

ucd today



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Ireland's university of first choice



EILIS O'BRIEN
Director of
Communication

As the new students arrive to begin their university journey there is a sense of buoyancy on campus. Undoubtedly some of this comes from a natural enthusiasm among the students but there is also a real sense of confidence and pride in the atmosphere.

Over the past number of years, places at UCD have become more sought after. A decade ago first preferences fell by 4% and hovered around the 7,000. This year, UCD first preferences broke through the 9,000 mark for the first time and increased by 8.4% over the January 2013 numbers. By the close of the change of mind window on 1 July, UCD recorded a further increase of 1.17% to a record 9,327.

The impact of this increase in first preferences is a major factor in the rising points for 23 out of 45 degrees. It goes without saying that the more in-demand a degree, the higher the points. So, despite annual fluctuations, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, and Actuarial & Financial Studies command top marks from applicants. A more interesting picture is to be found in Science, Agricultural Science, Computer Science and Engineering. Back in 2004, points for Science were 325, for Agricultural Science were 310, for Computer Science also 310 and for Electronic & Electrical Engineering, 330. This year Science stands at 515, Agricultural Science is at 465, Computer Science holds at 470 and general entry to Engineering is 495.

UCD has commanded the highest points in engineering and computer science across the higher education sector for a number of years and this year the number of places in computer science has been increased by 35 to 105. Science, which admits 400 students into first year, is now joint-highest across the sector.

The capability of these three degrees to now attract very high calibre students is a welcome trend to Government whose national strategy is to encourage these highly productive sectors of the economy.

But, while first preferences for Agricultural Science, for example, have risen by 267% since 2004, Arts has not fared so well. Back in 2004 the BA – the largest such programme in the country, attracted 1,080 first preferences. This year the number is 983 – which is an actual increase of more than 10% on 2013. Although, because of the preponderance of CAO codes, numbers are difficult to calculate nationally, it is estimated that first preferences for arts degrees have fallen by about 27% since 2004. Given this national trend it is very timely to think seriously about UCD's most famous degree.

(see more on the university of first choice on page 4)

UCD thanks...

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This publication is also available online at www.ucd.ie/ucdtoday

Cover image: UCD BA students with their new UCD scarves received at one of the President's Welcome ceremonies which took place during Orientation Week 2014.





President of UCD, Prof. Andrew J Deeks pictured at the UCD Bloomsday awards ceremony with honourees (l-r) Chief Justice, The Hon Ms Justice Susan Denham; Former President of Ireland, Ms Mary McAleese; European Ombudsman, Ms Emily O'Reilly; Professor of Human Rights at LSE, Professor Conor Gearty; and Director General of FLAC, Justice Ms Noeline Blackwell

UCD Ulysses medal for former President of Ireland, Mary McAleese

Synonymous with James Joyce and his novel *Ulysses*, Bloomsday is the most important honours day at UCD. On June 16th this year, UCD honoured five outstanding people whose work in the area of justice has made an extraordinary contribution to society not just in Ireland but in the global arena.

Chief Justice, The Hon Ms Justice Susan Denham; Director General of FLAC, Justice, Ms Noeline Blackwell; European Ombudsman, Ms Emily O'Reilly; and Professor of Human Rights at LSE, Professor Conor Gearty were awarded UCD Honorary Degrees of Doctors of Laws.

Former President of Ireland, Ms Mary McAleese was awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal; the highest honour the university can bestow, awarded to individuals whose work has made an outstanding global contribution.

UCD Professor of History and President of the Royal Irish Academy, Mary Daly, who read

the citation for Mary McAleese said: "Education, especially her training as a lawyer, plus the debating skills that she acquired as a student in St. Dominic's secondary school, have given her the knowledge, the intellectual capacity and the confidence to speak, write and act upon many of the key issues in Irish society over the past forty years. She has never been afraid to adopt an unpopular, unfashionable position, and she has continued to confound those who have sought to categorise her."

She added: "Mary McAleese's term as President included the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and the successful establishment

of the Northern Ireland Assembly with a power-sharing executive. She shared a platform with First Minister Ian Paisley. But her most significant and historic public engagements were with Queen Elizabeth II. On 11 November 1998 – the first anniversary of her inauguration as President, they jointly opened the Irish peace tower as Messines, which commemorates all the Irish troops who died in the Great War, and in 2011 she memorably welcomed Queen Elizabeth to Aras an Uachtarain and accompanied her to the Garden of Remembrance and the Memorial Garden at Islandbridge."

UCD awarded highest number of Fulbright Awards

Eight UCD scholars have been awarded Fulbright Awards to undertake research and teaching at leading US universities and institutions. This is the highest number awarded to scholars at any one university or institution this year

Jointly funded by the Irish and US governments under the Ireland-United States Commission for Educational Exchange, the Fulbright Awards offer Irish and US students, scholars and professionals the opportunity to study, lecture, and research at leading universities and institutions in the US and Ireland respectively. The prestigious awards were first established in 1957. In total, 40 new Irish Fulbright Awardees were announced by Tom Healy, Chair of the Fulbright Scholarship Board at an event at the US Ambassador's Residence. The UCD awardees are detailed below.

Dr Selena Daly is a postdoctoral fellow of the School of History and Archives. While at the University of California-Santa Barbara as a Fulbright Scholar, Selena will complete the first comprehensive study of the Futurist movement during the First World War, while also teaching a course on Italian literature.

Ms Treasa De Loughry is a PhD candidate in English literature the School of English, Drama

and Film. While on her Fulbright-NUI Student Award at the University of California – Los Angeles, Treasa will undertake research in environmental humanities and explore how contemporary global and postcolonial novels have registered world-systemic crises.

Mr Eoin Mc Evoy is an Irish-language tutor at the School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics. He will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at Villanova University, Philadelphia.

Dr Cal Muckley is a senior lecturer in Banking and Finance at the School of Business. As the Fulbright-CRH Scholar at Yale University, Cal will be researching the implications of firm risks for asset pricing, while assessing the wider implications for society.

Dr Enda Murphy is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy. As a Fulbright – EPA Scholar Awardee, Enda will focus on the transferability of EU best-practice approaches

for strategic noise mapping and mitigation within a US context.

Ms Niamh Murray is a Fulbright-Teagasc Student Awardee currently undertaking a PhD in Food Science at the School of Agriculture and Food Science. While at the University of California – Davis, Niamh will investigate the causes of bitterness in dairy protein hydrolysates.

Ms Éilís Nic Aodhagáin is an MA candidate in Modern Irish at the School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics. She will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at University of Montana.

Mr Shane ó Ruairc is a secondary school teacher in Coláiste Eoin, Booterstown, Co. Dublin. Shane holds a Masters in Modern Irish History and in Irish Language Journalism and Communications from UCD. Shane will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at Drew University and New York University.

Ireland's university of first choice

The figures for UCD are impressive – very impressive: over 9,000 first preferences for 4,000 first year undergraduate places make UCD by far the most sought-after university in Ireland. Here are some of the reasons why:

1. The courses: Students are always encouraged to follow their interests. UCD's Horizon structure has proven to be very popular among students who want the flexibility to broaden their knowledge across subjects or deepen their studies within their chosen degree. The consequence has been a return in interest to open entry routes such as engineering and science as students appreciate the advantage of specialising later in their degrees rather than being tied down to a narrow denomination.
2. The opportunity to travel: 18% of students take a semester or year in an overseas university – regardless of whether or not they are taking an international programme. Students can go to one of 400 partner universities and over time it is hoped that many more will take advantage of this opportunity.
3. Employability: The recently published QS World Universities Ranking placed UCD as the number 1 university in Ireland among employers. This survey covered all areas and all academic disciplines.
4. Quality of teaching: Student feedback on modules is gathered every semester and highlights the importance of teaching quality. The feedback indicates that students appreciate engagement with their lecturers and respond to the challenges set before them. A common phrase used is "do you want to be taught by those who write the books or those who just recommend the reading list."
5. Facilities: Students just LOVE the campus.



6. Student life: UCD is a very welcoming campus. Over half the Irish students are from outside the greater Dublin region so it is the most geographically representative of the universities in Ireland. The 6,000 international students add to the cosmopolitan feel of campus. So, even if students start out "latched" to the only person from their school they know, by Christmas of semester 1, they generally have a whole new social scene.
7. Peer recommendation: Our students and recent graduates are our best ambassadors. They are proud of their university and going by the number of UCD hoodies sold, they wear the message well.
8. Reputation: A lot is reported around this time of year when international rankings are published. UCD climbed significantly over the past decade but slipped a bit when the economic crash hit. Bucking the trend in Ireland, UCD held its position in the recently published QS rankings while the last Times Higher Education ranking showed UCD moving up 26 places. As the President, Professor Andrew Deeks has pointed out – UCD's scores in measureable areas, such as citations per academic, continue to climb, while we suffer in areas over which we have no control. Where it really counts, UCD's reputation is helping our students – and they know it

Widespread Increase in UCD Points

Points on over half of the degree courses at UCD this year rose, reflecting the continuing rise in first preferences for places at UCD.

UCD first preferences broke through the 9,000 mark for the first time in January and increased by 8.4% over 2013. At the change of mind deadline of 1 July, UCD recorded a further increase of 1.17% to a record level of 9,327. The increase year-on-year is 4.6%, and is well above the 2.2% increase in the number of applicants for level 8 degrees nationally.

The impact of this increase in first preferences is a major factor in the rising points for 24 out of 45 UCD courses. When the 25 bonus points for honours maths were introduced two years ago, there was a corresponding increase across 17 UCD courses. This year, the points increases are more modest, with most rising by 20 or less.

The big climbers are Architecture (DN100) up 40 from 450 to 490, Structural Engineering & Architecture (DN140) up 55 from 400 to 455 reflecting the national bounce back in construction and related industries. UCD accounts for 33% of all architecture applications in Ireland.

Horticulture & Agri Environment (DN272) is the highest climbing course with points up 65 from 325 to 390.

This year the points for engineering (DN150) rose by 20 to 495 while the points for computer science (DN201) remain static at 470 as the number of places has been increased by 35 to 105.

The continued popularity of science (DN200) sees its points rise to 515 - the highest common entry science entry degree in Ireland. UCD will admit 400 students to this degree in September.

Demand for business and law degrees is particularly strong this year. First preferences for Commerce (DN650) rose by over 18% and first round points are up 15 to 490. International Commerce (DN660) first preferences rose by 14% and points are up to 510. Business & Law (DN610), which admits 120 students, grew by 21% and points are up to 520. First preferences for Economics & Finance (DN671) rose by 39% pushing points up to 580, ahead of Actuarial & Financial Studies (DN230) which remains at 560 points.

The BA open entry degree, DN500, is the largest single degree programme in Ireland (with an intake of over 1,200) and this year has increased first preferences by over 10% after

several years of flat or declining numbers. Final round points last year were 335 and have gone up by 5 to 340 this year. Points movements for the small, denominated Arts courses are mixed. Psychology (DN519) is up 5 from 505 to 510. First preference applications for Social Science (DN550) fell by 17% this year and the points for are down 10 to 400.

