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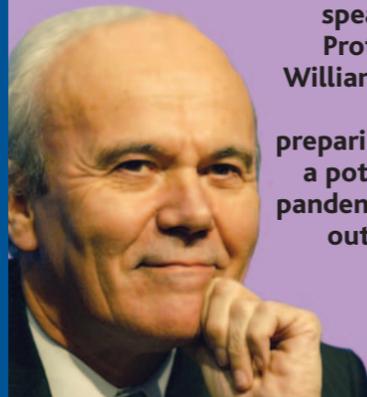
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Professor Catherine Godson talks to Danielle Barron about research into diabetic kidney disease

3



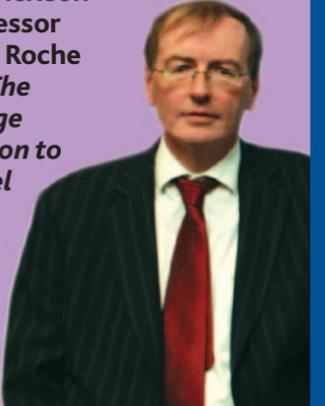
Claire O'Connell speaks to Professor William Hall about preparing for a potential pandemic flu outbreak

7



Dr Brendan Williams tells Louise Holden what impact urban sprawl has for Dublin

8



Belinda McKeon and Professor Anthony Roche discuss *The Cambridge Companion to Brian Friel*

12

Gateway to learning

Five international architecture firms have been shortlisted for the UCD Gateway Project. The calibre of global interest reflects the scale and prestige of the competition.

The brief to the five shortlisted firms is to develop a mixed-use design to include cultural, leisure, academic, residential, hospitality, retail and commercial functions. All the architects have visited the campus. They will now develop designs that take into account the core research and teaching of the university alongside environmental sustainability and beauty in structure and function.

The shortlist was chosen from an initial entry of 62 firms drawn from throughout the world and the final winner will be announced in May/June 2007.

The firms include two from the UK, two from Germany, and one from Norway. These world-leading organisations have been responsible for many outstanding examples of modern architecture such as those shown below. See page 2 for a key to these images.



what's inside

3 **Diabetes and kidney disease**
Professor Catherine Godson talks to Danielle Barron about how a multidisciplinary approach to diabetic kidney disease may offer hope for thousands of sufferers

7 **Preparing for the flu**
Professor William Hall speaks to Claire O'Connell about the vital importance of preparing for a potential pandemic flu outbreak

8 **The long commute**
Dr Brendan Williams tells Louise Holden about the implications of urban sprawl in Dublin

10-11 **Heads of School wall-chart**
Wallchart of the heads of colleges and schools

12 **Friel's Companion**
Professor Anthony Roche discusses his new book, *The Cambridge Companion to Brian Friel* with Belinda McKeon

18 **Music at UCD**
Choral Scholars and Sinfonia continue UCD's musical tradition

19 **UCD Sports**
Get in Gear at UCD

Farewell to the Terrace - look forward to the Gateway

There's an interesting juxtaposition between the pending announcement of the architectural competition for the Gateway project on the Belfield campus and the final departure from Earlsfort Terrace.

Originally built as an exhibition palace and winter garden for the great exhibition of 1865, Earlsfort Terrace was used as an exhibition and concert venue until its transfer via the Commissioners of Public Works to the Royal University of Ireland in 1883 and subsequently became home to University College Dublin in 1908.

Converting the building for university purposes involved a number of interesting features. ...*"it will be necessary to have two separate entrances (one for males and one for females) to the Examination portion of the Buildings"* suggested a submission from the RUI senate to the Board of Works. The original concert hall became the Great Hall and was used for examinations, ceremonial occasions and conferrals as well as for concerts. Among those awarded with honorary degrees in music in the Great Hall were Princess (later Queen) Alexandra. In 1885 and the first Doctor of Music was awarded to another woman, Annie Patterson, one of the founders of the Féis Ceoil. An Italian style campanile was constructed to disguise the building's ventilation shaft and the front façade was faced with Dungannon sandstone. The three allegorical stone figures of Hibernia, Industry and Commerce were removed from the pediment and remained propped against a back wall until the 1950s. In 1987 they were instated in a small garden along Dame Street, commemorating Dublin's millennium but they have subsequently been moved again because of their badly-weathered condition.

The expansion of UCD under the vision of Dr Denis Coffey, president from 1908 to 1940, led to the beginning of land acquisition for what is now the Belfield Campus. Belfield House on 44 acres was bought in 1933, Ardmore on 20 acres was bought by the government in 1948 and was subsequently swapped for Montrose (now RTE). Whiteoaks on 34 acres was bought in 1949 and Merville in 1951. Woodview, Belgrove and Thornfield were all purchased in the 50s and Roebuck Grove and Castle during the 60s. Richview on 11 acres and Rosemount on 6.5 acres were bought in 1980/81. Added to other purchased parcels of land the entire campus comprises over 300 acres (121 hectares).

The sale of Earlsfort Terrace to the State for the specific purpose of redeveloping the National Concert Hall is the most appropriate use of this wonderful building and well-positioned site. Its location ensures good accessibility for all concert-goers wherever they live. Its use as a music and entertainment venue fulfils a continuity dating back to the 1860s. Over the decades - whether in the hands of the university, the NCH, private owners or the government - it has played host to marvellous performances. From Count John McCormack concerts, to a young Cyril Cusack playing Jack Worthing for DramSoc's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, to Maeve Binchy's quips at L&H debates.

Of course it is nostalgic to leave a place with so much history but it is just another step in the UCD legacy.

The final move from Earlsfort Terrace into new facilities on the Belfield campus completes the vision that began over 70 years ago. The timely campus development plan reflects the need to take modern life into account. In order to draw together the different functions of this modern university, the plan sets out academic, environmental, social, innovation and residential goals.

The Gateway and the wider Campus Development Plan give this generation an opportunity to stamp our own mark on the landscape. We will craft an iconic image of 21st century UCD that blends the aesthetic with the functional. We can look forward to benefiting from the work done in the modern facilities for students, staff and the wider community. In creating a living space that focuses on interaction between people, we are presented with an opportunity to take hold of our environment, to solve the modern problems of cars and noise and to build something sustainable and beautiful for future generations.

The move from the Terrace will not go unmarked. From Thursday 17 to Sunday 20 May 2007 a programme of events will take place in the Terrace, the Iveagh Gardens and Newman House. The calendar will shortly be published on the UCD website but anyone with a good idea for an event or activity is welcome to get in touch.

Eilis O'Brien
Director of Communications

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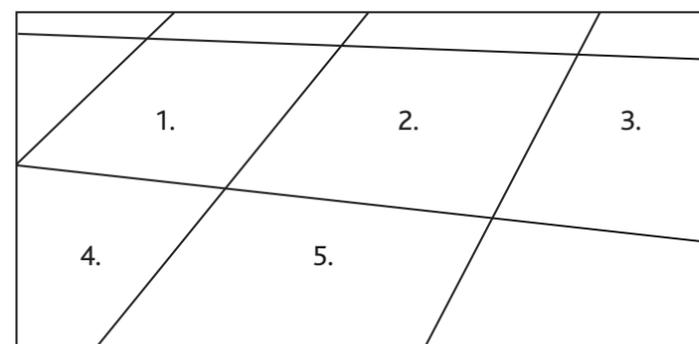
In the compilation of this publication, every care has been taken to ensure accuracy. Any errors or omissions should be brought to the attention of UCD University Relations (communications@ucd.ie). We also welcome your suggestions for articles in future editions.

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

Cover Image:

On the front cover, clockwise from left to right:

1. Bergen School of Art and Design by Snøhetta Architects
2. Jubilee Campus, University of Nottingham by Hopkins Architects
3. Harvard University - Allston Science Complex by Behnisch Architekten
4. BMW Headquarters in Leipzig by Zaha Hadid Architects
5. Lufthansa Aviation Centre by Ingenhoven Architects



Diagnosing diabetic kidney disease

Professor Catherine Godson talks to Danielle Barron (BSc 2005) about how a multidisciplinary approach to diabetic kidney disease research may offer hope for thousands of sufferers.

Professor Catherine Godson of the UCD Conway Institute and School of Medicine and Medical Science is Director of the UCD Diabetes Research Centre (DRC) that was established in August of last year. Seen as a major undertaking, the centre is the first of its kind in Ireland, and has recently received major funding from Science Foundation Ireland.

The €7 million programme is truly a multidisciplinary effort, involving collaborations between academic researchers, clinician investigators and also industry partners in an attempt to elucidate the molecular mechanisms of this increasingly prevalent disease, with the ultimate goal of developing effective and targeted therapeutics. Those working with Professor Godson include Professor Finian Martin, Dr Madeline Murphy, Dr John Crean and Dr Derek Brazil of the Conway Institute and Professor Jochen Prehn from the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland.

"Diabetes is obviously a major problem globally and in Ireland it consumes about 10% of the total healthcare spend. The economic costs as well as the human costs are enormous," explains Professor Godson.

According to Professor Godson, it is generally thought that diabetes is primarily a disease affecting overweight people in developed countries. This is a popular misconception. In fact, diabetes is a major problem within emerging economies such as China and India.

"The rates are really high, and getting higher. There is a strong ethnic component to the susceptibility of people to the disease," she says.

Furthermore, increasing numbers of younger people are now developing diabetes, whereas traditionally it was seen as a disease affecting those over 40 years of age. Professor Godson says this makes understanding the disease and its mechanisms even more crucial.

Of those who suffer from the condition, some 25%-35% will go on to develop diabetic kidney disease, also known as diabetic nephropathy. This is one of the most serious health complications of diabetes, and is the main cause of end-stage renal disease, for which patients will require dialysis, or even transplantation.

In Professor Godson's lab, the very latest techniques in molecular cell biology are being utilised as part of a unique multidisciplinary approach in an attempt to understand the cellular events that make a person susceptible to diabetic nephropathy.

"Diabetic kidney disease frequently reflects the length of time somebody has had diabetes. The longer they have had diabetes, the greater their chance of developing it," Professor Godson explains. Diabetic nephropathy also reflects the convergence of many of the complicating factors of diabetes, such as high blood pressure and elevated blood glucose.

In Professor Godson's lab, the very latest techniques in molecular cell biology are being utilised as part of a unique multidisciplinary approach in an attempt to understand the cellular events that make a person susceptible to diabetic nephropathy.

"We are looking at the initiation, progression and potential regression of diabetic nephropathy," she says. "Some people, despite very poor management of their blood pressure and blood glucose levels, will not develop diabetic nephropathy, and others, who are very well-managed, do, so there is clearly a genetic component involved."

"We are looking at what genes are switched on in the diabetic kidney, how these genes contribute to the development of diabetic nephropathy and end-stage renal disease, and having identified them and studying their function, finding out is there anything we can do."

Such gene manipulation may involve inhibiting the function of a particular gene, or even switching on beneficial genes. Expression of particular genes may also be linked with disease severity, adds Professor Godson.

Diagnostic flags for the development of the disease, known as early markers, are now being identified. "Currently we are not able to diagnose it until it is quite well developed. If we could find even earlier markers, then we might be able to intervene quicker or indeed find a therapeutic intervention that may be more effective if introduced at an earlier stage," Professor Godson says. For this reason, the researchers work closely with clinical specialists at the Mater Hospital and other hospitals around the country.

According to Godson, this is basic biomolecular research with real clinical consequences, and not just for diabetic nephropathy. "When you do work that is this fundamental, many of your findings can be applied to other diseases. For example, nephropathy is a fibrotic disorder, which could mean molecules that we discover will also be important in lung or liver fibrosis, and to date that has proved to be the case."

As well as receiving funding from SFI, the project is also supported by biopharma industry partners including Wyeth investigators in Cambridge Massachusetts. According to Godson, such synergistic collaborations at the research/industry interface allow all angles to be covered when developing novel treatments for disease and improved diagnostic tools.

"This is an 'open innovation' model in that it is a collaborative research project. We don't just take our research to a certain stage and then hand it over. It's an iterative process where we feed data to them and they feed their data to us and it's sort of a virtual circle of progression," she explains.

