

Autumn / Winter 2022



# UCD today

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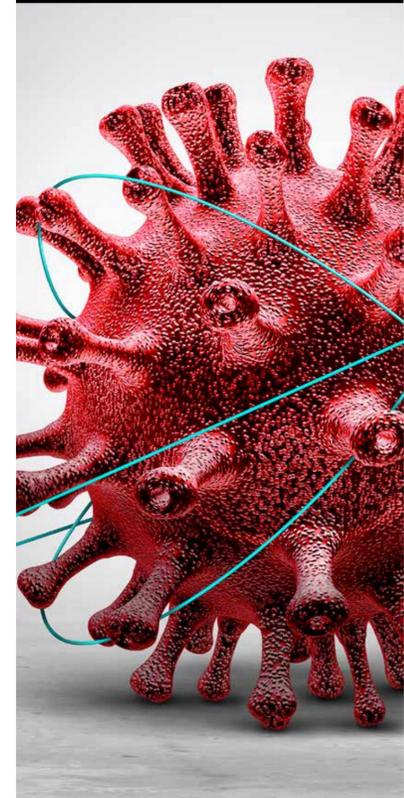
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## UCD thanks...

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Cover image: Israel Olatunde is pictured at the launch of the new Athletics Track.

## ■ Honorary degrees and Ulysses Medal Presentations



### Paul Brady, Musician – Ulysses Medal

Citation by Associate Professor PJ Mathews, UCD School of English, Drama and Film

One of Ireland's most celebrated and beloved musicians Paul Brady has received the UCD Ulysses Medal, the highest honour the University can bestow. In recognition of his immense contribution and leadership in the performing and recording arts, the Tyrone native was awarded the honour during September's conferrings.

*"His distinguished career has been characterised by an unrivalled ability to rediscover and reimagine great songs from the storehouse of tradition and to place them at the epicentre of Irish cultural life once more,"* said

Associate Professor PJ Mathews, UCD School of English, Drama and Film. *"Paul's gift as a maker of melodies is matched by his flair as a lyricist. His well-crafted words have engaged, consoled, excited, and inspired us for decades. If anything characterises his music, it is a relentless drive to follow his own creative instincts and break through the often-rigid demarcations and expectations of the Irish musical landscape."*

Adding: *"As a distinguished UCD Creative Fellow [Paul] gives generously of his time to contribute to Creative Futures Academy programmes in the creative and performing arts and is immensely generous in sharing his experience and insights with our students in masterclasses and seminars."*

A number of honorary degrees were awarded by UCD Acting President Professor Mark Rogers in recognition of their recipients' distinguished careers.



### Dr John D Feerick, Dean Emeritus, Fordham University - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws

Citation delivered by Professor Imelda Maher, UCD Sutherland School of Law

The conferring ceremony was held in the Moot Court at the Sutherland School of Law on 14 June 2022.

Professor Maher summarised Professor Feerick's many achievements and the extraordinary work that he has undertaken across his stellar career. Professor Feerick is an Irish American with an outstanding sense of public service whose scholarship informed the drafting and adoption of the 25th Amendment of the United States Constitution. Later, as Dean of Fordham Law School, Professor Feerick participated in the first visit by a United States President to Northern Ireland, which was a seminal moment in the peace process that culminated in the Belfast Agreement. He first instigated a conflict resolution programme for Northern Ireland based in Fordham and, with the support of Professors John Jackson and Paul O'Connor, set up the Fordham/Queens University and University College Dublin Law Summer School which is now in its 21st year.



### Dr Michael F Farrell, human rights activist - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws

Citation delivered by Dr Liam Thornton, UCD Sutherland School of Law

*"It would not be possible to communicate fully all of Michael's achievements as a public interest lawyer in Ireland. [He] has dedicated his professional life to highlighting injustices within our society... utilising [the law] as a means to uphold civil and human rights of groups, who at times, were, and unfortunately still are, marginalised by us in society."*

*"All in all, an impartial observer would conclude that Michael Farrell has been one of the most important public interest lawyers for over twenty years in Ireland."*



**Dr Cathriona Hallahan, former CEO of Microsoft Ireland - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science**

*Citation delivered by Professor Jeremy Simpson, Principal, UCD College of Science*

*"Global giants such as Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Apple Intel, IBM, and Dell Technologies have built huge presences in Ireland, firmly positioning the country as the internet capital of Europe. [Cathriona] is one of the architects of this success, leading the development of this revolution, which has created so much hope for Ireland's future and the role which digital technologies can play in supporting prosperity.*

*"Her achievements in business are singular: building Microsoft Ireland to become one of the state's largest businesses with annual sales of more than 40 billion euro and employing more than 2,000 people."*



**Dr Peter Harbison, archaeologist - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science**

*Citation delivered by Professor Tadhg O'Keeffe, UCD School of Archaeology*

*"Throughout his career, Peter has moved effortlessly between the conference hall and the parish hall, and has been as happy to write for a local history magazine as for a top-ranked international journal. He is that rare breed: a serious scholar who is also a great populariser. And anybody who has heard Peter in action will know that he is a passionate communicator. It is fitting, then, that his most famous work – and I would say his most influential work – is a guidebook.*

*"One cannot overstate the impact on Irish archaeology, and the Irish heritage industry in general, of Peter's Guide to the National Monuments of Ireland, first published in 1970. It alerted people to our ancient and medieval sites, it explained what things were, and it identified where the key-holders lived."*



**Dr Bernard Looney, CEO of BP - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science**

*Citation delivered by Professor Aoife Ahern, Principal, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture*

*"As leader [Bernard] has set out the objective to transform BP from an Integrated Oil Company to an Integrated Energy company and to shift the company's focus to sustainability and the role BP can play in supporting the world to reach net zero. He has set out a clear ambition for BP to become a net zero company by at the latest 2050. He is a problem solver, committed to sustainability, inclusivity, and equality, who ably demonstrates what can be achieved by graduates of this College, embodying the values of his alma mater.*

*"Since graduating, Bernard has maintained a very close and fruitful relationship with UCD, supporting Student Scholarship Programmes and the Capital Development Programme, and working with faculty and researchers in UCD Engineering to develop close partnerships."*



**Dr Alvin Jackson, historian - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Arts**

*Citation delivered by Professor Diarmaid Ferriter, UCD School of History*

*"Alvin came to master the Protestant sense of history in Northern Ireland, bringing the cool, analytical skill of the historian to a unionism that, as he recognizes 'does not demand a complex vision of its own past'. Exploring the historical perspectives of modern unionism and the bond between that vision of the past and contemporary unionist action has allowed [him] to compare popular and official memories with available historical evidence and illustrate 'the success with which setbacks and complexities were concealed'.*

*"For students of history, general readers and contemporary commentators, understanding the unionist perspective... cannot be achieved without reference to Alvin's work."*

Prof Mark Rogers pictured with UCD Athletics Club student athletes Bori Akinola and Lucy Barrett.



## Official Opening of the new Athletics Track

**A new IAAF standard 400m eight-lane athletics track was officially opened by Acting President, Professor Mark Rogers on 28 September. The University has been without such a facility for the past ten years following the decommissioning of the former athletics track at Belfield in 2011.**

But that gap in sports facilities is now a distant memory thanks to a €3 million anonymous donation.

"A graduate of UCD, our donor has given the University the largest single donation in sport – this donation has covered the cost of this eight-lane 400m IAAF synthetic track and its maintenance for 20 years," said Professor Rogers. "I thank our donor for this extraordinary gift and for placing your trust in our vision to transform lives and strengthen communities. We draw

tremendous inspiration and motivation from your encouragement and support."

The new track, with field facilities, is a boon to students and staff. Speaking to RTÉ at the opening, Israel Olatunde, the UCD computer science student who became Ireland's fastest man over 100m at the European Athletics Championships in Munich in August, said the new athletics track is an "amazing facility. It's really great to be here to see all the planning come to fruition, and it's going to be a great

addition to the club, the college and the community. So, I'm really excited to get training. As athletes we don't have to travel around Dublin to get to a track, we've got one right here on our doorstep. In between classes, we can get out here, get our training done."

Sport and athletics play a central role at UCD with the Athletics Club celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2021. High quality on-campus sports facilities are a key attraction for students and staff. They are also crucial for retaining and promoting associations with national-level sporting bodies such as Athletics Ireland and for fostering engagement with the local community and wider environs.

## Senior Appointments

**Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin, Chair of Modern Irish and Literature was appointed as College Principal and Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities.**



Is í Regina Uí Chollatáin, an tOllamh Sinsearach le Nua-Ghaeilge sa Choláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath, an Príomhoifigeach/ Déan nua ar Choláiste na nEalaíon agus na nDaonnachtaí.

Dúirt Regina: "Tá pobal ilghnéitheach na hÉireann díreach ar thairseach chomórach céad bliain de bhunú an

Stáit mar thír a bhfuil áit greanta aici i stair agus i gcultúr na hEorpa agus an domhain le breis agus céad bliain anuas. Is scáthántacht í UCD Coláiste na nEalaíon agus na nDaonnachtaí ar éabhlóid na sochaí Éireannaí, i gcomhthéacs na n-ealaíon agus an chultúir. Shnoigh cuid mhaith dá chéimithe rólanna ceannaireachta a réitigh áit d'Éirinn ar ardán na hEorpa agus an domhain.

"Téann an anailís chriticiúil agus an fhiosracht intleachtúil go croí dhisciplíní agus chlár an Choláiste. Múnlóidh sé seo céimithe an Choláiste le rólanna ceannaireachta agus gníomhacha a ghlacadh le beathaí a athrú trí thuiscintí litríochta, staire, teangeolaíochta agus cultúrtha. Tá luchtáir orm a bheith ag obair chun tosaigh sna hathruithe seo agus ré nua á stiúradh againn sna hEalaíona agus sna Daonnachtaí."

Regina said: "Ireland is on the threshold of the centenary of the commemoration of the foundation of the Irish State, in a country which has carved its place in the history and culture of Europe and the world for well over one hundred years. The UCD

College of Arts and Humanities mirrors the evolution of Irish society and global arts and culture, and its graduates embody the leadership which has allowed Ireland to take its place on the national and international stage.

"The critical analysis which lies at the heart of the College disciplines and programmes, has enabled, and will continue to shape our graduates to lead, enrich and change many lives through literary, historical, linguistic and cultural understandings. I look forward to working at the cutting edge of these as we lead a new era in Arts and Humanities".

A native of County Donegal and Chair and Professor of Modern Irish at UCD, Regina joined UCD in 2002. She became Head of the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore in 2015-2021. In 2021, and was appointed Chair of Foras na Gaeilge, the North South Irish language public body responsible for the promotion of Irish on the island of Ireland. Regina holds a BEd from Carysfort College of Education and a PhD from Maynooth University.

**Professor Laurent Pech was appointed as the incoming Dean at UCD Sutherland School of Law. He will take over the role for a three-year term after which he will then hold a continuing appointment as Full Professor of Law in the School.**



Professor Pech is currently Professor of European Law and Head of the Law and Politics Department at Middlesex University London. He is also a Visiting Professor of Law at Bordeaux University, a Senior Research Fellow at the CEU Democracy Institute in Budapest, and the co-director of The Good Lobby Profs which he co-founded in 2021. Laurent

has been a visiting professor at many institutions, including his alma mater: Aix-Marseille University. In September 2022, Laurent will be based at the Institute of Advanced Studies of the Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna, following his appointment as Visiting Fellow.

Professor Pech specialises in EU Public Law and has lectured in a variety of subjects including EU Constitutional Law, EU Internal Market Law, EU Competition Law and European Human Rights Law. He was Jean Monnet Chair of European Public Law from 2014-17. Prior to his appointment at Middlesex University, Laurent was Jean Monnet Lecturer in EU Public Law at the National University of Ireland Galway. During his academic career, Laurent also worked in Canada (Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Canada Research Chair on Globalization, Citizenship and Democracy) and in the United States (Emile Noel Fellow at NYU Law). He has worked as a legal consultant in many post-conflict or EU candidate countries such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Latvia and Montenegro.

## ■ Conveying Space: Exhibition commemorating 50 years of UCD at Belfield

An exhibition commemorating UCD's 50 years at Belfield is open to the public in the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI). 'Conveying Space' captures the atmospheric qualities of the architecture at UCD and the ambitious development of its South Dublin campus beginning in the 1960s.

The fine art photography by Daniel Holfeld, dotted throughout MoLI, deconstructs the rebar, concrete and stucco of these buildings to provide a new look at the structural legacy of Belfield. Some, such as Nightwalk and the diptych water towers Icon I and Icon II are readily recognisable emblems of UCD.

Others, such as Diverging Spaces are typical of how the exhibition emphasises the interaction between structure and natural light to turn the physical into the abstract.

The series of 20 images, captured by Holfeld during the quiet created by COVID-19 between

June and July 2020, will be on display in Newman House on St Stephen's Green until the end of November, after which the number 1 editions will be installed on Belfield campus as a permanent collection.

*"The Conveying Space exhibition does not attempt to chronicle our architecture," said Acting President of UCD, Professor Mark Rogers opening of the exhibition. "I think that skill is best left to the architects themselves. Rather, it is a legacy collection of twenty large scale canvasses that invite the viewer into our world."*

Nightwalk



## ■ UCD Quinn School Annual Scholarships and Prizes Ceremony

The community of talented and high performing students came together to focus on the exceptional academic achievements – specifically University scholarships and academic prizes – achieved in the preceding year.

"We are so delighted to be finally able to gather in person and to mark this moment collectively," said Director of UCD Quinn School, Associate Professor Maeve Houlihan. "We are proud to celebrate and recognise the talent, ability and hard work of our students, and all those who supported them on the way, including lecturers and the team at Quinn School, as well as alumni, donors and corporate partners whose support enables these awards, recognises the value of educational achievement, and connects our community."

"The connections woven between students, faculty, alumni, employers and the business community – with friends, family and supporters – are the heartbeat of the University and especially here at Quinn," continued Associate Professor Houlihan. "We all share a huge sense of pride in each rising generation and an ambition for the difference they will make in the world, and to society through your work and contributions. Our greatest strength is what we do to raise others and as Angela Moore reminds us – remember to give back and pay forward."

## UCD Festival 2022

The UCD Festival celebrated its seventh birthday in style on Saturday, 11 June when it threw open its doors for the annual one-day festival with thousands of visitors returning to the Belfield campus for the first time since the last in-person UCD Festival in June 2019, to enjoy 147 free interactive activities.

Organisers issued nearly 40,000 tickets for an engaging and fun Festival.

From the UCD Symphony Orchestra's virtual reality experiences to masterclasses in writing, UCD celebrated the return of the Festival with a free showcase of over 145 interactive events of the arts, science, engineering, technology, sport, discovery and ideas.

The interactive Intel Science and Innovation zone attracted thousands of visitors of all ages to play, create, and explore, while others explored the free Engineering and Technology Zone.

In the Festival Hub and the Culture Zone, festival goers were treated to a starry list of UCD's top academics and alumni and friends of UCD join in talks, performances, and activities. Speakers included alumni Jessica Traynor, Rick O'Shea, Chandrika Narayanan-Mohana, Aingela Flannery, Audrey Magee, Maeve O'Rourke, Niamh Shaw, alongside friends of UCD, Mark O Halloran, Colm O'Gorman, and Laurence Moroney.

There was also the chance for festival goers to explore the impressive Belfield campus with Sculpture Trails and Tours of Campus running throughout the day. Meanwhile in UCD Sutherland School of Law, budding lawyers had an opportunity to participate in a mock trial as barristers, solicitors, defendants, judges, jury etc.

The UCD Festival blends education and research showcases with family fun, with hundreds of students, researchers and academics displaying their work across eight interactive zones. The hands-on nature of the demonstrations allowed festival goers to get up close with exciting research taking place at UCD. The interactive events reflected the thematic pillars of UCD's Strategy 2020-2024 Rising to the Future.

Hundreds of pupils attended an exclusive Meet the Astronaut event with Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield. Where they had the chance to put weird and wonderful questions to him, leaving the children inspired and enthralled by his experiences and insights.

Later in the day the standout event was the conversation in a packed O'Reilly Hall with Chris Hadfield and Dr Niamh Shaw.

