

The World Congress of Philosophy is organized by the *International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP)*, an organisation of philosophy societies.

FISP is the highest non-governmental world organisation for philosophy, established at the International Congress of Philosophy in Amsterdam in 1948, as part of an initiative of UNESCO. Its main objectives include the development of professional relations between philosophers of all countries, fostering contacts between institutions, societies, producing periodical publications dedicated to philosophy, and promoting philosophy internationally. FISP sponsors a World Congress of Philosophy every 5 years.

Data analytics offers commercial and employment opportunities

A team led by Professor Pádraig Cunningham (UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics) has received strategic research funding for the development of computational techniques that have significant commercial – and employment - potential.

Funded with €3.56 million through SFI's (Science Foundation Ireland) Strategic Research Cluster programme, Professor Cunningham will lead a team that includes UCD, NUI Galway, IBM, Idiro Technologies and Norkom Technologies. The research programme, named *Clique*, will build on computing expertise to develop techniques that enable companies to analyse the information they have on their customer and user networks.

The research contributes to the general 'data analytics' business sector. The market for software for business analytics is worth over \$20 billion and is growing at a rate of about 10% per annum.

"With this funding we will immediately recruit a further 20 PhD and post-doc researchers.

They will work with the existing team to build our capacity for new discoveries that can be commercialised either with our industry partners or through spin-out companies that can be set up and supported by NovaUCD, the UCD campus company development programme and the technology transfer office at NUI Galway," said Professor Cunningham.

Of the 5 clusters announced by the Minister, UCD is involved in 4. Welcoming the announcement, Professor Nick Quirke, Principal of the UCD College of Engineering Mathematical and Physical Sciences said, "We are delighted with the foresight of the Government in funding these clusters and see it as a wonderful opportunity to work collaboratively with industry to develop products and solutions that will see Ireland achieve its aim of a Smart Economy. We at UCD are determined in our hope that the innovative collaborations between UCD and industry will drive changes in the economy and establish Ireland as a centre for research and innovation."

Mortals, Gods and Fairies in Chaucer and Shakespeare

The annual Borderlines graduate Medievalists conference returned to Dublin in March 2009. In this, its thirteenth year, the conference was jointly hosted by UCD and Trinity College Dublin – the first such cross-institutional hosting.

The plenary lecture was delivered on in the Humanities Institute of Ireland, by Professor Helen Cooper of the University of Cambridge. Entitled 'Mortals, Gods and Fairies in Chaucer and Shakespeare', the talk encapsulated the spirit and drive of Borderlines, which aims to interrogate borders of all sorts, including that dividing the Middle Ages from the Renaissance.

Borderlines' organisers were Patrick O'Brien and Dr Sinéad Connors of the UCD School of English, Drama and Film, and Nicole Volmering, of the Department of Irish, TCD.

The conference attendees, who came from as far away as Canada, New York and the UK, as well as all corners of Ireland, delivered papers on aspects of medieval and Early Modern studies in subject areas as diverse as history, archaeology, art history, English and Irish literature, folklore, medieval costume-making, and cutting-edge manuscript digitisation technology.



Dr Sinéad Connors, UCD School of English, Drama and Film; Nicole Volmering, Department of Irish, TCD; Professor Helen Cooper, University of Cambridge and Patrick O'Brien UCD School of English, Drama and Film

Dublin Classics Seminar — Homer on Emotions

In April, Professor Robert Zaborowski from the University of Warmia and Mazury at Olsztyn, gave the final presentation at the Dublin Classics Seminar series for 2008/9. The professor, who spoke about Homer on Emotions, has published monographs on the Homeric epics (*La crainte et le courage dans l'Illiade et l'Odyssée* Warsaw, 2002) and on feelings in the Presocratics (*Sur le sentiment chez les Présocratiques* Warsaw 2008).

Since the introduction of The Dublin Classics Seminar series in 1994, research papers have

been delivered virtually every fortnight during term time on Tuesday evenings. Topics ranged from Greek and Roman archaeology, literature, linguistics, philosophy, ancient and early medieval history, and the reception of the classics in later periods.

The series aims to encourage research as well as a wider dissemination of classical material in Dublin, and Ireland. More information from Dr Theresa Urbainczyk (urbain@ucd.ie)

Dinosaurs may have evolved wings to impress breeding mates

For decades scientists have debated the controversial subject of why dinosaurs evolved the ability to fly. Several theories have been suggested including one which claims that these "proto-birds" flapped their forelimbs like wings to give them additional thrust to climb while escaping from predators, and another which describes wings as evolving to help dinosaurs jump out of trees and glide to the ground.

But the co-authors of a new scientific paper published in the journal *Evolution* suggest that neither of these theories offer enough reason of 'competitive advantage' for wings to develop among dinosaurs by means of natural selection.

The scientists from Manchester University and University College Dublin propose that wings became more common and more

pronounced through dinosaur generations because they helped to impress the opposite sex and to better attract breeding mates.

Dr Robert Nudds, a biologist from the University of Manchester, worked with Dr Gareth Dyke, a paleontologist from the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin, to develop biomechanical models that could simulate the way Archaeopteryx, and two other feathered dinosaurs, Caudipteryx and Protarchaeopteryx, would have moved.

"If the animals were tree dwellers they would naturally have held out their forelimbs symmetrically, as they jumped from branch to branch or from ground to branch. If they were ground dwellers, which the fossil record suggests is more likely, holding the forelimbs

out symmetrically would impede progress while running or moving along the ground. So we propose another driving factor for the evolution of wings – sexual selection."

According to the scientists, feathers, also, need not necessarily have evolved for the purpose of flight. As modified scales, they might have provided insulation or have been part of the mating game. "Feathered forelimbs may have been used in a ritual mating display."

The next stage for the scientific researchers is to use computer modeling to simulate how the animals would have moved or to build tiny mechanical models to look at the cost and benefits of each forelimb position.



