



Autumn 2021

# UCD today

## BIODIVERSITY ON CAMPUS AND THE ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN 2021-2025

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# EDITOR'S LETTER

**EILIS O'BRIEN** DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING



Despite the relative quiet created by remote working and virtual learning, one of the striking things for anyone coming on campus is the amount of infrastructural development taking place. The new student residences at Roebuck, complete with village centre, transform that area into a modern residential area that promises to buzz with social life as soon as it opens.

Some twenty-five students and alumni represented Ireland at the Olympics and Paralympics this summer and with their performances still a warm memory, there is great anticipation around the opening of the new track at the western end of the campus – thanks to a generous donor. Come September, there

will be many pairs of spikes set for the starting gun. Belfield now boasts quality facilities for swimming and track as well as field sports including hockey. And while the training and competition facilities support the elite sports performers, they are extensively used by large numbers of students (and staff).

Meanwhile, the academic and education facilities are about to extend to a whole new level with the enabling works commencing on the Centre for Creativity and the Centre for Future Learning. The prospect of an iconic plaza rather than a concrete hut as you come in through the main entrance will truly transform Belfield and make it a destination in itself.

In this edition the President shares his thoughts on how the campus will support the growth of the University with Seán Dunne (page 29).

With COVID, UCD has had to assess itself in terms of the model of education we offer. The outcome is a clear sense of value in the benefits of the campus model. Over and over again we see that our students and our community seek out personal interactions and social exchanges as well as quality education and research. The infrastructural work on campus keeps progressing to meet these expectations. And, although Belfield 50 wasn't the public programme we had planned, Belfield 51 is looking very positive.

## UCD thanks...

**Subscribers:** Xuefang Alterman, Ciaran Bennett, Caroline Byrne, Ursula Byrne, Catherine Carey, David Corcadden, Jane Curtin, Mags D'Arcy, Emma Donovan, Mary Doorly, Georgina Dwyer, Daniel Esmonde Deasy, Antonella Ferrecchia, Evelyn Flanagan, Anne Fogarty, Beth Gormley, Andreas Hess, Una Kelly, Anna Kelly, Merlo Kelly, John Kelly, Liam Kennedy, Naonori Kodate, Abigail Lalor, Christine Linehan, Patrick Masterson, Cliona McGovern, Hilary Minch, Darina O'Hanlon, Theresa O'Leary, Paul Perry, Claire Scott, Mark Simpson, Dara Stanley, Regina Uí Chollatáin, Micéal Whelan.

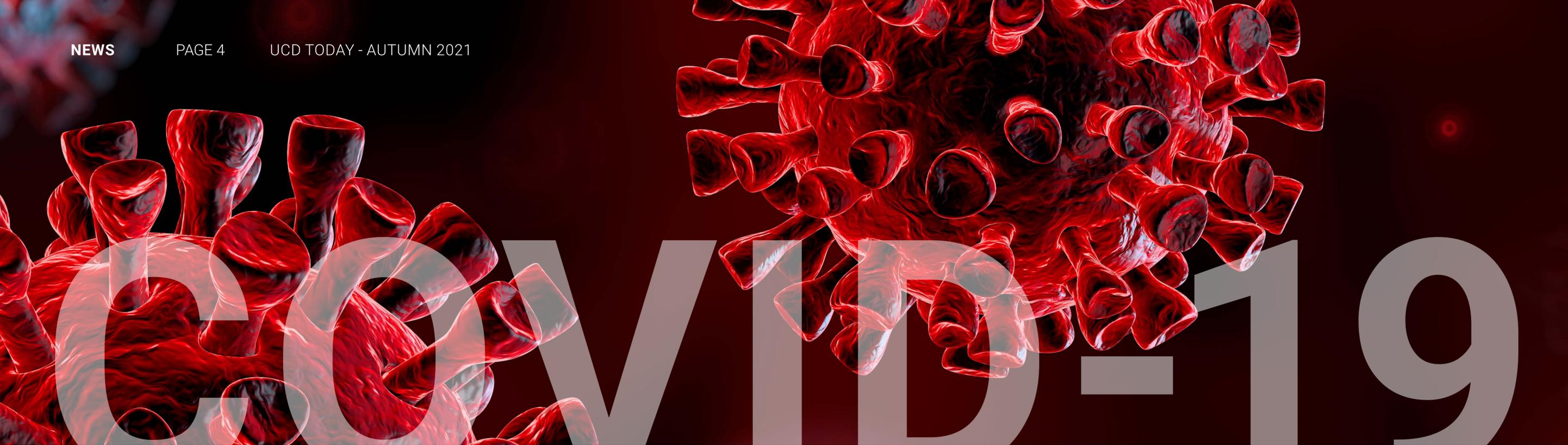
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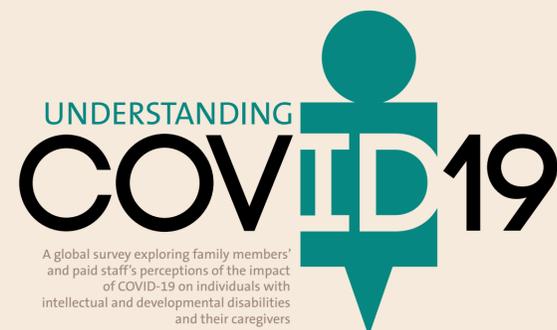
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In the compilation of this publication, every care has been taken to ensure accuracy. Any errors or omissions should be brought to the attention of UCD University Relations ([ucdtoday@ucd.ie](mailto:ucdtoday@ucd.ie)). We also welcome your suggestions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

Cover image: Biodiversity on the UCD Belfield campus



# COVID RAPID RESPONSE PROJECT



## UCD-led Covid Rapid Response project findings presented at IASSIDD European Congress

Associate Professor Christine Linehan, UCD School of Psychology, Director of UCD Centre for Disability Studies presented findings from a HRB funded Covid Rapid Response project at the IASSIDD (International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) European Congress in July. Associate Professor Linehan is Chair of the Comparative Policy and Practice Special Interest Group of IASSIDD and led this research with the support of 26 international colleagues representing 18 countries worldwide. Using an online survey methodology, the research gathered the views of 3,754 caregivers of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. [This research is openly published here.](#)

## The global experiences of staff working in intellectual and developmental disabilities services during the COVID-19 pandemic

This presentation aimed to explore the global experiences of staff working in intellectual and developmental disabilities services during the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, 1,842 staff members

completed the anonymous online survey during August and September 2020. The majority of staff stated that they received a policy or guidelines on COVID-19 for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and most reported satisfaction with these guidelines. Most staff received information and/or training on prevention of transmission, social distancing, use of PPE and isolation of persons with suspected COVID-19. Over half of all staff respondents reported concerns with the reorganisation of staff shifts, increases in the number of staff on sick leave, and requests for staff to take on new tasks. While satisfaction rates were high with the availability of PPE, many staff expressed dissatisfaction with the timing of this equipment. Less than half of all respondents were provided with information on the psychological impact of providing support to persons with intellectual and developmental disability during the pandemic, and a minority reported the introduction of peer support programmes. In combination, these experiences reveal significant disturbances in the global delivery of disability services during the pandemic.

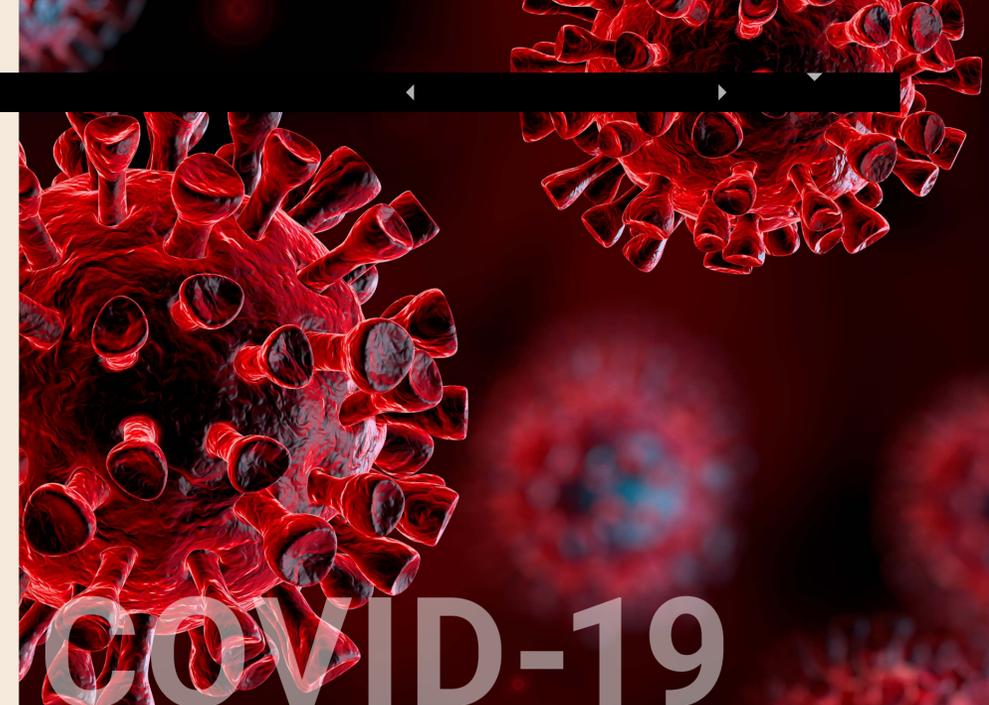
## COVID RAPID RESPONSE PROJECT (CONTINUED)

### The global experiences of family members supporting a person with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic

This presentation explored the global experiences of 1,912 family members supporting a person with intellectual and developmental disability during the COVID-19 pandemic using data from the online global survey of caregivers. These data were collected simultaneously to the staff reports presented above. The majority of family members were dissatisfied with the level of support they and their family member received during the pandemic, particularly changes in staffing support to their family member which included an increase in the presence of new staff on casual contracts. Family respondents also reported a reduction in the number of people they typically approached for support in their caring role during the pandemic. Many family members reported reduced employment and diminished income directly as a consequence of their caregiving duties. While many family members reported high levels of stress, less so anxiety and depression, only a minority of family members reported receiving any information on psychological support; those who didn't stated they would welcome this type of support. The collective experiences of family members reveal that many felt unsupported throughout the pandemic and dissatisfied with the support provided. These patterns were observed globally and reveal an urgent need for the provision of appropriate and timely support.

### Caregivers' experiences of COVID-19 in different living arrangements for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

This presentation sought to explore family and staff perceptions of the experience of COVID-19 in different residential living arrangements for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, specifically the family home, independent living, community group homes (CGH), and residential centres (RC). Data from all 3,754 respondents participating in the online survey were included in this presentation. Caregivers supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the family home were least likely when compared with other caregivers to receive policies, information and training on COVID-19 and reported least satisfaction in these areas. They also reported the lowest levels of COVID-19 testing for the people they support. Respondents who support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in CGH and RCs reported the highest levels of COVID-19 testing, for both caregivers and the people they support, and the highest level of visitor restrictions. Those supporting individuals in RCs had the highest reporting of COVID-19 symptoms, highest use of psychotropic medications for mood, and highest use of environmental restraint during the pandemic. These global trends reveal the differential experiences of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as a function of their living arrangement and the need to ensure equitable supports for all during the pandemic.



## In Brief

### From around the University

#### EXPERIENCES OF CANCER CARE DURING COVID-19

##### Phase 1 results of a longitudinal qualitative study

A study by Assistant Professor Amanda Drury, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems has investigated the experiences of cancer care amongst people affected by cancer in Ireland during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Participants in the study engaged in a series of semi-structured interviews between January and July 2021, and completed measures of resilience and distress. In the initial interviews conducted in January 2021 participants reported feeling that public health measures to reduce transmission of COVID-19 had created a sense of not missing out, reducing difficult social interactions requiring explanation of their diagnosis, and contributing to a feeling of safety. Participants also expressed reservations regarding the substitution of in-person medical appointments with telehealth contact, and the requirement to attend essential appointments alone.

Phase 1 results of the study are published in the *International Journal of Nursing Studies Advances*. Assistant Professor Drury collaborated with Associate Professor Manuela Eicher, Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV) and Dr Maura Dowling, NUI Galway.

# COVID-19 CONTACT DETECTION CHALLENGE

**Contact detection is a method being used by organisations around the world in a bid to tackle the spread of COVID-19, but how exactly does it work and how can it be improved?**

Using data produced by your phone, applications like the HSE COVID-19 tracker app allow for the tracking and notification of potential contacts with people who have tested positive for the virus. The HSE's app uses Bluetooth data to calculate the distance and length of time people have been in contact with others. Testing of the app showed an accuracy of 72% in the detection of close contacts. Can machine learning methods improve the accuracy of close contact detection using other data produced by your phone?

The NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology of the USA) in collaboration with MIT's research group PACT (Private Automated Contact Tracing), have created a challenge titled TC4TL, or Too Close For Too Long. The challenge saw universities around the world participate in an attempt to develop accurate and robust models to calculate close contact detection. Positive results were produced using Bluetooth data, accelerometer and transmission power information. The results and methodology of the various groups can be viewed on the [TC4TL challenge website](#).

The SFI Centre for Research Training in Machine Learning – a collaboration between UCD, DCU, and the TU Dublin that focuses on PhD training in machine learning – approached NIST after the initial competition and proposed that the new cohort of students take part in this challenge. The new cohort of thirty PhD students was divided into six groups and tasked with tackling the 'Too Close' or distance aspect of the TC4TL challenge. NIST created a direct line of communication with the cohort, allowing the students to ask questions on the data, the methods of evaluation, and any other enquiries.

This challenge offered a unique opportunity to use machine learning skills to make an impact on a global issue. NIST provided large amounts of data for almost 25,000 events where each event had one label. This gave the students a chance to immerse themselves in a project that uses real-world data, where the data

was noisy, weakly labelled and the data collection methods varied from one event to another. The wide scope of the problem allowed them to be creative and formulate the problem in a number of different ways – some choosing complex time series analysis and others fusing domain knowledge with machine learning techniques. An array of algorithms was used from deep learning techniques to tree-based ensembles. The effects of bringing a diverse range of expertise together and implementing a wide range of approaches resulted in teams performing on par and ahead of groups that are on the top of the leader board!

Student Niamh Belton told us: "One of the key learning takeaways from the project was how to formulate a Machine Learning project. We found that defining the objective of the project, establishing a clear baseline performance and effectively evaluating the solution were crucial components of developing a robust solution. We learned that evaluating our solution meant not only assessing it on the basis of a performance metric but to also consider other factors such as the complexity, the training time and the feasibility of productionising the solution. Moreover, the project highlighted the significance of being able to effectively communicate our solution to others. We practiced both verbal and written communication skills by composing a final report and regularly presenting updates to fellow ML-Labs students and supervisors. These are skills that we can utilise and continue to develop in our future projects!"

Fellow student Jack Nicholls said: "Like the majority of the global workforce we have had to collaborate and work together through online technology like Slack and Zoom. As some students have not travelled to Ireland due to the pandemic, time scheduling and coordination of working schedules was the first hurdle for many. With any project, there are different skills and backgrounds of each team member. With such diverse backgrounds for each student of ML-Labs, the groups had different levels of experience in project management, software development, and model evaluation to learn from each other."



## In Brief

### From around the University



*UCD President Professor Andrew Deeks receiving his vaccination at UCD O'Reilly Hall*

### COVID-19 VACCINATION CENTRE AT O'REILLY HALL

A fifth COVID-19 Vaccination Centre opened in UCD O'Reilly Hall, operated by the Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG) on behalf of the HSE. The Centre commenced vaccinations at the start of June.

UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks said: "We are delighted to support the HSE's national vaccination programme in this way and to facilitate the IEHG to administer vaccines as rapidly as supplies permit. It is only through widespread vaccination that we will be able to offer students an excellent campus experience in September."

Declan Lyons, CEO of the Ireland East Hospital Group said: "We are aiming to vaccinate up to 1,000 people per day at the Centre. We are delighted to work with our academic partner, UCD, in establishing this facility and it will greatly enhance our capacity with regard to the national vaccination programme."

Vaccinations follow the HSE's appointment schedule and people are asked to come only when they receive official notification from the HSE. The Centre's operations do not affect the operation of the UCD University Club, which will remain open, operating in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions throughout the summer.

# The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child health and the provision of Care in Paediatric Emergency Departments: a qualitative study of frontline emergency care staff

Researchers from UCD Centre for Interdisciplinary Research Education and Innovation in Health Systems (UCD IRIS Centre), UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, have examined the impact of COVID-19 on child health and the provision of care in paediatric emergency departments.

The [qualitative study](#) by Ciara Conlon, Dr Thérèse McDonnell, Professor Eilish McAuliffe and Dr Emma Nicholson, UCD IRIS Centre, and Clinical Associate Professor Michael Barrett, UCD School of Medicine and Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin, along with Professor Fergal Cummins, UL; Dr Conor Deasy, UCC; and Dr Conor Hensey, Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street, used insights from multidisciplinary frontline staff to understand the changes in paediatric emergency healthcare during the pandemic and the experiences of working within the restructured health system.

The study, published in *BMC Health Services Research*, found that public health restrictions necessitated by the pandemic have had an adverse impact on children's health and psychosocial wellbeing, exacerbated by difficulty in accessing primary and community services. The interruption to health and social care services is manifesting in numerous ways in emergency departments which have shown innovation and agility in the changes they have implemented to continue to deliver care to children.





## UCD hosts inaugural Global Partnerships Forum

**As Ireland's Global University, UCD has a significant global footprint, welcoming 8,400 international students from 145 countries to Dublin each year and with almost 4,000 international students at our overseas campuses. Engaging with our global partners and networks is essential for UCD to continue as a leader in the sector. With the necessary travel restrictions in place over the past year, the ability to meet university partners face-to-face, to continue to foster these important relationships, was significantly impacted. Like many sectors, UCD had to think creatively of how to reach our collaborators in a valuable and productive way.**

In April 2021, UCD hosted its first Global Partnerships Forum, an interactive four-day virtual event tailored to international university partners. The Forum comprised a series of panel discussions with key thought leaders across international education addressing the salient and pressing sectoral themes, including the future of global partnerships, the ever-changing funding landscape and importance of prioritising sustainability in international activity.

Speakers at the Forum included UCD President Professor Andrew J. Deeks and UCD Vice-President for Global Engagement Professor Dolores O'Riordan, who welcomed over 180 guests virtually, along with a plethora of external speakers. These included a



keynote address from Professor Ellen Hazelkorn, Professor Emerita, Technological University Dublin and Joint Managing Partner at BH Associates Education Consultants, entitled 'The Architecture of International Collaboration: Multilateralism in Support of Global Partnerships'.