Another highlight included *The Magdalene Laundries: Told, Acknowledged Not Forgotten*, a powerful conversation event based on a book co-authored by alumni and academics from UCD College of Social Sciences and Law.



Kumudu Morawaka aged 9 creates a vortex at the Intel Science Discovery Showcase



Eoghan and Aoife Byrne (both aged 8) meet Pepper the Humanoid



Jay Lawless aged 4, examines thousands of pollinators in the Bumblearium.



Members of the UCD Community Choir sing Songs from the Movies.



Building an Insect Hotel



Astronaut Chris Hadfield takes a selfie with the audience at Meet the Astronaut event



Annalise Fogarty aged 4 gets ready for surgery at the Medtronic Junior Hospital Experience



UCD Festival 2022 was a special day for Adam King when he finally got to meet Chris Hadfield in person along with his siblings Robert, Danny and Katie.



Pictured (l-r) are: Students from St Mark's Community School, Shenelle D'Souza, Emilia Virlan, Jack Kiely, Elissa Dowling Mc Keown and Thomas Gibbons with Prof Judith Harford (centre left) and Principal Eithne Coyne.

## Power2Progress Outreach Day

UCD welcomed almost 600 fifth-year students and 50 teachers and principals to UCD as part of a Power2Progress outreach day. Organised by PI Professor Judith Harford, Dr Rachel Farrell and Amalia Fenwick in UCD School of Education, the outreach day was attended by Minister Simon Harris and included inputs from Ruairi Power and Carla Gummerson, UCD Students' Union; Professor Graham Finlay, Professor Paul Rouse, Associate Professor Niamh Moore-Cherry, Professor Keith Murphy, Associate Professor Gillian Pye, Assistant Professor Stephen Lucek, Associate Professor John Dunnion, Professor Mark Rogers and Professor Colin Scott.

Funded by the Z Zurich Foundation, Zurich Ireland and Rethink Ireland, Power2Progress is an educational intervention in 21 DEIS schools nationally which is designed to build educational resilience. The programme allows each of the schools to ask their senior cycle pupils to select subject areas in which they would benefit from additional tuition. This tuition is provided by UCD student teachers, onsite in schools, after school hours. The student teacher works with the classroom teacher with a view to establishing the focus of these sessions. The programme also involves a career guidance/mentoring dimension which builds a foundation and support network to empower students to think about and apply for

further and higher education and apprenticeship pathways. Participating schools are partnered with a Zurich employee who works with the guidance department on the delivery of career talks, many of which have been recorded and are available to all participating schools. Each of the 600 pupils signed up to the programme is provided with their own laptop which has been a game changer in many of these schools. Finally, there is a PhD aligned to the project with a view to gathering data. Pictured (l-r) are: Students from St Mark's Community School, Shenelle D'Souza, Emilia Virlan, Jack Kiely, Elissa Dowling Mc Keown and Thomas Gibbons with Prof Judith Harford on the initiative and informing policy.

## UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science Reunion

UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science, in collaboration with UCD Alumni Relations, were delighted to reconnect with alumni, current and retired staff and friends of the University at an on-campus barbecue overlooking the lake.

Taking place in the UCD University Club on a sunny Friday evening in May, the get-together was an excellent opportunity for friends, colleagues, classmates, and staff to celebrate 58 years of science research and education and to reminisce about their time spent at UCD.

Following a welcome by the University's Acting President, Professor Mark Rogers, Head of School Associate Professor Evelyn Doyle presented the Bayley Butler cup to alumna Jane Faull, BSc Zoology 2021. The cup is in honour of James Bailey Butler, the first lecturer in botany at UCD from 1909 till his retirement in 1957, apart from a period of service during World War I.

Guests were brought on a short tour of the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science, including Science

West, in advance of it undergoing a complete refurbishment later this year.

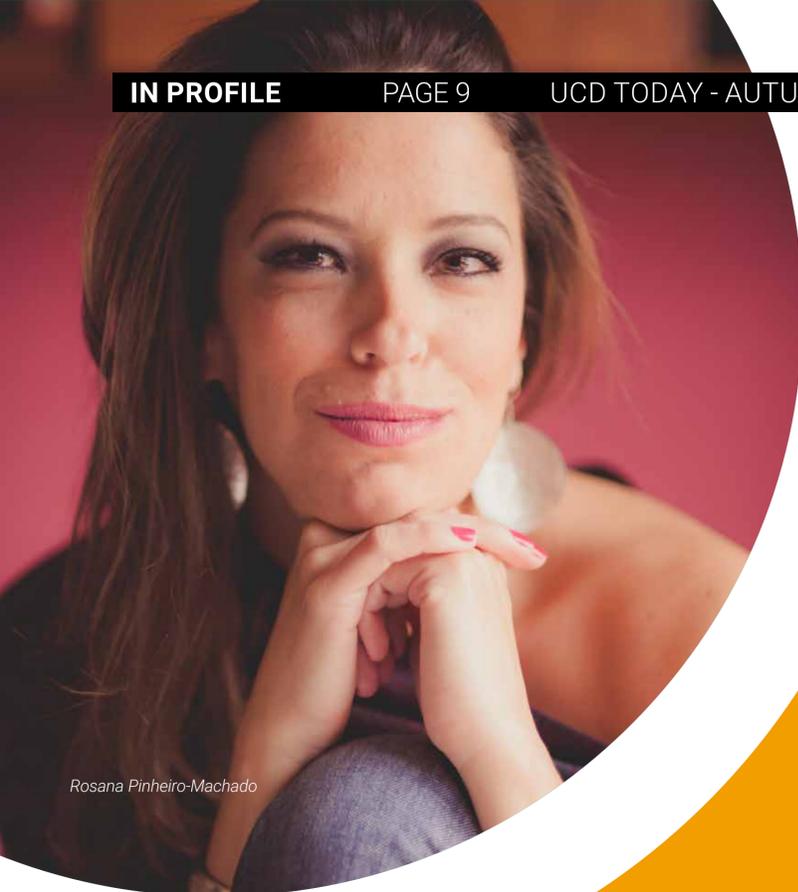
It was a wonderful opportunity for friends, colleagues, classmates and staff, see how much the campus has grown and developed over the years while sharing stories about their time spent here over a barbeque.

See archive photos and video of the emerging Belfield campus here:

- <https://www.rte.ie/archives/2019/0103/1020112-building-university-college-dublin/>
- <https://www.rte.ie/archives/2019/0904/1073706-ucd-belfield-campus/>



Associate Professor Evelyn Doyle presenting the Bayley Butler cup to alumna Jane Faull.



Rosana Pinheiro-Machado



## **IN PROFILE:** **ROSANA PINHEIRO-MACHADO**

**Professor Rosana Pinheiro-Machado is an anthropologist and social scientist at UCD School of Geography.**

**Rosana has worked at major universities across the world, is known as a public intellectual in Brazil and beyond. Her interdisciplinary work focuses on the connections between authoritarianism, labour, consumption and poverty, particularly in the global south.**

## ■ In Profile...

### What sparked your interest in politics, society and academia?

I come from a family of academics and politicians from Porto Alegre in Brazil. At the turn of the century, this was an important city for progressive politics because it hosted the World Social Forum, a global justice movement which had its roots in Latin American activism.

I studied social science at the Federal University of Rio Grande, where I worked as an ethnographic researcher while an undergraduate. Afterwards, I decided to do my two-year masters on the commodity chain of cheap goods from China and how they moved across the borders of Brazil and Paraguay.

### What did this research involve?

I followed street vendors to Paraguay, trying to understand where these cheap, often shoddy and counterfeit goods came from, and where they were going. I thought this would be a good way to study labour, inequality and poverty. Over five years, I did intense ethnography with the vendors.

I experienced all sorts of dangers. Even though the vendors were not breaking the law, they were still at risk from police violence and corruption.

Twice we were stopped on our coach, taken to the police station, and almost arrested. We were at risk from professional gangs who stopped the buses, and I was once held hostage for five hours with a gun to my head. It was traumatising.

The vendors have been on the streets for three generations, working 15-hour-days. They were trying to do everything above board, but the system that was supposed to protect citizens was corrupt.

The vendors always protected me. But when I went to China - the root of the commodity chain but a place where, unlike in Brazil, the commodity chain of cheap goods was encouraged - I lived in the factories, where people, including children, worked all day and at weekends.

### How did your work lead you towards investigating the far-right?

In 2013, I was already a lecturer in Oxford, and had started working as a public intellectual in Brazil, writing columns about politics and social affairs as they related to my research. I was immediately a target of persecution by far-right supporters but, at that earlier stage, they were less organised than they are today.

I used to get threatening calls to my office in Oxford. Security was aware of this and, although I didn't want guards outside my classroom as it would scare my students, they were always nearby.

### When I finished my work with the vendors, I started research in the Brazilian favelas (slums). Around 2016, I started to notice that the people I was studying had begun to support Bolsonaro, who was later elected as President. My former interlocutors with the street vendors were turning right, too.

At this stage, my life had changed radically because of the ongoing threats. My life became, at times, a nightmare, with ongoing online attacks, misogyny and constant violent comments on my appearance.

### What, do you think, causes people to turn to extremism?

There was an economic and political crisis in Brazil, and then a recession. Add on social media, the growth of fake news, and the resentment of people who had previously been lifted out of poverty before falling back into it. Men lost their breadwinner role. Urban violence grew. The President, Dilma Rousseff, was impeached. Bolsonaro filled the gap with hate and blaming the poor. Some poor people blamed poorer people for their problems. All of this is fertile terrain for the far-right.

### What happened to you after this?

I was investigated by the public prosecutors for my modules and harassed on the streets by YouTubers. In 2019, I had hot coffee thrown in my face at an airport. I was called a slut. But others, including LGBTQ+ people, have had it worse than me.

I went to the UK for work, and I was really enjoying it there - until, during the Brexit process, the UK pulled out of the European Horizons programme. I had to choose between my ERC grant or my job. I chose the grant.

### How did you feel about leaving? And why did you come to Ireland?

Grantees were given 60 days to take the grant to a European country. When UK-based scholars received the 60-day notice to move the grant to Europe, I was approached by several universities. UCD School of Geography offered the best conditions for my laboratory. A clause in my contract guarantees me academic freedom. I feel safe and free in Dublin. I've found my place here in Ireland and I want to retire in my home town of Dún Laoghaire.

### What are you working on now?

My work is very focused on authoritarianism and understanding what, in colonised countries, gives rise to it. The comparison is often made between Bolsonaro and Trump, with the former called "Trump of the Tropics". It is the wrong comparison because the rule of law is so often much more fragile in countries of the global south and particularly in colonised countries.

The far-right replicates this colonialism; it's part of their playbook. I am not surprised it has grown so much, including with recent breakthroughs in Sweden and Italy. It has been acting internationally through the 1990s, whether through religious fundamentalist groups, alt-right or organisers like Steve Bannon. They have been planning to grow for a long time, and the 2007



recession and Covid-19 led to more radicalisation, with conspiracy theories aiming not to create belief as much as to create community and reaffirm identities.

### Finally, is Ireland vulnerable to extremism?

There is a worry among activists here that the housing crisis could be blamed on immigrants and lead to a growth in the far-right. That said, Ireland is a little more protected because it has become more progressive in recent years. The terrain is different, but the lack of social media regulation still leaves us vulnerable. They are waiting for a crisis, a breach, so yes: it is impossible to say the far-right won't grow here.

*Professor Rosana Pinheiro-Machado was in conversation with Peter McGuire (BA 2002, MLitt 2007), a freelance journalist and regular contributor to The Irish Times and to Noteworthy, the investigations unit at TheJournal.ie.*



Pictured (l-r) are: Aoife Whelan (Dublin Camogie) and Ruairí McCormack (Down Football), both current UCD students, Tom Parsons and Prof Gerardine Doyle.

## Scholarship opportunities announced by the GPA and UCD Smurfit School

**The Gaelic Players Association (GPA) and UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School are proud to announce details of a new scholarship partnership for the 2022/23 academic year. The scholarships will be made available to two successful candidates, one female and one male, for MBAs within the UCD Smurfit School, choosing from the Executive MBA midweek, Executive MBA Modular or full-time MBA programme commencing in August 2022.**

The total value of this announcement to inter-county players is €70,000.

The process of recruiting and selecting the successful candidates will be overseen by the UCD Smurfit School Admissions Team. All successful applicants for the full-time MBA, Modular or the Executive MBA who meet the eligibility criteria and have met the required deadlines will be considered.

To mark the announcement, current UCD students Aoife Whelan (Dublin Camogie) and Ruairí McCormack (Down Football), GPA CEO Tom Parsons and Professor Gerardine Doyle, Director of UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate

Business School and Associate Dean of UCD College of Business, gathered at the UCD Smurfit School.

Speaking on behalf of the GPA, Tom Parsons said; "This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for two of our members and we are so pleased to be partnering with the UCD Smurfit School on this initiative. The School has a reputation that is second to none and this provides our members with a transformational opportunity in their lives off the field. I want to thank the team at UCD Smurfit School for making this happen. It is a massive vote of confidence in the calibre of individual that is playing the inter-county game."

## Active Learning: Quick Wins and Grand Designs



Professor John Mitchell, UCL



Professor Prem Kumar, University of Birmingham

**This year's UCD Teaching and Learning Symposium was on the topic of Active Learning and was attended by just over 100 UCD faculty and professional staff. This was the sixth annual symposium and the second to be delivered online with the keynote speakers joining from London and Birmingham. It was opened by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Marie Clarke who spoke about the importance of active learning in the post-pandemic context.**

Two international keynote speakers, Professor John Mitchell, UCL and Professor Prem Kumar, University of Birmingham, addressed the theme from different perspectives.

The first keynote 'Embedding active learning in programme level curriculum design' was delivered by Professor John Mitchell, UCL Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering. He talked about how, in a major programme level curriculum, active learning was embedded as a core learning tool as part of an integrated curriculum. He used, as an example, the Integrated Engineering Programme at UCL which introduced an integrated approach to active project-based learning across eight

departments in 2014. He discussed the drivers for change, the programme structure, the process and challenges of faculty-wide curriculum change and the response of students to the new curriculum. The examples of authentic learning with projects illustrated the huge scope for generating student creative and novel thinking in tackling real-world challenges.

The second keynote 'Can we fix it?' was delivered by Professor Prem Kumar, Emeritus Professor, University of Birmingham. His background is in the physiological sciences. Pointing out that the pace of change often outstrips the curriculum, he invited the audience to consider the range of possible futures, sharing his view that the role of the university is not just to supply the workforce but to provide lifelong education to support students to "learn ... the best attitude to what is not yet known".

Professor Kumar described some simple tools that teachers can use to incorporate effective active learning practices in their teaching. He delivered a compelling argument for using active learning, including strong evidence of the benefits for students and the resulting enriching experience for both students and faculty and concluded that we can afford to forgo (some) content for understanding.

The symposium also featured contributors from UCD, who shared their expertise and experience in workshop one, 'Grand designs: Ideas for practice and implications for planning'. The contributors were: Dr Julia Backmann, UCD School of Business; Associate Professor Naomi McAreavey, UCD School of English, Drama and Film; and Dr Tomás Russell, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science; facilitated by Associate Professor Geraldine O'Neill, UCD Teaching and Learning.

Workshop two, 'Integrating activity to enhance learning: Quick wins in-session and online' was an experiential workshop focusing on active learning classroom strategies that engage students in meaningful tasks and are easy to implement with classes of any size, delivered by Leone Gately and David Jennings from UCD Teaching and Learning.

Follow this on Twitter [#ActiveLearning](#)

# WHO'D EVER THINK IT WOULD COME TO THIS?

"KATE MANNING AND I ARE CHATTING A FEW DAYS AFTER THE HIGH-PROFILE PREMIERE OF THE CIVIL WAR CANTATA *WHO'D EVER THINK IT WOULD COME TO THIS?*, A WORK KATE HELPED CONCEIVE. SHE'S STILL ON A HIGH. 'LAST WEEK WAS JUST MIND BLOWING,' SHE TELLS ME OVER ZOOM."





**“Going from an idea to bringing it to fruition is always a challenge. But this one had so many moving parts, and then the pandemic really threw a spanner in the works. Getting the funding, getting the team on board, getting the website up and the content, getting the symposium together – we had an incredible team. The performance itself, there was real commitment in it. You could have heard a pin drop at the end. The reaction afterwards was incredible.”**

Kate Manning is Principal Archivist at UCD Archives. She hatched the idea of a commemorative work for the Civil War centenary a few years back. ‘I suppose it had been sitting in my head for a while,’ she says, ‘with the decade of centenaries beginning in earnest around 2016.’

