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WINTER 2012



UCD

# today

FEATURE

## Fired up:

Experimental Archaeology  
puts learning into practice

13. Fired up:  
Experimental Archaeology

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## Giving while living



ELLIS O'BRIEN  
Director of Communication

**In the years before he gave his permission to be acknowledged, Chuck Feeney's generosity was known to only a very small group of people. Now, twenty three years since his foundation – The Atlantic Philanthropies – began to fund Irish universities, he has been honoured in a unique way by all of the universities on the island of Ireland and conferred with an honorary Doctorate of Laws (LLD).**

The scale of Chuck Feeney's contribution is monumental in terms of financial donation and physical structure. Over the years The Atlantic Philanthropies poured a massive €800 million into the Irish university sector, leveraging Government investment through initiatives such as the PRTL (Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions) and prompting Irish universities to set and achieve ambitious targets. Today, every university on the island boasts infrastructure and initiatives that enabled each one to expand research, improve student experience and build thriving communities.

On Belfield campus, Atlantic's investment can be seen in the physical entities of the vet school, the Conway Institute, the Geary Institute, the Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology, the Humanities Institute and the Urban Institute. Separately, initiatives such as "We the Citizen", demonstrate Feeney's strong personal commitment to justice and equality.

And, while many UCD staff and students benefit from the generosity of Chuck Feeney here in Ireland, there is another aspect of his relationship with UCD that has a further, humanitarian impact, as far away as Vietnam.

Through Professor Bill Hall, UCD and the National Institute of Hygiene & Epidemiology (NIHE) in Hanoi set up the Ireland-Vietnam Blood Borne Virus Initiative (IVVI) in 2010. Co-funded by Atlantic Philanthropies and Irish Aid, the IVVI carries out disease prevention and health promotion in Vietnam, a country wracked by blood-borne viruses such as HIV and Hepatitis.

In the same week that Chuck Feeney was honoured by the Irish universities, the WHO awarded accreditation to the IVVI ([www.ivvi.ie](http://www.ivvi.ie)), and by so doing, recognised the speed and scale of its impact on the public health of the population of Vietnam.

Even now, as he gradually winds down his incredible foundation, Chuck Feeney continues to make a difference. In this edition of UCD Today, we report on the Irish universities' conferring. Next time, we will update readers on Bill Hall's work in Vietnam and the global reach of UCD humanitarian research and support.

Over the decades, two fundamental themes carry through Atlantic-funded programmes: "The quality of our lives is inextricably linked to our health." and "The freedoms and advances of humanity are nourished by education."

As we continue to be inspired by these themes, the legacy of Chuck Feeney burns brightly.

**Produced by:** Ellis O'Brien, Lisa Flannery, Dominic Martella

**Design:** Loman Cusack Design

**Print:** Fine Print

**Thanks to:** Diarmuid Ferriter, Patrick Guiry, Ann Lavan, Damien McLoughlin, Diane Sonnenwald, Regina Ui Chollatain, William Watson

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](mailto:communications@ucd.ie)). We also welcome your suggestions for articles in future editions.

This publication is also available online at [www.ucd.ie/ucdtoday](http://www.ucd.ie/ucdtoday)

Cover image: Firing a replica coil-built Leinster Cooking Ware pot (12th-14th century) at UCD Experimental Archaeology and Ancient Technologies Research Centre, UCD School of Archaeology. The skill of the medieval potter was to achieve firing temperatures up 800° without the aid of modern instrumentation used in UCD's experiments.

## UCD thanks...

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## ■ Foundation Day Medal awarded to Dr George Moore

**“An extraordinary individual, a truly global citizen, an innovator and a serial entrepreneur with a commitment to excellence,” was how UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady described Dr George Moore, to whom the 2012 UCD Foundation Day Medal was presented at an evening event in O’Reilly Hall in November.**

The co-founder of TargusInfo, Dr Moore is considered one of the founding fathers of the data analytics industry; an industry crucial to the digital revolution. TargusInfo’s analytics technology is used by many Fortune 500 companies including Facebook to ensure firms can analyse customer behaviour and anticipate their needs. This year, the company was sold to Neustar for an estimated US\$700m.

“George is one of UCD’s most successful, distinguished and generous alumni. And he has never lost touch with his homeland, maintaining a strong connection with Ireland throughout the years,” added Dr Brady. “He takes an interest in Irish start-ups as an angel investor with the Irish Technology Leaders Group.”

“George inherited that very Irish sense of pragmatism and speaks proudly of his country’s commitment to getting back on track. George believes, as do I, that universities play a crucial role in developing a new rejuvenated and sustainable economic model for Ireland.”



The 2012 UCD Foundation Day Medal was presented in November to Dr George Moore, UCD graduate and co-founder of TargusInfo.

## ■ Professor Orla Feely appointed as Chairperson of Irish Research Council

**The Minister for Research and Innovation, Seán Sherlock, TD, recently announced the appointment of Professor Orla Feely, UCD School of Electrical, Electronic & Communications Engineering, as Chairperson of the Irish Research Council. The Irish Research Council was established in March 2012 following the merger of the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology.**

Commenting at the announcement, Minister Sherlock said that “Ireland’s higher education and research system is undergoing a period of transition. The Irish Research Council is a key stakeholder in that process. Job creation is dependent on the education of a cohort of high quality researchers across a broad spectrum of disciplines from engineering to the social sciences. I am working closely



with the Irish Research Council to expand Ireland’s research capabilities with particular focus on Industrial PhD’s, and supporting researchers early in their careers.”

One of the most highly-ranked engineers in Ireland, Professor Feely is a Fellow of the IEEE, in recognition of her contributions to nonlinear discrete-time circuits and systems. She received the Best Paper Awards of the International Journal of Circuit Theory and Applications, 2007, and the European Conference on Circuit Theory and Design, 1997.

## ■ UCD named Sunday Times University of the Year

**On October 7th *The Sunday Times* published its *University Guide* and announced that it named University College Dublin as the University of the Year.**

The recognition is based largely on the strength of UCD’s improved ability to attract high-calibre undergraduate students and the University’s huge investment in student support and infrastructure.

According to *The Sunday Times*, UCD is unrivalled in the strength of its investment in students. Commenting on the level of increase in leaving certificate points among new entrants to UCD, Kate Butler, the co-author of *The Sunday Times University Guide* said: “This year, UCD saw its median points score rise 54 to 457. UCD also has the largest proportion of international students in the Irish third-level sector.”

The recent opening of the new €50m UCD Student Centre also contributed towards the awarding of the title to UCD this year.

The President of UCD, Dr Hugh Brady, believes the university is seeing a resurgence in popularity for three reasons: more support provided for first-year students, the massive upgrade in facilities, and the refreshed curriculum – the UCD Horizons programme.

This is the second time that the University has been awarded the title in the ten year history of *The Sunday Times University Guide*.



At the Social Farming Project Launch were, back row l to r Roy Nelson, Queens University Belfast; Brian Smyth, Leitrim Development Company; Dr. Aileen McGloin, UCD School of Biological & Environmental Sciences; Dr Deirdre O'Connor, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science; Tom Lavin, Leitrim Development Company; Dr Jim Kinsella, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science; Dr Jude Stephens, Queens University Belfast; James O'Boyle, Department of Agriculture, Northern Ireland. Front row l to r - Minister Michelle O'Neill, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development NI; Pat Colgan SEUPB, Fergus O'Dowd TD, Minister of State Communication, Energy & Natural Resources and Environment, Community & Local Government (ROI)

## ■ Sowing the seeds of social support

**The health care and agriculture sectors are joining forces to establish a novel social support service for people who use health and social services in the 'Social Farming Across Borders' (SoFAB) project. In mid September Northern Ireland's Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Michelle O'Neill MLA alongside Minister of State Fergus O'Dowd jointly launched this new cross border Social Farming initiative, an INTERREG IVA project led by the UCD School of Agriculture & Food Science.**

Social Farming is the practice of offering activity on family farms as a form of social support service. In Social Farming the farm remains a working farm at its core but invites people to participate in its day to day activities. The farm is not a specialised treatment farm; rather it remains a typical working farm where people in need of support can benefit from participation in farm activities in a non-clinical environment. Social Farming provides participants with the opportunity for inclusion, to increase self-esteem and to improve health and well-being. The concept is well established in a number of EU countries such as the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy.

This project covers the counties of Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Leitrim, Londonderry, Louth, Monaghan, Tyrone and Sligo. It is an EU INTERREG IVA funded project. Social Farming Across Borders (SoFAB) is led by University College Dublin, in

partnership with Queen's University Belfast and Leitrim Development Company. The UCD team comprises Dr Jim Kinsella (PI and Project Manager), Aileen McGloin (Deputy Project Manager), Dr Deirdre O'Connor and Paul Henry.

Speaking at the project launch, Fergus O'Dowd TD, said "Our respective Departments recognise and support the potential of this innovative cross border project. We understand how experiencing farming at first hand, combined with physical activity, has been shown to help a broad range of vulnerable people suffering from mental health problems, physical and learning disabilities and drug or alcohol addiction."

During the next two years, the Social Farming Across Borders project will establish twenty demonstration social farms and a cross border network of farmers, health care professionals and people that use services.

## ■ ICON Forms Strategic Partnership with UCD

**ICON plc, a global provider of outsourced development services to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries, has announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with UCD to support a shared vision for**

**transforming research, teaching, training and innovation in the sciences in Ireland and to strengthen the ties between academic research and industry.**

ICON has established, as part of the partnership, the ICON Newman Fellowship in Genomics, a prestigious two-year post-doctoral fellowship based in the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science and the UCD Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratory (CASL).

The recipient of the ICON Newman Fellowship in Genomics is Colm J. Ryan. Originally a software developer, Colm carried out a PhD in bioinformatics and will now conduct research into the control of gene expression by inherited variants, focusing on cardiovascular diseases and cancer.



The sculpture *Life-Force* by Craig Blackwell, which is situated outside the UCD Charles Institute of Dermatology

## ■ Art on Campus: A new 'Life-Force' in Belfield

**Industrial techniques and aesthetic sensibilities fuse in *Life-Force*, the most recent addition to the UCD sculpture collection. Located at the front of the UCD Charles Institute of Dermatology on the Belfield campus, the sculpture is by Scottish-born sculptor Craig Blackwell. Currently completing an honours degree in sculpture at the National College of Art and Design, Blackwell lives and works in County Meath.**

When describing the process of making *Life-Force*, Blackwell said "The body of *Life-Force* is built around a stainless steel structure by means of a layering technique using epoxy resins. I become infused in the endless hours of blending, smoothing, and re-blending. Painting of the sculpture is the final ritual". *Life-Force* is a fusion of cutting edge industrial techniques, utilized by the maritime and aviation industries, with an aesthetic sensibility and a sensitive affinity to its immediate surroundings. The UCD sculpture collection is made possible through the implementation by the university of Per Cent For Art Scheme.



