

UCD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

2018-19



FOREWORD

“On behalf of UCD in the Community, I am very pleased to present this report on UCD’s engagement in the wider community.

Throughout our long history, UCD staff, students and alumni have contributed in many ways to thousands of community initiatives and organisations.

The purpose of this report is firstly, to celebrate, highlight and record the many fantastic contributions of our staff, students and alumni, both outside and within the university. This is easier said than done because of the number and varieties of contributions of staff and students. Hence, we are very aware that the report is only a snapshot of the activities that took place from September 2018 to August 2019 and we are more than happy to accept additional items for insertion into the online version of the report.

We are also hopeful that the report will encourage new staff and staff not previously engaged in such activities, to become involved in community projects. This can be done by getting in touch with UCD in the Community (see www.ucd.ie/ucdinthecommunity) or by contacting any of the people mentioned in the report, to find out more about their initiative.

UCD in the Community wish you well with all of your endeavours for the coming year and would welcome your feedback and any suggestions for the future.

Professor Joe Carthy,
College Principal and Dean of Science, UCD



INTRODUCTION

This report is comprised of submissions received from across the UCD community and was compiled by UCD in the Community. It showcases just a snapshot of the civic and community engagement activities that have taken place between September 2018 and August 2019.

Campus Engage, based within the Irish Universities Association (IUA), define civic engagement as:

“A mutually beneficial knowledge-based collaboration between the higher education institution with the wider community, through community-campus partnerships including the activities of community-based learning, community engaged research, volunteering, community/economic regeneration, capacity-building and access/widening participation”.¹

UCD strives to play an active and positive role within our communities, but often the people and success stories around community engagement activities across the university are unseen and unrecorded. UCD in the Community recognises the need to shine a light on these activities while, at the same time, supporting the establishment of new and diverse community initiatives.

A key part of the UCD in the Community team’s remit is to build and enhance UCD relationships with community-based organisations and work with them to identify needs that UCD is uniquely capable of addressing. There is mutual value in strengthening relationships with the community, enabling UCD employees and students to learn while they serve and simultaneously supporting and addressing local needs.

Engagement with wider society is named as a core role of higher education in the ‘National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030’ (Department of Education and Skills, 2011), and ‘Towards a Performance evaluation framework: Profiling Irish higher education’ (Higher Education Authority, 2013). The Higher Education System Performance Framework 2018-2020 (Higher Education Authority, 2018) outlines that it is becoming increasingly important that higher education institutions engage with and respond to the needs of civic and community organisations and groups (under Objective 2).

Engagement with the community is also key to the university delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals. Many of the Sustainable Development Goals call for long-term attitude and behaviour changes, and community engagement, in particular volunteering, facilitates changes in mindsets by raising awareness, championing changes and inspiring others. Community engagement is an important vehicle for sustainable development and can contribute to the transformational delivery of the SDGs across all thematic areas (Goals 1 – 17) in a range of ways that address one or more goals at once.

UCD in the Community hope that this report gives you a taste of some of the excellent community activities that are currently taking place, while inspiring new ideas for engaging with the wider community.

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Age Action

Getting Started Computer Classes

By Jennifer Glansford

Age Action supports and advocates for equality and human rights for all older people.

In October 2018, students from Northeastern University, Boston, who were attending UCD as part of the N.U.in program, undertook a service learning module as part of this program. Twenty students acted as tutors at Age Action's Getting Started Computer Classes at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School. Each student tutored one of Age Action's older learners for two hours a week, for five weeks.

This was the second time that students on the N.U.in program had participated in the classes run by Age Action under the National Digital Strategy scheme, having completed a previous course of classes in Smurfit in Autumn 2016. The older learners were all local people who had asked for help with learning how to use various computer devices and phones. The mix of ages, nationalities and cultures made for a fun and exciting class, and a great learning experience for the students as well as their learners, with many stories and skills being exchanged.

Both groups developed a greater understanding of each other's backgrounds, resulting in a very positive experience for all. The classes were a great success, for the students and learners alike, and all the learners were very appreciative of the help they received in getting to grips with their computer devices.

“Age Action were very pleased to be involved in this initiative, which greatly assisted our efforts to encourage older people in Ireland to get online...”

After being introduced to their learners at the first class by the Age Action Project Officer, all of the students worked extremely well on their own initiative, attended the classes each week and did a wonderful job, teaching the learners the things they needed to know, whilst maintaining a really friendly and happy atmosphere. The Project Officer, who trained the students in advance of the classes starting, attended the final class to give out certificates and was delighted to hear the happy and grateful comments of the older learners.

Jennifer Glansford, National Development Manager of Getting Started said, “Age Action were very pleased to be involved in this initiative, which greatly assisted our efforts to encourage older people in Ireland to get online and overcome the problems of exclusion in an age where digital literacy is now an essential part of life. Half of our 65 to 74-year-old citizens have never used the internet and the National Digital Strategy describes internet use of those aged 75 and over as ‘negligible’. The Northeastern University students played a very important part in ensuring that our learners will now be more confident and happier to use their computer devices to access services more quickly, connect and maintain contact with their families and friends and discover new hobbies. We hope that the students also received many benefits from the classes, and look forward to working with Northeastern University [UCD students] again in the future.”



CS Sparks

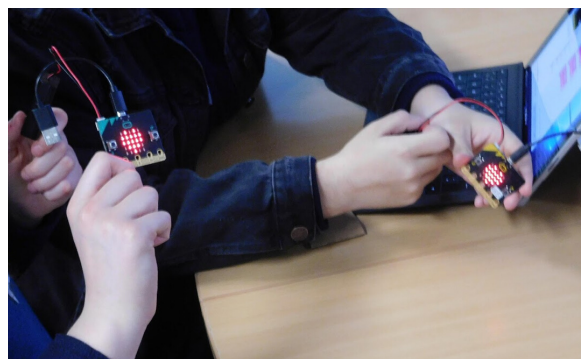
UCD School of Computer Science

By Dr Catherine Mooney and Dr Brett Becker

CS Sparks was started in 2017 in the UCD School of Computer Science by Dr Catherine Mooney and Dr Brett Becker, modelled on the successful UCD Maths Sparks [1,2]. In 2017, CS Sparks brought 30 transition year girls from three DEIS schools into the School of Computer Science to learn coding and other computing principles in fun and exciting ways. The programme also highlights computing as a career with diverse applications and broad potential for positive societal impact. The Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) program was introduced by the Irish Government to provide additional educational supports to primary and post-primary schools with the highest levels of disadvantage. Students from DEIS schools are significantly less likely to transition to third level education than their non-DEIS counterparts.

In 2018 CS Sparks expanded to include non-DEIS schools local to UCD. Our aim is to encourage girls of all backgrounds to consider studying computing at third level as a gateway to exciting and rewarding career opportunities. 58 girls from seven schools attended in 2018. CS Sparks will continue in 2019-20 with more students and schools as well as an expanded faculty team.

CS Sparks takes place in the state-of-the-art Active Learning Laboratory in the School of Computer Science. The program runs over four weeks, one afternoon per week. Students work in teams and in addition to programming, participate in a range of presentations and interactive demonstrations on modern computing topics. Activities include logic puzzles, Micro:bits and robotics. The program also features short talks on ‘What is Computer Science?’, ‘Life as a Computer Science Undergraduate’, and ‘The Social Impact of Computer Science’, including examples of Computer Science being used to solve real world societal problems.



“Outreach events like this are what influenced my decision to pursue a Computer Science degree, so this type of opportunity, to give back, is something that’s really close to my heart.”

CS Sparks could not happen without the help of many UCD CS volunteers – undergraduate, postgraduate and staff. One of the most interesting outcomes of the program is the positive effect on UCD students. In disciplines like computing where significant gender and diversity imbalances exist, it is not enough to encourage diverse intakes. It is equally important to develop a sense of belonging and inclusion in our existing students [3]. In other words, efforts to increase more diverse participation from prospective students cannot come at the expense of failing to look after our current students. Based on evidence from 2017 and 2018, the CS Sparks team are working to further foster the benefits of volunteering for the 2019 volunteers.

Feedback from participants and volunteers has been overwhelmingly positive. The most frequent answer in response to the question “How can we improve CS Sparks?” was “make it longer”.

The volunteers report positive impacts too, both personally and/or professionally. Dr Mooney and Dr Becker have also received feedback from industry that volunteering with CS Sparks is beneficial to students for internships and careers. In the student's words: "Outreach events like this are what influenced my decision to pursue a Computer Science degree, so this type of opportunity, to give back, is something that's really close to my heart. I also met a lot of other Computer Science students in different years that I had not met previously, so that was a fantastic bonus. Professionally, I also gained a lot. This type of outreach, and particularly the varying roles and responsibilities I took on, is an incredible asset for CVs and professional profiles".

"I found it personally rewarding knowing I was helping shape a better future. I feel some students left feeling like they were somewhat enlightened to a new world, which was my goal the entire time."

With funding from Google, Dr Mooney and Dr Becker are developing a turn-key 'CS Sparks in a box' resource for use by other institutions in Ireland, from 2020. In parallel they have established a diversity and equality network called INGENIC, with contacts in almost every CS faculty in Ireland. They said, "We see this as a key step in increasing the awareness of programs like CS Sparks amongst our colleagues at other institutions, in addition to expanding programs such as CS Sparks beyond UCD".

References

- [1] Ní Shúilleabháin, A., Cronin, A. (2015) Maths Sparks: Developing Community and Widening Participation. MSOR Connections, 14(1), 43-53.
- [2] Cronin, A., Ní Shúilleabháin, A., Lewanowski-Breen, E., Kennedy, C. (2017) Maths Sparks: Investigating the impact of outreach on pupils' attitudes towards mathematics, MSOR Connections, 15(3), 4-13.
- [3] Mooney, C., Becker, B., Salmon, L., Mangina, E. (2018) Computer science identity and sense of belonging: a case study in Ireland. Proceedings of the 1st International Workshop on Gender Equality in Software Engineering at the International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE), 2018.

Acknowledgements

CS Sparks is not possible without institutional support and funding. We are very grateful to Google and Microsoft Ireland, UCD Access & Lifelong Learning, UCD College of Science, and the UCD School of Computer Science.

We would like to specially acknowledge Áine Murphy in UCD Access & Lifelong Learning and Dr. Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin of the School of Mathematics and Statistics for helping to make CS Sparks a reality.

Embed Mentoring Programme

By Daniel Crean, PhD (School of Veterinary Medicine, CHAS, UCD), Mr John Murphy (Principal), Ms Louise OSullivan (DEIS Planning Coordinator), Ms Mary Casey and Mr David Keane (Career guidance teachers), St. Kilian's Community School, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Multiple factors impact on the overall success for students who are educated within a DEIS school. DEIS schools have a system of action planning in place in the areas of wellbeing, attendance, retention, academic attainment, literacy, numeracy, transitions, partnership with parents and with others. Success can be judged in terms of both short-term and long-term goals. Mentorship has been identified as a key strategy which can enhance all aspects of students' performance. Mentorship is best guided by persons in which the students have a form of alignment, being that they have attended the same school, live in the same area and have faced similar cultural and socio-economic barriers. Within the Irish context, Access programmes have introduced numerous mentorship schemes between Universities and DEIS secondary schools over recent years. At present, a lot of these programmes take place predominantly in the university setting and tend to be undergraduate student-led.

Dr. Crean has been running outreach activities with St. Kilian's Community school in Bray, Co. Wicklow, a DEIS school, over the last six years. These initially consisted of annual talks at the school and day trips into UCD where students would get lectures from leading researchers, tours and practical laboratory classes.



Embed Mentoring logo, designed by St. Kilian's 6th year student, EJ McAteer.

These activities originated through interactions with the then science teacher, Mr. Gerry Dunne and the current principal, Mr. John Murphy with the goal to inspire and encourage interest in further education. In early 2019, Dr. Crean approached the school with the idea of a new, more impactful approach to outreach.

From numerous meetings throughout the year a new outreach programme called Embed was developed, which is currently underway.

The new mentoring programme, Embed, compliments existing programmes aforementioned, while adding a new dimension of having a University Professor embedded in a DEIS secondary school for a specific time period throughout one semester.

For this pilot programme Dr. Crean has worked closely with the school, visiting one morning each week, developing a mentoring programme as well as first-hand mentoring of students on site. This pilot programme is supported by Dr. Crean's school, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine and UCD ALL. A major focus of the mentorship programme is that it aligns with the school's established career guidance programme, in line with national strategies, focused on the DEIS themes outlined in the opening paragraph.

The pilot programme has involved large and small group discussion covering areas such as ambition, goal setting, commitment and study skills. A programme review is already underway, which utilises an established process of best practice in School Self-Evaluation (SSE) and with the goal of enhancing the programme for the coming years. The success of the programme is encouraged due to the commitment of the school which already has a diverse network of external partners which it utilises to enhance their students' prospects. In summary, the authors, have shared values and a belief that by UCD reaching out in ways like the Embed programme, there will be significant, real and very positive impacts on the target students.

Embed Ideology

The ideology behind the Embed programme is very simple and uncomplicated. Dr. Crean firmly believes that every student should 'have the ability to choose their future and not simply accept their options'. Such an ideology is also shared by the staff of St. Kilian's Community school. To date, we have observed some success with this pilot, even at its early stage. However, in its conception Dr. Crean acknowledges the programme is currently addressing the symptoms of educational inequalities, and like any programme in this area should never be overinflated in terms of success. Success ultimately for this programme will be its ability to evolve to not simply address the symptoms, but to establish more sustainable and structural changes to address the challenges faced.

FEELING Better Project

UCD Contextual Behavioural Science (CBS) Laboratory

Co-coordinated by Louise McHugh, research conducted in the UCD CBS lab has begun to provide new insights into the development of understanding the self and others.

The stresses of both third-level education and the workplace are well-documented triggers for the onset of psychological difficulties. As an evidence-based approach to the alleviation of human suffering and advancement of well-being, Contextual Behavioural Science (CBS) has accrued extensive research support. Despite this expansive evidence base, such psychological innovations have not been made available to university students and staff. The FEELING Better Project, developed by the UCD CBS laboratory and funded by UCD SPARC, aimed to promote prosperity and alleviate suffering on campus through monthly hour-long workshops. The project team was comprised of undergraduate, masters and PhD students, and staff members from the UCD School of Psychology.

The project was funded via the UCD SPARC programme which funds projects which entail staff and student collaborative projects that aim to benefit the UCD community. Under the FEELING Better Project, students and staff from the UCD CBS Lab worked together to deliver four workshops which aimed to support UCD students and staff in living more purposeful, vital, and fulfilled lives. These workshops focused on connecting with personal values, self-compassion, dealing with negative and unhelpful thoughts, and procrastination.

On 23 January, Dr Martin O'Connor helped students and staff towards clarifying values (or "doing what matters") in 2019. During the next workshop in February, Varsha Eswara-Murthy introduced those in attendance to ways in which they could live lives that were self-compassionate and kinder to themselves.

On 26 March, Joseph Lavelle gave a workshop which aimed to help attendees when they found themselves entangled in difficult thoughts. The final workshop on 24 April was presented by Associate Professor Louise McHugh and Alison Stapleton, and introduced students and staff to ways of breaking free when bogged down by procrastination.

In total, over 120 students and staff attended the various workshops offered by the FEELING Better Project. Given the response and appetite for such an initiative, the UCD CBS Lab plan to continue and expand the FEELING Better Project in the 2019-20 academic year via monthly workshops covering an even more varied range of topics.



Fieldwork & Strategies and UCD School of Landscape Architecture

By Sophie Graefin von Maltzan

Through a connection made by UCD in the Community, the Head Nurse of the Clonskeagh hospital Dementia Care Unit asked UCD Landscape Architecture students to help them brighten up the hospital garden.

After visiting the hospital and the garden and grounds, the students met the nurses and patients of the hospital.

A few weeks later, the students presented their proposals to the head nurses.

In five groups they suggested the following projects:

- 1) a chicken coop and three chickens;
- 2) a bird feeder and a manual of wild birds and the food they should be fed;
- 3) a wall painting of an Irish Village scene to improve a monotonous view from the patients dining room;
- 4) colour bombing the dull gravel roof that the patients bedrooms look onto;
- 5) a planting box that can hold 5 planting pots, built to custom fit into the bedroom windows; a seed tray that allows patients to garden while lying in bed.

After spending five weeks detail planning and producing the items, they were installed in early December 2018. The project was challenging for the students as they realised that it is difficult to build and then again to install on site, but also very rewarding for them.

Sophie Graefin von Maltzan is an artist, a landscape architect, gardener, academic and activist, who teaches an elective module at the UCD School of Landscape Architecture. Fieldwork & Strategies (F&S) is the umbrella term for Sophie's practice, with whom the students worked on the above project.



Gaeltacht UCD

By Clár Ní Bhuachalla

Gaeltacht UCD, UCD Global Centre for Irish Language and Culture (formerly known as Bord na Gaeilge UCD) promotes the Irish language and culture in UCD. This cross-faculty centre facilitates students, staff and members of the wider community who wish to engage with the language. Community projects for 2018-19 were wide and varied, including outreach activities with local second-level schools, involvement in national events such as 'Bliain na Gaeilge 2018' and an Irish language summer school which welcomed the global Irish language community.

