

UCD

# today

AUTUMN 2016



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## Living in Dublin



*EILIS O'BRIEN*  
Director of Communication and Marketing

**Every August we take a stream of media calls about accommodation. 'How much' and 'how many' are the main questions but, this year we detected a stronger sense of anxiety as the City's homeless problem reached an appalling new high. Official figures show there are now 3,798 homeless people in the Dublin Region – over 50% of the national total.**

In order to meet the housing need, some 20,000 homes need to be built every year, including more than 8,000 in the Dublin region, according to the Government's Housing Agency. But, in 2015, only 12,666 homes were built compared with 93,419 at the height of the boom in 2006.

The figures in Dublin were particularly poor (2,891) last year with only

Fingal County Council showing an increase.

Addressing the housing crisis has become a Government priority with Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Simon Coveney, TD announcing an action plan for 'Rebuilding Ireland'.

When Minister Coveney, along with his colleagues, Richard Bruton and Damien English, visited Belfield for the official opening of 354 new beds at Ashfield Students Residences, the President took the opportunity to outline the UCD Campus Development Plan, which includes an additional 3,000 student residences, bringing the on-campus population to over 6,000. The vision is to create a hub with genuine urban facilities for those living on campus.

Projected student numbers and undersupply of private rental accommodation means that if we can construct additional residences under a single masterplan rather than continually adding piece-meal small developments we will not only create a vibrant community on-campus but relieve some of the pressure on the private rental sector.

But, the delivery of such a coherent masterplan requires a more efficient planning process in terms of the speed at which stages and interactions with the regulatory authorities take place. And, as experience has shown, the current public procurement environment, as well as financial structural obstacles, mitigate against public institutions such as ourselves.

At the opening of Ashfield, Minister Coveney gave his commitment to facilitating our residences plan through the clearance of blockages on the planning and procurement processes. He will, we hope, shortly introduce legislation that enables developments such as our student residences go directly to An Bord Pleanála and reform the current standard contract for procurement of construction services. He has also given his commitment to facilitating access to funds by, for example, the formation of an approved housing body by the University.

Such measures would deliver a win-win. Students would have a real living community and Government could concentrate on the needs of families and individuals who so urgently need a stable and long-term home.

Action during this Dáil term will tell us much about the Government's will to deliver.

## UCD thanks...

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Cover image: Paul O'Donovan, UCD 4th Year Physiotherapy student and Ad Astra athlete with his brother Gary O'Donovan at the Rio 2016 Olympics having won the silver medal in the Men's Lightweight Double Sculls Rowing.

Picture credit: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile



## 354 new campus residences at UCD

**The Minister for Education and Skills, Mr Richard Bruton TD, the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Mr Simon Coveney TD, and the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Renewal, Mr Damien English TD visited UCD's Belfield campus on 23 August for the official opening of an additional 354 residences at the newly built Ashfield student accommodation. This brings the total number of residences on campus to 3,164.**

The Campus Development Plan 2016-2021-2026 was also unveiled on the day. Among the planned developments are an additional 3,000 student residences, bringing the on-campus population to over 6,000 or over 24% of the total UCD student population.

There is currently a critical undersupply of student accommodation in Dublin. For over 80,000 third level students, there are less than 10,000 purpose-built student bed spaces both on and off university campuses. The 2015 'Report on Student Accommodation: Demand & Supply' by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) estimates an existing level of unmet demand of about 25,000 student bed spaces nationally.

The ministers outlined their broad support for the plan and committed to expedite the critical enablers for delivery, including fast tracking planning directly to An Bord Pleanála, as well as improving access to funding.

"Demand for student accommodation in Dublin continues to outstrip supply," said UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks. "As part of our overall university strategic plan, we want to develop world-class facilities to ensure we continue to attract the highest calibre of both



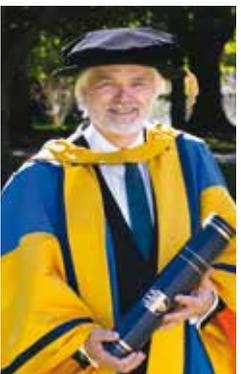
*Pictured at the launch of UCD Ashfield Residence were (l-r): Minister for Education and Skills, Mr Richard Bruton TD; Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Mr Simon Coveney TD; Minister of State for Housing and Urban Renewal, Mr Damien English TD; UCD residential assistant students, Jessica McHugh and Dylan Quinn McMahon; and UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks*

students and staff. I am delighted that UCD can assuage the concerns of parents of first year and overseas students by offering purpose-built student residences."

The first residences on Belfield campus, Belgrove, were built in the 1980s and have been recently refurbished and upgraded. Ashfield Residences were designed by Michael Collins Associates and built by Collen Construction. Each apartment has six en-suite bedrooms with a shared kitchen and living room. There are 15 apartments in each of three buildings at Ashfield, and 14 in one block which also has a large multi-purpose lounge area for students.



*One of the bedrooms in the new UCD Ashfield student residences*



*UCD recently awarded honorary degrees to a remarkable group of individuals who have achieved distinction in their fields of endeavour, including (l-r): Dame Hilary Mantel, Harry Kehoe, Emily Logan, Professor Michael Hout, Professor of Sociology at New York University; Dervilla Mitchell and Professor Sir Barrington Windsor Cunliffe, Emeritus Professor of European Archaeology at the University of Oxford*

## UCD bestows honours during graduation week

**Some 3,300 undergraduate, masters and PhD students graduated at UCD between 5 and 9 September, joining over 270,000 strong cohort of UCD alumni worldwide.**

During this week of ceremonies, a remarkable group of individuals, who have achieved distinction in their fields of endeavour, were awarded honorary degrees by the University.

Dervilla Mitchell is a director with Arup in London and was conferred with a Degree of Doctor of Science. Dervilla is most renowned for

her aviation projects in London, Dublin and Abu Dhabi, with her most notable role as Head of Design Management for the £4.6 billion Heathrow's Terminal 5 construction project.

Harry Kehoe was conferred with a Degree of Doctor of Science in tribute to the outstanding role he has played in plant genetics and plant breeding in Ireland. During his career Harry has developed more than 35 potato varieties for the Irish market and the impact of his work reverberates globally.

Emily Logan was conferred with a Degree of Doctor of Laws. She is one of Ireland's foremost champions of human rights. Appointed as the first Ombudsman for Children in 2004, Emily was appointed in 2014 as Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.

Professor Sir Barrington Windsor Cunliffe was conferred with a Degree of Doctor of Celtic Studies, in recognition of his outstanding career

as one of the world's greatest archaeologists. He has informed, instructed and inspired students, colleagues and the wider public for more than half a century through an impressive series of collaborative archaeological projects and publications.

Professor Michael Hout was conferred with a Degree of Doctor of Literature to honour his outstanding contributions to sociology and demography over the course of his distinguished academic career. His research leads the field in the study of social change in inequality, religion and politics.

Dame Hilary Mantel was conferred with a Degree of Doctor of Literature, for her unique and compelling contribution to fiction, and to the writing of historical fiction in particular. She has received global recognition, with an unprecedented list of prizes and accolades, including the Man Booker Prize, which she won twice.

# UCD Hosts 25th European Access Network Conference

Over 180 delegates representing senior European Government and Higher Education figures from 20 countries attended the 25th European Access Network Conference in UCD from 29-31 May. The conference, hosted by UCD Access & Lifelong Learning, reflected on the achievements of the last twenty-five years made in access for under-represented students in higher education.

Delegates were challenged by key note speaker Professor Kathleen Lynch, UCD School of Education, to consider how “education and research are increasingly becoming tradable commodities which is hugely problematic for equality of access”. Another high profile speaker, Mr. Sjur Bergan, Head of the Education Department, Council of Europe urged delegates to consider that the greatest challenge facing Europe presently “is not terrorism, but the challenge of ignorance, which only education can address”.

The inaugural EAN Alumni Honours awards were presented during the conference by Mr. Jamie Merisotis, CEO of Lumina Foundation in the United States. These awards recognised the contribution of European alumni who gained entry to University through Access Programmes. Awardees included:

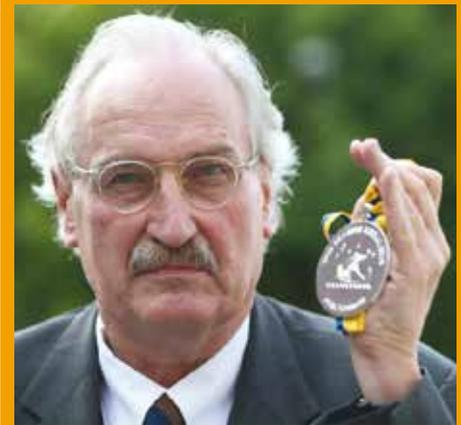
- Dr. Patrick Kelly, a medical graduate of UCD and now a Medical Officer in the Irish Army, part of the UN Peacekeeping mission in Golan Heights, received an award for innovations in delivering medical care to vulnerable people.
- Hannagh McGinley who received an award for leadership and advocacy to promote Traveller Education in Ireland.

- Gary Gannon, a Dublin city counsellor and Trinity College graduate received an award for outstanding and innovative contribution to politics and public engagement.



Fiona Sweeney (UCD Access and Lifelong Learning – ALL); Anna Kelly (UCD ALL), Dr Patrick Kelly, (UCD Medicine Graduate & Alumni Honours Awardee); Jennifer Murphy (UCD ALL) and Aine Murphy (UCD ALL)

Anna Kelly, Director, UCD Access & Lifelong Learning said, “Ireland and UCD are proud to host this prestigious European Access Conference. Access is in UCD’s DNA. Over 27% of student population comes from the under-represented groups, such as school leavers from low socio-economic backgrounds, mature students, students with a disability, as well as part-time students”.



Pictured: Professor Axel Honneth with his UCD Ulysses Medal

## UCD Ulysses Medal Awarded to Frankfurt School philosopher

On 7 June Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President presented the UCD Ulysses Medal to Professor Axel Honneth for his lifetime contribution to social philosophy and critical theory

“Professor Honneth has been instrumental in developing research programmes dealing with the effects of capitalist modernisation, social relations and struggles for social recognition,” said Dr Danielle Petherbridge, UCD School of Philosophy, who delivered the citation at the official award ceremony.

Professor Honneth is Director of the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt, the institutional home of the Frankfurt School. The Frankfurt School was formed as an alternative to the dominant capitalist versus socialist debate in the 1920s. The Frankfurt School took inspiration from the ideas of Karl Marx but opposed the communism of the Soviet Union. They developed their own brand of critical theory by drawing on a range of thinking including psychoanalysis and existential philosophy.

Professor Honneth has played a key role in advancing the philosophy of the Frankfurt School, particularly with his idea that social conflict is caused by a lack of recognition.

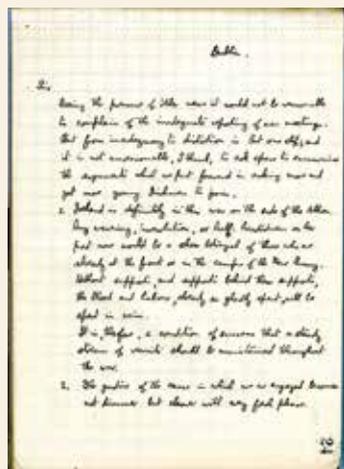
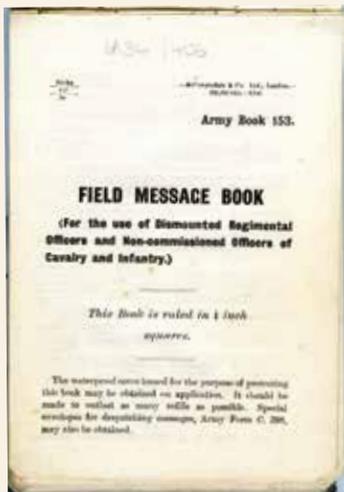
The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins sent a message to Professor Honneth on receipt of his award. The message was read out at the ceremony.