As predicted, points for undergraduate entry to medicine (DN400) are down from 747 to 731 and take into account the impact of the HPAT changes. Graduate entry to medicine (DN401) remains static. Other health professions have increased with radiography (DN410) rising 20 points to 550 and physiotherapy (DN420) climbing 5 to 550 points. Other non-professional health sciences are static or up in points. Points for nursing vary according to specialism. Veterinary Medicine (DN300) is back up to 580 points and alongside Economics & Finance is the highest point course at UCD.

Degrees in this category have increased in popularity exponentially over the past 10 years (by 267%). Food Science (DN261) and Human Nutrition (DN262) continue to command the highest points at 490 and 530. Agricultural Science (DN250) has risen 10 points to 465.

(for comment, see editorial on page 2)

A look to the bigger picture of research

Research doesn't happen in a vacuum, and seeing the bigger picture is key to success. For a start research needs to be funded, and increasingly funders are asking upfront about the potential impact of university-based research. It's also important to draw on existing expertise, but in a manner that makes the most of a small country's resources and opportunities.

Last February, Professor Orla Feely took up the post of UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact. These are some of many approaches that Professor Feely needs to steward during her tenure, and she stresses the importance of the interplay between the elements named in her title.

"The three - research, innovation and impact - have to be considered in totality," she says. "Impact and innovation are not things you consider at the tail end of research, you have to work them in from the start."

Expertise + Opportunity = Impact

To ensure that the research carried out at UCD continues to make its mark, Professor Feely wants to focus on areas where the University has developed recognised expertise and where there lie plenty of opportunities for both national and international impact.

"We have mapped out several strategic research themes - data science, health, agri-food, energy, environment and culture, economy and society," she explains. "These are areas where UCD can lead, Ireland can lead and there is global opportunity."

Agri-food offers a good example of an area of huge importance to the Irish economy and existing strength in UCD, notes Professor Feely. "In Agricultural Science we rank number one worldwide for citations per paper among institutions publishing at large scale, which is outstanding," she says.

External collaborations are key too and getting them to work involves both bottom-up and top-down approaches, she explains: "Individual researchers collaborate with colleagues in other institutions, and that is where the spark arises. Part of my new role is making sure that we have the structures to facilitate that and to take it to the appropriate level. We have also set up the UCD Enterprise Gateway as a point of contact where companies can come in and access the expertise of the University in a coherent way, showing them all that we have to offer."

Research perspectives

Professor Feely is herself a successful researcher in the field of non-linear circuits. Following her undergraduate degree in Electronic Engineering at UCD she did a Masters and PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, where she discovered how to better optimise the behaviour of circuits called sigma-delta modulators that are used to convert analogue signals to digital.

She returned to UCD to take up a lectureship post in the early 1990s and her work seeks to optimise communications circuits and scavenge energy from the environment - such as vibrations on a bridge - to support the "Internet of Things", a proposed network of interconnected devices.



Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact

Since 2012, Professor Feely has also been the Chair of the Irish Research Council, which has a particular focus on early-stage researchers across all disciplines. "That has brought me an appreciation of the totality of our research strengths nationally in humanities and social sciences as well as science, engineering and technology," she says. "It has also brought me a stronger understanding of the policy environment and the very real and valid constraints under which the policy makers have to operate."

Ireland has done well to "hold the line" on research funding during recent years, according to Professor Feely, and she hopes it can build up momentum again. "We are seeing the clouds start to break a bit financially, and have to make sure that we articulate the case for higher education and research to benefit from these changing circumstances," she says.

But while she sees the need for Ireland's focus on strategic areas for research prioritisation and large scientific centres, she is concerned that gaps are emerging.

"I absolutely accept the need for prioritisation - we are a tiny country, and we can't be good at everything. There is no doubt that in the areas of prioritisation access to funding and facilities in Ireland is terrific," says Professor Feely. "But I am concerned that we are allowing gaps to develop within our funding system, and in areas that do not align with immediate economic need it is much more difficult for researchers in Ireland to find money in the system."

Successes past and future

Despite the constraints, in the last 10 years UCD researchers have won substantial funding (including more than €300 million in research funding from Science Foundation Ireland and over €70 million in funding through the EU Framework Programme 7), collaborated with around 1,000 companies, filed more than 300 patents and spun out 30 companies. Over that period the citation

impact of UCD research has improved from a position below world average to 56 per cent above average, and annual research funding has more than doubled from €49 million to €113 million. "These figures are a testament to our outstanding researchers, who have often had to do more with less as resources contract across higher education," says Professor Feely.

A major focus of her term as Vice-President will be to encourage UCD researchers to win funding through Horizon 2020, the EU Programme for Research and Innovation. Ireland has set a target to draw down €1.25 billion in funding during the lifetime of Horizon 2020 and Professor Feely is keen to support UCD researchers in competing for European projects.

"We work very closely with our researchers who are applying to European funding schemes," she says. "It is a very big task going after this funding, but UCD has done extremely well in the past and the link with Europe is key." So when her term as Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact draws to a close, what would Professor Feely like to see?

"Broadly speaking I would like to see a university which is characterised by excellence in research and innovation across all our disciplines and along the spectrum from fundamental discovery research to application-oriented research," she says.

"I want us to be a valued partner within a very broad network and I want a much greater understanding among all our stakeholders, including the public, of the impact and value of a great research-intensive university in Ireland. UCD has a distinguished and distinctive tradition of contributing to this country, and now the contribution has to emphasise the global context in which we compete as a university and as a country."

Professor Orla Feely was in conversation with freelance journalist Claire O'Connell (BSc 1992, PhD 1998)



Attendees at the ACIS-CAIS Latitudes conference held in UCD in June included (l-r) Enda Reilly and Margaret Loneragan, IMRAM; Mary Trotter, president of ACIS; Liam Carson, director and founder of IMRAM; Prof. Máire Ní Annracháin, School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics; with poets Biddy Jenkinson and Liam Ó Muirthile

ACIS-CAIS Latitudes Conference Offers Broad Scope of Research

One of the largest international conferences in the field of Irish Studies was held in UCD this June as the American Conference for Irish Studies and the Canadian Association for Irish Studies jointly hosted a four-day

gathering in Belfield, broadly themed *Latitudes: Irish Studies in an International Context/Banbha i gCéin*. The event was organised under the direction of Professor Mary Daly and Dr Marc Caball from the School of History and Archives, Professor Anthony Roche from the School of English, Drama and Film, and Professor Máire Ní Annracháin from the School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics.

The conference attracted scholars from all over the world, with over five hundred speakers presenting in twelve panels over four days, as well as daily plenary sessions and numerous book launches, workshops and roundtable discussions. The range of research discussed was vast, spanning areas from early Irish poetry to contemporary film and covering

topics as diverse as manure in Flann O'Brien's journalism to depictions of Geronimo in prose as *Gaeilge*. Indeed the keynote speakers themselves – Professor Declan Kiberd, University of Notre Dame, Professor Kevin Kenny, Boston College, Professor Eugenio Biagini, Cambridge University and Professor Paige Reynolds, College of the Holy Cross – underscored the impressive emigration of Irish Studies as an academic discipline; while the cultural exchange between Ireland and North America in particular was taken up in many of the papers.

Of note were the literary events which punctuated the academic panels. With readings from Joseph O'Connor, Biddy Jenkinson, Frank McGuinness, Paula Meehan and Liam Ó Muirthile, among others, the conference was fitting tribute to the late Seamus Heaney, in whose honour it was dedicated.

UCD Psychology journal achieves top world ranking

The School of Psychology is celebrating the fact that one of its academic journals, the *International Review of Sport and Exercise Psychology* (IRSEP, published by Taylor & Francis, Oxford; with Prof Aidan Moran as Editor-in-Chief) has achieved the remarkable feat of topping its field based on its first impact factor. According to the latest Thomson Reuters Impact Factors (© 2014 *Journal Citation Reports*®), published in August 2014, IRSEP's impact factor is 3.353 – making it the world's highest ranked journal in the field of sport psychology and the 5th highest ranked (out of 75 journals) in the field of applied psychology. First published in 2008, IRSEP

specializes in providing evaluative and integrative reviews of research literature on theories and cutting edge topics (e.g. motor imagery) at the interface between sport and exercise psychology and other branches of the discipline (e.g. cognitive neuroscience). To date, it has published 68 such reviews.

Welcoming the news, Professor Aidan Moran, School of Psychology, commented: "IRSEP's extraordinary impact highlights the enduring need within psychology for the availability of high-quality, critical literature reviews. The journal's success is rooted in teamwork and would not have been possible without the wonderful support

that I've received from Dr Kate Kirby, my editorial assistant; my associate editors – Professor Cathy Craig and Dr John Kremer (both Queen's University, Belfast); Dr Pete Coffee, Dr Trish Gorely, Professor David Lavalley (all University of Stirling), Dr Tadhg MacIntyre (University of Limerick) and Professor Nanette Mutrie (University of Edinburgh); the 28 leading scholars on our international editorial board; all the editorial and production staff at Taylor & Francis; and, of course, from our anonymous manuscript reviewers whose dedicated but invisible work often goes unheralded".

Prof. Gerry Byrne gives a keynote presentation at The Royal Society

Professor Gerry Byrne, College of Engineering and Architecture, presented a keynote address at The Royal Society, London on May 6th during a Royal Society and Fraunhofer joint symposium entitled "From Mind to Market".

Professor Byrne presented an international perspective on the translation of research and

the development of advanced models for university-industry interaction. His presentation was based on experiences of the 65 year old German Fraunhofer International Model.

The Royal Society is in a process of policy development in relation to applied/translational research. This event attracted the senior leadership from UK Industry, academia, public service and politics.

The UK are now investing very heavily into facilitating the applied research agenda in order to secure the UK as a world leading location for advanced innovation, design and manufacturing with a strong focus on science and engineering. This 2 day symposium compared and contrasted different mechanisms for supporting research and innovation in Germany and the UK.

The Natural World in Irish Poetry: A New History

The fog lay inside a book and slept for more than 200 years

Andrew Carpenter, Emeritus Professor of English at University College Dublin, picked up that book in the Royal Irish Academy, and discovered a poem about this fog, written by James Eyre Weeks and published in a 1777 newspaper. “Lost and bewildered in the thick’ning mist...” it began.

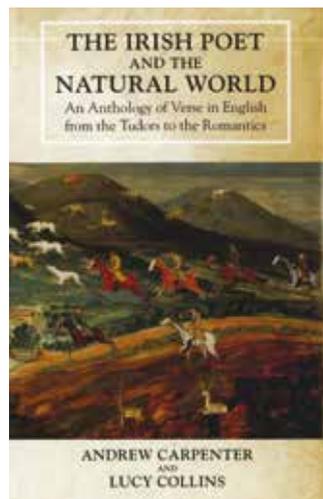
Professor Carpenter, along with Dr Lucy Collins, a lecturer in the School of English, Drama and Film, had embarked on an ambitious project to create an anthology of poetry exploring how English-speaking poets in Ireland related to the natural world. Over several years, Collins and Carpenter – who are married – collected, catalogued and analysed hundreds of these poems, encompassing the period from the 16th century until around the time of the Great Famine in the 1840’s. The result – *The Irish Poet and the Natural World: An Anthology of Verse in English from the Tudors to the Romantics* – is a compelling volume that will appeal to anyone with an interest in poetry, Irish history, or the world around us.