Engagement

Throughout 2018-19, Gaeltacht UCD actively engaged with the six lead organizations within the Foras na Gaeilge All-island Partnership Forum; Glór na nGael, Gael-Linn, Conradh na Gaeilge, Cumann na bhFiann, Gaeloideachas and Oireachtas na Gaeilge.

Working in close collaboration with primary and post-primary schools was key to the success of Gaeltacht UCD's community initiatives, for example in March 2019 the centre's Irish Language Student Residence Scheme scholars initiated a workshop in oral Irish skills in a local English medium school, and participated in an 'Irish Speaking Women in Leadership' series in a local Gaelscoil.

Gaeltacht UCD scholars partook in the Gael-linn Moot Court and Debating Competitions, in Conradh na Gaeilge's 'Traenáil na Reachtairí' (Society Auditor and Leadership Training) and were interviewed regularly by the Irish language media and digital platforms; Radió na Life, Radió Fáilte, Radió na Gaeltachta, Molscéal and Meon Eile. The centre's Director represented the university on Coiste Bliain na Gaeilge 2018, a planning committee for 'Irish Language Year 2018' sponsored by the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The Director represented UCD at the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga events and presented at the Association of Public Service Irish Language Development Officers' Association events. Gaeltacht UCD actively supported Irish language literary and cultural activities, i.e. Oireachtas na Gaeilge, Seachtain Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, Trasna na dTonnta and Féile Imram.



An Ghaeilge Bheo/The Living Language

In Spring 2017, a collaborative project, An Ghaeilge Bheo/The Living Language, supported by the UCD SPARC program, was developed by the then board and UCD Library, which focused on Irish-speaking students and faculty/staff as well as members of the surrounding community. This involved organising a series of talks on various topics: Music, Politics and Medicine, followed by questions, discussions, blogs and printed journalistic articles. Approximately 100 people attended the series.

Further to the success of this initiative, Gaeltacht UCD continued to work with the students' traditional music society (UCD Trad Soc) supporting music and song workshops through the medium of Irish in association with UCD Library. The 2018-2019 guests included renowned musicians and singers, Liz and Yvonne Kane and Louise and Michelle Mulcahy. These events were widely advertised and resulted in increased engagement from members of the public in cultural activities on UCD campus.



Annual Irish Language Student Drama

In November 2018, students from Gaeltacht UCD's residence scheme in association with An Cumann Gaelach and UCD Drama Society staged the play: An Triail by Máiréad Ní Ghráda. A total of 15 actors partook in this all-Irish play, produced and directed by students. The drama, which is an optional text on the Leaving Certificate syllabus, was attended by transition year students from a number of second-level schools from Dublin city as well as counties Kildare and Meath.

Rás UCD 2019

Rás UCD is a 5k bilingual road race held on the UCD campus in which students, alumni, employees and members of the public participate. Founded in 2009 by then student Dónal Ó hAnnrachtaigh (UCD School of Medicine alumnus) who was a Gaeltacht UCD Residence Scheme scholar, and a volunteer with the charity UCD Volunteers Overseas (UCDVO), the race continued to be organised annually by Gaeltacht UCD, UCDVO, UCD Cumann Gaelach and UCDVO Society. In 2019, UCD Culture and Engagement came on board and lead the 10th anniversary race. The event, held in April, proved a great success with a total of 335 runners taking part, a large number of which were members of the wider community. Gaeltacht UCD sponsored the race and supported the Irish-speaking student volunteers. All entry fees were donated to UCDVO.



Healthy UCD

Healthy UCD's vision is to be recognised as a global health promoting university where students, faculty and staff, and the local community work together to ensure the holistic health and wellbeing of every member of the UCD community.

The Irish Heart Foundation (IHF) awarded Healthy UCD the Gold Award during the Active@Work Awards in November 2018. The IHF seeks to recognise outstanding efforts to promote and increase work-place physical activity levels. Healthy UCD was nationally recognised as a successful promoter of health and wellbeing at work.

Student Experience as part of an academic module

Healthy UCD co-hosted Wellness Wednesday with students from the BSc Sports and Exercise Management on the UCD Belfield campus on 10 April 2019. The day was used to engage students and offer a break from exam stress. The event raised €1,400 for Pieta House via attendee participation in competitions and raffles.

Healthy Eating Week

Healthy Eating Week ran 25-28 February 2019 in conjunction with UCD Nutrition Society as a way to promote nutritious and balanced eating among UCD students and staff. During the week, 18 nutrition-related events took place, including five organised talks which attracted 520 attendees. At Centra on the UCD Campus, a cooking demonstration was held in conjunction with Irish Rugby player Donncha O'Callaghan to promote healthy eating.



Homeless Period Ireland

By Mary Gallagher-Cooke

Homeless Period Ireland collects donations of female period products to be shared to front line services for distributions.

Since March 2018, UCD has worked in partnership with Homeless Period Ireland (HPI) to donate period products to women experiencing period poverty. Over 1,700 packets of period products have been donated and delivered to people in very difficult circumstances, including homelessness, Direct Provision and in poverty to the point of not being able to afford period products when they are needed.

The HPI initiative aims to help women experiencing period poverty and believes that period products should be made available to all women. Staff and students have contributed to the practical aim of support through regular and one-off donation collections and have partnered on increasing visibility of period poverty with a number of presentations in classes.

In November 2018, the Mature Student Society and staff collaborated on an awareness campaign, collection and donation drive. For International Women's Day in March 2019, DramSoc collected at their event, while the College of Social Sciences and Law hosted a collection at their staff event.

There are currently thirteen donation points across the Belfield campus in the following locations:

- Gerard Manley Hopkins Building: Global Lounge - beside reception
- Hannah Sheehy-Skeffington Building: Entrance hall under room numbers
- James Joyce Library: Outside, beside book swap
- Newman Building: Corridor of D1 (outside office D110)
- Ground floor Newstead Building: (Block A beside the post department)
- International Study Centre, Student's Committee
- O'Brien Centre for Science: Ground floor of the Hub, beside post boxes
- Roebuck Office Building: Entrance hall
- School of Computer Science: Ground floor, on the right
- School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems: B106, B331
- Student's Union
- Tierney building: 1st floor book swap shelf area

A huge thank you to all students and staff who continue to donate to this extremely worthy cause.



Intergenerational Jigsaw Club

UCD Institute for Discovery, with support from UCD in the Community, established the Intergenerational Jigsaw Club in April 2018, as a way to welcome the wider community into UCD and to facilitate intergenerational connection.

The idea behind the club is to facilitate inter-generational human connection by bringing together members of the UCD community (students, staff and alumni) with members of the wider community, in particular those living alone and suffering from isolation. The club helps to seed interdisciplinary community in non-traditional ways across the University by having an open invite to all members of the UCD community.

The benefits of jigsaw making are well documented, it is good for short-term memory, improves problem solving skills and fine motor skills, as well as being a great social activity.

The club meets once a week on Fridays from 2:30pm - 4:30pm and jigsaw puzzles and refreshments are provided, with people of all ages coming and enjoying the company, conversation, and puzzle completion.

Many regulars attend Jigsaw Club every week and they are always looking for new people to join them. You can drop in for 10 minutes or an hour, and no previous jigsaw experience is needed!



Localise - Dublin Simon Care Package Appeal

By Deborah Reid, Localise

Localise youth volunteering challenges young people to come together and make a difference in their local community by being of service to others. Through the Localise youth volunteering programmes, young volunteers directly address the needs of the most disadvantaged locally, serving the homeless, the elderly, the disabled and other groups needing support.

In November and December 2018, through UCD in the Community, UCD partnered with Presentation Community College, Terenure for an appeal in aid of the Dublin Simon Community, as part of the Transition Year students' Localise volunteering programme. The appeal was for essential supplies for people sleeping rough in Dublin over the winter. This appeal was advertised throughout the UCD campus, while the students of Terenure Presentation Community College asked family and friends to get involved. Together they collected essential supplies for people sleeping rough on the streets of Dublin. These essential supplies included toiletries, hats, gloves, scarves, Christmas treats, backpacks and handmade Christmas cards.

On 19 December 2018, facilitated by Localise staff, representatives from UCD joined the staff and

students in Presentation Community College to organise and pack the essential supplies in the school. Through the generosity of the UCD community and the students and staff of Terenure Presentation Community College, a record-breaking 300 care packages were made, exceeding the expectations of all involved.

The care packages were presented to the Dublin Simon Community rough sleeper team. Everyone involved formed a line called a 'human chain' which went out the classroom, down the hall and into the car park, where the Dublin Simon Community van waited. The bags were passed down the line and into the van. The Dublin Simon Community took the van filled with supplies and distributed the needed essential packages out to the rough sleepers of Dublin. Localise would like to thank all the staff and students in UCD who donated to this appeal.



Project SUMS

By Rachel O'Connor, Founder

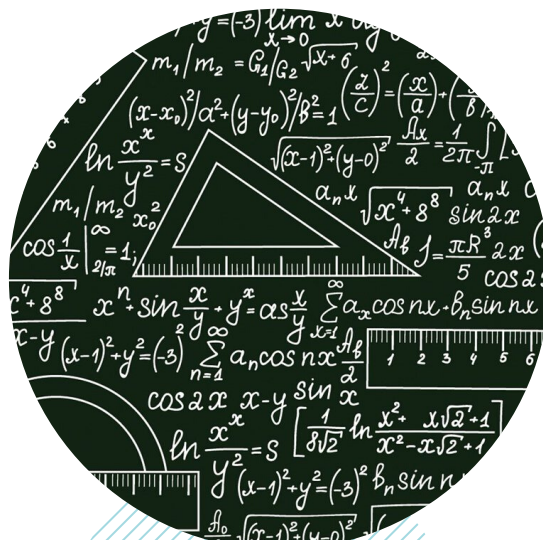
Project SUMS is a pilot programme offering a free, drop-in-style, maths support service for Leaving Certificate students from socio-economically disadvantaged areas in Dublin. The project aims to improve access to maths support in local communities.

Project SUMS was established by a UCD MSc Maths and Science Education student and a UCD Business graduate, in conjunction with the office of Senator Lynn Ruane, and provides weekly maths support for students in three Dublin locations. From September 2018, volunteer tutors were recruited, Garda vetted and provided with training for the project. Posters were printed and schools were contacted to provide students and teachers with information about Project SUMS.

In January 2019 the maths support sessions began every Tuesday from 6-8pm and ran weekly until the State Examinations in June. Any 5th or 6th year student was welcome to drop-in to the sessions, no pre-booking was required. Students had the option to bring their own questions or to work on material provided by Project SUMS. Space for the sessions was generously donated by Tallaght Library, Trinity College Dublin and Macro Community Centre.

Over forty volunteer tutors took part in the project and came from a variety of backgrounds including maths teachers, student teachers, retired teachers and maths graduates. Many of the tutors are UCD students studying Maths Education and Economics and Finance. The pilot project was popular with students and saw over 1000 visits from 5th and 6th years in its first six months. Feedback from students described how they felt more confident in maths after attending the sessions and liked the relaxed, friendly environment.

Project SUMS will continue with the support from volunteers from the UCD community.



Refugees Working Group

By Assistant Professor Muireann Ní Raghallaigh

Following UCD's Launch as a University of Sanctuary in March 2018, the university continued to engage in various activities and initiatives in relation to asylum seekers and refugees in the 2018-19 academic year. During the year, 24 students were provided with fee waivers/scholarships, including students on Access courses, students undertaking undergraduate degrees, students undertaking masters degrees and students registered to online programmes. Other activities under the umbrella of the University of Sanctuary included student-led events such as a talk by the World Aid society in relation to refugee children.

A student-led campaign, UCD Fáilte Refugees, continued to be active. Members of the group organised a Refugee Awareness week in February 2019, which included a UNICEF Photo Exhibition. The students also organised an 'In Conversation With' event in April which involved two members of the Movement for Asylum Seekers in Ireland (MASI), Suzanne McAuley, the producer of RTE's Taken Down series, Melissa Plunkett, the Student Union Welfare Officer and Dr. Muireann Ní Raghallaigh, a UCD academic from the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice.

UCD Fáilte Refugees partnered with Third Age Ireland to run their conversational 'Fáilte Isteach' English classes for people in the community, for two hours per week for eight weeks between February and April 2018.

The student group also took part in the VHI Mini Marathon in June 2019 to raise awareness of the barriers faced by asylum seekers and refugees in relation to education as well as raising money for the Irish Refugee Council's Education Fund.

A collaboration between a number of different UCD units, including UCD Careers Network and UCD College of Arts and Humanities, resulted in a CV preparation workshop for asylum seekers and refugees which was organised in partnership with MASI. In a partnership with the Jesuit Refugee Service, Dr. Amanda Kelly, Assistant Professor in UCD School of Archaeology continued to provide 'Irish culture' classes to residents of Baleskin Reception Centre, both within the centre itself and through field trips to the National Museum and Glendalough.

Members of the UCD academic community sit on the boards of organisations that work with asylum seekers and refugees. UCD continues to also be very research active in relation to issues that impact on refugees and asylum seekers, with some of these projects involving collaboration with different organisations in the community (for example a project on the needs of refugee children which involved a collaboration between the School of Social Policy Social Work and Social Justice and the Children's Rights Alliance). Submissions to policy makers have also arisen from these research projects and academics have also contributed to discussions within local and national media.



Reimagining Dublin with A Playful City

By Associate Professor Niamh Moore-Cherry

Over the last three years, academics in the UCD School of Geography have been working with grassroots activists, artists and social entrepreneurs on a range of projects engaging different audiences with Dublin as OUR city. One ongoing community engagement and research project has been with A Playful City, Ireland's first not-for-profit focused on creating more playful, engaging and inclusive cities with and for communities. To date, A Playful City have been responsible for A Playful Street initiatives in different places around the country, encouraging children to get off their devices and explore their urban environment, as well as a Design Hackathon supported by the UCD School of Geography through facilitation of activities and workshops.

Over the course of 2018-19, Associate Professor Niamh Moore-Cherry worked with the group to bring their ideas to new audiences through publications and participation in events such as the Our City placemaking conference with policymakers from around Europe. Niamh also invited A Playful City to lead a new practice-based module for the School of Geography's Urban Environment Masters students.

As part of this module called 'Re-Imagining Dublin', a School of Geography student group worked with A Playful City and Seán Harrington Architects (SHA) on ideas to redesign the laneways in Dublin 1. The students undertook an evaluation of previous projects like the Zig-Zag, a temporary intergenerational playful space at Spencer Dock created with and for the community around it. Students also undertook on-street consultations with the general public about their perception of Dublin 1 and how they would like to see their city develop.

The reports produced by the students were presented to a practitioner audience and informed a report to Dublin City Council by SHA. The new developers of the Clerys Department store site off O'Connell Street asked to see what one of our students had proposed for an adjacent laneway as a way to develop their own thinking.

One of the most positive outputs of this engagement for the student community has been the design and creation of the Geohub space at the end of the EH corridor in Newman. This is a student zone designed to facilitate creative and collaborative working. The creation of the Geohub was part of the assessment of the GEOG40750 module, 'Reimagining Dublin: An Interdisciplinary Exploration in Urban Regeneration' and aimed to simulate the re-design of an urban laneway prior to engaging with the real-world city!

Find out more by visiting
www.aplayfulcity.com





Soapbox Science

By Dr Dara Stanley

Soapbox Science is an international initiative that has two aims; firstly it aims to make science more accessible by bringing researchers working in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to the streets to interact with the public and talk to passers by who may never have met a scientist before. Secondly, it showcases female researchers to try and break down stereotypes around who a scientist is and help address some of the issues around women in STEM.

On 30 June 2019, 12 scientists from UCD and beyond took to the streets of Dublin to discuss their research with the public as part of Soapbox Science. For three hours on a Sunday afternoon, South King Street was populated with four soapboxes, where scientists gave short talks about their work and answered questions about their research. Talks ranged from using x-ray CT scanning to look at plant roots from Dr. Saoirse Tracey, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, to vaccine development from Dr. Siobhan McClean, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, and how computers can help with public speaking from Fiona Dermody, DCU School of Computing.

Speakers used props and a huge variety of ways to make their research interesting and relevant to the public, with a steady stream of people passing by and stopping to listen throughout the afternoon.

Organised by Dr. Dara Stanley, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, and Dr. Jessamyn Fairfield, NUI Galway, the featured scientists came largely from UCD but also from TCD, RCSI and DCU. The event was sponsored by the UCD Research Office seed funding scheme.



Speakers and volunteers at the end of Soapbox Science Dublin on South King Street in June.



Fenguan Zhang (UCD School of Physics) discussing her research on the evolution of memory mechanism with the public during Soapbox Science Dublin.

The Social Misfits - Dublin Simon Community

By Peter Moran

“The housing crisis in Ireland can seem like such a huge problem, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But if a problem seems insurmountable, sometimes all we can do is to do what we can. That's why, to try to help in the only small way I knew how, I began organising music sessions in a homeless shelter in Dublin City Centre.

