

# ucd today



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## Students want to wait



*EILÍS O'BRIEN*  
Director of Communication and Marketing

To those of us involved in student recruitment activities, this year's CAO first preferences are no surprise. Overall, our first preferences are down – from 9,218 to 8,856 but this 2015 figure still exceeds every other previous year and UCD retains its position as university of first choice among applicants by a considerable margin. In general, the UCD figures follow the national trends: up in business, law, economics, architecture and engineering; down in science, agriculture, physiotherapy and nursing. The upward trend in science and agriculture over the previous eight years has been meteoric. Arts and medicine have not fared so well, for different reasons.

Certainly, the reduction in entry routes to our degrees – down from 86 to 43 (not including mature and graduate entry), has not seen a corresponding fall in first preferences and the recent announcement by Maynooth University that it will reduce entry codes to 20 will reinforce the argument that students don't need to select narrow disciplines before they even leave school. Far better for the majority of students to specialise later in their studies, when they have experienced various subjects and disciplines.

The recently published figures for the 1 February 2015 registration deadline show UCD first preferences have fallen by 363 even though overall applicant numbers have increased by 1,333. When we became aware of this discrepancy, we looked for the figure relating to 'no choice' applications. These are applicants who register with CAO by 1 February but who don't select any course. They have until 1 July to make their choice.

This year, out of the 74,424 applicants, some 6,015 students registered but did not select any course choice. This represents 8.1% of all applicants – up from 6.8% last year. Add to this considerable number the growing number of students who change their choice after they sit their Leaving Certificate, and we can expect significant adjustment to the figures in July.

This trend towards the July deadline may be because of the changes in the provision of career guidance in schools or it may be because an increasing number of students genuinely want to wait until after their Leaving Certificate before they make their choices. Either way, we can expect the trend to continue and our prospective student engagement activities will have to stretch in response.

## UCD thanks...

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**Produced by:** Eilís O'Brien, Niamh Walsh, Dominic Martella

**Design:** Loman Cusack Design Ltd

**Print:** Fine Print

**Thanks to:** Diarmaid Ferriter, Pat Guiry, Ann Lavan, Damien McLoughlin, Regina Uí Chollatáin

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

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

Cover image: RIBA Gold Medal Winners John Tuomey and Sheila O'Donnell, UCD School of Architecture at their home in Dublin. Photograph by Patrick Bolger





Pictured are Anne Enright with James Ryan, Lecturer, UCD School of English, Drama and Film

## ■ Anne Enright named as first Laureate for Irish fiction

**Booker prize-winning author, Anne Enright has been named as the inaugural Laureate for Irish Fiction. The three-year role is a new initiative developed by the Arts Council, with support from UCD, New York University and The Irish Times.**

Enright was the “unanimous choice” of the selection panel, according to poet Paul Muldoon who said she would bring “a clear and radiant energy to her role”.

“Anne Enright has for almost twenty five years helped the Irish make sense of their lives, from the nursery to the national debt. Through her varied and far-reaching fiction, she has also helped the rest of the world make sense of Irish life,” said Muldoon, who chaired the selection panel.

Enright was awarded the honour by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny at a ceremony in Dublin. “The Laureate for Irish Fiction is awarded on the basis of literary accomplishment and excellence, and is the highest honour that the Irish State can bestow on a writer in this genre. Anne Enright’s eloquent and powerful writing, fiercely individual voice and unyielding commitment to her craft combine to make her the pre-eminent choice. On behalf of the Government and the people of Ireland, I offer her our warmest congratulations. I know it is a role she will undertake with distinction,” said An Taoiseach.

The Laureate was selected following an extensive call for nominations over the summer months and a rigorous selection process, which culminated in the work of an international selection panel which included novelist, Juan Gabriel Vasquez; poet, Paula Meehan; New Yorker Magazine Fiction Editor, Deborah Treisman; Novelist and Biographer, Blake Morrison; and Ireland’s first children’s laureate (Laureate na nÓg), Siobhán Parkinson.

“The Laureateship is not about one writer, but about a series of writers stretching into the future who will each play a briefly emblematic role in Irish letters. It is a great honour to be chosen. I hope I can rise to the role and maybe have some fun

along the way. I take courage, as ever, from the readers I have met - especially in Ireland, but also abroad - who allow fiction do its deeply personal work; who let Irish writers into their minds and hearts, and welcome them as their own,” said Enright.

Sheila Pratschke, Chair of the Arts Council, said, “The individual artist is at the centre of our cultural and artistic life, and plays an essential role in Irish society. Ireland has a proud literary tradition, and it is from the individual writer that this tradition stems and flourishes. Anne Enright’s commitment to her craft is without question; her excellence as a writer is manifest; her connection to readers is undeniable. The Arts Council is very proud to award her the inaugural Laureate for Irish Fiction.”

The honour is used to promote Irish literature nationally and internationally and to encourage the public to engage with high quality Irish fiction. Over the three-year term, the Laureate will teach creative writing to students at UCD and NYU, will spend time developing their own work, and will participate in a number of major, public events and promotions. They will also receive €150,000 over the three years.

Enright took up writing full-time in 1991 after a career in television production. Her short stories have appeared in the New Yorker, Granta and The Paris Review. Her first collection of writing, *The Portable Virgin*, won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature in 1991. In 2004, she won the Davy Byrnes Irish Writing Award. In 2007, she won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction for her novel *The Gathering*. Her next novel, *The Green Road*, will be published in May 2015. The award was widely covered in national and international media.



Prof. Pat Guiry (Director, CSCB) with Ulysses Medal recipient, Prof. Stephen L. Buchwald

## ■ UCD Ulysses Medal for world-leading MIT chemist

**One of the creative scientists who shaped the way that modern chemistry is undertaken, Professor Stephen L. Buchwald, MIT, has been awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal, the highest honour that the University can bestow. The award recognises his outstanding global contribution to the field of chemistry.**

The award was presented at the Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology’s (CSCB) Annual Symposium which took place on 12 December 2014. This year’s symposium was entitled ‘Recent Advances in Synthesis and Chemical Biology XIII’. The symposium consisted of five lectures given by internationally distinguished professors in the field of synthesis and chemical biology and has been held annually since 2002. In addition to the five lectures, a poster session was held where PhD students and postdoctoral fellows presented their research.

## ■ Irish PEN Award for Éilís Ní Dhuibhne

**Dr Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Teaching Fellow in Creative Writing at the UCD School of English, Drama and Film, has received the 2015 Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Contribution to Irish Literature.**

Set up in 1998 by Irish PEN, the Centre in Ireland for PEN, an international association of writers which promotes literature and defends freedom of expression, the award honours an Irish writer who has made an outstanding

contribution to Irish literature through a significant body of work, written, and produced over a number of years. It is open to novelists, playwrights, poets, and scriptwriters. Full and associate members of Irish PEN, as well as previous winners, nominate and vote for the candidate.

Speaking about the announcement, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne said, “It’s a great honour and a great delight to receive this award from Irish PEN and to find myself in such illustrious company as

Edna O’Brien, Maeve Binchy, Jennifer Johnston and Frank McGuinness”.

The first award was presented to John B. Keane in 1999. Previous recipients of the award also include: Brian Friel, Edna O’Brien, William Trevor, John McGahern, Neil Jordan, Seamus Heaney, Jennifer Johnston, Maeve Binchy, Thomas Kilroy, Roddy Doyle, Joseph O’Connor and John Banville.

# 93 new scholars welcomed into the UCD Ad Astra Academy

**In late January an audience of 300 parents, secondary school principals, donors and academic mentors welcomed UCD's newest Ad Astra scholars. At the ceremony, UCD President Professor Andrew Deeks presented them with certificates to mark their outstanding achievement.**

The 93 new scholars are split over the three strands of the Academy; 67 academic scholars, 21 elite athletes and 5 performing arts scholars. They join 150 continuing students to form UCD's premier programme recognising and nurturing exceptional students.

Students entering the Academy either achieved six A1s in their Leaving Certificate examination, topped their class after the first year of their UCD programme or demonstrated outstanding sporting or performance art talent and potential. The international dimension to the Academy continues to grow with students from China, India, Vietnam and Malaysia being awarded scholarships based on outstanding academic achievement in first year.

Scholars are offered unique support and opportunities to help them develop their full potential. These include mentoring, special programmes of activity and access to facilities and staff to ensure that they are given every opportunity to excel. Elite athlete scholars are

provided with training and preparation to support national and international competition at the highest level, alongside their academic

pursuits. Performing arts scholars are facilitated with specialist training and support to allow them develop their talent to the fullest.



UCD Ad Astra Scholars 2014/15 pictured with (front centre, l-r) Mr Tony Carey, Performing Arts Strand Director; Prof. Colin Boreham, Elite Athlete Strand Director; UCD President, Prof. Andrew Deeks; Prof. Mark Rogers, UCD Academy Director, Registrar and Deputy President; and Prof. Liam Kennedy, Academic Scholars Strand Director

# NCAD + UCD 'Multi-Polar' Exhibition

**As part of the NCAD-UCD Academic Alliance project, an exhibition 'Multi-Polar' featuring recent graduates from the School of Fine Art at the National College of Art & Design (NCAD) was displayed at locations across the UCD Belfield campus including UCD Student Centre, UCD Humanities Institute, UCD O'Brien Centre for Science and UCD School of Architecture.**

Multi-Polar explored the thresholds of inner and outer worlds by addressing states of being, placement and displacement. Artists featured included Sinead Keogh, Ciara Shortall, Eileen Coll, Alanna O'Neill, Chloe Brennan, Avril Coroon and Professor Philip Napier, Head of Fine Art & Sculpture, NCAD. The launch included a special performance by UCD Science Artist in Residence, Jane Locke, a recent graduate of the MFA Fine Art Programme. Locke's performance entitled 'The Cloud of Unknowing' framed aspects of her art research fusing ideas of credibility and incredibility.

At the Multi-Polar exhibition launch UCD President Professor Andrew Deeks said "The work on display has already been engaging people, provoking different reactions, prompting questions. This is what art does. And this is what happens when you introduce something new, and perhaps unexpected, to the campus. The exhibition represents, in microcosm, the benefits of our relationship with NCAD."