The Forum showcased partnerships in practice across Europe, the United States, and Asia with a stand-out session on UCD's recently established joint international colleges in China. The respective Principals, Professor Wu Wenying of Beijing-Dublin International College, Professor Wang Hainian of Chang'an-Dublin International College of Transportation, and Professor Feng Lixin, Guangzhou-Dublin International College of Life Sciences and Technology, provided valuable insights and perspectives.

In addition, the Forum afforded participants the opportunity to meet with UCD colleagues across the Colleges, functions, and regions through a bespoke virtual meeting hub where partners discussed current collaborations and explored new opportunities for engagement.

While 2020/2021 is an academic year UCD staff and students will not forget, it has also compelled us to transform the way we work and engage with our global partners, with many of these practices here to stay. UCD looks forward to welcoming more partners to the University 'virtually' in 2021/22.

The full programme for the Global Partnerships Forum can be found on the [UCD Global website](#).

## Poetry recordings by President Michael D. Higgins



**The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, visited UCD Special Collections in June 2021 to record a selection of his poems for the Irish Poetry Reading Archive – a digital repository of contemporary poetic voices. During his visit President Higgins commended this national collection, noting the importance of preserving the voices of Ireland's poets for future generations and making them available to a global audience.**

The nine recorded poems, drawn from President Higgins' four published poetry collections reflect the importance of family and community in his work, as well as acknowledging the legacy of Ireland's turbulent past. 'The Betrayal', dedicated to the poet's father, explores the challenges of life after the foundation of the State, especially for those who had been involved in the revolutionary struggle. Other recorded poems – such as 'On Making the Three Decades' and 'The Touch 1' – dwell on the need for future generations to sustain values of empathy and solidarity. The President also read 'The Delivery', 'The Death of Mary Doyle', 'Toes', 'The Storyteller', 'Stardust' and 'Of Saturdays Made Holy' – a poem made available on the Áras an Uachtaráin SoundCloud account to mark May Day 2020. During his visit, President Higgins referred to the "transformative possibilities of language" – especially in performance – making his poetry especially fitting for inclusion in this heritage archive. His poems will be preserved in the UCD Digital Library and [are available here](#).

The Irish Poetry Reading Archive, founded in 2014, holds the work of over 150 poets, including writers born in Ireland but resident elsewhere and those newly arrived here. It has been viewed over 230,000 times, from 65 countries across the world. Like other poets who have read for the archive, President Higgins provided handwritten transcriptions of his recorded poems.

Poets in this archive include Paula Meehan, Michael Longley, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, Bernard O'Donoghue, Medbh McGuckian, Doireann Ní Ghríofa, Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh, Felicia Olusanya, Annemarie Ní Churreáin, Stephen James Smith, Kimberly Campanello, Christodoulos Makris and many more, including those who have participated in our UCD Festival poetry events in recent years. Some of the featured poets have associations with UCD, either as staff, alumni, or students, including Siobhán Campbell, Moya Cannon, Harry Clifton, Catriona Clutterbuck, Anthony Cronin, Ian Davidson, Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe, Chiamaka Enyi-Amadi, Frank McGuinness, Julie Morrissey, Chris Murray, John O'Donnell, Nessa O'Mahony, Paul Perry, Nerys Williams and Macdara Woods.

In the words of Paula Meehan, poet and former Ireland Chair of Poetry, the archive has become "an indispensable tool for both poetry makers and poetry readers, on and off the island... it is just and marvellous that the Archive holds the various and diverse voices of the community, and presents a rounded picture of the exciting and eclectic nature of Irish poetry today, in Irish, in English, and in translation."

The Irish Poetry Reading Archive is co-ordinated by Ursula Byrne and Evelyn Flanagan, UCD Library, in collaboration with Associate Professor Lucy Collins, UCD School of English, Drama and Film.

*\*A version of this article appeared in The Irish Times, 24 June 2021*

## Summer Conferring Ceremonies

During June, undergraduate and postgraduate students were conferred with degrees, certificates and diplomas in UCD School of Medicine and UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science; undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in UCD College of Engineering, UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD School of Medicine - Radiography and Diagnostic Imaging and UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems) and UCD College of Science; and UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. Everyone was disappointed not to be able to celebrate this happy occasion in person, but graduates were able to tune into virtual ceremonies.

UCD School of Veterinary Medicine conferred students with undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications from a range of programmes, as well as graduates from Veterinary Public Health and Food Regulatory Affairs programmes, which are jointly run with the University of Ulster. Professor Michael Doherty, Dean and Head of UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, welcomed graduates and their families and friends. Guest speakers included Charlie McConalogue TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Joe Moffitt, President of the Veterinary Council of Ireland and Dr Martin Blake, Chief Veterinary Officer.

22 nationalities were represented amongst those graduating from UCD School of Medicine, including 67 international students. Guest speakers at this ceremony included Professor Mary Horgan, Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Cork University Hospital, former UCC School of Medicine Dean and RCPI President, and Margaret O'Neill, National Dietetic Advisor, Health and Wellbeing division, HSE.



UCD Radiography graduates 2021

We also held a number of virtual celebration ceremonies for those students who graduated in December 2020 which students tuned in to from home.

## First issues of *Society* under new editorship published

Founded in 1962 by American maverick sociologist Irving Louis Horowitz, *Society* enjoys a wide reputation as a journal that publishes the latest scholarship on the central questions of contemporary society. The journal is published by Springer and produces six issues a year offering new ideas and quality research in the social sciences and humanities in a clear, accessible style.



Prof. Andreas Hess

As of 2021 the journal has a new editorial team consisting of joint editors-in-chief Professor Andreas Hess, UCD School of Sociology and Professor Daniel Gordon, University of Massachusetts

Amherst. In their role they are supported by Dublin-based managing and book review editor Johnny Lyons.

The new team brings together a wide range of disciplinary knowledge and expertise. Professor Hess has a sociology and political science background with special research interests in historical sociology and the history and sociology of ideas. He has published a monograph on the American political theorist and émigré scholar Judith N. Shklar, *The Political Theory of Judith N. Shklar. Exile from Exile* and also edited two thematically related books, Judith Shklar's *On Political Obligation* and a collection of essays, *Between Utopia*

and *Realism: The Political Thought of Judith N. Shklar*. His most recent, sole-authored book is *Tocqueville and Beaumont. Aristocratic Liberalism in Democratic Times*.

Each issue of *Society* contains not only full-length research articles but also commentaries, discussion pieces and book reviews which critically examine work conducted in the social sciences as well as the humanities. The journal is of interest to scholars and researchers who work in these broadly-based fields of enquiry and those who conduct research in neighbouring intellectual domains. *Society* should also be of interest to non-specialists who are keen to understand the latest developments in such subjects as sociology, history, political science, social anthropology, philosophy, and economics.

The journal is part of UCD's and other universities' open access agreement. For the latest issue, the journal's archive or more general information readers may [visit the journal's website](#).

## UCD Academic Appointed Chair of the National Research Ethics Committees for Clinical Trials



Dr Cliona McGovern

Dr Cliona McGovern, UCD School of Medicine, has been appointed by the Minister of Health, Stephen Donnelly TD as chair of the new National Research Ethics Committees for Clinical Trials (NREC-CTs). The remit of the NREC-CTs is to review the submission of

ethics applications related to Clinical Trials of Investigational Medicinal Products. This includes interventional studies and low-interventional studies involving medicinal products for human use. The NRECs will play a key role in protecting the safety, dignity and well-being of health research participants in Ireland.

Dr McGovern is the Head of Subject for Forensic and Legal Medicine in UCD School of Medicine. She is, and has been, a member of several Research Ethics Committees (REC) for

many years, including the REC in the Irish College of General Practitioners and the REC in the National Rehabilitation Hospital. In 2019 she was appointed as chair of UCD's Human Research Ethics Committee (Life Sciences).

In 2019, Dr McGovern was also appointed to the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians as an ethical and medico-legal advisor to the Scenario Editorial Committee for the MRCP Clinical Examinations. Her role is to advise the Committee on medical ethics and medical law

matters relating to the use of case scenarios, simulated patients, and the assessment of ethical principles. Since 2016, Dr McGovern has been the ethics advisor and member of the Lay Advisory Committee of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE).

Dr McGovern says: "I look forward to leading the NREC-CT Committee B in our goal of ensuring that the interests of research participants are paramount, while maintaining momentum in the conduct of clinical trials in Ireland."

# Cereal innovator sets her sights on healthier oats



*Prof Fiona Doohan, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science*

**DID YOU HAVE PORRIDGE FOR BREAKFAST TODAY? MAYBE YOU HAD OAT MILK IN YOUR COFFEE OR AN OAT-FILLED CEREAL BAR TO BOOST YOUR ENERGY LEVELS. THANKS TO THEIR VERSATILITY AND POTENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS, OATS ARE HAVING SOMETHING OF A RENAISSANCE, AND PROFESSOR FIONA DOOHAN IS ON A MISSION TO HELP CEREAL BREEDERS, FARMERS, FOOD PROCESSORS AND NUTRITIONISTS TAKE A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH WITH THEM FOR OUR HEALTH AND THE HEALTH OF THE PLANET.**

## CEREAL INNOVATOR SETS HER SIGHTS ON HEALTHIER OATS (CONTINUED)

Professor Doohan, who is Professor of Plant Health at UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science, is co-leading a new, €2.7-million project called Healthy Oats, which takes a big-picture look at this staple cereal. "It's a challenge-based project involving stakeholders in Ireland and Wales, to help small to medium enterprises to develop new products sustainably," she explains.

### From soil to human health

And why the humble oat, in particular? Oat is a historically important crop in Ireland as it can grow on relatively poor land that might not sustain staples such as wheat or barley, explains Professor Doohan, whose home town of Gortahork in Donegal derives its name from the Irish *Gort an Choirce*, or 'oat field'.

Now, the 21st century is waking up to the potential health benefits of oats, a rich source of vitamins, minerals and soluble fibre. "We are only scratching the surface of what oats could have to offer in terms of human health," says Professor Doohan.

The Healthy Oats project, which is funded through the EU's INTERREG programme, will test different varieties of oat in the field at UCD and in Aberystwyth, to assess their nutritional qualities and their resilience to disease, environmental change and potentially damaging 'mycotoxins' produced by fungi.

Professor Dolores O'Riordan, Director, UCD Institute of Food and Health, Vice-President for Global Engagement, will explore how low-impact processing could affect nutrition, and Assistant Professor Amalia Scannell, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, will examine the sensory qualities and tastiness of potentially new oat-based products.

"We are really going from soil right through to human health in this project, in a bid to help farmers and food processors to work sustainably into the future," says Professor Doohan.

### Tackling cereal killers

Professor Doohan's interest in plant health started with fungi. While studying industrial microbiology as an undergraduate in UCD, she

was inspired by lectures from mycologist Hubert Fuller on how fungi interact with plants, and she went on to do a PhD at the John Innes Centre in Norwich, England, on controlling *Fusarium* fungi in crops. "At that stage, about 20 years ago, molecular biology was taking off and this gave us a whole new technology to explore how plants and fungi interact," she says.

Since then, Professor Doohan's research has focused on how to improve disease resistance in crops, most notably wheat and barley, and her scope has widened far beyond the molecular dance between plant and disease-causing attacker.

**"One of the biggest things I have learned over the last two decades of research in this area is that you need to look beyond the binary questions – what pest affects which crop – and take the larger picture into account. You really have to look at the entire system and come up with realistic ways to intervene."**

### Fundamental questions bear fruit

Professor Doohan's ability to translate the knowledge from research into application earned her the NovaUCD Innovation Award 2021 last March. "It was just brilliant to receive that, I was so honoured," she says.

The award recognises her work on marker genes of disease that industry can analyse in their

R&D projects, to get a faster understanding of crop disease and potentially shave years off the process of developing more resistant varieties.

She is also innovating to control the microbes that live on and around the crop plant, encouraging beneficial fungi to improve the resistance of the crop against disease. She is a co-founder of e-Seed Crop Technology Solutions, a joint UCD-Trinity College Dublin spin-out company that is developing microbe mixes to add to soil to increase crop yields.

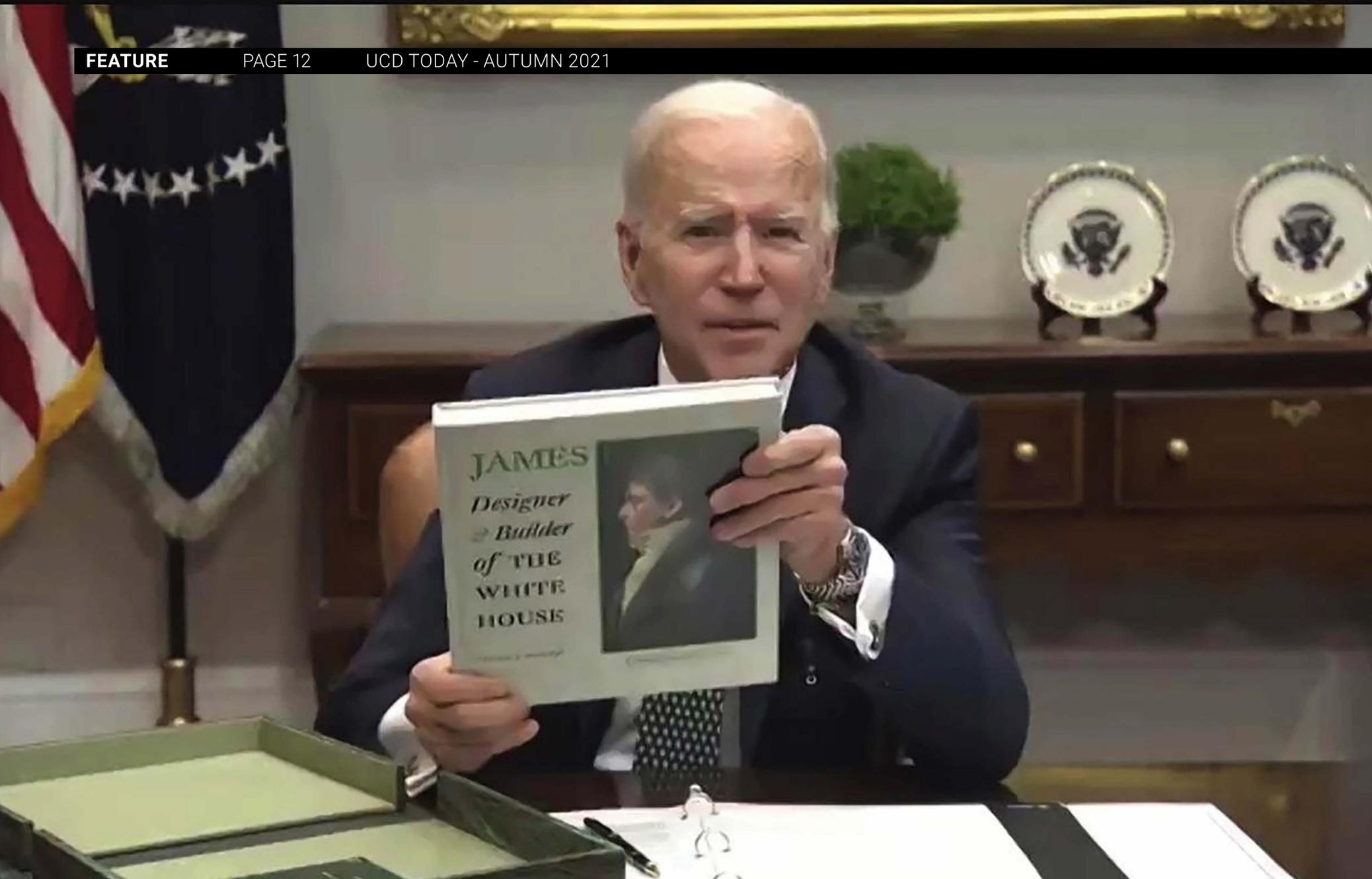
"This really emerged from fundamental research in our lab, blue-sky research that was funded by Science Foundation Ireland, and now we are seeing the fruits of it," she explains. "Now we are able to work with companies and develop usable, realistic solutions to improving the health of the soil and micro-environment around the crop."

### Stick to your core and collaborate

Throughout much of her time at UCD, Professor Doohan has had a longer commute to work than most – from Donegal to Belfield. "I live 20 minutes from the airport in Donegal, so up until COVID-19 hit I was working three days a week in UCD and two from home, it is a good balance with kids and family," she says. "Also I love the contrast of being in Dublin and walking around the city, then getting the plane home and it is like being on the other side of the world."

Similarly, she has held firm to her core in research, using technology as a tool to answer questions rather than becoming distracted by it. "My advice to all scientific researchers is not to get waylaid by the technology," she says. "Always have a scientific or biological question that you want to answer, use the technology that can help you and work with experts. That really is the key I think to cracking the nut of innovation and delivering for industry, you have to love what you do and keep that scientific curiosity at your core."

*Professor Fiona Doohan was in conversation with Dr Claire O'Connell (BSc, (Hons) 1992, PhD 1998), journalist with The Irish Times and Silicon Republic and Irish Science Writer of the Year 2016.*



President Biden holding 'James Hoban: Designer and Builder of the White House'. Photo credit: DJ Judd, CNN

## James Hoban: Designer and Builder of the White House

**The White House Historical Association has recently published an edited collection of eight essays entitled James Hoban: Designer and Builder of the White House.**

The volume features essays by distinguished architects and graduates of the UCD MUBC (Masters of Urban and Building Conservation) programme – Merlo Kelly, a Design Fellow in UCD, Brian O’Connell and Professor Finola O’Kane. Connecting Hoban, architect of arguably the world’s most famous house, with his home landscapes of Kilkenny and Dublin and his eventual projects and practice across the early USA, it was launched in Washington DC on St. Patrick’s Day, 2021.

President Biden was presented with a copy of the book in the White House in advance of the launch. Merlo Kelly [recorded podcasts](#) for the White House Historical Association, following presentation of her research on Hoban at their 2018 symposium in Washington DC – ‘The United Kingdom and Ireland in the White House: A Conversation on Historical Perspectives.’

Irish architect James Hoban was born in 1755, and spent his childhood years in Desart, Cuffesgrange, Co. Kilkenny where he trained as a carpenter and wheelwright. He attended the Dublin Society School of Architectural Drawing in the 1770s, and studied under architect Thomas Ivory. Having won a prize

for drawing in 1780, Hoban went on to work on a number of prominent projects in Dublin most notably the Royal Exchange (City Hall), the Newcomen Bank and the Custom House. By 1785, Hoban had emigrated to the United States and was advertising his services as a joiner and carpenter in local newspapers. In 1792 he won a competition to design and build the President’s House in Washington DC, which became known as the White House.

The essays in the book explore a range of topics from Hoban’s early years and influences in Ireland, to his life and career in the United States, with in-depth analysis of the White House design and construction.

