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today

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It's all about brand



EILÍS O'BRIEN
Director of
Communication

The challenge of any university strategic plan is to articulate its distinctiveness from other universities. Of course we all want to be excellent in our research and renowned for the quality of our teaching. So, when it came to the publication of our new five-year strategy, there was an inevitability that people would look for something different. That difference is to be found in the nature of the global ambition. In his recent inaugural address the President emphasised his idea of a global university – one that fosters connectivity and encourages cross-fertilisation of ideas between disciplines and across boundaries.

During the summer, we conducted some qualitative market research among key stakeholders in Ireland and overseas. The respondents were honest and even blunt. The academics knew their discipline counterparts but repeatedly they expressed a lack of awareness about the university as an institution. Unprompted, each of the stakeholder groups talked about the need to raise awareness of the “brand”. By this they do not mean the crest or name. They mean getting the message out about what we stand for, who we are, and how we impact on society.

With the roadmap of objectives clearly set out in Strategy 2015-2020, the communication strategy will focus on protecting and promoting our brand and on building our reputation not just here in Ireland but globally.

There is no doubt that we are starting from a good base – as anyone can see from the presentation “This is UCD 2014” that goes alongside the strategy <http://www.ucd.ie/strategy2015-2020/>.

The communication challenge is to embed this open approach into each of the College plans so that we bring this great output to the attention of the wider world.

UCD thanks...

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

Cover image: John Lavery, Return from Market, 1884, oil on canvas, 117 x 61 cm, National Gallery of Ireland. Credit line: Photo © National Gallery of Ireland





Ireland rugby player and UCD graduate, Jonathan Sexton (centre) was presented with the UCD Foundation Day medal by UCD President Prof. Andrew J. Deeks (left) with his citation read by ERC Chief Executive Derek McGrath (right) at the UCD Foundation Day Alumni Awards

UCD Foundation Day Alumni Awards 2014

O'Reilly Hall in UCD played host to the inaugural UCD Foundation Day Alumni Awards on Friday November 14th. Hosted by Pat Kenny, Ireland's most influential individuals from areas of business, academia and culture gathered together to support and celebrate the accomplishments of UCD's most distinguished alumni across all 13 programmes within the University.

The event continued to maintain the tradition of presenting the Foundation Day Medal to an outstanding alumnus at the awards ceremony. The medal is awarded annually to a UCD graduate who demonstrates great achievement in their field.

This year's worthy winner was Jonathan Sexton, in recognition of his outstanding achievements both in provincial and national rugby. Previous medallists include Dr Patrick

Hillary, Dr Maeve Binchy and Mr Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh.

"The 2014 UCD Foundation Day Alumni Awards continues a 160-year-old tradition of honouring the founding of UCD. This year introduces a new tradition of celebrating the success and contribution of our most distinguished alumni world-wide", said UCD President, Professor Andrew J. Deeks.

Winners of the inaugural 2014 UCD Alumni Awards were: Mairead McGuinness, Agricultural Science; David McNulty, Architecture; Rosaleen Linehan, Arts; Gary McGann, Business; Donal O'Riain, Engineering; Sr Stanislaus Kennedy, Social Sciences; Maeve O'Rourke, Law; Dr Patricia Scanlan, Medicine; Siobhan O'Halloran, Midwifery & Nursing; Clodagh Barry, Physiotherapy; Evelyn Cusack, Science; and Noel Fitzpatrick, Veterinary Medicine.

For more information on the winners visit www.ucd.ie/alumni/awards



Des Higgins, Professor of Bioinformatics at the UCD Conway Institute, whose research paper was featured in Nature Magazine's top 10 most highly cited research publications of all time.

UCD Professor in top ten most highly cited

Following on from his accolade as one of the 'World's most influential Scientific Minds 2014'; a research paper by Professor Des Higgins from the UCD Conway Institute, that set the international standard for DNA sequence analysis, has been featured in Nature's top 10 most highly cited research publications of all time.

The citation rate of a publication captures how widely other scientists draw on that publication in advancing their own work.

Professor Higgins is the only Irish scientist to be included in the Top 10, and is amongst the most highly cited scientist in the world, helping to boost the profile of Irish science around the world.

Higgins is Professor of Bioinformatics at the UCD Conway Institute and a Principal Investigator at Systems Biology Ireland. He has been working in the areas of bioinformatics and molecular evolution since 1985, predominantly on methods and software for DNA and protein sequence alignment. His research group in the UCD Conway Institute currently works on developing new bioinformatics and statistical tools for evolutionary biologists and addresses molecular evolutionary questions using bioinformatics approaches.

"UCD is driven by research excellence, and the work pioneered by Des Higgins in an emerging field is testament to the value of far-reaching research. Bioinformatics fundamentally changed the field of biomedical research and has enabled many of today's advances in personalised medicine." Said Professor Orla Feely, Vice-President of Research, Innovation and Impact at UCD.

"Des has delivered profound impact, not only academically, but also in new technology and product development. His success across the fields of biology and computer science is testament to the true interdisciplinary nature of his research", she added.



Pictured at the Teaching Hero Awards 2014 in Dublin Castle are Dr Kevin Costello, UCD School of Law; Prof. Bairbre Redmond, Deputy Chair, National Forum; Sínead Sheerin, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine; Prof. Mark Rogers, Deputy President and Registrar, UCD; Amy Fox, student; Áine Galvin, Director of Teaching & Learning, UCD

Teaching Hero Award for two UCD Academics

UCD Sutherland School of Law's Dr Kevin Costello and Ms Sínead Sheerin from the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine were recently presented with the National Forum's Teaching Hero Award.

The Teaching Hero Award is the first of its kind in higher education in Ireland and it serves to identify teachers who have had a positive and lasting impact on students' learning experiences in higher education. The awards were established by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education in partnership with the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and other student bodies.

Fifty-three Teaching Heroes from 27 higher education institutions throughout Ireland were recognised at the awards ceremony in Dublin Castle. The event was attended by Professor Mary McAleese, the patron of the National Forum.

UCD academic appointed to RTÉ Board

The Minister for Communications, Energy & National Resources, Mr Alex White has announced that Dr P.J. Mathews, from the UCD School of English, Drama and Film has been appointed as one of seven new members of the RTÉ Board.

Mathews will serve alongside four other newly appointed Ministerial Nominees; Moya Doherty, who was appointed as Chair; Frank Hannigan, Deborah Kelleher and Anne O'Leary. Mr Fergus Armstrong was reappointed to the board and Mr Aengus Mac Grianna, the recently elected RTÉ staff representative, was appointed by Government.

The appointed board members were selected due to their high calibre and experience, delivering confidence that they would be able to steer RTÉ to greater financial stability.

UCD Ranked 5th University in Europe for Producing VC-backed Entrepreneurs

University College Dublin is ranked 5th in a list of European universities that have produced venture capital (VC)-backed undergraduates according to a report recently published by PitchBook. PitchBook is a Seattle-headquartered research firm for private equity and venture capital data.

According to the Report entitled 'Top Universities for VC-backed Entrepreneurs', during the period January 2009 to August 2014, 31 UCD graduate entrepreneurs established 26 companies which raised \$112 million in funding.

UCD is the only Irish university in the top 10 list of European universities.

The University of London ranked the best overall university in Europe with 71 graduate entrepreneurs, establishing 67 companies which raised just over \$1 billion in funding.

Stanford ranked number 1 globally according to this report with 378 entrepreneurs, establishing 309 companies raising just over \$3.5 billion.

The PitchBook VC database includes the educational backgrounds of over 13,000 founders worldwide. The rankings are based on the number of founders that have received VC funding in period of the report based on the founders' undergraduate qualifications.

Minister for Education and Skills announces UCD to set up global centres

During a recent visit to China the Minister for Education and Skills, Ms Jan O'Sullivan announced that UCD was setting up global centres in China, India, Malaysia and the United States as part of its global engagement strategy.

The UCD Beijing global centre is collocated in the premises with the Irish Embassy and Enterprise Ireland. Speaking from Beijing the Minister said "By setting up global centres, UCD will extend its activities beyond student recruitment. Their purpose is to provide a focal point for education, for alumni and diaspora community, for research and academic collaboration, for trade and intercultural exchange".

At present there are 6,000 international students, including 600 Chinese students studying in UCD in Dublin. Ninety of these are PhD students funded through the China Scholarship Council. Furthermore, there are 700 Irish students studying at overseas universities as part of their UCD degree programmes. Some 18% of UCD's Irish students spend part of their degree studying at overseas universities and this figure is set to expand in China and globally.

UCD is the lead university for the Ireland China Research SFI ISCA (International Strategic Collaboration Award) consortium. This is a major

national initiative fostering collaboration in research and enterprise engagement between UCD and other Irish partners, leading Chinese universities and companies in both countries. It focuses on four themes addressing critical challenges and economic development opportunities facing both Ireland and China, to which UCD and the Irish university sector bring world-leading expertise: Agri-Food, ICT, Health and Energy.

Speaking about the opportunities that will come from the UCD global centre in Beijing, the President of UCD Professor Andrew J. Deeks said "Ireland and China hold education in very high regard and recognise the contribution education makes to economic prosperity. The success of the Confucius Institute at UCD which is linked with Renmin University, has already created a real bridge between the two countries."

He continued "There are currently 1,000 UCD alumni in China with over 100 based in Beijing. Through this global centre we will develop networks for and with our graduates so we can support their careers here. We have been active for a much longer time in other parts of Asia and have a further 2,000 alumni in Hong Kong and 6,500 in Singapore, so there are enormous opportunities to be realised by creating this network".



Pictured at the inaugural O'Brien Science lecture are (l-r) Denis O'Brien, Businessman and Philanthropist, David Epstein, author of 'The Sports Gene' and UCD President Prof. Andrew J. Deeks

Inaugural O'Brien Science Lecture held in UCD

On October 23rd the inaugural O'Brien Science lecture was held in the George Moore Auditorium in the O'Brien Centre for Science in UCD. The lecture was delivered by David Epstein, author of the New York Times Bestselling book, The Sports Gene. UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks welcomed everybody on the day and handed over to Businessman and Philanthropist Denis O'Brien to introduce the keynote speaker.

In his lecture, entitled "0.5% The margin between good and great, and how to find it", Epstein outlined how as sports have become more and more high stakes, global competitions, the performance margins that differentiate good, great and legendary have shrunk dramatically.

According to Epstein, "cutting-edge science has shone a light on the best path to peak performance, and it contradicts the most popular notions about skill acquisition, like the famed "10,000 hour rule". That argument says that only accumulated hours of practice matter to success. In fact, it seems that future experts start off practicing less in their eventual discipline than their peers.