Pictured at the lecture 'Towards a Remembrance of Things Past: Solving Alzheimer's Disease' by Dennis Selkoe MD, Harvard Medical School, UCD Ulysses Medal recipient were panel members (l to r) Prof. Michael Rowen, Professor of Neuropharmacology, TCD; Dr Caroline Herron, Neuroscientist, UCD Conway Institute; Prof. Tim Lynch, Professor of Neurology UCD & Consultant Neurologist at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Beaumont Hospital; Prof. Dennis Selkoe, UCD Ulysses Medal recipient; Prof. Ciaran Regan, Professor of Neuropharmacology UCD; and Dr Michael Farrell, Consultant Neuropathologist, Beaumont Hospital.

## UCD Ulysses Medal awarded to Professor Dennis Selkoe

**To honour his distinction in medical science, in particular his research into Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease, Dennis J Selkoe, the Vincent and Stella Coates Professor of Neurologic Diseases, Harvard Medical School, was awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal at a recent ceremony in Belfield. The UCD Ulysses Medal is the highest academic honour that the university can bestow and is awarded to those whose work has made an outstanding global contribution.**

Professor Selkoe ranks among the top researchers in Alzheimer's disease worldwide in terms of both the quality of his publications,

citations rates and translation to pharmacotherapeutics.

Professor Selkoe has devoted his career to the use of molecular approaches to study Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and related basic biological questions. He is a graduate of Columbia University and the University of Virginia School of Medicine. After initial research training at the National Institutes of Health, he completed a residency in neurology at the Harvard/Longwood Programme and a postdoctoral fellowship in neuronal cell biology and neurochemistry in the Department of Neuroscience, Harvard Medical School. In 1978 he founded a laboratory applying biochemical and cell biological techniques to the study of human neurodegeneration.

Breakthrough research by Professor Selkoe and his co-workers in relation to Alzheimer's disease has led to numerous awards, including the Potamkin Prize (shared with George G. Glenner), the Metropolitan Life Foundation Award, and the A.H. Heineken Prize for Medicine. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He co-founded and co-directs the Centre for Neurologic Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Professor Selkoe was the principal founding scientist of Athena Neurosciences, now Elan Pharmaceuticals. He has served on the editorial boards of several scientific journals, the Neuroscience Review Committee of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the National Advisory Council on Aging. With Harvard Medical School Dean Joseph P. Martin he founded the Harvard Centre for Neurodegeneration and Repair in 2001.

Prior to being presented with the Ulysses Medal by UCD President Dr Hugh Brady, Professor Selkoe gave a lecture 'Towards a Remembrance of Things Past: Solving Alzheimer's Disease' to an invited audience.

## Awards and Open Forums at the UCD Conway Festival of Research & Innovation

**Doctoral candidate Kate Byrne was awarded the 2012 UCD Conway Festival of Research & Innovation gold medal, sponsored by Roche, for her research to develop a mathematical model describing the signalling network activity controlling cancer cell migration.**

Kate is carrying out her studies under the supervision of Professor Boris Kholodenko in Systems Biology Ireland and UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical research. She initially won the systems biology moderated poster category before joining five other category winners for a Dragons' Den style finale. Kate's concise overview of her project and its innovative potential most impressed the judging panel.

Cell migration is vital for cancer cells to invade and metastasise. The process is controlled by the dynamic interaction between two members of the same family of signalling proteins; Rac1 and RhoA, via an intermediary named PAK.

Kate Byrne has developed a mathematical model that describes how these two signalling proteins interact and validated this model using experimental data from a breast cancer cell line.

"We were able to arrest cell migration completely by causing PAK inhibition and then maintain this using low inhibitor concentrations

because of the bistable nature of the signalling network", she said.

This research shows early indications that PAK is a desirable drug target given that cell migration is completely dependent on PAK activity.

New additions to the 2012 festival programme were two open forum sessions. The early career researcher open forum, presented in conjunction with the UCD Research Staff Association, raised many of the issues facing young women in science today.

The gender-science relationship is particularly relevant topic in the context of the European Commission proposed framework for Horizon 2020 that will highlight using the potential and the talent pool of women more extensively and effectively.

The session on fostering industry-academia engagement was also timely given the increasing emphasis funding agencies are placing on industry collaboration in academic research. Dr Conor Hanly, ResMed Inc; Dr Ivan Coulter, Sigmoid Pharma and Dr Elaine Harris, Innovation21, had valuable insights into how scientists can work with industry successfully.

Professor Zena Werb, University of California San Francisco; Professor Finian Martin, UCD and Dr Eileen Furlong, European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), Heidelberg were the keynote presenters at the conference on September 20th in the UCD Conway Institute.

## PhD in Japanese History Awarded



Dr Fintan Hoey, IRCHSS scholar and Japan Foundation Doctoral Fellow, was conferred at the UCD December conferring ceremonies with the first ever PhD in Japanese History awarded in an Irish university. UCD is the only university in Ireland that provides courses at degree level in Japanese History and in EU-US-East Asian International Relations. Pictured left to right, Dr Declan Downey, PhD supervisor, UCD School of History and Archives; Dr Fintan Hoey; Ambassador Chihiro Atsumi, Japanese Ambassador to Ireland.

## Mediterranean earthworm turns to Dublin

**UCD Scientists have discovered a thriving population of Mediterranean earthworms in an urban farm in Dublin, in findings published in the journal *Biology Letters*. The findings suggest that rising soil temperatures due to climate change may be extending the geographical habitat range of the earthworm *Proseolodrilus amplisetosus*.**

“Soil decomposer species including earthworms are frequently introduced into non-

native soils by human activities like the transportation of nursery plants or live fish bait,” says Dr Olaf Schmidt from the Earth Institute at UCD, one of the authors of the report.

“There have been a few recordings of the earthworm *P. amplisetosus* outside of its native range in the Aquitaine region of south-western France, but now we have discovered a successfully thriving population in Ireland, about 1,000 km north of its native habitat.”

Urban farms have higher temperatures than rural farms so the scientists suggest that this may have helped *P. amplisetosus* to become established in this new location. The mean yearly air temperature in Aquitaine in south-western France is about 3 degrees higher than in Dublin.

A sample of the *P. amplisetosus* found thriving in Dublin has been deposited in the Natural History Museum in London to archive the scientific discovery and to make scientists in Britain aware of the southern vagrants.

## CSI’s Forkstream recognised as a ‘Big Idea’ by Enterprise Ireland

**Dr John Fitzpatrick of UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics and founder of startup Forkstream was selected to present at Enterprise Ireland’s Big Idea Showcase which took place in November. This comes shortly after both Dr Fitzpatrick and Dr Hamid Nafaa secured Enterprise Ireland commercialisation plus funding for Forkstream.**

Forkstream provides a solution to enable intelligent 3G/4G to WiFi data on/offload decisions, allowing mobile operators to offload their increasingly congested cellular networks to more cost efficient WiFi networks. Forkstream’s standards compliant ANDSF (Access Network Discovery and Selection Function) product provides operators with much greater control, flexibility and visibility over their customer’s WiFi offload experience. The platform provides seamless integration and switching between cellular and WiFi networks to maximise the customer’s quality of experience and reduce network load. Dynamic network selection and traffic management mean that the user will always be connected to the best network and even allows individual applications to use different access networks. Seamless session continuity means that there is no disruption to ongoing applications when roaming between the cellular and WiFi networks.



In September, UCD Business Alumni and Mason Hayes & Curran hosted a panel discussion on embracing and delivering change and the impact of social media on society and commerce. Panelists at the event were (l-r) Philip Nolan, Partner & Head of Technology, Media and Communications, Mason Hayes & Curran; Gail Power, Director of Global Sales Services, Facebook; Jeff Matthews, Director, Global Sales Development, LinkedIn; David Sneddon, Director, Large Customer Sales, Germany, Switzerland & Austria, Google and chair Prof Laurent Muzellec, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School

## East meets West as UCD Confucius Institute launches regional training centre in Galway

**Responding to an increase in demand for Chinese Studies classes in post primary schools in the Galway/Mayo and broader western Ireland region, the Galway Education Centre has announced that it is to become the regional training centre in the west of Ireland for Chinese Language and Culture in partnership with the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland. The first of the language courses, a 10 week basic Mandarin and Chinese teaching skills module, commenced this autumn.**

To announce this new development, UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland director Dr Liming Wang travelled to Galway where Minister of State for Training and Skills, Ciaran Cannon TD unveiled a plaque and officially launched the regional Centre, with Mr. Wu



Group photo of staff and dignitaries at the Galway Regional Training Centre launch

Xiaochuang, 2nd Secretary of the Chinese Embassy as special guest. Speaking at the event, Minister Cannon said, “This new partnership between the UCD Confucius Institute and Galway Education Centre has the potential to create real opportunities and fulfil the demand that has been increasing for a local venue in which teachers at all levels can avail of Chinese Culture and language training” Bernard Kirk, director of the Galway Education Centre spoke of his hopes for the future of the partnership, “It is our plan to work closely with the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland to help develop Chinese Studies in the region and secure

‘Confucius Classroom’ status for the Galway Education Centre. This is a major development for teachers and young people in the West of Ireland and we look forward to playing an active role in the progress and further development of this exciting, innovative and important initiative.”

Dr Liming Wang agreed saying, “Forming a strategic partnership to promote Chinese Studies in Galway and the western Ireland region is hugely important to us. We are very pleased to have The Galway Education Centre join our over 360 global partners across 104 countries all around the world”.

# Mind the Health Literacy Gap



Dr Gerardine Doyle

**Phlebotomy, co-morbidity, contraindications; these are terms that only the few will register but which are relevant to the many, especially if you need a blood test, have a chronic illness or take any kind of medication. Health literacy is an area of study that looks at the set of skills citizens need to manage their own health and is the subject of a major Europe-wide study with significant input from UCD.**

The study, measuring health literacy levels across eight European countries including Ireland, has just been awarded the European Health Award at the European Health Forum. The award is in recognition of the value of this research to policy makers, health professionals, pharmaceutical companies, patient groups and the media and its value in ameliorating inequality in accessing health services.

Health literacy is not just about finding the right door on a hospital corridor. It extends to all areas of well-being. *The European Health Literacy Survey*, (HLS-EU) has revealed significant deficits in public knowledge about a wide range of health issues, from when to visit the doctor and how to manage personal well-being, to navigating the health system and accessing health information from the media and other sources.