## HPV-based screening for cervical cancer



Prof Donal Brennan

**International study co-authored by UCD Professor Donal Brennan confirms HPV-based screening for cervical cancer has superior sensitivity compared to traditional LBC screening.**

An international study, with centres in Ireland, published in [JAMA Network Open](#) on 30 June 2021 showed that molecular testing for human papilloma infection (HPV) infection, outperformed liquid-based cytology (LBC) approaches, detecting 19% more true positives of CIN (cervical intraepithelial neoplasia).

Professor Donal Brennan, UCD School of Medicine and Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist, Mater and St Vincent’s University Hospitals (SVUH) Dublin, and Dr Edward Corry, Registrar, Gynaecological Oncology, Mater and SVUH were co-authors of this study.

The study, which sought to estimate the likely outcomes of different cervical screening modalities and to model how the increasing uptake of HPV vaccination could affect the interpretation of screening results, in a simulated population of 1000 women over 25 years of age, showed HPV test sensitivity at 89.9% and LBC test sensitivity at 75.5%. The study concluded that over a lifetime of screening, reflex approaches with appropriate test intervals maximised treatment efficacy and as HPV vaccination rates increased, HPV-screening approaches resulted in fewer unnecessary colposcopies than LBC approaches.

Professor Brennan graduated from UCD School of Medicine in 2003 and Dr Corry graduated from UCD School of Veterinary Science in 2004 and then undertook the GEM (Graduate Entry Medicine) Programme in TCD.



'Rendezvous' Sculpture

## ■ Sensory Spaces and Places: UCD's Universally Accessible Campus Trail

The UCD Belfield campus is a very beautiful amenity. As part of UCD's work to create a University for All that is accessible and inclusive of all users, the development of a campus accessible sensory trail is underway. UCD Access and Lifelong Learning, in collaboration with UCD Estate Services, are developing this exciting project, which will provide spaces for quiet reflection and recreation in universally accessible spots. The sensory trail will be mapped out and signposted for all users. It will include existing natural beauty spots, walkways, quiet areas and forest areas. The trail will provide outdoor accessible recreational spaces that will assist campus users to enjoy healthy, tranquil and restorative interludes during each day and will assist greatly with mental health and wellbeing.

The sensory trail will be created in a quadrant, encompassing the woodland trail, the main thoroughfare and the upper lake area. Various points of interests and stops along the way will be plotted on an interactive map. The four main parts of the sensory trail will include:

- **The Chess Garden**
- **'Rendezvous' sculpture**
- **The vegetable garden behind the Veterinary building**
- **The Conway wildflower meadow**

In between these sectors, other areas will be selected for their sensory plants, quiet places, and accessibility features.

## ■ Biodiversity on Campus and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025

**The first All-Ireland Pollinator Plan was published in September 2015 to meet the challenge of pollinator decline. UCD joined as a partner organisation in 2018 and committed to focusing our management practices on campus to align with and support the principles of the plan. UCD has now signed up to be a supporter of the next phase: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025.**

Over the past number of years UCD has reduced mowing regimes, discontinued the use of glyphosate for weed control in amenity areas, introduced newly planted areas, new and extended



wildflower meadows, and other green infrastructure projects such as sedum roofs on UCD Moore Centre for Business, Ashfield Student Residences and UCD University Club, all of which will help to provide a valuable food source and habitat for pollinating insects into the future. [Further information on the 2021 UCD Pollinator Plan is available on the UCD Estates Services Website.](#)

UCD academics have been at the forefront of engagement with pollinators on campus, through public awareness initiatives such as tours of the orchard and apiary in Rosemount during World Bee days, bee identification workshops as part of UCD Earth WalkTalk, the ongoing UCD Bumblebee Monitoring transect and the Green Roof Biodiversity monitoring project. There are also an increasing number of research projects involving bees and pollinators at UCD, for example the [SUSPOLL](#) (Sustainable Pollination Services in a Changing World) and [PROTECTS](#) (Protecting terrestrial ecosystems through sustainable pesticide use) projects running through UCD Earth Institute and UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science. Such research and engagement from UCD further feeds into the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

## ■ 'Critical Exploration of Human Rights' Conference – Irish European Law Forum

On 7 and 8 May 2021, UCD Centre for Human Rights held an international online conference entitled *Critical Exploration of Human Rights: When Human Rights Become Part of the Problem*. Adopting a critical perspective, speakers and attendees discussed a broad range of topics on human rights including the issues of humanisation of war, uses and abuses of human rights, inequalities and economic rights, human rights advocacy and activism, but also human rights and violence, and human rights and crises.

Professor Samuel Moyn (Yale Law School) delivered a keynote lecture 'Humanisation of the War'. Based on his book *Human: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War* he discussed the origins and significance of humane war. Distinguished guest speakers Professor Neve Gordon (Queen Mary University of London), Dr Daniela Lai (Royal Holloway, University of London), Professor Jacques Leider (French Institute of

Asian Studies), Dr Joel Pruce (University of Dayton), and Dr Sharon Weill (Sciences Po, Paris School of International Affairs) delivered thought-provoking presentations which were followed by lively discussions. A suite of 22 papers were also delivered in the different panels over the two days.

The event was introduced by Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact. She emphasised the importance of such contributions to the debate on human rights at a time when Ireland sits as an elected member at the United Nations Security Council for the 2021-22 term.

Professor Colin Scott, College Principal, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law, Vice-President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, said that the conference exemplified the interdisciplinarity and the international dimension of the research undertaken in the University and in UCD College of Social Sciences and Law in particular. Professor Imelda Maher, Dean of UCD Sutherland School of



Contributors at UCD Centre for Human Rights 'Critical Exploration of Human Rights' Conference

Law, acknowledged the importance of the Centre's contribution to UCD Sutherland School of Law. The event was co-organised by Associate Professor Marie-Luce Paris, UCD Sutherland School of Law,

Director of UCD Centre for Human Rights, and Dr Lea David, Assistant Professor, UCD School of Sociology. It was co-funded by UCD Sutherland School of Law and UCD School of Sociology.



## ■ Circuits of Care: Ageing and Japan's Robot Revolution

Associate Professor Naonori Kodate, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice and Director of UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (UCD-JaSt) teamed up with Professor David Prendergast (Professor of Science, Technology and Society at Maynooth University) to produce a film entitled *Circuits of Care: Ageing and Japan's Robot Revolution*. The film has been nominated for awards at several film festivals, and won the 2021 Best Documentary Award at Long Story Shorts International Film Festival.

It is estimated that by 2036, one in three people in Japan will be over the age of 65. While the nation wrestles with a shrinking labour force, the Robot Revolution Initiative was launched to expand robotics into every corner of Japanese economy and society. The film *Circuits of Care*, directed by Professor Prendergast and produced by Associate Professor Kodate, was shot in Tokyo in the autumn of 2019. From cybernetic walking supports to companion robots and automated sensor networks in nursing homes, older adults and care professionals share their experiences of the practical benefits these technologies bring, the problems they create and the unexpected relationships that can blossom. The film also sheds light on how assistive technologies were used during the pandemic to provide care for older people.

Between April and June 2021, Associate Professor Kodate was invited to join film screenings and discussion sessions targeted at a variety of local and international audiences. The organisers include the SFI Centre for Research Training in Advanced Networks for Sustainable Societies (ADVANCE CRT), the Service Design Network (SDN), the Response=Ability Summit 2021, and the School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), France.

The film was part of an interdisciplinary and international project, 'Harmonisation towards the establishment of Person-centred, Robotics-aided Care System (HARP: RoCS)', funded by the Toyota Foundation.

# Why is Ireland's far-right so small?

**Call them fascist, call them alt-right or call them far-right – but from a base of virtually zero a decade ago, they've grown to a notable, albeit still relatively small, political presence in Ireland.**



Prof Bryan Fanning

In the recent Dublin Bay South by-election, the combined vote for the far-right barely reached 1.3%. In other European countries – most notably France, where Marine Le Pen won a third of the vote in the 2017 Presidential election – they do much better.

Where have the Irish far-right come from, why have they failed to take off electorally in Ireland, and is there a risk that complacency could allow the forces of ultra-nationalism and xenophobia to grow here?

Bryan Fanning is Professor of Migration and Social Policy in UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, and his new book, *Diverse Republic*, examines the nature of antipathy to immigration in Ireland and the extent to which this has the potential to be politically exploited.

In the book, a sequel and companion to *Migration and the Making of Ireland* (2018), Fanning looks at how conflicts between conservatives and liberal don't neatly fit into the Irish political context, why Ireland has tended to be more outward-looking and how the Northern Irish conflict gave Ireland a different perspective on tribal or ethnic nationalism.

"Ireland doesn't have a smaller far-right because we are particularly wonderful people," says Fanning. "We have the same

tendencies as other people, and yet we have a politics without extreme racism. Racism does exist in Irish society, just as it does in other societies, and it's fair to say that Ireland's institutions don't serve people of colour or Travellers as well as the white Irish majority: if you look at policing, prisons and employment you will see people have problems getting on because of race or culture."

As a relatively small country, Ireland became very educated and very liberal quite fast. "We didn't have an industrial revolution in the standard sense, going from farmers to post-industrial in one step," says Fanning.

"National identity is something that can be approached in a positive, inclusive way, and this is very different from the version of Irishness you may find when you look at some social media videos which take a more narrow, exclusive version. In England, Hungary and Poland, the far-right claim ownership of what it is to be English, Hungarian or Polish, but Irish people in all our diversity are not drawn to pre-1966 versions of Irishness, or the type of Irishness that may have been embodied by de Valera. We have seen huge changes aimed at stemming the flow of emigration, we have seen major urbanisation and secularisation, and we are outward-looking in that we see the country as part of a global economy, and being part of a multicultural Europe has been a way for us to demonstrate our sovereignty from Britain. Our patriotism has been built around the economy."

This economic patriotism stems back to decisions made in the 1960s, primarily by Taoiseach Seán Lemass and senior civil servant TK Whittaker, to open up the economy and reintegrate into the wider world after decades of a more isolationist policy.

**"IT HAS MEANT THAT WE SEE OUR SURVIVAL AS BEING OUTWARD-LOOKING. OUR SENSE OF IRISHNESS HAS MOVED ON FROM 'BLOOD AND SOIL' AND THE NORTHERN IRISH CONFLICT HAS BEEN A LESSON IN WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN NATIONALIST POLITICS GO SOUR. IRISH POLITICIANS HAVE LEARNED TO MODERATE THEMSELVES SO AS NOT TO STIR A POT OF ETHNIC CONFLICT – ALTHOUGH YOUNGER GENERATIONS DON'T NECESSARILY KNOW THIS."**

As a whole, Fanning says that Irish people don't have a problem with immigrants as such, despite almost 80% of the country in 2004 voting that children born in Ireland would not have an automatic right to citizenship.

## WHY IS IRELAND'S FAR-RIGHT SO SMALL? (CONTINUED)

"Immigrants were welcomed into the economy and worked in various sectors and places, but a lot of ordinary people came to the conclusion that an immigrant born next door to them was not Irish. That said, when we think of someone as a fellow citizen, we admit them into a category that includes ourselves, regardless of their ethnic background. For instance, when Ibrahim Halawa, an Irish-born citizen with an Irish passport, was imprisoned in Egypt, the media reported on him as an Irish citizen and Irish politicians went to see an Irish citizen in a foreign prison."

He speculates that, were the 2004 referendum to be held again today, the result would most likely be on "a knife edge."

**FANNING SAYS THAT THE AVERAGE TD HAS A GOOD SENSE OF HOW VOTERS FEEL ABOUT ISSUES AND THAT, DESPITE SOME NOISES FROM A FEW RURAL INDEPENDENT POLITICIANS, THERE ISN'T SUFFICIENT POLITICAL HAY TO BE MADE FROM STOKING UP ANTI-IMMIGRANT SENTIMENT. "MOST MAINSTREAM POLITICIANS HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WON'T BENEFIT THEM TO BE SEEN AS RACIST."**

He cautions against complacency however. Anti-Traveller prejudice has only grown over the past few decades, with Fanning commenting on how the rhetoric around Travellers echoes colonial British views of Irish people. "We can also look at

the often negative experience of what it was to be Protestant in post-independence Ireland."

**INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP, SAYS FANNING, IS IMPORTANT TO STEM THE GROWTH OF THE FAR-RIGHT IN IRELAND.**

"We can take an inclusive approach and admit more people into decision making and into becoming a more active part of their community. Polish people, for instance, may not vote if they're not Irish citizens, and they're not Irish citizens because, by virtue of holding EU citizenship, they may feel they don't need it. In the UK context, non-British citizens could have changed the outcome of Brexit if they had had a vote."

Integration should happen in local communities, and communities should be consulted about services, facilities and infrastructure, Fanning says. "If a direct provision is going into a town, it should be tied to community development so nobody is seen as a burden. A Citizens' Assembly could look positively at what it means to be Irish in the 21st century."

*Professor Bryan Fanning was in conversation with Peter McGuire, BA (2002), MLitt (2007), a freelance journalist and a regular contributor to The Irish Times.*



## Winner of 30% Club Diploma in Corporate Governance Scholarship



Marie Gleeson

**Smurfit Executive Development is delighted to announce the award of the 2021 30% Club scholarship to Marie Gleeson. Marie Gleeson served for over 20 years in the Irish Navy reaching the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Her career highlights include command of the LE AOIFE from 2013-2015 and service on a UN mission in Chad. She retired from the Irish Navy in 2019 and founded NavMar Leadership. She provides leadership consultancy services and is a motivational speaker. Marie Gleeson's trailblazing career will further enhance the profile of participants on this prestigious programme.**

Marie believes in the benefits of gender balance having lived it as one of the first female officers to serve in the Irish Navy. Her Masters dissertation (MSc Human Resource Leadership, Sheffield Hallam University) highlights the improved performance in organisations with a gender balanced executive leadership team.

Alongside the growing emphasis on education and training of company directors and governors is an increased emphasis on diversity in boardrooms. Following the banking crisis, the Stock Exchange's Corporate Governance Code added forceful material on the need for diverse boards, including gender and race. That Code advocates diversity as a means of avoiding "groupthink", encouraging different approaches and experiences around boardroom tables. Under the State Code, due regard for diversity is required in making state board appointments, with chairs and government departments required to consider the benefits of diversity on boards, including gender diversity.

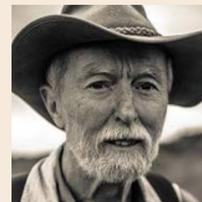
To advance the objectives of the code, UCD Smurfit Executive Development, in association with the 30% Club, offers one scholarship per annum to a female student on the fully accredited postgraduate Professional Diploma in Corporate Governance. The 30% Club was launched in January 2015 and has the objective of improving gender balance at all levels in Irish business, with a focus on gender balance on boards of directors and in senior executive leadership positions.

## Six UCD Professors Elected to Royal Irish Academy

**On 21 May 2021 six UCD professors were elected to the Royal Irish Academy, the highest academic honour in Ireland. Admittance to the Academy recognises world-class contributions to the sciences, humanities and social sciences. The six UCD professors were amongst 27 new members admitted during a remote admittance ceremony.**

The newly elected UCD professors are:

- **Professor John Feehan, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science**
- **Professor John Crown, UCD School of Medicine**
- **Associate Professor Meidhbhín Ní Úrdail, UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore**
- **Professor Brian O'Connor, UCD School of Philosophy**
- **Professor Desmond Tobin, UCD School of Medicine**
- **Professor John Brannigan, UCD School of English, Drama and Film**



**Professor John Feehan**, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science is an environmental scientist who has made an outstanding contribution to raising public awareness of the environment through several books and in his outreach through television and YouTube. His work is especially well known in rural Ireland and in farming circles.



**Professor Brian O'Connor**, Head of UCD School of Philosophy gained international renown for his distinctive contributions in critical social theory and the history of German philosophy. His books are cited by the most prominent scholars and researchers and feature on university teaching curricula worldwide.



**Professor John Crown** is Professor of Translational Cancer Research at DCU and clinical research professor at UCD School of Medicine. He has published widely on clinical and translational research in breast cancer therapy. His pioneering research is known internationally for advancing pathways to overcome resistance to cancer treatment and to improve outcomes through molecular understanding of exceptional cancer responses.



**Professor Desmond Tobin**, Professor of Dermatological Science, UCD School of Medicine is an internationally recognised skin and hair follicle biomedicine researcher. He was recently awarded a Science Foundation Ireland Frontiers-to-the-Future award to explore how healthy melanocytes transform into melanoma cells.



**Associate Professor Meidhbhín Ní Úrdail** is Head of Modern Irish at UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore. Her extensive dossier of publications in three languages (Irish, English and German) consistently exhibits excellence in the depth and originality of its research, the range and versatility of its subject matter, and the meticulous quality of its presentation.



**Professor John Brannigan**, Head of UCD School of English, Drama and Film is the author of seven monographs and many articles and book chapters on authors from Brendan Behan to Virginia Woolf and has led innovative research projects on literature and the sea.

## Soapbox Science Dublin 2021

How can maths help save the bees? How can chocolate help us understand chemical polymorphisms? These were some of the questions discussed during Soapbox Science Dublin 2021 when (due to COVID-19) twelve female scientists, engineers and mathematicians swapped their soapboxes on the street for an online platform.



On Saturday 3 July speakers gave 5-minute talks on their research to the general public. Audience members could log on any time to listen via Facebook and YouTube, and could ask questions and interact with the free, live event.

Soapbox Science is a global public outreach platform which aims to connect scientists with the general public and to increase the visibility of women and non-binary scientists and the science they do. Soapbox Science Dublin 2021 was supported by UCD seed funding and UCD Earth Institute, and was organised by Dr Angela Feechan, Dr Dara Stanley, Dr Saoirse Tracy and Dr Anthony

Twamley from UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science. A recording of the event is available on the [Soapbox Science Dublin YouTube channel](#).

The 12 Soapbox Science Dublin 2021 speakers and the titles of their talks were:

- **Dr Victoria Elizabeth Mullin, TCD: 'From bones to genomes'**
- **Dr Rebecca Whetton, UCD: 'The dirt beneath our feet'**
- **Dr Elena-Alexandra Micu, TCD: 'SmartBridge'**
- **Helena Mylise Sørensen, DCU: 'You are what you eat: Engineering the foods of the future'**
- **Reabetswe Zwane, DCU: 'Chocolate for your pain: How the chemistry of painkillers can help you choose the best chocolate'**
- **Elena Aitova, NUI, Galway and UCD: 'Re-wet,**

**re-peat: Re-thinking Irish peatlands'**

- **Tammy Strickland, RCSI: 'Rhythms of Life: Day in the life of a human brain'**
- **Dr Sarah MacQueen, UCD: 'Save the bees... with mathematics?!'**
- **Dr Cristina Trujillo, TCD: 'Using Computational Chemistry to design new, non-toxic ways of obtaining pharmaceutical compounds'**
- **Dr Amalia Naranjo-Lucena, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine: 'The microbial veterinary gardai'**
- **Dr Gita Singh, UCD: 'Li-ion battery: The untold love story'**
- **Professor Sally Ann Lynch, Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street: 'Celebrities get mutations too'**

## NovaUCD Innovation Award Recipients 2021

The NovaUCD Innovation Awards highlight successes made in areas of knowledge transfer, consultancy, entrepreneurship and the promotion of an innovation culture by members of the UCD research, innovation and start-up community.