This was, at times, a difficult and thankless task. I was volunteering in what is known as an emergency shelter. (There are different categories of homeless shelters, depending on the needs of the clients, and the level of stability in their lives.) This was the front line of the housing crisis, where people are brought in directly off the streets, often struggling with a range of drug, alcohol and emotional problems. Here they are given a hot meal and a bed, just for one night at a time.

It was in this turbulent environment where I first met a man who went by the name of Diego Montana. I had finished singing for the night when he waved his arm and called me over. He was sitting slouched over a table, so drunk he was barely conscious. He was trying to tell me something, but his words were almost unintelligible as he slowly pulled a tattered old piece of paper from his pocket and pushed it towards me. I opened it up and saw that it was a poem. He was asking me to use it to write a song.

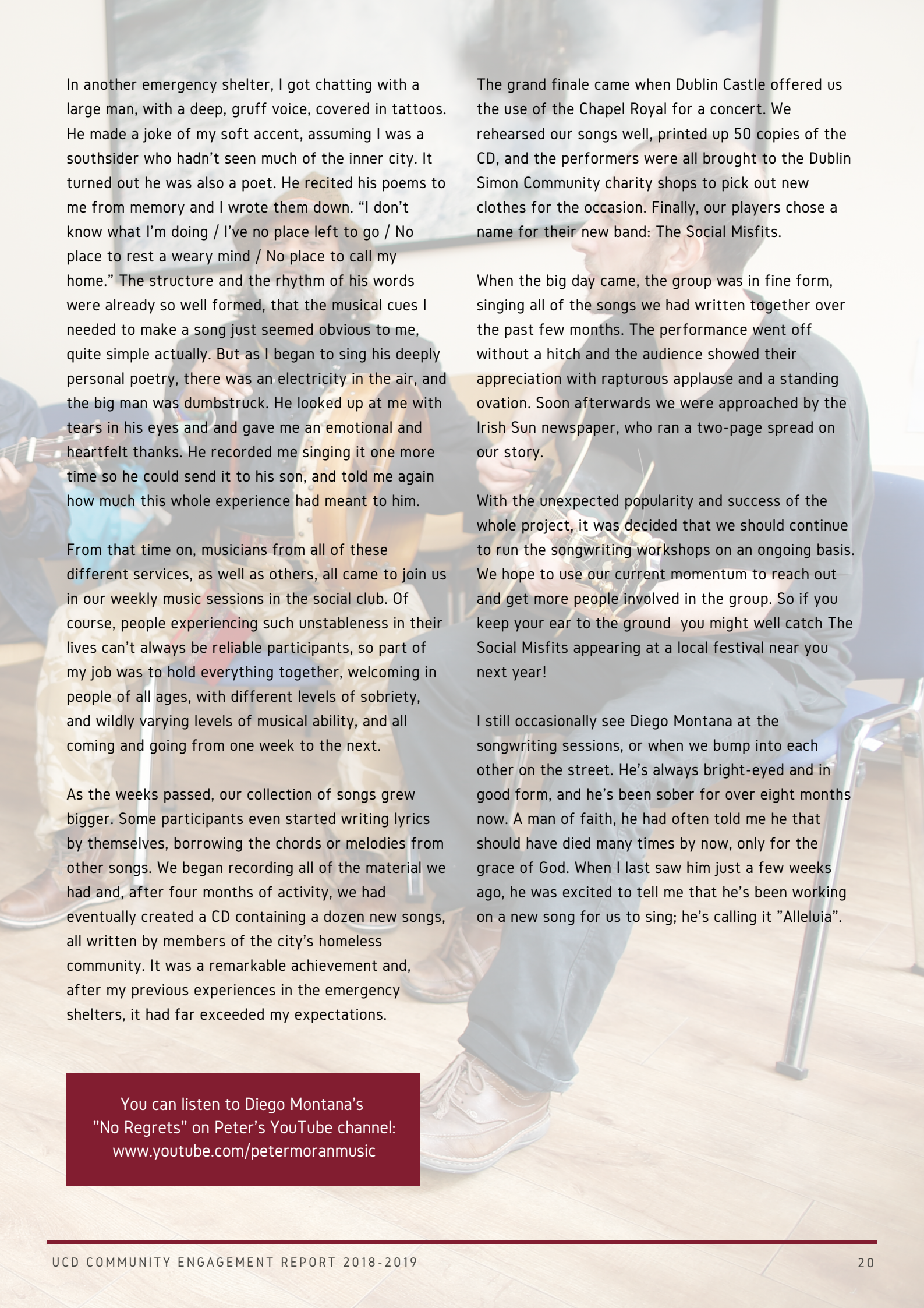
As I got to know him better over the following months, I learned that Diego had written many poems while he had been living on the streets, and his work could be seen hanging on the walls of the shelter all around us.

That first poem he gave me, called "No Regrets", soon became an anthem that we would sing together on my regular visits. "We're all in the same boat / Just trying to float." Diego would round up all his friends in the shelter to come and listen, and he would call up his distant family members to tell them about it, holding up the phone in front of me while I sang.

As I met more poets and musicians who were using the homeless services, I began to develop a new idea. I approached the Dublin Simon Community's homeless services with the proposal to run a series of songwriting workshops. They loved the idea, and as it happened, there was already a group of musicians who met at a weekly social club there, so that was our starting point. I met with the group, we sang a few songs, and we started kicking around a few ideas as to what we might write together.

From there I visited a range of different homeless services around the city, seeking out more talent to join our group, from emergency shelters and addiction recovery clinics to homes for the elderly. And everyone had their story to tell.

My first visit was to a rehab clinic, where several of the residents all happened to be coping with recent bereavements, so that became the focus of a group conversation. One older woman shared memories of her late mother. A younger woman remembered how her boyfriend would make a game of pushing her around when she was in a wheelchair for a few weeks. Slowly their words formed the shape of a song, and we all sang together "Through the good times and the bad times / I'll push you all the way / If you just won't leave me / If you'll only stay."

A background image showing a man in a grey shirt and dark trousers sitting on a blue chair, playing an acoustic guitar. He is looking down at his instrument. The setting appears to be a community center or a rehearsal space with wooden floors and other people in the background.

In another emergency shelter, I got chatting with a large man, with a deep, gruff voice, covered in tattoos. He made a joke of my soft accent, assuming I was a southsider who hadn't seen much of the inner city. It turned out he was also a poet. He recited his poems to me from memory and I wrote them down. "I don't know what I'm doing / I've no place left to go / No place to rest a weary mind / No place to call my home." The structure and the rhythm of his words were already so well formed, that the musical cues I needed to make a song just seemed obvious to me, quite simple actually. But as I began to sing his deeply personal poetry, there was an electricity in the air, and the big man was dumbstruck. He looked up at me with tears in his eyes and gave me an emotional and heartfelt thanks. He recorded me singing it one more time so he could send it to his son, and told me again how much this whole experience had meant to him.

From that time on, musicians from all of these different services, as well as others, all came to join us in our weekly music sessions in the social club. Of course, people experiencing such unstableness in their lives can't always be reliable participants, so part of my job was to hold everything together, welcoming in people of all ages, with different levels of sobriety, and wildly varying levels of musical ability, and all coming and going from one week to the next.

As the weeks passed, our collection of songs grew bigger. Some participants even started writing lyrics by themselves, borrowing the chords or melodies from other songs. We began recording all of the material we had and, after four months of activity, we had eventually created a CD containing a dozen new songs, all written by members of the city's homeless community. It was a remarkable achievement and, after my previous experiences in the emergency shelters, it had far exceeded my expectations.

You can listen to Diego Montana's
"No Regrets" on Peter's YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/petermoranmusic

The grand finale came when Dublin Castle offered us the use of the Chapel Royal for a concert. We rehearsed our songs well, printed up 50 copies of the CD, and the performers were all brought to the Dublin Simon Community charity shops to pick out new clothes for the occasion. Finally, our players chose a name for their new band: The Social Misfits.

When the big day came, the group was in fine form, singing all of the songs we had written together over the past few months. The performance went off without a hitch and the audience showed their appreciation with rapturous applause and a standing ovation. Soon afterwards we were approached by the Irish Sun newspaper, who ran a two-page spread on our story.

With the unexpected popularity and success of the whole project, it was decided that we should continue to run the songwriting workshops on an ongoing basis. We hope to use our current momentum to reach out and get more people involved in the group. So if you keep your ear to the ground you might well catch The Social Misfits appearing at a local festival near you next year!

I still occasionally see Diego Montana at the songwriting sessions, or when we bump into each other on the street. He's always bright-eyed and in good form, and he's been sober for over eight months now. A man of faith, he had often told me he that should have died many times by now, only for the grace of God. When I last saw him just a few weeks ago, he was excited to tell me that he's been working on a new song for us to sing; he's calling it "Alleluia".

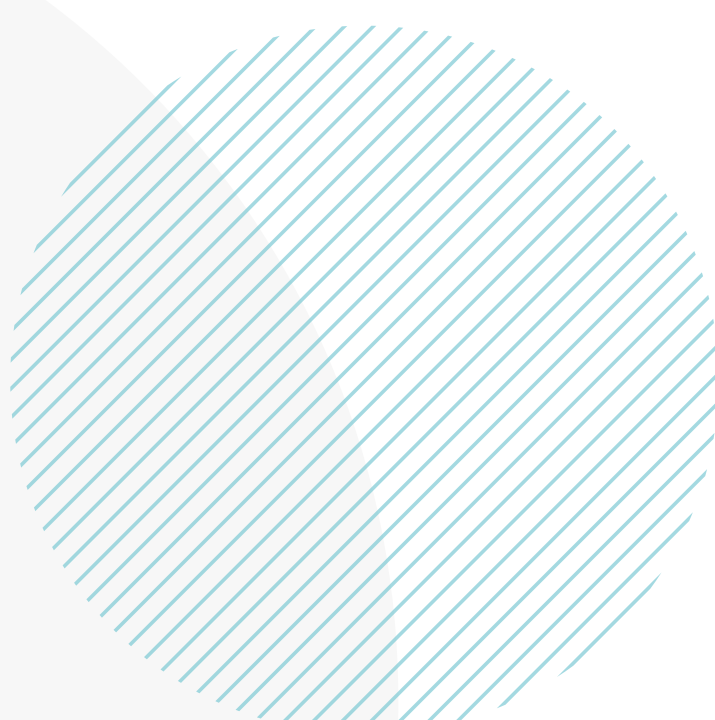
UCD Access and Lifelong Learning (ALL)

UCD continues to promote a diverse and inclusive scholarly community, characterised as a 'University for All', which recognises, promotes and values diversity; fosters the spirit of inclusion, appreciates the breath of talent, experience and contribution of all students, and strives to remove the barriers to access, participation and success. Significant progress has been achieved, and in 2019, almost $\frac{1}{3}$ of undergraduate students are from communities and groups with low participation rates, including students with disabilities, first generation students, students from low-income households, mature students, lone parents, those who study on a part-time basis, refugees and asylum seekers. In addition, UCD currently reserves almost $\frac{1}{4}$ of under-graduate places for such students, who are admitted through 7 alternative entry routes.

UCD Access and Lifelong Learning (ALL) is the 'bridge to inclusion' offering connections, engagement and building relationships with communities that are 'distant' from higher education. The approach used is informed by national access policy (HEA 2015), which points to the development of collaborative regional and community partnerships with a particular focus on mentoring. The outreach programme offers participants an opportunity to learn about college and unravel and demystify its workings. Guidance on the wide range of pathways to study in UCD is also offered, as is information on the range of financial, academic and personal supports provided by the University.

In 2019, the UCD Widening Participation Committee established a sub-group to oversee the development of a coherent university-wide approach to outreach and engagement for communities and groups experiencing low progression to higher education. The sub-group has identified three priorities, i.e. 1) capturing current good practice, 2) identifying additional community partners, and 3) enhancing the visibility of the University's work in this regard.

Currently, the outreach programme predominantly takes place with communities and groups based in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and South County Dublin County Council, respectively. Tailored activities are structured around 3 key strands, including 1) Information and Guidance, which offer information sessions, campus visits, and open days, 2) Student Experience, comprising participation in summer schools, taster sessions, and 3) Mentoring, where UCD access students work as role models for future generations.



Highlights of the past year include the UCD University for All week – a four-day programme to celebrate the University's achievements in widening access and participation. A focal point of the week was the presentation of the inaugural UCD See One, Be One Role Model Awards, which celebrated four UCD graduates and their contribution to widening access to higher education. The recipients of the See One Be One awards 2019 were presented to: Charlotte Byrne, BSoc.Sc 2015, Education Officer, Irish Refugee Council; Conor Moore, BA 2006, MA 2011, Solicitor, Mason, Hayes & Curran; Kate Farrelly, BA 2015, PME 2017, Teacher, Kingswood Community College, and Dr. Paula Williams, BSc 2006, Process Engineer, Intel. All are exemplary role-models serving to encourage and inspire future generations of access students.

Last year also marked the eighth year UCD Future You Mentoring programme, which is offered in 18 linked secondary schools, and provides an opportunity for these school pupils to be mentored by UCD Access students. The successful application for PATH funding, led to the establishment of a UCD-led consortium of five colleges (UCD, IADT, MIE, NCAD, and TCD), which is extending this mentoring model to the wider community. Almost 120 Access students from all five colleges have been trained as mentors and they took part in the Mentoring Summit in October 2018.

The PATH consortium is also developing a series of outreach and engagement initiatives. For example, a week-long Creative Arts Summer School was held in June 2019 and attended by 60 participants, who spent one day in each college over the week. In April 2019, the Consortium launched the first Dublin Learning City Festival in the Hugh Lane Gallery, with the support of Dublin City Council.

The University's strategic partnership with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council resulted in the provision of an information evening entitled, 'Going to College', held in the Samuel Beckett Community Centre, Ballyogan, in January 2019.



UCD Alumni Buddy Programme

By Colin Tannam

Céad Míle Fáilte and Cultural Exchange

Each year thousands of new international students from a diverse range of countries start their studies at UCD. Since 2017, the UCD Alumni Buddy Programme has been linking incoming international students with local UCD Alumni. Its purpose is to provide friendly support to students, especially shortly after arriving in Dublin, to help them to get to know the local community and to take part in a cultural exchange. Through this collaborative project between UCD Alumni Relations and UCD Global, over 120 students have been matched with alumni volunteers to-date.

The Alumni Buddy Role

Alumni Buddies make a positive difference in the lives of International Students by helping them to adjust to life in Ireland; making the most of their University experience. This often includes basic orientation to Dublin, from explaining our public transportation system to providing recommendations of social outings and places to eat, how to find a doctor, or navigating public services. The time commitment for a buddy is specific to each student and is agreed upon when first meeting (maximum 10 hours per month). Buddies are encouraged to meet up at least once outside of the arranged group meetings, and if possible, more occasionally. They may also wish to keep in touch by phone. There are optional events on and off campus throughout the academic year which are lead by a group of volunteers and all participants are welcome to attend.

Participating Students

Students, who have participated in this programme include Undergraduate, Graduate, Erasmus and Non-EU Exchange scholars, and have come from a range of countries including Australia, Botswana, China, India, Kazakhstan, Turkey and the USA. Following a review of the first two years of the programme, the focus has primarily been on supporting and matching Graduate students, as, unlike Undergraduate students, they are not formally included in a peer mentoring programme. Feedback from participants to-date has been overwhelmingly positive with many buddies meeting on several occasions including some students being invited to their alumni buddy's home for a family dinner and even to join in festivities on Christmas Day. Alumni Buddy networking events have also taken place in the UCD Global Lounge during the academic year; they participated actively in the 'Dublin in December' project funded by SPARC, and there have been group-led outings including cultural events and a walk from Bray to Greystones. Alumni volunteers make a positive difference to international students by helping them to adjust to life in Ireland and make the most out of their university experience. Alumni have acquainted students to Dublin by showing them around and advising them on navigating public transport and the best places to shop and eat. Alumni volunteers have also answered students' questions virtually via email and a Facebook group for newly arrived students.

Although it is not possible to match all student applicants to buddies due to capacity, group events and online for a connected to the programme provide other network opportunities. Participants on the programme have reported on:

- Intercultural exchange and the two way process of finding out about each other's country
- Practical advice
- Cultural adjustment
- Networking
- Companionship
- Knowledge



UCD Alumni Network
(www.ucdalumninetwork.com)
offers an additional online
resource for students and
alumni to interact.

Feedback from Participants:

“Experience companionship and a person to turn to in times of crisis as well as merriments. Few persons and events cannot be explained just in words; this was one of those events. I got immense strength and my life was a lot more simple with the presence of my buddy.

“Having similar interests with my buddy was great. It was easy to share our experiences despite the age difference between us.

“Amazing. I was very nervous coming to a place that's completely different from my home but the Buddy Programme helped me understand Irish culture and gave me a feel of a second home here in Dublin. Without this programme, I never would have met my buddy. Thank you!

“Just make sure you guys keep doing this because this helps!

UCD Alumni Volunteering

By Ria Flom

By volunteering, alumni enrich the lives of current students and help build a vibrant community.

“My UCD education and experience afforded me a great career and life. In retirement I welcomed the invitation by Alumni Relations to assist today's students as they start out. Sharing some life experience has been a very positive experience for me – a chance to ‘give something back.’”

