

# UCD today



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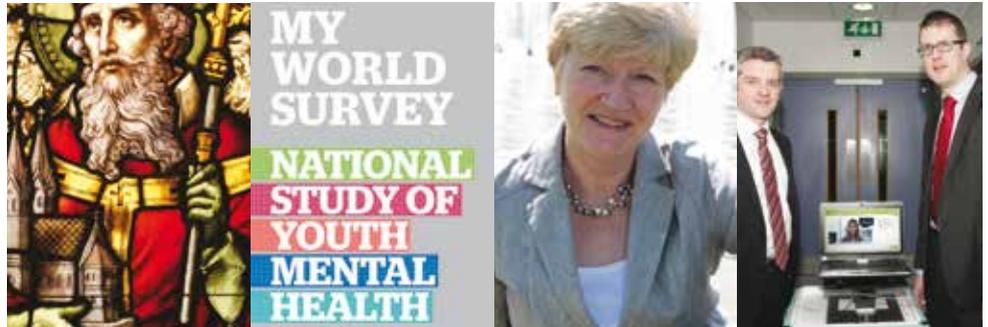
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## Seanad Referendum – your vote matters



*EILIS O'BRIEN*  
Director of  
Communication

**On 4th October the country will be asked to vote on whether or not to abolish Seanad Éireann. In what will be the 32nd amendment of the constitution, the referendum should be of interest to graduates of the NUI universities and Trinity College Dublin who currently elect six senators – three between the NUI universities and three from the TCD Seanad Register. Over 96,000 NUI graduates are listed on the Seanad Éireann Register and the current senators are Feargal Quinn, Rónán Mullen and John Crown.**

In its election manifesto back in 2011, Fine Gael proposed to cut the size of the Oireachtas by one-third by abolishing the Seanad, if the public approve in constitutional referendum, and by cutting the number of TDs by twenty. During the summer, support for the Government's proposal began to wane but by September, a Sunday Independent/Millward Brown nationwide opinion poll showed 39% of those surveyed supported the abolition of the Seanad – up two points. Those in favour of reforming the Upper House remained unchanged at 33% and 7% wished to see the Seanad kept in its current form, so the debate is fairly neck and neck.

Each of the political parties has taken a position and as the date approaches, there will be greater media coverage as well as information from the Referendum Commission. The guide published by the Referendum Commission sets out the facts and explains what situation will arise should the referendum be passed. It sets out the 14 major changes that will occur if the Seanad is abolished. All but one will involve either a transfer of powers to the Dáil or the Dáil assuming sole responsibility in a matter.

As expected, some FG and Labour backbenchers, along with many senators, have broken party ranks and declared their opposition to the amendment. Two interest groups for and against the amendment have emerged.

"One House" is chaired by the head of the Labour Relations Commission, Kieran Mulvey and includes Labour councillor Richard Humphreys along with retired politicians, Barry Desmond, Alan Dukes and Liz McManus and trade unionist, Blair Horan. The group describes itself as an independent civil society group, not aligned with any political party. The group claims that the Dáil is sufficient to run the country and argues that the Seanad is undemocratic. Although the group does not have a website, its views are widely reported in the media.

On the other side of the debate, "Democracy Matters" describes itself as a Seanad Reform Group and was set up by Senators Feargal Quinn and Katherine Zappone, Former Tánaiste Michael McDowell, Former Senator Joe O'Toole, and Barrister and Journalist Noel Whelan. They argue that a "no" vote will prompt reform of the upper house and published a consultation paper in April 2013, which is available on its website.

While (naturally) not giving any personal opinion in this column, I would remind UCD, NUI and TCD graduates to exercise your franchise on 4th October – it might be your last.

## UCD thanks...

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**Produced by:** Eilis O'Brien, Lisa Flannery, Dominic Martella

**Design:** Loman Cusack Design

**Print:** Fine Print

**Thanks to:** Diarmaid Ferriter, Pat Guiry, Ann Lavan, Damien McLoughlin, Diane Sonnenwald, Regina Ui Chollatain

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

This publication is also available online at [www.ucd.ie/ucdtoday](http://www.ucd.ie/ucdtoday)

Cover image: *South Sea Bubble* by Edward Matthew Ward [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons. The image appears on the website [www.historyhub.ie](http://www.historyhub.ie) to accompany a feature *Writing the History of the Financial Crisis: Lessons from the South Sea Bubble* by School of History and Archives researcher Dr Patrick Walsh.



## Professor Andrew J Deeks Appointed as UCD President Elect

The Governing Authority of UCD has approved the appointment of Professor Andrew J Deeks as President of University College Dublin from January 2014. Professor Deeks will succeed Dr Hugh Brady, whose ten-year tenure finishes at the end of December 2013.



Professor Andrew J Deeks, president elect of UCD

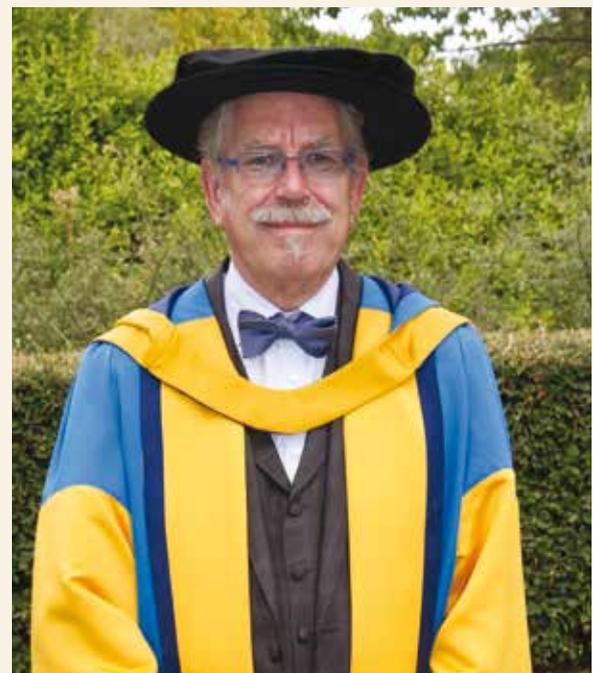
Professor Deeks joins UCD from Durham University, where he is currently Pro Vice-Chancellor (Science). Prior to joining Durham University, Professor Deeks was Head of School, Civil & Resource Engineering, University of Western Australia, Perth, from 2004 to 2009.

Professor Deeks is a leading expert in computational mechanics; specifically in the scaled boundary finite element method, which is a semi-analytical approach for solving elastostatic, elastodynamic and allied problems in engineering. He is also highly respected for his research work in structural mechanics, structural dynamics and dynamic soil structure interaction. He has authored and co-authored over 160 textbooks, research articles and conference proceedings and has been the recipient of prestigious research grants.

"I am very much looking forward to taking up the role of President of UCD, Ireland's largest university," Professor Deeks said. "UCD plays a unique role in Irish society and economy, and, under the stewardship of Dr Hugh Brady, has made impressive inroads into becoming a truly international university.

I will bring ideas and approaches learnt from my experiences in the UK and Australia and blend these with the undoubted ambition and energy I see among the high calibre people at UCD to ensure UCD is recognised throughout Ireland and the world as an international and intercultural place of learning and scholarship of the highest standard, benefiting local, national and global communities."

## UCD awards honorary degrees during conferring week



During the week of graduation ceremonies at UCD in early September, the University awarded honorary degrees to a selection of individuals who have achieved distinction in their fields of endeavour. These included (clockwise from top left) Yale Professor and Cultural Sociologist, Jeffrey Alexander, who was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature; Irish Olympic Physiotherapist Dr Marie Elaine Grant, who was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science; Irish artist, Robert Ballagh, awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature; and Former Provost of Trinity College Dublin, Dr John Hegarty, who was awarded an Honorary degree of Doctor of Science, is pictured here with UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady. Also awarded during the conferring week were Aidan Cotter, CEO of Bord Bia, who was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws; Senator Katherine Zappone, awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws; and Irish businessman, Declan McCourt, awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws

## UCD strengthens its foothold in China's 'Silicon Valley'

**UCD has further strengthened its footprint in China, through a recent agreement with Shenzhen University (SZU) to establish a new International College in Health Sciences Innovation.**

This initiative follows soon after the opening of the Beijing-Dublin International College (BDIC) in September 2012; a partnership between UCD and Beijing University of Technology, which is concentrating initially on computer science, engineering and finance.

When fully developed, the UCD Shenzhen International College will host 3 inter-related programmes: a suite of postgraduate masters, PhD and Continuing Professional Development

courses in the health sciences and healthcare management; a joint research programme in Systems Biology, Systems Medicine and Connected Health which will also involve other higher education institutions and companies based in the Shenzhen region; and a biotechnology incubator centre to support the development of life and health sciences companies, including Irish companies seeking to do business in China.

The signing of the Memorandum of Agreement by UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady, and the President of Shenzhen University, Professor Li Qingquan, was followed by a meeting of Mr Richard Bruton TD, Ireland's Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, and Madam Wu Yihuan, the Vice Mayor of Shenzhen Municipal Government whose portfolio includes responsibility for education. Both leaders warmly welcomed the deepening of the collaboration between UCD and SZU and, in addition, had a wide ranging discussion on the potential for Ireland and Shenzhen to deepen their trade and educational links.

## Justice for Magdalenes Campaign Awarded

**The Labour Party's Annual Jim Kemmy Thirst for Justice Award was recently presented by Eamon Gilmore TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, to Dr Katherine O'Donnell and Claire McGettrick on behalf of the Justice for Magdalenes (JFM) Campaign. Dr O'Donnell is Director of the UCD Women's Studies Centre and Principal Investigator on the Government of Ireland Collaborative Research Project: *Magdalene Institutions: Recording an Archival and Oral History*. Claire McGettrick is a research assistant on this project. Dr O'Donnell and Claire McGettrick are the only two-Irish based members of the five-person JFM group, which recently announced the end of its political campaign on foot of the State Apology and Restorative Justice scheme for the women of the Magdalene Laundries. JFM is now known as JFM Research and will continue to work together on issues raised by the campaign.**

In accepting the award Dr O'Donnell spoke about the population of over 100 women who remain in state-sponsored care by the nuns. She said: "The girls and women of the Magdalene laundries suffered profound abuses of their human rights. They were denied basic recognition of their humanity. These rather abstract phrases are used to describe how they were systematically treated as less than human: they were methodically degraded, and many became institutionalised. Institutionalised is a benign sounding word but it means even these women's capacity to be agents - to make decisions and choices to act on their own behalf - basic, intrinsic, human capacities were brutally destroyed."

Claire McGettrick said: "The Magdalene women know that the world is watching. Each of them understands the impact of the United Nations Committee Against Torture recommendations or, as they call it, 'Geneva'. They also know that JFM has asked UNCAT to monitor the implementation of the Magdalene Fund. And, they know about the recent letter from Felice Gaer, UNCAT's Rapporteur for Follow Up, requesting further information from the government about both the McAleese Report and the Justice Quirke process. Ireland's Magdalene survivors have survived such difficult lives because of the deep strength and courage they carry within them. They are not 'former residents' as described in the McAleese Report - they are survivors, they are heroines, they are national treasures."