Professor Honneth currently holds the Chair in Social Philosophy at the Goethe University in Frankfurt. He is also Jack C. Weinstein Professor in Humanities in the Department of Philosophy at Columbia University.

The UCD Ulysses Medal was inaugurated in 2005 to highlight the creative brilliance of UCD alumnus James Joyce, who graduated in 1902 with a degree in English, French and Italian. It is UCD’s highest honour. Previous recipients of the UCD Ulysses Medal include former US President Bill Clinton, Professor Noam Chomsky and former Irish President Mary McAleese.

## 100th Anniversary of the death of Professor Tom Kettle at Ginchy on the Somme

The one hundredth anniversary of the death of Professor Tom Kettle at Ginchy, fell on 9 September. Kettle was a graduate of UCD. He was called to the bar in 1905 and elected Nationalist MP for East Tyrone in 1906. He resigned his seat in 1910 having been appointed to the Professorship of National Economics in UCD the previous year. In 1913, he joined the Irish Volunteers on their formation and was in Belgium to procure arms when the First World War broke out. He took a commission in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and was dismayed both by the Easter Rising and the subsequent executions. Kettle volunteered for active service and was killed in 1916. The collection of his papers held in UCD Archives includes significant material concerning his war service and some examples are included here. These, and other original documents, including items from UCD Special Collections, are on display in the foyer of UCD Archives during September and October.



Professor Tom Kettle’s Field Message Book contains printed instructions on field operations, handwritten notes on battle procedures, a fragment of a poem beginning, ‘It will be well to leave them the masoned walls’ and a draft letter to a newspaper editor, outlining the arguments in favour of Irish recruitment.

# Weighing up the global scales of 'justice'



**Professor Ben Tonra, Jean Monnet Professor of European, Foreign, Security and Defence Policy at the UCD School of Politics and International Relations, will lead a UCD team**

**as part of a larger multinational four-year global research project to help find a new focus and understanding of what 'justice' means in a global context. Here, he tells of his hopes and ambitions for the major undertaking.**

Professor Ben Tonra and his team from the UCD School of Politics and International Relations are seeking to establish what 'justice' truly means in the real-world contexts of governments and the people they govern.

Professor Tonra and his colleagues are setting out on an exhaustive, four-year complex project to distil what 'justice' has evolved to mean in its myriad manifestations against a huge variety of cultural, sociological, political and economic backdrops.

They are doing so with the aim of making senior EU policy makers better informed and attuned when drawing up, and assessing the ramifications and interpretations of its own policies within the international milieu.

The UCD team of political scientists, theorists and economists will partner academics from universities across four continents in the unique, far-reaching enquiry.

The research is possible because the project, entitled 'Reconsidering European Contributions to Global Justice (GLOBUS)', has been awarded €2.5m by the EU's Horizon 2020 programme.

According to Professor Tonra, the hope, simply put, is that their extensive research will bring greater understanding and accommodation of the term 'justice' and its administration within global societies.

The UCD team will partner with researchers at ARENA Centre for European Studies; University of Oslo, Norway; University of Tübingen, Germany; University of Bologna, Italy; University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg, South Africa; State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; O.P. Jindal Global University, India; and Renmin University of China.

Different teams will work on specific themes of international trade and development, climate change, migration and security and conflict resolution.

The UCD team is leading the work on Security and Conflict Resolution but colleagues will also be making critical contributions to the project's above-mentioned themes.

Professor Tonra says: "The whole area of foreign policy is hugely complicated. [In the West] we have our own understanding of what justice is. But in other countries, such as those in the Islamic world, and in China for example, there are different perspectives."

He adds: "What we are going to look at is how nations and governments look at the idea of international justice; how countries feel they are being treated. It is generally trying to get a sense of what we all see as international justice."

"So if you understand how other countries with different political systems and values to ours see things, that can be a big help for European foreign policy makers."

The aim, he says, is to feed back as much information of depth and quality to policy makers.

Underlining just how global the research will be in that regard, Professor Tonra says it will mean looking at the rationale of what 'justice' means from Brazil, to China, South Africa and the Russian Federation. "There will be very interesting bilateral conversations on all of these inter-relationships."

However, he makes an important point. While the work will lead to a better understanding and perception of what justice means in different societies, it does not necessarily follow that the EU and its member states need to qualify or

weaken their own stance and position on what they deem the concept and associated policy practice requires.

"We can't just throw [EU policy] aside as a compromise with other partners. But it can lead to a far better understanding of these other perspectives and that can better inform how the EU approaches these complex matters."

This is a real attempt to formulate a working overview of how governments and societies interact internally and externally in the real world of economics and politics.

His enthusiasm for the study stems not just from the breadth of the examination that lies ahead but, as one who travelled a lot in his own youth, he has an engrained sense of internationalism.

Born in the US, he grew up here and in the UK and the US.

"When I moved to Ireland, I was fascinated by the country's membership of the EU. Why share its hard-won sovereignty with European partners? I was also fascinated by Ireland's foreign policy." His PhD was on the impact of EU membership on Irish, Danish and Dutch foreign policy.

"Some argue that foreign policy is primarily concerned with a rational balance of costs and benefits and the pursuit of power. This project is rather about looking at how the perceptions of one's self identity and values translate into the international arena, how these then relate with those of other global partners and how then we attempt to address shared challenges such as migration, climate change, security and global prosperity."

And that would seem to be the vortex from which Professor Tonra, his team and the academics working with them will attempt to extract meaning and better understanding.

*Professor Ben Tonra was in conversation with Eddie Cunningham, a journalist with the Irish Independent*



Conference delegates in discussion during the European Congress for Educational Research

## UCD Hosts Largest Conference to Date

The Belfield campus was the location for this year's annual European Congress for Educational Research (ECER 2016), from 22-26 August, the annual conference of the European Educational Research Association.

Over 2,500 delegates from over 70 countries, presented in excess of 2,000 papers during the conference. The week began with a pre-conference where 380 PhD students from 50 European countries presented their work in progress, while mentoring was provided by faculty from the UCD School of Education. The Local Organising Committee, chaired by Professor Ciaran Sugrue, UCD School of Education, included Professor Dymrna Devine, Head of School, UCD School of Education; Professor Gerry Macruairc, UCD School of Education and Mary-Beth Jennings, UCD Conference and Events. Professor Colin Scott, Principal of the UCD College of Social Sciences and Law, was an enthusiastic supporter of the School of Education throughout the planning and facilitation of the conference.

A major highlight of the conference was the plenary session where the four keynote speakers formed a panel discussion, chaired by Professor Sugrue in an overflowing Theatre L, Newman, with an animated question and answer session between the audience and panel members.

Professor Sugrue said: "This was the largest conference hosted on the Belfield campus to date, utilising many of the key buildings at the centre of campus and providing the 65 parallel sessions as well as the plenary sessions; the campus as a facility for such a large event garnered very positive feedback, particularly catering, accommodation and AV. Feedback from EERA (European Educational Research Association) indicates 'one of the best conferences ever' in its more than 20 year history. Support from UCD Conference and Events was absolutely crucial to the success of the conference."



Pictured with the first graduates from BDIC were (l-r) front row: John Dunning, Associate Professor, UCD School of Computer Science; Michael Garvey, Project Officer, Beijing Dublin International College (BDIC); Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President; Professor David FitzPatrick, Provost BDIC & Principal, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture; Dr Ailish O'Halloran, BDIC Vice-Principal for Teaching & Learning; and Professor Zhongliang Liu, Principal BDIC

## Inaugural BDIC Students Graduate from UCD in Beijing

On 4 July, the first cohort of students from the Beijing Dublin International College (BDIC) in Beijing were conferred. BDIC is a joint international institution directly overseen by UCD and Beijing University of Technology (BJUT). Situated in Beijing, BDIC offers students a unique opportunity to experience a world-class international education. The ceremony was followed by a reception for the students and their parents hosted by the Irish Ambassador to China, His Excellency Paul Kavanagh, in his residence.

Students of BDIC complete their first three years in Beijing and are then offered the opportunity to complete their fourth year in UCD. Eleven UCD lecturers from three UCD schools delivered modules on this programme to this graduating cohort during their first three years in Beijing before they came to UCD to complete their final stage.

Following the successful establishment of BDIC in 2012, 2013 saw the introduction of two new programmes - Software Engineering and a BComm in Finance, this brings the current student enrolment numbers at BDIC to an impressive 732 students. There are plans in the near future to introduce three further programmes in Electronic Engineering, Economics, Finance and Mathematics.



Pictured at the opening reception of the European Architectural History Network Conference in the Irish Architectural Archive, and in celebration of the organisations tenth anniversary, were (l-r) Professor Alona Nitzan-Shifan, President of the European Art History Network; Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy (second from right); and Martin Colreavy, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (far right)

## European Architectural History Network Conference

At the beginning of June, 250 delegates from thirty countries, across five continents, gather at Dublin Castle and at various other venues around the city for the fourth international conference of the European Architectural History Network, Europe's

largest professional organisation for architectural historians. The conference was organised by Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy. The event also enjoyed support from the UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy. Professor Sibel Bozdogan, Kadir Has University, Turkey; Professor Jean-Louis Cohen, New York University; and Professor Roger Stalley, Trinity College Dublin, gave the keynote addresses. A number of UCD students, faculty, and alumni participated as speakers, session chairs, and tour guides.



# Direct Provision

## a more humane and supportive service needed



**Much has been commented upon whether Ireland's refugee applicants should be given greater access to education, money and support, but little has been researched about what happens to people leaving direct provision and what might facilitate that transition.**

**UCD's Dr Muireann Ní Raghallaigh partnered with the Irish Refugee Council to look at just that, assessing how people left refugee centres around the country and essentially began a new life in Ireland.**

In her report, the Assistant Professor in the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, concluded that direct provision should be replaced by a more humane and supportive service. This was especially true when failures were evident for people who had received permission to stay in Ireland, but found huge obstacles entering into society and working.

The former social worker, who also did her PhD on unaccompanied minors, explained:

"I approached the Irish Refugee Council and they identified this [transition] as a particular issue that they wanted researched. That was the starting point."

"They were coming across a lot of people who were leaving the direct provision system and they felt there was an assumption that now you have your papers, your permission to stay, off you go and make your life for yourself."

This led to the Irish Research Council funding the joint research project, called 'Transition: from Direct Provision to life in the community: The experiences of those who have been granted refugee status, subsidiary protection or leave to remain in Ireland.'

Dr Ní Raghallaigh was assisted by Maeve Foreman, an Assistant Professor with the School of Social Work and Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin, as well as peer researchers from the asylum seeking community, Siphathisiwe Moyo and Gabriel Wenyi Medes.

The study included speaking to 12 people who had moved out of direct provision and 10 who were attempting to move out, in different parts of the country, including Waterford, Monaghan, Dublin and Galway.

They were a mix of men and women, some with families, aged 20 to 45 years of age and from countries including Angola, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe.

The study looked at what supports were available for those in direct provision.

