

UCD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

September 2019 -
August 2020



FOREWORD

“ On behalf of UCD in the Community, I am very pleased to present the annual report on UCD’s engagement in the wider community for the year 2019/2020. What a year!!

The purpose of the report is to celebrate, highlight and record the many fantastic contributions of our staff and students both outside and within the university. In this year of the pandemic, in addition to its “normal” community activities, UCD has made many extraordinary contributions, nationally and locally to rise to the challenges of COVID-19. We are very aware that the report is only a snapshot of the activities that took place from September 2019 to August 2020 and we are more than happy to accept additional items which can be inserted 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 staff mentioned in the report, to find out more about their initiatives.

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

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



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Community Engagement Key

- Community-based research
- Community-based teaching and learning (e.g. module involving the community)
- Public engagement
- Volunteering

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 2019 and August 2020.

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”.

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.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the hands-on approach of the UCD community in addressing real world problems, through community engaged research, community based teaching and volunteering. During the pandemic, UCD employees, students and alumni have assisted with: COVID-19 testing and contact tracing, COVID-19 research and innovation, provision of facilities and training, supplying informed communication to the public, volunteering, fundraising and assisting local communities.

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.

UCD in the Community directly contributes to the UCD Strategic Plan 2020-2024: Rising to the Future, in particular with Core Objective Three- ‘Continue to build our engagement locally, nationally and internationally’ and Strategic Theme Four- ‘Empowering Humanity.’ UCD in the Community is identified in the Strategic Plan as a means of “empowering the UCD community as socially aware, global citizens”.

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.



Choirs for Cancer

Submitted by Dr Fiona Lanigan, Precision Oncology Ireland

Choirs for Cancer brought together 10 choirs and more than 300 singers in a moving community tribute to those whose lives are touched by cancer.

A highlight of the day was an emotional rendition of 'Don't Give Up On Me' from Mount Sion Choir, dedicated to terminal cancer patient John Wall, who, in his own words, is "Living with cancer, and not dying from it". John was in the front row and the first to rise for a standing ovation. He later said "Words can't describe how honoured I was to hear Mount Sion Choir sing today. One of the most powerful and inspirational events I've ever attended". Another high point was the powerful final group performance of 'Something Inside So Strong' by all 10 choirs together.



Choirs for Cancer brought more than 700 people to O'Reilly Hall in UCD on 4th February 2020 to mark World Cancer Day. Cancer patients, advocates, survivors and family members shared the story of their cancer journey and cancer researchers spoke of their motivation and progress towards finding new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat this devastating disease. These stories were interspersed with inspirational songs by 10 choirs from across Ireland, many of whom were linked with cancer support centres, or had lost family members to cancer including Mount Sion School Choir from Waterford; the ARC Dublin 'ARC Angels' choir; the Sing for Life Choir from Northern Ireland; and the UCD Community Choir.

Each choir sang a song with a special meaning to them on the themes of care, hope, strength, love, loss and community, followed by a combined choral performance. The event was co-hosted by RTÉ broadcasters, Miriam O'Callaghan and Marty Morrissey.

"Music is so powerful in so many ways. I believe you have found a very special format with which to celebrate everyone whose path crosses cancer".

The patient advocates who shared their stories were Stephen Teap, John Wall, Shauntelle Tynan, Siobhán Freeney, Úna Barnes Doyle and Hermione Hennessy. Researchers who spoke included Professor William Gallagher, Director of the UCD Conway Institute and Amanda McCann, Senior Conway Fellow and Professor in the UCD School of Medicine.

Choirs for Cancer was a resounding success, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from contributors and attendees. One choir member commented "Music is so powerful in so many ways. I believe you have found a very special format with which to celebrate everyone whose path crosses cancer".

The event gained significant traction on social media and featured in the Irish Times. The World Cancer Day highlights video of selected clips of events around the globe also featured our event. Choirs for Cancer was jointly organised by Precision Oncology Ireland and The Patient Voice in Cancer Research.

A video of the event is available [here](#).

Culture & Engagement, UCD HR

Submitted by Mark Simpson

Work/Life@UCD

Hosted by Culture & Engagement with the aim of promoting employee development, supports and benefits, UCD's annual engagement day took place in November 2019. Within the seminar and exhibition, the Engagement Zone publicised the opportunities to volunteer and get involved with community initiatives.

Split across 4 zones, UCD's employee engagement day, Work/Life@UCD was held in O'Reilly Hall with 40 exhibitors, 10 seminars and nearly 1,000 attendees on Wednesday, 20 November. Back for its third year, the event hosted by UCD Culture & Engagement featured 4 zones with related exhibits and seminars, based around the themes of sustainability, engagement, career and life.

A key focus of the engagement zone

was the promotion of UCD's employee volunteering policy, encouraging employees to get involved with community organisations both on and off campus. Among those present on the day promoting volunteering opportunities were UCD's charities of choice; Special Olympics Ireland, UCD Volunteer Overseas, and UCD Champions Scholarship Fund. In addition, UCD in the Community were on hand to help employees identify other volunteering opportunities that may interest them.



UCD Values in Action Awards

Initiated in 2018 by the Employee Engagement Network, and run by Culture & Engagement, the UCD VIA (Values in Action) Awards recognise colleagues who bring the University's values to life. For 2019/20, 65 nominations were received and six awards presented.

- UCD's Values in Action (VIA) Awards celebrate individuals or teams/committees who;
- act as ambassadors for the UCD Values through their daily work,
 - establish initiatives that bring the UCD Values to life,
 - volunteer within the UCD Community, demonstrating the University Values in action.

The awards, coordinated by Culture & Engagement, are open to all employees of UCD (full-time, part-time, permanent or temporary) who have worked in UCD for at least 2 years at the time of the nomination. They may be nominated by any member of the UCD community (employees, students, those working on campus or alumni).

Among those recognised for 2019/20 was UCD Purl Jam for the creative and collaborative way it brings together UCD staff, students and retired staff and for engagement with a range of charitable initiatives. The group, established in 2017 by Dr Niamh Nestor and Catriona Keane, now has over 150 members and gather once a week to work on their crafts, share experiences and collaborate with others across the University. A key focus of the group has been production of craft items for charity initiatives.



Professor Amanda McCann and Dr Emma Dorris, UCD School of Medicine & Conway Institute were recognised for their groundbreaking efforts to involve patients in research and treatment of disease. Amanda established the UCD Patient Voice in Cancer Research in 2016 to actively engage cancer patients, cancer researchers and others in discussions and the decision making processes to positively impact on cancer research, treatment and outcomes for patients. Emma established a community of people living with arthritis and rheumatic musculoskeletal disease to help guide arthritis research in Ireland. Emma now acts as a champion for patient and public involvement (PPI) in research at a local, national and international level. Both scientists show exceptional level of commitment to their respective fields and the patients they are trying to help and in doing so bring all six UCD Values to life.



The team behind the Irish Young Philosopher Awards, Dr Danielle Petherbridge, Helena McCann, Dr Aine Mahon, Natalia Burakowska, UCD School of Philosophy were recognised for their initiative which encourages children from 3rd class primary to 6th year secondary to think about ethical and philosophical questions central to their lives. The awards support the recent introduction of Philosophy to the national curriculum and in particular, looks to support the development of philosophical communities of enquiry in socially disadvantaged settings.



Gaeltacht UCD

UCD Global Centre for Irish Language and Culture

Submitted by Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Director of Gaeltacht UCD

Fonn, Steip & Ceoil 2020/ Promoting the Traditional Arts

Gaeltacht UCD, which forms part of the UCD Global Engagement portfolio, works closely with the wider Irish language community in Ireland and abroad.



Fonn, Steip & Ceoil 2020

The purpose of this initiative was to promote the practice of the traditional arts; music song and dance, among 3rd level students. In November 2019 an intervarsity talent competition, Fonn, Steip & Ceoil UCD 2019, was held, supported by Oireachtas na Gaeilge winners and TG4 presenters, Sibéal Davitt and Doireann Ní Ghlacáin. Gaeltacht UCD also worked in close cooperation with the student societies Cumann Gaelach UCD and UCD Trad Soc. Applicants from various educational institutions in Ireland as well as visiting students in UCD submitted videos for shortlisting, and auditions were held on campus for the talent show. The 2019 winner was sean-nós dancer Caoimhe Ní Mhaolagain, then student in Dublin City University. The company Meon eile recorded a video of the final event which can be viewed at [here](https://www.meoneile.ie/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=Fonn+Steip) (https://www.meoneile.ie/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=Fonn+Steip).

The purpose of this initiative was to promote the practice of the traditional arts; music, song and dance.



Comórtas Liathroidh Láimhe UCD 2020/ National Handball Competition

This handball competition attracts players young and old, from beginners to all-Ireland champions, from communities throughout the island of Ireland.

For the 9th year in succession, Gaeltacht UCD hosted and supported this national handball competition organized by former Teach na Gaeilge scholars and World Handball Champions Clodagh Nash, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics and Máirtín Ó Maolchiaráin, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science alumnus, in association with UCD Handball Club. The competition, held in March 2020, was conducted bilingually and it attracted

over 60 players of national and international renown. This was a family event held in co-operation with UCD GAA and UCD Sports Facilities involving participants aged 7 to 70 from various handball clubs throughout the island of Ireland. UCD Handball Club's Irish speakers represent the University at competitions from Inis Meán, Co Galway to the USA, connecting the University with the diaspora, through the native game.

Spórt & Spraoi 2020 with Gaeltacht UCD - Online activities for primary school aged children

A series of online workshops for primary school-aged children, providing entertainment for children and support for parents who were homeschooling.



Lorraine de Staic, former Gaeltacht UCD Scholar & facilitator of Sport & Spraoi 2020.

In response to the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic in March 2020 and the subsequent recourse to remote working for University staff, Gaeltacht UCD provided a number of new online services to meet a demand from parents within the UCD community and beyond. This consisted of a series of 12 workshops in Irish-language activities for primary school children, now available online [here](https://www.ucd.ie/bnag/en/services/spoirtagusspraoile-) (https://www.ucd.

ie/bnag/en/services/spoirtagusspraoile-gaeltachtucd/). The series was advertised via social media and video recordings made available on request, requests were received from individuals as well as school principals and teachers from counties Dublin, Meath, Kildare, Cork and Kerry. The Centre also offered Irish language exercise programs, accessible to the public free of charge, in association with the company Óga Yoga.

2020 Online International Summer School/Tionól Gaeilge UCD 'The Irish Language in a Global Context'



Alumnus Peadar Ó Lamhna

Our annual Summer School provides the ideal opportunity to bring together speakers and learners from communities across the globe. Is ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann muid!

Background: Gaeltacht UCD delivered its 4th intensive Summer School for adults, 29 June -1 July 2020. Tionól Gaeilge UCD, designed for adult learners of Irish, was first offered in 2017. Language courses were offered at 5 levels, lectures were held in the afternoon on various aspects of the Irish language and cultural events were organized in the evenings. Learners were accommodated on the UCD Belfield campus. Each year the school attracts between 60-80 participants from Irish-language communities in Ireland and abroad as well as members of the global community in Ireland. International participants travelled from the USA, Canada, China, South Africa, England and Scotland. Irish participants included employees from the public service, government departments, community networks as well as UCD faculty and professional staff.

Gaeltacht UCD's 4th annual summer school was scheduled for July 2020 and was themed: 'The Irish Language in a Global Context' www.ucd.ie/bnag/en/ucdsummerschool. In addition to language tuition the schedule included interviews with guest speakers on topics such as the Irish language in the age of social media, the Irish language in Canada, the Irish language in the media and the significance of the official status of the language in the EU. The full schedule can be viewed [here](https://www.ucd.ie/bnag/en/services/gaeltachtucdsummerschool/) (<https://www.ucd.ie/bnag/en/services/gaeltachtucdsummerschool/>)

Due to the ongoing public health restrictions the school moved online with lessons conducted via Zoom and interviews with guests via webinars. The school proved a success, attracting learners and guests speakers from both educational institutions and community groups worldwide.

Healthy UCD

Submitted by Brian Mullins

Step into Autumn

Healthy UCD teamed up with UCD Culture and Engagement, UCD Sport & Fitness and Weight Watchers to deliver a programme of activities to encourage staff at UCD to get involved in healthy activities while on campus.

Under the Step into Autumn Banner a range of programmes were offered in October and November 2019, comprising a mixture of free activities and others with a nominal fee to encourage those signing-up to participate as much as they could. Some 250 participated in a step challenge for 6 weeks recording 109,089,571 steps.

The winning team of 6 participants, Red Hot Chilli Steppers, recorded 4,675,359 steps and were presented with their prizes at a social event held on 10 December.

Healthy UCD Bootcamp ran every Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes catering for all levels of fitness. The 10-week programme attracted 89 registrations. Healthy UCD Yoga ran Wednesday and Thursday with places limited to 35 per class. 70 people registered for the classes. Social Hurling continued following a successful pilot in the summer of 2019 and 28 registered for a weekly skills and activity based session.

Healthy UCD Pilates was introduced to the programme for the first time with classes on Tuesday and Thursday limited to 40. 80 registered for this activity. Weight Watchers programme for 25 UCD only Employees took place on campus each Wednesday for the 10 weeks.



Feelgood February

Post-Christmas UCD Staff engagement programme of activities.

February 2020 saw the launch of “Feelgood February” with an indoor bootcamp, yoga, pilates and social hurling attracting over 250 registrations. Similar to the very successful Step into Autumn offerings, Feelgood February was geared to encourage staff who were now familiar with exercise at work opportunities to sustain and continue a healthy work life balance as well as additional members of our community to embrace the opportunity. Unfortunately, this programme was cut short due to the introduction in mid-March of COVID-19 restrictions and campus closure.



Off Campus Engagement

Exercise and Well being for UCD staff working remotely to improve posture, increase shoulder mobility and improve strength.

Many of us are now working from home, in chairs and at desks we may not be used to. Taking regular breaks from working at a desk is important for our physical well being so the UCD Institute of Sport and Health created some Healthy Posture exercises to reduce back stiffness and improve posture and strength. In addition, they devised some home strength exercise circuits to burn calories and improve strength. UCD Sport & Fitness have been busy making a series of fitness classes on demand that you can access from the comfort of your home. To date, their classes include yoga, pilates and HIIT at various levels and there is something for everyone to enjoy, including a couch to 5k self-directed training plan from UCD Culture and Engagement suited for beginners who would like to build their endurance and fitness at a gentle pace.

Click [here](http://www.ucd.ie/engage/engagement/offcampusengagement/) for more information on the UCD Culture and Engagement website: (<http://www.ucd.ie/engage/engagement/offcampusengagement/>)

Healthy UCD at the UCD Festival 2020

UCD Festival 2020 - Virtual event with Healthy UCD on Wellbeing in the Life Stages through Exercise and Nutrition for all ages from childhood to senior citizens.

For this year’s edition of the UCD Festival, Healthy UCD compiled a range of resources to support your health while staying close to home. We created a range of infographics with advice for healthy eating and physical activity across the lifespan.

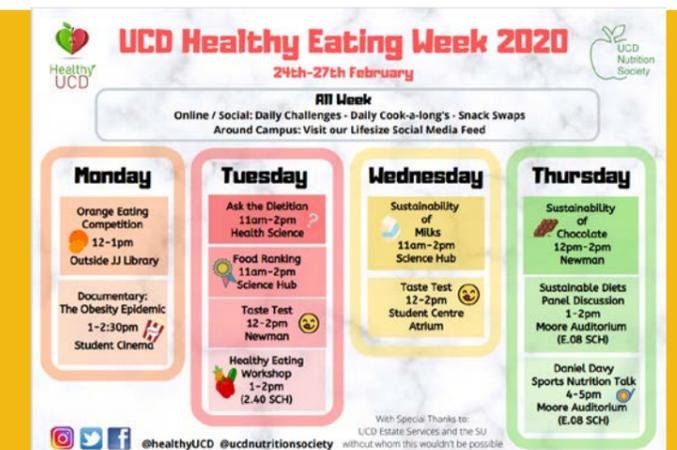
Our friends in the Institute of Sport and Health and UCD Sport and Fitness devised a number of exercise and stretching routines that can easily be done at home while, along with UCD Culture and Engagement. During this global pandemic, it is still vitally important that we stay healthy and active. However, the most effective way to achieve this differs slightly at various stages of life. We put together some infographics containing simple advice for healthy eating and getting enough physical activity across different life stages which could be downloaded.



Healthy Eating Week 2020

Healthy Eating Week is a core annual project through which Healthy UCD delivers an interactive week of activities on food and nutrition and healthy eating for all of the UCD community.

In February 2020 the students of the MSc Nutrition and Dietetics programme took responsibility for running Healthy Eating Week. An overall theme of “mythbusting” was chosen for the week which was implemented through a campaign of posters around campus aiming to debunk common food myths. In addition, a programme of daily live events was held around the campus to further this message including a life-sized social media feed, taste testing of branded vs unbranded foods, stands on food sustainability and competitions. There were also a number of talks and lectures on aspects of healthy



diets which were hosted in the O’Brien Science Centre, including one by Daniel Davy.

HIGHWAVE

Submitted by Professor Frédéric Dias -
UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics

HIGHWAVE, which began in October 2019 led by Professor Frédéric Dias, is a five-year project investigating all aspects of breaking waves. Our funding body, the European Research Council (ERC) encourages all its recipients to embrace community engagement with their ERC Public Engagement with Research Awards. In fact, a large part of HIGHWAVE involves fieldwork and relies fundamentally on the support of the communities at our Aran Islands and Connemara bases for its success.

Initial Meetings (Island and Kick-Start)

Before the official start of the project, the residents of the Aran Islands had a chance to see our plans and voice their opinions at three public meetings, one on each of the three islands, Inis Mór, Inis Meáin, and Inis Oír. Following these meetings, we decided to start the project's measurement campaign on Inis Meáin, where the community was very receptive. Since the project inception, from April to September 2019, we have initiated contacts with public agencies. Many representatives attended our kickoff meeting on the 2nd of October 2019, among them were Met Eireann, Commissioners of Irish Lights, Irish Air Corps, Marine Institute, The Office of Public Works, and others.

Continuous Engagement

We now have daily contact with the Inis Meáin community and the fishing community through the project's engineer, Arnaud, who relocated to Connemara at the start of the project. Arnaud is assimilating into the local fishing community from whom we have learnt a lot about the local waters.



