



WINTER 2017



# UCD today

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## Think Bigger, go further, learn more



**EILÍS O'BRIEN**  
Director of Communication and Marketing

**Within the tome that is John Henry Newman's *The Idea of a University* is a sentiment that resonates 165 years on. His vision for higher education was the provision of a liberal education where students were not merely taught facts or imbued with knowledge but rather, by virtue of their environment, experienced "true enlargement of mind".**

And it is to this ambition that we turned when we set out to articulate a distinctive communication platform for UCD.

This true enlargement of mind is a deeply held conviction that freeing the imagination and unleashing each individual's unique potential will benefit the world at large. It is a sentiment that we can own, that gives us an emotional connection to our heritage and that we can translate into 21st century parlance. So, true enlargement of mind becomes an invitation and a challenge to our community to think bigger, to reach further, to learn more and to go beyond expectations.

Thinking bigger is exactly how we behave; in the quality and global reach of our research and of our academic expertise. It is about the scale of our achievement and endeavour – both historic and potential.

We have taken "Think Bigger" and created a range of materials that draw from our research and scholarship, from our teaching and our students - [www.ucd.ie/thinkbigger](http://www.ucd.ie/thinkbigger). This central idea will form the basis of our communication to different audiences over the coming years. It is expressed through authentic stories from within UCD that seek to inspire and connect beyond.

Professor Dermot Moran, director of the UCD International Centre for Newman Studies, tells us: "Newman wanted the University to preserve and hand on the wisdom of past generations but also to be open to the future, to the advances in science, to modernity. He had a vision of students learning to be citizens of the world, true cosmopolitans. He wanted to expose young minds to the liberal arts, to the sciences, and encouraged them to see the connections between things."

As we reach out to our students and our graduates and our growing community, we ask them to join us as we explore life's possibilities and seek to meet global challenges.



## UCD thanks...

**Contributors:** Judith Archbold, Emer Beesley, Jennie Blake, Carla Briggs, Ursula Byrne, Kate Conroy, Liam Delaney, Imelda Delap, Damien Dempsey, Mags Darcy, Georgina Dwyer, Ursula Fanning, Ashlee Feng, Ronan Gough, Helen Graham, Aleksandra Gronostay-Miara, Joanna Gumularz, Paul Harkin, Anna Kelly, Una Kelly, Liam Kennedy, Naonori Kodate, Patricia Maguire, Imelda Maher, Kate Manning, Liz McFeely, Audrey Murray, Bairbre Ni Chonchúir, Róisín Ni Mhara, Tadhg O'Keefe, Elaine Quinn, Asim Sheikh, Mark Simpson, Cathy Timlin, Michelle Tracey, Niamh Walsh, Miceál Whelan.

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*Pictured at the event are: Michael McGlynn, Dr Sheila Willis, Paul O'Donovan, Eamonn Sinnott, Mary Sutton, Dr Garrett Fitzgerald, Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC, Dr Des Rice OBE, Professor Edmond Harty and UCD President, Prof Andrew Deeks.*

## UCD Alumni Awards 2017

**Friday 10 November saw the 4th annual UCD Alumni Awards take place in UCD O'Reilly Hall. The President was joined by 400 guests including faculty, staff, alumni, supporters and friends of UCD to celebrate and honour the outstanding achievements of ten of our alumni at the awards ceremony, the evening was a true showcase for the impact and value of a UCD degree.**

Once again the awards were expertly hosted by Pat Kenny, BE 1969, during the evening he was joined 'In Conversation' by UCD Alumnus Gerry Stemberge, BA 1979, who shared anecdotes and stories of his time on the satirical radio sketch show Scrap Saturday.

The awards ceremony followed dinner where the ten honorees were presented with their awards. They were nominated by peers and faculty and reflect the values UCD holds dear, integrity, excellence, collegiality, engagement, creativity and diversity – values in the DNA of our University.

The evening was punctuated by performances from UCD's student body, UCD Trad Soc opened the event, UCD Choral Scholars closed the formal part of the evening and UCD Jazz Soc entertained the audience with an after-dinner performance in the Conservatory.

The black-tie event was made possible through the generous support of sponsors Microsoft, Bank of Ireland, Intel, AIB, Eversheds Sutherland, RKD Architects, Codex, PwC, Three and Scott Tallon Walker, and supporters Lidl and The Gloss.

### The recipients of the UCD Alumni Awards for 2017 are:

#### **Mary Sutton – UCD Social Sciences**

For most of her career, Mary worked in international development before joining The Atlantic Philanthropies in 2008, becoming Country Director for the Republic of Ireland in 2011. Now in her tenth year with Atlantic, she is overseeing the conclusion of its work in Ireland in line with Chuck Feeney's 'limited life' and 'giving while living' philosophy.

#### **Eamonn Sinnott – UCD Business**

Eamonn is Vice-President of the Technology and Manufacturing Group at Intel Corporation and the General Manager of Intel in Ireland. He has held a variety of management positions in Ireland and in the USA prior to his appointment as General Manager in 2010 where he was instrumental in securing the record \$7 billion upgrade to the Leixlip campus.

#### **Dr Garrett Fitzgerald – UCD Research, Innovation and Impact**

Garrett is the McNeil Professor in Translational Medicine and Therapeutics at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where he chairs the Department of Systems Pharmacology and Translational Therapeutics and directs the Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics. His research has been characterised by an integrative approach to explaining the mechanisms of drug action, drawing on work in cells, model organisms and humans.

#### **Emily Logan – UCD Health Sciences**

Emily is the first Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, appointed by President Michael D Higgins in 2014. In this role, Emily leads the IHREC in their goal to protect and promote human rights and equality. Prior to this, she served as Ireland's first Ombudsman for Children and in 2008 was appointed by her peers to the position of President of the European Network of Ombudsmen for Children.

#### **Professor Edmond Harty – UCD Engineering and Architecture**

Edmond is regarded as one of the world's pioneers in agricultural technology. His creativity, ambition, determination and leadership has helped to make Dairymaster one of the most successful agri-tech businesses in the international arena. With an impressive track record of filing over 90 patent applications and developing a multidisciplinary, innovation focused company of more than 350 people, Professor Harty has overseen Dairymaster's success as a global leader in technology for dairy farming.

#### **Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC – UCD Law**

London-based human rights lawyer Caoilfhionn Gallagher was made Queen's Counsel in 2017 in recognition of her exceptional international work, acting for journalists and peaceful protestors who have been arbitrarily detained all over the world. She recently led the legal team for Ibrahim Halawa, the Irish national who, at 17, was detained in Egypt in 2013.

#### **Michael McGlynn – UCD Arts and Humanities**

Michael is a composer, producer and Artistic Director of the vocal ensemble Anúna which he founded in 1987. Today Anúna is regarded as one of the finest vocal groups in the world and Michael's compositions have been performed by Grammy award-winning ensembles the Phoenix Chorale, Kansas City Chorale and Chanticleer. This year he directed and scored the Noh Theatre/Anúna collaboration of Takahime, a Japanese reworking of Yeats' 'At the Hawk's Well' in Tokyo's Orchard Hall.

#### **Dr Sheila Willis – UCD Science**

Former Director General of Forensic Science Ireland Sheila's career has focused on how science can be used to investigate crime and assist the administration of justice. She was director of the laboratory from 2002 to 2016, and during this time took the organisation to the highest international standard. Sheila pioneered the introduction of DNA profiling to our legal system and recruited an expert team of molecular biologists to set up the national DNA Database System in 2015.

#### **Dr Des Rice OBE – UCD Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine**

Des is a veterinarian who specialised in livestock nutrition. After two years in veterinary practice in Ireland, he spent four years developing a Veterinary Investigation Laboratory in El Salvador, followed by ten years on nutritional-disease research in Belfast. For services to the agri-food industry he received an OBE from the British Government in 2004. Now, through his business, CCO, he provides coaching and mentoring services on strategic human behaviour and stress management issues to businesses. He also works with community groups, including veterinary peer supporters, on a voluntary basis.

#### **Paul O'Donovan – UCD Sport**

Paul is an Irish rower, world-class sportsman and the only Irishman to win both World Championship and Olympic medals in the same year. With his brother Gary, he won silver in the Men's Lightweight Double Sculls at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Two weeks later, he became World Champion in the Men's Lightweight Single Sculls in Rotterdam. A UCD Ad Astra Sports Scholar from the age of 18 and throughout his undergraduate degree, Paul's work ethic and ability to balance a demanding degree with an even more demanding rowing schedule is an inspiration.

## Artificial Intelligence and the Future

On 19 September 2017 the UCD Humanities Institute, the UCD Institute for Discovery and the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy hosted their third public lecture in the 'Plotting the Future' series entitled 'AI and the Future'. The lecture was delivered by world-renowned cognitive scientist Professor Margaret A Boden OBE to an audience of over 150 academics, students, industry leaders and members of the wider community.

In her lecture, Professor Boden talked about the philosophical and technological implications raised by Artificial Intelligence (AI), and debated whether computers could ever be really intelligent, creative or even conscious. She explained how the pursuit of Artificial Intelligence has helped us to understand how the brain works and for the first time comprehend the enormous power and subtlety of the human mind.

"I cannot think of a single example of human activity that will not be touched in some way by AI, but there are huge dangers too even if you don't believe there will be superhuman intelligence in 30 years," said Boden. "Fortunately, people have started to worry about it, and think about what the problems are and whether they can be regulated. So it is a hugely exciting, problematic and important area."

Associate Professor Patricia Maguire, Director of the UCD Institute for Discovery, said that it was a great honour to host such a true pioneer of women in the sciences: "Artificial intelligence is the future, and we were delighted to host Professor Boden and

provide a forum to discuss an issue that has such enormous implications for all of our futures."

'Plotting the Future' is a public lecture series and forum for debate that explores the urgent question of what it means to be human in the age of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. This informative series will continue in 2018.



Professor Margaret Boden with Associate Professor Patricia Maguire, Director of the UCD Institute for Discovery and schoolchildren from Muckross Park, Donnybrook and Gonzaga College, Ranelagh.



Pictured are (l-r) Prof Robert Gerwarth and Prof Timothy Snyder

## Professor Timothy Snyder Lecture

Timothy Snyder, renowned public intellectual, Professor of History at Yale University and author of many critically acclaimed books visited UCD School of History in October 2017. Professor Snyder gave a talk based on his book *Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning*.

Following the lecture, Professor Snyder took part in a question and answers session chaired by Professor Robert Gerwarth, Head of UCD School of History.

## 2017 UK and Ireland Confucius Institutes Conference

The 2017 UK and Ireland Confucius Institutes Conference was successfully held in UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland on 23 September. Along with the 100 representatives from over 30 UK and Irish Confucius Institutes were Chinese Ambassador HE Dr Yue Xiaoyong; Mr Guocheng Zhao, Deputy Director-General of Hanban; Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, Minister of State for Higher Education; and UCD President Professor Andrew Deeks.

In his speech, Professor Andrew Deeks said that the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland (CII) has been dedicated to collaborating with Irish and Chinese governments, enterprises and academic organisations to develop and enhance bilateral relations between the two countries since its inception 11 years ago.



Minister O'Connor reflected on Ireland's mature and sophisticated relationship with China in the area of education, which encompasses student and academic mobility, higher education collaboration, language learning, cultural awareness-raising and research. She confirmed

the Irish government's willingness and desire to work together with China over the coming years to ensure the successful development of the Confucius Institutes in Ireland. She said it was envisaged that Chinese would be introduced as a Leaving Certificate subject in 2020.

## UCD Access & Lifelong Learning Welcome Programme 2017

Over 1,600 incoming students took part in the UCD Access & Lifelong Learning Welcome Programme. This programme is designed to give students entering through the alternative entry pathways, i.e. HEAR, DARE, Mature Years, QQI-FET, University Access Programme (UAP) Open Learning, and Lifelong Learning, a head start settling into UCD.

