

Spring/Summer 2023



UCD today

UCD PRESIDENT
PROFESSOR
ORLA FEELY

SEE OUR PROFILE INSIDE



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EDITOR'S LETTER

EILIS O'BRIEN DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING



New President, New Decade

Over the summer we will see work begin on Phase III of the O'Brien Centre for Science, with North and West emptying and preparation beginning for construction in the autumn. After the opening of the new running track at the beginning of this academic year, funded by the generosity of an alumnus donor, the sports zone on the western side of the campus will step up another level with the construction of two multi-purpose sports halls. This project is currently seeking planning permission. Largely to be funded by the annual student levy this ambitious development can be also used for exams so the anxious trek to the RDS will fade into folklore.

Other capital projects – such as the Library refurbishment, the Centre for Future Learning, the upgrade of Newman, the student residences, and the College of Engineering and Architecture, will

proceed at their pace so we can expect cranes on the Belfield skyline for some years to come.

This September, first years will arrive for orientation from 13 September and begin classes on 18 September. Still not ideal as this means these new students don't get the benefit of finding their feet before the mass of continuing students descends but the wide array of UCD colleagues and students working on orientation over the entire trimester help settle them in and encourage them to become part of the University community.

And meanwhile as we embark on Professor Orla Feely's Presidency there is a great sense of momentum around the campus. In her first communication, the President paid tribute to Professor Mark Rogers for the leadership he gave as Acting President since March 2022 and across a career that spans

Registrar, College Principal and Dean of Science, educator, researcher and innovator. Here and now UCD is ready for our next chapter as a place of higher education and student development, an environment for the discovery of new knowledge and the creation of new ideas, and an ecosystem of innovation and impact for the betterment of society.

Over the coming decade, Ireland and the world will change in extraordinary ways and Orla has set out a vision by which UCD to be out there playing our part in meeting the challenges of the time, preparing our students for fulfilling lives and careers, and growing our impact, profile and global reputation.

In this my last editorial I wish our President and all my wonderful UCD colleagues exciting times, full of promise and fulfilment. I sure will miss this place.

UCD thanks...

Subscribers: Dimitrios Argyropoulos, Emer Beesley, Sophie Bonheim, Christine Bonnin, Rupert Bowen, Caroline Byrne, Sophie Carey, Eoin Casey, Jenny Costello, Philip Cottrell, Ciaran Crilly, Tom Curran, Daniel Esmonde Deasy, Emma Donovan, Laura Egan-O'Brien, Daniel Elliot, Emma Farrell, Rachel Feehily, Beth Gormley, Kellie Hughes, Kasia Gaughan, Helen Graham, John Hammond, Eleanor Kelly, Joanna Kozieliec, Trish Longmore, Emma Loughney, Katherine McSharry, Hilary Minch, Conor Mulvagh, Niamh Nestor, Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Jane Nolan, Hugo O'Donnell, Sinéad O'Donovan, Darina O'Hanlon, Tadhg O'Leary, Katie O'Neill, Robert Osburn, Síofra Pierse, Elaine Quinn, Suja Somanadhan, Anna Truman and Miceal Whelan.

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

Cover image: Professor Orla Feely, UCD President



Professor
Orla Feely



IN PROFILE:
**PROFESSOR ORLA FEELY,
UCD PRESIDENT**

■ In Profile...

You are the first female President of UCD. To inspire academic women coming after you: at what point in your career did you think that you could be President of UCD?

Becoming President was certainly not a long-standing career goal for me. I loved my time from Lecturer to Full Professor in Electronic Engineering, and for most of that time had no desire to move to a role in University leadership. What happened to change this is that I started to take on external roles, for example as Chair of the Irish Research Council. This made me excited about what can be achieved by working across the system and ultimately inspired me to apply for the role of Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact at UCD. As I grew in that role as part of the University leadership team and also took on more external roles, for example as President of Engineers Ireland, applying for President of UCD started to feel like a natural step. Based on my experience, I would encourage all faculty members to take the opportunity for external engagement that the academic life affords. It is a great way to stretch yourself and explore new avenues that might take you to where they have taken me, or somewhere even better!

Do you have the sensation of smashing a glass ceiling? Is that daunting in any way?

Most of the time, no, I don't have that sensation. I am strongly focused on all that is required of me in being President of UCD, but not at all on what it means to be doing the job as a woman (since I know no differently). The times I am reminded of the glass ceiling are when a female early-career academic or student, or an alumna, will tell me how delighted they are to see a woman President of UCD. These exchanges always stop me in my tracks for a moment, and I really appreciate this support from women. I have had wonderful male mentors throughout my career – which is fortunate, since for most of my career in engineering they were just about the only mentors available to me – but I think there is something very special, and still absolutely necessary, about the way in which women support one another.



Do you manage to maintain a successful work/life balance in general or are you a workaholic?

I think that I maintain a good work/life balance, and am absolutely not a workaholic. I come from a close and loving family, and time with family is enormously important to me, particularly following recent bereavements. I worked part-time for a period when my sons were young, and this was essential to my well-being (and possibly also beneficial to theirs). Around that time, one of them, when asked what his Mum's job was, replied "Emails". I try to be more disciplined about this.

What characteristics do you think make a good leader?

In short, the capacity to bring out the best in their organisation. A leader can only do so much with the hours in their own day, but if through establishing a tone, a vision, a strategy and the supports to underpin them they can fire up their organisation towards a shared goal, they can deliver great things.

What is the one accomplishment you'd like to achieve in your first year as President?

The development by the whole of the University of an ambitious Strategic Plan is an essential element of the coming year, and will set us up for success over the years ahead.

What impact will the rising development of AI have on education?

This is a very pressing question for us and for all universities. Recent developments in AI have clear implications for how we teach and assess. More importantly, they will shape in very significant ways the world of work for our graduates over the decades to come, and so it is essential that we support students and staff to become AI literate and to understand how AI can and should be used. I want us in UCD to respond with ambition and agility to the challenges and opportunities of AI while protecting academic integrity and rigor.

UCD Research has progressed the research agenda of the University during your time as Vice-President for Research, Impact, and Innovation. Do you feel that we stand on the cusp of a moment of opportunity or uncertainty in Ireland's national higher education research landscape with the impending merger of the IRC and SFI and a new Research and Innovation Bill?

Personally I see it as a moment of opportunity, but there is no doubt that it is a moment of considerable change. The new Bill is likely to shape the national research and innovation landscape for decades to come, through multiple economic cycles, policy environments and casts of characters. It needs, therefore, to build in protection of the features of our research and innovation system that we need in order to be robust most importantly a commitment to research excellence across all disciplines.

You showed strong cross-disciplinary leadership in how you led UCD's academic programme around the Decade of Centenaries in your role as chair of the University's Decade of Centenaries Committee, how do you see UCD taking a leading role in national conversations in the years ahead, especially building on the University's successes over the past ten years?

I greatly enjoyed chairing the UCD Decade of Centenaries Committee. It was a very natural fit to our history in UCD, while also supporting and

showcasing the work of today's UCD. One way in which the spirit of that activity will continue is in the great work underway in UCD Library to share our rich cultural collections. More broadly, Ireland will be engaged over the coming years in conversations about major global issues such as sustainability, migration and transformative technologies. We in UCD have been building our strategic capacity to address these issues and, as always in our history, we will be central to informing and supporting the national response.

There are now 4,000 people living at UCD during term alongside the 30,000 or so people using the campus daily, what is your vision for helping people feel at home in UCD, expanding our Community spirit?

This is something that is very important to me. UCD is a large university, but I want those who join us, and in particular our students, to find in their part of UCD a community at a scale that they can readily navigate. The ability to build connections in a university environment is particularly vital post-pandemic. We have done a lot of great work on this, for example through the development of the UCD Village and Res Life, and I am working with colleagues and the Students' Union to think creatively about what more we can do.

Has anything surprised you during your first months as President?

I know UCD well, so I have been surprised at how many new things I am learning about the University every day. One thing that has really struck me is the amount of respect for and positivity about UCD that I encounter in my engagements nationally and internationally. So many people have a story to tell about their connections with the University, and the positive impact of our work. It is a great privilege to be able to foster and grow these connections.

■ The Foundation of the Irish State on 6 December 1922



Ayomide Adebambo, postgraduate student in European Law and Public Affairs, examining a curated exhibition of UCD Archives material exploring the foundation and administration of the Irish Free State.

Foundation of the Irish State Conference

In December 2022 UCD hosted a national conference as part of the Decade of Centenaries Programme 2012-2023, marking one hundred years since the foundation of the Irish State.

A significant two-day event, the conference sought to explore the process of state formation amid an ongoing civil war and uncertainty over the future of the border with Northern Ireland, the evolution of the institutions of the state since 1922, and the challenges that state, society, and citizenry faced a century ago.

Speakers included the then Taoiseach Mícheál Martin TD who delivered the opening address; the Hon Mr Justice Gerard Hogan (Supreme Court); Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OECD, UNESCO Ambassador Gerard Keown; Ambassador of Finland to Ireland Raili Lahnalampi; and distinguished academics including Professor Brigid Laffan, Professor Diarmaid Ferriter, Professor Mary E Daly and many more.

Acting President Professor Mark Rogers addressed the conference on behalf of the University and Professor Orla Feely gave an address on behalf of the UCD Decade of Centenaries committee, which she chaired.

“Throughout the Decade of Centenaries, UCD has sought to deliver content which is collaborative, accessible, and contextualised; exploring national events through

interdisciplinary and transnational perspectives” said Associate Professor Conor Mulvagh, UCD School of History, conference academic director. “Building on previous events and outputs, this conference reassessed the foundation of the Irish state through these lenses, showcasing the best of research from Ireland and internationally, and drawing connections between different approaches and perspectives on the state formation process in 1922.”

The conference was organised as a hybrid event and was livestreamed with the intention of informing and stimulating wider public discourse on the history of Irish independence and statehood. A simultaneous English-Irish and Irish-English translation was available for the duration of the conference, for both in-person and online attendees and there was sign language interpretation throughout. A full recording is available online here.

The conference was funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media through the Decade of Centenaries Programme and by UCD.



6th year history students from Tallaght Community School attending the Foundation of the Irish State conference, UCD.

December 1922

The date of 6 December 2022 marked the official centenary of the foundation of the Irish State. This is the date recognised by law and by the international community on which an Irish State formally seceded from the United Kingdom. The signing of the Anglo Irish Treaty exactly one year earlier, on 6 December 1921, began a year of transition that ended with the official foundation of ‘Saorstát Éireann’ or the ‘Irish Free State’.

Events on 6 December 1922

The most dramatic images captured by contemporary newspapers depicted large numbers of withdrawing British troops leaving Dublin and other Irish ports in December 1922. In fact, the withdrawal took longer than expected and the last British troops left Dublin some days after the formal creation of the State.

Others signs of change included the appearance of new tricolour flags of green, white and orange over public buildings. Large queues appeared outside post offices as curious people lined up to see the first stamps of the new Irish State. Those prepared to endure the queues were rewarded with green stamps that depicted a map of the whole island of Ireland. No portrait of King George V was included.

On 6 December 1922 a new Irish Constitution came into force and the Oireachtas was officially opened. The leader of the Irish government, officially President of the Executive Council, WT Cosgrave made a speech in which he hailed “this notable day when our country has definitely emerged from the bondage under which she has lived through a week of centuries”.

Telegrams of congratulations flowed in from overseas capitals including London. The British Prime Minister Andrew Bonar Law, despite strong ancestral ties to Ulster unionism, sent a telegram to the Irish government that recognised the new Irish State and promised cooperation for “lasting concord between the two countries”.

Yet, there were no official celebrations. No parades, no concerts and no fireworks. Bonfires did burn in parts of the country but these were locally organised events. The new State held few official celebrations to mark its own existence.

The Foundation of the Irish State on 6 December 1922 - continued

The Civil War

The absence of official celebration appears less extraordinary when it is remembered that a bitter civil war was still in progress in December 1922. This dampened the mood for public celebration. Also, there were real fears that opponents of the Treaty would mark the date of 6 December 1922 with a spectacular attack that would focus on the capital city. A security cordon was established in Dublin city centre and trains running into the capital were searched and their passengers questioned.

The feared attack actually took place on 7 December when a pro-Treaty TD, Seán Hailes, was shot dead and another, Pádraic Ó Máille, deputy speaker of Dáil Éireann, was wounded on the streets of Dublin. The response of the Irish government was swift and uncompromising. On 8 December 1922 four leading anti-Treaty prisoners were executed without trial in Dublin's Mountjoy Prison.

Partition

The satisfaction felt by many Irish nationalists on the creation of the new State was tempered by the realisation that a quick solution to the partitioning of the island of Ireland was increasingly unlikely. The Treaty gave the parliament of Northern Ireland, created by the Government of Ireland Act 1920, the right to choose inclusion in either the Irish Free State or the United Kingdom after 6 December 1922. Few were surprised when the Belfast parliament chose the United Kingdom just one day later.

An Historic Date

The date of 6 December 1922 remains important as the official date of the foundation of the Irish State, in terms of law and international recognition, even if its birth occurred in less than ideal circumstances. The reaction of Irish people living in 1922 to this historic event largely depended on whether they came from a nationalist or a unionist background and on whether they supported or opposed the Anglo Irish Treaty. One point of agreement was that 6 December 1922 was a date of considerable historical importance. Many contemporary newspapers expected that it would become an important date in the State's calendar that would be commemorated in the future. For example, the Irish Independent predicted "December 6, 1922, will be a notable and memorable day in our history. It marks the emergence of the nation from servitude to freedom". Meanwhile, the Cork Examiner declared "the 6th of December, 1922, will for all time remain an epoch-making day in the story of Ireland, when her freedom was



Pictured (l-r) are Prof Orla Feely, UCD President and Chair of the UCD Decade of Centenaries Committee, Prof Mark Rogers, the Taoiseach Micheál Martin T.D. and Dr Sandra Collins UCD Librarian, examining a curated exhibition of UCD Archives material exploring the foundation and administration of the Irish Free State.

born and she became a nation among the nations of the world." A different perspective was provided by the Belfast Telegraph which noted with regret, "The sixth day of December is a date to be remembered" when the "last vestige of British rule was extinguished in Southern Ireland".

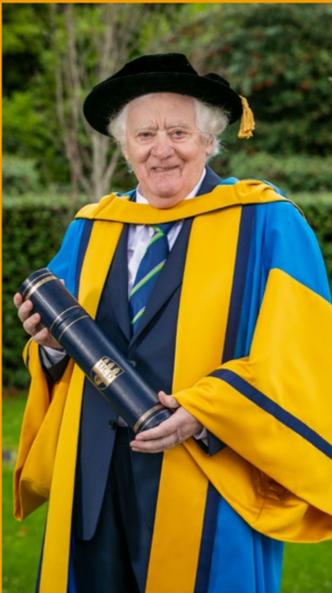
As events transpired, lasting divisions over the Civil War ensured that 6 December was not destined to become a public holiday or

even a date of commemoration in the years that followed. It did not capture the imagination of nationalists in the same way as Easter 1916 or 21 January 1919, the date on which the first Dáil Éireann convened.

Associate Professor Thomas Mohr, UCD Sutherland School of Law

UCD HONORARY DEGREE CONFERRINGS

During the December Conferring Ceremonies, a number of honorary degrees were conferred in recognition of significant achievement in their fields:



Dr Séamus McDermott (DEng) for his contribution to society as founder and Director of the Liffey Trust, citation delivered by Professor Aoife Ahern, Principal, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture.



Professor Gráinne de Búrca (LLD) for her global reputation across European Union Law, Human Rights Law and Constitutional Law, citation delivered by Professor Imelda Maher, UCD Sutherland School of Law.



Professor Michael Apple (DEd) for his lifelong commitment to education as a public good, citation delivered by Professor Dympna Devine, UCD School of Education.



Dr Sunita Kaistha (DEconSc) for her leadership role in UCDVO's volunteer engagement in Delhi, citation delivered by Professor Dolores O'Riordan, UCD Vice-President for Global Engagement.



Professor Liam Dolan (DSc) for his leading global expertise in plant root biology and plant evolutionary biology, citation delivered by Professor Fiona Doohan, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science.



Professor Richard Bourke (DArts) for his contribution to Irish history and historiography, as well as his work in intellectual history, citation delivered by Professor Brian O'Connor, UCD School of Philosophy.



Dr David McCourt (DEconSc) and **Dr Niall Fitzgerald** (DEconSc), both for their outstanding contributions to business, in Ireland and globally, citations delivered by Professor Anthony Brabazon, Principal, UCD College of Business.



Teaching and Learning Awards Presentation

The UCD 2021-22 University Teaching and Learning Awards were presented by the Acting Registrar and Deputy President Professor Barbara Dooley at a celebratory ceremony on 7 March 2023. The awards are the highest honour bestowed by the University for teaching and learning. UCD's national and international reputation for educational excellence has been built over many years by the passion, innovation and commitment of its faculty and staff. The ceremony honoured twelve individuals, all of whom have had a transformative impact on their students' learning experience.

In their nominations students attested to the inspiration, empathy and encouragement they received from the awardees, whose commitment to their students' development and well-being was matched by their outstanding teaching skills and their passion for their subject areas. In particular, the students valued the innovative teaching, clear communication and dedicated mentorship of the awardees. They wrote of the respect and belief that the awardees showed them as individuals, and also highlighted how the awardees helped to foster an open, supportive UCD learning environment.

Teaching Excellence Awards recognise individual faculty and staff in teaching roles for sustained commitment to teaching excellence and student learning and have been awarded to: Dr Rachel Farrell, UCD School of Education; Associate Professor Jonathan McNulty, UCD School of Medicine; Dr Stefan Müller, UCD School of Politics and International Relations; Ms Orla Murphy, UCD School of Architecture Planning and Environmental Policy; Dr Gráinne O'Donoghue, UCD School of Public Health Physiotherapy and Sports Science; Associate Professor Emma O'Neill, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine; Associate Professor Aideen Quilty, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice; Professor Louise Rainford, UCD School of Medicine; Dr Seán Paul Teeling, UCD School of Nursing Midwifery and Health Systems; and Dr Ernesto Vasquez Del Aguila, UCD School of Social Policy Social Work and Social Justice.

Awards for Exceptional Contribution to Learning recognise individual UCD employees who are engaged directly in teaching and or facilitating student learning and have been awarded to: Mr Hans Eckhardt, UCD School of Chemistry; and Ms Evelyn Flanagan, UCD Library.

This year's ceremony was also an opportunity to celebrate in person with the 2019-20 awardees, who had received their awards virtually.

Read about the achievements of our 2021-22 awardees on the UCD Teaching and Learning website.



The UCD 2019-20 University Teaching and Learning Awardees, (l-r) Dr Anthony Cronin, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics; Asst Prof Mary Laheen, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy; Asst Prof Paul Arnold, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy; Ms Denise Murray, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy; Asst Prof Michael Pike, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy; Asst Prof Marcus Donaghy, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy; Assoc Prof Elizabeth Shotton, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy; Dr Lisa Padden, UCD Access and Lifelong Learning; Dr Deirdre McGillicuddy, UCD School of Education; Dr Mark Pickering, UCD School of Medicine; Dr Melinda Halasz, UCD School of Medicine; Prof Barbara Dooley, Prof Marie Clarke, Asst Prof Penpatra Sripaiboonkij, UCD Centre for Safety and Health at Work; Asst Prof Sarah Fulham-McQuillan, UCD Sutherland School of Law; Dr Olive Lennon, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science; Mr David O'Dwyer, UCD Centre for Safety and Health at Work; Ms Gemma Larkin, UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences; Dr Neal Murphy, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture. Absent from the awarded UCD Centre for Safety and Health team: Assoc Prof Conor Buggy, Prof Anne Drummond and Ms Anna Noble.



The UCD 2021-22 University Teaching and Learning Awardees (l-r) Dr Gráinne O'Donoghue, Dr Seán Paul Teeling, Dr Rachel Farrell, Mr Hans Eckhardt, Dr Ernesto Vasquez Del Aguila, Assoc Prof Aideen Quilty, Prof Barbara Dooley, Prof Marie Clarke, Prof Louise Rainford, Ms Evelyn Flanagan, Ms Orla Murphy, Assoc Prof Emma O'Neill, Assoc Prof Jonathan McNulty, and Dr Stefan Müller.



Pictured are (l-r) Brenda and Myles Tierney, their daughter Brenda and Dr Conor Mulvagh.

■ Celebrating the Tierney Legacy

Mary Staunton, UCD University Relations was delighted to welcome members of the Tierney family to campus in March. Myles Tierney, son of Dr Michael Tierney, with his wife Brenda and his daughter Brenda took the opportunity to visit portraits of Dr Tierney and also of Professor Eoin O'Neill who was Myles's grandfather and Brenda's great-grandfather.

Dr Michael Tierney was UCD President from 1947 to 1964 and is lauded for his extraordinary foresight and brilliant strategy in quietly buying up, throughout the 1940s and 1950s, the various estates and tracts of land which now make up our

magnificent Belfield campus, having the ambition to envisage UCD's spectacular growth in the intervening years. He gave his name to the University's administration building, a testament to his importance to UCD to this day.

Dr Conor Mulvagh, UCD School of History was on hand to meet the family and sign copies of his book *The Pen and the Sword*, a biography of Professor O'Neill and to share anecdotes with the family.

■ Royal Irish Academy elects Professor Patrick Guiry as President

Congratulations to Professor Pat Guiry who has been elected 58th President of the Royal Irish Academy, Ireland's leading body of experts in the sciences and humanities. The Tipperary native is a Full Professor of Synthetic Organic Chemistry at the UCD School of Chemistry and Director of the Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology.

Elected to the membership of the RIA in 2013, Professor Guiry served as the Academy's Science Secretary from 2016 to 2020, and was a member of its Executive and Policy and Oversight Committees.

"As President it will be my privilege to work with members, officers and staff to promote the Academy as an independent, all-island learned society that provides expert scholarly advice to inform policy and civic society, responding in a flexible/timely manner to the ever-changing (inter)national research/education environment, with a particular focus on the research funding of STEM and the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences," he said.

"I also endeavour to strengthen the presence of the Academy throughout the island of Ireland with North-South and East-West initiatives, deepening our links with sister academies in the UK and continuing to benefit from the participation of the Academy's experts in European and global networks and alliances.