The 2021 NovaUCD Innovation Award, which recognises excellence in innovation or of successes achieved in the commercialisation of UCD research or other intellectual activity over a number of years, was awarded to Professor Fiona Doohan, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science.

As a crop scientist Professor Doohan's research is focused on improving the sustainability of crop production systems in Ireland and globally, and enhancing the diversification, safety and transparency of Irish food systems and she has secured over €30 million in research funding to date.

She has filed a total of 14 invention disclosures with NovaUCD in areas such as novel endophytes and their use in improving yield and suppressing

diseases in crops; genes conferring resistance to fungal diseases that attack cereals; a novel enzyme used to break down lignocellulose to produce bioethanol along with a method of transforming cells to improve crop traits.

A number of these inventions have been co-developed with collaborators in Teagasc and Trinity College Dublin. Seven of these inventions have been patented and three licence agreements have been signed with industry.

Professor Fiona Doohan is also a co-founder of e-Seed Crop Technology Solutions, a joint UCD-TCD spin-out company, which is focused on developing novel endophytes that can increase crop yields.

The recipients of the 2021 NovaUCD Invention of the Year Award are: Professor Patricia Maguire, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, Professor Fionnuala Ní Aínle, UCD School of Medicine and Dr Paulina Szklanna, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, for their discovery of biomarkers which can be used to diagnose preeclampsia risk.

The recipient of the 2021 NovaUCD Spin-out of

the Year Award is Equal1 Labs which is developing a new type of quantum computer based on the latest advances in semiconductor CMOS (Complementary Metal-Oxide Semiconductor) technology. The company, founded by Dr Dirk Leipold, Professor R. Bogdan Staszewski and Mike Asker, is a spin-out from the UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

The recipient of the 2021 NovaUCD Consultancy of the Year Award is Professor Michael Wallace, UCD School Agriculture and Food Science, for a consultancy study entitled 'Economic Impact Assessment of the Tillage Sector in Ireland' commissioned by Tillage Industry Ireland through ConsultUCD.

The recipient of the 2021 NovaUCD Founder of the Year Award is Charlie Gleeson, founder and CEO of Zipp Mobility, the micromobility start-up. During 2020 Zipp Mobility secured over €1 million in seed funding, including €250,000 from Enterprise Ireland and launched e-scooter operations in multiple UK locations.

The recipient of the 2021 NovaUCD Innovation Champion of the Year Award is Dr Paul Cuffe, UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, for his dedication to working with UCD engineering programme students, to unlock the commercial

trajectory of their final year dissertation projects.

The recipient of the 2021 NovaUCD Licence of the Year Award is Dr Donal MacKernan, UCD School of Physics, who has developed a disruptive molecular switch platform technology. During 2020 this technology was licensed by NovaUCD to a US-based company Fionnachtain Inc with an initial application as a point-of-care medical diagnostic for COVID-19 and influenza.

Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact said:

**"I would like to congratulate all those who have received 2021 NovaUCD Innovation Awards. These Awards were established to recognise and highlight the successes being made by members of our research and innovation community across the University. I wish them all continuing success in 2021 and the years ahead as they continue to shape the future and deliver impact for the economy and society through their commercialisation, consultancy, entrepreneurial and innovation activities."**



## Dublin Climate Dialogues - Influencing Outcomes for COP26

**UCD hosted the Dublin Climate Dialogues Conference which took place on 19 and 20 May 2021, broadcast from UCD O'Reilly Hall. Over two days attendees at the Dublin Climate Dialogues heard from experts in the fields of climate change, green finance, energy and technology on how individual countries and the global community can accelerate the transition to NetZero ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, November 2021.**

Chaired by Pat Cox, former President of the European Parliament, keynote speakers included John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate; Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence; Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Finance and President of the Eurogroup; Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister for Transport; as well as other leading figures from industry, academia and government.

The event was opened by UCD President Professor Andrew Deeks who highlighted the importance of the conference and how it underpins one of the strategic themes in UCD's Rising to the Future Strategy: Creating a Sustainable Global Society.

Professor Andrew Keane, Director of UCD Energy Institute, and Professor Patricia Maguire, Director of UCD Institute for Discovery were both on the Steering Committee for the event, which was brought together by Irish renewable energy industry leader Dr Eddie O'Connor. Professor Keane moderated two sessions in the conference. Session 7: *Technologies and Resources for Decarbonisation* explored a selection of the critical energy resources and technologies required for the transition to net zero carbon energy. Session 8: *Energy Systems to Facilitate Decarbonisation* commenced with a keynote address from Marie Toussaint, French Greens/EFA Member of the European Parliament titled '*Transitioning Europe to Climate Neutrality*'. Following the presentation, a live panel debate brought together experts from Europe, China and the US to discuss the different approaches to infrastructure planning and investment, market structures and innovation.

Over 2,100 registered people for the event with additional viewers watching the livestream ([available to view here](#)). A key output of the event was a declaration on how to turn NetZero pledges into concrete energy policies and actions to be adopted at COP26, including ways to strengthen the 2015 Paris Agreement.

## New Chair of Foras na Gaeilge

**In May 2021 Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin was appointed the new Chair of the Board of Foras na Gaeilge, the cross-border north-south language body responsible for language funding and initiatives and Irish language organisations on the island of Ireland.**



A native of Letterkenny and President of the Global Irish Diaspora Congress, Professor Uí Chollatáin is Chair and Professor of Modern Irish at UCD, and has been Head of UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore since 2015.

Professor Uí Chollatáin is a member of the Irish Folklore Council and sits on the MoLI Academic Advisory Board. Her main areas of

research are Irish language media and literature, the Revival period, examining literary, linguistic, historical, and cultural influences on the Irish language national and international community.

Professor Uí Chollatáin says: "Táim ag súil go mór le bheith ag obair le Foras na Gaeilge sa ról seo. Tá neart tograí agus féidearthachtaí spreagúla ar siúl i measc phobal na Gaeilge faoi láthair agus is mór agam a bheith páirteach san obair seo. I am looking forward to working with Foras na Gaeilge in this role. There are many exciting projects and possibilities in the Irish language sector at this time and I am delighted to be part of this work."

## UCD Clinton Institute Announces Partnership with CNN Academy

**UCD Clinton Institute is delighted to be working with CNN Academy to create a new MA in Journalism and International Affairs – the first Masters programme in English that CNN have co-designed in collaboration with a university partner. The programme will directly connect the classroom to the newsroom and will include opportunities for students to publish work on CNN. Sessions will be led by CNN producers, journalists and editors, providing practical training in audio, video, digital, and social storytelling combined with academic expertise in international affairs.**

To mark the launch of the new programme UCD Clinton Institute hosted an online conversation on 'The Future of News Journalism', introduced by UCD President Professor Andrew Deeks and featuring CNN journalist Donie O'Sullivan and UCD Clinton Institute Director Professor Liam Kennedy.

Professor Liam Kennedy said: "We are at the dawn of a new age of political communications, defined by a growing complexity of media systems and communication abundance. It can be



confusing and frustrating to make sense of the world today – we need to develop new skills and challenge old assumptions to do so."

The programme will commence in January 2022.



Dr Stefan Müller

# IRISH POLLING INDICATOR: WHAT DO ELECTION POLLS REALLY MEAN?

IN THE PAST 40 YEARS, POLLING COMPANIES HAVE PUBLISHED OVER 620 SURVEYS OF VOTING INTENTIONS. WE'VE ALL SEEN THE REGULAR CYCLES OF OPINION POLLS IN NEWS OUTLETS, WITH A GREATER NUMBER OF POLLS HELD AROUND ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, BUT IT'S ONLY WHEN READ TOGETHER THAT A SERIES OF POLLS REALLY STARTS TO TAKE ON GREATER SIGNIFICANCE.



**Dr Stefan Müller, Assistant Professor and Ad Astra Fellow at UCD School of Politics and International Relations, working with colleague Dr Tom Louwse (Leiden University), has developed the Irish Polling Indicator, a project that pools opinion surveys to arrive at the best estimate of the current support for parties. The Indicator goes back as far as 1983 and is updated with the release of each opinion poll. By combining multiple polls, the method reduces sampling errors in individual surveys, while the Bayesian statistical model accounts for structural differences in how companies carry out polls.**

“The theory of responsiveness assumes that parties face electoral incentives to listen to voters,” says Müller. “If new issues emerge on the political agenda, parties need to be aware of them and possibly adjust their emphasis or positions. And evidence shows that parties consider public opinion: for instance, one study in the American Journal of Political Science suggests that exposure to public opinion research can lead politicians to change their rhetoric, while another study shows that parties underperforming in the polls emphasised their own policy positions to attack other parties.”

In the Irish context, Müller says, recent opinion poll data showed that around 45–50% of under-35s regularly mentioned either house prices or cost of renting as the most important problem, and parties responded accordingly. “At the Connected Politics Lab at UCD we studied how issue emphasis on Twitter (accounts of parties and party leaders) changed after the election in 2020 was announced. The actors focused much more on healthcare and housing in their tweets (which were the dominant election issues according to polls) and basically stopped talking about Brexit and the EU.”

#### **So do polls change the trajectory of a campaign?**

“It’s hard to say,” says Müller. “Given that single polls are important but rely on only one sample, the Irish Polling Indicator is a useful additional tool. Polls can also be a reaction to the trajectory of a campaign. Issues that emerge on the agenda could change the trajectory of a campaign. And this often becomes evident through public opinion. I don’t think that individual polls change the trajectory, but consistent trends may lead parties to rethink their strategy.”

It’s important to compare several polls – a major reason why the Polling Indicator was developed, says Müller.

“Evidence from Denmark shows that polls showing change are selected in more media reports, and even small changes are amplified through political reactions even if these ‘changes’ are within the margin of error. Irish media often do the same, even in this electoral cycle. But there is evidence that news articles mention the margin of error more often in recent years.”

Müller mentions research which shows that polls are, on average, relatively stable in the run-up to the election campaign and are often good indicators of the election result. “Tom Louwse and myself find that government parties often lose support at the beginning of the electoral cycle, but struggle to regain support in the months prior to upcoming elections. But we want to stress that the aim of the Irish Polling Indicator is to inform people about the information contained in opinion polls, not to forecast elections.”

Research on agenda setting on social media in the US finds that politicians tend to follow, rather than lead, discussion of public issues, says Müller. “In a study on Switzerland, which I carried out with a team of co-authors from the University of Zurich, we found that agenda-setting dynamics on social media and in newspapers are closely interlinked.”

The Indicator is a valuable tool for political parties, candidates or indeed anyone interested in politics. “Instead of looking at a single poll, parties and candidates can see how this poll compares with all other polls published recently,” Müller says. Politicians and voters can compare a single poll with

the aggregated support, and also get a sense of the most likely range of support. We know from personal communication with politicians and advisors that many Irish practitioners ‘are quasi-obsessive users of the site’ (quote from an advisor for a main Irish party). Our efforts seem to be appreciated by Irish policy-makers and advisors.”

#### **How the Polling Indicator was compiled**

Researching the data that comprises the Polling Indicator was a significant task.

“We manually read and coded newspaper articles and raw reports,” says Müller. “We went through the online archives and extracted information on parties’ standing in the polls using scanned versions of Irish newspapers. This allowed us to go back until 1987. Not many polls were released prior to 1983.”

Ultimately, only 18 polls were excluded from the Indicator, most of which were from the 80s or 90s, mainly because the sample size or all relevant parties were not mentioned in the reports.

“After we have implemented and validated the approach, we add new polls immediately after its release and rerun the algorithm. The simulations run for around one hour – afterwards, the website and replication data get automatically updated. We publish aggregated estimates on the day after the release of a poll.”

*Assistant Professor Stefan Müller was in conversation with Peter McGuire, BA (2002), MLitt (2007), a freelance journalist and a regular contributor to The Irish Times.*

## ■ NovaUCD and IADT Media Cube collaborating to deliver New Frontiers Programme for Emerging Entrepreneurs

**NovaUCD and IADT Media Cube have announced a new 5-year partnership, with €1.6 million in funding from Enterprise Ireland, to deliver a New Frontiers Programme aimed at the growing number of emerging entrepreneurs based in the greater South Dublin area, incorporating Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, South Dublin, and North Wicklow.**

The New Frontiers programme will provide participating entrepreneurs with access to a comprehensive package of supports including mentorship from some of Ireland's leading business people, funding support from Enterprise Ireland and access to resources including hot-desk facilities from two of Ireland's leading business innovation centres, IADT Media Cube and NovaUCD.

The partnership will enable a total of 275 entrepreneurs, up to 55 annually, to develop their

innovative business ideas with a view to building globally scalable businesses.

Tom Flanagan, Director of Enterprise and Commercialisation at NovaUCD said, "We are delighted to be partnering with IADT Media Cube in delivering a New Frontiers programme for entrepreneurs located in South Dublin. At NovaUCD we have gained considerable experience and expertise by supporting over 400 start-ups to attract over €775 million in investment and create thousands of jobs. This programme aligns



Pictured (l-r) are: Ann Marie Phelan, Enterprise and Innovation Manager, IADT Media Cube, Tom Flanagan, Director of Enterprise and Commercialisation, NovaUCD and Paula Carroll, National Programme Manager, New Frontiers, Enterprise Ireland.

well with the VentureLaunch, 5G/IoT, Advanced Manufacturing, and European Space Agency accelerator programmes we deliver."

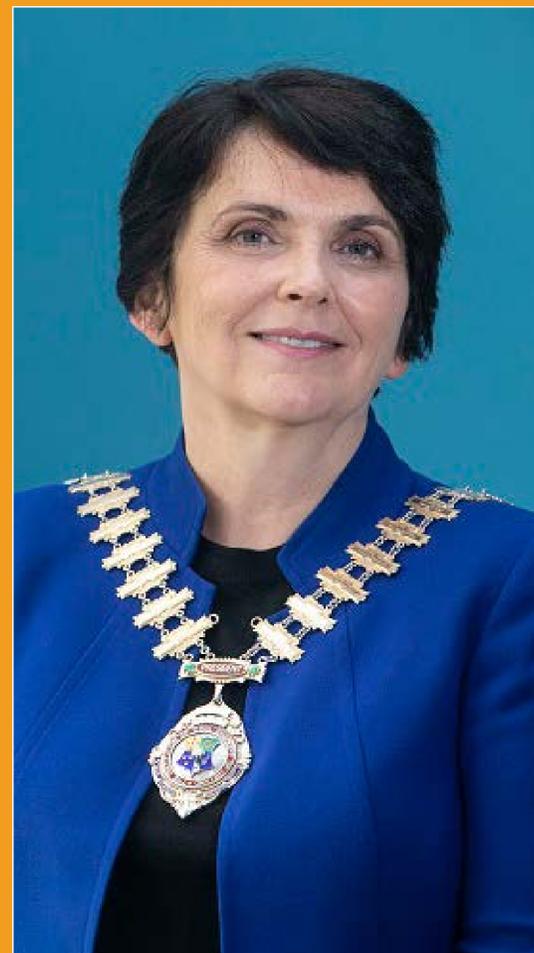
"NovaUCD and IADT Media Cube complement

each other with our different areas of expertise and I am confident that this will lay the foundations for a very successful series of New Frontiers programmes in the years ahead."

## ■ Professor Orla Feely inaugurated as President of Engineers Ireland

**Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact has been appointed President of Engineers Ireland. Professor Feely was inaugurated as the professional body's 129th President in a virtual ceremony on Thursday 3 June.**

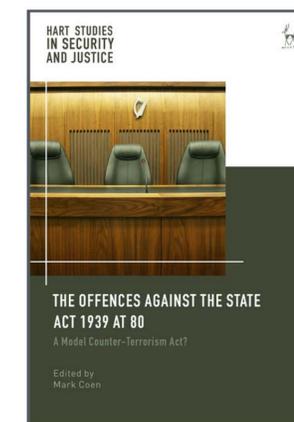
Orla Feely is Professor of Electronic Engineering at UCD. She holds a BE degree from UCD and MS and PhD degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, where her PhD thesis won the DJ Sakrison Memorial Prize for outstanding and innovative research. While at UC Berkeley, she also won the Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award. Her research is in the area of nonlinear circuits and systems, and she has been awarded research grants and prizes from a number of national, international and industry sources.



## ■ Virtual Book Launch: *The Offences Against the State Act at 80*

*The Offences Against the State Act at 80*, edited by Assistant Professor Mark Coen, UCD Sutherland School of Law, and published by Hart, was launched by webinar on Tuesday 29 June 2021. Professor Imelda Maher, Dean of UCD Sutherland School of Law, welcomed attendees and introduced Ms Justice Úna Ní Raifeartaigh of the Court of Appeal, who chaired the event. The judge recalled appearing as a barrister before the Special Criminal Court in its previous Green Street location. Likening the book to a treasure chest, she praised the contributors for the variety of approaches they had taken to the legislation, including the use of historical, international and empirical methodologies.

Professor Liara Lazarus of the University of British Columbia and Professor Colm O'Conneide of University College London participated in the launch as discussants. Professor Lazarus reviewed the book in



the context of international scholarship on security and justice while Professor O'Conneide located it within debates about the domestic legal order. Dr Mark Coen referred to the ongoing work of the independent review

group established by the Government to examine the Offences Against the State Acts and expressed the hope that all submissions submitted to the group will be published in full on its website. A recording of the virtual book launch is available on the [UCD Sutherland School of Law YouTube Channel](#). The book may be ordered from UCD Campus Bookshop: Tel 01-2691384.

## UCD Emeritus Professor Awarded Ireland's Highest Scholarly Honour



Prof. Mary E. Daly

**In May 2021 UCD Emeritus Professor of History Professor Mary E. Daly was awarded a Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal for her ground-breaking historical work. The Royal Irish Academy awards two RIA Gold Medals every year to individuals who have made a demonstrable and internationally recognised outstanding scholarly contribution in their fields.**

Emeritus Professor Daly served for seven years as Principal of UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies, and has held visiting positions at Harvard and Boston College. In 1991 she was elected to the Royal Irish Academy and in 2014 she became the first female president in the 230 year history of the Academy.

An internationally recognised historian, her work broadened the account of Irish history and the formation of the State by examining them from the perspectives of industrialisation, urbanisation, demography, women's history, family history and the history of childhood.