In the Government's Strategy for Science Technology and Innovation 2006-2013 announced last summer, health research was particularly acknowledged as an area of research with the potential to contribute significantly to Ireland's social and economic progress, and diabetes was earmarked as a national research priority.

Another national priority emphasised in the strategy was the doubling of Ireland's annual PhD output. This initial funding will allow the DRC to fund four PhD candidates, says Professor Godson. "However we would anticipate that this number will grow as the programme develops and we would be able to provide specialised training and PhD programmes in diabetes together with other investigators at the Conway Institute and other sites nationally."

Professor Godson and her colleagues have been investigating diabetic nephropathy at the molecular level for almost ten years now with funding from the Health Research Board and Wellcome Trust, and she says that the latest grant will enable her team to take their research to the next level. "This really gives us the opportunity to accelerate the progress of translating our research from the bench to the bedside," Professor Godson says.

Danielle Barron (BSc 2005) is a freelance national science journalist.



Prof Catherine Godson

diabetes

Peter Sutherland gives €4 million for new Law School at UCD

Peter Sutherland SC has made a major leadership gift of €4 million towards the development of a new Law School for UCD. This follows the recent inauguration of Professor Imelda Maher as the Sutherland Chair of European Law at UCD.

The gift will be a significant factor in raising additional funds from Government and other sources for the €20 million development

In response to the donation, the President of UCD Dr Hugh Brady said: "In recent years the UCD School of Law has created new degrees that combine law with business, politics, economics and history, reflecting the dynamic relationship between law and commerce, society and public policy.

"Peter Sutherland is one of our most distinguished alumni. His generosity will enable us to transform the undergraduate experience of our law students. It will enhance the linkages

with the humanities, social sciences and business. It will facilitate the development of 4th level legal education and research. It will also increase our capacity in Continuing Professional Education in key areas such as European law, commercial law, competition law and intellectual property rights, as well as the development of new programmes in humanitarian law and public international law."

The UCD School of Law has 30 full time staff, and over 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Its long history has influenced the emergence of the Irish State as most Attorneys General and Superior Court justices along with numerous cabinet ministers and business leaders have been UCD law graduates. The School also includes the Institute of Criminology.

The School has recently been awarded the contract for the codification of Ireland's

criminal law by the Department of Justice and Law Reform.

Mr Peter Sutherland is chairman of BP (the largest company in the world outside the United States) and of Goldman Sachs International. He is former chairman of AIB Group. He currently serves on the boards of Investor AB and The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc.

He was Attorney General between 1981 and 1984, EC Commissioner responsible for Competition Policy between 1985 and 1989, Director General of GATT between 1993 and 1995 and then the first Director General of the World Trade Organisation.

Mr Sutherland is a former tutor and visiting professor at UCD. During his undergraduate years he played for and captained UCD rugby club and is still a keen supporter of the team.



*Peter Sutherland SC,
Chairman of BP and of
Goldman Sachs
International*

One in four prisoners back in jail within a year

A new UCD study based on almost 20,000 prisoner releases, shows that more than 25% are back in jail within one year and nearly 50% within four years. This is the first major study into re-offending in Ireland and it provides a benchmark against which to measure the success of the Irish prison reform system.

The research team that included Professor Eric Baumer and Ms Nicola Hughes was led by Professor Ian O'Donnell, Director of the UCD

Institute of Criminology. The study was in collaboration with the University of Missouri, St Louis and was funded by the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences and supported by the Irish Prison Service.

The research reveals that recidivism (re-offending) rates were highest among single, unemployed, men under 30 years of age with previous prison sentences. The crimes for which they had been imprisoned were: violence (27%), motoring offences (22%), drugs (13%), property

crime (13%), public order (10%), sex crimes (2%) and other offences (13%). Over half spent less than three months in confinement.

Rates of recidivism were shown to be strikingly high for prisoners who served jail terms for defaulting on a fine with 85% returning to prison at some stage during the follow-up period. Almost half of all property crime offenders were back in prison with 36 months of release.

According to Professor Ian O'Donnell, "successful reintegration of ex-prisoners is important for maintaining public safety and community vitality, reducing the costly expansion of the criminal justice system, and minimising the collateral damage that ensues when ex-prisoners remain at the margins of society. For many years this crucial piece of information was missing from the criminal justice jigsaw."

UCD to be partner in European Nutrigenomics Organisation

UCD will soon become a partner in NuGO, The European Nutrigenomics Organisation. NuGO, a network of excellence, is funded by the European Commission Research Directorate General.

Nutrigenomics is often referred to as personalised nutrition and has been identified as a strategic method of preventing diet-related diseases. It is also an important emerging business area.

The NuGO project aims to train European scientists to use post-genomic technologies in nutrition research, to develop and integrate genomic technologies for the benefit of European nutritional science. It also hopes to facilitate the application of these technologies in nutritional research world-wide, and to create a world-leading virtual centre of excellence in nutrigenomics.

Professor Mike Gibney, of the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science & Veterinary Medicine will have responsibility for two areas of NuGO. One is the development of "metabolomics", the new science of metabolic "fingerprinting". The second is commercialisation.

The commercialisation team aims to promote and foster commercial activity within the Network and with industry. Some of the ambitious plans for commercialisation include; the creation of a non-profit company to provide consultancy and training services in nutrigenomics to industry, to be established in 2008. Current projects include the marketing and sale of the first online e-learning module in 'Polymorphisms and Responsiveness to Diet'. Two entrepreneurship workshops will be held in March and May for NuGO members. For further information visit www.nugo.org

Clinical Psychology Doctorates

In December, Doctoral Degrees in Clinical Psychology were awarded at UCD. This is only the fifth time such degrees have been conferred at the university. The awards qualify the recipients to take up positions as clinical psychologists with their sponsoring agencies in the HSE and St. John of God Services.

Dr Jennifer Hayes (pictured here) won the Thérèse Brady Medal, which is awarded for excellence in clinical sensitivity throughout the research thesis.

The programme was developed by Professor Alan Carr and Professor Patricia Noonan Walsh in collaboration with colleagues in the UCD School of Psychology.

Dr Jennifer Hayes



Migration & Citizenship Research at UCD

The dynamics of contemporary migration have produced an exciting and prolific research scene throughout Europe. However, misconceptions, conflicts of interest and poor relations between university researchers, policy-makers and civic organisations undermine effective cross-sector collaboration. Advocates of Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) argue that the quality of these working relationships is the key to the successful transition to a knowledge society.

Under the auspices of the Migration and Citizenship Research Initiative (MCRI) a unique project was launched at the Royal Irish Academy in January to address the 'research-policy divide' in the areas of immigration and integration, and to cultivate effective partnerships. Funded by the IRCHSS and led by Dr Alice Feldman of the UCD School of Sociology and Dr Mary Gilmartin of the UCD School of Geography, Planning & Environmental Policy, the project will involve public lectures, cross-sector training workshops, and working papers. Twelve seed projects are also planned in which academics from UCD, UCC, UL and DCU, along with civic organisations, will explore the dynamics of integration in education, language,

employment, crime, civic and political mobilisation and information provision. Small grants to UCD PhD students will also be provided.

The advisory board is drawn from the Equality Authority, Department of Justice, Institute for Public Administration, Dublin Bus, the Immigrant Council of Ireland and the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, and a cross-sector expert roundtable has been established to lead the development of an EBP model. A work plan is in place to develop standards for immigration-focused policy research and guide the implementation of best practice in Ireland.

The MCRI is a multi-disciplinary, cross-university and cross-sector research infrastructure supporting research in immigration and integration, and related social and institutional impacts. Comprised of UCD staff and postgraduates and affiliates from Irish academic, civic and statutory sectors, it currently organises large-scale projects on civic mobilisation, community development and integration among 'new Irish communities'. UCD's new M.Soc.Sc. in Race, Ethnicity and Migration begins in September 2007.



Pictured (l-r), Marie Williams, Project Coordinator and Co-Directors Dr Alice Feldman, School of Sociology; Dr Mary Gilmartin, School of Geography, Planning and Environment

Developing World Research Initiative

With the new Developing World Research Initiative, scholars from the UCD Urban Institute Ireland are responding to a growing commitment by the Irish public to address issues of poverty and global justice. The initiative, led by UCD Urban Institute Director Professor Eugene O'Brien, was launched in December by Minister of State Conor Lenihan, T.D.

Research work from diverse fields is brought together in the Initiative: energy & natural resources; health, trade, markets and governance; infrastructure, water & sanitation, education; and food security & livelihoods.

In their brochure that was also launched in December, the founders outline their belief that a comprehensive, holistic and cross-sectoral approach is crucial in bringing about a real and sustainable reduction in poverty in the developing world.

At the launch, Minister of State Conor Lenihan T.D. reiterated this, saying that the Initiative and Irish Aid share the common aim of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The goals provide a roadmap for international development cooperation up to 2015 and inform Ireland's approach to development issues.

He emphasised that the government's recently published White Paper on Irish Aid sets out clear priorities for the work of the agency and it recognises that a deeper level of co-operation between the higher education sector and Irish Aid is required, such that the knowledge base developed by higher education researchers can inform policy and practice both in Ireland and internationally.

Pictured (l-r) at the launch of the Developing World Research Initiative: Prof Eugene O'Brien, Director UCD Urban Institute Ireland; Conor Lenihan, T.D. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; Prof Brigid Laffan, Principal of UCD College of Humans Sciences; Dr Padraic Conway, Vice-President for University Relations



Mr Enda McDermott presents Prof Niall O'Higgins with copies of over 250 of his published papers at his Festschrift Dinner in O'Reilly Hall UCD



Bill Bryson, American author and Chancellor of Durham University, speaking to the UCD Literary and Historical Society. He received a James Joyce award from the society.

Quare spake at UCD

Irish people speak a distinctive form of English, known as Hiberno-English. Professor Terry Dolan of the UCD School of English and Drama has been teaching it in UCD since 1978 and giving lectures about it on four continents. He's been all over this country collecting words and phrases - *cute hoor, making strange, oxter, falling out of her standing, pishogues, gossoons, foostering, and the like, all pronounced with Irish vowels and consonants, especially words with 'th'. 'These and those' become 'dese and dose'.*

The language is changing fast. Rural and religious words are disappearing, though *hames* and *yoke* survive. Global English is infiltrating, nuanced by Irish vowels and consonants. Young females want freedom from Old Ireland and have invented a new form of Hiberno-English known as *Dawt*, full of affected and infected

vowels (*'Pawked my caw'*). International interest in Hiberno-English is growing, matched by an increasing sense of linguistic pride in its native speakers. Patronising terms like *brogue* and *blarney* are a thing of the past. These changes have been recorded recently in Professor Dolan's Dictionary of Hiberno-English (2006) and in the 1920s by a former President of UCD, Professor J J Hogan, in his book *The English Language in Ireland*.

To celebrate the growing significance of Hiberno-English, Professor Dolan and Dr Carolina Amador Moreno organised a series of lectures by international specialists in Hiberno-English. The fact that Hiberno-English attracts researchers from Spain, Finland, Norway, Germany, Japan, Britain, and the USA, indicates that the English spoken in Ireland is a topic that lends itself to linguistic analysis from many different perspectives.

Among the guest speakers were Professor Markku Filppula of University of Joensuu and Dr Karen Corrigan of University of Newcastle, both of whom are UCD doctorates. They spoke about the linguistic consequences of the contact between the Irish and English languages in Ireland, north and south. Dr Kevin McCafferty of University of Bergen concentrated on the historical development of Northern Hiberno-English. Dr Andrew Breeze of University of Navarra spoke about Medieval Hiberno-English words. Three speakers based in Ireland (Dr Anne O'Keefe, from UL, Dr Jeffrey Kallen of TCD and Dr John Kirk of QUB) spoke about current spoken and written Hiberno-English which has been gathered into two important corpora: the Limerick Corpus of Irish English, and the ICE-Ireland corpus.