The Welcome Programme addresses the specific needs of these students who are offered a range of interventions and inputs to facilitate their transition to higher education. For many of these students, HE can be perceived as an alien environment necessitating the

negotiation a series of stages or transformations regarding their entitlement to participate in HE. Starting college is very exciting but also can be daunting for all students but it is particularly challenging for students from non-traditional backgrounds. In many cases they may be the only student from their school or community coming to UCD. Some students may have been out of the educational system for a long time and are apprehensive about returning to learning. Some students may have had a poor previous experience of learning or the impact of their disability or life circumstances may mean it may take longer to settle in to a new setting or way of learning. Crucially, the ALL Welcome Programme helps students to

develop a sense of belonging, being valued and accepted.

The UCD Welcome Programme offers activities that facilitate incoming students to build their confidence, to get to know other students and have a good network of friends starting off, become familiar with the UCD campus and know where to go when they have a query. In short, it demonstrates their 'entitlement' to them.

The ALL Welcome Programme, delivered by Access & Lifelong Learning staff, assisted by a team of 44 Access Student Leaders, was offered over a two-week period in September, and culminated in the 2nd Annual ALL Student Welcome event on Friday 15 September.

# Vision and values drive education strategy



Professor Mark Rogers graduated from Trinity College with a first-class honours degree in Genetics and obtained a PhD in Genetics from the University of Glasgow. During his career as a researcher, he successfully licensed immunodiagnostic technologies that have been employed in BSE diagnosis, resulting in over €2 million in royalties accruing to UCD. A former Dean of Science, he promotes a student-centred approach to education that is research informed and research led.

**“It is a great point then to enlarge the range of studies which a University professes, even for the sake of the students; and, though they cannot pursue every subject which is open to them, they will be the gainers by living among those and under those who represent the whole circle.”<sup>1</sup>**

In these words from *The Idea of a University*, John Henry Newman advocated that the principal purpose of a university was to provide a liberal education; by which he meant to provide an environment in which there is “real cultivation of mind”. Professor Mark Rogers, Registrar, Deputy President and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, has taken on the task of translating this vision into a tangible 21st century education strategy for UCD.

With a scale that enables UCD to offer the widest range of opportunities to 29,000 students, UCD is pursuing an education strategy that seeks to equip Irish students and to attract international students to a globally-focused university based in a vibrant city. “The education strategy is shaped by our distinct traditions, relationships and external influences, and the major guiding influence is our values. We want the liberal education that we offer in UCD to

reflect the principles of our founder but in ways that are relevant to a globally-connected world” said the Deputy President.

The main priorities in the strategy are for students to have a fully outcomes-based curriculum, with opportunities to develop interpersonal, intercultural and life skills. “In the past, we had separate strategies that focused on educational attainment on the one hand and on the student experience on the other. A big difference in this strategy is that we’ve taken the view that if you really want to give students the best possible university experience, you can’t separate the two.”

The overall aim of the education strategy is to provide an educational experience that is ‘holistic’ and one that instils in students a desire to learn and create and to contribute to society at all levels. Students at UCD have the opportunity to excel outside formal learning environments through sport, culture and community engagement. As well as this, the strategy sets out to promote academic support and advice, encouraging students to proactively manage their health and wellbeing and to foster an institutional culture that values teaching and research equally.

For Professor Rogers it’s about “the complete UCD experience, which is both inside and outside the classroom”. While he noted that UCD has always delivered incredibly strong educational programmes, “bringing the two together really demonstrates to our students that they have gained a significant number of skills that are centred within their study but also applicable on a much broader scale. In this context, the University is seeking to anticipate the realities of future digital worlds and is working with industry, the professions and the wider community to ensure that our graduates have the adaptable expertise required to excel in changing work contexts. I don’t like the phrase ‘job-ready’, we’re preparing students for life and we’re seeking to make a contribution to the cultural as well as the economic prosperity of the country”.

Health and wellbeing is also to the forefront of UCD’s Education Strategy: “We have supports in place for students such as counselling and

health services, but the focus must be on overall wellbeing as opposed to dealing with acute issues once they arise. It’s much better to have earlier intervention and encourage our students to talk to us and deal with the issues before they become problems”.

The Deputy President said that each role he has taken on in his career has brought new challenges, but challenges he has embraced. “I do miss research but the role that I have today brings different challenges. I hope that the decisions that I make help to enhance the student experience, after all that’s what we’re trying to achieve all the time. There is a lot to achieve over the course of a five-year strategy, to make the University a better place for everyone, but we’re also trying to make things better each day.” He noted that there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding Brexit and while there is opportunity he said: “It’s just too early to tell. We don’t know what it’s going to mean in terms of students coming from the UK and for Irish students who wish to study in the UK. We have a good international reputation and profile and we want to enhance that and be clear that our University is a large European urban campus. We want to increase and broaden opportunities for global diversity”.

UCD prides itself as the ‘university of first-choice’ for Irish students and as a leader when it comes to setting the national agenda through the open and modular curriculums offered to students. “It’s the natural course of a university to change and this current education strategy is an evolution of the previous iteration.” Professor Rogers feels that the current first year students on campus will have a different experience to the graduating class of 2017, through the developments taking place across the University. “Our message to students is simple; university education is a key time in your life, whether you join straight from school or later on, UCD is a place that has great faculty and staff who want to inspire you and who want to support you in making the most of that time.”

*Professor Mark Rogers was in conversation with Seán Dunne, journalist with The Irish Times.*

## UCD Japan Keynote Lecture

**UCD Japan's Keynote Lecture** took place on Thursday 12 October in UCD O'Brien Science Centre. The lecture was the academic highlight of the two and half-week long UCD Japan Fair, which was organised by the multidisciplinary group called UCD Japan (established last year under the direction of UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks).

The UCD Japan Fair covered a wide array of topics ranging from Japanese food culture, the history of samurai warriors, life in Japan as a professional rugby player, research opportunities in Japan, Japanese board games, Abenomics, pop-culture diplomacy, robotics-aided care for older people, Patrick Lafcadio Hearn, language teaching and testing and the wartime history in East Asia.

The Keynote Lecture 'The Crucible of East Asia: War Diaries and the Making of China and Japan, 1937-1945' was given by Professor Aaron Moore (Handa Chair of Japanese-Chinese Relations, University of Edinburgh). It was very timely in the context of global uncertainty and East Asia's precarious situation.

The launch marked the new beginning of UCD's strong relationship with Japan beyond this year's 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.



*Pictured are (l-r) Professor Barbara Dooley, UCD Deputy Registrar with HE Ambassador Mrs Mari Miyoshi, and communication robots from Japan.*



*Professor Maria Baghramian pictured with Professor O'Neill at the medal presentation*

## Ulysses Medal Presented to Professor Onora O'Neill

**On 31 August 2017, UCD President Professor Andrew Deeks awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal, the highest academic honour of the University, to Professor Onora O'Neill for her unique achievement in combining outstanding academic scholarship with wide-ranging and extraordinarily effective service to public and political life.**

Onora O'Neill's teaching career took her to University of Columbia, University of Essex and finally to University of Cambridge where, until her retirement, she was the Principal of Newnham College.

Professor O'Neill has been the President of the British Academy, the Chair of the Human Genetics Advisory Commission and most recently the Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. In 1999, she was appointed to the House of Lords, as Baroness O'Neill of Ben Garve, where she serves as a cross-bench member of the House. In that role, she has brought her formidable intellect and knowledge of complex ethical problems to guide and influence discussions of contested social and political issues.

Beginning with her 1975 book, *Acting on Principle*, Professor O'Neill's writing has enabled new generations of scholars to understand and interpret the work of Immanuel Kant in a completely new light. In the late 1990s Professor O'Neill's publications began to show an even stronger engagement with public moral and social issues. Her 2002 BBC's Reith Lectures on Trust, for instance, became a seminal moment in discussions of the conditions and requirements of public trustworthiness.

Professor O'Neill was in UCD as a keynote speaker at the conference on 'Trust, Expert Opinion and Policy' organised by Professor Maria Baghramian of UCD School of Philosophy and her co-PI, Professor Luke Drury of Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, as part of their IRC funded interdisciplinary research project 'When Experts Disagree'.

## Ulysses Medals presented to Cass Sunstein and Samantha Power

**Former US Ambassador to the UN, Professor Samantha Power and the most cited American legal scholar ever, Professor Cass Sunstein, have been awarded Ulysses Medals by UCD. The Harvard academics are married and have two children together.**

The medals were presented by UCD Registrar and Deputy President Professor Mark Rogers. The citation for Professor Power was read by Professor Orla Feely, Vice-President for UCD Research, Impact and Innovation and for Professor Sunstein by Professor Colin Scott, College Principal, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law and Vice-President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Professor Power has been called "a powerful crusader for US foreign policy as well as human rights and democracy" by Forbes. As a diplomat, journalist and professor, she has been a powerful and consistent advocate for principled American engagement and global co-operation. From 2009 to 2013, she served on the National Security Council as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, where she focused on issues including atrocity prevention, LGBT and women's rights, the protection of religious minorities, and the prevention of human trafficking.

In 2013 she became the youngest ever United States Ambassador to the United Nations, where she served until 2017. During this period she was also a member of President Obama's cabinet and a senior adviser at the White House. She remains a powerful voice in defending and promoting a rules-based world order and in supporting human rights.

Professor Cass Sunstein is one of the most influential legal scholars of the last century. He is currently Robert Walmsley University Professor at Harvard. As well as his academic work, he has had substantial impact on public policy, both through his



writings as well as directly as a policymaker. From 2009 to 2012, he was Administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, following nomination by President Obama. A prolific author, he has written some of the most widely cited works in legal and public policy scholarship. His 2008 book *Nudge* with Richard Thaler has had substantial impact on public policy across the world and was cited in the recent award of the Nobel Prize to Thaler. His recent books range on topics from the impact of new social technologies on democratic debate, the ethical implications of Nudge-type public policies, and the legalities of the US impeachment process.



# Developing sense around 'fatbergs'

**UCD engineer Dr Tom Curran is on a mission to stop 'fatbergs' from clogging up our sewers. He spoke to Dr Claire O'Connell about developing new technology to fight the build-up of hidden fat.**

Fatberg alert! A gigantic, greasy lump creeps along the sewers under a city, clogging the pipes and forcing foul-smelling sewage out above ground. It sounds like the script of a horror movie, but it's an event that is all too real for the cities where it has happened. Fatbergs form when households and restaurants put fats, oils and grease (FOGs) into the dishwasher or down the sink, and flush products such as nappies and wet-wipes down the toilet.

The congealed waste mounts silently in wastepipes, and the resulting fatberg can restrict the flow of wastewater and sewage until the problem spills out above ground. Then the fat mountain often needs to be manually shovelled and power-hosed away so that the waste can flow freely again.

But UCD engineer Dr Tom Curran is on the case. He and colleagues are looking at interventions that prevent or minimise the impact of fatbergs, and his newest project will develop a suite of sensors to warn of impending clogging so that action can be taken quickly.

## Monsterbergs

"A fatberg blocking a sewage pipe is like a blockage in an artery," explains Dr Curran, a lecturer in UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering and Director of the MSc in Environmental Technology Programme at UCD. "And just like in the body, if the blockage occurs in a major artery, or pipe in this case, the results can be quite serious, with gas and sewage backing up and emerging into streets and premises."

The resulting mess can not only damage roads and gardens and pollute rivers, but fatbergs can also potentially risk the health and lives of humans who need to physically climb into sewers and remove the troublesome blockages with shovels and high-pressure jets.

Some fatbergs are enormous – in September this year a 250-metre blockage that gugged up a sewer in East London weighed an estimated 130 tonnes (the equivalent mass of 19 African elephants, according to The Guardian). Last summer, the 'Dublin Road' fatberg in Belfast congealed close to fast-food outlets and crews had to shovel the blockage out over a number of Sunday mornings.