One catalyst was reading Ed Vulliamy’s book *The War is Dead, Long Live The War, Bosnia: The Reckoning*. ‘Ed wrote the book twenty years after the end of the war in Bosnia. And he talks a lot about commemoration and the lack of commemoration. One of the functions of commemoration is being able to acknowledge what has happened: it’s confronting something as well as remembering something. And if you take that ability away, it has real human consequences.’

She had wondered about the lack of Irish public enthusiasm for commemorating the Civil War. ‘I was very struck in the language, in the media and general discussion, that everybody was so positive about the 2016 commemorations, but were anxious about the 2022 commemorations. And I wondered, well, why is this? The people were still being killed. This whole kind of tiptoeing around I found very interesting.’

Thus, a plan was made. Kate, Anne-Marie O’Farrell, Ed Vulliamy, Ciarán Crilly and Wolfgang Marx decided to create a cantata (orchestra, choir, soloists) with a libretto written using material from the UCD Archives. O’Farrell wrote

the music, Vulliamy wrote the libretto, Crilly conducted and Marx organised a symposium, and they were joined in late 2021 by theatre artist and Artistic Director of UCD Ad Astra Academy, Kellie Hughes. The hour-long cantata follows the War’s chronology and draws on myriad voices, from Eithne Coyle (a republican imprisoned during the war, in 1926 elected president of Cumann na mBan) to General Mulcahy (who succeeded Collins as Commander in Chief of the Army). It’s a thrilling, moving work on a grand scale.

How difficult was it for Vuillamy to navigate the abundance of Civil War materials in the UCD Archives? ‘That was always going to be a challenge. He was going to have to get his head around a huge amount of material. In 2019, when we got the funding for the commission, we thought we had at least a year for Ed to come to Dublin from time to time, sit in the archives, work away and identify material.’

Then, of course, came the pandemic. ‘It ended up that Ed had really two months last year to do this. And because of the pandemic, there were still travel restrictions. What could we do digitally? Luckily, we had some of the major collections, like [General] Mulcahy, digitised from microfilm. And then other smaller collections, like Mary Spring Rice, were already digitised.’ Manning let the war’s chronology and main incidents guide what material to prioritise.

Working as Principal Archivist at UCD has given Kate a perspective on intra-family political dynamics. ‘We had a researcher who contacted us about two years ago, who had read in a footnote in a book about the Civil War in Dublin some mention of her uncle, who she hadn’t realised had been part of the Civil War. And it emerges in the book that he’s a spy, but he’s a spy for the wrong side in her eyes—it turns out he’s a pro-Treaty spy.’

‘She rang us up, horrified and said, “Is this true?” So, we took out the file and checked it for her and sent her a copy. And it was true. She was really genuinely – she was in her seventies – genuinely horrified. Again, it’s a really strong emotional reaction to what can sometimes just

seem like words on a page.’

Reading the libretto, I was struck by how moment-to-moment lived experience comes through. Is that one of the values of the archive for Manning in relation to historical events?

‘Yes, absolutely. I suppose everybody has this idea of history as being big events, and there are big names and everybody knows those big names. But one of the really fascinating things about our collections is the variety of material that’s there. Even amongst official military material, you will find letters.’

‘There’s this amazing letter from [revolutionary and writer Ernie] O’Malley’s mother to [anti-Treaty Commander-in-Chief] Richard Mulcahy, telling him that if either of her sons die in the hunger strikes, she personally will go after him and she’ll kill him herself, because she just can’t live with this anymore. It’s really strong and out-there when you’re reading this. So there’s always a personal level that permeates through this material, even when it’s official. I find it very moving and very challenging.’

One of the things this project has taught Kate is the scope for taking archives out of formal contexts. ‘I suppose archives can be very intimidating to people because of the structures of access. Anyone can come and use our archives, but when I say that to people they seem to be surprised. They think it’s for academics or people who are writing books, or people who are making documentaries.’ Manning encourages instead ‘the idea that they’re there for you, that you can come in and see them.’

In closing, Kate underlines how important the project’s funders were. ‘We’re massively grateful to UCD, to the Arts Council, and Resurgum put some money into it as well. Everybody who was involved in this project at a funding level really stepped up.’

*Kate Manning was in conversation with Dr Liam Cagney, Hons UCD, MMus King’s College London, PhD, City, University of London, a musicologist and journalist.*



Pictured on the night are (l-r): Kate Manning, Kellie Hughes, Artistic Director, UCD Ad Astra, Ed Vulliamy, Anne-Marie O'Farrell and Dr Ciaran Crilly.

## ■ A Night to Remember!

**A cantata based on commemoration of the Civil War, *Who'd Ever Think it Would Come to This?* played to a packed house and a standing ovation at the O'Reilly Hall on Friday 30 September 2022. It was presented by UCD Archives and the UCD School of Music and funded by the Arts Council Ireland, UCD Decade of Centenaries, UCD College of Arts and Humanities and UCD University Relations.**

The vision for a cantata to commemorate the civil war came to Kate Manning, the Principal Archivist at UCD Archives, in 2016. She was immersed in the private papers and ephemera of the time and wanted to bring the conflicting voices, emotions and feelings jumping up from the archives to life through music.

That year, by coincidence war writer and Guardian journalist Ed Vulliamy met Kate on a visit to the UCD Archives. Ed was looking at papers relating to his family who were involved with the Irish revolution. Kate and Ed were soon to be found planning the cantata with Anne-Marie O'Farrell, composer, along with Dr Ciaran Crilly and Dr Wolfgang Marx, UCD School of Music.

With funding in place, the resulting cantata had its first performance at

the O'Reilly Hall on 30 September with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, the award-winning chamber choir Resurgam, soloists Colette Delahunt (soprano), Sharon Carty (mezzo-soprano), Dean Power (tenor) and Benjamin Russell (baritone), led by conductor Dr Ciarán Crilly. Audiences were treated to a brief discussion about the creation of the Cantata, with the creative team.

This is the only large-scale piece of new music commissioned to mark the centenary of the civil war using archival documents. The title *Who'd Ever Think it Would Come to This?* is a quote from Ernie O'Malley referring to the crowds watching captured defenders of the Four Courts being marched through the streets of Dublin following their seizure.

## ■ Soapbox Science 2022

**After the success of virtual events in 2020 and 2021, Soapbox Science Dublin was back in Dublin City Centre in June. Twelve female scientists from across Irish universities spoke about their research in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM), including Tara Diriligen and Alison O'Reilly from UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science.**

Established in 2011 Soapbox Science is a global public outreach platform for promoting women and non-binary scientists and the work they do.

Joint-organiser, Dr Dara Stanley, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, said: "Soapbox Science is a really fun and engaging event, where female scientists bring their research to the streets to share with the general public. It is really important because many people do not know any scientists, so

bringing science to the streets helps to break down stereotypes around who a scientist is, what they look like, and what they do in their research."

Soapbox Science Dublin 2022 is supported by UCD through funding from the [UCD Earth Institute](#), [UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science](#), [UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science](#), and [WITS \(Women in Science and Technology\) Ireland](#).



On their Soapbox, the female scientists take to the streets of Dublin.

## Australasian Veterinary Boards Council and the Veterinary Council of Ireland sign Mutual Recognition Agreement

The Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) and the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) have signed a mutual recognition agreement (MRA) which allows veterinarians qualifying in Australasia and Ireland to move freely between each other's jurisdictions. This means that AVBC member boards can recognise the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (MVB) from UCD for the purpose of registration. Graduates from all eight Australasian veterinary schools are also now eligible to be registered by the VCI.

AVBC Chair, Peter Gibbs, said, 'We value the expertise of UCD graduates greatly and look forward to strengthening our bonds with the Veterinary Council of Ireland and the wider Irish veterinary profession in the years ahead.' Associate Professor Vivienne Duggan, VCI President and UCD School of Veterinary Medicine added, 'I am delighted to sign this Mutual Recognition Agreement with our AVBC colleagues on behalf of the Veterinary Council of Ireland, enabling eligibility of veterinary medicine graduates from Australasia to come and work here in Ireland and creating routes of eligibility and access for our UCD veterinary medicine graduates to practise in Australasia.'



Bachelor of Engineering, Class of 1962



Bachelor of Commerce, Class of 1972

## Golden and Diamond Jubilee Reunions

**UCD Alumni Development held its first in-person Golden and Diamond Jubilee Reunion since 2019 in the UCD O'Reilly Hall on Friday, 23 September.**

Nearly three hundred alumni, faculty and friends gathered to celebrate the graduating classes of 1962 and 1972 across all faculties. Alumni and their guests reconnected, reminisced and shared memories over drinks. There was classical music in the conservatory from the UCD Ad Astra Symphony Quartet.

Alumni took their seats in O'Reilly Hall for the formalities. The programme of events featured a welcome address from Acting President, Professor Mark Rogers which was followed by the presentation ceremony, by faculty representatives, of the commemorative pins. Each year group had a class photo taken.

Over lunch attendees were entertained with a 'Trip Down Memory Lane Fireside Chat', moderated by Emerita Professor Mary E Daly, with alumni, Lochlann Quinn (BComm 1962), David Donoghue (BA 1972), Breege O'Donoghue (BComm 1972) and Tom Arnold (BAgrSc 1972).

The formalities concluded with Access Scholarship Recipient Lorraine Dunster recounting her story and pathway through university and finally, Acting Director of Alumni Development, Mark McDonnell closed the event.

Congratulations to a great group of UCD alumni and we look forward to welcoming them back to campus before too long.

## Digital Literacy to empower UCD students, faculty and staff

UCD Library has launched a Digital Literacy initiative that will empower UCD faculty, staff and students to enhance the key digital competencies which are central to academic, professional and personal success and well-being. In an increasingly digital world, the way we work, learn, communicate and participate in society is changing. Educators and librarians have a responsibility to ensure our faculty, staff and students develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to be successful in a digital society.

The coronavirus crisis forced a rapid migration to digital technologies across all sectors. The Higher Education sector saw a strong need for high-quality digital teaching resources, assistance for teaching staff in developing their digital competencies, and support for students to navigate the digital landscape effectively and ethically.

The Library's Digital Literacy initiative is part of a UCD collaboration with the IUA's Enhancing Digital Teaching and Learning (EDTL) in Irish Universities project, a three-year project (2019-2022) funded through the HEA's Innovation and Transformation Programme. A key goal of EDTL is to enhance the digital skills of students across the sector, recognising the importance that future employers place on digital competencies. The UCD team is led by Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students and while initially focused in the College of Engineering & Architecture and the College of Science, the project supports the creation of high-quality digital teaching resources and the enhancement of digital competencies within both colleges and beyond.

### Digital Learning Librarian

During the pandemic lockdowns and restrictions UCD Library provided both essential

online services, and a new range of digital services for UCD students and staff. In August 2021 the Library appointed Dr Marta Bustillo to the role of Digital Learning Librarian (DLL), to support theme 2 of the UCD 2020-2024 Strategy, Transforming through Digital Technology, and to deliver pillar 4 of the Library's own strategic plan, Fostering Critical Digital Literacies. Marta's remit in this new role is to implement a Digital Literacy framework that can be used across the University, and to design a digital skills portfolio that will create learning resources focusing on developing digital competencies.

Marta, in this new two-year post, is working collaboratively with UCD's EDTL team - and her post is part-funded by the project. She also works with EDTL partners across seven Irish universities and has access to an invaluable source of expertise and creativity to help develop the Digital Skills Portfolio. This collaboration provides a unique opportunity to work with academics in Engineering & Architecture and in Science to embed digital literacy resources in the curriculum, with a view to making them available across the University. It also makes it possible to apply an evidence-based approach by carrying out research to evaluate the student experience of the resources.

### Getting started

The first output in this Digital Literacy initiative is a mini-module hosted on the Perpetual Semester area of Brightspace entitled 'Exploring Your Digital Identity': a short, self-directed, non-credit bearing course consisting of three e-tutorials and a set of online resources for students to explore. Four more tutorials and a new module, 'Finding and Organising Your Information and Data', are currently being finalised.

### Open Pedagogy

UCD Library strongly believe in using Open Pedagogy to create the digital skills portfolio and are committed to sharing all outputs from this initiative as Open Educational Resources (OERs). These can be defined as 'learning, teaching and research materials in any format and medium that reside in the public domain or are under copyright but have been released under an open license, that permit no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution by others'. Providing OERs ensures UCD Library is contributing to/ supporting the Sustainable Development Goals. All tutorials will have Creative Commons licenses and the files will be made available on the Library's Digital Literacy web page for download and embedding in any Virtual Learning Environment

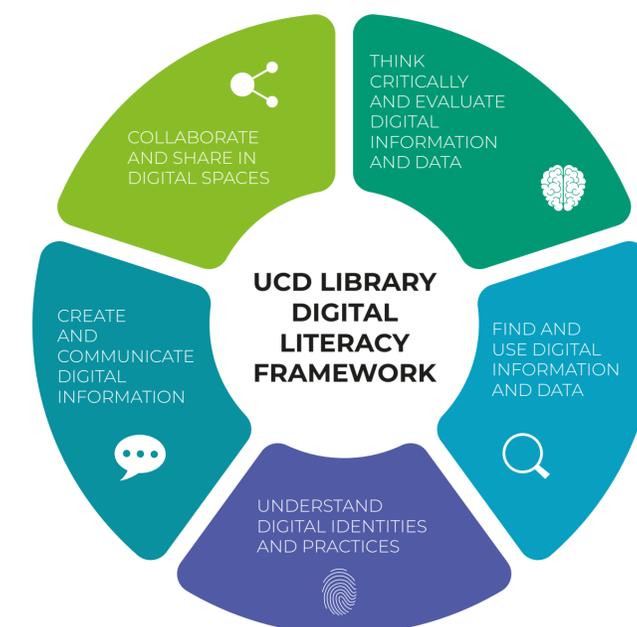


### Exploring Your Digital Identity - A Module

- Explores the concept of digital identity
- Provides advice on maintaining a healthy online presence for personal / academic purposes
- Short, self-directed, non-credit bearing course consisting of three e-tutorials and a set of online resources for students to explore.
- Mini module on Brightspace, hosted on the 'Perpetual Semester' area



### The UCD Library Digital Literacy competencies include:



or website. For more information on these digital literacy resources, please contact Dr Bustillo at [marta.bustillo@ucd.ie](mailto:marta.bustillo@ucd.ie).

# TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF THOSE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Professor  
David O'Connell



Professor David O'Connell works with what he describes as "a giant Lego collection" except in this case the Lego pieces are one billion protein molecules that have the potential to transform the lives of those living with Alzheimer's.

Associate Professor David O'Connell, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science and UCD Conway Institute is a research scientist carrying out groundbreaking work on one of the most devastating diseases of our time.

Alzheimer's disease, as most people are aware, is a degenerative brain disorder that slowly destroys a person's memory and ability to think and reason. It is the most common form of dementia and accounts for 60 to 70 percent of all cases, according to the World Health Organisation. It is estimated that there are at least 50 million people living with the disease though this is most likely underestimated, says Associate Professor O'Connell, who explains that there is no definitive test to diagnose Alzheimer's with patient interviews being relied upon currently. And this number is expected to exceed 150 million by 2050 according to Alzheimer's Research UK.

Associate Professor O'Connell and his team, in collaboration with Professor Sara Linse of Lund University, had their findings published earlier this year in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. This represents new hope for those living with Alzheimer's because they have developed a set of novel proteins targeting the buildup of toxic molecules that lead to the formation of plaques and eventually brain cell death.

**"Most of us are familiar with the outward signs of Alzheimer's but inside the brain there are certain toxic events taking place. A significant part of this process is the behaviour of a very small protein called amyloid beta or A $\beta$ ,"** explains Associate Professor O'Connell.

"What starts to happen in the cells of patients - and it can start very early in life but become much more of a problem later - is that this protein might stick to another amyloid beta to make a collection of these molecules. When that starts to happen, there's a process by which they eventually form these permanent, rod-like structures"

Outwardly, this neurodegenerative devastation

is visible as plaques or lesions in the brain, seen during a postmortem examination. These toxic molecules he describes are called oligomers and they can form into permanent structures called fibrils. Once bedded down, these fibrils make it even easier for more A $\beta$  to flock to the site, a process known as secondary nucleation. An apt analogy would be the one-two punch in boxing: an initial jab followed by a hard blow.