Dr Ní Raghallaigh added: "Things like self-catering, the right to work, being able to access education, just getting more support while they are in direct provision so that they become more integrated into the local community."

"We're also arguing that by having those rights and being more integrated into the local community, the transition out of direct provision becomes easier."

The other issue for people starting a new life was what to expect next.

"The second thing is that, when they get their papers, that actual things would happen," she explained. But a series of obstacles prevent this.

"The first large obstacle we saw was people facing financial difficulties when trying to leave direct provision," added the Assistant Professor.

While living in direct provision, people are entitled to just €19.10 a week. This remains the same even when they get their papers because they are still in direct provision, as Dr Ní Raghallaigh explained:

"It was virtually impossible for them to then save for a deposit and give rent in advance. We're asking that they should get some resettlement grant that would allow them to fund things like a deposit for a first month's rent."

This latter point is one of the key recommendations.

As the research involved speaking to people who had been stuck in direct provision for long periods, those involved were often very frustrated.

"There was one lady who was in the system for 11 years, she had received her status but found it very difficult to move out."

That lady and others felt trapped in the system.

"There was a sense of being disempowered, feeling like it was an open prison, not having control over your life, wanting to have a sense of normality for your children and not being able to have that, not being able to cook meals," continued Dr Ní Raghallaigh.

"Most of them, when they receive their papers, feel happy and relieved, but some people who got their papers were quite angry and felt they had lost so many years of their lives."

"There was a sense of resentment that it had taken so long to grant them status."

"They couldn't get work because they hadn't been allowed to work for years, they couldn't get accommodation because they had no reference from landlords."

Another matter was family reunification. Some people had unrealistic expectations, thinking their children could join them in a few weeks when in fact the process can take up to 12 months.

The Assistant Professor concludes that changes are needed in direct provision, including a grant to stop those leaving getting into serious debt.

She also debunks the argument that easing conditions here will lead to a 'flood' of refugees seeking entry into Ireland.

"If we allowed people to self-cater in direct provision, there's no evidence that that's going to increase numbers coming here."

Investment, a single procedure for all applicants here and stronger supports for those people transitioning out of direct provision are needed, she says.

Dr Ní Raghallaigh also hopes to engage in further research with people who have left direct provision after a year or two or longer.

*Dr Muireann Ní Raghallaigh was in conversation with Juno McEnroe, a political reporter with the Irish Examiner*

## €7m AgroCycle project lead by UCD Professor

**Professor Shane Ward, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering, is leading a multi-million euro AgroCycle project, which will develop a protocol for the implementation of the 'circular economy' across the agri-food sector. The project received €7 million in funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, with additional funding from the governments of the Peoples' Republic of China and Hong Kong. UCD won this against extremely strong competition: some 180 projects were submitted, but only two were funded.**

AgroCycle is a Sino-EU collaborative research venture, with 26 partners from across the EU, China and Hong Kong. It is an international consortium comprised of universities, research institutes, industry, SMEs, trade associations and policymakers.

AgroCycle will focus on the development of a sustainable bio-economy underpinned by the agri-food sector. The project will deliver a protocol for the implementation of the 'circular economy' within the agri-food sector with an aim of delivering a 10% increase in agricultural waste valorisation by 2020. It will also contribute to setting policy direction at EU level, and envisages significant global impact.

AgroCycle will establish a web-based Stakeholders' Platform designed to develop a

global network of stakeholders in this domain. Membership of the platform is open to interested parties. To register your interest in the platform, please contact AgroCycle via e-mail at: [agrocycle@ucd.ie](mailto:agrocycle@ucd.ie)



*Professor Shane Ward, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering, AgroCycle project lead*



*Pictured at the official launch of the ERC funded UCD Hyperspectral Imaging Laboratory were, (l-r): Ronan Dorrepaal, PhD candidate; Sindhuraj Mukherjee, PhD candidate; Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development; Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President; Associate Professor Aoife Gowen, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering; and Dr Jose Martinez-Gonzalez, Postdoctoral Research Fellow*

## EU Commissioner launches ERC funded UCD Hyperspectral Imaging Laboratory

**UCD Biosystems and Food Engineering Associate Professor Aoife Gowen recently commenced her European Research Council funded research project entitled 'Development of new chemical imaging techniques to understand the function of water in biocompatibility, biodegradation and biofouling' (BioWater). Her new hyperspectral imaging laboratory funded through her ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant was officially launched on 24 June by EU Commissioner Phil Hogan**

Associate Professor Gowen was awarded the funding for her proposed research on novel chemical imaging techniques to understand important processes affecting biomaterials, such as biodegradation, biocompatibility and bio-fouling. A key question in her research is the role of water in these processes. This will be addressed using experimental chemical imaging approaches, combined with statistical analysis and molecular dynamics simulations. More information on this project can be found at the website: [www.ucd.ie/biowater](http://www.ucd.ie/biowater).

Associate Professor Gowen applied for her ERC award during her EU-funded Marie Curie

Research Fellowship in the UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering. Associate Professor Gowen's research area is multidisciplinary, involving applications of sensor technology and chemometrics to biological/food systems.

The ERC is a flagship component of EU research funding. Its main goal is to recognise the best research ideas, and confer status and visibility on the best brains in Europe, while also attracting talent from abroad. ERC grants are awarded to individuals to enable them to pursue cutting-edge fundamental research. Grants are awarded through open competition to projects headed by starting and established researchers, irrespective of their origins, who are working or moving to work in Europe. The sole criterion for selection is scientific excellence.

## UCD hosts largest International Classics Conference to date

**Over 300 scholars from around the world came to Dublin at the end of June when the UCD School of Classics hosted the ninth Celtic Conference in Classics. The Celtic Conference in Classics is held every two years in Ireland, Wales, Scotland, or France, and since its inaugural meeting, at Maynooth in 2000, it has grown in size, reputation and has evolved into a major international conference which attracts scholars from around the globe, above all the UK, EU, and North America.**

The conference has been held twice before in Ireland, with four panels at the first meeting at Maynooth in 2000 and eight panels at Cork in 2008. This year's conference at UCD was the largest to date, with more than 300 registered delegates and a total of 21 panels on a wide selection of topics ranging from Indian Ocean trade and the origins of the Olympic Games to genre in Cicero and court culture in Late Antiquity.

Seven panels were organised by staff members, postdoctoral researchers, or PhD students in the UCD School of Classics and the UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy.

The conference was one of the flagship events of the year in the field of Classics, on a par with the annual meetings of the Classical Association in the UK or the Society for Classical Studies in the United States. It was, as Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President, noted in his welcome address to the conference, a testament to the global perspective and continuing vitality of the Classics and the Arts and Humanities. The conference was organised by Dr Alexander Thein and Dr Alan Ross, both UCD School of Classics, with support from Fáilte Ireland, the Classical Association of Ireland, and the UCD College of Art and Humanities.

**“It was like drinking from a fire hose.” That’s how Dr Marc Ó Gríofa describes the information overload of living and working deep under the sea in a tiny submarine station this summer. Why, you might ask, was the Meath doctor working to a gruelling eight-day schedule of experiments, data gathering and generally surviving in a tiny submarine pod on the Atlantic seabed? For science, of course: the kind of science that will inform future space missions and hopefully improve how we live on this planet too.**

### Finding NEEMO

The pod, the Aquarius Undersea Reef Base off the coast of Florida, is a key site for NEEMO, or NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations.

The programme provides a realistically stressful environment on Earth to help prepare astronauts for missions in space, explains Dr Ó Gríofa. “Simulation and training are a key part of crew training,” he says. “We can put crews on Earth into a space shuttle simulator and into very stressful conditions, but at the end of the day they can still walk out the front door and go back home to their families. To really replicate the conditions and training you need an environment where the isolation and risks are real, and this is where NEEMO comes into play. It is like a mini space station on the bottom of the ocean.”

The programme sends crews of ‘aquanauts’ to live below sea for weeks at a time. After 24 hours or so their tissues become saturated with nitrogen, and this requires aquanauts to undergo a 15-hour decompression period before surfacing, explains Dr Ó Gríofa. “No matter what the emergency is, no matter how bad it gets, to get back up to the surface there has to be a 15-hour recompression,” he says. “This is about the same time it would take to get the Soyuz to the International Space Station in an emergency, so it is realistic.”

### Testing humans and technology

During the mission, the undersea dwellers are monitored for physiological stresses and how they interact with one another – these are important factors for long space missions, where crews need to work together under pressure.

Technology, too, is put through its paces, and on the recent NEEMO 21 mission Dr Ó Gríofa worked on an experiment for biotech company TeloRegen, where he is Chief Medical Officer. The idea is to protect the capped ends of DNA strands in our cells called telomeres, he explains: “Every time a cell divides the telomere gets a little bit shorter and this is related to ageing and Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease. It may also be a cellular stress for astronauts on space missions.”

The experiment, for which he collected samples from the NEEMO crew, will measure and seek to improve telomere characteristics in the cells of the aquanauts in the lab.

The NEEMO 21 mission also monitored various aspects of the aquanauts’ health remotely, with a view to improving tools to monitor people with chronic illness in the general population.

“One of the tools is a non-invasive fluid monitor, which we used to make sure the aquanauts were taking enough fluids,” explains Dr Ó Gríofa. “This kind of monitoring technology could also help heart failure patients who end up back in hospital due to fluid overload. It could predict at home if a problem is building up, and then steps can be taken to avoid them needing to be re-admitted to hospital.”

# NASA enlists UCD alumnus as member of NEEMO mission

**UCD graduate Dr Marc Ó Gríofa lived under the sea for eight days to gather data for future space missions and better health on Earth. Claire O’Connell found out more.**

### DNA and Reef nursery

There were some scientific firsts too – the NEEMO crew sequenced DNA underwater, and they built the world’s deepest coral nursery.

“Having us in [nitrogen] saturation means we can spend extended periods doing work on the sea floor that you wouldn’t be able to do on more familiar SCUBA,” says Dr Ó Gríofa. “So we worked with Florida International University and The Coral Restoration Foundation to build a nursery of corals that will test out how different species grow there. Then next year, the coral can be transplanted to dying coral reefs. The mission also allowed us to test techniques and technologies as if we are doing geology sampling on another planet, and we even tried out a 30-minute communications delay of the length you would experience between Earth and Mars.”

### Real life under the sea

Getting used to the ‘fire hose’ of information and gruelling schedule undersea was a lot to take on at first, admits Dr Ó Gríofa, but his crew commander reassured him that this is what it is like to work in space. “You are learning everything in an operational setting and you don’t get a warm up period,” he says. “But he told me I was doing fine, so after that I just kept going with it.”

Dr Ó Gríofa, like other NEEMO 21 crew members, used Twitter to send images and updates to the world above sea, and he saw this communication as an important component of the work.

“We wanted to let people be a part of the mission, to see what is going on, and I was proud to highlight Ireland and UCD,” he says. “I also hope that it showed, particularly for kids in school, that there is always a way to follow a dream.”

### No stranger to space science

Space, medicine and diving form a triumvirate of passions that have driven Dr Marc Ó Gríofa’s career. As a medical student in UCD, he was responsible for the first Irish experiment that flew aboard the International Space Station: it was a sleep-monitoring technology for astronauts.

Through the FÁS Science Challenge Internship Programme, Dr Ó Gríofa went to work at the Kennedy Space Centre and continued to develop experiments, one of which formed the basis of his PhD in biomechanics at the University of Limerick.