NCAD + UCD is a collaborative academic venture to develop closer ties between the two institutions. The collaboration includes cross-institutional teaching projects, research initiatives and a series of talks and exhibitions to take place throughout 2015. A website detailing current and future activities under the HEA-funded NCAD-UCD Academic Alliance project has been launched at [www.ncad-ucd.ie](http://www.ncad-ucd.ie)



Pictured is 'Re fitting the Terror,' a piece by Prof. Philip Napier, Head of Fine Art & Sculpture, NCAD, referencing the HMS Terror's doomed expedition to discover the North West Passage linking Europe to China. The piece was featured in the recent UCD + NCAD exhibition 'Multi-Polar' in UCD Student Centre



Pictured are NCAD Graduate Ciara Shortall's pieces 'Flow' (left) and 'Shame' (above) featured at the NCAD + UCD exhibition 'Multi-Polar' in UCD Student Centre. Shortall's work explores themes of anxiety, identity, obsession and self-absorption

# Better breathing through chemistry

**UCD researchers are working on a potential new generation of compounds to break up problematic mucus in lung conditions such as asthma and cystic fibrosis.**

**A marvellous feature of the human lung is its ability to self-cleanse. A sticky blanket of mucus coats the inner surfaces of airways, trapping the microbes, dust and other contaminants we invariably sweep in as we inhale. Then that tainted mucus gets pushed up and out of the airways, to be replaced with fresh mucus, ready to trap more contaminants.**

When it works, this system protects us against infections and pollution. But when it doesn't work, it can have a huge impact on health.

In lung disorders such as asthma, cystic fibrosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the mucus becomes thick and rubbery and the airways can't clear it quickly enough. This pushes up the risk of infection and, in severe cases, compromises the ability to bring oxygen into the body.

Therapies exist to help clear the mucus, but a study involving UCD researchers is pointing to a new approach to rapidly turn rubbery mucus into a more mobile and liquified sputum. This could make for easier breathing among people with obstructive lung disorders.

## **Obstructive mucus - a sticky problem**

Mucus is formed from long, spaghetti-like molecules called 'mucins,' explains researcher Professor Stephen Carrington, Professor of Veterinary Anatomy at UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. "These mucin polymers suck up a lot of water and tangle with each other, and you wind up with a sheet of clear and rather stretchy, slightly viscous mucus that coats the airways," he explains.

Mucus needs the right balance of viscosity (caused by the entanglement and water absorption) and elasticity (due to lateral bonds between the strands of mucin) to function, so that



*Pictured are Prof. Stefan Oscarson, Prof. of Chemical Biology at UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, and Prof. Stephen Carrington, Prof. of Veterinary Anatomy at UCD School of Veterinary Medicine*

tiny, hair-like structures in the lung called cilia can beat and move the mucus up and out of the airways.

But if the system doesn't work, mucus accumulates in the lung and becomes a happy home for microbes, explains Professor Carrington. "In cystic fibrosis in particular, microbes start to grow, and products from them generate an inflammatory response," he says. "This causes the influx of white blood cells, the 'kamikaze pilots' of the early-stage inflammatory response, and these die and release DNA."

The free DNA itself becomes entangled like netting around the 'ropes' of mucin. This causes a more obstructive mess to form in the airways, and the lung tissue becomes damaged.

## **The break-up**

One widely used approach to breaking up the mucus is an inhaled enzyme product that chops up the DNA. Another less commonly used approach, called NAC, attacks the disulphide bonds that cross-link the mucin polymers – but, as Professor Carrington explains, it works relatively slowly and has practical drawbacks.

"It is an irritant, which has to be used in very high concentrations, and it is also administered in solution so it has to be used in a clinical setting," he says.

Professor John Fahy, a pulmonologist and airway biologist at University of California, San Francisco, and a graduate of UCD School of Medicine (1985) is a long-term collaborator with Professor Carrington and Professor Stefan Oscarson, Professor of Chemical Biology at UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. This

collaboration originated from a sabbatical year Dr Fahy spent at UCD in 2002/2003. His UCSF research group published a recent 'Science Translational Medicine' paper in close collaboration with the Oscarson and Carrington labs at UCD.

The researchers have been looking at how oxidising agents (including oxygen and by-products of inflammation) cause mucin to cross-link and stiffen. This mechanism was previously not known to be an important mechanism in lung obstruction caused by abnormal mucus and now presents a new target for drug development, explains Professor Carrington. To help break these cross-links, Professor Stefan Oscarson engineered carbohydrate compounds bearing 'thiol' groups to smash the bonds between mucin polymers and thereby make the mucus more liquid.

"When we discussed the mechanism of the cross-linking and the drawbacks of the earlier mucolytic, NAC (which is acidic, irritating, smelly and has low activity requiring high concentration) I thought that a lot of these drawbacks could be avoided by using a carbohydrate scaffold for the important thiol group," explains Professor Oscarson. "My reasoning was that the carbohydrate scaffold should make the compound less volatile, and thus reduce the smell; and less acidic, to render it less irritating. Since saccharides are also cheap, 'natural', often crystalline and we have a lot of experience in their chemistry it looked attractive to test the idea. When we did, we found that they also had higher mucolytic activity."

The results of the experiments, published in *Science Translational Medicine*, suggest that the patented carbohydrate-based approach may be suitable for developing as a therapeutic agent.

## **Therapeutic possibilities**

"We have done some preliminary toxicity tests without any observed toxicity," says Professor Oscarson. "We think that, if anything, our molecules should be less toxic than NAC and also possible to be used at a much lower concentration, but of course this has to be tested first by initial studies followed up by Phase I clinical trials."

Professor Carrington agrees that the new cross-link-breaking molecules hold promise for inhaled delivery into the airways.

"These compounds work extremely quickly – you put them on the mucus and the effect is almost instantaneous. It breaks up the gel very rapidly," he says.

## **Rapid intervention**

Professor Carrington foresees that the new compounds could help not just in keeping mucus levels in check, but also for people with airway disorders in which the mucus needs to be broken up rapidly, such as during acute and severe asthma attacks where rubbery mucus clogs up those all-important airways.

"While this event is going on, there is no effective mucolytic therapy that a person could self-administer to chew up these clots. And by the time a patient gets into hospital the acute airway obstruction can reach a very dangerous stage," he explains. "These new compounds are highly mucolytic and could potentially be self-administered. This could make a difference to mortalities from acute asthma attacks."

Professor Carrington also reckons that, in cystic fibrosis, these new compounds could work alongside existing DNA-chopping therapy. "We could be talking about next-generation mucolytics that could make a real difference to people with cystic fibrosis...I am quite excited about this prospect."

*Professor Oscarson and Professor Carrington were in conversation with journalist Claire O'Connell, science writer and contributor to Silicon Republic and The Irish Times*



*Pictured at a round-table discussion on public sector reform in comparative European perspective at the National University of Ireland (NUI) are Prof. Edoardo Ongaro, Prof. of International Public Services Management at Northumbria University, Newcastle; Prof. Koen Verhoest, Prof. of Comparative Public Administration and Globalisation at the University of Antwerp; Robert Watt, Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER); Prof. Philip O'Connell, Director, UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy; Dr Muiris MacCarthaigh, Lecturer in Politics and Public Administration, Queen's University Belfast; and Prof. Niamh Hardiman, UCD School of Politics and International Relations, and Research Fellow at UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy.*

## A comparative perspective on public sector reform in Ireland

**A round-table discussion on public sector reform in comparative European perspective was held in the National University of Ireland (NUI) on Merrion Square on Friday, 23 January. A diverse range of senior civil servants, academics and practitioners attended the event to debate current policy issues in a spirit of constructive criticism.**

This innovative approach to engaging academics and practitioners was organised under the auspices of the interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research group on 'Building State Capacity', which is based in UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, and supported by a UCD Seed Funding grant. The event was organised by Professor Niamh Hardiman, Associate Professor, UCD School of Politics and International Relations, UCD Geary Fellow.

The keynote speakers Professor Edoardo Ongaro, Northumbria University, and Professor Koen Verhoest, University of Antwerp, offered provocative overviews of trends in European public sector reform and public services delivery. First to respond were Robert Watt, Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER), and Dr Orlaigh Quinn, Programme Director of the Reform and Delivery Office in DPER. They were followed by UCD academics Professor Colin Scott, Principal, UCD College of Human Sciences; Professor Tony Fahey, UCD School of Applied Social Science; and Professor Philip O'Connell, Director, UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy; along with Dr Richard Boyle, Head of Research, Publishing & Corporate Relations, IPA; and Dr Muiris MacCarthaigh, Lecturer in Politics and Public Administration, Queen's University Belfast.

The discussion drew lively contributions from academic colleagues across a variety of disciplines; from independent policy analysts including Eddie Molloy and Dónal de Buitléir, PublicPolicy.ie; and from the large representation of civil servants in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, the Department of Finance, and the Office of the Taoiseach.

## IBIS event reveals hidden voices of conflict

**"Guatemala counts 600 murders and 5,000 rapes of women per year – a violent legacy of the armed conflict that usually remains silent in the peace process," Claudia Paz y Paz Bailey, former attorney general of the country remarks at a seminar on 'Women dealing with the Past in Central America and Northern Ireland' organised by UCD Institute for British Irish Studies (IBIS), in collaboration with Trócaire, on Friday, 5 December 2014 at the National University of Ireland in Dublin.**

Paz y Paz Bailey highlighted in her remarks that the testimonies of female witnesses in the truth and reconciliation process broke this silence. Similar silences are part of dealing with the past of armed conflict in Northern Ireland. Though worlds apart, women in Northern Ireland experience the exclusion of women from post conflict politics as highlighted in presentations by experts from Guatemala and Northern Ireland and a following vivid discussion.



*Participants from Ireland and Central America at the seminar 'Women dealing with the Past in Central America and Northern Ireland' organised by UCD Institute for British Irish Studies (IBIS) in collaboration with Trócaire*

Experts presenting at the event included Laura McMahon, barrister in Northern Ireland; Bronagh Hinds, Chair of IBIS; Dr Claudia Paz y Paz Bailey, former Attorney General in Guatemala; and Dr Mo Hume, University of Glasgow, expert on gender and violence in Central America. Presenters and participants noted that voices of women must be included to progress towards sustainable peace and address issues such as an increase in violence and control of women in the aftermath of armed conflict.

UCD Institute for British Irish Studies provides a platform for academics, politicians, public servants and others to share perspectives on a range of aspects of the evolving British-Irish relationship. For more visit [www.ucd.ie/ibis](http://www.ucd.ie/ibis)



*Dr Marie Keenan, UCD School of Applied Social Science, Principal Investigator and Bernadette Fahy, Research Consultant, co-investigator on the report.*

## Investigating the impact of restorative justice in cases of sexual violence

**Despite a succession of revelations about sexual crime perpetrated in families, institutions and in communities, it remains largely unreported with less than 1 in 10 cases ever reaching the criminal justice system. For the vast majority of victims a gulf exists between what the criminal justice system promises and what it can actually deliver.**

According to the findings of a recently published study 'Sexual Trauma and Abuse, Restorative and Transformative Possibilities?' restorative justice could provide an additional mechanism that can support the needs of victims, offenders, and their families.