Words to watch

Eejit	Silly person (more affectionate than idiot)
Give out	Scold
Culchie	Country bumpkin
Atchiko	Ill-mannered lout
Segocia	Old friend
Gurrier	Thug
Amadán	Buffoon
Jackeen	Self-assertive Dubliner with pro-British leanings

University-wide interest in the Irish Language

Ó bunaíodh Bord na Gaeilge i 1996, tá ról lárnach ag an mBord i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge i UCD. Labhair Ciarán Ó Con Cheanainn (BA 2002, MA 2004, MLitt 2005) le cathaoirleach an Bhoird, an tOllamh Michael Doherty faoina shuim féin sa teanga agus a bhfuil bainte amach acu le deich mbliana anuas.

With his family roots in the Inishowen Peninsula Co. Donegal and in Derry city, Professor Michael Doherty's first encounter with the Irish language occurred when he was nine years old. "My grandfather was originally from Clonmany in the west of the peninsula and although he didn't speak Irish, I remember him telling me that the language was spoken there fluently at the beginning of the 20th century. But when neighbours visited and spoke Irish, children would be sent to their rooms to prevent them from exposure to the language. At that time, English was the language of progression and Irish was of little use to those whose destiny was emigration to Glasgow or New York". This conversation remained with Professor Doherty who made a conscious decision to raise his own children bilingually.

Ó 2000 i leith, tá ardú 135% ar an líon daoine idir mhic léinn agus bhaill foirne atá ag clárú do chúrsaí Gaeilge.

After joining the staff of what is now the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine in 1986, Professor Doherty observed that there was an Irish-speaking community within the University. "The Veterinary College was located in Ballsbridge at that time but there was a number of people there with whom you could have an informal conversation 'as Gaeilge'. There was a great deal of good will and interest in the language among both staff and students. Through my involvement with the Large Animal Clinical

Division, I also had regular contact with the Irish speaking farming community in the Rath Cairn Gaeltacht in County Meath".

This interest was nurtured by the establishment of Bord na Gaeilge in 1996 which has supported and further developed UCD's Irish language speaking community. According to Professor Doherty "there has been a growing demand for Irish within the University. From 2000 to the present, there has been a 135% increase in the number of students and staff enrolling for Irish courses with in excess of 500 enrolments per academic year at present. The increase is also reflected in the interest in the Cultural and Gaeltacht Courses offered by Bord na Gaeilge".

Faigheann muid fiosrúcháin maidir leis an teanga as as gach áit sa tír seo agus chomh fada ó bhaile le Meiriceá agus an Astráil.

He also states that "there has been an increased demand for the translation service offered to all schools and colleges within the University due to the 2003 Official Languages Act" as well as for the 16 places on the Bord na Gaeilge Irish language Student Residence Scheme on campus. Bord na Gaeilge also provides a valuable service to the public. "The service we provide to the public is an important aspect of our work; we receive numerous Irish language related queries both from within Ireland and from as far a field as the US and Australia. These queries are dealt with by the Irish Language Officer, Clár Ní Bhuachalla whose professionalism and dedication have been pivotal to our success".

Ar cheann de na tionscnaimh a d'eascair as an gceardlann, tá togra nua 'Gaeilge ag Am Lóin'

With his appointment as chairman in 2006, his first aim was to review the role of Bord na Gaeilge within a rapidly changing UCD. The

Bord actively sought feedback from the wider University community to assist in this process. One of the key ideas which emerged from a workshop held, 15 December 2006, was the

I measc na moltaí tá an fhéidireacht creidmheasanna a bhronnadh ar mhic léinn a dhéanann obair chun an teanga a chur chun cinn agus breis forbartha i réimse na ríomhchumarsáide.

need to tap into the interest in the language that was "bubbling under the surface". As UCD is now a multicultural university with an increasing number of international students interested in the language as well as the large number of UCD students who attended Gaelscoileanna, it was felt that a demand existed for additional activities to bring Irish language speakers and learners together outside the classroom. One of the outcomes of this workshop, was a new informal initiative, 'Irish at Lunchtime' which commenced 6 February 2007.

Tá Bord na Gaeilge tar éis ábhar teagaisc a sholáthar do Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh, Bhéaloideas Éireann agus na Teangeolaíochta don chúrsa toghthach ag leibhéal ab initio atá á thairiscint faoin gclár Horizons.

Other proposals included the possibility of accrediting work undertaken by students in the promotion of the language and the further development of eCommunication for both prospective and current students interested in availing of our services.

One of the Bord's principal projects is the development of learning materials for adult learners of Irish. Bord na Gaeilge has recently provided the School of Irish,

Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics with the relevant teaching materials for the Irish language elective at ab initio level which was offered under the Horizons programme in January 2007 (the Bord has been providing courses at this level since 1997). It also continues to support the Diploma in Applied Irish as well as the MA, 'Scríobh agus Cumarsáid na Gaeilge'.

Professor Doherty hopes that Bord na Gaeilge can build on the many successful projects the Bord has initiated to date and continue to explore new possibilities for the promotion of the Irish language in UCD.

Prof Michael Doherty, Chairman of Bord na Gaeilge



influenza

Preparing for the flu

Professor William Hall talks to Claire O'Connell (BSc 1992, PhD 1998) about the vital importance of preparing for a potential pandemic flu outbreak.

As the threat of a devastating 'flu pandemic hangs over the world, Ireland is readying itself for action should a new, infectious virus emerge. Having a good action plan in place could help reduce the human misery that thousands of deaths and the severe economic blow of a particularly dangerous pandemic virus would bring. A key figure in planning our national pandemic strategy is virologist Professor William Hall of the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, who chairs the expert group that advises the government on how to prepare for a pandemic situation.

A pandemic can ignite if a new subtype of the influenza A virus emerges to which human populations have no immunity. The most devastating influenza pandemic on record, the Spanish 'flu of 1918, killed at least 40 million people worldwide. More recently, the Asian 'flu killed two million in 1957 the Hong Kong 'flu saw the deaths of one million people in 1968.

One possible candidate to spark off the next pandemic is the avian influenza virus H5N1, but when that might happen and how dangerous the virus would be to humans remains to be seen. "It's likely that another pandemic will happen," says Professor Hall, adding that much will hinge on how pathogenic, or disease-causing, the emergent strain will be. "If it's a very pathogenic virus then we are in trouble. If it's not a very pathogenic virus then there might just be a worldwide mild swoop."

However he insists it is vital that we plan in advance to mitigate the possible effects of a

pathogenic pandemic virus, which could include widespread illness, death and disruption to essential services. This is especially important because, unlike the seasonal 'flu outbreaks we see each winter, pandemic influenza can strike at any time of year. It can also potentially attack any age group and can last for months, sweeping through a population in unpredictable waves.

Since 1999, Professor Hall has chaired the National Pandemic Influenza Expert Group, which was appointed by the Minister for Health and Children and which issues guidelines to the government on how to prepare for an influenza pandemic. Ireland's preparedness strategies link in closely with recommendations from the World Health Organisation (WHO), explains Professor Hall, and last January the group drafted updated, national recommendations based on the ever-evolving H5N1 situation.

Central to Ireland's ongoing surveillance is the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) at UCD, which Professor Hall directs.

Their current advice covers key areas such as improving national disease reporting as well as planning in advance how to distribute anti-viral drugs quickly to those who need them. And while these preparations are ongoing, we must also keep watch, along with the rest of the world. "H5N1 has been around since 1997 with fewer than 300 people infected. The mortality is high but the infection rate is low for humans," says Professor Hall. "We know there's a risk of avian H5N1 virus, we know there are limited human infections but that fortunately there's no human-to-human spread."

This combination adds up to the WHO classification of pandemic phase 3, where the recommended emphasis is on monitoring the situation closely. Central to Ireland's ongoing surveillance is the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) at UCD, which Professor Hall directs.

The NVRL has a dedicated team which would be available at all times to deal with a pandemic situation should it arise here, and advances in the field of molecular diagnostics have improved our ability to detect viruses, he says. The NVRL's Level-3 Plus

containment facilities are equipped to handle a potentially pandemic strain of virus, and in recent months there have been two "dry runs" of handling and identifying H5N1 samples there.

Professor Hall notes that Ireland's efficiency of disease reporting is also improving, thanks in part to computerised infectious disease reporting (CIDR), a new, web-based system being implemented nationwide for logging notifiable diseases. Pandemic influenza cases would feed into this database to provide public health officials with important, real-time data about the extent and locations of outbreaks.

But what can we do in the face of a pandemic virus once it has been identified and located? The front-line medical treatment is an anti-viral drug, explains Professor Hall. Based on previous recommendations from the expert group, the government has already secured 1.1 million doses of the anti-viral agent Tamiflu, enough to treat 25 per cent of the population.

The group has also advised the government to order a second anti-viral drug, Relenza, as a backup. "There's some evidence of some individuals in Vietnam with H5N1 developing resistance to Tamiflu, so that's one additional reason why we wanted to get a secondary drug" explains Professor Hall, adding that with enough Relenza on order to treat a further 20 per cent of the population, it increases our anti-viral coverage to the second-highest in the world, behind France.

The availability of these anti-viral drugs would reduce the previously estimated death-toll of almost 53,000 in Ireland should a pandemic strike. "That figure would be definitely blunted by anti-virals because it is based on 1918 pandemic figures when there were no anti-virals," explains Professor Hall.

But in order to be effective, anti-viral drugs need to be administered quickly - within 12 to 48 hours of symptoms starting. And Professor Hall warns that the logistics must be worked out of how to get the potentially life-saving drugs to the priority recipients.

"It's potentially going to present tremendous logistical problems because it's an area of potential abuse or potential wrong use as a medicine," he says. "And if you misuse the anti-viral, you have the danger of developing resistance."

To compound the problem, no preventative vaccine will be available at the start of a pandemic. Once the pandemic virus has been identified, it will take around four to six months

to develop an effective vaccine, and even then global supplies will probably be limited. But again, thanks to the expert group's advice, Ireland has staked a place in the queue. "We're negotiating with companies to get an advance purchase to vaccinate the whole country," says Professor Hall.

In the meantime, the expert group recommends continuing to vaccinate high-risk groups against seasonal 'flu as usual, even in a pandemic. "You want to reduce the level of regular influenza anyway, and secondly you don't want the risk of the seasonal influenza to reassort with the pandemic virus," says Professor Hall. "Also, if the pandemic virus is partially related to seasonal influenza, the seasonal vaccine may give some limited immunity and protection."

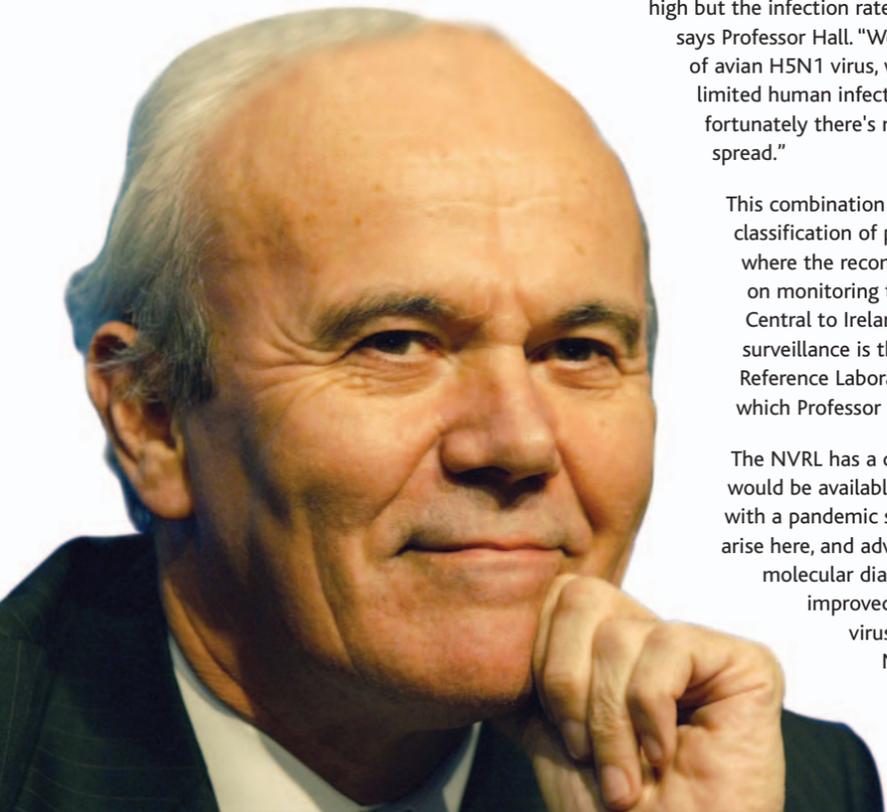
The full recommendations of the expert group's report are being considered by the Health Service Executive (HSE), which is charged with implementing pandemic plans. In addition the expert group welcomes feedback from the public on the draft plan, which is available in full on the HSE's Health Protection Surveillance Centre website www.hpsc.ie

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

What would happen in Ireland in a pandemic?