“This book has a dual appeal,” says Collins. “There had been a lot of work in Britain on early modern writing about nature, but there was a total absence of Irish material. We wanted to make this material accessible to scholars of English. We also wanted people to read the poems and reflect on how nature is represented and we wanted, more than anything, for people to discover and enjoy these works.”

The poems, written in the English language by people living in Ireland from the 1500’s to the 1800’s, are almost all from the pens of the Protestant and non-native Irish and their descendants. Compared to the native Irish, they have a different view of how the land should be managed – but this view does change over time.

The poems represent the particular view of nature at a particular time and from a particular group of people. Do they have contemporary relevance? More than ever, argues Collins. “We can see in the poems a pattern of development in how land was used and abused. We often think of the contemporary environmental crisis as particular to the here and now, but these poems show that the issues were being considered then, albeit on a smaller and more local scale.”

Some of the works focus on the wildness of Ireland but are written from the safety of a civilised and tamed space, such as a garden in an estate. As the 18th century proceeds, however, the poems reflect how wild Ireland becomes less frightening. “People are beginning to go to Killarney to feel horror and excitement at the wildness. There’s a frisson of danger in the beauty that some of these poems capture,” says Carpenter. The appreciation of the natural world takes time to develop, with the beauty rather than dangers of Kerry’s landscape not praised in an English-language poem until 1726. Other poems capture an almost stereotypical image of landed gentry in Ireland engaged in hunting, including a number about hunting the stag or killing hares.



It’s not all about the great countryside. Collins and Carpenter also include in the anthology a number of poems describing scenes of urban life, including the celebrated “A Description of a City Shower” by Jonathan Swift, published in 1710, about the modern city. There’s also some rather startling poems about bull running and cock fighting in urban environments. “Today, there’s a lot of work being done in ecocriticism on urban environments, where man desires to put his stamp on nature,” says Collins. “In the urban space, natural processes are still at play, whether that’s the smell of the cesspool and the swirls of the dust, or the urban animals adapting to life with humans.”

Irish language poetry of the 18th century is often about the dispossessed and the loss of the native Irish countryside, written from the viewpoint of the colonised, best expressed in the well-known *aisling* or vision poems, and famously recorded in the anthology *Poems of the Dispossessed*. “But the English had not lost so

much,” Carpenter says. “Our book is the counterpart to that story of loss.”

Collins and Carpenter both hope, more than anything, that readers enjoy the highly entertaining and enjoyable poems. “Nobody has looked at how poets responded to the world around them, and this work represents a move away from the canonical view of literature towards a more inclusive approach that allows for less known voices to be heard,” says Collins.

Dr Collins and Professor Carpenter were in conversation with Peter McGuire BA (2002) M Litt (2007), a journalist with The Irish Times

The Petition of the Birds

This poem was chosen by both Carpenter and Collins as their favourite from the Anthology. By Laetitia Pilkington

The Petition of the Birds to Mr Pilkington on his return from shooting

*Ah Shephard, gentle Shepherd! spare
Us plum’d Inhabitants of Air
That hop, and inoffensive rove,
From Tree to Tree, from Grove to Grove;
What Phrensy has possess’d your Mind?
To be destructive of your Kind?
Admire not if we Kindred Claim,
Our sep’rate Natures are the same;
To each of us thou ow’st a Part
To Grace thy Person, Head, or Heart;
The chaste, the fond, the tender Dove
Inspires thy Breast with purest Love;
The tow’ring Eagle claims a Part
In thy courageous, gen’rous Heart;
On thee the Finch bestow’d a Voice
To bid the raptur’d Soul rejoice;
The Hawk has giv’n thee Eyes so bright,
They kindle Love and soft Delight;
Thy snowy Hue and graceful Mien,
May in the stately Swan be seen;
The Robin’s Plumes afford the red,
Which thy soft Lips and Cheeks bespread;
Thy filial Piety and Truth,
The Stork bestow’d to crown thy Youth.
Did we these sev’ral Gifts bestow
To give Perfection to a Foe?
Did we so many Virtues give,
To thee, too fierce to let us live?
Suspend your Rage, and every Grove,
Shall echo Songs of grateful Love.
Let Pity soothe and sway your Mind,
And be the Phoenix of Mankind*

Honorary Doctor of Technology for Professor Barry Smyth

Barry Smyth, Digital Professor of Computer Science, School of Computer Science and Informatics was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Technology (Hon DTech) at Robert Gordon University's (RGU) graduation ceremony on Friday, July 18.

RGU awarded its highest distinction to Professor Smyth as a computer scientist, but also as a highly successful entrepreneur.

Professor Smyth is a world-leading researcher recognised for conducting innovative basic research in Artificial Intelligence. He also has a proven ability to identify and develop innovative applications for his research in case based reasoning. This underpins important new technologies for personalisation, recommendation, and collaborative and social search, so relevant for our digital world. He has written more than 500 research papers.

Recognised as a highly successful entrepreneur, his key skill is transforming leading-edge research into significant commercial success. Professor Smyth's first company, ChangingWorlds, developed personalised applications for mobiles, revolutionary in its time. It was acquired by Amdocs for \$60 million in 2008. Next, HeyStaks was a new innovative startup in social search technologies, designed to make information retrieval both collaborative and productive.

Since 2008 his focus has turned towards establishing major industry-driven research centres. He is a founder and Director of the CLARITY Centre for Sensor Web Technologies. His latest venture is the Insight Centre for Data Analytics, established in 2013. Insight represents Ireland's largest single research grant (€88 million including Science Foundation Ireland funding and €30m from industry) and brings together more than 200 researchers across eight different institutions. There is a strong industry focus with dozens of companies contributing.



Barry Smyth, Digital Professor of Computer Science, School of Computer Science and Informatics, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Technology (Hon DTech) at Robert Gordon University's (RGU) graduation ceremony on Friday, July 18

Dr Leslie Lam Conferred with Honorary NUI Degree

Distinguished UCD alumnus and world leading cardiologist, Dato Dr Leslie Lam (UCD Medicine 1967, UCD Pharmacology 1969) was conferred with a Doctor of Medicine honoris causa degree by the National University of Ireland at a special ceremony in Singapore on Thursday 19th June 2014. Only six people have received this title in the University's 160 year history.

Having graduated from UCD with degrees in medicine (MB BCh BAO, 1967) and pharmacology (BSc, 1969), Dr Lam completed a diploma in child health (DCH) in 1975. Now a leading cardiologist in Singapore, Dr Lam has acted as personal physician to the Sultan of Brunei. He also holds honorary consultant

appointments from the Ministries of Health in Myanmar and in the Seychelles in recognition of the contributions that he and his team in the Mount Elizabeth Hospital Cardiac Centre have made to cardiology training and practice in the region.

This prestigious award was given in recognition of Dr Lam's achievements in clinical cardiology in Singapore, his contributions to medical education and research, and his support for the arts in UCD and in Ireland.

The impact of North-South linkages on the changing politics of Northern Ireland

Sixteen years after the Good Friday Agreement, and after a period of stabilisation of the institutions and

completion of implementation, we appear to be re-entering a phase of instability and uncertainty. There has been much discussion of the British role in Northern Ireland and the increasingly positive East-West linkages, in the context of uncertain Scottish and EU relations.

A conference held in UCD in June focused on a less-studied aspect of the situation: the North-South linkages and their impact on changing popular politics in Northern Ireland.

The UCD Institute for British Irish Studies (IBIS) annual conference was entitled 'Constitutions and Culture Wars: Northern

Ireland, the Irish State and the North-South Dimension'. Hosted in the UCD John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies, it saw an opening address from the former Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Eamon Gilmore, TD. Speakers at the conference included Professor Brendan O'Leary, University of Pennsylvania, Professor Yvonne Galligan, Queens University Belfast, Professor Joseph Ruane, University College Cork, and Professor Jon Tonge, University of Liverpool. The conference marked the retirement of Professor John Coakley, founding director of IBIS, and follows up on some of his important work on the institutional aspects of these North-South linkages.

Ten Years of Change in Social Housing Neighbourhoods



Growing waiting lists for social housing have pushed the Government to finally address inadequate living conditions for families. Over 90,000 people are now on social housing waiting lists, many for several years. There have been calls for more investment in social housing to meet the needs of these households. But how successful have Ireland's housing schemes been for families and communities in the past?

An insightful study led by UCD into seven housing complexes nationwide sheds light on what factors affect their liveability for families and possible ways forward.

Researchers led by Dr Michelle Norris, senior lecturer in the School of Applied Social Science, revisited a landmark study carried out in the 1990s of these seven social housing neighbourhoods. Dr Norris was involved in the original research and was subsequently appointed by An Taoiseach as an independent member of the National Economic and Social Council (NES) in 2011 and is chair of the board of the Housing Finance Agency which finances social housing in Ireland.

The work, published by Routledge in a book called *Social Housing, Disadvantage and Neighbourhood Liveability: Ten Years of Change in Social Housing Neighbourhoods*, examined the schemes in Fatima Mansions, South Finglas and Fettercairn, all in Dublin. Outside the capital, the liveability of neighbourhoods in Moyross in Limerick, Cranmore in Sligo, Deanrock in Cork and Muirhevnamore in Dundalk were also examined. Some of the neighbourhoods examined were built in the 1940s during the big slum clearances, while others were from the 1980s. Likewise, some were rural and others urban.

One of the initial reasons for the study was to understand why there was a bigger demand to live in some social housing estates over others. Dr Norris and her team went back between 2007 and 2009 and looked at the neighbourhoods again, replicating their previous research of a decade earlier.

"In both periods we found that some neighbourhoods were very successful and some were problem neighbourhoods. In both periods, we also found there wasn't a strong relationship between the quality of dwellings, the built environment and design of the estates and their success and failure. When neighbourhoods fail, local authorities have traditionally gone in and done a refurbishment or done a demolition and rebuild."

But researchers concluded that relying solely on this method did always not work.

Two examples of this are Deanrock, in Cork and Moyross in Limerick. While the former was built very poorly, had leaks and poor heating

systems, there was in fact a long waiting list to get into houses in the scheme.

The opposite was the case with Moyross, however. While it was more modern, built well and reasonably settled in the mid 1990s, a lot had changed when researchers returned. "Most parts of the estate were settled in the 1990s, but when we visited again a decade later it was very problematic," explains Dr Norris.

The study also looked at changes in government and local authority policies, social disorder in communities, drug use and area-based responses. Furthermore, it looked at how the social housing schemes were viewed in the media and how stigma affected some of the neighbourhoods.

Interventions by Gardaí, local authorities, and communities themselves were also tracked. The study also identified what was the main factor between successful and unsuccessful schemes.

"The main issue was social order or disorder. In particular, the extent of crime, serious criminality, anti-social behaviour. Every neighbourhood has a bit of that. Where it became a very significant problem and it put people off moving in and encouraged people to leave, that was the main factor that differentiated the successful and poor neighbourhoods," added Dr Norris.