Members of the UCD Wave Group hiking on a field trip to Kilmore Abbey

A large part of HIGHWAVE involves fieldwork and relies fundamentally on the support of the communities at our Aran Islands and Connemara bases for its success

A vital link between our research and the people of Inis Meáin are regular meetings with Ciara Ní Fhátharta, the manager of the Comhlacht Forbartha Inis Meáin (Inis Meáin development co-operative). Through Ciara, we continuously learn about the island and where our project can most effectively fit in and where we can provide a positive impact.

“This project has a positive impact on the local community in that local knowledge on the sea can be shared and combined with scientific information collected during the project. We look forward to what the future holds for the HIGHWAVE project on Inis Meáin, in regards to research findings and one day, it would be great to see an international research station on the Aran Islands!” - Ciara Ní Fhátharta.

“Tá tionchar dearfach ag an tionscadal seo ar an bpobal áitiúil sa mhéid is gur féidir eolas áitiúil ar an bhfarraige a roinnt agus a chomhcheangal leis an faisnéis eolaíoch a bailíodh le linn an tionscadail. Táimid ag tnúth leis an todhchaí atá ag tionscadal HIGHWAVE ar Inis Meáin, maidir le torthaí an taighde agus bheadh sé iontach stáisiún taighde idirnáisiúnta a fheiceáil ar Oileáin Árann lá éigin!”

Ciara Ní Fhátharta, Comhlacht Forbartha Inis Meáin



HIGHWAVE Project Engineer, Arnaud, setting up cameras to observe breaking waves in a preliminary field experiment

Another resident of Inis Meáin, Pat Faherty, has also been instrumental to HIGHWAVE by helping to find land for two containers which hold the project’s measuring equipment. People who pass-by will notice English and Gaelge posters explaining HIGHWAVE, our research aims, and the measuring devices around Inis Meáin. Posters allow us to communicate directly with those who see our impact on the island. On each poster is a link to the HIGHWAVE website on which we have a regularly updated public blog. From our website, the island community also has access to the daily sea-state and weather forecast collection. We post a daily five-day forecast from four different sources which the local community and supply vessels have access to.

HIGHWAVE PROJECT
erc European Research Council

Cur i láthair agus plé ar thionscnaimh i Halla Naomh Eoin: **Dé Máirt 26ú Samhain ag 19:30**

Beidh cur i láthair phoiblí ar siúl, chun eolas a thabhairt faoi 'Tionscnaimh Highwaves' do mhuintir na háite. Is tionscnaimh chéig bliana atá i gceist ag 'Tionscnaimh Highwaves', faoi bhriscadh na dtionta. Tagann maoiniú don tionscnaimh, ón gComhairle Taighde Eorpach. Tá an tionscnaimh faoi stiúir Professor Frédéric Dias ó Choláiste Ollscoile Baile Átha Cliath, Seol do Mhatamaitic agus Staitisticí. Tabharfaidh Frédéric Dias tuairisc ar an tionscnaimh, a bhaineann le tonnais na dtionta amach ó Oileáin Árann, ó Mheán Fómhair 2019 go dtí Lámias 2024. Is é sprioc an tionscnaimh ná staidéar chruinn a dhéanamh ar mhúnicíocht tonna brealacha agus ar bhriscadh na dtionta sin. D'fhéadfaid torthaí an staidéir cabhrú le boias amach anseo, maidir le feabhas a chur ar dhearadh báid agus ar chosaint an chóilá. Beidh staidéar chomh maith ar chreimeadh ghriinneall na farraige agus ar thombais aistriú gais de bharr cúbriú na dtionta cumbachtacha.

www.highwave-project.eu

Future Engagement

As HIGHWAVE continues to make progress, we would like to hold more public meetings to disseminate our research and to hear the opinions of the residents of all the Aran Islands. Beyond HIGHWAVE we hope engagement can continue with the exciting possibility of a permanent international research station on the Aran Islands.

Shaping Your Future - Transition Year programme

Submitted by Sylvia Leatham - I-Form, the SFI Research Centre for Advanced Manufacturing. Hosted by UCD's School of Mechanical & Materials Engineering.



Shaping Your Future was a joint pilot project between I-Form and Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR), funded through SFI's Discover programme, in which Transition Year students in the Midlands designed and created a new device using 3D printing.

Shaping Your Future is a project run by I-Form, the SFI Research Centre for Advanced Manufacturing hosted by UCD, and IMR, a research centre in Mullingar, in which second-level students and teachers gain hands-on experience with additive manufacturing technology.

In Shaping Your Future 2019, Transition Year students were issued with a societal challenge: design and 3D print a device to help a person with a disability or to provide humanitarian aid in a disaster zone.

Participating schools had access to a free printer, thanks to GE Additive's global donation scheme. The results of the programme showed that students had an increased understanding of engineering and manufacturing and now see these careers as a means to solve problems and improve people's lives. The hands-on aspect of the programme was the most valued by students.

Participants experienced what it means to design and create using 3D printing technology, with the guidance and support of manufacturing researchers from I-Form and IMR. Our intention was to inspire the next generation to consider high-skilled STEM careers, and to broaden teachers' views of the careers of the (near) future.

Participating TY classes came from the following schools:

- Loreto College, Mullingar in Westmeath
- Columba College in Killucan, Westmeath
- Scoil Mhuire in Trim, Meath
- Ardscoil Phádraig in Granard, Longford

The Transition Year (15-16-year olds) element of the programme commenced in September 2019 and culminated in a final and awards ceremony on December 10th. The four schools – i.e. approx. 100 students - were issued with an innovation challenge by the I-Form/IMR team: Working in teams of 4/5, to design and print a device that would help a person with a disability, or would be of humanitarian aid in a disaster zone. Each school received two visits by researchers to the classroom, two visits to IMR, and an industry visit.

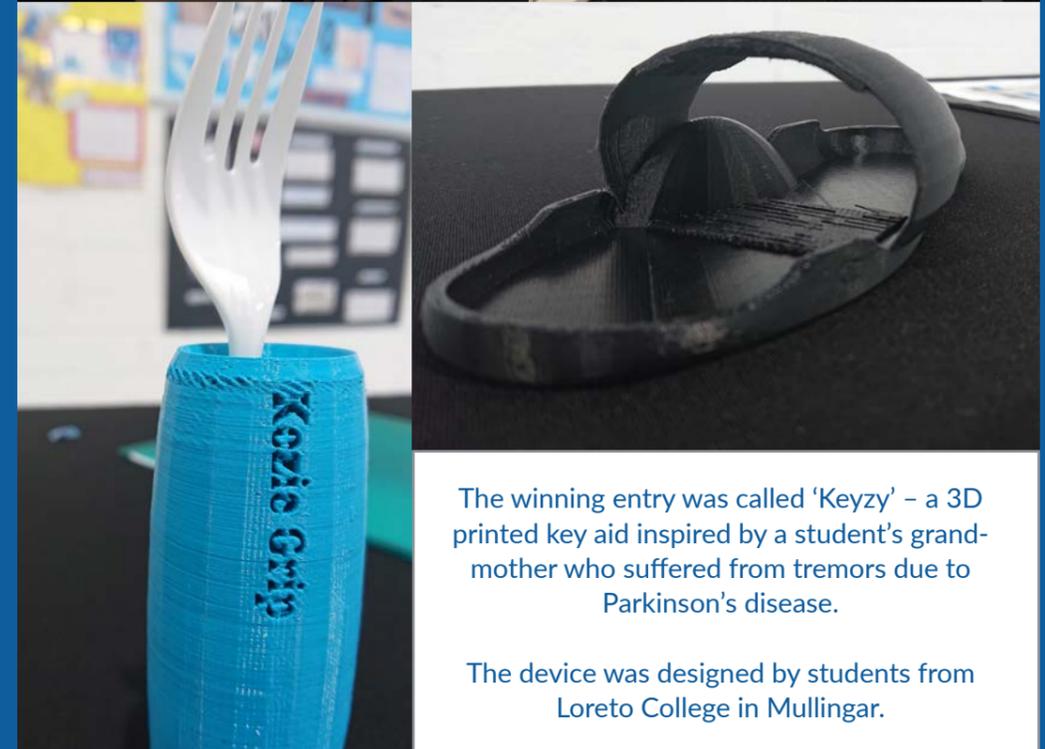


From idea to sketch to paper prototype to 3D design - Students get creative with the Shaping Your Future innovation challenge

The design is for 'Clutch your crutch' – a device to help crutch users store their crutches when not in use

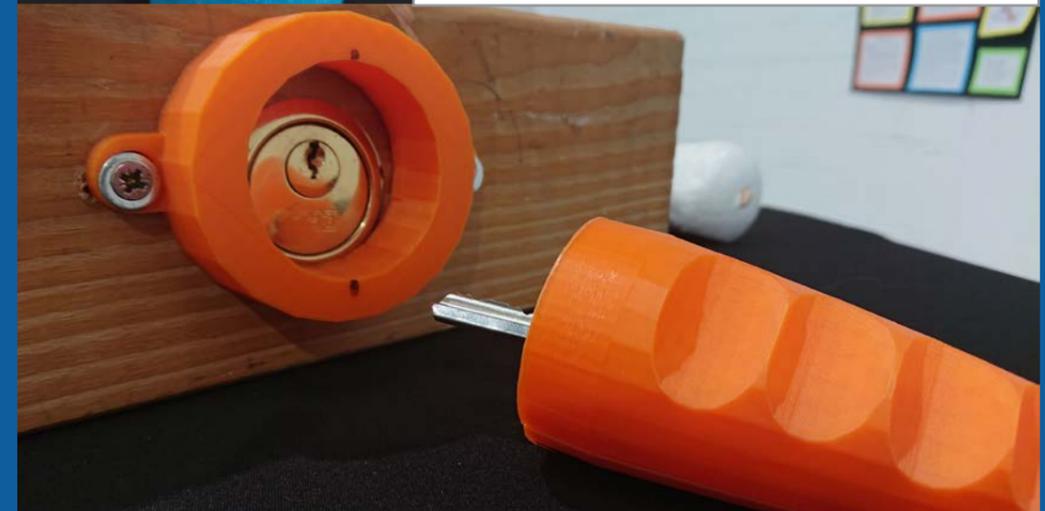
In the classroom, students were encouraged to take a 'design thinking' approach to the challenge, then later to pitch their ideas to the research team, who guided ideation and iteration throughout the project. During their first visit to IMR, students learned how to use Tinkercad software, along with interacting with researchers working in VR, robotics and 3D printing. Students competed for a place in the final, where they pitched their projects to a panel of judges.

The winning entry was called 'Keyzy' – a 3D printed key aid inspired by a student's grandmother who suffered from tremors due to Parkinson's disease. The device was designed by students from Loreto College in Mullingar.



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I-Form's Rapid Response Digital Manufacturing Hub

Submitted by Sylvia Leatham - I-Form, the SFI Research Centre for Advanced Manufacturing, & UCD College of Engineering & Architecture

The COVID-19 pandemic hit Ireland in spring 2020, causing a personal protective equipment shortage in the health system. Researchers at I-Form and UCD College of Engineering & Architecture used their expertise in additive manufacturing to provide essential PPE to frontline staff.

In March 2020, as Ireland went into lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a shortage of PPE (personal protective equipment) was beginning to impact front-line workers in the Irish health service. An A&E nurse in Tallaght University Hospital contacted the I-Form research team at UCD with a request: Could we use our 3D printing expertise to make protective face shields for Emergency Department staff?

I-Form is an advanced manufacturing research centre headquartered at UCD, funded through Science Foundation Ireland; one of its key focus areas is additive manufacturing (also known as 3D printing). This technology is highly adaptable and can be used to produce bespoke items quickly, locally and at relatively low cost.

Working through that first weekend in response to the call from Tallaght Hospital, the I-Form team set up a 'printing farm' of 3D printers in the lab, and by Sunday night had produced 300 visors to donate to the hospital. I-Form colleagues across Ireland joined forces and, over the next few months, the team produced more than 5,000 face shields, distributing them to more than 20 healthcare facilities locally, around the country and overseas.

I-Form researcher 3D printing a face shield in the I-Form lab at UCD

Researchers at I-Form and UCD College of Engineering & Architecture used their expertise in additive manufacturing to provide essential PPE to frontline staff

Face shields were distributed initially to local hospitals such as St Vincent's University Hospital, Tallaght University Hospital, Beacon Hospital, and St Columcille's Hospital; to HSE Covid-19 test centres; and to community healthcare services such as the HSE Crisis Management Team for Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow and St Michael's House. Distribution was then extended to hospitals further afield, to nursing homes and elder care facilities, to GPs, and to ambulance services around the country. Face shields were also sent overseas to a mission hospital in Tanzania, and knowledge and expertise were shared with researchers in Namibia. A heavy-duty version of the visor, more suited to outdoor use, was produced using laser cutting by colleagues in UCD School of Civil Engineering; several hundred of this model was supplied to ambulance services.

team also received calls from doctors and ICU staff concerned about the potential impact of COVID-19 on their supply chain for ventilation and respiratory equipment. The team worked with hospitals in Cavan, Sligo and Galway to produce 3D printed ventilator parts and alternative breathing devices for use in the event of a total supply chain collapse.

I-Form researchers at UCD also assisted the HSE with hand sanitizer production, bottling over 5,000 bottles of individual sanitizers for distribution to patients.

Alongside requests for face shields, the I-Form



Face shields being prepared for distribution at UCD



An ambulance driver wearing a face shield



A nurse at St Vincent's University Hospital wearing a 3D printed face shield manufactured by I-Form

Practice responses to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Intergenerational Patterns of Domestic Violence programme

Submitted by Dr Sarah Morton



This community engaged TUSLA funded research project delivered in partnership with Cuan Saor Women's Refuge, considered both the prevalence of ACEs for women accessing a domestic violence service and the integration of trauma-informed responses to women's childhood experiences into all areas of the organisation's practice.

Practitioners and speakers at the community based report launch

This project was run in partnership with a community based domestic violence agency, with multiple strands of participation and community engagement throughout and subsequent to the research process. An action research methodology was taken, with practitioners, management and Board members from Cuan Saor contributing to and participating in most aspects of the research design and implementation and follow up actions. Given that there is now a large body of international evidence that suggests that an ACE 'score' of four issues or more will significantly increase the likelihood of a person engaging in risky future behaviour and experiencing poor health outcomes it was felt that a community engaged approach would be key to developing more effective responses and interventions.

It was found that women accessing Cuan Saor had significantly higher numbers of ACEs than shown in general population studies in the UK and US, with 33% of women having four or more ACEs, the general indicator for significant long term impacts. General population stud-

ies have shown 14-16% of people have four or more ACEs. Half of the women in Cuan Saor had experienced verbal/emotional abuse as a child and over half (53 per cent) lived in a household where substances were misused (40 per cent with alcohol abuse and 13 per cent with drug misuse). Consideration of ACEs and trauma informed responses have subsequently been embedded within Cuan Saor and a secondary research project is ongoing to assess women's experiences of being asked about childhood adversities, as well as explore the interventions they have since accessed. Key in the organisational change was the use of co-operative inquiry groups with Cuan Saor practitioners and with practitioners from a range of related agencies responding to Infant Mental Health (IMH) within the region.

Based on [this research report](https://researchrepository.ucd.ie/handle/10197/11213) <https://researchrepository.ucd.ie/handle/10197/11213>, Cuan Saor have successfully obtained significant follow up funding to support the secondary research process, and to develop and provide trauma informed interventions for women and their children.

Research collaboration

led by Associate Professor Geertje Schuitema, School of Business

Following the closure announcements of the Lough Ree Power Station in Lanesborough - Ballyleague, we investigated the impacts on the peat-extraction business of Bord na Móna. We visited the community and spoke to many workers and community members to gather preliminary information about these developments in the Midlands area. The aim of this research was to explore what people in the Lanesborough - Ballyleague community think about recent energy-related developments in their community.

From our initial interviews with community members, we learned how people feel about the future of the community once the economic opportunities created by Bord na Móna and the ESB would wind down. Some alternative solutions to rejuvenate the local economy were proposed, including proposals about the rehabilitation of the bogs, and forming the Mid Shannon Wilderness Park in order to further strengthen the local tourism industry. Additionally, some community members suggested that some of the bog areas can be converted into solar farms. We also found community members were divided in their support and opposition to the Derryadd Wind Farm proposed to be built by Bord na Móna.

A report on our findings was sent back to the communities in Lanesborough - Ballyleague, Bord na Móna, and ESB. The report can be found [here](https://energyinstitute.ucd.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Ireland%E2%80%99s-Just-Transition-%E2%80%93-A-report-on-the-perceptions-of-impacted-communities-in-Ireland.pdf): <https://energyinstitute.ucd.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Ireland%E2%80%99s-Just-Transition-%E2%80%93-A-report-on-the-perceptions-of-impacted-communities-in-Ireland.pdf>



Engaging teachers and students in biotechnology

Systems Biology Ireland - Submitted by Dr Sile Lane

Systems Biology Ireland (SBI) hosts the Amgen Biotech Experience programme which equips teachers to bring biotechnology experiments into classrooms. This year we welcomed students to SBI to learn biotechnology techniques and visit our labs. Teachers joined us to help shape the future of the programme.

This year we hosted 30 girls from four schools in Dublin participating in the iWish programme and 24 boys from 5th year in Oatlands College, Co Dublin, in two visits to the UCD campus. The students joined us in the Kilty lab in the O'Brien Centre for Science to learn lab techniques researchers use every day – micropipetting and gel electrophoresis – and use these techniques to solve a crime using DNA profiling. They heard talks from Dr Derek Costello on the science of the brain and by Associate Prof. Tara McMorrow on the range of science programmes on offer in UCD. The students then visited Systems Biology Ireland and the UCD Conway Institute to see our working labs and hear first-hand what our researchers do. Drs Arman Rahman, Maria Prencipe (cancer biology) and Fiona McGillicuddy (obesity and cardiovascular disease) showed the students around the labs. The students were fascinated to see cancer cells growing in culture and to hear about how images of cancer cells are captured from tissue samples to help in the diagnosis of disease. They also heard about research on the links between obesity and cardiovascular disease.

In January, five transition year students taking part in a work placement scheme at National Institute of Biotechnology Research & Training (NIBRT) visited us in SBI. In their placement week they had learned about the theory behind tissue culture and scale-up, and at SBI they were able to meet principal investigator Dr David Gomez who showed them the tissue culture lab that his PhDs and postdocs carry out their research in, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

“I just wanted to say another massive thank you for yesterday. The lads had a brilliant day and gave really positive feedback. They loved the hands-on experience and really enjoyed the micropipetting. They also really enjoyed seeing first-hand the cancer research that goes on in UCD. I can't thank you and your team enough for organising it.”