Dr Gerardine Doyle of the UCD School of Business is principal investigator for Ireland and co-author of the report. She explains why the research has provided such valuable data for such a wide group of stakeholders.

"Before now there was no European research conducted into health literacy. Previous studies in the US and elsewhere were limited to the clinical setting. No studies were conducted on health literacy in relation to issues such as disease prevention and health promotion."

The survey has thrown a much wider net. Conducted during 2011 in Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland and Spain, it has gathered responses from 8,000 people on subjects such as disease prevention, healthy lifestyles, health screening, vaccination, accessing information and understanding doctors. The survey also measured for socio-economic background, sex, age, education and health status.

The results provide the clearest picture yet of what Europeans know and understand about their health. Forty seven per cent of respondents have what the researchers describe as 'limited health literacy'.

"By 'limited' we mean that respondents fall into the two lower categories of health literacy, which are defined as either 'problematic' or 'inadequate' within the terms of the study," Dr Doyle explains.

Among a range of questions, respondents were asked if they generally understood what was said to them by their GP. In Ireland, 20 per cent of respondents claimed they did not. Interestingly, those with chronic health issues that required repeated engagement with the health services were more likely to have poor levels of health literacy.

Findings differed considerably across the eight participating countries in the various categories; however, there was a global connection between disadvantage and poor health literacy. "The survey identified five significant social determinants of health literacy;



*Pictured at the presentation of the European Health Award at the European Health Forum 2012 in Gastein, Austria were (l-r) Dr A Parvanova, MEP Bulgaria, N. Zylinska-Puta, Ministry of Health, Poland, Rapporteur Opening Ceremony, Dr Gerardine Doyle, Principal Investigator for Ireland, UCD, Kristine Sorensen, HLS-EU Project Co-ordinator, Maastricht University, Prof. G Leiner, President, International Forum Gastein*

financial deprivation, self-assessed social status, level of education, age and gender," says Dr Doyle. "We found that the highest proportion of limited health literacy occurred where self-assessed social status was low, health status was low and education was limited."

"Poor health literacy leads to more frequent use of the health system. If an individual does not recognise that he needs to visit the GP, he is more likely to use the hospital system. Without the information to improve his health outcome, readmission is more likely. If we don't raise levels of public health literacy, we are not using the funds allocated to health efficiently."

It's a stark message at a time when the health service in Ireland is overextended and over budget.

Bulgaria, Spain and Austria were found to have the lowest levels of health literacy, with between 50 and 60 per cent of respondents in those countries falling into the lowest two categories. In Ireland 38 per cent of those surveyed were deemed to have limited health literacy.

While poverty was strongly related to poor literacy across all countries in the study, physical activity was a universal indicator of high health literacy levels.

Gerardine Doyle is confident that the study, and the Award, will mark the beginning of a process rather than the end.

"This research will impact on health policy at national and EU levels. A National Advisory Panel chaired by the National Adult Literacy Agency is preparing to feedback to policy makers and other key stakeholders here. At the EU level dissemination of the HLS-EU findings took place in Brussels in November 2011 where EU Commissioners, parliamentarians and 175 stakeholders from a variety of European and national institutions, organisations and businesses attended.

"The results of this study indicate that the health literacy gap needs to be addressed through the collaboration of health professionals, education professionals and the private sector,

such as pharmaceutical companies. We have reached out to the Department of Education and Skills. The Department of Health is a member of our National Health Literacy Advisory Panel."

Dr Doyle is also looking forward to the extension of the research into other countries, to build a more extensive data set. The research team has already received expressions of interest from other EU members as well as from the Nordic countries, US (the Institute of Medicine), Singapore, Israel and Iran.

The long term goal, according to Dr Doyle, is twofold. "We need to address the complexity of our health systems, making it easier for citizens to navigate the health services. In some hospitals efforts have been made to bridge gaps, using simpler language and imagery in signage. We need to look at the wider application of this approach.

"Secondly, this study has shown that we must improve the health literacy of citizens and patients. This will require the actions of health professionals in educating their patients and through the education curriculum, both for training medical undergraduates, health professionals and for all pupils in schools."

*Dr Gerardine Doyle was in conversation with journalist Louise Holden (MEd 2008).*

The HLS-EU study and its findings has formed the basis of a new Seventh Framework funded project that will study diabetes and health literacy, entitled 'Enhancing the (cost)-effectiveness of diabetes self-management education: A comparative assessment of different educational approaches and conditions for successful implementation'. Dr Doyle is the principal investigator for Ireland on this three year study, which commenced 1 December 2012.

*The European Health Literacy Survey (2009 – 2012) was led by Helmut Brand, Professor of European Public Health at Maastricht University, the Netherlands. The eight university partners were: National School of Public Health, Greece; University College Dublin, Ireland; Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft GmbH, Austria; Instytut Kardiologii, Poland; University of Murcia, Spain; Medical University, Sofia, Bulgaria; National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, the Netherlands; and Landesinstitut für Gesundheit und Arbeit des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen.*

The project was co-financed by the European Commission's Executive Agency for Health and Consumers. The Department of Health co-financed the data collection in Ireland through the National Adult Literacy Agency.



At the Princess Grace Irish Library were: 1st row from left to right: Dr Aileen Dillane, University of Limerick ; Dr Máire Ní Chaoimh, Galway ; Professor Ríonach Uí Ógáin. 2nd row from left to right: Dr Jimmy O'Brien Moran, Waterford Institute of Technology ; Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh, National Folklore Collection, University College Dublin ; Dr Lillis Ó Laoire, National University of Ireland, Galway ; Professor Diarmuid Ó Giolláin, University of Notre Dame, USA ; Dr Fintan Vallely, Dublin; Ciarán Ó Gealbháin, University College Cork. Photograph with thanks to EdWrightImages Monaco.

## Princess Grace Irish Library Hosts Symposium on Irish Folklore, Music and Song

**Under the aegis of the Fondation Princesse Grace, a symposium on the folklore, music and song of Ireland was held in the Princess Grace Irish Library, home to a unique collection of works of Irish interest, many of which are first editions of classical publications in the subject areas of Irish folklore, song and music.**

Prior to the two-day symposium a concert of song and music took place. Invited speakers included Dr Aileen Dillane, University of Limerick, Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh, Archivist with the National Folklore Collection, UCD, Dr Máire Ní

Chaoimh, Galway, Dr Jimmy O'Brien Moran, Waterford Institute of Technology, Ciarán Ó Gealbháin, University College Cork, Professor Diarmuid Ó Giolláin, Notre Dame University, Dr Lillis Ó Laoire, NUI Galway and Dr Fintan Vallely, Dublin. This event also highlighted the strong element of academics within the field of folkloristics who also perform as musicians and singers.

The event was organised by the Director of the National Folklore Collection, UCD, Professor Ríonach Uí Ógáin who has long since championed the need to include traditional music and song alongside the wider realm of folklore studies.

## Study shows link between low GI diet and reduced chance of weight gain in pregnancy

**A study funded by the Health Research Board in Ireland involving over 800 mums-to-be who attended the National Maternity Hospital in Dublin over several years, has found that women can reduce their chances of excessive weight gain during pregnancy by up to 20% if they swap to a low glycaemic index (GI) diet.**

According to the findings published in the *British Medical Journal*, women who maintain their usual diet during pregnancy have a 48% chance of excessive weight gain. The likelihood can be reduced to 38% by switching to a low GI diet. The study was conducted by scientists from UCD and the National Maternity Hospital and involved over 800 women.

"Our findings show that women who switch to a low GI diet during pregnancy are 20% less likely to experience excessive weight gain," said Fionnuala McAuliffe, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, and the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin.

"This type of excessive weight gain during pregnancy is associated with an increased need for delivery by Caesarean section, a higher likelihood of post pregnancy weight retention, and a higher predisposition to obesity in later life," adds Professor McAuliffe.

## Efficient release of hydrogen – the next step in 'Green Chemistry'

**The chemical industry, responsible for the majority of products and technology that we use on daily basis, has often been regarded as rigid and slow to respond to overwhelming evidence of growing environmental damage. Strong global initiatives, however, have resulted in a new focus around 'Green Chemistry', in which chemists worldwide work to meet the challenges of sustainability with new and innovative ideas.**

One area of great concern is the release of CO<sub>2</sub>, from dwindling reserves of fossil fuels. For several decades now, dihydrogen gas H<sub>2</sub> has been recognized as the cleanest burnable fuel, which upon reaction with oxygen in a fuel cell, produces water. Recently a number of manufacturers have prototyped automobiles operating solely on H<sub>2</sub> and air. Transportation of H<sub>2</sub>, a highly flammable gas, requires high-pressure gas cylinders, which add considerable weight and ultimately consume additional energy. A research group led by Dr Andrew Phillips of the UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology in collaboration with Enterprise Ireland and the SFI Strategic Research Cluster in Solar Energy Conversion, led by Professor Don MacElroy of the UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering, has been interested in materials that chemically store several equivalents of H<sub>2</sub>, but are light weight



UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology researchers Dr. Christian Grave and PhD student Crystal O'Connor testing the output of H<sub>2</sub> from an ammonia-borane reactor with a new catalyst.

and stable under ambient conditions. One compound with great potential is ammonia-borane, which holds up to 19.6% of H<sub>2</sub> by molecular weight. The group has developed and patented, in partnership with NovaUCD, a new family of specially constructed molecular compounds, "catalysts" that assist in the controlled release of H<sub>2</sub> from ammonia-borane. Key to the system is the bi-functional nature of the catalyst, whereby both the metal and

attached organic molecules, called ligands, cooperatively participate to remove H<sub>2</sub>. Using powerful supercomputers operated by the *Irish Centre for High End Computing* to design more potent catalytic complexes with improved efficiency, this novel molecular technology enables the safe and efficient release of hydrogen, representing an important step towards providing a green source of energy.

**Dr Nerys Williams, lecturer in the UCD School of English, Drama and Film is this year's recipient of the Rupert and Eithne Strong Poetry Award at the Dun Laoghaire Poetry Now festival. Her volume *Sound Archive* was awarded the prize for the best first volume published by either an Irish resident, or an Irish national anywhere in the world. "It's really lovely to get recognition," says Williams, who was also shortlisted for the UK's prestigious Forward prize for poetry last year.**

# Sound Words: A Space for Poetry

very much a part of my childhood and it solidified that sense of being part of a tradition from an early age."