Striking results between the 10-year period came out of Fatima Mansions in Dublin and Fettercairn, west Tallaght, Dublin.

In the first period in the 1990s, the research concluded that drug abuse and dealing, accompanying health and social concerns, had impacted detrimentally on everyday life in both areas.

Relatively little was spent on regeneration in Tallaght, but an enormous amount was spent on rebuilding in Fatima Mansions. Nonetheless, despite the different investments, there were similar progressive results in the communities. But why?

"In both areas there was an effort to deal with anti-social behaviour," Dr Norris explained.

In Fatima Mansions, people involved in drug dealing had been evicted from the complexes. In Fettercairn, parents held marches against drug use and the local council and Gardaí also tackled the issue. "The issue is to try and identify the

problem and address it. It sounds like a basic point but often it is not done," added Dr Norris.

The second period of the study also coincided with two notable changes. Firstly, the boom had come and gone and secondly, many schemes were targeted for intervention.

The book and research therefore took a two strand approach; firstly to look at the social approach and socioeconomic change in the communities and secondly to examine policies and how the state intervened.

By far one of the greatest shocks for the team was the deterioration of quality of life in Moyross. Criminality from other Limerick neighbourhoods had seeped into Moyross. While many of the housing schemes shared similar characteristics such as low employment rates and insufficient educational opportunities, families did and have benefited from living together in these areas, Dr Norris explained.

"The positives are extremely strong. People have a permanent secure home and an income related rent."

A portion of those questioned also said they had gone back to school or other educational opportunities such as local courses. This was particularly more notable among women. A further notable change in social housing in general over the period has seen more and more people move out of schemes and into private accommodation which is supplemented by rent allowance. This now accounts for half of those getting housing support. This latter practice has become problematic for families, however, particularly in Dublin where rents have rocketed over the last year.

After the ten years, there was also a more hands-on approach in how social housing schemes were run by councils, added Dr Norris, as well as improved relationships between communities and Gardaí.

The researchers agree that more social housing needs to be built. Only 6,000 units are planned for this year. While the Government may not have the funds, much could be borrowed off the balance sheet by private housing agencies who could get the money internationally.

The research has also helped dismiss several myths about social housing. While social housing estates are frequently portrayed in negative terms in the media, there are advantages and unrecognised qualities that often are not told about the happy families living there.

Dr Norris explained that a majority of social housing estates are in fact settled, quiet places to live. In many there is a very long list to get in. There is also a strong sense of community and mutual aid unheard of in middle class neighbourhoods, where families lend each other money or help each other with childcare.

Dr Michelle Norris was in conversation with Juno McEnroe, a journalist with The Irish Examiner

Catechetics Trust Newman Fellowship in philosophy of religion awarded

A recent revival and growing interest in the life and work of the philosopher, theologian and Carmelite nun Edith Stein (1891-1942), is bringing to light again many of her writings on empathy, personhood, education, feminism and her analysis of social relations and the state.

A Jewish-born convert to Roman Catholicism, also known as Saint Benedicta of the Cross, she died in Auschwitz concentration camp in 1942, leaving a legacy increasingly recognised as one of the most important contributions to the philosophy of the twentieth century. Dr Elisa Magri has been awarded a Catechetics Trust Newman Fellowship in philosophy of religion and will use it to gain a critical overview and perspective of Edith Stein's philosophical, psychological and theological writings; against the background of her intriguing life and the socio-historic and cultural context of her time. Dr Magri will be mentored by Professor Dermot Moran, UCD School of Philosophy and Director of the International Centre for Newman Studies in UCD.

Other recent awards include the Centre for Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases Newman Fellowship in Rheumatology to Dr Richard Conway, the Sanofi-aventis Newman Fellowship in Diabetes to Dr Laura Tobin and the Shire Newman Fellowship in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

Through partnership with companies, voluntary bodies and individuals, the Newman Fellowship Programme enables early-career researchers to undertake fundamental research and scholarship in any of the University's diverse disciplines. The Programme is managed by the UCD Foundation.

SFI funding award to develop artificial skin

Dr Wenxin Wang from UCD Charles Institute of Dermatology and School of Medicine & Medical Science will lead one of thirty-six projects recently awarded Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) funding. His research project aims to develop an artificial skin that could promote wound healing.

Diabetic wounds or those seen in patients with the fragile skin condition, epidermolysis bullosa or EB, cause much suffering. This project will focus on developing a skin substitute to mimic human skin that could be used to seal a wound, provide protection and accelerate healing.

"This novel artificial skin will contain polymers that hold it together, providing enough strength to seal the wound, but also delivering therapeutic genes and living cells to provide the biomolecules needed to accelerate the wound healing," said Dr Wenxin Wang.

"This artificial skin could easily be integrated into the wound care practices to treat patients", he added.

The SFI Investigators Programme supports excellent scientific research that has the potential to impact Ireland's economic and societal development. The programme will provide funding over a three to five year period, for 36 selected research projects involving over 200 researchers. Funding for each project will range from €400,000 to €3.1 million.

Harrison Medal awarded as UCD School of Music marks 100 years

In recognition of their outstanding contribution to the discipline of musicology, UCD Professor of Musicology, Harry White and NUI Maynooth Professor Emeritus of Music, Barra Boydell, the co-editors of *The Encyclopaedia of Music in Ireland* have been awarded the Harrison Medal by the Society of Musicology in Ireland.

The Encyclopaedia of Music in Ireland is the first comprehensive chronicle of the history of music in Ireland. Published by UCD Press, it covers an exhaustive range of topics in the domain of Irish musical history. With 2,000 articles and 240 contributors it documents the work of hundreds of performers, composers and musicians, from U2 to John Field.

The President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins praised *The Encyclopaedia of Music in Ireland*. He said it is "a wonderful, wonderful achievement that will allow us to reach a true understanding of the musical journey of the nation, and of its continual evaluation and progression".

The medal was presented by Kerry Houston, President and Council of the Society for Musicology for Ireland, at a special meeting of

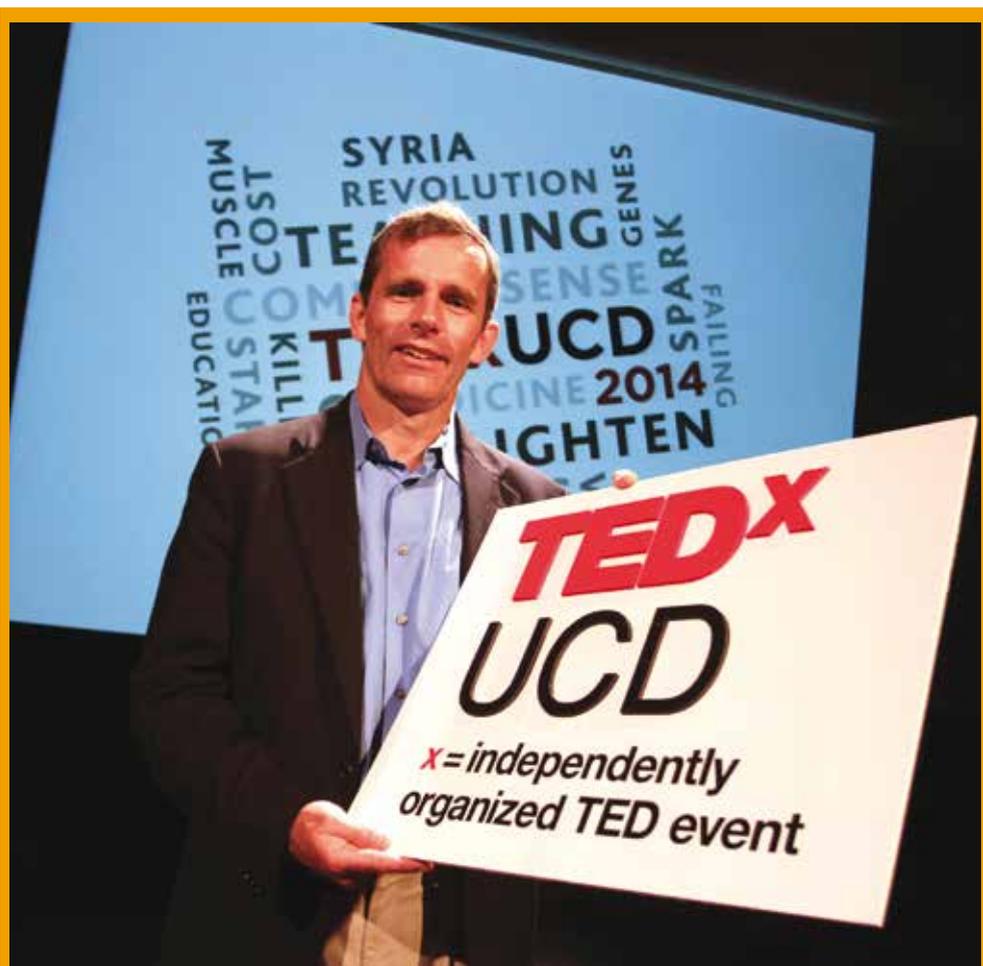
the Society in the Deanery of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin on 17 June 2014.

The Harrison Medal of the Society for Musicology in Ireland is named in honour of Frank Llewellyn Harrison (1905-1987), the Irish musicologist who made a seminal contribution to the study of medieval music and to the study of ethnomusicology.

The award is particularly meaningful as the School of Music has been celebrating the centenary of the Chair of Music throughout the academic year 2013/14. In February 1914, the University established a Chair of Music and a Professorship of Irish Music. During the centenary year several conferences, concerts, a *Festschrift*, the Larchet Memorial Lecture and other events were dedicated to this milestone.



UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks visited a number of affiliated teaching hospitals where medicine and other healthcare students undertake their clinical training and has plans to visit other affiliated clinical sites which are central to the professional development of UCD Health Sciences over the coming months. Pictured with President Deeks are (l) Dr Rhona Mahony, Master of National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street and (r) Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe, UCD Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street



Dr Terry McCarthy, President and CEO, Los Angeles World Affairs Council, was one of the 9 national and international TEDxUCD 2014 speakers who spoke at the event in the UCD Dramsoc theatre in June. The nine speakers, who were either UCD researchers, students or alumni, spoke on a range of ideas worth spreading and aimed to enlighten the attendees on a selection of topics which are close to their hearts

■ Cylon Controls secures €7 million investment from ESB Novusmodus fund

The ESB Novusmodus fund, the ESB's cleantech and resource efficiency fund, has invested €7 million into the UCD spin-out company, Cylon Controls Ltd.

Cylon Controls is a leading manufacturer and developer of building energy management systems (BEMS), delivering hardware and software solutions to control, monitor and maintain building environments, maintaining occupant comfort.

It is one of the largest independent building control providers in Europe with offices in Asia, the Middle East and the US. The company's services have been proven to decrease clients'

energy costs by up to 25%. Its best-in-class technologies have recently been selected for Terminal 2, Dublin Airport and Google's European head office in Dublin.