At NASA, he became a doctor for the space shuttle missions, on standby at launches and landing, and he trained US Special Forces personnel for emergencies.

His passion for diving also saw him work as a rescue diver for ‘aquanauts’ training underwater in NASA’s extreme environments programme, and this year he became one of the aquanauts himself, living in a station under the sea for eight days.

So has he any desires to go to space? “At the moment it will probably be a long time before Ireland gets the opportunity to propose sending an astronaut into space,” says Dr Ó Gríofa. “However if the time ever came, I would be delighted to put my name forward with all the other very qualified candidates.”

*Dr Marc Ó Gríofa was in conversation with Claire O’Connell, science writer and contributor to Silicon Republic and The Irish Times*

## UCD Centre for Disability Studies celebrates 20th Anniversary

Following trends in the United States, Ireland's first university-affiliated disability centre was established at UCD in 1996 with the support of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jnr Foundation and the personal encouragement of Eunice Kennedy Shriver. The UCD Centre for Disability Studies engages in a wide range of scholarly activity including national and international research, delivery of the MSc in Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, and community engagement with stakeholders.

Over two sun-drenched days in July, self-advocates, family members, practitioners and academics came together to celebrate the Centre's 20th anniversary. Day one launched the 'Discussions in Disability' seminar series, a full-day of discussions on topical issues, including individualised payments, assistive technologies and risk assessment. Associate Professors Barbara Dooley and Suzanne Guerin warmly welcomed delegates on behalf of UCD and UCD School of Psychology. Guest speakers included Professor Patricia Noonan Walsh, founding director of the Centre; Dr Bob McCormack and Aoife O'Toole, Dara Residential; Martin Naughton, self-advocate and Adjunct Professor NUIG; Dr Ger Craddock, Centre for Excellence in Universal

Design; Trish MacKeogh, Assisted Fellow; Siobhán Long, Enable Ireland; Eithne Fitzgerald, National Disability Authority; Finbarr Colfer, HIQA; and Brendan Broderick, Muiriosa.

Day two welcomed Professor Mike Kerr, a leading international authority in the field of intellectual disability and epilepsy. Professor Kerr's workshop addressed a broad audience of those involved in supporting individuals with intellectual disability who have epilepsy. There was an interactive discussion with delegates to understand assessment, the impact on quality of life, the reduction of risk, and how to achieve best outcomes from treatment.

In closing, Dr Christine Linehan, Director of the UCD Centre for Disability Studies, noted that



Pictured at the 20th anniversary celebrations for the UCD Centre for Disability Studies were (l-r): Eithne Fitzgerald, National Disability Authority; and Professor Patricia Noonan Walsh, Professor Emerita and founding Director of the UCD Centre for Disability Studies

both days were characterised by considerable audience participation, illustrating the distinct role of the centre as an independent space for discussion and reflection within the disability field.

Further information is available at [www.ucd.ie/psychology/ourschool/centrefordisabilitystudies](http://www.ucd.ie/psychology/ourschool/centrefordisabilitystudies)



Pictured at the launch of the report: 'I'd prefer to stay at home but I don't have a choice' Meeting Older People's Preference for Care: Policy, but what about practice? were (l-r): Dr Emer Begley, Alzheimer Society of Ireland; Dr Sarah Donnelly, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice and Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW); Mr Peter Tyndall, Ombudsman; Dr Marita O'Brien, Age Action; and Mr John Brennan, IASW

## Serious problems in Ireland's home care services for older people

A new report launched on 3 June by the Ombudsman, Mr Peter Tyndall exposes serious problems in Ireland's home care services for older people. This important research was co-authored by Dr Sarah Donnelly, Assistant Professor, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice and Irish Association of Social Workers; Dr Marita O'Brien, Age Action; Dr Emer Begley, Alzheimer Society of Ireland; and Mr John Brennan, Irish Association of Social Workers.

The research was based on a nationwide survey and in-depth interviews with social workers working with older people, including people living with dementia. The report, 'I'd Prefer To Stay At Home, But I Don't Have A Choice: Meeting Older People's Preference For Care: Policy, But What About Practice?', reveals that Ireland's health and social care system is disorganised, fragmented and underfunded with social workers estimating more than half of the older people they work with could be at home instead of in nursing home care if the appropriate services were available.

Dr Sarah Donnelly said: "Home care in Ireland is in crisis. Acute hospitals and nursing homes are being prioritised over the kinds of community services that enable older people to stay at home. Community care is grossly underfunded and people are simply not getting the care they need. This means more people in acute hospitals who don't need to be there. It means more people in nursing homes who don't need to be there."

The authors of the report are calling for immediate investment and reform of community care services and for the Government to implement a fair and equitable way of allocating care and support services underpinned by legislation.

## UCD Professor to be first outside the US to receive Takeda Distinguished Research Award

Professor Cormac Taylor, Professor of Cellular Physiology, UCD School of Medicine, is to be presented with the 2017 Takeda Distinguished Research Award by The American Physiological Society's Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology Section. The prestigious award is presented annually to an outstanding investigator who is internationally recognised for his/her contribution to physiological research in these areas.

This is the first time that this award will be presented to a scientist located outside the United States. This award demonstrates the quality and impact of Professor Taylor's research at UCD in one of UCD's key strategic research areas, health.

Professor Taylor's research group at the UCD Conway Institute investigates the mechanisms by which epithelial cells respond to low oxygen levels (hypoxia). His research into the cellular response to hypoxia has revealed novel mechanisms whereby certain processes can be used to treat conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease.

Professor Taylor has received numerous awards in recognition of his academic achievements. In 2014, he was recognised for outstanding scientific mentorship with the Nature Award for Mentoring in Science.

He has maintained continuous funding through the Science Foundation Ireland investigator award programme since 2002. He has also held career development awards from the Wellcome Trust and the National Institutes of Health (USA). Professor Taylor is Managing Editor of Frontiers in Biosciences and an Editorial Board Member of the American Journal of Physiology.

## Professor Bairbre Redmond to become Provost of Universitas 21

Professor Bairbre Redmond will be seconded from her role as Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Deputy Registrar for Teaching and Learning in October to take up the position of Provost of Universitas 21. Universitas 21 (U21) is a leading global network of twenty-five top worldwide research-intensive universities, including UCD, which collectively enroll 1.3 million students and employ close to a quarter of a million staff and faculty. U21 aims to create truly international opportunities for students and staff on a scale that no individual university member would be able to achieve operating independently or through traditional

bilateral alliances. Professor Redmond's role is as lead academic, overseeing the work of the network in student experience & mobility, education and researcher engagement. She is the first holder of the role of U21 Provost and her appointment reflects her international academic reputation, particularly in the area of educational innovation. Professor Redmond is a strong advocate of the student centred approach that UCD aspires to, and she has led the way in her work with many University faculty and staff including the Vice-principals for Teaching and Learning (VPTLs) and the staff of Teaching and Learning, in striving for academic excellence.



Professor Bairbre Redmond, Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Deputy Registrar for Teaching and Learning, who will take up the position of Provost of Universitas 21 in October

## UCD and the IEHG open the largest cancer treatment centre in Ireland

**The UCD/IEHG Precision Medicine Facility in UCD Conway Institute was officially launched on 29 June and marks a key milestone in cancer care for UCD and the Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG).**

The facility provides the most comprehensive and advanced genetics platform for life science and biomedical research in Ireland and enables UCD and the IEHG to provide the most advanced healthcare to its patients.

Genetics is emerging as an integral part of clinical services driven by new technology, so called next-generation sequencing (NGS) enabled by rapidly evolving computational tools. These new developments include sequencing of large panels of genes, exon sequencing and now whole genome sequencing (deep sequencing).

The new technology now available in the UCD/IEHG Precision Medicine Facility is widely applicable across a range of specialties, including cancer, cardiology, neurology, ophthalmology and rare diseases. In particular, the technology offers great promise in better targeting therapy and reducing side effects, often referred to as precision or personalised medicine.

Speaking at the launch, UCD Professor Kieran Sheahan, a consultant histopathologist in St. Vincent's University Hospital said, "By being able to look at a person's genes, we can

see what causes the tumours and tailor better personalised treatments."

The facility is led by Conway Fellow, Professor Brendan Loftus, UCD School of Medicine and Director, UCD Conway Genomics Core, which has been offering genomics solutions to academic and commercial customers for more than 10 years.

This launch sees the expansion of the existing genomic technologies with two Illumina Neo Prep library systems, two high-throughput Illumina Nexseq 500 sequencers and associated analysis solutions.

The Illumina Nexseq 500 is capable of performing whole-genome sequencing, exome sequencing and RNA sequencing and can sequence the whole human genome in approximately 29 hours. The facility will work closely with Systems Biology Ireland and the UCD Centre for Clinical Bioinformatics to provide comprehensive analysis of the gene sequencing data, including innovative network modelling, and training of clinicians and scientists in bioinformatics and genetics.

## Japanese Women in Leadership in Science and Society

**UCD Women in Science (WiTS) and UCD Centre for the Study of Women and Gender hosted an event 'Japanese Women in Leadership in Science and Society' on 15 June, inviting two distinguished speakers: Professor Reiko Kuroda and The Ambassador of Japan Mrs Mari Miyoshi. Professor Kuroda is a Professor in Chemistry/Biology, at Tokyo University of Science, and a Science Advisor for the United Nations Secretary General.**

The event was opened by Professor Orla Feely, Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact and attended by Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President. Ambassador Miyoshi spoke about 'Women in Japan', tracing the historical developments of the Japanese government policies and initiatives surrounding women in leadership positions. She emphasised new opportunities for women who would like to pursue their professional careers. Professor Kuroda gave a talk entitled 'Science on Chirality, and Science in Society', outlining her outstanding research spanning chemistry and biology over many years and her involvement in global public policy and outreach activities, while also speaking about her inspiring personal journey as a woman in science. She stressed the importance of curiosity, and trying to turn adversity into opportunities, which she has practised throughout her remarkable career.

The event was organised by UCD Women in Science (WiTS) and UCD Centre for the Study of Women and Gender, together with UCD College of Science and UCD College of Social Sciences and Law. It was also supported by the Embassy of Japan in Ireland, and Experience Japan. Dr Sheila McBreen, UCD School of Physics and Dr Naonori Kodate, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, were the lead organisers.



Pictured at the Japanese Women in Leadership in Science and Society event on 15 June in UCD O'Brien Science Centre were (l-r): Dr Naonori Kodate, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice; Professor Joe Carthy, College Principal, UCD College of Science; Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President; Professor Reiko Kuroda, Tokyo University of Science/Emeritus Professor, University of Tokyo; The Ambassador of Japan Mrs Mari Miyoshi; Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact; Professor Colin Scott, College Principal, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law; and Dr Sheila McBreen, UCD School of Physics (Photo: Tetsutaro Kawakami)

## €60 million University Bridge Fund Launched

Atlantic Bridge, one of Europe's top performing growth technology funds, has announced a new €60 million investment fund for early-stage companies with global potential that are built from world class research from all Irish third-level institutions and universities.

Leveraging the Atlantic Bridge global investment platform and proven 'Bridge Model' for scaling technology companies, the Fund will accelerate the commercialisation of ground breaking research generated at UCD, Trinity and all third level research institutions.

The Fund, which will provide capital and expertise for scaling companies into the US and Chinese markets and elsewhere, was initiated in a joint leadership collaboration between UCD and Trinity.

The €60 million now in place will provide investment and expertise at the commercialisation stage for companies focusing on software, hardware, engineering, physical sciences, life sciences and agri-food.