"Restorative justice can work to repair harm caused by the offence; increase the offender's sense of responsibility for the offence; provide an opportunity for the victim to receive reparation and/or an apology; provide an opportunity for the victim to ask questions and receive information

from the offender; provide a means for victims to talk about how the incident impacted them; giving victims an opportunity to take back power and maximise the opportunity to provide victims, offenders, and the community a sense of justice," said Dr Marie Keenan from UCD School of Applied Social Science who led the study.

The study recognises that restorative justice is not for everyone, but says that victims should have a choice on whether it is part of the criminal justice system or runs alongside it. It recommends that "a three-year pilot project of restorative justice in certain cases of sexual violence be established in Ireland as a matter of urgency, with a specified agency established for this purpose". The collaborative study conducted by UCD, Facing Forward – A Restorative Justice Organisation, and counselling psychologist, Bernadette Fahy, was officially launched by Minister Aodhán Ó Riordáin, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality and Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

# Surviving solitary confinement



Ian O'Donnell has been Prof. of Criminology at UCD since 2006. He is a former director of the Irish Penal Reform Trust. A psychologist by training, O'Donnell worked as a research officer at the Oxford University Centre for Criminological Research and at the University of London. During his time in England he served as a member of the board of visitors for HMP Pentonville and as a magistrate on the Oxford bench

“ A human being is not one thing among others; things determine each other, but man is ultimately self-determining. What he becomes – within the limits of endowment and environment – he has made out of himself. ”

These are the words of internationally renowned psychiatrist, Viktor Frankl, who endured years of horror and deprivation in Nazi death camps. Yet, out of this profoundly bleak experience, came one of the greatest pieces of survival literature ever written, ‘Man’s Search For Meaning’.

Frankl’s ability to move beyond his incarceration and to develop his revolutionary logotherapy approach to psychotherapy is evidence of what UCD Professor of Criminology, Ian O’Donnell, calls “post-traumatic growth” – where an individual finds it within themselves to turn a deeply damaging experience into something positive.

Post-traumatic growth is one of the slender threads of hope Professor O’Donnell offers to those who find themselves in enforced solitary confinement. In his recently published book, ‘Prisoners, Solitude, and Time’, O’Donnell examines the factors associated with surviving, and even triumphing over, prolonged isolation.

“There is a significant difference in outcome between those who have chosen to lead a solitary life (such as religious communities) and those who have it thrust upon them,” O’Donnell says. “There is also a difference between those in confinement because they have committed a crime and those who are there through no fault of their own such as hostages.”

“The detrimental effects of penal isolation are well known,” O’Donnell adds, noting that solitary confinement is especially damaging to those with drug/alcohol problems or mental health issues. “Far less attention has been paid to how and why some people cope better with the experience. What I’ve looked at is the impact of long-term isolation and the rationality of such treatment. Through this study I hope to stimulate interest in a neglected area of the prisoner’s psychological world and to present a new framework for understanding the prison experience.”

Solitary confinement has long been a source of controversy within the penal system. Historically it was used to cultivate introspection and to provide

an austere opportunity for remorse from which prisoners would emerge spiritually and morally cleansed. “Individuals who were broken by isolation were seen as the collateral damage of a system that, in overall terms, was considered superior to what it replaced as regards its potential to create a safer society,” O’Donnell says.

Even in the days of Charles Dickens, its shortcomings were clear. “Dickens visited Eastern State Penitentiary in Pennsylvania in 1842 and was unequivocal in his scorn and condemnation,” O’Donnell says. “He said the system he observed was ‘rigid, strict, and hopeless. I believe it, in its effects, to be cruel and wrong.’”

O’Donnell has spent a decade pondering the issue of solitary confinement and the last five years reading numerous prisoners’ accounts of their confinement, corresponding with voluntary isolates and visiting those on Death Row and serving life sentences.

“Unrelieved solitary confinement is the really big problem and this has been recognised by religious orders for centuries,” O’Donnell says. “They deal with it by having communal meal times with scripture readings for example, but isolation is still one of the biggest challenges they face as humans are innately social.”

Of major concern to O’Donnell are the ‘Supermax’ establishments in the US where prolonged solitary confinement is the norm. (In an Irish context the practice is generally used for prisoner protection and short-term punishment.) “We need to consider the rationality of such treatment to say nothing of its necessity or desirability,” he says. “Why punish longer and harder if the limits to human endurance are so elastic?”

While O’Donnell is clear that “prolonged solitary confinement is inhumane and has no place in a civilised prison system,” his research has also shown that people can display a surprising amount of resilience. “It is generally more tolerable if someone has an ideology to cling to and it is

certainly possible to grow within the experience and by so doing to be less diminished by it.”

Prisoners, Solitude, and Time by Ian O’Donnell is part of the Clarendon Studies in Criminology published by Oxford University Press.

## The Seven Rs

Professor O’Donnell has come up with what he terms “The Seven Rs” to describe some of the coping strategies he believes underpin the resilience of those who survive the solitary experience.

**Rescheduling** – where long sentences are broken into smaller chunks in prisoners’ minds such as the gaps between football World Cups.

**Removal** – focusing on doing things such as an intensive exercise regime.

**Reduction** – sleeping a lot to ‘reduce’ the amount of time one is aware of.

**Resistance** – fighting the system through constant appeals.

**Reorientation** – living in the moment neither looking back nor forward.

**Raptness** – becoming involved in an absorbing creative activity.

**Reinterpretation** – recasting one’s predicament. An example of this is a prisoner in the US who chose to live his life in prison according to the same schedule as an enclosed religious order.

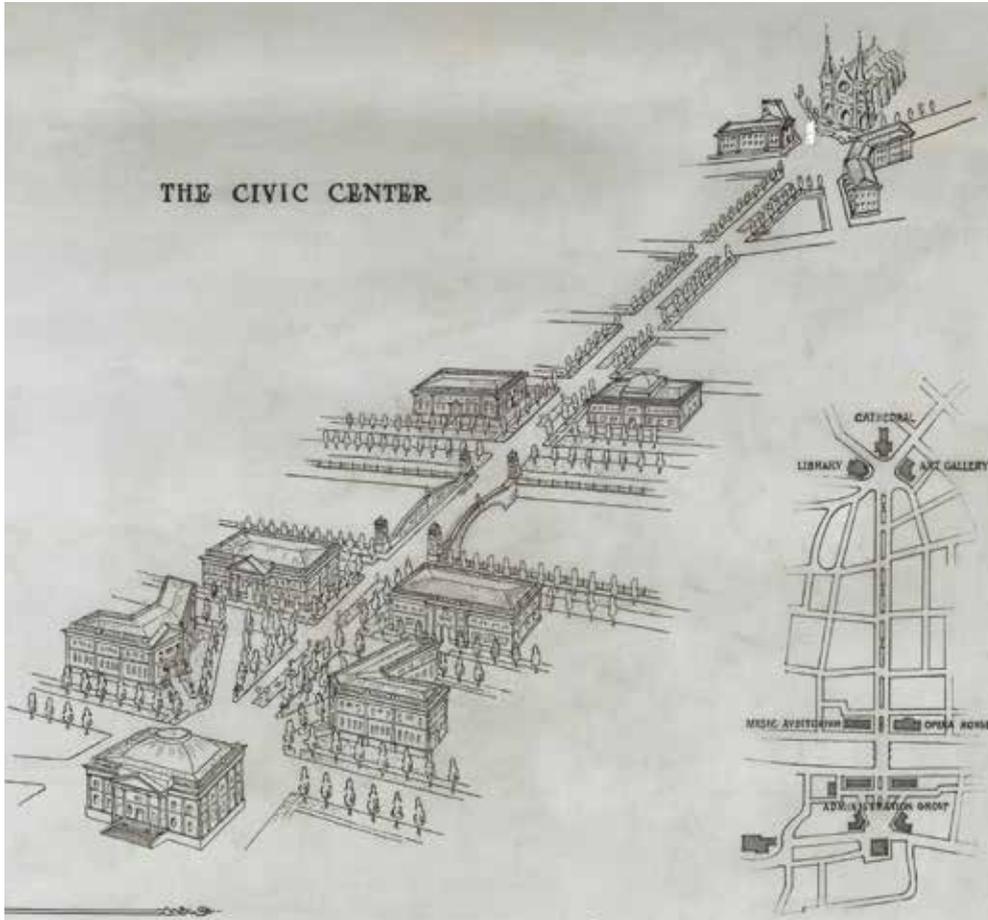
Professor Ian O’Donnell was in conversation with Olive Keogh, MA 1984, a contributor to *The Irish Times*

## Dublin Town Planning Competition 1914 collection added to UCD Digital Library

Featuring materials from the 1914 Dublin Town Planning Competition, held to guide the future development of the city, this newest collection in the UCD Digital Library brings together important early 20th century urban planning resources from UCD Library, Special Collections; UCD's Architectural Library at Richview; and the Irish Architectural Archive.

Eight entries were submitted in total for the competition, each relating to the Greater Dublin area, taking in Howth, Glasnevin, Ashtown, Dundrum and Dalkey. The submission by Patrick Abercrombie, Sydney Kelly and Arthur Kelly was

awarded the prize in 1916; however, due to the political and historical events of that era, the winning entry was not officially published until 1922. Out of the eight entries, only three are known to have survived, and these are being made available online for the first time together as part of this collection.



Segment of proposed development of Dublin centre (1914)



Photo of Custom House, Dublin (1914)



Geological and contour map (1925)



Postcard of Sackville Street (1914)

## 1914 Dublin Civic Exhibition inspires 'City, Assembled' panorama

'City, Assembled', a moving panorama inspired by the Dublin Civic Exhibition of 1914, is a collaborative exhibition produced by UCD School of Architecture and National Film School at the Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT).

Displayed in the City Assembly House in late January, the exhibition reflected on Dublin in terms of 'what it was', 'what it is' and 'what it could be' through the use of film, photography and archival material.

The main element of the exhibition, a moving panorama, was inspired by the painted panorama, a 19th century form of entertainment invented by Irish born Robert Barker. The City, Assembled panorama presented the viewer with a displaced and somewhat distorted view of South William Street using film, photography and rotating projection with the aim of representing civic space in a new light to invoke thought and contemplation on how we view our cities.