Pat Macken, BSc Chemistry 1979, PhD 1983; Career Mentor, Alumni Buddy, Reunion Class Agent

UCD is shaped and sustained by the involvement of alumni across the University. We are so grateful to the 2,900+ alumni who have volunteered to support students, fellow alumni, and the wider UCD community in recent years.

From mentoring students and speaking at events, to writing testimonials and organising reunions, alumni make a real difference to the University community in so many ways. By giving their time, alumni support students to settle into college life and to flourish in their studies, offering vital advice as they navigate the next steps in their careers. Through sharing their experience, alumni offer hope and motivation which enriches and inspires the next generation. By keeping in touch with fellow alumni and taking part in events and reunions, they nurture the lifelong friendships that are essential to our vibrant and diverse community.

Marking its fifth year in 2018-19, the UCD Career Mentoring Programme matched over 185 students from Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Law and Science with alumni mentors.

Also in 2018-19, working in partnership with UCD Global for the second year in a row, the Alumni Buddy Programme matched 40 incoming international students with local alumni helping them to settle in to life in Ireland.

Alumni have also contributed as speakers at events throughout the year, on campus and around the world, including on Alumni Career Panels, at Open Days and the Graduate Studies Fair, Women in Leadership, UCD Festival, Overseas Chapter events and many, many more. We are delighted to report that UCD Alumni Volunteer, Eimear O' Flynn (BSc Physiology 2014) won the 2019 CASE Europe Volunteer of the Year Award for her work on the Women in Leadership conference.

Volunteering with UCD provides an opportunity to impact the lives of current students, but can also spark meaningful personal connections, advance skills and expertise, and cultivate innovative thinking and broadened horizons.

We are very grateful to our alumni mentors, buddies, speakers and panellists who have volunteered their time and hope to encourage more alumni to become involved in the future.

In our recent UCD Alumni Survey, 76 per cent of all respondents were interested in volunteering – both in Ireland and across the globe. We value this generosity and invite you to join UCD's thriving community of alumni volunteers as we expand our bank of opportunities.

“ I have been fortunate to have received sound advice and support from some great people over my personal and working life. In retirement, I have volunteered with the UCD Buddy and Mentoring programmes so that I can use my new-found ‘time’ and career experience to hopefully contribute to improving the experiences of others.

To register your interest in creating volunteer roles in your College, School, or Unit, or to learn more about getting involved in an initiative or programme to suit your schedule and interests, visit www.ucd.ie/alumni/volunteering, email Ria Flom at alumnivolunteer@ucd.ie or call +353 1 716 1232.



UCD Centre for Disability Studies

By Associate Professor Christine Linehan

Discussions in Disability Annual Conference co-hosted with YOULEAD on Youth Mental Health (YMH) hosted on 30 August 2019

The Centre for Disability Studies was delighted to collaborate with YOULEAD, a doctoral training programme in youth mental health, on our 2019 Discussions in Disability Conference 'Youth Mental Health: Break the Stigma'. Hosted in UCD on 30 August 2019, this day-long conference was chaired by Prof Eilis Hennessy, Professor at UCD's School of Psychology and YOULEAD research supervisor and Dr Christine Linehan, Director of the UCD Centre for Disability Studies. The morning session was opened by Professor Colin Scott, UCD Vice President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Associate Professor Suzanne Guerin, Head of UCD School of Psychology, both of whom extended a warm welcome to all. The conference began with an exploration of the evidence-base and lived experience of youth mental health stigma. Contributions included: Dr Amanda Fitzgerald, UCD, sharing new data from the My World Survey of youth mental health; Prof Eilis Hennessy explaining the nature and impact of stigma; Elliott MacGabhann vividly sharing the lived experience of psychosis; Emer Conneelly, a YOULEAD doctoral candidate examining the representation of young people in mental health service delivery; and Dr Aileen O'Reilly and Youth Advisory Panelist Rachel White discussing Jigsaw's work, which included a contemporary and thought-provoking rap delivered by Rachel. The morning closed with a lively question and answer session, much of which was directed to our two invited youth advocates, Elliott and Rachel.

In the afternoon, national campaigns to reduce youth mental health stigma were outlined by: Deirdre McHugh, National Educational Psychological Service,

discussing the National Wellbeing Policy for Schools; John Saunders, Shine, who highlighted our use, and misuse, of stigmatising terminology; and Kim Dempsey from Pieta House who outlined the Pieta House Resilience Academy programme.

Our day ended with a panel of expert policy advisers and practitioners chaired by Jigsaw founder, and UCD Adjunct Professor, Tony Bates. Panelists comprised Donie O'Shea, National Disability Authority; Sinead Reynolds, HSE Mental Health; Rosemary Smyth, Mental Health Commission; Laurence Bond, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; and Beatrice Dooley, Institute of Guidance Counsellors. Panelists praised the excellent research and initiatives being undertaken to tackle stigma, noting that the inclusion of young people themselves is central to the ongoing development of quality services in this field.



GDPR and Capacity to Consent to Research Roundtable

The introduction in 2018 of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) and the accompanying Health Research Regulations has required researchers to work in new ways to ensure research participants make an informed decision when consenting to research while being protected against violations of data privacy. Ensuring compliance with these new regulations is complex, and more so where research participants may be deemed to lack capacity to consent. To address this issue, the UCD Centre for Disability Studies hosted a high-level roundtable on 31 July 2019. Real life cases were discussed across the full spectrum of the research process from the generation of research questions through to dissemination of findings. Proceedings from this event are in preparation.

Contributors to the roundtable included Christine Linehan, UCD Centre for Disability Studies (Chair); Jonny Barrett, Consent Declaration Committee; Sarah Casey, National Rehabilitation Hospital; Sarah Craig, Health Research Board; Suzanne Guerin, UCD Centre for Disability Studies; Alison Harnett, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies; Peter Lennon, Department of Health; Joanne McCarthy, Disability Federation of Ireland; David Murphy, Data Protection Commission; Suzanne Moloney, HSE Social Care; Patricia Rickard Clarke, SAGE Advocacy; Flavia Santos, UCD Centre for Disability Studies; Fintan Sheerin, Trinity College Dublin; Joan Tiernan, UCD Human Research Ethics Committee; Emily Vereker, Consent Declaration Committee; Brian Waldron, Psychological Society of Ireland.



UCD College of Business

UCD Smurfit School students top €500K for charity through innovative course module

Masters in Project Management students at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School presented their end-of-semester projects which were focused on raising funds and awareness for nine Irish charities on 25 April 2019. Running since 2008, the annual module has now raised over €500,000 for Irish not-for-profit organisations.

The brainchild of Assistant Professor Joe Houghton, the module challenges students to utilise project management skills learned in the programme in a live learning experience. The result supports charities with needed resources including time, skill, and funding. Partnering with charity organisations also allows students to experience work in the not-for-profit field, an area which may be unfamiliar to many of them. The involvement offers a deep-dive into the needs of charitable organisations in comparison to corporate entities.

This year, Lecturer Robert Manning taught and guided 38 students in the unique course, many of whom had personal connections to the causes their charities supported. The cohort, of both full-time and part-time students, reigned from 13 countries, including China, India, Brazil, Canada, Russia, Ireland and more, promoting strong cross-cultural teamwork.

Nine groups were formed and the students raised over €45,000, as well as a tremendous amount of awareness through social media and PR exposure, for their chosen charities. Representatives from each of the nine organisations attended the groups' final presentations and received a check for the amounts raised.

The 'Swim for Simon' event raised over €12,000 for the Dublin Simon Community. "Being cold is a great leveller," said student Shane Moffatt. "People on the streets deal with cold all the time and this swim allowed participants to experience that cold, albeit for just a brief moment, to help try to build at least a small piece of understanding." Student Johanna Kennedy said the experience taught the students the value of teamwork, the ability to deal with unplanned challenges and to remain flexible in making strategic changes to an initial plan.

The students supporting Friends of the Elderly Ireland found a special connection with the Director of the organisation, Jim O' Brien, who himself is a UCD BComm '59 graduate, celebrating his 60th graduation anniversary this year. Jim thanked the students for their dedicated support in encouraging not only donations, but the recruitment of 23 new volunteers to help the organisation combat loneliness in Ireland's ageing population.

The nine organisations supported were LauraLynn Children's Hospice, Thrombosis Ireland, Dublin Simon Community, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Cancer Fund for Children, ISPCC Childline, Aware, Our Lady's Hospice, and Friends of the Elderly Ireland.



UCD Smurfit Schools Joe Houghton said: “The UCD Smurfit School experience is not just about great courses led by top academics and business people. Students are encouraged to develop their confidence, networks and links to commerce and non-profits through the inclusion of external speakers in classes, and also through completing assignments in collaboration with Irish companies and non-profits.”

Lecturer on the programme Robert Manning said: “These students are living the UCD Smurfit School mission in the most important way - being in the world and for the world. Business education is at the fore of all we do at UCD Smurfit School and part of that is to give back and have a positive impact in the world. This ethos began with the founding members of our Schools and leaves a lasting legacy for all of our students—one that is evident in the work of our students in the MSc in Project Management programme.

What the students learned from this project is something that they will take with them, to become more ethically and morally aware. There is no scarcity in human endeavour, emotion and connection when we do something good for our fellow man.”

“ There is no scarcity in human endeavour, emotion and connection when we do something good for our fellow man.



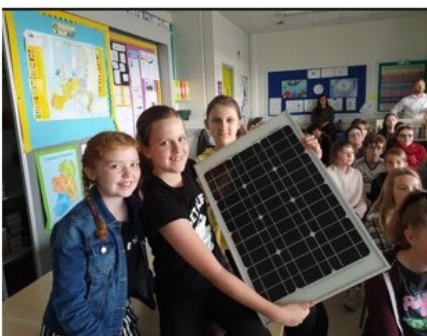
'Sustainable Greystones' inspires students to tackle global challenges

Professor Donna Marshall and Robert Manning, UCD Smurfit School, joined sixty 6th class students at Greystone Educate Together School for 'Sustainability Greystones.' The initiative encouraged students to develop basic project management skills while empowering them to tackle global challenges.

Professor Marshall discussed sustainability, social justice and environmental impacts before the students broke into teams to design a campaign, product or service focused on people and/or the planet that would have an impact on their home town of Greystones.

Eight teams came up with ideas ranging from sustainability apps, a hostel buddy system for vulnerable children, a packaging-free supermarket, multi-power energy turbines and a micro-plastic filter for washing machines.

Next, students pitched their ideas to industry experts by participating in a "Polar Bear's Den" session. Experts included Greystones newly-elected councillor Mags Crean, The Happy Pear Sustainability Manager Kris Tate, Greystone Educate Together School teacher Jess Cotter and Professor Donna Marshall. Students were awarded prizes for creativity and ingenuity around the theme of '1 Town, 1 Planet, 1 Life.' The winning project was a community garden run by and for the homeless.



New Business and Society Internship Scholarship launched

Earlier this year, the UCD Quinn School of Business launched the Business and Society Internship Scholarship, intended to provide financial support to a student who wishes to complete their internship in the voluntary sector.

The scholarship, funded by the UCD Quinn School of Business, is open to students registered to the Bachelor of Commerce or BSc Economics and Finance programme and who intend to pursue an internship as part of their undergraduate degree programme during Stage 3.

Clodagh Nash (BSc Economics & Finance, Stage 3) is the inaugural recipient of this scholarship and has chosen to complete her internship in Concern Worldwide working alongside the Director of Finance in their Dublin Office. Clodagh is an excellent candidate who has shown great commitment to her academic studies and a clear understanding of the valuable work completed by organisations such as Concern.

Speaking at the scholarship launch in July, Associate Dean Maeve Houlihan, Director, UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business, said “At Quinn, we are striving to graduate informed, active, responsible thinkers and doers, individuals with a sense of their capacity to positively affect the world. We believe in the transformative learning potential of real-world experience and the value of working on real world challenges. The Quinn School is delighted to have this opportunity to sponsor Clodagh allowing her the unique opportunity to pursue her interest in the voluntary sector.”

Concern Worldwide were very keen to get involved in this initiative and were looking forward to welcoming Clodagh to their organisation. Ciara O’ Neill, Finance Director, Concern Worldwide commented “Concern Worldwide is delighted to partner with UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business in this inaugural internship scholarship.

We are very grateful to have been chosen by Clodagh and we look forward to working with her and harnessing her energy and skills. We believe that this is a wonderful opportunity for all and that Clodagh will be a great addition to our busy Finance Team and the wider organisation. In this our 50th year, it is a sobering reality that the work of Concern is needed now more than ever, and we remain committed to tackling extreme poverty in the world’s most forgotten and volatile regions.”

Clodagh, who has recently taken up her internship with Concern Worldwide is very excited about the year ahead “I am thrilled with the opportunity I have been given through the Quinn School Business and Society Internship Scholarship. Each day in Concern is extremely varied; by working with all members of the Finance team I am learning so much and enjoying putting the classroom theory in to practice in a workplace environment. It excites me to be working as part of a team making a real worldwide contribution to society.”



Pictured at the launch of the Business and Society Internship Scholarship in UCD Quinn School of Business are Joe Jennings (Volunteer Coordinator, Concern), Clodagh Nash (Scholarship Recipient) and Ciara O'Neill (Finance Director, Concern).

The ReSToRE summer school on the sustainable development of Earth resources

How can we source and use Earth resources in an ethical and responsible way? And how can we bring different actors and communities together to achieve sustainable resource development?

These are just some of the questions that early career researchers from around the world came together to discuss during the inaugural Researching Social Theories, Resources, and the Environment (ReSToRE) International Summer School, held at the University College Dublin in July 2019.

The group was a part of a special gathering of geoscientists and social scientists from developed and developing countries. The goal of the ReSToRE summer school was to enable critical cross-disciplinary discussions around the sustainable sourcing and use of Earth resources now and in the future. A big topic that can only be tackled by bringing together different perspectives.

Organised by iCrag, the Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences, the summer school included 42 early career researchers and recent graduates from 28 nations including 18 developing countries. The director of the programme is Associate Professor at the UCD College of Business, Geertje Schuitema.

“Moving forward for sustainable development is very complicated,” said Murray Hitzman, Director of iCrag. “Not only are there technical challenges in terms of Earth resources and energy, but in terms of how people actually perceive both sustainable development and those challenges is even more critical.”

“This summer school is trying to help with this not just in one society, but in multiple societies, and to get those societies to understand one another as well, which is also a huge challenge,” he noted.

The summer school succeeded in creating a stimulating setting for interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge sharing and network-building. During the week, participants discussed emerging themes pertinent to the future of resourcing and consumption of Earth materials, such as: what drives societal attitudes toward the extraction industry? How can communities have their say in if and how resources near to them are developed? What are the barriers to a circular economy in the resources sector? How can Earth materials be resources in an ethical and responsible way? Participants took the lead in deliberating these big questions. They were aided by guidance from expert mentors, as well as plenary talks and discussions.



ReSToRE participants from all over the world: from left to right, in back row: Emilio Castillo (from Chile), Halleuya Ekandjo (from Namibia), Muhammad Tahir (from Afghanistan), Geertje Schuitema (Director of ReSToRE). Front row: Laura Berdi (from Hungary), Josphat Nguu (from Kenya) and Sarah Caven (from Northern Ireland).



A Strategic Commitment to Africa: UCD Proudly Made in Africa Fellowship in Business and Development

The UCD Proudly Made in Africa Fellowship in Business and Development is a partnership between the UCD College of Business and the Proudly Made in Africa (PMIA) social enterprise. Established in 2013, the fellowship focuses on including Africa and sustainable businesses emerging in and with Africa, in the teaching and learning of business in Ireland. The UCD PMIA fellow works at the UCD College of Business and other business schools/department in Ireland. The position is jointly sponsored by the UCD College of Business and PMIA.

The fellowship has innovatively helped to shape the teaching of business and society and global development areas. It has also enhanced more traditional subjects in the business curriculum by adding the discussion of Africa as a case study highlighting issues in emerging markets, relations between business and sustainable development, Africa as an investment and business destination and Africa as a global player in traditional and emerging sectors. The fellowship has integrated African-based business themes in 25 modules, working with 60 lecturers across 15 business schools/departments and reaching 15,000 business students.

The partnership between an academic institution and a social enterprise supporting and promoting the work of more than 500 SMEs in Africa, has enabled business schools to teach using real-world case studies of sustainable business in and with Africa.

It has also enabled businesses from, or with, Africa to engage with students in class, as well as the Africa Business Students Conference (ABSC). The ABSC is an offshoot of the fellowship and organised by the UCD PMIA fellow. The conference offers students, staff and the business community an opportunity to learn about Africa, its developing business landscape and links with the global market. The ABSC ran for the third time in 2018, and brought together 110 students and community members interested in learning more about business in Africa.

The conference featured some of the most successful Africa-focused business developers who shared their insights on sustainable business development in and with Africa. Ms. Pamela Anyoti, the founder and CEO of Asante Mama—a global organic tea brand operating from Uganda—gave the keynote speech. Irish government and Africa trade section officials from business and social enterprises met for a round table discussion focused on sustainable development issues and the opportunities and challenges of doing business in and with Africa.



UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Research

By Elaine Quinn

Choirs for Cancer

To mark World Cancer Day, five secondary school and community choirs combined to highlight cancer awareness at a unique lunchtime choral event in the O'Brien Centre for Science with the help of Irish singer/songwriter, Don Mescall in February 2019.

Each choir sang a song that has a special meaning to them followed by a combined performance of the Don Mescall song, 'Your Love Carries Me'. Don Mescall and the pupils of Mount Sion Choir, Waterford recorded 'Your Love Carries Me' in tribute to people whose lives have been touched by cancer.

In this first live performance of the new single, they led the UCD Community Choir, Midlands Irish Sign Language Learners choir, the Solas Cancer Support Centre Men's Choir and the choirs of St Mary's Newport Secondary School, Oatlands College and Loreto College Foxrock. All proceeds from the recording of 'Your Love Carries Me' are being donated to three charities; CanTeen, CanCare4Living and the Solas Cancer Support Centre. The single is available for download.



L-R: Jack Byrne (Mount Sion Choir, Waterford), Millie Downes & Jana Antonio (Loreto College, Foxrock); Adam Renwick & Simon Caruana (Oatlands College, Blackrock), Laolu Oriola ((Mount Sion Choir, Waterford)

Earlier in the morning, the school choirs visited UCD Conway Institute to hear the very personal stories of those whose lives are touched by cancer as well as those of researchers focuses on finding new ways to diagnose and treat cancer.

'Cancer Stories' participants included patient advocates Vicky Phelan and Stephen Teap as well as Róisín Ní Chadhlá and Jovana Gajic, second year students at Ardscoil na Mara, Tramore whose HPV vaccine project was highly commended in the 2019 BT Young Scientist competition.

Miriam O'Callaghan, RTE was the MC for the session that was organised by Professor William Gallagher, Director, UCD Conway Institute and BREAST-PREDICT, the Irish Cancer Society's first collaborative cancer research centre. Cancer research is one of the key areas of focus under the Personalised & Translational Medicine strand of the Institute's research strategy.

Each year on 4 February, World Cancer Day empowers people across the world to show support, raise our collective voice, take personal action and press governments to do more. 2019 marks the launch of the 3-year 'I Am and I Will' campaign. 'I Am and I Will' is an empowering call-to-action urging for personal commitment and represents the power of individual action taken now to impact the future. More than one third of cancer cases can be prevented. Another third can be cured if detected early and treated properly. By implementing resource-appropriate strategies on prevention, early detection and treatment, we can save up to 3.7 million lives every year.

Patients Inform National Cancer Survivorship Survey

The sixth patient involvement event by the UCD Patient Voice in Cancer Research (PVCr) was jointly hosted by the National Cancer Registry (NCRI) in University College Dublin on 10 April 2019.

More than seventy patients took part in the workshop to give their input to the design and circulation of a large nationwide survey to capture the unmet needs of cancer survivors. The results of this research will also help the NCRI develop methods on how to best capture the cancer patient experience on a routine basis.

A number of patient support and advocacy groups as well as charities attended the event, facilitated by journalist, Claire O'Connell. They included CanCare 4 Living, ARC Cancer Support Centres, Purple House, WigWorld, OvaCare, Cancer Trials Ireland, Irish Cancer Society, Lymphodeoma Ireland, Europa Donna Ireland, Marie Keating Foundation and Men Against Cancer.

Professor Amanda McCann, Director of the UCD Centre in Translational Oncology and PVCr Chair, welcomed the participants and the NCRI team led by Professor Kerri Clough, Director.

Professor McCann outlined that this event was taking place exactly three years after the first PVCr event on cancer survivorship. Patients and their families at that time, highlighted the need for a shift in focus to this issue and having regard for quality of life issues, coping strategies and supports for the many people now living with cancer. She expressed both her and the PVCr committee's gratitude that the unmet needs of cancer survivors will now be the focus of a nationwide discussion.



Dr Robert O'Connor, Head of Research, Irish Cancer Society addressing participants at The Patient Voice in Cancer Research workshop on 10 April 2019 in UCD.

Find Out More

This report highlights the key findings from the workshop and is available to view here:
<https://www.ncri.ie/sites/ncri/files/pubs/PVCR-NCRI%20Workshop%20findingsFINAL%20%282%29.pdf>

The NCRI has also produced a brief policy response document to address the issues raised at the workshop, which can be downloaded here:
<https://www.ncri.ie/sites/ncri/files/documents/NCRIpolicyresponseFINAL.pdf>

Professor Amanda McCann (third from right – front row) with members of the Irish Cancer Society and the National Cancer Registry of Ireland ahead of the joint Patient Voice in Cancer Research Workshop.

Behind the scenes look at research & science inspired by art

'Behind the scenes look at research' was a hugely popular initiative lead by Elaine Quinn and Dr Barbara Hughes of the Conway Institute, involving researchers from Systems Biology Ireland, The Charles Institute & UCD School of Medicine.

Run as part of the UCD festival, members of the public were able to interact with medical and scientific teaching and research equipment directly at our stand in the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science and hear from our teams of scientists on the day, about the work they are doing to combat diseases such as cancer, diabetes, obesity and arthritis.

We were also interested in getting members of the public who had a specific interest or even lived experience of particular health research areas to get involved with us in our research. To this end, they were invited to sign up for two escorted tours of the SBI and Conway laboratories. Each tour gave participants a special behind-the-scenes look at our research laboratories and a great opportunity to hear first-hand from our two expert researchers about the cutting-edge research they are carrying out.

Dr. David Gomez, a breast cancer research fellow and group leader from SBI delivered a fascinating talk about how cells of the body normally communicate with each other and with their environment and how this normal communication pathway is disrupted in cancer. By looking at this disrupted communication between cells, he hopes to develop new methods for treating breast cancer. Tour members particularly enjoyed his presentation where he drew similarities between cell communication and domestic communication in the period setting of Downtown Abbey. They were also intrigued by the history of the HELA cell and really appreciated and enjoyed the opportunity of being able to observe some down the microscope.



Following this and moving on to the Conway research laboratories, Aine Heffernan, a researcher with Professor William Watson, gave a compelling talk and presentation about her work on prostate cancer and its diagnosis. She explained what biomarkers are and how they can be used to help decide on treatment plans for those with prostate cancer. She explained how her research ultimately aims to improve the diagnosis of prostate cancer. Everyone was very involved and enjoyed the hands on activities (with lab gloves!) as they examined culture dishes, microscope slides and test tubes.

Feedback on the day from our 18 participants was very good with people really appreciating the opportunity of engaging with researchers and their cutting-edge, relevant scientific work.



UCD Culture & Engagement

By Mark Simpson

UCD seeks to play a leading role in the socio-economic and cultural development of the communities that it serves and to continually animate the UCD values, in particular those of engagement, integrity and diversity. The work of the Culture & Engagement team plays a key role both internally and externally in delivering upon this objective for the University.

The Culture & Engagement unit, based within UCD HR is comprised of three sub-units with Rory Carey as director; Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI), managed by Marcellina Fogarty, Employee Relations, managed by Gavan Stanley and Engagement & Internal Communications, managed by Mark Simpson. Over the past year, many projects across the unit have contributed to UCD's community building and engagement objectives.

In conjunction with the Employee Engagement Network, the Engagement team has worked collaboratively to develop community projects including the selection of UCD Charities of Choice. Employees were asked to nominate charities that they would like the University to engage with. Following a shortlisting process, Special Olympics Ireland was chosen as the external charity of choice. Two internal charities were also appointed, UCD Volunteers Overseas and UCD Champions Scholarship fund. A programme of work is now being developed to support these charities across engagement (volunteering), education (awareness raising) and fundraising.

In support of this commitment to community engagement an Employee Volunteering Policy was developed. Introduced in September 2018, this policy supports employees to allocate work time to engage in volunteering activities both at home and overseas.

Where employees are taking team leadership roles to lead overseas development trips with UCD Volunteers Overseas, 10 days or more volunteering time can be agreed with line managers.

UCD Oskars was a major community building event held this year, bringing together employees from across UCD and in the process raising €24,000 for UCD's Charities of Choice. The project involved colleagues coming together in groups, receiving acting coaching over four weeks and then filming a scene from a well-known film or TV show. Some 550 colleagues, family and friends attended the premier performance in O'Reilly Hall.

UCD's second employee engagement day, held in November in O'Reilly Hall, also promoted community building through featuring employee networks, volunteering and engagement opportunities. This event has now become an annual fixture in the UCD engagement calendar.

A joint programme of health and wellbeing initiatives organised with Healthy UCD engaged over 500 employees during the 2018-19 year. As well as promoting exercise and good mental health these activities helped build community across the University. Other joint Healthy UCD initiatives such as Healthy Eating Week engaged both employees and students in a range of activities designed to increase awareness of healthy eating.

Engagement and community building was also promoted through the inaugural UCD Values in Action (VIA) Awards. These awards recognised those nominated by community members, who through their actions bring the UCD Values to life. Among those recognised was the UCD Community Choir for their commitment to the wellbeing of each other, the UCD community and the wider community through, for example, their performance at an event held for people experiencing homelessness in the Iveagh Gardens in May 2018 and 2019.

A positive culture of employee engagement and community is also a key objective of the Employee Relations function. One initiative in this space is the Employee Forum where the representative union officials meet to be briefed on upcoming issues and initiatives, complementing routine informal interaction.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) was also very active in helping engage the local and wider community in key aspects of the EDI agenda. Activities included marking International Women's Day in March with a series of coffee mornings hosted by UMT members.

A lunchtime event, "Shifting the Dial" features inspirational female speakers from higher education and sport including Dr Ebun Joseph, coordinator of UCD's first Black Studies and Race Perspectives module and Su Carty, World Rugby Council Member and former Women's Development Manager.

In March 2019, a conference on Unconscious Bias - "A Critical Assessment of Unconscious Bias: Emergence, Evolution and Effectiveness" was organised by the EDI unit. Through a combination of key note speeches, panel discussions and workshops, this conference covered the emergence and evolution of Unconscious Bias, the effectiveness of awareness raising on the elimination of discrimination and the identification of practical next steps that the HEI sector and allied areas could take.

EDI also progressed the engagement agenda through establishing the Multicultural Employee Network at UCD (MENU) following feedback from employees. This network aims to make International employees feel welcome, to help integrate them into the UCD Community and exchange ideas with a focus on promoting cultural diversity and awareness in UCD. The network currently has over 100 members.



UCD Community Choir

By Dr. Conor Buggy

The UCD Community Choir went from strength to strength in their third year together under the direction of Ms. Caoimhe O'Neill and supported by Professor Joe Carthy. Again the choir swelled in numbers and there are now approximately 70 regular members and another 80 or so that come and go depending on the time of the year. The last academic year was their busiest yet, with big performances across campus throughout the year.

The choir kick-started their recitals with a rousing performance in the O'Reilly Hall Conservatory for UCD Engage Day in November 2018. The rendition of Queen's "Somebody to Love" with Freddie Mercury's solo performance by Mr. Niall Dennehy nearly blew the roof off of the conservatory and the crowd loved every minute of it.

The choir's third Christmas Recital took place as usual in the last week before Christmas with the choir showcasing some new songs to a packed UCD O'Brien Centre for Science. Some of the new songs - which many were nervous about (Carol of the Bells to name one in particular!) - sounded beautiful reverberating from the bottom of the spiral staircase in front of hundreds of colleagues and family members that came in especially for the event. The recital was followed by a Christmas reception get together of colleagues from across campus to celebrate.

Moving into 2019, the choir's first recital of the year was for the "Choirs for Cancer" event bringing choirs together from all over Ireland to sing together at UCD. Each choir was able to sing individually as part of the event and then all took part together in a specially created song to raise money for charity. The UCD Community Choir was very prominent in the RTE Nationwide broadcast regarding the event.

In March the choir were invited to sing at the closing ceremony of the European Health Literacy Conference in UCD Sutherland School of Law. The choir sang two new songs for the event and received a standing ovation from the conference attendees.

May and June proved particularly busy months for the choir and the weekly Tuesday practices were packed out to ensure that everyone knew the songs for the events coming up. The first recital in May was a very poignant one for the choir. Our colleague, fellow choir member and one who was so enthusiastic about the choir, Ms. Elizabeth Pierce passed away in April and the choir sang a tribute for her at her memorial here in UCD.

The choir's second outing in May was at UCD Hope Fest in the Iveagh Gardens. The choir performed on the open stage that day to UCD and Lions Club volunteers and members of the homeless community in Dublin attending the event.

The choir's last performance in May was at the UCD Oskars Charity Event Night. The choir kicked off the night by singing two Oscar winning songs. The first was a gentle yet powerful rendition of "Falling Slowly" from the Irish musical Once. The second song of the night was the very recent song "Shallow" from the musical 'A Star is Born'. Dr. Tracy Mullen and Dr. Conor Buggy took on the roles of Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper, respectively, to start the performance with a duet that then blasted into a massive choral arrangement with the whole choir. The performance brought the whole of O'Reilly Hall to its feet.

The final performances of the academic year were at UCD Festival where once again the choir took to the outdoor stage to sing a variety of songs before moving to the University Club for one last song.



UCD in the Community

UCD in the Community is an initiative that aims to support and promote civic engagement across the UCD community and beyond.

In 2018-19, UCD in the Community continued to connect with community-based organisations, highlighting the community engagement taking place around the university and beyond, connecting colleagues and students with the wider community through volunteering and community-university partnerships and facilitating their three annual flagship events. Some of the highlights of the year are detailed below and other collaborations and events can be found throughout the report.

Volunteering

UCD continues to be represented on the Irish Universities Association (IUA)'s national community engagement network, Campus Engage. UCD in the Community sit on the Campus Engage Student Volunteering working group, which aims to scale student volunteering through the online 'tech for good' system, studentvolunteer.ie. UCD in the Community presented to over 700 new and returning students across the university about getting involved in the community through volunteering, as a result of this, there were 558 new UCD student registrations to studentvolunteer.ie throughout the academic year.

The inaugural UCD Volunteer Day took place in October 2018, with 32 visiting organisations taking part in the Volunteer Fair. Various activities took place across the day, including workshops from UCDVO and the UCD Careers Network, a session on the newly launched UCD Employee Volunteering Policy by Culture and Engagement - UCD HR and a pop-up Intergenerational Jigsaw Club, facilitated by UCD Institute for Discovery.

Age & Opportunity Touchstone Course

UCD in the Community were delighted to once again partner with Age & Opportunity for their Touchstone course, which took place one morning a week from 14 March to 2 May in UCD with twenty participants from the local community. Touchstone is a short course which aims to develop the skills and knowledge of people who wish to play a part in helping to make their communities more age friendly. This free eight week course was developed by Age & Opportunity, Active Retirement Ireland and Third Age Ireland, run in collaboration with UCD and was funded by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

Touchstone is aimed at people who wish to bring about local community change and who want to improve the community for future generations. The course explored a range of topical issues and develops the participants' skills as they work together in groups towards practical projects to better their community. Feedback from participants showed that 100% of the attendees rated the venue in UCD as good or excellent with one participant even commenting that they "always wanted to go to UCD!" and another stating that they learned that "UCD is available to all in the community."

UCD in the Community wishes to thank all the participants of Touchstone 2019 and Ciaran and Fiona from Age & Opportunity for choosing UCD as a venue in which to run Touchstone.



Hope Fest 2019

For the last 60 years, the Dublin Lions Club have hosted an annual party for the homeless community in January, called Eric's Party. This event is a huge success each year, with 300 guests attending the party in January in the GPO. In consultation with frontline homeless services, the Dublin Lions Club and UCD identified the need to have a similar event during the summer, and so the idea for a wellbeing event for people experiencing homelessness, was born. The event would provide members of the homeless community with a hot meal, entertainment, wellness services and a welcomed break from the norm. UCD were delighted to assist the Dublin Lions Club with this event.

The inaugural wellbeing event took place in May 2018 and following on from the success of this, UCD and the Dublin Lions Club, in association with Dublin Simon Community, were delighted to organise Hope Fest, a wellbeing festival for people experiencing homelessness again on Saturday 18 May 2019 from 12:00 - 15:00, in the Iveagh Gardens, Dublin 2.

The event had a 'festival' feel, with entertainment from various musicians, catering provided by The Caterers and a wellness area, where our guests availed of numerous services, such as haircuts, chiropody and yoga.

Feedback from Dublin Simon Community client included:

"It was brilliant. Haven't been out like that in ages. It was really nice people and everybody was chilled and relaxed. I got my haircut, got my picture taken and ate loads of food and ice cream. The music was really good too. Brilliant day and should happen more."