Emily Collison, teacher, Oatlands College

In January a group of teachers came together in SBI in an ABE Teacher 'Think Tank' – a small focus group to get feedback on the Amgen Biotechnology Experience (ABE) Ireland programme and to explore how ABE Ireland can best support teachers. We discussed topics including training teachers in additional laboratory skills, offering teachers an opportunity to 'deep dive' into research topics and improving access to the programme for teachers in disadvantaged, rural and underserved areas.





UCD Global



Alumni Volunteers are making a difference at UCD

Submitted by Ria Flom

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

UCD is shaped and sustained by the involvement of alumni across the University. We are grateful to the 4,000+ alumni who have volunteered to support students, fellow alumni, and the wider UCD community in recent years.

The 2019-2020 academic year turned out to be quite an unusual one! Covid-19 has a profound impact on all of us and the pandemic has brought enormous uncertainty for students, recent graduates, and established alumni.

Despite the challenges that this difficult time presented, in some ways 2019-2020 year was no different than any other year as alumni showed immense generosity, empathy, agility, and commitment as they continued volunteering, albeit in virtual ways.

Marking its sixth year in 2019-20, the UCD Career Mentoring Programme increased its reach, now engaging with over 200 students across 17 schools in 3 colleges (Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Law and Science). Due to the increased interest from around the university this programme will continue to expand 2020/21, including Engineering schools and all of Science.



UCD is shaped and sustained by the involvement of alumni across the University.

Also in 2019-20, working in partnership with UCD Global for the third year in a row, the Alumni Buddy Programme matched incoming international students with local alumni helping them to settle into life in Ireland. Since 2017, this programme has matched over 125 students from 27 countries with alumni volunteers.

In addition to this, alumni based around the world volunteered to support student recruitment efforts through our new Global Alumni Ambassador Programme. This programme was hosted on the UCD Alumni Network (www.ucdalumninetwork.com) and ensured offer holders had access to alumni who could offer first hand advice and reassurance about studying at UCD and life in Ireland.

and virtual reunions, they nurture the lifelong friendships that are essential to our vibrant and diverse community.

By engaging alumni in volunteer roles to support their work, Colleges, Schools, and Units empower others to help make a positive impact on the experience, engagement, and employability of students.

Volunteering with UCD not only 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 eternally 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.



Throughout the year, alumni also contributed as speakers at events on campus, around the world and online. Events included Alumni Career Panels, Open Days and the Graduate Study Evening, Women in Leadership 2020, UCD (virtual) Festival, UCD In Conversation series, UCD What it Takes series, Overseas Chapter events and many, many more.

From mentoring students and speaking at events, to writing testimonials and contributing to virtual conferring ceremonies and orientation videos, 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 in the midst of this unprecedented time.

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 online events

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

UCD Alumni Buddy Programme

Submitted by Colin Tannam

Since 2017, the UCD Alumni Buddy Programme has been connecting incoming international students with local UCD Alumni.



The purpose of the UCD Alumni Buddy Programme is to:

- provide friendly support to students, especially on their arrival in Ireland
- help them integrate into the local community and become familiar with UCD, Dublin, Ireland and Irish cultural ways
- facilitate intercultural exchanges between students and alumni.



"I would encourage more and more incoming students to join this initiative."

Through this collaborative programme between UCD Alumni Relations and UCD Global, over 125 students from 27 countries have been matched with Alumni volunteers to date.

Alumni buddies impact positively on the lives of international students by helping them to become accustomed to life in Ireland and make the most of their University experience. This includes basic orientation to the UCD campus and Dublin, giving information on navigating public services such as the health and transport systems, providing recommendations of places to visit and social outings.

Benefits of the programme, reported by students, include orientation support on arrival in Dublin, general and practical advice, becoming acquainted to Dublin and places closeby, mentoring, friendship and learning about Irish culture. On several occasions, Alumni buddies have gone far beyond what was expected e.g. by inviting students to their homes for family dinners, including on Christmas Day. During the Covid-19 lockdown, some buddies even brought essential supplies to students.

Over the years, students have also enjoyed participating in group-led activities and outings including hikes from Bray to Greystones and a visit to Áras an Uachtaráin. Students who have engaged in the programme include Undergraduate, Graduate and Visiting students, and come from a range of countries including Brazil, China, India, Pakistan, Russia, Spain, the United States of America and Zambia.

For the past two years, the programme has focused on supporting and matching Graduate students, based on demand. Both Belfield and Smurfit students have participated in the programme - this has been a useful way to bring students from both campuses together.

A collaborative programme between UCD Alumni Relations and UCD Global

Although it is not feasible to match all student applicants to a buddy due to capacity, there are opportunities to network with Alumni and fellow students at group events. These include meetings which take place in the UCD Global Lounge, day trips and online events.

Several students, who participated on the programme as newly arrived students in year one, made the transition to become Alumni buddies on the programme following their graduation.



“Being acquainted with the local area and tips on being a student in Ireland. There is more to that, however, it is that I was able to learn more about the Irish culture and customs; from tea parties to Christmas dinners to walks in the mountains. I have been immersed in all things Irish... which I have enjoyed.”

Student participant, UCD Alumni Buddy Programme

“The Alumni Buddy programme is perhaps the best thing that UCD has organised all year. I learned so much from my buddy - from tips on how to navigate the city to professional mentoring. I also think that they did a great job with matching students with an Alumni that has similar interests.”

Student participant, UCD Alumni Buddy Programme

Experiences of Alumni Buddies

Alumni buddies have also reported on benefits from the programme, including cultural exchange and learning about traditions in their buddy's home country. Some volunteers were motivated to participate in the programme, as they had previously studied abroad.

“My own experience of living and studying in a foreign country [and the] opportunity to pay it forward [motivated me to sign up for the programme].”

“I was an international student in the University of Alabama where I had two host families and they made such a difference to my US experience so this buddy system allows me to give back.”

“I feel lucky to have met two such wonderful students who will remain in my life.”

Some group meet-ups and the wrap event for 2019/20 were changed from an in-person meet-up to a Zoom meeting due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, the enthusiasm from participants was very much evident at the virtual meetings.

Future Alumni Buddy group meetings will take place virtually, and in-person - where feasible and permissible within public health guidelines.

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

UCD and Homeless Period Ireland

Submitted by Mary Gallagher-Cooke

Since its launch in March 2018, the partnership with Homeless Period Ireland (HPI) in UCD, 1,000's of period products have been donated and delivered to people in very difficult circumstances, including homelessness, in 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 people experiencing period poverty and believes that period products should be made available to all people who menstruate. Partnered with the practical aim of support through regular and one-off donation collections, staff and students have partnered on visibility of period poverty with a number of presentations in classes.

In November 2019, Mary Gallagher-Cooke accompanied Claire Hunter, Founder of Homeless Period Ireland to present and discuss practical and logistical measures to alleviate period poverty at a Government Advisory Committee. From November 2019-January 2020, several donation drives took place on campus for period products, building on the regular donations through static collection points and fulfilling the dual aim of raising awareness of period poverty and providing practical support.

Our donation points in UCD are purple boxes, the colour often associated with dignity in the Suffragette movement. Currently, due to the COVID-19 social distancing measures across campus, our collections have been hampered. Volunteers in UCD are currently working on ways to continue our support to HPI during the pandemic.

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



Homeless Period IRELAND



SPARC (Supporting Partnerships and Realising Change)

UCD Careers Network - Submitted by Rebecca Boyle

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.



Fair and Sustainable Fashion: #TakecareRepairRecycle

Fair and Sustainable Fashion aims to raise awareness of the environmental and human impacts of the fashion industry. Led jointly by Rachel Wang and Charlotte Thumser, along with a talented and enthusiastic group of students, this team hosted a number of initiatives over the past year.



The team started with a survey to find out how much the UCD community knew about fast fashion and its impact which received over 400 responses. Armed with this new data, the group created social media pages on Facebook (@ucdfairandsustainablefashion) and Instagram (@ucdfairfashion) to raise awareness of the issues and publicise ways in which people could make a positive change. The first event held by Fair and Sustainable Fashion was a virtual panel discussion 'How can we move to slow fashion?' which included Alice Dawson-Lyons, Head of Communications and Campaigns at Oxfam Ireland, Aisling Byrne, Co-Founder and CEO at Nu Wardrobe and Paula Martinez Pavon, Founder of the UCD clothes swap. This can be viewed on the team's SPARC page.

Students and staff were also invited to take place in a Fair Fashion Upcycling Competition. To enter, participants had to submit a before and after photograph of an upcycled item they had given a new lease of life. First prize in this competition went to Niamh Gurrin whose amazing trousers were made from old bedsheets (see image below). The team aims to continue the campaign, hosting virtual workshops and continue to spread this important message. You can follow their progress on their social media pages.



Believe it or Not

The aim of Believe It Or Not was to identify credible online resources that provide accessible information and support for mental health concerns of UCD students. A recent study by UCD researchers found that young people between the ages of 18 and 25 use the Internet to support their mental health, but many have difficulties in identifying credible sources.

Together, a team of students and staff members, have researched and compiled a list of indicators to identify credible online mental health resources. An online crowdsourcing campaign was held with UCD students to hear which online mental health resources they are currently utilising. This helped the team to compile a useful and reliable online mental health resource.

The project team disseminated to UCD students through a campaign on campus utilising social media, posters and posting the list on the Student Advisor's webpage.

To view more SPARC projects and to find out how you can get involved in the next SPARC programme, visit <https://www.ucd.ie/careers/sparc/>



Centre for Arthritis Research

Submitted by Dr Emma Dorris

A picture paints a thousand WORDs:
Empowering young people living with
arthritis to advocate for themselves.

WORD Day (World yOung Rheumatic Diseases Day) is an international annual event that takes place in March. The ultimate aim of WORD Day is to raise the awareness that children and young people can get rheumatic diseases too.

The Irish Children's Arthritis Network (iCAN) is a volunteer-led charity and national support network for children with arthritis and their families. iCAN informs, supports, and advocates for over one thousand children and teens in Ireland. iCAN have been patient research partners of the UCD Centre for Arthritis Research since the inception of the Patient Voice in Arthritis Research patient and community involvement initiative. Through this relationship, iCAN and Dr. Emma Dorris (UCD School of Medicine and Centre for Arthritis Research) have worked on a number of community engagement projects together.

For WORD Day 2020 we wanted to raise awareness but also wanted to empower these young people to advocate for themselves. Visual communication is skyrocketing. Information is now primarily consumed digitally and via social media platforms, so it made sense to use a visual campaign. We live in the age of content overload. These days, less text = more engagement, this means that just any image won't do.

We brought together our knowledge and experience of the science behind communicating, our experience with advocating, and the experience of photography to help young people living with rheumatic diseases to advocate for themselves. UCD Centre for Arthritis Research, iCAN and Cahir Media worked together to teach young people living with arthritis and rheumatic disease how to use photography to advocate for what is important for them. These images were then used as part of the campaign for WORD Day 2020.

Photograph taken as part of the
WORD Day Campaign

We wanted to raise awareness but also wanted to empower these young people to advocate for themselves

Photos are powerful and can make you feel a variety of emotions. We worked together to teach young people how to advocate through photography (a research process known as “PhotoVoice”).

The overall goal of this project was to translate research skills to tools that can be used for advocacy. The photographs will be used to raise awareness for Young People Living with RMDs, but the skills will last much longer.



Photograph taken as part of the WORD Day Campaign

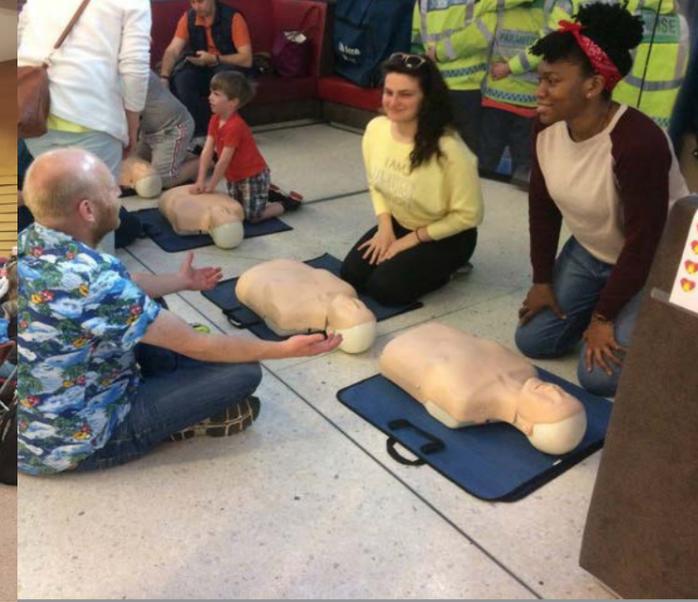
“The workshop gave me the ability to show people what my everyday life is like but not in an obvious way. Through the photos people are made to think about what we live with every day and that you can rise above it and never give up”

Daniel, iCAN Teen

MERIT3 (Medical Emergency Responders: Integration & Training) Project

UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science - Submitted by Mairead Egan

UCD CEMS and Irish Community Rapid Response (ICRR) have worked closely together in recent years in the successful implementation of the MERIT3 project - the roll-out of Rapid Response Vehicles in the greater Dublin area and other key towns/cities across Ireland.



Together our work provides significant reputation enhancement for the University, with our UCD doctors regularly leading and supporting existing emergency response services such as the HSE Ambulance Service and Dublin Fire Brigade. We are also a regular presence at Dublin airport.



UCD Centre for Emergency Medicine is providing a vital emergency service both nationally and locally, including across the UCD campus. We are currently delivering these services:

- (a) A doctor-led volunteer service available on a 24/7 basis within the University environs which provides acute medical care (such as cardiac arrest and acute trauma support)
- (b) Three on-campus Rapid Response Vehicles (RRV) with dedicated parking to facilitate rapid campus entry/exit
- (c) Frequent call-outs to emergencies within and around the UCD wider geographic area
- (d) Annual free Basic Life Support training for students and staff - for World Restart a Heart Day and the UCD Festival.



UCD College of Business

'Change Starts Here' Webinar Series

UCD Smurfit Executive Development launches 'Change Starts Here' Webinar Series.



UCD Smurfit Executive Development's 'Change Starts Here' webinar series is a dynamic, new series featuring UCD's faculty and expert practitioners who share their insights from the world of business. Available to the public for the first time, this webinar series is designed to engage the public with insights and tips from Ireland's leading executive business educators.

Episodes include:

- Performance Under Pressure by John O'Gorman, Business Performance Author, Accredited Coach, Facilitator and Researcher on Performance Potential and Growth
- Governing in times of Crisis, Professor Niamh Brennan, Michael MacCormac Professor of Management at University College Dublin and Founder/Academic Director of the UCD Centre for Corporate Governance
- Improved decisions making for Executives and Organisations by Stephen Boyle, Negotiation Trainer
- Strategy in Turbulent Times, Professor Patrick Gibbons, Management
- Helping Ourselves and Other Change, by Colm Murphy, Coaching Practitioner Programme Director



Africa: Place, Belongingness, Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development Workshop

The Africa: Place, Belongingness, Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development workshop convened researchers, practitioners and policy makers with the objective to explore diverse business initiatives and models being implemented by entrepreneurs in Africa to address the continent's unique development needs.

The workshop was led by UCD College of Business Assistant Professor in Business in Africa Dr Penelope Muzanenhamo.

Dr. Penelope Muzanenhamo is an Assistant Professor in Business in Africa specializing in Marketing, and the Africa lead within the Centre for Business and Society (CeBaS) at UCD College of Business



Taking place in November, the event explored how a new generation of international entrepreneurs driven by commitment to Africa's sustainable development are seeking novel ways to give something back to the continent. Many such entrepreneurs are going beyond corporate philanthropy, while increasing their presence in multiple African countries. They are making decisions which not only shape the continent's development trajectory significantly, but also impact the integration of African firms in global value chains.

Cont: However, in what ways are these trends related to place, belongingness and sustainable development, particularly in a world where prominent socio-political actors are advocating 'putting their countries first', and climate change is threatening livelihoods globally? The above stated question represents the main theme that the workshop explored with researchers, business practitioners and policy makers.

A team of experienced researchers, including keynote speaker Dr Eva Roberts, CEO and Founder Morvigor, Sierra Leone, and special guest, Dr Sangu Delle, Managing Director Africa Holdings, investor and author, provided guidance on developing and publishing business research on Africa in leading global journals.

H2020 workshop: Research and Innovation in Smart Grids, Energy Storage and Local Energy Systems in Ireland

Organised by UCD College of Business Assistant Professor Paula Carroll, the H2020 workshop, Research and Innovation in Smart Grids, Energy Storage and Local Energy Systems in Ireland, addressed the government of Ireland's climate action plan which aims to achieve a net zero carbon energy systems.

The plan includes specific targets for renewable electricity, heat and transport and sets out sectoral roadmaps. These targets present challenges and opportunities that could be addressed by research and innovation. The EU European Technology & Innovation Platform (ETIP) Smart Networks for Energy Transition (SNET) aims to guide Research, Innovation and Competitiveness initiatives to support the EU's Energy Union strategy, and has set out a roadmap to achieve the objectives by 2050.

The workshop explored the opportunities and challenges for research and innovation in smart grids, energy storage and local energy systems in Ireland.

Project partners and stakeholders shared their experience and vision for the future of Smart Grid Research and Innovation and had the opportunity to contribute directly to the design and functionalities of the coming PANTERA platform. The workshop also aimed to support organisations wanting to optimise their R&D efforts in the Smart Grids domain.



L:R: Professor Gerardine Doyle, Director of UCD Smurfit School, US Ambassador to Ireland Edward F Crawford, Professor Niamh Brennan

Impact Makers – UCD Smurfit MBA Speaker Series

In 2019, UCD Smurfit School launched the IMPACT MAKERS- UCD Smurfit MBA Speaker Series. The event series features business leaders who share unique insights from their extraordinary careers. These leaders are characterised by vision, empathy and a track record of global business success that has a positive impact on society.

Launching the series was US ambassador to Ireland Edward F. Crawford, who chose this platform to deliver his first public speaking engagement in the role at UCD Smurfit School. Using the principle, "Rejection is energy," Ambassador Crawford, a serial entrepreneur and visionary business leader, built a billion-dollar company before accepting the Ambassador appointment. Niamh Brennan, Professor of Management and Founder/Academic Director of the UCD Centre for Corporate Governance, interviewed Ambassador Crawford in this lively and interactive conversation.



Professor of Business and Society Andrea Prothero; Dr Rhona Mahony, first female Master of the National Maternity Hospital; Chair of the UCD Smurfit School Irish Advisory Board, Liam FitzGerald; Professor Gerardine Doyle, Director of UCD Smurfit School.