## Preventive measures

This year, Dr Curran and colleagues published a review in the Journal of Environmental Management of international measures to tackle fatbergs. They include educational campaigns such as 'Cease the Grease' in the USA and 'Bin it - Don't block it' in the UK, he explains: "The awareness around fatbergs tends to peak when there is a problem in the local sewers."

Dublin has had much success in preventing the formation of fatbergs thanks to stipulations that restaurants need to install and maintain a grease trap to hold back the fatty materials before they get into the sewer.

"Dublin is one of the leading cities in the world for these preventive measures," says Dr Curran.



"In 2008 Dublin City Council implemented rules about managing fats, oils and grease and it has reduced the fatberg problem in Dublin by about 95 per cent. It made a big difference."

Dr Curran is now working with a FOG stakeholder group in the UK to develop free, easy-to-understand visual instructions so that kitchen staff know how to avoid adding to the fatberg problem, and his group in UCD partners with award-winning Irish start-up SwiftComply, which offers restaurants an online platform to manage their fat, oil and grease waste.

## Sensors

By their nature fatbergs are an invisible problem, but the chaos they ultimately cause can be extreme and costly, from environmental problems to traffic diversions. "Often we only find out a fatberg is there when it starts to cause damage," says Dr Curran, who wants to develop a sensor-based 'early warning' system to alert when trouble is brewing.

Building on his previous research funded by the Irish Research Council, he has now won a prestigious Fulbright TechImpact Award to work with Professor Joel Ducoste in North Carolina State University on a fatberg detection system.

"In the first instance, we want to identify areas of high risk," explains Dr Curran. "So we will map out where restaurants are in relation to sewers, taking into account the diameter and conditions of the sewers, and calculate 'hotspots' where fatbergs are more likely to occur."

This information will determine where a suite of sensors could be stationed to monitor the sewer for early signs of trouble, and Dr Curran is preparing to put such sensors through their paces starting early next year.

"I'm looking to put sensors under manhole covers so we can monitor the level of sewage, which would start to rise if there was a blockage, as well as the flow rate, which would slow if a fatberg is forming and also an increase in the levels of gases from a build-up of waste material," he explains.

## All the right connections

While Dr Curran had expected to have to review off-the-shelf sensors to determine the best types to use, a conversation with another Fulbright awardee, Dr Jacek Kibilda, and his colleagues from the CONNECT Centre in Trinity College

Dublin have helped Dr Curran to leapfrog over that search.

"They have been very helpful with their expertise in electronics and they have helped me to use a dedicated 'Internet of Things' network for the project that Science Foundation Ireland is rolling out on Irish campuses, including UCD," says Dr Curran. "In return, I can help their work by collecting data using the sensors I will put in place under manhole covers for my test projects."

Dr Curran hopes that the fatberg sensor system could ultimately give authorities a warning that a blockage is forming. "If they know that, then crews could be dispatched early to deal with it before problems arise," he says. "And this would help to protect the health of those crews and the wider environment."

## How not to build a fatberg

Prevention is better than cure, and when it comes to fatbergs that clog up sewers, the idea is to avoid loading fats, oils, greases and sanitary products into sewers in the first place.

Dr Tom Curran has some expert advice to heed in the kitchen when cooking with fats and oils and cleaning up afterwards. "If you are having a fry, let the pan heat up so you use less oil," he says. "That will save you money too."

Then once you are ready to wash up, be sure to let any fats, oils or grease cool, and don't be tempted to wash them directly down the sink with hot water to speed their passage. "As a rule, fatbergs tend to occur around 300 metres from the point of discharge because fats have had a chance to cool down and harden," says Dr Curran.

Instead, he recommends that you wipe fats off pans, utensils and crockery into the bin for food waste.

As for the bathroom, be aware that not everything that seems flushable is good for sewers, he cautions. "Wet wipes have become a big problem in last 10 years," he says. "People often think they can be flushed down the toilet and some say they can be on the pack. But while a lot of things are flushable, they are not suitable and they can contribute to the fatberg problem."

*Professor Tom Curran was in conversation with Claire O'Connell, science writer and contributor to the Irish Times and Silicon Republic.*

## UCD honorary degrees for outstanding contributions to architecture, literature, science, politics and society

In one of the busiest weeks on campus with thousands of visitors attending graduation ceremonies, the University also presented honorary degrees to five individuals who have attained outstanding distinction in their fields. This semester's honorary degree recipients include cancer support advocate and public sector chief executive Sir Ciarán Devane; architect Niall McLaughlin; poetry anthologist Niall McMonagle; diplomat David Donoghue; and scientist Alistair Hetherington.

### Niall McLaughlin – Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature

Niall McLaughlin is a multiple international award-winning architect. He is also Professor of Architectural Practice at University College London. He won the Young Architect of the Year award 1998, 16 RIBA Awards, he twice won the RIBA Stephen Lawrence Award, had two appearances on the Stirling Prize shortlist and one on the Mies Van Der Rohe Prize shortlist. He was awarded the RIBA Charles Jencks award in 2016.

### Niall MacMonagle – Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature

Niall MacMonagle has worked as a teacher and broadcaster but is best known as a poetry anthologist. In the early 1980s, he began his teaching career at Wesley College, Dublin, where he taught English for over 30 years. His qualities as a teacher quickly moved to national and international arenas with his development in the mid-1980s of the Lifelines Project: Letters from Famous People about their Favourite Poem. This project now spans four

volumes; the New and Collected Lifelines was published in 2010.

### David Donoghue – Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature

An Irish diplomat who was centrally involved in the negotiations for the Irish government during the peace process, David Donoghue has also had overseas diplomatic postings in New York, Rome, Bonn, Paris, Moscow, Vienna and Berlin. He served as the Irish head of the Anglo-Irish Secretariat in Belfast during the period 1995 to 1999. It was in this capacity as a negotiator for the Irish government that he was centrally involved in the talks that culminated in the historic Good Friday Agreement in 1998.

### Sir Ciarán Devane – Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science

Sir Ciarán Devane started his career as an engineer but has more recently worked as the Chief Executive of one of the largest charities and a public sector cultural body in the UK. He took up an engineering position with one of the UK's largest companies, Imperial Chemical

Industries (ICI), rising to a management-level position over his eight-year period there. He accepted the role as Chief Executive of Macmillan Cancer Support in 2007. The charity is one of the largest in the UK and provides healthcare information, support and financial assistance to millions of cancer sufferers across Britain.

### Alistair Hetherington – Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science

After graduating from the University of St Andrews with a degree in Botany and a PhD in the area of physiological ecology, he moved to the University of Edinburgh, to work on cell biology as a postdoctoral scientist. His seminal research on calcium- and lipid-based signalling in plant cells has revolutionised the field of cell signalling and advanced the field of calcium- and lipid-based signal transduction in cells. In recognition of his outstanding abilities as a scientist, he joined the Scientific Advisory Committee of the UK Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs and has advised the work of the Scottish government.

## Dr Alison Reynolds wins inaugural UCD Allergan Innovation Award

Dr Alison Reynolds has won the inaugural UCD Allergan Innovation Award in recognition of the innovative potential within her research to develop a new therapy for dry eye disease.

Dr Reynolds is an early career researcher in the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine with close ties to the ocular pharmacology and genetics group based in the UCD Conway Institute. This award will provide Dr Reynolds with a research bursary of €7,000 to enable her to develop a novel compound, uncovered in zebrafish, as a dry eye disease therapeutic.

Dr Reynolds believes that the new compound identified, using tiny tropical fish as a research model, may provide a better alternative for the treatment of dry eye disease.

Speaking today Allergan Innovation Award winner at UCD, Dr Reynolds said: "The bursary will make a real difference to my research, enabling me to carry out pilot efficacy studies, visit international ocular surface experts and attend the Ophthalmology Futures Forum meeting in 2018. I am very grateful to Allergan for this opportunity. I would also like to thank Enterprise Ireland for funding this work and my UCD colleagues for their contributions and support."



Dr Alison Reynolds with her Allergan Innovation Award

## UCD Smurfit School Executive MBA programme ranked 74th globally

In October UCD Smurfit School's Executive part-time MBA programme was ranked 74th in the world and 35th in Europe, according to the prestigious 2017 Financial Times Top 100 Global Executive MBA Rankings. September also saw UCD Smurfit School's full-time MSc in International Management ranked 15th globally by the Financial Times. Earlier this year the MSc in Finance was positioned 36th in the world with Smurfit Executive Development Open Enrolment programmes ranked 48th globally by the FT.

The Financial Times Executive MBA ranking analyses programmes based on several criteria including career progress, quality of faculty, research and diversity.

Commenting on the ranking, Professor Tony Brabazon, Dean, UCD Business said: "UCD Smurfit School has made great strides over the years in consistently improving its global reputation as one of the world's leading business schools. Today's announcement by the Financial Times with our Executive MBA programme

climbing 15 places in its rankings is further evidence of that. This achievement is as a result of a relentless focus on continual improvement, investment in our faculty, and investment in our facilities to ensure optimum outcomes for our students and graduates who continue to be in high demand both here in Ireland and internationally."

The School also secured re-accreditation of its MBA programmes from one of the world's leading independent authorities on postgraduate

business education, The Association of MBAs (AMBA). This achievement ensures UCD Smurfit School remains the only business school in Ireland (and one of only 82 worldwide) to hold the prestigious 'triple crown' of accreditation from three highly respected accreditation bodies – EQUIS (Europe); AACSB (US) and AMBA (UK).

The Association of MBAs accreditation represents the highest standard of achievement in postgraduate business education and is based on a rigorous assessment of business schools' MBA programmes ensuring they demonstrate the highest standards in teaching and curriculum development. Attaining and retaining the AMBA accreditation for another five years is further evidence of UCD Smurfit School's commitment to excellence in business education.

# Irish Chicago



**According to the 2010 United States Census, 34.7 million Americans claim Irish American ancestry. Despite this massive figure there has been little academic effort, in recent decades, to find out who these people are.**

**What exactly does it mean, in the 21st century, if you claim to be Irish American?**

Professor Liam Kennedy, Director of the Clinton Institute, and his co-author Gemma McNulty, have published the report *Irish Chicago: Late Generation Ethnicity and the Future of Irish America*. The work was commissioned by The Irish Abroad Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and although it is an account of the status of the Irish in one city, it is intended to be the first step in a comprehensive study of Irish America.

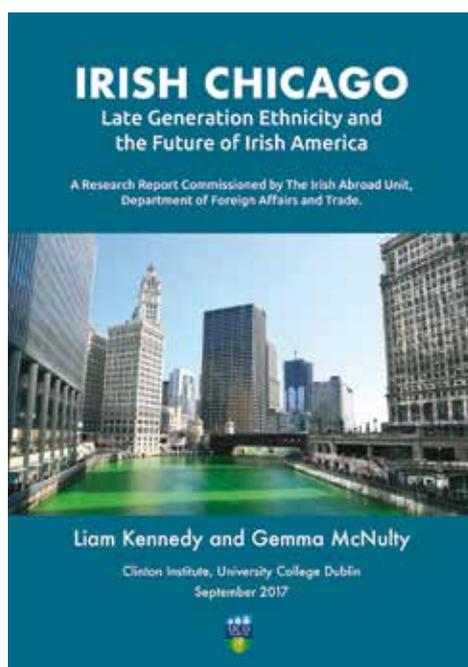
Looking back on the moment that sparked his curiosity, Kennedy says, "Irish diplomats would quote figures about this huge Irish Diaspora. And I thought to myself who are these people, where are they, what do they think? Even now, I still don't think we've enough information on that."

In earlier generations there was a constant interest in the successes and failures of the Irish in America. "You could follow big and reliable studies of Irish history," Kennedy continues,

***"Academics have done it proud. But there's very little study of contemporary Irish America. Scholarship stopped about 20 years ago."***

Yet it's obvious, on an almost a daily basis, that American celebrities, politicians and businessman publicly revel in their strong Irish roots and yet the ethnic group goes unstudied. One reason, Kennedy suspects, is that there is the perception that Irish America has made it, "graduated" as it's put in the report and become mainstream and corporate, but this cannot be the reality for all 34.7 million.