The exhibition was designed, constructed and curated by Cillian Briody, Matthew Mullin and David O'Mahony, three UCD Masters of Architecture students supervised by Stephen Mulhall, UCD School of Architecture, in collaboration with students and staff in IADT.



The moving panorama – the central element of the City, Assembled exhibition held in the City Assembly House in late January 2015.

# Building Success



John Tuomey and Sheila O'Donnell, UCD School of Architecture, receive their RIBA Gold Medal

**Presented with the Royal Gold Medal for 2015 from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in February, UCD academics and graduates Sheila O'Donnell and John Tuomey have been formally recognised as being among the greats of world architecture, joining an elite group of recipients that includes Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Frank Gehry, Sir George Gilbert Scott and Alvar Aalto.**

Approved personally by Queen Elizabeth II, the Royal Gold Medal is awarded in recognition of a lifetime's work to a person or people who have had a significant influence on the advancement of architecture.

The husband and wife team was described by the RIBA as a "tour de force in contemporary Irish and British architecture". Since setting up their own practice – O'Donnell + Tuomey – in Dublin in 1988, they have focused primarily on educational, cultural and social housing projects. Notable work over the years includes the Glucksman Gallery in UCC; the Irish Film Centre, the Gallery of Photography and Ranelagh Multi-denominational School in Dublin; the Lyric Theatre in Belfast; An Gaeláras Irish Language Centre in Derry; and the London School of Economics Saw Swee Hock Students' Centre.

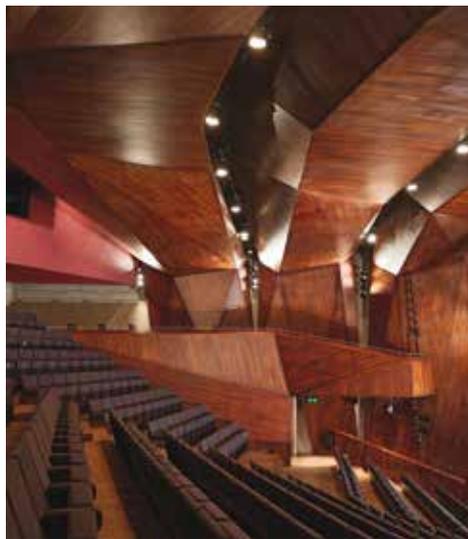
They have been shortlisted for more than eighty national and international awards and commendations and been finalists for the RIBA's Stirling Prize a record five times.

But, while they are very familiar with the practice of entering awards schemes, including preparing work and presenting before judging panels, the Royal Gold Medal has been an entirely different process and experience, says Tuomey. "It just comes to you out of the blue. There's an honours committee somewhere in London at the RIBA and they meet and go

through their process and then they inform the winner. For that reason it has a very special status. It's a lifetime award and it's not something that is sought by the winner."

"It takes a little while to adjust to it – they carve your name in stone on the wall of the RIBA and you realise you're on that wall with all of your heroes. Every time you enter that building, you're aware of the names on the wall. But it's not really a dream come true because it was never a dream."

The citation for the award stressed O'Donnell and Tuomey's critical body of work, built up across the 25 years of their practice. Tuomey remarks "They viewed it not as one building at a time but as an approach to architecture and commended our paying attention to the culture of architecture, both in its practice and in our teaching at UCD and through our influence on



Lyric Theatre, Belfast by O'Donnell and Tuomey

generations of students through teaching."

The recently completed students' centre at the London School of Economics undoubtedly enhanced their visibility. "I'm certain that it attracted their attention because it's such a conspicuous and prominent building on the London scene. Funnily enough, when people see something new it allows them to see the old work in hindsight."

The response since the medal announcement in September has been overwhelmingly positive. "We've had messages from people we know and people we don't know. I think people feel that it's one up for studio-based practices like ours. It says you don't have to have designed the biggest building in the world in order to get noticed."

It's also good news for Irish architecture in general, Tuomey says. "We're part of a generation



An Gaeláras Irish Language Arts and Cultural Centre, Derry by O'Donnell and Tuomey

of Irish architects who are pretty careful about what they do and attentive to the discipline. I think it's really good news for them and most of our colleagues here who have been in touch with us feel the same. The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIA) is very positive about it because it's a boost to Irish architecture in general – as it should be because we feel very much part of that world ourselves."

The plan going forward is to continue doing what they have been doing. "We wrote a book recently called *Space for Architecture*. It's important to find the time or scope within your life to focus even more on what it is that you're trying to do and not to be distracted from the core activity. Sometimes life pulls you away from the thing you're good at – what we want is to stay as close as we can to drawing every day."

"We're doing a very interesting set of studies at the moment for different projects and different places. Most of our work we access by competition and we're back where we started with that."

Both have taught regularly throughout their careers – Tuomey has been Professor of Architectural Design in UCD since 2008 and O'Donnell has been a lecturer there since 1981 – and that will also continue. "Our routine at UCD is a very important part of our life product," Tuomey says. "Because we're part-time, we're probably never going to be that involved in the administration or policy of the University but we're very engaged in teaching graduate and thesis students. It's very important to us."

"I think it's true that not only are we involved in teaching but through our practice we are very involved in buildings for education," he says. Another area of focus is building in the public realm. "We're always trying to think about how architecture can enhance people's daily lives and being able to design living places like housing, workplaces and community resources. We've been able to do that on a few projects and we definitely want to continue."

"We might modestly say that all we want to do is make the world. What I mean is that every little thing you do is a piece of the actual world. And we see our work very much in terms of building back into the society where we belong. I guess we're European architects – we think of ourselves in relation to the culture of a European city and European culture in general."

"I think this medal encourages us to keep going at what we know best. Our objectives are to keep doing what we're doing but to do it at greater scale and at greater intensity."

*John Tuomey and Sheila O'Donnell were in conversation with journalist Grainne Rothery, Editor at Business and Leadership*

# Minister for Transport visits UCD to mark progress on sustainable transport initiatives

**75% of UCD students and staff walk, cycle or use public transport to get to Belfield**

Since 2011, UCD has been the working closely with the National Transport Authority and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to increase the take-up of sustainable transport options amongst students and staff who commute to UCD daily.

Over that period, the proportion of students travelling by bus has increased from 34% to 39%, the proportion cycling has increased from 17% to 21% and the proportion travelling by car has reduced from 26% to 21%. Between 2004 and 2014, the proportion of staff using the car to get to and from UCD fell from 66% to 48%.

Measures introduced to support the programme include:

- New hourly 142 bus service between UCD and Rathmines
- New shuttle bus service between the UCD campus and DART at Sydney Parade
- New bus-gate on-campus generating significant time-savings on 17 bus route and allowing bus and cycle movement between Foster's Avenue and Stillorgan Road
- 800 new cycle parking stands
- Construction of UCD to Windy Arbour Luas cycle route
- Real-Time public transport signage installed outside the UCD library, at the Stillorgan Road entrance and at the main on-campus bus terminus
- Facility to buy Adult and Student Leap Cards on-campus – delivering substantial savings
- Maps - public transport routes, travel-options for students, pedestrian and cycle journey time maps
- Restrictions on amount of car parking spaces on campus
- Introduction of GoCar pay-as-you-go car rental



Transport Minister, Paschal Donohoe TD; CEO National Transport Authority, Anne Graham and UCD President, Prof. Andrew Deeks inspect the Real Time Bus Information screens on the Belfield campus

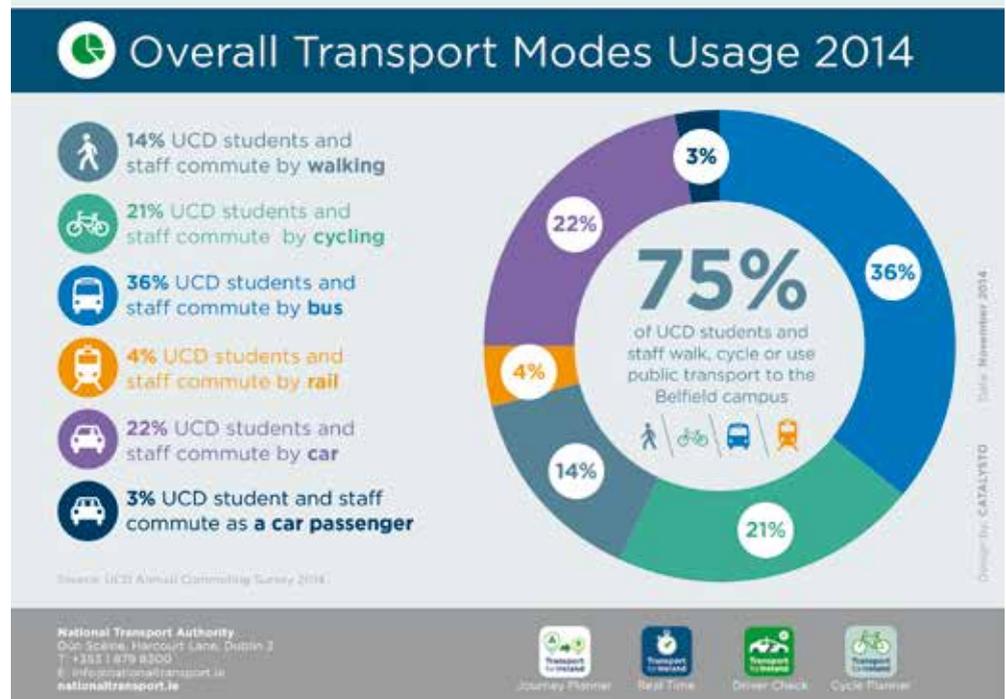
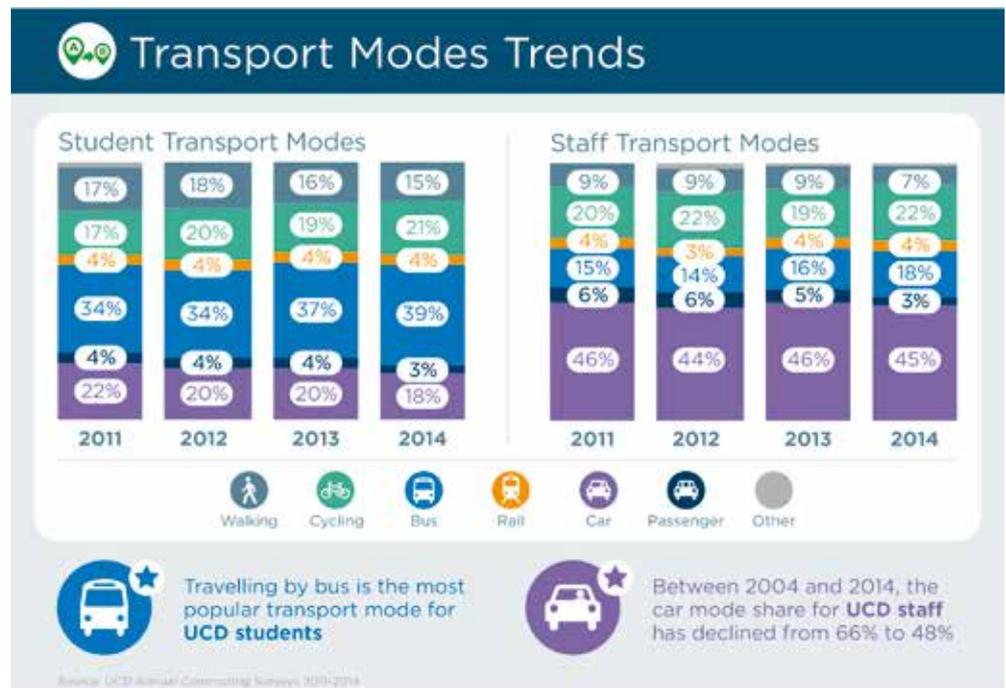
## Travel by bike remains an underused form of transport in Ireland

**Although more of us are cycling these days, it remains an underused form of transport in Ireland, Britain and the US, according to new research led by Dr Marius Claudy, a lecturer in marketing at UCD School of Business.**

The study published in the *Journal of Public Policy and Marketing* asked participants to list their reasons for and against cycling. It found that many thought travelling by bike was inconvenient, dangerous, and too hard to deal with in a wet climate.