Cylon Controls was established in 1985 by Seán Gíblín to commercialise engineering research carried out at UCD. Since then Cylon Controls has developed and maintained a strong partnership with the University, especially through the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering and NovaUCD. The University is also a significant customer of Cylon having installed the Cylon Active Energy system throughout the campus.



Obeo co-founders, Kate Cronin and Liz Fingleton, showcase their recently launched product

■ Catering for food waste demand

With the average Irish household producing a quarter of a tonne of food waste annually, the Government has introduced new household food waste regulations that require the mandatory segregation of all household waste, with food waste being disposed in brown bins and residual waste in black bins. This will be implemented through the phased roll-out of brown bins to all 1.2 million serviced households in Ireland by the end of 2016.

In advance of this upsurge in demand, Obeo Ltd, a new National College of Art and Design (NCAD) spin-out company, co-founded by Kate Cronin and Elizabeth Fingleton, has launched a novel food waste recycling product. The Obeo compostable food waste box is a clever, yet simple way of separating food waste at home with no smells, no mess and no fuss in the kitchen. Dunnes Stores is the first retailer to support the new product with the Obeo compostable food waste box on sale in its stores nationwide.

NCAD is a recognised college of University College Dublin and Obeo completed the 2013 UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme which is delivered annually at NovaUCD.

■ First French-Irish International Workshop on Magnetism and Electronic Structure held at UCD

H.E. Ambassador of France to Ireland, Jean-Pierre Thébaud attended the opening of the Franco-Irish International Workshop on Magnetism and Electronic Structure held in the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science in June. Organised by Dr Grace Morgan, School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, the two-day workshop gathered together 35 researchers, ten of which came from France for the occasion, providing an opportunity to show the links that exist between Ireland and France concerning scientific research.

The launch was hosted by the Chancellor of the National University of Ireland, Dr Maurice Manning, who made an award to the French Ambassador. In his speech Dr Manning highlighted the many links between Irish and French researchers and the seminal contributions of both French and Irish scientists in the area of magnetism - in particular the

travel grant scheme for Ulysses researchers and the role of the Campus France agency. He also recognised France's long and distinguished research record in physics and quantum physics, notably the award of the 2007 and 2012 Nobel prize in Physics awarded to Mr Albert Fert and Mr Serge Haroche respectively.

In his reply the French Ambassador emphasized the importance of magnetism research in modern device technology and pledged continued support from the French government to fund collaborative fundamental research between French and Irish labs.



Ms Alexia Haywood, Dr Eric Haywood, and Dr Christina Haywood, with Ambassador Giovanni Adorni Braccisi, Italian Ambassador to Ireland, at the Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia presentation event

Italian Knighthood for Dr Eric Haywood

At an event in June Italian Ambassador to Ireland Giovanni Adorni Braccisi presented Dr Eric Haywood, School of Languages and Literatures, with the knighthood (Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia) recently conferred on him by Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, for services rendered to Italy

A Swiss and British national, Dr Haywood has been involved in the promotion of Italian in Ireland since joining the UCD Italian Department in 1978. A former President of the Association of Teachers of Italian and Head of Italian

Studies in the UCD School of Languages and Literatures, Dr Haywood combines teaching and carrying out research at UCD into various aspects of the Italian Renaissance. He has also taken a leading role over the years in the

training of second-level teachers of Italian and the organisation of cultural events for the general public, more recently as Director of the UCD Foundation for Italian Studies.

Exploring the benefits of death in plants

It's a macabre thought, but death is a part of life. At a cellular level, individual cells need to die off in a controlled way to sculpt and renew tissues and to stop the spread of disease.

While plenty of research goes into the death processes of animal cells, Dr Paul McCabe is looking to understand how 'programmed cell death' is controlled in plants, with a view to better management of infection or stress.

"It looks like every single plant cell has a special mechanism that it can activate to kill itself," says Dr McCabe, a senior lecturer at the School of Biology & Environmental Science. "And plants use it as they develop and also to protect themselves: if a plant cell recognises a disease-causing pathogen it switches on the death programme. It basically sacrifices itself as well as killing the pathogen to protect the rest of the plant."

Dr McCabe is interested in the molecular dances that underpin programmed cell death in plants, and at how plants use it to react to potentially stressful situations like infection or a harsh environment.

He works with Dr Fiona Doohan on what happens to plants when they are infected with the fungus *Fusarium graminearum*, a costly pathogen of wheat, barley, corn and rice.

"The fungus infects these food crops with molecules called mycotoxins," explains Dr

McCabe. "But we don't know much about what they do."

His lab found that when plant cells are exposed to the fungal toxin, a curiously complex relationship emerges. "At low levels the mycotoxin seems to stop the cells from switching on programmed cell death but if you really ramp up the mycotoxin it does start to kill the cells. So it seems to manipulate and play with these cell death programmes."

In parallel, Dr McCabe's lab is exploring the roles of cell death in a mutually beneficial interaction between a nitrogen-providing alga called *Nostoc* and plant cells. He is also looking at how cell death levels could also act as a proxy for stress tolerance - research in his lab found that wheat seedlings that can withstand high salt conditions have high levels of programmed cell death, which seems to be linked with hardiness in the harsh soil.

"So perhaps if you have lots of bred lines you don't know which of these are salt tolerant and which are salt sensitive, we could do a very quick screen of seedlings for programmed cell death, which would be faster than a whole plant analysis," he says.

Dr McCabe's research, which is funded through Science Foundation Ireland, the Irish Research Council and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, is also looking under the hood to understand how the mitochondrion may be the cellular ringmaster in controlling the life and death decisions of a plant cell.

"I think it's fundamentally important that we understand programmed cell death in plants," he says. "If you know what is happening and how the process is targeted by threats like pathogens, you could potentially strengthen plants against attack."

UCD encourages the next generation of scientists

The Future Scientist programme, coordinated by the UCD Access Centre in conjunction with the UCD College of Science, was held for the first time this year. The programme helps secondary school students to learn about what scientists do and about what studying Science is like in university.

Second year students from St. John's College, De La Salle, Ballyfermot and Caritas College, Ballyfermot took part in the programme. During a series of visits to UCD beginning in March, the students completed learning diaries and undertook a 'scientific superhero' poster project. At the closing ceremony in May, they had the opportunity to present their work to an expert judging panel. College Principal and Dean of Science Professor Joe Carthy presented each pupil with a certificate of attendance and some lucky groups were awarded prizes by the judging panel.

Anaesthetic technique and post-surgery cancer recurrence



Professor Donal Buggy

A browse through the journals or schedule of conference talks will show you that the most popular research topic within the discipline of anaesthesia is on the connection between anaesthesia and cancer. This was not always the case. In fact, a mere eight years ago no research at all was being carried out in the area. This all changed in 2006 when Professor Donal Buggy and his colleagues produced a paper of their research on the effect of anaesthetic technique on post-surgery breast cancer recurrence.

Professor Buggy is a consultant in anaesthesia at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and professor of anaesthesia in the School of Medicine & Medical Science. He also sits on the editorial board of the *British Journal of Anaesthesia* (BJA), a journal founded in 1923, holding the distinction of being the oldest and largest independent journal of anaesthesia. Recently, the BJA published a special issue on cancer and anaesthesia, an indication of the impact of Professor Buggy's hypothesis and subsequent research.

"What I started with ten years ago was a hunch, which became a hypothesis that the anaesthetic technique you get for cancer surgery might affect the risk of cancer recurrence or cancer spread," explains Professor Buggy.

The genesis of this hunch was a journey that brought Professor Buggy back to Ireland from his work in the UK and the US where he had become familiar with and developed expertise in a particular numbing technique known as a paravertebral block (PVB), whereby the patient is given what could be described as a one-sided epidural or numbing down one side of the spinal nerve.

This technique has been around for a hundred years but it wasn't in widespread use in Ireland at the time of Professor Buggy's return. As he explains, standard general anaesthesia (GA) works perfectly well in breast cancer procedures so there was no reason why Irish anaesthetists would switch to a different technique.

"The only difference is that with the paravertebral block there was no need for morphine so patients were less likely to be nauseated and less sleepy post-surgery," says Prof. Buggy.

Professor Buggy began offering this numbing technique as a possible option to patients and after a few years he had a database: patients who'd opted for GA and those who had opted for PVB. Buggy and his fellow researchers began looking back over these data retrospectively for several parameters such as easing of pain. One parameter that he was particularly interested in

was the link between cancer recurrence and this numbing method.

Looking back at the data, they found that the instance of cancer recurrence was about 6% in patients who had surgery with paravertebral anaesthesia and analgesia combined with general anaesthesia in comparison to about 20% for those had general anaesthesia combined with postoperative morphine analgesia.

While this result appears to be quite exciting Professor Buggy is keen to issue the caveat that "this kind of study design – a retrospective covert study - is fraught with inherent flaws no matter who does it or how well it's done; this is known as selection bias."

Professor Buggy sent the data to Dr Daniel Sessler, a prominent research doctor at the non-profit academic medical centre, the Cleveland Clinic, in the US. Sessler was skeptical at first but carried out his own statistical analysis, finally coming on board and putting his name to the paper that was to start a chain reaction of similar research in the connection between cancer and anaesthesia.

The research was met with some skepticism, says Professor Buggy, but when the team of authors began to look for existing related research they found that there was quite a strong body of literature on this kind of research using cell cultures in the lab and also live animal work.

"These studies had been published ten years previously and largely ignored. I cited their work in my discussion, stating that there was a rationale for all of this."

Suddenly there were editorials, discussions and a storm of criticism, but the previous research was highlighted and the conversation was rekindled. "I think it is reasonable to state that the 2006 publication started a whole new field of research on anaesthetic and analgesic techniques and cancer. I think our work here in the Mater started all of this."

With this publication under his belt, Professor Buggy wanted to widen the parameters. Initially he looked at one type of regional numbing technique (PVT), with one kind of patient (women)

and one kind of cancer (breast) so he began to look towards the Mater's database of male patients who have had prostate cancer.

"There were ten years of records. We looked back over the data and found similar results in terms of the Kaplan-Meier survival curve (representing patient survival for the regional numbing technique versus GA and morphine).

"Again this was a retrospective study with inherent flaws but the combination of two studies caused a big splash and before long clinical researchers around the world were compiling their own similar databases on every conceivable type of cancer and every conceivable type of technique," he notes.

While these retroactive studies were adding to the reputation of the field of cancer and anaesthesia Prof. Buggy says that this will never prove a cause and effect relationship. What is needed to prove or disprove this hypothesis is a prospective randomized controlled trial (RCT) and this started in the Mater in 2008.

"Two or three times a week we approach patients with new breast cancers and we tell them that we have a study, give them some information and if they consent we randomize the patients, in other words they are randomly given the standard GA or the PVT."

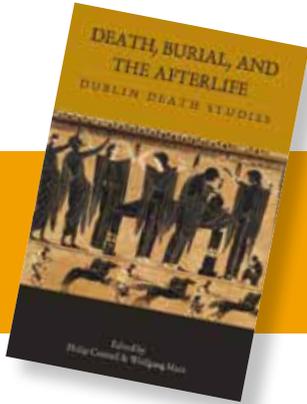
Almost six years later and Professor Buggy's research nurse is about to approach potential study participant no. 294. This is progress, but it is slow due to lack of funding, notes Buggy, adding that six or seven figure sums are required to carry out a study of this magnitude. The study is aided by the Cleveland Clinic, which doesn't provide many patients but do have the required administrative and statistical support. Professor Buggy has also persuaded the Universities of Vienna and Dusseldorf to come on board, but many others are reluctant due to lack of funding.