Dr Mahony also discussed why she believes the best vehicle to make essential changes to current healthcare systems is through medics equipped with strong business and leadership skills. She also explained how fundamental business skills influenced her success and why she believes that there should be early engagement between the disciplines of business in third-level education and of medical professionals, as a way to affect positive healthcare change.

In February, the series next welcomed Dr Rhona Mahony, first female Master of the National Maternity Hospital. Professor of Business and Society Andrea Prothero interviewed Dr Mahony on the topic of leading through adversity.

Dr Mahony discussed how her motivation to have a positive impact on national health care drove her to persist through extraordinary challenges in advancing the future of Ireland's leading maternity hospital.

During a busy seven-year term, the deep challenges of the role lived in the public eye amplified the themes of strategic leadership through adversity, the impact of public scrutiny on personal identity and the dynamic of conflict and hierarchy.

MSc in Project Management Tools & Techniques Charity Projects

UCD Smurfit Graduate School of Business
Asst. Prof. Joe Houghton, Director, MSc in Project Management

Student teams engage with a charity to raise funds and/or awareness

Every year since 2008, the students on the MSc in Project Management programme at UCD Smurfit Graduate School of Business have completed a very special assignment as part of their module “Tools & Techniques”. Each student team chooses a different charity and then engages with that organisation to see how best they can help. It may be fundraising by running events, or it might be raising awareness through social media campaigns or other outreach efforts.

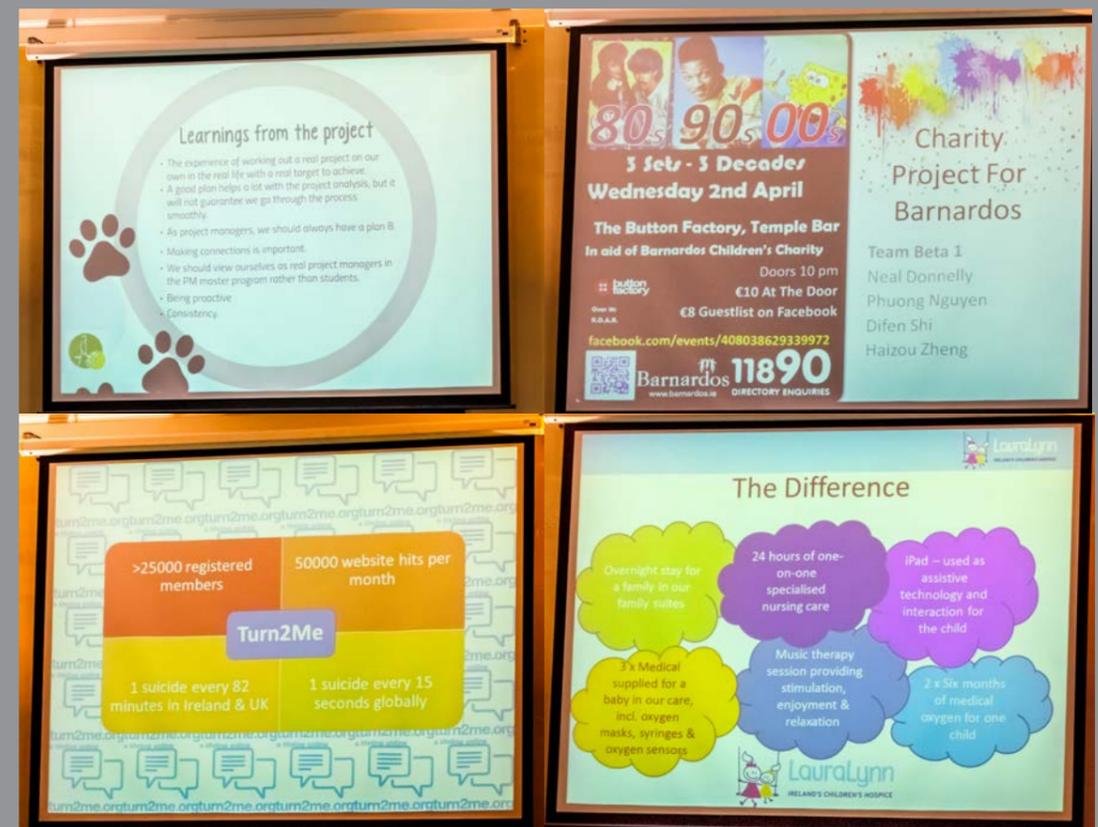
The students plan and execute their projects, measure their impact, and document their progress, and hurdles, as they go. At the end of the semester, we celebrate their efforts with an event where all the various projects are presented with members from each charity in attendance.

Over the past 10 years, Smurfit students have raised well over €500,000 for a multitude of worthy causes, creating positive outcomes and reaching lives across the world with their efforts. For many, this was the students’ first encounter with the charity sector, and it has led students to engage with the sector outside their studies, even becoming directors of charities to further help, and igniting a passion for community engagement - and for some, changing career path to move into the sector for employment.

It’s very common for feedback from the programme to highlight this assignment as one of the highlights of their time at Smurfit, and it’s a great example of how university study is about helping our students become global citizens, with a wider awareness and consideration for social issues and needs than might otherwise be the case.



Smurfit MSc in PM Charity Presentations



Swap Clothes Market

At UCD Smurfit School a Swap Clothes Market was held in support of Dublin Simon Homeless Community Ireland. Taking place at the end of October, the Market encouraged people to:

- Bring one piece of clothing and swap it for another
- Buy previously donated clothing
- Simply donate

All funds and clothes raised were donated to Dublin Simon Homeless Community Ireland in celebration of years of working with those experiencing homelessness.



UCD Africa Business 2020 Conference

The UCD Africa Business 2020 Conference took place on 27th February, at UCD Quinn School. The event was organized by Dr David Nyaluke under the UCD Proudly Made in Africa (PMIA) Fellowship in Business and Development and Mr Killian Stokes, Moyee Coffee Ireland and Dr Penelope Muzanenhamo, Assistant Professor of Business in Africa (Marketing Group). The UCD Business students team was led by Ms. Medha Gupta of Smurfit Graduate Business School.

The conference brought together over 100 participants, including lecturers, business students from UCD College of Business, other Irish universities and members of African and Irish business community. Dr Asha Rose Migiyo, the Ambassador and Ms Rose Kitandula, the chancellor of the embassy of Tanzania for Ireland and the United Kingdom, were also in attendance.

The theme of this year's conference was 'Discussing African Capitalism'. After opening remarks delivered by Associate Professor Maeve Houlihan, Associate Dean and Director of UCD Quinn School, Dr David Nyaluke and Ms. Vikki Brennan (CEO of PMIA), the keynote address on Africapitalism was given by Professor Kenneth Amaeshi, the Chair in Business and Sustainable Development and Director of the Sustainable Business Initiative at Edinburgh University, and one of the leading scholars on Africapitalism.

Following the keynote, members of the audience participated in a panel discussion on Africapitalism and Doing Business in Africa, chaired by Dr Penelope Muzanenhamo. The five panellists were, Prof Kenneth Amaeshi, Ms. Neltah Chadamoyo, Co-founder GoCHA and inventor of a solar cooker, Mr. Richard Rugaya, Co-founder and president of Gorilla Highlands Coffee company based in Uganda, Mr. Killian Stokes, UCD Innovation Academy graduate and co-owner of Moyee Coffee Ireland, a social fair chain enterprise that sources and roasts their coffee beans in Ethiopia and Mr. Brett Beach, Co-founder and CEO of Made in Africa (MIA), a chocolate company based in Madagascar.

The conference concluded with participants taking part in the 2020 Master Class on Doing Business in Africa which was delivered by Brett Beach. In the discussion, hosted by Dr Julius Nyawung (Business Lecturer, Maynooth University), Brett shared the journey of developing a fair chain chocolate made in Africa and establishing its global market.



UCD Business Impact Podcast

UCD Business Impact podcast launches in response to Coronavirus economic crisis.

The UCD Business Impact podcast launched in March 2020 and features world-renowned academics, industry leaders and alumni from Ireland's leading undergraduate and graduate business schools. With Ireland's largest university alumni base, UCD is in a unique position to offer a truly global perspective on the economic and health challenges we face - looking at the business, social, workplace and health implications of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as a post-pandemic world.

"We knew it was imperative to continue to serve our community during one of the greatest challenges of our generation," says Professor Anthony Brabazon, Dean of the UCD College of Business. "We needed to be able to reach multiple audiences at a time when many people are working from home, often directly involved in addressing the economic and business fallout of the crisis."

The 30-minute episode series is hosted by former Business Post editor and current UCD Quinn School lecturer Emmet Oliver. Each week, thought leaders join Emmet to discuss the most compelling issues affecting society from a business perspective.

"The Covid-19 pandemic is primarily a public health crisis, but it has huge economic and business consequences, and we wanted to find a way to focus on those elements and some wider societal themes, too," said Oliver.

The podcast contains episodes from world-leading academic experts from UCD College of Business as well as global business leaders, including:

- Professor Niamh Brennan, Corporate Governance
- Professor Jan Rosier, Business and Biotechnology
- Professor Mary Lambkin-Coyle, Marketing
- Professor Pat Gibbons, Management
- Aengus Kelly, CEO and Executive Director of AerCap
- Tara McCarthy, CEO of Bord Bia
- Andrew McDowell, VP of the European Investment Bank



UCD Business Impact Podcast

As we move into a phase of living with the pandemic and eventually a post-pandemic world, the podcasts will continue to address the most pressing issues in the world of business and society.

"The podcasts allow our students to see the impact that members of the UCD Business community are having in Ireland and around the world, making a difference not only in business, but healthcare, sustainability and technology," said Professor Gerardine Doyle, Director of UCD Smurfit School.

The conversations offer insight, spark curiosity and challenge listeners to rethink how they do business in a changing world.

New episodes will be released every Tuesday and are available on iTunes, as well as the UCD Smurfit School website and UCD Quinn School website.

PANEL DISCUSSION PERFORMING IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Interviewer: **Conor McNamara**, sports commentator & journalist



**FREE
VIRTUAL
EVENT**

UCD Festival: Leadership in Sport, Learnings for Business

Ireland's biggest sports stars discuss leadership, teamwork and resilience in a time without sport.

How are Ireland's top athletes staying mentally and physically fit through quarantine?

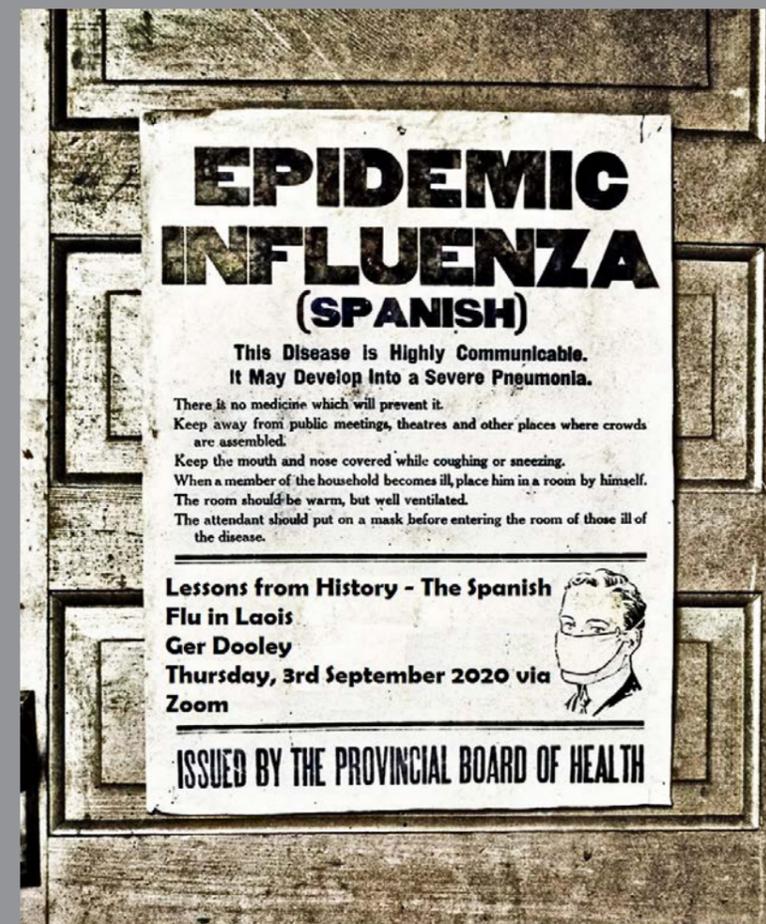
UCD Business alumni and top athletes Johnny Sexton (Leinster & Irish Rugby), Cliona Crammond (All-American Soccer & UCD Soccer), and Brian Fenton and Cian O'Sullivan (Dublin Senior Football Team, GAA) joined a virtual discussion to share how leadership, teamwork and resilience skills helped them to stay focussed through the pandemic. They offered top tips to listeners on how they can keep short and long-term goals on track for life after lockdown. Interviewed by BBC's Match of the Day sports commentator, Conor McNamara.

Online Lectures for the Laois Heritage Society

Centre for Distance Learning, College of Business
Submitted by Gerard Dooley

Research and delivery of three hour long lectures to the Laois Heritage Society on Irish History during COVID19 Pandemic

The Laois Heritage Society is a group of volunteers who strive to preserve the cultural, archaeological, and historic legacy of County Laois. Much of their activities are based around monthly lectures on matters of historical interest relating to Laois, the broader midlands, and Ireland.



The COVID19 pandemic, unfortunately, put a stop to these public lectures. To keep up momentum during the unique summer of 2020 which saw County Laois go through initial lockdown, and subsequent increased restrictions along with Offaly and Kildare, I offered to present lectures via Zoom. The lectures were on the life and times of Colonel Edward Despard, a history of entertainment in Ireland, and Lessons to be learned from the Spanish Flu. The lectures proved a great success, attracting interested people from around the world.

Flyer advertising the third lecture of the summer series, on the Spanish Flu Pandemic

UCD Contextual Behavioural Science Laboratory (UCD CBS Lab)

Submitted by Joseph Lavelle

The UCD CBS Lab #FEELINGBetter Project

The UCD Contextual Behavioural Science (CBS) Lab developed the #FEELINGBetter Project to promote prosperity and alleviate suffering on campus. The project team was comprised of undergraduate, masters and doctoral students and staff members from the UCD School of Psychology.

After a successful first year support by the UCD SPARC initiative, the #FEELINGBetter Project returned for its second year in conjunction with the UCD Students' Union. Varsha Eswara Murthy (@varsha_emurthy) launched the second year of the initiative in October with a workshop on self-compassion. During Mind Body and Soul, in November, Joseph Lavelle (@JMTL93) introduced attendees to skills to respond and open up to stress differently.

Joseph Lavelle opened trimester two with a workshop on doing what matters in 2020. Taking place in February, the event sought to rejuvenate and revitalise New Year resolutions which had hit a stumbling block by connecting attendees with what matters to them and coming up with tangible ways of putting this into practice. February also saw the return of "Evacuation from Procrastination"

with Alison Stapleton (@ACTually_Alyson) and Joseph Lavelle sharing science-backed ways to give all-nighters and week-long Netflix binges the boot.

In March, following increased COVID-19 restrictions in Ireland, #FEELINGBetter moved online, beginning with "Coping with Anxiety and Uncertainty Around COVID-19". This Zoom workshop for UCD staff and students was led by Professor Louise McHugh (@louisemchugh) and Varsha Eswara Murthy. A recording of this workshop was distributed to attendees and highlighted the demand for these kinds of videos.

Following this, from April to May, the UCD CBS Lab



February kicked off with "Doing what matters to you in 2020"

produced a series of #FEELINGBetter Youtube videos with topics ranging from values-based living with Greg Stynes (@StynesGreg) SMART goal-setting with Ana Gallego, self-compassion with Varsha Eswara Murthy, present moment awareness with Alison Stapleton, and managing worry with Caroline Leão de Morais (@carolines-leao).

In August, in preparation for the 2020-21 academic term, Alison Stapleton and Joseph Lavelle produced another #FEELINGBetter video series entitled "Escape Procasti-nation". Via pop culture references and snazzy visuals, this series gave viewers tools to tackle the roots of procrastination, namely avoidance, fusion, and a lack of values clarity.

In total, over 200 students and staff attended the various #FEELINGBetter workshops, with the YouTube series accumulating 2000 views to date. Given the response and appetite for this initiative, the UCD CBS Lab (@UCD_CBSLab) will continue and expand #FEELINGBetter in the 2020-21 academic year via monthly online workshops and videos tailored to the community's needs.



Mr. Joseph Lavelle pictured on the thumbnail of episode 5 of Escape Procasti-nation



Mr. Joseph Lavelle prepares to reinvigorate attendees' New Year's Resolutions



Ana Gallego discusses SMART goal-setting as part of the FEELING Better YouTube series

UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research

Submitted by Síle Lane

The Patient Voice in Cancer Research

The Patient Voice in Cancer Research (PVCR) is a network of patients and carers working with researchers to shape the future of cancer research.

The Patient Voice in Cancer Research (PVCR) is an initiative to actively engage cancer patients, researchers and other interested parties in discussions and decision-making processes to positively impact cancer research and outcomes for patients. In 2019-2020, PVCR ran several events bringing together those with a lived experience of cancer with some of Ireland's top cancer researchers, from UCD and across the country.

In October 2019 PVCR worked with the National Biobank Working Group bringing together 60 members of the public, cancer patients, carers, advocates and researchers in Cork, to provide input into the content and language of documents used by researchers nationally when sourcing participants to take part in health research biobanks.

One of these events that PVCR took part in was an inaugural Dragon's Den event in February 2020, held in Galway in partnership with the UK's National Cancer Research Institute.



Groups of patients came together to listen to a research group's presentation on their specific question or challenge. Patients then acted as "friendly Dragons", quizzing researchers about their plans and giving invaluable insights from their "expert" lived experiences.

The event included 10 research groups and 80 patients who gave their unique input and feedback on (i) specific research ideas, (ii) a draft patient survey, (iii) a poster to recruit patients onto a study, (iv) a potential medical device intervention and (v) whether plain English explanations of research were clear for patients.

With Covid-19 restrictions, we moved our Dragons Den events online in June 2020. In the first event, Dr Cathriona Kearns, MSCA COFUND fellow at the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research, worked with patients to develop a survivorship breast cancer treatment plan. In the second event, the Mater Hospital's Dr Stephanie Bollard and PhD UCD Advance scholar Jane Howard sought patient input on the development of a questionnaire assessing public attitudes towards comparative oncology.