*Eamon Gilmore TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, presented the annual Jim Kemmy Thirst for Justice Award to Justice for Magdalenes group members Dr Katherine O'Donnell, (right) Director of the UCD Women's Studies Centre and Principal Investigator on the Collaborative Research Project *Magdalene Institutions: Recording an Archival and Oral History* and Claire McGettrick (left), who is a research assistant on this project.*

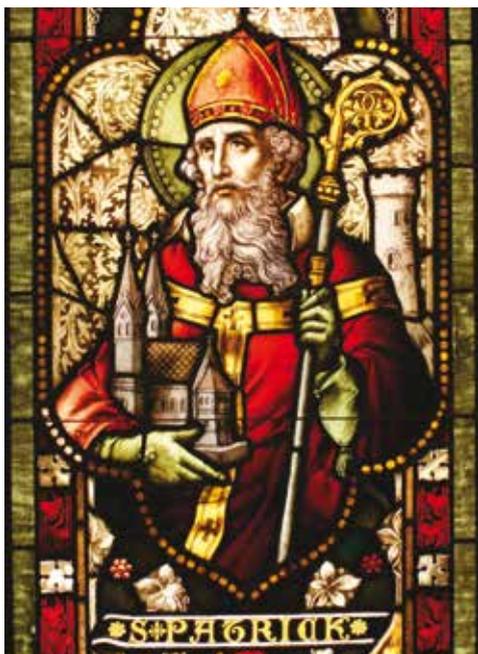
## New diagnostics in the melanoma arena

**Melanoma is the most aggressive form of skin cancer and currently there are few effective therapies for later stages of the disease. UCD will lead a new four-year, €1.7M European Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) research project, SYS-MEL, focused on bringing novel melanoma diagnostics towards the clinic.**

The researchers involved are from UCD, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the Cancer Research UK Beatson Institute in Glasgow and KU Leuven in Belgium, as well as two clinical companies OncoMark Ltd. (Dublin) and Pathology Diagnostics Ltd. (Cambridge, UK).

A core component of SYS-MEL will be systems biology, enabling scientists to model what is happening in patients and within tumours, in order to more accurately predict how cancers will respond to therapies.

The lead coordinator of the programme, Professor William Gallagher, UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research Fellow and Associate Professor of Cancer Biology in UCD said, "We are delighted to lead this European consortium of outstanding cancer research scientists and clinicians, and we are excited at the opportunity to translate our findings into clinical assays that will benefit melanoma patients worldwide".



In one of the historyhub.ie podcast series Dr Elva Johnston tries to separate the historical man Patrick from the mythical legend of Ireland's patron saint. This image, from the site, is of a Saint Patrick stained glass window from Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland, California, USA. By Sicarr (Flickr) [CC-BY-2.0], via Wikimedia Commons.

# History in your hand

**The historyhub website from the School of History and Archives is bringing the very best of professional historic research and archive material to everyone with an interest, wherever they are.**

Since Paul Rouse and his team decided to share some of the best of UCD's historical research and analysis through the website historyhub.ie, the site has generated over 80,000 podcast downloads and many more tens of thousands of visits. A quarter of users have accessed the material using mobile devices, since the site was started on a trial basis a year ago with funding from the School of History and Archives and support from the College of Arts and Celtic Studies.

Dr Rouse, Lecturer, School of History and Archives, knew there was a great deal of public interest in Irish history but he has been taken aback by the level of traffic to the site, which features podcasts from leading historians, archive material, and policy papers on a range of contemporary issues. "Our ambition is to make up-to-date academic research accessible to everyone who loves history," says Dr Rouse, who developed the site with Dr Sarah Campbell, Dr Ciara Meehan and co-editor Mike Liffey.

"Our podcasts feature historians talking about everything from medieval to modern history. Our 'From the Archives' section showcases original historical documents held in the Archive at UCD. We also have a 'History and Policy' section where historians contribute to current policy debates."

In the 'Podcasts' section of historyhub, people will find interviews, conference presentations and research papers on everything from the Easter Rising to the Cult of Stalin. All episodes are posted to the site but users can subscribe to the series on iTunes and via RSS feed, a function which has attracted a lot of international interest, says Rouse.

"HistoryHub.ie podcasts have been downloaded thousands of times by users all across the world. One of the most popular has

been a module on the Irish revolution by renowned Irish historian Professor Michael Laffan. Professor Laffan taught in the School of History and Archives from the late 1970s until his retirement in 2010. Every history student that came through UCD would have attended this lecture series and many who didn't would love the opportunity to hear it. Now they can, and the lectures have been downloaded over 25,000 times. The series was, for a time, the most popular podcast in Ireland on iTunes. Secondary school teachers, in particular, are taking advantage of the opportunity to share this resource with their students."

The second section of the site features history and policy papers, offering historians the opportunity to contribute to current policy debates from a historical context.

"The policy papers demonstrate how studying the past helps us understand the present and includes features on the financial crisis, the Irish health system and the Occupy movement," says Rouse.

There are eight working papers available to read in 'History and Policy' at the moment, which can be read on the site or downloaded as PDFs.

Titles include: "Does the Occupy Movement have a future? Lessons from History" by Dr Sarah Campbell; "The curse of the Irish Hospitals' Sweepstake: A hospital system, not a health system" by Professor Mary E. Daly; "Writing the History of the Financial Crisis: Lessons from the South Sea Bubble" by Dr Patrick Walsh and "The Impact of Pay-TV on Sport" by Dr Paul Rouse.

"We invite contributions from historians working on all periods and subjects, based in Ireland or abroad," says Rouse. "Papers should be rooted in history and relevant to current policy matters. We welcome constructive policy ideas and papers that focus on lessons from history."

"There's a wide potential audience for these papers, which includes academics and students from different disciplines across various universities, media, policymakers, educators at all levels and people who are looking for interesting stories, cutting-edge research and lively debates."

"Our 'From the Archives' section provides an opportunity to examine historical documents," says Rouse. "Our first post (Áras an Uachtaráin

**Historyhub in numbers...**

**Over 80,000** podcasts  
downloaded from the site

**Top 5 countries for visits:**  
Ireland, UK, USA, Australia and Italy

**Most popular download: The Irish Revolution,**  
**with 26,848 downloads**

**23% of visits** to the site are from  
mobile and tablet devices

telephone log, 27 January 1982) reveals the sequence of events on the night when Charles Haughey, leader of the Fianna Fail Party, repeatedly phoned President Hillery at Áras an Uachtaráin. The loss of a budget vote by the Fine Gael-Labour coalition meant the dissolution of the current government and Haughey saw an opportunity to form a new government without a general election. A thousand people have logged on to view that log already, and we are only officially launching the site this month."

Other posts include a lecture by Professor Mary Daly, School of History and Archives on some of the fascinating 1916 material digitised as part of the Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive (now part of the UCD Digital Library). There is also a photograph of Eamon De Valera in Indian headdress, a film on the state of science education in 19th century Ireland and correspondence between Mabel Fitzgerald and George Bernard Shaw.

Expect historyhub to grow. The site is officially launched this month and co-editor Mike Liffey has been busy on social media networks spreading the word. As more contributions arrive from professional historians from around the world, and more archive and podcast material is added to the site, historyhub is shaping up to be an unparalleled resource for lovers of history at all levels.

Dr Paul Rouse was in conversation with journalist Louise Holden (MEd 2008)

## Shedding new Light on resilience in our networked society

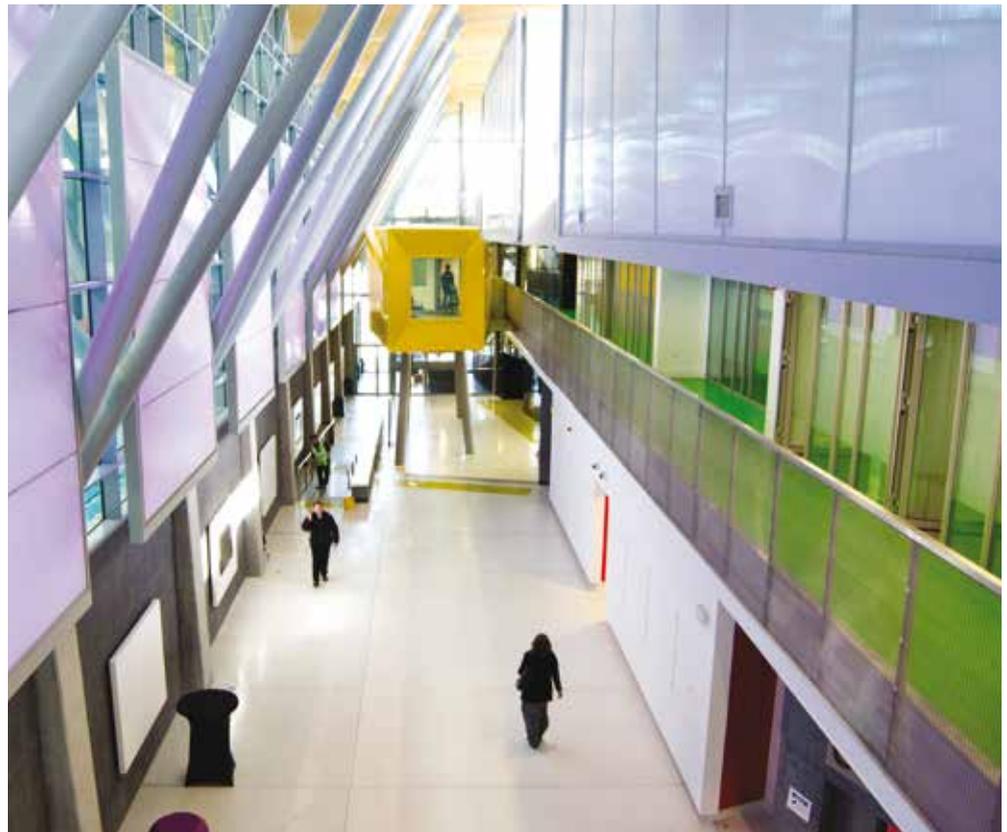
A recent international congress held in UCD shone light on “what resilience means, in the context of cities and regions, to different constituencies, as well as for the tensions it has exposed between different theoretical frameworks”, according to Professor Kieran Donaghy, Department Chair of City & Regional Planning, Cornell University, in his reflection on the 5th Joint Congress of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) and the North American Association of the Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP). The Congress, hosted by the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy, was held in UCD from July 15th to 19th.

Jan O’Sullivan TD, Minister of State, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government with special responsibility for Housing and Planning and UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady, welcomed the participants along with AESOP President, Professor Gert De Roo, University of Groningen and ACSP President, Professor Charles Connerly, University of Iowa.