Adding: "I will lead the development of the Academy's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, continuing to embed EDI into all aspects of activities, and will strengthen the Academy's financial sustainability to



achieve its strategic goals. I look forward to engaging with recently appointed members and supporting the work of the newly established Young Academy of Ireland."

A graduate of UCD, Professor Guiry received his PhD in 1990 with Professor Dervilla Donnelly, and was a visiting PhD student in the group of Nobel Prize winner, Professor Sir Derek Barton FRS. His research interests include the design, synthesis and application of novel ligands in asymmetric catalysis, natural product synthesis and medicinal chemistry.

To date, he has supervised 59 PhD students to graduation, worked with 24 postdoctoral fellows, and supervised over 120 final year undergraduate students project. He is a recipient of a UCD President's Teaching Award, the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland's Boyle-Higgins Medal, and an SFI Mentorship Award.

An elected member of the UCD Governing Authority (third term) and of the Senate of the National University of Ireland (third term), Professor Guiry is the President of the Institute of Chemistry in Ireland and President of the EuChemS Division of Organic Chemistry.



Project helping parents to support youth mental health wins 2022 UCD Research Impact Competition

This annual competition encourages researchers of all disciplines to write a case study that tells the story of how their work has made a positive difference. This year's winner, [Helping parents support youth mental health](#), was led by Professor Eilis Hennessy with Áine French and Dr Daráine Murphy from UCD School of Psychology – see our feature on the next page.

The team's research identified the information that parents need when supporting the mental health needs of adolescents. They shared these findings widely, increasing the mental health literacy of thousands of parents and carers across Ireland, meaning that vulnerable adolescents are more likely to get the right help at the right time.

Professor Orla Feely commented: "As chair of the panel, it has been exciting to learn more about the many ways that UCD's researchers are changing the world. This year's finalists are helping to improve health and well-being, protect the environment, address the climate crisis, influence policy, stimulate economic growth, enrich people's lives and inspire the next generation. I would like to congratulate them on this achievement, and thank them for their commitment to ensuring that people benefit from their research."

The 2022 UCD Research Impact Case Study Competition winner and runners-up were:

Winner

Professor Eilis Hennessy, Áine French, Dr Daráine Murphy
[Helping parents support youth mental health](#)

Runners-up

Professor Katherine O'Donnell, Professor Hugh Campbell
[Inspiring a site of national conscience at the Sean McDermott Street Magdalene Laundry](#)

UCD Diabetes Complications Research Centre
[Changing the guidelines for treating type 2 diabetes](#)

Assistant Professor Alexander Kondakov, Sergey Katsuba
[A decade of violence: monitoring anti-LGBTQ hate crimes in Russia](#)

Dr Alma Clavin, Associate Professor Gerald Mills, Professor Niamh Moore-Cherry
[Empowering community-led green urban development](#)

Associate Professor Tom Curran
[Fighting fatbergs – avoiding sewer blockages](#)

Assistant Professor Nan Zhang
[From lab to bedside: bringing medical devices to the market quicker](#)

Assistant Professor Sarah Cotterill
[Every drop counts – making a case for water conservation in Ireland](#)

Assistant Professor Laura K Taylor, Dearbháile Counihan
[Helping Kids! – promoting inclusive peacebuilding](#)

Professor Deirdre Raftery & Professor Marie Clarke
 UCD School of Education
[PINNACLE: empowering women in India and Pakistan to become education leaders](#)

HealthyAir (led by Dr Ricardo Simon Carbajo)
 UCD School of Computer Science, CeADAR - Centre for Applied Data Analytics
[HealthyAir: addressing the impacts of air pollution in Vietnam](#)



Aine French



Dr Daraine Murphy



Professor Ellis Hennessy

HELPING PARENTS SUPPORT YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH



Is my teenager's mood and behaviour perfectly normal, or is there a problem with their mental health?

These are common questions among parents and guardians. Across the world, there is evidence that young people face greater struggles with their mental health than previous generations. The causes are complex and contested, with earlier onset puberty, social media and information overload, a lack of resilience all blamed to some degree.

During and post-Covid, students also missed out on many of the normal rites of passage, and may have lost relatives or friends to the virus. Teachers and student leaders in Ireland have reported a further spike in mental health difficulties among young people, while a survey for Healthy Ireland of 7,454, interviewed between October 2020 and March 2021, found that 60% of under-25s experienced at least one negative change to their mental health as a result of the pandemic.

Professor Eilis Hennessy, a professor in developmental psychology at UCD School of Psychology, has not only researched these questions but, along with colleagues, has also compiled accessible resources to empower parents and guardians who want to help their children. These have included a series of evidence-based webinars and a suite of new material, including a social media campaign, developed with RTÉ.

"Previous work, carried out by my colleague Dr Daráine Murphy, looked at what it is like to be the parent of a young person who is highly distressed, and how they could get help," Professor Hennessy says. "The focus of this study was on the challenges of accessing help and support. It transpired that, for a lot of parents, they only realised that they were dealing with a more serious problem when there was an incident of self-harm or a suicide attempt.

"In another study, carried out with Áine French, psychology PhD student and research assistant, we looked at the needs of over 120 parents of an adolescent who had self-harmed, what a parent would want to know, and what professionals thought a parent would and should need to know."

These two studies, both of which received grant funding, have helped to lay the groundwork for Hennessy's latest project. Funded by the National

Office for Suicide Prevention and developed in association with Pieta and researchers at Maynooth University, the end result will be a reliable, trustworthy resource with information on what parents can do to support teenagers who self-harm, and how they can get help.

"Many parents said that they were desperate to hear the stories of other parents," says Eilis. "It is very distressing to have a young person who is upset, but sometimes people can be reluctant to talk about it, as they feel it is like divulging personal information that is not their own. Parents want to be protective of their child's privacy, while also needing reassurance that these things happen - and not just to other people."

Among the most distressing experiences for parents are suicide attempts that seem to strike out of the blue, where they parents didn't know their teenager was suffering. Or, their teenager may tell them of a suicide attempt that they made some time back, where the parent did not know. Other times, a teenager may experience a sudden onset of psychosis (a disruption that causes a person to lose touch with reality, or for their experience of reality to be warped or changed) and this can be very upsetting for a parent, particularly compared to anxiety that may build over time."

Hennessy says that, despite reports of escalating mental health problems, most do not reach the threshold of being a mental disorder.

"Distress, yes; upset, yes. But these can be helped without clinical intervention or a referral to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), where only a small percentage of children will meet the referral threshold. By seeking help at an earlier stage - and knowing that they are not alone - before problems escalate, parents can do a lot of good.

"If, for instance, a young person has a high level of social anxiety, they may be staying at home and not going out with their friends. A big part of adolescence is what you learn from being with your peer group, but you miss out on this if you are spending too much time at home, and this can escalate distress."

How young people perceive mental health

Throughout her career, Professor Eilis Hennessy has focused on child and adolescent development, but her recent work has been around mental health, attitudes to mental health and difficulties accessing support. As part of this, a recent project, carried out with her masters students, looked at how young people react to social media posts about depression from their peers.

"We mocked up Facebook posts where someone would talk about being depressed and included some negative comments like 'cop on' or 'don't come back to training with your bad attitude' alongside more positive responses like 'look after yourself, mental health is important'. We showed them to young people to see whether the comments influenced them.



"We found the opposite of what you might expect: those who read negative comments were more likely to want to help, perhaps by posting something positive or wanting to check on the person. It was an eye-opener that bucked the idea that young people would go along with negativity. They are not as susceptible as some feared: The kids are alright."

But is the help there?

"We have heard from parents of the real difficulty in finding help," says Eilis. "Parents say that they see their role primarily as advocates, going out and looking for information, knocking on every door and going to different services.

Resources:

If you or a person you care about has been affected by suicide and self-harm, or is life is difficult and getting you down - or you are struggling to cope - help is available.

Pieta provides a free, therapeutic approach to people who are in suicidal distress, engage in self-harm, or bereaved by suicide, 24/7, and they can be contacted on their crisis helpline (1800247247) or through their text service by texting Help to 5144. See Pieta.ie

The Samaritans can be contacted day or night, 365 days a year, on freephone 116 123 or by emailing jo@samaritans.ie. See samaritans.org

Jigsaw, the National Centre for Youth Mental Health, provides support in communities around Ireland. See Jigsaw.ie

Text "Hello" to 50808 to talk to a trained crisis volunteer

When parents have more than one child and when they have to work as well, it can be very difficult on siblings and other family members. And not all parents will know how to get help or who they should be chasing down, and it can be very difficult on siblings and other family members.

"Internationally, there is a move to provide resources for schools to support young people as part of a wider perspective that incorporates their physical, emotional, sexual and mental health. There are so many pressures on young people today, and so much to worry about in the news: war in Europe, climate change, biodiversity.

"Our resources aim to give parents hints and tips about how they can help, ways that they may be able to reassure the young person, and advice on what might not be helpful. We reassure parents that they are not to blame. We advise that this is okay to talk about, and that the channels of communication should be as open as possible, while the parent tries to stay calm and lower the emotional tone."

Professor Eilis Hennessy was in conversation with Peter McGuire (BA 2002, MLitt 2007), a freelance journalist and regular contributor to The Irish Times and to Noteworthy, the investigations unit at TheJournal.ie.



Pictured at the visit are, back row (l-r) Dr Xavier Velay, ATU Sligo; James Wright, TU Dublin; Prof Jason Last, UCD Dean of Students; Prof Mark Rogers, UCD Acting President; Minister Simon Harris, and Prof David Fitzpatrick, President, TU Dublin. Front row (l-r) Dr Barry Twomey, Advance Centre; Prof Barbara Dooley, UCD Acting Registrar and Deputy President; Mary-Anne Cuhane, Advance Centre; Louise O'Gorman, Advance Centre ATU Sligo; Minister Josepha Madigan TD; Joanna Kozielc Advance Centre UCD; Prof Kenneth Stanton, Head of UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering; and Assoc Prof Chris Bleakley, UCD School of Computer Science.

Delivering Skills for Industry

The Advance Centre is helping to future-proof Irish industry by delivering the key skills needed to compete in the digital arena, according to Simon Harris TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

An education partnership between UCD, Atlantic TU Sligo, and TU Dublin, the Centre focuses on professional learning – offering accredited courses to help companies and employees address skill gaps that are emerging due to the tech and digital transformations taking place across many different industries across Ireland.

Speaking at the Advance Centre, Minister Harris said by

developing industry relevant education, it was delivering “a response to Irish industry’s needs in the digital area. In the times that we live in, there is a responsibility on universities to share their knowledge and expertise with public and private enterprise, and likewise for enterprise to work with higher education to ensure we create the best graduates and the most modern workforce.”

Minister Harris’s visit to the Advance Centre took place shortly after the end of European Digital Transformation Week, which Dr Barry Twomey, Advance Centre Director, said had made clear “that digital skills are of critical importance to economic growth at both a national and European level”.

The Advance Centre offers a range of accredited industry relevant courses and qualifications across 11 different themes aimed at part-time learners who want to upskill in cutting edge areas such as Cybersecurity, Quantum Computing, Data Science, Software Engineering, Digital Agriculture, Data Analytics for Health, AI for Medicine, Financial Mathematics, Electronic System Design and Digital Manufacturing.

Created in 2020, the Centre is financially supported by the Higher Education Authority under the Human Capital Initiative Pillar 3.



Launch of WATSON Project

WATSON is a new €11 million Horizon Europe project which aims to develop a set of tools and systems that can detect and prevent fraudulent practices across the food supply chain. It will increase transparency through improved track-and-trace mechanisms containing accurate, time-relevant and untampered information on the food product throughout its whole journey. The proposed framework will be demonstrated and extensively tested under real-life conditions in a range of use cases

on agri-food value chains i.e., wine, honey, olive oil, meat, dairy, fish in Portugal, Spain, Italy, Germany, Finland and Norway, respectively.

Coordinated by Dr Dimitrios Argyropoulos, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering, WATSON will be delivered by a multidisciplinary consortium of 44 partners across 19 EU and Associated countries. The project is supported by EIT-FOOD.

Pictured at the launch are: Dr Dimitrios Argyropoulos, Prof Enda Cummins, Deputy Head of UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering, Pamela Byrne, CEO Food Safety Authority of Ireland and Assoc Prof Tom Curran, Vice Principal for Internationalisation, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture.



Pictured are (l-r): Dr Amiya Pandit, Dr Claudia Dellacasa, Prof Robert Gerwarth, Prof Judith Harford and Prof Maria Baghramian

Researcher of the Year Awards

Congratulations to modern history expert and author Professor Robert Gerwarth, UCD School of History who won the distinguished Irish Research Council (IRC) Researcher of the Year Award for 2022. The Awards commend the exceptional IRC-funded researchers making considerable contributions to knowledge, society, culture, or innovation. The winners were selected by an independent expert panel, chaired by Professor Áine Hyland.

Professor Maria Baghramian, UCD School of Philosophy was also highly commended in the Researcher of the Year category. Professor Judith Harford, UCD School of Education was awarded this year's Impact Award for her significant record of research impact 'beyond academia' in the area of gender, social class and inequalities in relation to education. Dr Madhusanka Liyanage, UCD School of Computer Science, was highly commended in the Early Career Researcher of the Year Award.

Two UCD early career researchers won Medals of Excellence: Dr Claudia Dellacasa, UCD School of English, Drama and Film won the Maurice J. Bric Medal as the top ranked postdoctoral fellow in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences under the Council's 2022 Government of Ireland scheme; and Dr Amiya Pandit, UCD School of Civil Engineering received the Thomas Mitchell Medal as the top-ranked postdoctoral fellow in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in the Government of Ireland Scheme.

Eight UCD supervisors, mentors and research officers were awarded the IRC's 'Research Ally' prize, in recognition of the important work of supervising academics and research support staff behind the scenes.

The 8 'Research Ally' prize UCD recipients are: Associate Professor Roy Flechner (Mentor), UCD School of History; Assistant Professor Ruth Boeker (Mentor), UCD School of Philosophy; Assistant Professor Arjumand Younus (Mentor), UCD School of Sociology; Professor Eamonn Delahunty (Supervisor), UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science; Assistant Professor Noel McGrath (Supervisor), UCD School of Law; Assistant Professor Gráinne O'Donoghue (Supervisor), UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science; Assistant Professor and Ad Astra Fellow Xingqi Zhang (Supervisor), UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering; and Suzanne d'Arcy (Research Officer), Research and Innovation Manager.



Dr Nigel Short and Dr Desmond Earley are pictured at UCD Newman House with the Choral Scholars and cellist Martin Johnston.

Honorary Conferring – Nigel Short

The honorary conferring of Nigel Short took place in UCD Newman House in April. Renowned conductor, musician and singer, Dr Short was honoured for his exceptional achievements in the fields of creativity, production and performance of choral music. He has produced three albums on the Signum label recorded by the Choral Scholars of University College Dublin, *Invisible Stars* (2015), *Perpetual Twilight* (2019) and *Be All Merry* (2020). Having heard the UCD ensemble in 2014, he recognised that their 'shimmering sound' should be recorded on a major label.

The honorary degree was conferred by UCD Acting President, Professor Mark Rogers and the citation was delivered by Associate Professor Desmond Earley.

In his citation, Associate Professor Desmond Earley said: "As in the case of all adept singers – professional breathers – and conductors, Nigel Short exemplifies what the German philosopher Hegel termed the 'living actuality' of music-making: his exceptional achievements in the field of music traverse many domains: the spheres of singer-performer; the concert stage as conductor and leader; and the recording studio as music producer."

In his closing address, Professor Mark Rogers said: "Nigel Short's collaboration with Desmond, firstly as a workshop guest and laterally as producer of three Choral Scholars albums, has brought enormous value to us and is a significant reason for the success of these albums. Thank you, Nigel, for helping us to bring new Irish compositions and freshly reimagined Irish-language songs to a global audience."

The audience was treated to a performance by a group of Choral Scholars, accompanied by Martin Johnston, cellist with the National Symphony Orchestra.



Assoc Prof Philip Cottrell at the podium.

■ Venice in Dublin: New Perspectives on Venetian Paintings

UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy and UCD Access and Lifelong Learning, in association with the National Gallery of Ireland, staged 'Venice in Dublin: New Perspectives on Venetian Paintings'. This public study day involved half-hour papers featuring new research and critical perspectives on Venetian paintings in the gallery's collection. It was exciting to see some rare, seldom exhibited works put on display specifically for this purpose.

The event, organised by art historian Associate Professor Philip Cottrell, Head of UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy, alongside other members of the international Venetian Art History Research Group, proved incredibly popular, with 150 people attending. Prominent speakers in the field of Venetian/European painting included: Professor William Barcham, State University, New York; Dr Aoife Brady and Niamh MacNally, both National Gallery of Ireland; Professor Peter Humfrey, University of St Andrews; Dr Rose Z King and Dr Tom Nichols, both University of Glasgow. UCD speakers Philip Cottrell and Rachel Healy revealed fresh research and new technical evidence regarding Titian's *Supper at Emmaus*

and the *Double Portrait of Giorgio and Francesco Cornaro* attributed to Vincenzo Catena and an anonymous artist – the latter relevant to Rachel Healy's PhD research in the School.

The audience comprised undergraduate and access students from UCD, invited scholars and the general public. It was especially rewarding that the proceedings spilt out of the lecture theatre at the end of the day and into the galleries. Attendees were invited to join speakers in discussing their research in front of relevant works on the gallery walls. This convivial coda to the day consolidated what had already been a lively and collegial event. For more on the event see <https://vahrg.wordpress.com/>



Pictured are (l-r), Prof Regina Uí Chollatáin, Minister Jeremy Miles, Prof Orla Feely and Iain Quick, Project Manager, Welsh National Government.

■ Visit of Welsh Education Minister

UCD welcomed Wales' Minister for Education and Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles, in celebration of the relationship between the University and Welsh institutions, just ahead of St David's Day.

Minister Miles was greeted at the Belfield campus by Professor Orla Feely, UCD President, Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin, Principal and Dean of UCD College of Arts and Humanities, and researchers involved in collaborations with Welsh partners.

UCD and Welsh higher education and research organisations enjoy longstanding collaborative links which are underpinned by similar university structures and shared culture and history, with many research partnerships supported under the Ireland-Wales Interreg programme, funded through the European Regional Development Fund.

Speaking on the occasion, Jeremy Miles said: "Ireland is an important partner in education and research, which is why these areas are key to our Ireland Wales Shared Statement and Joint Action Plan. This visit to UCD is a chance to celebrate our partnership on Dydd Gŵyl Dewi and will help us find new opportunities to work together."

Professor Feely said: "UCD has a rich and vibrant history of collaboration with Welsh higher education in areas including agriculture, water, heritage, health and sustainable tourism. We are

especially honoured to acknowledge this proud history of partnership marking St David's Day, and look forward to enhancing our cooperation and supporting ever closer engagement between Ireland and Wales."

Professor Uí Chollatáin said: "Our common interest in heritage and language linked to the diaspora of Wales and Ireland has led to numerous collaborations in the arts and humanities. These partnerships are helping to create new cultural experiences and forge additional networks between schools, the tourism sector and universities bringing positive benefits for Welsh and Irish society."

As part of his engagements at UCD the Minister visited the National Folklore Collection which contains a unique record of Irish cultural life through its preservation and dissemination of Irish folk belief, oral narratives and music. The collection has a long standing connection with Wales through the support and camaraderie provided during the pioneering days of folk museums.

“We have seen culture, history and memory eradicated and displaced by a homogenous number of hotels and commercial office spaces, so we wanted to consider alternative ways of developing the city, paying particular care with sites like this, which are so loaded in memory and history.”

BEGINNING TO FEEL A SENSE OF PEACE



A decaying crucifix lies at the end of a corridor, surrounded by blood-red paint that has crumbled off the walls.

In one room, a chair gathers dust, waiting hopelessly for someone to sit on it.

Cobwebs cover the bodies of pigeons who died in this building, perhaps coming in for shelter and finding, like many of the women who were incarcerated here, that there is no escape.

This is the site of the Magdalene laundry on Sean McDermott St, in Dublin's northeast inner city and which, in 1996, was the last of these institutions to close its doors. It was opened by the Sisters of Charity, part of a network of institutions where over 11,000 so-called 'fallen' women - prostitutes, unmarried mothers, rape and sexual assault victims or sometimes just women who were considered too independent or flirtatious - were sent between 1922 and 1996. The women sent to these prisons were forced to do laundry for paying customers.

This building, just a stone's throw from Dublin's O'Connell St, has sat derelict for almost 30 years. It is a site of trauma, suffering and crime.

In 2018, Dublin City councillors backed a motion opposing the sale of the former site to a budget hotel chain. It followed a campaign by activists and academics, including Professor Katherine O'Donnell, UCD School of Philosophy, where she teaches on the history of ideas and feminist and gender theory.

"I was involved with Justice for Magdalenes since 2009, where we campaigned for a State apology to Magdalene survivors, and a redress scheme,"

she says. "So, when the apology did come in 2013, we became Justice for Magdalenes Research, and this began a process of different research projects aimed at addressing the question of what would constitute justice for survivors.

"When the site went up for sale, it was clear that the potential buyer was not appropriate or suitable. This type of hotel was wrong for this part of Dublin, and would have resulted in very few jobs in a part of the city that has been, historically, relatively neglected by politicians."

After the sale was blocked, however, there were differing views on what should become of the building. Should it be demolished? Should it be left to sit vacant? Should it become a memorial site? Should it have a social purpose? Or, in the midst of a housing crisis, should it be used to provide homes?

These were questions, O'Donnell and her colleagues felt, that needed the expertise of architects - but those architects had to be



Professor Katherine O'Donnell and Professor Hugh Campbell

guided by what was best for survivors and for the local community.

So, over the course of three years, Katherine and her UCD colleague, Professor Hugh Campbell, Head of Subject for Architecture in the UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, led a group of academics called the Open Heart City Collective, to work on the site's redevelopment.

They worked in partnership with CoLab 81-7, a group of three emerging architecture offices. Together, these two groups took an academic approach to what to do with the site, and their work involved site investigations and surveys, feasibility studies and, most of all, extensive consultations with the local community, survivors, politicians and academics.

"I was motivated by the idea of stopping the thoughtless destruction of the site, and preventing more thoughtless development," says Hugh.

"We have seen culture, history and memory eradicated and displaced by a homogenous number of hotels and commercial office spaces, so we wanted to consider alternative ways of developing the city, paying particular care with sites like this, which are so loaded in memory and history."