He also analysed how – once at the top competitive level – athletes are using "small data" to find what factors most matter for performance, and which of those they can change in the pursuit of the final 0.5% of performance.

The lecture concluded with a lively panel discussion led by MC Enda McNulty. Panellists included Annalise Murphy, Olympic sailor; Rob Kearney, Leinster and Ireland rugby player; Professor Colin Boreham, Director of the UCD Institute for Sport and Health and two UCD Ad Astra athletes, Darragh McDonald, Paralympian and Karl Griffin, Olympic 800m hopeful and recently announced Junior Athlete of the Year 2014.

CASTING LIGHT ON IRELAND'S CULTURAL HERITAGE - a prestige project breaks new ground

A landscape painter was so aggrieved at the poor placement of his work at an exhibition in Dublin, in 1863, that he took a knife to a nearby painting, tearing it from its frame. As the art historian, William Laffan, drily observes, in his essay entitled, 'Buying & selling & exhibiting art in Ireland: 1700-1900', the artist never exhibited again.

Mr Laffan is among more than 250 scholars who have contributed to a ground breaking five volume series on art and architecture in Ireland from the pre mediaeval period to the present day. Funding to the tune of more than €2m has been provided, largely from the Naughton Foundation and the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

The first volume is devoted to the period from 400 to 1600 and was edited by Rachel Moss of TCD. Volume two on painting from 1600 to 1900 is edited by Dr Nicola Figgis of the UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy, while volume three dealing with the history of Irish sculpture is edited by her colleague, Professor Paula Murphy, both of whom also took a heavy writing workload.

Volume four covers Irish architecture over the period 1600 to 2000 and its five editors include Professor Hugh Campbell of the UCD School of Architecture, Livia Hurley an occasional lecturer and PhD student at UCD, Rolf Loeber, John Montague and Ellen Rowley.

Finally, volume five, covering the Twentieth Century, was edited by Catherine Marshall, who was seconded to the project from IMMA, and Peter Murray of the Crawford Gallery in Cork.

UCD scholars Figgis and Murphy played central roles in the launch of the project, helping to secure the critical backing of Carmel Naughton, one of the country's leading patrons. Another important player was Jim Slevin of the Royal Irish Academy.

Says Nicola : "I was mad about William Strickland's dictionary of artists, published in 1913. For years, I wanted to update it."

Paula Murphy as Head of School, identified this as a potential project.

However, the pair struggled for four years for funding before securing a breakthrough meeting with Mrs Carmel Naughton with the assistance of Jim Slevin of the Royal Irish Academy.

"We got going just before the crash in September 2008. We were lucky with our main patron. Carmel suggested that we expand the scope of the project to include the mediaeval period, architecture and the Twentieth Century."

"At first, my head was sinking, but Paula was not daunted and without her impetus the project would never have succeeded in getting off the ground."

The involvement of the Academy was critical in bringing rigour to such an ambitious project.

With it, came a panoply of peer reviews and advisory boards.

Sally Salvesen and Yale University Press, one of the leading publishers with a reputation for rigorous proofing, came on board to publish the series.

Huge effort was put in by the publishers into the task of designing each volume.

A key goal of the project is that the books should serve as a useful reference for students, researchers dealers and the general reader.

Each of the five books retails at €95 and weighs in at 3.5 kilos. The volumes are beautifully illustrated and the books should appreciate in value in the years to come. Given the advent of digitalisation, they may also be the last of their kind, Nicola Figgis believes.

The volume on painting contains a wide variety of thematic essays covering everything from artist materials to patronage to the history of graphic satire.

The reader learns that 18th century painters purchased their pigment from druggists and that new watercolour paint boxes allowed 19th century artists to work in the open air.

There are some excellent cartoons, one featuring two men in striped jerseys battering each other with hurleys, one marked 'Separation', the other 'Home Rule.'

As for volume three, Paula Murphy as editor and contributor, shines much light across 580 pages on Irish sculpture, the Cinderella of Irish art history. The reader will discover much about legendary figures such as John Foley, who crafted monuments to both Daniel O Connell and Prince Albert. "The finest public sculpture in the country", says Paula. The volume contains around 250 biographies and 47 thematic essays.

A contrast is made between traditional sculpture, include equestrian statues such as that to King Billy, destroyed in 1928, and the work of modern figures such as Dorothy Cross, and the late Ian Stuart. Patrons identified range from 1960s businessman Basil Goulding to today's local authority bosses under the 'Per Cent for Art scheme'.

The volume on Irish architecture was the put together by a group of editors, one a Pittsburgh psychologist, Rolf Loeber.

UCD academic Hugh Campbell believes that as architecture is all about team work, this approach has worked best.

"We took a theme based approach. We tried to capture the range of issues and forces, the things that go to make architecture happen."

Chapter one deals with the protagonists, architects, patrons, builders.

Next, methods of construction are covered, followed by styles and discourse.

A key goal was to give a complete picture of the country's architecture, with emphasis on key infrastructure such as bridges and piers, as well as vernacular buildings. "The book is organised by building types. It had to speak both to architects and to the general reader."

And his view on the project as a whole? "The default word on the volumes is 'handsome'."

Dr Nicola Figgis, Dr Paula Murphy and Professor Hugh Campbell in conversation with journalist Kyran Fitzgerald a contributor to the Irish Examiner



Financial Times & The Economist confirm top 50 European ranking for UCD Smurfit School

UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School confirmed its international standing with places in three highly respected international rankings for 2014 – the Financial Times Executive MBA and Master’s in Management rankings and The Economist full-time MBA rankings. UCD Smurfit School is the only Irish business school whose programmes feature in these annual world rankings

The School’s programmes achieved 21st place in the European rankings (63rd in the world) in The Economist’s Full-Time MBA study and 94th globally and 34th in Europe in the Financial Times Executive MBA report. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Smurfit MBA with UCD being one of the pioneers in the delivery of MBA programmes when they were first delivered in Europe in the 1960s.

The Financial Times Master’s in Management review also ranked UCD Smurfit School’s programmes 45th in the world; while its CEMS Master’s in International Management programme was ranked fifth overall. UCD Smurfit School is one of only 29 business schools selected to run this prestigious Master’s programme.

Speaking about the rankings, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean, UCD Business said: “The consistency of world and European rankings achieved by the School’s programmes in the most prestigious independent rankings of business education is a tremendous achievement for our students and graduates. This is not about us but it is about our students: they will compete with graduates from similar top schools internationally and therefore so must we”.

He continued “These consistently high rankings help us to attract high calibre students and faculty and to partner with other leading business schools internationally. This creates a first-class learning environment in the service of our students and of Ireland. We remain dedicated to delivering education and research programmes to the highest standard to those who study at UCD Smurfit School, so that we can equip them for life in a highly competitive environment where the development of our society and our economy depends on high standards and an openness to the world.”

The consistent high rankings are reinforced by the fact that UCD Business School remains the only business school in Ireland (and one of less than 60 worldwide) to hold the accreditation from three centres of business and academic excellence; EQUIS (Europe); AACSB (US); and AMBA (UK).

Enzyme chemistry research wins 2014 UCD Conway Festival medal

UCD President, Andrew J. Deeks presented PhD student, Jennifer Cleary with the 2014 UCD Conway Festival medal for her research to decipher how chymotrypsin works and how to inhibit its action using a technique called nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR).

Chymotrypsin is a digestive enzyme that breaks down proteins in the gut and falls into the category of serine proteases. Jennifer is using chymotrypsin as a model of serine proteases. She is interested in how cancer spreads in the body. In particular, Jennifer wants to find out how the serine protease, urokinase or urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) is involved in the process of tissue breakdown that can allow cancer cells to invade and spread around the body.

“The research findings that I presented at the 2014 UCD Conway Festival are a small part of my wider doctoral research project focusing in on the active site or boiler room of the chymotrypsin molecule”.



Prof. Andrew J. Deeks, UCD President with the 2014 UCD Conway Festival Medal winner Jennifer Cleary

“I also used proton NMR to see what happens at the active site to these residues when I added an aldehyde inhibitor to chymotrypsin to try to stop it working”.

The 2014 UCD Conway Festival of Research & Innovation showcased excellent work from across the breadth of the Institute with particular emphasis on emerging research from early career researchers. New poster review sessions in this year’s event gave graduate and postdoctoral researchers a platform to discuss their research with teams of senior researchers.

Plenary speakers at the event included Professors Harald Mischak, University of Glasgow; Denisa D. Wagner, Boston Children’s Hospital & Harvard Medical School; David Rubinsztein, Cambridge Institute for Medical Research and Dr Jonny Finlay, Director, Pfizer.

Bord na Gaeilge UCD welcomes East Belfast Irish Language Development Officer Linda Ervine

Bord na Gaeilge UCD celebrated European Day of Languages on Belfield campus with guest speaker Linda Ervine, Irish Language Development Officer at the East Belfast Mission. Inspired by an interest in Irish language place names and by her research on the 2011 census of population, Linda was motivated to share her knowledge of the language within and beyond the loyalist community of which she is a member. Her inspiring speech highlighted the importance of language as a means of reconciliation and the benefits which can be derived from intercultural exchange.

Linda Ervine ar chuairt i UCD do Lá Eorpach na dTeangacha

D’fháiltigh an tOllamh Micheál Ó Dochartaigh, Cathaoirleach Bhord na Gaeilge UCD roimh Linda ar an 26 Meán Fómhair nuair a thug sí cuairt ar Ionad na Mac Léinn UCD. Is deirfiúr chleamhnais an fheisire David Ervine nach maireann agus bhean Brian Ervine, Iar-cheannaire an PUP, í Linda atá ag obair ina



Linda Ervine, Irish Language Development Officer at the East Belfast Mission. Picture by James Brady, University Observer

hOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge ag Misean Oirthear Bhéal Feirste, post a bunaíodh le tacaíocht ó Fhoras na Gaeilge. Thosaigh Linda ag foghlaim na teanga í féin sa bhliain 2011 leis an An Droichead, eagraíocht Gaeilge a chuireann teanga agus cultúr chun cinn trí oideachas, ealaín agus seirbhísí pobail i ndeisceart chathair Bhéal Feirste. Spreag sin Linda dul i mbun oibre í féin le cúrsaí Gaeilge agus ócáidí cultúrtha a sholáthar i bhFoircneamh Skainos ar Bhóthar Bhaile Nua na hArda i gceantar dílseora in oirthear na cathrach. Tá breis is 120 duine ag freastal ar ranganna Gaeilge i bhFoircneamh Skainos anois, éacht nach beag i gceantar ina bhfuil daoine ag troid ar son comharthaí a bhféiniúlachta Briotanaí. Le linn a cuid cainte i UCD rinne Linda cur síos ar na naisc a bhíodh agus atá ann idir Preispeitíreigh agus an Ghaeilge, naisc atá le sonrú fós i mbannaí agus i sloinnte i dTuaisceart na hÉireann. ‘Is linne ar fad í an teanga’ an teachtaireacht a bhí ag Linda. Ba mhór an onór dúinn fáilte a chur roimh bhean chomh misniúil, stuama agus cumasach léi.