It is inevitable that autobiographical elements permeate any poet's work. Family biography recollections of growing up in a small, Welsh-speaking community can be found as underlying aspects in Williams's poetry. Williams's writing is also informed by a thinking-through of whether poetry can be an agent for social change.

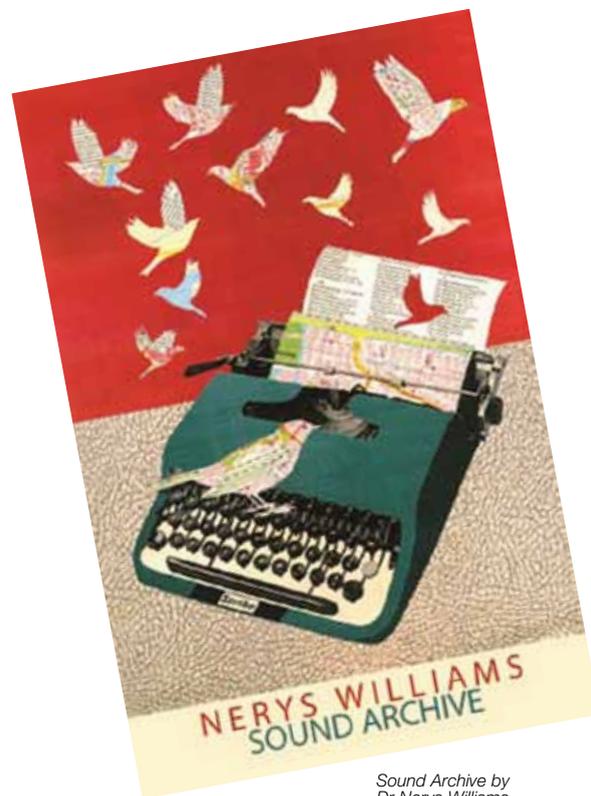
"I'm trying to navigate the ways in which poetry can act as a social document," she explains. "Key questions for me are: How does poetry relate to the social? How can it interrogate public language? The pleasure in poetry is often its articulation of some element of subversion, challenging the conventions of grammar. In some ways poetry can create a utopic world of its own. Poetry enables anarchy to emerge, and words themselves can propel the poet to strange scenarios."

Unlike successful novelists or musicians, successful poets rarely expect to make a full-time living from their craft. However the advent of the internet has allowed poets to bring their work to a wider audience without the need for a publisher. "Poetry as a genre is of course a broad church" notes Williams. "Interesting work is being done in the fields of sound poetry, electronic writing and spoken word. There are also many different audiences for poetry; you might consider the differences between the humorous poem palatable to a spoken word audience; experimental poetry referencing an avant-garde practice, or the poetry that manifests itself in the lyrics of musicians. Of course, not everybody might want to pick up a Norton anthology of poetry, but I still believe, rather nostalgically perhaps, in that ideal of a general reader."

Williams is reluctant to have her own website, but regularly uses social networking site Twitter; as a contemporary poet, she finds it invaluable for getting a sense of the political zeitgeist. She is also not quite ready to break from her romance with the book. "The poetry volume can offer a powerful compendium of ideas," Williams says. "Looking at a poem in isolation from a body of work – such as a single poem online – doesn't always present the full dynamic the poet had in mind. Reading a volume of poems can be comparable to knowing the pattern of an album, as opposed to downloading a single track out of context."

Dr Nerys Williams is currently working on a second volume of poetry, provisionally entitled *Treasure Island*, which sets up a sequence of exchanges between the 1939 San Francisco Exhibition, contemporary Ireland and Wales. *Sound Archive* was published by Seren press in 2011.

*Dr Nerys Williams was in conversation with Peter McGuire (BA, Mlit), a freelance journalist, working primarily with the education section of The Irish Times*



*Sound Archive* by Dr Nerys Williams, published by Seren press.



*Dr Nerys Williams, UCD School of English, Drama and Film, with Mr John Saunders, Director of Shine (sponsor of the Strong First Volume Prize) pictured during award reading at Dún Laoghaire's From Mountains to Sea literary festival.*

Williams's native language is Welsh. Bilingualism has undoubtedly shaped her work. "Bilingualism involves a constant negotiation between two languages. Welsh as my native language informs my relationship to English, but it is a language, which often reverses English word order allowing curious possibilities for poetry. In effect the relationship between the two languages recalibrates my understanding of language." She adds that this conflict between Welsh and English has been central to debates about the development of Anglo-Welsh poetry. "There are for example endless academic debates about whether *cynghanedd* – (a strict Welsh metrical form) – had a direct influence on the poetry of Dylan Thomas. Some critics suggest that this knowledge is central to reading Thomas's work. Others insist upon his absolute ignorance of Welsh metre."

Wales, perhaps more than any other nation, places poetry at the centre of its cultural identity. The *Eisteddfod*, a major festival of Welsh literature, music, and performance, dating back to at least the 12th century has close parallels with Ireland's ancient bardic tradition. Today, the *Eisteddfod* is the largest music and poetry festival in Europe with events at local, national, and international level.

"My father used to teach me to recite poetry as a child in Carmarthenshire," Williams recalls. "I committed poems to memory and remember reciting at local *eisteddfods*. Individual poems were frequently performed in groups or 'vocal' choirs, known as *cydadrodd*. Performance was

## Somebody loves you in Sacramento

**Somebody loves you in Sacramento. Although the flight of money on wires makes jumping this joint difficult, somebody loves you in Sacramento.**

**Europe is dead and all the talk is of burning bondholders and buildings. ATMs are glyphs in our throats, stones in our stomachs.**

**If somebody loves you in Sacramento they'll write statements in their poetry, digitise love letters to declare:**

**Dear Sir or Madam, we can change your default into decency and negative equity into futurity.**

**Since somebody must love you in Sacramento we can begin again. Robocop the weak, teach the young to Vogue – gestures speak louder than words.**

**My Sacramento love, you could spray-paint your desire on the Dáil. Space walk your way to the Green body pop in revolt against the 80s.**

**You may be small, squat and hairy, but surely a love anarchist in Sacramento beats the bureaucracy of loss?**

## Two UCD Researchers awarded ERC funding

**European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grants have been awarded to two UCD researchers to build their research teams and further their investigations at the frontier of scientific knowledge.**

Dr Debra Laefer, UCD School of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering has been awarded a grant to develop a city-scale geometric computational model to help urban planners and civil engineers better understand and analyse the physical and mechanical behaviour of structures. The results will help reduce the damage to buildings caused by tunnelling and also help to preserve Europe's cultural heritage.

Dr Emma Teeling, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science, who has been awarded €1.5 million over five years, will study wild bats in a search for clues to healthy ageing and longevity. Despite using up three times more energy than similar-sized mammals, bats can live up to nine times longer than expected.

"In a global knowledge economy we need new ideas to compete. So investing in world-class frontier research and in the next generation of scientists is one of Europe's top priorities," said Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn at the awards ceremony.

"After just five years, ERC grants are world-renowned, and help us retain and attract the best of the best."

## Over 400 UCD Staff Members Join UCD Sport & Fitness

**With the arrival of winter, UCD staff members have found something to brighten up their days and have come out in force to support and avail of the top class facilities now available in UCD Sport & Fitness.**

Since its opening in June 2012, the number of staff members has climbed to over 400. The 400th staff member, Dr Jonathan Dodd of the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, was the beneficiary of an additional 3 months free membership to mark the milestone.

It is hoped that even more staff will be encouraged to improve their health and fitness through a winter programme that includes 60 free fitness classes, latino dance and yogalates as well as the opportunity to save up to 44% on the membership rates.



*At the conferring of an honorary Doctorate of Laws (LLD) on Charles F. 'Chuck' Feeney, founder of The Atlantic Philanthropies by the universities of Ireland, North and South; were Dr Feeney and Dr Maurice Manning, Chancellor of the National University of Ireland.*

## Charles F "Chuck" Feeney honoured by universities for his visionary philanthropy

**The universities of Ireland, North and South, have conferred an honorary Doctorate of Laws (LLD) on Charles "Chuck" Feeney, founder of The Atlantic Philanthropies. The degree was conferred to give public honour and thanks to Chuck**

**Feeney for his monumental support of the Irish universities over the past twenty years.**

It was also conferred to convey to the people of Ireland just how radical and transformative this continued support has been. This is the first time that the universities on the island of Ireland have come together to confer their highest award on an individual.

Introducing Mr Feeney, Dr Patrick Fottrell, Chair, Science Foundation Ireland, said that "Chuck strongly advocated a 'think big', ambitious approach to third level research funding. He wanted to transform rather than 'tinker at the edges' with the Irish research landscape".

Since 1989, The Atlantic Philanthropies have donated almost €800 million to Irish universities, North and South.

## 850 EUROMAR delegates feel UCD's magnetism

**UCD's strengths in teaching and research were showcased to 850 delegates from 46 countries when the university played host to the EUROMAR 2012 conference. An international scientific society that represents a major commitment to developing the Magnetic Resonance community in Europe, EUROMAR's 2012 conference covered all aspects of magnetic resonance, including nuclear magnetic resonance, electron spin resonance, electron paramagnetic resonance, magnetic resonance imaging and other related spectroscopies.**

The conference was further enhanced by joining two satellite meetings, COST Spin Hyperpolarisation Action meeting and XeMat2012, prior to the conference. World renowned scientists in the area of magnetic resonance research, junior scientists from academia and industry, principal investigators from academic and research institutions and postdoctoral fellows and postgraduate students attended the conference. Postgraduate students and young postdoctoral fellows from across Europe were supported to attend the EUROMAR conference by AMPERE, NMR DG UK, MRSI and SFI. Tutorial sessions

were organised on the first day of the conference with hands-on experience from the scientists in different areas of magnetic resonance. This gave an opportunity for postgraduate students to engage with their peers and discuss their on-going studies. Industrial partners that linked to the magnetic resonance research and development, commercial vendors who supports the EUROMAR and publishers were also present at the event, which took place in the O'Reilly Hall, Newman building and Health Sciences building in Belfield.



Promotional material for the UCD International Centre for Newman Studies conference, Vatican II 50 Years On.

## Vatican II: 50 Years On

**The opening of the Second Vatican Council was rivalled only by the Cuban Missile Crisis as an event that captured the public imagination at the time, with debate about the precise significance of the Council continuing to this day. In October, the UCD International Centre for Newman Studies hosted a one-day conference to commemorate the opening of Vatican II.**

The conference, entitled “Vatican II: 50 Years On” was organised by Dr Pádraic Conway, Director, UCD International Centre for Newman Studies and Vice-President for University Relations, who sadly passed away on October 5th. Dr John McCafferty, Head of School, UCD School of History and Archives, stepped in to ensure the event would take place.