He worked with architecture students from both UCD and Queen's University Belfast to meticulously record and analyse every detail of the site - including the dead pigeons.

"It was really important to consider what would guide how we move in and inhabit these spaces, and that question is one best resolved by architects," Katherine says. Meanwhile, she facilitated discussions and consultations between CoLab 81-7 and all the stakeholders to explore the idea of creating a permanent memorial - or 'site of conscience' on Sean McDermott St.

"Although Covid-19 moved these consultations online, we

carried out many of them, and CoLab's work changed throughout the process to reflect the outcomes of these consultations," she says.

"During these consultations, architects could show the range of possibilities for what is a relatively large site. There was an abundance of ideas and there was space to accommodate these ideas."

Dublin City Council was keen for some social housing to occupy the site, but they also wanted an ongoing tenant, and a public-facing educational institution, where people could learn about the history of institutional abuse in Ireland, seemed a good fit.

Academic research can sometimes struggle to make a real-world impact, but this project has had a clear outcome.

After OHC members carried out the research and presented their findings to key members of the Cabinet, the Government announced in March 2002 that the site will become a National Centre for Research and Remembrance, including a small memorial garden on the site, a museum and exhibition space, an archive of records related to institutional trauma, community facilities, social housing and an educational and early-learning facility. Whereas once women who had babies were imprisoned on this site, and those children often abandoned, neglected or adopted out, the site will now be a place that embraces and supports women and children.

The redeveloped site is intended to benefit the local community and to be a national institution of global significance. Martin Fraser, the former Secretary General at the Department of the Taoiseach and now Irish Ambassador to the UK, is heading up the project, with various different Government departments, the National Museum, the National Archives, the Office of Public Works and others.

"Working on this, with people who have a long history of campaigning, has been fulfilling and humbling," says Hugh. "There was a real feeling of mission and care."

For O'Donnell, the project will have many legacies, but among them is that the past has been diligently recorded. "The visual records cannot be denied," she says. "We were moved by the care and attention that educators, students, locals and survivors gave to the site and those that lived there. Through that loving, thoughtful care, we could see almost an alchemical transformation and - slowly - began to feel a sense of peace coming through."

Professor Katherine O'Donnell and Professor Hugh Campbell were in conversation with Peter McGuire (BA 2002, MLitt 2007), a freelance journalist and regular contributor to The Irish Times and to Noteworthy, the investigations unit at TheJournal.ie.



■ Women and Work across the 18th Century Francophone Globe

Associate Professor Síofra Pierse, Head of UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics and Lucille Raynal, a PhD student organised a conference where twenty researchers and postgraduate students of French literature, history of ideas and history from Ireland, Italy, France, UK and USA gathered in the UCD Humanities Institute. The conference centred on eighteenth-century women at work across the global francophone sphere. It drew inspiration from Daryl M Hafter and Nina Kushner's 2015 study of women at work in 18th century France. Scholars were invited to define what constitutes work during this period, with particular focus on women's work across the vast francophone globe which, through adoption of a simplistic gender binary approach, permitted discovery of previously unknown or unheard figures, texts and narrative voices.

Although they rarely held prominent positions, 18th century francophone women were shown to play an important part in the domestic economy and beyond. Before the enactment of the Napoleonic Code, which restricted women to the domestic sphere, they worked as prostitutes, laundresses, politicians, directors, intellectuals, composers, missionaries, servants and farmers.

Professor Greg Brown, Nevada/Voltaire Foundation, Oxford gave a keynote on the core factor of female networks within Pierre Beaumarchais's correspondence. The final

keynote was given by Professor Jenny Mander, University of Cambridge, focusing on work, time and existential homelessness and the immaterial place of women in Diderot's *Sur les femmes*.

By investigating a rich and complex multitude of texts and images, this conference pushed the boundaries of understanding of eighteenth-century work, reopening the debate on females at work in any era by raising new questions around such a fundamental reality for women in both early modern and contemporary society.



UCD Community Choir, directed by Caoimhe O'Neill, singing 'Treat People with Kindness' at Choirs for Cancer 2023.

Musical tribute to mark World Cancer Day

Jack Lukeman, Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, Anne Randolph, Celine Byrne and Sive joined six choirs from around Ireland on 4 February in a musical tribute to those whose lives are touched by cancer. Choirs performing include those comprised entirely of cancer survivors; Sea of Change and Sing for Life Choir as well as Mount Sion Choir, Dublin Gospel Choir, The Mellow Tonics and the UCD Community Choir.

Many choirs had joint performances with the guest musicians. Everybody performed songs with special meaning to them. The event ended with a combined performance of 'Brave' by Sara Bareilles when more than 250 people took to the stage in UCD O'Reilly Hall.

Maia Dunphy was Master of Ceremonies for the event. A supporter of many cancer charities and the Hospice, Maia lost her darling mum, Helen to cancer in February 2022.

In addition to the music, Karl Corcoran and Kay McKeon spoke about their own cancer journeys. Like many young teenagers, Karl Corcoran was sports mad but was unable to play after developing aches and horrendous pain in his knees, hips and shins. It took 12 months before he was finally diagnosed in January 2021 with high grade large B-Cell lymphoma. After surgery and chemotherapy, Karl is in remission and has become a member of CanTeen, a patient advocacy and support group for adolescents with cancer.

Graphic designer, Kay McKeon was diagnosed with breast cancer while living in New Zealand in 2017 aged 39. Today, Kay is a patient advocate, designer and researcher. Her story has been used in campaigns to promote the celebration of survivors and their lives after cancer.

During the interval, the audience had an opportunity to speak with young researchers who created plain English summaries of their work

for the event. They also got to see three small exhibitions from artists, Vincent Devine, Lorna Donlon and Navin Hyder on cancer related themes.

The UCD Community Choir, directed by Caoimhe O'Neill, sang 'Treat People with Kindness' and were joined by folk singer, Anne Randolph for a joint performance of 'The Water is Wide'.

Celine Byrne, the lyric soprano from Kildare who has been performing on the international stage since her operatic debut in 2010 with world-renowned tenors like José Carreras, gave breathtaking performances of 'O Mio Babbino Caro' and 'Nella Fantasia'.

It was the fourth Choirs for Cancer for Mount Sion Choir from Waterford who are immensely proud of their work in cancer awareness that includes recording a charity single called 'This is Your Song' with Ronan Keating to raise funds for the Marie Keating Foundation.

UCD Professor William Gallagher, Co-Lead, All-Ireland Cancer Research Institute and Deputy Director, Precision Oncology Ireland who organised the event in conjunction with The Patient Voice in Cancer Research, thanked all those who generously gave their time to take part.

"Choirs for Cancer is an amazing event that inspires the heart. It centres on raising awareness of cancer but also providing an uplifting experience for all who attend. The sound of all these singers from around the island of Ireland stays with you."

Recipients of the 2023 NovaUCD Innovation Awards Announced

NovaUCD has announced the recipients of its annual innovation awards which highlight successes made in areas of knowledge transfer, consultancy, entrepreneurship and the promotion of an innovation culture, by members of the UCD research, innovation and entrepreneurial community.

A total of seven awards, including the main 2023 NovaUCD Innovation Award, were presented by Professor Mark Rogers, then Acting UCD President during an event held in the UCD University Club. He said, "The NovaUCD Innovation Awards are a key annual event at UCD recognising and highlighting successes achieved by our research, innovation and entrepreneurial communities across the University and I congratulate all those who have received awards. I would also like to take the opportunity of wishing them ongoing success in the future as they continue to deliver economic and societal impact through their commercialisation, consultancy, entrepreneurial and innovation activities."

The awardees are:

2023 NovaUCD Innovation Award: Professor Stefan Oscarson, UCD School of Chemistry and Professor Stephen Carrington, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine (retired).

2023 NovaUCD Invention of the Year Award: Dr Joseph Sweeney, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering.

2023 NovaUCD Spin-out of the Year Award: seamlessCARE, co-founded by Dr Aviva Cohen, Ian Kennedy and Dr Çağrı Çubukçu.

2023 NovaUCD Consultancy of the Year Award: Dr Stephen Davis, UCD School of Archaeology.

2023 NovaUCD Licence of the Year Award, Associate Professor Siobhán McClean, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science.

2023 NovaUCD Founder of the Year Award: Aidan O'Neill, founder and CEO, DOCOsoft.

2023 NovaUCD Innovation Champion of the Year Award: Dr Eoin O'Cearbhaill, UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering.



Pictured are Prof Stefan Oscarson, UCD School of Chemistry and Prof Stephen Carrington, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine (retired), recipients of the 2023 NovaUCD Innovation Award



Pictured is Assoc Prof Siobhán McClean, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, recipient of the 2023 NovaUCD Licence of the Year Award.

Islam and Ireland

A ground-breaking two-day event 'Islam and Ireland' was held to address the questions of how Irish Muslims are represented and misrepresented and how the Irish Muslim experience compares to the experience of Muslims in other countries. The launch event at the Museum of Literature Ireland included a keynote panel discussion between former President of Ireland Dr Mary McAleese and UK Shadow Minister for Crime Reduction Naz Shah MP, as well as speeches from Minister Simon Harris and then Acting UCD President Mark Rogers.

The workshop on the second day featured three themed panel discussions on Islam in Ireland; Politics and Governance; and the International View. Speakers included representatives from Irish Muslim communities as well as Dr James Carr, University of Limerick, Dr Roja Fazaeli, TCD, Dr Dahlia Fahmy, LIU Brooklyn and Zara Muhammad, Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain. A report on recommendations emerging from the event will be published in August 2023.

The event was organised by the UCD Newman Centre for the Study of Religions, led by Associate Professor Daniel Esmonde



Pictured (l-r) are: Prof Mahan Mirza, Notre Dame Ansari Institute, Stephanie Mirza, Dr Daniel Esmonde Deasy, Prof Mark Rogers, Dr Mary McAleese and Martin McAleese.

Deasy, UCD School of Philosophy, in collaboration with the University of Notre Dame's Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, Clingen Centre for the Study of Modern Ireland, and Ansari

Institute for Global Engagement with Religion, with support from John Barry and Susan Lysaght of UCD Major Strategic Partnerships and UCD Global.

UCD and Northeastern University sign formal partnership agreement

Northeastern University (NU) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a formal partnership with UCD around a shared focus on key global challenges in healthcare.

The Boston-headquartered university is a Top 10 research institution in the US, with leading global experts in health informatics and the deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in health. NU and UCD aim to drive mutual gains in health technologies research and innovation, as well as transatlantic educational cooperation through teaching and learning programmes.

Provost of Northeastern University Professor David Madigan, an Athlone native who is on the advisory board of Insight, the SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics, said: "UCD and Northeastern have a long-standing and highly successful partnership centered on student learning. We are extremely excited to extend the partnership to include an array of high-impact joint research projects. Our research strengths align beautifully and I have no doubt we will solve many important problems together in the coming years."

UCD President, Professor Orla Feely said: "I am delighted that Northeastern University and UCD are embarking on this new strategic partnership. This agreement formalises a new and very significant partnership between the two institutions

and sets out a shared ambition to jointly address key challenges through complementary research strengths, leveraging shared infrastructure and talent. We look forward to mobilising and maximising our partnership with Northeastern University to jointly develop new solutions for Irish and European healthcare through impactful and excellent research, combined with novel joint initiatives around teaching and training."

The partnership under the MoU includes several research strands including technologies for rehabilitation, biologics and advanced manufacturing, maternal health and clinical support tools for cardiac patients.

NU's key initiative for students is its cooperative education program (Co-op), which adds professional experience as part of study programmes. Co-op has made NU one of the most sought-after universities in the USA, and it has been an established study abroad partner for UCD since 2007. The NU-UCD study abroad partnership developed exponentially with the establishment of the Northeastern Freshman Study Abroad programme (NUin) in 2013. As a testament to the strength of the partnership, UCD was the only overseas partner where NUin continued to send students throughout the pandemic.

UCD-Vice President for Global Engagement, Professor Dolores O'Riordan said: "This MoU will strengthen links between our researchers, opening up opportunities for academic and

research collaboration to transcend to educational and teaching partnerships that can develop the students' exposure to a more internationalised curriculum and provide them with a global dimension to key learning topics."

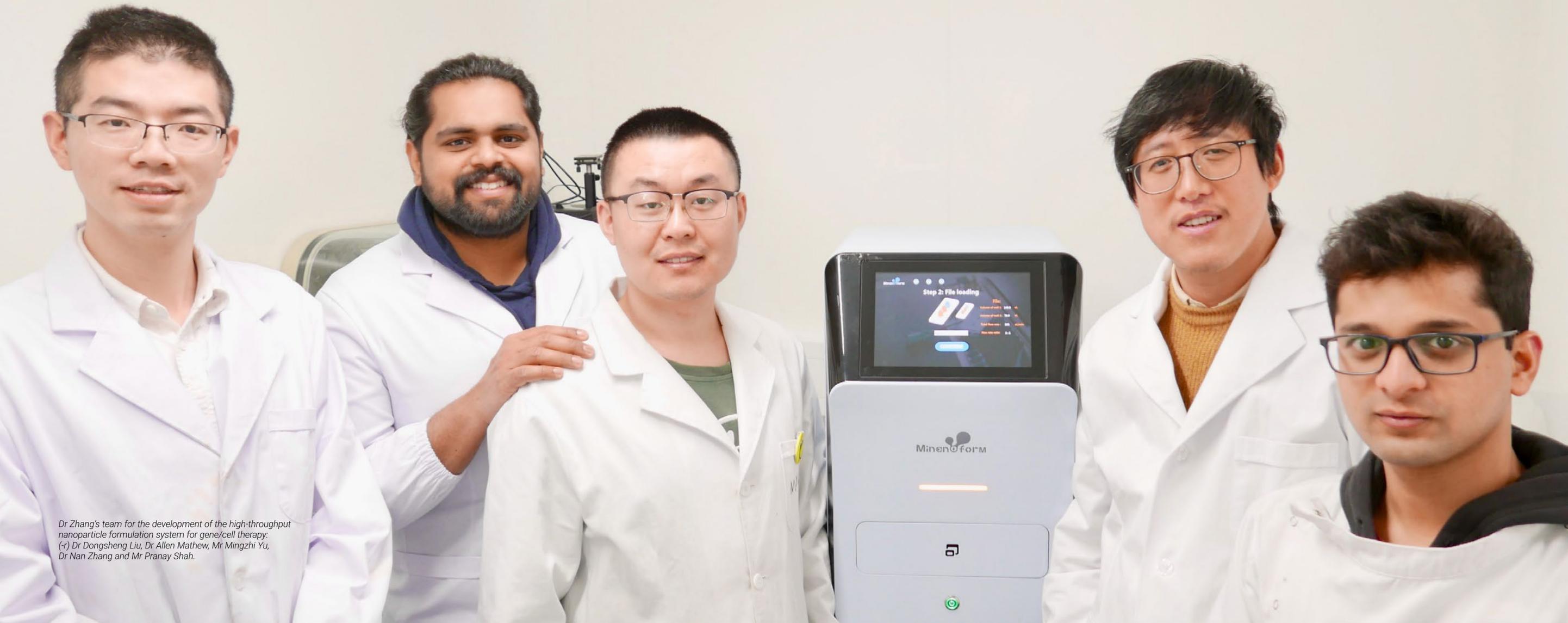


Prof Orla Feely with Prof David Madigan, pictured at the signing of the MoU.



Dr Nan Zhang

REVOLUTIONISING POINT-OF-CARE DIAGNOSTICS AND THE BIOPHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY WITH MICROFLUIDICS



Dr Zhang's team for the development of the high-throughput nanoparticle formulation system for gene/cell therapy. (r) Dr Dongsheng Liu, Dr Allen Mathew, Mr Mingzhi Yu, Dr Nan Zhang and Mr Pranay Shah.

Microfluidics, the science of manipulating and controlling small amounts of fluids, is making significant strides in improving point-of-care diagnostic devices. Dr Nan Zhang, UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, a researcher in microfluidics, is at the forefront of this exciting field.

In what is often referred to as ‘lab on a chip’ science, his research focuses on developing mass production technologies to bring innovative diagnostic devices from the laboratory to patients at an affordable cost.

The challenge lies in scaling up the production process. These microscale and nanoscale channels have dimensions close to the diameter of the average human hair. Therefore, making these microfluidic devices in high quantities while maintaining consistency and repeatability without defects is difficult.

“Generally these devices are made using a laboratory based method, a lithography process, which is expensive and not easy to scale up”, explained Dr Zhang. “You can make a few pieces, even tens of pieces, in a lab but how can you make hundreds or thousands with good consistency and without defects? That’s the challenge,” he added.

Dr Zhang and his polymer micro/nano manufacturing technologies group are addressing this problem by designing these channels and developing high precision replication technology for large-scale production. It’s a long process that has taken ten years to establish the lab from scratch.

Now the process established includes designing the microfluidic channels, running simulations to optimise fluid dynamics, and prototyping using precision 3D printing and micro-machining technology. It is followed by conducting various experiments to test these tiny channels, such as nanoparticle synthesis or diagnostic tests.

Dr Zhang described the next steps: “If successful, we move to small-scale production for patient trials or customer validation, using our self-lubricating moulds and replication technologies like microinjection moulding, micro hot embossing, and nano imprinting. To create closed channels, we develop surface treatment and bonding techniques.”

“Our technology is scalable, allowing for laboratory-scale prototyping as well as the production of hundreds to thousands of samples. This ensures consistency and translation from lab testing to small-scale validation and eventually mass production,” he pointed out.

While there are other research groups working on microfluidic devices, what is unique about Dr Zhang’s research is the development of a breakthrough advancement: High precision self-lubricating micro moulds.

This technology helps to produce defect-free microfluidic devices while extending the mould’s life by up to five or six times, making it more cost-effective.

“I developed a mould that can help release the plastic from the mould itself; you can easily separate the polymer from the mould without inducing any kind of deformation or adhesion defects,” said Dr Zhang. “Also, the technology I developed can actually extend its life, which is important because they are quite expensive, between €8,000 and €15,000 for one single mould.”

Microfluidic devices have a wide range of applications and are increasingly becoming an important part of modern medicine. Within point-of-care diagnostics this includes blood and urine tests, but also, as Dr Zhang points out, emergency situations for life-threatening diseases including the timely detection of sepsis, a condition caused by the body’s response to an infection that can lead to organ failure and, if not treated promptly, can result in high morbidity and mortality rates.

Another significant application of microfluidics, which is where Dr Zhang and his group’s interests lie, is in the biopharmaceutical industry in the synthesising of nanoparticles, such as those used in mRNA vaccines.

These vaccines require a carrier to protect the genetic material, and optimising the formulation of these carriers is crucial for effective and safe delivery, explained Dr Zhang. Microfluidic devices can be used to screen and optimise formulations, speeding up the drug development process and improving treatment outcomes.

Microfluidics also play a crucial part in gene therapy, an emerging treatment modality that involves introducing, modifying, or repairing genetic material within a patient’s cells, and which holds great potential for cancer treatment.

Where microfluidics comes in is the ability to manipulate small volumes of fluids, which is increasingly employed to facilitate gene therapy approaches for cancer treatment, offering several advantages such as precision, speed and scalability.

“You need to optimise those formulations to make sure that the nanoparticles can be targeted to certain organs for breast cancer or some other cancers; you need to make sure those nanoparticles can recognise the organ that the cancer is in.”

How do you optimise such formulations? You need to use microfluidic devices like the ones Dr Zhang and his research group are working on.

“We have developed a high throughput formulation optimisation system that can help gene therapy companies, cell therapy companies and some CDMOs (contract development and manufacturing organisations) to screen and optimise their formulations to ensure these genetic materials are well protected and can be targeted to certain tissues or organs,” explained Dr Zhang.



MiNano-form: a high-throughput nanoparticle formulation system and the microfluidic cartridge developed at UCD.

“This is quite important because those biopharma companies have spent years and years developing the best drug formulation to treat certain diseases and we can really help them to accelerate the process and eventually bring the overall therapy to the patient much quicker than you normally would.”

Dr Zhang’s group is currently collaborating with SINTEF, a leading European scientific instruments company, as well as a US gene therapy company. These partnerships are a testament to the potential of his team’s technology in revolutionising healthcare and providing life-changing benefits to patients.

The microfluidic devices designed by Dr Zhang are not only paving the way for faster, more accurate diagnostics but also helping to optimise drug formulations for gene therapy and cell therapy.

The potential applications are vast, and the impact on healthcare is profound. With continued advancements in microfluidics, we can expect to see even more innovative diagnostic and treatment options become available, transforming the way we approach healthcare and improve patients’ lives.

Dr Nan Zhang was in conversation with Marie Boran, freelance science and technology journalist (UCD BSc 2002, DCU MSc 2012, MSc by Research (Insight Centre for Data Analytics, NUIG) 2015).



Prof Steve Gordon, Co-Chair, Vet EDI/Athena SWAN Committee, Lorna Murphy and Prof Michael Doherty.

School of Veterinary Medicine Dean's Inclusion Award for MVB Student Lorna Murphy

Lorna Murphy, a Stage 4 MVB (Veterinary Medicine) student has been awarded the School of Veterinary Medicine Dean's Inclusion Award 2022. Throughout her time in the School, Lorna has demonstrated a significant commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion across the UCD Veterinary Community. As VetSoc's Welfare Officer in 2021/22, she represented UCD on the Vet Schools Council and also pursued a number of important initiatives, such as campaigning to get food banks set up within UCD to deal with end of Trimester food wastage.

Presenting the award to Lorna, Professor Michael Doherty, Dean and Head of School said: "It is great to see the real impact

of actions set out in our 2018 Athena Swan action plan. In our 2022 student survey, for Athena SWAN, over 70% of students felt the school was 'supportive, inclusive and welcoming'. The work that Lorna and other students do to make our community more inclusive cannot be underestimated." The Dean's Inclusion Award is awarded annually to students, staff, faculty, clubs or teams who have made outstanding contributions to equality, diversity and inclusion in our community during the preceding college year. It was first introduced in 2019 as part of the School's Athena SWAN Action Plan, promoting the ongoing transformation of our culture and community.

MetHealth Overall Winner of the 2022 UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme

MetHealth, an early-stage start-up focused on transforming obesity care, was named the winner of the 2022 UCD Start-Up of the Year Award. MetHealth won the award and a €30,000 prize fund after being declared overall winner of the 2022 UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme. The annual programme, which is run by NovaUCD, aims to support the creation and launch of sustainable and profitable new start-ups emerging from the University.