This Fund brings together significant institutional investment from the European Investment Fund, Enterprise Ireland, as well as AIB and Bank of Ireland. UCD and Trinity have also invested in the Fund.

The Fund will enhance success at UCD and Trinity in creating spin-outs and start-ups. Over the last 10 years they have jointly spun-out over 60 companies, which have secured in excess of €200 million in investment, such as Equinome,



Pictured at the launch of the €60m University Bridge Fund were (l-r): Professor Patrick Prendergast, Provost, Trinity; and Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President

Logentries and OxyMem from UCD and Genable, Opsona Therapeutics and Swrve from Trinity.

Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President, said, "The strong track record, scale and professional supports of UCD and Trinity prompted us to seek out the creation of this fund in the first place. We expect the pipeline of UCD

and Trinity companies to account for at least 50% of the investment fund. We are both ambitious and confident that the University Bridge Fund will generate excellent commercial outcomes that will encourage more researchers to become entrepreneurs."

## UCD Wins 2016 US-Ireland Research Innovation Award

**UCD has won a prestigious 2016 US-Ireland Research Innovation Award, in the Irish Higher Education Institution (HEI) Research Centre or Institute with US links category.**

The Awards celebrate excellence in research innovation that has taken place on the island of Ireland as a result of US business investment. This is the second year of the joint initiative between the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy.

The University was announced as the overall winner of this category for its application by Professor John Murphy and Professor Liam Murphy from the Performance Engineering Laboratory (PEL) at UCD's School of Computer Science.

The winning application outlined the impact of UCD's decade-long research collaboration with IBM Dublin Software Lab which resulted in the

invention of the 'Real Time Correlation Engine' (RTCE).

The RTCE uses novel data normalisation, clustering and filtering techniques to analyse log files, from several different sources, to find patterns and symptoms that indicate malfunction and enable rapid response in big data systems.

Working with the technology transfer and enterprise development teams at NovaUCD, the RTCE was identified as being of high potential from a commercial point of view.

In 2010 Logentries, a UCD spin-out company, was established by Dr Trevor Parsons and Dr Viliam Holub to commercialise the RTCE. Dr Parsons and Dr Holub had both spent several years working on the RTCE project within PEL.

In 2015, Logentries which had raised over \$11 million in funding, was acquired by Rapid7, a leading US security company, for \$68 million. At the time of acquisition Logentries had 70



Pictured at the presentation of the 2016 US-Ireland Research Innovation Award were (l-r): Eddie Cullen, Ulster Bank; Professor Mary E. Daly, President Royal Irish Academy and Professor Emerita, UCD School of History; Professor John Murphy, UCD School of Computer Science; Dr Viliam Holub, co-founder of Logentries and currently Director of Engineering, Rapid7; and Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

employees, was headquartered in Boston, with a research and development team in Dublin, and served more than 3,000 customers in more than 65 countries.

## Digital Applications Could Revolutionise Humanitarian Action

**UCD School of Computer Science and the Irish Red Cross have joined forces to develop digital applications aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian action.**

UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks and Irish Red Cross Head of International Relations and Cooperation, John Roche, travelled to India in May to sign an agreement and to launch a pilot study with the Indian Red Cross. The pilot study will assess the impact that a mobile crowd source application will have on the charity's efforts to combat tuberculosis (TB) in India.

Speaking at the pilot launch, Mr Roche welcomed the partnership and stated, "We believe that effectively leveraging technology in our operations will have a positive impact on our efforts in managing TB, thereby saving lives".

The mobile app solution aims to engage with stakeholders, including those who have



Pictured at the signing of the agreement at the Indian Red Cross offices in Delhi were (l-r): Mr John Roche, Irish Red Cross Head of International Relations and Cooperation; Dr Veer Bushan, Indian Red Cross Joint Secretary; H.E. Brian McElduff, Ambassador of Ireland to India; and Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President

contracted TB, and to better understand the challenges faced by them. One of the main obstacles in combatting TB is treatment default. Due to financial difficulties, stigmatisation and other reasons, patients often stop their treatment before it is complete, putting them at greater risk

of developing Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB). Thanks to UCD's technology expertise, the mobile app and accompanying web based interface will allow Red Cross staff and volunteers to monitor patients who are at risk of treatment default, improving their chances of recovery.

It is hoped that this project will show that an effective usage of information technology can change the face of humanitarian response. UCD Computer Science Associate Professor Eleni Mangina, states, "That a partnership between emerging technologies experts in academia and humanitarian organisations can provide the means to improve existing operations.

There is a vast amount of digital information available before, during and after a crisis. Telecommunications, drone technology and crowd source applications can assist volunteers and staff in improving the overall effectiveness of humanitarian response."

# Electrifying funding to improve the national grid



Professor Federico Milano

**Professor Federico Milano, UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, is to receive €1.7m in funding from Science Foundation Ireland to conduct research into Advanced Modelling for Power System Analysis and Simulation (AMPSAS) to help improve the efficiency of the national grid.**

The project will run between now and 2021 and six PhD students and two postdoctoral students will be recruited to join the highly multidisciplinary team. Researchers on the project will come from backgrounds in power systems as well as applied mathematics, automatic control and computer science.

Professor Milano, Professor in Power Systems Control and Protection, joined UCD in 2013 from the University of Castilla-La Mancha in Spain. Prior to this he was visiting scholar at the University of Waterloo, Canada. He is a graduate in electrical engineering from the University of Genoa, Italy. In January 2016 he was made a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), a distinction awarded to those deemed to have made an extraordinary contribution in one of the organisation's fields of interest. IEEE is the world's largest technical professional organisation dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humankind.

Professor Milano's main research interests revolve around the stability and security of power systems. By extension this brings him into areas such as improving the efficiency of national grids and analysing how to best integrate renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power, into the energy matrix.

"There are a variety of new methodologies and technologies that are changing the way modern electric power systems are modelled, simulated and operated," he says. "We are using these advances in power system modelling, control and stability analysis to underpin our research." Professor Milano's AMPSAS project will focus on developing novel analytical and computational tools that can help the power industry to understand, efficiently design and optimise the output of constantly changing modern power systems and smart grids.

"Three aspects of power systems that have had a significant impact on renewable energy supply and power system operation are the effect of large stochastic perturbations such as



wind and solar generation; the impact of controller and modelling imperfections such as delays and discontinuities on both local and area-wide regulators in power systems; and the stability analysis of power systems modelled through stochastic, functional and hybrid differential-algebraic equations," Milano says.

He adds that the AMPSAS research is of particular relevance now due to the ever-growing worldwide demand for guaranteed power produced as efficiently as possible at reasonable cost – something the EU is very keen to achieve under its Horizon 2020 programme to encourage European competitiveness in the global market.

Throughout the project the researchers will work closely with EirGrid which operates the Irish transmission system. "The support of EirGrid and other international collaborators is fundamental to providing the required knowledge, skills and data we need and also to provide a forum where we can discuss, test and implement the models and the techniques that emerge from the project," says Professor Milano who has recently introduced undergraduate modules on power systems dynamics and stability analysis at UCD for the first time.

"The energy industry is conservative for obvious reasons, but it also means that it is slow to change and many of the models and controllers it is still using are very dated," he says. "When I say dated I'm talking about software going back to the 1980s when the power system picture was quite different. Working with dated models gets in the way of efficiency. For example at the moment there is a 50% limit on the amount of wind power that can be integrated into the Irish national grid for stability reasons. A primary goal of this project is to show that, with proper system modelling and novel controllers, the balance can be changed while still safeguarding the stability and supply of the system. This is highly relevant in countries, such as Ireland, with the resources to generate a lot of wind power."

Professor Milano says that being able to work with EirGrid is also a real plus for his students. "The Irish power system is small and manageable and therefore easy to study," he says. "But what is really crucial is that it means we are dealing with real data. Secondly, it gives our students and postdocs the opportunity to work in EirGrid and to benefit from the extensive knowledge that exists there. For the size of EirGrid, it has a very big population of employees with PhDs – many from UCD – who understand what research is about. Of course EirGrid is also a potential employer for our students when they graduate. We are keen to get going on the AMPSAS project and I expect to have my PhD students and postdocs on board by the end of the year. The fact that a project focused on power system stability has been funded under the prestigious SFI Investigator Programme is a real indication of how important this topic is for the future of this country," Professor Milano concludes.

*Professor Federico Milano was in conversation with Olive Keogh, a contributor to The Irish Times*

# Books



## Digital Detectives: Solving Information Dilemmas in an Online World

**Dr Crystal Fulton**, Senior Lecturer, UCD School of Information & Communications Studies

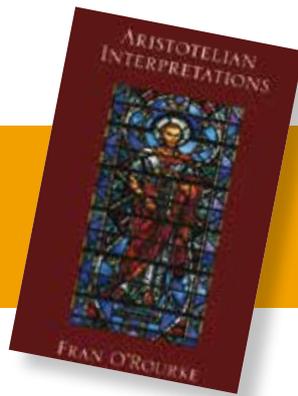
**Dr Claire McGuinness**, Lecturer, UCD School of Information & Communications Studies

**Chandos Publishing, Elsevier**

Although many of today's third level students are "digital natives" who have grown up in the information age, they may not be aware of the risks that the digital landscape can pose.

In less than a generation, the ways in which information is created, presented, accessed, modified, analysed, shared, and communicated have undergone unprecedented change. Being digitally literate in the 21st Century is a multi-faceted state and may be defined in many different ways; from simply knowing which button to press, to a deeper, context-based situational awareness, the spectrum is complex and wide. In recent years, the deconstruction of the "digital native" myth tells us that digital literacy is in fact a state of being that is developed and honed over time, through experience, guidance and constructive learning opportunities. Situated within this dynamic and frequently confusing online world, this new book challenges students to become independent and confident *Digital Detectives*, who critically scrutinise digital information to ascertain its authenticity, veracity, and authority, and who use this information in a discerning way to complete academic tasks successfully.

The book is uniquely framed as a series of "digital dilemmas" that students often face when engaged in academic tasks. Each chapter focuses on a core dilemma, unpacking the key issues and challenges sparked by the dilemma, and encouraging a reflective approach to learning throughout. This knowledge and ability empowers students to function at a higher level of digital information fluency, so that they become not only a discerning consumer of web-based information, but also an effective contributor to the digital environment.



## Aristotelian Interpretations

**Professor Fran O'Rourke**, Professor Emeritus, UCD School of Philosophy

**Irish Academic Press**

A new volume of original essays, *Aristotelian Interpretations*, illustrates how Aristotle's thought may be creatively applied to a variety of timeless and contemporary questions. Apart from the final chapter – a comprehensive survey of the extensive and penetrating influence of Aristotle on James Joyce – they are concerned with central topics in metaphysics, aesthetics, political anthropology, ethics, and theory of knowledge.

Aristotle's phrase 'Every realm of nature is marvellous' serves as an underlying and unifying motif, as *Aristotelian Interpretations* presents an integral survey of Aristotle's philosophy, exploring themes including philosophy and poetry in Aristotle, Aristotle and the metaphysics of evolution, and knowledge and necessity in Aristotle.

It emphasises that, far from being just a figure of historical interest, his vision is still alive and relevant. While many of Aristotle's empirical suppositions are archaic, his deeper intuitions have ageless validity. His philosophy is marked by a robust common sense, an optimistic trust in nature, confidence in the human mind's capacity to discover truth and value, and an abiding sense of all-embracing beauty.