Archaeopteryx, Image courtesy of Todd Marshall

Conversations on Art In Ireland



Harry Clarke's 'The Last Hour of the Night', the frontispiece illustration to Abercrombie's *Dublin of the Future*, published by the Civics Institute of Ireland in 1922 as the new town plan for war & poverty torn Dublin

In March and April the UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy welcomed Darcy Grimaldo Grigsby, Associate Professor of the History of Art at the University of California, Berkeley, and Professor Wolfgang Sonne, Professor of the History and Theory of Architecture at the University of Dortmund as part of the *Conversations on Art in Ireland* lecture series. This exciting lecture series brings leading international scholars to speak on Irish topics and works of art in Irish collections in the School's undergraduate & postgraduate lecture modules.

Darcy Grimaldo Grigsby who specialises in eighteenth- through early twentieth-century French art and visual and material culture, particularly in relation to colonial politics, focussed on two paintings by eighteenth-century

Irish artists in the National Gallery of Ireland. She discussed Charles Jervas' portrait of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu whose letters from Turkey are particularly celebrated and vivid observations of Eastern life, and in examining Thomas Hickey's *An Indian Lady* and related works she questioned eighteenth-century colonial constructions of the Indian woman.

Wolfgang Sonne, author of *Representing the State: Capital City Planning in the Early Twentieth Century* an examination of the city planning and politics in Washington D.C., Berlin, Canberra and New Delhi, delivered two lectures exploring firstly the planning recommendations and

designs for Dublin in the Abercrombie Report of 1922, and secondly more recent architectural and urban design plans for Dublin, in particular the work of Group 91 Architects, author of the Temple Bar architectural framework plan.

These stimulating lectures continue the *Conversations on Art in Ireland* series inaugurated in 2008 when Darielle Mason, Stella Kramrisch Curator of South Asian Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, spoke on examples of Rajput painting from the outstanding collection in the Chester Beatty Library, and Arindam Dutta, Associate Professor of Architectural History at MIT, spoke on the Hindu iconography in Harry Clarke's stained-glass window, *The Eve of St Agnes*, in Dublin City Gallery, the Hugh Lane.

Professor Harry White awarded prestigious Michael J. Durkan Book Prize

UCD Professor of Music, Harry White has been awarded the Michael J. Durkan Book Prize by The American Conference for Irish Studies for Music and the Irish Literary Imagination (Oxford, 2008). The award will be presented at the annual ACIS conference in June 2009 in Galway.

This is the tenth year of the Durkan prize for outstanding academic studies of Irish language and culture.

"White's is a fresh and innovative approach to Irish music, literature, theatre, and culture that employs a meticulous scholarship to create an impressive overview of modern Irish literature. Music and the Irish Literary Imagination offers readers unparalleled breadth and scope in a beautifully conceived, organized, and written analysis of Moore, Yeats, Shaw, Synge, Joyce, Beckett, Friel, and Heaney--all major figures linked by the powerful fusion of words and music.

The ACIS is happy to honour a work that exemplifies Michael J. Durkan's interest in culture, the arts, and Irish studies by crossing disciplinary boundaries in a ground-breaking study," added Dean FitzPatrick, on behalf of the committee.

Research on the Mental Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People

The Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney recently launched the report "Supporting LGBT Lives". The research was co-led by Dr Audrey Bryan from the UCD School of Education, and Dr Paula Mayock from the Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin. Other authors of the report include Nicola Carr of the Children's Research Centre, and Karl Kitching of University College Cork.

"This research is the most significant study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) mental health and well-being in Ireland to date," said Michael Barron, Director of BeLonG To Youth Service, commissioner of the research along with GLEN – the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network. The report outlines findings from 1,110 completed online surveys and from 40 in-depth face-to-face interviews with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of all ages.

For the most vulnerable, the research showed heightened levels of psychological distress arising from stigmatisation and harassment, leading to significant levels of self-harm and suicidality (seriously considering or attempting suicide).

"While the report suggests that a significant minority of LGBT people experience adverse mental health outcomes, the findings also suggest that LGBT people are highly diverse and resilient, are therefore not inevitably 'at risk' of developing mental health difficulties. In keeping with structural basis of homo/transphobia, the report's recommendations are directed primarily at achieving social and institutional change as a means of tackling LGBT minority stress. Central to the recommendations is the need to address the embeddedness of heteronormativity within social institutions like education and health, where heterosexuality is often presumed to be normal, natural and the only way to be", stated Dr Audrey Bryan.

The research was funded by the Health Service Executive's National Office for Suicide Prevention and commissioned by the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN) and BeLonG To Youth Service.

A full version of the report is available at www.belongto.org or www.glen.ie.

Harvesting the sun's energy — new laser techniques reveal secrets of photosynthesis

A new study published in *Physical Review Letters*, led by Dr Ian Mercer from the UCD School of Physics and CSCB, has revealed instant pictures showing how the sun's energy moves inside plants.

The images, taken for the first time, unravel some of the inner workings of the most efficient solar energy process on earth - photosynthesis. Analysing energy transport is an important way of understanding the inner workings of a wide range of systems, from biological processes to car engines. However, in very small-scale systems such as photosynthetic molecules, quantum effects come into play making it difficult for scientists to explain how photosynthetic molecules are able to transport energy with remarkably high efficiency.

Until now, one of the major obstacles has been the lack of a direct way of probing some of the fundamental mechanisms involved in the flow of energy between electrons in molecules.

"These new pictures are instantaneous snap-shots of energy being transported between electrons across a protein. Remarkably, the pictures go further in unravelling the complex way the electrons interact. This gives us something akin to a fingerprint for electronic couplings," says Dr Mercer, who is a visiting researcher at Imperial College London.

The researchers probed a sample of a protein found in bacteria, called LH2, which was provided by the University of Glasgow. The researchers needed a very powerful and stable laser in order to get the new approach to work efficiently and accurately. They used the Astra laser at the Science and Technology Facilities



The laser light source used in this study is capable of producing ultra-short pulses of light of very high intensity which are made up of a broad range of colours

Council's Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL). It incorporates state-of-the-art technology developed in the Physics Department at Imperial College London to produce pulses of light with the right properties for this experiment. The laser snapshots last just one ten-thousandth of a billionth of a second.

"The laser produces a very broad range of colours, which allowed us to map a broad range of energy levels in the protein. The availability of this laser source at RAL, which is accessible to a broad range of scientists, opens up a lot of new and exciting science - like this work", explains co-author of the study, Dr John Tisch from Imperial College London's Department of Physics.