Speakers included Dr Dermot Lane, President, Mater Dei Institute of Education; Professor Linda Hogan, Vice-Provost and Professor of Ecumenics, TCD; Professor Sean Freyne, former Professor of Theology in the School of Religions and Theology, TCD; Dr Ethna Regan, Head of School of Theology,

Mater Dei Institute of Education; Dr Andrew Pierce, Assistant Professor in Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies, TCD; Professor John Horgan, Press Ombudsman and Professor Brian Nolan, Principal, UCD College of Human Sciences.

The speakers examined the most significant elements of the Council debates and documents as well as reflecting critically on the continuing successes and failures of attempts to embody the spirit of the Council. During the conference, a number of moving tributes were paid to Dr Pádraic Conway.

<http://www.ucd.ie/news/2012/10OCT12/061012-padraig-conway.html>

## Harnessing ‘Serious Gaming’ to enhance Public Safety

**The information technology age is often blamed for the ills of modern society, particularly in the younger population. The proportion of leisure time spent communicating via social networking sites, texting or playing games can mean that younger adults are not always sufficiently aware of their environment or responsibilities with respect to public safety or their own health.**

Recent years, however, have witnessed a significant rise in efforts to harness the capability of information technology to address rather than contribute to the proliferation of such issues. The concept of ‘serious gaming’ has risen out of the recognition that information technology, in particular computer gaming, can be used to motivate and engage individuals in positive activities. Serious gaming applications have been used to provide a ‘persuasive interface’ that guides people through a range of activities related to education, awareness of issues of public interest, or health. The TRIL and CLARITY research groups in UCD have successfully used such technology platforms to develop systems that enhance engagement in learning activities in young children by combining physical activity and educational activities in computer games, to guide patients through rehabilitation exercises, and to increase exercise participation in the ageing population via motivational computer game activities.

Recognising the potential in this field, the Motorola foundation has awarded sponsorship to a project team led by Dr Brian Caulfield, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science. The project’s aim is to develop a serious gaming platform to engage and educate young children in matters related to public safety and personal health. Initially focusing on fire safety, the project will incorporate collaboration between the UCD TRIL and CLARITY research groups, selected schools in the north County Wicklow area of Ireland and the fire protection and emergency services. It will include elements of social networking, team work, physical activity, and problem solving to enhance interactive learning among a cohort of 10-15 year old school children.

## Engineering Ireland out of Recession

**The UCD Engineering Graduates Association hosted a panel discussion in November chaired by RTÉ Broadcaster, UCD graduate and Chartered Engineer Pat Kenny. The panellists included HE Dr Eckhard Luebckemeier, German Ambassador to Ireland, Professor Gerry Byrne, Principal, UCD College of Engineering & Architecture and former President of Engineers Ireland, Dr Brian Sweeney former Chairman, Siemens Ireland and former President of Engineers Ireland, Mr Stephen Donnelly TD and Professor Brigid Laffan, UCD School of Politics and International Relations.**

In response to the title of the event, “Can we shape Ireland’s recovery on the German model?” Professor Gerry Byrne pointed out that, in the

period from 2002-2011 employment in manufacturing in Ireland declined by 24%, a rate four times greater than in Germany. He posited that, during the ‘wealth’ of the economic boom, Ireland lost its way by failing to invest in key areas of our economy such as in funding for engineering research through SFI.

In contrast, Germany, with its long history of technology development, has mature and top class training, educational and research infrastructure. The apprenticeship schemes, the training of the technician, the training of the master craftsman “Industriemeister”, the training of the engineer at the higher end of the Doktor-Ingenieur – each rung of the ladder has been superbly developed with enormous investment and consequently engineering in Germany enjoys extensive societal respect. Professor Byrne put forward his opinion that innovation processes are frequently not well

understood in Ireland, while in Germany politicians are better informed on the key components of the innovation chain from concept through to design, manufacture and all the intermediate steps. He believes that the structured, systematic procedure of innovation in Germany should be adopted by the Irish Government who could draw on the best experts and take the advice of the engineering community such as that of the Irish Academy of Engineering.

Professor Byrne spoke of the value placed on university-Industry partnerships in Germany and singled out the Fraunhofer Organisation as being exemplary in terms of the excellent interface between universities and industry. He concluded by emphasizing that a key component to the trajectory out of recession in Ireland lies in the efficient partnerships between university and industry.

## Swedish Award for UCD Professor

Patrica Lysaght, Professor of Irish Folklore in the School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics, has been awarded a prestigious prize by the Royal Gustavus Adolphus Academy for Swedish Folk Culture (*Kungl. Gustav Adolfs Akademien för svensk folkkultur*), Uppsala. The prize, from the *Torsten Janckes minnesfond*, was presented to Professor Lysaght by the President of the Academy, Professor Lennart Elmevik, at Uppsala Castle, on 6 November 2012. The prize acknowledges Professor Lysaght's outstanding contribution to folkloristic and ethnological scholarship. Professor Lysaght is an elected member of the Royal Gustavus Adolphus Academy for Swedish Folk Culture since 2001.



Prof Patrica Lysaght, UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics, with her award from the Royal Gustavus Adolphus Academy for Swedish Folk Culture, Uppsala.

## Sustainable Campus Planning



As part of the sustainable campus development plan UCD has re-affirmed its commitment to best practice in energy management by signing a Public Sector Energy Partnership Programme agreement with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). At the formal signing in November were (front, l-r) UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady and Brian Motherway, CEO SEAI and (back, l-r) Aidan Grannell, Director of Estates, Donal McGowan, UCD Energy Unit and Tadgh Corcoran, Senior Project Coordinator, UCD Buildings and Services.

## From Dublin to the World

From September 11th to 14th Dublin welcomed the European Association for International Education's (EAIE) 24th Annual Conference and UCD was proud to be the Official University Partner for the event. Attracting more than 4200 higher education professionals from over 80 countries and the largest conference of its kind in Europe, its theme was 'Rethinking education – reshaping economies.'

For four days, the Convention Centre Dublin was the hub for the conference, while UCD also co-hosted a welcome event in Belfield's O'Reilly Hall with Education in Ireland (part of Enterprise Ireland) followed by a campus tour, as well as a social gathering in the Guinness Storehouse.

The conference included over 100 lecture and information sessions, a range of intensive workshops, a variety of poster sessions highlighting the latest research and newest technologies and information day visits to some of Ireland's higher education institutions.

The keynote speaker was Professor Sugata Mitra, Newcastle University and visiting professor

to MIT. The Indian educationalist is renowned for his 'Hole in the Wall' project involving children in the Delhi slums in 1999. Professor Mitra impressed upon conference delegates that the job of educationalists is not to have all the answers but rather to have all the questions because the trigger of the self organised learning environment is the question.

Concluding the conference, social entrepreneur Caroline Casey delivered a speech about partnering with business and media to develop creative initiatives that promote the abilities of those with disabilities.

## Hope, Change and the 2012 American Election

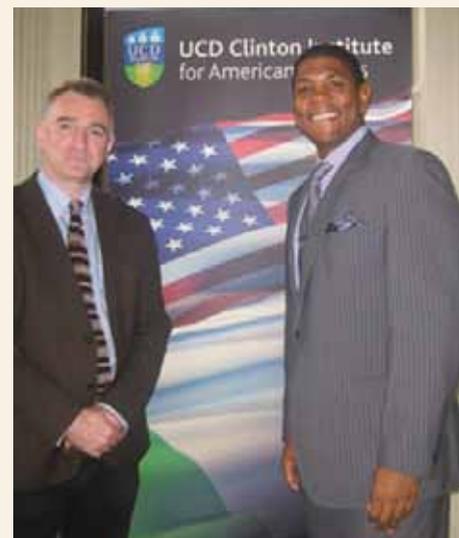
On October 4th at the UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies Professor Matthew Whitaker of Arizona State University (ASU) gave a timely talk on President Barack Obama, outlining the significance of the election of America's first black president and considering the issues that would decide the then-impending election contest in the US.

Professor Whitaker, who is the Director of the Centre for Race and Democracy at ASU, focused on matters of race in the initial election and role in office of President Obama, and contended that race still matters a great deal in the formulation of politics and political debate in the US. This has a long history, he pointed out, taking his audience back to the US Civil War and the period of Reconstruction to argue that this set the blueprint for subsequent race relations in the US. Notwithstanding the progressive gains of the Civil Rights Movement in the mid-twentieth century, race has a resilient and resonant presence in American culture and

underlies the political tensions between 'red' and 'blue' states in the present day.

Professor Whitaker argued that Barack Obama has been a lightning rod for these tensions and he detailed a number of ways in which this has been manifested in commentary on his role as President. In the discussion session following his talk he also commented on the broader ways in which matters of racial difference and stereotyping are encoded in media and political discourses in the US.

Coming in the wake of the first debate between President Obama and his opponent Governor Mitt Romney there was a good deal of interest in the stakes and effects of the debates. Professor Whitaker remarked that we should resist attaching too much significance to one debate, noting that incumbents (for example, Ronald Reagan) often do poorly in first debates. His belief, which proved accurate, was that President Obama would likely win the election given his lead in key states during October.



On the occasion of a talk about the significance of President Barack Obama, were (l-r) Prof. Liam Kennedy, UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies and Prof. Matthew Whitaker Arizona State University.

**UCD School of Archaeology is positioning itself to become a leading centre for experimental archaeology in Europe.**



*Dr Aidan O'Sullivan, senior lecturer, UCD School of Archaeology*

Professor John Coles from Cambridge University was the foremost expert in the field of experimental archaeology for decades. Recently retired, he has bequeathed his archive to UCD School of Archaeology. How did they get it? "We asked him for it," says Dr Aidan O'Sullivan senior lecturer, UCD School of Archaeology. "He's an old colleague of ours as we do a lot of wetland archaeology and he was the world's leading wetland archaeologist. We told him we were starting a new undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and research programme in experimental archaeology and he offered us his archive." The collection, containing about 20 boxes of books, papers, photographic materials and unpublished materials, is a major coup for UCD. "We now hope to secure funding to get it all scanned digitally."

Experimental archaeology involves "the creation of objects, buildings, activities and contexts from the past, through which people's lives can be thought about in more practical terms." In other words, this is a "hands on" approach where archaeologists don't just collect and study existing archaeological finds but they actually try to replicate anything from pots to houses, using only the materials and techniques that would have been used from the time period in question.

While this approach has been around since the 19th century, it only caught on in the 1960s through the work of the aforementioned Professor John Coles in Cambridge. However, UCD is aiming to be the new leader in this field.