This is where his research comes into play. The proteins developed by O'Connell and his team can slow or even halt the attachment of these A $\beta$  molecules, whether alone or in clusters. Starting with a computational model, they designed a library of proteins (nearly one billion) that look alike but have unique connections. These connections have the potential to lock onto A $\beta$ . The next step was to translate the computer models into a library of lab-made proteins that were tested in-vitro.

**"In the case of this disease-associated drug attempt only maybe 20 out of the billion 'Lego block' proteins will have any connection to this type of oligomeric protein. We developed methods by which we could throw all of the billion Lego blocks at the processes and then fish out just those that very specifically and correctly bind,"** explained Associate Professor O'Connell.

The results were astonishing: experiments showed the synthetic proteins binding specifically to oligomers attached to the rod-like structures.

"At this point we could make the argument that this particular molecule is an inhibitor of the toxic pathway. And not only that, it's a unique class of inhibitor," he added. "The reason why there's some extra confidence, which is both sad and good, is because the current gold standard treatments are not doing much. An approved molecule antibody called Aducanumab is under fire for not changing the course of the disease significantly in patients."

Unfortunately, although Aducanumab is an approved administered drug, it is causing a lot of

disappointment and defeat in the industry right now, he explains: "Although the science behind it is right, when you get into large patient populations and clinical trials, the benefit to those patients is very difficult to see. And maybe even not significant at all."

So, as exciting and promising as Associate Professor O'Connell's research is, what is equally as important is how long it takes to reach the individual patient in the form of medication. The novelty of his research i.e. the development of an entirely new class of protein, means the process from clinical trials to approval could be fast-tracked if efficacy in humans is shown.

"One of the reasons to be a little bit hopeful is that when you have developed an entirely new class of molecule and it's proven to be safe and nontoxic, then, should it greatly modify the disease in human patients, you have that opportunity for fast-track approval."

Associate Professor O'Connell knows only too well that this kind of news is very important for those living with Alzheimer's and their families and carers, many of whom have already reached out to ask about his research. This is very personal to him as his own father, who was also a scientist, died from the disease. "You're fully aware of their pain. You're also fully aware of the urgency of their request and also of how it can't be satisfied as urgently as they'd love to."

But hope is on the horizon. Associate Professor O'Connell and his team filed a patent through NovaUCD last November and it will soon move to the PCT or Patent Cooperation Treaty stage, at which point it can progress to be patented in the EU and the US.

"The idea is that we would want companies to access it under licence with a NovaUCD spin out company that will be responsible for all of that activity," he further explained.

*Associate Professor O'Connell was in conversation with Marie Boran, freelance science and technology journalist (UCD BSc 2002, DCU MSc 2012, MSc by Research (Insight Centre for Data Analytics, NUIG) 2015).*





Brenda Castles



Pictured at the launch are, back row (l-r): Brian Dooher, Patricia Reilly, Professor Patrick Wall, Professor Mark Rogers (UCD Acting President), Professor Michael Doherty (Dean and Head of the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine), Dr Des Rice, Dermot Weld, Mary Geary and Dr Perpetua McNamee. Front row (l-r): Hester McAllister, Dr Susie Mitchell, Brenda Castles and Samantha Feighery



Brian Dooher



Dermot Weld

## UCD Vet School Celebrates 20 Years on the Belfield Campus 'Fiche bliain ag fás'

June 2022 marked 20 years since the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine moved to its new home in the Veterinary Sciences Centre on UCD's Belfield campus. The faculty moved from Ballsbridge where the teaching of veterinary medicine had been based since 1900 when the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland on Pembroke Road and Shelbourne Road was constructed by G & T Crampton.

The UCD Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was established in 1946 and was located in Ballsbridge for many years. The campaign for a new Veterinary School on UCD's Belfield campus was launched in 1992, led by Professor Michael Monaghan with the support of the late Professor Tommy McGeady. Ten years later, the new school and veterinary hospital opened in June 2002.

To mark this important milestone, the School launched its 'Alumni Wall' celebrating twenty of the most exceptional alumni from across the UCD Veterinary community at an event on 15 June. The alumni featured on the Wall were nominated by faculty, staff, students and

graduates as individuals who have excelled in their fields and have made a positive impact in others' lives whilst exemplifying UCD's values of excellence, integrity, collegiality, engagement, creativity, diversity and innovation.

Alumni featured include Ireland's Ambassador to China Ann Derwin, All-Ireland winning Tyrone Gaelic footballer and co-manager Brian Dooher, 'Supervet' Noel Fitzpatrick, renowned racehorse trainers John Oxx and Dermot Weld, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer Patricia Reilly, internationally recognised experts in infectious diseases John and Peter Timoney and critically acclaimed concertina player Brenda Castles. For the full listing, please [visit the website](#).



Patricia Reilly



Students celebrating their conferring ceremony.

## ■ Graduations in CDIC and BDIC

August marked the occasion of the conferring ceremonies at UCD's joint international colleges in Beijing and Xi'an, the Beijing Dublin International College (BDIC) and the Chang'an Dublin International College of Transportation (CDIC) respectively.

Being the inaugural graduation ceremony for CDIC, this was a particularly special milestone in UCD's longstanding relationship with Chang'an University. In online ceremonies, joined by Her Excellency Ambassador Ann Derwin (Irish Ambassador to the People's Republic of China), President Sha (President of Chang'an University) and President Nie (Beijing University of Technology), Acting President Professor Mark Rogers conferred the degree of Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering Infrastructure on 106 graduands at CDIC and degrees in Software Engineering, Internet of

Things Engineering, Electronic and Information Engineering and Financial Economics on 330 graduands at BDIC.

In congratulating the graduates Professor Rogers reflected on the long and trusted relationship UCD enjoys with its joint college partners, UCD's standing as Ireland's Global University and the particular contribution that our joint international colleges make to our global engagement strategy 'to bring the best of the world to Ireland and the best of Ireland, including its distinct culture, to the world'.



Pictured (l-r) at NovaUCD are: PlasmaBound co-founders, Alan Barry, Dr James Nicholas Barry and Xavier Montibert.

## ■ PlasmaBound Secures €2.35 million in Funding Round

**PlasmaBound, a UCD engineering spin-out company, has secured €2.35 million in its latest funding round. The investment round was led by Act Venture Capital, and was supported by the Atlantic Bridge University Fund, Enterprise Ireland and a number of private investors.**

The company's Controlled Polymer Ablation (CPA) technology is attracting significant interest in several sectors, where it empowers global industry to achieve their sustainability goals, particularly in carbon reduction and battery range extension. The technology enables high-speed bonding of ultra-lightweight fibre-reinforced materials in a manner where it will effectively take on a role similar to welding in metals. This will collapse operational cycle times, extend

shelf-life, and reduce manufacturing waste streams, all the while improving ultimate bond strengths.

PlasmaBound, headquartered at NovaUCD, was co-founded in 2017 by Dr James Nicholas Barry, Alan Barry and Xavier Montibert as a spin-out from the UCD College of Engineering and Architecture following the completion of Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Funding.

## Happy Birthday Ulysses!

### MoLI and UCD at the centre of the Joyce Centenary

2022 marked the centenary of the publication of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, widely regarded as the literary masterpiece of the 20th century. In partnership with the National Library of Ireland, UCD's Museum of Literature Ireland - MoLI on St Stephen's Green celebrates the University's most famous graduate with permanent displays of Joycean treasures from the State collections, including the famous 'Copy No.1' of *Ulysses*.

Alongside UCD College of Arts and Humanities *Re:Joyce* film, and the University's collaboration with Trinity College Dublin on the International James Joyce Symposium, this was always going to be a red-letter year for MoLI. The museum has been at the centre of celebrations both at home and abroad through a huge range of exhibitions, commissions and events. Author Nuala O'Connor explored the connecting musical and emotional threads between Joyce and his family in a beautiful installation at the museum called *Love, Says Bloom*. MoLI also celebrated her first Bloomsday open to the public, with a packed day-long series of events, readings, film screenings, book launches, culminating in a garden party and musical performances into the late evening.

The influence of Joyce's work is truly global, and *Ulysses* remains hugely popular across the globe. Working closely with the



Matthew Nolan and Adrian Crowley performing *Seas Between* at MoLI. Photo credit Cormac Scully

Government of Ireland, MoLI developed *Ulysses100*, an identity and digital platform to mark the centenary, promoting events around the world and collecting information on the celebrations for archive and future research. In typical Joycean fashion, the centenary was celebrated internationally in every way imaginable, from readings, lectures, seminars, to concerts, feasts and exhibitions.

The centrepiece of MoLI's programme this year has been *Ulysses 2.2*, a vast collaboration between the museum and two of Ireland's most important theatre companies, Landmark and ANU productions. Funded by a major Arts Council Open Call award, this project created 18 new artistic commissions (one for each episode of the novel)

and presented them across the year. A truly unique project of vast scale, *Ulysses 2.2* branched out across the entire island into galleries, festivals and schools. Highlights included an eye-tracking installation designed by Booker Prize winner and UCD Full Professor of Creative Writing Anne Enright, and a powerful collaborative theatre work with Associate Professor Emilie Pine at the National Maternity Hospital. The project has involved collaborations with a number of UCD alumni – visitors to the GPO in Dublin were treated to a virtual reality trip up Nelson's Pillar conceived by UCD alumnus Fintan O'Toole, and the project will finish with the presentation at MoLI of a new opera by Marina Carr, in collaboration with Irish National Opera.

## Re: Joyce - A Life in the Day

To mark the centenary of *Ulysses*, UCD Arts and Humanities and UCD School of English, Drama & Film teamed up to create the short film *Re: Joyce A Life in the Day*, to honour James Joyce, the University's most famous graduate. The film's aim is to share with viewers, across the world, how Joyce's spirit lives on in Belfield today. It celebrates the links between UCD's current dynamic and diverse student population and James Joyce, who, from 1898-1902, studied English, Italian and French, then based in Newman House, St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

In this centenary year of the publication of *Ulysses*, we wanted to bring these Joycean connections to life in a visual, creative, unexpected and thoughtful way. As such, the short film focuses on our protagonist Leo, and an imagined day in her life at UCD. She is on a deadline to complete an essay about James Joyce and moves through a play in the DramSoc Theatre, a lecture, the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI), all part of her research for the looming deadline. Leo's journey takes her to UCD's Special Collections in the James Joyce Library, where she uncovers an archival letter from 1904, sent by Joyce to Conn Curran, a college friend.

We also see the famous James Joyce graduation photo at Newman House, from 1902. Both of these are courtesy of the CP Curran/Helen Laird collection with kind permission of Helen

Solterer and UCD Library Special Collections. *Re: Joyce* features a number of excerpts and words from *Ulysses* and animates them through a compelling mix of spoken word, music, performances and dream sequences, all performed by UCD students. This talented cast comes from a wide range of UCD disciplines - from Arts and Humanities to Science and Law to Business and Psychology - and includes key members of UCD DramSoc, Choral Scholars and UCD Ad Astra performance scholars.

The film is a UCD School of English, Drama & Film and UCD Arts and Humanities partner project, funded by UCD Research (Strategic & Major Initiatives Scheme) and UCD Foundation (Solterer gift), led by Professor Margaret Kelleher and Emer Beesley, working with Jane Lawrenson and Miriam Fayne at the creative agency Big O. *Re: Joyce* was directed by Ignas Laugalis.



Anne Enright and Luke Fallon at MoLI. Photo credit Mark Stedman.jpg

# EXPERTS PLAY AN INCREASINGLY PIVOTAL ROLE IN POLICY DECISIONS

Professor Maria Baghramian

Professor Maria Baghramian ponders the notion of decisions and how we all make them in our daily lives. In her work at UCD School of Philosophy, she works as a full Professor of American Philosophy and a co-director of the UCD Post Graduate Programme in Cognitive Science.





**She was responsible for establishing the first Irish interdisciplinary cognitive science programme as well as the highly active UCD Centre for Ethics in Public Life and Newman Centre for the Study of Religions. Professor Baghramian's research**

**and publications are primarily driven by a 'preoccupation' with the ancient conundrum of how to retain our hold on truth and objectivity in the face of irreconcilable disagreements.**

Much of her work has focused on the question of the relativist and pluralist responses to the problem of intractable disagreement.

An exciting EU-funded project PERITIA, Policy, Expertise and Trust in Action, which is investigating public trust in expertise is being led by Professor Baghramian. The project uses the case of trust in climate science to test its theoretical and empirical findings.

PERITIA brings together philosophers, social and natural scientists, policy experts, ethicists, psychologists, media specialists and civil society organisations from eight countries and eleven institutions, to conduct a comprehensive multidisciplinary investigation of trust in and the trustworthiness of policy related expert opinion.

The key hypothesis explored conceptually and tested empirically is that affective and normative factors play a central role in decisions to trust, even in cases where judgements of trustworthiness may seem to be grounded in epistemic considerations, such as professional reputation, reliability, and objectivity.

Speaking to UCD Today, she explains how the project is being carried out in three phases, the first two - theoretical followed by empirical - aim to clarify the nature and conditions of trust, distrust, and trustworthiness of expert opinion.

"These first two phases of the project have led to the publication of a very large number of scholarly articles and research reports, aimed at researchers and policymakers. The final stage, beginning in November 2023 - what we call the 'ameliorative phase', specifically aims to improve the relationship of trust between experts, policymakers and the public.

**"We aim to achieve this through so-called deliberative mini-publics – face to face discussions between experts, policymakers and representative groups of the public. The idea is that structured but open discussions between these stakeholders will enhance mutual understanding and create optimal conditions for warranted judgements concerning the trustworthiness of expert advice.**

"At the end of this phase, we will be producing a simple trustworthiness toolkit, suitable for use by the public as well as those involved in policy decisions. The project has also organised several conferences, workshops, and public lectures, mostly online. The final major event of the project will take place in UCD in March where we will be bringing together panels of speakers involved in similar research projects in Europe and beyond."

Effective governance, particularly in democratic systems, is not possible in the absence of at least some level of trust from the public and their acceptance of policy measures. One of the key goals of PERITIA is to throw light on the conditions where the public deems experts and the policies resulting from their advice trustworthy.

Professor Baghramian hopes that the project will shed light on the complexities and tensions inherent in these central features of public life. She notes the rise of populist politics with its anti-elitist mantra which has brought the trustworthiness of experts and their areas of expertise into question.

"Reliable information is the currency that makes the wheels of policymaking turn smoothly and experts are the source of such information. And this is where the question of trust both in experts and the media that disseminate their view come in. Experts are not univocal, nor do they come with a seal of reliability tattooed on their forehead.

"Climate change is undoubtedly the most pressing issue facing humankind. A great deal of research has already been carried out on the question of the interface between climate science and policymakers but much of its focus has been on the highly vocal climate denialists in the US."

The COVID-19 pandemic threw chaos into the world but ultimately, helped to show the importance of experts and real information. "As the pandemic demonstrated so clearly, experts play an increasingly pivotal role in policy decisions. Experts and our reliance on them are inescapable features of modern life," says Professor Baghramian.

"Industrially advanced societies face ever-increasing levels of specialisation and finer gradations of division of cognitive labour. Even the most basic activities of our daily lives require reliance on technologies and skills which are beyond our personal sphere of competence.

"We lead a life that is dependent on expert

knowledge, and we seldom show any hesitation to rely on, and indeed to put trust in their superior knowledge. What goes for our personal lives is even more pronounced in the public sphere. To do their job well, policymakers, in both the public and the private sector must rely on specialised knowledge, good data and well-informed projections.

**"The UCD EU Research Office was involved in the development of PERITIA from the outset. Dipti Pandya was central in encouraging me to act as the coordinator for the application and assured me that UCD would be an ideal host as the lead institute for such an ambitious project. Without the UCD Research support neither the application nor the activation of the project would have been possible.**

"One strength of the project is that many of us, including the advisory board members, had already collaborated on very similar projects for several years. Furthermore, we all share the sense that we are addressing important questions in a moment for the future of democracy.