The author's introduction describes early personal experiences that inspired his affection for a distinctively Aristotelian approach to the world.



## Irish Adventures in Nation-Building

**Professor Bryan Fanning**, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

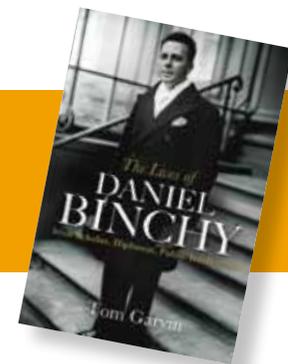
**Manchester University Press**

Nations, Benedict Anderson has influentially argued, are imagined communities, as the author notes in his latest volume, *Irish Adventures in Nation-Building*. This book is a collection of essays examining the debates and processes that have shaped the modernisation of Ireland since the beginning of the twentieth century.

The structure of *Irish Adventures in Nation-Building* is mostly chronological, although some

essays cover the entire century or so upon which the book is mostly focused. The vantage points examined include those of prominent revolutionaries, cultural nationalists, clerics, economists, sociologists, political scientists, public intellectuals, journalists, influential civil servants, political leaders and activists who weighed into debates about the condition of Ireland and where it was going. Collectively these essays chart the main shifts in dominant ideas and shifting cultural, economic and political circumstances during the last hundred years. The essays are designed to fit together as a multi-disciplinary analysis of the making of modern Ireland. Individual essays address key moments or influential debates and shifts in these.

Topics considered range from why Patrick Pearse's ideas about education were ignored to why Ireland has been recently so open to large-scale immigration, from the intellectual conflicts of the 1930s to the future of Irish identity. This is a genuinely multi-disciplinary book that offers an accessible overview of how Ireland and what it means to be Irish has changed during the last century.



## The Lives of Daniel Binchy – Irish Scholar, Diplomat, Public Intellectual

**Professor Tom Garvin**, UCD Emeritus Professor of Politics

**Irish Academic Press**

Daniel Binchy was an academic of great knowledge and ability and one who had been a privileged observer of European affairs during the crucial inter-war period between 1918 and 1939, a period when he was based mainly in UCD. During this time he travelled extensively in western Europe and was to become an observer of the rise of Nazism and a student of Italian fascism.

Binchy was Ireland's ambassador to Germany from 1929 to 1932, promoting a modernising and independent Irish Free State. He came to know von Hindenburg, Brüning and other leaders of Weimar Germany. He despised Mussolini, but saw him as an improvement of sorts on Hitler. His meeting with Adolf Hitler and his landmark *Studies* article were a brave warning against the dangers of totalitarianism.

Daniel Binchy became perhaps the greatest Celtic Studies scholar of his day, advancing to hold senior positions in UCD, Corpus Christi College Oxford, Harvard and the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. He was an expert on Nazism, an analyst of Italian fascism, a medieval historian and the master of at least nine languages, ancient and modern.

In this book the author provides fascinating insights into the life of this preeminent thinker and diplomat, the new Irish state and the turbulent times Binchy lived through.

## UCD Professor named Honorary President of the International Commission of Agricultural Engineering (CIGR)

**Professor Da-Wen Sun, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering, has been conferred with the title of CIGR Honorary President at the 4th International Conference on Agricultural Engineering held from 26 - 29 June in Aarhus, Denmark. The conference was attended by over 600 participants from 57 countries.**

During the conference, Professor Sun was also presented with the CIGR Merit Award for his outstanding global leadership in food engineering. This is the third time that Professor Sun was presented with the CIGR Merit Award.

Professor Sun has been involved in CIGR activities since joining UCD in 1995, and most recently served as President of the CIGR from 2011-2016.

The International Commission of Agricultural Engineering (CIGR, Commission Internationale du Génie Rural) is an international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation consisting of a network of Regional and National Societies of Agricultural Engineering as well as private and public companies and individuals worldwide. CIGR was created by a Constituent Assembly on the occasion of the first International Congress of Agricultural Engineering, held in Liege, Belgium in 1930.



*Pictured at the UCD Centre for Food Safety were (l-r): Cian O'Mahony, Chief Science Officer, Creme Global; Dr Eimear Downey, Technical Advisor, Nutrition Supplies; Gearóid Mooney, Director of Research and Innovation, Enterprise Ireland; Professor Séamus Fanning, UCD Professor of Food Safety; and UCD PhD student Joao Anes.*

## UCD and Enterprise Ireland Launch Partnership to Enhance Food Quality and Safety

**A new 3-year Innovation Partnership programme in food quality and safety has been launched at UCD.**

The €1.7 million Enterprise Ireland and industry funded programme, Sequencing Alliance for Food Environments (SAFE), aims to develop a new predictive software toolbox to enhance food quality and safety approaches, nationally and with global reach, using environmental intelligence data.

SAFE is a unique partnership between the UCD Centre for Food Safety; six leading food and nutrition companies - Dairygold, Dawn Farm Foods, Glanbia, Kerry, Mead Johnson Nutrition and Nutrition Supplies; along with Creme Global, experts in predictive intake modelling software.

The SAFE programme aims to develop a new state-of-the-art food safety and quality decision

making software toolbox to mitigate against the risk of bacterial contamination in the food supply chain in a smarter, faster and in a more specific and sustainable way.

During a 2-year period researchers at UCD will track the environments in a number of food manufacturing plants in Ireland belonging to the industry partners. Seasonal and climate changes will be taken into consideration during this period as such changes can cause shifts in the microbial communities or "microbiome" of the facilities. These changes affect food quality, safety and the nutritional profile of the final product.

By mapping these microbiomes across the seasons the consortium will develop databases which leverage gene sequencing technology and statistical analysis to define bacterial characteristics at the DNA level.

These databases will then be used to develop a predictive software toolbox. This toolbox will enable quicker and more accurate quality control analysis of the bacteria present in food facilities. This will prevent bacteria which can spoil food or pose a human health risk entering the food supply chain in a faster and a more sustainable way.

Facilitated by Food for Health Ireland this innovation partnership programme demonstrates a new level of international partnership, open innovation and pre-competitive research between industries and academia across multiple sectors.

## UCD leads the field in Science Foundation Ireland research investment

**With seven UCD research projects among 24 to receive funding from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) under the Investigators Programme, UCD once again leads the field with the highest number of projects funded.**

With awards ranging from €500,000 to €2.7 million over four to five year periods, projects funded will support over 200 researchers. Funding provided by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation was awarded to eight research bodies: University College Dublin (7), Dublin City University (1), Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (1), National University of Ireland Galway (3), National University of Ireland Maynooth (1), Trinity College Dublin (6), Tyndall National Institute (4) and University College Cork (1).

Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact said: "UCD is delighted to receive the highest number of awards under the Investigators Programme. We continue to build on our commitment to excellence in research and innovation and to having a profound impact on our society, locally and globally. We will continue to support our researchers in delivering on their ambitions. The

24 research projects funded are in a range of strategically important sectors, and UCD has the creativity and energy to deliver a significant impact."

Announcing the nearly €40 million research investment, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mary Mitchell-O'Connor TD said, "This funding provides an important platform for researchers to advance their investigations and further enhance Ireland's reputation for excellence in sectors such as health, agriculture, marine, energy and technology.

Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General of Science Foundation Ireland and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of Ireland added, "The Science Foundation Ireland Investigators Programme supports the highest standard of impactful research, as clearly demonstrated by the outcomes of previous awards. I have high expectations for these projects; all have undergone rigorous peer



*Pictured at the announcement of the Science Foundation Ireland Investigators Programme funding were (l-r): Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General, SFI; Professor Eoin Casey, UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering; Dr Rachel McLoughlin, Trinity College; and Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation*

review by international experts and we have funded only those projects deemed to be at the pinnacle of scientific excellence. As well as providing an important platform for engagement in Horizon 2020, the programme also creates training and employment opportunities, promotes industrial collaboration and drives advances in energy, agriculture, science, technology and health which will benefit Ireland's economy and society."

## UCD launches Shared Online Course in Planetary Urbanisation with U21

**UCD has been a member of Universitas 21 (U21), a leading global network of twenty-five worldwide research-intensive universities, which collectively enroll 1.3 million students and employ close to a quarter of million staff and faculty, since 2006.**

One of U21's key goals is to support student mobility amongst member universities. Along with that it also has a strong commitment to encouraging 'virtual student mobility', where students in U21 universities across the world who may not be able to travel have the opportunity to interact online with each other.

In 2015 it was agreed that a special short U21 online course would be designed for sharing across the member universities, on a theme of global importance. UCD was given the honour of designing this course and the UCD Schools of Geography and Sociology, supported by the University of Hong Kong, have now completed a short Shared Online Course (SOC) on Planetary Urbanisation - a topic of relevance across the world and across student disciplines. The course will be open only to the 1.3 million U21 students in 2016/17 and will then be offered free online from late 2017 as UCD's first MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on the FutureLearn platform.

The key educator on the course is Dr Niamh Moore-Cherry from UCD's School of Geography,

and she has been assisted by Ms Trish Mountjoy of UCD IT, who was key technical producer of the programme. The SOC course is at 1st year undergraduate level, runs over 5 weeks taking approximately 3 hours per week to complete. Some students will take this as a stand-alone interest course, while it will be 'embedded' as part of larger modules for other students; for example between 300 - 350 1st year Geography students in UCD will start the course in October 2016 as part of one of their modules.

An important aspect of the course is to encourage student-to-student engagement, and any students taking the course will be exposed to other U21 students' voices and perspectives from across the world, with a special opportunity for them to be taught by some of UCD's top lecturers in their disciplines. This provides a central learning aspect of the SOC which encourages U21 students to compare/contrast how students in different countries live and study in their own cities and to discuss and present their perspectives of how to build safer, healthier cities of the future.



Dr Emma Feeney, Senior Postdoctoral Fellow, UCD Institute of Food and Health, at the UCD stand.

## Dublin hosts the 2016 International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) World Congress

**The 2016 IUFoST bi-annual World Congress was held in Dublin from 21-25 August and had the overarching theme 'Greening the Global Food Supply Chain through Innovation in Food Science and Technology'. The congress was hosted by the Institute of Food Science and Technology of Ireland and was attended by over 1,400 delegates from over 70 countries with over 1,500 abstracts submitted.**

IUFoST is the global scientific organisation for food science and technology supporting programmes and projects to increase the quality, safety and security of the world's food supply. With over 65 member countries, four regional groupings (Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America) and representing more than 300,000 food scientists and technologists worldwide, IUFoST is the world voice of food science and technology.

A number of UCD faculty had key roles in the organisation of this congress with Professor James Lyng, Professor Patrick Wall and Dr Cristina Arroyo actively involved in the scientific and local organising committees. The conference had 8 sub-themes: innovation in food quality and processing, food supply chain and distribution systems, future foods, food sustainability, societal challenges in nutrition and health, local and global food safety and security, hot topics and special sessions, and included 85 parallel sessions and a global food summit. UCD's Institute of Food and Health was a key sponsor and also an exhibitor at the conference Expo, with 33 UCD staff volunteering to assist in the running of this event over five days. In addition, a very well attended congress fun run was held on the UCD campus on 23 August.