If an influenza pandemic is declared and the virus is highly pathogenic, Ireland faces potentially serious health and economic problems:

- Estimates based on the 1918 pandemic suggests that a virus with a high clinical attack rate could kill almost 53,000 people in Ireland, although that figure would be lowered through medical intervention with anti-viral agents.
- Hospital services and mortuaries would be severely stretched.
- Mass gatherings would be banned to help curtail the spread of the virus, meaning that schools and universities would close.
- Absenteeism at work could rocket to an estimated 50 per cent, with people staying home through illness or fear of mixing with others, and parents having to mind children who cannot go to school. As a result there would be a significant negative impact on business activities and on the delivery of essential services.



Prof William Hall

Sprawl

The long commute

Dublin's commuter belt now extends over 100 kilometres from the Dublin area. Dr Brendan Williams talks to Louise Holden about the implications of this development.

When Dr Brendan Williams and his team published the findings of their third study on housing in Ireland last month, the media response was predictable. The report reached conclusions about the trajectory of Dublin property values: the national dailies ran with yet more headlines about house prices. However, this report had a great deal more to say about the impact of housing patterns than media reports might suggest. Where we build, and where we choose to live, has implications that ripple out through transport, schooling, healthcare, leisure, family life, social life, the local environment, the national economy and the global climate.

The report, entitled *Urban Sprawl and Market Fragmentation in the Greater Dublin Area*, is the third in a series taking a long view of the pattern of planning, building and living in Dublin and its commuter belt. These reports are the work of lecturer in Development and Planning at UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy, and Deputy Director of the UCD Urban Environment Project, Dr Brendan Williams, with Brian Hughes of DIT and urban research analyst Patrick Shiels. All three studies were commissioned by the Society of Chartered Surveyors and are intended to contribute to an even wider analysis of the changing patterns of living in Ireland and their impact on people and their environment.

Tectonic shifts in housing trends in and around the county of Dublin over the last twenty years have left the planning process running to catch up. While local authorities struggle to deal with local housing and infrastructural needs, the entire map of the east coast is taking on a new aspect, with housing developments stripping ahead of the services that should attend them - schools, bus routes, hospitals, leisure areas, roads. Despite recent efforts by the government to impose some strategy on Dublin's housing patterns, the relentless development has taken on a life of its own.

Relentless development has taken on a life of its own.

The provision of housing nationally has increased in 2006 to a level of approximately 95,000 units per annum, according to the report. Much of this development has taken place in Dublin's commuter belt or functional urban region which now extends over 100 kilometres from the Dublin area into outer Leinster and the Ulster counties of Monaghan and Cavan. Meanwhile, the researchers have found, areas within the city such as Tallaght are experiencing depopulation. The result; well-serviced and established townlands are emptying out while under-serviced, new regions

are filling up. It's an unsustainable pattern, according to Williams, and one which requires a bird's eye view to address.

"People tend to identify with issues that relate to their local area," says Dr Williams. "It's fine for people to be interested in the local market or the services available to them. But we need an overview. There are lots of individuals, groups and authorities debating the issues but no one is looking at the whole picture."

Well-serviced and established townlands are emptying out while under-serviced, new regions are filling up.

According to Williams, there is a proposal for a greater Dublin Area Authority on the table as well as proposals for regional planning which are part of the National Spatial Strategy, but these have never been fully activated, and may well be hogtied by the current Local Authority system. "Local Authorities are still the main planks of statutory planning. You'd need consent from all of them to move forward on this. Politically, it's difficult to deliver."

However, the current fragmented approach to planning is shoring up significant problems for the future. The report warns that the absence of integration of housing, land-use and transportation policies will continue to create major problems for accessibility, sustainability and quality of life.

"Housing development is occurring in a dynamic but unstable manner, often caused by major problems in managing the land supply process. The need for effective regional planning and development implementation strategies with a unitary authority/agency rather than fragmented approaches is now more evident than before," the report concludes.

"You can analyse the problem again and again but without political commitment, nothing will change," says Williams, who has called for the establishment of a coordinating authority for Dublin planning, but admits that without teeth, such a body would only add another layer to an already unwieldy system. The piecemeal development of Leinster's housing has been exacerbated by questionable political practices in the past, and it behoves the government of today to ensure that the legacy of corruption is not left to fester.

"Following the completion of the Mahon and Flood Tribunals, major structural changes should occur in land zoning/rezoning processes and procedures to bring the Irish system of land

zoning in line with best international practice and reduce the risks of corruption," the report recommends.

However, Dr Williams and his team are not on a mission to tear down the system. "We're not suggesting confronting the existing authorities. Many media reports claimed that we were forwarding the notion of a planning 'watchdog.' That is not the case - even the term is confrontational. Agreement between stakeholders, and meaningful resources, are required."

This is a micro-debate within a much larger issue, and Williams is hopeful that his study will contribute to a more circumspect approach to planning and the environment.

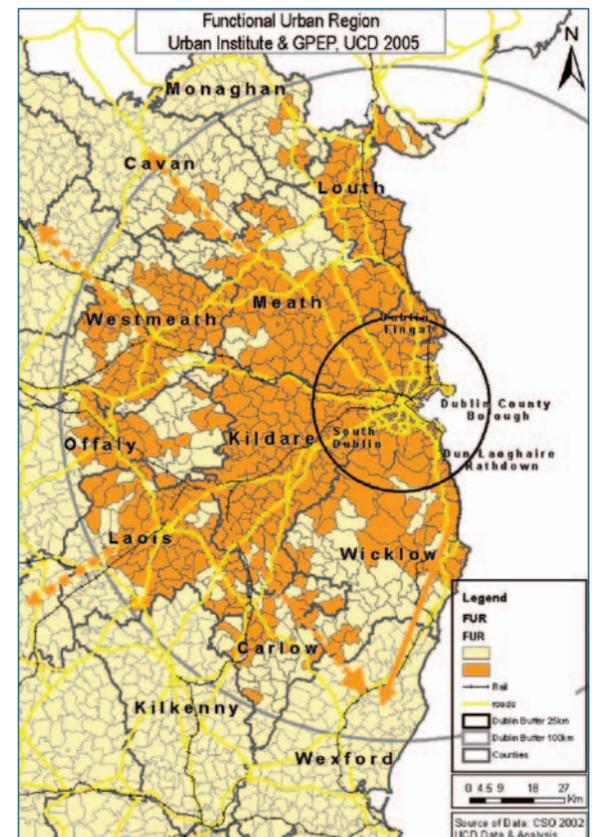
This report will contribute to a larger study, the Urban Environment Project coordinated by UCD, commissioned by the Environmental Protection Agency, to look at the long term impact of urban sprawl. This is an inter-institutional project that will examine urban development, transport, climate change, wildlife, social patterns; the complete picture of what happens to communities and environments as housing patterns change.

"This research will, in turn, feed into the UCD involvement in the EU Plurel Project, which will examine the impact of urban sprawl on receiving communities. What's happening to places like Cavan and Westmeath that are receiving the wave out of Dublin? What will happen to them if, as looks likely from our research, there is a wave back into the area within the M50? Will these commuter towns be changed forever? This kind of contextualization is vital."

Dr Williams is confident that the applied research he and his colleagues have carried out is practical enough for use by policy makers, especially since it involved the work of both academics and a commercial body - the Society of Chartered Surveyors.

"There is an appetite to deal with this issue. The Urban Environment Project has received considerable assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency and the local authorities. There is an overall budget of €1.2 million for this project including five PhD students working on specific themes. The local authorities and planning agencies want better tools and techniques to assist them in decision making. Applied research like ours is forward-looking and fits into the bigger picture, feeding back into policy making."

Louise Holden is a journalist with the Irish Times and is currently enrolled on the MEd programme at UCD.



Map shows traditional Dublin commuter belt of 25km and new wider catchment area of 100km. © Ordnance Survey Ireland / Government of Ireland

Urban Sprawl and Market Fragmentation - Some key findings

1. Current levels of housing demand seem likely to maintain their momentum through to 2009.
2. Demand has been absorbed by the growth of the commuter belt which now stretches over 100 kilometres from Dublin through Leinster and into south Ulster. This pattern is contrary to the objectives of the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines.
3. Adjacent towns and villages are swallowed by suburban development, potentially with negative consequences in terms of sustainability due to infrastructure deficits. Scarce land resources are used, often in a wasteful fashion.
4. Peripheral expansion of urban areas such as Dublin is characterised by low-rise, low-density housing development causing traffic congestion
5. These developments result in the decentralisation of local commercial activity, exemplified by the movement of offices to suburban office parks and decentralisation of state offices, with major implications for city transportation systems.
6. The concept of community is made difficult by the modern urban design. Car dependant single-use housing areas without basic facilities such as shops and schools provide few facilities or opportunities to develop interaction.
7. New mono-functional housing areas have created a near-total dependency on the private car, with obvious implications for the environment
8. The overall housing market in 2007 is likely to experience a more modest level of price increases than has been seen in recent years. Prices are expected to stabilise in some areas as overall demand and supply levels come close to equilibrium.
9. In a more selective market some fragmentation will be likely, resulting in diverging price trends. Weaker locations distant from primary employment centres may be negatively affected. It may also allow the possible movement back to Dublin of some of the deflected population who currently commute long distances.

Two Parsons Research Energy Awards for UCD

UCD researchers have won two of the seven Charles Parsons Research Energy Awards.

Accepting an award in the region of €3 million, Professor Shane Ward, Director of the UCD Bioresources Research Centre (BRC), commented on the significance of the award in terms of funding staff appointments and continuing vital work on liquid bio-fuel and biomass-to-energy research.

Professor Mark O'Malley of UCD School of Electrical, Electronic & Mechanical Engineering accepted the other award, of almost €2.5m on behalf of the UCD Electricity Research Centre (ERC). The ERC is a collaboration between the Power Systems Research Group at UCD and the

Electricity Industry in Ireland. The ERC's research focuses on three main areas: evolving electricity markets, wind power and power system operations.

The Charles Parsons Research Energy Awards were created in 2006 to stimulate and develop Irish energy research. On presenting the awards in December, Noel Dempsey TD, Minister for Communications, Marine & Natural Resources said that the awards addressed a "critical shortage of appropriately skilled people to meet our energy research needs." Recipients of this lucrative award secure funding for seven years and this is the first time that funding for such extended early stage research has been provided in Ireland.

Fuelling the fire of inflammation

In a diverse range of chronic inflammatory disorders including inflammatory bowel disease and arthritis, blood supply to the site of inflammation is compromised leading to a drop in tissue oxygen levels. In a recent study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (USA) Professor Cormac Taylor's research group in the UCD Conway Institute have found that this decrease in oxygen supply may significantly contribute to disease development.

This work, which comprised a significant portion of the PhD thesis for Dr Eoin Cummins, demonstrates that a family of oxygen sensing enzymes known (quite appropriately) as PHDs are intimately involved in inflammatory processes.

His findings increase scientists' understanding of the processes regulating inflammation and open a new window of therapeutic opportunity in a range of diseases which have

currently got quite restricted effective treatments. The research was carried out in collaboration with Professor Jacques Pouyssegur in the University of Nice, France.

Cummins' work has already been recognised with a number of awards including prestigious Keystone fellowships to fund his presentation of the data at two major scientific conferences in the United States in 2006.