The Congress attracted close to 1200 participants from over 50 countries and all continents. Its theme *Planning for Resilient Cities and Regions* was explored through 16 substantive tracks, 200 sessions and panels and close to 1000 presentations.

The first keynote speaker, Thomas Elmqvist, Stockholm Resilience Center, discussed how the ecological and economic footprints of cities and regions are global and each city and region is susceptible to behavior of others half a world away. In her keynote speech, Susan Fanstein, Senior Research Fellow, Harvard University, focused on the ethical dimension of community resilience, especially as it concerns the most vulnerable community members. Professor Peter Clinch, UCD Vice President for Innovation, in the final keynote address, provided a comprehensive examination of the question of whether or not the economies of nations in an economic and monetary union, which had periphery status upon joining the union, could ever anticipate true and enduring convergence in performance with the economies of core nations.

The congress included 19 mobile workshops organised by the local committee and led by local volunteers. Arranged around the city and the region of Dublin, these workshops effectively demonstrated the many planning achievements but also some mistakes made in the Irish context and were an excellent source of learning and experience of the local environment and issues



The radio pod, one of the features of the UCD Student Centre, which was recently announced as winner of the Public Choice Award in the RIAI Irish Architecture Awards

## UCD Student Centre voted Ireland’s favourite new building

**The UCD Student Centre was recently announced as winner of the Public Choice Award in the 2013 Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) Irish Architecture Awards. The building, designed by Fitzgerald Kavanagh & Partners, received 18% of the 12,500 votes cast for the 33 short listed projects.**

The (RIAI) described the centre as “an exciting building which embraces many of the guiding principles of universal design”.

According to the RIAI, the use of colour, choice of materials and the simplicity of its layout contribute greatly to its ease of use. The result is

a dynamic building devoted to providing sports and recreational facilities to the students and staff of UCD as well as to members of the public, regardless of age, size, ability or disability.

Now in its sixth year, the Public Choice Award gives the public the opportunity to have their say by voting for their favourite shortlisted project, which has the honour of being named Ireland’s favourite new building.

The award recognises the vision of the students and staff of UCD, and the architectural design skills of Fitzgerald Kavanagh & Partners. It was presented by the Minister for Education and Skills, Mr Ruairí Quinn TD at a formal ceremony in Wood Quay.

## Gradaim Bhord na Gaeilge 2013/ Bord na Gaeilge Awards

Cabhraíonn Bord na Gaeilge leo siúd gur mhian leo an teanga a úsáid sa saol laethúil agus tá réimse leathan tionscnaimh forbartha aige chuige sin. Bíonn mic léinn scoláireachta ‘Teach na Gaeilge’ gníomhach ag eagrú imeachtaí, agus tá modúl acadúil faoi leith forbartha dóibh chuige sin. Bíonn baill foirne na hollscoile ag trail ar ranganna teanga agus tá an-éileamh ó mhic léinn idirnáisiúnta do na cúrsaí teagaisc agus do na himeachtaí cultúrtha a chuireann sé ar fáil dóibh. Bhí mic léinn UCD lánpháirteach i *mBliain na Gaeilge 2013*; ar na himeachtaí ba mhó bhí Comórtas Sacair Idirdháimh, Comórtas Liathróid Láimhe UCD, Seó Faisin lán Gaeilge, Tráth na gCeist Idirollscoile, Díospóireacht Idirscoile agus morán eile. Ghlacadar páirt i gcomórtas *Bréag Chúirt Uí Dhálaigh Gael Linn* agus bhuaigh

said Comórtas Díospóireachta Gael Linn ag An tOireachtas don dara bhliain as a céile.

The 2013 Bord na Gaeilge UCD Awards Ceremony was held in association with the UCD Vice-President for Students and attended by students, parents, alumni and friends. Awards were presented for outstanding contribution to the language, including: Alumni Award: Liam Carson, Director of *Féile Imram*; Teach na Gaeilge Student Ambassador: Peadar Ó Lamhna; Bord na Gaeilge Staff Award: Imelda Delap (UCD President’s Office); Irish Language Video Award: Eoin Mac Aodh Bhúí; Photography Award: Ryan Kane; Student Club/ Society Award: UCD Handball Club; Cumann Gaelach Gold Medal: Student Aisling Sheerin.

# Teaching Beyond the Test



Professor Bairbre Redmond

**University rankings grab headlines. Although these rankings are a useful indicator of how Ireland's third-level sector is performing, many of the ranking systems – including the Shanghai rankings and the QS World University Rankings – are, by and large, heavily research oriented. The rankings have acknowledged shortcomings when it comes to measuring the quality of teaching.**

**But, says Professor Bairbre Redmond, UCD Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Deputy Registrar for Teaching & Learning, an excellent university must be as innovative in its approach to teaching and learning as it is to research. Major research projects are often accompanied by an entourage of publicity, but what of the lecturers who quietly inspire their students to go on to think big, bold, and brave and to become the next generation of leaders in research, enterprise and culture?**

“Over the past decade, a big change in teaching and learning has been the paradigm shift from teaching to learning, a focus away from the content of what was being delivered towards how students react to that content and how they can demonstrate their learning gains,” says Redmond.

Among Irish universities, UCD has led the way. In 2007, Professor Redmond and UCD's Director of Academic Development, Elizabeth Noonan, introduced the Fellowships in Teaching and Academic Development in 2007, which are aimed at encouraging lecturers to focus on evidence-based innovation in teaching. The latest group of fellows - Dr Suzanne Guerin, School of Psychology, Mr Jonathan McNulty, School of Medicine, and Dr Michael Staunton, School of History and Archives – are focusing on research into early and lasting student engagement and improved transition and learning for first year students. “The Fellowships are about supporting staff to focus on teaching initiatives, but also ensuring a balance so that their research output does not suffer,” Redmond explains.

The success of the UCD Fellowships was singled out in the recent Report to the European Commission on Improving the quality of teaching and learning in Europe's higher education institutions, by the High Level Group on the Modernisation of Higher Education, chaired by former President of Ireland Mary McAleese, Professor Redmond was the only Irish academic asked to address the Group, where she spoke on UCD's all-university approaches to quality teaching and learning,

The Report to the European Commission stressed that innovations such as the Fellowships were by themselves, however, not enough to ensure high quality teaching and research at third level. UCD's Teaching & Learning Unit are taking on two educational technologists who will work with staff across the university, helping them to use online resources in a way that supports them in newer approaches to their teaching.

“We try and support academic staff in regularly reviewing and updating their modules,” says Redmond. “How students are assessed is critical, it's an old adage, but students do tend to ‘work to the exam’. They are strategic in how they approach their study and, in a way, they should be – that is a good graduate skill in itself. Our challenge is to have well-designed modules which get them to really engage widely with the material that they need to study. Getting students to complete an assessment early on in the module and giving them feedback on how they are doing is much more likely to get them learning in a deeper, more effective way, rather than just cramming for an end of semester exam,” Redmond explains.

Teaching and Learning is driving forward other changes. A Graduate Certificate or Diploma in University Teaching & Learning was awarded to 60 academic staff in the past two years. The Graduate Teaching Assistant's Scheme provides basic training annually to tutors. Meanwhile, Redmond, as Deputy Chair of the new National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, is exploring how students transition from second to third-level at a national level.

UCD was the first university in Ireland to be fully modularised and semesterised and to introduce elective module options, the first to bring in all-university anonymous student feedback, to take institutional measurements on how well students engage with their work and the first to have a teaching fellowship programme. “We've made huge strides in teaching and learning, largely based on robust institutional data and research,” says Redmond. “I'm constantly bowled over by the quality of teaching in the university, the well-designed curricula and the enthusiasm of our staff to go that extra mile for their students to make their time in UCD pivotal in their personal and professional development.”

*Professor Bairbre Redmond was in conversation with Peter McGuire (BA 2002, MLitt 2007) is a journalist with The Irish Times.*

## Teaching and Learning to take centre stage at U21 Conference

UCD is part of Universitas 21, the leading global network of research universities. In October, the University will host the annual conference, Teaching and Learning in the Digital Age: Opportunities and Challenges for U21 which will particularly focus on the tension between research and teaching, and what academics can learn from one another. Working with Professor Redmond, Eve Brosseau, UCD International Relations Officer, will play a key role in the conference. “We are modelling good teaching in the way we run the conference itself,” As well as lecturers by keynote speakers, she explains, “We will also have a number of 10-minute TED-style talks. These will focus on using data and facts in the most concise way possible, acknowledging that the right ten minutes in a talk can be much more productive than a 50 minute lecture.”

## Professor Dermot Moran elected President of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP)

**At the recent 23rd World Congress of Philosophy in Athens, Greece, it was announced that Professor Dermot Moran, School of Philosophy, has been elected as the new President of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP).**

Established in 1948, FISP is the highest non-governmental world organisation for philosophy. FISP members are not individual philosophers, but philosophical societies and other similar philosophical institutions at national, regional and international levels.

Professor Moran is one of Ireland's most distinguished philosophers (metaphysics and logic). He first received international acclaim for his pioneering work on the ninth-century Irish philosopher John Scottus Eriugena.

A member of the Royal Irish Academy since 2003, Professor Dermot Moran was awarded the Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal in 2012 for his outstanding contribution to the Humanities.



An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD at the NexusUCD opening event with (centre) Dr Conor Hanley, Senior Vice-President, ResMed Ventures & Initiatives and Professor Peter Clinch, UCD Vice-President for Innovation

## The Next Step in UCD-Industry Engagement

**An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD has officially opened NexusUCD, a new 5,250 sq.m. industry partnership centre at UCD, as part of the ongoing evolution of the University's innovation ecosystem.**

NexusUCD offers high-quality modern office space, with flexible occupancy arrangements and associated services, to established innovation-led companies collaborating with UCD's world-class research base. By locating at

NexusUCD companies will benefit from close proximity to UCD's research capacity and the largest population of talented students in Ireland. The centre, which contains over 100 offices, is set to house up to 300 highly-skilled research and innovation jobs.

At the event, An Taoiseach also formally opened the offices and laboratories of ResMed Sensor Technologies Ltd at NexusUCD. ResMed Sensor Technologies, which plans to create up to 50 new jobs over the next 3 years, is ResMed Inc's global centre for research and product development in sensor technology.

Current NexusUCD clients are; ARCH (Applied Research for Connected Health); CeADAR (Centre for Applied Data Analytics Research); Data Analytics Institute; EnvEcon; IRIS; Pinergy; Renetech and ResMed Sensor Technologies.

## Hat-trick for UCD Medievalists

**The Irish Conference of Medievalists was held at UCD for the second consecutive year in July, hosted again by the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics, under the direction of Patricia Kelly, Professor of Early Irish.**

The programme featured some 40 papers by specialists from the English-speaking world and also from Western Europe, Finland and Russia. The geographical reach of delegates and speakers was matched by the breadth of disciplines covered, which embraced history, literature, Hiberno-Latin, Europe, Anglo-Saxon, Early Irish, archaeology, linguistics, biblical exegesis, lexicology and lexicography. The time-span ranged from Early Christian Ireland and Britain, through the 13th century crusades, Yorkist politics, to 16th century brewing practices. UCD was well represented by contributions from staff, students and recent graduates of the School of Archaeology and School of History and Archives, as well as the host School.