"We decided we wanted to start expanding our artefact and material culture teaching and one way of doing this is through experimental archaeology," says O'Sullivan.

"We're already doing it in various different ways – experimental archaeology is really about making objects, buildings and environmental contexts that replicate past conditions so you can think about people's lives in practical terms."

Housing and pottery look certain to be two of the main focal points for the newly formed UCD Centre for Experimental Archaeology and Ancient Technologies. The development of the centre means that, with the help of UCD Buildings, a dedicated fenced-off enclosure about 40x40 metres has been created on campus. "It's very close to the archaeology research building and we also have PHD students up there," says O'Sullivan. "It's fieldwork oriented. We want to build a series of replica buildings and on the same site, carry out traditional activities such as making pottery and crop cultivations."

"Our first construction will be a Viking long house, typical of what you would have found in Dublin around the year 1000AD. This will probably take about two months and we will use the structure as a teaching space but also to carry out experiments in terms of light, temperature, smoke levels etc."

# Fired up:

## Experimental Archaeology puts learning into practice



*Students Rowan Lacey (with camera: Level 3 and now MA student on Archaeology at UCD) and Dianna Bartone (with bag: JYA from Notre Dame University) with Conor McDermott, lecturer, UCD School of Archaeology (right) monitoring firing of the replicas of early medieval ceramics made by students as part of the Experimental Archaeology module (ARCH30240) in March 2012.*

Plans are also in place to build an early medieval roundhouse and a Mesolithic hunter gatherer house. Dr Graeme Warren, lecturer in the UCD School of Archaeology, will lead the construction of the Mesolithic house dating from around 8000BC. "We have a mixture of undergraduates, postgraduates and PHD students on our construction team," says Warren. "These buildings are quite big and impressive and were occupied three or four times over 200 years by various generations of the same family."

"Through experimental archaeology we can learn a lot about the number of people needed to build such a structure, what materials were used, and how long it would have taken. We'll be using traditional technologies for all of the structural features. We'll even use stone axes" says Warren, noting the popularity of the undergraduate module with students, who become fascinated by engaging with material culture and understanding people's lives in very different worlds.

Warren is also brining in expertise from fields outside of archaeology. "We've got students from architecture and forestry as well with lots of things to bring to the table," says Warren. "We are learning as we go.. For example, as of now we don't know what to put on the roof. Turf has been used here, as has thatch. Some of the ones discovered in Britain were covered with animal skins. There were not a lot of large animals in Ireland at the time. Bear would have been the biggest but you could also use seal skin. Salmon skin is also a possibility. It's a

learning process and the students will really enjoy it."

"Pottery is hugely important for archaeologists as it survives so well. We'll be studying a variety of prehistoric and medieval technologies – including pottery manufacture," adds O'Sullivan. "By doing experimental archaeology projects replicating prehistoric and medieval pottery, we get our students to think about how people sourced and processed clays and temper, actually made pots using coil and wheel techniques, and fired them in open bonfires and clamp kilns, using different fuels, to achieve different colours and textures that we can see in the pottery from archaeological excavations. They then look at museum collections far more informed about the questions we can ask."

Despite using traditional tools, materials and techniques, the hardest part of experimental archaeology is stepping outside of your 21st century mind set.

"It's difficult to not want to use modern approaches," says O'Sullivan. "When we go into these constructions it's us in the 21st century. We have very different concepts of privacy, comfort, hygiene and toilet facilities, all very modern priorities. But we're getting better at putting ourselves in our ancestor's shoes and if we can do it, we'll be able to gain valuable insights into what living conditions might have been like in the past."

*Dr Aidan O'Sullivan and Dr Graeme Warren were in conversation with journalist John Holden (BA 1998, MA 2004)*

# Books



## Updating Ireland's labour history

Published by UCD Press, *A Labour History of Ireland, 1824-2000*, is a new edition of the classic and pioneering work on Irish labour history by Dr Emmet O'Connor, senior lecturer in history, University of Ulster. The first edition, which covered 1824 to 1960, has been updated to 2000 with the inclusion of three new chapters on developments in the Republic and Northern Ireland.

In addition to providing a challenging overview of labour's past, O'Connor addresses industrial relations and political issues of contemporary relevance. He has taken full account of new research on Labour and argued that events in Ireland can only be understood in an international context. The text also features pen portraits of over fifty leading personalities of the left and the trade union movement. Providing an introduction for the general reader and a synopsis for the specialist, the book will be of value to undergraduates, labour activists, and those interested in labour's place in modern Ireland.



## New insight into Irish society and religious life in 1960

*Arrangements for the Integration of Irish Immigrants in England and Wales* is the first publication of a report commissioned by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) on Irish immigrants in England and Wales and the response to that report from the Catholic Social Welfare Bureau (CSWB) which had responsibility for the religious and moral welfare of Irish immigrants. The report was prepared for the ICMC by A.E.C.W. Spencer, when he was director of the Newman Demographic Survey.

Though the report was prepared for presentation to the ICMC's congress in Ottawa in 1960, it was never presented there nor published afterward. This publication, edited by

Professor Mary E. Daly of the UCD School of History and Archives and published by The Irish Manuscripts Commission, now gives insight into the role of religion at a particular point in time.

Spencer's observations on religious practice and the role of religion in the lives of Irish men and women at home and abroad can be ranked among the first studies in the sociology of religion. Its timing is significant, because it was written at a period when Ireland's post-famine devotional revolution still manifested itself in crowded churches, mass pilgrimages and large numbers of young men and women entering religious life. The controversy which the report triggered in 1960 provides an important insight into the attitudes of the Irish and English Catholic hierarchies towards Irish emigrants and Irish society in 1960.



## Generations of incarceration

During the first fifty years of Irish independence, tens of thousands of men, women and children were incarcerated. Psychiatric hospitals, mother and baby homes, Magdalen homes, reformatory and industrial schools and prisons formed a network of institutions that was integral to the emerging state.

A new book by Ian O'Donnell, Professor of Criminology at UCD School of Law and Dr Eoin O'Sullivan, TCD School of Social Work and Social Policy provides a wealth of contemporaneous accounts of what life was like within these austere and forbidding places, as well as offering a compelling explanation for the longevity of the system and the reasons for its ultimate decline.

While many accounts exist of individual institutions and the factors associated with their operation, *Coercive Confinement in Ireland: Patients, Prisoners and Penitents*, published by Manchester University Press, is the first attempt to provide an overview of the interlocking range of institutions that dominated the physical landscape and, in many ways, underpinned the rural economy. Highlighting the overlapping roles of church, state, and family in the maintenance of these forms of social control, the book gives perspective to an Irish society continuing to grapple with the legacy of its extensive use of institutionalisation.



## Plenty to chew on

*Something to Chew on: Challenging Controversies in Food and Health* by Professor Mike Gibney, Director of the

UCD Institute for Food and Health, sets out to explore some of the many issues which dominates media coverage of nutrition and health. The book was written to help the average person to gain some understanding of the mainstream science of food & health and in so doing to de-bunk many common myths and misperceptions.

Published by UCD Press, the title covers, from a scientific point of view, all of the worldwide controversies dominating the popular media in relation to the safety and wholesomeness of the modern food chain. It deals with the topics of organic food, GM foods, obesity, growing old, the integrity of food research, global warming, global malnutrition, consumer perception of food-borne risk, our gut bacteria, and how nutrition during pregnancy primes us for health in later life. Providing interesting examples, reports and stories from many countries, the book is suitable for the general reader and should be an invaluable guide to the science of nutrition for students of food and health.



## Action Movies: satisfying the appetite for assurance

Emerging through the prism of the death of westerns and war films in the early 1970s, action movies became an extraordinary visible symptom of societal unease through the 1980s before seemingly imploding in a hail of self-parody in the 1990s.

In his new book *Action Movies: The Cinema of Striking Back*, Dr Harvey O'Brien, UCD School of English, Drama, and Film, explores the ethics and aesthetics of the action movie genre with reference to its relatively short history. Published by Columbia University Press, the book moves from seminal classics like *Bullitt* (1968) and *Dirty Harry* (1971) through epoch-defining films like *Rambo: First Blood Part II* (1985) and *Die Hard* (1988) to revisions, reboots, and renewals in films like *Kill Bill Vol. 1* (2003), *Taken* (2008), and *The Expendables* (2010). The action genre is a fusion of form and content: a cinema of action about action. It is a cinema of the will, configured as a decisive reaction to untenable circumstances. Action heroes take up arms against the sea of troubles that beset them, safe in the knowledge that if they don't do it, nobody will. Though this makes the action movie profoundly disturbing as an embodiment of moral ideology, its enduring appeal proves that the appetite for assurance remains undiminished, even in the wake of the events of September 11th 2001.



Students at the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School had the opportunity to participate in a question and answer session with Dr Michael Smurfit during his visit to the campus in September. Pictured at a tree planting ceremony in Dr Smurfit's honour were l-r: Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, Dr Michael Smurfit, UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady.

## Malartú Idirchultúir: UCD agus Tigh na Gàidhlig, Ollscoil Ghlaschú.

D'fhorbair Bord na Gaeilge UCD clár nua malartaithe idir Scéim Chónaithe Ghaeilge Bhord na Gaeilge UCD agus Scéim Chónaithe Gàidhlig Ollscoil Ghlaschú. D'fháiltigh Cathaoirleach Bhord na Gaeilge, an tOllamh Micheál Ó Dochartaigh roimh Oifigeach na Gàidhlig, Ollscoil Ghlaschú, Fiona Dunn agus seisear mac léinn a thug cuairt ar UCD an 23-25 Deireadh Fómhair 2012. Le linn na cuairte bhain na mic léinn tairbhe as imeachtaí teanga, cultúir agus spóirt lena n-áirítear ceardlann le mic léinn UCD ar na bealaí is fearr le h-imeachtaí seach-churaclaim trí Ghaeilge a eagrú. Ba bheag fadhb cumarsáide a bhí idir an dá dream ó bhí rang Gàidhlig ag Teach na Gaeilge UCD roimh réidh leis an Ollamh Máire Ní Annracháin (Scoil na Gaeilge, an

Léinn Cheiltigh, Bhéaloideas Éireann agus na Teangeolaíochta). Bunaithe ar shamhail Bhord na Gaeilge UCD, bunaíodh scéim *Tigh na Gàidhlig* Ollscoil Ghlaschú i 2009 agus fáiltíodh siadsan roimh mhic léinn UCD i nGlaschú, i Márta 2013. B'é seo an chéad malartán idirnáisiúnta ag Bord na Gaeilge UCD agus d'éirigh leis maoiniú a fháil don tionscnamh ó *Colmille* ([www.colmille.net](http://www.colmille.net)), clár comhpháirtíochta idir Foras na Gaeilge, an comhlacht ar a bhfuil freagracht an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn agus Bòrd na Gàidhlig, an comhlacht ar a bhfuil dualgas an Ghàidhlig agus cultúr na hAlban a chur chun cinn go hidirnáisiúnta. Gach eolas ó Clár Ní Bhuachalla ag [www.ucd.ie/bnag](http://www.ucd.ie/bnag)



Bord na Gaeilge Residence Scheme scholars Aoihbhinn Ní Chionnaith and Máirtín Ó Maolchiaráin discussing hurling with captain of University of Glasgow Shinty team and Scottish Gaelic Residence Scheme scholar Kerr Robert Gibb

## UCD Smurfit School Only Irish Business School in Prestigious Financial Times Rankings

**The UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School is the only Irish business school to make the 2012 Financial Times Global Executive MBA Rankings. This year it is ranked 88th in the world.**

**"We are once again delighted to stand as Ireland's only entry among the top business schools in the world," said Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean of the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School.**

"It is the nature of rankings that your position changes from year to year but what is important to note is that for the past 13 years the UCD Smurfit School has consistently ranked in the top 100 global Executive MBA programmes."