Her pioneering 1984 book *Dublin - The deposed capital: A social and economic history 1860-1914*, was the first major work on the urban history of

nineteenth century Ireland and the first to use the state records from the Chief Secretary's Office as a source for social and economic history.

Her co-authored 2007 book *1916 in 1966. Commemorating the Easter Rising* was the first major publication on the commemoration of the 1916 Rising, and informed the current Decade of Centenaries.

Professor Daly's contributions to scholarship include her leadership role as a founding director of the now UCD Humanities Institute. She also served with distinction on state boards, most notably the Higher Education Authority, the Irish Manuscripts Commission and the Decade of Centenaries Expert Advisory Group.

Emeritus Professor Daly said: "It is a great honour to receive the Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal in the Humanities, and the honour has special significance because it has been awarded by fellow scholars...I see this medal as recognition of the importance of curiosity-driven research, and the contribution that the humanities can make to the wider society."

The RIA medals were established in 2005 to acclaim Ireland's foremost thinkers in the humanities, social sciences, physical and mathematical sciences, life sciences, engineering sciences and the environment and geosciences.

## Irish and International Young Philosopher Awards 2021



Faith Njekwe

**The fourth Irish Young Philosopher Awards Festival (IYPA) 2021 took place on 3 June 2021, led by Assistant Professor Danielle Petherbridge, UCD School of Philosophy. The IYPA aim to encourage**

**primary and secondary school students on the island of Ireland to explore philosophy through a nationwide programme and festival. This year students were asked to create a short project on any philosophical question they consider important in the current time.**

For the second year running, the competition was held online due to COVID-19 restrictions, but this did not diminish the level

of interest shown by students around the country, and indeed internationally, due to the introduction this year of the International Young Philosopher Award, asking students across the globe to reflect on the topic of solidarity.

The awards ceremony opened with an address from the President Michael D. Higgins. The overall winner for the Irish Young Philosopher Awards was Faith Njekwe, a third year student of Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda for her project: 'Artificial Intelligence: Should we grant AI human rights? If so, when?' The overall International Young Philosopher Award 2021 went to Sophya Yanis, from Letovo International School, Moscow, Russia for her project entitled 'Short-term solidarity'.

The profound philosophical topics submitted this year included the shape and form that society might take in a post-Covid world; nature and environmental ethics; artificial intelligence and ethics; freedom and free speech; identity; reality and perception; gender representation; what is wisdom; value and friendship.

## UCD Community Engagement Report 2019-20



**The UCD Community Engagement Report 2019-20 was launched by UCD President Professor Andrew Deeks via the President's bulletin on 30 March, 2021. The report captures a snapshot of UCD's community engagement activities**

**including examples of community engaged research and innovation, teaching and learning, and volunteering. The purpose of the report is to celebrate and record the many wonderful contributions made by the UCD community, both within and outside the University.**

In his foreword Professor Joe Carthy, College Principal and Dean of Science UCD, acknowledged the extraordinary contributions that members of the UCD community have

made to rise to the challenges of COVID-19, and he encouraged others to take inspiration from the report and to get involved in community engagement projects in the coming year.

The report recognises the valuable contribution that UCD employees, students and alumni have made to the national efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and highlights the hands-on approach of the UCD community in addressing real world problems. Included in the report are stories from the COVID-19 contact tracing volunteers, information about the PPE manufacturing by researchers at I-Form and UCD College of Engineering and Architecture, and online public health lecture series, along with case studies of how the UCD community have adapted their community activities during this challenging academic year.

UCD in the Community acknowledges that the report is just a snapshot of the community engagement activities of the University and does not capture the full extent of community engagement taking place. Members of the UCD community who are actively involved in community engagement activities are encouraged to submit to the 2020-21 report by emailing the UCD in the Community team on [ucdic@ucd.ie](mailto:ucdic@ucd.ie).



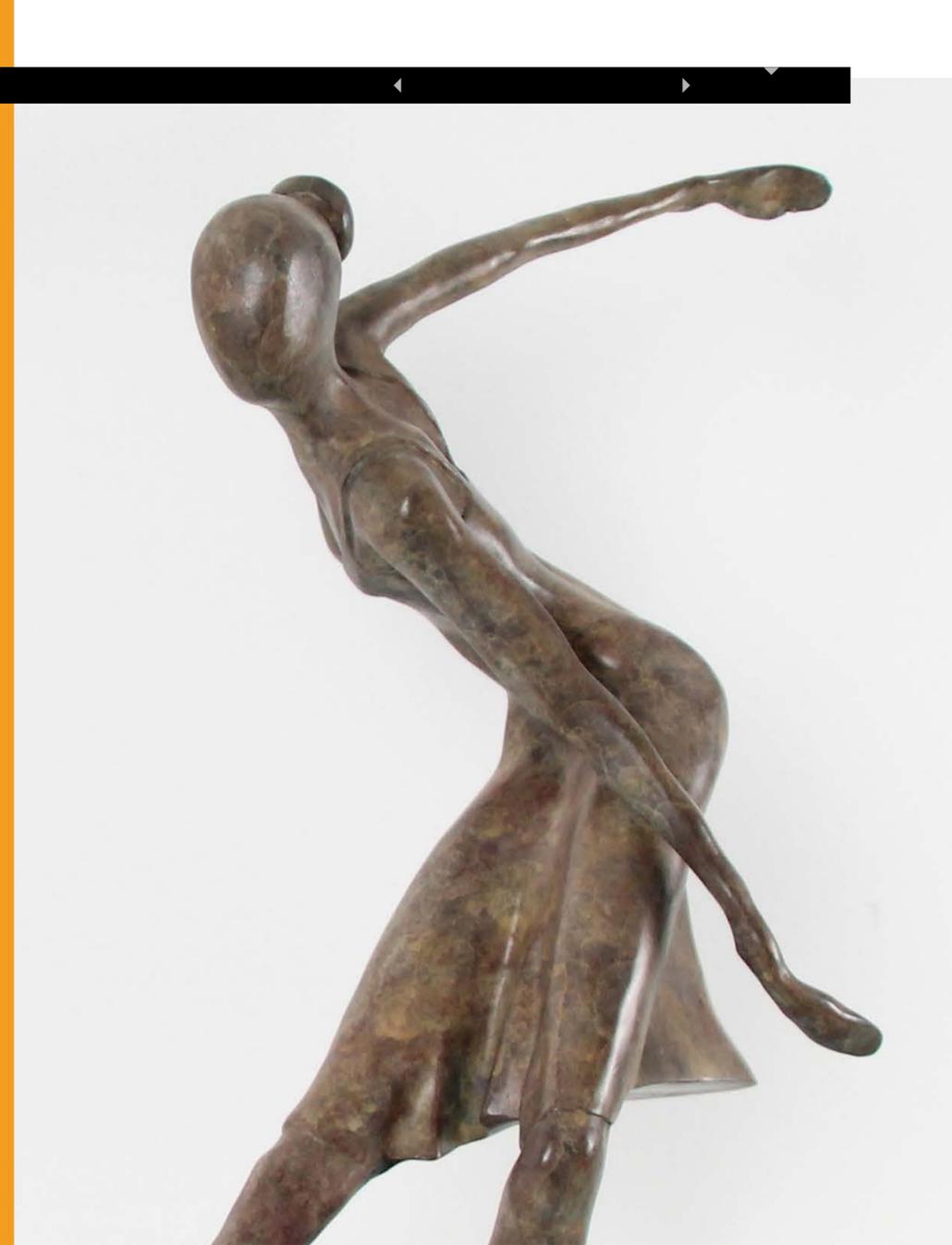
Eamonn Ceannt  
with 'Sentinel'

## IN PROFILE: EAMONN CEANNT

**Eamonn Ceannt is an acclaimed sculptor who spent 28 years working in management and development at UCD.**

Eamonn served as a Vice President and Bursar at the University with responsibility for capital development, regulatory and financial affairs. In 2009, he decided to go part-time to dedicate himself more fully to his emergent career as a sculptor. In 2014, he retired from direct employment, which allowed him the flexibility to pursue his craft.

Eamonn works exclusively in bronze and he has been heavily inspired by the form of the dancer.



*Odette' by Eamonn Ceannt*

## ■ An interview with...

### **Q You suffered a life-changing swimming accident in 1991. How did that experience change your outlook on life?**

**A** It changed my life fundamentally. It's still with me every day. It was a serious accident because my C5 vertebrae was crushed. It had to be removed and replaced with a piece of carved hip bone. When I went into the operation, there was a good possibility I wasn't going to walk or move properly again.

While that Sunday in November started in a most unfortunate way, it was thanks to a series of extraordinarily fortunate coincidences that I emerged from the operation in pretty good shape. It took me about five years to recover, and though it was a bad accident, it led to a lot of positive developments in my life that might not otherwise have happened, most of them good in their own way.

I'm eternally grateful for the encouragement and support that I received from my colleagues and friends in Coillte, where I worked at the time.

### **Q You studied life drawing in the 1970s but later moved to sculpture. What was it about sculpture that enticed you?**

**A** I took up sculpture by accident. I was looking for a way to strengthen my hands, which were wasting because of the nerve damage. One evening, when I was going to my drawing class in the NCAD, I wandered into the sculpture class and it dawned on me, 'Wow, this might be the way to do it.' Working with clay has had an amazing effect – a lot of the strength has come back into my fingers.

### **Q What was it like resuming your art studies in 2004?**

**A** It was quite frustrating because by then I had realised that I would no longer be able to draw accurately or even to write properly again. I remember doing an oil painting which

I thought was really good and next thing my hand shook and the paint splattered across the board. It was a depressing moment. Some years later I stumbled into sculpture. Taking up a new career, despite the accident and at a later stage in life, has been a joy and a source of great encouragement for me.

### **Q How did you balance your career as a sculptor with your career in management and development at UCD?**

**A** I went part-time in UCD when I was 56 and that was when I began to seriously pursue the sculpting. I continued working for the university for four days a week, later reducing to two days a week. It was a transition period. I wouldn't have had the energy to pursue the sculpting if I had continued working full-time.

### **Q The actual act of sculpting must be time consuming.**

**A** I'm a slow sculptor. I don't produce a significant amount of work compared to other artists I know. About eight years ago, I built a studio in the back garden. Some days I go out there at ten in the morning and come back in at nine o'clock at night. Other days I might go there at ten and I'm back in the house within half an hour. It's that type of work. You need long periods of time and a good dollop of motivation. That is why it would have been difficult if I had continued working full-time.

### **Q What inspires your work and how do you land on a particular subject?**

**A** I started with head sculptures. I was familiar with bronze and had read about art and visited exhibitions over very many years. I was particularly taken with the Benin bronzes and the Cycladic funereal marbles. As I progressed, I became interested in trying to capture movement. I was fascinated by that – how could you capture movement in a static object? I started to sculpt dancers. I've always been

interested in watching dancers and performers, particularly the Cirque du Soleil performers. They are so elegant and athletic. I study their poses, their gestures and their movements, and then elongate the figure. I try to simplify the shape, making the piece stylistic rather than realistic and emphasising the form.

### **Q You were instrumental in the development and inception of the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI). Are you proud of that achievement?**

**A** Hugely. So many people contributed to its success. We had a number of 'wow' moments during the project development. The first was when the Naughton family donated funding of €5 million. Other significant moments were Ralph Applebaum winning the design contract, gaining the support of Fáilte Ireland and two really big 'wow' moments were the National Library committing to lend James Joyce's personal copy of *Ulysses* and receiving the Desmond Green collection. These were major. We knew then that the museum could attract an international audience.

I would say that we got 99 per cent positive support and feedback as we took the project through the various development stages. UCD and NCAD were very caring and attentive parents. We had a great team and there was little negativity throughout the whole ten years.

### **Q You have a very famous name – your grand uncle was Éamonn Ceannt, signatory of the Proclamation. What has it been like carrying that name?**

**A** It's not something I put into my CV but it's not something I distance myself from either. I was named after my father and my father was named after his uncle. Éamonn, the rebel, was shot in May of 1916 and my father was born in October 1916, so they named him Eamonn. It's an enormous privilege to carry both my father's

and Éamonn's name. I have a phenomenal amount of regard for the men and women of 1916. I struggle with violence. I don't like it. I'm a person that tries to work through consensus and compromise. But I have never doubted their idealism and courage to go up against the mightiest empire in the world at that time. They were a mixed bag of fighters, artists, writers and musicians. Dreamers. Sacrificing themselves in seeking a better future for the citizens of this country.

*Eamonn Ceannt was in conversation with Patrick Kelleher, (BA 2015, MA 2017), a freelance journalist.*





Prof Kevin O'Connor at Shinagh Farm near Bandon, Co. Cork

## ■ UCD-led Project Aiming to Make Dairy Farms Climate Neutral Awarded SFI Future Innovator Prize of €2 million

**Professor Kevin O'Connor, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science and Director, BiOrbic SFI Bioeconomy Research Centre, and his Farm Zero C team have won the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Future Innovator Prize of €2 million under the Zero Emissions Challenge.**

The aim of the Farm Zero C project is to help Shinagh Farm, a dairy farm near Bandon in Co. Cork, achieve net-zero emissions by 2027 with plans to extend the strategy to a further 5,000 farms within five years.

The SFI Future Innovator Prize, funded by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Innovation and Science, is a challenge-based prize funding programme that seeks to support Ireland's best and brightest to develop novel, potentially disruptive technologies to address significant societal challenges.

As part of the SFI Zero Emissions Challenge, Farm Zero C, in partnership with dairy producer Carbery Group, studied how planting different types of grasses and clovers on pastures and supporting hedgerows can boost biodiversity and soil health, how using renewable energy reduces greenhouse gas emissions and how changing what we feed livestock affects how much methane gas they produce.

Farm Zero C is using Shinagh Farm, owned by the farmers of four West Cork Co-ops, as a demonstrator for this project, with the goal that

Shinagh will achieve net-zero emissions by 2027. Wider deployment will be achieved through a mobile app. This will integrate farm and satellite data, habitat mapping and natural capital accounting, to provide users with information on the carbon footprint of their activities and to develop strategies to mitigate these.

The members of the Farm Zero C leadership team are: Professor Kevin O'Connor; Assistant Professor Fionnuala Murphy, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering, and Enda Buckley, Director of Sustainability, Carbery.

The proposed solution from the Farm Zero C team comprises a combination of diverse climate mitigation strategies that when combined reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of farms, increase biodiversity, quantify the value of natural capital, decrease the farm's operational cost, and increase the value of its products. Each of the strategies have been either experimented, tested and/or modelled to determine pathways for dairy farms to achieve net-zero emissions.

## ■ PATH Creative Arts Summer School

**In June 2021 UCD was delighted to participate in the PATH (Programme for Access to Higher Education) Creative Arts Summer School – a collaborative initiative led by the National College of Art and Design and involving UCD, Trinity College Dublin, Marino Institute of Education, Institute of Art and Design, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Munster Technological University.**

Sixty participants from under-represented groups took part in the Summer School and 'dipped their toes' in the exciting world of the creative arts, as well as partaking in virtual campus tours and discovering pathways to higher education.

Each institution hosted a one-day workshop. UCD Creative Arts workshop was co-ordinated by Roisin Guyett-Nicholson and Lorna Byrne from UCD Access and Lifelong Learning and involved four aspects of the arts: music, classics, creative writing and science.

In 'Classics: The Ancient World Today', through a series of engaging activities, students were introduced to the close relationship between the modern and ancient worlds, examining how present the ancient past remains today.

In 'Monkeys, Sailors and Gongs: Music from Indonesia', participants were introduced to the unique and remarkable music traditions of Indonesia and created their own percussion orchestra out of household objects.

The creative writing workshop was hosted in partnership with the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI). Participants took part in creative writing exercises which enabled them to explore their inner world and get ideas out of their head and onto the page.

'Quavers to Quadratics' enabled participants to discover the commonalities between science and music. They explored why instruments look and sound the way they do, and why instruments are made from different materials, shapes and sizes.

The virtual UCD campus tour was facilitated by Grace Sallis, UCD student ambassador, and Jean McQuillan, UCD Registry. Participants also had an opportunity to meet Catherine Tormey, Mature Student Adviser.

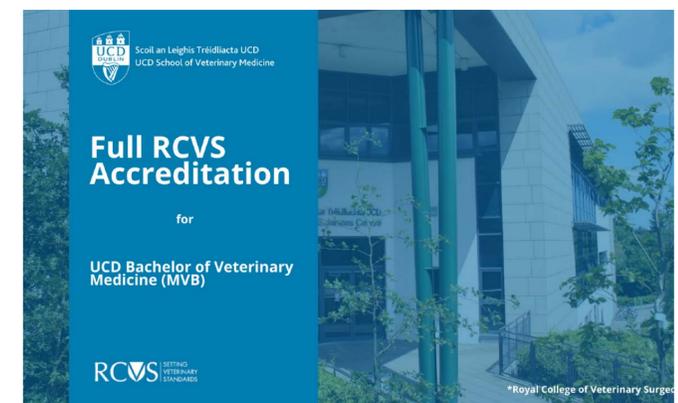
## ■ RCVS awards 'Full Accreditation' status to UCD Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine

**Following a 2020 visitation to UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) has granted the status of 'Full Accreditation' to the UCD Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (MVB).**

UCD's programme in veterinary medicine is now accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Australasian Veterinary Board Council, the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education, RCVS and the Veterinary Council of Ireland.

Dean and Head of School Professor Michael Doherty said that the School was delighted to receive this recognition of academic excellence from RCVS. "It is a wonderful story, which has historical resonance for a school that was established as the Royal Veterinary College of

Ireland in 1900. It brings further international recognition to the quality of veterinary education in UCD, which is already reflected in its 23rd QS world ranking for UCD veterinary science—the highest QS subject ranking on the island of Ireland."



## 2021 Africa Business Conference

What can the global business community learn from the lived philosophies of business, society and sustainable development across the continent of Africa? The vibrant partnership between UCD College of Business and Proudly Made in Africa (PMIA) continued with the 2021 Africa Business Conference earlier this spring.

The panel was introduced by Vikki Brennan, CEO of Proudly Made in Africa and Associate Professor Maeve Houlihan, Director of UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business and PMIA host at UCD. Panellists included:

- **Her Excellency Yolisa Maya, South African Ambassador in Ireland, on the philosophy of *Ubuntu* – I am because we are: we are because I am. Our humanity is expressed through our humanity to others and others to us.**
- **His Excellency Eshetu Hordofa, Ethiopian Ambassador in Ireland, on the concept of *Medemer* – the balance between competition and cooperation, striving for synergy and working together for the common interest, in spite of differences.**
- **Dr David Nyaluke, UCD-PMIA Fellow in Business and Development, on *Ujamaa* from a Tanzanian perspective: the idea we are in the service of family and community, and community and family is at our service. We are related as *Jamaa*, as *ndugu* of extended familyhood, as people of one community and one nation and one world.**

The common thread was a strong focus on the interdependence between business and society, and between us as human beings. The panel discussed how each philosophy has played out in their home country, how it shows up in business, in responses to COVID-19, and beyond.