Among the highlights were the plenary lectures which drew each day of sessional papers to a close, and which reflected UCD medievalists' strong network of national connections. UCD graduate Dr Nora Bermingham gave her first public presentation on the wealth of findings from the on-going excavations of the remarkable crannóg ('lake-dwelling') in Drumclay, Co. Fermanagh. Drawing on decades of groundbreaking personal research, Dr Anthony Harvey of the Royal Irish Academy surveyed the creative enrichment of the vocabulary of medieval Latin by the Irish learned classes. Professor Máire Herbert, external examiner for Early Irish in UCD, returned to a topic on which she is acknowledged as the foremost authority, the long-standing ties between Ireland and Scotland, showing how traditions of the early Gaelic kings of Scotland were encoded and manipulated in later Irish sagas.

Proceedings were enhanced by an exhibition of the UCD-Franciscan manuscripts in UCD Archives. The AGM of the Irish Conference of Medievalists showed its appreciation by suggesting that the conference return to UCD for a further year. The Director of ICM 2014 will be Dr Elva Johnston, School of History and Archives.

Anyone who studied the romantic poets may remember

William



Dr Barbara Dooley

Wordsworth's assertion that "to be young was very heaven." This may be true for some, but a new study produced by the UCD School of Psychology and Headstrong, the National Centre for Youth Mental Health, suggests it is far from the lived experience of many young people in Ireland today.

# My world survey: a measure of Youth Mental Health

**The recently completed *My World* study into youth mental health is highly significant because of its scale, age profile and the fact that it considered protective factors as well as risk. Using internationally accepted measurement criteria across of range of indicators, it surveyed the mental health experience of over 14,000 young people in the 12-25 year age group in the 26 counties.**

The study shows that far from being carefree, young people are often concerned about their mental health and that at any given point in time, one in five experienced symptoms of distress ranging from moderate to very severe levels.

"By undertaking a study of this size we have captured the current mental health profile of a large number of young people and it strongly reaffirms the importance of early intervention. Almost 75% of all serious mental health difficulties first emerge between the ages of 15 and 25," says Dr Barbara Dooley, Senior Lecturer, School of Psychology, who co-authored the study with postdoctoral researcher Dr Amanda Fitzgerald.

"From a policy point of view the findings can be used by educationalists and by organisations such as Headstrong to direct their training and services. Indeed, this research is a key pillar in Headstrong's objective to change how Ireland thinks about the mental health of young people.

"Good mental health in adolescence is a requirement for optimal psychological development, yet this is a period when young people can be very vulnerable. How they cope is linked to critical protective factors such as resilience, self-esteem, optimism and having the supportive presence of 'one good adult' in their lives. Around 70% of health problems and most mortality among the young arise from mental health difficulties, which may be caused by risk factors such as stress, bullying, depression, anxiety, alcohol and drug use," Dooley says.

The study shows that while the majority of young people are functioning well across a range of mental health indicators, alcohol abuse, financial pressures and sexual orientation are some of the key factors causing distress.



"In relation to alcohol behavior specifically 90% of junior cycle students were in the low risk range while for senior cycle students (15-18 years) it was 65%," Dooley says. "However 26% were identified as having a problem with their drinking, 5% were considered 'hazardous' and 4% potentially alcohol dependent.

"Post second level, 39% fall into the problem category with 10% considered hazardous and dependent respectively. Males were less likely to be in the low risk category for drinking behaviour than females. This study allowed us to plot the twin tracks of alcohol use and corresponding mental health. In short, as the consumption of alcohol increases, so do mental health difficulties."

The study also showed a clear linear relationship between abnormal drinking behaviour and school year. Most first-years (96%) fell into the low risk drinking category, but this figure decreased with each school year. Only 52% of sixth-years fell into the low risk drinking category and only 8% of sixth years did not drink at all.

Dooley says that young people tend to associate excess alcohol with physical symptoms

such as vomiting. They are less conscious of the connection to mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. Young adults within the normal drinking range were more likely to be within the normal range for depression whereas those classified as possibly alcohol-dependent tended to report elevated levels of depression. The study also shows that an increase in alcohol consumption is paralleled by a decrease in protective behaviours, thereby adding risk to risk.

However Dooley is keen to point out that one of the best ways for young people to protect their mental health is by talking. According to the research females are more likely to talk than males and will turn to friends for support more than to family. Males are the opposite. They talk less overall and are more likely to confide in a family member than to a peer.

"A key finding of the research was the importance of 'one good adult' in a young person's life," Dooley says. "Perceived support from a special adult was significantly related to ability to cope with symptoms of psychological distress with the effect strongest for depression. Young people who do not feel connected were more vulnerable in experiencing mental health difficulties. This suggests that every young person needs at least one supportive adult in their lives – someone in their family or outside and this person can change over time."

## My World Survey - a national study of youth mental health in Ireland

Emerging themes:

- 1: The importance of at least One Good Adult in every young person's life
- 2: Problem drinking and its relationship to mental health
- 3: Financial stress on young adults
- 4: Suicidal behavior
- 5: Young people's awareness of their distress

*Dr Barbara Dooley was in conversation with Olive Keogh (MA 1984), a contributor with The Irish Times*

## Hidden Treasure: Pádraig Puirseál Collection

**Pádraig Puirseál (1914-79) was a novelist and sports journalist writing for the *Kilkenny People*, *Gaelic Weekly* and the *Irish Press*, where he was the GAA correspondent from 1970 until his death in 1979. He attended UCD from 1933-7, where he played hurling and football and wrote for a number of University publications. He founded the *Gaelic Sportsman* which later became the *Gaelic Weekly* in 1950.**

The Pádraig Puirseál Collection is comprised of sporting books and pamphlets which he formerly owned, and is primarily comprised of GAA related publications dating from the 1920s to the 1970s. It includes books on the GAA and Irish athletics, numerous GAA county yearbooks from the 1960s and 1970s, GAA club and parish histories, souvenir programmes dating from the 1940s which celebrate special games, club anniversaries or the opening of grounds. The collection reflects his interest not only in the GAA but all sports. It includes books on a wide range of other sports including soccer, tennis, golf, cricket, greyhound racing and coursing, from both an Irish and international context. UCD Library is working with Dr Paul Rouse, UCD School of History, to further promote this collection, to identify its future research uses and to select items for possible digitization. The Pádraig Puirseál Sports Collection forms part of Store Special Collections and may be viewed by application to the James Joyce Library.



Two pieces from the Pádraig Puirseál Collection, in Special Collections in the James Joyce Library; Hurling: Ireland's national game by "Carbery" and Hours of glory: recalling great moments in the story of the GAA by Arthur McGahon



Pictured on the occasion of the RIA awards were: Cormac Taylor, Associate Professor, School of Medicine and Medical Science; Professor Luke Drury, President, Royal Irish Academy; Professor Pat Guiry, Professor of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Head of the School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology; and Mark Crowe, Associate Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine

## Four UCD academics elected to Royal Irish Academy

**In recognition of their outstanding achievements in science and the humanities, four UCD academics have been elected to the ranks of the Royal Irish Academy. This is the highest academic honour in Ireland and membership is awarded to those who have achieved distinction in education and research.**

Established in 1785, the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) is Ireland's premier learned body and vigorously promotes excellence in scholarship, recognises achievements in learning, direct research programmes and undertakes its own research projects, particularly in areas relating to Ireland and its heritage. The RIA currently has 474 Members. Those elected to membership are entitled to use the designation 'MRIA' after their name. The awardees from UCD were:

Professor Pat Guiry, Professor of Synthetic Organic Chemistry and Head of the School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. He leads a group of researchers who develop new catalysts and synthetic methodologies to prepare biologically interesting organic compounds, particularly those with anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties. He is internationally renowned for his expertise in asymmetric catalysis, stereoselective synthesis and medicinal chemistry.

Cormac Taylor, Associate Professor at the School of Medicine and Medical Science. He leads a research group at the UCD Conway Institute, and his research into the cellular response to hypoxia has revealed novel mechanisms whereby protective endogenous processes can be exploited for therapeutic gain in the context of prevalent inflammatory disorders.

Mark Crowe, Associate Professor at the School of Veterinary Medicine, leads an active group of researchers in the area of cattle fertility. He is internationally recognised as a leading authority on regulation of the oestrous cycle, post-partum resumption of ovulation and breeding management of dairy and beef cattle. He is currently president of the European Society for Domestic Animal Reproduction.

David Farrell, Professor of Politics at the School of Politics and International Relations. His studies of political institutions and their impact on the nature and conduct of representative politics are widely cited internationally, in particular his book *Electoral Systems*, which is in its second edition and has been translated into Dutch and Korean. He was a winner of the 2012 GESIS Klingemann Prize for the Comparative Studies of Electoral Systems (CSES) Scholarship, is a founding editor of the journal *Party Politics*, and has championed informed public debate on political reform through his involvement with 'We the Citizens' and the Constitutional Convention. He was elected the President of the Political Studies Association of Ireland in 2012 and as Speaker of the Council of the European Consortium for Political Research in 2013.

## ■ Animating the learning of Neuroanatomy

**A suite of neuroanatomy e-learning tools, designed and produced by UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, has registered more than 16,000 views since its launch last semester. The videos have been viewed in 110 countries around the world and have played for more 19,400 cumulative minutes.**

Comprising nine interactive animations, the AXON (Animated Exploration of Neuroanatomy) project was designed as an experimental new approach to teaching in neuroanatomy; a topic that is widely recognised as one of the most difficult and complex aspects of undergraduate medical curricula.