But statistics show cycling is actually far safer than walking or driving and Dublin's climate is actually drier than many cities in the Netherlands, which has a much higher rate of cycling.

According to Dr Claudy's research reasons stated in favour of cycling included saving time and money, improving physical fitness and overall health, doing something positive for their local and world environment, and feeling that they were part of a community.



## Aurora Leadership Development Programme

UCD Learning and Development has launched a pilot Aurora Leadership Development programme across the University. Fifteen women from academic and non-academic areas will take part in this innovative leadership development programme aimed at women up to senior lecturer and equivalent professional services level. It aims to encourage women in academic and professional roles to think of themselves as leaders; to develop leadership skills and to help institutions like UCD optimise the leadership potential of women.

Aurora originated through the Leadership Foundation in the UK, in response to Professor Louise Morley's (2012) stimulus paper called 'Women in Higher Education Leadership Absences and Aspirations'.

The programme is delivered by the Leadership Foundation and it provides, in a social learning environment, core and adaptive leadership skills and knowledge over five single non-residential days. It uses a combination of development days; self-directed learning from online resources; cross-institutional action learning sets and in-house mentoring. The training programme is delivered in five days over five months. It runs from January to May 2015.

Aurora requires that the University puts systems in place to help support and develop participants. This includes a mentoring programme; the appointment of Prof Maeve Conrick, College Principal, UCD College of Arts & Celtic Studies as the UCD Aurora Champion; with support and liaison through UCD Learning & Development.



Participants in the Aurora Leadership Development Programme pictured with Prof. Andrew Deeks, UCD President and Prof. Maeve Conrick, Principal, UCD College of Arts & Celtic Studies at the official launch.



Pictured speaking at the launch of the extension of the Athena SWAN Charter, Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan TD

## Extension of the Athena SWAN Charter for women in STEMM

**Irish universities are working to address gender imbalances in the higher education sector through the extension of the Athena SWAN Charter to Ireland, officially launched recently by Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan TD.**

Speaking at the launch, UCD President, Prof. Andrew Deeks, in his capacity as President of the Irish Universities Association, said: "Female academics contribute hugely to research, teaching and to the community in our universities. Recognition of their contribution is vital and it demonstrates that Ireland is a good place for talented male and female graduates to progress. Our participation in the launch of Athena SWAN represents a renewed and public expression of our commitment to equality, including gender equality. This is a long term process requiring our ongoing commitment."

Ned Costello, Chief Executive, Irish Universities Association said: "Tackling gender equality needs to be actively pursued and the

Athena Swan Charter and Awards are a real force for positive change."

During 2015, the UK-based Equality Challenge Unit (ECU) announced that they would, for the first time, make access possible outside the UK by allowing Irish higher education institutions to sign up to the Athena SWAN Charter for women in STEMM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine). Signing the Charter is the first step towards applying for the prestigious Athena SWAN Awards, which recognise and celebrate good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting women in higher education.

Irish universities, working with colleagues from across the higher education sector, have

played a strong role in facilitating this extension of the Charter and the associated Athena SWAN Awards. Applications are rigorously reviewed prior to an award being made, and progress is closely monitored afterwards.

A 2013 external evaluation identified the significant impact of Athena SWAN on organisational structure and culture change in the UK higher education system. The ECU has recently announced the expansion of the Athena SWAN charter to include arts, humanities, social science, business and law, alongside the existing science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine disciplines.



Pictured at the launch (l-r): Robert Smith, UCD student; Dr Aziemah Ali; Minister for Health, Leo Varadkar TD; Mollie Bruton, UCD student

## Minister for Health, Leo Varadkar, launches the UCD Beacon Hospital Academy

**UCD Beacon Hospital Academy, the new centre for educating and training healthcare students of medicine, nursing, physiotherapy and radiography is the most comprehensive of its kind between a university and a private hospital group in Ireland with UCD students now able to take part of their training at Beacon Hospital. The first of twenty UCD medical students will commence clinical training at Beacon Hospital in September 2015.**

Speaking at the launch Minister for Health, Leo Varadkar said: "This will undoubtedly contribute considerably towards the healthcare service by advancing the way in which many patients are treated using the most modern therapy techniques."

The education and training will have a strong focus on interdisciplinary teamwork and rapidly emerging technologies. Through the UCD

Smurfit Graduate Business School, UCD will also offer education programmes in healthcare management and leadership to Beacon Hospital. The partnership will also harness UCD's applied research and technologies to develop two transformative concepts in healthcare that will make management and treatment more personal and precise.



Pictured at the launch: Prof. Billy Bourke, ACPR Director and Associate Prof. and Consultant in Paediatric Gastroenterology at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin

## UCD Academic Centre for Paediatric Research Launched

**New Centre will help to inform decisions on how to investigate and manage diseases of childhood**

Child health research is widely acknowledged as being underdeveloped in Ireland compared with that conducted in other areas. There have been concerns about undertaking research on children because of their vulnerability and the investigation of diseases in childhood has suffered, in part, because of this. However, it is now recognised that children are not simply small adults and it is not sufficient to rely on data from adult studies to inform decisions on how to investigate and manage diseases of childhood. In a positive move towards addressing this imbalance, UCD Academic Centre for Paediatric Research was launched on Friday, 14 November 2014. The centre aims to unite academic and clinical research across UCD to inform decisions on how diseases of childhood are investigated and managed. The Centre launch was marked by a symposium attended by leading UCD-affiliated researchers working at UCD Belfield and across affiliated children's hospitals.

## UCD Radiographers Dispatch Vital Supplies to Sierra Leone

**As recent reports from West Africa confirm, in addition to deaths directly from the virus, the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic has decimated large swathes of the healthcare system undoing much of the progress made over recent years.**

In 2013, UCD Diagnostic Imaging lecturers Therese Herlihy and Marion Maher spent three weeks working in Magbenteh Community Hospital on the outskirts of Makeni in Northern Sierra Leone. They successfully established an X-ray service in the hospital, provided expert training to local staff and had been planning a return trip this summer before the Ebola outbreak disrupted their plans. Unfortunately the hospital has been severely impacted by the epidemic – numerous staff members were lost to the disease.

Herlihy and Maher have responded by undertaking an ambitious campaign to raise resources for the Magbenteh Community Hospital and have dispatched two 40-foot containers full of essential medical supplies and equipment valued at over €150,000. The

hospital relies on external funding to operate and was only connected to an intermittent electricity supply in May 2013.

The aid reached Sierra Leone in January 2015 and is now in use in Magbenteh Community Hospital. The Ebola survivor rates in the hospital stand at over 66%, one of the highest survival rates in the affected region. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), Ismail Ould Chiekh Ahmed, visited the hospital in late January and the Irish ambassador to Sierra Leone, Sinead Walsh, paid a visit to the hospital on Thursday, 5 February to see the aid in use. Further information about the fundraising campaign can be found at [aidforsieraleone.org](http://aidforsieraleone.org)



Therese Herlihy and Marion Maher pictured at the Magbenteh Community Hospital, Makeni, Sierra Leone in 2013

# 'Smart' nanoparticles throw the lever to kill cancer cells



**If you are looking to kill cancer cells, it pays to be smart. Now UCD researchers have come up with a system of 'smart' nanoparticles that can specifically latch on to subtypes of breast cancer cells that have large numbers of tell-tale molecules on their surfaces. Then, once in place, the nanoparticles can be mechanically jogged to help kill off the cancer cells, at least in the lab.**

## Better access

One of the advantages of working with nanoparticles (which have at least one dimension less than 100 nanometres) to find cancer cells is that their size means they can access tissues in the body that may be off limits to larger particles, says Dr Devrim Kilinc, a research fellow in the lab of Professor Gil Lee, UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. "Smaller particles tend to be better in these situations," he says.

In this case the targets were not inside the body, but were breast cancer cells growing in the lab. What makes these cells stand out from the crowd is that their surfaces are studded with specific receptor molecules that are over-expressed - thus opening up the opportunity to engineer nanoparticles that can stick to those receptors and thereby tag the cells.

## Two-faced nanoparticles of gold and iron

For these experiments, the researchers made nano rods consisting of iron and gold, explains Dr Kilinc. "The particles we used were cylindrical, we made them to be shaped like a cigarette, where the longer section is the iron and the smaller 'tip' section is gold," he says.

On these Janus-like nanoparticles they then coated the gold tips with a layer of a protein called heregulin, that can specifically recognise and bind to the receptor molecules sticking out of the breast cancer cells. The iron section meanwhile got coated with polyethylene glycol to stop it sticking to other cells in the body.

"We functionalised the particles with a heregulin molecule that has a high affinity to a cell receptor which is expressed in higher and higher quantities in this breast cancer subtype," says Dr Kilinc. "The particles would recognise the subtype

of breast cancer cells, so we would describe our approach as one of selective targeting based on receptor expression."

## Nanoparticles, meet cells

To see if the coated nanoparticles would bind to their biological targets, the researchers grew the breast cancer cells in microscopic channels and flowed liquid containing the nanoparticles over them. "Looking down the microscope we could actually watch the cells interacting with the particles passing over them, and we quantified the number of particles that were passing by, and the amount that bound to the cells."