The announcement took place as part of the 2022 NovaUCD Investor Day event. At this event over 25 NovaUCD client companies, which between them are seeking to raise in excess of €100 million in Seed or Series A funding, pitched to an invited audience of venture capitalists and private investors.

MetHealth is developing a biomarker-based risk-stratification platform and associated digital health solution that can identify patients with complications of obesity, including liver disease. The platform supports clinical decision making and enhanced delivery of personalised care for individual patients.

The members of the MetHealth team are; Dr Fiona McGillicuddy, who took part in the VentureLaunch programme, and Professor Stephen Pennington, UCD School of Medicine and UCD Conway Institute; Associate Professor Catherine Mooney, UCD School of Computer Science and UCD Conway Institute; Dr Rachel Byrne, UCD School of Medicine; Dr Anna Antoniadis, UCD School of Computer Science; and Aleksandra Dudzik, UCD School of Medicine.



Pictured is Dr Fiona McGillicuddy, UCD School of Medicine and MetHealth project lead.

The main objective of the UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme is to equip participants with the knowledge, skills and understanding that will be required to work as part of a team leading a new commercial venture. On completion of the programme the expectation is that participating new ventures will have developed a commercially viable business plan.

MGA Clinical Influencers Podcast Series

The second series of the MGA Clinical Influencers Podcast Series is well underway. Host Professor Patrick Murray, UCD School of Medicine has engaging, candid and insightful conversations with UCD School alumni. We hear about their time at UCD, their career journeys and personal reflections, advice and lessons learned. We encourage you to take a listen and hope you enjoy!

Episode 1 – Professor Michael Keane, Dean UCD School of Medicine

Episode 2 (Parts 1 and 2) – Dr Mark Rowe, GP, Expert in Positive Health and Lifestyle Medicine

Episode 3 – Dr Tony Holohan, Adjunct Professor, UCD School of Medicine

Future episodes will feature: Professor Yvonne Gilleece, national and international leader on HIV in women, new Chair Elect BHIVA; Professor Orla Hardiman – Professor of Neurology, recent recipient of HRB Impact Award; and Professor Geraldine McCarthy – Consultant Rheumatologist Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Clinical Professor of Medicine UCD.



Kay McKeon, Dr Ananya Gupta, Tina O'Sullivan, Dr Nicolette Warner, Rebecca Sheridan, Mary Staunton, Ramon Whelan and Prof Amanda McCann.

■ Patient Voice in Cancer Research regional event

The Patient Voice in Cancer Research (PVCR) brought a roadshow event to the Radisson Blu, Athlone on the evening of 21 February ahead of the Irish Association for Cancer Research annual conference. 'Have Your Say in Research' gave attendees an opportunity to hear 'patient voice' partners speak about their experience of working with researchers through the PVCR initiative.

With both a lived experience of cancer and professional expertise in communications, Mary Staunton, UCD University Relations is ideally placed to support early career researchers like PhD student, Rebecca Sheridan in writing and speaking about her work in plain English for public audiences. Mary and Rebecca spoke about working together to prepare an accessible presentation for a national competition that Rebecca went on to win.

Ramon Whelan then spoke about his experience of reviewing the public and patient involvement (PPI) section in applications for grant funding to the Irish Cancer Society as well as facilitating roundtable discussions between researchers and 'patient voice' partners on research projects. Irish Cancer Society PPI Champion, Kay McKeon spoke about carving her niche as an advocate and researcher alongside a career in graphic design on her cancer journey.

Tina O'Neill and Dr Nicolette Warner spoke about their experience of working together on doctoral research involving the BRCA gene in breast cancer. Both Tina and Nicolette spoke about the positive benefits to each of them. Through Nicolette, Tina

was able to connect with a wide network of patients on the island of Ireland while Nicolette gained valuable insight to Tina's lived experience for her project.

Dr Ananya Gupta from the University of Galway recounted the iterative progression of her research to develop a device to measure white blood cells that patients can easily use at home to monitor their response to treatment. Low white cell counts (neutropenia) are a feature of chemotherapy and make it more difficult for the body to fight infection. Patient feedback at regular stages of the development process has allowed Dr Gupta to tailor the device so that it will have the most benefit to patients when launched.

Professor William Gallagher, UCD Professor of Cancer Biology, Deputy Director, Precision Oncology Ireland and Co-Lead, All-Island Cancer Research Institute spoke about the importance of PPI, the role that patient voice partners will play in this new initiative and the benefits of learning from the experience of colleagues in Northern Ireland who have been working together with patient voice partners to embed lived experience in research over many years.

The East Galway Mayo Cancer Support group were on hand to provide practical and emotional support at the event. The conversation was facilitated by Professor Amanda McCann, UCD School of Medicine and Fellow, UCD Conway Institute and Elaine Quinn, Institute Manager (Communications and Education). Anyone interested in joining the PVCR network can sign up on www.ucd.ie/patientvoicecancer



■ UCD archaeologist wins prestigious Dan David Prize

A UCD archaeologist is the first person in Ireland to receive the prestigious Dan David Prize - the largest award for history research in the world. Dr Anita Radini, an Ad Astra Fellow at the UCD School of Archaeology, was named as one of its nine recipients for 2023 in recognition of her pioneering research highlighting the labours of the often invisible craftspeople and workers behind history's ancient monuments and artwork.

As part of her award-winning research, the UCD archaeologist analysed the tiny remains of dust in dental plaque on ancient people's teeth to uncover more about their lives. This work helped illuminate the role of women in mediaeval crafts, challenging the widespread assumption that male monks were the sole producers of books in the Middle Ages.

Her team identified particles of blue pigments in the dental plaque of a mediaeval woman's remains as lapis lazuli, a stone more precious than gold at the time. These findings were the first to provide direct archaeological evidence from skeletal remains that women were involved in illustrating mediaeval manuscripts.

The other winning projects from this year's Dan David Prize - who work in Kenya, Denmark, Israel, Canada, and the United States - include a virtual reality tour of mediaeval Angkor Wat, a digital archive of disappearing architecture in Kenya, as well as explorations of interfaith rifts after the Holocaust, illicit sexuality in colonial Nigeria and white women's complicity in slave ownership in the US South.

Each will receive \$300,000 in recognition of their achievements as emerging scholars and to support their future endeavours in the study of the human past.

UCD College of Business launches new five-year strategy: Creating a Better Future Together

The UCD College of Business launched a new strategy which will guide its growth and development over the five-year period from 2022 to 2026. The strategy is based on the College's mission to "strive to lead the advance of the theory and practice of business, inspiring and co-creating a better future for our students, our staff, our alumni, and for business and society in Ireland and the world".

The College will deliver on that mission through its commitment to empower, connect and create, according to Prof Tony Brabazon, Dean of the UCD College of Business. "We empower, develop and inspire current and future business leaders with the knowledge, critical thinking, soft skills, global perspectives and confidence to achieve their full potential, to innovate and lead responsibly with purpose and impact," he says.

The strategy is based on four pillars – creating knowledge, transformational learning and development, embracing the world and building engagement.

The first pillar will see the College contribute to knowledge creation and leading debate in the academic and public space on pressing business issues. Areas of focus will include global challenges such as creating a sustainable global society, transforming through digital technology, building a healthy world and empowering humanity. "Building on our current and emerging strengths, we will focus on business-relevant

aspects of these themes in key areas such as digital business, financial services, healthcare, food and professional services," Professor Brabazon explains.

The transformational learning and development pillar will see the college cultivate informed, critical thinking strongly grounded in disciplinary expertise and business and societal awareness. "We will prepare our students for careers in a rapidly changing world and provide the skills they need for their ongoing development," he notes.

The embracing-the-world pillar sees the College recommitting to a global perspective across all of its activities. "This will inform our research activities, our curricula, staff and student recruitment activities, our engagement with global academic networks and other reputation-enhancing activities."

Building engagement will involve leveraging and expanding the school's strong community of stakeholders, comprising students, alumni, staff and industry, NGOs and public-sector partners.



The new strategy incorporates the learnings gained during Covid. "We originally went into the strategy-formation process just before Covid," says Professor Brabazon. "We had to pause as we didn't know how long the pandemic would last or what the world would look like afterwards. When we resumed, we engaged in a lot of consultation with employers and alumni, faculty and students and benchmarked ourselves against business schools internationally. It was quite an intensive process."



Veterinary Medicine Library

The Veterinary Medicine Library has a new look and feel, with enhanced services for all its users. UCD Library worked with the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine and UCD Estates to deliver the first upgrade of this space since it was opened in 2000.

Located in the Veterinary Sciences Centre on the Belfield Campus, the library is the only academic veterinary medicine library in the Republic of Ireland. It supports the teaching and research activities of the Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing programmes and is very heavily used by students. Alongside current students and faculty, members of the Irish veterinary profession also use the Veterinary Medicine Library and its resources.

The recent curation of the Vet Library print collections, including the removal of print journals off the open floor, offered the opportunity to create additional study spaces

and services. With the library freshly painted and newly carpeted, the refurbishment project provided two additional group study rooms, additional new loose seating, reupholstering of old chairs, and more desks, all equipped with power/plugs to support device charging. Together with upgraded digital library services, including a new automated Smart Return chute, a new printing area and striking new visuals, the project has created a significantly enhanced user experience.

University Librarian, Dr Sandra Collins, said "We were delighted to work with the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine and UCD Estates on the Veterinary Medicine Library. The refurbishment was a major piece of work, requiring the temporary move of the entire book collection, and the temporary provision of student spaces in the James Joyce Library. The wonderfully refurbished space shows what can be achieved by working with partners across the University."



Geevagh LGFA with lots of helpers at the Cruinniú na gCrann event.

■ UCD-led BioBeo EU project promotes native tree planting in 'Cruinniú na gCrann'

The BioBeo Horizon Europe project coordinated by Associate Professor Tom Curran, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering was pleased to collaborate with Geevagh Ladies Gaelic Football Club on a tree planting event called 'Cruinniú na gCrann', the gathering or meeting of trees. The activity coincided with National Tree Week and aligns well with the BioBeo project objective of delivering bioeconomy education programmes.

Geevagh Ladies' Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) Club was founded in 1995 in Sligo, and are pleased to have been nominated to represent the county this year in the Lidl 'One Good Club' programme. They have enjoyed huge success in recent years with the Geevagh Ladies winning a number of Senior Championship titles and also representing Sligo in the Connacht Senior Championship. The 'One Good Club' programme is an initiative developed by Lidl, the LGFA and Jigsaw, the national centre for Youth Mental Health, with the aim of promoting positive mental health.

The initiative follows a five-step programme to positive mental health: Be Active, Take Notice, Connect, Give and Keep Learning. As part of the Take Notice stage, Geevagh LGFA partnered with the BioBeo Horizon Europe project which is aiming to develop and pilot

new education programmes about the bioeconomy in preschools, primary schools and secondary schools. The five BioBeo themes of Interconnectedness, Outdoor Learning, Forestry, Food Loop and Life Below Water overlap with many aspects of the One Good Club programme.

For the Cruinniú na gCrann event, some members of Geevagh GAA ladies senior team and younger teams planted 15 tree saplings (oak, willow, and hazel) gathered from around the local area to represent the team members gathering at the sports field.

Coincidentally, there are 15 partners in the BioBeo project consortium as well as 15 EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors who were appointed by the European Commission. Associate Professor Tom Curran spoke of his memories of growing up across from the pitch and the intense relationship between nature and the sports field due to the damage caused by significant landslides in 1984 and 2008 which followed the path of a river from the nearby mountain. As a result, a new all-weather pitch and playground was developed on higher ground across the river. This event highlighted the potential for rewilding a large portion of the grounds with the planting of these trees. A sign was erected at this new pollinator-friendly area near the pitch, which will support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. #onegoodclub



Photo (l-r): Dr Ciarán Crilly, UCD School of Music; Prof Jennifer Walshe and Prof Regina Uí Chollatáin, Dean and College Principal, UCD Arts and Humanities.

■ Arts and Humanities Annual College Lecture

In April, music composer and Professor of Composition at the School of Music in the University of Oxford Jennifer Walshe visited the University Club to deliver the fifth UCD Arts and Humanities Annual College Lecture to a packed house. Her lecture entitled *Weird Hibernia* was a deep interrogation of Irish identity and music, through an exhilarating cocktail of storytelling, fictional writing, make-believe archives and creative interventions. *Weird Hibernia* was hosted by UCD School of Music, in collaboration with the College, and was attended by colleagues from across the College, the wider UCD community, as well as alumni and industry partners.

■ International Women's Day – Embrace Equity

The theme of 2023's International Women's Day was 'Embrace Equity'. To celebrate, Dr Joe McGrath, Vice-President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law hosted a webinar conversation between Dr Lydia Foy and her lawyer, Bill Shipsey entitled *Lydia Foy: The Battle to Be Myself*.

Bill Shipsey was the 2022 UCD Law Alumni Awardee and he is a human rights activist and a retired Senior Counsel. Dr Foy, also a UCD Alumna, led the legal challenges to the law on gender recognition in Ireland. Her tireless campaign paved the way for further historic social change in Ireland in the decades to follow, and eventually led to the passing of the Gender Recognition Act of 2015, allowing trans people to have their gender recognised in law.

■ New AgTech Innovation Centre at UCD Lyons Farm

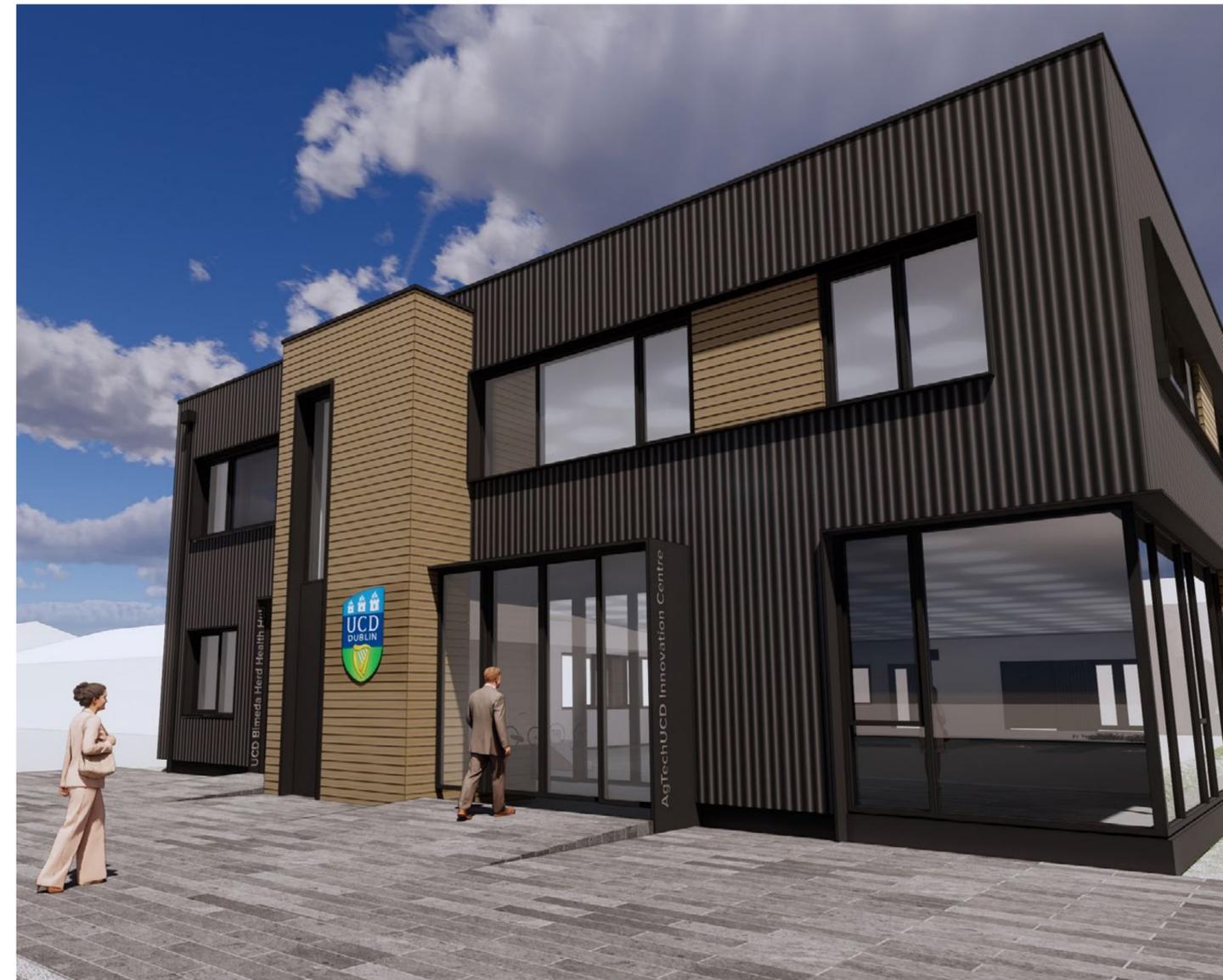
A €4.8 million development project to construct a new state-of-the-art facility incorporating the AgTechUCD Innovation Centre and the UCD Bimeda Herd Health Hub at UCD Lyons Farm is currently underway, with the project due to be completed by August 2023. Funding for the facility is being provided by Enterprise Ireland, through the Regional Enterprise Development Fund, UCD and a philanthropic donation from Bimeda, a global manufacturer and distributor of veterinary pharmaceuticals and animal health products.

The establishment of the UCD Bimeda Herd Health Hub will provide a national facility for dairy herd health education, research and consultancy and is an important strategic development for the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. Dairy herd health is an important element of UCD's One Health initiative which is focused on maximising the health and well-being of people, animals and the environment and the establishment of the Herd Health Hub will provide a national facility for dairy herd health teaching, research, services and consultancy.

The development of the UCD Bimeda Herd Health Hub will also support the provision of the School of Veterinary Medicine's flagship

distance-learning graduate programme, the Graduate Certificate in Dairy Herd Health. This programme equips practising veterinarians with the latest tools for analysis of herd data, as well as practical herd evaluation skills, which they can apply in developing holistic herd-level solutions to ensure healthy and profitable dairy herds. The Herd Health Hub will also support the UCD Dairy Herd Health Group in collating and disseminating the latest scientific research in this field. Research in this area informs Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine policy development around non-regulated diseases in livestock – such as BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus) – which has a significant economic impact at farm level.

The Hub will also provide undergraduate students with more opportunities for exposure to herd health cases across a range of farm animal species, an essential requirement for those organisations which accredit the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine's MVB degree programme: the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council, the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education and the Veterinary Council of Ireland.



Artist's Impression of UCD's AgTech Innovation Centre and Herd Health Hub at UCD Lyons Farm.



■ Alumni Engagement in Brussels

Brussels based UCD alumni and friends gathered at the Irish Embassy in Belgium in March for a reception hosted by the Irish Ambassador to Belgium and UCD alumnus, HE Kevin Conmy. The event included speeches from both the Ambassador and Professor Colin Scott, Dean of Social Sciences followed by a panel discussion featuring UCD alumni sharing their

experiences of living and working in Brussels. The reception formed part of a week of events in Brussels attended by a group of Masters students from UCD School of Politics and International Relations who were there to gain additional insights into EU policy and governance at EU institutions including the EU Commission and the EU Parliament.

Pictured: Samuel Johnson, Teaching Fellow, UCD School of Politics and International Relations; Adeline Farrelly, Secretary General of the European Container Glass Federation; Kevin Conmy, Clodagh Scott, Customer Service Representative at IAPP; Michael Scanlon, Project Officer at the European Parliament; and Prof Colin Scott.



The COVISION team with policy experts.

Children co-design creative strategies to adapt during and after pandemic

Celebrating Universal Children's Day, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman TD, joined the COVISION team in unveiling the project's outcomes and achievements since it began during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The project's work was unveiled at an event in UCD, including a panel discussion and audience Q&A with COVISION's young contributors, and keynotes from Minister O'Gorman and Ombudsman for Children, Dr Niall Muldoon.

Funded by the Health Research Board and the IRC, COVISION explored the creative and innovative ways children responded to changes during the pandemic. It looked at how children's actions may affect the ability of others in their community to adjust to changes, allowing children to contribute to building community resilience during the pandemic and beyond.

Project lead Associate Professor Suja Somanadhan, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, said: "We have heard and listened to children and young people through creative pieces submitted and co-design workshops. For example, children and young people from Mexico, India, and Brazil spoke about increasing child labour due to school closures and the challenges of food shortages they faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Children and young people from Taiwan highlighted overuse of the eye and strain due to online learning. All the children and young people across the globe, including children from Ireland, highlighted the importance of being part of the decision-making process and their involvement in policy and practice as allies."

Through COVISION, researchers learned the things that helped young people most were sports, arts, helplines, social media, mindfulness, friends and pets. The project also created a secure app through which children could share their artworks and other creative outputs, as well as their thoughts about them. Children from six continents shared their creativity and ideas with COVISION.

Children's Research Advisory Groups (CRAGs) were involved in every stage of the project, including the final showcase and dissemination of project outputs and outcomes. The COVISION project was conducted between academics and their young collaborators in 10 countries including, Ireland, UK, Canada, India, New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, Mexico and Taiwan and US.



John Barry, UCD Director of Strategic Partnerships meeting Ambassador Mubea with Prof Gardine Doyle, Director, UCD Smurfit School.

Ambassador to Kenya visits UCD Smurfit School

Ambassador HE Michael Mubea, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to Ireland, visited UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School to address UCD CEMS Students as part of the two-day CEMS Global Citizenship Seminar.

He highlighted the close ties between Kenya and Ireland and updated students on Kenya's diverse exports. He also detailed the level of infrastructural development in Kenya, making it a leading economic force in West Africa.

The seminar, which focused on responsible consumption and production, examined global value chains behind many of the everyday goods we all enjoy on our planet; understanding the background to these value chains; exploring the potential for business model innovation; and reflecting on responsible production and consumption that follow the guidelines of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. The event welcomed Moyee Coffee, an African and European collaboration to reimagine the coffee industry by sharing more of the value from coffee with coffee-growing countries in a model called Fair Chain.

The seminar was organised by Killian Stokes, CEO of Proudly Made in Africa, supported by UCD CEMS Programme Director Dr Andrew Keating and was also facilitated by UCD's Proudly Made in Africa Fellow, Dr David Nyaluke.



Anne Graham, Prof Francesco Pilla and Kaori McNulty, student at Assumption Senior National School, Walkinstown at the launch of the Bike Library project.