"This year there were 18 new entrants, many of which were Asian and half of the top 20 are now either Asian or joint programmes between Asian and European/US schools."

"I think this gives us a window into the commitment to and investment in graduate business schools for these nations as demand for business education increases to compliment the growth of their economies," added Professor Ó hÓgartaigh.

China's Kellogg/Hong Kong UST Business School is once again ranked number 1 in the world by the Financial Times Global Executive MBA Rankings.

The UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School is one of a number of elite business schools in the world to hold the 'triple crown' of accreditation from the three international centres of business and academic excellence – EQUIS, AMBA and AACSB.

Bord na Gaeilge UCD recently developed an exchange programme between its Irish Language Student Residence Scheme and the University of Glasgow, Scottish Gàidhlig Student Residence Scheme. Bord na Gaeilge Chairman, Professor Michael Doherty welcomed University of Glasgow Scottish Gàidhlig Officer, Fiona Dunn and 6 students to UCD, 23-25 October 2012. The students enjoyed a programme of linguistic, cultural and sporting events, including workshops with the 24 Bord na Gaeilge scholars on how best to organise and promote extra-curricular activities through Irish. The UCD students had little difficulty in communication having completed a lesson in Gàidhlig given by Professor Máire Ní Annracháin (UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics) in advance of the visit. Based on the Bord na Gaeilge UCD model, University of Glasgow's residence Scheme *Tigh na Gàidhlig* was founded in 2009 and will welcome UCD students on a return visit to Glasgow in March 2013. This was Bord na Gaeilge's first international exchange program and funding for the project was secured from *Colmille* ([www.colmille.net](http://www.colmille.net)), a partnership program between Foras na Gaeilge, the body charged with the promotion of the Irish language and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the body charged with promoting Gaelic language and culture in Scotland and internationally.

## ■ UCD Ulysses Medal Presented to Kevin Roche



UCD graduate and Ireland's most famous architect, Kevin Roche, who was presented with the UCD Ulysses medal at a ceremony in November.

## ■ Fields Medalist speaks in Belfield

A variety of systems are characterised by extreme events that are localised in space and time. For example, in the atmosphere, extreme events include cyclones, perfect storms and mountain winds and can directly disrupt agriculture, transportation and industry.

A symposium held in UCD in July posited key questions about these extreme events, including: how to detect and classify observationally the signature of extreme events, how to resolve and validate numerical simulations of extreme events and how to approximate or model extreme events using mathematical and geometrical methods, and how to justify these models rigorously. The International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics symposium "Understanding Common Aspects of Extreme Events in Fluids" took place in UCD in July and was chaired by Dr. Miguel D. Bustamante from the UCD School of Mathematical Sciences. The event, sponsored by UCD, SFI, IUTAM, CECAM, French Embassy, SIG, Fáilte Ireland welcomed more than 60 international speakers including high-calibre researchers such as Professor Cédric Villani (Fields Medalist 2010), Professor Vladimir Zakharov (Dirac Medalist 2003, founder of wave turbulence), Professor Charles Meneveau (Johns Hopkins, USA) and Professor Vanderlei Bagnato (Sao Paulo, Brasil).



Members of the Notre Dame University Marching Band who availed of the UCD pitches for a practice session while staying on UCD campus accommodation during the Notre Dame vs Navy visit.

## ■ American Football Supporters Touchdown in Belfield

One of the major events of the American sport and social calendar, the colours match between the US Navy and The University of Notre Dame, took place in Dublin this year, for only the second time ever outside the US.

The match, which was held on September 1st before a capacity crowd of 52,000 spectators in Lansdowne Road's Aviva Stadium was a noteworthy event for the whole city and a success for Notre Dame, who earned a 52 points to 14 victory.

It was also a landmark event for UCD Commercial, Residential and Hospitality Services to participate in hosting a significant number of the support groups attached to both teams. Among these were the Notre Dame

Marching Band, Choir, Cheerleaders and Notre Dame Alumni numbering over 500. In addition 520 naval midshipmen from the US Naval Academy in Annapolis availed of UCD's residence and catering facilities.

The University was also honoured to be able to accommodate the Provost of Notre Dame, Dr Tom Burish and his extended family, who stayed at the Liguori House accommodation in Blackrock.

## ■ College Collection spreads UCD identity across the globe

In response to a common requirement from travelling academics and to meet the demand for memorabilia from UCD staff and students, the UCD College Collection of giftware and clothing has been expanded. Featuring strong UCD brand identity and colours, the range has been enhanced in consultation with academic and support staff as well as students. As well as being sold at a

new retail unit in the Gerard Manley Hopkins building, the range is now available online at [www.ucd.ie/shoponline](http://www.ucd.ie/shoponline), ensuring that UCD colours are being proudly worn by students and staff members all over the world. If you would like to order items, please contact Suzanne Kelly at 01 7168621 or visit the shop, open 9.30 – 3.30 Monday to Friday.



Receiving the award for the Best Emerging Company in Ireland was Dr Antonio Ruzzelli, CEO & co-founder, Wattics with Hubert Brown Kerr, a member of the InterTradelreland Board

## UCD Energy Management Spin-out Named Best Emerging Company in Ireland

**Wattics, the NovaUCD based energy management company, was named the Best Emerging Company in Ireland at the final of the 10th annual InterTradelreland all-island Seedcorn business competition, which took place in Belfast in November.**

The competition aims to recognise and promote the best early-stage companies across the island of Ireland. It is the largest business competition on the island and is viewed by those in the industry as a strong indicator of companies to watch in future.

Wattics, a UCD spin-out company, has engineered an innovative software solution that connects to off-the-shelf smart meters and discreetly decodes energy patterns of individual electrical loads demonstrating energy savings for businesses. The solution works with electrical, gas, water and heat meters used in industrial and commercial sites and delivers pioneering insights to deeply diagnose power use and alert in real-time if a machinery or set of appliances are experiencing energy inefficiency. The system has demonstrated to significantly reduce energy cost in industrial and commercial settings and to provide a very quick return on investment for customers.

Wattics was founded in 2011 by Dr Antonio Ruzzelli, Anthony Schoofs, Alex Sintoni and Seamus Porter as a spin-out company from UCD's School of Computer Science and Informatics and the CLARITY Centre for Sensor Web Technologies.

Professor Peter Clinch, UCD Vice-President for Innovation said, "I am delighted that Wattics, a UCD spin-out company, commercialising UCD research outputs, has been named the Best Emerging Company in Ireland. One of UCD's key innovation themes is to grow and support new high-tech and innovative businesses such as Wattics. This win demonstrates the quality of the start-up companies emerging from NovaUCD."

## Planning for States and Nation/States: A Trans-Atlantic Exploration

**While state development plans and frameworks in the United States and national spatial strategies in Europe have distinctly different conceptual roots and administrative foundations, they face many of the same challenges. In order to examine the process, contents, and implementation of National Spatial Strategies in Europe and State Development Plans and planning frameworks in the United States, a symposium *Planning for States and Nation/States: A TransAtlantic Exploration* took place over two days in October in UCD Newman House. The symposium was hosted by the UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy in conjunction with the University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education and with support from the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy.**

Five states and five nations were represented and discussed. Representatives from the US included academics and state planning administrators and practitioners from Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, Oregon and California. Patricia Salkin, Professor of Law and Dean of Touro College in New York, presented an overview of state and federal planning frameworks in the US. Representatives from Europe came from The Netherlands, Denmark, France, Great Britain and Ireland. Professor Andreas Faludi of Delft University introduced the European planning perspectives and reflected on the role of the European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON).

The invited participants were joined by attendees from across Ireland representing the

Royal Town Planning Institute – Ireland, Irish Planning Institute, ESPON contact in Ireland, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, NIU Maynooth, DIT, University College Cork, Queens University, National Roads Authority and the International Centre for Local and Regional Development, among others.

The participants agreed to follow up on the event with a book to be published by the Lincoln Institute next year as well as to create further opportunities for reflection on experiences across the two continents. The symposium was streamed live and recordings are available to view at: <http://www.ucd.ie/gpep>



Pictured outside UCD Newman House is Dr Hermann Hauser, co-founder, Amadeus Capital Partners, who recently gave a seminar about innovation on behalf of NovaUCD.

## Innovation, the Only Game in the West

**Dr Hermann Hauser, a serial tech entrepreneur, investor and a co-founder of Amadeus Capital Partners, the pan-European venture capital company with over £470 million under management, delivered a key innovation seminar at University College Dublin.**

The title of his seminar was *Innovation, the Only Game in the West*.

Organised by UCD Innovation, the seminar took place in UCD Newman House as part of the Brown Bag Lunch @ NovaUCD series of monthly talks chaired by Gavin Bourke, Nebula Ventures.

Dr Hauser is best known for his part in setting-up Acorn Computers with Chris Curry in 1978, which was subsequently acquired

by Olivetti in 1985. He has also been involved in the spin-out of what is now ARM Holdings from Acorn Computers, following the development of the forerunner of the ARM processor, which is today found in over 90% of mobile phones.

In 1997 he co-founded Amadeus Capital Partners which has active investments in over 40 companies across Europe at any one time.