"More demonstrations are around the corner. Hopefully one day we will be able to harness the exquisite mechanisms that we learn about from molecules, whose function has been honed by evolution over billions of years", says Dr Mercer. The researchers are currently applying this approach across the molecular biosciences and with electronic devices.

International workshop on comparative state administrations

UCD Geary Institute was recently host to an international workshop on the mapping of state administrations. Representatives from various European institutes gathered to develop criteria for the comparative analysis of state administrations and to discuss the ways in which technology can be employed to record administrative evolution. Discussion of state roles and functions provided the backdrop for proposal and analysis of classification systems which will provide a means for understanding the ways in which governments function and the policy domains in which they operate. Additionally, such systems will facilitate the effective comparison of state structures on an international level.

The keynote speakers were Professor B. Guy Peters from the University of Pittsburgh, and Professor Mark Thatcher from the LSE.

The Irish research group is working on the *Mapping the Irish State* project, funded by the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS). This multidisciplinary team, led by Dr Niamh Hardiman, UCD School of Politics and International Relations, brings together specialists in law, politics, public policy, economics, and history to provide a more

complete understanding of the Irish state and its public institutions. The project website is at <http://geary.ucd.ie/mapping>.



Shown at the UCD Geary Institute workshop on the mapping of state administrations are: Dr Niamh Hardiman UCD School of Politics & International Relations and Prof Mark Thatcher, London School of Economics and Political Science

Pictured at the UCD Business Alumni event 'Nature or Nurture - How to grow the Irish Entrepreneur' were Chloe O'Neill, aged 5, with Dr Eddie O'Connor, Founder and CEO of Mainstream Renewable Power and Honorary Doctor of Science, UCD

Engineering experiments in space

In May 2009, research projects developed by Dr David Browne, Senior Lecturer and researcher in the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering, and UCD Mechanical Engineering graduate Brian Kelly will be launched on board the Space Shuttle Endeavour mission STS-127.

Brian is currently an intern at NASA's Space Life Sciences Lab, where he and his colleagues, as part of the FÁS Space Challenge Programme, are making final preparations to their project, which involves a unique biological experiment platform that will be able to study plant growth in space.

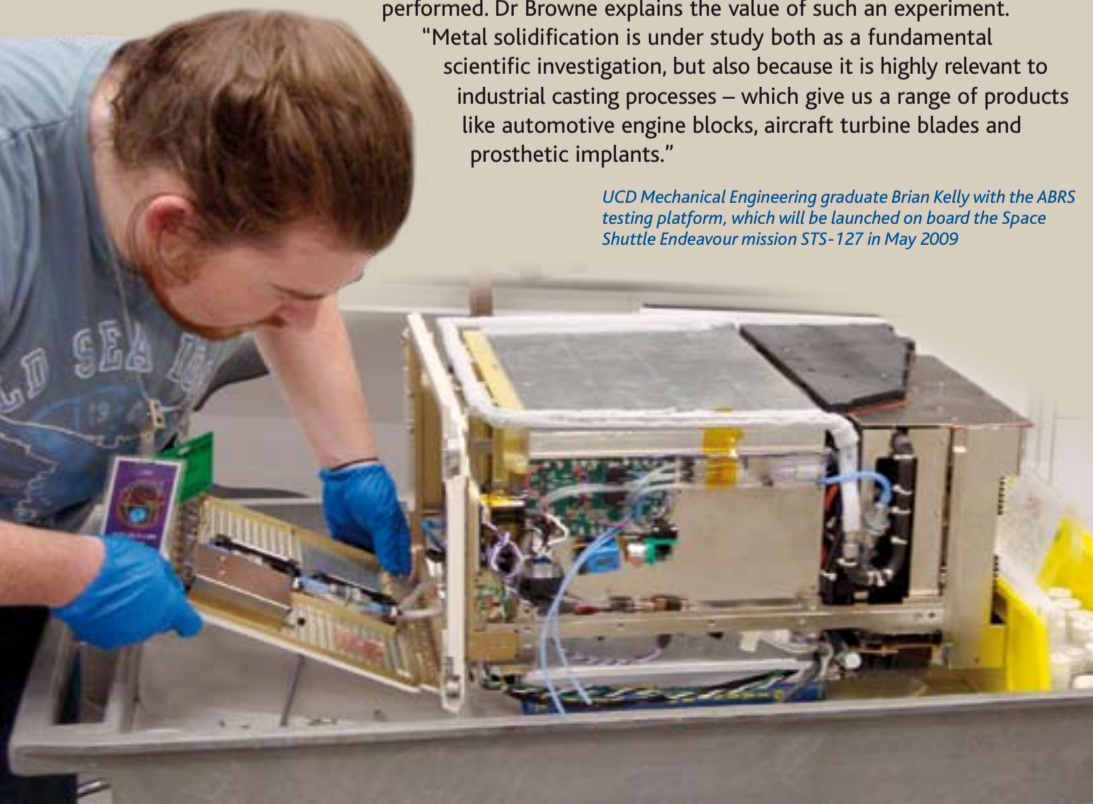
ABRS is a new hardware system that acts as a platform for conducting a wide variety of biological experiments on both the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station (ISS). It is primarily focused on plant growth. Before it leaves the ground all payloads (carrying capacity) to be positioned on the shuttle or stationed on the International Space Station must pass rigorous testing and verification.

Brian explains, "There are very stringent verifications that all payloads, such as ABRS, must meet. These verifications cover every possible aspect of a payload such as the materials used for manufacture, how it interacts with both the craft and crew, any possible hazards it might create and ensuring that it can stand up to the harsh conditions of launch, re-entry and landing."

On board will also be an experiment from Dr David Browne, Senior Lecturer, UCD School of Electronic, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. His experiment involves the Materials Science Laboratory, a European Space Agency experimental payload in which controlled solidification of alloys can be performed. Dr Browne explains the value of such an experiment.

"Metal solidification is under study both as a fundamental scientific investigation, but also because it is highly relevant to industrial casting processes - which give us a range of products like automotive engine blocks, aircraft turbine blades and prosthetic implants."