"Those millions must be ticking the Irish box for some reason," Kennedy thought, "so what is all that about?" Contemplating the research that might provide an answer to this question, the author commented: "This is not the kind of



study that can be done sitting in front of a computer in Dublin. You have to go out and get into the field, interviewing people... You have to do surveys. What's crucial is to get fresh data."

So, they embarked on an extended series of interviews and surveys within communities in the Chicago area. One of their immediate findings was that, no matter how proud these interviewees were of their ethnicity, they shared a sense of despondency about the future.

"Everyone had the same thing to say which was "we're not sure what's going to happen with the next generation, we think things are drifting, we're not getting the same numbers coming to our event or function, or sport or cultural event, whatever it is." This was a constant refrain. Adding to the communal

concern about the absence of new arrivals from Ireland is the feeling of a "drift in the younger generation...that they're not as involved as they would have been in the past."

A second finding is that Irish America is becoming more conservative as it gets older. In an age of accelerating social and technological change, the elderly are likely to become more introverted.

Given these developments, the report's subheading, "Late Generation Ethnicity", seems apt. This is not to say that the death knell is tolling quite yet. But, according to Kennedy "what it signifies is a late stage of the ethnic story and the lateness is defined, on the one hand, by the lack of new blood... but it's also signified by more subtle changes within the group whereby it is ever more inward looking and less inclined to look towards Ireland."

The special value of Kennedy and McNulty's study of the contemporary Irish American community, is that it is based on new information gathered. And, in its extended version, it becomes the template for a comprehensive examination of Irish America. To carry this out the authors hope to survey and study the larger Irish American enclaves of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and parts of the South, such as Atlanta and New Orleans. However, they already have firm reason to believe that much of the findings from Chicago will be replicated though out the country.

It remains to be seen whether this is true. Nevertheless, the writer's project is ambitious and admirable. "What we would hope to do is put these studies together" giving "the most comprehensive snapshot of Irish America that we've had in modern times."

More than this, it would not only be comprehensive but comparative, enabling us to see "variations in those different parts of America... in how those different areas of Irish America settled, what their politics are. You could begin to get a sense of what being Irish American means."

However, their ultimate conclusion may well be both positive and negative. Is it not likely that the loss of Irish American identity is the inevitable result of a successful immigration story? The descendants of the exiles have become natives, with only a fading folk-memory of their own origins.

*Professor Liam Kennedy was in conversation with Kate Hickey managing editor with Irish Central and Irish correspondent.*



Professor Brian Caulfield, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science, recipient of the NovaUCD 2017 Innovation Award.

## Connected Health Champion Receives the NovaUCD 2017 Innovation Award

The NovaUCD 2017 Innovation Award has been presented to UCD's Dean of Physiotherapy, Professor Brian Caulfield, who is championing a connected health research and innovation ecosystem at UCD and in Ireland.

The Award recognises the quality and impact of Professor Caulfield's peer-reviewed research, his commitment and success in commercialising the resulting intellectual property, and his dedication to forging key strategic links with policymakers, clinicians, industry leaders, innovative start-ups and research groups to drive advances in the connected health field.

Over the last 10 years the focus of Professor Caulfield's research programme at UCD has been on exploiting technological advances to enhance human performance, in the fields of connected health and sport, through wearable and mobile sensing measurement and intervention applications. These applications are now opening up new avenues for human performance evaluation and enhancement in areas from elite sport to rehabilitation medicine to gerontology.

He is also a Director of Ireland's largest research centre, the Insight Centre for Data Analytics, where he leads the Personal Sensing research group and is also a principal investigator in ARCH, Ireland's industry-led Connected Health Technology Centre.

## UCD Squared

Following on from last summer's successful 'UCD Squared – Connected One Health' conference, links between the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine and the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) Veterinary School continue to grow. This facilitates strong relationships around project ideas that utilise expertise and resources from both sides of the Atlantic in an effort to combat important and growing global problems.

During the summer, UCD student Alice O'Byrne travelled to UC Davis, while Lynae Shubin from UC Davis came to UCD to work with Dr Gerald Barry. Lynae's project in UCD was titled 'Investigating the presence of antimicrobial resistant (AMR) bacteria and Influenza virus in Irish seal populations.'

Alice worked with UC Davis faculty member Dr Karen Shapiro on a project entitled 'Molecular epidemiology of Sarcocystis neurona from land to sea: detection and molecular characterization in opossums and marine mammals from western Washington'.



Pictured is Lynae Shubin from UC Davis carrying out a nasal swab on a seal



Pictured at the launch of the new €5 million bespoke UCD Smurfit Executive Development Centre are Niall FitzGerald, KBE, Chairman of UCD Smurfit School Advisory Boards, Helen Brophy, Director, Smurfit Executive Development and Dr Michael WJ Smurfit, Founding Benefactor UCD Smurfit School.

## €5 million bespoke Executive Development Centre opened at UCD Smurfit School

In September 2017 a new €5 million bespoke Executive Development Centre was opened by Dr Michael Smurfit, marking the culmination of a five-year investment programme which has seen the creation of a world-class Executive Development offering in Dublin.

This latest evolution at UCD Smurfit School ensures Dr Michael Smurfit's vision of Ireland and its capital having an internationally respected

postgraduate business school and executive development offering on its doorstep is now truly realised.

The investment programme over the past five years has allowed for a significant expansion of Smurfit Executive Development's offering with both the number of programmes and graduates increasing tenfold in that period, while also building a global reputation for excellence with its Open Enrolment programmes now ranked in the world's Top 50 according to the Financial Times.

## UCD Archives schools project with Richmond Barracks

One of the outcomes of UCD Archives' recent Irish Research Council -funded project 'The Finest Men Alive': Documents of Imprisonment and Protest has been developing an ongoing relationship with Éadaoin Ní Chléirigh and Catherine Neville who run Richmond Barracks and through them, with the playwright Irma Grothuis. Irma is developing an education programme for local primary schools in conjunction with Richmond Barracks. As some of the letters used in the online exhibition and catalogue were written there, we thought that they might be useful for Irma's programme. Archivist Sarah Poutch worked with Irma and chose a sequence of letters from the Papers of Bernard O'Rourke

and provided copies which could be used in their history and drama programme, Stories from the Garrison.

Irma commented on the completed project that: "The letters from Bernard O'Rourke really helped to bring history alive for the children and his story was a great prism through which they were able to explore some of the events of 1916."

Pictured right is a letter written by one of the participating children during the programme, after Irma had worked with them on Bernard's story. The children were asked to imagine that they were his daughter Claire and they were asked to write back to Bernard after receiving his letter from Richmond Barracks.



# How Social Housing is Financed, Delivered and Managed in Ireland



Professor Michelle Norris

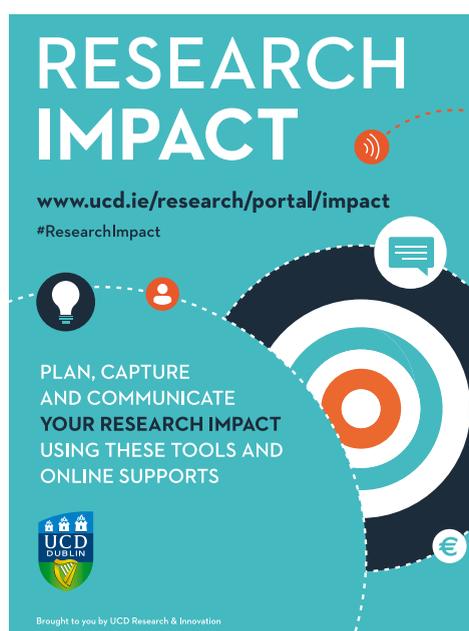
**Ireland's housing shortage is compounded by a major undersupply of social housing. Looking to our past and European neighbours though could point to better models, superior ways of financing public housing and above all else more sustainable and affordable schemes, as UCD's Head of School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, Professor Michelle Norris has investigated. The published author and senior lecturer in social policy recently received a University accolade for her research into the sector, work which is now influencing government thinking on how overhauling public housing building might just help solve the crisis.**

Professor Norris' research primarily looks at how social housing is financed, delivered and managed. In recent years, she has completed several pieces of research around this. Last year she completed a study for the Housing Finance Agency, which she chairs, on how social housing is funded in Denmark, Austria and Ireland. Her work won her the inaugural UCD Research Impact Case Study competition, where she was declared overall winner. A key question Professor Norris explored was how the other two nations successfully finance and manage larger social housing sectors than us.

She explains a key finding is that their schemes are not based on larger amounts of state funding. State funding for public housing in Austria and Denmark is significantly lower than Ireland. Sectors there are financed instead mainly from private sources, including from banks and bonds. Austria also runs a state-backed special savings scheme, which helps finance social housing construction.

In those countries, tenants also pay rents according to the cost of providing the homes and they pay down loans over a very long time. The Austrian state therefore pays a small subsidy towards all of this, which is a loan covering 20% of costs. The opposite is the case here, as Professor Norris explains: "In Ireland, the state funds 100% of the provision costs. So the model used in other countries is much more affordable for governments. You spread the cost over a longer period and tenants make a bigger contribution over maybe 30 or 40 years. So the system is basically self-financing."

Her work also looked at the financial crash here and how social housing funding was cut by 82%.



For banks in Denmark and Austria, social housing was also considered a safe haven investment for lending. While it is not per se government guaranteed, it is robustly regulated.

But the question is what could we do here in Ireland to make social housing more sustainable?

Having led over 20 research projects on housing and produced 50 publications on results, Professor Norris' research also saw her publish a book last year. *Property, Family and the Irish Welfare State* looks at the history of how the state has provided social housing since the 1880s. This strangely revealed how Ireland in the

past had used social housing models similar to Denmark and Austria.

She explained: "We raised local authority borrowed loans or sometimes they raised bonds and the rents tenants paid were linked to the cost of provision. And local property taxes, i.e. residential rates, played a big role in refunding the payment of the loans. The sector was much more self-funding than it is now."

"People ask how did we manage to build all the council housing in the 1950s when we were broke? Dublin and Cork City Councils would have raised municipal bonds. If they felt that social housing was a priority in their area, they raised taxes or rates. Tenants rents were historically linked to the cost of provision."

Professor Norris points out that this is the standard European model. Furthermore, if tenants can't afford the rent, they get a subsidy, like rent supplement. All these factors spread out repayments. In Ireland, this model worked quite well, she says, until the 1970s. However, the abolition of rates caused enormous problems.

Rents were then linked to tenant incomes and therefore were low and unpredictable. Moreover, Ireland began selling those houses at a knock-down price.

So what do we need to do now? Professor Norris explains: "Firstly we need to stop selling off council housing. Currently the discount is 60% of market value. So now the government pays 100% of the costs and if it is sold off, the profits are privatised."

Furthermore, the overall level of social housing is too low.

In 2015, the output for social housing was around 1,500 units. She maintains that Ireland needs to provide 5,000 units a year, particularly where needed in urban areas, in Dublin, Cork and Galway.

She also believes local authorities should keep more of their local property tax, similar to the past. "Because the homeless problem is so acute in Dublin, this should happen," she explains.

Solving the housing crisis will not be easy. But there are avenues Ireland can follow, especially when it comes to social housing supply. Prof Norris explained: "We can also look to our past as well as abroad for what we need to do."