Discussion turned to the field and featured Prama Bhardwaj, CEO and founder of Mantis World, a clothing brand specialising in organic cotton fashion production from Tanzania, in conversation with conference MC, Toulwani Akaehomen, CEO, HerGenuinity Afrika. Bhardwaj shared insights on the strong market for values driven products and services, and



Dr David Nyaluke

communicated the tangible, social and environmental impact of each purchase.

Since 2012, students have been learning about the diverse continent of Africa as an emerging market, and the impact of value added sustainable development through the UCD Proudly Made in Africa Fellowship in Business and Development. Hosted at UCD Quinn School, the fellowship works in partnership with module coordinators across UCD College of Business to plant seeds and start conversations.

This initiative is led by Ireland-based social enterprise, Proudly Made in Africa which promotes trade in value added Africa-made products and education on trade justice and sustainable development through business. If you would like to introduce an African dimension to your module, or for more information, please contact our PMIA fellow and colleague Dr David Nyaluke at david.nyaluke@ucd.ie.

## UCD Centre for Digital Policy

Building digital policy capability amongst the public and private sector in Ireland and across the wider European Union.

## ‘Digital Sovereignty and Digital Citizenship: Towards Participatory Policy’

**On 28 June 2021 UCD Centre for Digital Policy organised a workshop in collaboration with Microsoft entitled ‘Digital Sovereignty and Digital Citizenship: Towards Participatory Policy’. This workshop aimed to identify potential tensions between the concepts of digital sovereignty and digital citizenship in order to highlight the need for a participatory policy involving and engaging with a range of stakeholders.**

While digital sovereignty is often described in political and economic terms, reflecting state priorities including competition and self-determination; digital citizenship focuses on communities and individuals, emphasising infrastructure, access, and education for all. How these concepts overlap, oppose, or function together was the focus of two expert panel discussions.

Attendees were welcomed to the workshop by Professor Kalpana Shankar, Co-director of UCD Centre for Digital Policy, and Ciarán Conlon, Director of Public Policy for Microsoft Ireland/EGA. To start proceedings, the Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Artificial Intelligence, Dragoș Tudorache MEP, gave a keynote address followed by a fireside chat with Professor Colin Scott, College Principal, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law, Vice-President for Equality, Diversity

and Inclusion. Mr Tudorache MEP outlined the challenges faced by the European Commission in developing regulation for AI that supports innovation while ensuring high standards of data use and processing.

‘What does it mean to be a ‘digital citizen’ in Europe?’ ‘Who is included and who is excluded?’ ‘How do citizens provide input into policies for incentivising new tech/ minimising harms?’ These issues were discussed by the first panel, which was moderated by Barry Andrews MEP.

The second panel discussed digital sovereignty, engaging with such topics as: ‘Is digital sovereignty at odds with digital citizenship?’ ‘What are the territories to which digital sovereignty lays claim?’ ‘What are the new geopolitics of the digital?’ The panel was chaired by Eamonn Mac Aodha, Director of the Parliament and Institutions Team at Ireland’s Permanent Representation to the EU.

In concluding the event, Professor Colin Scott noted the overlap in concerns and the emergence of clear priority areas for addressing digital technologies impact in Europe. When asked if the panellists thought that digital sovereignty and digital citizenship can be reconciled, all suggested that they were not incompatible and that an approach that focused on the empowerment of users regarding their data would be optimal.



## UCD Centre for Precision Surgery

**Application of digital visualisation technology can fully determine malignant tissue in real-time and inform immediate individualised cancer treatment.**

A study published in *Nature Scientific Reports* on 17 June 2021 demonstrates that dynamic visual appearances obtainable during surgery via innovative digital processing can rapidly provide surgeons with more comprehensive information on the extent and type of malignant tissue.

This discovery at the UCD Centre for Precision Surgery in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH) has the potential to exploit already established microscopic principles in medical oncology and histopathology. These are principles, which have never before been revealed and understood in real-time, in living tissue.

Ronan Cahill, Professor of Surgery at UCD and the MMUH, and *Nature Scientific Reports* paper author is Director of UCD Centre for Precision Surgery.

Other UCD School of Medicine researchers who worked with Professor Cahill on the above discovery include:

- **Jeffrey Dalli, General Surgeon and Surgical Research Fellow at UCD Centre for Precision Surgery**
- **Niall Hardy, Surgery Research Fellow, UCD Centre of Precision Surgery**
- **Anwesa Sarkar, PhD Student, Molecular Biology. UCD Centre of Precision Surgery and UCD Conway Institute**
- **Mohammad Faraz Khan, Special Lecturer in Surgery, UCD**

## UCD Better Together Challenge raises €3,300 for UCDVO Uganda Appeal

**Throughout April 2021, 283 UCD employees formed 60 teams and for 28 days recorded the amount of daily kilometres they walked, ran and cycled. Organised by UCD Culture and Engagement and Healthy UCD, the aim of the challenge was to beat their individual team target.**

In the spirit of the challenge title 'Better Together', the daily distance covered by each team member was averaged with the other team members, meaning that success depended on teamwork rather than solo runs. 55 teams beat their target, with UCD Culture and Engagement making a €60 donation per team on their behalf to the UCD Volunteers Overseas Uganda Health Care Appeal.

In total €3,300 was raised for the campaign to continue the provision of primary health care to 15,000 women, men and children in Nansana, Wakiso District in Uganda. Congratulations to all who took part in the challenge.



## Irregular News: Civil War and Republican Ephemera

**UCD Digital Library has made available online a new collection entitled *Irregular News: Civil War and Republican Ephemera*. This collection contains a rich store of primary source material relating to the revolutionary period. The digitisation of the collection was funded through UCD Decade of Commemorations seed funding.**

While there are some materials relating to 1916, the War of Independence and republicanism in the Free State, the collection is primarily related to the Civil War period 1922 to 1923.

It includes long runs of daily anti-treaty newspapers *Poblacht na h-Eireann* War News, the *Daily Sheet*, and the *Daily Bulletin*, as well as many anti-treaty ephemeral items such as leaflets and short pamphlets.

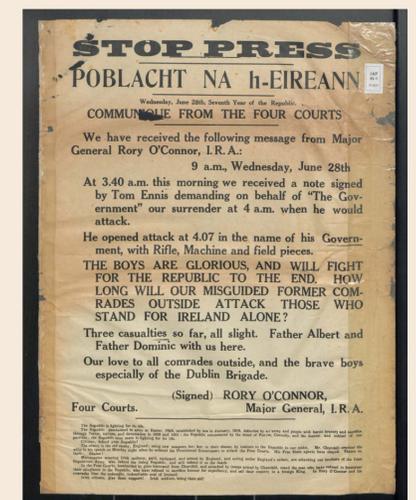
Preliminary research on the reporting of the Civil War in these news sheets reveal the motivations and perspectives of the anti-treaty forces but also

the reporting of events in locations not reported by the Free State government.

This material was collected by the Irish Franciscans and was originally held in their friary on Merchant's Quay, located across from the Four Courts, which was the site of one of the most iconic events of the Civil War. It was transferred to UCD Special Collections in 2017 as part of the UCD OFM (Order of Friars Minor) partnership agreement.

Making these anti-treaty propagandist sheets available publicly will facilitate interdisciplinary academic scholarship, local studies research, and new creative expression.

[A video describing the material is available here.](#)





UCD President,  
Prof Andrew J Deeks

# 'A UNIVERSITY FOR THE FUTURE'

## Future Campus construction starts



**"UCD will be a holistic experience for our future students," says UCD President, Professor Andrew J Deeks**

THE COVID-19 pandemic has been extremely challenging for UCD students who have had to adapt to online learning, and it has brought the role of universities to the fore and underlined the importance of face-to-face learning on campus.

At UCD, the future is bright with the start of construction of the new €48 million Centre for Creativity and Centre for Future Learning which will serve future generations of students who walk through the doors.

Professor Andrew J Deeks, UCD President is the man behind the vision for the Future Campus masterplan. Within this plan, the 12,000m<sup>2</sup> Centre for Creativity will foreground a highly visible and welcoming entrance precinct to the University covering some 335,000m<sup>2</sup> near the main N11 entrance to the campus. It will become the new focal point for the already vibrant and welcoming campus and will transform the physical, cultural and social landscape of Belfield.

### Physical infrastructure for planned growth

"We have seen a significant growth in the number of students at UCD over the past ten years (circa 25%), comprising increases in both domestic and international students.

"Over the past number of years the University has grown incrementally and we identified an opportunity to reassess our physical footprint and its potential for further, planned growth. Our belief is that the best way to provide state-of-the-art facilities to students is not to try to extend each building but rather to look at it holistically and create centres where students from all disciplines can experience much of their early learning together. This will encourage interaction with students from other disciplines around campus, forming friendships and sharing ideas.

"The future campus vision with the Centre for Creativity and the Centre for Future Learning brings together many elements of our campus," Professor Deeks explains.

The design of the Centre for Creativity by Steven Holl features hexagonal towers up to 49 metres in height, tilted at an angle of 23.5 degrees, which will include exhibition and event space, as well as a 400-seat auditorium that includes acoustic design for music performance.

The Centre will be the focal point for architecture and engineering and will also welcome people from other faculties who wish to engage in creative collaboration and interaction. A 'circuit of social connection' will allow faculty, staff, students and visitors to peer into maker and classroom spaces through glass walls.

The Centre for Future Learning will have 33 technology-enabled classrooms of varying sizes and a large adaptable lecture theatre that can be reconfigured for varying pedagogical purposes.

Working through the National Transport Authority, the design team is extending the design to incorporate a new bus interchange and the existing N11 flyover so that the entire approach will signal that visitors are entering UCD and will really put Belfield on the map.

"The new entrance plaza will create a visible outward public 'face' that UCD hasn't had before, and this symbolises our connecting more with the local community."

"The centres will be positioned at the heart of the campus. In their early years, students from all disciplines will spend time in the new spaces. The spaces will encourage communal learning activities which students have really missed throughout the pandemic, where they can get together in working groups and on team projects, have discussion groups in breakout rooms and so on. All of the elements of student learning into the future which we see being more and more valuable will be accommodated in these modern developments in a way that would never be possible to give to each individual College or School.



Artist's impression of the Centre for Creativity



Professor Deeks moved to University College Dublin in 2014 to take up the role of President, becoming the first Australian to lead an Irish university but insists that the new developments at UCD are not modelled on a campus anywhere else.

"We held an international design competition and architects from around the world competed to interpret what might be done in this space for UCD and indeed for Ireland.

"Rather than pick a campus masterplan from another university, we focused on the trends in teaching and learning that bring together students from different disciplines and lead to better pedagogical outcomes and student experiences as being the key drivers for the teaching and learning elements of the Future Campus," he says.

### The Campus Experience

With the future of learning set to change for the better at UCD so too will the environments in which students will live and learn.

"We have taken a much more master planning approach to this. The campus masterplan contains three different character areas: Education; Research and Innovation; and

Residential, Sports and Recreation.

"The first phase of the new student residences development at Roebuck is now ready and has a village hub which will provide a wide range of facilities, including those that our students have told us will improve their on-campus lives.

"At the other end of the campus our broad offering of sports and societies are accommodated in a sports masterplan. We want our students to enjoy their lives on campus, with all the necessary facilities to hand.

And for those who want to get into the city for social and other opportunities which might not be available on-campus, the new Bus Connects interchange at the N11 entrance will offer a rapid transport corridor," Professor Deeks explains.

### UCD – the number 1 choice for students

"We want student life at UCD to be a holistic experience, obviously improving campus facilities is just part of putting together an educational and experiential package that embraces every aspect of university life. From on-campus accommodation to sports and societies, and through to the academic experience, we're adopting techniques which will deliver the entire package.

"All of this will be backed up by a vibrant research



community who ensure that what students are learning in the classroom is informed by their extensive research. Their scholarship seeks to push forward the boundaries of knowledge. As students go through their learning journey guided and inspired by our faculty, by the time they leave the University they are part of a UCD community that is creating and contributing to the knowledge of society."

### COVID-19 - Changing the Face of Future Education

Over the course of the past 16 months faculty, staff and students have all had to come to terms with online learning and working in ways never before tested.

President Deeks told us: "The blended approach where a

lecture is attended both in person and virtually is the most difficult nut to crack and it's not clear that this will be the adopted in the future. What we hope is that if a student is unable to be on campus for whatever reason that they will be able to see the lecture online.

"As we go forward, almost all lectures will be captured online and will be available to view at the same time. What we have seen over the past 16 months is that students are very keen to get back into lecture theatres and they recognise that taking part in a lecture from home is not the same as not taking part in person and the valuable sidebar discussions.

"Everyone is keen to get back and to take on board the



learnings from during the pandemic, while recognising that there are activities that are really adding value when they are face-to-face. There are other activities which are less so, and we might see a change in terms of the blend from large lectures to small classes with materials provided online, so it's that type of thinking that will become more evident," says the UCD President.

Professor Deeks says that re-shaping and re-introducing the UCD community back to campus is one of the big focuses for the academic year ahead.

"We see ourselves very much as a leading Global University."

The plan for the next ten years at UCD is to grow the student population by a further 25% and in turn this will lead to an increase in faculty numbers. "We are already at a high level of engagement internationally, but the future is about capacity building and ensuring that the student experience we offer is state-of-the-art and in line with global best practice. We are trying to blaze a trail for best practice here at UCD, not just follow it. We constantly examine other global universities in our networks, to see if there is anything we can learn from them," Professor Deeks explains.

And turning back to the physical transformation of the campus:

"Is it a step changer? – it's more of a continuation of a journey, we are rising to the future and this development is key to this rising," Professor Deeks concludes.

*Professor Andrew Deeks was in conversation with Seán Dunne, TV Producer, The Tonight Show, Virgin Media and Graduate MA Politics and International Relations*

# ■ New Accelerator Programme for AgTech and FoodTech Start-Ups Launched by AgTechUCD

**AgTechUCD has announced the launch of a new accelerator programme dedicated to early-stage AgTech and FoodTech start-up companies. The AgTechUCD Agccelerator Programme, commencing September 2021, is an intensive 12-week programme which includes dedicated business development workshops and investor readiness training, mentoring from AgTech and FoodTech experts and business advisors, guest speakers and facilitated introductions to AgTechUCD's venture capital and business angel networks.**

AgTechUCD, based at UCD Lyons Farm and part of NovaUCD, is focused on accelerating the launch and scaling of AgTech and FoodTech start-ups in Ireland and has been funded through the Regional Enterprise Development Fund administered by Enterprise Ireland.

AgTechUCD supports founding entrepreneurs as they build their businesses into leading

enterprises, through the AgTechUCD Agccelerator Programme, and by providing access to incubation space and to on-farm testing for new products and services at UCD Lyons Farm.

The AgTechUCD Agccelerator Programme concludes in early December when all participating start-ups will pitch their businesses to a panel of investors with the opportunity to be awarded prize funding in a number of award categories.

Partners on the AgTechUCD Agccelerator Programme include AIB, The Yield Lab Europe, Bimeda, Devenish, Carberry, Origin Enterprises, Ornu and HerdWatch who are providing financial and mentoring support. Additional mentoring support will be provided by Greencore, Kubota, Diarmaster, the Virtual Vet, Finistere, Macra Na Feirme and Atlantic Bridge. Participating start-ups will have access to specific supports from AWS Activation, Catalyze, Deloitte and FR Kelly.

[Information on the programme is available here.](#)



Pictured at UCD Lyons Farm are: Shane Whelan, agri-strategist, AIB; Nicky Deasy, Managing Partner, The Yield Lab Europe; Niamh Collins, Manager, AgTechUCD Innovation Centre and James Maloney, Senior Regional Development Executive, Enterprise Ireland.

## ■ UCD Volunteers Overseas: 'Still Together'

**Following months of project planning, content creation and workshops with partners in Uganda, Tanzania and India, UCDVO's virtual volunteering projects kicked off in early July.**

Almost 50 volunteers are taking part in the 2021 volunteering programme. All have received a solid foundation in global citizenship education, including intercultural awareness, global development challenges and ethical issues around volunteering as part of the programme.

The six virtual volunteering projects include Health and Nutrition (community-based rehabilitation for children with disabilities), Vocational Training for Ugandan youth, Business and Livelihoods, and an Early Years education programme.

The projects were developed with four of UCDVO's overseas partners: Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre; the Society for Working Life (SWL) and Women Work and Health Initiative (WWHI) in India; Nurture Africa in Uganda and the Holy Union Sisters in Tanzania. The health projects are run in partnership with UCD School of Public Health,

Physiotherapy and Sports Science, enabling third year physiotherapy students to carry out a clinical elective placement within the UCDVO programme and providing valuable clinical and research experience for MSc Dietetics/Nutrition students.

Commenting on the 2021 virtual volunteering programme, UCDVO manager Hilary Minch said: "We are incredibly proud to be working with such a committed and creative group of volunteers. In spite of the immense challenges of volunteering remotely during a global pandemic, they have jumped in feet first and continue to impress us with their energy and diligence. Virtual volunteering, while not the same as being in the field, has ironically enabled us to deepen our engagement with our overseas partners. The absence of travel in virtual volunteering also provides a more flexible way of volunteering and has reduced some of the barriers."

One of the projects is being run in collaboration with SWL-WWHI, UCDVO's long term partner in New Delhi, and brings together UCDVO volunteers with students from the University of Delhi, Noida International University and Indira Gandhi Open University. The Online Literacy Programme for Young Girls project aims to provide 40 young girls (6-10 years), living in one of the poorest areas of New Delhi, with access to online education during a time of COVID-19 restrictions and school closures. The project is part of a wider community education programme based in the Community Education and Development Centre in Sangam Vihar, established by UCDVO (with support from Irish Aid), which supports over 100 children from the surrounding areas to access education and nutritious meals. The UCDVO and Indian volunteers co-created educational materials such as videos and a workbook to be delivered remotely, supplemented with small live group sessions providing an opportunity for interactive activities and cultural exchange.

As the virtual volunteering projects commenced in early July, the spirit of UCDVO, its values of partnership and connecting

communities, was summed up by the health services manager in Nurture Africa, Uganda, during the orientation for the UCDVO volunteers: "We are still together, despite the challenges. Thank you."

*UCDVO will be accepting applications for the 2021/22 volunteering and global citizenship programme in September/October. More details on [www.ucdvo.org](http://www.ucdvo.org)*



Dr Sunita Kaishita and Amita Sahaya, co-founders of SWL - WWHI, distributing the education workbooks to some of the 40 girls participating in the Online Literacy programme. New Delhi, July 2021.