"I began thinking about expertise more than five years ago. The world has changed greatly since then but the changes, sadly, have given greater urgency to these topics. Two points have crystallised for me. First, at a social level, I think we need to be more sensitive to the connections between the grievances that give rise to populist politics and the rejection of expertise. Second, I think we should aim for a better understanding of the barriers to genuine knowledge and try to go beyond platitudes in discussing 'fake news', 'alternative facts' etc.

"I think we should also take a closer and more critical look at our assumptions about the boundaries separating the rational from the irrational, for instance by examining how discredited scientific views as well as conspiracy theories about science take hold," she smiles.

*Professor Maria Baghramian was in conversation with Seán Dunne, Senior TV Producer, The Tonight Show, Virgin Media Ireland*



Pictured at the launch are (l-r) Deirdre Ryan, Director of Sustainability and Quality Assurance, Bord Bia, Prof Tony Brabazon, Michael Murphy, Interim CEO, Bord Bia, and Minister Charlie McConalogue.

## ■ Bord Bia Announces Leaders' Sustainability Acceleration Programme

**Bord Bia launched a new Executive Programme in partnership with UCD Michael Smurfit Business School to accelerate sustainability capability at board and C-Suite level in Irish food, drink and horticulture businesses.**

The programme was unveiled at an event marking ten years of progress under Origin Green, Ireland's national food and drink sustainability programme, and comes as Bord Bia reports that 80% of its client companies would like to receive more training for senior leadership teams to better understand and embed sustainability across their businesses.

Designed and delivered in partnership with the UCD Michael Smurfit Business School, the new programme will focus on senior members of organisations' leadership teams and will develop skills at board level and among senior management to build capability around sustainability and climate literacy while also helping them to establish sustainability as a key value proposition driver for their business.

Origin Green currently collaborates with more than 55,000 farmers and 300 company members across Ireland and represents 90% of Ireland's food and drink exports.

Professor Tony Brabazon, Dean and Principal, UCD College of Business said: "UCD is delighted to launch this programme in partnership with Origin Green, which will be the only one of its kind in Ireland focused on board and director effectiveness for sustainability in food, drink, and horticulture organisations. The programme will empower leaders to embed sustainability across all functions of their business and will target C-Suite staff and senior management to ensure that sustainability is established as a key priority and guiding principle in their organisations."



Picture (l-r) Elaine Quinn, UCD Conway Institute, Tom Hope, Patient Advocate and Prof Amanda McCann, UCD School of Medicine.

## ■ 'The People There to Catch Us'

**A special screening of 'The People There to Catch Us' took place at the Stella Cinema, Rathmines, Dublin on World Cancer Research Day on Saturday 24 September. It was followed by a panel discussion with cancer researchers, patients and filmmakers chaired by Grainne Humphreys, director of the Dublin International Film Festival.**

'The People There to Catch Us' tells the story of Tom Hope and Rachel O'Mahony, two cancer survivors who work alongside researchers at CÚRAM and Precision Oncology Ireland (POI), to help improve the lives of others living with the disease.

This inspirational film not only gives a message of hope to those living with and beyond cancer but also highlights the impact of the involving the voices of those with lived experience in the cancer research process.

The documentary is produced by Ronan Cassidy of Carbonated Comet and directed

by Luke Brabazon. The film features Dr Róisín Dwyer (POI Investigator, University of Galway), Professor William Gallagher (POI Deputy Director, UCD Conway Institute and Co-Lead, AICRI) and Professor Walter Kolch (POI Director, and Director of Systems Biology Ireland, UCD), all of whom are focused on personalised cancer research.

This is the latest Science on Screen Documentary, a joint initiative between CÚRAM, the SFI Research Centre for Medical Devices at NUI Galway, and Ardán, the non-profit organisation across Ireland to support creatives within the audio-visual industry.

'The People There to Catch Us' was produced in collaboration with POI and the Patient Voice in Cancer Research and funded by CÚRAM, the All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI), the UCD-Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund and the National Breast Cancer Research Institute.

# Supporting our Ukrainian Visitors

**As part of the national response to the war in Ukraine, UCD was able to respond to the Government's request to provide accommodation for displaced people. Reorganisation of the summer bookings allowed for the provision of 235 bed spaces in our Roebuck residences. We continue to provide support to a number of Ukrainian faculty and students who are with us at UCD. A number of supports and social activities were put in place for our visitors over the Summer.**



*Our Ukrainian visitors on a day trip to Tayto Park*

## English Language Classes

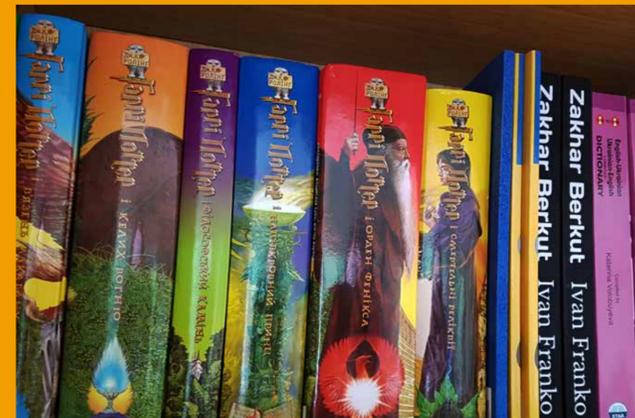
UCD in the Community, with the support of UCD School of Education and other UCD staff were honoured to help support the Ukrainian community by offering free English language classes. Eight classes per day were initially delivered between April and June. The classes received a huge response and the team was delighted to increase the number of classes to eighteen daily for a further eight weeks from July to September.

In addition, several excursions were arranged for Ukrainian families to visit places such as Powerscourt Waterfalls, Tayto Park, GAA matches and Dublin Zoo. Special thanks go to Rachel Farrell for her support in making all the events happen.

## The Sharing Library

During the Summer, UCD Library in collaboration with UCD in the Community set up a Sharing Library for Ukrainian families who were in temporary accommodation at Belfield's Roebuck Residences. The small library, holding new books provided by UCD Library, UCD in the Community and donations from Dublin City Libraries and dlr Libraries, had books for adults and children, in both Ukrainian and English. In mid-August, when our Ukrainian guests moved to alternative accommodation they were invited to take a book, for 'keeps' from the collection. The Sharing Library has been transferred to the Ballyogan Temporary Rest Centre for other Ukrainian families to enjoy.

According to Gerry Delmar, UCD Estates: "Our shared library at UCD offers a welcoming



*Harry Potter is the favourite in any language!*

environment for all our Ukrainian guests. It is a place where the adults feel safe while the children can continue with their education and development. We are lucky to have books to suit all levels of readers both in English and Ukrainian. The library is a very important resource for us and is very popular with our guests."

## Purl Jam Workshops

In July, UCD Purl Jam and UCDVO ran three craft workshops for the Ukrainian community who were living on-campus. These took place in the serene space of the Chaplaincy at St Stephen's in Belfield.

The first workshop was for adults and focused on the skills of knitting and crochet. There was a good mix of skill levels, from total beginners to more experienced wool crafters. For those who

had never knitted or crocheted before, we taught the basic skills – casting on, casting off, plain and purl. The more experienced knitters were delighted to find out that about different knitting skills used in Ukraine that we didn't know about! At the end, everyone took away needles and wool to continue working on their (newfound) hobby.

Our second workshop was a children's craft workshop. The children made friendship bracelets, decorated plant pots (and planted a sunflower seed), decorated greeting cards, and did some colouring. There was a great buzz as the children chose what they would like to work on and took away with them a colourful package of their creations at the end. They were delighted. Their parents were delighted too as keeping children occupied during summer holidays is no mean feat!

Our final workshop was again for adults. We crafted a plant pot from a coffee cup and twine. Sounds complicated, right?! We did this by cutting slits in the coffee cup and weaving twine in and out around the slits to create a plant pot. It was great fun, and our participants created unique and beautiful items.

All of our attendees enjoyed their time during the workshops, but we also benefitted from spending time doing some crafting, getting to know others, and learning about another culture. Sincere thanks to UCDVO for their organisation and to UCD Chaplaincy for allowing us to use their space.



*Bringing everyone together - relaxing and crafting with UCD Purl Jam.*

## Institute of Chemistry of Ireland welcomes Professor Patrick Guiry as President



The professional body representing chemists in Ireland has elected **Professor Patrick Guiry, UCD School of Chemistry as its latest President. The Institute of Chemistry of Ireland (ICI), which celebrates its centenary this year, said it was delighted to welcome “such a high-profile chemist” to the role. Professor Guiry will hold**

**the position for the next three years following his election by the Institute’s 800 members at its AGM in June.**

As the professional body representing chemists in Ireland, the ICI promotes excellence in chemistry through a number of means including competitions and awards, across all career stages including 2nd level students, organised lecture series, meetings, and membership events, and by setting professional

standards.

It also offers advice and comment to Government in areas relevant to the profession and advances the discipline of chemistry in Ireland by maintaining a relationship with other professional bodies internationally.

In 2024, under the presidency of Professor Guiry, it will be responsible for the organisation of the ninth European Chemical Society Congress, the most prominent event for the European chemistry community.



*Pictured are (l-r): Dr Mary Ivers and Prof Suzanne Guerin.*

## Launch of the Aidan P Moran Research Laboratories

**UCD School of Psychology recently commemorated the late Professor Aidan P Moran’s memory by launching the newly refurbished research laboratories in his name. Generations of UCD students and staff will have known Aidan as a major force in Irish psychology, an international expert in cognitive and sport psychology, and one of the kindest people you could meet.**

The School of Psychology had been Aidan’s academic home for four decades and the leadership team wanted to create a lasting representation of the contribution he had made to the development of the discipline and the school. An event was organised by the School to formally launch the Aidan P. Moran Research Laboratories with his family, friends and former colleagues in attendance. Professor Colin Scott, Principal of UCD College of Social Sciences and Law attended the launch and spoke about his memories of Aidan as a huge support to the UCD community and the sadness of senior colleagues when learning the news of his death. Professor Suzanne Guerin, Head of School welcomed guests to the event and captured the reasons why naming the labs after a dear friend and colleague was such an appropriate reflection of Aidan’s legacy in UCD.



*Pictured: Dr Aideen Quilty, Outreach Director, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice) and Prof Colin Scott – Principal College of Social Sciences and Law with the graduates of 2022.*

## UCD Community/ Outreach partnership - Ronanstown Women’s CDP

**Ronanstown Women’s CDP Clondalkin are one of seventeen Women’s Collective Ireland grassroots projects working directly with women in the community to build confidence and self-esteem through Feminist Community Education.**

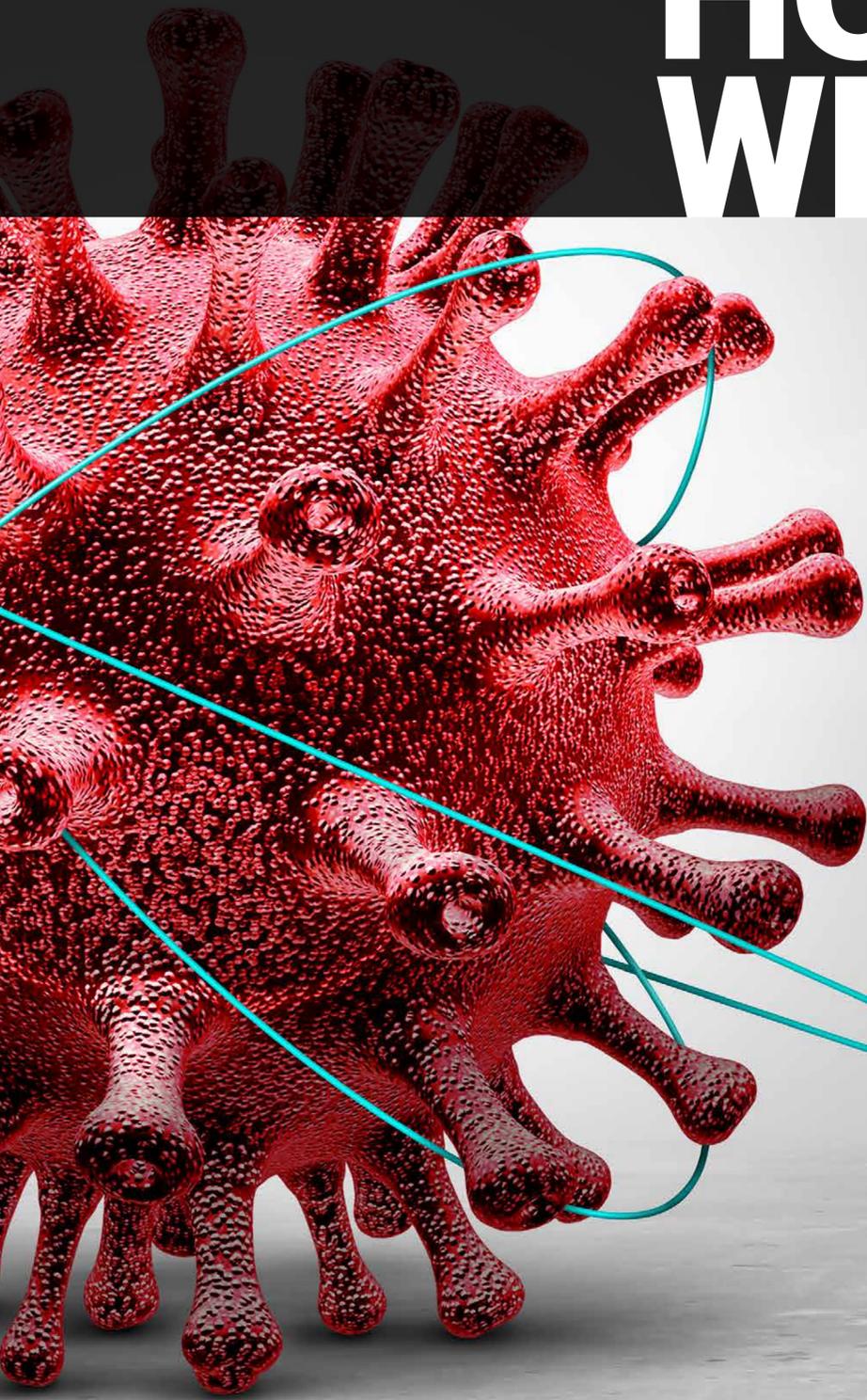
The women’s house in Clondalkin delivers first steps programmes to third-level programmes. The organisation has held a Community/University Outreach partnership with

UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice since 1999 when the first lectures were held in the kitchen. The organisation seeks to promote and support women’s participation and progression in education and to date 181 women have received a third level qualifications from UCD.

During the summer, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law were delighted to welcome 22 women who graduated from the UCD Outreach Certificate programme from 2020.

Speaking about the significance of the event, Dr Aideen Quilty, Outreach Director said: “This is a wonderful achievement for these amazing women and such a satisfying occasion for all involved in the programme delivery and coordination in UCD and Clondalkin”. The graduation ceremony was postponed due to the disruption of COVID-19 and it was a huge credit to this inspirational group of women who completed the course by navigating IT issues, zoom and a pandemic.

# HOPE FOR PATIENTS WITH LONG COVID



## Advancing the frontiers of knowledge

Our Newman Fellows enhance the richness and diversity of UCD's research landscape across both the sciences and humanities, in subjects ranging from history and creativity to plant sciences and human health. Current Fellow and infectious diseases specialist Dr Brendan O'Kelly, UCD School of Medicine, is leading critical research into COVID-19 and making significant breakthroughs in our understanding of the long-term health impacts of this complex disease.