In a development of this project, a collaboration between Professor Taylor's lab and Sigmoid Biotechnologies is investigating novel drug delivery formulations aimed at delivering drugs that interfere with inflammatory processes directly to the site of action in diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease.

Work in Professor Taylor's lab is funded by grants from Science Foundation Ireland and the Health Research board.

Research into technology for independent living

Today, one in every ten people is 60 years or older. By 2150, it is expected that this figure will be more like one in three. Research is vital in addressing the challenges of 'independent living' for older people. A recent investment of \$30 million by Intel and the IDA in the Technology Research for Independent Living Centre (TRIL) reflects this. UCD is now poised to play its part in this important work.

The TRIL Centre Director is Professor Richard Reilly of UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering. This school, along with the UCD School of Psychology and the UCD School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science are involved in the research.

At the launch of the TRIL Centre, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Micheál Martin TD shows two attendees the Centre's website

A coordinated suite of research projects will address the physical, cognitive and social consequences of ageing. Research focuses on three key areas: improving social health and community engagement for older people; detecting and preventing falls in the home; and helping those with memory loss to maintain their independence.

Speaking at the announcement of the Centre in January, Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment, Micheál Martin noted the Centre's strategic value in terms of collaborative work between academic institutions and Intel, and in the promotion of Ireland as a centre of excellence in research.

Each research project will incorporate multi-disciplinary teams from several Irish universities, Intel's new European Digital Health Group and their US-based colleagues. The findings will be shared on a global, open-access basis on www.trilcentre.org



Professor J. Peter Clinch of the UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy has been made an Honorary Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute for distinguished contributions to planning. The Royal Town Planning Institute is the premier global professional planning institute. Professor Clinch is the only such member in Republic of Ireland and joins a select list of notable international academics who have received the RTPi's highest award, including Professor Sir Peter Hall and Professor Andreas Faludi.

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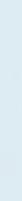
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Friel's Companion

Professor Anthony Roche tells Belinda McKeon how it felt to be the critic critiqued by the author, in a conversation about his recent book *The Cambridge Companion to Brian Friel*.

After all the months of shaping, perfecting, refining, there comes the moment when every new work must step up onto the stage and face its audience. Having written on Irish theatre for over 25 years, Anthony Roche, an Associate Professor in the UCD School of English and Drama, knows all about first nights: the excitement, the apprehension, the insecurity. So when the word came that his latest production, so to speak, *The Cambridge Companion to Brian Friel*, was to receive not one but two first nights - an initial launch in London and a later one in Dublin, Roche could have been forgiven for feeling a touch of stage fright. But at the London launch, he bumped into somebody who had it even worse.

"Anne came up to me at the first launch and said, you know, Brian's very nervous," remembers Roche. "She had said to him, is it like a first night? And he said, and here Roche does a neat impression of Friel's Tyrone tones, 'no, no, this is much worse than a first night. This is all the work!'"

Although he's undoubtedly Ireland's greatest living playwright, Friel is "his own fiercest critic", says Roche.

Although he's undoubtedly Ireland's greatest living playwright, Friel is "his own fiercest critic", says Roche. "He's never satisfied. He's skeptical of success. And you have that sense of restlessness in the plays." Friel is a playwright, too, who has a great respect for the act of criticism, says Roche - as long as that act is undertaken with care and intelligence. So it was little wonder, then, that Roche himself felt nervous that night in London, as he handed to Friel the finished copy of the *Cambridge Companion*, which includes 14 essays, commissioned, selected and edited by Roche, and covering the whole gamut of Friel's career. "I said to Anne, I'm very nervous. Putting that hard-backed, signed copy of the book in Brian's hands, I've just had the moment I've been anticipating for three years. And when we gather again in Dublin in a week's time, I know he will have read it." And he knew that Friel would not mince his words.

But what Roche also knew was that he had been preparing for that moment for much longer than the three years it had taken him to edit and finish the *Companion*. He has been preparing for it, in a sense, for the entire length of his academic and critical career. The journey started, perhaps, that night in the early 1970s when, as an undergraduate in Trinity College, he saw an Abbey production of Synge's play *The Well of the Saints*. "And it was the Road to Damascus," he says. "I felt the power of theatre. I felt the power of Irish theatre. I didn't fully understand the play; it wasn't realistic, and I've

always since been interested in work that presses beyond realism. And I went to see it the following week - which I've rarely ever done - because I wanted to see it again. I knew I was going to do something after my B.A., and I knew it was going to be something on Synge."

That something turned out to be a PhD on Synge from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where Roche had the good fortune to work with the great Irish critic Professor Vivien Mercier. "We arrived in the same week; it was pure serendipity," he says. Studying with Mercier in the U.S. brought the young Roche's critical development in two directions. "It was going further and further into the Irish material," he says. "But it was also going further and further into a world context." And while, as a student in Trinity, he tried his hand at acting - as did his friend Michael Colgan, now the Artistic Director of the Gate - he quickly discovered it wasn't for him. Even then, he knew that it would be from a critical engagement with theatre that he would derive the greatest pleasure. "I'm happy enough to be an interpreter," he explains. "I regard the critical act as one of the necessary acts of interpretation of a dramatic text, in the way that an actor or designer or director would realise the script."

If *The Well of the Saints* had been the road to Damascus, then Roche's first significant encounter with the work of Friel constituted, perhaps, his arrival at the shining city (to borrow a phrase from a playwright much influenced by Friel, Conor McPherson, who counts Roche, a former teacher, among his earliest supporters). That Friel play was *Translations*, a production of which Roche saw at the Hampstead in London in 1981, as he was en route to Ireland from America for the first visit in four years. "I think the exile and return motif is relevant here," he notes. Stephen Rea played the role of Manus, in a recasting of the original *Field Day* production. "And the play blew me away," says Roche. "I came out of it completely disoriented in terms of where I was, what year it was...I mean, profoundly moved by it, fully engaged. And I knew I'd write about it. But it was much more than that. It was the kernel of my book on Irish drama."

That book, *Contemporary Irish Drama*, was published in 1994. From 1997 to 2002, Roche was editor of the *Irish University Review*; he steered issues on Friel and Tom Kilroy, among others. He loves writing about contemporary and new work, he says; loves the freedom of it, the way the critic works with a different awareness of history or legacy - not a lighter awareness, necessarily, but a more liberating one - and how nothing is set in

stone. As a young critic, having read the script of *Bailegangaire* six months before production, he predicted to playwright Tom Murphy that with Siobhan McKenna cast as Mommo and with Garry Hynes directing, it would be a critical and popular success. He worked, then, with a sense not just of being engaged, but of being involved.

"I regard the critical act as one of the necessary acts of interpretation of a dramatic text, in the way that an actor or designer or director would realise the script."

The *Cambridge Companion* is involved with the most crucial and the most complex aspects of Friel's work, from his creative process to his engagement with the Troubles, from his work with *Field Day* to his concern for the design and look of his plays, from his reimaginings of Irish womanhood to his reinventions of the Russia of Chekhov and Turgenev, from performativity to postcolonialism. Every chapter is compelling, but those by Thomas Kilroy, Frank McGuinness, Nicholas Grene, George O'Brien, Anna McMullan and by Roche himself linger on in the reader's mind with particular resonance. "One of the temptations with the book was to do a single chapter each on the most popular of Friel's plays," he explains. "But I was very concerned to cover the entire career. Absolutely. To not lose sight of those plays that had done the best, and that people were most interested in critically, but also to shine a light on the unexplored works, and to make connections between them."

Pictured at the launch of the Cambridge Companion to Brian Friel at the Gate Theatre, Dublin, on 24 Oct 2006: Prof Tony Roche, UCD School of English and Drama and Brian Friel (foreground)

This is the right time for a *Cambridge Companion* to Friel, Roche believes. "In theatre, timing is all. But timing is the most difficult thing. There are a number of reasons why the book is timely. There's Brian Friel's chronology. He's 78, he's still there. And I did feel that he had not had his critical share of the earth. If you take Seamus Heaney, the poetic equivalent - and there is a *Cambridge Companion* imminent on Heaney - the sheer range of the books is much larger than on Friel. And as a stimulus to that, let alone as a help to the student who's trying to write their essay, I felt that a real state of the art job was required." He's now writing a monograph on Friel, as is his colleague Christopher Murray. "And what's important also is that Friel never achieved worldwide success at the expense of his reception in Ireland. The audiences here never felt, oh, well, he's sold his birthright. There was always a sense that one of our own was going out on his own terms and doing well. And it was that combination that I found so striking. And we are still inclined to take our writers for granted."

One thing is for certain; Roche won't be able to take Friel for granted any time soon; the playwright is keeping an eye on everything from his home at the northernmost tip of the island. Sure enough, soon after the London launch of the *Companion*, a letter arrived for Roche; a heavy one, postmarked in Donegal. "It was a very full and serious and measured and positive response," says Roche. "And he saw all the layers. But to have that letter in my pocket as I headed to the next launch..." He smiles. Obviously, that was something.

Belinda McKeon (MLitt 2005) is a freelance Theatre & Arts journalist based in New York.



UCD Professor elected Joyce Foundation president

Professor Anne Fogarty of the UCD School of English and Drama will soon be the first ever Irish President of the International James Joyce Foundation. Her appointment was announced at the recent James Joyce Symposium in Budapest.

The purpose of the Foundation is to encourage scholarship, criticism, and study of Joyce's life, work, and career. The organisation also facilitates ways in which scholars, critics, students and general readers may meet together.

Professor Fogarty was also recently named UCD's first Professor of James Joyce Studies and will lead work to develop a dedicated Research Centre. James Joyce is UCD's most famous alumnus and his legacy is deservedly marked out in the university's strategic plan as a particularly important research area.

Professor Fogarty was previously chair of the Board of Women's Studies and the Board of

Drama Studies. She was director of the UCD James Joyce Summer School from 1997 to 2005 and associate director of the Yeats Summer School, 1995-1997. She is General Editor of the *Irish University Review*.

The next James Joyce Summer School will be held 8-14 July at Newman House. Full information is available at www.joycesummerschool.ie

Prof Anne Fogarty



Paul Durcan at UCD

The Ireland Professor of Poetry, Paul Durcan, is currently spending a semester at UCD.

Paul Durcan is an important contemporary Dublin poet whose main published collections include: *A Snail in my Prime*, *Crazy About Women*, *Greetings to Our Friends in Brazil* and *Cries of an Irish Caveman*. He is a previous recipient of the Patrick Kavanagh Award, and he published his first collection, *O Westport in the Light of Asia Minor* in 1975. His 1985 collection, *The Berlin Wall Café*, a series of poems about marriage break-up, was a Poetry Book Society choice and is regarded by many critics as his most important work.

The position of Ireland Professor of Poetry was founded in 1998 by the Queen's University of Belfast, University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, Arts Council of Northern Ireland and The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon. It is also supported through The Ireland Fund.

Every 3 years, members of the public and poets themselves are invited to suggest a poet of

achievement and distinction for the professorship. These suggestions are considered by a panel of representatives from the five sponsoring organisations and a poet is selected.

Paul Durcan succeeded John Montague and Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill to be the third poet to fulfil the role of Ireland Professor of Poetry. The Chair is tenable for 3 years during which time the Professor is attached to each of the three universities in turn, one year at a time and is required to be in residence at each for approximately one academic term in that year. The Professor makes three formal presentations and holds other informal workshops or readings for the public at large. On 8th February, Paul spoke at UCD on *The Mystery of Harry Clifton*.

The 4th Ireland Professor of Poetry is due to be selected in March 2007. Members of the public and poets themselves are invited to nominate suitable candidates. If you have a suggestion and would like to nominate a poet do please contact info@irelandchairofpoetry.org before Tuesday 13th March 2007.

Ireland 2002

**Do you ever take a holiday abroad?
No, we always go to America.**

Paul Durcan

Jewish Ireland in the age of Joyce

Professor Cormac Ó Gráda of the UCD School of Economics recently celebrated the launch of his new book *Jewish Ireland in the age of Joyce - A Socioeconomic History*, at a reception held in the National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street. The book was launched by Professor Declan Kiberd, UCD Chair of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama.