UCD Mechanical Engineering graduate Brian Kelly with the ABRS testing platform, which will be launched on board the Space Shuttle Endeavour mission STS-127 in May 2009



12th NovaUCD 'Entrepreneurs Live!' Seminar series launched

Jacques Lefebvre, co-founder and CEO of DataKraft, a niche software development company, launched the 12th NovaUCD Entrepreneurs Seminar Series in February and delivered the 65th seminar in this series which has been running since 2003.

The aim of the 'Entrepreneurs Live!' seminars, which are organised by NovaUCD in association with the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Enterprise Board, is to promote a spirit of entrepreneurship among the academic, research and student population at UCD.

The three other guest speakers in this series were Brendan O'Regan, founder and CEO, Zenith Technologies; Charlotte O'Kelly, co-founder and managing director, TechWorks Marine and Donal O'Riain, founder and managing director, Ecocem.

At the NovaUCD 'Entrepreneurs Live!' seminars each guest entrepreneur talks about his or her experiences of setting-up and running their own businesses. They also emphasise the lessons they have learnt so far on their entrepreneurial journey and they reveal the secrets of their success.

Jacques Lefebvre, co-founder and CEO of DataKraft prior to launching the 12th NovaUCD "Entrepreneurs Live!" Seminar Series



Inaugural InterTradelreland Innovation Lecture

Companies must take a twin approach to innovation to survive and grow in the current economic climate. That was the message from renowned innovation expert Professor Erko Autio who delivered the inaugural InterTradelreland Innovation Lecture at UCD. His lecture entitled *How to Build Momentum for Innovation* was organised by NovaUCD and took place in a packed William Jefferson Clinton Auditorium.

According to Finnish-born Professor Autio, Chair of Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship at Imperial College London, as the global economic momentum has faded, firms can no longer 'ride the waves' created by others. They need to build their own momentum for innovation. In addition to identifying market needs and adapting their products or services to meet those needs, firms must also find ways of prompting the market to lock-in to their innovations ahead of others. If this successful

two-way adaptation is achieved, spectacular growth may follow, even in challenging times.

During his tenure at London Business School, Professor Autio helped launch the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) initiative. He still has an active co-ordination role in this high-profile initiative that currently spans nearly 50 countries, including Ireland.

This innovation lecture was being delivered as part of the InterTradelreland All-island Innovation Programme. This Programme, a partnership between InterTradelreland, Queen's University Belfast, NovaUCD and NUI Galway, aims to promote and encourage innovation across the island of Ireland. The Programme enables international expertise and best practice innovation to be shared with business leaders, students, academics, knowledge transfer professionals and policy makers across Ireland via innovation lectures, seminars and master classes.

Professor Erko Autio pictured at NovaUCD prior to delivering the inaugural InterTradelreland Innovation Lecture at UCD



Q-Validus Joins Scottish Qualifications Authority on global initiative

The NovaUCD-based international certification solutions provider Q-Validus has entered into a formal relationship with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) which will see the two organisations collaborating worldwide on two groundbreaking Q-Validus programmes.

The two innovative computer programmes which have achieved SQA endorsement and which will now be showcased around the SQA's international networks are Spreadsheet Safe® and Computer Wings®.

Spreadsheet Safe® is a cutting-edge programme designed to assist businesses in reducing the risks associated with poor spreadsheet design. Computer Wings® is an exciting new computer skills training and certification programme which consists of ten stand-alone modules which focus on the productivity and collaborative skills required in today's rapidly changing economy.

Q-Validus, which was established in 2007 and is based in NovaUCD, is already recognised as one of the most innovative players in the certification solutions sector.

The SQA is an executive non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsored by the Scottish Government. It is the national accreditation and awarding body in Scotland. It also operates within the rest of the UK and globally, providing hugely respected "Scottish" qualification expertise to clients worldwide.

The SQA has endorsed the content and quality of the awards of both Q-Validus programmes. Work is under way to place these qualifications within the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework rating process. They are now ready to be rolled out across Ireland, the UK and internationally.

The agreement between the two organisations was facilitated by Enterprise Ireland and Q-Validus is part of the agency's High Potential Start-up Programme.



David Carpenter, CEO of NovaUCD-based Q-Validus



Paul Groarke and Garrett Hussey, co-founders Asimil8 with Gavin Duffy, Entrepreneur and a 'Dragon' from RTE1's "Dragons' Den" TV Programme (centre)

BOI Dublin final of Bright Ideas challenge competition won by NovaUCD venture

Asimil8 the NovaUCD-based e-learning venture has won the Dublin regional final of the Bank of Ireland 'Bright Ideas Challenge'. In addition to its award Asimil8 received a cash prize of €5,000, along with a mentoring and training package from the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Enterprise Board valued at €5,000. Asimil8 will also go forward to the national final of the 'Bright Ideas Challenge' which will be held in early 2010 with the opportunity to win an attractive investment package.

The 'Bright Ideas Challenge' sponsored by Bank of Ireland and the City and County Enterprise Boards, aims to encourage and support both innovation and enterprise in business start-ups, SMEs, and individuals in the early stages of their business development.

This is the second time in the last year that Paul Groarke and Garrett Hussey co-founders of Asimil8 have taken their e-learning venture to the winning podium, having been declared the overall winner of the NovaUCD 2008 Campus Company Development Programme.

Asimil8 beat the other finalists to the winning post with their next generation learning platform which provides immersive education for languages and other subjects using virtual world and gaming technologies. The use of virtual world and gaming technology is designed to engage students in the same way that video games grab and keep their attention. By 'immersing' students in real-life settings where they must use their knowledge, ASimil8 aims to give students a deeper and more dynamic understanding of their subjects.

Sunlight technology may be solution to Ireland's energy needs

Imported fossil fuels account for over 90% of the 185 TeraWatt-hours of energy used by Ireland annually. Less than 10% of Ireland's energy needs are produced at home. To secure a sustainable energy future, Ireland's energy needs must be increasingly met by the renewables energy sector and there must be a significant improvement in Ireland's overall energy efficiency.

The Advanced Biomimetic Materials for Solar Energy Conversion Strategic Research Cluster funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) hopes to be part of the solution. The Cluster was launched in February by Minister for Energy, Eamon Ryan TD. The research programme, which has been awarded €4.74m from SFI for its three to five year research programme, with an additional contribution from Industry Partners, is led by Professor Don MacElroy from the UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering. It offers a unique approach to solar energy conversion by combining expertise in engineering, physics, chemistry and biochemistry from University College Dublin, University of Limerick and

Dublin City University, alongside industry expertise from Airtricity, Celtic Catalysts and SolarPrint Ltd, with support from German SME ODB-Tec.