Altogether this year PVCR has engaged nearly 150 patients, caregivers and members of the public to help 13 research groups shape their research and communications. All researchers have reported back to the PVCR community on the impact of this incredible expert voice for the research going forward.

PVCR is chaired by Professor Amanda McCann PhD, Principal Investigator and Senior Conway Fellow and Professor in the UCD School of Medicine. The steering group includes UCD researchers and early career researchers alongside cancer patients, patient advocates, carers and representatives of medical research charities. PVCR is hosted in the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research.



PVCR event in Cork, October 2019



Elaine Quinn, Dr Barbara Hughes and Professor Amanda McCann of the UCD Conway Institute and PVCR at the PVCR event in Cork, October 2019



PVCR event in Cork, October 2019



PVCR event in Galway, February 2020



PVCR event in Galway, February 2020



PVCR event in Galway, February 2020



The Patient Voice

In Cancer Research

UCD Explore

Submitted by Lorna Byrne, UCD Explore

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 Kilty Discovery Suite, a dedicated outreach resource located on the ground floor of the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science. The suite comprises 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 STEAM.

In 2019-2020, funding from Science Foundation Ireland and Intel Ireland allowed 600 pupils from 25 schools to participate in our schools programmes. In March 2020, the school programmes were unfortunately postponed which would have allowed a further 500 pupils to visit UCD Science and participate in a STEAM workshop. This year UCD Explore included a single visit programme for 4th and 5th class, a programme for 6th class (Solas College), programmes for 4th class pupils (Suite Science, EIRSAT-1, Little Big Questions), a physics programme for Post-Leaving Certificate students, a 6-week programme for students with mild learning disabilities, and opportunities for staff and students to refine their communication and presentation skills and develop new content for outreach and community engagement.



Space Scientists by 4th class pupils St. Louise's, Ballyfermot.

Solas Project

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, a programme that introduces 6th class pupils to the idea of attending third level education. This is a 3 part programme for 6th class pupils which includes a pre classroom visit, the UCD Explore Science workshop and short campus tour, and a post trip classroom session. The programme aims to begin a conversation with children at risk of educational inequality about their potential to reach college while also building their sense of self-worth.



Women+ in STEM Society

In 2019-2020, we were delighted to partner with the Women+ in STEM Society. These undergraduate students, coordinated by outreach officers Ellen Nealon and Fiona McPartlin, shared their passion for STEM with the 6th class pupils from Solas College by creating and delivering wonderful hands-on STEM workshops and facilitating interactive discussions with the pupils. Even though the schools' programmes were postponed in March, the Women+ in STEM Society have been hard at work recently creating lesson plans outlining experiments that can be done in classrooms so that these programmes can continue in an online format.



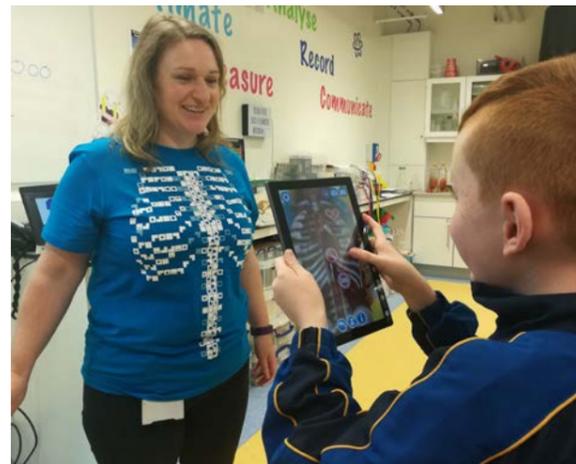
Suite Science

Suite Science is a superbly entertaining and informative science club for children from 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. At Suite Science, the children decide what topics they'd like to learn about and the Suite Science team creates a bespoke STEM programme tailored to each individual class requirements. In 2019, Suite Science completed its three year cycle with 4th class pupils from St. Annes and St. Thomas' primary schools in Tallaght. Since 2017, 400 pupils from 20 DEIS schools have participated in the Suite Science Programme.



Little Big Questions

Little Big Questions (LBQ) builds on similar previous work in the hugely successful and impactful Suite Science initiative. Primary school pupils from 4th class visit 6 times over the course of six weeks. The children decide what topics they are going to learn about and the LBQ team (Dr. Aoibheánn Bird, Dr. Sharon Shannon, Philip Smyth, Lorna Byrne) creates a programme for each individual class. The children's questions then form the basis for the content of the Little Big Questions podcast where presenters Phil Smyth (RTÉ, Simply Science) and Julie Gould (The Nature Careers Podcast) engage with the children and scientific researchers relating each piece to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The idea behind this is to not only frame every action taken in a sustainable context but also to show



the children involved that their collective actions can impact the whole world positively. The podcast is set to be broadcast through the new RTÉ podcast channel which is linked with the RTÉ player.

New Court School Programme

The New Court School, Bray, is a special education school catering for students with a mild general learning disability. This year, 24 students from New Court took part in a 6-week programme to explore exciting and accessible science with hands-on interactive workshops that encourage a lifelong love of science. These are some of the most rewarding sessions we do, not just for the students but for the Explore team too.

International Women and Girls in Science Day 2020

In 2020, the UCD Women in STEM and College of Science EDI committees held its annual event to celebrate 'Women and Girls in Science'. Pupils from 4th class in St. Louise's, Ballyfermot attended the event and participated in a science workshop emphasising the role women and girls have in science. This was followed by a poster session for UCD staff and students where the St. Louise's pupils interviewed the UCD Science STEM role models to find out more about their work and why they like science. After this, secondary school pupils from Killyarden Secondary School attended a panel and Q&A session chaired by Dr. Antoinette Perry which featured some of our STEM role models and current female PhD students as panelists.

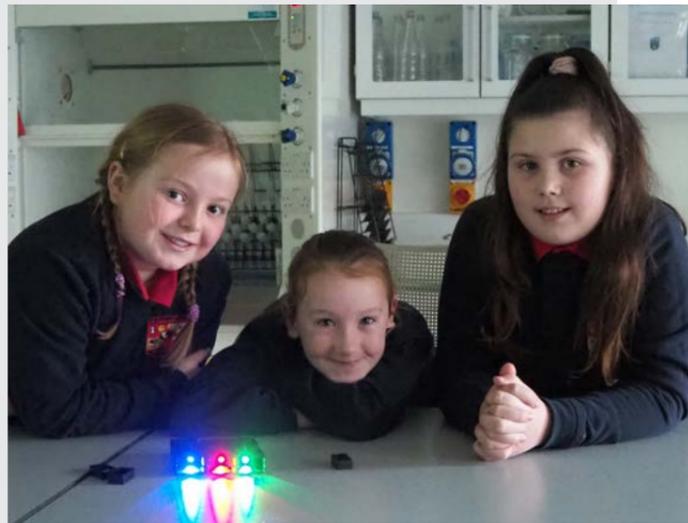
EIRSAT-1 Physics Programme

Ireland is building its first satellite, designed and built in University College Dublin. Our satellite is called EIRSAT-1, which stands for Educational Irish Research Satellite 1. Education is a core value of the mission, which is happening with the support of European Space Agency Education Office as part of their 'Fly Your Satellite!' programme. As part of our outreach programme, we have had the great pleasure of hosting 4th class pupils from St. Louise's, Ballyfermot for hands-on laboratory sessions in February 2020 and we will be posting an exciting activity pack to schools this year which will include materials linking in with the EIRSAT-1 mission and an action packed comic book!



Physics PLC Programme

Created by Associate Professor Emma Sokell, the physics PLC Programme allows prospective students to carry out a work experience placement in 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. This year students from Killester College of Further Education participated in the programme and also joined Dr. Sharon Shannon in the Kilty Discovery Suite to develop and deliver hands-on physics workshops to pupils attending the EIRSAT-1 schools programmes.



UCD Physics Halloween Event - 'The FrankenLab'

On Halloween eve, the Kilty Discovery Suite was given a ghoulish make-over to become the FrankenLab. Victims/Participants edged their way through the darkened lab and experienced demonstrations like ghost bubbles, jelly brain operations, fluorescent jellyfish, plasma balls, oscilloscopes connected to scary sound generators and laser-illuminated bats in jars. There was lots of liquid nitrogen to add a smoky atmosphere to proceedings and refreshments and face-painting were also provided outside the lab.

The event was aimed at all age groups to get stuck in, get their hands dirty and enjoy some scary Halloween science, it was free to register but collection boxes were passed around to

collect money on behalf of Crumlin Children's Hospital. The aim of the event was to promote a greater sense of community both within and outside of UCD while at the same time to excite and enthuse the wider public about aspects of science. It is hoped this will become a regular event on the UCD calendar.



UCD in the Community

UCD in the Community has 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 annual flagship community events.

Volunteering/StudentVolunteer.ie



StudentVolunteer.ie is an easy to use, one-stop-shop portal connecting higher education students with civil society organisation volunteering opportunities. StudentVolunteer.ie enables students to have the opportunity to: enrich their personal development and employability skills, have a fun experience, meet new people, and give back to their community. UCD is one of ten Irish Higher Education Institutions that use the site to provide students with volunteer opportunities.

In 2019/20 UCD in the Community presented to over 600 new and returning students across the university about getting involved in the community through volunteering, as a result of this, there were 386 new UCD student registrations to studentvolunteer.ie throughout the academic year. At present, there are over 2,000 UCD students registered on the site, where they have the opportunity to sign up to a wide range of volunteering opportunities.

UCD Community Engagement Report 2018/19

International Volunteer Day on December 5 saw the launch of the UCD Community Engagement Report 2018/19. The purpose of the report is to celebrate, highlight and record the many fantastic contributions of our colleagues, students and alumni, both outside and within the university. The report can be viewed on the UCD in the Community website.

[Check out the report here](#)

UCD Volunteer Day

The annual Volunteer Day took place on 5 October 2019, which consisted of a Volunteer Fair attended by many community-based organisations and various workshops across campus from UCDVO, the UCD Careers Network and Special Olympics Ireland, one of UCD's Charities of Choice.

The Volunteer Fair allowed students and staff to chat with representatives from the visiting organisations and sign up to volunteer with them. The Fair is always a must attend event in the UCD calendar for any person interested in volunteering.

Michelle Coen and Rebecca Boyle, UCD Careers Network, provided an informative workshop on how students could use volunteering to further their career, including what potential employers look for in graduates and how you can include the skills you have learned through volunteering to further your career prospects.

UCD Culture and Engagement encouraged students and employees to attend a lunch and learn event with two of UCD's charity partners, Special Olympics Ireland and UCD Volunteers Overseas. The event was well attended and we wish to express a sincere thanks to Anita Carthy, Special Olympics Ireland and Lorraine Bailey, UCD employee and UCDVO volunteer for their fantastic presentations for potential volunteers.

UCD CELT Network

The UCD Community Engaged Learning and Teaching (CELT) Network is a new Community of Practice which aims to bring people together across UCD who are working or interested in Community Engaged Learning. The initiative is led by Dr Deirdre McGillicuddy, Assistant Professor in the UCD School of Education, with support from UCD in the Community.

The CELT Network's first event was held in July 2019, as part of the UCD Alumni In Conversation series of online talks. Dr McGillicuddy, spoke with Gary Broderick, Director SAOL (Women's Recovery and Education Project) and Dr Hilda Loughran, Associate Professor in the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, exploring the transformative power of community engaged learning. This talk can be viewed [here](#). Anyone interested in joining the CELT Network can contact Deirdre on deirdre.mcgillicuddy@ucd.ie.



Hope Fest 2020

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many of the university's community engagement activities were creatively modified and moved online, including Hope Fest, the annual wellbeing festival for people experiencing homeless that was due to take place in the Iveagh Gardens in May 2020. The organising committee were delighted to successfully adapt this to a virtual event later in the year.



Holly Dignam, Professor Joe Carthy and Theresa O' Leary at the launch of the UCD Community Engagement Report 2018/19



Dublin Simon Community Care Package Appeal with Localise



Dublin Simon Community Care Package Appeal with 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 their community.

The annual Dublin Simon Community care package appeal took place in late December 2019, in collaboration with Terenure Presentation Community College as part of their Localise programme. Thanks to the generosity of UCD faculty, staff and students, over 250 care packages of essential items for the rough sleepers of Dublin's inner city were created.

You can view a video of the appeal [here](#)



UCD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT 2019 - 2020



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UCD Institute for Discovery

Submitted by Patrice Harrington

Zoom for Thought series

UCD Discovery's weekly, 15-minute micro-chat series with a strong interdisciplinary focus kicked off in April 2020 as a way to virtually continue their Global Visiting Fellowship programme during lockdown. Open to the public, well attended and hosted by UCD Discovery Director Patricia Maguire.

Lockdown forced everyone to think of creative new ways to impactfully connect with the community. At UCD Discovery we were keen to continue our work bringing together some of the finest interdisciplinary minds on a range of thought-provoking topics. We also wanted to bring those voices and ideas to the wider community. Bearing in mind the many constraints on our potential audience's time - as people juggled work, home-schooling and more - we settled on a short, 15-minute format: a five-minute Q&A with Patricia, followed by 10 minutes of audience questions.

We wanted to offer people a quick but informative "tea-break" from the stresses of life, an opportunity to turn down the noise and tune into the experts. Our diverse guests are world class and have attracted a growing audience as we endeavour to tailor talk titles to the challenging times.



UCD Institute for Discovery Director Prof Patricia Maguire hosted the weekly Zoom for Thought series

"Where the magic happens is at the boundaries of the disciplines and at the boundaries of academia and industry."

Pearse Keane, Consultant Ophthalmologist, University College London

Our speakers to date have included Fionnuala Ní Áinle, Consultant Haematologist at Dublin's Mater Misericordiae hospital and Professor at the UCD School of Medicine, who spoke about the alarming prevalence of blood clots in critical Covid-19 cases. Scott Rickard, Chief Data Scientist, Citadel, and Adjunct Professor, UCD Institute for Discovery looked at the Data of Disease, whilst William Gallagher, Director of UCD Conway Institute spoke about the strong cancer research on-going in Ireland. Jim Prior, Global CEO of next-generation brand agency Superunion/WPP, advised us on how to be creative in a crisis and Joe Carthy, College Principal and Dean of Science at University College Dublin spoke of "The UCD Community and the Covid-19 Crisis". Cyber security experts Jacky Fox of Accenture and Tom Keating of Proofpoint advised on how to prevent cyber crimes such as hacking. Irish Wildlife Trust Campaigns Officer Pádraic Fogarty spoke about Ireland's ecosystem.

A particular Zoom for Thought highlight was Eric Topol, Founder and Director of California's

Scripps Research Translational Institute and a world renowned expert in individualised medicine.

We also co-hosted Zoom for Thought events with other organisations including the Institute of Food & Health (Zoe Kavanagh, CEO of the National Dairy Council) and UCD Energy Institute (Eddie O'Connor, Executive Chairman of Mainstream Renewable Power and Adjunct Professor in the UCD College of Engineering). Other Zoom for Thought speakers discussed space (Lorraine Hanlon), the wonders of AI (Pearse Keane, Muthoni Masinde), cultural heritage technologies (Luigina Ciolfi) the future of maths (Peter Lynch) and the future of work (Barry Winkless). The community impact of this wide-ranging series is perhaps best summed up by guest Pearse Keane, Consultant Ophthalmologist, University College London: "Where the magic happens is at the boundaries of the disciplines and at the boundaries of academia and industry."

iWish Campus Week

iWISH is an initiative to inspire, encourage and motivate young female students to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. iWISH Campus Weeks give the girls a sense of what they might like to study at third level.

The campus week was organised by UCD Discovery Director Professor Patricia Maguire and Discovery Outreach and Impact Scientist Phil Smyth. “The whole idea was to give those kids a taste of what college life is like so they can really see themselves in a university like UCD in the future,” explains Smyth. “During the week we had undergrads, postgrads, lecturers and industry professionals meet the girls under the guidance of myself and Patricia. It’s all about showing them what isn’t in the brochure and answering any questions they might have.”

It was a full and varied programme. Chemistry undergrad Shekemi Dunga spoke about her Nigerian heritage, her love of science and the social life and outreach work she routinely undertakes on campus. Lána Salmon, from the School of Physics, spoke to the girls about her exciting work on Ireland’s first satellite EIRSAT-1.

“The girls also spent a day learning to code with the UCD School of Computer Science team, who helped them build their own dancing robots,” says Smyth. “Dr. Jennifer McKenna, Intel R&D Programme Manager, kindly visited from the Intel Ireland campus in Leixlip and told the girls about the company’s history and plans in Ireland as well as Intel’s global reach. I gave a communications and presentation skills workshop explaining that you don’t necessarily have to be a scientist to work in science; how science is actually behind everything we do.”

“Positively impacting even one person makes all our efforts very worthwhile.”

A highlight of the iWISH camp was a wonderful site visit to biopharmaceutical company Amgen in nearby Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Smyth adds: “That was a stand-out and it was great seeing the girls so overawed by what’s happening in places like Intel and Amgen. Ireland is at the cutting edge of influence in so many STEM fields and almost all of the major pharma and tech companies have bases or headquarters here.”

For her part Prof. Maguire was delighted with emails and calls of appreciation she received from parents afterwards - and approaches from the girls themselves. “Maybe three weeks after iWISH I was in the supermarket when two girls from the camp approached me to tell me that they had ‘loved the camp so much’ that they had both decided to now study Science. It was quite overwhelming that we had such an influence and we hope to continue to run similar events every year going forward. Positively impacting even one person makes all our efforts very worthwhile.”



The Intergenerational Jigsaw Club

Our Intergenerational Jigsaw Club was founded in April 2018 by two secondary school students, Luke Rickard and Leah Rickard, to bring together people of all ages and backgrounds in a fun environment where they can enjoy a cup of tea and a biscuit, some company (students and academics volunteer to work on the jigsaws with the community), stimulating conversation and the buzz of puzzle completion.

Pre-Covid, our Jigsaw Clubbers met in the UCD Institute for Discovery break out space in the wonderful O'Brien Centre for Science. Understanding the importance of those connections between our members, we were keen to find a way to stay in touch during lockdown and beyond. With the support of UCD in the Community, the Jigsaw Club moved to WhatsApp and email, where members continue to communicate and share progress on their solo puzzles.