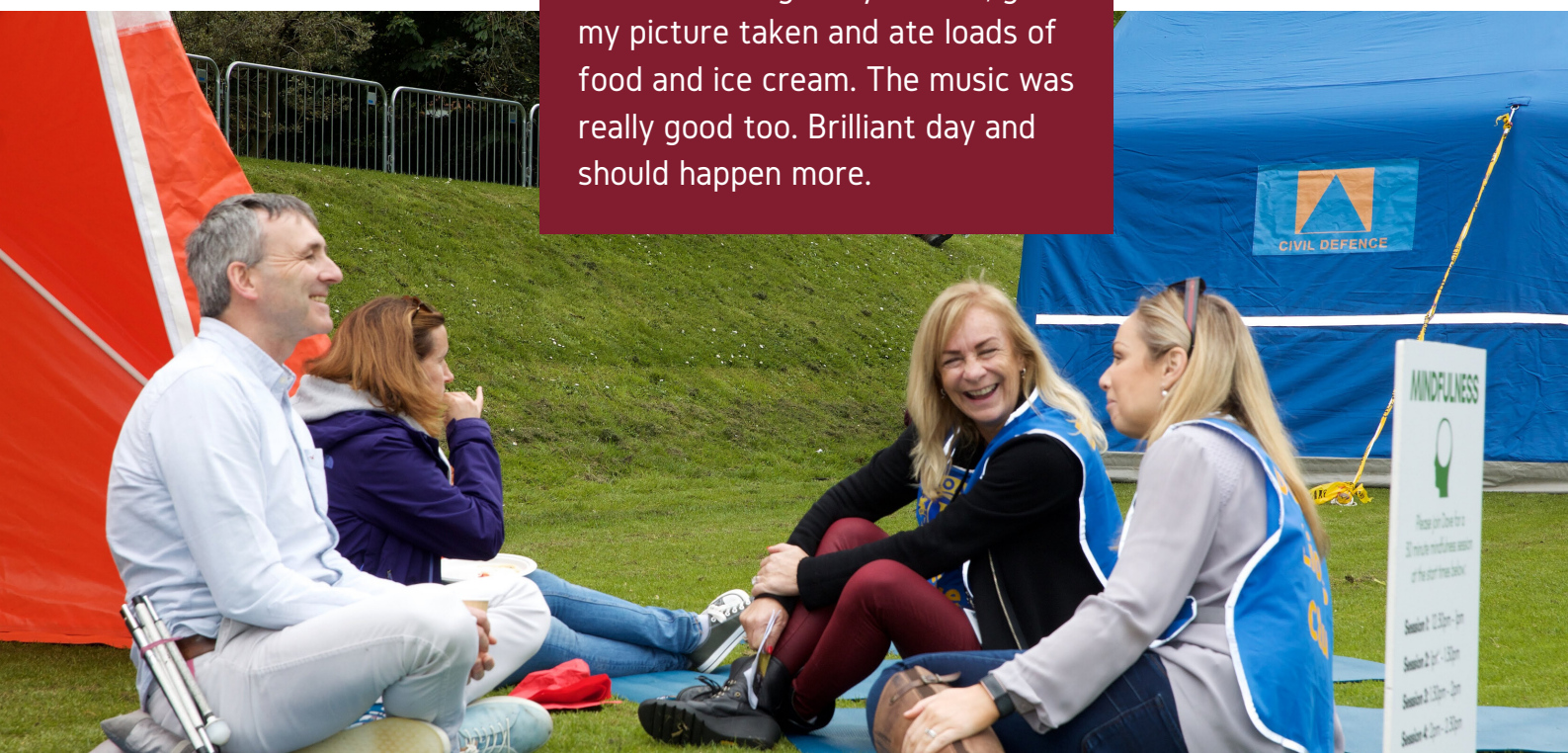
"Everyone here is so nice and took the time to listen to my stories."

"I got a top to toe makeover, got my hair done and my feet done, I feel great."

Thank you to the UCD staff and students who volunteered prior to and during this event. A particular thank you to Catherine Bodey (UCD Library), Dave Delaney (IT Services), Carole Doyle (College of Science Administration Office), Gary Dunne (College of Science Administration Office), Mairead Egan (School of Medicine), Scott Evans (UCD Chaplaincy), Janis Farrell (UCD Registry), Ria Flom (UCD Alumni Relations), Joan Fogarty (UCD Registry), Paula Fogarty (College of Science Administration Office), David Kelly (Finance Office), Odhran Lawlor (UCD Estate Services), Ciara McCabe (UCD Registry), Jason Masterson (UCD Student Centre), Loftus McCordick (Pi Restaurant), Clár Ní Bhuachalla (Bord na Gaeilge), Alan Thompson (School of Medicine), Caoimhe O' Neill and all performers from the UCD Community Choir.



It was brilliant. Haven't been out like that in ages. It was really nice people and everybody was chilled and relaxed. I got my haircut, got my picture taken and ate loads of food and ice cream. The music was really good too. Brilliant day and should happen more.



UCD's engagement with the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC)



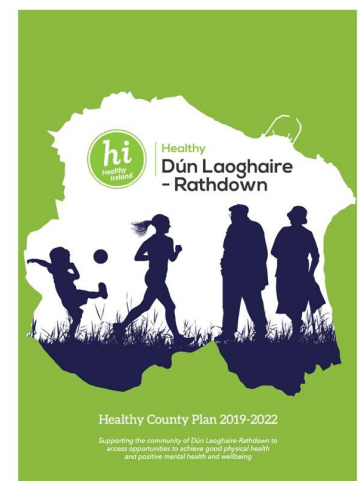
The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) was established in 2017 to improve outcomes of individuals aged 0-24 and is one of 27 CYPSCs nationally. The focus of the CYPSC has been on promoting and maintaining interagency collaboration whilst establishing population data baselines against which new projects or service enhancements can be measured. The CYPSC is chaired by Joanne Cullen (Area Manager for Tusla) and coordinated by Lorna Kerin. UCD has collaborated with the CYPSC since its inception.

The University engagement team were involved in helping to coordinate the very first interagency workshop in Dún Laoghaire, with representatives from UCD HR, UCD Medicine and Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students all facilitating table feedback. Professor Last is a member of the CYPSC Strategic Area Committee by virtue of chairing the CYPSC DLR Education subgroup. With Lorna's leadership, the subgroup ran a large workshop in UCD in 2019, with representatives from a broad array of education and service providers across the region. UCD Access and Lifelong Learning, Student Advisers, Student Health & Counselling, UCD Students' Union, Community Engagement, Registrar's Office and Human Resources were all involved in helping to coordinate the event and the output of the meeting was instrumental in informing the soon to be launched DLR CYPSC Area Plan 2019.

UCD is also working on behalf of the CYPSC with the DLR Healthy County initiative and assisted in the development of the Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Plan 2019 - 2022.

The DLR CYPSC interagency projects improve outcomes in areas such as Perinatal Support, Infant Mental Health, Early Years Workforce Capacity Building, Homelessness, Youth Mental Wellness, Music Education and Youth Engagement in Physical Activity and Sport. UCD-associated initiatives have been led by the School of Physiotherapy, Public Health and Sports Science, the College of Science and the Dean of Students. A current research project involves collaboration between CYPSC, Cybersafe Ireland, UCD and a number of primary schools in the region; reviewing the impact of social media on children.

As the DLR CYPSC evolves, UCD remains committed to collaborating and supporting all endeavours, deepening its strategic partnership with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and strengthening its links with other education providers and services throughout the county.



UCD Estate Services

By Elaine Roseanne Kavanagh

Estate Services aims to deliver a consistently high level of service that offers value for money, evolves to meet changing demands and helps others to deliver teaching, learning, research, innovation and other activities on campus.

UCD Estate Services is involved in a number of initiatives to engage with the UCD community and further afield. As part of the Green Campus initiative, a number of projects have been supported and brought to life by their dedicated team. One such initiative is the Furniture Reuse programme which has helped to reduce UCD's overall carbon footprint. Following on from the success of the UCD Furniture Reuse Scheme (2017), UCD WARP (Waste Action Reuse Portal) It was launched in April 2019, with an online catalogue of office furniture available to UCD staff and to charities/non-profit organisations in Ireland.

UCD WARP It is a web-based, furniture reuse platform, and is part of the Green Campus initiative managed by UCD Estate Services to reduce the university's carbon footprint by diverting furniture from landfill, and reduce the costs to the University of storage and purchase of new furniture. UCD WARP It has saved 85,305 kg of CO₂ and avoided 24,624 kg of waste. It has donated furniture worth €43,962.75 to charities/non-profit organisations.

Another Green Campus initiative managed by UCD Estate Services is the Duvets for Dogs scheme to collect and reuse duvets previously thrown out by students living on campus. To date, over 1,000 duvets have been donated to Dogs Trust and items such as towels and blankets to the Dublin Husky Rescue Centre. Key to this is engagement with students and in advance of collections, the Estate Services information stand has also included some furry friends from Dogs Trust.

During Green Week alongside the ECOSU, the Estate Services team hosted a number of lunchtime walks, hosted an insect hotel workshop and a tree planting ceremony where students were invited to help extend a link wood and add to the wildlife corridor. UCD Estate Services joined colleagues in UCD Earth Institute and UCD School of Agriculture in hosting World Bee Day on campus, during which members of the public were invited to learn about wild pollinators, honey bees, and the Campus Pollinator Plan in partnership with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP).



The most recent National Biodiversity Data Centre Annual report on what actions have been taken to promote pollinator welfare on campus can be found at: www.pollinators.ie/2018.pdf

More information can be found at: <https://UCD-Campus-Pollinator-Plan-2018.pdf>

UCD Explore

By Lorna Byrne

UCD Explore offers an exciting and educational space for primary school students to play and learn through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM).

The programme takes place in the Cormac Kilty Discovery Suite, a dedicated outreach resource located on the ground floor of the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science. The suite comprises of a state-of-the-art educational laboratory and classroom and is dedicated to hands-on activities aimed at engaging young people aged 6-18 in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM).

In 2018-2019, funding from Science Foundation Ireland and Intel Ireland allowed 1070 pupils from 34 schools participate in our schools programmes. This year UCD Explore included a single visit programme for 4th and 5th classes, a programme for 6th class pupils (Solas College), a programme for 4th class pupils (Suite Science), a pilot Physics programme for Post-Leaving Certificate students, a six-week programme for students with mild learning disabilities, and a pilot training programme for staff and students to refine their communication and presentation skills and develop new content for outreach and community engagement.

Solas College

Solas Project is a Community Development organisation with a vision to see an Ireland where all children and young people truly know their self-worth and can take full advantage of their potential. They work to address the imbalances that contribute to certain children and young people in Ireland growing up at a socio-economic and/or educational disadvantage, through both in-school and after-school initiatives in their 13 partner DEIS primary schools.

The UCD Explore experience has been incorporated into the Solas College programme and is a three part programme for 6th class pupils which includes, a pre classroom visit, the UCD Explore session and then a post-trip classroom session. This programme makes the idea of going to college more accessible for the children who now have been inside college buildings and have a context of what college is.

Physics PLC Programme

A partnership between local Colleges of Further Education and UCD School of Physics was first started by Associate Professor Emma Sokell some years back. Through this, PLC students that were interested in undertaking a Physics Degree were able to carry out their work experience placement within the School of Physics. Participating students are given the opportunity to experience first year student life in physics and also develop new content for introductory undergraduate experiments.

Since 2018, Dr. Sharon Shannon and Associate Professor Emma Sokell have started working with the UCD Explore programme so that PLC students could have the opportunity to enhance their communication and presentation skills by developing and delivering content to primary level children. This project has had an enormous impact on the confidence of the students that have completed it, not only in terms of their increased subject knowledge but also their overall self-belief.

Suite Science

Suite Science is a superbly entertaining and informative science club for children from socio-economically disadvantaged parts of Dublin and surrounding areas. Created by Dr. Aoibheánn Bird and Philip Smyth and funded by the Science Foundation Ireland Discover Call, the project uses inquiry-based learning to encourage primary level pupils to collaboratively solve problems.

Primary school pupils from 4th class visit six times over the course of six weeks. The children decide what topics they are going to learn about and the Suite Science team create a programme for each individual class. In 2018-2019, 120 pupils from six DEIS 4th classes participated in Suite Science.

New Court School Programme

Located on the edge of Bray town, New Court School is a special education school catering for students with a Mild General Learning Disability. This year, 20 students from New Court took part in a 6-week programme to explore exciting and accessible science. These are some of the most rewarding sessions we do, not just for the students but for our staff too.



International Women & Girls in Science Day

In 2019, the UCD Women in STEM and College of Science EDI committees organised an event to celebrate 'Women & Girls in Science' in the College of Science. 19 pupils from Warrenmount 5th class were invited to the event and took part in a science workshop emphasising the role girls can play in science. This was followed by a poster session for UCD staff and students where the Warrenmount pupils had the opportunity to meet and chat with some of the 20 UCD Science STEM role models.



UCD Festival 2019

By Sheila Morris

A day unlike any other, a true showcase and celebration of UCD.

The fourth UCD Festival on Saturday 8 June 2019 was a day like no other, a day when just over 600 students, staff, alumni and members of the local UCD community delivered the biggest and most exciting UCD Festival to date. Over 20,000 festival goers descended onto campus to enjoy an inspirational showcase of events with over 130 free interactive activities taking place across campus.

The festival was a roaring success due mainly to the impressive line-up of interactive activities and events delivered by an army of UCD academics, staff, students and volunteers. The UCD Festival showcases the innovation, creativity and research that happens on campus and aims to engage, connect and inspire audiences of all ages in a day of hands-on fun. This year, the UCD Festival featured a jam-packed programme of 135 free events and brought together students, researchers, educators, thinkers and the local community for one day of celebration, discussion, reconnection, learning, creative workshops and live performances.

There were literary greats, poets and spoken word artists, social activists, science communicators, physicists, political and economic commentators, entrepreneurial giants, rugby heroes, a chance to meet Pepper, the UCD Robot in Residence and enjoy the wonderful UCD Community Choir.

The UCD Library team were busy with little readers joining their Storyteller in Residence for the day for Storytime and free children's books to take away. The UCD Festival Poetry Wall filled up with handwritten poems submitted by festival goers, which will be added to the Irish Poetry Reading archive by the UCD Library team.

The festival continues to grow year-on-year and would not be possible without the months of preparation and planning that goes into making it such a success. The UCD Festival continues to be a very important day for the University – it is a day of discovery, exploration and learning for all festival attendees. It is an inspirational showcase of the very best of UCD, where festival goers can get up close to current projects taking place in UCD, access research, see behind the scenes, learn something new and get to meet our students and world-class academics.

The collaboration from the UCD community extended beyond the Belfield campus, with the festival enjoying sponsorship and support from a number of UCD's strategic partners who played a leading role in delivering many of the day's activities. Microsoft staff hosted the Engineering and Technology Zone together with UCD College of Engineering and Architecture, inspiring festival-goers with the latest technological advances. The Cormac Kilty Discovery Suite and Outreach Lab in the Science and Innovation Zone was a hive of hands-on science activity with Intel, UCD Discovery and UCD Suite Science enthralled and inspiring thousands of budding scientists with hands-on experiments and an explosion!

A day like the UCD Festival is not possible without the collaboration, support and hard work of hundreds of UCD faculty, staff, students and volunteers. It is because of the contributions of time and effort of UCD staff that make the day so special, memorable and inspirational for thousands of attendees, allowing them to access this great University in a fun and thought-provoking way.

If you want to relive any of the action from the UCD Festival, there are a host of stories, pictures and videos at www.ucd.ie/festival. Be the first to hear about next year's programme by emailing festival@ucd.ie.

The 2019 UCD Festival would not be possible without the support and collaboration of our sponsors and partners: Microsoft, Intel, Medtronic, Explorium, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, AIB and UCD Sport and Fitness.



UCD PPI Ignite Programme & UCD Public Engagement

By Dr Eidín Ní Shé

Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) in Research is defined by INVOLVE as “Research carried out ‘with’ or ‘by’ members of the public rather than ‘to’, ‘about’ or ‘for’ them.” The UCD PPI Ignite program funded by the Health Research Board is actively embedding in health and social care research, education and training, professional practice and administration across UCD structures. We are working with people who are seldom heard to develop research, education and support at UCD to include them from the start.

Read our recent review paper: Ní Shé E, Morton S, Lambert V, et al. Clarifying the mechanisms and resources that enable the reciprocal involvement of seldom heard groups in health and social care research: A collaborative rapid realist review process. Health Expect. 2019;00:1–9.

UCD Public Engagement



Public Engagement (PE) describes the many ways that UCD's research, teaching and contributions to society are influenced by and shared with the public for mutual learning.

This definition was created by the UCD community who suggested wording during the workshop on public engagement held in May 2018 and through public consultation at the UCD Festival in June 2018.

During our feedback session, in response to the PE Report, we discussed the importance of establishing a UCD PE Community of Practice to:

- Share knowledge in PE
- Enhance our expertise through PE training
- Develop as a group working towards a common goal
- Create a network to collaborate across disciplines

Initially, members of the working group will operate a scaffolded support for the PE Community of Practice. However, this is just to get started, the community will then grow into a collegiate self-organised group.

The first steps for the UCD PE Community of Practice are:

1. Join the UCD PE mailing list which all members can use to share knowledge.
Join via <https://listserv.heatnet.ie/cgi-bin/wa?AO=UCD-PE> (subscribe is on the right hand side).
Do send round to your colleagues who have an interest in public engagement, who run activities as part of their research or who manage public engagement or PPI programmes.
2. To establish the UCD PE Seminar Series with invited guest speakers.
Initially the working group have two sessions in the pipeline, however we would like to work as a community explore more topics and speakers. We have a vast knowledge among the PE / PPI practitioners and researchers in UCD so let's find a space to share and discuss our stories, the tools we use, the successes, the failures (ouch!), and supports we can offer each other to grow our confidence and celebrate excellence and endeavour.