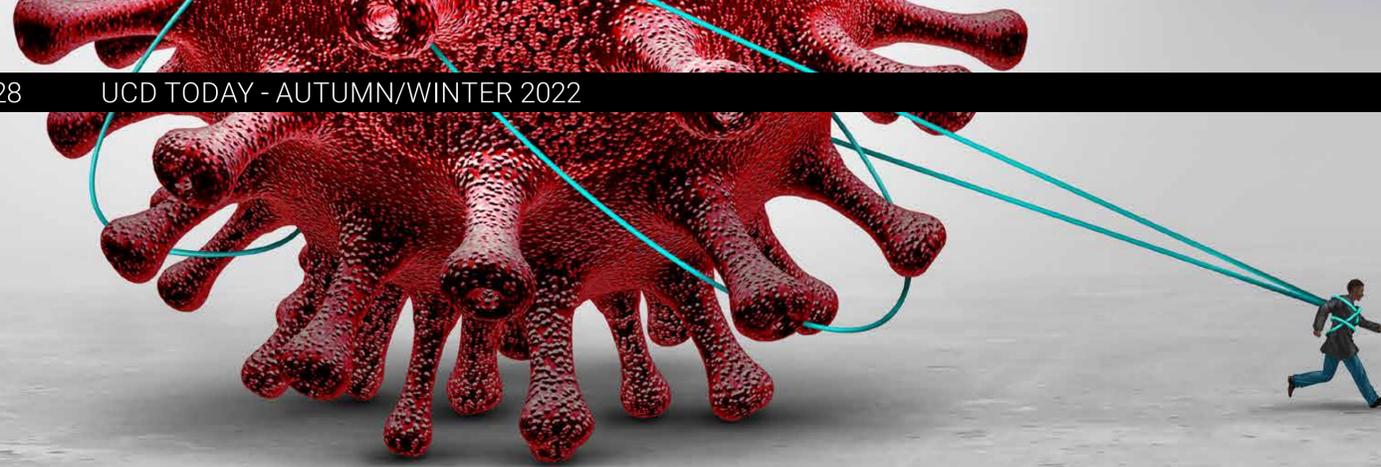
## UCD Newman Fellowship Programme

The extensive list of high-achieving and accomplished postdoctoral researchers supported by the UCD Newman Fellowship Programme since its inception over 30 years ago speaks volumes of the calibre of the Programme.

The Newman Fellowship Programme gives brilliant young academics the freedom and, crucially, the funding to pursue ambitious research in their chosen field, and to commit their exceptional intelligence to solving some of the most complex societal conundrums of our time, including the recent challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The prestigious postdoctoral fellowships are awarded usually for a period of two years and are made possible by the support of generous philanthropic donors and the commitment of inspirational academic mentors who are dedicated to expanding the boundaries of knowledge in their chosen discipline.

**Further information:** [www.ucdfoundation.ie/research-and-learning/newman-fellowship/](http://www.ucdfoundation.ie/research-and-learning/newman-fellowship/)

**Email:** [newmanfellowship@ucdfoundation.ie](mailto:newmanfellowship@ucdfoundation.ie)



### Hope for patients with Long Covid

Long Covid is a multifaceted condition that can have a severe impact on patients' well-being and quality of life. Although there is no pharmacotherapy yet approved for its treatment, the findings from Brendan's Newman Fellowship research offer hope of improved outcomes for patients with symptoms of the condition.

Working with colleagues at UCD School of Medicine and Dublin's Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Brendan conducted an observational study into the safety and efficacy of low dose naltrexone (LDN) as a treatment for patients experiencing symptoms for at least 12 months post infection with the virus.

Pre- and post-treatment questionnaires using symmetrical Likert scales showed a significant improvement in six of the seven parameters explored: respondents reported feeling recovered from COVID-19, as well as improvements in performing activities of daily living, energy levels, pain and discomfort, concentration, and sleep. The largest effects were seen in pain/discomfort and feeling recovered from COVID-19. Mood was the only parameter that was not significantly improved.

LDN was also demonstrated to be a relatively safe medication in this context. Two patients (5.3%) stopped LDN due to gastrointestinal upset, but no major adverse events were seen. As this work was observational, the research group are now hoping to conduct a randomised controlled trial to gain a better understanding of the potential of this drug for use in patients with Long Covid.

### Groundbreaking work

This research builds on Brendan's previously published work done through the Anticipate research collaborative, showing that one quarter of patients attending a COVID-19 follow-up clinic met the definition of 'Post COVID-19 Syndrome' one year after initial diagnosis. These patients had a significant reduction in their physical well-being, demonstrated using well-validated health-related Quality of Life Questionnaires including the SF-12 score, which measures general health status in eight domains.

This is one of the first studies to follow COVID-19 patients for one year after their initial illness – and longer in some cases – and it gives an insight into the trajectory of the disease for many patients and the constellation of symptoms that patients experience. It is also one of the first studies to explore the impact of Long Covid on how people are functioning in their day to day lives.

**“What we are finding is that it's not just that people are living with chronic symptoms like fatigue, headache and other symptoms but that some people have not been physically able to get back to their usual level of function prior to COVID-19, get back to work and usual family life, and this is worrying,”** Brendan said.

The study is also groundbreaking in identifying predictors of those who will go on to have Long Covid at one year: a high resting heart rate and low SF-12 score in the weeks after diagnosis. These parameters can be measured in any clinic setting, to allow earlier multidisciplinary intervention to mitigate the long-term impact of the disease.

The results of the study were published in *The International Journal of Infectious Diseases* in March. Congratulating Brendan on these publications, Professor Jack Lambert, who supervises the Newman Fellowship research project, reiterated that “this is groundbreaking work” and should be highlighted more widely.

### Not just a lung disease

A multitude of symptoms have been reported for COVID-19 – including shortness of breath, palpitations and chest pain – and in the early stages of the pandemic, clinicians anticipated that any lasting complications of infection would be primarily related to the heart and lungs. However, the research conducted at the Long Covid Clinic in the Mater Hospital tells a different story.

The Anticipate research collaborative, which also includes Walter Cullen, Professor of Urban General Practice at UCD School of Medicine, and UCD PhD student John Broughan, has spearheaded work on exploring mood-related issues in this cohort. Data from the group show high levels of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Alarmingly, alcohol overuse at one year was seen in almost three quarters of the cohort. These results have been published on the HRB Open Research platform.

The positive indications of Brendan's research into treatment with low dose naltrexone, published earlier this year in the journal *Brain, Behavior, & Immunity – Health*, now pave the way for further exploration in a larger study cohort, and offer hope to patients suffering from Long Covid.

### Unparalleled support for early-career researchers

Reflecting on his Newman Fellowship experience, Brendan appreciates the unusual level of freedom and opportunity the programme offers to someone in the early stages of a research career:

**“The Newman Fellowship Programme is special. It supports researchers at a really pivotal time in their careers, and at its core it is a force for the betterment and enrichment of society as a whole. I have been supported in a completely unbiased way, which shows the role of pharma in forwarding medical science outside of the more typical routes of drug and device development.”**

“Being awarded the Fellowship was a huge honour, and looking at the profiles of my impressive peers in the Programme I knew I had much to live up to. The resources available to me are second to none, and I've really been struck by the UCD ethos of enabling people to reach their full potential.

“The Newman Fellowship has given me the freedom to dedicate myself to my research at the Mater Hospital. This was so important in my case, given the time-sensitive nature of COVID-19 research. Many colleagues and friends involved in research elsewhere have teaching or clinical commitments that take valuable time away from their research. They cannot believe the freedom that this Programme provides, and I cannot see how I could do this work successfully without the unique support of the Newman Fellowship.”

Dr Brendan O'Kelly graduated with a medical degree from the Royal College of Surgeons in 2013 and became a member of the Royal College of Physicians in 2016. He has worked in Beaumont Hospital, The Mater Hospital and St James's Hospital as an Infectious Diseases Specialist Registrar, and completed clinical training in Infectious Diseases in July 2021. His Newman Fellowship is supported by Gilead, Pfizer and GSK.



Members of the community in Assam, Northeast India during an outreach visit as part of the Assam Don Bosco University community development project.

## ■ Taking action for a better world

**“What brings people together is not distance but the willingness to share and empower each other from miles away”. Quote from UCDVO volunteer, 2022.**

UCD Volunteers Overseas is incredibly proud of the volunteers who took part in the programme in 2022. Drawing from a rich array of academic disciplines, the small number (22 volunteers) more than compensated for their size through their commitment to global citizenship education, project planning and delivering virtual volunteering activities.

In 2022, UCDVO returned to in-person global citizenship education on campus, running its highly regarded GCE courses and Development Film Series, engaging over 500 members of the UCD community.

Together with its partners in India (Society for Working Life);

Uganda (Nurture Africa) and for the first time in Ireland (Ukraine project, in collaboration with UCD in the Community), three volunteering projects took place. Project highlights include:

- Over 100 Ugandan youths in Nurture Africa’s Vocational Training Centre received online classes in ICT and business;
- An online interactive education programme was jointly developed and delivered with third-level students from New Delhi for 40 young girls attending the Community Education and Development Centre in Sangam Vihar;

- 30 volunteers from the UCD community, alongside the UCDVO team, delivered a series of in-person English Conversation Cafés for over 100 members of the Ukrainian community.

In October, UCDVO will launch its 2023 volunteer programme which will include a welcome return to in-person volunteering with partners in India, Tanzania and Uganda. Planning and risk assessment is currently underway.

The volunteer programme is open to all in the UCD Community. Applications will close on Friday 25 November. Further details on [www.ucdvo.org](http://www.ucdvo.org).



Pictured are: Prof Dolores O’Riordan, Vice-President for Global Engagement with Gaeltacht UCD 2022 Summer School participants, Klára Hutková, Fenja Schulz and Carmen Schacht.

## ■ Gaeltacht UCD’s 2022 International Irish Language Summer School resumes

**Bhí sé de phléisiúr ag Gaeltacht UCD, fáilte chroíúil a chur roimh fhoghlaimoirí teanga a d’fhill ar scoil samhraidh ar champas Belfield i mí an Mheithimh.**

B’í an tOllamh Dolores O’Riordan, Leas Uachtarán UCD do Rannpháirtíocht Domhanda a d’fháiltigh roimh na rannpháirtithe a tháinig ó chian is ó cóngar le páirt a ghlacadh sa scoil samhraidh seachtaine dar téama, ‘An Ghaeilge i Sochaí Inmharthana Domhanda’. Thug sé ardú croí do Ghaeltacht UCD seanchairde agus cairde nua a fheiceáil ó gach ceann den tír, thuaidh agus theas, maraon le rannpháirtithe ó Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá, ón Astráil, ón nGearmáin, ó Ceanada, ó Shasana, ó Phoblacht na Seice agus tíortha eile nach iad. Bhí sceideal lán ag na rannpháirtithe idir ranganna teanga, léachtaí agus imeachtaí cultúrtha. I measc na n-aoichainteoirí bhí an Dr. Ríona Nic Congail, an Dr. Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh agus an

Dr. Fionbarra Ó Brolacháin ó UCD, Siún Ní Dhuinn, alumnae UCD ó RTÉ, Seosamh Ó Murchú ón nGúm agus Réamonn Ó Ciaráin ó Aonach Mhacha agus Gael-Hinn. Thaitin an turas treoraithe as Gaeilge in MoLI, Músaem Litríochta na hÉirean, go mór leis na rannpháirtithe maraon leis na ceardlanna cultúrtha san amhránaíocht, san fhilíocht agus sa phíobaireacht. B’í an t-amhránaí Muireann Ní Cheannabháin a chur gach éinne ag canadh, an tUlltach Dubhán Ó Longáin a thug ábhar machnamh dóibh lena cuid filíochta agus bhí oíche chaidrimh den scoth ag gach éinne i gClub Chonradh na Gaeilge leis an bPíobaire Nollaig Mac Cárthaigh ó Chumann na bPíobairí. Táimid ag tnúth le Scoil 2023 cheana féin.

## Historic alliance launches between Howard University and UCD Smurfit School

**UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School has announced a new strategic partnership with Howard University (HU), one of the most prestigious universities in the US and one of the oldest historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in the country.**

Two new scholarships will be available for Howard University graduates to undertake an MBA or MSc programme at UCD Smurfit School.

“International collaborations are an integral part of our work in universities, and this partnership is the first of its kind in Ireland,” said Professor Gerardine Doyle, Director of UCD Smurfit School and Associate Dean of UCD College of Business. “It highlights UCD’s commitment to offering programmes in partnership with top-tier global partners like Howard University that advance high academic standards and diversity, equity and inclusion in business and entrepreneurship. As Ireland’s leading graduate business school, this partnership augments our ability to continuously evolve our

offerings to meet the needs of students and businesses in our rapidly changing world.”

The HU-UCD Global Scholarships form part of a broader collaboration between both institutions. The primary goal is to explore and identify opportunities to promote global experiences and facilitate the advancement of knowledge by fostering collaboration and cooperation between HU and UCD.

In addition to the scholarships, a range of student travel options will form part of the new alliance. Graduate level business students will have the opportunity to participate in exchanges incorporating intensive study tours, lectures, collaborative projects with an emphasis on entrepreneurship, and site visits to leading international firms.

Located in the heart of Washington DC, Howard University is a private, research university and is ranked 83rd in the U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges list. The student population is just under 10,000 with business majors accounting for around 15% of graduates.



Howard University

In addition, the Howard University School of Business has been ranked number one for “greatest opportunity for minority students,” by the

Princeton Review. With a strong alumni network and state-of-the-art resources, Howard is a welcome partner with Ireland’s global university.

## UCD College of Business partners with Abu Dhabi University

**UCD College of Business has announced a new partnership with Abu Dhabi University (ADU).**

“The new partnership reflects both universities’ considerable emphasis on global engagement, as part of their innovative business programmes” said Professor Don Bredin, Associate Dean of UCD College of Business. “The new collaborative programme emphasises UCD’s reputation as Ireland’s Global University and I very much look forward to welcoming students from Abu Dhabi University Business School to the UCD Quinn School in September.”



Pictured (l-r) are: Prof Philip Hamill, Associate Provost for Research and Academic Development at Abu Dhabi University; Prof Don Bredin; His Excellency Aidan Cronin, Ambassador of Ireland to the UAE; Prof Thomas Hochstettler, Provost of Abu Dhabi University; Prof Barry O'Mahony, Dean College of Business at Abu Dhabi University; and Prof Sherine Farouk, Associate Dean, College of Business at Abu Dhabi University.

“Both Colleges of Business at ADU and UCD are among a small group of international business schools holding accreditations from both AACSB and EQUIS. This new partnership,

with a leading university in the MENA region, is a welcome addition to our growing portfolio of international collaborations particularly focusing on our undergraduate business programs,”

continued Professor Bredin.

The joint program will allow students to study at ADU for the first two years and relocate to Ireland for the last two years of their educational journey to earn a degree from UCD.

The partnership was announced through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) which signed by Professor Thomas J Hochstettler, Provost of Abu Dhabi University and Professor Don Bredin. Additionally, the signing witnessed the attendance of His Excellency Aidan Cronin, Ambassador of Ireland to the UAE.

Post-signing, ADU and UCD facilitated an educational fair for ADU students and prospective students from a group of schools in the Emirate where they presented their partnership and answered questions related to studying in Dublin. The joint program will provide students with a personalised study plan in addition to the opportunity of enrolling in an internship programme anywhere in Europe.

## UCD Innovation Academy Launches Ireland's First Virtual Reality Undergraduate Class for Future Skills

**Twenty pioneering UCD undergraduate students began a unique learning experience in September designed to equip them with vital skills such as critical and analytical thinking, teamwork, communication and business acumen through an immersive virtual reality programme.**

This fully accredited undergraduate module, Virtual Reality for Future Skills, puts students in the position of Chief Operating Officer of Lightning Bikes, an e-bikes company. The students journey through a series of scenarios tailored to challenge and nurture various transversal skills – key skills that cut across jobs, tasks and academic disciplines whose importance will continue to rise as the adoption of automation and artificial intelligence change the face of work.

“Transversal skills globally rank among the most important skills our graduates will need in the future of work; however few universities have dedicated programmes to nurture these future skills”, said Professor Suzi Jarvis, founding director of UCD Innovation Academy. “We’re excited to launch this undergraduate module, combining cutting-edge technology with an immersive, experiential programme, offering students the dual benefit of nurturing in-demand transversal skills as well virtual reality literacy, a medium we’ll all be working in in the future.”

Research by LinkedIn has shown that soft skills are more important than ever in a hybrid environment; Irish business leaders say they value collaboration (34%) and communication (30%) as the two most important skills employees need to succeed in the future.

Virtual Reality for Future Skills is part of UCD Innovation Academy’s project, Convene, funded by the government’s Human Capital Initiative Pillar III project which seeks to transform how universities and enterprise work together, and introduce more innovative and agile ways of teaching into higher education. UCD Innovation Academy partnered with Cappfinity, a strengths assessment company, in developing the programme. The collaboration meant that Cappfinity brought insights drawn from working with some of the biggest names in enterprise globally and combined this with UCD Innovation Academy’s ten years designing and delivering experiential learning programmes to nurture creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship and transversal skills.