UCD Discovery interviewed one of the Jigsaw Club's most loyal members, Tom Moran, 83, who joined in 2018 following the death of his beloved wife of almost 53 years, Ann. He said:

"The girls are fantastic with the cup of tea and there's always a biscuit with it. That's very nice. Everyone puts their drinks down on the table and keeps sipping and working on the jigsaws at the same time. That's called dedication by the way! There's a good variety of people, from the retired people like me who don't live too far away, to the students. The foreign students are very interested. We have had some American students, Erasmus students. We had a very keen Spanish person and some Canadians. There's a few people there now in the last six months and they're very chatty and we have a great laugh. It's very multicultural. One of the girls from Romania was looking for accommodation and we found a room in a house for her."

Solving jigsaw puzzles exercises the left and right sides of the brain simultaneously, improving short-term memory and relieving stress by promoting mindfulness. As a bonus, Tom enjoys the light-hearted conversation that flows in the group. "Nobody asks too much about you and there are no serious questions as to religion or anything like that. You talk jigsaws. The students would tell you about their courses, and you might ask the foreign students what universities they came from and what was life like there. But the main interest is talking about whatever jigsaw we are working on. It was great to get out and I came home on Friday evenings revitalised and in good form from the jigsaws because I had been with mainly younger people. I'd still be hearing their voices and their laughter in my ears an hour or two or three after I got home and I enjoyed thinking back on some of the things they said. It is a very nice thing to do and I enjoy it very much." Tom has mastered WhatsApp to keep in touch with the group.

"It was great to get out and I came home on Friday evenings revitalised and in good form from the jigsaws because I had been with mainly younger people. I'd still be hearing their voices and their laughter in my ears an hour or two or three after I got home and I enjoyed thinking back on some of the things they said. It is a very nice thing to do and I enjoy it very much."

Tom Moran, UCD Intergenerational Jigsaw Club



Rising Stars

In early 2020, we began a series called Rising Stars to champion early-stage academics and increase their profiles in the community. We interview these young researchers, write up their stories for our website and promote them across our social channels.

In UCD Discovery we understand the challenges for young academics to build their profiles and have their work reach a wider audience and perhaps pique the interest of potential funders. This is why we began our Rising Stars series, for which we pinpoint and promote exceptional young academics and researchers who work in an interdisciplinary field. Along with interviewing them for the Rising Stars section of our website, we share their stories across our social media channels so their achievements are noted and celebrated within their own academic communities and more widely among the general public.

Our Rising Stars this year have included Dr Dolores Resano, who won a Marie Curie Fellowship grant of €257,561.28 from HORIZON 2020 for a project entitled "Transatlantic Approaches to Contemporary Literature in the Era of Trump". Dr Resano said UCD Discovery - and in particular its Engagement Manager Dr Elva O'Sullivan - had provided "crucial" support to her career.

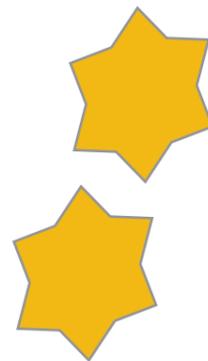
Dr Susan Leavy said: "It was amazing to discover that these people are there to help you out. You're so used to academia being a solitary enterprise; you're kind of off on your own, forging your path and it's such a complex world. It's really hard to understand funding, especially interdisciplinary funding, where it comes from, how to apply. It's wonderful to be able to meet with people like [UCD Discovery Manager] Tara Byrne, to get encouragement and advice. They're definitely key people in my career."

Early in the lockdown, our Rising Star stories around interdisciplinary research on Covid-19 were widely shared within the UCD community and far beyond - for example, our interview with engineer Colin Keogh about his open-source 3D printed ventilator, and with Dr Nicola Fletcher whose lab found that Irish antiviral drug ViroSAL is effective against Covid-19.

Stephen Redmond's article looked at his work creating a robot hand with human touch. He was so happy with the publicity generated by his Rising Stars story on LinkedIn that he suggested we write about and a team of students of his, led by biomedical engineer Rebecca Meagher, who won bronze at the Engineering World Health International Design Awards 2020. Our story about the all-female executive of UCD's Engineering World Health chapter got a massive response on LinkedIn, where, in the absence of real-world get-togethers this year, a lot of business and community connections are happening. Another of our brilliant Rising Stars, Paulina Szklanna has recently taken up a key position as Manager of UCD Discovery's new AI Healthcare Hub.



Rising Star Dr Paulina Szklanna is the new Manager of UCD Discovery AI Healthcare Hub



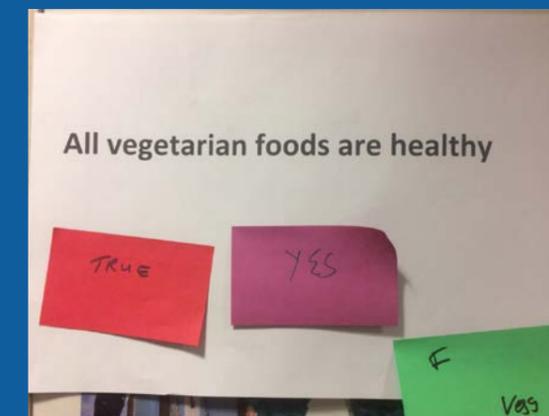
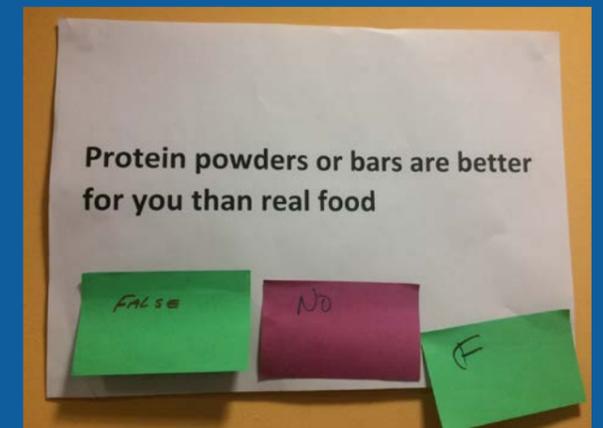
UCD Institute of Food and Health

Submitted by Dr Amy Mullee

SFI Science week: Science4Food Cafe

The Science4Food Cafe was held in the F2 Center in Rialto as part of Science Week 2019. The aim of the event was to engage the public with the science behind common nutrition myths and learn practical skills when cooking for one. This was a café style event that ran over two evenings.

Professor Lorraine Brennan, Dr Amy Mullee, Dr Katy Horner and Dr Aifric O'Sullivan of the Institute of Food and Health worked collaboratively with the staff of the F2 Centre to design and promote this event. It was also included on the programme online for Science Week. Overall, the event went well with participants engaging well in the cafe workshop.



UCD Institute of Food and Health

Submitted by Geraldine Quinn

Nutrition and Health Public Lecture Series

The lectures set out to mitigate against the overwhelming amount of misinformation on food and nutrition. With our leading experts, we produced a series of talks on various topics in nutrition and health backed by factual scientific evidence.

The public lectures were held in the evenings, targeted at the general public and were promoted through local community and volunteer groups, schools and networks, and within the wider UCD community. Over 10 lectures have been held to date and topics covered have included Nutrition and Healthy Ageing; Nutrition and Mental Health - the Scientific Evidence; Role of Nutrition in Early Childhood Health; Nutrition and Exercise in Weight Management - Facts & Fiction. Initially held in the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science, since COVID-19 restrictions came into place, the lectures have moved online with great success. For relevant topics, we have linked in with specific groups such as the ARC Cancer Support Centre for our lecture on Nutrition and Cancer: Prevention and Survivorship. We have engaged with over 700 people since the start of the lectures with resounding positive feedback and for future talks, we plan to extend the series to include other topics in food and health that are relevant to the wider community.



Nutrition and Health Public Lecture Series 2020

Venue: Lynch Lecture Theatre, UCD O'Brien Centre for Science
Time: 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Thursday 16th January

Healthy School Lunches
Dr Celine Murrin

Monday 23rd March

Nutrition and Cancer: Prevention and Survivorship
Dr Amy Mullee

Monday 18th May

Nutrition and exercise for weight management - fact and fiction
Assoc Prof Clare Corish & Dr Katy Horner

Monday 15th June

Adolescent Nutrition: what is important?
Dr Breige McNulty

Monday 21st September

What is a healthy sustainable diet?
Dr Aifric O' Sullivan

Monday 16th November

Nutrition and Sports Performance
Dr Katy Horner

The world of social media provides an overwhelming amount of information on food and nutrition. Often this information can be misleading and, in some instances, harmful to people's health. For the average person, it is difficult to know whether this information is fact or fiction. In January 2019, the UCD Institute of Food and Health launched a series of Public Health Lectures in Nutrition and Health. The purpose of the series was to address this misinformation and to provide sound, factual nutrition evidence borne out of the expertise within the UCD Institute of Food and Health, as an international leader in food and health research.

This a free event.
To register please visit ucdfoodandhealth.eventbrite.ie or contact the UCD Institute of Food and Health at foodandhealth@ucd.ie or 01 7162808



Building virtual bridges with our community

Each year our curators develop a programme of exhibitions, which are open to the public, to showcase the UCD Cultural Heritage Collections. Displayed in Special Collections, UCD Archives and the National Folklore Collection, these exhibitions help to showcase our unique materials and build an understanding of Irish culture, literary events and people. Virtual exhibitions compliment these real life displays, providing access to treasures which are (usually) hidden in catalogues and behind library walls. Our curators, in partnership with the

academic community, select key items from the collections to tell a story, celebrate a centenary or to profile key figures. Changes in technology and increased digitisation allow us to incorporate audio files, moving images, photographs and text into exhibitions. The UCD Digital Library team works year round to digitise selected materials, opening them up to new virtual communities at home and abroad. Many of these online exhibitions are hosted on Google Arts & Culture platform, and are published to Europeana, the digital online gateway to European cultural heritage collec-

tions. Exhibitions prompt engagement with our historical resources, letters, personal archives which allow us to showcase the UCD heritage collections. We are delighted to answer questions and receive feedback from members of the public and the wider UCD community.

Follow us on social media to learn more about the exhibitions (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook), and through our award winning cultural heritage [blog](#).

For a selection of our exhibitions see [here](#).



KEVIN BARRY

2020 marks the centenary of the execution of Irish revolutionary and first year UCD medical student Kevin Barry. Using funds raised by fellow students, Harry Clarke Stained Glass Limited was commissioned to create a window dedicated to his memory, and to the memory of UCD students and alumni who died in this war. Read more [here](#).



BLUIRÍNÍ BÉALOIDS / FOLKLORE FRAGMENTS

A podcast series from National Folklore Collection, exploring Irish & European folk tradition. A recent episode looked at traditional approaches to healing and warding off illnesses, including plagues – very timely in 2020. Podcasts available from SoundCloud, iTunes and [here](#).



UCD CULTURAL HERITAGE BLOG

Award winning UCD Cultural Heritage Blog featured an insight into the family papers of Arthur Cox, founder of the renowned law firm, a politician, artist and priest. This collection includes materials relating to Arthur's life, as well as correspondence between his father Michael Francis and important Irish political figures John Dillon and John Redmond. Read more [here](#).

POETRY IN LOCKDOWN

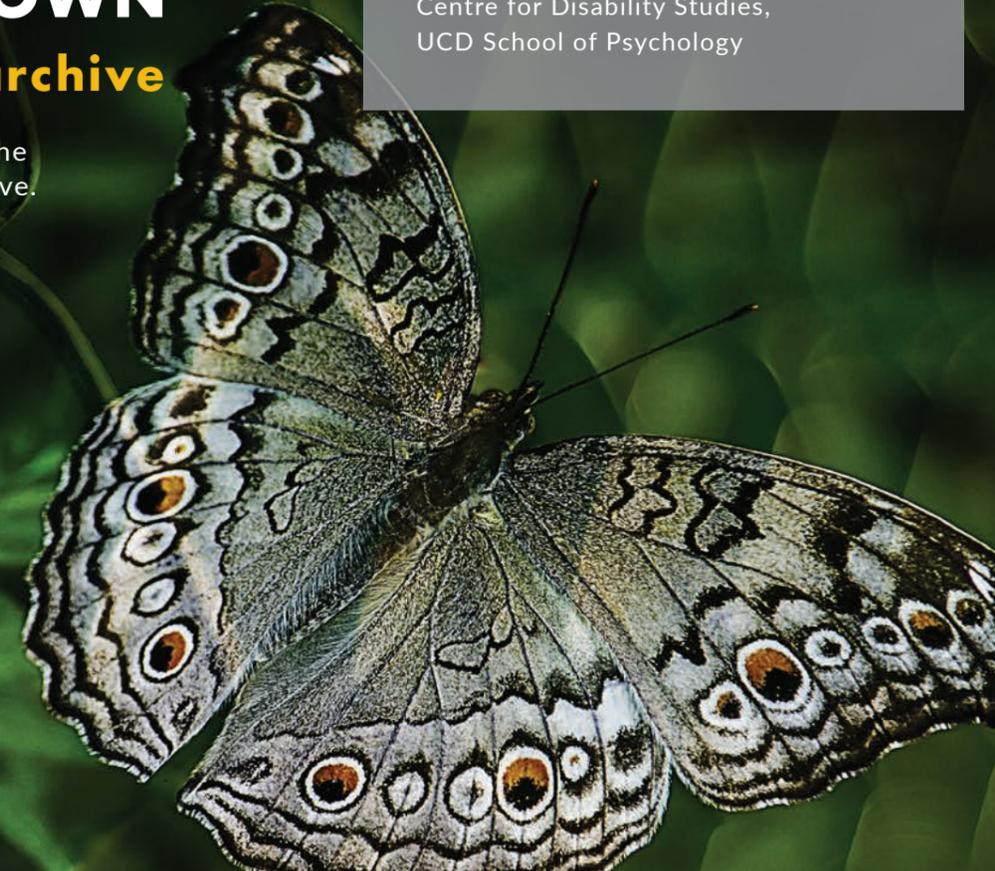
a pandemic archive

This collection is part of the Irish Poetry Reading Archive.

STAYING APART

By the third month,
every thing was a someone.
Books packed sweatily on shelves.
Nodding alliums gossiped.
Wisteria lovers wound urgent braids.
A bog cotton field at sunset
was a festival crowd.

Eilín de Paor
Adjunct Assistant Professor
Centre for Disability Studies,
UCD School of Psychology



OPEN INVITATION TO ALL:

WE'D LOVE TO ADD YOUR POEMS/
REFLECTIONS TO THIS HERITAGE ARCHIVE.

PLEASE CONTACT: specialcollections@ucd.ie

Preview this archive at: <https://libguides.ucd.ie/lockdownpoetry>

UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science

Submitted by Dr Tara Dirilgen

Soapbox Science Dublin

Soapbox Science is a global public outreach platform with two aims; to make science more accessible by bringing researchers working in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) to the general public who may have never met a scientist before, and to showcase female researchers in order to break down stereotypes of what a scientist looks like.

On 11th July 2020, 12 scientists from UCD, Trinity College Dublin and The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, instead of taking to the streets of Dublin, took to a virtual platform to discuss their research with the public as part of Soapbox Science. For four hours on Saturday afternoon, the Soapbox Science Dublin YouTube channel and Facebook page were live streaming the line up of scientists giving short talks about their work and answering questions about their research. Talks ranged from food production and environmental policy by Dr Edel Kelly, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, to what maths is good for by Áine Byrne, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics and first stars in the Universe by Laura Murphy, School of Physics Trinity College Dublin. Speakers rose to the challenge of making their research interesting and relevant to the public in a virtual setting, with a steady number of viewers on both streaming platforms throughout the Saturday afternoon. To date we have had over 750 viewers on YouTube from countries including Ireland, UK, USA and Mexico. Organised by Dr Dara Stanley, Dr Angela Feechan, Dr Tara Dirilgen, Dr Saoirse Tracy and Dr Anna Tiley, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, along with Dr Hannah White, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science. The event was supported by the UCD Seed Funding scheme and UCD Earth Institute.



Speakers and co-organisers during an online pre-event training session.



Illustrations of the 12 Soapbox Science Dublin 2020 speakers by Francesca Tiley.



One of the 12 speakers, Dr Sarah Eivers, talks about her research looking at remnants of Viking DNA in the Irish population in relation to Glaucoma during the live streamed Soapbox Science Dublin event.

UCD Rosemount



Technical development group tour of the Rosemount research and teaching facilities.



Mariluz Del Pino-de Elias and Ciaran Brennan on a break during work on an endophyte experiment in the production glasshouse.



Local community group visits the orchard at Rosemount.



Late summer barbecue with staff and students just before the start of a busy semester!

UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science

Submitted by Brian Tobin

UCD Rosemount

UCD Rosemount is a location that juxtaposes revealing research into plant growth responses to environmental manipulation technology, with applied crop and tree ecology and a busy family atmosphere of staff, students and researchers.

Rosemount Environmental Research Station is a campus-based centre for cutting-edge crop and other plant research. The basic and applied research facilities bring researchers together from across the university and particularly from the two schools that jointly manage the site. Staff and students from UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science and UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science make extensive use of Rosemount for research as well as teaching. The community spirit that has evolved among users is especially apparent when its many graduates insist on returning to Rosemount to celebrate their success with their peers, colleagues and staff. The extensive heritage orchard and outdoor facility frequently play host to visiting outside academic groups as well as from the neighbouring community. The year's community engagement activities were led primarily by Bredagh Moran, David Brogan, Gordon Kavanagh, Mary Forrest and Brian Tobin.



Staff and family visit the orchard during the autumn harvest festival.

Right: Jon Yardsley and daughter.



Above: Joanna Kacprzyk and son
Below: Tara Dirilgen and Linzi Thompson.





Above: Mauricio Mantoani' PhD viva celebration.
Below: A significant birthday for a Horticulture staff member!



Jessica Walsh spends time with Pushkin on the day of her graduation.



HortSoc. members Dan O'Connor and Amy Shields in the Hort. Soc. garden being overseen by Pushkin.



Above: Tara Dirilgen and Katie Burns armed with nets to capture pollinators visiting apple blossoms.
Below: A visiting group from the University of Idaho led by Mary Forrest.



UCD School of Classics

Submitted by Christopher Farrell

Access Classics

Through Access Classics staff in UCD's School of Classics visit secondary schools and institutions for further adult education. Our aim is to work with teachers to grow the discipline that we love and to create resources to support this effort.

In 2019 the UCD School of Classics launched a new outreach initiative, 'Access Classics'. Our fundamental aim is to introduce students to the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome in secondary schools, as well as further education and training programmes, across Ireland and Northern Ireland. Access Classics is rooted in a belief that everyone should be afforded the opportunity to explore the art, architecture, history, languages, literature, and philosophy of ancient Greece and Rome.