Join a Bike Library!

Hundreds of families are set to experience the benefits that come from trialling a cargo bike for their daily commute to and from school, as part of a new partnership between the National Transport Authority and UCD which will see the introduction of **20 new Bike Libraries at primary schools across Dublin City.**

The Bike Library project will give families the opportunity to borrow either an e-bike, cargo bike or foldable bike for a set period during the school term at no charge. This will allow them to experience using these bikes before having to decide to buy one. The aim of the project is to encourage families to make a permanent modal shift to sustainable travel for their daily commutes.

The founder of the Bike Library project, Professor Francesco Pilla, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, established Ireland's first Bike Library when he piloted the project at a school in Harold's Cross. Following phenomenal demand for the bike libraries throughout other primary schools in the Dublin City Area, Professor Pilla has joined forces with the National Transport Authority's Active Travel team in a bid to roll it out to other schools.



Pictured at the seminar are (l-r): Assoc Prof Naonori Kodate, Prof Tony Holohan, Tony Murphy, Beattie Murphy, Assoc Prof Frédérique Vallière, Bradley Larkan and Assoc Prof Hasheem Mannan.

Systems Thinking for Global Health Launch

Adjunct Professor of Public Health, Dr Tony Holohan delivered an address to mark the publication of the book ***Systems Thinking for Global Health: How can systems-thinking contribute to solving key challenges in Global Health?* (Oxford University Press, 2022).**

Associate Professor Hasheem Mannan, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems and Associate Professor Naonori Kodate, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice and UCD Centre for Japanese Studies hosted the event at the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) in April 2023, together with Associate Professor Frédérique Vallière, Director, Trinity Centre for Global Health and the late Dr Fiona Larkan's family.

The seminar was jointly organised by UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, UCD Centre for Interdisciplinary Research, Education and Innovation in Health Systems, Trinity Centre for Global Health, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, and UCD Centre for Japanese Studies.

The book outlines the core concepts of a systems-thinking approach and how they can be applied to current issues and problems in public health. It provides a comprehensive range of case studies, reflections, conceptual pieces, and methodological

approaches. The volume covers a variety of topics such as infectious and non-communicable diseases, stillbirth, maternal health, mental health, community health workforce, care for people with disabilities, and humanitarian aids in conflict-affected areas in the world.

One of the editors, Dr Fiona Larkan (Trinity College Dublin) sadly passed away in 2017 during the book project. The fully-booked, hybrid seminar was dedicated to her lifetime contributions to global health research and brought more than 90 people together, among whom were Dr Larkan's family.

At the seminar, Professor Holohan spoke about the importance of systems thinking in public health, healthcare services research, social policy making and medical education, with a particular emphasis on social determinants of health. He discussed several future applications of systems thinking in the era of AI-aided medicine and an increasingly diverse and globalised world.



Pictured is a UCDVO Volunteer with members of the community in Assam, Northeast India.

■ Twenty years of transformative learning and responsible volunteering

As almost 50 UCD students prepare to embark on international volunteer programmes in Uganda, Tanzania and India for the first in-person projects since 2019, UCDVO is also planning a series of events to commemorate 20 years of value-led volunteering in UCD.

On Saturday 10 June UCDVO will be at the UCD Festival, and we are inviting members of the public and our past volunteers to reconnect and co-create a temporary art installation. A beautiful flower mandala will be facilitated by artist Mayumi Nakabayashi and will be inspired by UCDVO's values of solidarity, compassion, integrity, learning and accountability.

Later in the year we will be participating in the UCD Global Summit (3-4 October) and will also be collaborating with the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science for an event to share learnings and perspectives on the impact of elective placements for physiotherapy students with UCDVO and our partners.



Pictured at the launch (l-r): Prof Jason Last, UCD Dean of Students; Sorcha Mulcahy, UCD Micro-credentials Project Manager; Minister Simon Harris TD; Sophie Bonheim, Senior Marketing & Communications Manager, and Dercera Ní Chianáin, Educational Technologist.

■ UCD Micro-credentials

You may have heard about micro-credentials and if not, you're likely to start hearing about them more and more.

Micro-credentials have been around for a while, but Ireland has seen an increase in universities offering them because of MicroCreds, a project funded via the Irish Government's Human Capital Initiative. Led by the Irish Universities Association (IUA), seven Irish universities are working in partnership to produce short, accredited and industry-aligned courses to assist professionals and employers in their workforce's pursuit of lifelong learning. One key advantage of upskilling with a MicroCreds micro-credential is that they are designed in line with universities' high standards of quality assurance, grounded in research, and created by leading academics in their field.

At UCD, we are already offering a range of flexible and part-time micro-credentials, with more currently in development. They cover a variety of areas such as; data science, financial mathematics and services, food safety and regulation, nutrition, health data analytics, arbitration, environmental law, human rights law, ethics, radiation safety, concussion awareness, skin and hair physiology and public health. These micro-credentials are competitively priced with discounts on offer for UCD alumni. They typically range from six to twelve weeks in duration.

You can learn more by visiting the website at www.ucd.ie/microcredentials/ or the newly launched MicroCreds national portal, where you can view micro-credentials from all seven partner universities in one place.



UCD Citizen Science Community of Practice

An engaging conversation between two leading practitioners of citizen science in UCD, Professor Francesco Pilla, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy and Professor Mary Kelly-Quinn, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science, chaired by Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics marked the official launch of the UCD Citizen Science Community of Practice in late February, supported by UCD Earth Institute and UCD Library.

University Librarian Dr Sandra Collins welcomed the online and in-person audience to the event to hear

first-hand from Francesco and Mary about what Citizen Science can do, the impact of their citizen science projects and their use in research and teaching at UCD.

The aim of this new Community of Practice is to share knowledge, to network, and to encourage staff and students at UCD to use Citizen Science in their research and work. Citizen Science can advance knowledge, research and innovation and is endorsed by Horizon Europe's [open science policy](#) and through UCD's public engagement policy.

UCD's [Engage your Research](#) publication describes Citizen Science as encompassing "a wide variety of activities and practices

that recognises non-professionals as valued and empowered actors in advancing knowledge, research and innovation".

The hybrid event included an enlightening twenty-minute Q+A with the audience after the main discussion. By opening up the research process to include non-academics, Citizen Science can present creative new opportunities for truly engaged research.

Further information can be found on the [UCD Citizen Science Community of Practice website](#), on the [UCD Library Citizen Science library guide](#), and UCD staff and students are cordially invited to join the [UCD Citizen Science mailing list](#).

Pictured at the launch are: Prof Francesco Pilla, Prof Mary Kelly-Quinn and Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin.

Chinese New Year Celebrations

The 2023 UCD Confucius Institute Chinese New Year Celebrations were held in February which coincided with the Chinese Lantern Festival, and attracted more than 6,000 visitors.

The event was attended by local Chinese and Irish communities and special guests include the Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, HE Xiangdong; former President of the European Parliament Pat Cox; UCD Acting President Professor Mark Rogers; UCD Vice-President for Global Engagement, Professor Dolores O'Riordan; UCD Acting Deputy President, Professor Barbara Dooley; businessman Dr Eddie O'Connor; and representatives from local Chinese enterprises.

Visitors enjoyed traditional and modern Chinese music and dance performances inside the Confucius Institute, alongside a Chinese lanterns display, fire flame show, and Asian food stalls set out in the grounds surrounding the building. The opening dance was The Face of Peking Opera by students from Dublin Confucius Class for Children, and other highlights include Guzhenq and Yangqin performances by UCD CII teachers, Irish tap dancing by Chinese students and Chinese folklore singing.



Enjoying the performances of traditional Chinese dance.



Pictured with their classmates are Alexandra Taite and Maria Sokolova, Cabinteely Community School.

CuriosiTY: Enabling equity of access to a STEM transition year placement programme

The first of eight STEM placement weeks on the CuriosiTY programme took place in March with twenty four pupils from nine schools across Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford experiencing life in a research environment.

Activities on the programme were delivered by postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers from UCD Conway Institute, Systems Biology Ireland and UCD Charles Institute of Dermatology. Pupils heard about the latest research in areas such as wound healing, drug delivery using nanoparticles, cell signalling in childhood cancer, the effect of low oxygen on breast cancer cells and inflammatory cells in spinal cord injury.

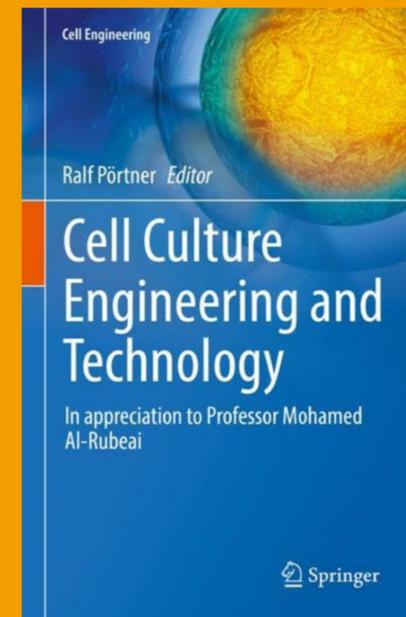
They also got to hear about STEM careers in industry with talks by Evan Hassett and Aastha Goel from Amgen Dun Laoghaire and Aoibhín Ryan, PhD, bioprocessing trainer at the National Institute of Bioprocessing Research and Training. Melvin Fleming and Dr Jessica Ralston spoke about their research management and support roles while artist, Lorna Donlon spoke about art in science approaches to engaging with the public about research.

The CuriosiTY programme provides targeted supports to facilitate participation by pupils from DEIS-designated schools associated with UCD and from schools in geographically remote areas associated with the Amgen Biotech Experience

programme. Twenty places on the programme were allocated to pupils from Holy Child Sallynoggin, St Laurence's Community School, St Tiernan's Ballaly, Cabinteely Community School and St Killian's Bray.

Ahead of the programme, twenty-nine researchers received training in public engagement, devising and delivering hands-on activities for pupils and speaking about their research story in plain English.

There will be a further seven iterations of CuriosiTY over the next two years; reaching 192 pupils and building capacity for public engagement among sixty early stage researchers. Enquiries to curiosityprogramme@ucd.ie



Commemorative Publication

Springer, one of the world's leading scientific outlets has published a book, Cell Culture Engineering and Technology to mark the retirement of Emeritus Professor Mohamed Al-Rubeai.

The book is dedicated to his retirement after 45 years of scientific activities in academia. Professor Al-Rubeai joined the UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering in 2005. His recruitment to UCD was a pivotal step in the establishment of the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT) and preceded the development of a globally significant biopharmaceutical manufacturing industry in Ireland.

The book provides a well-integrated collection of chapters in cell culture engineering. It was edited by Professor Ralf Pörtner, Hamburg University of Technology with contributions from 60 scientists and engineers authoring 17 chapters in cell culture engineering and biopharmaceuticals. The collection of articles recognises Professor Al-Rubeai's many contributions in the areas of cell culture engineering and includes articles from many of his former students, postdoctoral associates, collaborators and colleagues.



Prof Osburn pictured at a TSVP public talk.

UCD Mathematician awarded OIST Visiting Scholarship

Associate Professor Robert Osburn, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics was awarded a prestigious Visiting Scholarship by the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST) as part of their Theoretical Sciences Visiting Program (TSVP) in 2022. OIST is a pioneering graduate university which conducts research that bridges disciplines to explore new frontiers of scientific knowledge.

The aim of the TSVP program is to bring leading international theoretical researchers to OIST for extended visits in order to interact with scientists working in mathematics, theoretical physics, computational sciences and theoretical life sciences. Professor Osburn is the only mathematician in Ireland to receive this award.

From 6 June to 1 September, 2022, Associate Professor Osburn visited OIST to conduct research in the areas of knot theory, quantum topology, combinatorics and number theory. In particular, he worked with Professors Reiko Toriumi (Gravity, Quantum Geometry and Field Theory Unit) and Liron Speyer (Representation Theory and Algebraic Combinatorics Unit) and their respective postdocs and PhD students. In addition, he gave a seminar talk Combinatorics and knot invariants at OIST, a TSVP talk Knots and Modularity (intended for a general audience and available on the OIST YouTube channel) and a Mathematical Physics seminar talk Asymptotics, strange identities and the Habiro ring at Kyushu University. As a result of these interactions, several research projects are underway.

Professor Osburn will return to OIST to participate in the Thematic Program Exact Asymptotics: From Fluid Dynamics to Quantum Geometry from 1 August to 28 October, 2023.



Pictured are the members of the MUSHNOMICS team at their annual meeting in UCD.

ICT-enabled Agri-food Systems

UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering is participating in a €1 million EU project aiming to unlock data-driven innovation for improving productivity and data sharing in the mushroom value chain.

'MUSHNOMICS' is undertaken by a balanced and meaningful research-practice partnership (50-50 research-business split), including research-intensive academics with strong industry involvement from four European countries: (UCD, Ireland), (UCPH, Denmark), (PILZE, Hungary) and (HOLISUN, Romania).

Commercial edible mushroom cultivation is 'big business' worldwide with a total production exceeding 27 million tons, a 25-fold increase during the last 35 years, which is combined with a high increase in the respective per capita consumption. Among them, several species of the genus *Pleurotus* are of particular interest because: (a) their production amounts to ca. 30% of the total, corresponding to the fastest growing and most profitable section of the mushroom market during the last two decades; (b) they are commonly grown on pasteurised wheat straw, however, they can also be cultivated on a wide variety of agro-industrial residues whose disposal is otherwise problematic.

The aim of the MUSHNOMICS project is to demonstrate the feasibility of dynamic data-driven analytics for multi-domain mushroom production environments in order to optimise yield, lower costs and improve the economic viability of this agri-food sector. The specific objectives are to:

- Develop best-performing artificial intelligence (AI)-driven algorithms for yield prediction of mushrooms in a prototype MUSHNOMICS module with IoT (Internet of Things) devices for real time production management and demonstration in our end-user PILZE, Hungary by 2022.
- Develop an ICT platform to exchange data and information from production to points of sale along the entire value chain of mushrooms by 2023.
- Co-develop innovative business models based on container retrofitted MUSHNOMICS Module for informed decision making by mushroom growers/entrepreneurs by 2024.

MUSHNOMICS will allow UCD to address technical challenges associated with the digitisation of mushroom production grown on various urban wastes using smart sensors and artificial intelligence. The project was one of just 19 projects funded under the ERA-NET 2019 call, out of 112 applications.

Dr Dimitrios Argyropoulos, PI, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering said: "MUSHNOMICS brings together a multidisciplinary team of scientists with complementary skillsets: agronomists, biosystems engineers, data scientists, IT experts, biotechnologists and mushroom entrepreneurs, all working together to solve some of the key challenges in mushroom production. From an innovation perspective, the project will carry out mushroom production trials and optimise yields under real commercial settings using of smart sensors, Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI)."



Pictured are the Experience Japan Taiko team.

■ The Spirit of Samurai Taiko

In every secondary school visited, it was the same - when the sound of the Japanese Oke-daiko drone began to echo through the air, murmurs among the students uniformly turned to a momentary breathless silence and the students were instantly drawn into the powerful taiko performance that followed. When it came to an end, a loud cheer erupted as students excitedly waited for the follow-on and the opportunity for them to engage, participate and finally perform.

As part of a highly successful Irish Schools Round Trip, 'Wadaiko Experience', Japanese Taiko drummers visited twelve secondary schools in Cork, Ennis, Wexford, Gorey and Dublin. A total of over 800 students, along with their teachers and school officials, not just experienced the excitement but also joined in and performed. Many of these schools already teach and plan to expand Japanese language and culture.

Another great highlight was the performance of Samurai Music Zi-Pang and the Dublin based Experience Japan Taiko team in a large,

throbbing taiko ensemble over two days, Friday and Saturday at our national St Patrick's Festival. The big outdoor stage for a number of performances (over 7,000 attendees) was perfect: a special setting in historic Collins Barracks, once used as a military facility, now a national museum. Once again, the performers and audience worked in a Samurai unison, drawing in the festival workers, food court workers, volunteers and many many children.

The overall aim of this Experience Japan 2023 initiative is to foster cultural exchange and deepen relationships between Ireland and Japan through local community engagement, education and language learning, and international mutual exchange. It owes its success this year to many bodies and individuals. In particular, thanks are due to EU-Japan Fest, to Languages Connect Ireland's National Foreign Languages Strategy, to UCD Centre for Japanese Studies and to Nobuko Ijichi, who led on this project for the centre. A special thank you to the newly arrived Japanese Ambassador, HE Mr Norio Maruyama who visited schools and spoke in Irish to delighted crowds in Collins Barracks.

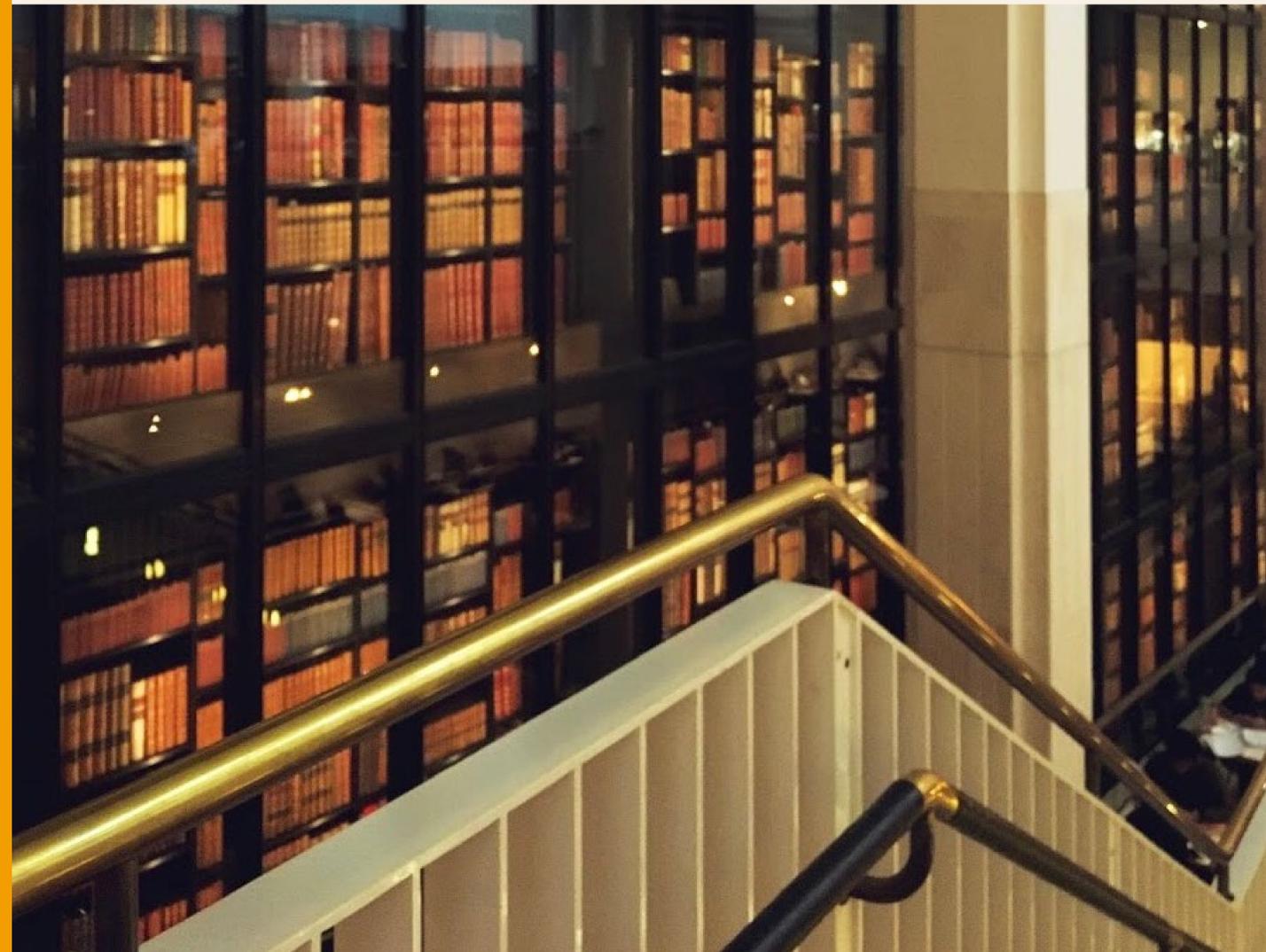
■ VICTEUR: European Migrants in the British Imagination

The VICTEUR Project is a five-year study, funded by the European Research Council (ERC), which examines the development and application of new digital methodologies to humanities research. This multidisciplinary project builds on a long-standing collaboration between Professor Gerardine Meaney, UCD School of English, Drama and Film and Assistant Professor Derek Greene, UCD School of Computer Science.

Victorian Britain was much more diverse than we assume today. It was the target destination for large numbers of migrants from across Europe fleeing war, political turmoil and economic deprivation. What can the large scale literary datasets now available tell us about the ways in which national cultures develop and the role of migration in that development?

This project seeks to push beyond the frontiers of current understanding of the role of migration and migrants in the dynamics of cultural change and continuity, examining intra-European migration in the Victorian period through the 'macroscope' of text mining and the microscopes of literary scholarship.

VICTEUR will focus on how the intra-European cultural exchange triggered by this movement of population is embedded in Victorian fiction. It will identify persistent and residual narratives and attitudes to a cross-section of European migrants by members of the host community and the cultural output of these migrants across a very large literary data set, the 35,918 volumes of fiction in the British Library Nineteenth Century Corpus operationalised for text mining via Curatr.





Pictured is Dr Maeve Doyle discussing EIRSAT-1's flight software development process which will allow for its deployment into orbit.

2022 Knowledge Transfer Ireland Awards

PlasmaBound and NovaUCD were announced as the winner of the Future Forward Impact Award at the 2022 Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI) Impact Awards which celebrate the work of the Higher Education Innovation Offices around Ireland, and their role in helping transform academic research into commercial impact.

The Future Forward Impact Award recognises knowledge transfer activities that have strong potential for future impact but may still be at the early stages of development or roll out.

PlasmaBound, a UCD engineering spin-out, has developed a ground-breaking, environmentally friendly, lightweight composite bonding technology, Controlled Polymer Ablation (CPA) that poses real potential as a key solution in advanced

manufacturing. The CPA technology, which is attracting significant interest in several sectors, is set to bring about a step-change in manufacturing as it not only protects the environment, reduces waste and energy consumption but also eliminates the need for manual interventions.