The potential ramifications of this trial, if funded to completion, are very important, both from an economic and societal standpoint: if using a paravertebral block instead of general anaesthetic and morphine is found to reduce the recurrence or spread of cancer it would be free and implementable immediately worldwide.

Professor Buggy concludes: "We've come up with a question and hypothesis, and there is enough of a signal to suggest we keep examining this. I collect blood sample from the patients before and after surgery. We've exposed that blood to cancer cells in the lab and found differences. Ultimately there's something about the anaesthetic technique that is changing the environment in the blood, making it conducive or not to cancer."

Professor Donal Buggy was in conversation with Marie Boran (BSc 2002), a freelance science and technology writer.

Books

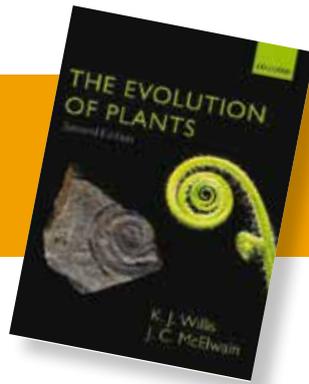


Death, Burial, and the Afterlife

Death is the single thing that unites all human beings and therefore the topic of death has often beckoned thoughts of interest, fear, contemplation and even anticipation. Social perspectives on death have not only evolved over time, but vary amongst different societies, giving a broad framework for academics to address their research on death. The *Dublin Death Studies* established by UCD academics, acts as a forum for which scholars can share their interest, work and research on death and incorporate their studies into an impressive collection of essays.

Death, Burial, and the Afterlife, the first volume of *Dublin Death Studies*, investigates death as an 'individual, social and metaphorical phenomenon' that acts as the ultimate 'commonality' between all human beings. This collection of essays, edited by UCD academics Dr Philip Cottrell, School of Art History and Cultural Policy and Dr Wolfgang Marx, School of Music, presents an in-depth investigation of the subject of death within a cross-disciplinary framework spanning art history, classics, history, music, languages and literatures. Published by Carysfort Press, it paints a diverse and coherent examination of death addressing themes such as fear of death, the role of death in shaping human identity, the 'taming' of death through ritual or aesthetic sublimation and the utilisation of death to manipulate social and political ends. Contributors include Dr Judith Devlin, School of History & Archives, Dr Bridget Martin, School of Classics, Dan Farrelly, Deirdre O'Grady and Dr Douglas Smith (emeritus or current members of the UCD School of Languages and Literatures). The collection also includes an essay contributed by Dr Pádraic Conway, late Vice-President for University Relations, to whose memory the book is dedicated.

Death, Burial and the Afterlife demonstrates the interdisciplinary nature of UCD's College of Arts and Celtic Studies through this exemplary volume of essays.



Evolving views on the evolution of plants

The persistent and durable nature of plants has seen them survive thousands of years, and for this reason plants offer a 'fascinating record.' In recent years, however, the traditional theory that the evolution of plants is a gradual process has been challenged. In respect to the latest advancement in evolutionary studies, a new study has been published to address the evolution of plants in its present framework.

After the unprecedented success of the first edition, authors Professor Kathy Willis, University of Oxford and Professor Jennifer McElwain, UCD School of Biology & Environmental Science, have now published a second edition of *The Evolution of Plants*. Published by Oxford University Press, the new edition analyses the evolution of plants using fossil records in light of these current theories and the advancement of evolutionary studies that has taken place in recent years. This well written and researched edition brings together information from the plant fossil record with genotypic data from biomolecular studies to explore biological evolution in a coherent, unified way. It offers an in-depth examination of the evolutionary patterns of plants over the past 3.5 billion years, evidence for mass extinction and persistent plant population compared to animal fossil records and a revised study of evolutionary trends in light of these current challenging theories.



Marian Evans before George Eliot

From the 'overnight' success of *Adam Bede* in 1859, the public speculated about the background of its author George Eliot and sought exposure to this new literary star as part of the growing frenzy of celebrity making that marked the later decades of the nineteenth century. Marian

Evans, however, refused to cooperate with any efforts to make 'George Eliot' visible. A new publication *Before George Eliot: Marian Evans and the Periodical Press*, revisits the first decade of Marian Evans' working life to explore the influence of the periodical press on her emergence as George Eliot and on her subsequent responses to fame.

Written by Dr Fionnuala Dillane, School of English, Drama and Film, and published by Cambridge University Press, the book is part of the Cambridge Studies in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture series. Before she began her fiction career with *Scenes of Clerical Life* (1857), Evans worked variously as a translator, journalist, reviewer and editor, most notably for liberal quarterly, the *Westminster Review*.

By focusing on the first decade of Evans' working life as an editor, journalist and serial fiction writer, Dillane demonstrates how the writer evaluated and experienced the role of the press from many perspectives. Thus the book offers a reorientation of George Eliot studies, of nineteenth-century media history and of debates about the professionalization of female authorship in the nineteenth-century.



Ibernia Fabulosa: Fabulous Ireland

According to Petrarch, the Father of the Renaissance, Ireland was almost as well known to the Italians as Italy itself. Visiting Ireland from the comfort of their armchairs, his followers thus knew for a fact that the Irish ate their fathers and slept with their mothers, were welcoming and inhospitable, and were the best and the worst of Christians, and that Ireland was home to St Patrick's Purgatory, where you could visit the otherworld, save your soul and your business, and locate your missing relatives.

A new book, *Fabulous Ireland: Imagining Ireland in Renaissance Italy* examines Italian descriptions of Ireland in the context of the Renaissance rediscovery of ancient culture and reinvention of geography and historiography, the fashioning of the self and the other, and travel writing. Written by Dr Eric Haywood, UCD School of Languages and Literature, and published by Peter Lang, the book examines changing perceptions of Ireland across eras and among a host of writers, geographers and scholars including Francesco Chiericati, Andrea da Barberino, Strabo, and Paulo Giovo. The author argues that the intellectuals of the time were more interested in 'truth for' than in 'truth about' and that they imagined Ireland differently in different circumstances, populating it with their own fantasies, so that its otherness would pose no threat to their sense of self.



At the official unveiling of the sculpture 'The Portal' by Catherine Greene at the UCD Sutherland School of Law in June were (l-r) Ms Áine Gibbons, Vice-President for Development; Mr David Clarke; UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks; Mr Vivian Cummins; Ms Catherine Greene; Dean of Law Professor Colin Scott; Sutherland Chair in European Law, Professor Imelda Maher; Mrs Justice Fidelma Macken; and Mr Ron Bolger

Humanities Institute co-founder elected as British Academy fellow

Professor Anne Fuchs, Professor of German Studies at the University of Warwick and a co-founder of the UCD Humanities Institute, was recently elected as a fellow of the British Academy, in recognition of her outstanding research. Professor Fuchs was welcomed into the Fellowship by President of the British Academy, Professor Lord Nicholas Stern of Brentford, who said: "Our Fellows are elected from across the UK for their distinction in the humanities and social sciences. Together they represent an unrivalled reserve of expertise and knowledge."

Between 1992 and 2010 Professor Fuchs was lecturer, senior lecturer and then Professor of Modern German Literature and Culture at UCD, where she co-founded the UCD Humanities Institute in 2002. In 2004 and 2005 she directed the UCD Humanities Institute with responsibility for the PhD programme and the implementation of the interdisciplinary research programme on *Memory and Meaning in the 21st Century*. The award of a UCD Senior Fellowship in 2010 helped her to complete her research on *After the Dresden Bombing: Pathways of Memory, 1945 to the Present*. In 2011 she accepted the Chair of German at the University of St Andrews before moving to Warwick in January 2012.

UCD hosts U21 health sciences workshop

UCD College of Health Sciences hosted the fourth annual U21 European UNMDG (United Nations Millennium Development Goals) Workshop in June this year.

The European UNMDG initiative was developed by the Universitas 21 (U21) Health Sciences Group, one of the collaborative groups of Universitas 21, an international network of 27 leading research-intensive universities, in seventeen countries. The U21 UNMDG initiative is creating educational resources for health sciences students in order to raise their awareness and understanding of the UN Millennium Development Goals and their potential implications for practice.

Dr Martin McNamara, Dean of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems and Ms Nadia D'Alton, Health Sciences Programme Office

Director, as members of the U21 steering committee, led the hosting of the fourth U21 European UNMDG student workshop at the UCD Charles Institute for dermatology.

Some 45 health sciences students from across Europe, representing a range of disciplines including medicine, nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, dental, pharmacy and public health attended the workshop. The aim of the workshop was to help students understand the UNMDGs and stimulate inter-professional problem solving. The students engaged in group-based case-studies and delivered group presentations at the end of the workshop.

The U21 members and students will look forward to the next workshop which will be held in Lund, Sweden in 2015.

Big Data award for UCD visiting professor

Professor Toyotaro Suzumura, a visiting Associate Professor in the Performance Engineering Lab at the School of Computer Science and Informatics, and his JST CREST team have won first place in the latest Graph 500 'Big Data' benchmarking ranking. His team used the K computer, located in Kobe, Japan, in collaboration with RIKEN and Tokyo Institute of Technology. The results were announced on June 23 at the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC14, www.isc-events.com/isc14/) held in Leipzig, Germany.

The Graph 500 ranking is a relatively new benchmark, first issued in 2010, which measures the ability of supercomputers to perform big data processing on data-intensive loads, with the goal of improving computing on complex data problems in five key areas: cybersecurity, medical informatics, data enrichment, social networks, and symbolic networks.

By carrying out a series of optimizations at the level of algorithms and software

implementation, Professor Suzumura's team was able to solve a 'breadth-first search' of an extremely large graph (over 1 billion nodes and 17 billion edges) in less than 1 second. With this achievement it placed first in this year's Graph 500 ranking. In second place was the Sequoia computer at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in the USA; the Mira computer at the Argonne National Laboratory in the USA was in third place.



A sample of one of the coins in a collection made available to view by the UCD Classical Museum and UCD Library: silver denarius in the name of C. Julius Caesar, 46-45 BC, (UCD 2179). Obverse side shows the head of Venus and reverse features captives and a trophy pile with oval shields

Roman Coins Go Online

The UCD Classical Museum and UCD Library have collaborated to make an important collection of ancient coins available for viewing and research on the web.

Amongst the substantial collection of antiquities from the Mediterranean housed in the UCD Classical Museum are a large number of ancient coins. The museum's founder, Rev. Henry Browne, was a keen collector of coins from Greece and the Roman world and found them valuable aids for teaching Classics early in the twentieth century. Highlights of this extensive numismatic collection are on display in the museum, with a recent project turning to digitisation to further widen access to the material. This project, supported by UCD Seed Funding awarded to Dr Philip de Souza of the School of Classics, focused on 262 important coins from the Roman Republican period. Highlights include early cast bronze coins from the third century BC known as *aes grave*, and types issued in the names of some of the key political figures of the first century BC, such as Julius Caesar (pictured) and Mark Antony. Several ancient forgeries or *fourées*, where a base metal is coated in silver, were also discovered by numismatist Dr Nicholas Wright during the project.