After a successful pilot programme in Spring 2018, we earned the endorsement of the Department of Education. In building on these efforts, staff from the School visited and hosted more than a dozen schools, delivering workshops, artefact handling sessions, and talks on topics in our field during the 2019-20 academic year. Staff also developed partnerships with the embassies of Cyprus and Greece in Dublin. During the Summer 2020 trimester Dr Bridget Martin created a new Transition Year Unit for Classical studies. The unit has been endorsed

by the NCCA and praised by their reviewers as 'a very welcome addition' and 'a superb aid to teachers'. The unit is available to everyone to access free of charge and can be downloaded through the School of Classics website: <https://www.ucd.ie/classics/study/accessclassics/>

In August 2020 the School of Classics at UCD became the first international partner of the Advocating Classics Education project. This partnership will help us to continue to reach more schools in the coming years. As we head into an uncertain Autumn 2020 trimester, members of the project are working to create new digital resources and are planning to host virtual workshops that will support remote learning, teacher training, and enable us to maintain and build on our current outreach and public engagement efforts.



Dr Christopher Farrell and Dr Bridget Martin deliver talks on ancient epic and drama at St Aidan's in Tallaht.



Dr Alexander Thein delivers a lecture on Augustus in Naas.



Dr Bridget Martin delivering an artefact handling session with students visiting UCD.

If you would like to find out more about Access Classics, please email our general inbox (access.classics@ucd.ie), or contact us individually:

- Dr Christopher Farrell (christopher.farrell@ucd.ie),
- Ms Tasneem Filaih (tasneem.filaih@ucd.ie) and
- Dr Bridget Martin (bridget.martin@ucd.ie).

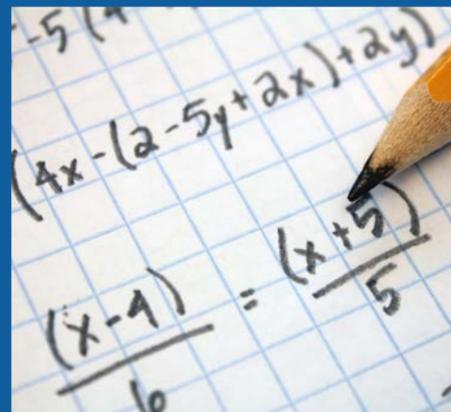
UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics

Submitted by Dr Neil Dobbs

We provide a programme of Mathematics classes offering a fun and (pre-covid) social way for younger secondary school students to develop their mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Junior Mathematics Enrichment

We provide a programme of Mathematics classes offering a fun and (pre-Covid) social way for younger secondary school students to develop their mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills. With support from Accenture Global Solutions, classes are free and our dedicated tutors have been teaching and inspiring fifty to a hundred children each semester.



UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems

Over the past number of years Associate professor Ann Sheridan has been engaged with the Irish Hearing Voices Network and Internationally with Inter-voice, with the aim of raising awareness of the impact of trauma on people, and helping to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, and specifically, with voice hearing, paranoia and personality disorder among service users, their families, and friends, communities and health care professionals.

Her work as a volunteer facilitating weekly hearing voices groups in inner City Dublin enables her to maintain links with voice hearers, their families, advocacy groups and other voluntary sector groups, and supports the drive toward development of PPI and co-production in both research and education.

The COVID-19 Pandemic period has been a particularly difficult time for this group, with many of their usual coping strategies, such as exercise, walking and socialising to manage their voices no longer available to them. Additionally, a significant proportion of this group was required to cocoon due to co-existing physical health problems. For those who were homeless and/or living alone, this was particularly difficult.

To address some of these issues, Associate Professor Sheridan moved her weekly hearing voices group to an online meeting early on in the lockdown period. While this had several limitations, including people not having access to the technology or connectivity, reluctance to use the technology or fear, she managed to continue her group's meetings and provided ongoing support.

Associate Professor Sheridan advises that her group has now scheduled a face-to-face outdoor meeting up over the coming weeks and the group members are excited to meet in person once again (September 2020). While the technology is assistive, it cannot replace the human factor, specifically the power of social presence and human interaction and just being with others who share the same challenges and who can provide comfort, support and reassurance just through their presence.

At a national level, Associate Professor Sheridan's current work with the Irish Hearing Voices Network is facilitated through



her role as Chair of the Irish Institute of Mental Health Nursing and her faculty role at UCD. Through these roles and through funding from the HSE, she has supported and further developed education, training, research, and practice in the area of voice hearing. She has provided training and education to over 1,200 people including voice hearers, family members, volunteers, and a wide range of healthcare professionals. This work has resulted in the establishment of a National Network of Hearing Voices Groups, mainly for adults but also for children and young people. While there is a professional dimension to this community engagement activity, the primary purpose is to engage with and facilitate co-production with voice hearers and their families and supporters.

UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

Contact Tracing During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dáire O'Driscoll, Stage 3 MVB Student

“ I got involved in the UCD Contact Tracing Centre (CTC) after I received an email from the Dean, Professor Michael Doherty, looking for volunteers for the CTC; this was shortly after the campus had closed. At first, I was hesitant, but upon seeing that Dr Locksley Messam from the Vet School was involved, I decided that I'd give it a go. I was trained two days later by Dr Locksley himself and noticed from the start that there was a large presence from the Vet School. Student Adviser Niamh Nestor and Sarah Murphy, a student like myself, were trained at the same time as me. As the weeks went by, I got to know lots of researchers, lab staff and lecturers from the School. There were many of us in and out of the CTC every day, putting in long hours trying to get through cases.

The work was very rewarding and helped me feel purposeful throughout the lockdown. As time went by, I was asked by Professor Mary Codd and Professor Patrick Wall, both from the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (SPHPSS), to take on the role of Operations Lead. This meant long days and nights, but the cooperation and teamwork by all involved and the knowledge that our work was making a difference kept us all going. We even had a few visits from RTÉ who were interested in shooting some footage about the CTC for the RTÉ News and Primetime.

There were also plenty of light-hearted moments, with Professor Pat Wall and Professor Joe Carthy (Dean of Science) keeping us entertained, and the rivalry between different schools while trying to work through the HSE backlog made the work all that bit easier. I found it very rewarding working with students, researchers and postgrads and loved the opportunity to boss around some of my lecturers! I'm happy that I was able to make a contribution to the national COVID-19 effort and proud of the great work done by UCD and especially the Vet School.”



Hard at work at the UCD Contact Tracing Centre, as reported on RTE's Primetime



Left: University College Dublin (@ucddublin) Twitter post

“I'm happy that I was able to make a contribution to the national COVID-19 effort and proud of the great work done by UCD and especially the Vet School.”

Dáire O'Driscoll,
Stage 3 MVB Student

COVID-19 Related Research

**Dr Nicola Fletcher, Lecturer/Assistant Professor
(Ad Astra Fellow)**

“When the university was closed in March due to COVID-19, and all research stopped, I got involved in contact tracing initially and then in training students to do SARS-CoV-2 PCR for the new testing laboratory in Enfer labs, Kildare. However, I had been involved in the characterisation of a novel antiviral formulation for Westgate Biomedical, who have labs based in UCD, for the past number of years and we had just completed a study demonstrating that this antiviral had activity against a number of viruses including some that infect the respiratory tract, namely measles and SARS. We decided to try to set up some experiments at UCD to investigate whether this antiviral had activity against SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. After obtaining the necessary permissions to culture the virus in UCD’s BSL-3 lab, I have started experiments to test the antiviral and our results so far have been extremely promising. The drug has shown an inhibitory effect that may prove a breakthrough in the potential treatment of COVID-19 in its early stages. The next step is to check



“It has been a very busy and fast-moving time over the past few months, but it is exciting work and hopefully we will make discoveries that positively affect Ireland’s response to this global pandemic.”

**Dr Nicola Fletcher, Lecturer/Assistant Professor
(Ad Astra Fellow)**

that there is no toxicity before starting Phase One trials in a small number of volunteers, followed then by testing in people recently infected with Covid-19. The team is working hard to move through this process but a product launch may be still some way off as we have to be so careful to make sure the drugs we give patients are safe and effective and have minimal side-effects. It is a slow process but we need to be thorough.

Since beginning this work, as UCD currently has the only two BSL-3 labs in the Republic of Ireland with permission to culture SARS-CoV-2, I have become involved with several other projects, including a collaborative project with Prof Wim Meijer to investigate the presence of the virus in sewage and wastewater, which could provide an early warning system if Ireland were to have a second wave of the virus. We were recently awarded an SFI Rapid Response COVID-19 grant to carry out this work. I’m also involved with another SFI-funded project to develop antiviral packaging for food and other products. It has been a very busy and fast-moving time over the past few months, but it is exciting work and hopefully we will make discoveries that positively affect Ireland’s response to this global pandemic.”

September 2020

**For more on Nicola’s
research in this area,
see:**

<https://www.ucd.ie/discovery/storiesof-discovery/ucdresearcherfindsirishdrug-worksoncovid-19.html>

Morgane Mitermite, 4th Year PhD Student

“ When UCD closed, I was just finishing a round of in vitro infection assays on bovine alveolar macrophages with different strains of *Mycobacterium bovis*. This basically summarizes my expertise: I know a bit of bacteriology, I have some competence in cell biology, what’s better than combining both? I got lucky. I am in the 4th year of my PhD and this was the very last big experiment planned before starting to get serious with writing. Just in time! And then we started to get emails asking for volunteers to help on the huge COVID-19 testing effort...I thought to myself, I can help, I am not a virologist, but I work in a full containment level 3 (CL3) lab on a regular basis and we are facing a virus that needs to be handled with the same level of caution.

So I volunteered to work in the Enfer group in Naas, which already has a strong expertise in the veterinary diagnostic field. Two days later I started work there, and I have never experienced anything like that before. In the middle of a global crisis, when everyone was asked to stay home, I had to leave home to live in a hotel room beside the lab, and, protected behind PPE, I met more people than I have ever met in my life, from a large variety of backgrounds. And I was not working on sample preparation in the CL3 lab as I thought I would be, but in the CL2 lab, doing the final step of testing: RNA purification and PCR analysis.



The team I worked with was amazing. We were working in a constantly changing environment, with a regular increase of the number of machines, along with the number of samples to be processed. The processing worked as follows: the lysates came in tubes from the sample preparation lab and each had a specific barcode that can be traced back to the patient after analysis. These tubes were transferred to 96-well plates, with 92 patient samples and 4 controls per plate, and then put in a Chemagic 360 instrument that proceeds to RNA extraction in 80 minutes. Then the samples and controls were transferred to another 96-well plate which already contained all the real-time PCR reagents and put in a LightCycler 480 Instrument that completes the analysis in an hour. These machines were always in use, and one cycle was immediately followed by another. We had to communicate continuously to make sure to maintain the fluency of the process and that all materials, buffers and reagents

were maintained, available and at working levels, in quite a noisy environment due to the machines and with masks on our faces. We were working 8 hours a day, and at the peak of the crisis it was on a 24-hour basis, 7 days a week, with 3 shifts each day and a regular turnover on those who were working at night. Outside of the analysis teams, you can also imagine how much organisation this whole process required, in terms of providing more and more machines to work in parallel and increase productivity, the buffers, the materials, etc. Most of the PCR machines came from actual research labs - just a week before I arrived at Enfer, the labs we worked in didn’t even exist! Ten days after my arrival, the labs were fully functional and from that date our testing capacity never stopped increasing. At the peak of the crisis, I would say we were analysing around 5,000 samples every 24 hours. Then after a few weeks, things started to slow down, less samples were coming, which meant things were getting better, partially thanks to our efforts. And I went back to my PhD, writing my thesis and analysing cell imaging of my last infection assay.

Even now, when I think about this time, I am amazed at the amount of work and dedication it took from people from so many different backgrounds and expertise to organise themselves together and make all of this run efficiently. I spent a month and a half working on diagnostic testing, in a veterinary diagnostic laboratory that completely reinvented itself to process a huge number of samples in order to protect the human population from a zoonotic disease - One Health in action! I am extremely grateful for this experience, as it made me realise that this work, as different it might be from my PhD, completely falls into my areas of expertise. PhD students are so involved in their field that they tend to forget how much the PhD experience brings them in terms of fast thinking, adaptation to unexpected challenges and resilience to stress.”

“Even now, when I think about this time, I am amazed at the amount of work and dedication it took from people from so many different backgrounds and expertise to organise themselves together and make all of this run efficiently.”

Morgane Mitermite, 4th Year PhD Student



COVID-19 Related Research by the UCD Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology & Risk Analysis (CVERA)

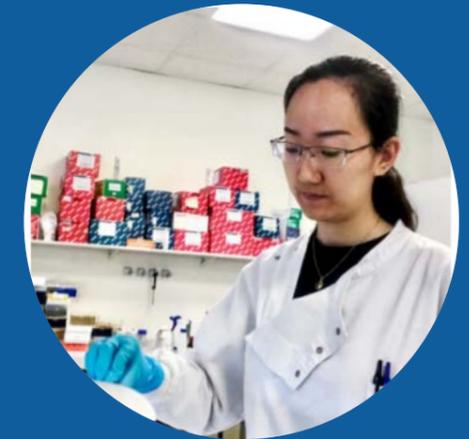
Since mid-March, several CVERA colleagues have contributed to the work of the Irish Epidemiological Modelling Advisory Group (IEMAG), one of the 9 subgroups of the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET). Chaired by Philip Nolan, the IEMAG provides advice and expertise in support of national decision-making in the area of epidemiological data and modelling. Areas of CVERA contribution have included estimating key epidemiological parameters (such as incubation period, proportion of infected people who are asymptomatic etc), providing biological input into model development, contributing to the design and assembly of national databases, spatial analysis and developing a COVID-19 early warning system. This latter work is adapted from an early warning system for bovine TB, currently under development.

The following CVERA, UCD Veterinary Medicine and DAFM colleagues have been involved in this work: Ann Barber, Andrew Byrne (DAFM One Health), Miriam Casey, Áine Collins, John Griffin (DAFM retired), Liz Lane (DAFM), Jamie Madden, Conor McAloon (UCD Veterinary Medicine), Guy McGrath and Simon More.

Recent publications related to COVID-19

McAloon, C.G., Collins, Á.B., Hunt, K., Barber, A., Byrne, A.W., Butler, F., Casey, M., Griffin, J., Lane, E., McEvoy, D., Wall, P., Green, M.J., O'Grady, L., More, S.J., 2020. Incubation period of COVID-19: a rapid systematic review and meta-analysis of observational research. <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/10/8/e039652>

Byrne, A.W., McEvoy, D., Collins, Á.B., Hunt, K., Casey, M., Barber, A., Butler, F., Griffin, J., Lane, E.A., McAloon, C., O'Brien, K., Wall, P., Walsh, K.A., More, S.J., 2020. Inferred duration of infectious period of SARS-CoV-2: rapid scoping review and analysis of available evidence for asymptomatic and symptomatic COVID-19 cases. <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/10/8/e039856>



Diary of a COVID-19 Testing Volunteer

Ruoyao Ma, 3rd Year PhD Student

“ During the lockdown, I volunteered to assist with the COVID-19 testing in the Microbiology Lab of St Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) which is led by Professor Kirsten Schaffer. This was an interesting period as I mainly worked in the Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) lab; in the BSL-3 lab, lysis buffer was added to kill the virus and expose virus RNA from patient swabs. Volunteers were assigned two shifts a day and two people were required for each shift, seven days a week so it was an extremely busy period. Each morning, the lab needed to be prepared prior to receiving samples from the BSL-3 lab. Upon receipt of samples containing inactivated virus, our priority was to load them onto the MagNa Pure 96 machine to extract and purify the virus RNA. The RNA was reverse transcribed to cDNA and certain genes specific to COVID-19 were amplified by Real-Time PCR on a 96-well plate in a Light Cycler 480. The results were then reported to consultants once ready.

I worked in SVUH for approximately two months and it was a pleasure to work with many great scientists and consultants. It was also a very new and different experience for me to work in a clinical lab within a hospital setting. Knowing that each sample related to a patient and subsequent results had the potential to determine that patient's healthcare plan meant that the correct procedures needed to be followed during the whole process. It was a challenging time as it was necessary to solve problems and optimise protocols in a relatively short space of time and we faced many challenges due to consumable shortages. It was a great opportunity for me to be able to utilise the lab skills I have acquired from my research in UCD and directly transfer my knowledge to help with clinical testing during this period. Many researchers like me were given an opportunity to step out of our 'ivory towers' to work on the front line during the pandemic and I am so glad now to see the daily confirmed cases getting lower and lower and myself and my colleagues can return to our research once again.”

September 2020

UCD Sport in the Community

Submitted by Paula Cashman

Despite the early curtailment of sport club activity in UCD in 2019-2020 there was no reduction in the dedication of time and energy given by UCD Sport and its club members in their efforts to positively impact the local community and national causes.

Supporting Community Engagement - UCD Sport

Within UCD sports clubs, over 190 coaches/leaders and over 350 committee members volunteer in a variety of ways throughout the year. To support these efforts the Athletic Union Council (AUC) organises a variety of training and development opportunities that assist its club members with their engagement.

Sports club members attended a suicide awareness workshop called safeTALK, with the aim of increasing the number of trained helpers and making suicide safer communities. The AUC also organised numerous Safeguarding 1 workshops for their club coaches, leaders 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. Furthermore, club members availed of an Emergency First Aid course, a concussion workshop and received funding towards Remote Emergency Care courses, all of which prepare the members with the necessary skills for dealing with accidents that may happen not just within their own club but within the community.



The AUC also facilitated an Active Dance programme, run by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Sports Partnership. This is a fun activity programme aimed specifically at Transition Year second level female students. In line with previous years, UCD Sport staff delivered presentations to first year students during orientation week, to transition year students and to many more.

Sport in the Community in Action

Several UCD sports clubs either held an event, took part in campaigns or fund-raised in aid of charities involved with raising awareness for cancer and its prevention, alongside funding cancer research and providing information and support to patients and their families.

Staff members from UCD Sport also got involved, in November they represented the University by completing the Run In The Dark event, an annual global night run in aid of the Mark Pollack Trust.

UCD Men's Boat club, UCD Sailing club and UCD Mountaineering club all took part in the Movember campaign, a month long campaign that raises funds and awareness for men's health issues, such as mental health, prostate and testicular cancer.