*Professor Michelle Norris was in conversation with Juno McEnroe, Journalist with the Irish Examiner.*

**Professor Michelle Norris, Head of UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, was declared overall winner of UCD's inaugural research impact case study competition in October. This is a new initiative established by UCD Research, Impact and Innovation to build capacity throughout the University in the area of capturing and articulating research impact. Just under 40 case studies were submitted as entries for the inaugural competition. The case studies were judged by a panel, composed of internal and external experts, on three main criteria; capture and articulation; scale and significance and beneficiaries and reach.**

## ■ Presentation of UCD 2017 University Teaching and Learning Awards

**UCD's national and international reputation for educational excellence has been built over many years by the passion, innovation and commitment of its faculty and staff. Twelve individuals and one team, all of whom surpassed the norm to ensure that UCD students receive the highest quality learning experience were honoured with University Teaching and Learning Awards at a ceremony and dinner in September.**

Although UCD has rewarded teaching and learning excellence for many years, two new schemes were rolled out this year which meant that for the first time UCD students had a voice. The content and volume of their nominations is a testament to the huge achievement of UCD faculty and staff in creating such a positive impact on so many lives. This year is also the first year that faculty and staff have been able to acknowledge the work of colleagues through nominations. 735 individuals and teams received 1674 nominations. 84% were student nominations. The special celebration reflected the spirit of all that recognition by the UCD community as the thirteen university-level awardees were honoured.

The nominations phase was followed by an applications and adjudication phase at college level resulting in 73 college level awardees, with those achievements celebrated at college level.



*Pictured: at the Teaching and Learning Awards ceremony at Ardmore House (l-r on stairs): Dr Fionnuala Dillane, UCD School of English, Drama and Film; Mr Cesar Scrochi, Ms Emma Howard, Mr Daniel Giles and Dr Anthony Cronin, the Maths Support Centre Tutor Team; Mr James McDermott, UCD School of Law; Dr Vincent Hargaden, UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering; Dr Thomas Grund, UCD School of Sociology; and Dr James Matthews, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports. Front row (l-r): Dr Paul Perry, UCD School of English Drama and Film; Assoc. Professor Emma Sokell, UCD School of Physics; Dr Monica Gorman, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science; Dr Suzanne Egan, UCD School of Law; Registrar and Deputy President Professor Mark Rogers; Dr Aileen Quilty, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice; Assoc. Professor Niamh Moore-Cherry, UCD School of Geography; and Dr Niamh Nestor, UCD Student Adviser attached to UCD Veterinary Medicine.*

Then a further applications and adjudication phase resulted in the selection of the University-level awardees.

Those who nominated others highlighted the engaging and passionate communication of expert knowledge, pioneering learning methods, dynamic, visionary and inspiring teaching, curriculum-development and leadership. They also applauded personal touches, approachability and tireless work to support and encourage students to overcome difficulties. Students described how they were motivated by the infectious passion of their teachers for their subject matter and how their teachers were role models who challenged

them to reach their potential through thought-provoking yet accessible, interactive learning.

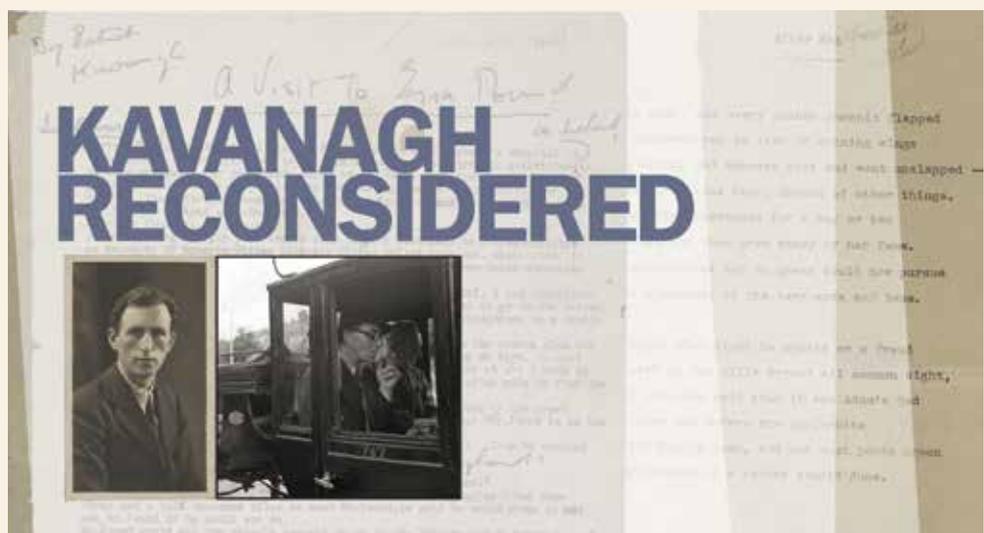
An applications stage followed the nominations and a total of 256 applications were considered by seven college-level adjudication panels. This resulted in 73 awards at college level which were celebrated locally earlier in the summer. Each of the college adjudication panels then made recommendations from their pool of awardees for a University level award. Following a competitive process, 13 of those awardees were selected to receive prestigious University Teaching and Learning awards.

## ■ Kavanagh Reconsidered

**Kavanagh Reconsidered, an exhibition of manuscripts and printed materials from the Kavanagh Archive was launched on 10 November 2017 at UCD Library. This exhibition, curated by Dr Lucy Collins, School of English, Drama, Film and Creative Writing, invites us to reconsider Kavanagh's attitude to place and identity, and to explore how material such as notebooks, photographs and personal correspondence shape our understanding of his work.**

The Kavanagh papers, preserved by the poet's brother Peter Kavanagh, were acquired by UCD after a national fundraising initiative in the mid-1980s, led by Gus Martin, then Professor of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama. This archive is a rich resource for all those interested in the life and work of this Irish poet.

Though Kavanagh was closely identified with rural Monaghan, he spent much of his adult life moving between Dublin and London in search of opportunities to write and publish. He gained prominence early when Macmillan published his first collection, *Ploughman and Other Poems*, in 1936. However, it is *The Great Hunger* (1942) that most memorably dramatises the intersection between personal



experience and the restrictive social conditions of the time.

In later life Kavanagh would identify with the idea of the poet as rebellious outsider; personally and creatively he thrived on conflict, as drafts of articles and interviews show. His legacy for Irish writers is profound, and exceeds his pioneering representation of rural life, as well as his reputation for controversy.

His work challenges readers to open their minds to what is new and rebellious in literature, and to recognise the shaping force of their own lived experience in the encounter with art.

The Kavanagh Reconsidered exhibition will run in UCD Special Collections reading room until June 2018, and all are welcome to come in and visit it.



Mentee Eoghan O'Sullivan (School of History) with his mentor, Declan Hanney.

## ■ Career Mentoring 2017

Now in its third year, the UCD alumni/student mentoring programme 2017 has been a great success, with 43 alumni/student mentoring partnerships.

Throughout the year students from the Schools of English, Drama and Film, Politics and International Relations, Archaeology and History have benefited from the professional experience of some of our most influential alumni who volunteered to support students as they navigate their way in the professional world.

*"It was so reassuring to have someone to support you and advise you with anything regarding your career plans. I would definitely recommend the programme." Student Mentee*

*"Both of my mentees went from knowing nothing about the publishing industry to actually working in it. For me, it was personally very rewarding to accompany them on their journeys." Alumni Mentor*

*"Mentoring provides students with a wonderful opportunity to gain meaningful insight into sectors and roles of interest to them, as well as giving them the confidence to move forward with their career plans. The mentoring relationship can be immensely rewarding for both parties." Sorcha Mulcahy, Deputy Director, UCD Career Development Centre*

*"Our alumni are a great source of pride to UCD and I am delighted that they are interested in staying in touch with UCD and supporting our students in such a meaningful way". Nicole Black, Director, Alumni Development*

UCD Alumni Relations and the UCD Career Development Centre are delighted to work together to support students via mentoring. Students from the Colleges of Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences and Law can register by emailing Rebecca.boyle@ucd.ie to participate in the 2018 programme.



Prof William Gallagher, UCD Conway Institute, Prof Andrew Deeks, UCD President, Minister Seán Kyne TD, Prof David Kay, Aberystwyth University and Prof Wim Meijer, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science.

## ■ Minister Launches €6.7 million Climate Change Research Initiative led by UCD

The Acclimatize team, together with UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks, was delighted to welcome Seán Kyne TD, Minister of State for Community Development, Natural Resources and Digital Development to officially launch the 5-year Acclimatize project. The €6.7 million climate change research initiative has been part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland Wales Programme 2014-2020.

The overall objective of the project, led by UCD in partnership with Aberystwyth University, is to improve the quality of coastal waters in both Ireland and Wales, boosting local tourism and supporting marine industries, such as shellfish harvesting. The goal of the project is to identify pollution streams and their impact on coastal waters, in both urban and rural settings, and the impact of climate change on pollution.

The Acclimatize project will focus on designated and 'at-risk' bathing waters in two complementary environments, a large scale urban and a rural agricultural environment. The large scale urban environment is represented in the project by 'at-risk' bathing waters in Dublin Bay (Sandymount, Merrion and Dollymount strands), whereas the rural agricultural environment will focus on the main 'at-risk' bathing waters commencing with Cemaes Bay in Anglesey which formed the focus of environmental sampling and instrumentation in 2017.

Professor Wim Meijer, Head, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, who is leading the Acclimatize project said: "Climate change is predicted to produce more weather extremes and, in particular, storminess in North West Europe including the Irish Sea. This will have negative impacts on coastal water quality in the period to 2100, which will threaten the sustainable use of coastal waters which form the economic basis of coastal tourism and shellfish harvesting industries."

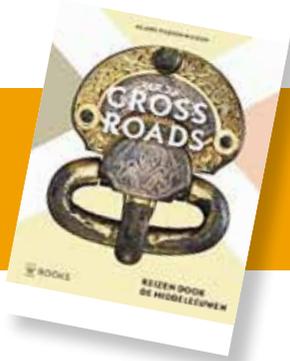
He added, "Improvement of bathing waters is often complicated, or prevented altogether, by a lack of knowledge of the pollution streams that contribute to non-compliance. Climate proofing of regulatory and infrastructural decisions affecting bathing water quality is therefore a policy challenge urgently needing the policy evidence-base which we will provide in the Acclimatize project."

## ■ Restart a Heart



Pictured at UCD's Restart a Heart Day to mark European Restart a Heart Week where over 500 UCD community members were trained in basic hands-only CPR are (back row l-r) Professor Gerard Bury, Director, UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science (EMS); Corporal Alan Carolan, Defence Forces (trainer); Mairéad Egan, Manager, UCD Centre for EMS; Dr Mark Ruddy, GP and Lecturer in EMS. (Front row l-r) Mark Simpson, UCD Culture & Engagement; Ben Heron, Advanced Paramedic, HSE National Ambulance Service and UCD Tutor in EMS; Dr Sandra Tighe, Director of Student Health and Geraldine McDermott, Nurse, UCD Student Health.

# Books



## Crossroads- Travelling through the Middle Ages AD 300-1000

**Editors: Maria Bormpoudaki, Marieke van den Doel, Wim Hupperetz, Faidra Kalafati, Lindsa Morehoure, Lynda Mulvin (UCD School of Art History), Michael Schmauder**

### W Books

Crossroads accompanies a travelling virtual exhibition focusing on the early days of migration and cultural exchange across Europe during the Early Middle Ages. Both the book and exhibition are a result of an EU-funded digital collaborative project between eight European museum collections and seven universities, including UCD, which examines the connectivity between early medieval objects and the objects' region of origin.

Associate Professor Lynda Mulvin is one of the editors of the book and contributed a chapter 'Ireland and Europe – Transmission of Celtic Aesthetic in the Early Middle Ages'. Lynda traces the journeys of Irish traders, scholars and missionaries who travelled from Ireland and brought aspects of Irish life and culture with them. They brought for example, Ogham stones and manuscripts to the western seaboard of Scotland, Wales and Cornwall and also to continental Europe.

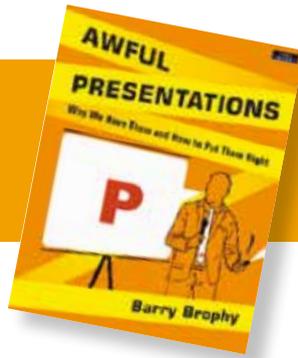
They also brought traces of their travels back to Ireland. One Romano-British slave, a Welshman called Patrick, would go down in history as one of our most venerated saints, and certainly the most celebrated.