PlasmaBound, which is headquartered at NovaUCD, was co-founded in 2017 by Dr James Nicholas Barry, Alan Barry and Xavier Montibert as a spin-out from the UCD College of Engineering and Architecture.

Since 2017 PlasmaBound has grown to team of 15 employees, become an approved supplier for the European Space Agency and is undertaking validation trials with 30 Tier 1 global companies across different industry sectors.



EGA Spring Lecture 2023

The UCD Engineering Graduates Association was delighted to host its 2023 EGA Spring Lecture on 'EIRSAT-1, Ireland's First Satellite'.

'EIRSAT-1', which stands for Educational Irish Research Satellite, will be Ireland's first satellite and represents a significant milestone in the country's adventures in space. It is a CubeSat, a small, low-cost satellite platform that is used for educational and research purposes and has been developed by a team of students, researchers and academic staff from UCD as part of the European Space Agency (ESA) Fly Your Satellite Programme. The talk gave an overview of this exciting project's development over the last 5 years and explored how to design, build, programme and test a satellite.

Dr David McKeown, UCD School of Mechanical & Materials Engineering and Engineering Manager of EIRSAT-1 kicked off the evening's lecture about the science, technology and demonstrations involved in the satellite. Next up was Dr Maeve Doyle, UCD School of Physics and Lead Software Engineer for EIRSAT-1, who discussed the flight software development process which will allow for its deployment into orbit; the functional testing and mission testing (mission simulations) run by the team. Closing out the evening was Dr Joe Thompson, Postdoctoral Researcher, UCD School of Mechanical & Materials Engineering and Chief Engineer for EIRSAT-1 who discussed the ambient and environmental testing involved in the construction of the satellite - all to ensure it survives its journey into space and orbiting Earth.

The EGA's principal aim is to support and assist UCD Engineering to be a world-class centre for the teaching and learning of the art, science and practice of engineering which it does in part by bringing experts together to discuss exciting and relevant topics for their annual Spring and Autumn panel discussions.

Irish project to create 'edible urban green infrastructure' launches in Mozambique

The Irish Ambassador in Maputo, Mozambique launched an IRC-funded project, in partnership with Irish Aid, under the Collaborative Alliances for Societal Challenges programme.

Mozambique aims to investigate co-created, socially inclusive 'edible Urban Green Infrastructure' (UGI) as a strategy to support food security and climate resilience in two rapidly growing cities. The project was devised as low income and vulnerable households,

social groups, and communities living in rapidly growing cities across Africa face concurrent challenges of maintaining food security whilst coping with the impacts of climate change.

Project lead from UCD School of Geography, Dr Christine Bonnin said: "Diverse urban agriculture can help cities address the twin challenges of food security and climate change by providing a sustainable food supply, enabling cultural support of resilience and change, as well as offering various ecosystem services. Social inequality is also an issue when it comes to access to quality food, so with SYNERGI we hope to investigate not only diverse, multifunctional systems for food provisioning with environmental sustainability and climate-adaptive dimensions, but also ones that enable inclusive participation and outcomes."

The project is partnered with local civil society organisations to understand the necessary conditions to promote edible UGI in vulnerable urban communities, and how it can be designed and used to better meet the needs of these groups.

Pictured is a community garden in Maputo.



Pictured (l-r): Roisin Hebert, Ellie Hammond, Sean O'Regan, Vivienne Corgoova, Prof Regina Uí Chollatáin, Caolan Maher, Amanda Collum, Harry Carolan and Wiktoria Kordacka.

Seemple Medal Awards Ceremony

Congratulations to the Arts and Humanities Stage 1 students who received a Patrick Seemple Medal for their top-performing results in the 2021/22 academic year. Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin, Principal and Dean, College of Arts and Humanities welcomed the winners along with staff and faculty from across the College for the medal presentation in March.

The UCD Seemple Medal was established in 1993 to honour Professor Patrick Seemple who was the first Dean of the Faculty of UCD Arts from 1909-1948. The medal recipients by subject, who received the highest GPA are as follows:

Archaeology - Sean O'Regan;
English - Sara Eager; Film Studies

- Wiktoria Kordacka; History
- Vivienne Corgoova; Celtic Civilisation - Caolan Maher; Irish Folklore - Caolan Maher; Modern Irish - Ellen Hammond; French - Amanda Collum; Linguistics - Roisin Hebert; Spanish - Amanda Collum; Music - Harry Carolan; and English - Sara Eager.



Professor William Gallagher (centre) is pictured on a panel discussing the future of continued All-Ireland cancer research.

■ Celebrating 25 years of research collaboration since the Good Friday Agreement

Queen's University Belfast welcomed Higher Education delegates, including research partners from UCD, as they hosted former US Secretary of State and Senator Hillary Clinton for the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) at their three-day conference Agreement 25.

The occasion marks decades of growing stability and cooperation on the island of Ireland across several areas of common interest including higher education, research and innovation. All-island collaboration between higher education institutions (HEIs), Government, industry, the public and civic society has positioned research and innovation

as a keystone underpinning the all-island economy.

Last year, UCD and Queen's signed their own historic agreement to strengthen collaboration between the two universities, to meet the shared challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century. The Memorandum of Understanding builds on decades of collaboration, formalising a shared vision to enhance skills, develop and attract talent and drive research and innovation – enabling their student and staff populations and their communities to play a critical role in advancing society across the island of Ireland and beyond, economically, socially and culturally.

On the conference opening day, which was set around the theme of 'reflection', Hillary Clinton, who is chancellor of Queen's, said: "On the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, I think we can all agree to celebrate a significant milestone with both a sense of accomplishment but also of hope and determination that the next 25 years will bring more fully the peace, prosperity and safety the Agreement promised."

She added: "One of the goals of this conference is to recognise the role that women have played and are playing in peace-building, and we're also here to amplify the voices of

the next generation of leaders, and to create a dialogue to address the major issues impacting society today."

The GFA commemorations inspire reflection on the scholarship and research impact of the last 25 years, emanating from a rich history of cross-border collaboration in education, research and innovation, and achieved through bonds of cooperation and mutual support that truly echo the spirit of the GFA. The following list tells that story, including research that recognises the role of women in peace-building and some that is generated by emerging academic leaders on the island of Ireland.

One tangible outcome is the making of the All-Island Cancer Research Institute. The signing of the agreement played a central role in uniting cancer research efforts north and south of the border. Coming together over 20 years with partners in the US, the parties formed the first all-Ireland cancer research institute, and their impact has been literally life-changing for cancer patients on the island.

Led by Professor William Gallagher, UCD and Professor Mark Lawlor, Queen's, the cancer consortium parties founded the All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI) and were funded through the first HEA call.



A packed Theatre L at the Young Classicist Awards - Photo by Caitriona Maher.

■ Young Classicist Awards

The UCD School of Classics and the Access Classics outreach programme were delighted to host the Classical Association of Ireland Teachers (CAIT) Young Classicist Awards in Theatre L in March.

Open to all second-level students in Ireland, regardless of whether they study Classics at school, students compete in four categories: Junior Award (1st-3rd year), Senior Award (4th-6th year), Languages Award (Latin or Ancient Greek) and the Sustainability Award (for a project connected to Global Sustainability Goals). On the day, the finalists presented their entries to the 400+ crowd of students and teachers. The projects were notably inventive and included videos, hand-drawn comic strips and art projects on Classical mythology and paintings of ancient ruins, with some spoken Ancient Greek! Dr Bridget Martin, UCD School of Classics, gave a short lecture on Greek tragic drama, and the day ended on a high, with a student production of Euripides' Medea. Congratulations to all involved!



Keeping it in the Family!

Professor Bill Watson, UCD School of Medicine and his family have been recognised for their shared commitment to cancer research in an Irish Times article 'The push to understand metastasis: new frontier in cancer research aims to improve survival rates'. The family was also interviewed on the RTÉ Radio 1 series 'Sunday with Miriam'.

Professor Watson is a professor of cancer biology in the UCD School of Medicine, Head of Pathology and Director of the Biomedical Health and Life Science honours BSc programme. As a translational biologist, Watson is now involved in prostate cancer research at UCD Conway Institute. He has dedicated much of his life to cancer research, having been influenced by his father, Gordon Watson, a retired breast cancer surgeon.

Following in her family's footsteps, Louise Watson, Professor Bill Watson's daughter, graduated from UCD last year with a BSc in genetics and has been awarded the Orla Byrne PhD scholarship by Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI) to research metastatic breast cancer.

The cross-generational interest in research and medicine extends through the Watson family tree and includes Louise's mother, Chanel Watson, who once worked as a research nurse in surgery at the Mater and now lectures at the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland.

Pictured are Prof Bill Watson with his daughter Louise and his father, Gordon.

Advance Centre - Response to Industry Needs in the Digital Transformation Era

At the official launch of the Advance Centre Minister Simon Harris said, "In the times that we live in, there is a responsibility on universities to share their knowledge and expertise with public and private enterprise, and likewise for enterprise to work with higher education to ensure we create the best graduates and the most modern workforce".

These words became a catalyst for the Advance Centre to organise its first industry forum: 'Addressing key skills for Digital Transformation in Industry' in UCD in March. The event was designed for senior leaders to help them to get a better understanding of the digital transformation journey, from policies, procedures to talent management, and to highlight some of the ways universities can support this.

Over the course of a half day, participants had the opportunity to follow a very engaging programme. The first keynote speaker, John Durcan, CTO in the IDA, presented on the new regulatory changes in the digital area emerging from the EU, impacts this may bring for industry and the supports available. This was followed by an industry panel sharing the key challenges with digital transformation across various sectors. The second keynote speaker Maureen Gaffney, renowned psychologist and broadcaster, spoke about transition points in people's careers, tools allowing them to build resilience and how to successfully adapt. Through the second panel discussion from educational providers the Advance Centre was able to showcase the changes in learning solutions such as micro-credentials, and recognition of prior learning pathways being made available.

The event sparked a constructive exchange of ideas, supported by an overall positive conclusion that there are a lot of opportunities ahead on the digital journey when we put people at its centre.

The Advance Centre is an education partnership between UCD, Atlantic TU Sligo, and TU Dublin set up under Human Capital Investment Pillar 3 in 2020. The Centre focuses on professional learning offering accredited courses. Its ambition is to become a role model to facilitate companies and employees to address



Pictured is the Advance Centre team at the Industry Forum.

skill gaps that are emerging in the technology and digital transformation evolution taking place across many different industries in Ireland.



Pictured are (l-r): Dr Sandra Collins, University Librarian; Professor Orla Feely, UCD President; and Dee Forbes, Director General, RTÉ accepting the interviews for the National Folklore Collection and RTÉ, from Liam McGrath, Scratch Films.

■ Silent Civil War

In 2022, Scratch Films and RTÉ approached Dr Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh, the Director of the National Folklore Collection (NFC) in UCD Library, about producing a documentary series dealing with the impact of the Civil War of 1922-1923. They wanted to capture the testimonies of people whose families had been active participants in the conflict on both sides, as well as interviewing people now living in the areas where violence took place. They also wanted to talk to historians whose research both reflects on past events and examines how they are publicly commemorated today.

Over nine months, expert NFC staff and senior historians from the UCD School of History partnered to guide a team of young historians and film crews from Scratch Films as they conducted more than 80 video and audio interviews across Ireland. The documentary series also unearthed previously unheard interviews with prominent figures involved in the Civil War. Recorded in 1972 by a young American researcher, Harlan J Strauss, the tapes feature original recordings of Frank Aiken, Dan Breen, Peadar O'Donnell, Máire Comerford,

John A Costello, Ernest Blythe and Seán Dowling among many others. These interviews from the 1970s, together with the interviews recorded during the production, are now safely in the NFC, where they will be preserved and available for generations to come.

Speaking at a screening of the documentary in UCD, Dr Sandra Collins, University Librarian said: "Having the interviews preserved and available in the National Folklore Collection supports research and teaching across the University and

enables us to increase awareness and engagement throughout Ireland and internationally. This is a very valuable addition to a range of successful activities carried out by UCD throughout the Decade of Centenaries".

The Silent Civil War was supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries Programme, 2012 – 2023, and is available on the [RTÉ Player](#).

■ Newman's Idea: Then and Now

The third annual international conference on Saint John Henry Newman's seminal text *The Idea of a University* (1854) took place over two days at UCD Newman House. The conference was co-organised by the UCD Newman Centre for the Study of Religions, led by Associate Professor Daniel Esmonde Deasy, UCD School of Philosophy and the Notre Dame Newman Centre for Faith and Reason, with support from John Barry and Susan Lysaght of UCD Major Strategic Partnerships.

Internationally renowned Newman scholars and authors took part in lively and engaging panel discussions on two themes, *Newman's Idea and University and Society in the 21st Century*, with speakers including: Paul Blaschko, Notre Dame; Finola Kennedy, historian and former Lecturer, UCD; Mette Lebech, Maynooth University;

Áine Mahon, UCD; Andrew Meszaros, St Patrick's College, Maynooth); Dermot Moran, Boston College; Katherine O'Donnell, UCD; Kenneth Parker, Duquesne University, National Institute for Newman Studies; and Paul Shrimpton, Magdalen College School, Oxford. A conference on *Newman and Medicine* is planned for 2023.

Pictured (l-r) are: Assoc Prof Daniel Esmonde Deasy, Finola Kennedy and Dr Mette Lebech.





UCD Innovation Academy Facilitators at Deloitte (l-r): Alan Morgan, Jacinta Owens, Martin Feeley, Eileen Diskin, Gwen Kenny and Becks Butler.

UCD Innovation Academy Undergraduates partner with Deloitte and Accenture

UCD Innovation Academy's undergraduate elective module students visit industry partners Deloitte and Accenture, to embark on real world challenges as part of their learning.

Our planet's wicked problems will only be solved through collaboration across disciplines and boundaries, and this March two of the world's leading professional services firms partnered with UCD Innovation Academy to do just that.

In March, 120 students participating in UCD Innovation Academy's Creativity and Innovation elective module had the opportunity to work

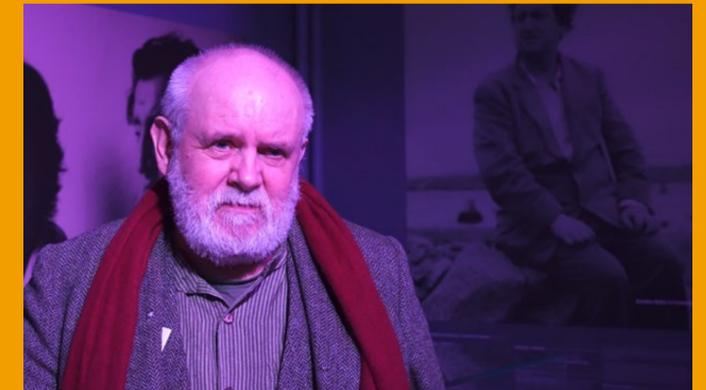
on real-life organisational challenges with our industry partner Deloitte who also believes in the transformative power of radical collaboration.

Guided by UCD Innovation Academy's facilitators, students were challenged to think creatively outside their comfort zone in interdisciplinary teams. During the week, students were introduced to the design thinking methodology and put it into practice when subject matter experts from multiple areas of Deloitte came to meet with students and provide themed challenges to work on including issues such as sustainability and fostering collaborative

organisational cultures. Students worked in a fast-paced, intensive week, culminating in a pitch to the Deloitte team and UCD Innovation Academy facilitators for feedback.

Throughout the week, students networked, learned from industry leaders, gained new perspectives on important issues facing our world today, and shared their insights making for an enjoyable, creative, and engaging week.

During the same week, thirty-three students on the Virtual Reality for Future Skills module participated in a day-long workshop with Accenture hosted at their HQ building in the



Patrick McCabe pictured at the launch.

A Requiem for Brendan Behan

The Holy Hour: A Requiem for Brendan Behan, which opened in MoLI in March 2023, reframes the long-caricatured Dublin writer and goes in search of a truer picture of Behan as a man and as an artist. Created by author Patrick McCabe (The Butcher Boy, Breakfast on Pluto, Poguemahone), the exhibition celebrates the centenary of Behan's birth, and mourns the essential tragedy of his short life.

In this captivating audio-visual installation, McCabe brings visitors on a profound, often hilarious – and at times almost psychedelic – voyage through glimpses of Behan's life and work. Through the prism of the Roman Catholic liturgy, McCabe's Holy Hour blends archive footage, heavy lashings of music, and Behan's own words to cast the Dublin writer in a more nuanced light.

UCD students and staff go free – simply use the code [holyhour](https://moli.ie/tickets) at moli.ie/tickets

Dublin Docklands. Students heard from innovation experts, learned how virtual reality is being used to combat bias in the public health sector, raised questions, and participated in insightful discussions on the future and applicability of VR to augment problem solving and more.

Working in teams, students were given VR organisational challenges for the afternoon. Students later had the opportunity to present their ideas back to a panel of Accenture's innovation experts, who shared their feedback with the teams and opened the floor for compelling discussions.



Pictured are the 32 participants for this year's programme. Photography by Tom Clarke/The Candidman

■ Dawn Meats and UCD relaunch management development programme

Dawn Meats announced the return of its Management Development Programme run in association with UCD. The programme, which is open to employees of both Dawn Meats and Dunbia, a subsidiary of Dawn Meats, has been operating in partnership with UCD since 2015, but was paused for a three-year period from 2019 due to the Covid pandemic.

So far over 100 managers have completed the programme, with 32 now taking part in the latest 8-month course for 2023/24, which was officially launched in April. The programme is custom designed to help managers address the global challenges facing the agri-food industry such as economic and environmental sustainability in addition to developing skills in leadership, communications and professional networking.

Modules include everything from professional development planning and time management to maximising influence while the course involves part-time study, project work, 1:1 coaching sessions, and team work.

Academic modules are taught by thought leaders in the field of management leadership and sustainability in the food industry as well as members of the Dawn Meats and Dunbia leadership team.

Niall Browne, chief executive of Dawn Meats, said: "The Dawn Meats, Dunbia and UCD Management Development Programme is a fantastic opportunity for those working in our business and we are delighted to announce its return. It is important for us to develop the leaders and managers of the future and help them learn the skills they will need to maximise their own potential and that of the Group. There are many challenges in the agri-food industry, and we want to make sure we have the people with the ability and the know-how to rise to them."

Professor Frank Monahan, Dean of Agriculture and Head of the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science said: "We are delighted to partner with Dawn Meats in providing this valuable training and development initiative. On completion the participants will have best positioned themselves to take leadership roles in this dynamic sector."

■ UCD School achieves first Athena Swan Silver Award

The UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science achieved an Athena SWAN Silver award for their commitment to gender equality amongst faculty, staff, and students.

"I am delighted to congratulate the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, the first School to achieve a silver Athena Swan award in UCD. The School is a leader in UCD demonstrating the positive change and impact of equitable and inclusive practices that can be achieved through implementation of their gender equality action plan," said Professor Colin Scott, Vice-President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Co-chair of Gender Equality Action Group, UCD.

Twenty-four Schools in UCD are Athena Swan accredited. 86% of staff working for UCD Schools, and 81% of UCD students belong to UCD Schools delivering ambitious gender equality action plans. To receive accreditation at silver level, a School must implement a four-year gender equality action plan and demonstrate impact through a rigorous data driven 18-month audit of gender equality practices.

Professor Emma Sokell, Co-chair of UCD Gender Equality Action Group said: "Diversity is one of the core values in UCD's strategy, and one of our strategic objectives is the attraction, development, and retention of an excellent and diverse cohort of students, faculty, and staff. The Athena SWAN process is central to our ability to deliver on this objective and deliver on UCD's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy".

The School credits the following for its success:

- Greater EDI awareness across the School and high uptake of EDI training provided by UCD;
- A mentorship programme to support career development and application for academic promotion;
- Seven women achieved academic promotion, three of whom were promoted to professor;
- Female graduates from the School's undergraduate programmes increased from 42% in 2018/19 to 51% in 2020/21;
- Introduction of gender balanced speaker list for Annual School Seminar Series;
- Campaigns to increase visibility of women in Agriculture and Food Science across social media, school promotional material, events, and webinars;
- A Women's Writing Retreat.

"The Athena SWAN Silver Award is a wonderful indictment of the commitment of the leadership within our School to promoting gender equality and inclusivity. It also recognises the strong ethos across the School's staff and student body to support each other and the national and international agricultural community", said Professor Trudee Fair, Athena Swan Chair, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science.

Professor Frank Monahan, Head of UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science said: "We are really delighted to achieve an Athena Swan Silver Award. It has been a real privilege to witness the positive impact the School's engagement with Athena Swan has had among our community and, with our Silver gender equality action plan, we look forward to building further on the achievements of our Bronze award."



Pictured is Prof Dolores O'Riordan, Director of the UCD Institute of Food and Health awarding first place prize to Mahmoud Rashed.