In this work, Ó Gráda examines Jewish Ireland from the 1870s when the first Lithuanian Jewish immigrants landed in Dublin, to the late 1940s, just before the community began its steep decline.

James Joyce's Leopold Bloom was the son of a Hungarian Jewish father and an Irish Protestant mother. However his origins are at odds with the traditions of the Jewish community of that time; intermarriage with outsiders was rare and piety was pronounced.

Indeed in 1866, the year of Bloom's birth, Dublin's Jewish population hardly existed, and on the eve of World War I it numbered barely three thousand. But this small group of people quickly found an economic niche in an era of depression, and developed a surprisingly vibrant web of institutions.

In a richly detailed, elegantly written blend of historical, economic, and demographic analysis, Professor Ó Gráda examines the challenges this community faced. He asks how its patterns of child rearing, schooling, and cultural and religious behaviour influenced its marital, fertility, and infant-mortality rates. He argues that the community's small size shaped its occupational profile and influenced its acculturation; it also compromised its viability in the long run.

Jewish Ireland in the Age of Joyce presents a fascinating portrait of a group of people in an unlikely location who, though small in number, comprised Ireland's most resilient immigrant community until the Celtic Tiger's immigration surge of the 1990s.

Professor Ó Gráda has written seven other books, including *Black '47* and *Beyond* (Princeton), which won the 2000 James J. Donnelly, Sr., Prize for Best Book on Irish History or Social Studies and was one of *Choice's* Outstanding Academic Books of 1999.

Pictured (r-l) at the book launch of Jewish Ireland in the age of Joyce were Prof Cormac O'Grada of UCD School of Economics and Prof Louis Cullen.



New Vice-President for Students

Dr Martin Butler has been appointed UCD's Vice-President for Students.

Dr Butler was Director of the UCD Quinn School of Business from 1999-2007. Prior to this, he was Director of the Bachelor of Commerce Programme. During his time at the UCD Quinn School, he led some key academic and structural change programmes; not least the completion of the UCD Quinn building and the shift from large group learning to small group teaching.

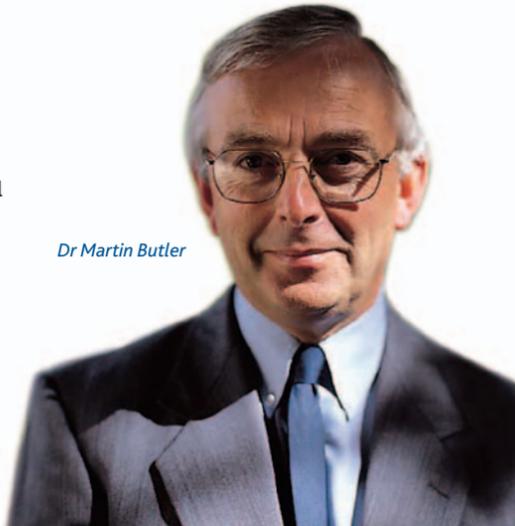
He was also responsible for the establishment of the Centre for Community Engagement which encourages students to engage with local communities and other partners. He was instrumental in the decision by the European Foundation for Management Development to host the 2006 undergraduate conference at UCD Quinn School of Business.

Dr Butler completed his undergraduate studies at UCD taking an engineering degree. He completed his Masters at Dublin University

and gained his PhD from the University of Southampton. Dr Butler's main research interest is management decision making and the use of mathematical models in evaluating decision alternatives. He has presented and published widely.

His primary interest is in higher education and creating a positive student environment.

Dr Martin Butler



Professor Pat Shannon elected to Governing Authority

Patrick M. Shannon, Professor of Geology and Head of the UCD School of Geological Sciences, has been elected to the UCD Governing Authority. Professor Shannon, a member of the Royal Irish Academy since 2003, fills the vacancy on the professorial panel that arose following the retirement of Professor Muiris X. FitzGerald.

An active researcher and teacher, Professor Shannon is a former Associate Dean of Science. He has served the university on the Academic Council and on committees including Research Ethics, the Welfare Executive and the Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Standing Committee.

The period of office of the Governing Authority ends on 31 January 2009.

Prof Pat Shannon was recently elected to the Governing Authority



Brendan J Loftus joins UCD Conway Institute

In November 2006, Dr Brendan J Loftus received a €2 million Science Foundation Ireland award to establish a research programme in microbial genomics at UCD Conway Institute. A UCD graduate with an impressive track record in high-impact journals including *Science and Nature*, Dr Loftus returns to Ireland from the Institute for Genomic Research (TIGR), Maryland, USA.

New Director of Research and Strategy Planning

Dr Aoibheann Gibbons has been appointed Director of Research and Strategy Planning with responsibility for a range of strategic research programmes. Key areas include research management, research infrastructure, research services and strategic recruitment.

Her career spans the arts, corporate and academic environments. She has won and managed 18 research and development projects across 10 thematic programmes of the 4th framework of the European Commission. Her scientific background is complemented with experience in arts, media and telecommunications as Director of Arthouse in Temple Bar and subsequently as COO in the multimedia division of eircom.

Dr Gibbons has an honours degree in Pharmacology from UCD. Following an initial career in pharmaceutical research and management in the United States, she returned to Ireland to pursue further study and was awarded a PhD by NUIG in 1991.

Prior to taking up her current position, Aoibheann operated in research management in both UCD and in The Royal College of Surgeons.

Dr Aoibheann Gibbons



Professor Mary Daly appointed to HEA

Professor Mary Daly, Principal of the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies has been appointed as a member of the Higher Education Authority. The announcement was made by Minister for Education and Science, Ms Mary Hanafin, in February 2007.





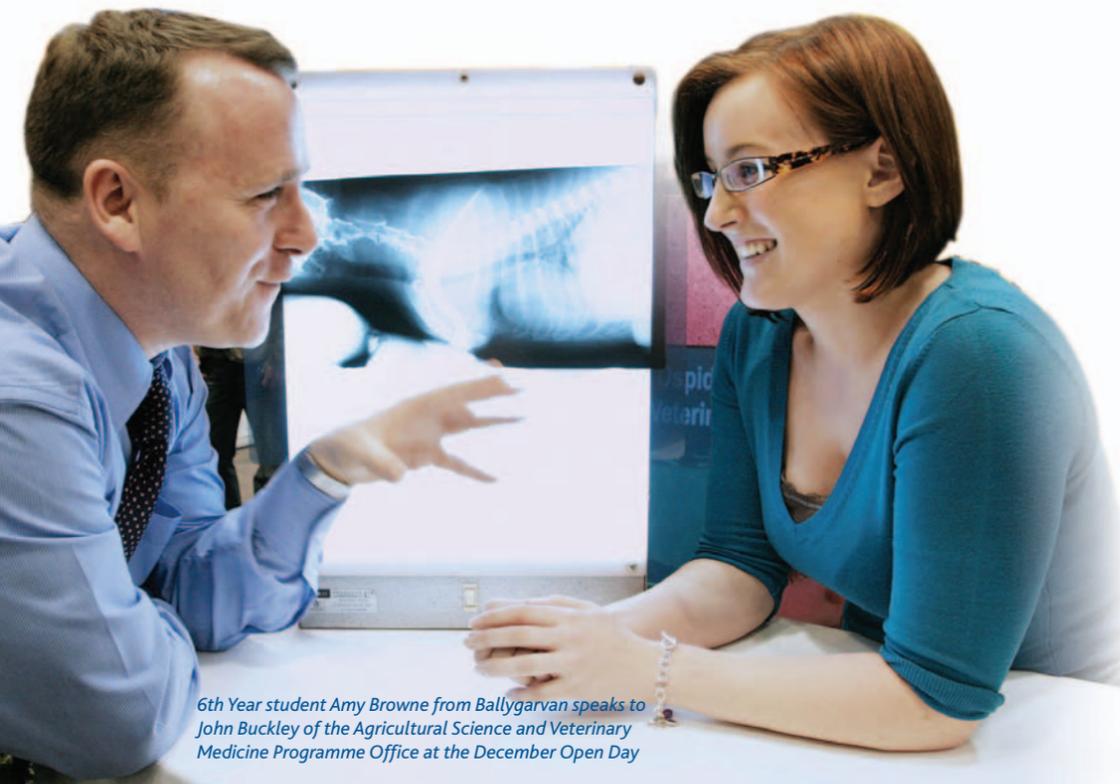
On the 17th January, UCD's Mature Student Support Service hosted UCD's first annual information evening for prospective Mature Students. Over 125 prospective students came to the information evening with a view to applying to UCD for entry in September 2007. Pictured here are Ronan Murphy and Una Hegarty, of UCD's Mature Student Support Service



As part of the Bachelor of Social Studies in Housing and Community studies, a group of 35 staff and 4th-year students paid a study visit to Vienna in December 2006, where they were hosted by the University of Vienna Social Work Department. The visit focused on historical and innovative housing projects as well as lectures on social work and social housing.

December Open Days and beyond – UCD gets personal

In December 2006, some 3,000 prospective undergraduate students and their families visited the 6th Year Open Days. They heard talks, took campus tours, and asked staff about their specific areas of interest. Quality conversations were possible thanks to the focused approach of the 6th Years who attended and the commitment of the UCD staff who participated.



6th Year student Amy Browne from Ballygarvan speaks to John Buckley of the Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine Programme Office at the December Open Day

Prizes for interesting and interactive stands went to the Quinn School of Business, School of Archaeology, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems and School of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences.

Over the past year, the Student Recruitment team has led a review, in collaboration with other UCD staff, on how to give prospective applicants a clear and comprehensive understanding of UCD and the degrees it offers. While the December Open Days event has been recognised as very successful, one of the results of the review has been to cancel the March Open Days for 5th Year and Transition Years.

"A quality exchange of timely information is needed to allow prospective students make the best decisions," says Anne-Marie Harvey, UCD Director of Student Recruitment. "The last March Open Days had an attendance of approximately 15,000 students, but with such high numbers, it was simply not possible to provide the individual information needed. The other consideration is timing. March comes six weeks after prospective students submit their CAO preferences. And being out of term time, it's hard to give a real taste of the vibrant life on campus."

To improve the students' experience, Student Recruitment have established a two-phased approach for prospective students, tailored to their situation.

Firstly, a Campus Tours programme has now been introduced for 5th year and transition year students. These students will be welcomed to UCD individually or as class groups, under the new Student Ambassador programme. The Ambassadors, who are current UCD students, will design and facilitate tailored tours suited to the needed of the individuals or groups. A new Welcome Centre, housed in the Global Irish Institute has been instrumental in providing a friendly environment and tour starting point for visiting students. It is hoped that there will also be an opportunity for these students to sit in on lectures and to discuss their choices with staff and students.

Secondly, for 6th Years and mature students, the December Open Days have now been firmly established in the calendar. With their focus on programmes and careers, these days will facilitate students' consideration of their CAO choices.

2006 also saw the production of a well-received Guidance Counsellors' Information Manual and an inaugural Guidance Counsellors' Seminar in November, which is planned to run again in October 2007.

Transition year students experience engineering



"Experience Engineering!" - a new UCD initiative opened the doors of the university to 14 Transition Year students, from 11 Dublin schools in January 2007. The week-long programme was organised by Dr Patricia Kieran of UCD School of Chemical & Bioprocess Engineering and gave these students 'hands-on' experience of each of the Engineering disciplines.

They performed experiments in the Chemical Engineering laboratories; learned about the link between guitar music and digital signal processing; found out what makes the UCD Formula student car a winner; competed in the Biosystems Design Challenge; built bridges and visited practicing engineers at work on-site.

The participants also had the opportunity to meet current Engineering students and find out about study and career opportunities.

The successful week was delivered in conjunction with all UCD Schools offering undergraduate Engineering degree programmes, and with support from the UCD Ambassadors and the Engineers Ireland STEPS programme.

Transition Year Students who participated on the "Experience Engineering" programme. They are pictured here with Prof Gerry Byrne, Dean of Engineering (back row, right); Dr Patricia Kieran UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering (middle row, left); Dr Tom Curran from School of Agriculture, Food Science & Veterinary Medicine (back row, left)

Kevin Barry Cumann trip to Brussels

Students of the Kevin Barry Cumann recently visited the European Parliament and Commission in Belgium. The group of 20 students, from different courses across the university, stayed in Brussels for three days.