As travel became more popular, more people went on pilgrimage and once again, Irish art and architecture underwent subtle changes to reflect European influences.

Throughout this period, Europe was a place of great change and mobility. The influence of new religions from the Middle East and the fall of the Western Roman Empire meant that entire populations were on the move, bringing about an enormous amount of cultural exchange and diversity.

This is a beautiful book, the imagery is stunning throughout. From familiar images of Irish art and architecture of that time to reproductions of paintings, books and jewellery. Each chapter's narrative brings the pieces to life and places them in their historical context, a thoroughly enjoyable read.

The exhibition will travel to Dublin in 2018. **MS**



## Awful Presentations – Why We Have Them and How to Put Them Right

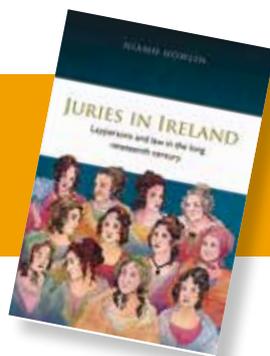
**Barry Brophy, UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering**

### Dark River

How many times have we sat through uninteresting, badly designed, flat presentations – how many times have we delivered them!? While it can be easy to blame Powerpoint as a delivery mechanism, it is not always the culprit, neither actually, according to the author, are the dreaded nerves. The presentation is not actually about the slides, it's about you, how you interact with the audience and how you bring the story to life.

You're given perhaps one chance to grab your audience's attention, so you don't want to send them to sleep with text-heavy headings and unending lists of bullet points. According to the author, the slide deck should really be the least exciting part of the presentation, only of benefit to the presenter as a memory hook.

Do you get stressed about delivering a presentation? Read the book... it offers advice on how to act when you're flustered, how to use simple tools like eye contact to turn your presentation into a performance, how to use storytelling and wow your audience. It is very easy to get into your own world when presenting, but you need to be listening to your audience and picking up on the non-verbal clues, are they listening to you, what aspects are they reacting to, how can you capitalise on that? Show yourself to be open to questions, ask questions, interact, work with the audience. **MS**



## Juries in Ireland

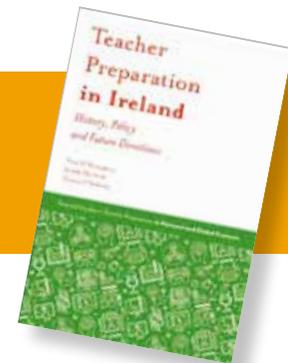
**Dr Niamh Howlin UCD School of Law**  
**Four Courts Press**

Involving lay persons in the administration of justice, allowing them to become an integral part of the arm of the law is not a modern concept. Indeed, the development of rights of due process and trial by jury, is fascinating to examine. The idea of the individual who stands accused of wrongdoing being judged by peers, being asked by the state to perform a civic duty and find an individual guilty or not guilty of an offence is one which has been present in legal jurisdictions for centuries. The idea of involving lay people in the administration of justice could even be argued to be democratically inspired attempts to re-engage the population into the administration of law of the state.

The manner in which our modern Jury System developed is a fascinating one. As examined in *Juries in Ireland, Lawpersons and Law in the Ling Nineteenth Centenary*, the generic jury system in operation today had not been realised. Different types of offences required different types of jury, whose backgrounds and expertise were as numerous as the crimes they were asked to examine. As well as challenges to the system, such as errors in the swearing in process, jury packing, and doing so with the use of contemporary cartoons and images to showcase what the world was like when juries ran Ireland.

*Juries in Ireland, Lawpersons and Law in the Ling Nineteenth Centenary* gives a compelling account of the idea of development and nuances of the jury system in the 19th century, prior to the inception of juryless courts of the 20th century.

**RNiM**



## Teacher Preparation in Ireland: History, Policy and Future Direction

**Professor Tom O'Donoghue, The University of Western Australia. Professor Teresa O'Doherty University of Limerick**

### Emerald

The book provides an overview of teacher preparation in Ireland from 1922 to the present. It outlines in detail the history of teaching and how students were prepared to teach at both primary and secondary level. Prompted by the interest driven by the anniversary of free education in Ireland in the 1960s, when education was opened to the masses, this book takes us on a journey through educating the educators in Ireland.

The authors draw on a wide range of literature on the subject over a number of years and draws conclusions based on those writings. They examine the development from a probably two-year teaching training process to the full degree and masters programmes in education that are prevalent today.

Each of the book's seven core chapters provides a broad background to a specific period of time in Ireland's educational history. From the initial establishment of a public school education system in the 19th century, through changes driven by politics, economics and society, we now find ourselves in a society where education is fully credited with the role it plays in the nation's economic growth and national prosperity. Thus, despite having come through years of 'snobbishness' on the part of some universities where teacher preparation was seen as somewhat beneath them, the preparation, or education, of educators has taken its rightful place as playing a key role in Ireland's future.

The final chapter looks forward, indicating possible future direction, while highlighting both challenges and opportunities in the field.

This book should be of interest not only to Irish educationists, historians and policymakers, but also to their counterparts internationally, as well as to comparative educationists. **MS**

## UCD Emeritus Professor appointed President of the Economic History Association



**Cormac Ó Gráda, Emeritus Professor in the UCD School of Economics, has recently been made President of the Economic History Association.**

Professor Ó Gráda has long been noted as the foremost authority on the economic history of Ireland and of the Great Famine in particular. In his *Ireland: A New Economic History, 1780–1939* (Oxford University Press 1994) and continuing with *A Rocky Road: The Irish Economy since Independence* (Manchester University Press, 1997), he documented the varying fortunes of the Irish economy from Grattan's Parliament to the eve of the Celtic Tiger. In numerous articles and monographs, including *Black '47 and Beyond: The Great Irish Famine in History, Economy, and Memory* (Princeton University Press, 1999) he has looked at the causes and impact of the Great Irish Famine, examining not only at its economic and demographic consequences but its legacy in national memory and folklore. His most recent work on the topic examines the potential causes of the very different impacts of the famine at the level of individual parishes.

In the past decade his interest in the Irish famine has widened into a broader concern with historical famines internationally, such as China's Great Leap Forward from 1959–1961 and the Great Bengal Famine of 1943–1944. For the latter, in particular, he has questioned the widespread consensus that the famine represented a failure of entitlements associated with an artificial failure of supply caused by speculation, arguing that it represented instead a government failure to make good a harvest shortfall that would have been manageable in peacetime. This work on international aspects of famine is summarised in his study of hunger from Biblical Times to the present, *Famine: A Short History* (Princeton University Press, 2009) one of Choice magazine's "Outstanding Academic Titles" for 2009. Some of his more recent essays are collected in *Eating People is Wrong* (Princeton University Press, 2015), the title piece focusing on the reliability of accounts of cannibalism during famine.

In addition to this varied and acclaimed research he has in recent years published on topics in economic history ranging from bank panics and the Little Ice Age to shipping technology and the English watchmaking industry.

Professor Ó Gráda is a member of the Royal Irish Academy and received its Gold Medal in Humanities in 2010.



Speakers at the launch included: Minister Michael Creed TD; Anne Melly, Health Service Executive and Chair of New Directions National Implementation Group; Colm O'Rourke, RTE GAA Analyst; Brian Smyth, SoFI Project Manager and Leitrim Development Company; and Prof Jim Kinsella, UCD Professor of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development.

## Minister launches extended National Social Farming Network

In July 2017, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine, Michael Creed TD launched an extended social farming initiative for many areas of the country on the family farm of Michael and Siobhán Heslin at Gortletteragh, Co Leitrim. Social Farming targets people with mental health and physical challenges, as well as those in other vulnerable categories, who are at risk of social exclusion, and offers them an opportunity to spend time on a working family farm. Speaking at the launch, Minister Creed described Ireland's family farms as the bedrock of Irish rural life, while highlighting their potential to counter social exclusion and acknowledging that this is a movement that will grow.

Commenting at the launch, Professor Jim Kinsella, UCD Professor of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development said: "If

social farming continues to grow as it has, it can achieve 10 social farms in every county by 2020 and based on the experience of the Netherlands, Ireland could have almost 1,000 social farms in the future delivering services to a wide range of clients including: people with mental health issues; people with an intellectual disability; disaffected youth; long-term unemployed; the elderly; and those in drug or alcohol rehabilitation programmes. UCD has been supporting and managing the establishment of social farming in Ireland since as far back as 2005. The UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science led the very successful EU-funded SoFAB Project in 2011–14 which established and delivered social farming on 20 farms in the border counties and in Northern Ireland."

## International Research Teams in Discovery of Light associated with a Gravitational Wave Source

**In a series of significant scientific papers recently published, international teams of researchers, including astronomers from the Space Science Group in UCD School of Physics, have announced the discovery of light, or more correctly electromagnetic radiation, associated with a gravitational wave source.**

The Advanced LIGO and Advanced VIRGO teams recently reported the detection of a gravitational wave source (GW170817), consistent with the merger of two neutron stars, for the first time. Gamma-rays, followed by optical and infrared radiation, were also detected from the same region of the sky.

Gravitational waves, ripples in the fabric of spacetime, were first anticipated by Albert Einstein a century ago in his general theory of relativity.

In September 2015 gravitational waves were observed for the first time after scientists from over 20 countries collaborated to develop a detector, the Advanced Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (aLIGO), located in the USA, sensitive enough to confirm their existence.

Since the first gravitational wave detection, caused by a collision between two black holes 1.3 billion years ago, aLIGO, in conjunction with the Advanced VIRGO (aVIRGO) detector, located in Pisa, Italy, has observed gravitational waves from several other sources.

In all cases up to now, the gravitational waves detected were from the merger of black holes about 30 times the mass of our Sun and, despite searches by astronomers, no



counterparts were found by telescopes sensitive to gamma-rays, X-rays, optical, infra-red or radio waves.

On August 17, 2017 gravitational waves from the merger of two compact stellar remnants, called neutron stars, were detected by two out of three aLIGO/aVIRGO systems.

Less than 2 seconds later, gamma-rays were detected from the same region of the sky by NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope and ESA's INTEGRAL satellite. Both satellites detected a gamma-ray burst, which proves that some gamma-ray bursts are caused by the merger of neutron stars.

## Arthritis in children with Down Syndrome



Dr Charlene Foley, Arthritis Ireland & Down Syndrome Ireland Newman Fellow in Down's Arthropathy

**One in fifty children with Down Syndrome have juvenile arthritis, more than twice what was previously estimated, according to a groundbreaking new study carried out by Irish researchers into the disease.**

The four-year project, undertaken at UCD School of Medicine in partnership with clinicians in Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin (OLCHC) is supported by Arthritis Ireland, Down Syndrome Ireland and the National Children's Research Centre (NCRC), found that children with Down Syndrome are 18-21 times more likely to suffer from the debilitating disease than children without it.

The first of its kind worldwide, the study is now being expanded to define what might be driving the disease. "If we understand why the disease is more prevalent in children with Down syndrome and what is causing it, then we can begin to look at better treatment options and ultimately a cure for the disease," said clinical research fellow Dr Charlene Foley.

This research has also helped raise awareness about the condition so that children with Down's Arthritis (DA) are diagnosed and treated in a more timely manner, leading to better clinical outcomes and quality of life. Delayed diagnosis can lead to irreversible joint damage. This joint damage, and consequential functional impairment, is preventable if timely diagnosis and treatment is instigated.

The research is being undertaken by UCD Newman Fellow Dr Charlene Foley, along with her mentors Dr Orla Killeen, consultant paediatric rheumatologist in OLCHC; Professor Gerry Wilson, Arthritis Ireland chair of rheumatology, UCD; and Professor Ursula Fearon, Arthritis Ireland chair of molecular rheumatology, TCD.



Pictured (l-r) are Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact; Sean O'Reagain, Deputy Head of Unit, Advanced Manufacturing Systems and Biotechnologies, DG for Research and Innovation, European Commission; Dr Brendan Hawdon, Advisor, DG for Research and Innovation, European Commission; Minister Halligan TD and Dr Imelda Lambkin, Ireland's National Director for Horizon 2020.