Studies have shown that more effective and innovative teaching methods may be necessary to deliver better educational outcomes in neuroanatomy. Dr Tom Flanagan, Anatomy Lecturer, School of Medicine and Medical Science and academic lead on the AXON project, explains “Through these interactive tools,

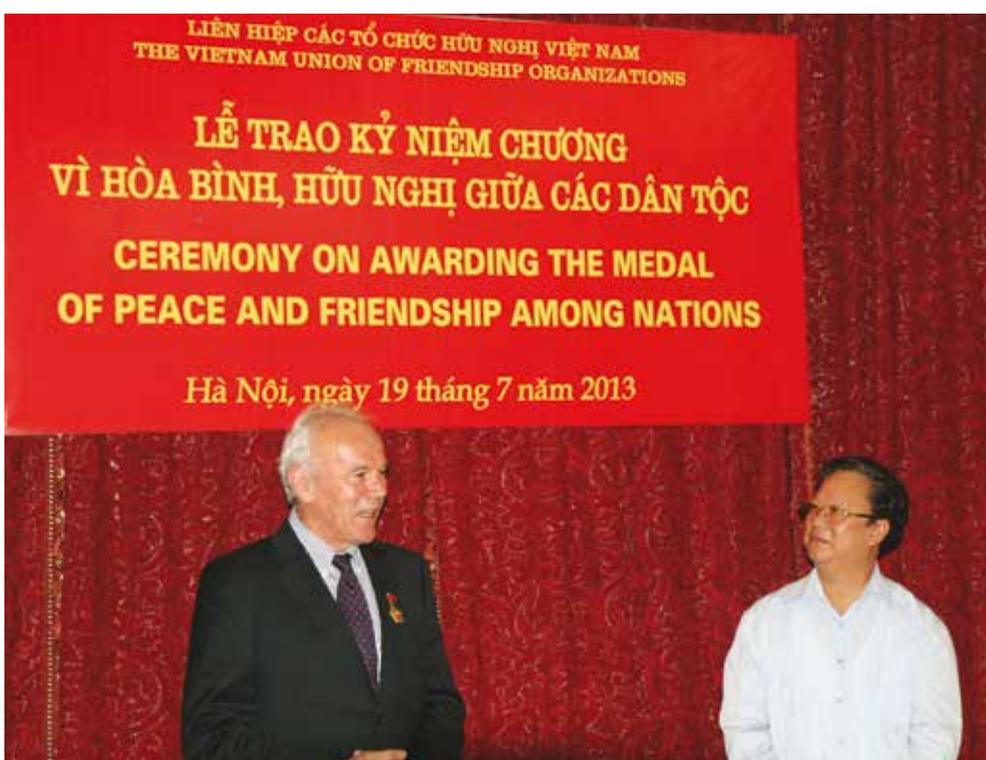
we aimed to greatly improve functional understanding of neuroanatomical concepts.”

Adam Tattersall, Educational Projects Manager and AXON design lead, added: “We aimed to develop interactive animations to demonstrate complex sensory pathways in four-dimensions, i.e. by ‘animating’ the pathways of impulses initiated at the skin and other external structures in response to specific stimuli (e.g. touch, pain, temperature) to the regions of the brain where they are perceived at a conscious level.”

The e-learning approach allowed students to study the material under the supervision of

academic staff and demonstrators, while access to the practical content was also made available outside of class time. The students were then assessed on the material through a Blackboard image-based MCQ assessment. Following the pilot curricular integration, the project team decided to publish the series of nine animations as an open-source educational resource on the School's YouTube channel.

The AXON project was funded by a Learning Innovation Project grant from the Higher Education Authority (National Digital Learning Resources).



*President of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisations Vu Xuan Hong (right), with Dr William Hall, UCD National Virus Reference Laboratory and a Director of The Atlantic Philanthropies, who was awarded an insignia 'For Peace and Friendship among Nations' at a recent ceremony in Hanoi*

## ■ Dr William Hall receives Vietnamese Government Medal

**Many organisations that look to the future of their professions have reached a similar conclusion: today and in the future, practitioners need to collaborate, learn from each other, and train the next generation to expand on their work.**

This conclusion is certainly true in the field of virology, and Dr William Hall who founded the Ireland Vietnam Blood Borne Virus Initiative (IVVI), has been inspiring collaboration since this programme started in 2007.

The IVVI was developed in response to the significant problems arising from blood borne virus infections in Vietnam. The IVVI is a collaboration between the UCD National Virus Reference Laboratory (UCDNVRL) and the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) in Hanoi.

In recognition of his positive contributions to the Vietnamese health and education system as

well as the country's poverty reduction through the programme, which is financially supported by Irish Aid and The Atlantic Philanthropies, Dr Hall was recently awarded an insignia “For Peace and Friendship among Nations.”

Addressing the awards ceremony in Hanoi in July, President of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisations (VUFO) Vu Xuan Hong, praised the Atlantic Philanthropies' activities and Dr Hall's contributions in particular. The insignia was given to highlight his contributions to boosting cooperation across many fields between Vietnam and other countries, including Ireland, Hong said.

During the ceremony Dr Hall expressed his honour to receive the award, saying that he considers Vietnam as his second home. He pledged his greater efforts to contribute to the development of the Vietnamese health and education systems as well as the country's poverty reduction.

## ■ Spotlight on Energy at the Universitas 21 Graduate Research Conference

**Energy Systems, Energy Policy and Energy Solutions were the sub themes of the Energy-focused Universitas 21 (U21) Graduate Research Conference, hosted by UCD in June.**

The fourth U21 Graduate Research Conference saw 6 academics and 49 graduate research students attending from eighteen Universitas 21 universities. Delegates delivered 30 oral presentations and 19 posters based on the thematic areas. The visiting academics contributed to and chaired the review panels, which also included representatives from the Sustainable Energy Authority for Ireland, ARUP Consulting, the ESRI and the Irish Department of Communications, Marine and National Resources.

In a keynote address Joe Costelloe TD, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, highlighted the Irish Government's agenda for underpinning innovation in the energy domain; while keynote speakers Professor Peter Lund, Aalto University, Professor Stuart Haszeldine, Edinburgh University and Mr Senan McGrath, ESB eCars, addressed elements of each of the three energy-related thematic areas.

Students took part in a technical site visit to EirGrid, where they viewed the National Control Centre (NCC) and SEMO (Single Electricity Market Operator for Ireland) and heard about Ireland's plans to meet 2020 targets of 40% renewable energy. With careers in mind as well as channelling the commercial potential of their research, two workshops, facilitated by the National Digital Research Centre and ARUP Consulting, were hosted at the conference for the delegates.



At the event in Marsh's Library to launch the 'Books of Dublin' iPad App were Dr Marc Caball, School of History and Archives, Jimmy Deenihan, TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Professor Orla Feely, School of Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering and Chair, Irish Research Council, and Anne Brady, MD Vermillion Design

## ■ New audiences for UCD humanities: Books of Dublin App

Dublin is a city known internationally for its distinguished literary heritage and its historic libraries. An exciting new app featuring UCD scholars now enables new audiences to learn more of Dublin's book heritage. The Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan, TD, recently launched a unique electronic collaboration between UCD and Marsh's Library. Funded through an Irish Research Council New Foundations Award to Dr Marc Caball, UCD School of History & Archives and UCD Humanities Institute, the *Books of Dublin* App showcases UCD expertise in the humanities to present a selection of manuscript and print treasures from Marsh's Library. Established in 1701 by Archbishop Narcissus Marsh, this historic Dublin library contains a superb collection of political, cultural and religious material. Housed in one of the few eighteenth-century Dublin buildings still used for its original purpose, Marsh's Library serves as an important research, educational and cultural resource in inner-city Dublin. The app also features a selection of material from the Edward Worth Library (1731). The

development of a *Books of Dublin* App makes a practical contribution to the city's promotion as a European cultural destination. Professor Harry White and Dr Frank Lawrence (UCD School of Music); Professor Andrew Carpenter, Dr Jane Grogan, and Professor Alan Fletcher (UCD School of English, Drama & Film); Dr Derval Conroy (UCD School of Languages & Literatures); and Dr Marc Caball are filmed on the app discussing a range of fascinating manuscripts and books. Among the items featured are a medieval tract on exorcism, early modern women's writing in French, music in eighteenth-century Dublin, Dean Swift and Dublin, and medieval church music in Dublin. UCD medical graduate and expert on eighteenth-century Irish bindings, Dr Philip Maddock discusses the craft of book binding in Dublin while Dr Elizabethanne Boran focuses on scientific and classical works in the Worth Library. UCD history graduate and Keeper of Marsh's Library, Dr Jason McElligott, discusses the Library and the 1916 Rising. Produced by Vermillion Design, *Books of Dublin* is available free in the iTunes app store.

## ■ UCD hosts International Conference on Mental Imagery

The role of imagery training in hastening motor recovery was one of the topics of focus at the scientific meeting of the international *Research on Imagery and Observation (RIO)* group, hosted by UCD in May. The conference, organised by Professor Aidan Moran, School of Psychology and Dr James Matthews, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science, attracted 60 scholars from the fields of Psychology, Neuroscience and Sport Science, who investigate theoretical and applied aspects of research on mental/motor imagery and action observation processes in sporting and neurorehabilitation settings. Over half of these scholars were international visitors universities and research insitiutes in the UK, France, Belgium, Germany, Canada and the USA. During the conference, participants took part in two days of oral and poster presentations and attended keynote lectures by two world-renowned experts in the field of mental imagery research; Professor Aymeric Guillot, Universite Claude Bernard, Lyon and Professor Craig Hall, Western University, Ontario.

Professor Guillot began his lecture by reviewing empirical evidence on the benefits of motor imagery in facilitating the recovery of motor functions in people who had suffered neurological impairments. He reported various studies which demonstrate that systematic imagery training can promote neuroplasticity in the brain, thereby hastening subsequent motor recovery.

Professor Hall reported on the results of a series of studies by his research team on mental imagery interventions undertaken in physical activity contexts (e.g. exercise and active play). Among these results were that imagery training with female exercise novices positively influences variables such as "self-efficacy" (confidence). Other studies by Professor Hall showed that elementary school-children enjoy engaging in imagery and that imagery interventions can be easily incorporated into the elementary school curriculum. The next RIO conference will be held in the University of Louvain in 2014.

## ■ Folklore Award for UCD Professor

**Professor Patricia Lysaght, School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics, became the twenty-second person in seventy three years to receive**

**the Coote-Lake Medal from the Folklore Society (FLS) at its recent AGM. The award, founded in 1940, is given from time to time in recognition of outstanding research and scholarship in the field of folklore.**

The Coote-Lake Medal is named in memory of Harold Coote-Lake (1878-1939) who was active in running the Folklore Society in the 1920s and 30s. He was Treasurer in 1929-30 and Secretary in 1931-9.

The Folklore Society is a learned society, based in London, devoted to the study of traditional culture in all its forms. One of the world's earliest organisations established for the study of folklore, it has continuously published scholarly studies of folklore in both books and serials since 1878. Its journal *Folklore* is published in 3 issues a year by Taylor and Francis and was edited by Professor Lysaght from 2004 to 2012.

# Screens and Screening: accessible HIV Detection

**In Ireland, the proportion of people living with an undiagnosed Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection is estimated to be as high as 30% of people living with HIV. Undiagnosed HIV increases the odds of onward transmission while decreasing the chances of detecting and treating HIV in its early stages. An initiative between University College Dublin, the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and the Jacobi Medical Centre in the Bronx, New York aims to change this by making HIV screening more accessible to the general public.**

The Mater-Bronx Rapid HIV Testing (M-BRiHT) project provides HIV screening that is free to all and delivers results within twenty minutes. Since the launch of M-BRiHT in November 2012, participants have been recruited from patients entering the Emergency Department of the Mater hospital. To date the project has been very successful: of the 5,500 people who have participated in pre-test counseling, almost 80% have opted to go on and take the HIV test.