The UCD American Football club, UCD Badminton club, UCD Mountaineering club and UCD Ladies Boat club all participated in pink themed training sessions which have once again proved to be a popular way to raise vital funds for the fight against breast cancer. UCD Rugby club, UCD Women's Rugby club and UCD Tag Rugby all participated in a very successful fifth campus wide Daffodil Day collection for the Irish Cancer Society. This is a huge undertaking involving more than 100 club members being strategically placed around the UCD campus to encourage UCD staff and students to donate to this worthy cause.



Further funds were raised by UCD Mountaineering club through a bake sale and by UCD Tennis club who used their social media platforms to encourage their members to donate online to the Irish Cancer Society.

Pieta House was also a chosen charity for many of our sports clubs. As part of their annual fundraising UCD Trampoline club used the Irish Student Trampoline Open competition as an opportunity to raise some funds for the charity. In addition, UCD Ladies Hockey club members completed the Pieta House Darkness Into Light 5km fundraising walk. Further to this in February, UCD Windsurfing club organised The Windy Ball in aid of Pieta House.

UCD Sports clubs organised many creative events to raise awareness and funds for their chosen charities.

- The UCD Trampoline club organised a Rainbounce friendly competition for Rainbow Railroad.
- UCD alumni Emmy Coffey Nguyen of UCD Athletics club is the founder of The Push Up Challenge, a campaign in aid of ICU's in the Mater and Cork University Hospital.
- UCD Karate club bag packed and held a quiz night in aid of Multiple Sclerosis Ireland.
- UCD Windsurfing club fundraised for the Laura Lynn Foundation by taking part in the Shave or Dye challenge.
- UCD Men's Boat club arranged for the loan of a boat to the UCD School of Engineering which allowed Dr. David McKeown to design a prosthetic arm and a system for the boat of young competitive rower Eoghan Barry from Skibbereen. Filmed over the course of a year Eoghan's story was featured on The Big Life Fix on RTÉ1.
- UCD GAA club continues to engage with the local community through the provision of coaching and facilities to local GAA clubs. This year even the coronavirus couldn't put a stop to the fundraising efforts of the club when over 400 students either ran or walked 5km in aid of Temple Street Hospital raising just short of €2,000.



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For more than 17 years, UCD Soccer club has offered expert soccer coaching to children in the local community through their soccer camps. FAI certified coaches from the clubs first team squad teach soccer skills to over 100 children during a typical camp week. The emphasis of the camp is on learning through fun activities. Each child who attends receives a free season ticket to watch and enjoy the first team matches in the Belfield Bowl. UCD Soccer club once again partnered with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Sports office on projects including 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 the club provided coaching to three schools in Loughlinstown, Sallynoggin and Sandyford.

Leading sporting opportunities is another way in which our sports clubs are engaged in the community. UCD Orienteering club, UCD GAA club and UCD Men's Basketball club members give generously of their time to train younger people in their respective sports. A UCD Taekwondo club member provided their expertise when officiating at an Irish Open event. UCD Cycling club were also involved in organising a ladies race night in Corkagh Park. Similarly UCD Olympic Handball were also involved in organising an event when they hosted an Ireland versus UCD match raising funds that would go towards the development of the sport of olympic handball in Ireland. UCD Men's Boat club used their expertise to organise and host an Indoor Rowing Championship.

UCD St. Vincent de Paul

Submitted by Ceolan Mc Mullin, Auditor

Street Outreach Programme

Our Street Outreach programme is an initiative to assist the Dublin City homeless & rough sleeper community. Groups of 5 volunteers go around the city with boxes of supplies to provide food, clothing and other necessities to vulnerable people in need.

Our Street Outreach programme was established 8 years ago by UCDSVP as an initiative to help the inner city homeless community. Over the years we have had a significant amount of success, dispersing over 80 sleeping bags and other essentials in the previous academic year of 19/20.

For this upcoming academic year, we are continuing this project with new safeguards for our volunteers, and the people whom we assist. We have written robust guidelines for appropriate use of PPE, and have expanded the services we offer.



Flat Decorating

The Flat Decorating initiative is relatively new in the society. Teams of 6 people collect hardware materials in local stores and travel to locations around Dublin, typically homes, which have fallen into disrepair.

Flat decorating is an opportunity for you to manifest your inner Dermot Bannon. The principle of this activity is that we go to somebody's house or flat and do it up, paint the walls, clean the floors, fix whatever is broken and generally make it a better and happier place to live.

The effects of this particular activity have been enormous. Although it may seem that home décor might not be a priority in terms of helping vulnerable individuals, this activity makes such a difference to people's lives. The people we help often cannot afford the basics needed to make their house habitable. They maybe elderly or immobile and unable to clean up around them or perhaps replace a bulb. By giving them our time and a bucket of paint we can improve their environment ten-fold.



Homeless Week

Homeless Week has been the lynchpin of UCDSVP since it was established originally in 2009. It has been key for our fundraising initiatives every year. Last year, we raised over €4,000 for SVP's Wordpower initiative to provide children's books to young people in temporary accommodation.

Homeless Week is a special week for UCD SVP, the focal point of our year and a fantastic time for everyone involved. Throughout the week we ran a myriad of incredible events and talks, as well as a variety of collaborations with other clubs and societies, including but not limited to, poetry slams, debates, panel discussions, silent discos, music performances and film screenings.

In order to increase awareness of the homeless crisis in Ireland, each night of the week a large group of members will elect to sleep on the concourse (outside the library) warmed only with sleeping bags and Aldi wine. Each night is always a hoot and a great time is had! Throughout the week a bucket collection is run to fundraise and collect donations. It really is a fantastic week and a great time to get involved if it suits your fancy!



Staff volunteering

Associate Professor Paul Ward, UCD Sutherland School of Law
Role as Chair of Board of Management for Our Lady's Grove Primary School Goatstown, Dublin 14

“ My role as the Chair of the Board of Management for Our Lady's Grove Primary School primarily involves chairing a monthly meeting to discuss and manage the school affairs from such things as IT, Finance, building management and Health and safety. When called up I advise the Principal where advice is sought. During the first lockdown in March 2020 I was particularly called upon in relation to the School closure and parents wanting access to books. A delivery system was organized to provide the pupils with their learning materials. It is a rewarding role and enables me to give back to the school that educated my three children.”

Associate Professor Jacob Eisenberg, UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business

Meditation

Secular Buddhist meditation and discussion group meetings open to all community members.

For the past few years, along with a couple of other volunteers, Jacob organised and facilitated non-religious meditation group meetings in Rathmines. The meetings were open to all community members and included a meditation session, followed by conversation around Buddhist philosophy and discussing how it applies to every-day life.

Men's circle

Monthly meeting of men sharing issues on their mind.

Jacob has facilitated a monthly men's circle in Dublin, on a volunteer basis. Part of a global growing movement, these free meetings are open to all men who come to discuss issues and share their views in a safe environment in an authentic manner. While not intended as a therapy intervention, most participants report positive emotional and mental outcomes.

Dr Mark d'Alton, UCD Lyons Farm

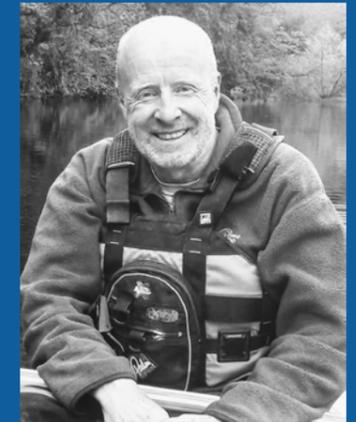
The Dublin Mountains Initiative

“ Approximately fourteen years ago (shortly before I started working in UCD) I went for my usual Sunday-morning run up Three Rock Mountain and was shocked and infuriated to come across yet another tranche of clear-felled forest, with the attendant post-nuclear landscape spread over a large area normally used by people to recreate.

I'm a huge believer in pointing your anger in the right direction and using it to try and achieve something positive – over the following few weeks I contacted local politicians and everybody I knew in the outdoor community. From the resulting discussions the Dublin Mountains Initiative (DMI) was formed to represent the views of the recreational users of the Dublin Mountains. The affiliated organisations were Mountaineering Ireland, the Irish Mountain Running Association, Cycling Ireland and the Irish Orienteering Association. The DMI had the stated aim of fostering a development and management plan for the region that would promote outdoor recreation. We also committed to consider and promote the requirements of the majority of users (families / casual walkers) of the Dublin Mountains who were not members of any of the affiliated organisations.

After extensive discussions with Coillte (the landowner and responsible for forest management), the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the three local County Councils, the Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP – www.dublinmountains.ie) was born. Over the next ten or so years the DMP achieved much, including the building of waymarked trails (in particular the Dublin Mountains Way), mountain biking trails & orienteering courses, a Volunteer Ranger programme, a guided walks programme and a consultative forum that engages with the local communities. As a result there was a considerable increase in the number of walkers, runners, cyclists & other recreational users throughout the area.

Despite this progress, and good relations on the Board of the DMP, the original problem of regular clear-felling of large forest areas by Coillte remained. It was the firm belief of the DMI that to manage large areas of recreational woodland beside a city of over a million people from a primarily commercial standpoint was neither correct nor sustainable and in 2017 my colleague Philip Brennan and I wrote a DMI policy document called 'A Change of Emphasis'. This called for a complete change to the forest management in nine named high-footfall forests - with cessation of clear-felling, planting of broadleaf and hardwood species where possible and maximisation of recreational potential. This document was submitted to the DMP partner organisations, and to Coillte in particular. A considerable wait ensued whilst the proposals were considered by Coillte management – this represented a complete culture change for the organisation. Initial indications were favourable however and last year Coillte Nature was formed, with the 'Dublin Mountains Makeover' (<https://www.coillte.ie/coillte-nature/ourprojects/dublinmountainmakeover/>) as its initial flagship project. This will result, with the gradual move to a diverse woodland, in a complete and seasonal change in the appearance of the Dublin Mountains, both from within and from afar.”



UCD Student Services

Submitted by Mags D'Arcy

New Sporting Infrastructure to Positively Impact UCD Community

In alignment with the University's key objectives, UCD's new sporting infrastructure will build engagement locally, nationally, and internationally, and in every aspect develop and strengthen our community spirit furthermore.

Student Services have been busy developing our community-based sporting facilities over the past 12 months, with the installation of a new flood-lit system on the Thornfield grass pitch, adding to the National Hockey Stadium's new pitch surface. On a weekly basis, the National Hockey Stadium welcomes between 500 to 600 people within the UCD community between training and games. As planned, the pitch is providing as a world-class surface for our 11 student hockey teams and is the go-to pitch in Ireland for high-level hockey games and tournaments.

Works furthermore have started on delivering our world-class athletics facility for the UCD community, comprising an eight-lane 400m IAAF synthetic track and a grass infield area suitable for athletics and multiple field sports. The site, which comprises c.3.73 hectares on lands located at the UCD Sports Precinct, Richview/Clonskeagh end of the campus, will also feature state-of-the-art lighting (up to 18m high) and will allow for electronic timing and scoring to the infield. The new track is expected to open within the 2020/21 academic year. This new piece of sporting infrastructure will enable athletes of all levels to train on Belfield Campus, and marks another valuable addition to our on-campus sports facilities.

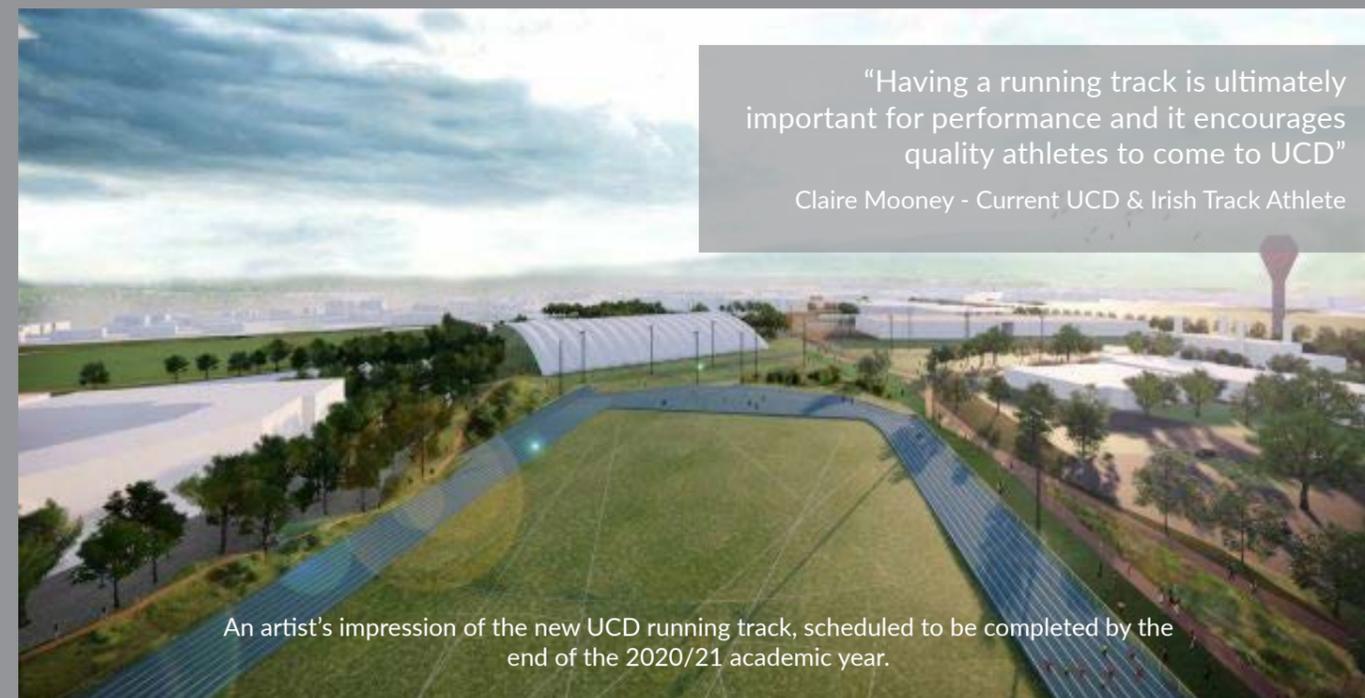
"The new running track will allow our athletes to train on campus, making life as a student-athlete a much more enjoyable experience"

Eamonn Murphy - UCD Athletics Captain 2018/19

UCD sports precinct continues to be the number one choice and training venue for multiple sporting disciplines, from Athletics to Volleyball, over 68 clubs are drawn from the greater Dublin region using the wide suite of sports facilities. In addition, it is a key training venue for the UEFA Euro 2021 and continues to be the host training venue for visiting international rugby teams.



Above: UCD Hockey Men's Club Captain, Aaron Empey, and UCD Hockey Ladies Club Captain Alison Priestman, surrounded by their peers, officially opening the new hockey pitch surface at UCD's National Hockey Stadium, Belfield, Dublin 4. Date: 11th September 2019.



"Having a running track is ultimately important for performance and it encourages quality athletes to come to UCD"

Claire Mooney - Current UCD & Irish Track Athlete

An artist's impression of the new UCD running track, scheduled to be completed by the end of the 2020/21 academic year.



Eimear Considine breaks through the Welsh defence during the build-up to Ireland's opening try at the UCD Bowl, Sunday, November 10th 2019

Community Connections

In compliance with government restrictions, UCD Student Services ensured the Student Centre and Support Provisions remained accessible to those who needed essential care and assistance within the UCD community. The building remained open 7-days-a-week under the stewardship of UCD Student Services Director, Mr. Dominic O'Keeffe.

UCD Student Services pledged their support to our female community body by joining the 20x20 Charter Movement which actions the cultural shift in our nation's perception of women in sport. In doing so, the UCD Bowl hosted Ireland's Women's Rugby team for their only November international game versus Wales.

March 2020, and within a matter of days, COVID-19 transformed the way we all engaged with and supported our students. Instantaneously, students around the world who were used to the rhythm and colour of campus life became accustomed to remote learning, without the chance to prepare adequately. Reconnecting as a community during this time, in a broad sense, needed ingenuity and imagination.

Throughout the University's closure, collegiality led us to conquer the external constraints of delivering support in a physical sense, by providing online platforms for our community's needs. UCD Student Services developed a hybrid solution overnight by partially transferring its services online to ensure our community's needs were met with their safety, physical and mental health in mind.

UCD Sport & Fitness established a free Outdoor Boot Camp for all employees of UCD, engaging in excess of 100 staff members. This platform was strategically designed to boost morale and inspire the confidence of those who returned to work on campus. UCD Sport & Fitness also produced an online platform whereby its community members could take On-Demand Fitness Classes from the safety of their home. These classes reached over 16,000 gym users.

Families within the UCD community were provided with an outlet for their children's physical and mental development by conducting Children's Sports Camps, albeit in a revised Covid friendly manner. The investment of energy in this field gave the people at the heart of our community in UCD, clarity, and comfort in knowing a return to fitness activity was being delivered by the University in a safe and strategic manner.

Students associated with sports clubs encouraged their peers to remain physically active in a socially distanced manner for both their physical and mental health. UCD GAA raised €2,000 for Temple Street Children's hospital during the Covid-19 lockdown in April by creating a social media campaign to motivate as many club members as possible to run 5km. These aforementioned initiatives focused on drawing our UCD community together in a time of isolation.

UCD Sutherland School of Law

Submitted by Professor Oonagh Breen

Law 40760: NGO Law, Governance and Social Change

In partnership with the Carmichael Centre, student teams in this module 'adopt' a charity for the course duration, working closely with that charity to produce a report on its governance and regulatory compliance with Irish charity law.

As part of their module, student teams 'adopt' a charity for the duration of a 12-week semester. Over this period, the students aim to become familiar with the charitable mission and activities of their charity. To this end, the team reviews the operation of the charity by looking at its governing documents and policy documents, reviewing its annual reports, websites, fundraising and communication strategies and meeting with the charity and its board/staff for interview purposes. At the end of the semester, the team is required to produce a written report that analyses the activities of the charity considering the topics studied in class and addresses any specific issues raised by the charity in its interaction with the team.

The project provides a charity with the opportunity to have masters-level students from several disciplinary backgrounds (law, public policy and development practice and international development) undertake a case-study of the charity's compliance with the regulatory framework for charities under Irish law. The students devote a significant period of time to their adopted charity in gaining an understanding of how the charity currently interacts with the various regulators, its stakeholders, supporters and beneficiaries. In meeting with the students, there is also an opportunity for the charity to raise particular issues currently affecting the charity for the students to further consider in their case-study. Final reports make bespoke recommendations for the individual charities and after examiner review and revisions are shared with the charity's CEO and board.

In 2019-20, students taking this module worked with HeartChildren Ireland, Alcohol Action Ireland and the Cat and Dog Protection Association.

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