The online collection of Roman Republican Coins, hosted by the UCD Digital Library, makes it easy to discover and review detailed descriptions and images of coins in the

Classical Museum. The project also makes the descriptive data available as Linked Data in a format used internationally by numismatics specialists—the Numismatic Description Standards. This approach has made it possible for the Museum's data about this collection to be integrated with *RRC Online*, a new international database of Roman coins from the Republican period hosted by the American Numismatic Society. A similar project, supported by a Heritage Council grant, is currently underway to conserve, digitise and link the Museum's Roman Imperial coins to *Online Coins of the Roman Empire*.

John Howard, UCD Librarian, noted that "The collaboration with the Classical Museum represents an example of how UCD Library's digital services can help curators of UCD cultural heritage collections apply best practices of resource documentation and to extend access to rare and unique research resources."

The coins are available online at http://dx.doi.org/10.7925/drs1.ucdclm_10. The Museum is open to the public and visits also can be arranged by contacting the curator: joanna.day@ucd.ie.

First Ireland-Japan Social Science symposium

Four academics presented at the first Ireland-Japan Social Science symposium at the University of Tokyo on the 21st June 2014. They were: Professor Tony Fahey, Dean, Sutherland School of Law; Professor of Social Policy, School of Applied Social Science; Dr Michelle Norris, senior lecturer, School of Applied Social Science; and Dr Naonori Kodate, lecturer, School of Applied Social Science.

The one-day symposium *Sharing knowledge, shaping the future of the welfare society in Europe and Japan* was hosted and sponsored by the University of Tokyo's Policy Alternatives Research Institute (PARI), the Japan Foundation, and the Institute of Business Law and Comparative Law & Politics, Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, UT.

The topics covered included policy issues surrounding housing, family, maternity services and regulation of social services. The symposium, open to the public, attracted many participants, primarily researchers from a variety of policy fields – law, economics, politics, medicine, nursing, and public policy. The event generated discussions and interest in Irish contemporary society amongst Japanese participants, with the results to be published in the *University of Tokyo Journal of Law and Politics* later this year.

The event was held as the first of the two symposia that are co-ordinated by Dr Naonori Kodate. The Ireland-Japan Social Science Symposia (IrJaSS) is a one-year project funded by the Japan Foundation, and its second symposium will take place on the 19th of September in Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, bringing four academics to Ireland from Japan. The main academic host will be the UCD Public Policy Programme, College of Human Sciences. More information on the Dublin symposium, can be found at the www.ucd.ie/appsocsc/irjass/dublinsymposium/ website.

Acmhainní aistriúcháin ar an bhfón póca: cúrsa trialach

Duine ar bith a bhíonn ag plé le teagasc teanga tuigeann sé go binn a chumhachtaí agus a chontúirtí is atá na foclóirí móra don mhac léinn. Foinse gach focail iad don té a thuigeann, foinse gach focaill dá mhalairt; ach ina dhiaidh sin is beag is féidir a dhéanamh dá n-uireasa. Dá réir sin shocraigh an Dr Máirtín Coilféir ar mhodúl chéad bhliana a athchóiriú i Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh, Bhéalóideas Éireann agus na Teangeolaíochta anuraidh, modúl a fhéachann le feabhas a chur ar scileanna scríbhneoireachta acadúla na mac léinn agus a chuireann oiliúint foclóra

orthu chuige sin. Seachas a bheith ag plé leis na leaganacha clóite de na foclóirí is tábhachtaí, áfach, eagraíodh sraith léachtaí a tháinig i dtír ar fhóin phóca na scoláirí agus ar na hacmhainní leictreonacha atá ar fáil ag www.focloir.ie agus www.focal.ie.

Tá cuid mhaith buntáistí ag roinnt lena leithéid de chur chuige: tá na téacsanna údarásacha i bhfad níos éadroma ar an bhfón ná mar a bheadh sa mála; spreagann sé na mic léinn le focail a chuardach láithreach seachas a bheith ag fanacht ar an gcóip chrua; agus freastalaíonn sé ar na scileanna teicneolaíochta agus cumarsáide atá acu cheana.

Mar sin míníodh buntáistí agus míbhuntáistí na bhfoinse leictreonacha éagsúla sna léachtaí agus cuireadh na scoláirí ag aistriú leaganacha casta leis na fóin. Tarraingíodh aird ar réimeanna cúí teanga, ar nodaireacht na bhfoclóirí agus ar ghaistí iomadúla an aistriútheora (comhainmneacha, focail ilchiallacha, srl). Faoi dheireadh na sraithe bhí riar breá téacsanna tiontaíthe go Gaeilge agus go Béarla leis an bhfón, ó *Harry Potter* go téarmaíocht farraige, agus cuid de na botúin is coitianta sa bpróiseas aitheanta agus pléite leis na scoláirí. Rinneadh cleachtaí níos cuimsithí sna ranganna teagaisc i rith na seachtaine agus bhí na scileanna foclóra sin ina mbunús don chuid eile den chúrsa, sa léachtlann agus sa seomra teagaisc araon.



Pictured at the Driving Innovation in the Irish Agri-food System Conference in June were (l-r) from: Prof. Michael Monaghan, Principal, UCD College of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine; Prof. Alexander Evans, Head, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science; Prof. Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact; Mr Simon Coveney TD, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Marine; Prof. Alan Renwick, UCD Professor of Agriculture and Food Economics; and Mr Sean Farrell, Head of Agriculture, Bank of Ireland

■ Innovation in the Irish Agri-food sector

Ireland has the 5th most innovative agri-food sector in the European Union behind Denmark, Finland, Germany and the Netherlands, according to a recent report published by UCD and sponsored by Bank of Ireland.

The report entitled *Innovation in the Irish Agri-food Sector* was compiled by UCD researchers following interviews with stakeholders from across the sector, and an analysis of data from Eurostat, the OECD, and the Teagasc National Farm Survey. It was launched at the 'Driving Innovation in the Irish Agri-food System' conference held in UCD in June, sponsored by the *Irish Farmers Journal*, Grant Thornton, Enterprise Ireland and Bank of Ireland.

The findings show that the most innovative farmers in Ireland tend to have higher farm incomes, are less dependent on subsidies, invest more, have larger farms and be younger in age. The report also identifies several barriers

to innovation including the structure of farm businesses and a lack of land mobility. It also shows that the sector is strong in terms of research capacity, overall education levels, and favourable tax regimes to encourage business innovation.

"It is very encouraging to see that Ireland ranks fifth in terms of innovation in the agri-food sector in the EU, according to this comprehensive report compiled by University College Dublin" said the Minister for Agriculture, Marine and Food, Simon Coveney TD.

"But the real value of this report is that it has identified several key areas where barriers to innovation in the sector exist. Barriers we can work to target and gradually lift in order to further support the sector towards becoming more innovative," he said.

"Our universities, third-level institutes and the agri-food sector must work more closely together to build more applicable knowledge that can help further develop and grow the sector and, in turn, our economy," added the Minister.

■ A new look at the solid-liquid interface

Interesting things happen at interfaces and where solids meet liquids is no exception. Understanding the complex phenomena taking place at the 'solid-liquid' interface could give important clues about how to build better medical devices and longer-lasting batteries, but to date it has been difficult to get a handle on how chemical ions in solution behave at this crucial juncture

A team led by Dr Brian Rodriguez, UCD Conway Institute for Biomolecular and Biomedical research and UCD School of Physics, has developed a new tool to build up a clearer picture of what is going on at this interface, and crucially, can do this on the nanoscale. The procedure, published recently in *Nature Communications*, stands to enable research in biological and materials science.

What happens on the atomic level at this interface can have an impact at a more visible or macroscopic level - the way the body functions, or how quickly a battery drains, for example - so techniques that can operate on atomic-length scales can improve our fundamental understanding of materials and devices.

Existing techniques, such as the atomic force microscope, already allow researchers to get a good 'view' of physical structures at the solid-liquid interface but not how ions behave at this interface. Dr Rodriguez set out to join structural information with electrochemical function.

The team, which included colleagues in UCD, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA and Taras Shevchenko Kiev National University, Ukraine, developed a new technique called electrochemical force microscopy (EcFM). This provides a clearer picture of what is going on at the key solid-liquid interface in situ rather than making measurements in air and extrapolating to liquids.

The immediate benefit coming out of this EcFM technique will be a better understanding of energy systems such as double-layer capacitors and lithium ion batteries that in turn should allow improvements the efficiency and lifetime of devices.

■ Irish Consumer Confidence Increases 19 Points Since 2013

UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School and the Marketing Institute launched their Consumer Market Monitor for Q2 2014 in mid-August, showing that consumer confidence now stands at +8.4, an increase of over 19 points compared to the same period in 2013.

The data shows that the consumer economy is finally showing definite signs of recovery. Consumer confidence increased steadily through 2013, rising to a record level of +10 in Q1 2014, and this improving confidence

has also begun to feed through into consumer spending.

Mary Lambkin, Professor of Marketing, UCD Smurfit School, and one of the authors of the monitor, said: "Consumer spending accounts for over 60% of GNP in Ireland and is a critical factor in driving any recovery of the economy. Consumer spending is affected by the combined influences of how much money people have available to spend coupled with their confidence in spending it. Disposable incomes are still under pressure but increasing confidence coupled with greater availability of

credit is at last leading to significant growth in many categories of goods and services."

The Consumer Market Monitor relies on a model of consumer behaviour that sees economic variables such as income levels, taxes, interest rates and exchange rates influencing consumer confidence which, in turn, influences consumer behaviour including spending, saving and borrowing. The Monitor uses quarterly data collected from sources including the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the Central Bank, the European Commission, and various other secondary sources.



Chelsea Clinton visited UCD in June where she hosted 'At Work: A No Ceilings Conversation' - to hear directly from women about entering and succeeding in the workforce. The event was part of the Clinton Foundation's No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project, working to advance progress for women and girls around the world. She also took time to visit the UCD Clinton Institute, which was established in 2003 and named in honour of her father former US President William Jefferson Clinton, in recognition of his own crucial and personal role, as well as the US Government, Congress and People in the Irish Peace Process

UCD Architects John Tuomey and Sheila O'Donnell top the Shard

At the prestigious Royal Institute of British Architects awards ceremony on 6th May 2014, the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre at the London School of Economics was awarded the RIBA London Building of the Year Award and a RIBA Regional (London) Award. Designed by Dublin architectural firm O'Donnell +Tuomey, the building was shortlisted alongside 64 other exceptional buildings across the capital, including the Shard and Zaha Hadid's Aquatics Centre. The firm was established in 1988 by John Tuomey, UCD Professor of Architectural Design and Sheila O'Donnell, part-time studio lecturer in the School of Architecture.

The firm's LSE Saw Swee Hock Student Centre was subsequently awarded Best International Building at the 2014 Irish Architecture Awards in June.