“Virtual reality gives users a sense of immersion and ‘presence’ in scenarios like the workplace that cannot be created in a standard



classroom; it’s the perfect medium for students to practice and learn transversal skills like decision making and analytical thinking in a safe space” said Maurice Knightly, Education Innovation Lead at UCD Innovation Academy who leads the programme.

Among the tasks students will complete include evaluating user feedback about the current product and choosing a new model from a range of prototypes to bring to market, attending a staff meeting where the team will be discussing a key strategic move the business needs to make and pitching to investors in a ‘Dragon’s Den’ style environment. A comprehensive wrap-around support programme including reflective exercises and peer mentoring accompanies the virtual reality experience and students, who take the PicoNeo headsets home for the duration so they can redo different sections as often as they want, meet weekly in person during the ten-week programme.

“Across our client base, which includes a large proportion of the top 100 graduate employers, Cappfinity sees virtual reality playing a key role in the recruitment, development and day to day working

lives of employees in the coming years” said Oscar Lyons, Head of Virtual Reality at Cappfinity and a UCD graduate. “We are supporting clients as they navigate the emergence of a set of technologies that will revolutionise the workplace in the same way that personal computers and the internet have previously. Developing the skills that students will need to succeed in this new paradigm is a bold and forward thinking move by UCD and we are excited to be supporting it.”

“Through this module, UCD Innovation Academy is adding a new – virtual – dimension to its mission to equip students with the skills they need to excel in the future,” says Eleanor Kelly, who leads Convene at UCD Innovation Academy, the government’s Human Capital Initiative that funds this module. “The Metaverse is billed to become all pervasive and powerful, revolutionising everything from finance to healthcare – we’re excited to give students from all disciplines a grounding in virtual reality skills and crucially to support them to learn communications, teamwork and leadership and more – skills that will only grow in importance as the metaverse emerges.”

## ■ Paws-itive News!

**A blood transfusion can be essential to improve oxygen carrying capacity in animals with life-threatening anaemias, due to either significant bleeding from a surgery or trauma (such as in a road traffic accident), but commonly also for animals suffering from immune-mediated haemolytic anaemias (where the red blood cells are being destroyed by the body). Blood transfusions are also fundamental for the treatment of certain bleeding disorders and other medical complications in very sick patients.**

In human medicine, blood products are readily available, but they are slightly more scarce in animals, and often dog and cat owners are not aware of existing blood donation programmes like the one at UCD Veterinary Hospital.

Initially a trial day entails a short visit to the UCD Veterinary Hospital for a first evaluation. The dog or cat's behaviour and temperament in the hospital environment is assessed; they undergo a complete physical examination and give a blood sample for a general health screen and blood typing. Certain dogs and cats predisposed to heart disease also get a heart scan. If everything is normal, and the owners are happy to enrol their animal, they are registered them on the Blood Donor list. Animals, similarly to people, can safely donate blood every three months.

On donation day, blood is withdrawn from the donor and transferred to a collection bag (dogs) or syringe (cats) that contains an anticoagulant and nutrients for the cells. The blood is then separated into different components – plasma and packed red blood cells. Blood products are then stored and used as needed.

Regular blood donors should be aged between 1 and 8 years old, healthy, fully vaccinated and wormed regularly, and not receiving any medication. They should weigh a minimum of 25 kg for dogs and 4 kg for cats; they should never have received a blood transfusion themselves and ideally should have not travelled outside Ireland or the UK.



There are lots of benefits for the blood donors:

- Free pre-inclusion health screen, blood typing and annual health screening;
- Free pre-inclusion heart scan for certain dog and cat breeds predisposed to heart disease;
- Free blood products for blood donors if they need them due to illness or accident if referred to the UCD Veterinary Hospital for medical care;
- As a dog or cat owner you will have the benefit of knowing that your pet is helping many critically ill dogs and cats, which would otherwise not survive.

If you think your pet could be a suitable blood donor, please contact the Veterinary Blood Donor Clinic. [Visit our website page for more details.](#)

## ■ Design, Diversity and Data: Inspiring Inclusion through Innovation in UCD

**UCD Access and Lifelong Learning hosted the first in-person University for All symposium since 2019 during the Summer. Building on the seminar series launched during the pandemic, this was a hybrid event catering for participants from across the country and internationally. The title was: 'Enhancing student engagement in a COVID world – is universal design the answer?'. Acting President Professor Mark Rogers opened the event stating that "the use of Universal Design eliminates the need for student labels and turns 'deficit' thinking on its head".**

We were delighted to welcome Dr Thomas J Tobin, University of Wisconsin-Madison, global expert on Universal Design for Learning (UDL), to give the keynote address. In his dynamic and interactive address, Dr Tobin gave practical tips and advice on how to embed UDL within wider EDI initiatives and strategies and, how to identify starting points for more-inclusive design efforts, emphasising the importance of trusting and listening to students.

After a well-deserved break, with ice-cream, Julie Tonge, Project Lead for the University for All Faculty Partnership Programme opened the lightning round of presentations given by the Faculty Partners from all six UCD Colleges. The University for All Faculty Partnership Programme is a collaboration between UCD Access & Lifelong Learning, UCD Teaching & Learning and UCD Equality, Diversity & Inclusion. This Programme is designed to support and accelerate the implementation of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) throughout



the University. It offers a structured opportunity to undertake UDL training, to qualify as a UDL Facilitator, and become a role model who will persuade and influence others as to the merits of inclusion for all students. Participation enables faculty to become recognised leaders in the field of access and inclusion and the implementation of UDL. The Faculty Partner presentations explored transferable and practical UDL interventions and leadership strategies applicable across disciplines, offering a preview of their case studies which will be published later this year.

To close day one, Professor Grace Mulcahy, outgoing Chair of the UCD Widening Participation Committee launched the latest University for All publication: 'Who Counts? University for All Data, Metrics, and Evidence 2020-2021'. We treasure what we measure - and this publication illustrates the potency of that. This unique and innovative report provides a comprehensive and transparent view of UCD's widening participation and access data spanning admissions, participation, progression, retention,

outward mobility, completion and graduate outcomes. This report is the first of its kind in Irish higher education and offers the sector a roadmap for data gathering and dissemination. UCD's commitment to being a University for All is evidenced in this report, which offers not just the data but also analysis of trends and an overview of the qualitative measures of inclusion in UCD. The institutional report is freely available to the public to download from the [UCD University for All Resource Hub](#) and programme level data is available through the Registrar's intranet for all UCD employees.

To finish our two-day event, Dr Tobin hosted a UDL Masterclass for UCD leadership, Widening Participation Leads and the University for All Faculty Partners. His message was simple, rather than trusting everyone to "do the right thing", universities need to create systems that require good practices. This, he argued, will transform accessibility and inclusion from "extra effort" to "everyday tasks".

## UCD Centre for English and Global Languages

**The UCD Applied Language Centre is changing its name to the UCD Centre for English and Global Languages to better reflect its role in the teaching of languages at UCD. English and a range of global languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Irish Sign Language, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swahili) are on offer at the Centre to students of all disciplines.**

The Centre began offering programmes in English and foreign languages in 1989 and is located in the Daedalus building in the centre of campus, the first purpose-built language teaching centre in Ireland.

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) programmes at the Centre include the Pre-Sessional and Pre-Masters International Pathway programmes which prepare UCD conditional

offer holders for their studies. The University's growing number of 3+1+1 Masters Partnership programmes are coordinated by the Centre's Pathways team. EAP modules for UCD students are provided through the Global Language Modules In-sessional English programme. Staff at the Centre also coordinate EAP modules for approx 1,750 students at the UCD China partnership colleges, BDIC, CDIC and GDIC.

Over 2,000 elective module places per year are on offer across 14 languages through the Global Language Module programme. The aim is to focus on the many languages and cultures of students and staff already at UCD and provide opportunities for all students to study one or more world languages. Students particularly value the teaching approach at the Centre, which emphasises target-language use, small group classes, personal and engaging learning experiences and knowledge of a global language in a multicultural job market.

The Centre also offers a Masters degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) which promotes awareness of innovative approaches to the teaching of English for teachers in Ireland and internationally.



For further information, please email [languages@ucd.ie](mailto:languages@ucd.ie)



Dr Orla Doyle

## President of the Irish Economic Association

**Associate Professor Orla Doyle, UCD School of Economics has recently been elected as President of the Irish Economic Association. The IEA is the main scientific body for economists in Ireland, established over 35 years ago with the responsibility of contributing to the development and application of economics. The last UCD academic to hold this position was Professor Peter Neary in 1990.**

Dr Doyle, who joined UCD in 2004 following her PhD studies in Trinity College, has established an innovative research programme on the economics of human development and she currently leads the UCD Childhood and Human Development Research Centre. Her work focuses on the importance of early life conditions in shaping later life outcomes

and the use of experimental designs to identify the effectiveness of interventions to ameliorate poverty. Her most significant research contribution is the development of Preparing for Life (PFL) which is the longest running experimental intervention programme in Europe. The trial, which has resulted in over 25 academic articles to date, studies the impact of providing intensive parenting support via a home visiting programme from pregnancy until age five. Together with colleagues, they have documented the impact of the programme on birth outcomes, health, child behaviour and cognitive skills, as well as long-term impacts on school test scores. This work demonstrates the importance of investing early in life to break the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage and is widely recognised internationally for its

importance. In UCD Orla teaches experimental methods and behavioural economics and is the incoming Deputy Head of the School of Economics.

She served as IEA board member since 2016 and vice-president since 2020. During this time, she established the Irish Society for Women in Economics (ISWE) which provides a platform encouraging more women to study and pursue careers in economics and to increase the visibility of women economists in Ireland.

Her two-year term as IEA President began in May 2022. During her tenure, she will continue to support improving the diversity of the economics profession, as well as increasing public engagement and outreach to create economics with a human face.



Professor Cormac Taylor (right) receives the 2021 RAMI (biomedical section) for inflammatory bowel disease research

## RAMI Research Award 2021

**Conway Fellow, Professor Cormac Taylor, UCD School of Medicine has received a Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland (RAMI) Research Award 2021 at a gala event in the Robert Graves and Corrigan Halls of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Kildare Street.**

This award in the biomedical section acknowledges a translational research study in patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), which was recently published in the scientific publication, *The FASEB Journal*.

Professor Taylor said, "I am delighted to accept this RAMI research award in recognition

of the fantastic work undertaken by my team, our clinical colleagues and the patients in St Vincent's University Hospital. We want to identify drugs that can interfere with cellular oxygen sensing to help treat and improve the quality of life in patients with inflammatory bowel disease."

Inflammatory bowel disease (ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease) is a common and debilitating condition affecting 1-2% of people. The intestine in IBD patients is deprived of oxygen or hypoxic. This is a threat to the survival of cells. In response to this threat, the immune system triggers a protective response although little is known about how this happens.

The Taylor group and their collaborators want

to understand how oxygen levels in the intestine regulate this protective response. This will allow them to develop new therapeutic approaches to inflammatory bowel disease.

Clinical collaborators, Professor Glen Doherty and Dr Cathy Rowan, St Vincent's University Hospital took biopsy samples from the intestines of IBD patients using endoscopy. These were then investigated in laboratory by Dr Eric Brown and other team members in UCD Conway Institute.

The team focused on oxygen-sensors in cells lining the intestine of IBD patients and the sequence of events that trigger the protective immune response.

## Latch Medical Secures Strategic Investment from West Pharmaceutical Services

**West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc headquartered in Exton, Pennsylvania, a global leader in innovative solutions for injectable drug administration, has made a strategic investment in Latch Medical, a UCD spin-out headquartered at NovaUCD.**

The company, founded in 2019 by Dr Nicky Bertollo and Ronan Byrne, is a leader in next-generation vaccine and biologics delivery technology that is pioneering a new approach to intradermal delivery.

West is taking a minority ownership stake in Latch Medical and joins Latch Medical's existing investors Atlantic Bridge and Enterprise Ireland.

Latch Medical's Pharma Latch technology offers two delivery device platforms that allow for intradermal delivery of vaccines and biologics with rapid, consistent dosing. The technology anchors securely to the skin and uses either hollow or coated microneedles to deliver and disperse vaccine and biologics payloads. The technology is a low-cost platform that can facilitate higher payloads than microneedle technologies developed in the past. It requires minimal training for clinicians to use.

"We have put our extensive experience of skin biomechanics and understanding of the challenges of intradermal delivery into the development of Pharma Latch. It is a novel technology that can replace traditional injections and infusions and look to realize the potential of intradermal delivery," said Ronan Byrne, CEO, Latch Medical. "With this investment from West, we can rapidly increase the impact of our technology."



Caption: Pictured at NovaUCD are Dr Aviva Cohen, CEO and co-founder, seamlessCARE and angel investor Dr Frank Dolphin.

## seamlessCARE Secures €700,000 in Seed Funding

**seamlessCARE, a UCD digital health spin-out company, has secured a total of €700,000 in seed funding from angel investor and former HSE chairman Dr Frank Dolphin and Enterprise Ireland.**

The funding will enable seamlessCARE to accelerate the roll-out of its innovative assistive technologies. seamlessCARE's products are focused on enhancing communication and support the care of people with autism, acquired brain injury, dementia, intellectual disability and a wide range of other conditions.

The company's first product, Empathic, helps non-verbal people to communicate their emotions. It records up to 10 seconds of a non-verbal person's vocalisation. Then it uses artificial intelligence (AI) to interpret how that person is feeling. The app/API has been trained to identify up to 10 emotions, including happy, sad, excited and frustrated.

seamlessCARE was co-founded in 2021 by Dr Aviva Cohen, Ian Kennedy and Dr Çağrı Çubukçu. A spin-out from the UCD School Mechanical and Materials Engineering the company was established with the support of NovaUCD following the completion of Enterprise Ireland commercialisation funding.

Dr Aviva Cohen, CEO and co-founder, seamlessCARE said, "We are delighted to have closed this seed funding round and secured the backing and support of Enterprise Ireland and angel investor Frank Dolphin. We now look forward to rolling out our range of assistive technologies to improve the lives of individuals with complex needs and those who provide their care and support."

The company is also accelerating the development of a second product called Focus. This is a video-based care planning API, accompanied by a user-friendly mobile app. It enables carers to record short videos of daily activities, take notes, send alerts and update written care plans from any device, quickly and easily.



Pictured at the exhibition launch of STEP Through the Looking Glass: Stories Told of Experimental Processes in Grennan Mill Craft School, Kilkenny (l-r) Dr Nicola Fletcher, Ciara McNamara, Prof Helen Roche, Lorna Donlon, Prof William Gallagher, Elaine Quinn, Tom Hope.

## Exhibition launch of STEP Through the Looking Glass

**A multimedia exhibition entitled STEP Through the Looking Glass: Stories Told of Experimental Processes launched in August 2022 in Grennan Mill Craft School, as part of the Kilkenny Arts Festival and the 40 Mill Years celebration.**

The exhibition uses selected personal and scientific objects as unique and curious ways to spark a conversation and tell a science story. It is a collaboration between Lorna Donlon, scientists in UCD Conway Institute and patient advocates who work with them on the *Patient Voice in Cancer Research* initiative.

Lorna Donlon is an award-winning artist and tapestry weaver who undertook an artistic residency in the UCD Conway Institute during the pandemic, having recently graduated with a degree in Cell and Molecular Biology from UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science.

The idea for this project stems from 'Scientists' Stories from the *Conway Cabinets of Everyday Curiosities* that arose from the initial phase of Lorna's residency.

This exhibition features large format photographs of the

twelve scientists and two patient advocates as well as cabinets of objects selected by them: both scientific and personal. Video and audio conversations between Donlon, the scientists and patient advocates are on the [exhibition website](#).

Dr Ruth Freeman, Director of Science for Society at Science Foundation Ireland welcomed the launch, saying: "We are delighted to support this project, which sees everyday objects in science being used as storytelling devices. The exhibition will give the public a unique glimpse into the lives of the people behind the research as well as the research itself. Projects such as this, supported by the SFI Discover Programme, help us to provide important platforms and spaces for researchers and artists to come together, learn from each other and create new insights that can benefit society as a whole."