Pictured l-r; Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation, Damien English TD, Prof. Barry Smyth, UCD and Prof. Mark Ferguson, Director General of SFI and Chief Scientific Advisor to the Government of Ireland

UCD scholars recognised for mentoring and research

Professor Cormac Taylor and Professor Barry Smyth recently won major awards for their mentorship and research. They spoke to Claire O'Connell.



Dr Philip Campbell, Editor-in-Chief, Nature and Nature Publishing Group (left) with UCD Prof. Cormac Taylor

Sometimes, out of the blue, you get an email or phone call that stops you in your tracks for all the right reasons. For UCD researcher Professor Cormac Taylor, one of those moments happened when he checked his email to find a message from Nature editor-in-chief Dr Philip Campbell.

Professor Taylor, Professor of Cellular Physiology at UCD, had been nominated for a 2014 Nature Award for Mentoring in Science but wasn't anticipating a win. "As I opened it, I was expecting the email to say 'Thanks for participating' but instead it was 'Congratulations'," he recalls.

Honoured relationship

As it happens, Professor Taylor was in Switzerland meeting a former post-doctoral student to finish a paper from their research, so it was a fitting setting in which to hear that his mentorship was being recognised.

"What makes it the best honour of all is that is the students themselves and the post-docs who have been in the lab nominated me, that is the key thing for me," says Professor Taylor.

He is based at UCD Conway Institute and has graduated 15 PhD students and supervised around the same number of post-docs, all carrying out research on how oxygen levels in cells links to inflammation, particularly in bowel diseases.

But honour is not a one-way street, as Professor Taylor describes. "If a PhD student spends three to four years of their life in a position that is not that well paid and they work in your lab on your ideas, they deserve respect and empathy, and it is your role to make sure they are in the best position possible to get a job when they are finished," he says, noting that within the last year alone four people have moved on from his lab to faculty positions at other universities.

"That's not just because they had good published papers on the research, they also they were mentored into the new job - the mentorship process isn't over the moment the viva is done or the paper is published, it persists until they are in their next position."

Modelling respect

Professor Taylor describes credits his own mentors with imparting those skills. After he studied pharmacology as an undergraduate, he did a PhD with Professor Alan Baird and then worked with Professor Sean P. Colgan at Harvard University, and later Professor Hugh Brady and Professor Catherine Godson encouraged him to come back to UCD. "They were the people who modelled that honour and respect for me," says Professor Taylor. "You can't learn it from a book or a course."

He is now keen that new, large collaborative research centres make sure to pay attention to that critical relationship between mentor and student. "In the older model, you were more or less in the room with your principal investigator, and you had day-to-day interactions," he says. "My fear is that a certain degree of that opportunity for mentorship will be lost in the new model. That's not to say it can't happen, but it needs attention."

Prof Taylor received his award from Philip Campbell at the Science Foundation Ireland Summit in Athlone on November 3rd, and on the same day Professor Barry Smyth was officially named as SFI Researcher of the Year 2014.

Researcher of the Year

For Professor Smyth the call had come the previous week on the phone and he admits he was excited and "bursting" to tell, but managed to keep mum.

Like Professor Taylor, Professor Smyth also studied science as an undergraduate in UCD, and he has been staff since the mid-1990s. Today, he holds the Digital Chair in Computer Science.

Professor Smyth is recognised internationally for his work on software-based recommender and personalisation systems, he co-founded two companies (ChangingWorlds and HeyStaks) and he led two major SFI-funded centres, first the CLARITY Centre for Sensor Web Technologies and more recently he was interim CEO of the Insight Centre for Data Analytics, the largest ever SFI-funded industry-academic research centre.

He recognises the benefits of working in an area where links with industry mean that research and technology can be quickly evaluated. "I rarely distinguish between basic and applied research, it's a continuum and each research project travels along that continuum," he explains. "And I am fortunate to work in an area where the timelines are such that we can cook our research for a shorter period of time and then out comes a fairly mature idea and we can evaluate it."

Research, teaching and entrepreneurship

With the new CEO of Insight, Oliver Daniels, now in place, Professor Smyth remains a Director of the centre and is looking forward to continuing and building up his research. "I wasn't at the right place to give up on the research and focus solely on leading centres, and now I'm looking forward to getting back into more research - we are looking at new sources of information to mine for sentiment and opinion, it's a really exciting time."

He will also be bumping up his teaching hours and seeking to nurture entrepreneurship among the PhD students and post-docs in Insight. "The calibre of students and post-docs we have is really high and they move into jobs quickly when they leave - industry wants people with these skills in data science and analysis," says Professor Smyth. "And I want to ensure that our students and staff have the entrepreneurial skills to go with the scientific ability."

Professor Cormac Taylor and Professor Barry Smyth were in conversation with journalist Claire O'Connell, science writer and contributor to Silicon Republic and The Irish Times



UCD/UC Davis (L-R): Prof. Orla Feeley, VP for Research, Innovation and Impact, UCD; Dr Paul Dodd, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, UC Davis; Dr Catherine Woteki; Prof. Dolores O'Riordan, Director, UCD Institute of Food and Health; Prof. Bruce German, Director, Foods for Health Institute, UC Davis at the Irish Embassy in Washington D.C.

UCD and UC Davis hold joint inaugural symposium on food and health

Inaugural John E. Kinsella Memorial Lecture held at the symposium

UCD and University of California, Davis (UC Davis) have signed an agreement of co-operation to future develop education, research, innovation and cultural links between the two institutions. The signing took place at the Irish Embassy in Washington D.C. on September 24th.

Speaking at the event, Professor Andrew J. Deeks, President of UCD said "Researchers and academics at our institutions have been sharing ideas and working together for some time, but this agreement shows a real commitment on both sides to collaborate even further towards common goals. It heralds a new stage of cooperation between our two universities, a stage which promises to be exciting and exhilarating for all".

He continued "Agreements of this nature do not exist in isolation. They are part of the wider programme of partnerships between the US and Europe including the EU-US Science Technology Agreement and the US-Ireland R&D Partnership which enable our countries to achieve more together".

UC Davis Chancellor Linda P. B. Katehi said "This new agreement stands as a truly significant development, not just for our two institutions but also for education and research in food and health worldwide. By creating a more formal collaborative relationship, we are building on current collaborations and leveraging the expertise and effort of two of the finest universities in the world".

The agreement builds on established links between both institutions, particularly in the

areas of agriculture, food and health, in which both lead internationally.

Prior to the signing of the agreement the UCD Institute of Food and Health and the UC Davis Foods for Health Institute held the inaugural John E. Kinsella Memorial lecture at the Embassy to mark the outstanding contribution Professor Kinsella made to food and health research during his career. Recognising an individual whose excellence in the area is renowned globally and who has demonstrated the successful application of science to positively impact on the economy, industry, policy or society.

The lecture, which will be an annual event and hosted in alternative years on the two campuses, was on this occasion delivered by Dr Catherine Woteki, Chief Scientist and Under Secretary for the Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr Woteki is a leading internationally renowned figure in the area of nutrition, food safety, and healthy research and policy, who has applied her knowledge and expertise across academia, industry and government.

Speaking after the event, Dr Woteki said "It was a privilege to give the first lecture named in honour of my friend and colleague, John Kinsella." Woteki added "John would be thrilled to see the advancements we've made in food and agriculture research, and thanks to his great work, his legacy will continue to shape trends in agriculture".

UCD Business partners with One Young World Summit

The One Young World Summit took place in the Convention Centre in Dublin from 15-18th October, with breakout sessions hosted in 26 different venues around Dublin. Delegates attended from across the globe and keynote speakers included Sir Bob Geldof, former President of Ireland Mary Robinson and Kofi Annan.

At the summit the most valuable young talent from global and national companies, NGO's, universities and other forward-thinking organisations are joined by world leaders, acting as the One Young World Counsellors.

This year Faculty members from UCD School of Business, Dr Maeve Houlihan, Dr Bruce Martin, Dr Colm McLaughlin and Professor Andy Prothero hosted an external breakout session on October 17th in the IFSC entitled "We need to talk about ethics because....."

The session began by introducing the President of Ireland's Ethics Initiative launched in February 2014 to discuss Irish students' opinions of ethical issues, before turning its focus to the "We need to talk about ethics because..." campaign, in which Irish students captured and shared their own thoughts on why ethics are important. The session concluded by translating ideas into actions - taking the ethical issues of importance raised by the delegates by identifying practical steps and committing to one personal action.

Six student volunteers from UCD Smurfit School brought a group of delegates attending the summit on a 'One Thousand Welcomes' tour on the afternoon of October 17th. The delegates were taken on a local's tour of Dublin. They saw the real sights and sounds of the city, not just the ones from tourist maps, but the authentic fabric of Irish life.

Two UCD students were nominated to attend the Summit as delegates. Peter Morrissey a 2014 graduate from UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School's MSc in Management Consultancy represented the school on behalf of Generation Accommodation with Cathal O'Dulachain, an Ad Astra Scholar from UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business representing the undergraduate Business School.

Database of Irish serving 'Anzacs' in first world war launched

Charlie Flanagan TD, The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade recently launched a database of Irish-born individuals who served with the Australian forces in the First World War.

The publicly accessible database allows for Irish and Australian people to trace the records of their relatives who served in the War, known today as "Anzacs" which refers to the "Australian and New Zealand Army Corps" of the First World War. It also provides statistical information

to help researchers understand the contribution of the Irish to the Australian war effort.

UCD worked in partnership with the Australian University of New South Wales (UNSW) to compile the project. The director of the project is Dr Jeff Kildea, Keith Cameron Chair of Australian History at University College Dublin.

"This pioneering work was made possible by the Global Irish Studies Centre of the University of New South Wales; the invaluable

partnership of UCD; and a grant from the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Programme. It is a true tribute to the Irish Anzacs and a gift to researchers, family members of Anzac participants, and all us who possess an abiding interest in our history," said Minister Flanagan.

"One third of the Australian population boasts Irish ancestry. Ongoing academic collaboration between UCD and UNSW, two superb institutions of learning, is representative of the strength of our people-to-people ties."