Prof. Tasman Crowe

## UCD marine ecology expert appointed Chair of National Biodiversity Forum

**Professor Tasman Crowe, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science, Director of UCD Earth Institute, has been named as the new chair of the National Biodiversity Forum, an independent expert group that monitors Ireland's approach to biodiversity protection.**

An expert in marine ecology, Professor Crowe has been a member of the National Biodiversity Forum since 2017. He also has chaired the Marine Protected Areas Advisory Group, which supports the State's development of Marine Protected Areas, and spoke at length to the Oireachtas Housing, Local Government and Heritage committee as it scrutinised the planned Marine Planning and Development Management Bill 2020, which aims to create new laws for the planning and regulation of sectoral activities in Ireland's marine areas.

"I am honoured and delighted to accept this role and am looking forward to working with the members of the Forum to help inform effective

policy and action for biodiversity and the many vital benefits it brings to society," said Professor Crowe.

The National Biodiversity Forum monitors the State's progress on the implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan by highlighting progress and bottlenecks, as well as providing reports to the Irish Government. In February 2021 it published its independent review of the National Biodiversity Action Plan, for the period of 2017-2021, and provided five headline recommendations it said were needed to "deliver real conservation gains at the scale needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in Ireland".

## UCD Partnering in €80 million University Bridge Fund II

**Atlantic Bridge has announced the launch of University Bridge Fund II, an €80 million fund focused on scaling and commercialising extensively validated research from Ireland's third level institutions, including UCD, into the next generation of deep tech companies with global potential.**

The fund is a unique partnership between Atlantic Bridge and Irish universities UCD, Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and University College Cork (UCC), to accelerate the commercialisation of world-class science and to globally scale the companies formed. Its goal is to maximise the benefit from research that takes place in the higher education sector.

The University Bridge Fund II follows on the path of the pioneering University Bridge Fund I launched in 2016 which has invested in over 30 deep-tech companies that have raised over €220 million in co-investment to date. Following this trajectory both Funds have the potential to attract

up to half a billion euros of investment into high growth companies.

Reaffirming the huge potential of cutting-edge Irish research, existing investors European Investment Fund, Enterprise Ireland and AIB, together with UCD and TCD are re-committing to University Bridge Fund II with the welcome addition of new investor and university partner UCC.

This latest fund will invest in deep-tech companies with a keen focus on how technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, IOT, quantum computing and healthtech can make an impact on areas of global concern such as energy efficiency, sustainability, carbon reduction and healthcare.

## UCD Arts and Humanities Researcher awarded €2M EU Grant



Prof. James-Chakraborty

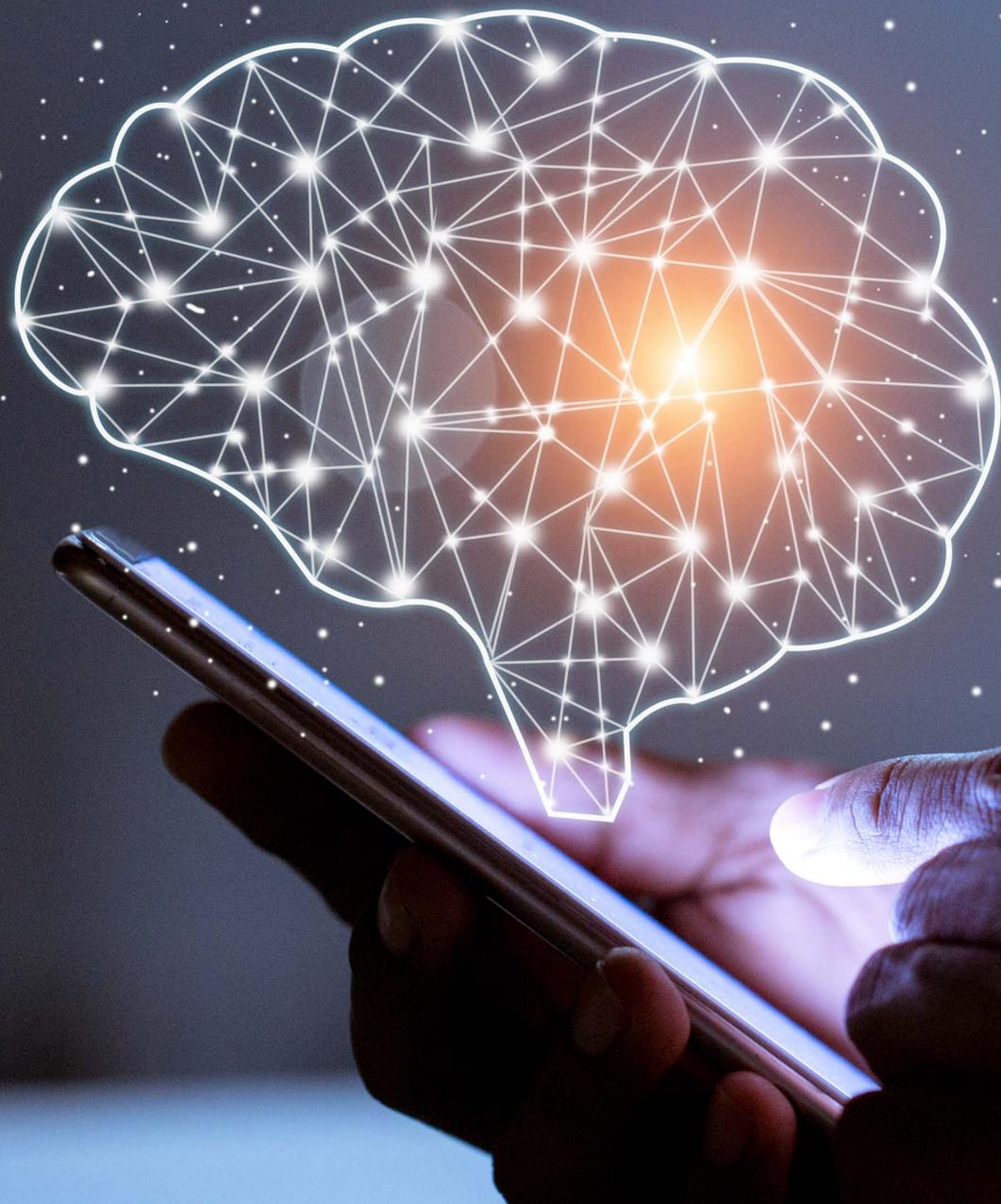
**Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy and UCD Humanities Institute, has been awarded a European Research Council**

**Advanced Grant to provide insights into the role of women and ethnic minorities in the transmission of modern architecture.**

Professor James-Chakraborty's project 'Expanding Agency: Women, Race and the Global Dissemination of Modern Architecture', will explore the role that women and members of ethnic minorities, primarily African-Americans, played in transmitting modern architecture and design internationally, including within Europe, between 1920 and 1970.

One of the EU's most prestigious funding awards, the grant of more than €2m over five years will cover the employment of two postdoctoral researchers and two PhD students. The overarching goal is to support a more diverse profession that, in the wake of social justice movements such as #MeToo and 'Black Lives Matter', is better prepared to engage with a broad public and address such social challenges as the integration of migrants and sustainability.

Professor James-Chakraborty said: "Decade after decade, women and members of ethnic minorities studying architecture report that they never learned about the work of people like them when they were in architecture school. There is thankfully a tidal wave of scholars studying women architects right now but the challenge is to get new scholarship into the classroom and also to demonstrate the other ways in which women and ethnic minorities have contributed to creating the climate for the modern architecture that remains at the core of the curricula of most architecture schools."



# STUDENT LEARNING – EMBRACING METACOGNITION

Every student and lecturer in third level education has had virtual learning environments or VLEs on their mind for the past year and a half following the pivot to online during the COVID-19 pandemic. But some were already ahead of the game, so to speak.

**Dr Emma O’Neill, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr Crystal Fulton, UCD School of Information and Communication Studies, Dr James Matthews, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science and Dr Carmel Hensey, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science were appointed as UCD Fellows in Teaching and Academic Development to undertake a two-year research project, ‘Designing for Learning in the Virtual Learning Environment.’**

The Fellowship programme, an initiative led by Professor Mark Rogers, UCD Registrar and Deputy President, focuses on areas of strategic

importance to the University and is informed by a scholarly approach to the enhancement of teaching and learning. Professor Rogers told UCD Today that the Fellows’ research will lead to a deeper pedagogical experience for UCD students and is very much part of the University’s objectives for education and student success: “The project has shown how we as educators can respond to students’ needs and adapt our teaching approaches. The Fellows have also demonstrated that harnessing the features of a VLE allows teaching and learning to be innovative and impactful.”

This multidisciplinary effort brought together expertise from several schools from across UCD:

UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, UCD School of Information and Communication Studies, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science, and UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science.

It was an auspicious time to begin such a project as UCD had just introduced its new learning environment, Brightspace. Dr Fulton explains the benefits when it came to incorporating metacognitive principles into her module on digital citizenry: “We wanted to deepen the students’ learning, so it wasn’t about retooling the entire module so much as it was about finessing it in a way that would heighten that learning experience. We were able to do this

by incorporating some of the really clever tools in Brightspace, such as peer feedback, checklists, and gradual release of information.”

So what exactly is metacognition and how does it help students learn more effectively?

“Metacognition is thinking about one’s thinking. It is a well-researched concept in the education domain,” explains Dr Matthews. “What metacognition does is provide students with an awareness of their learning, and the ability to regulate their learning by evaluating the demands of a task and setting a goal, monitoring their progress towards the goal, problem-solving as necessary, and importantly, reflecting upon the process they have engaged in.”



Dr Carmel Hensey



Dr Emma O'Neill



Dr Crystal Fulton



Dr James Matthews

Features within Brightspace, such as checklists, quizzes with personalised feedback and the ability to incorporate peer feedback, were well suited to map onto these principles. This has already rolled out across three modules with a fourth running this year.

"Our remit for the project was to inform use of the VLE from a strong pedagogical perspective. We focused on active learning enhanced by the VLE knowing that often these platforms are underutilised and function more as a repository," says Dr Fulton. "VLEs are designed to do so much more!"

"All of us felt that, in current times, the last thing anyone needs is more information. What makes the difference is what a student does with that information. We wanted to be able to influence their ability to develop key skills, to be able to think critically and integrate information, and we felt that metacognition spoke to this most strongly," notes Dr O'Neill.

And this idea of encouraging students to self-learn is particularly relevant in these times. UCD carried out a student survey (March-May 2020) looking at challenges with the move to online, which found that 49% of students expressed a lack of confidence in engaging online, 47% struggled with time management, 30% weren't clear about expectations from lecturers, and 65% struggled with lack of motivation.

Although the project began pre-COVID, it seemed to be timely in this respect. However, Dr O'Neill points out that the use of VLEs to improve students' metacognitive skills works best in a blended learning environment, which is core to the Metacognition Design Framework they have developed.

This framework included the implementation of their 'I-SEE' strategies for learning: Introducing, Signposting, Enabling, Evaluating. The idea is that all coursework and learning activities are clearly signposted, and students are helped every step of the way with guides

and examples while receiving feedback on their progress.

And, crucially, peer feedback is incorporated because, as Dr O'Neill says: "To teach is to learn twice. When you promote that aspect of learning from peers it can be quite powerful."

The module adapted by Dr Matthews was on the role of psychology in optimising sports performance, a Stage II module within health and performance science. He asked students to work on an authentic case study in groups where they learned how to build a case formulation and support an athlete with a performance issue.

"Following the I-SEE approach, at the outset students were introduced to core concepts and theories using weekly targeted pre-reading on topics with supporting reading guides, which really builds the student's metacognitive knowledge," he explains. "Then it was clearly signposted what was expected of students, providing rubrics for each assessment component. That allowed them to plan their learning approach and set their goals."

The checklists came into play for monitoring weekly learning performance and, finally, for the core piece of evaluation, students were given options in Brightspace including using the quizzes with automated feedback or video feedback from the lecturer giving them a quick update on how they're getting on.

"Our new VLE makes this so much easier. We can design a quiz and pre-write in comments and feedback based on what the student answers. And they can do that in their own time and still get feedback. There are a lot of nice features that help us deliver the framework and bring the students along," notes Dr Hensey.

Similarly, Dr O'Neill adapted her Stage IV module on Veterinary Clinical Neurology, having students work through a clinical case from start to finish. Across these very different disciplines,

the idea was to show how adaptable the framework is – and this seems to be a resounding success judging by student feedback both in terms of their improving metacognitive skills and their enthusiasm to embrace this style of blended learning that empowers by promoting self-regulation.

The team shows no signs of slowing down after their success to-date. They have developed a video case study and video exemplars to show how the framework operates, making it more accessible to other educators.

"We're working with the various educational technologists across UCD and also identifying module coordinators in different schools. We have also been given various fora within UCD in the past year, presenting at various different teaching and learning events. The main thing is to get a number of enthusiastic colleagues on board who will promote it within their schools," explains Dr Hensey.

"Our ultimate goal is to gather a Community of Practice working with these colleagues – our metacognition champions – who are applying our approach in a variety of disciplines across the university. Our research shows that our metacognitive approach works and we want to share this message with our colleagues," says Dr Fulton.

"This is what we hope to build on going forward. News is spreading!"

*The Fellows were in conversation with Marie Boran, UCD Computer Science BSc 2002, DCU MSc Science Communication 2012, NUIG MSc by research - Insight Centre for Data Analytics, NUIG - 2015), a freelance journalist.*

## ■ UCD hosts EU Research Group on Fintech, Cryptocurrencies and Cybersecurity

**To address rapid changes in the financial industry, academics from 12 of the world's leading business schools took part in the 'Dublin De-Fi and Digital Finance and Financial Services Conference (D3FSC) on Risk in Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies' on 29 and 30 April 2021. The event was organised by UCD College of Business Professors Alessia Paccagnini, Valerio Potì and Andreas Hoepner.**

"The conference gave visibility to all the activity that is taking place in Dublin in FinTech and De-Fi [Decentralised finance], and placed UCD firmly at the centre of the highly competitive and dynamic area of FinTech and Financial Data Science—which are strategic growth areas identified by the Irish Government", said UCD Smurfit School Professor of Finance Valerio Potì.

The conference was part of the FIN-TECH Horizon2020 project which aims to develop a knowledge exchange platform to promote sustainable FinTech innovation. The event was sponsored by two large scale collaborative European research

projects and networks—the COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) Action "FinAI: Fintech and Artificial Intelligence in Finance - Towards a transparent financial industry" (CA19130: COST Proposal 24059) and "FIN-TECH: a knowledge exchange platform for FINancial TECHnology risk management".

Within these projects Professor Potì and Assistant Professor Paccagnini are co-chair and Science Communication Officer of the COST Action respectively. "Our initiative is now the largest ever in the history of COST with a 300+ wide network of universities, research centres, public sector bodies and private sector firms from over 30 countries," said Professor Potì. "It is proving to be very active, with a remarkable range of research and dissemination activities, and policy engagement already well under way."

This was the first event in Dublin that brought together a significant number of leading academics in this research area from Europe, Asia, and North America, with an audience tuning in from around the globe.



*Dr Maurice Manning presenting Prof Brian O'Connor with his honorary doctorate*

## ■ Royal Society SFI University Research Fellowship for UCD Researcher

A Royal Society Science Foundation Ireland University Research Fellowship has been awarded to Dr Christiana Pantelidou who will take up a post in UCD later this year. Dr Pantelidou received funding for a project entitled: 'Gravitational turbulence in the era of gravitational waves'. She will investigate the key concepts and quantities involved in gravitational turbulence and model its consequences on black hole collisions in the universe, which recently became accessible experimentally. The results of this work will deepen understanding of how gravity and thus our universe work and will also allow a more complete picture from experimental gravitational measurements.

The Royal Society University Research Fellowship scheme supports outstanding early career scientists in the UK and Ireland who have the potential to become leaders in their fields, offering them an opportunity to build an independent research career and pursue pioneering scientific research. The Royal Society announced 37 University Research Fellowships for 2021, three of which are supported by Science Foundation Ireland.



*Dr Christiana Pantelidou*

## ■ NUI Confers Doctor of Literature on Professor Brian O'Connor

**On 15 July 2021, the NUI held a socially distanced ceremony where the Chancellor, Dr Maurice Manning, conferred a higher doctorate degree, Doctor of Literature (DLitt), on Professor Brian O'Connor, UCD School of Philosophy in recognition of his exceptional body of published work in the field of philosophy.**

This is the highest degree awarded to scholars of international distinction in their fields. The Chancellor highlighted that the degrees are only awarded after "a great deal of scrutiny and review and consideration". NUI Registrar, Dr Attracta Halpin said: "A very select cohort of scholars qualifies annually for these degrees. To date in 2021, just three such degrees have been awarded. Of these, Professor Brian O'Connor's is the sole DLitt. Over the past five years just two other higher doctorates in philosophy have been awarded. This is a very rare distinction."



From l-r: Benjamin Fitzpatrick, Allannah Duffy, Aoife Cunningham and Scott Mulligan

## UCD Success at International Engineering and Commerce Case Competition 2021

**Congratulations to UCD students Aoife Cunningham (Commerce International) and Allannah Duffy, Scott Mulligan and Benjamin Fitzpatrick (Engineering) who represented Ireland at the international engineering and commerce competition (ENGCMM 2021), placing second overall.**

The competition consists of 3 unique cases that are solved by competing teams and are scored by the judges. The UCD team enjoyed tremendous success, additionally winning Best Engineering Solution, Best Business Solution, Most Sustainable Solution, Best Team Chemistry and Best Speaker (Aoife Cunningham).

## UCD student wins Irish writing Journalism award at the National Student Media Awards

Bronnadh gradam 'Iriseoireacht trí Ghaeilge scríofa' ar mhac léinn UCD Anna-Clare Nic Gairbheith ag na Smedias (The National Student Media Awards). Is mac léinn í ar MA: Scríobh agus Cumarsáid na Gaeilge (MASC) a bhfuil cáil ar mhic léinn an chúrsa as gairmeacha beatha a bhaint amach sna meáin Ghaeilge agus i ngairmeacha ilghnéitheacha Gaeilge agus oideachais. Le blianta anuas tá siad le cloisteáil agus le feiceáil ar na meáin Ghaeilge chló, chraolta agus dhigiteacha: Áine Ní Bhréasláin (Bladhaire, RnaG), Donncha Ó Murchú (TG4), Seán Ó Baoill (BBC, TG4) agus Siún Ní Dhuinn (RTÉ), cuir i gcás. Leanfaidh Anna-Clare iriseoirí

cló ar nós Méabh Ní Thuathaláin (Tuairisc.ie) mar bhall de ghlúin nua iriseoirí atá ag teacht in inmhe mar chéimithe MASC. Is aitheantas den scoth é d'Anna-Clare.