"As an island nation, we are overly dependent on imported fossil fuels to meet our energy needs," says Energy Minister Eamon Ryan TD. "With volatile fuel costs and declining supplies, there is an urgent need to secure our own energy supplies and develop our indigenous resources. The development of cutting-edge solar energy technologies and deployment of commercially available solar technologies will play an important role in moving the world onto a low-carbon development path."

"A portfolio of renewable energy sources will provide the best approach for securing Ireland's energy needs. However, in principle we can get all our energy requirements from the sun. The Cluster is looking at the development of a technology that should be at the forefront of industry and be very important to Ireland's economy in the long-term," says Professor MacElroy.

UCD Choral Scholars and Symphony Orchestra in concert

March 2009 was a busy month UCD Choral Scholars and UCD Symphony Orchestra with major concerts in St Patrick's Cathedral and the National Concert Hall.

The 'Musick of Mr Bach and Mr Handel' was the theme for the Choral Scholars' sell-out decennial concert in St Patrick's Cathedral. The performance, which saw them accompanied by the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, was reviewed by the Irish Times which noted, "... text crisply articulated, passages of counterpoint clean and confident, and overall simply a fine, well-balanced choral sound."

For the UCD Symphony Orchestra, a Russian theme prevailed for their full house in the National Concert Hall. Borodin, Prokofiev, Khachaturian and Tchaikovsky were on the programme for the orchestra, who were joined by the UCD Philharmonic Choir.

The UCD Choral Scholars will join with European Union Chamber Orchestra (EUCO) to present a number of joint performances between 2009 and 2011 in Ireland, the UK and Turkey, beginning in Istanbul in October 2009 with a joint concert of works by Haydn and Mozart as part of the EUCO tour of the region.

New Student Centre



Shown at the 'turning the sod' ceremony on the site of the new UCD Student Centre are: Back row (l-r): Lorcan Sweetman, UCD Buildings and Services; Brian Mullins, UCD Director of Sport; Aidan Grannell, UCD Buildings and Services; Enda Conaty, UCD Buildings and Services; Paul Lynam, UCDSU Education Officer; Dan O'Neill, UCDSU Campaigns and Communications Officer; Dominic O'Keefe, UCD Student Centre Manager; and front row (l-r): Aodhan O'Dea, UCDSU President; Dr Hugh Brady, UCD President; Gary Redmond, UCDSU President-elect; Dr. Martin Butler, UCD Vice-President for Students; Conor Fingleton, UCDSU Welfare Officer

New voices and new directions – setting the agenda for research in the humanities at UCD

A sense of intellectual discovery and innovation characterised the Graduate School in Arts and Celtic Studies symposium held at the UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland in February. Inter-disciplinary in composition, the symposium is designed to offer UCD doctoral researchers in the humanities a space in which to showcase new research and to engage in intellectual interchange and dialogue with fellow early stage researchers.

The symposium showcases on an annual basis a sample of the innovative and high-quality range of research currently underway within the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies. Papers were delivered within three thematic areas: Material and Historical Experience; Texts and Contexts; Music, Language and Culture. A fascinating range of contributions, often enhanced by mastery of electronic presentational media, discussed topics as rich and diverse as seventeenth-century Dutch painting, burial in the Irish Neolithic landscape, military ethics in classical Greece, rationing in Emergency Ireland, new perspectives on language teaching and eighteenth-century Brazilian science and translation. In an age of intense academic specialisation, the symposium provides a platform for researchers to inaugurate creative conversations untrammelled by conventional disciplinary boundaries.

Professor Nicholas Canny, president of the Royal Irish Academy, who formally launched the symposium, urged participants to remain attentive to the challenges and rewards of academic dialogue across disciplines. The symposium was programmed and organised by Marc Caball and Barbara Gannon, UCD Graduate School in Arts and Celtic Studies.

New IVRLA online collections show how 1930s children saw Ireland

While the UCD School of Education celebrates 100 years, and looks to the future of education, another part of UCD reveals the worldviews of 1930s Connacht primary-school children.

The Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive Project (IVRLA), a component of the Humanities Institute of Ireland (HII), has made three new collections available to view online: the Schools' Manuscript Collection — Carna; the Boehm/Casement Papers and the John O'Donovan/William Reeves correspondence.

The Irish Folklore Commission, under the direction of Seamus Ó Duilearga (Honorary Director) and Seán Ó Súilleabháin (Archivist), conducted the Schools' Folklore Scheme.

In 1937-38, over a period of eighteen months 100,000 children in 5,000 primary schools around Ireland participated in the scheme. The children were encouraged to collect material in their home districts on a wide range of subjects dealing with local tradition and history. The children researched and wrote about a variety of topics: local history and monuments, folktales and legends, riddles and proverbs, songs, customs and beliefs, games and pastimes, traditional work practices and crafts.

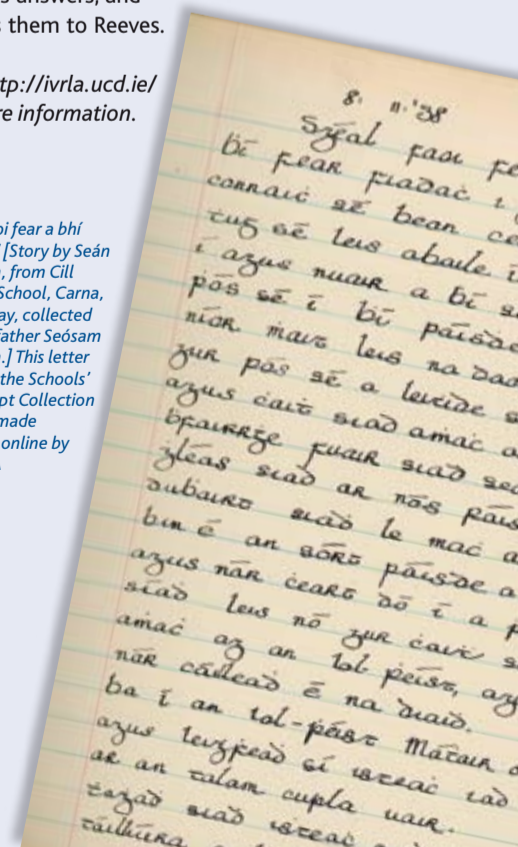
The IVRLA has digitised around 700 essays of the Schools' Manuscript Collection from the Carna and Ballinasloe districts in County Galway. The majority of the essays are written in Irish, which was still the first language of the region.