A Greek Master

Frank McGuinness' *Electra* at the Old Vic, London

Earlier this year, McGuinness was honoured with the Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Achievement in Irish Literature for his body of work, which includes seventeen original plays, eighteen adaptations, five volumes of poetry and one novel – *Arimathea*, which was shortlisted for the Bord Gáis Energy Book Awards Novel of the Year in 2013.



Kristen Scott Thomas features in Frank McGuinness' charged adaptation of *Electra*. Photo credit Johan Persson

When “The Hanging Gardens” premiered in the Abbey Theatre in 2013, playwright and UCD Professor of Creative Writing, Frank McGuinness declared that “all plays are about a family”. And with families, McGuinness believes “nothing is ever quite what it seems. Nothing can ever be what it was.” The surface presentation of a family struggling with a father’s behaviour brought on by his dementia is peeled back to reveal a deeper, long running tragedy.

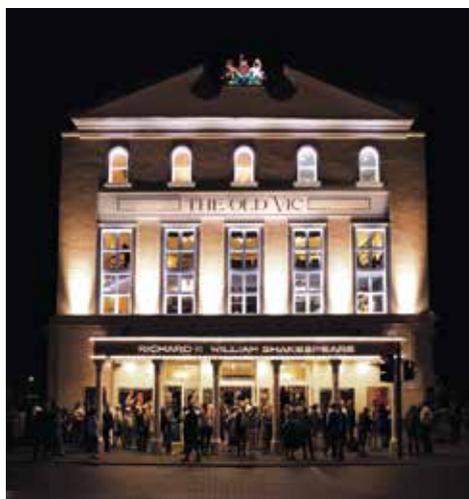
“There is enormous grief in that.

There is enormous release as well.” McGuinness explains as the audience is brought through the emotions of the various members of the family – anger and torment, constraint and concern.

Frank McGuinness takes another family tragedy to the stage in his adaptation of Sophocles’ *Electra* – currently running at the Old Vic in London until 20 December 2014. In the classic Greek tale from c420BC of betrayal and murder, sacrifice and revenge, *Electra*, daughter of King Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, seeks to avenge her father’s murder by her mother and her lover, Aegisthus and to claim the Mycenaean throne. Obsessed and deranged, *Electra* – played by Kristin Scott Thomas – spills her disturbed and disturbing emotions across the stage, which is set in the round and brings the audience very, very close. Reinforced by her long lost brother, Orestes, confused by her conflicted sister Chrysothemis, and unhinged by her unrepentant mother, *Electra* brings the tragedy into the laps of the audience.

Apart from his original works, Frank McGuinness has built an international reputation for his adaptations of Ibsen, Brecht and Chekhov but from his first adaptation of *Electra* in 1997,

he has risen to be one of the greatest contemporary English-language translators of Greek drama. From plays he has moved to opera, writing the libretto for Sophocles’ *Theban* – the Oedipus trilogy – as a single piece, which was staged at the Coliseum in



The Old Vic theatre, London, where *Electra* is currently running. Photo credit Matt Humphrey

London last May/June. Once again, the family theme emerges and McGuinness explains how his own place of Donegal and its politics helped him tap into Theban’s themes of vengeance and murder.

“What I admire most in the Greeks is their sense of economy – they achieve magnificence so effectively with such subtlety. There is almost unseen means and the Greeks are superlatively adept at constructing the play.” McGuinness shares his deep regard for the Greeks.

“I love the passion and precision of their writing. The very best Greek plays waste nothing. There is a raw relentlessness in their plots and a wonderful integrity to their passion. They knew everything about writing and we have not surpassed them. Shakespeare matches them in the exercise of searching for the imagination but even he does not excel them.

I stand in awe of them and I love to learn what little I can from working on these verses. The Greeks provide the added benefit that they attract the best actors such as Kristin Scott Thomas. As a person she is funny and intelligent. She is a very passionate woman – very maternal – who turns all these strengths to ferocious advantage in the play. Her performance brings a whole new meaning to mercurial as she reaches right back to the damage done to *Electra* as and girl. We see how the murder of her father has utterly traumatised this grown woman, making her both vulnerable and violent. The killing of her mother in revenge for her father is plotted with scaring exactitude and when she succeeds in her killing there is the terrible realisation that she has gained nothing but, she has the courage to face that desolation as she has faced every other disaster.”

Having been steeped in Greek tragedy for so long it’s not surprising that Frank McGuinness has decided to take his writing in a completely new direction. He is currently working on a play centred around country and western music. “I have always loved country music. It is a far cry from Greek tragedy but is also full of very powerful women. I am very happy to be doing something different.”

His new play will premier in 2016.

Frank McGuinness was in conversation with Ellis O’Brien, Director of Communication, UCD.



Pictured at UCD O'Brien Centre for Science is Dr Trish Gorman, prior to delivering her keynote address, which focused on how 'harnessing productive disruption within teams can lead to successful innovation for businesses', at the InterTradeIreland 2014 All-Island Innovation Conference.

UCD honorary degree for racehorse trainer and breeder Jim Bolger

Legendary trainer and breeder of thoroughbred racehorses, Jim Bolger has been awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science by UCD.

Bolger has trained Group 1 winners in Europe and Asia including winners of classic races like Epsom and Irish Derby, the Oaks and the 2,000 and 1,000 Guineas. Uniquely he breeds many of the horses he trains.

"Jim's extraordinary ability to operate and succeed at the highest level in both the highly competitive breeding and racing industries is unmatched by any single person," said Dr Emmeline Hill, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, who read the citation at the conferring ceremony.

Jim Bolger now employs more than 120 people and trains over 200 horses each year. Since 1977 he has trained more than 2,500 winners and currently holds the record for the greatest number of flat race winners in a season.



Pictured at the conferring: Racehorse trainer and breeder, Dr Jim Bolger with Dr Emmeline Hill and Prof. Alex Evans, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science.



(l-r) Michelle Nolan, Law Society of Ireland; Brian McAulfield, Office of the President; Dr Christopher Cowley, UCD School of Philosophy; Prof. Kimberley Brownlee, University of Warwick; Ken Murphy, Director General, Law Society of Ireland; Attracta O'Regan & Antoinette Moriarty, Law Society of Ireland at the Conscience, Professionalism & The Lawyer event in The Law Society, Dublin.

The Conscience Project

The UCD School of Philosophy ran a series of events exploring the place of conscience in conscientious objection. The events, organized by Professor Maeve Cooke and Dr Chris Cowley from the UCD School of Philosophy, are being held under the aegis of the President of Ireland's Ethics Initiative, with generous funding from UCD President's Office and UCD Clinton Institute. They focus on certain inter-related phenomena that are currently attracting significant attention globally, in particular whistle-blowing and civil disobedience.

The questions raised are highly relevant to the contemporary Irish context. The worldwide financial crash of 2008 and the related banking crisis in Ireland has exposed many problems with existing regulatory structures and regimes; there is also a sense that many people knew that their new economic prosperity was ethically dubious but were reluctant to speak out, for complex reasons that require further investigation. Parallel to this are stories of whistleblowers like Edward Snowden, who have taken certain risks to step out of line, apparently to highlight systemic injustice. It is unclear to what extent their protests were conscience-driven: this, too, is one of the questions they aim to investigate.

Conscience may also be an important factor in civil disobedience, for example the recent blocking of the runway in Shannon airport in protest against the perceived collusion by the Irish government in US war campaigns. Building on these explorations the project will also explore acts of protest in other contexts where conscience is invoked, for

example, by religious believers who refuse certain kinds of medical treatment for themselves or their dependents.

The investigation into these forms of conscience-based protest has two parts. One part seeks to present a clear picture of conscience-based objection in the contemporary context. The other part proposes a reconfiguration of the concept of conscience with a view to overcoming the subjectivist bias predominant in the contemporary academic literature and establishing a basis for distinguishing between enabling and disabling, constructive and destructive, forms of democratic dissent.

The events took place throughout October and November and featured lectures and panel discussions with academics from across the world including Professor Kimberly Brownlee, University of Warwick; Uriel Abulof, Princeton University; Robin Celikates, University of Amsterdam; Anita Chari, University of Oregon; Frances Olsen, UCLA and William Scheurman, University of Indiana.



HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand and Mr Michael Clarke, Dairy Herd Manager, UCD Lyons Research Farm

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand visits UCD

Her Royal Highness Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand recently visited UCD's Lyons Research Farm to discover how the facility is used to support teaching and research at the UCD College of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine.

To mark the occasion UCD announced a scholarship in the Princess' name.

UCD Lyons Research Farm consists of 228 hectares of land; 151 hectares is a grazing area for dairy and beef cattle, sheep and horses, with around 62 hectares used for tillage. Typically some 1,000 animals are housed on the farm.

Earlier this year, UCD announced the construction of a new Dairy Research and Education Facility at Lyons Research Farm to support research programmes in dairy production including genetics, nutrition and herd health management. The facility is part of a €2 million plus investment supported by Dairymaster, Devenish Nutrition, FBD, Glanbia, Munster Cattle Breeding Group, Progressive Genetics and the Irish Holstein Friesian Breeders Association. It will serve as an international showcase for the best in Irish dairy technology.

UCD agricultural science degree students can achieve 17% of the credits for their degree course on the farm, with the farm providing a basis for 11% of the credits required to graduate with a degree in veterinary science.

UCD Sutherland School of Law hosts XI European Regional Congress

UCD Sutherland School of Law, in conjunction with the Employment Law Association of Ireland, hosted the XI European Regional Congress of the International Society for Labour and Social Security Law, from the 17th - 19th September.

Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation opened the conference. Over 260 delegates from nearly 40 countries listened to keynote presentations delivered by Professor Keith Ewing, King's College London; Professor Sylvaine Laulom, Université Lumière Lyon 2;

Professor Keith Puttick, University of Staffordshire; and Professor Alexander Colvin, Cornell University.

The Congress programming was described by the President of the International Society, Professor Adrian Goldin, as exhibiting "remarkable theoretical and conceptual richness as well as the high scientific level in its moderators, presenters and discussants". The Congress also benefitted from the active presence and participation of members of the European Association of Labour Court Judges and the International Association of Labour Law Journals, both of whom held their annual meetings in UCD around the Congress dates.



Pauline Rudd, who recently received an Honorary Doctor of Medicine award from the Sahlgrenska Academy, Dr Rudd's hat, made for her personally by a French milliner using 19th century equipment and inscribed inside with her name, is the historic Swedish hat of Liberty with ancient Swedish engravings on the gold ring.

Systems Biology Ireland and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory sign memorandum of understanding

In October 2014 Professor Walter Kolch, Director, Systems Biology Ireland (SBI) and Professor Iain Mattaj, Director General of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the objective of enhancing cooperation between the two institutes.