Mar aon le slite beatha Gaeilge in Éirinn taistealaíonn ár gcuid mac léinn ar fud an domhain i rólanna cumarsáide ag na leibhéil is airde náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta mar gheall ar scileanna teanga, cumarsáide agus aistriúcháin a fhoghlaimíonn siad. Gheofar tuilleadh eolais ar an chúrsa ach teagmháil a dhéanamh le stiúrthóir MASC, an tOllamh Regina Uí Chollatáin (regina.uichollatain@ucd.ie), Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh agus an Bhéaloidis, COBÁC (UCD).

Anna-Clare Nic Gairbheith, a UCD student on the MA: Scríobh agus Cumarsáid won the Irish writing Journalism award at the 2021 Smedias (National Student Media Awards). Students from this course are well known for their success in Irish language media and in attaining positions in various Irish language related professions and education. They can be heard and seen on Irish language print, broadcast and digital media, for example Áine Ní Bhréasláin (Bladhaire, RnaG), Donncha Ó Murchú (TG4), Seán Ó Baoill (BBC, TG4), and Siún Ní Dhuinn (RTÉ). Anna-Clare now continues the standards set by other print journalists like Méabh Ní Thuathaláin (Tuairisc.ie)

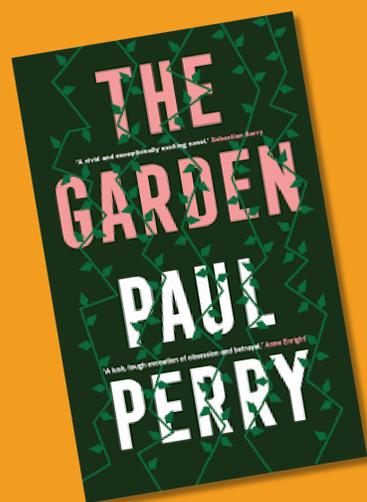
as a member of a new generation of journalists who are coming to the fore as MASC graduates.

As a result of the language, communication, and translation skills that students learn on the course our graduates are working in diverse and high-ranking appointments in communication and other areas at national and international levels. For more information on the MA please contact the MASC Director, Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin (regina.uichollatain@ucd.ie), UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore.

# Books

## ■ The Garden

**Associate Professor Paul Perry,**  
UCD School of English, Drama  
and Film  
**ISBN: 978-1-84840-799-2**



This is the perfect book to take on holiday. You need time to read it in long passages to really appreciate the beauty and poetry of the words. You will be drawn in by the characters, trying to understand exactly what makes each tick and react in the ways that they do.

It is set on an orchid farm in Florida, the eponymous garden. Shady, colourful characters come and go throughout. The story is narrated by Swallow, who left Ireland after a sad childhood, losing his mother and brother. After spending time in the Marines, he lived on the edge of the law and is somewhat unsettled in life. He now works for Blanchard, the farm owner, who perhaps hasn't always been above board in his dealings, and this comes to the fore when, after the worst hurricane in Florida's history has destroyed the farm and its precious orchids, he decides to chase the elusive 'ghost orchid'. To this end,

Blanchard hires Romeo, an orchid expert from Honduras, who shares the obsession for this elusive prize. A man of few words, he brings his knowledge but seems to upset the balance of the garden and its inhabitants.

We hear of the garden's past glories and of the burgeoning orchid trade. In order to restore the farm's lost fortunes, Blanchard becomes obsessed with finding the ghost. This is infamously rare, a delicate and wildly valuable species, hidden deep in the treacherous cypress swamps of the Fakahatchee Strand. To attain it, illegally, Blanchard strikes a deal with one of the local Seminole tribe. After much negotiation and false starts with various characters from the tribe, they eventually journey into the swamp and reading these passages, you can almost feel the swamp closing in around you, the "rank" smell and the "dense foliage – palm, cypress and hardwood – the murk".

The female characters, while peripheral to the core of the story, are nevertheless central to Swallow's narrative. His relationship with Lola is transitory. "We're acquainted" seemed to cover it. It runs its course with some let-downs and involves some of the other characters along the way. His relationship with Meribel, Blanchard's wife is unexpected. She has a strained relationship with her husband and seems to seek out Swallow to bring some joy into her life.

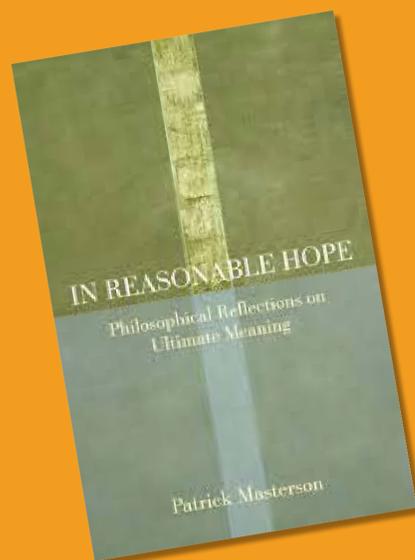
When they eventually capture the ghost, Romeo can start his cultivation. Blanchard frantically searches out a buyer and the rhythm of the garden seems to return. But nature has been violated, they have taken what doesn't belong to them, something that shouldn't really belong to anyone.

As the book races to its end, there's death, burnings, trouble, a constant sense of tension, a barely concealed undercurrent of violence, all leading to a crescendo before the final acts... is there to be any future for the Garden and its inhabitants?

This is Paul Perry's first solo novel and has been extensively and critically well reviewed. It builds on his extensive experience as a writer of thrillers, and it is easy to see how important his poetry is to his writing as you revel in the flow of this amazing story. **MS**

## ■ In Reasonable Hope: Philosophical Reflections on Ultimate Meaning

**President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus Patrick Masterson**  
**ISBN: 978-0813233864**



In this short and philosophically rich book, President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, Patrick Masterson addresses the question of the ultimate source of meaning in the universe. Professor Masterson defends *theism*, the view

that the ultimate source of meaning in the universe is God: a perfect being of infinite goodness who created and sustains the universe. He writes beautifully and describes complex philosophical and theological concepts with remarkable clarity. One gets a clear sense of the author as someone who is both fiercely intelligent and deeply motivated by love. I would highly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the philosophy of religion.

The book contains eighteen chapters. In chapters 1 and 2, Professor Masterson describes three non-theistic answers to the question of ultimate meaning (I will focus on two here). *Correlationist humanism* is a kind of relativism according to which truths about existence, meaning, and value can only be true relative to a thinking subject. *Scientism* is the view that truths about existence, meaning, and value must be reducible to truths of fundamental physics. The problem with correlationism and scientism, according to Professor Masterson, is that they are ultimately self-undermining: both rely on principles about what can be meaningfully thought or said that do not meet their own conditions for meaningfulness. I found Masterson's arguments here very persuasive.

In chapters 3 to 5, Professor Masterson describes three different approaches to the philosophy of religion – the phenomenological approach, the linguistic approach, and the realist approach – and argues in favour of the realist approach, on which theistic assertions are taken at face value as truth-evaluable claims about objective reality. This part

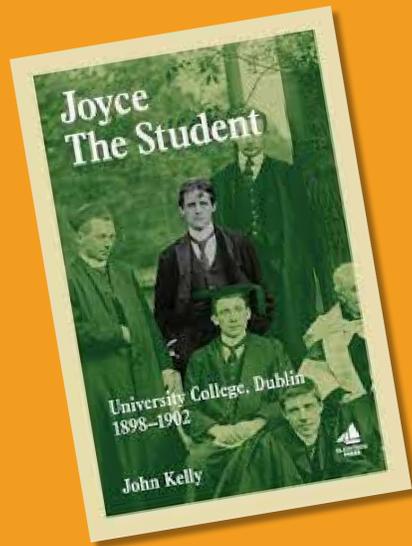
of the book provides an excellent introduction to some of the main currents of thought in contemporary philosophy of religion. Again, I found his arguments here very persuasive.

In chapters 6 and 7, Professor Masterson provides two arguments in favour of theism: a 'metaphysical' argument from the intelligibility and goal-directedness of the universe, and a 'moral' argument from the 'reasonable hope' that there is a necessary connection between virtue and happiness. Chapters 8 to 18 then 'develop and amplify' the theistic perspective by focusing on the role of love in Christian theology. These chapters are both theologically rich and movingly personal.

As Professor Masterson acknowledges, his arguments for theism will not convince the committed non-theist; but his goal is not to argue non-theists into submission. Indeed, he is unfailingly intellectually generous to his philosophical opponents. Rather, his aim is to introduce the curious reader to a certain compelling way of thinking about the ultimate source of meaning and value in the universe. In this he very ably succeeds. **DED**

## Joyce the Student: University College Dublin, 1898-1902

Professor Emeritus John Kelly  
Gleiteog Press  
ISBN: 978-1-5722-8262-9



John Kelly's *Joyce the Student* is the first book-length account of Joyce's undergraduate career at UCD. It fills a conspicuous gap and sheds light on the formative, conflict-ridden years, 1898-1902.

In his circumspect investigation, Kelly intertwines Joyce's experience as a student at UCD with a history of the institution. As his book shows, the deficiencies as well as the merits of the still nascent university acted as a goad for Joyce's single-minded intent to become the most revolutionary author of his era.

Yet, even though he cultivated the role of outsider, Joyce's intellectual evolution was inextricably bound up with college life, not least because he belonged to a brilliant generation of students who played central roles in Irish and international public affairs, amongst them JF Byrne, CP Curran, Francis Sheehy Skeffington, Tom Kettle and George Clancy.

Invaluably, appendices gather together Joyce's undergraduate writings, including his L and H talk, 'Drama and Life', the most brilliant lecture ever given at UCD, and his pioneering 1900 review of Henrik Ibsen's *When We Dead Awaken*. Readers glean a tangible sense of Joyce's precocious development as a writer and of the political and aesthetic debates at UCD.

In *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, Joyce sketched a blazingly original account of Stephen Dedalus as university student. John Kelly's richly illustrated *Joyce the Student* contextualises these well-known fictional scenes, sometimes demurring from them, and provides engrossing insights into UCD at the turn of the twentieth century. **AF**

*The Editor has three copies of Joyce the Student to give away, thanks to the author. Email [ucdtoday@ucd.ie](mailto:ucdtoday@ucd.ie) and tell us one of Joyce's middle names to enter the draw. Include your postal address and we'll send the book to you.*



# Tokyo Olympics

**Congratulations to all UCD students, past and present, who participated in the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. We wish them the very best in their endeavours.**

## Women's Hockey

- **Hannah McLoughlin:** BSc Economics and Finance Stage 3
- **Michelle Carey:** BE Biomedical Engineering Stage 3
- **Katie Mullan:** BSc Engineering (2017), ME Engineering (2018)
- **Chloe Watkins:** BComm International (2016)
- **Deirdre Duke:** BCL Law with Social Justice (2017)
- **Anna O'Flanagan:** BCL Law and Economics (2013)
- **Lena Tice:** BA Economics (2021)
- **Sarah McAuley:** BSocSc Social Policy & Sociology (Stage 2)

## Athletics

- **Mark English (800m):** MB BCh BAO Medicine (2019)
- **Ciara Mageean:** (1500m): BSc Physiotherapy (2017)
- **Sarah Lavin (100m hurdles):** BSc Physiotherapy (2018)
- **Sarah Healy (1500m):** BCL Law Stage 3

## Golf

- **Shane Lowry:** BSc Sports Management

## Rugby Sevens

- **Billy Dardis:** BSc Health & Performance Science (2018); MSc Management Consultancy (2021)
- **Harry McNulty:** BSc Food Science (2017)
- **Gavin Mullin:** BBL Business and Law (2021)
- **Adam Leavy:** MSc Finance (2021)
- **Foster Horan:** Professional Masters Physiotherapy (2020)
- **Terry Kennedy:** BComm (2018)
- **Bryan Mollen:** BA (2020)
- **Ian Fitzpatrick:** BComm (2017)

## Swimming

- **Darragh Greene (100m breast stroke):** DipSMgt Sports Management (2018)

## Rowing

- **Eimear Lambe (Women's 4):** BComm Commerce International (2019)
- **Aileen Crowley (Women's Pair):** BSc Architecture (2015)
- **Paul O'Donovan (Men's Lightweight Double):** BSc Physiotherapy (2017)

## Paralympics

- **Patrick Flanagan (Para swimming):** BSc Economics and Finance (2021)
- **Colin Judge (Para Table Tennis):** BAFS Actuary and Financial Studies (2017)
- **Kerrie Leonard (Para Archery):** MSc in Marketing (2019)

## Support Staff

- **Lisa Jacob, Irish Women's Hockey Manager:** BA Psychology (2009)
- **James Nolan, Paralympic Ireland Athletics HPD:** BSc Sports Management (2009)
- **Feifhlim Kelly, Athletics Middle Distance Coach to Team Ireland:** BSc Sports & Exercise Management (2004)



Sarah Healy



Paul O'Donovan



Patrick Flanagan, Kerrie Leonard and Colin Judge. Credit/ paralympics.ie



UCD students and alumni on the Irish Women's Hockey Team



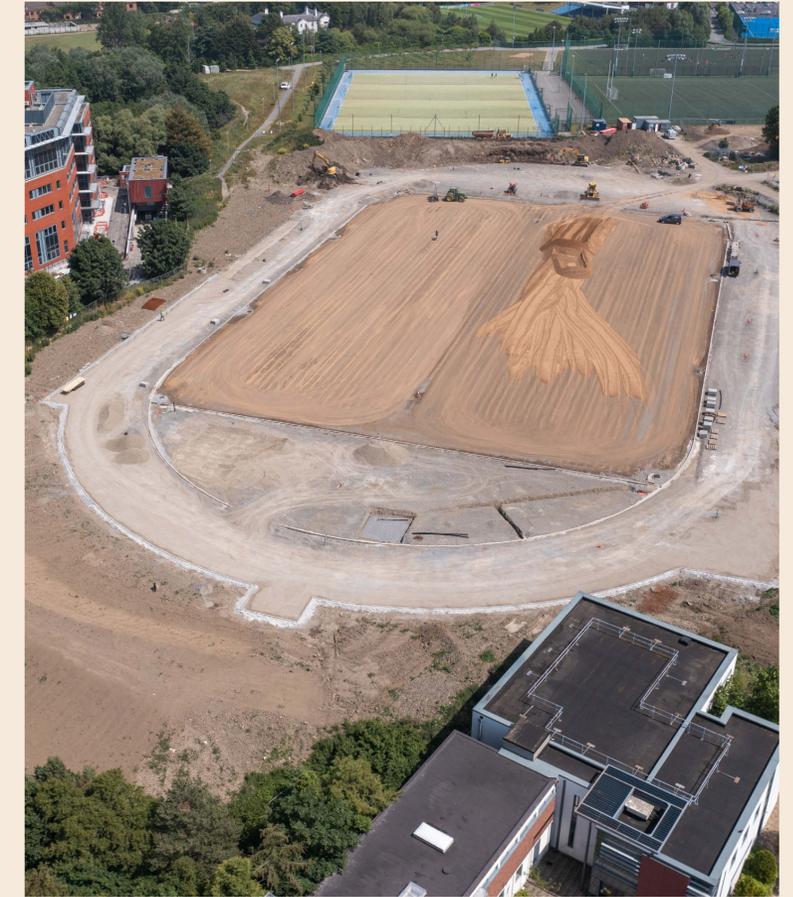
Eimear Lambe



Darragh Greene



Team Ireland Rugby Sevens Squad



Drone shoot of the stabilisation process and final phase of development works, July 2021

## UCD Athletics Track: The Final Hurdle

**As we approach the finish line in the construction of UCD's new Athletics Track, UCD Student Services are delighted to report the progressive developments which have taken place over the past number of months.**

Since government restrictions eased, the finalisation of the soil stabilisation process and testing of the same in order to ensure compliance was met in line with design specifications.

The stabilised soil foundation now hosts a layer of stone tarmacadam which provides the substructure required to house the finished surface track.

We have reached the point where all works will now be above ground level as the project finishes out towards its completion.

Outstanding works separate to that of the track surface include the installation of lighting, line markings on the surface track, seeding of the infield area and the buildout of the remaining athletics structures to incorporate the shot putt and high jump zones.

## UCD Vet White Coat Ceremony 2021

On Friday 23 April UCD School of Veterinary Medicine's annual White Coat Ceremony took place virtually. The Clinical Commencement or White Coat Ceremony is a key milestone for Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing students, marking their transition from classroom-based learning to

their clinical rotations in the UCD Veterinary Hospital.

The ceremony was led by Professor Michael Doherty, Dean and Head of School. Following the presentation of the Class of 2022 Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing students, the Veterinary and Veterinary Nursing Oaths were

recited by Professor Bryan Markey and Dr Robin Farrell respectively. The ceremony was concluded with keynote addresses by Mr Charles Cosgrave and Assistant Professor Pamela Gillick, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, who were invited by students to share their advice on entering clinical practice.



Pictured at NovaUCD are EOFIS founders Marysol Angeloni and Tiarnach Ó Riada with Dr Paul Cuffe

31 MONOLOGUES, 31 ACTORS, AND 31 DIRECTORS FROM 31 DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES READING...

## THE GAZA MONOLOGUES



Thursday, May 27 5:30 PM PT/8:30 PM ET

Register here to receive the Zoom Webinar link:  
[tinyurl.com/TheGazaMonologues](https://tinyurl.com/TheGazaMonologues)

## The Gaza Monologues

On 27 May 2021, UCD Ad Astra Academy Performing Arts students, invited by Stanford University Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies and San José State University, represented Ireland in a reading of *The Gaza Monologues*. These are the personal testimonies of a group of Palestinian children who lived through the Gaza war from December 2008 to January 2009. Performed online by students from over 30 universities, *The Gaza Monologues*, 11 years after its first performance, remains a moving and timely reminder of the horror of war.

## Software to Augment Human Memory wins NovaUCD's 2021 Student Enterprise Competition

**EOFIS, an early-stage student venture which is a developing software platform to aid human memory, has won the 2021 NovaUCD Student Enterprise Competition and €5,000 in prize money.**

EOFIS helps people recall important materials and statistics by using artificial intelligence to create memory-jogging quiz-style questions from data fed to the platform by users looking to retain important snippets of information. The platform allows users to take the text of an illuminating nugget of information or even a whole book chapter and have it transform into a series of quiz questions. The daily quizzes appear on a user's phone and use a proven spaced repetition technique to optimally time when users will see the questions.

The members of the EOFIS team are Marysol Angeloni, who is completing an

MSc in Management at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, and Tiarnach Ó Riada, who has just completed a BEng degree in UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

The team is supported by Assistant Professor Paul Cuffe, UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, who supervised Tiarnach's final year engineering project during which the EOFIS software platform was initially developed.

The sponsors of the 2021 NovaUCD Student Enterprise Competition were AIB, Arthur Cox, Deloitte, Ericsson, Goodbody Stockbrokers and Xilinx.