The purpose of the trip, according to the current chairman, James Carroll, was to "engage its members in the inner workings of the European Union by discussing and debating topics of

interest, with some of the most prominent politicians working in its key institutions".

The touring party not only had the opportunity to challenge Irish MEPs such as Eoin Ryan and Brian Crowley but also meet with other, well-known, European leaders like Charlie McCreevy, Commissioner of the Internal Market and Services and Olli Rehn, Commissioner for Enlargement.

Kevin Barry Cumann members in Brussels with Commissioner Charlie McCreevy



UCD research in top 100 discoveries of 2006

Discovery magazine has ranked the findings of Maria McNamara from UCD School of Geological Sciences as one of the top 100 science stories of 2006.

In August 2006, researchers examining fossils in Madrid reported the first example of fossilised bone marrow, found in 10-million-year-old remains of frogs and salamanders. Because of the way the slabs containing the bones were fractured during preparation, they revealed a clean cross section of bone, in which the red of the bone marrow and the yellow of the fatty marrow were clearly visible.

Maria, whose work was supervised by Dr Patrick Orr of UCD School of Geological Sciences, was the lead author in the article that reported the discovery. The article suggested that the bones provided a protective environment for the marrow, preventing microbes from infiltrating and destroying the soft tissue.



Frog fossil. Photograph courtesy of Museo de Geologia del Seminari

Clinton Institute update

The UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies has enjoyed a busy period of activity as it moved from temporary accommodation into its dedicated new home in Belfield House. Speaking about the move, Professor Liam Kennedy, Director of the Institute said that the outstanding new building was "commensurate to both the work and the symbolism of the Institute as a centre devoted to advancing academic research and public discussion about the United States in Ireland. We look forward to welcoming scholars and other visitors here."

Indeed the Institute has already hosted a number of successful events, including a well-attended conference in November on 'The United States and Iraq: Reflections and Projections'. The conference was headlined by leading scholars such as Professors Marilyn Young of New York University; Douglas Little of Clark University Massachusetts; Robert McMahon of Ohio State University; and Dr Toby Dodge of Queen Mary College, London. Lara Marlowe of the Irish Times also attended. The conference reflected on the past bi-lateral relationship, analysed the contemporary dilemmas and discussed the future of Iraq, US foreign policy and the Middle East more generally.

Another initiative, the Institute's Research Seminar series, continues to attract outstanding speakers. A recent highlight was the visit of Professor Richard Dyer from Kings College London, who provided an entertaining lecture on 'Plagiarism and Parody' at the Irish Film Institute in Temple Bar at the end of January. A full audience responded with enthusiasm to Professor Dyer's commentary on music in American and Italian cinemas.

Outreach work also continues. With the support of the Department of Education and Science, the Institute hosted a series of workshops for teachers preparing to teach the new Leaving Cert course on U.S. History, 1945-1989. Academics from several institutions across Ireland have contributed to workshop sessions on the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Civil Rights, Lyndon B. Johnson and the Vietnam War, and the moon landing in 1969.

For information on upcoming events, such as the Institute's inaugural Summer School in July and the conference on 'Terrorism, the City and the State', visit www.ucd.ie/amerstud

CSCB symposium

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) was the venue for *Recent Advances in Synthesis and Chemical Biology V*, the fifth annual Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB) symposium which was held in December 2006. The 200 delegates heard plenary lectures from six distinguished speakers, describing current research at the interface between chemistry and biology, including designing new anti-HIV agents and developing a test for multiple sclerosis.

In his opening remarks Mr Michael Horgan, CEO of the RCSI, commended the collaborative efforts of UCD, TCD and the RCSI. "The collaboration between chemistry and biomedical researchers in the three institutions has resulted in new programmes of research in the area of chemical biology and in the sharing of resources. In all three institutions the CSCB has had a major impact on graduate and undergraduate teaching. Here in RCSI the CSCB-derived resources have been of invaluable

benefit to the teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate Chemistry programmes in the School of Pharmacy."

International speakers presented on topics as diverse as "Antibiotic Biosynthesis" and "Biomarkers of autoimmune diseases"

In addition to the plenary lectures, postgraduates and postdoctoral scientists from all over Ireland exhibited their research in a poster competition judged by experts from UCD, TCD and RCSI. The winners of the poster competition were Dr Guillaume Anquetin and Juliet Cotter from the UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology and Catriona O'Meara from the School of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences at DIT.

From Left to Right: Professors Erick Carreira (ETH), Barbara Imperiali (MIT), Peter Sadler (University of Edinburgh), Tom Simpson (University of Bristol), Anna Maria Papini (University of Florence) and Gerard Canters (Leiden University) at the CSCB Symposium in the RCSI



UCD and Cornell University launch cooperative programme in Industrial Relations and Human Resources

UCD and Cornell University have joined forces to offer a new 'Semester in Dublin Programme' for American students. This is the first initiative in what is intended to be a comprehensive collaboration between the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University and the Industrial Relations and Human Resources Group in the UCD School of Business.

With the launch of a new collaborative programme between UCD and Cornell, Industrial and Labour Relations (ILR) students at Cornell will have increased opportunities to enhance their understanding of the international dimensions of their field of study. The ILR/UCD Semester in Dublin Programme

curriculum will afford eligible juniors and seniors an opportunity to focus on the most important issues of work and workplace relations which affect the 27 member nations of the European Union, the world's largest trading block.

It is intended to exchange graduate and research students and faculty, and to develop collaborative teaching initiatives.

The programme was formally inaugurated at a ceremony in Cornell University at the end of 2006 by ILR School Dean, Professor Harry C Katz and Bill Roche, Professor of Industrial Relations and Human Resources in the UCD School of Business.

Speaking at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Schools, Professor Katz said that Cornell's choice of UCD as its European partner had been very deliberate. "UCD has a great academic program in the field, and Ireland is a highly dynamic, interesting and successful economy."

"The ILR School at Cornell University is a world-class institution and a leader in the field. Undergraduate and postgraduate students will benefit greatly from learning together," said Professor Bill Roche at the event.

The ILR School is one of the main schools of Cornell University, and is acknowledged as a world leader in industrial relations and human resources education and research. Cornell

University is one of the leading universities in the United States. Its main campus is located in Ithaca, New York State. It also has medical campuses in New York City and in Doha, Qatar, and research, study, and outreach stations and programs throughout the world.

Cornell University offers more than 4,000 courses, 70 undergraduate majors, 93 graduate fields of study, undergraduate and advanced degrees, and continuing education and outreach programmes.

Dr Roland Erne of UCD School of Business will be the Director of the ILR/UCD Programme. The Programme will enroll its first class in the autumn semester of 2007.

Pictured at the Irish Internet Association's Net Visionary Awards 2006 are (l-r), Colm Lyon, CEO Realex Payments & IIA Chairman; Matt Glowatz of UCD School of Business, who won Educational Contribution Award; and John McDonnell, CVS Learning



Tsunami photonics team at PXIT Inc acquired by Agilent

Tsunami Photonics, trading as PXIT Inc in USA, has been acquired by Agilent Technologies. The company, founded in 2000 by Professor Ronan O'Dowd of the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic & Mechanical Engineering, was a spin-out from the UCD Optoelectronics Research Centre.

Celtic Catalysts to double employment

Celtic Catalysts, the NovaUCD-based life sciences company, plans to double its workforce to 20 people during 2007 after successfully completing its initial technology development phase. Having launched a new range of chiral catalysts, the company plans to continue its pipeline development programme and it has recently secured a number of research alliance contracts with major pharmaceutical companies.

About 75% of all drugs in pharmaceutical pipelines are chiral compounds. Celtic Catalysts has developed intellectual property which enables global pharmaceutical and fine chemical companies test and manufacture such products cost effectively. The company is commercialising chiral technology which has been developed over the past five years in UCD's School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology and was co-founded by Professor Declan Gilheany and Dr Brian Kelly.

€2.5 million investment in BiancaMed

BiancaMed, the NovaUCD-based medical technology start-up, announced in December 2006 that it had secured €2.5 million in investment, led by premier global venture capital firm DFJ ePlanet Ventures and existing corporate investor ResMed.

Increasingly stressful lifestyles, a rise in chronic diseases and obesity, and an aging population all contribute to skyrocketing healthcare costs. BiancaMed aims to provide convenient mobile phone and home-based health-monitoring technologies which will allow people to better manage their health and well being. At the core of BiancaMed's product platform is a very

sensitive motion sensor that detects heart rate and respiration wirelessly. This, along with sophisticated health analysis software, provides solutions to monitor sleep, diet and exercise.

BiancaMed CEO Dr Conor Hanley expressed his delight in securing this significant investment and welcomed Dennis Atkinson and Donald Fitzmaurice of ePlanet Ventures to the board.

Donald Fitzmaurice believes that with this partnership "all the ingredients for success are present: a major opportunity in personalised healthcare, a visionary and experienced team and a proven ability to innovate clinically at the outset."

BiancaMed was co-founded in 2003 by Dr Philip de Chazal, Dr Conor Hanley and Professor Conor Heneghan as an offshoot from UCD's School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering and, as NovaUCD Director Dr Pat Frain explains, demonstrates that university spin-outs with strong intellectual property and cutting-edge technology continue to have the potential to attract significant investment to implement their business development plans.

Dr Conor Hanley, co-founder and CEO of BiancaMed



music

Musics of Belonging: The Poetry of Micheal O'Siadhail

Micheal O'Siadhail is not only one of the most widely read contemporary Irish poets, but his poetry has also increasingly drawn the attention of international critics and commentators.

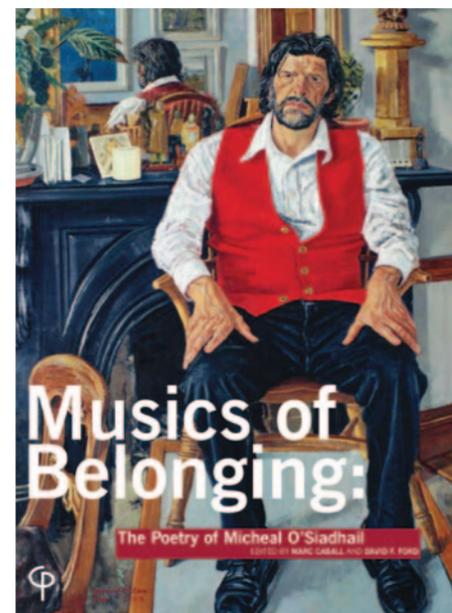
Dr Marc Caball, Director, UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland, has co-edited with David F. Ford (Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge) a fascinating collection of scholarly essays about his work entitled *Musics of Belonging: The Poetry of Micheal O'Siadhail* (Carysfort Press, 2007).

Leading Irish, British and American scholars of his poetry come together with others who approach him and his work through biography, history, art, music, translation, religion and philosophy. Their essays are intended for anyone who has enjoyed O'Siadhail's life-loving, intense yet accessible poems.

The book covers many aspects of O'Siadhail's life and work, including recurrent themes such as love, death, language, music and the shifts of modern life. His rich intellectual and imaginative world of meaning is explored,

and special attention is paid to early collections, to his tour de force on the Holocaust, and to Globe's meditations on history and vision in a time of rapid change.

O'Siadhail's stature as an Irish and European poet is assessed, and a range of affinities with other poets - Donne, Rilke, Dante, Kavanagh - are traced. Yet the attempt to categorise O'Siadhail comes up against the real possibility that, according to one critic, 'it may be that he has done something rare, that he has created his own tradition'.



It is fitting in a collection devoted to O'Siadhail, who has long been preoccupied with the intersections between music and poetry, that one of his poems is set to music in this volume by Seóirse Bodley, Professor Emeritus of music at UCD. Maurice Harmon, a Professor Emeritus in English at UCD, has also contributed an article to the book. It is intended that these essays will stimulate and inform further discussion of O'Siadhail's poetry not only in Ireland but internationally as well.