This is the first MoU agreement signed between EMBL and an Irish institution and acknowledges mutual interest in potentially establishing a formal EMBL partnership at SBI in UCD.

EMBL is Europe's flagship laboratory for the life sciences, with more than 80 independent groups operating across five sites. It is an inter-governmental organisation funded by public research monies from its member states and enters into similar agreements/MoUs with select institutions in associated member states, where parties believe that there is potential for further scientific cooperation.

EMBL have pioneered a model for successful molecular biology research that places emphasis on dynamic, highly interactive and interdisciplinary research groups; comprehensive training programmes as well as the latest technologies and methods.

Currently, the limitations of research progress arise from data interpretation rather than data production. EMBL researchers have been leading the way in mapping and interpreting the genome using model organisms. SBI researchers are using computational models to analyse human biological processes in an effort to understand diseases like cancer and develop diagnostics and therapies that are tailored to the individual patient.

Working together, the two institutions hope to build complementary research activities through joint projects and exchange of knowledge, data and personnel.



Dr Conor Shanahan and Dr Patrick Jackman, UCD School of Biosystems Engineering, winners of the UCD Agri-Food Sprint Programme, with Siobhan Wall, Associate Director Corporate Finance, Goodbody Stockbrokers, a member of the judging panel

UCD Agri-Food Sprint Award winner announced

An early-stage business idea focused on using wireless sensors to monitor environmental conditions in chicken barns to improve poultry production has been declared winner of the UCD Agri-Food Sprint Programme.

The UCD Agri-Food Sprint Programme is a one-day initiative designed and delivered by NovaUCD in collaboration with the UCD Earth Institute. It aims to encourage the development of commercial outputs arising from UCD Agri-Food research by engaging with UCD researchers at an earlier stage in the commercialisation process.

Over 70 million chickens are produced annually in Ireland alone and the poultry industry is highly competitive, with very tight profit margins. A key factor impacting poultry production is the environmental conditions (e.g. temperature, humidity, air speed and gas concentrations) in which the chickens live. If these environmental conditions are non-ideal, the chickens will eat and drink less impacting their weight gain.

The winning business idea which emerged from the UCD Agri-Food Sprint Programme involves placing wireless sensors in chickens' living spaces to record the environmental conditions.

Real-time spatial and temporal data is recorded and reported to a cloud repository via 3G technology. Any deviations between the recorded data and acceptable environmental limits can be quickly detected; the poultry producer informed who can then take the necessary remedial actions. This will help to ensure optimal environmental conditions for poultry production resulting in higher chicken yields.

Wholesalers will also be able to use the data to monitor producers in terms of production quality.

The promoters of this early-stage business idea are Professor Shane Ward, the principal investigator, Dr Conor Shanahan, a postdoctoral research fellow, and Dr Patrick Jackman, a research scientist, in the Smart Systems Unit within the UCD School of Biosystems Engineering, whose research has been funded by Science Foundation Ireland.

The other UCD researchers who took part in the UCD Agri-Food Sprint Programme were; Professor Nick Holden, UCD School of Biosystems Engineering; Dr Angela Feechan, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science and Dr Aoife O'Gorman, UCD Institute of Food and Health.

'Be the Change' with UCD Volunteers Overseas

UCD Volunteers Overseas with funding from Irish Aid, offered students, staff and alumni the opportunity to participate in 'Be the Change', a 6-week introductory skills-based course, aimed at those interested in activism and awareness raising in Ireland and overseas.

It offered participants a chance to develop a deeper understanding of global justice issues and the causes of inequality world-wide. Workshop areas included content on; social entrepreneurship, practical campaigning, media engagement, a profiling of social movements and an exciting workshop called game changers and play makers.

The course was run by UCDVO in partnership with Comhlámh and combined inputs from experts and experienced activists working in Ireland with a focus on participants' own interests.



Pictured at the signing ceremony in Beijing are Gerard Keenan, Executive Chairman, Keenan, Prof. Li Ming, Director of the Institute of Animal Sciences and Prof. Alex Evans, Dean, UCD School of Agriculture & Food Science. Also included in the photograph are Ambassador of Ireland, H.E. Paul Kavanagh, Minister for Agriculture, Food, the Marine & Defence, Simon Coveney, Minister of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Han Changfu, Director General of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Wang Zhongli and Director General International Cooperation of Ministry of Agriculture, Wang Ying.

UCD and Keenan join the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences to form the China-Ireland Dairy Science and Technology Centre

An agreement was signed between UCD, Richard Keenan & Co. Ltd, and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences to join forces to form the China-Ireland Dairy Science and Technology Centre was announced during a trade mission to China led by Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The tri-partite agreement will bring closer cooperation between the parties and is an important strategic development between China and Ireland. The main goal is to improve feeding efficiency, animal health and reduced environmental impact of dairy farming.

At a signing ceremony in Beijing, witnessed by Minister Coveney and Minister Hanfu at the Ministry of Agriculture, Minister Coveney stated: "The announcement of the new China-Ireland Dairy Science and Technology Centre is exciting and very timely. This centre will encourage programmes of exchange and collaboration in areas of great importance to both countries as we face the challenges and opportunities presented by rapidly growing dairy farming sectors"

He continued "Ireland's involvement in this venture through Keenans and UCD is testament to the calibre and professional esteem both organisations are rightfully held in. I wish the new centre every success for the future and look forward to learning of its outcomes and achievements over the coming years".

China currently produces 38 billion litres of milk per annum and aims to increase production to 60 billion litres by 2020. Ireland is also

expanding its dairy sector, with the quotas being removed in 2015. As both countries face challenges and opportunities in dairy expansion, it is an ideal time to strengthen the relationship and understanding between China and Ireland's dairy sectors.

The centre will play an important role delivering and extending technology and know-how to farms in China that will improve their efficiency and profitability. Keenan technology is a priority technology for China in this regard. Gerard Keenan, Executive Chairman of Keenan stated: "The centre is a significant strategic development and it underlines the potential synergy between Irish technology and know-how as part of a solution to China's food security and production challenges. We look forward to bringing sustainable improvement together to China's dairy sector."

Excited by the potential research opportunities, Professor Alex Evans, Dean, UCD School of Agriculture & Food Science noted: "Ireland is very proud of its long tradition of cattle production and UCD is excited by the opportunities that this Dairy Technology Centre will bring to advance the efficiency and quality of dairy production for both Ireland and China."



Dr Máire Ní Chiosáin from the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore & Linguistics

A pioneering new project involving a UCD Linguistics researcher is shedding light on how the sounds of Irish are produced and how they can vary across dialects.

MAPPING THE SOUNDS OF IRISH

We produce speech sounds effortlessly. But we are not very good at knowing how precisely we produce particular sounds. Now, groundbreaking research by a team including Dr. Máire Ní Chiosáin, a lecturer in Linguistics at University College Dublin, may help answer this question for Irish consonants.

It's all down to an innovative use of technology which uses a portable ultrasound device to capture the tongue movements made when pronouncing certain sounds.

"The project is working with native Irish speakers to measure the differences in how they form broad and slender consonants," says Ní Chiosáin. Irish is a useful test language for this technology because every consonant comes in two varieties, those traditionally called 'slender' consonants and those traditionally called 'broad' consonants. A good example is the pair of words *bó* (cow) and *beo* (live), where the only real difference in pronunciation is that the former is pronounced with a broad *b* sound and the latter with a slender *b*.

Why does this matter? "A full description of the sound system of a language as it is spoken involves looking at the full inventory of the sounds in that language and how this differs from English or other languages, says Ní Chiosáin. "The broad and slender distinction we are documenting and analysing is not found in many other languages. Even in better-studied languages having this kind of contrast, such as Russian, it is inadequately documented with imaging technology. We are also preserving crucial data about the various dialects of the Irish language."

The project is a sterling example of how Irish social scientists can produce valuable data by working in partnership with academics on the other side of the world. Ní Chiosáin is working with researchers at the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) and Yale University on this project. One collaborator, Professor of Linguistics Jaye Padgett of UCSC, has previously worked

with Ní Chiosáin on projects comparing Irish with Russian ("Russian, one of the world's most widely-spoken languages, has the same kind of contrast in the consonant system as Irish, a minority language – although they have little else in common," Ní Chiosáin notes as an aside). Another collaborator, Professor Ryan Bennett now at Yale University also works on the syntax and prosody of Irish with UCSC Professor Jim McCloskey (formerly of UCD) who is one of the world's foremost experts on Irish language syntax.

"The current project came together when they were joined by Professor Grant McCuire, a phonetician at UCSC, who used a start-up grant to buy the portable ultrasound device," says Ní Chiosáin. "It was decided that Irish would be a good focus for the research."

The collaborative project - 'An ultrasound investigation of Irish palatalization' - was awarded a US National Science Foundation research grant earlier this year.

The research will help provide better information to anyone – from infants through to adults, native speakers to newcomers - learning the Irish language. Notoriously, Irish textbooks have struggled to explain how speakers can articulate these differences, but Ní Chiosáin says this research could change that. Linguists have been working on the contrasts between Irish consonants for years and have known how to describe them impressionistically, though sometimes imprecisely. The current project will add valuable imaging data.

Another major driver for the researchers is to record the traditional dialects. As Ní Chiosáin notes "Irish is now predominantly spoken as a second language, and it is changing, largely as a result of the influence of English. Some of the contrasts in the language are challenging for learners to fully master. Others are declining even in the traditional strongholds of the language. "

Volunteers for the research are fitted with a metal helmet which keeps the ultrasound device stable; then the speakers produce the words

asked of them. The ultrasound probe gets a reflection that shows the shape and movement of the tongue. The most challenging part, says Ní Chiosáin, is processing and interpreting the information. "It's a reasonably new technology for linguistic research, and techniques and methods for interpreting the data are still being refined. It takes hours and hours. The videos are hand labelled and a subset of individual frames are then analysed."

The results to date for Connemara Irish show that regardless of context or consonant type, when producing a slender consonant, the front of the tongue is higher in the mouth while, for the broad consonants, the back of the tongue rises.

"This project will help us understand how we achieve contrast in a sound system of language. How different do sounds need to be to sound different? We are exploring the parameters of the possible sounds and variations within and across dialects, which entails looking at how the three main Irish language dialects differ; speakers achieve the same contrast but in different ways."

Celtic languages, which include Irish Gaelic, Scots Gaelic, Manx, Cornish, Welsh and Breton, also share certain peculiarities, says Ní Chiosáin. "They all have initial consonant mutations. For example, the verb 'cur' (to put) changes to "chuir" in the past tense, which alters the sound; this is not very common in languages. There are good reasons for this, but what is really interesting when we are studying languages is that we get to see the full extent of what is possible."