Their results showed that the functionalised nanoparticles did indeed bind to the breast cancer cells selectively. And from the start, they did so in high numbers, recalls Dr Kilinc. "We noticed in the first experiment we did that interestingly high numbers of particles bound to the cells," he says. "That was an eye-opener for us, but we tested it with more controls and yes it was a valid result. The nanoparticles were binding the breast cancer cells in large numbers."

## Pulling the lever on cell death

Getting the nanorods to stick to the breast cancer cells was a first step, but what then? Once in place, the iron segment of the nanorods came into its own, as Dr Kilinc explains.

"Because the nanoparticles are mostly made of iron they are magnetic, so if you apply a magnetic field to these particles you can pull on them, and this in turn pulls on the cell receptors to which they are bound," he says.

Mechanically stretching these receptors every second or so switched on a biochemical pathway

inside the breast cancer cells, the researchers found. "This biochemical pathway is a very central common pathway that has many roles in the cell, but if this pathway is over activated it damages the cell," says Dr Kilinc. "And when we combined the mechanical treatment with a drug that naturally activates this pathway, it achieved an over-activation that killed the breast cancer cells."

The researchers were also able to kill cells by heating the nanoparticles in situ. "If you apply an alternating magnetic field to these iron-containing nanoparticles they start heating, it is an internal property of these nanoparticles," says Dr Kilinc. "And even though we applied a very small amount of field to a small number of particles, we still achieved a level of cell death."

## Looking to the clinic

While the experiments were carried out on cultured cells in the lab, the ultimate aim would be to optimise the technology for use in the human body. And this is where the gold component could ultimately be useful for mapping out where cancer cells are in the body when the nanoparticles bind to them, explains Dr Kilinc. "Gold can be imaged easily," he says.

He pays credit to the expertise of Professor Walter Kolch and his lab at UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Research, who collaborated with Professor Gil Lee's lab on the project. "They are experts in cancer biology, and they made important contributions regarding the cells we used, the protein coat for the particles and the kinds of biological tests that were needed," he says.

But while the experiments worked neatly in the lab, Dr Kilinc cautions that much work is still needed to optimise the technology before it could be used in humans. "This is an in vitro study, so we didn't put the nanoparticles into the body," he says. "For an application in the body there are a lot more experiments to be done."

*Dr Devrim Kilinc was in conversation with Claire O'Connell, science writer and contributor to Silicon Republic and The Irish Times*

# Books

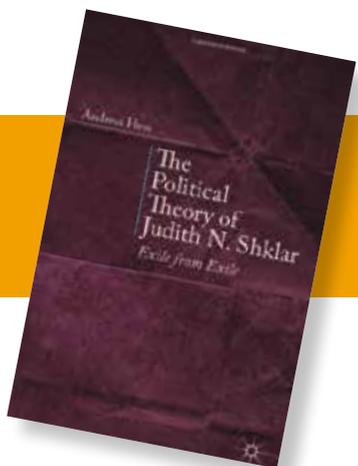


## Histories of the Irish Future

**Prof Bryan Fanning**, UCD School of Applied Social Science

**Bloomsbury**

Professor Bryan Fanning's elegantly readable, informative, erudite and wonderfully engaging book presents the evolution of Ireland through the eyes of a number of its theorists. Fanning's approach is entirely original, analysing different visions for Ireland's future; his prose is clear and fluent. It carefully explicates how Ireland came to be interpreted not just within Ireland (by nationalists, unionists, republicans and feminists) but also how it was discussed by the wider world of political theorists, economists and other intellectuals. The book presents a lucid and compelling narrative and its choice of figures presents new perspectives on Ireland as it was theorised; a tour de force.



## The Political Theory of Judith N. Shklar: Exile from Exile

**Dr Andreas Hess**, UCD School of Sociology

**Palgrave Macmillan**

In his book 'The Political Theory of Judith N. Shklar,' Dr Andreas Hess, UCD School of Sociology takes us on a journey through Shklar's intellectual development from her childhood in Riga to her Jewish family's traumatic flight to Canada during World War II and her eventual position as a distinguished professor at Harvard. Hess shows that this personal experience of

trauma as a refugee was key to Shklar's future intellectual development. Her precarious history as an exile and an immigrant gave her an outsider perspective that enabled her to challenge 'thinking as usual'.

The 'antithesis of an intellectual popstar', Shklar shunned the limelight and preferred to influence through her teaching. Hess believes that her contribution and legacy lie in the influence of her remarkable intellectual power on the minds of her students and colleagues, including many renowned thinkers. Hess describes this marginality as self-sought and describes how Shklar liked to identify herself, even at the height of her career, not as a public intellectual but merely as a bookworm. She describes how she became a bookworm as a child newly arrived as a displaced exile in Montreal – already she 'understood that books, even scary ones, would be my last refuge from a world that was far more terrible than anything they might reveal'.

Her personal history ensured that Shklar always championed those who suffered injustices, whether political or social. Her conception of a 'liberalism of fear' explored how to maintain a stable political order that avoided cruelty and the politics of fear. Hess' compelling account charts Shklar's impact on American political thought and reveals the context in which her political theory developed from her status as 'an exile from exile'.



## Identity and Capitalism

**Dr Marie Moran**, UCD School of Social Justice

**SAGE Publications**

The concept of identity is a key concern in contemporary, western societies. In her book 'Identity and Capitalism,' Dr Marie Moran from UCD School of Social Justice argues that the meaning we ascribe to identity today is a relatively new idea in western culture and politics.

In her book, Moran shows that the idea of identity in popular culture became more central alongside the massive growth in consumption from the 1960s. Consumers aspire to a particular image and lifestyle and select clothes and commodities to express this notion of personal identity. Moran suggests that this construct socialises people into a capitalist mindset by reinforcing the idea that self-definition is achieved through consumption. While we do not make conscious judgements about our beliefs regarding the promises capitalism makes, we unwittingly and habitually integrate the social logic of capitalism into our everyday lives. According to Moran, this 'institutionalised, habituated logic' is the source of capitalism's power and impels us to sleepwalk into a capitalist way of life.

Moran's fascinating analysis of the gradual evolution of the concept of identity reveals the

context and source of its power in today's consumer culture. While the notion of personal identity tends to reinforce capitalist ideology, Moran believes that identity and identity politics can conversely challenge the effects of capitalism. Moran encourages egalitarians to understand identity and how it works in everyday life to mitigate the effects of capitalism and in some way to challenge the social logic that drives consumerism.



## Maintaining a Place: Conditions of Metaphor in Modern American Literature

**Edited by Maria Stuart Sweeney and Fionnuala Dillane**

**UCD Press**

In his tribute to Ron Callan, Professor Declan Kiberd writes of how he inspired generations of students. He was "a living embodiment of the significance of the classroom experience, those moments of pure dialogue between teacher and student". In building up the discipline of American Studies in the UCD School of English, Drama and Film, Callan was "a marvellous teacher – lucid, ethical and humane".

With eighteen contributions from scholars of American literature across Ireland, the UK and the US, the book expresses the wealth of critical analysis that draws on the poetry, novels and prose from the continent. From Puritanism to Transcendentalism, the volume spans the literary legacies of North American culture and serves "as an essential foundation for the analysis of American modernism" that enables us to interpret the genre. Central to Callan's writings was his exploration of the creative impact of William Carlos Williams and the essays build on the connections across American writers and on to influence Irish poets and authors.

The academic essays in this volume are augmented by new and previously unpublished poetry by Harry Clifton, Peggy O'Brien and Nerys Williams, which demonstrate the strength of the poetic voice as a "medium for transatlantic exchange."

Rich in content, *Maintaining a Place* is a wonderful exploration for students of English or just fans of American literature. Well crafted, the volume brings the reader on a journey that responds to current developments in literary studies.

"It was he," Kiberd writes, "more than anyone else, who helped to define the study of American literature as a modern academic pursuit in Ireland" and this book of essays is a fitting tribute to Ron Callan's scholarship and his capacity to inspire.



Dr Coleman Dennehy, UCD School of History & Archives speaking at Law and Revolution in Ireland: law and lawyers before, during, and after the Cromwellian Interregnum.

## ‘Law and Revolution in Ireland: law and lawyers before, during, and after the Cromwellian Interregnum’

Podcasts from a conference exploring the role of lawyers and the law at the time of the 1641 rebellion and during the subsequent wars and political upheaval are now available on iTunes. The conference, held in the Irish House of Lords, College Green, Dublin on 27 and 28 November 2014, was organised by Dr Coleman Dennehy, UCD School of History & Archives, in association with the Irish Legal History Society (ILHS).

The event was supported by the ILHS, Bank of Ireland, UCD Humanities Institute, University College London Department of History, and UCD School of History and Archives. Speakers included Dr Coleman

Dennehy, UCD / University College London; Dr Stephen Carroll, Trinity College Dublin; Dr Aran McArdle, Trinity College Dublin; Dr Bríd McGrath, Trinity College Dublin; Dr John Cunningham, Trinity College Dublin / University of Exeter; Dr Neil Johnston, Department of Culture, Media & Sport; Professor James McGuire, Irish Manuscripts Commission; Dr Andrew Robinson, Northern Ireland Policing Board; Jennifer Wells, Brown University / Institute of Historical Research; Dr Danielle McCormack, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań; Professor Andrew Carpenter, UCD; Dr John J. Cronin, UCD; and Professor Colum Kenny, Dublin City University;

Podcasts of the event are now available on iTunes and UCD Humanities Institute website at [www.ucd.ie/humanities](http://www.ucd.ie/humanities)



The Mace on display in the House of Lords, College Green, Dublin

## Ninth International Experimental Archaeology Conference (EAC9) attracts delegates from 29 countries

One of the largest ever experimental archaeology conferences in the world – the Ninth International Experimental Archaeology Conference (EAC9) was held in UCD between 16 – 18 January 2015. The conference was organised by UCD School of Archaeology in partnership with EXARC, a global network of Archaeological Open-Air Museums across the world. Experimental archaeology uses a ‘hands on’ approach where archaeologists replicate artefacts using only materials and techniques that were in use at the time the original artefact was produced.

The three-day conference was held in UCD O’Brien Centre for Science and UCD Centre for Experimental Archaeology and Ancient Technologies at Roebuck with a field trip to the Irish National Heritage Park in Ferrycarrig in Wexford. This was the first time this significant conference was held in Ireland, with over 200 attendees from 29 countries.