Advancing Advocacy in Ireland

UCD Sutherland School of Law in July hosted a two-day programme 'Advocacy Training in Ireland', run by Stetson University College of Law, based in Gulfport, Florida. This was a very successful sell-out event, attended by legal practitioners, academics, and law students. The programme taught the renowned Stetson method of trial advocacy.

"This new programme reinforces Stetson's commitment to teaching advocacy in a global marketplace." said Stetson Law Dean Christopher M. Pietruszkiewicz. "Our trial advocacy program is ranked number one in the US and we are delighted to offer Stetson advocacy training to our legal partners in Ireland for the first time."

Programme sessions included the Psychology of Persuasive Storytelling, Increasing the Persuasive Power of Direct Examination, and Conducting Cross-Examination with a Purpose. Michael Collins SC provided the keynote address to participants. Mr Collins SC is an expert in commercial, competition and EU law at the Irish Bar and appears regularly before the Supreme Court of Ireland and European Court of Justice.

Supporting the Next Generation of the Irish Diaspora

The UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies recently launched a report on government support for the vulnerable Irish. Funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the report is titled *Supporting the Next Generation of the Irish Diaspora*. It examines in detail the work of the Emigrant Support Programme, which was formed in 2004 to provide support for vulnerable Irish migrants and diaspora communities abroad. It scopes the changing profile and needs of Irish emigrants in relation to the Government's strategic objectives in engaging the diaspora and considers how best these objectives may continue to be met. It reviews and analyses current data on the Irish abroad, with particular focus on the Irish in Britain, the United States, Australia and Canada. The full report is available on the www.ucd.ie/clinton website.

A perfect brainstorm

The UCD School of Mathematical Sciences hosted the European Study group with Industry (ESGI) between 30 June and 4 July 2014. The workshop brought together mathematicians, statisticians, and applied and computational scientists from a wide range of backgrounds to work on real-world problems posed by industrial partners.

Originating in Oxford in 1968, ESGI events have since been held several times a year across Europe, and were first brought to Ireland by the Mathematics Applications Consortium for Science and Industry (MACSI) at the University of Limerick in 2008. Thanks to the active participation of UCD scientists in the previous study groups, the European Consortium for Mathematics in Industry awarded UCD a right to organise this event in 2014.

Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, inaugurated the work shop and introduced the companies, which challenged the workshop participants with problems that required not only knowledge and expertise, but also non-standard approaches to their solution. The five working groups led by the UCD mathematicians and statisticians applied their brainpower to solve the problems coming from different industries and various

companies ranging from the start-up to the multinational corporation.

The workshop was supported by a grant from the SFI Conferences & Workshops Scheme, by UCD School of Mathematical Sciences and by UCD Online. UCD and University of Limerick – two Irish universities with a long tradition of research in applied and computational mathematics and statistics – were represented in all working groups.



The UCD Ladies team who recently won the Intermediate coxed 4 at the London Met were: Aileen Crowley, Siofra Bennett, Aisling O'Leary, Orla Finnegan and Breanna Larsen

Rowing successes for UCD

UCD Men's Intermediate 8 had a big win in the Cork Regatta at the NRC. UCD followed up the Cork Regatta with a fantastic win at National Championships at the National Rowing Centre in Cork. Turlough Hughes won the Men's Intermediates and with the team of Pat Gannon, Michael Noonan, Piers Ryan, Hugo Mays, Jack Brennan, Eoghan O'Connor, Mark Doyle, Joe Ronaldson, Max Murphy and Orlagh Reid, UCD claimed the Novice 8's. Irish rowers Niall Kenny and Paul O'Donovan teamed up to win the Senior Pair. The ladies and men's both won the Intermediate 8's with the men winning the senior 4 and placing 3rd in the senior 8's.

UCD's Paul O'Donovan, Niall Kenny and UCD Graduate Claire Lambe were all selected to represent Ireland at the World Cup 2 in Aiguebelette, France in June. Paul O'Donovan went on to win the B Final of the lightweight single sculls at the World Cup Regatta. The UCD man was fourth at 500 metres but headed the field in the final quarter and moved clear to win well and secure seventh overall.

O'Donovan won his heat and had a great second place win in the semi-finals to qualify for the LMX1 final at the World Under-23 Rowing Championships at Varese in Italy. In a tight race Paul finished a tremendous 4th place overall just outside the medals.

At the London Met, the UCD Ladies were hugely successful with wins in the Intermediate coxed 4 and the Intermediate 8's. The 8 was

won by 3/4 of a length and the 4 by a canvas. The team was Aileen Crowley, Ruth Gilligan, Grace Collins, Siofra Bennett, Aisling O'Leary, Claire Harrison, Breanna Larsen, Orla Finnegan and Aoife Gilligan. And Aileen Crowley, Siofra Bennett, Aisling O'Leary, Orla Finnegan and Breanna Larsen competing in the 4's.



UCD 2nd year medical student and Ad Astra Elite Athlete, Mark English, with his Bronze medal for the 800m at the European Athletics Championships

UCD medicine student claims Bronze in European Athletics Championships

At the European Athletics Championships held in Zurich in August, UCD 2nd year medical student and Ad Astra Elite Athlete, Mark English became Ireland's first ever winner of a medal in the 800 metres at a major championships, when he ran a seasons best to win the Bronze in a high quality field.

Running a perfect tactical race, he moved up from the back of the field to finish strongly and claim his piece of Irish athletics history.

Speaking immediately after the result, UCD Elite Athlete Director, Professor Colin Boreham said "We are so proud of Mark's achievement

in Zurich, and send our hearty congratulations to him and his family. At the age of 21, he has the ability to go to the very top in world athletics. All of us in the Ad Astra Elite Athlete academy are delighted to have played a part in his marvellous success."

European Summer Success for Women's Soccer

The Republic of Ireland U19's, Captained by UCD's Chloe Mustaki, secured a memorable victory as the Republic of Ireland beat Spain 1-0 on their UEFA Women's U19 Championship debut in Oslo, Norway. They went on to beat England and Sweden to finish top of the group, only to see their incredible run to the last four of the European championship end at the semi-final stage when they were beaten 4-0 by the Netherlands.

The UCD Women's team meanwhile were making their way to the EUSA Games in Rotterdam to compete in the Futsal competition, their qualification based on their Irish Futsal championship win in Cork in January.

The team faced a strong opposition in their first three games against Ege University Turkey, top seed University of Rouen and Russian side State University-Education-Science-Production-Complex and unfortunately did not qualify through to the final stages of the tournament. In the play-offs they finished 9th overall in the competition, which is the highest seed ever by an Irish team.



Students (l-r) Kailee Schmitt (University of Nebraska) and Ryan Profetto, Campbell O'Connor and Rubby Koomson (all University of Connecticut) celebrate 4th July during the UCD Nursing Summer School

American students benefit from UCD Nursing expertise

The UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems this year played host to 59 American students who took part in the School's third annual Nursing Summer School. Taking place over six weeks from the start of June, it offered US undergraduate students the opportunity to take between 5 and 15 ECTS across three modules focusing on 'Research for

Nursing Practice' and 'Comparative Health Systems'. The students, who come from a variety of health sciences disciplines, spend from two to six weeks living on campus and attending classes.

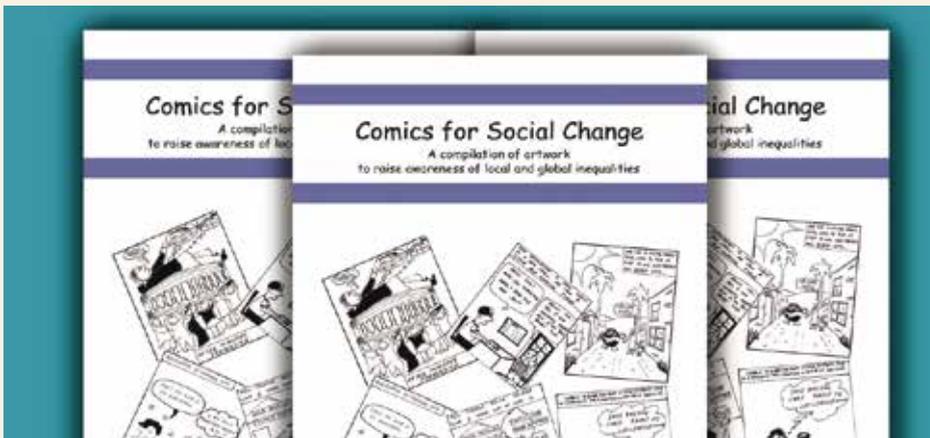
This year 15 US schools were represented, with enquiries coming in already regarding next year's programme. According to the Dean and Head of School, Dr Martin McNamara, the Summer School "has proved extremely popular with US students and is well regarded by their faculty. It broadens students' understanding by providing them with an opportunity to compare their health system to European and Irish models. It also deepens their understanding of a defined area of healthcare by affording them the chance to work closely with an experienced researcher on a short research project."

UCD students to compete in Enactus world cup final

A team of UCD students, led by Aoife Buckley, an MSc student in Management Consultancy in the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, will represent Ireland at the 2014 Enactus World Cup final. This prestigious event will take place in Beijing, China from 22 to 24 October. The other members of the UCD winning team are students; Roisín Lee, Constantin Lenk, Patricia Kastner, Cian O'Sullivan and Andrea Harvey.

The UCD students will compete against teams from 35 countries at this annual global showcase event where they will present the results of their community outreach projects.

The UCD team will represent Ireland as winners of the 2014 Enactus Ireland National Competition for their social entrepreneurship project entitled Generation Accommodation. Particularly timely given the challenges facing students in acquiring quality accommodation in Dublin, the project seeks to match responsible students with elderly people living alone.



The 'Comics for Social Change' book, one of the projects undertaken by UCDVO students this summer

Comics for social change

In June 2014, UCDVO piloted a new project in the northeast region of India, in partnership with Assam Don Bosco University (ABDU) and the Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre. The students from UCD and ABDU spent the month living and working together, learning about each other's cultures, practices and traditions. Among their projects were a number of community development initiatives including physiotherapy support, youth clubs, women's groups, renovation of pre-school centres and awareness raising campaigns.

One action project was the production of a book titled Comics for Social Change. The book is a compilation of comics drawn by students from UCD and ABDU which aims to raise awareness of local and global inequalities. The book contains fifty comics on different themes: child rights, domestic affairs, education, environment, gender, health, livelihoods and social services.

The book is available for free download via <http://web.dbuniversity.ac.in/comics-for-social-change/UCDVO> requests that a minimum donation of €5 is made by those who would like to use this book further. Donations can be made online via: <http://www.mycharity.ie/charity/ucdvo>

A total of 118 volunteers participated in the 2013/14 UCDVO programme which included placements in India, Haiti, Nicaragua, Tanzania and Uganda.



A cover of the first edition of The University Observer. On 7 October 2014 it will celebrate 20 years of being at the heart of student news in UCD. Founded by acclaimed Irish journalist Pat Leahy and renowned Irish Comedian Dara Ó Briain, the paper has offered a first home to many of Ireland's top journalists