Staff and students of UCD Access & Lifelong Learning who worked on the Getting Around UCD - Accessible VideoMaps Project included (top row l-r) Liz Neligan, Kiden Dikorisuk, Julie Tonge, Dr Lisa Padden, and (front row, l-r) Amy Hassett, Ailbhe King, Tina Lowe and Eilish Finnucan

## Getting Around UCD – Accessible VideoMaps Project

**Staff and students of UCD Access & Lifelong Learning received funding from the UCD SPARC initiative to develop a series of short videos demonstrating the accessible routes around UCD campus. SPARC encourages staff and students to work together to make UCD and/or the surrounding community a better place to learn, work and live by coming up with an idea that will enhance or improve some aspect of university or community life.**

The Getting Around UCD VideoMaps are now available and highlight some of the most popular routes around the Belfield campus. They are intended for use by anyone who is unfamiliar with the campus including conference delegates, new students and staff, and visitors. The VideoMaps were designed to meet the needs of the widest possible audience and accessibility features have been highlighted throughout. Staff and students worked together on choosing the

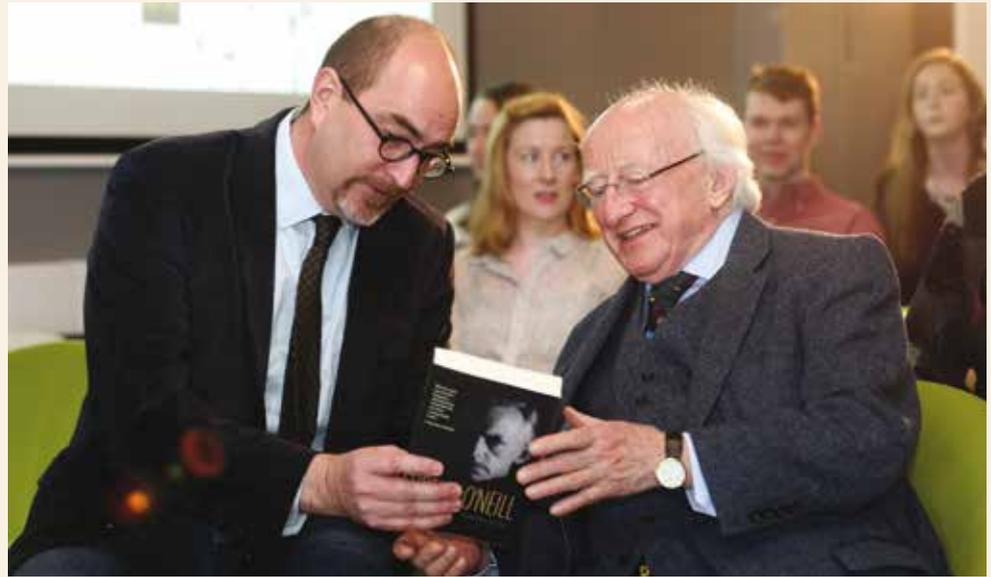
routes to be filmed, designing the animated tour guide, and writing the scripts. One of the student team members, Kiden Dikorisuk, narrated the videos. It is hoped that the video maps will be an invaluable resource in the coming years, helping to attract and welcome a wide range of visitors to the Belfield campus.

The Getting Around UCD VideoMaps are available on the from UCD Access and Lifelong Learning YouTube channel at [bit.ly/2coWQW7](http://bit.ly/2coWQW7)

## UCD Writing Centre celebrates its first year with distinguished guests

UCD Writing Centre finished its first year of operation by inviting colleagues into the Writing Centre space for a book reading organised by the UCD Humanities Institute. The UCD Humanities Institute, James Joyce Library and the Writing Centre co-hosted the event on 28 April and the well-attended and lively reading proved to be a fitting way to end the academic year.

The guest author was an American critic and Professor of English, Robert M. Dowling, Central Connecticut State University, who read from his acclaimed, biography, Eugene O'Neill: A Life in Four Acts. The biography has been described as 'a master class in research methods', 'elegantly written' and 'perceptively



Pictured (l-r) were: Professor Robert M. Dowling presenting President Michael D. Higgins with a signed copy of his biography: Eugene O'Neill: A Life in Four Acts

recounted'. Professor Dowling proved to be a generous and gracious reader, happy to tell anecdotes and answer questions about O'Neill's complicated and tragic life.

President Michael D. Higgins, a keen fan of Eugene O'Neill's work, attended the reading and praised the book as a 'definitive and compelling biography [which] greatly enriches

our understanding of O'Neill's influences, the price and pain of his struggle, and its realisation.' President Higgins also drew parallels between important themes of Irish and American theatre, those of migration and the use of memory, and pointed out that 'O'Neill belongs to both the literary canons of America and Ireland'.

## UCD Smurfit Executive Development ranked amongst the world's best by the Financial Times

In May 2016 UCD Smurfit Executive Development was ranked 69th in the world and 34th in Europe, according to the prestigious 2016 Financial Times Executive Education Rankings.

UCD Smurfit Executive Development is the first provider in Ireland to feature in the Financial Times Executive Education Open Enrolment Ranking and adds further to the achievements of UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School which is consistently ranked in The Economist and Financial Times global MBA rankings.

In 2015 nearly 600 executives took part in Open Enrolment programmes at UCD Smurfit Executive Development across 10 specialist Diploma programmes, two Business Masters programmes as well as a wide range of short courses and masterclasses.



Pictured (l-r) were: Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean, UCD College of Business; and Helen Brophy, Director, UCD Smurfit Executive Development

Commenting on the ranking, Helen Brophy, Director of UCD Smurfit Executive Development at the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School said: "Inclusion in the Financial Times Executive Education Rankings is a significant endorsement for UCD Smurfit Executive

Development and is a welcome recognition for the excellence we pursue as we support senior executives in developing their skills and expertise. In 2012 we took a strategic decision to focus on developing our Executive Education portfolio and we are delighted now to achieve such a prestigious ranking in recognition of our success to date. Notwithstanding today's achievement, we will continue to invest further in faculty, facilities and programme development to ensure that our offering remains cutting edge".

In January, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School's Full-time MBA programme was ranked 79th in the world and 24th in Europe, by the prestigious 2016 Financial Times Top 100 Global Full-time MBA Rankings. Rankings with strict objective criteria such as the Financial Times and The Economist are the only truly independent and internationally respected classifications by which the world's top business schools are ranked.

## 50 years of the UCD Smurfit MBA

This year marks a key milestone for UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School as it celebrates 50 years since the graduation of the first UCD MBA class of 1966. To celebrate this significant milestone over 150 MBA alumni joined UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks for a gala dinner at the UCD Smurfit School campus on 17 June.

Founded in the 1960s by Professor Michael MacCormac (RIP) who believed that business education was key to Ireland's future success, the executive MBA programme was developed to provide business courses to people who

hadn't completed undergraduate business such as engineers and scientists. MacCormac had said "I wanted them to broaden themselves to business, to get some knowledge of the total business world. It worked very well and that was the root of the MBA."

Fifty years on and the UCD Smurfit MBA has shaped over 3,700 business leaders and entrepreneurs, many of whom have been prominent figures in the Irish and international business arenas.

Consistently ranked in the world's top 100 MBA programmes by both the Financial Times and the Economist Intelligence Unit, the MBA programme at UCD is a testament to the vision and legacy of Professor MacCormac who was lauded at the event by President Deeks and Professor Anthony Brabazon, UCD Smurfit School Director, who both addressed attendees during the evening. The keynote speaker at the event was Grainne Barron, MBA 2007, CEO



Pictured (l-r) were: Professor Anthony Brabazon, UCD Smurfit School Director; Grainne Barron, MBA 2007, CEO & Founder Viddyad; and UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks

and Founder of Viddyad, a technology start-up based in San Francisco.

Four graduates from the MBA class of 1966 attended - Tom Toner, Jack Hayes, Gerry Curley and Brian Gregory. Their presence at the ball very much contributed to the marking of this significant anniversary.

# UCD Festival - One Day to Remember in June

The inaugural UCD Festival took place on 18 June and welcomed over 6,000 staff, alumni, local community and friends back to campus for a very special day. Over 100 free events took place across campus including debates, exhibitions, live music, an experience science programme, picnics, artistic performances and tours.

The day would not have been possible without the support of hundreds of UCD academics staff, students and alumni who gave of their time to make the UCD Festival a day to remember.

The Student Centre became the Festival HQ on the day for the family barbecue, Leinster Rugby were on hand for mini-rugby drills and thousands gathered to watch the Ireland v Belgium match live on the big screen.

The Festival also reflected the internationalism of UCD with a very colourful programme of events from tribal drumming, Chinese Dragon dancing, Bollywood dance workshops to an international food fair.

Over 700 guests enjoyed reminiscing and celebrating one of Ireland's best loved writers, UCD alumna Maeve Binchy at the "Remembering Maeve" event in O'Reilly Hall. Hosted by her husband Gordon Snell, members of Maeve's family and friends took the audience on a journey through some of Maeve's favourite works and celebrated her with readings and recollections.

UCD academics and alumni participated in a host of exciting discussions including "Women in Leadership" and "Leadership for Impact". Pat Kenny chaired the Brexit Debate which featured Senator Michael McDowell going up against Professor Imelda Maher, UCD Sutherland School of Law.



UCD Festival attendees enjoying the many events on offer at the Festival HQ

The finale of the day was the Signatories - Characters in Conversation event, giving the attendees an opportunity to go behind the scenes of this extraordinary theatrical UCD production and hear from the director, from some of the writers and from leading UCD academics.



Aonghus Dwane, Coláiste na Tríonóide, Ciara Considine, Ollscoil Luimnigh, Alasdair Mac Caluim, Parlaimint na hAlban, Ashling Hartevelde, An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath, Orla Bradshaw, Ollscoil na hÉireann, Má Nuad, Bria Mason, Ollscoil Dhún Éideann, Siobhán Seoige, Coláiste Phádraig agus Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath, Cairtriona Breathnach, Coláiste Mhuire Gan Smál, Fiona Dunn, Ollscoil Ghlaschú, Clár Ní Bhuachalla, An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath

## Bord na Gaeilge UCD hosts first seminar for Irish and Scottish Language Practitioners in Higher Education

Dé hAoine 17 Meitheamh bhailigh cleachtóirí teanga Ollscoile de chuid na hÉireann, na hAlban agus na Breataine Bige i UCD lena dtaití a mhalartú ar a chéile. "Ag forbairt agus ag tacú le pobail teangacha mionlaigh; seimineár do chleachtóirí teanga san ardoideachas ag tagairt go sonrach do Ghaeilge na hÉireann agus na hAlban" ba theideal don seimineár seo, an chéad ceann dá shórt. Ba comhionscnamh é seo idir Bord na Gaeilge UCD agus Gàidhlig @ Oilthigh Ghlaschu. I measc na rannpháirtithe, bhí ionadaithe ó institiúidí oideachais in Éirinn, in Albain, agus sa Bhreatain Beag, ó phobal na Gaeilge i Sasana, ón eagraíocht POBAL, Tuaisceart Éireann, ó Pharlaimint na hAlban, Dún Éideann, Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, Éire agus na heagraíochtaí Gaeilge; Glór na Gael, Conradh na Gaeilge, agus Oireachtas na Gaeilge. Ba mhór an tairbhe a bhain na cleachtóirí teanga as an lá agus tá sé i gceist tógáil ar an gcomhoibriú seo idir na hoifigigh agus na hinstitiúidí eagsúla. Gach eolas ó: oifigeach.gaeilge@ucd.ie



Pictured are attendees of the conference including: Dr Frank Walsh, UCD School of Economics (front row, fourth from the left); Professor Patrick Paul Walsh, UCD School of Politics & International Relations (second row, third from the right); and Professor Liming Wang, Director of UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland (second row, fourth from the right)

## 2016 Asian Economic Panel Conference in hosted by UCD Confucius Institute

The Asian Economic Panel (AEP) Conference was hosted by UCD Confucius Institute in Dublin on 21-23 June. Thirty scholars and economists from America, Australia, China, Finland, Ireland, Japan, the Philippines, the UK, among other countries, attended the conference. Professor Liming Wang, Director of the Irish Institute for Chinese Studies at UCD and UCD Confucius Institute; and Dr. Brendan Halligan, Chairman of Institute of International and European Affairs, delivered the welcome address and opening remarks respectively.