The veil of mystery around how we learn and form languages is slowly being lifted. "Ultrasound is starting to be used as a linguistic tool in speech and language therapy to provide immediate visual feedback, but this is a new use for it in a rapidly evolving area," says Ní Chiosáin.

Dr Máire Ní Chiosáin was in conversation with Peter McGuire, a journalist with the Irish Times

Books



Are the Irish Different?

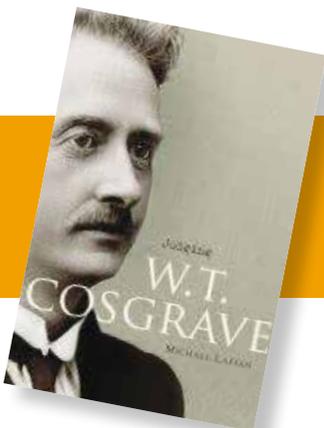
Editor, Professor Tom Inglis
UCD School of Sociology

Manchester University Press

Like many other nationalities the Irish often pride themselves on being different. But in a highly globalised society what makes the Irish different? Is it that the Irish were so Catholic for so long? Is it that they would never adopt the manners and habits of their colonial masters? Maybe the difference about the Irish is shown in how the country's economy went from boom to bust and back again so quickly?

This collection of twenty-three short essays explores the nature of contemporary Irish culture and society, and the transformations that have taken place over the last fifty years. Each author offers insights into the ways in which Ireland can be seen and understood and what it means to be Irish. They challenge the traditional issues that have been addressed in Irish studies and the methods that have been used.

The essays are written by scholars from within the human sciences who are international experts in their disciplines. The topics covered include the nature of Irish nationalism and capitalism, the Irish political elite, the differences in the Irish family, the nature of Irish Catholicism, the upsurge in immigration, the Irish diaspora, the Irish language, sport and music.



Judging W.T. Cosgrave – The Foundation of the Irish State

UCD Emeritus Professor Michael Laffan
Royal Irish Academy

After he retired from public life, W.T. Cosgrave, the first leader of The Irish Free State remained for decades one of the forgotten figures of Irish history. According to a new biography, Judging W.T. Cosgrave, he did not deserve such neglect. Rather he deserves much of the credit for the stable and democratic political system that took root after the storms of insurrection, guerrilla conflict and civil war. "He headed the first fully independent Irish administration, and he presided over a slow but steady expansion of the freedom provided by the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921."

Using sources not previously consulted, in Judging W.T. Cosgrave, UCD Emeritus Professor Michael Laffan examines the political life of the man and gives the reader a deep sense of his career as local politician, rebel, minister, head of government for almost ten years and opposition leader.

Judging W.T. Cosgrave is the third book in the 'Judging' series published by the Royal Irish Academy. The other two in the series were also written by University College Dublin academics: Judging Dev: A reassessment of the life and legacy of Éamon de Valera by Professor Diarmaid Ferriter, UCD School of History and Archives; and Judging Lemass: The Measure of the Man by Emeritus Professor Tom Garvin, UCD School of Politics and International Relations.



Prisoners, Solitude and Time

Professor Ian O'Donnell
UCD Sutherland School of Law

Oxford University Press

Ian O'Donnell presents an exceptionally researched study, evaluating the degree to which prisoners can withstand the rigours of solitude and how they experience the passing of time. Particular focus is paid to the prison experience, which has seldom been considered by academic commentators.

To date little attention has been given to the elements relating to surviving prolonged solitary confinement. The book assesses the impact of long term isolation and contrasts the solitude of the prisoner experience with those who have found themselves in solitary confinement through no choice of their own, such as hostages, and those who have sought out institutional solitariness, such as certain religious orders. The aim of which is to simulate interest in the prisoners' psychological world, an area that has been somewhat neglected.

Prisoners, Solitude and Time builds upon prisoner stories, academic critiques, official publications, statistics and other data alongside personal visits and interactions to prisons including Mountjoy in Dublin, Pentonville in London and Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia to present a new framework for understanding the prison experience.



Building Technology Transfer within Research Universities – An Entrepreneurial Approach

Editors, Prof Thomas J. Allen, Emeritus Professor of Management, MIT Sloan School of Management and **Dr Rory P. O'Shea**, UCD Quinn School of Business, University College Dublin

Cambridge University Press

Academic entrepreneurship has become one of the most widely studied topics in the entrepreneurship literature. This book is an early systematic attempt to analyse critically the factors that lie behind the creation of successful business spin-offs from university research. In it a group of academic thought-leaders in the field of technology transfer examine a number of areas critical to the promotion of start-ups on campus.

Through a series of case studies, this book examines the current policies, structures, program initiatives, and practices of twelve international universities and R&D institutes to develop a normative model of successful academic entrepreneurship. It provides the reader with a coherent framework for understanding the factors driving the entrepreneurial behaviour inside universities; analyses how university strategy, structures and reward systems can be designed to foster university entrepreneurship; and describes and assesses a range of entrepreneurial programs and leadership initiatives used to promote creation of start-ups on campus. The aim is to help universities enhance the quality of their commercialization programs. As such, this book will serve as a valuable resource for university research administrators, technology commercialization officers, and researchers working on innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology.

Correction

In the book review of *Death, Burial and the Afterlife* that featured in the autumn issue of UCD Today we omitted the full academic title for Deirdre O'Grady, Emeritus Professor of Italian and Comparative Studies UCD.

Former Unilever CEO to Chair UCD Smurfit School Advisory Board



Niall Fitzgerald, new Chair of the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School Advisory Board

UCD Graduate and former Unilever CEO, Niall Fitzgerald has assumed the Chair of the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School Advisory Board, as of October 2014.

Fitzgerald, a UCD Bachelor of Commerce graduate, has had a distinguished career. He was Chair and CEO of Unilever from 1996-2004 and has also chaired a broad range of companies and public bodies including Reuters, Hakluyt, the Nelson Mandela Legacy Trust, International Business Council, Conference Board, Investment Climate Facility for Africa, British Museum, the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TAB) and Advertising Association.

Speaking about his new role, Fitzgerald said, "UCD Smurfit School should aspire to be an international leader and I hope my experience will help to raise the level of ambition and impact".

Commenting on the new Chair, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean UCD Business, said "We welcome Niall on board and look forward to working with him as Chairman over the coming years. His appointment reflects our international ambition for our students. Like Niall, they must compete with graduates of the best business schools in the world – and therefore so do we. He will serve as a role model for our students and his insights and experience will be invaluable to us as we seek to further develop the School's reputation and reach."



(l-r) Anna Visser and Lisa Phelan from the organising team, Prof. Kathleen Lynch, Chair of Equality Studies, School of Social Justice; Mr Aodhán Ó Riordáin TD, Minister of State for Equality, New Communities and Culture, Ebon Akpoveta, organising team, Dr Judy Walsh, Head of UCD School of Social Justice; Prof. Colin Scott, Principal, UCD College of Human Sciences at the School of Social Justice Conference in the UCD Sutherland School of Law

Graduates debate injustice in Ireland

The UCD School of Social Justice conference 'Challenging Injustice in Ireland: learning from the past actions for the future' took place in UCD on October 4th.

The conference, an initiative of the graduate students of the school, took stock of the role of research and activism in achieving social justice in Ireland over recent decades and pointed the way to future challenges and opportunities. Ten workshops took place alongside a panel discussion, drawing from presenters experience and knowledge of advocating for greater social justice in Ireland.

With the run up to the 25th anniversary of Equality Studies and Women's studies, as well as the 10th anniversary of the formation of the UCD School of Social Justice, the conference mixed theory and practice to bring together a broad range of people and organisations involved in the fight against justice.

Dr Judy Walsh, Head of the UCD School of Social Justice chaired the opening session and welcomed key speakers including Aodhán Ó Riordáin TD, Minister of State for Equality, New Communities and Culture; Mr Vincent Browne, Broadcaster and Journalist; Professor Colin Scott, Principal of the UCD College of Human Sciences and Professor of EU Regulation & Governance; Cathleen O'Neill, Education Coordinator with SAOL; Professor Peadar Kirby, Professor Emeritus Public Policy and International Relations, University of Limerick; Professor John Baker, Professor Emeritus, UCD School of Social Justice and Professor Kathleen Lynch, Chair of Equality Studies, UCD School of Social Justice.

Alongside the key speakers there were some very interesting graduate presentations including Lianne Quigley, who questioned the recognition of sign language in Europe; Lisa Phelan, on voter turnout at elections and the responsibility of the state in mobilizing all voters and Ebon Akpoveta who spoke about racial stratification in the labour market and its influence on the economic outcome of migrants.

Attendees were encouraged to challenge the growing levels of inequality both locally and internationally. There was so much enthusiasm generated at the conference that the hashtag '#ssjconf2014' trended on the day.

Multidisciplinarity at Work: The Authentic Project

UCD is leading a major multidisciplinary project entitled Autonomic Home Area Network Infrastructure (AUTHENTIC). Within this project both technical and social science researchers work closely together alongside their industry partners. The UCD partners of the project include Dynamics Lab at the UCD Geary Institute and CLARITY (School of Computer Science and Informatics) with other scientific partners based in Cork including Tyndall institute, Cork Constrained Computation Centre, Nimbus (CIT) and University College Cork (INSIGHT Centre).

AUTHENTIC is aimed at developing and analysing a new home area network. Pilot homes are deployed with a number of sensors measuring light level, temperature, humidity and occupancy of a room and electricity consumption of a number of appliances. The data is wirelessly collected and sent to a central database at UCD. Households get a tablet and an app on which they can view their energy consumption. This data can be represented in financial, energy or environmental units and comparisons can be made between different periods.

Homes can set goals for energy conservation and the system will provide them with information about the achievement of these goals and behaviour suggestions and they regularly complete a survey to collect data about their energy awareness and behaviour. Within the Dynamics Lab both the sensor and survey data is analysed and information about routines related to energy consumption is extracted which can be used to further tailor the behavioural suggestion given to the households.

Although the system is currently applied to measure energy consumption and give the

households incentives to conserve this, future applications are vast. The system could be used in a smart living environment where it learns from the observed routines how to automatically control things like lighting and temperature or could be used in ambient assisted living offering assistance when required.

The current AUTHENTIC implementation is based on the cooperation between different disciplines, however, future extensions of the project could include an even wider range of contributing disciplines.



UCD Prof. John O'Doherty who was awarded DSc

UCD Professor John O'Doherty awarded with DSc

Professor John O'Doherty from the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science was awarded with a Doctor of Science (DSc) degree at the UCD Agricultural Sciences conferring ceremony on September 1st.