UCD Quality Office

Staff Volunteering

“ I am involved with lacrosse in Ireland, which includes a recent call-up to the Ireland National Team for the 2019 World Indoor Lacrosse Championship taking place in Langley, British Columbia, Canada from 19-28 September (www.wilc2019.ca). That tournament will be my 11th major championship tournament playing for Ireland and I am currently in second place in the all-time list of appearances for the Irish lacrosse team.

I am also the founder of the UCD Lacrosse club and am still Senior Treasurer for the club. I have previously coached both the men's and women's UCD Lacrosse teams. The men's team is actually competing in the European Club Championship in Ghent, Belgium this weekend [September 2019].

Through my involvement with the UCD team, I have also helped to develop lacrosse teams at NUI Galway, Queen's University Belfast and University College Cork.

Michael Kennedy
UCD Quality Office



UCD Registry

Serve The City (STC) is a volunteer organisation which focuses on mobilising volunteers in serving marginalised and vulnerable persons in society including older people, single parents, persons with a chronic illness, mental or physical challenges, refugees and asylum seekers (especially those living in Direct Provision) and anyone isolated in their own community.

With the introduction of the UCD Employee Volunteering Scheme in September 2018, UCD Registry was introduced to the volunteering organisation, Serve the City, through UCD in the Community. The appeal of this organisation from a UCD Registry perspective is the opportunity to get involved at a practical level in the community using the available skills, without the need for direct fundraising.

In October 2018, UCD Registry staff were invited to volunteer to undertake a DIY garden project in Glenageary over two mornings at the end of November. With materials provided through a small donation from UCD Registry, a volunteer team of 13 staff spent two days working on the front garden of a residential care-assisted home. This involved some hard manual labour including raking back old stone and pruning hedges, before laying a new weed barrier membrane and re-laying the older stone and adding new decorative stone on top.

Throughout the course of the project, the residents at the property engaged with the volunteers regularly with cups of tea and conversation.

Based on feedback from our volunteers, undertaking this project was a very rewarding and worthwhile experience for all concerned. As a testimony to the success of the project, STC has used the UCD Registry gardening project as a case study feature in two grant applications to DLRCC, in order to secure more funding to continue with their good work in the community.

To date, there have not been any further volunteering opportunities to work with STC. However, UCD Registry has recently engaged in discussions with the organisation, with a view to offering assistance in areas where UCD Registry can offer expertise such as organising/coordinating projects, social media and marketing and we hope that this will form part of our volunteering programme for 2019-20.

In May 2019, UCD Registry hosted a table quiz in the O' Neill Lounge, UCD Clubhouse in aid of the Irish Hospice Foundation and the Irish Cancer Society. The quiz, which was well attended by staff from across the University, raised €2,050 for the two charities.



UCD Rosemount

by Dr. Brian Tobin

UCD's Rosemount Environmental Research Station is a state-of-the-art plant and environmental research facility and is jointly managed by UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science and UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science. This novel approach to facility management naturally fosters collaborative effort and many staff are involved in showcasing research activity that combines basic and applied sciences. In the last year Rosemount staff have hosted a diverse range of visits, both from within the university community as well as from both the external science and local communities.

UCD Community

From within UCD, Rosemount has hosted biodiversity walks on World Bee Day and during Earth Week. Visiting groups from the University of Idaho also toured the facility. We also hosted an orientation and activity day for Clár Ní Bhuachalla and the Gaeltacht UCD Residence Scheme Scholars who got up close and personal with a whole lot of vegetables! Rosemount has become a popular location for barbecues; UCD Earth Institute and School of Biology & Environmental Science both enjoyed the ambiance and facilities, if not always the very best climatic conditions!





Science Communication

EcoEye, Mooney Goes Wild and Ear to the Ground have all visited in the last year to film or record a variety of material relating to plant evolution, crop-pest interactions and climate change. The Irish Plant Science Association Meeting for 2019 was hosted at UCD and the conference dinner was held in Rosemount.



Rosemount continues as a HQ for HortSoc who base many of their routine activities here, including gardening and apple juicing.



Local Community

The practical nature of the mixture of disciplines makes Rosemount an extremely attractive location for members of the local community. This year students from 3rd class in Scoil Mhuire, Sandymount visited the apiary and orchard. Indeed, the Rosemount honeybees also visited students of St. Killians and the senior rooms in Oakmount Creche this summer. Men's Shed groups from Rialto & Dolphin's Barn visited the orchard for master classes in grafting. Falling Fruit Ireland also came to harvest and distribute Rosemount apples to food charities such as FoodCloud, Child Vision and Crosscare.



Rosemount continued to provide tours of the grounds on Heritage Week this year and a large group of locals assembled to ramble through the orchard, glasshouses and apiary.

The year's outreach activities at Rosemount were led primarily by Bredagh Moran, David Brogan, Gordon Kavanagh, William Deasy and Brian Tobin.

UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science

Analysis of Adviceline data for the Asthma Society of Ireland

By Associate Professor Mary Codd, Director, UCD CSTAR (Centre for Support and Training in Analysis and Research)

The Asthma Society of Ireland (ASI), founded in 1973, is the national charity dedicated to empowering Ireland's 470,000 people with asthma to take control of their asthma by providing them and their families with information, education, services and support.

Among the services provided by the ASI is an Adviceline launched in July 2016 and operated in collaboration with COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Support Ireland and supported by the Health Services Executive (HSE). The Adviceline is a callback service available free of charge to people with asthma and parents/carers of young people with asthma. A panel of asthma nurse specialists provides personalized information, advice and support to callers from across Ireland.

In 2018, ASI set about capturing consumer satisfaction data from among callers to their Adviceline. Callers who agreed to participate in the survey were informed that their data would be shared with the HSE and with an academic partner, but would be completely anonymous. Having collected data on 239 callers, ASI approached UCD in the Community seeking assistance with analysing the data and writing a report. CSTAR, the Centre for Support and Training in Analysis and Research, under the direction of Mary Codd, agreed to provide this service. The data were transferred to CSTAR in Excel format and analysed using the statistical package, SPSS version 24.

Of 239 respondents two-thirds had called from outside Dublin.

Three-quarters were female; about half were calling on their own behalf with the remainder calling on behalf of another person. Callers were asked to rate on a five-point scale how satisfied, or not, they were with aspects of the call and their interaction with the nurse specialist. Almost 100% were 'very satisfied' (90%) or 'quite satisfied' (8%) with the friendliness of the Adviceline nurse; the satisfaction proportions were identical for the empathy and understanding displayed by the nurse, for the ability of the nurse to answer their questions and for the level of information provided on the condition about which they were enquiring. Over 95% expressed high levels of satisfaction with the clarity on next steps provided for the caller themselves or for the person for whom they were calling.

Callers were also asked for their level of agreement with a series of statements on a five-point scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'. Almost 90% strongly agreed or agreed that they were 'more confident in managing their asthma or COPD', had 'an improved understanding of prescribed medications and when to use them', and had 'improved knowledge of what to do in the event of an asthma attack or exacerbation'.

Almost 80% strongly agreed or agreed that they had 'an improved understanding of the importance of engaging with Health Care Professionals' and were 'less anxious about their asthma or COPD'. Two-thirds strongly agreed or agreed that they had 'improved awareness of the role of vaccinations in the management of asthma or COPD' and were 'less likely to miss work or school due to asthma / COPD' as a result of the Adviceline help.

Callers were asked to rate on a scale of 0 to 10, how likely they would be to recommend the Adviceline to a family member, colleague or friend. An overwhelming 97% provided a score of 8 or greater, the vast majority of whom (86%) provided a score of 10.

The response to the ASI Adviceline service is overwhelmingly positive and the Society and their staff are to be congratulated on such a successful endeavour. CSTAR are pleased to be able to assist in compiling the evidence and providing it in a useful and accessible way for the Society.

A special word of thanks goes to to Simon Yeates and Des Hickey, CSTAR researchers who analysed the data.

This was significantly higher in girls (27%) versus 19% in boys. Lack of time was the main reason for skipping breakfast. Sixty percent of children correctly identified animal products consumed at breakfast but only 45% could correctly identify the animal from which the food originated. The breakfast clubs provide a hands-on experience for children and adults to learn about where food comes from, the importance of eating well, basic food preparation and the joy of meal times shared with friends and family. Airfield Estate now offers opportunities for students to undertake research projects in the area of public health nutrition. The outcomes of these projects can be used by the Estate to make small changes that are better for health, better value for money and better for the environment.

The value of the ongoing collaboration is clear with another student now exploring understanding and attitudes to environmental food sustainability over the coming months. Furthermore, Associate Professor Clare Corish provided two nutrition myth-busting soapbox talks at the recent Airfield Festival of Food at which over 15,000 people attended.

Airfield Breakfast Club

By Associate Professor Clare Corish

Airfield Estate is an urban farm in Dundrum whose mission is to inspire and enable people to make better food choices.

Associate Professor Clare Corish, Programme Director of the MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics in collaboration with Airfield Estate has set-up Breakfast Clubs on the site that have been running successfully for more than two years. Research undertaken by the MSc Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics students between September 2017 and December 2018 showed that 85% of primary school children ate breakfast whereas breakfast was only consumed by 53% of secondary school pupils.



UCD MeDaliST Programme, Ballyogan

The UCD MeDaliST (Move Don't Sit) Programme, was developed by Dr. Caitriona Cunningham, Dr. Grainne O Donoghue and Dr. Catherine Blake, through funding by An Pobal - Healthy Ireland.

Consistent with the National Physical Activity Plan and Healthy Ireland Framework, the UCD MeDaliST programme includes a gym-based exercise programme and encourages greater levels of free-living physical activity. Structured education and interactive

'question & answer' sessions aim to:

- (i) increase physical activity levels,
- (ii) reduce sedentary time and
- (iii) support healthier living.

The MeDaliST programme builds on UCD's existing Better Bones and Better Hearts community exercise programmes which are delivered via UCD Physio Hub on campus.

An intersectoral partnership approach between UCD Physiotherapy, DLR Leisure, the local Sports Partnership and HSE local primary care team was adopted to initiate and deliver the UCD MeDaliST programme

In autumn 2018, a series of healthy lifestyle lectures/interactive question and answer sessions took place in the DLR Leisure Centre, Ballogan, Dublin 18. Following this, recruitment and planning meetings for the spring 2019 MeDaliST programme occurred.

MeDaliST Programme at Ballyogan Spring 2019

Participant Profile

- 23 participants
- 17 female, 6 Male
- Aged 63 to 87 years
- Multiple morbidities/chronic diseases

The programme overview was as follows:

- A pre-exercise screening was conducted by the UCD MeDaliST Team (all Chartered Physiotherapists) with specific exercise testing to tailor exercise programme parameters (strength and aerobic). Some participants required a GP review (e.g. hypertension identified), which highlights the value of physiotherapy screening and understanding of health system navigation.
- 12 weeks supervised gym-based aerobic and resistance exercise training took place, tailored to individual needs (based on individual HR/BP testing, target heart rate setting, RM testing for resistance training) and with a view to participant becoming a self-directing gym user.
- Exercise sessions took place for one hour per week for 12 weeks for two separate groups (a total of 24 hours exercise).
- Exercises were adapted and progressed on individual basis. Gym attendance was encouraged between supervised sessions.
- UCD BSc Physiotherapy students supported the delivery of the programme as part of their clinical education modules.
- Week 12: Post-programme assessment showed that all participants had progressed in aerobic and resistance training programmes compared to baseline.
- The MEDAL Awards Ceremony took place on 9 April 2019.
- Participants are planning to attend Ballyogan twice per week for self-directed exercise going forward, supporting case for initial supervised phase empowering individuals to self-direct.

UCD MeDaliST Team - UCD Physiotherapy

- Dr. Grainne O' Donoghue
- Dr. Caitriona Cunningham
- Dr. Catherine Blake
- Dr. Orna Fennelly
- Ciara Duignan (PhD candidate)

HSE Primary Care Physiotherapy

- Paula O' Donnell, Senior Physiotherapist, Leopardstown Primary Care
- Evelyn Flavin, Physiotherapy Manager, Dublin South East

DLR Leisure Ballyogan

- Dan Downey
- Alison Jones

Healthy Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Project Coordinator

Southside Partnership

- Brid O' Dwyer

Funder: An Pobal - Healthy Ireland, Local Communities for a Healthy Ireland Funding Stream - externally held funding (€150,000) for a series of projects including UCD MeDaliST programme.



UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

A centre of excellence for research, teaching and professional training in social policy, social work, equality studies and gender studies.

Tusla Collaboration

By Dr. Joseph Mooney

Summer 2019 saw the development of a collaboration between the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice at University College Dublin and the social work teams of the local Child and Family Agency, Tusla situated in Dublin South East/Wicklow.

This collaboration was formed with a view to developing a practice learning forum to act as a structured environment in which complex child protection and welfare cases and contemporary social work issues can be discussed and explored using practice experience and international academic research. The product of this collaboration with local services is that the forum, which is due to run quarterly, will hold its inaugural event on Friday, 29 November 2019 in the William Fry Theatre, Sutherland School of Law at University College Dublin.

It is envisaged that the development of this critically reflective space will benefit social work practitioners and their management; social work, social policy and social justice academics and social work students, as well as benefiting social work practice with children and families in our local communities surrounding UCD.

The learning forum has been developed by Dr Joseph Mooney, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice and Joanne Cullen, Area Manager, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Dublin South East/Wicklow.



SAOL Project Collaboration

By Dr. Hilda Loughran, Associate Professor, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice and Gary Broderick, Director of SAOL Project

Since 2010, Gary Broderick, Director of SAOL Project (a Women's Recovery and Education Project) and Associate Professor Hilda Loughran, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, have worked to build a collaboration between SAOL and UCD. The collaboration has focused on developing meaningful engagement with the women in the project to learn from their experiences and to enhance the quality of social work students understanding of drug use issues so as to prepare them for working with drug use issues in practice. The work has included designing the curriculum for part of a health care module looking at drugs and alcohol issues.

The women in SAOL Project wanted to extend their influence beyond UCD and as a result Hilda and Gary worked together to produce a number of publications such as Loughran & Broderick (2017) From service user to examiner: Not a bridge too far, *Social Work Education*, 36(2):188-202.

Collaboration with service users in design and delivery of social work education is now embedded in UCD's Professional Masters in Social Work.



2018-2019 Achievements

Joint Publication: Loughran H, Broderick, G, SAOL Women's Group, Hegarty, R. (2019) Service users reaching out to help professionals: Shaping professional education on substance use and poverty issues. McLaughlin (Ed) Routledge International Handbook on Service User Involvement in Human Services Education and Research, Routledge, London.

Contribution to Social Work teaching: The women from SAOL met the current second year class in UCD and presented the students with feedback on an assignment they had set for the students. It was an inspiring and exciting opportunity for the students. The women challenged views of drug use and in particular emphasised the importance of social workers building relationships with service users. Building on the SAOL/UCD collaboration, the Project have established themselves in the field as contributors to many academic programmes across a number of universities.

Conference presentation: In spring 2019 the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) invited SAOL Project and Hilda to present at their annual Conference. The theme of the conference was 'Putting Relationships First' and SAOL Project reflected on their experience of working with UCD as well as introducing the audience to a number of their other initiatives including their very influential Object Poverty.

Teaching and learning/research: The collaboration (SAOL, Hilda and a new partner, Coolmine Therapeutic Community) received UCD IGNITE Seed Funding to progress the community engagement approach to curriculum for social work education.

UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

UCD Purl Jam

The UCD Purl Jam Craft Group is jointly led by the Student Advisers in UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Niamh Nestor and UCD College of Science, Catriona Keane. A group of staff and students meet on a weekly basis to create knitted and crocheted items which are either donated to charity or created for personal use.

The group supported several charities in 2018-2019 including the 'Tentacles for Tinies' project at the Rotunda Foundation, Stitched with Love, Pieta House, UCD Veterinary Hospital Animal Welfare Fund and the 'Bravery Blanky' project.



In 2019, the group began the 'Twiddlemitts Project' to support people living with dementia. Twiddlemitts are brightly coloured hand warmers which are decorated with buttons, ribbons, pockets, zips and beads. They provide sensory stimulation to dementia patients, helping to improve patients' moods and creating a sense of well-being and relaxation. The group donated the proceeds of sales of Twiddlemitts and other items to the Alzheimer Society of Ireland in April 2019 and will be creating more of these beautiful products throughout 2019-2020 for donation to St Vincent's University Hospital. New members are always welcome!



My Lovely Horse Rescue Charity

The charity My Lovely Horse Rescue (MLHR) was established in 2011 in response to observing horses and donkeys in urban areas of Leinster and Cork being mistreated and their welfare compromised. MLHR helps in many ways including:

- Assisting authorities in moving equines and donkeys to a place of safety when requested;
- Rehabilitating and rehoming animals that they have rescued, that have been surrendered to the charity, or that have been transferred from horse pounds;
- Carrying out Horse Welfare Days around Dublin, offering subsidised gelding, microchipping, farrier and dentist checks;
- Advocating for ways to improve equine welfare through enforcement and improved legislation.