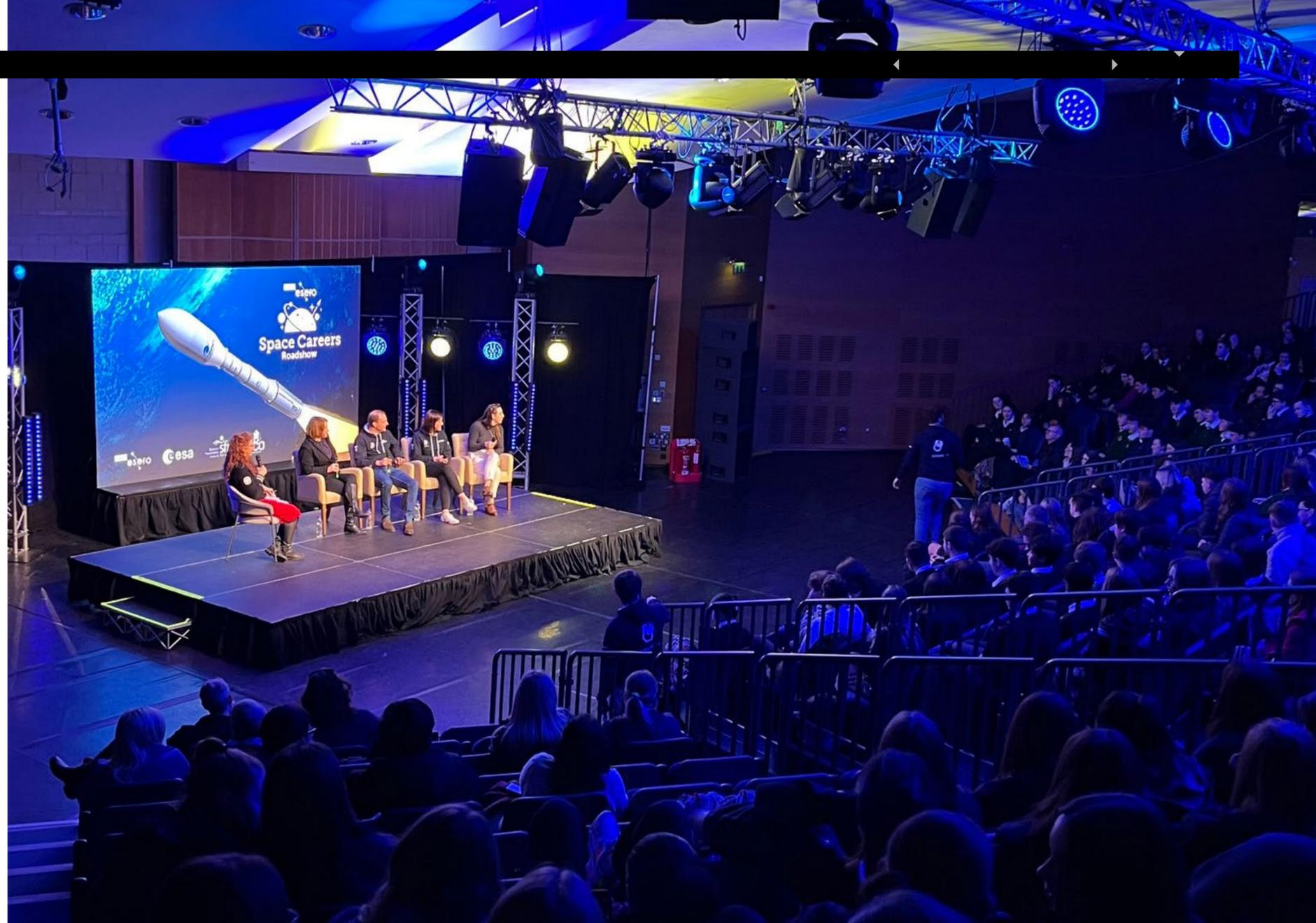
Industry and Academia Discuss Food Sustainability Challenges

In March, the UCD Institute of Food and Health held a workshop in the Red Room of the UCD Student Centre on the topic 'Food and the Circular Economy'. Over 40 people attended the event organised by Dr Simon Grasso, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science.

The purpose of the workshop was to bring together experts in the field of the circular economy, to discuss their experiences in the area and foster multidisciplinary collaborations. The morning's session featured talks from researchers working in the upcycled foods and the bioeconomy space, followed by a series of short presentations from industry partners including Cream of the Crop, Biosol, Olive Pork and Revolution Farm Kitchen. These talks were particularly insightful and demonstrated the innovation that is being driven by the need and desire to reduce food waste.

The day was completed with a Design Thinking workshop delivered by the UCD Innovation Academy bringing together attendees to seek to create novel ways of reducing food waste and support the circular food economy.

The meeting and workshop were funded under the Institute's Strategic Bursary Scheme which aims to stimulate and promote interdisciplinary activities within the Institute.



A packed Astra Hall with the panel members doing a Q&A about their route to a career in the space sector. Pictured (l-r) are: Niamh Shaw, Alison Boyle (ESERO), Bas Stijnen, Maeve Doyle and Hannah Curriuan.

Space Careers Roadshow

Throughout the year, ESERO Ireland and MTU Blackrock Castle Observatory run a series of Space Career Roadshows in conjunction with Science Foundation Ireland and third-level partners. These roadshows provide secondary school students with an excellent opportunity to engage with space industry professionals so that they can get a taste of the exciting opportunities that a STEM career in space has to offer.

This year, UCD hosted a special edition of the ESERO Space Careers Roadshow dedicated to EIRSAT-1, Ireland's first satellite! This roadshow was run in partnership with UCD Centre for Space Research and was jointly sponsored by UCD School of Physics and UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering. More than 500 TY, 5th and 6th year students got to learn all about this incredible project, and the careers that it can lead to, from current and former members of the team at UCD.

The event was MC'd by renowned STEM Ambassador and STEAM Artist Dr Niamh Shaw with keynote talks by Dr Maeve Doyle, EIRSAT-1's lead software engineer and operations scientist, Bas Stijnen, a PhD student in Mechanical and Materials Engineering and Hannah Curriuan, a UCD MSc Space Science and Technology graduate who now works as a research analyst at Northern Sky Research.

Students also heard from EIRSAT-1 physics PhD students Caimin McKenna, Gabriel Finneran, Joe Fisher and Laura Cotter, who spoke to Dr Niamh Shaw about their love of sci-fi and the importance of inspiring teachers and career guidance counsellors. The EIRSAT-1 team is busy learning how to operate the spacecraft, updating operational procedures, and doing final testing before the spacecraft is delivered to the European Space Agency for launch this year. Learn more about EIRSAT-1 at their website.

■ Creativity at UCD Access and Lifelong Learning

This spring has seen a further surge in creativity and innovation across UCD Access and Lifelong Learning. Staff have been collaborating with students on a range of projects and initiatives.

Universal Design Capacity Building

UCD is leading nationally in the development of Universal Design capacity building in the Tertiary Education Sector. This Spring has seen the launch of two important Universal Design capacity building tools in UCD. Namely a one-hour training module for all employees of the University along with the case study outputs of our University for All Faculty Partnership Programme: Learning from UDL Leaders. A Steering Group with representatives from across the University including professional staff, students and faculty has been established to advise on content and will support the launch and rollout across the University. The Learning from UDL Leaders publication includes case studies from all 26 faculty partners. The case studies are being disseminated nationally and internationally to showcase the good practice and innovation of this group in UCD.

UCD For All Student Experience Day 2023

In March 320 prospective students came to UCD for the UCD for ALL Student Experience Day. Adult learners and participants from DEIS secondary schools and Further Education colleges in South West Dublin, Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown, Wexford, Wicklow and



Faculty and staff who undertook the UfA Faculty Partnership Programme.

Laois, Further Education colleges got a flavour of UCD student life before they make college choices.

Faculty from across the University delivered taster lectures and interactive workshops before our UCD Access Leaders guided the students through the campus and answered all of their questions about what it's like to be a UCD student.

Access Leader Training

The UCD Access Leader training programme took place in March. This is a formal, mandatory training programme which is delivered by all the Access and Lifelong Learning team. It is a blend of information sessions and participative workshops designed to develop responsibilities and skills including leadership, communication, problem-solving and child protection training. This year 54 students took part in the training. Students were prompted

to challenge their thinking around access and equity and consider how their leadership will enhance the student experience for other students coming in to UCD.

Those who successfully complete the training and interview process join other Access Leaders, who are students who have been recruited from across all the underrepresented groups including entrants from socio-economic groups that have low participation in higher education, first-time mature students, students with disabilities, part-time/flexible learners, and further education and training-award holders. The programme is an opportunity for UCD students to engage in university life outside of their academic interests and in doing so act as role models and ambassadors for UCD Access and Lifelong learning.

Faculty and staff who undertook the UfA Faculty Partnership Programme.

■ UCD Social Sciences Student Awards Ceremony

In March UCD Social Sciences hosted a student awards ceremony in UCD Village Auditorium to celebrate talented and high performing students focusing on academic achievements and University Access scholarships for the preceding year.

In addition, fourteen students were nominated by their peers and staff in recognition of their significant contribution to society. College Principal Professor Colin Scott opened the event with a welcome address to the audience of students, parents and guests. Associate Dean of Social Sciences, Associate Professor Aideen Quilty and faculty members from the School of Psychology, School of Economics, School of Politics and International Relations, School of Sociology and School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice presented the awards and student prizes.

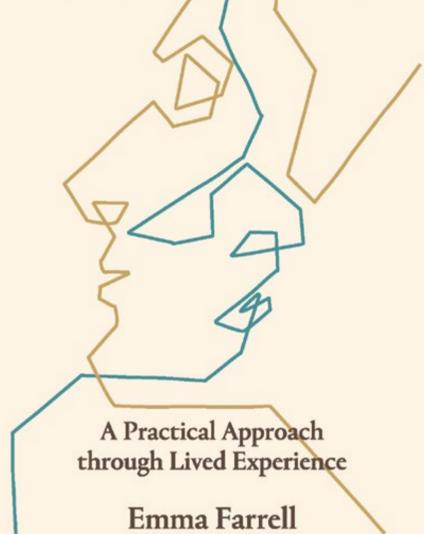


Pictured are the award-winning students.

Commenting at the event Dr Quilty reflected that "We are immensely proud to celebrate and recognise the talent, ability and hard work of our students, and all those who supported them including lecturers and the College office team. We all share a huge

sense of pride in our students' educational achievements and their ambition for the difference they will make in the world through their societal contributions as a result of their studies in UCD Social Sciences".

Making Sense of Mental Health



■ Book Launch: Making Sense of Mental Health

Dr Emma Farrell, UCD School of Education recently launched her book *Making Sense of Mental Health*. This book was almost ten years in the making although its origins go back even further than that to when, as an undergraduate student, Emma learned that one in four adults will experience a mental disorder in their lifetime. Her experience grew through her work with Headstrong, now Jigsaw, of listening to the rich and deeply nuanced stories of young people with lived experience of distress. These stories spoke of fear, disconnection, anger and shame, as well as strength, wisdom and indomitable courage. The young people offered insight into their unique and complex worlds in which symptoms made an awful lot of sense.

Most of all this book is a demonstration of just how much we can learn if we listen, without preconceptions or agendas, to the stories of those with lived experience.



Pictured (l-r) at NovaUCD are members of the winning NutriSoil project team, Erica O'Brien Murray, Julian Lewandowski, Sean Allen, Alanna Hayes and Rosheen Sharma.

■ Winners of the 14th Annual BTYSTE Business Bootcamp Announced

After an intensive four-day programme at NovaUCD, NutriSoil was named as the overall Best Group and Tara Mulhall was named with the overall Best Individual as the end of the 14th annual BTYSTE Business Bootcamp.

The Bootcamp, delivered by BT Ireland in partnership with NovaUCD, encourages further innovation amongst young scientists and technologists, providing them with commercial skills to carry forward into their future careers.

The winning project NutriSoil examines the long-term effects of a more sustainable method of keeping nutrients in the soil as an alternative to an artificially made granule.

The winning group was made up of Sean Allen, a fifth year student from Roscommon Community College, Co Roscommon; Rosheen Sharma, a third year student from Rockford Manor Secondary School, Dublin; Julian Lewandowski, a fourth year student from Sutton Park School, Dublin; Erica O'Brien Murray, a fifth year student from Loreto

Secondary School, Dublin; and Alanna Hayes, a fifth year student from Social Mhuire, Co Clare.

Sean Allen was project lead who entered the project into the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2023 in January.

The BTYSTE Business Bootcamp aims to help second level students gain a practical understanding of what it takes to bring an idea from concept to market while also encouraging interpersonal skills such as teamwork, decision making and leadership.

A total of 30 students took part in this year's Bootcamp and were all prize winners from the 2023 BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition.



Speakers and facilitators at the conference.

■ UCD EDI Menopause Conference: Time for Change in the Third Level Sector and Menopause Policy

The conference took place in March. The exciting programme brought together specialists and allied professionals from across Ireland and UK.

It created a platform during which personal stories and experiences were shared by the speakers about their perimenopause and menopause journey and what has helped them along the way. There were updates from organisations that have been working on policies, guidance and frameworks to support employees in the workplace experiencing the menopause and how managers can support employees.

It was also an opportunity to launch UCD's development of a menopause policy and guidance documentation for employees and managers in collaboration with the Menopause Hub, which also involved training and workshops with employees and managers. The conference allowed the speakers and the participants to have conversations and speak freely and openly in a safe and respectful environment.

The conference was sponsored by Professor Aoife Ahern, College Principal of Engineering and Architecture and organised by the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Unit in collaboration with the Menopause Working Group. A dedicated EDI webpage has been developed about the Menopause containing information on the policy, guidance documentation, resources and supports and other proposed menopause initiatives.



Supporting their team, the Purdue University students at UCD Moore Centre for Business.

■ Purdue University visit to UCD

Eighteen students from the Purdue University College of Engineering and the Purdue University College of Pharmacy and three faculty members from Purdue University visited UCD in March. Purdue University, Indiana's land grant University, is a world-renowned, public research university that advances discoveries in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The group largely consisted of Pharmaceutical Manufacturing students curious about the study abroad programme available in UCD.

They first visited NIBRT, the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training and got to do some hands-on training on disposable technologies. They also learned about the future accelerated development of advanced biotherapeutics at APC/VLE, and about the state-of-the-art aseptic manufacturing at Amgen in Dún Laoghaire and saw drug substance manufacturing at Merck Biotech Dublin before visiting the UCD campus.

Dr Philip Donnellan, UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering welcomed the delegation to UCD's Engineering and Materials Science Centre with an introduction to the School's programmes and modules, followed by an overview of the UCD

Study Abroad Programme by Joanne Reilly, Programme Manager, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture. The students had an introduction to UCD student life from two American engineering students who described their time on campus, the academic structures and workload, and their ability to travel around Ireland.

After a refreshment break, Dr Ioscani Jimenez Del Val presented a well-received masterclass lecture on bioprocess modelling. Following the lecture, Dr Donnellan gave a walking tour of the Chemical Engineering teaching laboratories.

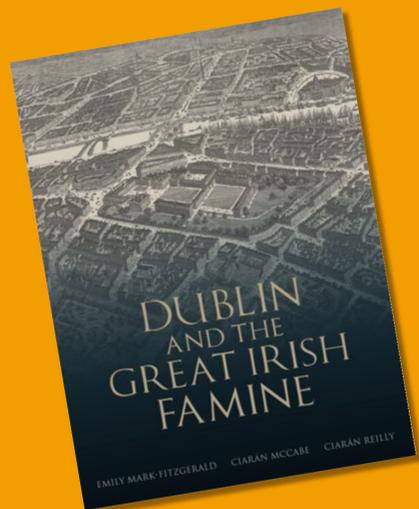
Professor Alina Alexeenko, Dean for Undergraduate Education, University of Purdue said: "I am very impressed with the School, the College and also the industrial ecosystem here at UCD. I look forward to having wider discussions between Purdue University and UCD Engineering about potential linkages and collaborations."

The visitors immersed themselves in Irish history and culture visiting the national monument at Kilmainham Gaol, the Irish Emigration Museum and the book of Kells. They finished their visit to Ireland by cheering fellow Purdue students, the All-American Marching Band, who participated in the 2023 St Patrick's Day parade in Dublin City.

Books

■ Dublin and the Great Irish Famine

Edited by **Associate Professor Emily Mark-FitzGerald**, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy; **Dr Ciarán McCabe**, Queen's University Belfast; and **Dr Ciarán Reilly**, Maynooth University
UCD Press, 2022
ISBN: 978-19-1-08207-73



The city of Dublin has been, as one contributor to this important collection of essays observes, largely absent from Ireland's 'Famine imaginary'. Popular representation and public memory have both tended to locate Ireland's greatest modern social catastrophe in the rural west, limiting the role of the capital to the site of British administration at Dublin Castle or the resort of the landed elite. Scholarly writing has been similarly neglectful, with only a handful of publications touching on the Famine's impact on the city. It is indisputable that by measures of excess mortality

and depopulation the catastrophe was indeed experienced disproportionately in the western counties, and indeed Dublin even witnessed a population increase in 1841-51. Yet the Famine did come to Dublin as well, threatening the lives and welfare of its own numerous poor and drawing in tens of thousands of the mobile destitute, seeking relief or escape in or via the metropolis.

Several contributors quote Maurice Craig's striking description of Dublin in the Famine as 'a gigantic refugee camp'. While there is evidently much truth in this, in his introductory overview Cormac Ó Gráda cautions against the idea of the city as a national 'safety valve': most of the incomers were from the Leinster counties and a majority were in transit to the harbour and from there overseas. Nevertheless, this influx placed great stress on the already vulnerable welfare institutions, and many never made it to the ships, finding a grave or a place in the pestilential slums of the city. Ó Gráda's previous work has explored the stress placed on the overwhelmed poor law unions of Dublin; other contributors here consider the burden placed on other institutions by both the incomers and the resident poor, seeking to survive a crisis marked by sharp rises in food prices, high unemployment and epidemics of fever and cholera.

At the same time, for some of the city's landed and mercantile elite the Famine had limited effect on their lives. Ciarán Reilly explores the continuing conspicuous consumption of a multiplicity of goods and services that remained available to those who could

afford them, while Kathryn Milligan's essay shows that the art market (both for purchase and exhibition) continued to operate through the worst years of the 1840s. At the apex of moneyed society, Dublin's bankers maintained their pursuit of profits, even as their industry struggled to meet the monetary needs of the Irish economy and became, as Declan Curran argues, increasingly subsumed into a British financial structure. If parts of the commercial economy were badly hit by the financial crises of 1847 and agricultural depression, other sectors benefitted from the changing environment of the Famine decade. As Peter Hession observes, the liberal political economy actively promoted by the Government looked to private enterprise to lift Ireland out of its famine-stricken 'backwardness'. This *laissez-faire* dogma may have led to a catastrophic failure in the countryside, but as the Irish Sea was opened up to capitalist exploitation using new technologies of steam power, protected by new government-funded lighthouses and harbours, those who controlled the expanding Dublin fishing fleet stood to benefit at the expense of western fishermen who were losing their boats and livelihoods.

If the impact of the Famine on Dublin's economic elites was varied, the city's poor bore the brunt of the catastrophe. The voices of the lower classes are mostly lost to us, but the sheer scale of the crisis can be traced through the records of its institutions. As a 'stateless capital', the city was well served by voluntary, mostly religiously-based, charities, and a number of new ones, often associated

with Catholic initiatives, appeared in the 1840s. Although linked to civic pride these were, as Joe Curran shows, already struggling to meet the needs of the impoverished even before the arrival of the potato blight in 1845. Ciarán McCabe follows a number of these charities through the Famine years, concluding that while they did much to assist those left helpless by the collapsing poor law, it was never enough. Rob Goodbody recounts the leadership role adopted by Dublin's Quakers in that religious body's city and nationwide relief campaigns. Philomena Gorey reviews the effects of malnutrition on poor women in the city's charitable maternity hospitals, while Brian Crowley considers the challenges faced by Kilmainham Gaol, its inmate numbers swollen by masses charged with petty theft and the new 'crime' of vagrancy after 1847, leaving disproportionate numbers of especially juveniles and women caught in cycles of incarceration. In what is perhaps the most emotive chapter, Georgina Laragy traces the microhistory of Patrick Bardin, a middle-class relief worker whose suicide in 1847 she persuasively connects to his traumatisation as a direct witness to starvation in the city slums. His sad story is known due to it being turned into a 'humanitarian narrative' by the press – it stands here as a proxy for the unknown thousands who perished in Dublin in these years from hunger and disease.

The final section reflects on the cultural memory of the Famine in the city. Sampling its treatment in fiction from the nineteenth century to the present, Chris Cusack finds

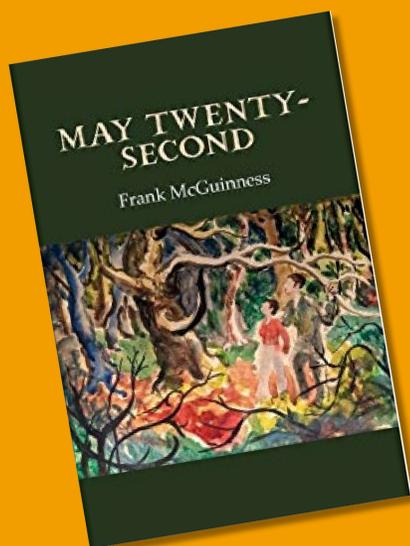
that, despite the real evidence of famine suffering there, novelists have struggled to accommodate the image of the city as an emblem of capitalist modernity with the dominant ruralist tropes of Famine memory. In her concluding epilogue, Emily Mark-Fitzgerald comments on the earliest photographs of Dublin, fragile street-scenes taken in the mid-1840s in which the city's population is virtually absent, and sees in this a metaphor for the exclusion of its people from Famine memory. While Dublin does have several Famine memorials – most notably Edward Delaney's in St Stephen's Green and John Behan's on Custom House Quay – both are 'national' rather than reflective of the city's experience, and its workhouses and other Famine sites remain unmarked. Much remains to be researched on Dublin's Famine-era history, but this finely produced and illustrated volume has done much to raise the veil.

Professor Peter Gray, Queen's University Belfast

Books

■ May Twenty-Second

Professor Frank McGuinness
The Gallery Press
ISBN 978-9-1133-8338



The title of an opera by Strauss, his mother's very sensible insistence on remaining eternally at the age of twenty-nine, a convenient superstition about the boat sinking powers of redheads, and a tribute to women who rear children and their "capacity for extraordinary, enigmatic statements", collate to form McGuinness's poem *The Women With No Shadows*:

The women with no shadows,
 they were all born in May,
 twenty-second if you must know.
 When asked, that's what they say.

The poem itself contains a clue to the title of the collection, a reference to the date of his mother's birth. It is one of many, intriguing, multi-layered poems from McGuinness's latest, eclectic collection, *May Twenty-Second*, which was published by The Gallery Press in August 2022.

Written during lockdown because theatres were closed, this is his seventh collection. In it, he focuses his laser sharp, humorous and absurdist mind, on subjects as diverse as Jacosta's inner thoughts on the Greek tragedy, and her tragic husband, *Oedipus Rex*. The collection ends with an epic 'mosaic' simply titled *Belfield*, which gives the sense of movement caused by time and place to the UCD campus community.

McGuinness's visit to the Courtauld Gallery in 2014 to view the funny, rude and often horrific drawings of 'witches and old women' from a private album by Goya, rewards the reader with *Dancing With Goya*. This set of twenty-three poems is introduced by a quotation, and influenced by the writings of Lorca, a fellow Spaniard with similarly anarchic and macabre tendencies, and all (including McGuinness) endowed with the ability to form art that is unafraid to tackle the controversial and taboo issues of their day.

Many of his poems are generously dedicated to family and friends, but the killing of young journalist Lyra McKee, in Derry in 2019, affected McGuinness deeply, "as a monumental loss for her to be silenced in such a savage and cruel way". He registered "a great cry of the country's loss" by using the metaphor of many celebrated film directors' imagined cinematic responses to her death, to form *Visions of Lyra*, a legacy that is beyond elegy, and truly sensitive to her memory.