In profile: UCD Sinfonia

The National Concert Hall in Dublin annually hosts UCD's staff and student symphony orchestra, the UCD Sinfonia. This orchestra has assumed an ambassadorial role for the college in these performances, which began with a concert given as part of the UCD 150 celebrations in 2005. At that first National Concert Hall performance, a large enthusiastic audience heard almost ninety musicians present a rousing rendition of the Organ Symphony by French composer Camille Saint-Saëns. A standard was set for the Sinfonia then that has been continually matched both by the ambitions of the conductor and the results heard on the stage.

The UCD Sinfonia was founded in 2002 by its current Artistic Director, conductor Ciarán Crilly, and students from the UCD School of Music. The aim was to harness musical talent among the students and staff in a way that had not been previously achieved. For its first concert in

2002, the orchestra comprised fewer than twenty players, but it has rapidly expanded into the sizable ensemble it is today. One of the greatest boons for the orchestra has been the Horizons programme, enabling many students to reap academic rewards for an activity that they already enjoy for its artistic as well as educational benefits. Since 2006, funding from the Bank of Ireland and Irish Life has resulted in the creation of ten scholarships for Sinfonia members.

The UCD Sinfonia retains close links with the School of Music, and with the other performing groups on campus. The orchestra has twice been joined in concert by the UCD College Choir and once by the UCD Choral Scholars. Major soloists have performed with the orchestra, including internationally renowned pianist Philip Martin, guitarist Redmond O'Toole and, in the 2007 NCH concert, the young violinist Cora Venus Lunny. www.sinfonia.ie

UCD Sinfonia with conductor Ciarán Crilly



Choral Scholars at Christmas

On 21 December, the UCD Choral Scholars entertained staff at the President's annual end-of-semester reception in O'Reilly Hall. However on the previous evening, they had also been performing; namely to a large audience in Donnybrook Church at their concert in aid of Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children in Crumlin.

The evening began with a welcome from Tom Hickey of the Children's Medical Research Foundation at Our Lady's Crumlin. Following a short address from Dr Dennis Jennings, the music commenced with the classic Christmas Carol *Adeste Fideles* for orchestra and chorus arranged by UCD Choral Scholars Artistic Director, Desmond Earley.

The current ensemble of Choral Scholars was rejoined by alumni scholars from all past years: the group included past members Ronan Sugrue, Meábh Nic Mhaoláin, Martha Bredin, David Morgan, Billie Sparks, Lucy Thurston and Simon Morgan.

In all there were over twenty former scholars present. The twenty-four strong professional orchestra of strings, winds, brass and percussion was led by Therese Timoney, with many of the arrangements for these specially composed by Desmond Earley.

The audience was particularly generous in donating to the charity and plans are forming for a repeat concert at Christmas 2007.

Set up in 1998, the Choral Scholars ensemble is comprised of UCD students who have secured scholarships because of their musical talent. They are drawn however from across the academic spectrum.

This award-winning group has a repertoire ranging from the medieval to the contemporary. They have achieved significant recognition in the university and in the wider music community for the standard and versatility of their performances. More information at www.ucd.ie/choralscholars



UCD Choral Scholars in action at the end of semester reception 21 December 2006



In recognition of his lifetime achievements which inspired and continue to inspire the Irish nation and Irish people worldwide, Ronnie Delany was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by UCD at a ceremony in O'Reilly Hall in December 2006.

Sports

UCD gets in gear

The UCD Sports Centre and the UCD School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science are running a health promotion programme, "Get in Gear - Get Active", designed to encourage increased exercise participation of UCD students.

The programme involves an optional physical fitness evaluation which is carried out by physiotherapists under the direction of Dr Brian Caulfield of the UCD School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science. The student's muscle strength, flexibility, cardiovascular fitness, lung function, blood pressure and weight are assessed. They are

*Dr. Brian Caulfield
School of Physiotherapy and
Performance Science fitness testing
for UCD Get in Gear – Get Active
Programme 2007*



then offered a range of supervised fitness activities by the UCD Sports Centre. Following a five-week programme of activities, the students are invited back to be fitness-tested again and are issued feedback on their results.

Each student who registers for the programme receives a 'Get in Gear' ID number and card which allows them access to all the UCD sports facilities and classes for the duration of the programme. They also get guest passes to UCD Crunch Fitness gym.

Results show that physical fitness levels statistically improve across a range of measures. Improvements in body strength and flexibility have been recorded and lung function measures have also shown increases. Dr Brian Caulfield commented that these improvements were "very encouraging given the time scale involved."

We would expect to see continued improvements in these students' profiles with continued participation in regular physical activity. Hopefully, the 'Get in Gear' programme will provide the incentive for these students to maintain an active lifestyle throughout their time in UCD and further on in their lives'.

UCD Director of Sport, Mr. Brian Mullins commented that 'the results demonstrate the benefits of running such a programme for those students that do not regularly participate in exercise'. The success of the programme to date, according to Dr Catherine Blake, Head of the UCD School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science, shows that collaboration between academics and sportspeople can provide a solution to the problem of inactivity in our student population and that more fresh approaches are required if we are to solve the problem of inactivity in our society.

The origins of the programme lie in a survey that was carried out with students who were not involved in UCD sports clubs, in autumn 2005. The students reported that they felt that the team sports and other programmes on offer were at a competitive level and not geared towards beginners.

As a result of this study, a pilot 'Get in Gear' programme was developed in January 2006 to address this concern and encourage increased participation. In particular, the programme was designed to encourage those students who may not have the confidence to join sports clubs or who have dropped out of regular exercise due to various pressures of time/study/finance.

The pilot was so successful that the programme continued to run throughout September 2006 and is has recently rolled out for 2007.

Action from the women's 1st XI Colours fixture against Trinity. UCD 1 - Trinity 0 thanks to a goal from Roisin Flinn. Photo courtesy of Sportsfile



Mass media and propaganda in the making of Cold War Europe

In January, over forty world experts from diverse disciplines convened in UCD to discuss the role of the mass media in the reinvention of Europe's cultural identity in the early Cold War years.

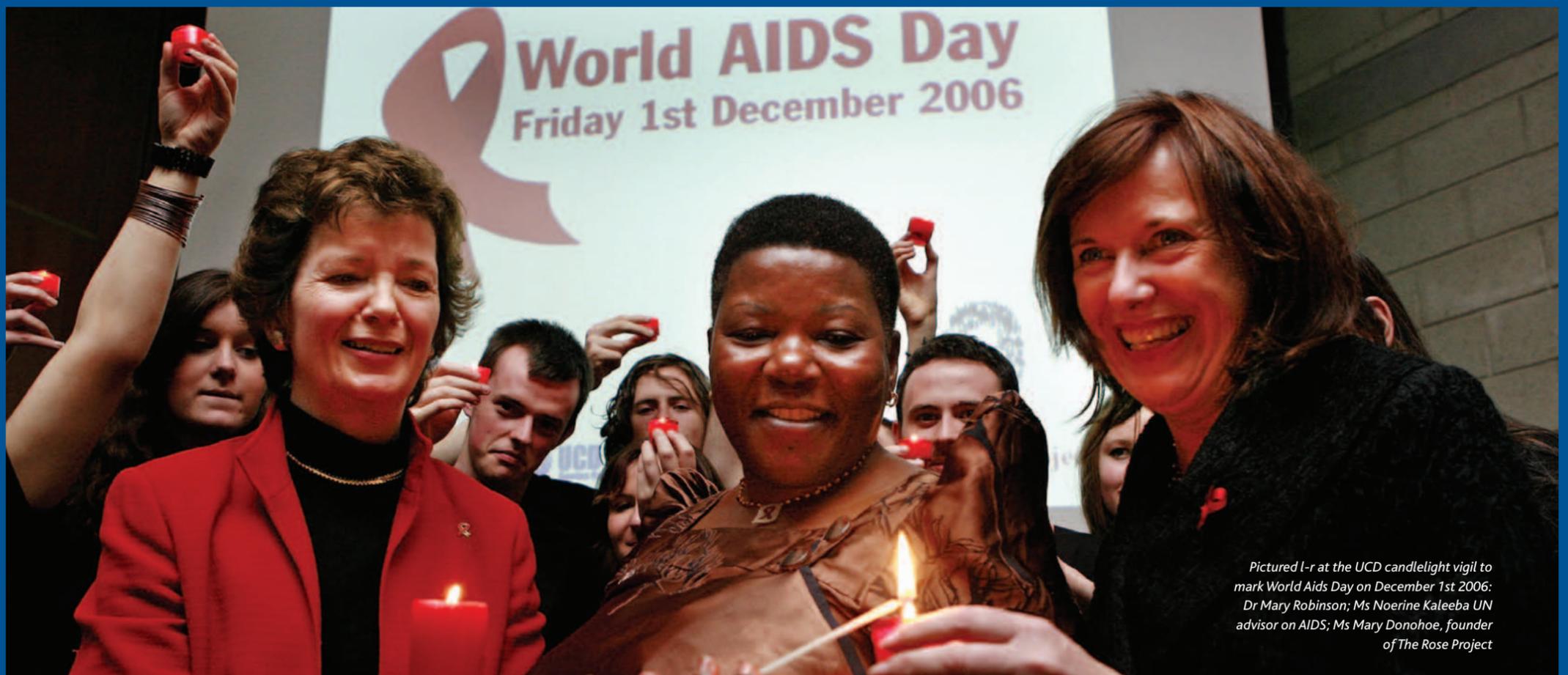
The three-day conference, organised by Dr Christoph Müller and Dr Judith Devlin from the UCD School of History and Archives, aimed to create links between young emerging scholars and their established colleagues from different areas, above all from the 'old' and 'new' Europe, but also North America.

The event allowed a multi-disciplinary analysis of the workings of the media, their changing technologies, content, audience and reception. Speakers examined propaganda campaigns of the early Cold War, the difficulties encountered and the successes. They brought into sharp focus the transformation of political culture and consciousness.

Key speakers included David Caute (Fellow, Royal Society of Literature) and Jane Curry (Santa Clara University, California). A particularly valuable talk on 'International Radio in Cold War Europe' was given by

Michael Nelson, who was General Manager of Reuters from 1976 to 1989. A volume of the proceedings from the workshop will be published in due course.

Prof Jane Curry, University of Santa Clara, California; Mr Michael Nelson, ex-General Manager of Reuters



Pictured l-r at the UCD candlelight vigil to mark World Aids Day on December 1st 2006: Dr Mary Robinson; Ms Noerine Kaleeba UN advisor on AIDS; Ms Mary Donohoe, founder of The Rose Project

Memorandum of Agreement between UCD and Renmin University of China

At the end of January, a delegation from UCD headed by Dr Philip Nolan, Registrar & Deputy President, visited Renmin University of China (RUC) to sign the Memorandum of Agreement on Academic Co-operation between UCD and RUC. They also then attended the first Executive Board Meeting of UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland.

RUC is one of the highest ranking universities in China with particular expertise in the areas of Theoretical Economics, Applied Economics, Journalism and Communication, Legal Studies, and Sociology. Before the signing ceremony, the delegation was greeted by Professor Ji Baocheng, President of RUC, Professor Chen Yulu, Vice-President, and other relevant staff.

The signing ceremony was followed by the first Executive Board Meeting of UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland. At the meeting, Dr Liming Wang was officially appointed by the Board as Director of the Institute for the term of three years.

The following day, Professor Joe McMahon of UCD School of Law and Dr Liming Wang visited the Schools of International Studies, Law, and Teaching Chinese as Foreign Language. Their discussions centred on the establishment of joint MA programmes in Contemporary China Studies and cooperation between the two Law Schools. Both sides agreed that programmes such as these at postgraduate level would be a good starting point for further close cooperation across the full range.

The visit was a milestone in the development of Chinese Studies in Ireland and comes shortly after the establishment of a steering committee in December to launch the Association for Chinese Studies in Ireland. The Association, with representatives from UCD, Queens University Belfast and NUI Maynooth, aims to encourage Chinese studies in Ireland, in particular by stimulating research and teaching.



Signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Agreement on Academic Co-operation between UCD and Renmin University of China