Delegates at the Ninth International Experimental Archaeology Conference (EAC9) visit UCD Centre for Experimental Archaeology and Ancient Technologies at Roebuck.

UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks welcomed the keynote speaker Professor Bill Schindler, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Washington College, Maryland. In his address ‘Soul Authorship: experimental archaeology, and the value of authentic learning experiences in Higher Education pedagogy’, Schindler argued that students demonstrate new levels of investment and understanding by engaging their entire bodies and all their senses to solve real problems using experimental archaeology and primitive technology.

Activities at the conference included a bronze casting event by the artist and archaeological

collective group Umha Aois, pottery firing and flint knapping by UCD Archaeology graduates and a visit to UCD School of Archaeology’s Mesolithic house and early medieval roundhouse. Delegates travelled to Wexford to experience Living History and practical experimental archaeological experiments in the Irish National Heritage Park in Ferrycarrig. International delegates attending the conference included university academics, teachers, archaeological and cultural tourism consultants, participants in Living History and Re-enactment, and managers of Heritage Centres and Open-Air Museums.



*Pictured are authors of UCD Psychology books donated to the UCD Authors Collection Dr Muireann McNulty, Prof. Aidan Moran, Dr Suzanne Guerin, Prof. Alan Carr, Sara Hollwey, Dr Jessica Bramham, and Dr Tina Hickey*

## UCD School of Psychology donates over 50 books to the new UCD Authors Collection

**UCD School of Psychology recently donated over 50 signed books to the new UCD Authors Collection. The books cover a range of topics in clinical psychology, sport and exercise psychology, the psychology of disability, social psychology, developmental psychology, and the psychology of language.**

The new UCD Authors Collection brings together for the first time in one location the printed books of current and former UCD academics and prominent alumni. It is located in the Special Collections section of the UCD

James Joyce Library and forms part of the overall UCD Heritage Collection.

Commenting on the donation, Professor Alan Carr, Head of UCD School of Psychology said, "The popularity of books written in the UCD School of Psychology is one way to assess the international impact of our research and scholarship. Some of our volumes have been published in second and third editions as well as being translated into other languages. These books have also had a significant impact within an Irish context, contributing to key debates, policies and practices within Irish society."



*Part of the large attendance of alumni and friends of UCD who attended the 3 performances of a Choral Celebration of Christmas in Newman University Church in December 2014*

## Over 900 UCD alumni and friends attend Choral Celebration

UCD Alumni Relations welcomed alumni and friends to Newman University Church in December 2014 for the annual Choral Celebration of Christmas series of concerts by UCD Choral Scholars.

The programme included the world-premiere of three commissioned works for choir and oboe by internationally-renowned Swiss composer, Ivo Antognini. Antognini's three works were settings of Irish poems selected by Dr Desmond Earley, UCD School of Music, and Gráinne O'Hogán, UCD Choral Scholars alumna 2013-2014, as part of UCD's Decade of Remembrance.

The poems chosen included War by Francis Ledwidge. According to Dr Earley, "Commissioning a setting of the text of War by Ledwidge seemed a fitting way to give expression to thoughts of remembrance honouring past sacrifice, service, upheaval and transformation in Ireland – and beyond – during the period 1914-1924."

Dr Jaime Jones, Head of UCD School of Music, and Professor Harry White, Chair of Music, reminded the audience that 2014 was a special year for all engaged in research, teaching, and the performance of music at UCD as it marked the hundredth year of the School.

## Dublin Region Adult Education Fair

Adults considering returning to education were offered the opportunity to explore options and receive guidance from further education and higher education providers in the Dublin region at a unique event held in November 2014. Opened by Tánaiste Joan Burton, the Dublin Region Adult Education Fair was the first of its kind to be held in Dublin. The event was organised as part of the Dublin Region Higher Education Alliance (DRHEA) by UCD Access and Lifelong Learning in conjunction with higher education partners from across the Dublin region.



*Pictured at the opening of the Dublin Region Adult Education Fair, November 2014, were (l to r) Josephine Finn, Maynooth University; Clodagh Byrne, Trinity College Dublin; Sinead Hyland, DRHEA; Dr Bairbre Fleming, UCD Access & Lifelong Learning; Anna Kelly, UCD Access & Lifelong Learning; Prof. Mark Rogers, UCD Deputy President and Registrar; Joan Burton TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection; Pat O'Connor, Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown; Lisa Bennett, UCD Access & Lifelong Learning; Cathy McCartney, National College of Art & Design; Bobby Maher, Dublin Institute of Technology; Rosemary Cooper, Institute of Technology, Tallaght and John McGarrigle, National College of Ireland*

## Leading European Agricultural Co-operative Group Acquires Stake in Life Scientific

InVivo, the largest agricultural co-operative group in France, and a leading player in the industry globally, with revenues of €5.7 billion, has acquired a 50% stake in Life Scientific, an Irish R&D company which specialises in off-patent crop protection products.

Life Scientific was established by Nicola Mitchell in 1995, and is currently headquartered at NovaUCD. The company, which has well established links with UCD and with Enterprise Ireland over many years, currently employs 20 people and has an annual turnover of over €10 million.

InVivo, which employs 6,600 people in 20 countries, is a union of over 220 farming co-operatives and has combined membership of over 300,000 farmers.



Pictured at NovaUCD, is Nicola Mitchell, founder and CEO, Life Scientific.

## Equilume Secures €550,000 in Seed Funding

Equilume, the UCD equine technology spin-out company, has secured €550,000 in seed funding from Enterprise Ireland and a number of angel investors based in Ireland, the UK and in the USA. The investment will help the company accelerate sales of its innovative Equilume Light Mask technology within the global thoroughbred industry.

Manufactured entirely in Ireland, the Equilume Light Mask has been scientifically proven to provide the optimum level of blue light to a single eye of a mare to successfully advance her breeding season, prevent long gestations and ensure reproductive activity in early foaling mares. It was developed as a result of ground-breaking research carried out by Dr Barbara Murphy, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, in collaboration with Professor John Sheridan, an optoelectronics researcher in the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering.



Pictured at NovaUCD is Dr Barbara Murphy, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science and founder, Equilume



Pictured is Dr Ross O'Neill, founder and CEO, Neuromod Devices with a mutebutton™ device for the treatment of Tinnitus.

## Neuromod Devices Launches New Treatment Device for Tinnitus

Neuromod Devices, the medical devices company headquartered at NovaUCD, has launched mutebutton™ a new device for the treatment of Tinnitus.

mutebutton™ is an innovative, clinically proven, self-administered treatment designed to alleviate the symptoms of chronic tinnitus sufferers. mutebutton™ is the culmination of over four years of research and development since the company was originally founded in 2010 by CEO, Dr Ross O'Neill, as a spin-out from Maynooth University.

Neuromod Devices, which is supported by Enterprise Ireland, plans to create 50 new jobs over the next 5 years in Dublin. These highly specialised roles will be key in supporting its global growth targets to become a leading global provider of non-surgical neuromodulation treatments for chronic conditions.

## Equinome Co-founder Receives NovaUCD Innovation Award

Dr Emmeline Hill, the co-founder of Equinome, the UCD equine genomics company has been presented with the 2014 NovaUCD Innovation Award in recognition of the global success and impact that Equinome has achieved in the international, multi-billion euro thoroughbred horse racing and breeding industry.

Dr Hill, a leading genomics researcher in the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, co-founded Equinome in 2009 in partnership with Jim Bolger the renowned Irish racehorse trainer and breeder.

On receiving the award, Dr Hill announced that the UCD spin-out company plans to open an office in the USA during 2015 and has 6 new DNA-related tests in development, which it intends to launch over the coming 24 months.



Pictured is Dr Emmeline Hill, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, and co-founder of Equinome, recipient 2014 NovaUCD Innovation Award



*Pictured at the announcement of nine new postgraduate fellowships funded by Teagasc under its Walsh Fellowships Postgraduate Programme are Prof. Gerry Boyle, Director of Teagasc; Prof. Andrew Deeks, UCD President and Michael Berkery, Chairman of UCD Teagasc Partnership Board*

## ■ Nine new postgraduate fellowships funded by Teagasc

**The Director of Teagasc, Professor Gerry Boyle, and the President of UCD, Professor Andrew Deeks, have announced nine new postgraduate fellowships funded by Teagasc under its Walsh Fellowships Postgraduate Programme.**

The new Fellows will undertake research across a range of areas in dairy, beef and pig production, climate change and the engagement of dairy farmers with the important issue of health and safety on farms. In addition to the nine new research-based Fellows, 10 new

Walsh Fellows will join the UCD/Teagasc Masters in Agricultural Innovation Support Programme. This Masters Programme is geared specifically to building the competencies of students for careers in agricultural advisory and education services both in the public or private sector.



*Prof. of Public Policy at UCD, Peter Clinch was recently announced as Chair of National Competitiveness Council*

## ■ Professor Peter Clinch appointed Chair of National Competitiveness Council

The Irish Government has announced Peter Clinch, Professor of Public Policy at UCD, as the new Chair of the National Competitiveness Council (NCC). Professor Clinch will bring to the NCC a new focus on productivity as well as competitiveness, and propose solutions to specific competitiveness issues that impact on business.

The NCC reports to the Taoiseach and the Irish Government on key competitiveness issues facing the Irish economy and offers recommendations on policy actions required to enhance Ireland's competitive position.

## ■ SFI-Pfizer Biotherapeutics Innovation award for UCD clinician scientist

**The Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation, Damien English TD has announced funding of €1.9 million in a partnership between Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and Pfizer to encourage new biotherapeutic research in Ireland.**

Supported by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise, and Innovation (DJEI), the SFI-Pfizer Biotherapeutics Innovation Award programme provides qualified academic researchers with an opportunity to deliver important potential discoveries in the areas of immunology and rare diseases.

Professor Martin Steinhoff, Director of UCD Charles Institute of Dermatology and Charles Clinic and Professor of Dermatology, UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science is one of five scientists to receive funding as part of this programme.



*Prof. Martin Steinhoff, Director of UCD Charles Institute of Dermatology and Charles Clinic and Prof. of Dermatology, UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science*

## A busy term for Athletics

**Karl Griffin and Sarah Lavin took national titles at the Junior and U23 National Indoors. Karl decimated the field with a run from 400m out, which saw him record 1.51 in his first race since returning from training in Portugal. Sarah retained her 60m Hurdles title after a dominant display of 8.67 seconds and was unlucky not to take a second gold after she was beaten by milliseconds for the 60m gold after recording the same time (7.64) as the winner.**

Stephen Gaffney came agonisingly close to breaking 7 seconds for 60m as his 7.02 took him to silver in the U23 60m. Also competing in his preferred event after a long injury layoff, Gaffney took bronze in the long jump. Karen Blaney, also competing in the long jump, took 2nd place with an impressive jump of 5.12m. Aisling Crossey returned to the track with a silver medal in the 800m Women's U23 and Aisling Drumgoole took bronze in the U23 200m.