## National Launch of Horizon 2020 Work Programme

**John Halligan TD, Minister of State for Training, Skills, Innovation, Research and Development has called on Ireland's researchers and companies to seize the opportunities presented in the €30 billion final work programme of Horizon 2020 at the national launch event held at UCD.**

Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, said, "We were delighted to host the national launch here at UCD. EU funding is a priority, not just for UCD but for Ireland as whole, and the presence of over 700 attendees at this event demonstrates the commitment of Ireland's research and business communities to this programme."

"This final H2020 work programme represents an outstanding opportunity for UCD to grow its research activity over the coming years and to continue to deliver excellent research outputs and impact."

## The MILESTONE Study update

**The MILESTONE Study is a longitudinal project which examines the organisation, policy and practice of care pathways for young people as they transition from Child to Adult Mental Health services.**

Running in eight European countries and funded by the European Commission, it is a partnership of academics and clinicians, over one thousand young patients and their carers. Previous HRB-funded research in Ireland, the iTRACK study, identified an absence of planned, well-executed transitioning process, resulting in poor experience of young service users, leaving many to reject transfer, remain in CAMHS beyond the transition boundary or fall between the gaps in the system.

In Ireland MILESTONE has just wrapped up the second wave of data collection and started the third one. The Ethics work package led by UCD, with Professor Fiona McNicholas as Principal Investigator, in association with University of Warwick, is concerned especially with overseeing the service user and carer involvement in service development and research, the rights of children, young people and their carers, the complex ethical, legal, developmental, social/family and service-related factors that have implications for research methodology, interpretation and utility of findings, project management and service delivery.

The data from the opening stages of the study have been recently published in The Lancet Psychiatry journal (Signorini et al., 2017) and BMJ Open journal (Singh et al., 2017), and presented through a symposium at the 17th International Congress of European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Geneva.

## International genomics meeting hosted in UCD by Systems Biology Ireland and European Molecular Biology Laboratory

**Systems Biology Ireland was delighted to welcome colleagues from the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), Europe's flagship laboratory for the life sciences, to a joint scientific meeting on 'Interpreting Genomes and Genome Functions', on 11-12 September 2017. The event followed on from the success of a 2014 meeting exploring opportunities for future collaborations and the subsequent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations.**

An international audience of over 150 people converged on the Conway Institute in UCD for the two-day meeting, with seminars and activities celebrating SBI and EMBL's combined expertise in the field of molecular life science and precision medicine.

The event saw leading SBI and EMBL researchers as well as EMBL alumni give attendees fascinating insights into the latest research and cutting-edge developments on topics ranging from genomics and functional genomics, machine learning and computational modelling and precision medicine in childhood cancers. Professor Owen Smith, UCD School of Medicine and Our Lady of Children's Hospital, Crumlin gave a fascinating talk on Child & Adolescent Leukaemia: Towards personalized

cancer care', where he discussed the benefits of a molecular diagnosis that offered proactive treatment methods.

Opening proceedings, Professor Des Higgins, UCD/SBI and EMBL Alumnus, said: "We are delighted to once again welcome EMBL colleagues and alumni to UCD and Dublin, to strengthen ties and explore further opportunities to collaborate."

Professor Walter Kolch, Director of SBI, noted: "Advances in precision medicine are now giving us the opportunity to develop targeted treatments for cancer that will enable us to approach each patient's cancer individually. Further collaboration with EMBL will bring together the brightest minds to help us achieve the SBI goal of precision cancer medicine."



Pictured at UCD Conway Institute are (l-r) Dr Melinda Halasz, SBI UCD; Prof Owen Smith, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin and SBI, UCD; Prof Ian Mattaj, EMBL Heidelberg; Prof Walter Kolch, SBI, UCD; and Dr Marion Boland, SFI.



Stephen Carter with his UCD Conway Festival gold medal

## Stephen Carter wins 2017 UCD Conway Festival gold medal

**PhD student, Stephen Carter has won the 2017 UCD Conway Festival gold medal for his work to identify proteins involved in the formation and function of cilia, the tiny hair-like projections extending from the surfaces of most human cell types.**

Stephen is part of a research team based in UCD Conway Institute under the supervision of Conway Fellows, Associate Professor Oliver Blacque and Professor Breandan Kennedy in the UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science.

Cilia serve as important antennae to relay external sensory and signalling information back to the cell. Various small enzymes known as GTPases help to regulate cilium formation and function, including intraflagellar transport (IFT). A number of small G-proteins are also

associated with features of cilia disease such as retinal degeneration.

Stephen was awarded the gold medal sponsored by Cruinn Diagnostics at the closing ceremony of the 2017 UCD Conway Festival of Research and Innovation on Thursday, 14 September. Professor William Gallagher, Director, UCD Conway Institute congratulated Stephen and the more than one hundred other early career researchers from across UCD Conway Institute who presented their research during the three-day event saying, "For the Institute, this Festival presents a really valuable opportunity for our early career researchers to showcase their own research in a friendly but challenging environment. Stephen really impressed the judging panel with his ability to articulate the findings of his research and their implications for further work."

## Society of Legal Scholars Conference

**The Society of Legal Scholars (SLS) 108th annual conference took place in the Sutherland School of Law in September, with the theme The Diverse Unities of Law. Professor Imelda Maher, Dean of Law and President of the Society in 2016-2017, organised the conference on behalf of the Society's 3,000 members with the support of colleagues and students. With over 480 delegates, more than 400 papers were presented. UCD alumnus, Professor Conor Gearty, London School of Economics was guest speaker at the annual dinner.**

The conference welcomed the new Chief Justice, The Hon Mr Justice Frank Clarke and Baroness Brenda Hale of Richmond, new President of the UK Supreme Court. A highlight was a plenary with distinguished members of the judiciary from Ireland, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, chaired by The Hon Mr Justice Donal O'Donnell.

Leadership and Diversity in Law Schools was discussed by a panel of Heads of Schools (Professor Toni Williams (Kent), Professor Anne Davies (Oxford), Professor Carol Tan (SOAS), Professor Carl Stychin (City)), chaired by UCD Vice-President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Professor Colin Scott. The conference was opened by Professor Ambreena Manji (Cardiff University), Associate Professor Kevin Costello (UCD) and Professor Peter Cane (ANU and Cambridge University).



Baroness Hale of Richmond with Professor Peter Cane of Cambridge (left) and Professor Andrew Burrows of Oxford (former SLS President)

## Professor Paolo Galluzzi lecture

The Foundation for Italian Studies hosted a fascinating, interdisciplinary, and wide-ranging lecture by Professor Paolo Galluzzi, Director of the Museo Galileo and the Museum of the History of Science in Florence, in UCD Newman Building on Wednesday 20 September. There was a good (and interdisciplinary!) turnout, with colleagues and students from sciences and the humanities present, as well as a number of our graduates in Italian Studies from years gone by. We were genuinely privileged to have Professor Galluzzi in Dublin; he is the author of over 200 publications, and has curated several important exhibitions in Europe, North America and Asia; his research interests include Leonardo and Renaissance engineers, Galileo and his school, European Scientific Academies in the early modern period and the relationship between art and science.

Appropriately, Professor Galluzzi chose to speak on the topic, 'Machinae Pictae: the idea and image of the machine in Renaissance Italy' and this allowed him to show over 100 intriguing slides through which he traced the development of what he described as a self-explanatory graphic language from the beginning of the fifteenth century. The illustrations were wonderful, and made a visit to the Museo Galileo an imperative for anyone who has not yet been there.



## UCD Breast Health Day 2017

**UCD researchers joined student societies, patient advocate groups and cancer survivors at various locations across the campus on Tuesday, 24 October to help raise awareness of prevention and early detection of breast cancer.**

The European Breast Cancer Coalition holds an annual Breast Health Day to encourage women to engage in physical activity, maintain a normal body weight and eat a healthy diet to help protect their breast health.

For the third consecutive year, this message is being echoed in UCD through an initiative led by Systems Biology Ireland, UCD Conway Institute and BREAST-PREDICT. Cancer researchers joined forces with student societies; Pharmtox and UCD Nutrition Society as well as cancer survivors associated with the patient advocate group, Europa Donna Ireland and the Marie Keating Foundation.

As well as providing information about breast health and a bit of practical, hands-on science from nutrition and cancer scientists, there was free fresh fruit sponsored by Morton's in Ranelagh and some fun exercise; from hula hoop competitions to Zumba classes.

Speaking after the event, Ciara O'Donnell from Europa Donna Ireland said, "Excess body weight and physical inactivity account for 25-33 % of breast cancer cases. Understanding the value of a healthy diet, moderate alcohol consumption and taking exercise from a young age sets good habits which are easier to maintain through your 20s, 30s and beyond.



*Eithne Cullinan, Europa Donna Ireland; Dr Fiona Lanigan, Centre Manager, BREAST-PREDICT; Dr Claire Kilty, Project Manager, UCD Wellcome ISSF; and Dr Niamh Russell, OPTI-PREDICT.*

The event coincided with a presentation at the Conway Lecture and Seminar Series by Katie Scott, Cancer Research UK on 'Embedding sustainable and value-adding Patient and Public Involvement'.

## Inaugural Global Irish Diaspora Congress held at UCD

**In August 2017 UCD hosted the inaugural Global Irish Diaspora Congress. This cross-disciplinary gathering of scholars will be held every two years in a different location, and the consensus among the 250 delegates who descended on the campus for three days in late summer was that the UCD event had set a very high standard for future meetings.**

More than 150 presentations were made by researchers from fifteen countries, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and South Africa. Opening the congress, UCD Registrar and Deputy President, Professor Mark Rogers noted that the distances travelled by the delegates reflected the distances that Irish people had travelled away from Ireland in the past. "There is no part of the world in which the Irish did not settle at some time since the middle ages," he observed. "Sometimes it was by choice, by curiosity, by a spirit of adventure or entrepreneurship, by a desire to make a difference somewhere else. But more often, of course, it was not. Sometimes it was, literally, a matter of life and death."

The cross-disciplinary ambition of the congress was realised in a remarkably diverse programme, filled with papers by historians, linguists, archaeologists, folklorists, anthropologists, literary specialists, art historians and others. Professor Angela Bourke (UCD) and Professor Donal McCracken (University of KwaZulu-Natal) delivered keynote lectures. A

roundtable at the close of the congress, chaired by Professor Joe Lee, provided an opportunity for delegates to discuss research themes and trends. It also showcased UCD as a centre of excellence for the study of Irish culture within and outside the island.

Complementing the academic sessions was a packed programme of cultural events, including poetry and prose readings by Dermot Bolger, Éilis Ní Dhuibhne and Stiofán Ó Briain, a traditional Irish music workshop with Deirdre Ní Chonghaile and Síle Dolan, and historical tours of Dublin. Colleagues in UCD offered tours of the National Folklore Collection, UCD Special Collections, and the art collections on display around the campus.

The idea of a cross-disciplinary congress on the global Irish diaspora was developed by three UCD academics: Associate Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin (Head of School, UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore), Professor Liam Kennedy (Director of the Clinton Institute for American Studies) and Professor Tadhg O'Keefe (UCD School of Archaeology). An international committee representing a full spectrum of



*Pictured at the opening event are (l-r) Associate Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin, UCD Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh agus an Bhéaloidis; Dr Aoife Whelan, Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh agus an Bhéaloidis; Professor Tadhg O'Keefe, UCD School of Archaeology; Professor Angela Bourke, Professor Emeritus UCD; Professor Donal McCracken, Senior Professor & F.R.Hist.S.Communication, Media & Society, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; Dr Darragh Gannon, UCD School of History; Bairbre Ní Chonchúir, Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh agus an Bhéaloidis; and Eoin McEvoy, Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh agus an Bhéaloidis.*

disciplines assisted in promoting the congress and in selecting the papers. Professor Rogers acknowledged that the success of the congress owed much to Dr Aoife Whelan, Eoin McEvoy, Bairbre Ní Chonchúir, and Michael Wallace (UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore) and Dr Darragh Gannon (UCD School of History).