"This in itself is very promising; it indicates high acceptability for HIV screening amongst the general public," says Dr Patrick Mallon, M-BRiHT project director and Infectious Diseases Consultant at the Mater who is also Associate Dean for Research, UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science.

One of the disincentives when screening for HIV is that it has, in the past, involved taking a blood sample and as Dr Mallon puts it, "people do not generally like needles or giving blood."

The Mater Bronx Rapid HIV test is bloodless; no needle is involved. The participant runs a swab across the inside of their mouth and within twenty minutes they will know their HIV status. The oral swab tests for both HIV-1 and HIV-2 by checking for the presence of HIV antibodies in the buccal mucosa from the cheeks or gums.

Should the test result be positive, a blood test is immediately taken from the patient to be sent directly to the UCD National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) where diagnostics are carried out to confirm the presence of HIV. Follow-up treatment takes place within the Mater, explains Dr Mallon, so the patient does not need to be referred to another clinic: "the Virus Ref Lab is very supportive and once results are confirmed the patient is linked to care within the same clinical setting."

This is not the only collaboration between UCD and the Mater hospital on the M-BRiHT project: the university's audiovisual department created the interactive videos that are being used as part of the process.

"The [Mater] hospital is very much engaged with the university and the video is one of the most innovative parts of the M-BRiHT Project. UCD's audio-visual department created a high quality bespoke interactive video that is relevant to an Irish audience," says Dr Mallon.

The video is an interactive counselling session that explains HIV and the HIV screening process. It can be watched on a tablet PC with earphones while the participant is in the Emergency Department waiting room.

"One of the barriers to the screening process is that doctors don't have time and counselling

Bronx, New York, where she is Adult Urgent Care Director. "This was the first centre to innovate and there are demographic similarities - and HIV risk - between the Bronx and the population attending the Mater. We knew that we had to shoot our own videos with Irish actors so we took it one step further and used four different actors for personalisation."

Results from this randomised study are not the only data being gathered. Dr Mallon says that in an era of big data, this project is gathering an unprecedented amount of information not just on HIV prevalence in Ireland but also on the sexual health and practices of the general population, for example on condom use and history of sexual partners.

Before this, most of the data gathered was from a demographic who had specifically visited a sexual health clinic, explains Dr Mallon. For the first time we are getting a fuller picture. At this stage in the M-BRiHT project figures indicate that the prevalence of HIV in Ireland is one in 500.

"The estimated rates are crude rates - even though they are derived from nearly 5,000 tests - but represent prevalence in patients attending the Mater," adds Dr Mallon.

"We do have data on education and employment status but haven't yet performed the analysis on the relationship between this and prevalence rates."

When the M-BRiHT project comes to an end in the Mater, Dr Mallon and his team hope to continue to provide free HIV screening not just there but also to roll this service out to the rest of the city and even beyond.

So far, there has been a high rate of participants, new diagnoses, resulting in reductions in onward transmissions, and the project hasn't even been running for a year. It is expected that by the end of the 18-month trial 10,000 people will have been screened for HIV.

"I would argue quite strongly that this kind of screening should translate into policy. We're gathering data and have had preliminary meetings with government representatives," says Dr Mallon.

"We have prevalence in the population. Everyone should know their HIV status."

*Dr Paddy Mallon was in conversation with Marie Boran (BSc 2002) a freelance science and technology writer*



*Dr Paddy Mallon, Consultant and Associate Dean for Research, UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science and Dr Ger O'Connor, Specialist Registrar in Emergency Medicine & PhD Research Fellow demonstrate the M-BRiHT on-screen counselling software being used at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital*

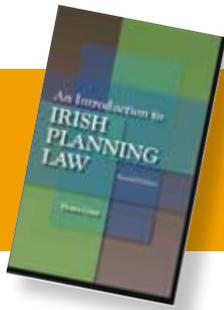
can be burdensome. Our trained investigators approach participants who can take part in the interactive counselling session in their own time while the test itself is carried out in private."

Dr Mallon and his team are using these videos to gather important data; it is a single blind, randomised study designed to test whether participant choice of video counsellor impacts upon their decision to take part in HIV screening.

"Four separate videos were shot with the option to choose from a female Irish doctor, female African doctor, male Irish doctor or male African doctor. Participants are randomly assigned a choice or the default setting, which is an Irish female doctor."

The idea of an interactive video counsellor originated 3-4 years ago with Professor Yvette Calderon at the Jacobi Medical Center in the

# Books



## An Introduction to Irish Planning Law

**Entering the 21st century, the various Planning and Development Acts from 2000 to 2010 presented a changing attitude to planning that included the introduction of the concept of sustainability, the attachment of conditions such as social and affordable housing in residential developments and a system of direct application to An Bord Pleanála for infrastructural proposals.**

*An Introduction to Irish Planning Law: 2nd Edition*, by Dr Berna Grist, senior lecturer, School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy, is an extensive update on her 1999 edition and provides an invaluable guide to the legislation and its implications.

As a barrister and planner, Grist has a comprehensive grasp on the issues surrounding Irish planning law, from planning permission and appeals and judicial review to strategic development zones and enforcement. A witness to the over-zoning of land for residential purposes, she remains objective throughout the book, published by the Institute of Public Administration, so that the reader, whether student, lay or professional, is presented with clear facts and legal precedent.

She sets an entire chapter on compensations under which speculators could make claims if they were refused planning permission, with resultant pressure on planning officials. Of course, in the current difficult property climate, no book on planning would be complete without reference to unfinished housing developments. Grist sets out the regulations, points out developer practices – which flourished in an environment of under-resourced implementation, and brings the reader up to date on the current situation.



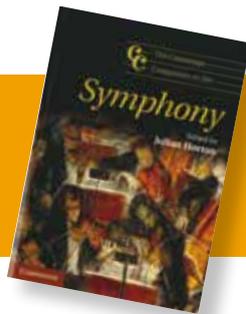
## The importance of self-care for trauma therapists

**The effects of conducting trauma therapy on professionals' well-being can be significant. For some, it can be a**

**rewarding and enriching experience, however other therapists can experience a negative impact on their psychological adjustment and quality of life. This may particularly be the case with sensitive trauma types, including working with survivors of child sexual abuse.**

*To Be a Trauma Therapist*, written by Dr Jonathan Egan, Lecturer in Clinical Psychology at NUI Galway and Professor Alan Carr, Head of the UCD School of Psychology, focuses on the implications of a research programme which investigated the effects on therapists of conducting psychotherapy with adult survivors of child abuse. Participants in the three studies within the research programme worked within the National Counselling Service, an organisation set up in 2000 by the Irish Government to support adult survivors of institutional abuse which occurred in Irish reformatories and industrial schools.

The book, published by Scholars' Press, details the results of this research. It found that for about a third of professionals, particularly those with maladaptive defence mechanisms, the process of conducting trauma therapy had a negative impact on their psychological adjustment and quality of life. The effects of conducting trauma therapy on professionals' well-being were investigated in terms of a multifactorial ecological model. The book serves to highlight the importance of supervision for professionals conducting psychotherapy with adult survivors of child abuse while providing guidance on other protective factors including self-care, training and greater awareness among related professionals.



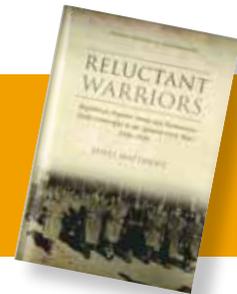
## Conducting the course of music history

**Few genres address audiences from the whole of humanity to an elite minority and serve ideological masters as disparate as socialist realism and radical individualism. The symphony, which has been crucial to the course of music history and vital to public musical experience, is such a genre.**

Despite its 'death' at the hands of Beethoven being pronounced by Richard Wagner in 1849, the symphony's position in the orchestral repertoire remains firm, while the genre survives in the age of musical mass media because composers are able to make the fractured sense of narrative it engenders an object of symphonic discourse.

Published by Cambridge University Press *The Cambridge Companion to the Symphony* offers an accessible guide to the historical, analytical and interpretative issues surrounding this major genre of Western music, discussing an extensive variety of works from the eighteenth century to the present day. Edited by Julian Horton, Associate Professor and Head of the UCD School of Music, it includes chapters on topics from the symphony's origins to the politics of its reception in the twentieth century.

The book complements a detailed review of the symphony's history with focused analytical essays from leading scholars including David Fanning, Professor of Music at the University of Manchester and Dr Daniel Grimley, lecturer in Music at Oxford University. The symphonic music of both mainstream composers, including Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven and lesser-known figures, including Carter, Berio and Maxwell Davies is examined. A comprehensive guide to the symphony from its origins in the early eighteenth century to the present day, it provides an invaluable resource for anyone interested in understanding the symphony historically, analytically or culturally.



## At war against their will

**Can the management of conscripts influence the ultimate outcome of a war? A new volume challenges traditional political interpretations of the Spanish Civil War, and sets it in a new and immediately human light. A comparative study of Nationalist Army and Republican Popular Army conscripts, it analyses the conflict from the perspective of those who were involved against their will.**

More than seventy years after the end of the Spanish Civil War, the conflict continues to generate academic and popular interest, not least because it stands as a particularly turbulent and violent era which led to General Francisco Franco's long dictatorship. The struggle can be examined through a wide range of analytical prisms, since its major themes and tensions are central to an understanding of Europe's early and mid-twentieth-century crises.

A recent development in the historiography of the period is an interest in 'ordinary' Spaniards' experience of war. *Reluctant Warriors: Republican Popular Army and Nationalist Army Conscripts in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939*, demonstrates that while militants on both sides joined the conflict voluntarily, millions of Spanish men coped with the military uprising as an unwanted intrusion into their lives.

Authored by Dr James Matthews, Marie Curie Intra-European Fellow at the UCD Centre for War Studies, the book examines the climate in which both sides implemented mass conscription within their zones. It analyses the process of conscription and looks at the methods employed to motivate and maintain the morale of drafted men, as well as the approaches to discipline in the two armies. Situations in which men avoided front line service, which accounted for constant manpower losses on both sides, are examined.

*Reluctant Warriors* reveals that the Nationalist Army managed its conscripted men better than the Republican Popular Army; a vital factor in determining the ultimate outcome of the war.

Published by Oxford University Press as part of the Oxford Historical Monographs series, the book should appeal to academics and students of military history and modern Spanish history as well as those with an interest in the human experiences of war.

*With thanks to the Campus Bookshop*

## Fulbright Awards for ten UCD scholars

Ten UCD scholars have been awarded Fulbright Awards to undertake research and teaching at leading US universities and institutions. This is the largest number of awards received by any one institution in Ireland in 2013.