UCD's Irish indoor record holder, Ciara Everard, ran inside the required qualification standard for the European Athletics Indoor championships, winning the 800m in a time of 2:03.39. Meanwhile Everard's club-mate Aislinn Crossey was third in 2:09.76. Afterwards Everard said, "I am absolutely delighted to get the qualification standard, I'm feeling strong, and I've had a good winter."

In more international news, Ireland finished a fantastic second in the distance medley relay at the Armory Invitational in New York, six seconds behind the American team, who broke the world record with a 9:19.93 run. The Irish team was Declan Murray, Brian Gregan, Ciarán Ó Lionáird and UCD's own Mark English.



UCD medical student and Ad Astra Elite Athlete, Mark English, competing for Ireland in the distance medley relay at the Armory Invitational in New York

## GAA in full swing

**UCD GAA is in full swing at the moment with many teams from Freshers to Senior excelling in All-Ireland competitions. To start the winning campaign, the Freshers footballers were victorious against UCC in their final. The senior hurlers in the Fitzgibbon Cup clocked up wins against St Pats and DCU, but lost their game against CIT, and ultimately to UL in an away quarter-final draw. The senior footballers in the Sigerson Cup had great starts against AIT and GMIT, but lost out to Dublin rivals DCU in the semi-final.**

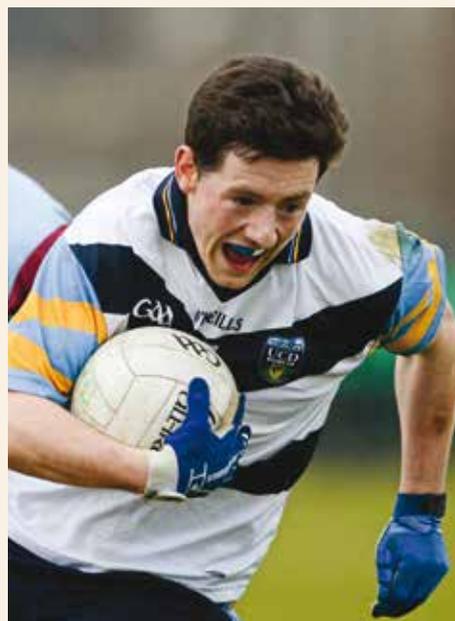
Off the pitch, long-standing supporters of UCD GAA, Grant Thornton, announced the UCD GAA Football Scholarships in memory of Sean Murray, former UCD captain and Grant Thornton Partner. Noel Delaney, Grant Thornton Partner, presented a cheque to UCD Captain and Dublin player, Jack McCaffrey. After the presentation, well-known GAA personalities, Kilkenny hurling manager Brian Cody and Cork ladies football manager Eamonn Ryan shared

their experiences both on and off the pitch with students, staff and guests in the Fitzgerald Chamber.

Finally on the handball courts at the Inter Collegiates, Martin Mulkerrins joined an impressive group of players who have won the ICHA's top prize three years in a row. Against DCU fresher Darren Doherty, the UCD player from Moycullen showed his experience – closing the game out in three hands.



Cillian Buckley, UCD, in action in the Fitzgibbon Cup against DCU



Ryan Basquel, UCD, in action against Darren Moran, GMIT. Independent.ie Sigerson Cup Quarter-Final, UCD v GMIT

## U20 Rugby Cup

The team for the U20 2015 RBS 6 Nations includes 9 Collidge players. A huge congratulations to Ross Byrne, Joey Carberry, Garry Ringrose, Jeremy Loughman, Billy Dardis, Josh Murphy, Sean McNulty, Jack Dwan and team captain Nick McCarthy.

## Soccer

It took penalties to separate UCD and NUI Maynooth in this year's CUFL (Colleges and Universities Football League) Premier Division final. UCD were looking to retain their title. The game ended nil all at full time with UCD the eventual winners with 6-5 on penalties. UCD had a strong record through the league stages with only one loss against DCU (1-0) and wins over IT Sligo (3-1), Trinity (3-1), DIT (2-0) and a thrilling 0-0 draw against NUIM.



Shani Stallard, UCD Swim Team, wins gold in the 200m individual medley in the Swedish Grand Prix

## Swimming successes in Sweden

**The UCD Swim Team travelled to Uppsala in Sweden for the first leg of the Swedish Grand Prix series on 25 and 26 January. The meet served as a strong start to the new year with several swimmers earning podium finishes, prize money, personal bests, final spots and a qualification swim for a major meet.**

On the first day, Alex Murphy claimed the first podium finish for UCD, taking the win in the men's 50m breaststroke. In the women's 100m butterfly, Shauna O' Brien just missed out on the gold medal by 0.02 of a second to take home the silver. Next to claim a medal was Shani Stallard winning gold in the 200m individual medley. Stallard powered home to win bronze and join the growing list of UCD medalists.

On the second day, UCD continued its success. Alex Murphy claimed the double as he finished first in the men's 100m breaststroke. Shani Stallard added silver to her collection in the women's 400m individual medley event. A dominating performance in the 50m butterfly earned Shauna O' Brien a gold medal to add to her silver from the previous day.



Maeve O'Rourke, recipient of the Ireland United States Alumni Association (IUSA) Emerging Leader Award, United States Ambassador Kevin O'Malley and Michael Barron, Director, *Belong To*, recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

## Emerging Leader Award

Maeve O'Rourke, who studied at the University of Minnesota Law School on a J1 exchange visa as part of her undergraduate law programme at UCD, has been announced by the US Embassy in Dublin and the Ireland United States Alumni Association (IUSA) as the inaugural winner of the prestigious Emerging Leader Award.

In presenting the award citation, IUSA President Siobhan Byrne Learat praised O'Rourke for her 'demonstrated leadership in her professional and academic career, her commitment to promoting the US-Irish relationship and her advocacy on behalf of the victims of the Magdalene Laundries.'



Colin Barrett, Winner of the 2014 Guardian First Book Award

## Guardian First Book Award

Colin Barrett, a graduate of the MA in Creative Writing at UCD has won the 2014 Guardian First Book Award for his debut short story collection 'Young Skins' published by Jonathan Cape. The award "recognises the finest new authors who have had their first book published in English in the last year, seeking excellence, promise and originality in both fiction and non-fiction".

As winner of the award, Barrett, who is currently completing a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at the UCD School of English, Drama and Film, receives a £10,000 prize and an advertising package in the Guardian and the Observer.



Pictured at the 15th anniversary celebrations of Teach na Gaeilge, UCD Bord na Gaeilge's Irish Language Student Residence Scheme are UCD Choral Scholars Glenn Murphy, Emily Doyle and Sarah Thursfield

## UCD Choral Scholars Celebrate 15th Anniversary of Teach na Gaeilge, Bhord na Gaeilge UCD

The UCD Bord na Gaeilge Irish Language Student Residence Scheme commenced its 15th anniversary celebrations on 5 February 2015 with a recital by UCD Choral Scholars under the artistic direction of Dr Desmond Earley, UCD School of Music. The event was attended by UCD Registrar, Professor Mark

Rogers, University of Glasgow Gaelic Language Officer Fiona Dunn and students from the University of Glasgow Scottish Gaelic Residence Scheme, *Taigh na Gàidhlig*, a scheme based on the UCD Bord na Gaeilge model.

## Soláirí Córúla UCD ag Céiliúradh 15 Bhliain de Theach na Gaeilge

Bhí áit lárnach ag an gceol i *dTeach na Gaeilge* riamh anall, mar sin b'onóir faoi leith é an cúig bliana dhéag a cheiliúradh in éineacht le Scoláirí Córúla UCD. Roghnaigh na córscoláirí agus mic léinn Ad Astra stór ceoil faoi leith don ócáid idir cheol Gaelach agus ceol Albanach. Sheinn Conal Ó Dufaigh, buaiteoir Corn Uí Chinnéide ag *Oireachtas na Samhna*, port ó Thír Chonaill agus chualamar guth séimh Emily Doyle agus í ag canadh suantraí Albanach. Chan an cór *Geantraí*, cóirithe ag Michael McGlynn agus chur tionlacan Chaitríona Ní Chathasaigh ar an mbodhrán luas rithimiúil faoi *Dulaman*, cóirithe ag an Dr Desmond Earley. Ba é David Agnew, ceoltóir de chuid Cheolfhoireann Ceolchoirme Raidió Teilifís Éireann aoicheoltóir na hócáide; sheinn sé an Cor Anglais don saothar nua *Aimhirghin*, saothar do chór agus do Cor Anglais leis an gcumadóir Éilvéiseach Ivo Antognini. Ba thráthúil gur i nGaeilge a bhí an amhránaíocht uile mar gur ar mhaithe le timpeallacht Ghaelach a chruthú agus a roinnt ar fhoib na hOllscoile a bunaíodh *Teach na Gaeilge* an chéad lá riamh. Chuir mic léinn na

hAlban spéis faoi leith sa cheol agus bhíodar ar a gcompord i UCD agus iad ag comhrá i nGáidhlig leis an Ollamh Máire Ní Annracháin, Ceann Scoil na Gaeilge, An Léinn Cheiltigh, Bhéaloideas Éireann agus na Teangeolaíochta UCD.

Bhí Cathaoirleach Bhord na Gaeilge, an tOllamh Micheál Ó Dochartaigh, Scoil an Leighis Tréidliachta UCD, ar dhuine de bhunaitheoirí Theach na Gaeilge sa bhliain 2000 agus is faoin a threoir siúd a dhéanann an tOifigeach Gaeilge, Clár Ní Bhuachalla comhordnú ar an scéim scoláireachta. Tá breis is 370 scoláireacht bronnta ar mhic léinn an tí ó bhunaíodh é. Ba é neart an Bhoird ón gcéad lá riamh gur Bord de chuid na hOllscoile é le hionadaíocht ó cheithre choirnéal na hOllscoile air. B'amhlaidh do Theach na Gaeilge ón tús mar gur spreagadh scoth na bhfear is na mban as réimse leathan ábhar léinn páirt a ghlacadh inti, rud a rinne said go fonnmar. Is de bhuíochas Scéim Spriocairgeadaithe an Údaráis um Ard-Oideachas a thugtar tacaíocht don Ghaeltacht bheag seo ar an gcampas i gcoinn.