At the presentation of the Engineers Ireland Excellence in Education award for the MSc in Bioengineering, were (l-r) RTE's Mary Kennedy, event MC; Michael Phillips, President, Engineers Ireland; Claran Simms, Assistant Professor, Trinity Centre for Bioengineering, TCD; Agnieszka Wisniewska, UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering; Dr Peadar Grant, School of Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering UCD; Michael Crothers, Shell E&P Ireland Ltd; Paul Fortune, director of Man:Medicine design centre, NCAD; June O'Reilly, Trinity Centre for Bioengineering, TCD.

## Excellence in Education Award for Graduate Programme

**Postgraduate course, the MSc in Bioengineering, received the Engineers Ireland Education Award for demonstrating excellence in the field of engineering education at the Engineers Ireland Excellence Awards on Friday 9th November 2012.**

In deciding the awards, the judges consider investment in resources, innovation in education, impact of the innovation on the student community, the integration/development of campus start-ups, actual or potential contribution to the economy and differentiation. The 'Best in Class 2012' award was sponsored by Shell E&P Ireland Limited. This award clearly recognises the scale and diversity of the real impact the MSc in Bioengineering course has

from the student experience to contribution to the Irish economy to making an impact on global healthcare challenges.

The MSc in Bioengineering aims to provide engineers and scientists with the education and creative skills needed to practice in the medical devices industry in Ireland and to focus on important clinical needs. The only course of its kind in Ireland, this unique venture allows students to study at specialist Institutes of Bioengineering with academic and research expertise in Bioengineering including University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and the National College of Art and Design.

Professor David FitzPatrick, course director MSc Bioengineering in UCD commented "Receiving the Engineers Ireland Engineering

Education Award is a tremendous milestone for the course and recognises the significant contribution and commitment of all those involved in the development and delivery of this unique programme since its inception in 1998. The collaboration between academic staff in the contributing institutions, currently University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and National College of Art and Design, also previously including University of Limerick and University of Ulster, has brought together academic excellence, medical device expertise and research to provide graduates that have a demonstrated ability to meet the skills and knowledge needs within the medical devices sector."

## Moore's Law and More: the 2012 Source Workshop

**The industry's largest annual gathering of Extreme Ultra Violet (EUV) and soft X-ray source experts, the 2012 Source Workshop was held in the Clinton Auditorium in Belfield on October 8-11. The Workshop succeeded in its objective to bring together more than 80 source R&D experts for discussions and updates which gave rise to a list of topics that need focus for scaling sources for current and future generation technology.**

Two of the keynote presenters for the Workshop were global leaders in soft X-ray source technology. They focused their talks on SXR sources and their potential for non-lithographic applications. Professor Jorge Rocca of Colorado State University talked about desktop EUV laser and its applications while Professor Alan Michette of King's College

London discussed biological applications of soft X-ray sources.

A keynote talk was given by Dr Akira Endo of Waseda University, Tokyo and the HiLASE project. He focused on identifying technology areas that need immediate development to enable current sources of 100 to 250 W. These areas include droplet generation at 150 kHz via electrostatic acceleration; 500 W solid state

lasers with picosecond pulses and mJ energy for pre-pulse; and the ability to focus on 10 µm droplets. He also outlined a roadmap for 1000 W source at 13.5 nm and 6.x nm.

The Workshop also had many other oral presentations and poster sessions on SXR sources and their applications. The proceedings of this Workshop are available for download at [www.euvlitho.com](http://www.euvlitho.com).

## UCD Graduates' winning ways at London 2012 Paralympic Games



London 2012 Paralympics Medalist and recent UCD graduate Helen Kearney displays her three medals to well-wishers at a homecoming event in Dunlavin.

While her classmates were on campus to receive their academic parchments at a UCD graduation ceremony in September, Helen Kearney was busy competing in the 2012 Paralympic Games in London.

Helen, who suffers from a progressive degenerative disorder, gave an inspired performance on September 4th in the para-equestrian individual freestyle test grade 1a with her horse Mister Cool. She took home the Bronze Medal, with a score of 78.45%.

The previous Sunday, Helen had won the Silver Medal in the individual dressage grade 1a competition and the Bronze Medal in the team event.

"My first Games and three medals, I cannot even put into words how it feels," Helen, who hails from Dunlavin, County Wicklow, told RTE News after the event.

Helen graduated *in absentia* from UCD with a Bachelor of Commerce on 4th September 2012.

"Representing your country in the Paralympics has got to be one of the most remarkable reasons for graduating in absentia," said UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady. "UCD is proud of Helen's sporting and academic achievements, and we are delighted to welcome her among our newest alumni."

UCD graduate Mark Rowan also did his *alma mater* proud by scooping a Gold Medal in the individual H1 time trial paracycling event, with a time of 35:41.54. Mark graduated in 2010 with a BSc in Sport & Exercise Management from the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science.



Members of the UCD Team Ireland sailing team who won the Student Yachting World Cup in France included (back, l-r): David Fitzgerald, Ellen Cahill, Theo Murphy, Aidan McLaverty, Simon Doran, Cathal Leigh Doyle, and front (l-r) Alyson Rumball, Isabella Morehead and Barry McCartin

## UCD Takes Student Yachting World Champions Title

**Ten UCD students (Team Ireland) raced to victory by the largest margin ever recorded by an Irish team in the 32-year history of the Student Yachting World Cup.**

Team Ireland dominated the regatta by consistently scoring podium places in almost all of their 13 races throughout the championship to finish on a total of 25 points. Their closest rival, Team Canada from Dalhousie University finished on 37 points.

According to RTE Sport, 'Team Ireland's skipper Aidan McLaverty produced some breathtaking start line manoeuvres when

jostling with the other nations, trying to ensure the team started at the most favourable end of the start line on each occasion'.

Some 14 teams competed in the event over six days in wide-ranging sailing conditions and race course formats in La Rochelle, France.

The overall winner was decided on the results of 13 races and two discards. The last two days of the regatta had to be cancelled due to winds gusting 40 knots on the race course. As a result of their win, Ireland Sailing Team (UCD) will return to defend their title next year in France.

## UCD shines brightly in Hurling and Football Finals

**UCD was well represented in the All-Ireland Minor Football Final with both captains being first year UCD students; Dave Byrne (Engineering), was the winning Dublin captain and Paraic Hanran (Agricultural Science) played for Meath. Dave Byrne lifted the Tom Markham Cup as All-Ireland minor football champions in Croke Park for the first time since 1984.**

Other UCD players who did their counties proud were Shane McEntee, Ciaran Gillespie, Fiachra Ward (all Meath) and David Campbell, Steve Mulvaney, Mattiu Mac Donncha and Shane Cunningham (Dublin.)

In the Senior All Ireland Hurling final, UCD students Cillian Buckley and Walter Walsh

were key members of the winning Kilkenny team.

The team also included former UCD star, the great Brian Hogan, with UCD students Willie Phelan and John Tennyson on the panel.

Cillian Buckley, a UCD Ad Astra Elite Athlete, is a current Engineering student while team mate and sports scholar Willie Phelan studies Veterinary Medicine in UCD.

It was a surprise in the build-up to the game when UCD Agricultural Science student Walter Walsh was named in the starting line-up, since the under-21 star had not yet played a senior championship game for Kilkenny. The decision was certainly vindicated when Walsh completed a dream debut, scoring a goal and three points.



Victorious Kilkenny Senior Hurlers and current UCD students (l-r) Cillian Buckley and Walter Walsh. Walsh had a particularly memorable day, marking his Senior debut in the All Ireland Final with a goal and three points. Picture courtesy of Sportsfile.

## Three UCD students receive undergraduate awards from the President of Ireland

Three UCD students recently received gold medals from the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, at the 2012 Undergraduate Awards; an Ireland-based academic awards programme that identifies top students across the island of Ireland for their innovative undergraduate research.

Addressing the attendees, patron of the awards programme President Higgins commended the students on their achievement. "All of the submissions being recognised here today are a reassuring reminder of the great wealth of innovative and imaginative talent that exists amongst our young people – the leaders,

policy makers, scientists and artists of the future. I would like to congratulate all of our awardees here today and wish them every success."

The three winners from UCD were: Robert Nielson, final year Economics and Politics undergraduate, who won the Business & Economics category for his essay 'Do Generous Welfare Benefits Lead To High Unemployment?'; Karen Gibney, who graduated in June, for her undergraduate project 'An Investigation into Progeny Performance Results in Dual Hemisphere Stallions'; and Deasún Ó Riain, who won the Irish Language & Literature category for the second year in a row, with his essay 'Is Mór Idir Filíocht an Ríordánaigh agus Filíocht an Direánaigh'.



At the UCD Agricultural Science Awards, Aisling Burns, BAgSc Human Nutrition Stage 4 (on left) was one of the students who received the UCD Professional Work Experience Excellence Award together with a significant monetary award from Ulster Bank for outstanding performance in the Professional Work Experience module. The award was presented by Dr Ailish Byrne, Senior Agriculture Manager, Ulster Bank.



Prof. Mark Rogers, UCD Registrar and Deputy President (centre), welcomes Chinese students at the Chinese Students Welcome reception held in UCD. Also pictured (front row, l-r) were Ms. Carl Lusby, international and medicine student adviser, UCD International office; Mr. Liyun Wu, Counselor of Chinese embassy; Mr. Alexander Metcalfe, acting Director, UCD International office; Mr. Linquan Luo, Ambassador of Chinese embassy; Mr. Xiaochuang Wu, the director of education from the Chinese embassy; Mr. Yan Li, President of Chinese Students & Scholars Association in Ireland; and, furthest right, Dr Liming Wang, Director of UCD Confucius Institute.

## Chinese Ambassador to Ireland attends Welcome Reception for UCD Chinese Students

November 12th saw a welcome reception for UCD Chinese students held in the UCD Student Centre. In attendance were the

**Chinese Ambassador, Mr. Linquan Luo, embassy staff and the Registrar and Deputy President of UCD, Professor Mark Rogers. The occasion also marked the launch of a new information guide for Chinese students on living and studying in Ireland. The event was hosted by the UCD Chinese Students & Scholars Association (UCD CSSA) and sponsored by the UCD Confucius Institute and the UCD International office.**

During his opening address Professor Mark Rogers spoke of the growing community of Chinese students studying in UCD and the

cultural diversity they bring to the UCD campus. Ambassador Mr. Linquan Luo welcomed the new students to Ireland, and commended the work carried out both by the Chinese Embassy and the CSSA in the production of the handbook which he said will be a very useful guide for all Chinese students.

Over a Chinese buffet lunch, Mr. Xiaochuang Wu, the director of the education section from the Chinese embassy gave the students a detailed introduction to the handbook and the First Secretary from the Chinese embassy, Mr. Chengyuan Li also spoke with students on the supports available to them from the embassy.