At the conference, 8 high-quality academic papers in total were presented and followed by discussions from 16 assigned discussants as well as open discussions from all participants. The presenters reported and shared their latest research results in theories, methodologies and empirical evidence on the current economic issues of Asian countries. The rigorous discussions of the conference covered a broad range of hot topics in the fields of employment, monetary policy and industrial development in Asia. Professor Wing Thyee Woo and Professor Deborah Swenson, both from University of California,

Davis, along with Professor Liming Wang chaired the three sessions of the conference respectively. Professor Patrick Paul Walsh, UCD School of Politics and International Relations, and Dr Frank Walsh, UCD School of Economics, among others contributed to the conference.

This is the second time for UCD Confucius Institute in conjunction with the AEP to host the Conference in Dublin. The conference is praised by all participants and recognised as a high level academic platform for economists and academics across the world to exchange their views on Asian economic issues.

## Gold and silver for UCD's Paul O'Donovan

**Irish Olympic hero and 4th year UCD Physiotherapy student Paul O'Donovan won gold in the men's single lightweight sculls at the World Rowing Championship on August 27th.**

Just two weeks after he claimed an Olympic silver medal with his brother Gary in the lightweight double sculls in Rio, the 22-year-old recorded an emphatic four second victory in a time of 7:32.84 in the final in Rotterdam.

The UCD student had a typically slow start but he attacked with a powerful surge at the halfway point and was a length clear of the

chasing pack for much of the last 500m, winning by two clear lengths at the finish. "With 500m left I remembered I told my friends when I was in Rio that I would win here by open water, so I thought I should probably keep my promise. Then at 200m to go I guess I started smiling a little," Paul O'Donovan said after the race.

Peter Galambos of Hungary and Lukas Babac of Slovenia won silver and bronze respectively.

Paul is just one of four Irish rowers to win gold at the World Rowing Championship after Sean Drea (1975), Niall O'Toole (1991) and Sinead Lynch (2001). Ireland's second world champion, Niall O'Toole, has described Paul as Ireland's greatest ever rower.



UCD Olympians and Ad Astra Athletes (l-r): Mark English, Arthur Lanigan-O'Keefe, Paul O'Donovan, Kirk Shimmins, Ciara Mageean, Ciara Everard, and Claire Lambe, with Professor Colin Boreham, Director of the UCD Ad Astra Athlete programme; UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks; and Associate Professor Barbara Dooley, Dean of Graduate Studies, Deputy Registrar and Ad Astra Academy Director, at a welcome back and celebration ceremony in UCD on 14 September (missing from picture Shane O'Donoghue)

## UCD Olympians reach for the stars

**The eight UCD Ad Astra athletes participating in the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics – representing over 10% of the Irish Olympic team – took the international stage by storm, with UCD's Paul O'Donovan and his brother Gary bringing home Olympic silver for Ireland.**

The Olympic stars received a hero's welcome back to UCD on 14 September when a ceremony and public question and answer event was held in their honour.

Claire Lambe, along with her rowing partner Sinead Lynch, secured a mammoth achievement to finish in 6th place in the Women's Double Sculls Rowing. She has made history by being part of the first Irish female pair to reach a final in the Olympics. Having graduated from UCD Engineering, Claire will soon take up a graduate programme in Cambridge.

Two-time Olympian Arthur Lanigan-O'Keefe produced a top ten finish for Ireland at the Rio Olympics with a come-from-behind eighth-place finish in the Men's Modern Pentathlon competition. The UCD Sport and Exercise Management student was one of only 6 athletes of 35 to jump a clear round.

Ciara Mageean, Women's 1,500m, who recovered from a career threatening heel spur injury, placed 11th in the semi-finals. Ciara went on to participate in the 'Invitation' Diamond League 1500m race in Paris August 25th. She finished 9th in a time of 4:01.46, taking 5 seconds off her previous personal best. This moves her up to second on the Irish all-time list.

4th year UCD Medicine student Mark English finished fifth in his Men's 800m semi-final, while Ciara Everard, a UCD Masters in Sports Physiotherapy graduate, bowed out in the heats of the Women's 800m following a period out with injury.

Kirk Shimmins, a 2nd year UCD BBL student and Sport and Exercise Management graduate Shane O'Donoghue made history and were crucial to the success of the first Irish Men's Hockey team to qualify for the Olympic Games since 1908. The team pushed three sides in the world's top seven to a single goal while they also recorded a first Olympic hockey win for Ireland since 1908.

Annalise Murphy took home Ireland's second Olympic silver medal and Ireland's first sailing medal in 36 years with her second place in the Rio 2016 Laser Radial competition. Annalise withdrew from studying Science at UCD in order to concentrate on her sport, and has exceeded her 4th place London 2012 performance with Olympic silver in Rio. We hope to welcome her back to Belfield soon.

Erasmus Health Sciences student Nicola Muscat spent the 2015/2016 academic year in UCD, taking advantage of Belfield's Olympic standard pool to continue her training, qualifying to represent Malta in Rio 2016, where she swam in the heats of the 50m Freestyle. Muscat holds seventeen Maltese national records and raced at the London Olympics.



UCD's Ciara Mageean won bronze at the European Championships in Amsterdam in July before going on to compete in the Olympic Games in Rio

## European Bronze for UCD's Ciara Mageean

**UCD's Ciara Mageean ran an incredible and exciting race to win bronze in women's 1500m at the European Championships in Amsterdam in July.**

The 4th year physiotherapy student and Ad Astra Athlete from Portaferry on the Ards Peninsula, became only the third Irish woman to medal on the European Championship stage.

Mageean was World Junior silver medallist six years ago but has been hit by a series of injuries that threatened to derail her huge talent and ambition. This surprisingly was the first

Senior European championships for the athlete. With a silver within in her grasp, Mageean has said that she intends her European Championships bronze to be the "first of many."

Ciara now joins Sonia O'Sullivan and Derval O'Rourke, a former UCD sports scholar, as the only Irish women to medal at these European Championships, first staged in 1934.

She went on to compete well in the 1,500m in the Rio 2016 Olympics, placing 11th in the semi-finals, just two hundredths of a second shy of her seasonal best.



*Pictured at the presentation of the 2016 Maeve Binchy Travel Award, which was held this year during the UCD Festival, were, (l-r): Aaron O'Farrell, award recipient; and Gordon Snell, husband of Maeve Binchy and sponsor of this award*

## 2016 Maeve Binchy Travel Award winner

**The Maeve Binchy Travel Award, sponsored by the Binchy/Snell family, commemorates celebrated UCD alumna, Maeve Binchy, her love of travel and her world-celebrated creative writing. The Award, worth €4,000, is open to a UCD humanities student (undergraduate or postgraduate) and was inaugurated in 2014. Previous winners are Henrietta McKervey and John McHugh. This year's winner, Aaron O'Farrell, has just graduated with a BA in English and Film.**

The judges of the 2016 award were Niall McMonagle, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne and James Ryan. Congratulating this year's winner, Professor Margaret Kelleher, chair of the selection committee, said: "Generously supported by her family, the Maeve Binchy Travel Award offers an exceptional opportunity to an emerging writer of spirit and ambition. Aaron is a very fitting winner of such an award, and we wish him a productive and positive journey."

Aaron told UCD Today: "Film-making and writing have been a passion of mine from a young age. When I was nineteen I travelled to West Africa as a volunteer care worker and English teacher. I was shocked to find that the local family I was living with had a slave. He was not called a slave but his sixteen-hour work day, seven days a week, and for no more than the equivalent of eighty cents a day equated to slavery in my eyes. His name was Kosi, which in the native language of Togo means Sunday. In Togo, you are named after the day of the week on which you were born. Kosi and I struck up a close relationship. I was fascinated by his life story. During my time in Togo I interviewed Kosi on camera many times. Using the funds provided by the Maeve Binchy Travel Award, I want to film and write a full feature piece about my return to Togo with Kosi as the subject. My aim is to document my search for a man that I have no contact details for other than the address of the family I stayed with. Given his name, I will title my writing and documentary Looking for Sunday."

## UCDVO assists with Tanzanian computer labs' growth

**UCD Volunteers Overseas (UCDVO) in partnership with Camara Education and the Tanzanian NGO TanZED set up 6 new computer labs in schools in Morogoro and Ruaha in 2016. A total of 150 refurbished computers have been provided across 6 schools this year, bringing the total number of computer labs developed by UCDVO since 2009 to 28. Each year, UCDVO hosts computer collection days on the UCD campus and this donated equipment is refurbished by Camara Education and sent out to Tanzania.**

Tanzanian School Teachers and Principals are responsible for refurbishing classrooms into new computer labs before the equipment is installed. A total of 42 volunteers from UCDVO provided assistance with computer training for teachers, English language classes, summer camps and library development projects over a four week period this summer. UCDVO would like to thank everyone who has supported this project and for your continued support.

UCDVO is open to all UCD students, staff and graduates. Applications for the 2016/17 Volunteering and Development Education Programme opens on 26 September 2016 on [www.ucdvo.org](http://www.ucdvo.org)



*Pictured: Aisling Wilkinson, UCDVO 2nd year Veterinary Medicine student, teaching computers at Iwemba Secondary School, Ruaha, Tanzania*



*Pictured (l-r) at NovaUCD are UCD students and Skillar co-founders; Stephen Jones, Andrew Desmond and Laurence McNally*

## Skillar Wins UCD's 2016 Start-Up Programme for Students

**Skillar, an early-stage UCD student venture, has won the 2016 UCD Startup Stars Programme.**

Skillar is developing Quik, a new mobile application, to accelerate the part-time recruitment process. Quik will allow employers to streamline the hiring and job-search process by enabling them to advertise part-time jobs and subsequently shortlist and talk to locally-available applicants who apply through the application.

The founders of Skillar are UCD students, Laurence McNally (Masters, Mechanical Engineering), Stephen Jones (4th year, Chemical Engineering) and Andrew Desmond (Masters, Digital Innovation).

UCD Startup Stars is an entrepreneurship programme, developed by NovaUCD, UCD Innovation Academy and UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, to provide a framework and support for UCD undergraduate

and postgraduate students to work together to develop and grow start-up companies.

Six student ventures, with 14 team members, were selected to participate in an intensive mentoring programme which took place over 4-weeks at NovaUCD.

The aim of this mentoring programme was to assist the participants in refining their start-up ideas through a series of structured workshops including taught content from industry experts, interactive workshops and regular pitching sessions. In addition each team also received a cash stipend and office space at NovaUCD.

Following final pitches Skillar was selected as the overall winner, as it was judged to have the most commercial potential, and the founders received a cash prize of €3,000.

The sponsors of UCD Startup Stars Programme are AIB, Arthur Cox, Deloitte, Ericsson, Goodbody Stockbrokers, Local Enterprise Office – Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and Xilinx.