Professor O'Doherty presented his work under the title "Nutrition of farm animals for improved growth, health and environment". In his work he presented a substantial volume of work addressing a variety of applied nutritional strategies directed towards improving the efficiency and cost of pig production worldwide.

The degree of Doctor of Science is a higher doctorate and is awarded to scholars who have, over a sustained period of time, published a substantial body of ground breaking and influential work in a field of specialisation and who have achieved outstanding distinction internationally in that field.

One of the examiners of Professor O'Doherty's work quoted "Professor O'Doherty's work is of international importance and significance".

UCD President Confers Community Drug Programme Awards

UCD President Andrew J. Deeks recently conferred Diploma and Certificate awards on the latest cohort of students graduating from the Community Partnership Drug Programme at UCD. The programme, run by the UCD School of Applied Social Science, in partnership with Merchants Quay Ireland and Urrús, Ballymun, offers Certificate and Diploma level courses in drug intervention and community work.

The courses are specifically aimed at individuals who wish to work with and address drug and alcohol issues in Ireland and beyond, and are aimed at a range of students, from professionals to those who have experienced educational disadvantage and drug issues in their communities.

A unique aspect of the Community Partnership Drug Programme at UCD, is the progression route for students onto the second year of the Bachelor of Social Science on completion of either of the Diploma programmes.

Since 2010, twenty students have progressed onto the degree programme, with ten of these completing, or currently undertaking post-graduate study. One progression student commenced her PhD study this year at UCD.

With an annual in-take of around eighty students, a key feature of the courses on the Community Partnership Drug Programme is the wide range of experience and background of the each cohort. Modules are designed to utilise the life and professional experience of the students, while also allowing for the different range of educational levels, from early school leavers to students with post-graduate awards. This makes for a rich learning environment as students collaborate to discuss and develop strategies, skills and intervention approaches to working with problematic drug use for individuals, families and communities.

As noted by President Deeks, the programme 'transforms lives', both for the graduates themselves and for people in the communities where the graduates apply their newly gained skills.

Student Summer Research Awards 2014

Each year the Student Summer Research Awards (SSRA) take place whereby undergraduate students undertake an eight-week supervised laboratory, clinical or patient-advocate project in Ireland or at one of the UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science's partner institutions. The programme brings to life the commitment to foster a passion for enquiry, discovery and investigative research in our students.

SSRA 2014 culminated in a highly successful awards evening in the UCD Fitzgerald Debating Chamber on October 2nd. Eight finalists selected from over sixty

participating projects presented their work to an audience comprising of a judging panel, chaired by Professor Ronan O'Connell, UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science; academic and clinical staff, classmates, friends and family members.

After a consistently high standard of oral presentations and project defence, the judges named Caroline Moran as the overall Gold Medal winner with her project titled 'Assessment of the Development of Neutralising Antibodies in Mice Following Administration of F/Hn-Lentivirus.'



Picture - left to right: Dr Nao Kodate (UCD), Prof. Jane Grimson (HIQA/Trinity College Dublin), Prof. Michelle D'Arcy (TCD), Prof. Junko Kato (UT), Dr Sebastian Dellepiane (Strathclyde University, Scotland), Dr Michelle Norris (UCD), Prof. Nobuhiro Hiwatari (UT), Dr Tom P. Hardiman (Chairperson, Chester Beatty Library), Prof. Niamh Hardiman (UCD), H.E. Japanese Ambassador Mr Chihiro Atsumi, UCD President Prof. Andrew J. Deeks, Prof. Tony Fahey (UCD), Prof. Shin Ushiro (Kyushu University/Japan Council for Quality Health Care), Prof. Colin Scott (Principal, UCD College of Human Sciences) and Dr Chiaki Sato (UT) at the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin Castle..

2nd Ireland-Japan Social Science Symposium

Four Japanese academics came to Dublin to present at the second Ireland-Japan Social Science Symposium (IrJaSS) at the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin Castle on 19th September 2014.

The IrJaSS is a one-year project, led by Dr Nao Kodate, UCD School of Applied Social Science and funded by the Japan Foundation. It was initiated by UCD and the University of

Tokyo (UT) with the first Symposium taking place at UT in June.

UCD President Professor Andrew J. Deeks opened the event, followed by a speech from the Japanese Ambassador Mr Chihiro Atsumi. The UCD Taiko (Japanese drums) team also performed at the opening ceremony.

This second Symposium focused on policy issues surrounding taxation, medical innovation and regulation of quality and safety in health care in Ireland, Japan and Europe.

The event attracted many participants including Irish academics, practitioners and postgraduate students from the UCD Public Policy Programme. It was hosted by the UCD Public Policy Programme (College of Human Sciences), with support from the Embassy of Japan in Ireland, the Chester Beatty Library, Experience Japan, UCD International and UCD Media Services.

Fresh from their 'European Water Innovation SME' and InterTradeIreland 'Innovation of the Year' award wins, OxyMem picked up the overall award at the 2014 Intellectual Property Awards. Pictured are (l-r) Prof. Eoin Casey, UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering, and co-founder, OxyMem with Ellen Szymanski, Senior Director, International IP, Global IP Centre, U.S. Chamber of Commerce



■ Joint MDP Faculty Delegation to Columbia University

A joint Masters in Development Practice (MDP) programme between UCD and TCD is moving from strength to strength as one of the leading sustainable development postgraduate programmes in the global family of development practice educational initiatives.

In September a joint delegation of MDP faculty and students from both universities took part in the organisation and presentation of research at the 2nd Annual United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) International Conference on Sustainable Development Practice (ICSDP).

Hundreds of development practitioners, researchers, faculty members and students from all over the world gathered to present and discuss their research on evidence-based solutions for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. The conference was organised over eight streams of four daily plenary sessions linked to the UN millennium development goals, with over 130 individual research projects presented over the course of two days.

Professor Paul Wash, UCD School of Politics, opened and closed the conference and chaired the conference academic steering committee. The Irish MDP delegation was by far the most involved international team and presented four individual research projects from faculty members

and chaired seven plenary sessions by both faculty and students.

UCD MDP faculty member involvement included Dr Conor Galvin, UCD School of Education, who chaired the two plenary sessions for Early Childhood Development, Education, and Transition to Work and Dr Conor Buggy, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science, who presented the initial findings of a climate change awareness project in Africa currently being undertaken through the MDP programme. MDP students Ms Julia Schroer and Mr Bryan Lee took on significant roles in the organisation of student focused plenary sessions and the conference social media giving them both invaluable practical experience of research conference organisation.

The activities of the conference highlighted the strengths of the only MDP programme that is coordinated as a joint effort by two leading universities, and cemented the joint UCD-TCD MDP programme as a leader in this field.

■ Pesky gNATs Wins the 2014 SPARKie "Good" Award

On October 30th the 2014 "Good" SPARKie award was awarded to a computer game based mental health intervention for children called "Pesky gNATs". The SPARKies acknowledge the very best technology people, products and companies linked to the West of England. They include a "Good" award for the best use of technology for the greater good of us all.

Pesky gNATs was co-designed by Dr Gary O'Reilly at the UCD School of Psychology and

Dr David Coyle at the Department of Computer Science, University of Bristol, with Bristol based game developer Opposable Games.

Pesky gNATs is a world leader in using technology to transform the delivery of mental health interventions for children, comprising of three components.

Firstly, a computer game that delivers a child friendly Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) intervention played in session with a mental health professional. With multiple levels, each level delivers a single component of a customized developmentally appropriate CBT intervention and is designed to be the equivalent of a standard therapy session in length to play.

Secondly, a mobile app which has weekly CBT tasks, mindfulness and relaxation skills. Finally, there is an on-line training suite for mental health professionals to train in how to use the programme.

Pesky gNATs will be officially released in early 2015 with a range of games tailored to different mental health problems experienced by young people.

■ International conference on modern sacred architecture in Germany and Ireland

The UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy hosted an international conference on modern and sacred architecture in Germany and Ireland in Newman House, UCD from the 9-11th October. The conference was funded by the Goethe Institut Dublin alongside seed funding from UCD Research and the UCD College of Arts and Celtic studies.

The event was co-organised by Kathleen James-Chakraborty, Professor of Art History in UCD and Lisa Godson who lectures on visual culture at NCAD and attracted a large audience. Keynote speeches were delivered by Amandus Sattler of Munich, the architect of the Herz Jesu church, widely recognised as one of Europe's most important new sacred buildings, and Niall McLaughlin, a graduate of UCD who now practices in London, and whose Bishop Edward King Chapel in Oxfordshire was shortlisted by the Royal Institute of British Architects for last year's Stirling Prize.

Eleven other talks were delivered by scholars based in Belfast, Berlin, Cologne, Dresden and Dublin. These chronicled how new ideas about sacred architecture spread from Germany to Ireland and were disseminated from there to Africa, about how they influenced synagogue and mosque architecture in the two countries, and about the adaptive re-use of both historic and modern churches as well as synagogues to serve other purposes.



An image depicting a family of Daphnia, collected from the lake at University College Dublin, has been selected as the overall winner of the 2014 UCD Images of Research Competition. The winning image was taken by Karl Gaff, a research technician in the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science

Collaboration with UCD wins Citi a Corporate Social Responsibility Award

On September 18th, Citi won the 'Excellence in Community' award at the annual Chambers Ireland Corporate Social Responsibility 2014 Awards, for its collaboration with UCD.

Since 2011 Citi Foundation has been working with UCD Access and Lifelong Learning, enabling the unit to develop the Future You Mentoring Programme.

Future You is an integral part of the access outreach programme which aims to empower and support school pupils from socio-economically disadvantaged communities and students with a disability to progress to and succeed at third level.

UCD students from Tallaght, Ballyfermot, Clondalkin and Crumlin are trained as mentors and in pairs they visit 5th year school pupils from their local schools and communities to deliver structured mentoring. The students share experiences about school and college, discuss study methods and Leaving Certificate tips and provide on-going peer-support with the aim of encouraging a greater awareness of future opportunities in the world of third level education and work.

In recognition of this project, UCD has created a number of scholarships for Future You students who successfully transition to undergraduate programmes in UCD.

Social Farming Across Borders Conference

The Social Farming Across Borders (SoFAB) conference took place in Belfast Castle on September 10th. The conference marked the end of a three year pilot project that involved 10 farm families in Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Republic of Ireland.

The SoFAB Project was funded through the European Regional Development Fund and led by UCD's School of Agriculture in partnership with Queens University Belfast (QUB) and Leitrim Development Company.

The SoFAB Project delivered almost 1,600 person days of social farming experience to the 66 people who used the service between April 2014 and June 2014. As well as successfully putting social farming on the map, through wide ranging awareness raising and piloting services on 20 farms, the project also left a legacy of over 80 people trained in the delivery of social farming as well as a report on the costs and benefits of social farming.