McGuinness's collection is both avant-garde and wide-ranging to the extent that it will delight cat lovers, speak to hospital patients, and be of great interest to both scholarly and occasional poetry readers. With his all-encompassing vision, this volume embodies everything, everywhere, all at once.

Rachel Fehily, BL, BA, MA



UCD Purl Jam's Hearts for Hospitals Project

It sometimes feels like another world when we think back now on the things we did during the last few years in order to protect the most vulnerable in our society. This often meant drastic changes to the ways in which we interacted with each other. We had to adopt social distancing, cocooning and self-isolation, among other measures. There were so many challenges and dark days, and it took all our courage and strength to get through it. But dark times and crises bring out the best in humankind, and there were so many examples of the goodness and decency of humans, with family, friends, neighbours and communities all watching out for and supporting each other in novel ways.

A very noticeable change came about in our hospitals whereby it was no longer possible to visit the sick and elderly. This was particularly acute for patients who were seriously ill in ICU. We can only imagine how isolating and frightening this experience was for the patients themselves. ICU staff were wonderful, bringing comfort in person when family and friends could only do so through a screen.

During the pandemic, the NHS was running a project whereby patients received a knitted heart as a symbol of hope and togetherness.

Carita Bramhill, previous UCD Postgraduate Research Student Adviser, brought this idea to UCD Purl Jam (based in UCD Veterinary Sciences) and suggested we work on something similar. Under the stewardship of Carita, we introduced the 'Hearts for Hospitals' project to some local hospitals in Dublin, including St Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH). Since the lockdowns have ended, UCD Purl Jam has continued to collaborate on this project with the SVUH ICU End-of-Life Care Coordinator and their nursing and medical teams. A knitted heart is given to the patient and a matching heart is given to their family. This is accompanied by a beautiful card that says:

As we sit right here and think of all the times gone by / Of the funny things that make us laugh and bring tears to our eyes / I love these happy moments when we laugh and sometimes cry / It's nice to sit and reminisce about happy times gone by / We each have this little keepsake, a pretty knitted heart / If we keep each one forever we won't really be apart / And should there come a time when alas we have to part / We will always be together whilst we have our knitted heart.

From the feedback we've received, the matching hearts are a symbol of hope, comfort and connection for patients and families. Families feel assured that their loved one is being cared for and knows that they are with them. This small, knitted heart is a powerful visible symbol of the bond of love that lies between the patient and their family.

If you would like to know more or contribute to this project, please contact niamh.nestor@ucd.ie, UCD Veterinary Sciences Student Adviser and UCD Purl Jam Lead.



Ellie Hartnett



Israel Olatunde

Athletics

At the European Throwing Cup in Portugal, UCD's Nicola Tuthill claimed the silver medal following her superb 64.44m best in the hammer.

Israel Olatunde set a new 60m Irish indoor record at the National Indoor Athletics Championships in February. The European 100m finalist from last August clocked in a new national record of 6.57 seconds, a time that sits among the top eight in Europe. This is the second time Israel has broken a national record, following his 100m record at the European Championships last year. Fellow Ad Astra Elite Athlete Darragh McElhinney defended his national indoor men's 3000m title with a 7.49.18 championship record. At the same event, UCD's Ellie Hartnett came third in the 1500m, while Susie Nestor placed third in the 800m.

At the Irish Universities Athletics Association Indoor Track and Field Championships, UCD had success in the Women's 400m (Molly Hourihan - 2nd), Women's 3000m (Danielle Donegan - 3rd), Women's 4x200m

Relay (Rhianna McCarthy, Cara Murphy, Shauna Leydon and Molly Hourihan - 1st), Women's Triple Jump (Ella Cindy - 3rd), Women's 800m (Shauna Leydon - 1st), Women's 8kg Weight for Distance (Rachel Clancy - 2nd), Men's 60m (Bori Akinola - 1st), Men's 200 (Bori Akinola - 2nd), Men's 3000m (Darragh McElhinney - 1st), and Men's High Jump (Gavin Hefferon - 3rd). These results meant the Men's and Women's teams both took home bronze overall.

At the Junior and U23 Championships in January UCD had success in the Women's 800m (Susie Nestor - 1st), Men's 60m (Bori Akinola - 2nd), Women's 1500m (Roisin O'Reilly - 3rd).

At the Irish Universities Athletics Association Cross Country Championships, the UCD Women's Team claimed silver.

A total of three UCD athletes were selected as part of the Athletics Ireland team for the European Athletics Indoor Championships in March: Israel Olatunde (60m), Luke McCann (1500m), and Darragh McElhinney (3000m).



Rugby

The Irish Rugby side who claimed this year's U20 Grand Slam title had four UCD RFC representatives involved throughout the campaign. They included; Diarmuid Mangan, Gus McCarthy (captain), James Nicholson, and Conor O'Tighearnaigh.

The UCD Men's Rugby First XV produced a stunning comeback to win their annual Colours match against Trinity on 31 March. UCD were down 19-0 at half time but won the game 22-19. The win was vital to secure the teams Energia All Division 1A standing for next season.

UCD WRFC were successful in maintaining their Colours title with a 17-0 win at home in their annual Colours match against Trinity on 31 March. The 1st XV reached finals in each of the League, Cup and Kay Bowen competitions but unfortunately fell short in each of these games. The 2nd XV played beyond their rugby years and were knocked out at the semi-final stage of both the League and Cup. Finishing out the season with silverware and a victory over local rivals Trinity was a perfect way to round off the year.



GAA - Camogie

The UCD Camogie senior team won the Fr Meagher Cup, beating Queen's University Belfast 1-09 to 0-08. The UCD Junior Hurling team won the All Ireland Championship in March, beating UCC on a scoreline of 1-14 to 1-13.



Soccer

UCD retained and claimed their 49th Collingwood Cup in February following a dramatic late win over UL. UCD had twice conceded the lead and with the game level in added time, substitute Ronan Cowhey headed home the winner.

UCD: Lorcan Healy; Sean Carmody, Michael Gallagher, Jack Keaney, Shane McCreery; Rossa McAllister, Dara Keane, Donal Higgins; Billy Griffin (Ronan Cowhey, 57), Danu Kinsella Bishop and Ciaran Behan.

UCD were also successful in winning the Harding Cup in January, beating UCC on penalties in the final.



Ladies Basketball: Faith Greene (C), Sarah O'Tighearnaigh (C), Katie-Rose Barry, Megan Dempsey, Jennifer Leavey, Fiona Doyle, Rachael Ortiz, Alanna Nic Ghiolla Phádraig, Anna Wilson Flynn, Sarah Brown, Emily Conlon, Aoife Dunne and Róisín Keane.

Ladies Basketball

In March, UCD Ladies Basketball were crowned winners of the All Ireland Colleges League D3. UCD beat Queen's University Belfast on a scoreline of 75-40. The team were coached by two senior members of the Club/Varsity team players, Fiona O'Grady and Laura McCarthy.

UCD President's Awards



The UCD Sport recipients for 2023 were; Christine Coffey (UCD Women's Rugby), Peter Dillon (UCD Equestrian), Shauna Fitzsimons (UCD Men's Boat), Jack Keaney (UCD AFC), David Somers (UCD Men's Boat).

Table Tennis

At the Irish National Closed Championship 2023 in March, UCD Table Tennis members Alex Gillen and Joey Nelson won the Senior Men's Double event. Alex Gillen was also successful in winning the Senior Men's Individual event.



Sailing

Elite Sports Scholar Eve McMahon was named 'Irish Sailor of the Year' for 2022. In 2022 Eve retained her world title, and won gold at the ILCA6 Youth World Championships in Houston Texas, at the Allianz Youth Sailing World Championships in the Netherlands, and at the European Youth ILCA6 Championship in Greece.

Eve's stellar year also led her to be nominated for the 2022 RTÉ Sport Young Sportsperson of the Year award.

Colours Boat Races

The 2023 Colours Boat Races took place on the River Liffey from O'Connell Bridge to St James' Gate on Saturday 25 March. Both the Men's and Ladies Boat Clubs enjoyed success at this year's event.

Notably UCD retained both Senior titles with the Senior 8+ UCD Ladies Boat club crew retaining the Corcoran Cup. The crew was made up of Cox - Orla Kelly (Vice-Captain), Stroke - Alison Daly, 7 - Sarah Daly, 6 - Dervila O'Brien, 5 - Ellie Scott (Captain), 4 - Aisling Barry, 3 - Lauryn Roche, 2 - Niamh Campbell and Bow - Tara Phelan. The crew was coached by Tom Sullivan.

While the UCD Men's Boat club Senior 8+ crew retained the Gannon Cup. The winning crew was Cox - Shauna Fitzsimons (Captain), Stroke Fintan Earley, 7 - Sam Daly, 6 - David Somers, 5 - Paul Flood, 4 - Luke Dunleavy, 3 - Mika Ryan, 2 - Mikey Champion and Bow - David Crooks. The crew was coached by Martin Feeley, Niall Farrell and Joe Ronaldson.

Unfortunately both Trinity Novice crews proved to be stronger than UCD's on the day, but based on the talent on show, the future looks bright for UCD rowing.

Hockey

UCD Ladies Hockey 1st Team were crowned EYHL Champions in April even though Loreto were leading the league going into the decisive final round of games. In what was an exciting and close finish to the season, UCD's crucial win against Pembroke along with Loreto's narrow defeat to Pembroke Wanderers saw the students overtake Loreto to secure first place by a single point.

UCD's Katie Jane Marshall scored twice and with just a couple of minutes to go in the second half Sarah McAuley scored UCD's third and final goal to win the title. The win also secured UCD Ladies Hockey a semi-final spot in the Women's Senior Irish Cup, a competition they have won on seven occasions during the competition's 120-year history.

Other notable hockey victories recently were those of the Ladies 6th team which won the Leinster Hockey Women's Division 7-8 Cup. While the Men's 3rd team won the Minor Cup.

Varsity Round-Up



Fencing Intersarsity winners

UCD Fencing Club

UCD Fencing club managed to take home the Fencing Intersarsity trophy for a second year in a row, giving UCD its 22nd win overall. UCD were also successful in the individual weapon in Women's Foil and Men's Epee. This was a fantastic achievement, and made sweeter by ending rival Trinity College's 13-year streak and it is a testament to the UCD Fencing team to be able to hold our title for another year.

UCD Karate

UCD Karate were crowned the 2023 All-Ireland Intersarsity Cup champions at the University of Limerick in March.

UCD Mountaineering Club

UCDMC recently competed in the Irish Intersarsity Climbing Competition hosted by Queen's University Belfast. UCDMC placed third

overall, with two members achieving first place in their respective categories, Dylan Dodd in Female Advanced and Eimear Smith in Female Beginner.

UCD Orienteering

16 UCD Orienteering (UCDO) members travelled to Fauna Forest in Co Wicklow in early March for the first orienteering intersarsity event since 2019. There were 46 entries in total with orienteers from UCDO, UCCO, ULOP, MTU and DUO. There were some excellent results all round. The Women's trophy was once again returned to UCDO, with the men's trophy heading to Cork for this year. All three committee members who attended placed.

In the Intersarsity hill running competition, Kathryn Barr and Aoife O'Sullivan won gold and bronze respectively which saw a mix of snow, wind, rain and mud.

UCD Surf Club

In early March, UCD Surf Club competed at the National Intersarsity Contest in Bundoran, Co Donegal. A total of 12 surfers from UCD competed. Liam Lenihan, Killian Morris, David King, Adam McCormack, Adam Murphy, James Mogan and Colm Shortall in the Men's Open. Evie Bennett and Alana Walsh in the Women's Open. Sophie Swinand and Eoin Morgan in the Novice Category and Erin Smith in the Women's Longboard. Erin took home the gold in her category, David King placed fourth in Men's Open and Eoin Morgan came third amongst the novices. UCD placed third, in terms of overall team performance.

UCD Swimming

UCD Swimming travelled to Kilkenny in early March for the annual Irish Intersarsity Championships, where a squad of 25 swimmers faced tough competition from Ireland's other universities. Positive performances meant UCD accumulated the highest points per swimmer of any of the teams in the competition, and Ireland's most successful University Swimming team earned a well-deserved third place overall.



Orienteering



Sa pictúir (l-r): Áine Ní Shúilleabháin, Oifigeach Gaeilge TCD le baill an Acadaimh, Dr Peadar Ó Catháin, Dr Daithí Mac Giobúin, Dr Bernard Stuart, Dr Úna Ní Rathaille, Dr Niall Ó Cléirigh, An tOllamh Séamas Bernard Breathnach (Uachtarán, Acadamh na Lianna), Dr Colm Ó Sé, An tOllamh Colm Ó Móráin, Dr Colm Henry agus Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Stiúrthóir Ghaeltacht UCD. Photo credit: Siva Vigneesh Nagarajan.

Acadamh na Lianna in UCD

Acadamh na Lianna, the association of Irish-speaking medical doctors hosted their first intervarsity debate in UCD during Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023 (National Irish Language Week). Trinity College Dublin took first prize, and the best speaker award went to UCD. The event was a great success and Acadamh na Lianna intends to build on the initiative and include Universities nationwide in its future Irish language debating competitions.

"Bheadh córas leighis atá go hiomlán poiblí do chách níos fearr ná an córas measctha atá againn in Éirinn faoi láthair" an rún a bhí faoi chaibidil ag foirne díospóireachta UCD agus TCD nuair a bhailigh idir dhochtúirí agus mhic léinn leighis le chéile in Ionad na Mac Léinn UCD le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2023. Acadamh na Lianna, (cumann na ndoctorúirí leighis le Gaeilge) a d'éagraigh an chéad díospóireacht seo do mhic léinn leighis ón dá Ollscoil, UCD agus TCD, i gcomhar le Med Soc UCD, cumann leighis na mac léinn, Stiúrthóir Ghaeltacht UCD agus Oifigeach na Gaeilge TCD. Bronnadh gradam don chainteoir ab fhearr ar Mhicheál Ó Cathasaigh a bhí ar fhoireann ó Scoil an Leighis, UCD in éineacht le Meabh Killalea, William Kinsella agus Gareth O'Brien. B'iad mic léinn TCD, Emilie Ní Dhubhghaill, Eoghan Ó Ceallacháin, Eoin MacCárthaigh, Seán Mac Eoin agus Sophie Ní Bhanáin a tháinig sa chéad áit mar fhoireann. Bhí an-rath ar an gcéad chomórtas seo ar champas Belfield agus táthar ag súil go mbeidh mic léinn leighis ó gach Ollscoil in Éirinn rannpháirteach sa chéad chomórtas eile.



Pictured is the UCD Student Team for AIPEC 2023: Ava Gibli - Radiography Stage 4, School of Medicine; Manoj Narava - Medicine (Graduate Entry) Stage 3, School of Medicine; Aditi Chaturvedi - Medicine Stage 5, School of Medicine; Naomi McDonnell - MSc Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics, School of Public Health Stage 1, Physiotherapy and Sports Science; Clodagh McIntyre - Physiotherapy Stage 4, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science; Noel Portley - Social Work School of Social Policy Stage 1, Social Work and social Justice and Meghan Jennings - Nursing Stage 3, School of Nursing.

UCD Student Team wins AIPEC 2023

UCD took part in the All-Ireland Interprofessional Healthcare Challenge (AIPEC) held in March in the University of Galway. The AIPEC challenge is coordinated in UCD by Health Affairs and it is an intervarsity competition for students from health disciplines to engage collaboratively and with healthcare professionals to address a complex care issue. In 2023 UCD joined the competition for the second time and faced teams from University College Cork, University of Limerick, NUI Galway, Trinity College Dublin, Queens University Belfast, Ulster University Coleraine and the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland.

Students from the UCD School of Medicine, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems and UCD School of Social Policy and Social Work and Social Justice responded to a call from UCD Health Affairs, led by Professor Tim Lynch, and a team of seven students was selected. The UCD team was supported by academic staff: Associate Professor Cliona O'Sullivan, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science and Dr Brynne Gilmore, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems.



Pictured at the National Gallery are Sidi Bao, Kiri O'Neill, Heather Jones, Wiktorja Kordaka and Olivia McKeivitt.

Ad Astra Academy Performing Arts - *Roller Skates and Ruins*

The UCD Ad Astra Academy Performing Arts Programme was delighted to present *Roller Skates and Ruins* in The Shaw Room, National Gallery of Ireland in March.

Inspired by the National Gallery of Ireland's exhibition of the same name, *Roller Skates and Ruins*, performed by the UCD Ad Astra Performing Arts scholars, explored the Decade of Centenaries through the lives of four artists, Grace Gifford, Sarah Cecilia Harrison, William Orpen and Jack B Yeats, all of whom contributed or bore witness to the social, cultural and political developments of the period from 1912-1923. The exhibition, which offers fresh insight into the artists' daily lives, working conditions and political interests, was the starting point for this new multi-disciplinary performance, which celebrates and commemorates the extraordinary lives of these four Irish artists during The Decade of Centenaries, one of the most turbulent and transformative periods in modern Irish history.

Roller Skates and Ruins was created and performed by the Ad Astra Performing Arts scholars in collaboration with Ad Astra Artistic Director Kellie Hughes, Ad Astra Music Director Thérèse Timoney and the National Gallery of Ireland Library and Archive department.



UCD School of Medicine White Coat Ceremony

The 2023 UCD Medicine Clinical Commencement 'White Coat' Ceremony took place in February in UCD O'Reilly Hall. A key milestone in our medical students' journey, the ceremony marks the formal transition into full-time clinical training at our affiliated hospitals and general practice.

The proceedings were led by Professor Michael Keane, Dean of Medicine and Head of School, supported by a selection of academic

faculty. Students from Stage 4 of the direct entry undergraduate and Stage 2 of graduate entry medicine programmes took part in the ceremony.

As part of the ceremony, students are 'robed' with white coats by members of faculty as an important symbol of their transition into the role of doctor in training. Opening the event, Professor Keane noted that this transition represents a landmark in the students' education and one which he felt sure they would look back on fondly. He noted that with the privilege of clinical training

comes great responsibility as our students are expected to exhibit empathy, dedication and the highest standards of professionalism.

Guest speaker for the evening was Dr Rhona Mahony. The attendance of the students, their families, friends and supporters, as well as the virtual audience, made the event a memorable occasion and an important milestone in the students' education and training.



Pictured are Alanna Grogan, UCD Sutherland School of Law and Connor Stack, UCD School of Politics and International Relations.

Iveagh Fellowship Success

Congratulations to Alanna Grogan, UCD Sutherland School of Law and Connor Stack, UCD School of Politics and International Relations who received prestigious Iveagh Fellowships.

The students applied in the first instance through UCD Careers Network and were selected to go forward to the next stage from over 30 applications.

The Fellowships are run by the Department of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with Saothar, to assist Irish third level students to identify and participate in high-quality internships in international policy organisations. Five Fellows are selected annually and will be awarded €6,000 and mentorship support to help secure internships at internationally recognised organisations. The Fellowship is targeted at students in the arts, humanities, and social sciences.



Ad Astra Academy Performing Arts Scholar

Ad Astra Performing Arts scholar Tishé Fatunbi was invited to take part in FRINGE FUSE: Love Incubator, an evening of in-person work-in-progress curated and MC'd by art-writer Diana Bamimeke and presented by Dublin FRINGE LAB.

Tishé is a Dublin-based performer and writer as well as a final-year student of Psychology at UCD. She performed in *We Dance*, a love letter to Black women, which represented UCD Dramsoc in the Irish Student Drama Awards, where she won the award for Best Performer. Tishé played Saint Joan in *GBS*, a 2022 examination of the work of George Bernard Shaw, created by the Ad Astra performing arts scholars in collaboration with Ad Astra artistic director Kellie Hughes, Ad Astra music director Therèse Timoney and Professor Lucy Collins, which was presented at the National Gallery of Ireland. She also starred in *RE:JOYCE*, a 2022 short film imagining the life of a young, modern, gender-bent James Joyce at UCD.



UCD Symphony Orchestra Anniversary Concert

The UCD Symphony Orchestra has been celebrating its 20th anniversary season with a number of special events during 2022–23. A high point was a first return to the stage of the National Concert Hall since the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras Festival in February 2020.

On 4 April, the orchestra presented the fourth in its hugely popular *A Night at the Movies* series with a programme combining famous film scores and classical works that have garnered additional prominence through their employment in the cinema. The 1,200 capacity hall was sold

out a week in advance of the performance, and a delighted crowd was treated to works by Prokofiev, Holst, Offenbach, Orff and John Williams, from films including *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, *Excalibur* and Disney's *Frozen*. The centrepiece was Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, which is heard at the opening of Woody Allen's 1979 romantic comedy *Manhattan*.

The piano soloist for the evening was third-year Business and Law student and Ad Astra Performing Arts Scholar Winifred Massey, who dazzled the audience with a passionate and polished account of Gershwin's beloved

masterpiece. The orchestra was joined by the UCD Philharmonic Choir and Cuore Chamber Choir, both directed by Amy Ryan, and also gave NCH debuts to two young musicians who have recently participated in the School of Music's Associate Conductor scheme: Ben Jacob and Kevin Boushel. A rousing rendition of the finale from Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5*, conducted by Artistic Director and Head of the School of Music, Dr Ciarán Crilly, brought the audience to its feet for a prolonged ovation to cap a memorable occasion – and year – for the orchestra's student members.



UCD School of Veterinary Medicine White Coat Ceremony

On Thursday 9 March, the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine celebrated the milestone achievement of the Veterinary Medicine (MVB) and Veterinary Nursing Classes of 2024 as they received their white coats in UCD O'Reilly Hall. Students were joined by families and friends from across Ireland and from as far afield as the USA.

The White Coat Ceremony is an important event in the School's calendar as it marks the students' transition into clinical practice in the UCD Veterinary Hospital, and beyond, in the final year of their degree programmes.

The guest speaker at this year's White Coat Ceremony was Professor Michael Doherty, Dean and Head of UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. The event was live streamed for those who were not able to join in person.



Professor Mark Rogers is pictured accepting a Daffodil Day pin from UCD RFC players Alais Diebold and Lola Cavaller.

Daffodil Day on Campus

UCD Rugby Football Club wish to sincerely thank the many UCD staff and students who so generously donated to the recent Daffodil Day appeal which realised almost €17,000 for the Irish Cancer Society.