First established in 1957, the Fulbright Awards provide Irish and US students, scholars and professionals with the opportunity to study, lecture and research at leading universities and institutions in the US and Ireland respectively. They are jointly funded by the Irish and US governments under the Ireland-United States Commission for Educational Exchange. The ten UCD recipients are:

Professor Maria Baghramian, School of Philosophy. As a Fulbright Scholar at Harvard University, Professor Baghramian will be researching and writing on the Neo-Pragmatist Turn in American Philosophy

Dr Dymna Devine, Senior Lecturer, School of Education and Director of the UCD Social Sciences Research Center is a Fulbright Scholar to the City University of New York, where she will evaluate educational policy and practice with migrant children in New York

Dr Áine Kelly, Irish Research Council postdoctoral fellow in the School of Philosophy. As part of her Fulbright Scholar Award at The

New School, New York, Dr Kelly will undertake research on Stanley Cavell and Contemporary American Fiction

Dr Philip Larkin holds a Joint Appointment as Associate Professor in Clinical Nursing (Palliative Care) at the School of Nursing, Midwifery, and Health Systems, and Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services in Harold's Cross, Dublin. On his Fulbright Scholar Award, Dr Larkin will explore compassion as the basis of palliative and hospice care at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute

Mr Kieran McCarthy, a UCD graduate who has just completed his Masters in International Affairs at L'Institut d'études Politiques de Paris, will pursue a LL.M. at Georgetown University on his Fulbright Student Award

Mr Ciarán Ó Braonáin will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at Villanova University. Ciarán has been teaching Irish at UCD, where he also completed a Masters at the School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics

Ms Neave O'Clery is a Fulbright Schuman Scholar Awardee. Neave is a graduate of UCD and is currently completing her PhD in Mathematics at Imperial College London. She will continue her research at the Kennedy School at Harvard University

Dr Sandra Scanlon, Lecturer in the UCD School of History. Dr Scanlon will explore the interaction between foreign policy issues and the development of conservatism during the 1970s as a Fulbright Scholar at Emory University

Dr Ronan Sugrue is a medical doctor and graduate of both UCD and the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland. He will undertake a Masters in Public Health at Harvard University while on his Fulbright Student Award

Mr Garret Sweeney has recently completed a Masters in Writing and Communications in Irish at the School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics. He will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at the University of Connecticut.



Dr Nur Izzah Binti Ibrahim Osman, pictured with Professor Amir Khir, Dean of PMC, was the 1000th PMC graduate.

## Conferral of 1000th Student at Penang Medical College

A milestone in Ireland's role as an international partner in medical education was reached in June, with the conferral of the 1000th student from Penang Medical College (PMC), a joint venture between Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and University College Dublin (UCD).

Graduates of PMC are conferred with MB BCh BAO degrees of the National University of Ireland (NUI) as well as the Licentiates of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland; awards that are recognised worldwide as a mark of excellence. Dr Nur Izzah Binti Ibrahim Osman, pictured above with Professor Amir Khir, Dean of PMC, was the 1000th such Penang Medical College graduate.



Prof. Dolores O' Riordan, who was recently appointed Director of the UCD Institute of Food and Health

## Professor Dolores O'Riordan appointed Director of the UCD Institute of Food and Health

Professor Dolores O' Riordan has recently been appointed Director of the UCD Institute of Food and Health, which is currently ranked amongst the top 5 European Universities and top 20 globally in Food Science and Technology output.

Professor O'Riordan completed a BSc in Dairy Science and PhD in Protein Chemistry at University College Cork, spending time as a research fellow at both UCC and Cornell University. In 1989 she joined Kerry Ingredients plc, where she was responsible for the development and promotion of innovative milk ingredients for the Irish and global markets.

Since joining UCD in 1995, she has secured substantial funding (circa 22 million) from

competitively won grants to conduct research in the area of food ingredients/health inducing food ingredients. The underlying aim of her research is to create foods that enhance health benefits and are acceptable and pleasing to consumers. The majority of the research grants she has won have a significant industrial contribution, reflecting the value of research to the food industry and the commercial potential of the output. She has established a critical mass and an internationally recognised research team in the area of health inducing foods at UCD.

Prof O'Riordan is an advisor to government departments and government agencies on strategy development in the area of food science and technology.

## ■ AACSB Accreditation for UCD Business School

**UCD Business School, incorporating UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School and UCD Quinn School, has received an international seal of approval after being re-accredited with one of the world's leading accreditations by AACSB International (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business). UCD Business School is the only school in Ireland to have earned such accreditation and to hold Triple Accreditation from the three largest and most influential international business school accrediting bodies: AACSB, AMBA (UK) and EQUIS (Europe). Less than one per cent of business schools worldwide are triple accredited.**

Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the longest established global accrediting body for business schools offering undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees. All accredited schools must go through a peer review process every five years in order to maintain their accreditation. Other

leading business schools that have AACSB accreditation include INSEAD, Yale, Stanford, Imperial College London, and IMD among others.

Speaking on the re-accreditation, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean of UCD Business School, said, "AACSB accreditation is the

hallmark of excellence in business education. This accreditation is due in no small part to the dedication and commitment of the team here at UCD and is a testament to the continued high quality of our work in research, teaching and service to our students and to society."

## ■ Tasting the future of the global food industry

**In recent years, the export potential of Ireland's food and drink industry has come centre stage, with the industry routinely identified as presenting a major opportunity for employment and wealth creation, despite the nation's economic struggles.**

These opportunities have long been recognised by the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business, which has further developed its expertise as an international executive education partner and thought leader in food and agribusiness.

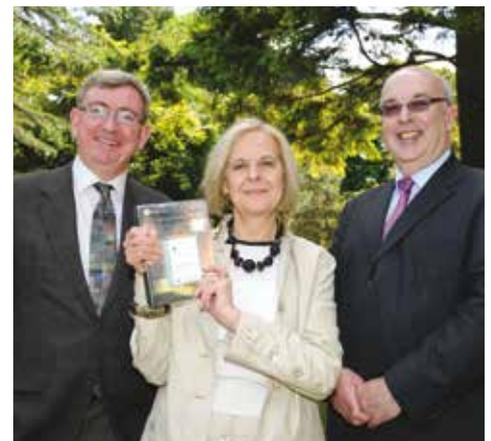
The synergistic relationship between the UCD Smurfit School and the food industry has deepened the knowledge base of the School in the food area and activated its ability to interact with food industry leaders and policy makers, particularly in Ireland. This has recently led to the development of two additional food industry programmes in association with Bord Bia: the MSc in Business Sustainability and the Diploma in Strategic Growth (Food Industry). The latter provides participants and their employer companies with best practice

strategies and frameworks to develop business in key international markets, with modules taught by a blended team of the world's leading experts in food and agribusiness from UCD Smurfit School, Harvard Business School, IMD and The Richard Ivey School of Business.

According to Professor Damien McLoughlin, UCD Smurfit School, "There has never been a greater need for industry specific education to meet the challenges now facing those working in this fast growing and increasingly global sector", with the new programmes providing "an ideal platform for anyone looking to enhance their abilities, accelerate their career, and improve the success of their company."

## ■ No luggage charge for Case Award

**A prestigious ecch Case award was recently presented to Dr Eleanor O'Higgins, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, for her case study "Ryanair - The Low Fares Airline: Whither Now?" The case was recognised in the strategy and general management category.**



At the presentation of the ecch Case award were (l-r) Prof. Ciaran O'Hogartaigh, Dean UCD School of Business, Dr Eleanor O'Higgins, UCD Smurfit School, and Richard McCracken, Director ecch.

Receiving her award, Dr O'Higgins remarked how "Ryanair as a company provides an exciting and colourful subject for case studies. It operates in an intensely challenging international industry where successful strategy involves careful analysis and understanding of a lot of subtleties at many levels of the macro and micro environment, as well as internal operating processes. Hence, it makes for a great teaching and learning case".

The ecch Case Awards are presented annually to recognise worldwide excellence in case writing and to raise the profile of the case method of learning. The annual awards are made in nine categories; represented among the winners were authors from INSEAD, Warwick Business School, Geneva School of Business Administration, UCLA Anderson School of Management and Harvard Business School.

Richard McCracken, Director of ecch, presenting the award, said: "Eleanor is a tremendously respected case author and a deserved winner. The ecch award recognises the adoption of her case by faculty and its impact on the learning of students at leading business schools around the world."

## ■ ICON Certificate in International Business Management



The inaugural cohort of the ICON Certificate in International Business Management successfully completed the programme at the UCD Smurfit School in May. Pictured are: P. Aldrich, N. Alp, N. Ananthakrishnan, I. Borgers, C. Burns, R. Cantwell, J. Chapas-Reed, M. Ciorciari, P. Dass Sivadass, C. Deering, M. Fresno, P. Jenkins, H. Jin Choi, H. Jones, E. Kenny, P. Lebesle, A. Liddy, D. Loreman, A. Matson, R. McFarland, N. McIntosh, D. O'Connell, C. Rapier, D. Scott, A. Sheehan, M. Stepniewska, N. Vachher, and M. Voza



Pictured at the UCD Centre for Canadian Studies Distinguished Lecture Series in April 2013 were His Excellency Loyola Hearn, Ambassador of Canada to Ireland; Professor Maeve Conrick, Principal, UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies; Mark A Jarman, Canadian author and academic, University of New Brunswick, Canada; and Professor Margaret Kelleher, Chair of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama, UCD School of English, Drama and Film

## Canadian Studies at UCD: Diversity and Dynamism

The UCD Centre for Canadian Studies' fortnightly Distinguished Lecture Series for 2013, funded by an award from the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies, has been showcasing the wealth of expertise among UCD's academic staff in the subject area. With active support from the Canadian Embassy in Ireland, an array of visiting Canadian speakers have also contributed to this lecture series, the

first part of which culminated in late April with the Canadian author, Mark A Jarman, reading from his most recent book of short stories, *My White Planet*, and his earlier travel book, *Ireland's Eye*, which reflects upon contemporary Irish society and culture from the visitor's perspective.

Hosted by the UCD School of History and Archives within the College of Arts and Celtic

Studies, the UCD Centre for Canadian Studies serves as a forum for intellectual and academic debate and research relating to historic and contemporary Canada. Organised by the current director of the Centre, Dr Ivar McGrath, the 2013 Distinguished Lecture Series looks to build upon existing connections between Canada and Ireland and to develop UCD's links with Canadian universities and institutions.

## Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Agriculture

The two interrelated global challenges of combating climate change and achieving food security were discussed by over 450 scientists from 45 different countries, at the *Greenhouse Gases & Animal Agriculture (GGAA 2013)* conference in UCD in June.

Opening the conference, Tom Hayes, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine said that the Department remains committed to funding research in the area of agricultural greenhouse gases (GHG). Minister Hayes said that the Department recognises the need for international

collaboration and the need for scientists to work together at a global level to strive for the scientific breakthroughs that will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions profile of the agri-food sector.

The conference on *Greenhouse Gases & Animal Agriculture* is the fifth in a series of conferences, the preceding conference was held in Banff, Canada in 2010. It was organised by Teagasc and UCD, supported by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the EPA and the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre, and Ministry for Primary Industries.