Research gathered during the project was presented by Aoibheann Walsh from QUB who demonstrated that the benefits of the initiative had helped a broad range of vulnerable people suffering from mental health problems and

learning disabilities, through engaging in the day to day tasks associated with farming first hand. It also helped connect with communities, providing a vital link between well-being and rural life in Ireland. "It demonstrates that social farming has the potential to make a difference to the lives of so many people whether it is someone recovering from illness or a farm family opened their doors to a new diversification opportunity".

Dr. Jim Kinsella, UCD School of Agriculture commented that "The SoFAB project has been very successful in raising awareness, learning lessons, training people and paving the way for social farming in Ireland and Northern Ireland. He was adamant that "the future of social farming lay in converting the interest of the Health Trusts and the Health Service Executive into contracted services with farmers that have the potential to offer thousands of people the opportunity to avail of social farming in years to come".

New 'UCD Authors Collection' launched

UCD has, throughout its history, played an outstanding and pivotal role in the building of the Irish nation and in the preservation, understanding and transmission of its heritage. Our staff and alumni have published many of the critical works that have underpinned and influenced debates and policies that have shaped the state.

The UCD Library is creating a new 'UCD Authors Collection', to bring together and showcase, for the first time in one location, all of the printed books of former and current UCD academics and of prominent UCD alumni. This collection will be located in UCD Special Collections, and will form part of the overall UCD heritage collection.

Where possible, autographed copies of the books will be held, and as they will make up part of our heritage collection, will not be labelled or stamped. Where new copies of the



Pictured at the launch of the UCD Authors Collection are Ursula Byrne, UCD Library; Ellis O'Brien, Director of Communications, UCD and Evelyn Flanagan, UCD Library

books cannot be supplied, copies from our main collections will be transferred into this new 'UCD Authors Collection'. This new collection will complement the holdings of the UCD Archives Collection.

The collection has been started with 44 books coming from subjects as varied as Gaeilge and Archaeology to Psychology and the hope is that all authors and publishers will contribute signed copies to this special collection.

Special thanks to Michael J. Bannon, Majda Bne Saad, Bernadette Bradley, Joseph Brady, Alan Carr, Peter Clinch et al, Philip Cotrell, Mary Daly, Dymrna Devine, W. J. C.

Donnelly, Bryce Evans, Diarmaid Ferriter, Anne Fogarty, Nicole Grimes et al, Niamh Hardiman, Judith Harford, Eric Haywood, Jonathan Herring et al, Hans Krabbendam, Kathleen Lynch, Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh, Anne Macdon, Emily Mark-Fitzgerald, Louise McHugh, Joseph A. McMahon, John McNerney, M. L. Monaghan, Niamh Moore, Wolfgang Narx, Diane Negra, Séamus Ó Catháin, Nellie Ó Cléirigh, Ian O'Donnell, Cormac Ó Gráda, Emmanuel Reynaud, Anthony Roche, Claire Rush, Ian Stewart, John M. Thompson, Ríonach Uí Ógáin, Brendan Walsh and Oonagh Walsh who have contributed to the collection to date.



UCD International Ladies GAA Team pictured at the 2014 Fexco Asian Gaelic Games

An impressive debut for the UCD International GAA Ladies Team in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

UCD recently made history at the Fexco Asian Gaelic Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia by sending the first International ladies GAA team of its kind to the 2014 competition. Coached by Brian Mullins, the 12-person team comprised of international students from Canada, China, Vietnam, Uganda, Nigeria, Poland, USA, Denmark and Sweden. Signing on as key sponsors were ESB International, Bank of Ireland and O'Neill's.

UCD participated in the Ladies' Junior Division of the nine-a-side competition and enjoyed an impressive debut at their inaugural Games. Day one of the competition saw the team winning three out of their four league games, ensuring a place in the quarter finals. Day two dawned and the heat on the pitch intensified, allowing UCD to reach the final four but were narrowly defeated by Taiwan in an action packed and fast paced semi-final.

Amongst the many well wishers and supporters were other UCD students and graduates attending the Games. In particular the Shanghai Men's and Ladies' team were well represented by students on Exchange with

UCD Partner Universities. UCD has 36 students on exchange in China this year, with another 18 in wider Asia region.

Although the team missed out on taking home any silverware, an unexpected honour was bestowed upon UCD player, Aisling Kerr. Hailing originally from Boston, Aisling was awarded an All Star Award for her efforts throughout the competition and this news was celebrated by her jubilant UCD team mates. UCD supporters were also delighted that Alice Malone, a Laois native and recent UCD B.Comm with Chinese Studies graduate, who playing with the Shanghai Ladies side, received All Star Award and Player of the Tournament.

Summing up events, Brian Mullins, UCD Director of Sport, spoke about the team's experience in Malaysia, "This opportunity has been a once in a lifetime experience for the team. The ladies displayed great team spirit and were excellent Ambassadors for UCD as they embarked upon the journey. The reception and goodwill from alumni and friends in Kuala Lumpur was overwhelming and we are extremely grateful to our sponsors – without their support none of this would have been possible".

UCD staff golf society win both intervarsity and colours competitions

The UCD golf society hosted the annual intervarsity competition in Powerscourt golf club in April. Ten universities and Institutes of Technology competed for the perpetual shield with the UCD team coming out as victorious for the first time in 17 years.

The society also claimed victory in the annual colours competition in October, played between UCD and Trinity. The UCD staff golf society was founded in 1993, it currently has 80 members and is open to staff in all the university campuses. UCD President Professor Andrew J. Deeks is the honorary President of the club.



(l-r) Brian McBreen, Tommy Murtagh, Margaret Worrall, Brian Kane Captain 2014, Prof. Andrew J. Deeks, Honorary President; Geraldine McDermott, Liam Carroll, Tom Culligan, Helen Dawkins. Absent from photo- Madeleine O'Dwyer and Stewart McKee



(Top to bottom) UCD Ad Astra equestrian athletes Emma O'Dwyer (Showjumping), Jodie O'Keefe (eventing) and Ana O'Brien (Horse Racing)

Leading UCD equestrian ladies in the spotlight

New equestrian additions to the UCD Ad Astra Elite Athlete Academy, Jodie O'Keefe (Eventing), Emma O'Dwyer (Showjumping) and Ana O'Brien (Horse Racing) are already reaching the stars.

Jodie O'Keefe has just returned with the title of Under 21 Munster Young Rider of the year having acquired the highest number of points at senior level during the competitive season in Munster. This follows on from winning team Gold at the Under 21 European Eventing Championships in Portugal in September. In addition, she achieved bronze when competing for UCD at the Interprovincials in October 2014.

Emma O'Dwyer was invited to compete at the CSI 3* (Senior International Circuit) at Saint-Lo, France and came 2nd in the 6 bar, jumping a height of 2m. In addition, she achieved 4th place in the Opening 3* speed class. This is a huge achievement for a rider who still has two years to compete in the Under 21's whilst also competing against silver medalists from the World Equestrian Games and the leading lady rider in the world.

Ana O'Brien was the first lady jockey to ride in the Group One Classic, the Irish Oaks. She is currently the leading Irish lady flat-racing jockey.



UCD Enactus Team 2014 (l-r) - Constantin Lenk, Stephanie O'Malley, Aoife Buckley, Andrea Harvey, Roisin Lee, Patricia Kastner, Eimear O'Donnell and Cian O'Sullivan

UCD Student Team Represent Ireland at 2014 Enactus World Cup Final

A team of UCD students, led by Aoife Buckley, an MSc student in Management Consultancy in the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, represented Ireland at the 2014 Enactus World Cup final, which took place in Beijing, China from 22 to 24 October.

The UCD students secured a place at the finals after winning the 2014 Enactus Ireland National Competition for their social entrepreneurship project entitled 'Generation Accommodation' which seeks to match students who cannot afford to pay rent with elderly people living alone.

At the competition they presented the results of their community outreach projects

through a written annual report and live audio visual presentation, beating off stiff competition from 35 other countries to make it to the final four.

The other members of the UCD winning team are students; Roisin Lee, Constantin Lenk, Patricia Kastner, Cian O'Sullivan and Andrea Harvey.

The University Observer marks its 20th Anniversary

The 7th October 2014 was landmark day in student media as the University Observer celebrated 20 years in the business.

The day itself was marked with a special anniversary supplement, which saw past editors and writers reminisce about their time with the paper. The celebrations continued with over 100 people involved in the paper's 20 year history, including Journalist Pat Leahy and Comedian Dara O'Briain, come together for a special event held in the Fitzgerald Chamber in the UCD Student Centre.

During its 20 year tenor the newspaper has gained critical acclaim for its standards and skills writers and has offered a first home to many of Ireland's top journalists including Declan Walsh, Alan Torney, Samantha Libreri, Emmet Ryan and Sorcha Nic Mathuna.

Most recently it won Newspaper of the Year 2014 at the National student Media Awards (Smedias) and still remains the only Irish student newspaper to win an award in the Best Newspaper category at The Guardian Student Media Awards.

UCD success at national final of Thesis in 3 competition

UCD PhD students, Aoife Murphy and Darragh Whelan successfully represented UCD at the 5th annual national final of Thesis in 3, a science communication competition that challenges postgraduate students from research institutions across Ireland present their research in a series of concise, rapidly paced talks consisting of three slides, in three minutes.

Twenty postgraduate students rose to the challenge to describe their research simply to a packed house of 250 people and a panel of judges including Will Goodbody, RTÉ Science correspondent; Claire O'Connell, Irish Times journalist and Margie McCarthy, Science Foundation Ireland.

Aoife Murphy, PhD student in UCD Conway Institute and UCD Institute for Food & Health won 3rd prize for her talk on 'Obesity: It's InFATuating'. She described obesity as similar to a stomach bug, with certain fatty foods causing stress on our body, and how the immune system tries to defend itself by inflaming the body which can lead to problems such as type 2 diabetes.



(L-R) William Fitzmaurice, SBI; Jennifer Gaughran, DCU (winner); Aoife Murphy, UCD (3rd place); Ruairi Robertson, UCC (2nd place); Darragh Whelan, UCD (audience prize); Aoibheann Bird, Insight; Philip Smyth, UCD Access.

Darragh Whelan from the Insight Centre for Data Analytics picked up the audience choice prize. His research focuses on predicting injury risk in athletes and the general population using new and accessible technologies.

The event, hosted by RTÉ's Jonathan McCrea, is sponsored through the SFI Discover Programme and co-organised by Systems Biology Ireland and Insight Centre for Data Analytics.