The Boehm/Casement Papers consist largely of letters from Roger Casement to Captain Hans Boehm, during Casement's stay in Germany in 1915, as well as some associated material (photographs, medals).

The O'Donovan/Reeves correspondence comprises eighty letters, all either to or from John O'Donovan (1806-1861) — a noted scholar of Irish studies. His principal correspondent is William Reeves (1815-1892) — a prominent member of the Church of Ireland. Reeves writes to O'Donovan with enquiries about Irish words and place names. O'Donovan annotates the letters with his answers, and returns them to Reeves.

Visit <http://ivrla.ucd.ie/> for more information.

'Sgéal faoi fear a bhí fiadhach' [Story by Seán Ó Chuirín, from Cill Chiaráin School, Carna, Co. Galway, collected from his father Seósam Ó Chuirín.] This letter is part of the Schools' Manuscript Collection recently made available online by the IVRLA



UCD Women's Hockey blaze way to first national title in 58 years

16 minutes into the Irish Senior Cup final in April 2009, the UCD Women's Hockey Team showed the presence and determination that would bring them to a final whistle win of 4:1 over Pegasus the clear favourites to take the title - Rachel Bourke set-up Roisín Flinn to score the first goal, and 2 minutes later a corner-strike by Holly Jenkinson put UCD 2:0 in front.

The return of Irish international, Lisa Jacob to captain the UCD team, after a six-week absence due to injury, had clearly inspired the UCD players. But all was not lost to Pegasus, the Belfast side, who have appeared in ten finals since 1990 winning seven, as they snatched their first goal 2 minutes after the break.

With a score line of 2:1, it seemed like the game might have opened up for Pegasus, but Roisín Flinn closed off any of their hopes when she delivered another goal for UCD to make it 3:1. The win was sealed for UCD, when Rosie Corrigan flipped the ball past Arlene Boyles, the Pegasus captain, and smashed it past Sharon Moffett to end the score 4:1 to UCD.

The final score reflected well the dominance of the UCD team throughout most of the game. They seemed clearly determined to take the national title for the first time since 1951. The convincing win by UCD at the National Hockey Stadium at Belfield on 26 April 2009 was watched by members of the last UCD Women's

Hockey Team to win the national title for UCD some 58 years ago including Dr Patricia Horne who captained the 1951 winning UCD team.

"We always knew we had the potential," said Lisa Jacob the UCD team captain, who is a final year Psychology student at UCD. "As we progressed through the season, the more time we spent together as a team our team play and confidence grew stronger and stronger. Winning this national title will help to develop the team so that we won't have to wait another 58 years to claim another title."

UCD: Grace O'Flanagan, Marie O'Connell, Megan Tennant-Humphreys, Holly Jenkinson, Caitriona McGilp, Lisa Jacob (captain), Elaine

O'Neill, Laura Wilson, Orla O'Shea, Liz McInerney, Roisín Flinn. Substitutes: Fiona Bradish, Rosie Carrigan, Rachel Burke, Pamela Smithwick, Leigh Pelow, Ciara McNestry, and Fyona Flinn. Coach: Mary Logue.

PEGASUS: Sharon Moffett, Nadine Brown, Fiona McIlwaine, Jill Orbinson, Claire McMahon, Suzanne Beaney, Arlene Boyles (captain), Alex Speers, Lynsey Mallon, Michelle Harvey, Pamela Magill. Substitutes: Jenny Kyle, Grace Irwin, Hannah Clarke, Julie McKnight, Jessica Perry, Lyn Brown.

UCD Irish Senior Cup winning squad



UCD Boat Club claim 2009 Gannon Cup

For the 35th time UCD Boat Club were triumphant in what is a prestigious and spirited competition, by claiming the 2009 Gannon Cup.

The battle against Dublin University to claim this perpetual challenge trophy is always one of the most important events on the boating calendar and this year's competition was particularly hard fought, with UCD winning by 1 length at the finish.

UCD Boat Club Gannon Cup Crew: Anthony English, Tom Doyle, Finbar Manning, Richard Skelly, Sean O'Neill, Dylan Finnerty, Dave Neale, Darragh O'Reilly, Naoise Grisewood. Coaches: C. Daly, C Walsh & J Holland



UCD students help Kilmacud Crokes on their way to victory

The AIB All-Ireland Club Football Championship title went to Dublin team Kilmacud Crokes in Croke Park in March. The team, who faced Crossmaglen Rangers, ended the match 1-09 to 0-07. Lining out for Crokes were seven current UCD students: sports scholar and Dublin Senior Team footballer Rory O'Carroll and his brother Ross who is a member of the Dublin Senior Hurling team; Cian O'Sullivan, UCD sports scholar and captain of the Dublin Under-21 team which won the Leinster Championship; Barry O'Rorke, also a member of the Dublin Under-21 Football team; his brother Shane O'Rorke; Pat Duggan; Joe Mooney; and Mark Coughlan. They were also joined by a number of UCD graduates including Paul Griffin, who in April was announced captain of Dublin's Senior Football Team.

Rugby Heroes

5 UCD students were on the heroic side that won the 2009 Six Nations Championship in March 2009. They also clinched the historic Grand Slam victory, the first for Ireland in 61 years.

UCD Graduates Brian O'Driscoll, who captained the winning side, and Paddy Wallace and current Masters Degree student Jamie Heaslip were joined on the pitch by two undergraduate students, Rob Kearney and Gordon D'Arcy. Juno McEnroe met with the two students to discover how they manage a full-time professional rugby career whilst also studying for their respective degrees.

Rob Kearney, 3rd year Arts studying Economics and Gordon D'Arcy, 2nd year Arts studying Geography have become experts at juggling their demanding professional sporting careers and studies. While hugely committed to the game as well as their international and club teams, both men are fully aware that the future careers of international rugby players need to be considered and planned for.