Lecturer/Assistant Professor Nikki Walshe, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine is the primary equine vet for MLHR.



For the last three years, Nikki along with the UCD Equine Field Service team and final year UCD Veterinary Medicine students have been visiting the MLHR facility in Kildare on a weekly basis to care for and treat the animals. In addition, the team helps out at MLHR information days and hold fundraising events, including the 39th Annual Vet School Carol Service held in November 2018.

A vegetable garden was set up by Student Advisor Niamh Nestor and staff within UCD School of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Hospital as a part of a UCD SPARC funded and Please Talk initiative. It was developed as a positive thing for students and staff to get involved in with a focus on the mental health aspect. As a member of the garden committee I organised an honesty box so that donations could be made in exchange for vegetables for the charity - Children in Hospital Ireland - who I volunteer with. This is an amazing charity that provides play services for children in hospital and every Thursday evening between 7-9pm you can find me in Crumlin Children's Hospital as Play Volunteer. My evening can be anything from paper airplane making, painting and colouring, giving a baby a cuddle because their parents just need to take a shower or trying to relieve the boredom for a teenager. Whatever it is, it is 2 hours of my week I wouldn't give up for the world.



Staff Volunteering

Dr Bridget Hogg
UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

UCD SPARC Programme

By Rebecca Boyle, UCD Careers Network

UCD SPARC projects make UCD and/or the surrounding community a better place to learn, work and live.

The SPARC (Supporting Partnerships and Realising Change) programme enables UCD staff and students to work together on innovative projects that make UCD and the local community a better place to learn, work and live. The UCD Careers Network provides support for these projects in the form of funding, training and project planning support.

SPARC gives students and staff a unique opportunity to work as equal partners and to stand-out amongst their peers as innovative thinkers and leaders. By working in partnership, staff and students not only achieve meaningful project results, they also have the opportunity to develop and enhance their working relationship and come to a greater understanding of each other's roles within the university. For students and staff alike, SPARC provides a fantastic opportunity to enhance skills such as project management, problem-solving, communication, planning and organising, leadership and teamwork.

SPARC ensures creativity and community is at the heart of each project and aims to impact a wide audience. SPARC is now in its sixth year, having originally started in UCD Teaching and Learning, it is now managed by the UCD Careers Network. Over the past six years there have been a wide variety of projects including mental and physical health awareness campaigns, artistic competitions and projects challenging environmental issues among others. Included below are two recent successful projects. A third example is [UCD Purl Jam](#), which can be found in this report under UCD School of Veterinary Medicine.

'[UCD Nature](#)', pitched by students Casey Patmore and Gordon Waldron, aimed to introduce a biodiversity guide for UCD staff, students and visitors. The beautiful guide explores the ecology, conservation work and folklore of UCD's nature 'hotspots'. With the support of UCD Estate Services, UCD Green Campus and a number of academic staff in UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science, the UCD Nature guide was produced in time for the 2019 UCD Festival where it was passed to hundreds of visitors who enjoyed the woodland walks and scenery of the Belfield campus.



Since its introduction to the Belfield Campus in Spring 2019, the 'Resilience Tree' has received a vast amount of attention and deserved praise. The project is the brainchild of PhD student Claire McCafferty who believes the tree "is a visual representation of positive mental health, hope and resilience." Claire's inspiration came from wishing trees she had seen previously at hospices she has visited. Originally funded by SPARC, the tree is also supported by Healthy UCD, UCD Innovation Academy and UCD Estate Services. People are invited to add a coloured ribbon with a positive message to the tree in a show of support to those who may need them.

Located centrally on campus, in front of the main lake, the tree offers students, staff and visitors a quiet space to sit and reflect within the confines of a small walled garden. News of the Resilience Tree has also extended outside the campus. Claire was recently contacted by a local secondary school student who has been affected by mental health concerns, who is now working with the head teacher of his school to install a Resilience Tree. Likewise, following an international conference in UCD, another individual got in touch to say how much the tree connected with him and that he would like to install a tree in a town in Finland. The town mayor has just accepted this with the tree due to be installed later this year. The Resilience Tree also featured in the 2019 UCD Festival.



SPARC
*Supporting Partnership
and Realising Change*

Find Out More

To find out more about SPARC and to see last year's successful projects, please visit the UCD Careers Network website:
www.ucd.ie/careers/sparc

UCD Sport

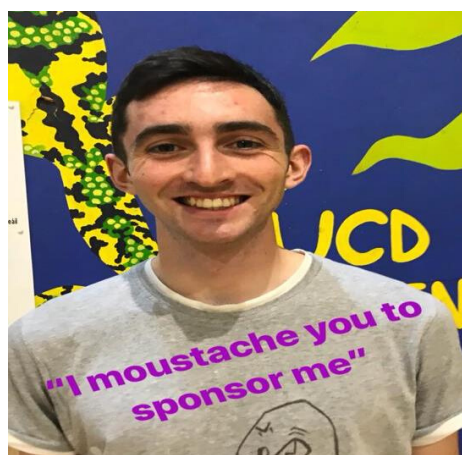
by Paula Cashman

UCD Sport contributes to the local community in a diverse and innovative way.

During 2018-2019 UCD Sport, along with numerous members from its affiliated sports clubs, contributed to the local community in a diverse and innovative way.

To equip and support its sports club members in doing so and in line with the Athletic Union Council (AUC)'s strategic priority area of Volunteerism and Support Services, the AUC provides training and development opportunities for these members to participate and lead projects within the community.

UCD Trampoline club are a club well known for their work on behalf of charities. During 2018-2019 they were engaged in a number of fundraising events including a pink themed bounce for the Irish Cancer Society and a purple themed bounce for the Movember Foundation. Additionally, the UCD Mountaineering and UCD Sailing clubs both raised funds for the Movember Foundation. UCD Trampoline club also organised a Valentine's Day themed bounce, a bake sale, Facebook and Instagram fundraising campaigns and some sponsored committee challenges for Dublin Simon Community. In total the club raised a very impressive €954 for their chosen charities.



Daffodil Day is a date firmly set in the UCD Rugby Football Club's calendar. Each year members from the UCD men's and women's rugby clubs along with players from Tag Rugby combine to give generously of their time to collect vital funds on behalf of the Irish Cancer Society. This is the fourth year that the collection has taken place on campus, this year raising a fantastic €11,000 and demonstrating once again how generous the UCD community are to this worthy cause. In addition to their fundraising efforts, UCD RFC engaged with the student population in the delivery of a Tag Rugby League in which over 400 participants took part. Ran in conjunction with the UCD Sports and Exercise Management BSc, this project allows students the practical opportunity to apply the skills learned from their event management and other core modules.

For over 16 years, UCD Association Football Club (UCD AFC) has offered expert soccer coaching to children in the local community through their Halloween, Easter and Summer soccer camps. FAI-certified coaches from the club's first team squad teach soccer skills to over 100 children, on a weekly basis, with an emphasis on learning through fun activities. Each child who attends the camp receives a free season ticket to come back on campus to watch and enjoy the first team matches. UCD AFC partnered with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports office on projects such as the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown After School Through Sports (DRAFTS) programme and a soccer camp for local children at Marley Park. As part of the DRAFTS programme, UCD AFC provided coaching to three schools in Loughlinstown, Sallynoggin and Sandyford.

The UCD GAA Club supports the development of the local community through the provision of coaching sessions by their club coaches. They also provide coaching on campus to over 40 international students at various times throughout the academic year. Furthermore, they arrange for schools to visit the campus and receive expert coaching, a campus tour, and listen to a talk about the UCD GAA scholarship offerings. The UCD GAA Development Officer also arranges for GAA facilities to be provided to some schools and clubs in the local community.

Other clubs such as UCD Lacrosse, UCD Volleyball and UCD Archery give a significant amount of time to coaching within the local community. Clubs such as UCD Athletics, UCD Lacrosse, UCD Orienteering, UCD Tae Kwon Do and UCD Ladies Boat club regularly volunteer their officiating and organisational skills to events and matches to help develop their respective sports.

For the fourth year running, the wider UCD campus welcomed the local community to visit for a fun-filled day of activities and performances and an opportunity to take a look around the grounds and hear the design vision for UCD Future Campus, for the UCD Festival. This year UCD GAA, UCD RFC and UCD AFC all provided free coaching sessions at the UCD Festival to local children and teenagers in their respective sports.

Relay for Life, a yearly event held on campus, is another great cause in which many sports clubs get involved in. This year UCD Women's Rugby, UCD Lacrosse, UCD Ultimate and UCD Windsurfing club participated in the event playing their part in helping to raise nearly €10,000 for the Irish Cancer Society.



Environmental conservation is of particular importance to the UCD Sub Aqua club and UCD Caving and Potholing club. In this regard they often participate in activities that help to protect our natural resources. The UCD Sub Aqua club participates in the Clean Coast programme by attending beach clean-ups in the Dún Laoghaire/Sandycove area and on all of their weekend trips. Similarly UCD Caving and Potholing club members - whilst attending the Student Caving Forum - helped with a cave clean up at Pollnagossan cave in County Cavan.



Other voluntary efforts by UCD sports clubs included a Games Night in memory of a past club member which raised €1,465 for the Dublin-Wicklow Mountain rescue (UCD Mountaineering), fundraising for the RNLI (UCD Sub Aqua) and a salvaged large net donation to AIDT Dun Laoghaire for artwork (UCD Sub Aqua). The AUC offered a SafeTALK course to its sports clubs, meaning that after attending this workshop, trained helpers are present in the local community making it a suicide safer community. The AUC also organises numerous Safeguarding 1 workshops for their club coaches and children's officers, this workshop educates attendees in the implementation of best practices with regards to protecting the welfare of children involved in sport. The AUC also facilitates an Active Dance programme which is run by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership, its aim is to get transition year girls more active. As with every year UCD Sport staff deliver presentations to first year students during orientation week, transition year students and many more.

UCD Student Services

by Mags Darcy

UCD Student Services, and its associated facilities, welcomed over 12,000 student, staff and local community members daily through its doors of the popular UCD Student Centre in the 2018-19 academic year. Managing world class facilities ensures that the competent operations team can accommodate a diverse range of organisations within the local community year-on-year.

The UCD community are welcome to enjoy a movie in the bespoke UCD Cinema, a swim in the Olympic 50m swimming pool, a workout in either of the two state-of-the-art gyms, a game of racquetball in the indoor courts or simply just sip on a coffee and soak in the building's energy at the poolside café. The UCD Student Centre is truly a home for all.

- This year in excess of 5,600 local adults and children enjoyed gym and pool membership at UCD Sport and Fitness.
- Over 34 local schools, swimming clubs and partner organisations availed of the much sought after Olympic swimming pool.
- Numerous county, national and international sports teams and athletes booked out the full suite of strength and conditioning training facilities.
- UCD Swim School took in over 700 local community children for their established and sought after children's swim lessons.
- UCD Cinema showcased the latest range of commercial screenings to over 2,000 adult community members, whilst also catering for countless birthday party functions for local families.
- In excess of 1,200 people used the football cages every day between regular and occasional bookers. The age range being between 18 and 50 years old.

The UCD Multi-Sport Kids Camp caters for children aged 4 to 12 years during four holiday periods of the year. The camp provides children's entertainment for 120 different families on a weekly basis. Other camps who are tasked with accommodating our local community on site include; UCD AFC Summer Camp, SportsWays Hockey Camp, Adventure World Sports Camps and the Let's Go Kids Camps.

External to the everyday community footfall, Student Services in addition hosted the UEFA under-17 European Soccer Championship, International Women's Rugby Matches in November, Six Nations Rugby and Irish Soccer Senior Men's international training sessions, national and international conferences and the UCD Festival.



Furthermore, Student Services are delighted to be partnered with a range of non-profit charity organisations who receive complementary facility access. Those organisations include Dundrum Special Olympics, the Solas project in collaboration with UCD Rugby and Parkinson's Association of Ireland, to name a few. UCD Student Services look forward to continuing their relationship with these organisations into the future.

UCD's engagement with the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC)



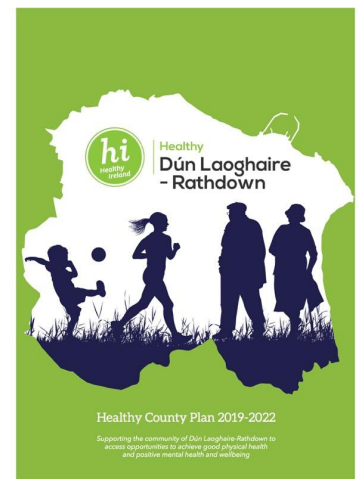
The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) was established in 2017 to improve outcomes of individuals aged 0-24 and is one of 27 CYPSCs nationally. The focus of the CYPSC has been on promoting and maintaining interagency collaboration whilst establishing population data baselines against which new projects or service enhancements can be measured. The CYPSC is chaired by Joanne Cullen (Area Manager for Tusla) and coordinated by Lorna Kerin. UCD has collaborated with the CYPSC since its inception.

The University engagement team were involved in helping to coordinate the very first interagency workshop in Dún Laoghaire, with representatives from UCD HR, UCD Medicine and Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students all facilitating table feedback. Professor Last is a member of the CYPSC Strategic Area Committee by virtue of chairing the CYPSC DLR Education subgroup. With Lorna's leadership, the subgroup ran a large workshop in UCD in 2019, with representatives from a broad array of education and service providers across the region. UCD Access and Lifelong Learning, Student Advisers, Student Health & Counselling, UCD Students' Union, Community Engagement, Registrar's Office and Human Resources were all involved in helping to coordinate the event and the output of the meeting was instrumental in informing the soon to be launched DLR CYPSC Area Plan 2019.

UCD is also working on behalf of the CYPSC with the DLR Healthy County initiative and assisted in the development of the Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Plan 2019 - 2022.

The DLR CYPSC interagency projects improve outcomes in areas such as Perinatal Support, Infant Mental Health, Early Years Workforce Capacity Building, Homelessness, Youth Mental Wellness, Music Education and Youth Engagement in Physical Activity and Sport. UCD-associated initiatives have been led by the School of Physiotherapy, Public Health and Sports Science, the College of Science and the Dean of Students. A current research project involves collaboration between CYPSC, Cybersafe Ireland, UCD and a number of primary schools in the region; reviewing the impact of social media on children.

As the DLR CYPSC evolves, UCD remains committed to collaborating and supporting all endeavours, deepening its strategic partnership with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and strengthening its links with other education providers and services throughout the county.



UCD Volunteers Overseas

UCDVO/AMRI Learning Lab

By Zoe Liston



The UCDVO/AMRI Learning Lab is a project developed in partnership with the Association of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI), wherein UCDVO volunteers preparing to volunteer on a computer education project in Tanzania, facilitate IT Learning Lab workshops for returned missionaries looking to improve their IT skills.



UCD Volunteers Overseas runs a year-long Volunteering and Development Education Programme for students, staff and alumni of UCD. Participants of the programme take part in training days, development education activities and four weeks volunteering overseas with a local partner in India, Tanzania or Uganda. Our project in Tanzania is run in partnership with local NGO, TanzED and is a computer education project, where funds raised go to establishing computer labs in schools in the Morogoro Region. During their four weeks overseas, volunteers teach computers to the teachers in these schools, so that the skills can then be passed on to their pupils.

In advance of teaching computers in Tanzania, UCDVO developed the UCDVO/AMRI Learning Lab in 2015 to help volunteers prepare for the teaching aspect of their overseas placement. Over the five years, the Learning Lab has grown in popularity and value, and in and of itself, is a meaningful engagement between the UCDVO Volunteers community and the recently returned missionary community. Beginning in January each year, a UCDVO volunteer is paired with a returned missionary for five hour-long sessions. The learning is informal and led by the needs of the learner. At the end of the five weeks, there is a storytelling session where member of the returned missionaries group share with us experiences and stories from their work and lives in developing countries.



Each year UCDVO have paired approximately 15 returned missionaries with 15 UCDVO Volunteers, representing a total group of approximately 75 returned missionaries and 75 students. With a strong interest in global justice and development, this returned missionary group have maintained a connection with UCD and the work that UCDVO does through attending the UCDVO Volunteer Recognition Evening, UCDVO Development Film Series and our UCDVO Annual Forum.

The benefits of this community project has grown beyond its original design, bringing together two very different communities with fantastic results in intergenerational learning, exchange of skills and stories of living and working overseas.

Online additions to report



I ran drama classes for a number of weeks over the summer 2018, for a group of children (aged 5-8) at ECCI Hatch Street Direct Provision Centre. The children had great fun miming and improvising different characters and animals. They particularly loved movement to dramatic pieces of music. Colourful pictures and cards were introduced and they created very imaginative and funny stories expressing lots of emotions.

Anne Hallinan,
UCD School of Music

Staff Volunteering



Drama Classes

Classes include:
Games
Storytelling
Role-play
Movement
Mime
Improvisation
Music & dance

Drama taking place at Hatch St on Wednesdays 6:00-6:50

Drama for juniors aged 5-8



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