## Léacht Uí Chadhain

Is í An tOllamh Máirín Nic Eoin a thug Léacht Uí Chadhain na bliana 2017, in Amharclann R, ar an 19ú lá de Dheireadh Fómhair agus An tOllamh Comhlach Regina Uí Chollatáin, Ceann Scoile, sa chathaoir. 'Athnuachan agus athghabháil shaothar liteartha Uí Chadhain' an t-ábhar cainte a bhí aici, agus dhein sí cur síos an-fhairsing ar na treonna atá faoi chritic an tsaothair sin ó cailleadh an t-údar. Dhein sí scagadh ar na tuairimí a nocht daoine éagsúla i dtaobh an Chadhainigh mar scríbhneoir, agus bhreac sí amach roinnt bóithre eile nár mhiste do lucht critice a leanúint sna blianta atá romhainn. Is léir go bhfuil borradh faoi staidéar an Chadhainigh na laethanta seo. 115 duine a bhí i láthair, agus cuid de na daoine ar phléigh an cainteoir a gcuid tuairimí ina measc. Léacht den scoth ab ea í seo, í ar cheann de na léachtaí is fearr a tugadh riamh mar chuid den tsraith seo. Nuair a bhí an léacht i leataoibh sheol Bob Collins, iar-ArdStiúrthóir RTÉ, eagrán 3 den iris

leictreonach COMHARTaighde, a bhfuil an tOllamh Nic Eoin ar dhuine de na heagarthóirí atá uirthi. Bhí fáiltiú ina dhiaidh sin i Seomra Caidrimh na Foirne. Oíche thar oícheanta.

Professor Máirín Nic Eoin gave the 2017 Léacht Uí Chadhain in Theatre R in October. This lecture commemorates Máirín Ó Cadhain (1906-1970), the outstanding prose writer in Irish. On this occasion the Head of School, Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin, chaired the event. The speaker had chosen the title 'Renewing and reclaiming Ó Cadhain's literary work', and under that heading she offered an extensive evaluation of the various directions in which the critical response to Ó Cadhain's work has gone in the decades since his death. She discussed the contributions of a number of prominent critics and offered her own suggestions as to future avenues of research on the writer. Ó Cadhain's work has clearly been attracting a lot of critical and academic attention



*Máirín Nic Eoin and friends at Léacht Uí Chadhain 2017*

of late. The audience of 115 included some of those whose views she discussed. This was one of the best lectures in this series. After the lecture Bob Collins, former Director General of RTÉ, launched the third edition of the online journal COMHARTaighde, of which Professor Nic Eoin is one of the editors. A reception in the Staff Common Room followed. .

## Paul O'Donovan retains his World Championship title!

Paul O'Donovan retained his World Championship title in fantastic style in Florida. The Olympic silver medallist cruised to victory in a time of 6.48.87, more than three seconds ahead of second placed Matthew Dunham of New Zealand. Speaking after the event Paul said "It

was good, the body did well and it's lovely to hear the national anthem," he said. "I started to sprint there at the end and I managed to throw myself over the line and take the win. I gave most of [what I had to give], it'd be hard to do much more."

## Irish Hockey Team Qualifies for World Cup 2018

The Irish Women's hockey team has qualified for the World Cup for the time since 2002. Australia's victory over Papua New Guinea in the Oceania Cup means that the Green Army has qualified for the World Cup Finals in 2018 in London. This is only the fourth time in the 43-year history of the World Cup

that Ireland's Women have taken part. This is a fantastic achievement and the culmination of a successful summer with both of Ireland's men's and women's teams now qualified! On the team for UCD are Ad Astra Elite Athletes Elena Tice, Clodagh Cassin and Ellen Curran and Graduate Sports Scholar Katie Mullan.



Professor Barbara Dooley with Dan Leavy (rugby)



Professor Barbara Dooley with Ciara Grant (soccer)

## UCD Graduate Scholarship Ceremony

Thirteen students from six different programme areas were honoured at this year's Graduate Sports Scholars reception. Dominic O'Keeffe, Director of Student Services, acknowledged the contribution of these students as undergraduates and hope that, as graduates they are role models and leaders on and off the field to those that succeed them.



*Pictured are the recipients of this year's awards: Katie Mullen (Engineering, Hockey) Tadhg De Burca (PME, Hurling), Niamh Carr (PME, GAA), Martha Byrne (Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics, GAA), Robert Lennon (Major in Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics, GAA), Jess Stallard (Major in Veterinary Medicine, Modern Pentathlon), Carol O'Leary (Major in Food, Nutrition and Health, GAA), Karen McGrath (Major in Agricultural Extension and Innovation, GAA), Conor Mullally (Major in Food Business Strategy, GAA) Tom Hayes (Major in Food Business Strategy, GAA), Garth Coughlan (Major in Coaching Science in Sport, Soccer), Claire Mooney (Smurfit Major in International Business, Athletics) and Michailas Bedulskis (Smurfit MSc Strategy Management and Planning, Basketball).*

## UCD Ad Astra Graduate Ceremony 2017

14 of our Elite Athletes were honoured at a graduation ceremony as they completed their time as part of the Ad Astra Academy. The ceremony was hosted by Academy Director, Dean of Graduate Studies and Deputy Registrar, Professor Barbara Dooley.

Our Ad Astra Elite Sports Programme continues to shine on the national and global stage. Arthur Lanigan O'Keeffe, a 2017 alumnus has competed in two separate Olympics and this year was crowned world champion in the Mixed Relay in the Modern Pentathlon World Cup with his partner, Natalya Coyle. Joshua van der Flier, another 2017 alumnus was selected to represent Ireland in Six Nations Rugby last year and won man of the match against Australia in the 2016 Guinness Series, which is a superb achievement.

In its seven years of operation, the programme has developed into a world class academy for our students, many of whom, like Mark English, Ciara Mageean, Claire Lambe, Jack McCaffrey, Cillian Buckley, Katie Mullan, Luke McGrath and Paul O'Donovan act as superb ambassadors for the University.

Professor Dooley thanked the alumni and friends of the University for their support but also to those who so generously donated to the Academy through the UCD Foundation, without which the academy would not be possible.

The Elite Athletes who graduated were: Edward Byrne (BComm) Rugby, Adam Byrne (BE) Rugby, Deirdre Duke (BCL) Hockey, Ciara Grant (MB, BCh, BAO) Soccer, Colin Judge (BAFS) Para Table Tennis, Maxim Kouogun (BA) Soccer, Arthur Lanigan O'Keeffe (BSc) Modern Pentathlon, Daniel Leavy (BBL) Rugby, Ciara Mageean (BSc) Athletics, Conor O'Donnell (BBL) Soccer, Paul O'Donovan (BSc) Rowing, David Prendergast (BSc) Swimming, Chloe Ryan (BCL) Golf, Joshua van der Flier (BSc) Rugby.

## Soccer

Four of UCD's soccer players (Georgie Kelly, Goalkeeper Niall Corbet, Evan Osam and Greg Sloggett) have been named on the PFAI Team of the Year, with Georgie Kelly nominated for Player of the Year.

After a number of eye catching performances this season, UCD's Neil Farrugia was named in the Ireland Under 19s squad for the UEFA Qualifiers. Republic of Ireland Under 19 head coach Tom Mohan named his squad for the Championships Qualifying Round which saw Ireland take on Azerbaijan, Greece and Serbia. Neil scored the winner as Ireland beat Serbia to top their group and qualify for the Elite Qualifying Round!



Neil Farrugia celebrating his winner!

## Celebrating 25 years of the UCD President's Award in Student Activities

UCD Student Services celebrated 25 years of the UCD President's Award this October at the launch of an impressive memoir publication. Since the Awards' inception in 1993, a total of 278 recipients have been honoured with a President's Award for their contribution to student life on campus. The many recipients who were captains and chairpersons, social activists and campaigners, administrators and representatives, continue to be influential, successful and active in their respective fields by making a difference in today's society.



Gavan Reilly and Sinéad Ingoldsby with MC Eoghan Murphy in conversation

Special guests on the evening included UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks, who opened the evening's proceedings with the official launch of the book. Eoghan Murphy, former Chair of UCD Societies Council, moderated an informative discussion between former recipients and UCD alumni, Gavan Reilly and Sinéad Ingoldsby. *Reflection* was the

theme of the celebration as both Gavan and Sinéad discussed the enormous impact and importance of University activities outside of the classroom to their own personal development and careers.

Director of Services and Facilities, Dominic O'Keeffe sponsored the production of the book and hosted this student-focused celebration.



Barbara on the operating table

## Lunchtime Clinical Club

After a very successful first year, the Dean's Lunchtime Clinical Club is running again in the School of Veterinary Medicine for the 2017/2018 academic year. The Clinical Club is a series of talks aimed at pre-clinical students on the Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing programmes, and they take place at lunchtime every Tuesday during term. The talks are case-based and focus on giving students exposure to the clinical work that takes place in the UCD Veterinary Hospital; the sessions are relatively informal, and there is a discussion after each talk. While the talks are primarily geared towards pre-clinical students, they are also attended by faculty and staff from a range of areas across the School.

So far this semester, a range of areas have been represented at the Clinical Club - Farm Animal Clinical Studies, the Equine Field Service, Small Animal Surgery, Small Animal Internal Medicine and the UCDVH Blood Donor Clinic. The sessions got off to a flying start with Dr Eoin Ryan discussing a case of a Humeral Fracture in a sheep; Barbara, an 18 year old Suffolk X ewe was admitted to the UCD Veterinary Hospital with the advice from her owner to look after her 'like a dog'. Her surgery and post-op care involved a large team from across a range of disciplines and a successful outcome was evident when she returned to eating biscuits soon after the procedure!



Pictured at the Graduate Diploma Ceremony are (l-r) Fiona McMahon; Senator Michael McDowell SC, Keynote Speaker; Marie Keating; Dr Kevin Stewart, UCD Legal Medicine, External Examiner; Laurence Roussell; Dr Cliona McGovern, Assistant Professor, UCD Legal Medicine; Sadhbh Brangan; Elizabeth Neely; Asim A. Sheikh, Barrister-at-Law, Assistant Professor, UCD Legal Medicine, Course Director; Nuala Kelly; Leann Moroney; Mark McCullagh; Claire Kennedy; Prof Pat Murray, Dean and Head of UCD School of Medicine; Professor Denis Cusack; Jacqueline Hayes; and Nicola McGuinness.

## UCD Forensic & Legal Medicine - Graduate Diploma Ceremony

**UCD Forensic & Legal Medicine celebrated the 21st graduation of the Graduate Diploma in Healthcare (Risk Management & Quality) in September 2017, with the conferring of diplomas on 16 graduands. On this occasion, the Legal Medicine Unit and the School welcomed Senator Michael McDowell SC who gave the keynote address.**

The Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD, was also scheduled to address the ceremony and to discuss the issues of patient safety policy, legislation and upcoming reforms. Unfortunately he was forced to change his plans at the last minute and forwarded his

congratulations to the students stating: "As Minister for Health, I am greatly encouraged to see so many graduates from a course such as this. I commend the dedication and commitment which all of you have demonstrated towards improving the approach which the health service takes to risk management and quality improvement. This is of course particularly the case in a situation such as this, where you all choose to take on this additional study while continuing to perform in your current roles. I am sure that the drive and determination it took to arrive here today will be highly beneficial as you now move to bring what you have learned to bear on the health service. You are all to be congratulated."

Programme participants hold various positions across the Irish healthcare sector in clinical risk management or quality assurance positions and the course has also seen medical practitioners at all levels, lawyers and those involved in claims management, graduate from the course. A total of 407 participants have completed the programme since its inception in 1995. September 2016 also saw the first intake on the Professional Certificate in Medico-legal aspects of Healthcare.