UCD are very good in the way that they accommodate sports people at various levels.

No stranger to challenges or even setbacks in his sporting career and personal life, D'Arcy broke his arm in eight places early last year, leaving the centre facing several operations. It was a long road to recovery but one he never doubted he could go down.

"There were about three and a half months between all the operations...it was very frustrating. It never really entered my head that I wasn't going to be able to get back; that I wasn't going to do what I'm good at again. It was about resetting goals," he said.

Currently in his 2nd year, the 29-year-old is less certain about his future away from the playing field but is toying with a few ideas. Is he keen to follow his parents in being a bank manager?

"Probably not. I think career wise maybe not going into the bank would be my first choice."

In the meantime, his focus will remain on his national side as well as Leinster, which has been the Wexford man's club more or less ever since he left Clongowes Wood College.

While a healthy rivalry obviously exists between most of the Leinster and Munster players who met in last month's Heineken Cup semi-final clash, D'Arcy says he mixes with all the players in the national side.

Off the field, he would be closer to a few veteran Leinster colleagues such as Brian O'Driscoll, Shane Horgan and Malcolm O'Kelly. "I'm equally as comfortable with any of the young lads as I am with any of the older lads. That's quite important in sport, that there aren't any cliques. In teams gone by, in years gone by that was definitely there in Leinster and Ireland. I remember, you didn't talk to the older lads," he explains.

On UCD campus, D'Arcy says he is at ease with his studying regime as well as college life itself, which unfortunately he can afford little time to. But he manages to juggle academia and rugby well.

"It's about a combination of time management and getting the work done. UCD are very good in the way that they accommodate sports people at various levels. But they can only accommodate you. At the end of the day, you still have to do the essay; you still have to do the exam."

He also says student life allows him privacy. "You can blend in as much as you like.

It's down to the individual. It does help that I don't know that many people in UCD. I come in five minutes before lectures and I leave straight away afterwards. I'm ten years older than most people in my class. The social aspect of college life for me is done and dusted. It's now about getting bits and pieces done."

D'Arcy also knows that while his sporting fame may open up career opportunities for him in later life, they won't be handed to him on a plate.

"One of the great things about rugby is you meet a lot of people in various different walks of life. What we do will get your CV into the pile and it may even get you on the top of the pile ... it only opens doors, you have to be able to walk through them."

Fellow club player Rob Kearney is equally praiseworthy about UCD which allows him scope to focus on his game. Without support from staff

and union officials, progressing with his Economics degree would be near impossible, he suggests.

An obvious distraction this semester for the 3rd year Arts student old is going to be his recent selection for the Lions Tour in South Africa later next month.

"It's a pinnacle for every player's career," stressed the 23-year-old.

He added: "It's great to be one of the chosen 37 (players)."

Though his recent sickness with the mumps, which saw him miss the big Heineken Cup semi-final, meant he missed a lot of training, the Dundalk-born man is hopefully unlikely to be phased by the illness.

But Kearney admits it is at present "difficult to manage" both his academic and sporting careers. Earlier this month, he was presented with a UCD President's Award for Excellence in Student Activities at a ceremony hosted by the President, Dr Hugh Brady.

On the issue of what might lie ahead for the talented full back when he leaves rugby, the fellow Grand Slam champion says it's too early to know.

"I've hopefully still got another seven years in rugby. Accountancy has always appealed to me. My older brother is in Davys (Stockbrokers)."

He's unlikely to pursue a place on the bench once off the field. "I don't want to be a coach though."

In the meantime, both players still have to get through their degrees. But there is still a little moment of magic that both students and players will share following the Grand Slam historic win, as D'Arcy explained:

"Looking back on it now, the feeling I got was once we got the drop goal and the way we were playing, I think we had the game and it was going to work out. We just had to believe."

Juno McEnroe (BA 2000 and MA in Journalism [DCU] 2001) is currently a journalist with the Irish Examiner.



In action at the Six Nations Championship in March 2009: Rob Kearney, Brian O'Driscoll and Gordon D'Arcy with Welsh player Martyn Williams

Rob Kearney

Date of birth: 26th Mar 1986
Birthplace: Dundalk
Height: 1.85 m (6' 1")
Weight: 90 kg (14 st 2 lb)
Position: Wing / Full Back
Honours: Ireland (16 caps)

Having made an impression when he played for Clongowes, young Kearney made his debut for Leinster in 2005. Though he was a member of the Six Nations Irish squad in 2007, the back did not get his first cap until the national side's tour to Argentina later that year. Kearney eventually made his Six Nations debut against Italy in February last year. He went on to win caps in the following games in the competition for the national side. After an amazing start with Leinster this year, which saw the full back energize the team, he was again picked for the national side's Six Nations games and went on to finish with the team with its historic Grand Slam. He has been picked for this year's British & Irish Lions tour of South Africa.

Rob Kearney was one of fourteen President's Awards recipients in March 2009

Gordon D'Arcy

Date of birth: 10th Feb, 1980
Birthplace: Wexford
Height: 1.80 m (5' 11")
Weight: 90kg (14st, 2lb)
Position: Centre/Wing
Honours: Ireland (41 caps) British & Irish Lions (1 cap)

Educated at Clongowes Wood College, D'Arcy helped his school win the Leinster Senior Cup in 1998. After playing for Leinster initially, D'Arcy gained an international position for the start of the 2004 Six Nations, coming into the starting line-up for his injured provincial colleague Brian O'Driscoll. He was named BBC Player of the Six Nations that year, helping Ireland win a Triple Crown with two tries. Despite an injury cutting short his 2004/2005 season, he was picked for the British & Irish Lions for their New Zealand tour the following summer. A severe arm injury in 2008 set back his career but his return to international rugby this year was clinched with a try against France.



Students and staff tread the boards together in February 2009, in the second UCD Community Musical, *Guys 'n Dolls*, in O'Reilly Hall



Belfast born poet Michael Longley at UCD

Michael Longley, the current holder of the Ireland Chair of Poetry, who seldom gives public readings, recently read a selection of his poetry at a special event at UCD – listen to the reading online at www.ucd.ie/news

The Ireland Chair of Poetry was the first cross-border academic chair and is co-funded by the two Arts Councils in Ireland, Queen's University Belfast, Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin. It was established in 1998 to honour the achievements of contemporary Irish poets and to commemorate

the achievement of Seamus Heaney winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995.