Speaking at the Conference, Dr Frank O'Mara, Director of Research at Teagasc, said

that agriculture globally has an emissions challenge. Teagasc recently produced a 'Marginal Abatement Cost Curve' for GHG emissions in Ireland, which demonstrates the potential impact of measures such as management, improved genetics and more efficient use of resources to further benefit Ireland's competitive advantage from its environmentally friendly grass-based feed production systems for dairy and beef. "Teagasc has also developed a knowledge transfer tool called the 'Carbon Navigator' which can be used to give guidance to farmers on measures they can adopt to reduce their GHG emissions and improve profitability," said Dr O'Mara.

## Bayer awards first Newman Fellowship in Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation

Dr Lelane van der Poel has been awarded the first Bayer Newman Fellowship in Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation. The prestigious award will enable Dr van der Poel to spend the next two years researching the clinical factors in identification of risk of recurrent stroke after transient ischaemic attack and minor stroke. She will be mentored by Professor Peter Kelly, Consultant Neurologist and Joint Director, Stroke Service, Mater University Hospital Dublin and UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science. Other recent awards include the Merck Serono Newman Fellowship in

Translational Medicine and Medical Oncology, held by Dr Francesco Caiazza, and the Veterinary Council Educational Trust Newman Fellowship in Veterinary Ethics.

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

## ■ Bloomsday 2013 Honorary Conferings



UCD marked Bloomsday (16 June), a day synonymous with James Joyce, with the awarding of the Ulysses Medal and Honorary Degrees. Pictured on this important day in the university calendar were (l-r) Irish playwright, Conor McPherson, awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature; Irish theatre designer and director, Bob Crowley, awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature; Professor Mark Rogers, UCD Registrar and Deputy President; Irish theatre, television and film actress, Sinead Cusack, awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature; Irish theatre producer and director, Patrick Mason, awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature; and UCD Ulysses Medal recipient, Irish playwright and theatre director, Tom Murphy

## ■ UCD/ESRI Study Highlights Obesity Risks for Irish First-Time Mothers

**A recent UCD/ESRI study, published in the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, links obesity and induction in Irish, first-time mothers with caesarean rates.**

The study, based on research which took place from 2008-2011 at the Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital in Dublin, included 1433 first time mothers from Ireland and the European Union. It found that the rate of emergency caesarean section in Irish mothers is twice that of Eastern European women who give birth in Ireland. The results also found that Irish women are more likely to be obese, smoke, and have an induction of pregnancy.

The women were divided into three groups: those born in Ireland, those from EU 14 countries (pre-enlargement), and those from EU 12 countries (post-enlargement). The results found that the obesity rate in Irish-born first-time mothers (19.5 per cent) is twice that of mothers who were born in EU 12 post-enlargement countries (9.5 per cent).

According to Professor Michael Turner, Consultant Obstetrician at Coombe Women &

Infants University Hospital and Head of UCD Centre for Human Reproduction: "The impact of maternal obesity on the baby and the mother's journey through pregnancy needs to be understood as a continuum, rather than a singular event such as a caesarean. Obesity can be described as having a seriously negative effect on almost every aspect of pregnancy and childbirth."

Professor Turner added "Crucially, obesity in expectant women is also associated with late delivery and induction of labour. Induction is associated with a higher risk of caesarean section - particularly in first-time mothers - and so the complicating factor of obesity can be said to have a very disruptive and potentially harmful impact on mother and baby from the first trimester through to delivery. It is our view that the induction of obese first-time mothers should be undertaken only in carefully considered circumstances."

## ■ UCD Library pilots Leaving Cert Outreach Programme

**The UCD James Joyce Library recently opened its doors to allow Leaving Cert students to study in the period between the end of UCD exams and the end of the Leaving Cert.**

Some 485 students from 43 schools registered for access to the Library during this pilot scheme. Of these, 25 per cent were from DEIS schools and in agreement with the UCD Access office, were admitted free of charge; the remaining 75 per cent paid a modest fee of 20 for an admissions card.

The scheme supports both the community and prospective first-year students, who receive an introduction to a university library environment and its services. The students who participated found the university to be a very welcoming place as evidenced by comments such as this from Loreto Student Sinead Cleary: "everyone can see themselves actually here, it feels all very comfortable and reassures us that we will study at UCD in September."



Dr Martin Butler, Vice-President for Students, presents the award for Varsity Club of the Year to UCD Canoe Club members Niall Bouchier and Maryanne Doyle

## UCD Sports Awards

**At the UCD Sports Awards on May 20th over 500 students from 27 different sports clubs were honoured for their sporting achievements on behalf of the University over the last twelve months.**

A number of special awards were presented on the night. The Ladies Hockey Club was named the "Elite Club of the Year" in recognition of the tremendous success of its teams and

players this season. The Rugby first XV was named the "Elite Team of the Year" following their promotion to Division 1A of the All Ireland League and their retention of the Dudley Cup and Colours Trophy.

International GAA Handballer Martin Mulherrins was named as the "Dr Tony O'Neill Sportsperson of the Year", in recognition of his victory in the Men's Open event at the 2013 US Handball Association National Collegiate

Championships and also his victory in the Under 19 event at the World Handball Championships.

Emma McHugh from the Ladies Gaelic Football Club was named the "Gerry Horkan Club Administrator of the Year". The Sailing team that won the Student Yachting World Cup was named the "Varsity Team of the Year" and the Canoe Club was named the "Varsity Club of the Year".

## UCD swimmers take a dip in gold

**The UCD Swimming club had 5 representatives at the Irish Open Summer Championships which took place in the National Aquatic Centre (NAC). The competition had teams competing from around the world including South Africa and Scotland. The UCD team took home 9 medals (5 Gold and 4 Silver) and consisted of Shani Stallard, Shauna O'Brien, Lisa Comerford, India McGlynn and Jack Keogh.**

Shani Stallard and Shauna O'Brien both had outstanding performances during the championships. Stallard set a new club record in the Women's 200m freestyle in a time of 2 minutes 3.99 seconds to take gold.

Shauna O'Brien took home all three gold medals on offer in the butterfly events; the 50m, 100m and 200m. The 19-year-old Irish senior record holder in 50m and 100m butterfly, who joined UCD last September from Waterford Crystal Swimming Club in Co. Waterford, narrowly missed out on qualifying for the World University Games. She did, however, achieve the qualifying times for the prestigious US Open.

## Ten UCD students travel to World University Games

**Ten UCD Students were selected on the Irish team for the World University Games in Kazan, Russia in July. The students were:**

**Men's Soccer:** Niall Corbett, Cillian Morrison and Tristan Dent. **Women's Soccer:** Catherine Cronin, Ciara Grant, Dora Gorman, Jetta Berrill and Siobhan Killen.

**Athletics:** Ciara Everard. **Rowing:** Amy Bulman.

The ladies' soccer team finished 6th overall with the men's soccer team finishing 5th overall beating the hosts, Russia 2-1 in their first group match. They were unexpected quarter finalists and were agonizingly beaten 4-3 on penalties by France to put them into the place playoffs. The ladies had a tough match against a very strong England team in the quarter final and they were unfortunately outshone on the day.

Ciara Everard finished in 5th place in the 800m, just short of qualification for a place in the final and Amy Bulman qualified for the final of the B Lightweight Single Scull but was agonizingly disqualified for boat under weight.



Representing UCD and Ireland at the World University Games held in Kazan in Russia in July were women's soccer team members (l-r) Ciara Grant, Siobhan Killen, Dora Gorman, Jetta Berrill and Catherine Cronin

## UCD Student Ambassadors Honoured

Some 40,000 visitors have been welcomed to the Belfield campus by UCD Student Ambassadors since the inception of the Student Ambassador scheme in 2006.

At an event in the Astra Hall in late April, Professor Mark Rogers, UCD Registrar and Deputy President, welcomed current and past UCD Student Ambassadors and acclaimed the success of the ambassador programme to date. He thanked all the ambassadors current and past for their efforts in offering prospective students and their families a personalised experience of UCD.

In addition to providing a welcoming face for those visiting the campus, the ambassadors have also provided assistance at career fairs, jubilees, conferring ceremonies, leading woodland walks and Gathering tours, training orientation guides, assisting in focus groups, presenting at Open Evenings, as well as providing general administration support to individual school-related projects.

This year for the first time Student Ambassadors organised and held a successful fundraising raffle in March 2013. The funds raised were presented to Father John McNerney during the Awards evening on behalf of the UCD Student Welfare Fund.

Ambassador award winners on the night included Sally Hayden (BCL) for 'Outstanding Contribution to Social Media', Anton Katayev (BSc Engineering) for 'Outstanding Contribution to Student Activities' and Matthew Deery (BA Arts, MSc American Literature) for 'Overall Outstanding Contribution to the Ambassador Programme in 2012-13'.



Student Ambassador Award winners (l-r) Matthew Deery, (MSc American Literature), Sally Hayden (BCL), and Anton Katayev (BSc Engineering) with Prof. Mark Rogers, UCD Registrar and Deputy President (centre) at the Student Ambassador Awards.



UCD BCLS student and 2012-2013 UCD Students' Union President Rachel Breslin (2nd from left) with fellow U21 students, discussing ideas on how to improve university services at the U21 Student Summit in Vancouver, May 2013

## UCD students travel the world for U21 Events

**This summer saw eleven UCD undergraduate students partake in Universitas 21 (U21) undergraduate student events in Canada, Guatemala, The Netherlands and the United States. Held annually, these U21 gatherings provide a unique opportunity for students from across the globe to come together, debate, and to share ideas. A specific theme is chosen by each of the host Universities, and it is around this theme that the students' activities are based.**

The University of Connecticut chose the theme of Human Rights for the U21 Summer School. The University of British Columbia concentrated on the next generation of Global Leaders for the U21 Student Summit. The University of Amsterdam focused its attention on Urban Challenges, while social entrepreneurship was very much at the core

of the fieldwork trip to Guatemala. Ciaran Boylan, UCD Psychology student commented "I was invited into the family home behind the cooperative to have dinner with them... I can't really describe how flattered and included these gestures made me feel... one of the most rewarding experiences of my life."



Kate O'Donnell, 3rd Year History and Politics student, was student leader in the UCD VO Computer Education project in Tanzania this summer

## UCD Volunteers making an impact overseas

Now in its 11th year, the UCD Volunteers Overseas volunteer programme had 125 volunteer participants in 2012/13. The volunteers worked in 5 countries (India, Haiti, Nicaragua, Tanzania and Uganda) with 11 local NGOs, and implemented over 20 development projects. One project saw the set up of four new computer labs and construction of an agriculture storage facility, two houses and a pre-school. Another involved the organisation of physiotherapy projects, an awareness rally on children's rights and summer camps for over 500 children. A project in Tanzania involved the transport of 900kg of second hand books from Ireland to set up school libraries. UCDVO thanks everyone in UCD who supported the volunteers in their fundraising efforts throughout the year. For more information about UCDVO see [www.ucdvo.org](http://www.ucdvo.org).