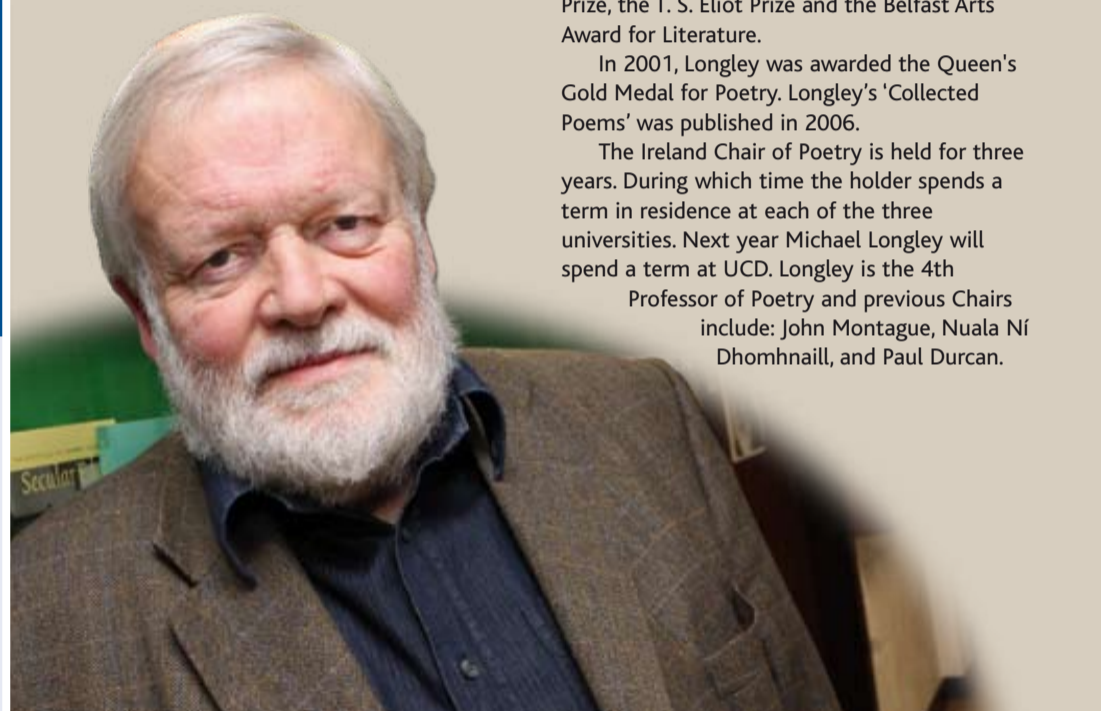
Born in Belfast in 1939, Longley was educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and Trinity College Dublin. His first collection of poems 'No Continuing City: Poems 1963-1968' was published in 1969.

His collection 'Poems 1963-1983' was published in 1985. 'The Echo Gate: Poems 1975-1979' was published in 1979 and the acclaimed 'Gorse Fires' in 1991 which won the Whitbread Poetry Award. In 2000, he published 'The Weather in Japan' which won the Hawthornden Prize, the T. S. Eliot Prize and the Belfast Arts Award for Literature.

In 2001, Longley was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. Longley's 'Collected Poems' was published in 2006.

The Ireland Chair of Poetry is held for three years. During which time the holder spends a term in residence at each of the three universities. Next year Michael Longley will spend a term at UCD. Longley is the 4th

Professor of Poetry and previous Chairs include: John Montague, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, and Paul Durcan.



The vanishing face of Gaia – James Lovelock at UCD

James Lovelock, the British scientist often referred to as 'the prophet of climate change' recently took part in a public conversation with Professor Frank Convery, Director of the UCD Earth Institute, with an audience of more than 600 people at O'Reilly Hall.

Lovelock, who is 90 this year, invented the electron capture detector for gas chromatography, an instrument which has been central to several environmental discoveries and helped to kick-start the environmental movement in the 1970s. Lovelock himself applied the technique to chart the presence of CFCs in the atmosphere – work which prompted the discoveries by Rowland and Molina of the harmful effects of CFCs on the ozone layer which won them the Nobel Prize in 1997.

Lovelock is the originator of the Gaia Hypothesis (now Gaia Theory) which sees planet earth and the life it sustains as one single complex system. He is the author of more than 200 scientific papers. His popular scientific books include: *Gaia - A New Look at Life on Earth*; *The Ages of Gaia* and *Gaia: The Practical Science of Planetary Medicine*; his autobiography, *Homage to Gaia*; *The Revenge of Gaia*; and *The Vanishing Face of Gaia – A Final Warning* (2009).

In 2003, Lovelock was made a Companion of Honour by Her Majesty the Queen of England. And in 2005, he was named as one of the world's top 100 global public intellectuals by Prospect magazine.

"We should regard nuclear energy as something that could be available from new power stations in five years and could see us through the troubled times ahead when the climate changes and there are shortages of food and fuel and major demographic changes," says Lovelock in his latest book *The Vanishing Face of Gaia – A Final Warning*.

James Lovelock with Professor Frank Convery at his public talk in UCD in April 2009



James Lovelock's public lecture at UCD was part of the John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies public lecture series and can be heard at: www.ucd.ie/johnhume/publicsalon

The UCD Earth Institute seminar series, 'Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change' continues until June 2009 and previous seminars can be viewed at www.ucd.ie/earth

Golden Globe winner Alan Rickman (pictured below) was presented with the James Joyce Award by the UCD Literary & Historical Society in April 2009. Rickman's portrayal of Professor Snape in the Harry Potter series of films has earned the London-born actor a global following while roles in *Robin Hood*, *Prince of Thieves*, *Rasputin*, and *Die Hard* achieved critical and commercial acclaim. Earlier in the year, legendary rock star and *The Who* front man, Roger Daltrey (pictured right) was similarly honoured. Other recent visitors to the L&H include Dr Robert Gallo, Co-discoverer of HIV virus, who also presented a paper at the UCD Conway Institute, "Viruses, Epidemics and Prospects for Their Control"