Shauna Hughes, Director, Global Relations, Partnerships and Mobility; Professor Dolores O'Riordan, Vice-President for Global Engagement; and Eve Brosseau, Associate Director, Global Relations and Partnerships pictured at a Una Europa planning day hosted by the University of Edinburgh.

## Una Europa: UCD joins alliance of leading European research universities

**UCD has joined Una Europa, one of Europe's leading university alliances and a major driving force behind transforming education across the continent. Aimed at transcending traditional geographical and disciplinary boundaries, this partnership of universities is working together towards a virtual 'multi-campus' – a University of the Future, that will enable student and staff mobility between member institutions.**

"UCD is a truly outstanding European university – delivering world-leading research, transformational student experience and international impact," said Professor James Smith, Chair, Una Europa Board of Directors. "They will bring fresh perspectives and new momentum to Una Europa. I am delighted to welcome our new partners to the alliance."

Una Europa has already pioneered a Europe-wide living lab of over 20 innovative educational formats, with mobility at the core, and it is developing a research and innovation ecosystem built on a common research and innovation agenda, developing joint strategies for sharing infrastructures and strengthening human capital.

Opportunities for students, academics and staff span joint bachelor's degrees and PhD programmes, such as the Joint Bachelor in European Studies and Joint Doctoral Programme in Cultural Heritage, respectively, to challenge-based learning and

international training placements.

With the addition of UCD, the alliance will now count over half a million students and almost 100,000 faculty and staff among its network, with digital learners numbering in the millions.

Established in response to the European Universities Initiative, which sought to create several transnational alliances of universities across Europe, Una Europa was among the first of these alliances selected to receive funding from the European Commission to achieve this goal.

"The European Universities Initiative is shaping the future of higher education in Europe, and Una Europa is at the forefront of that movement," said Professor Mark Rogers, Acting President of UCD. "At a time when Ireland seeks to deepen its links with Europe and its institutions, this represents a significant intensification of our European cooperation. On behalf of our entire community, I look forward to working with our Alliance partners to create a European University of the Future."

Exciting synergies and shared values between new and existing alliance partners will ensure that Una Europa continues to be a driving influence in higher education and beyond, shaping Europe's shared future for the better. UCD has strong established links with Una Europa partner universities; collectively having published over 7,000 publications in collaboration with alliance members in the last five years.

## The Making (and Re-making) of Public Law Conference

**In July 2022, UCD Sutherland School of Law hosted 'The Making (and Re-making) of Public Law' conference, attracting a large international audience of legal thought leaders. The conference is a major event in the area of public law and was co-organised by the UCD Centre for Constitutional Studies and Melbourne Law School. Professor Eoin Carolan SC was responsible for securing the conference for UCD, working with Professor Jason Varuhas of the University of Melbourne.**

With an opening address by the Chief Justice of Ireland, the Hon Mr Donal O'Donnell, the conference was attended by an international audience of legal scholars, practitioners and senior members of the judiciary. Two of the distinguished guest speakers included, the Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann (Chief Justice of New Zealand) and

the Rt Hon Dame Siobhan Keegan (Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland) who spoke at the opening plenary. Dame Winkelmann's topic was 'The Power of Narrative – Shaping Aotearoa New Zealand's Public Law' and Dame Keegan addressed 'Justice Devolved: Milestones in Northern Ireland Constitutional Law Since 2010'. Other speakers included, the Hon Justice Steven Majiedt, Constitutional Court of South Africa and the Hon Justice Sheilah Martin, Supreme Court of Canada. They were joined by an impressive array of academic contributors from New Zealand, Canada, the USA and the UK.

In association with the Department of Foreign Affairs, the organisers were delighted to host the delegates and distinguished guests at a Gala Dinner in the elegant surroundings of St. Patrick's Hall at Dublin Castle.



Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann, Chief Justice of New Zealand and Rt Hon Dame Siobhan Keegan, Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland.



*Pictured at NovaUCD are Niamh Sterling, Consultant, HBAN and Sean Daly, CEO, CropBiome.*

## ■ Agritech Start-Up CropBiome Secures €1.3 million Investment

**CropBiome, a joint UCD and TCD agri-tech spin-out company, has closed a €1.3 million funding round. Angels from the HBAN (Halo Business Angel Network) Singapore and HBAN Bloom Equity syndicates invested €405K in the company with other investments coming from lead investor DeepIE Ventures Management Company Ltd and Enterprise Ireland.**

CropBiome sources, selects, ferments, characterises and tests microbes (organisms) derived from wild plant species that are closely related to mass-produced wheat and other cereal crops. The microbes, which are natural and unharmed to plant and animal life, are used to create seed dressings, which coat the raw seeds of the mass-produced crops, and produce healthier crops as a result.

A combination of field and greenhouse crop trials have shown that the seed dressings can improve crops' performance in drought conditions and when fertiliser use is reduced. This results in reduced chemical inputs, enhanced crop resilience and improved soil health, all providing targeted economic benefits to farmers. CropBiome currently has a biobank of more than 600 microbes, which the company is testing to determine their impact on stress resistance,

nutrient use efficiency and overall crop yields.

The funding will help CropBiome, headquartered at NovaUCD, to grow from its current team of eight to twelve by year-end 2023. The roles will cover laboratory and field scientists, as well as business development personnel. They will be essential in helping CropBiome to partner, and carry out trials, with major seed distributors in Europe's largest grain markets, the UK, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Germany, France and Spain.

The company expects that this work will enable it to bring its products to market by mid-2025, with revenues expected to reach €5 million by the end of that year.

CropBiome was co-founded by Professor Fiona Doohan, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science along with Professor Trevor Hodkinson and Dr Brian Murphy, School of Natural Sciences, TCD

## ■ Vet School Hosts Pride Event

As was the case for so many people, the pandemic impacted on our ability to gather and celebrate with the UCD Veterinary Community, and so in 2022, we were delighted to see a return to in-person events. On 3 June, the School of Veterinary Medicine, supported by the College of Health and Agricultural Sciences, hosted a Pride event. Faculty, staff and students from across the University were invited to the Vet School for cake, refreshments and chats. Dean and Head of School, Professor Michael Doherty addressed attendees, Student Advisor and Dean's Inclusion Award 2021 recipient Dr Niamh Nestor also spoke at the event and UCD's Vice-President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Professor Colin Scott, provided closing remarks and thoughts on the importance of these events.



*UCD's Vice-President for EDI, Prof Colin Scott addresses the School's Pride event.*



Pictured at the launch are (l-r) Assoc Prof Carmel Hensey, Prof Michael Doherty, Dean of UCD School of Veterinary Medicine and Assoc Prof Emma O'Neill.

## Metacognitive Teaching and Learning Strategies

**27 June saw the launch of 'Metacognitive Teaching and Learning Strategies', a new open-access learning resource designed by UCD Teaching and Learning Fellows, Associate Professor Emma O'Neill, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, Associate Professor Crystal Fulton, UCD School of Information and Communication Studies and Associate Professor Carmel Hensey, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science. This resource, hosted on D2L's virtual learning platform, Brightspace, is available worldwide to educators, as a way for them to experience blended metacognitive learning experiences and consider ways of incorporating them into their own teaching. This project is an extension of the work the Fellows performed as part of their Fellowship Project supported by UCD Teaching and Learning.**

Our future graduates increasingly require a broad set of core competencies, including critical thinking and problem-solving abilities along with the capacity to learn effectively, in order to succeed in today's rapidly advancing world. Metacognition, the awareness and understanding of one's own thought

processes and learning, is critical to achievement of these competencies. Hence, education strategies that foster metacognition offer significant impact.

UCD Fellows in Teaching and Academic Development created and trialled the Metacognition Design Framework, an evidence-based learning design that scaffolds the

development of metacognitive skills in students through blended learning. You can learn more about this work in their overview video and video case studies. The approaches they used are explored within their learning resource, which highlights ways to help support students in their development of these key skills.

## UCD Sustainability Report 2021 launched

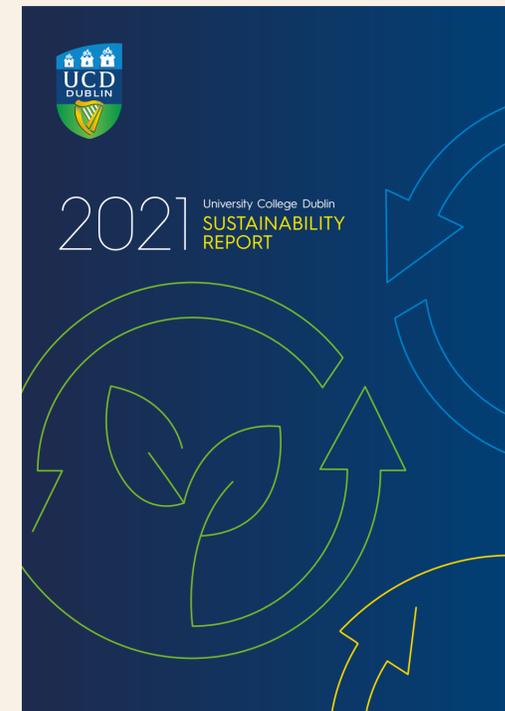
**Acting President, Professor Mark Rogers launched the UCD Sustainability Report 2021, which details many of the University's important actions, projects, and accomplishments over the last two years.**

As Ireland's biggest and most globally engaged university, UCD plays a critical role in the national response to sustainability concerns and is regarded as a leader in both the European and worldwide higher education contexts. The University is continuing to engage and reinforce commitment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to accelerate contribution to their attainment.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact since early 2020. Faculty, staff, alumni and students made a significant and leading contribution to the national response. Equally important, UCD professors and alumni have played key roles in worldwide responses to the pandemic, including the public health initiatives of the World Health Organisation thus strengthening UCD's international impact in response to Good Health and Wellbeing (SDG 3).

In other areas, the University's EDI Strategy has undertaken activities to address Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Reduce Inequality (SDG 10) through projects benefiting underrepresented groups and communities locally and abroad.

Highlights of UCD's involvement in education include the creation of new educational programs in sustainability at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. The new MSc Sustainable Development is available online to both part-time and full-time



students and is in high demand.

To build on the commitment to sustainability and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, UCD has prioritised four key themes as part of the Strategy 2020-2024, Rising to the Future: 'Creating a Sustainable Global Society,' 'Transforming through Digital Technology,' 'Building a Healthy World,' and 'Empowering Humanity,' all of which contribute significantly to the University's overarching goal of sustainability. Each of these themes will help to inspire, inform, and advance UCD's projects.

The report was sponsored by Professor Orla Feely, Vice-President for Research, Impact and Innovation and Professor Colin Scott, Vice-President for EDI and Principal, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law. Nadia Dalton, Director of Strategic Programmes produced the report, with involvement from the co-chairs of the Creating a Global Society theme, Professor Tasman Crowe and Triona McCormack.



Pictured at the launch of AlgaeBrew are (l-r): back row: William Curran (Diageo Ireland), Felix Brooke (UCD), Gus Verhaeghe (Flanders' Food), Dr Flueriane Fernandes (Swansea University), Danny van Mullem (Lambers-Seghers) and Prof Colm O'Donnell (UCD). Front row: Yuchen Li (UCD), Dr Hossein Kiani (UCD), Prof Elena Viddatini (University of Camerino), Dr Ronald Halim (UCD, project coordinator), Prof Liliana Badulescu (USAMV Bucuresti) and Dr Carmen Constantin (USAMV Bucuresti).

## UCD leads EU Project on circular bioeconomy using microalgae

**UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering is leading a €1.7 million EU project aiming to use microalgae to upcycle brewery waste products into omega-3 rich animal feed and biofertilisers. 'AlgaeBrew' will be undertaken by seven universities, a beer producer (Diageo) and an animal-feed producer (Lambers-Seghers) across four EU countries: Ireland, Belgium, Italy and Romania, and three associated countries: Morocco, Turkey and the UK.**

As one of the largest agri-food industries, beer production generates large amounts of nutrient-rich effluents and solid by-products. The conventional linear 'collect-treat-discharge' way of handling waste is costly and environmentally unsustainable. AlgaeBrew will use the latest microalgal biotechnology to convert these wastes into omega-3 rich animal feed, thereby creating potential new revenue streams for breweries, reducing their environmental impacts and promoting a circular bioeconomy. For the feed industry, the project will provide a sustainable alternative to fish oil (an essential ingredient for immune-system development) and thus reduce dependence on wild-caught fish from the ocean. The re-purposing of residual microalgae biomass after omega-3 oil extraction into biofertilisers

will also allow the project to contribute to the decarbonisation of the EU fertiliser industry.

AlgaeBrew will allow UCD to address technical challenges associated with the cultivation of microalgae on waste effluents as well as the cost-effective extraction of omega-3 oil from microalgae biomass. The project was one of just five projects funded under the ERA-NET 2021 call, out of 31 applications.

Dr Ronald Halim, project coordinator and an Assistant Professor at UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering, said: "AlgaeBrew will bring together a multidisciplinary team of scientists with complementary skillsets: algae biologists, chemical engineers, food scientists, soil scientists and life-cycle scientists, all working together to solve some of the key challenges in microalgae commercialisation".

William Curran, Global Sustainability Manager at Diageo Ireland, said: "AlgaeBrew fits into Diageo's ten-year action plan to be net zero by 2030. We hope that microalgae can produce a new value chain from our waste products".

AlgaeBrew is well aligned with UCD's Rising to the Future strategy in creating a sustainable global society and will feed directly to the critical mass of agri-food research carried out at UCD Institute of Food and Health for resilient and climate-smart food systems.



Pictured at the launch are (l-r): Julie Dowsett, Programme Director - Prof Dip Researcher Development (Teagasc), UCD; Prof Mark Rogers; Prof Frank O'Mara, Director, Teagasc; Prof Frank Monahan, Head of UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science; and Jane Kavanagh, Head of Research Development and Walsh Scholarships, Teagasc.

## New UCD Teagasc Professional Diploma in Researcher Development

**UCD has launched a new Level 9 Professional Diploma in Researcher Development, designed and developed in association with Teagasc specifically for postdoctoral fellows employed by Teagasc.**

The new programme is designed to equip postdoctoral fellows with the advanced knowledge and skills required for their future careers in industry or academia.

Launching the new programme UCD Acting President, Professor Mark Rogers said: "UCD is delighted to offer this bespoke programme for Teagasc postdoctoral fellows - it represents a significant new development in our mutual longstanding relationship."

Speaking at the launch, Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara said: "We are delighted to partner with UCD to develop the first accredited training programme for postdoctoral fellows. Teagasc attracts postdoctoral fellows from all over the world who make a valuable contribution to Teagasc's research programmes. This new diploma will enable them to not only develop their transferable

skills further, but also to apply their new skills while conducting their research at Teagasc".

The UCD Programme Director, Julie Dowsett explained: "This unique diploma has been specifically designed by UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science in collaboration with Teagasc and experts in postdoctoral skills development across UCD. By combining research excellence with the required high level transversal skills, this group of postdoctoral fellows will develop the competencies to become global leaders in agriculture and food".

The new modular programme is designed to develop postdoctoral fellows' competencies and transferable skills in research, professionalism and communication and career development. They will have access to a full range of supports including the UCD library, writing centre and careers centre.

All postdoctoral fellows at Teagasc will be registered on this new course and will have the opportunity to complete the diploma over a twelve, eighteen or 24-month periods, subject to the duration of their fellowship.



Prof Mark Rogers with the academic procession.

## UCD Class of 2020 Reunion

The UCD Class of 2020 spent their final university days locked down - doing exams, meeting friends and even graduating virtually. They finally got to celebrate their achievements in person in O'Reilly Hall in June 2022 along with their lecturers and guests. Associate Professor Maeve Houlihan, UCD Quinn School of Business led a heart-warming recognition piece, and Acting President Professor Mark Rogers delivered an address.

Their classmate Grace Oladipo, BCL 2020 spoke and advised her peers to "live a life that you are proud of. Do not let fear hold you back at all. Take the plunge. Shine so bright, because you are powerful beyond measure". After the ceremony the attendees were led in a procession of flags and drumming to the UCD Village for food, drinks and dancing til late.



Graduates Jia Jin Li with Xiaoyan Long.



Some of the different presenters on the 2022 iSA Programme

## Fully Virtual UCD-China International Study Abroad Programme

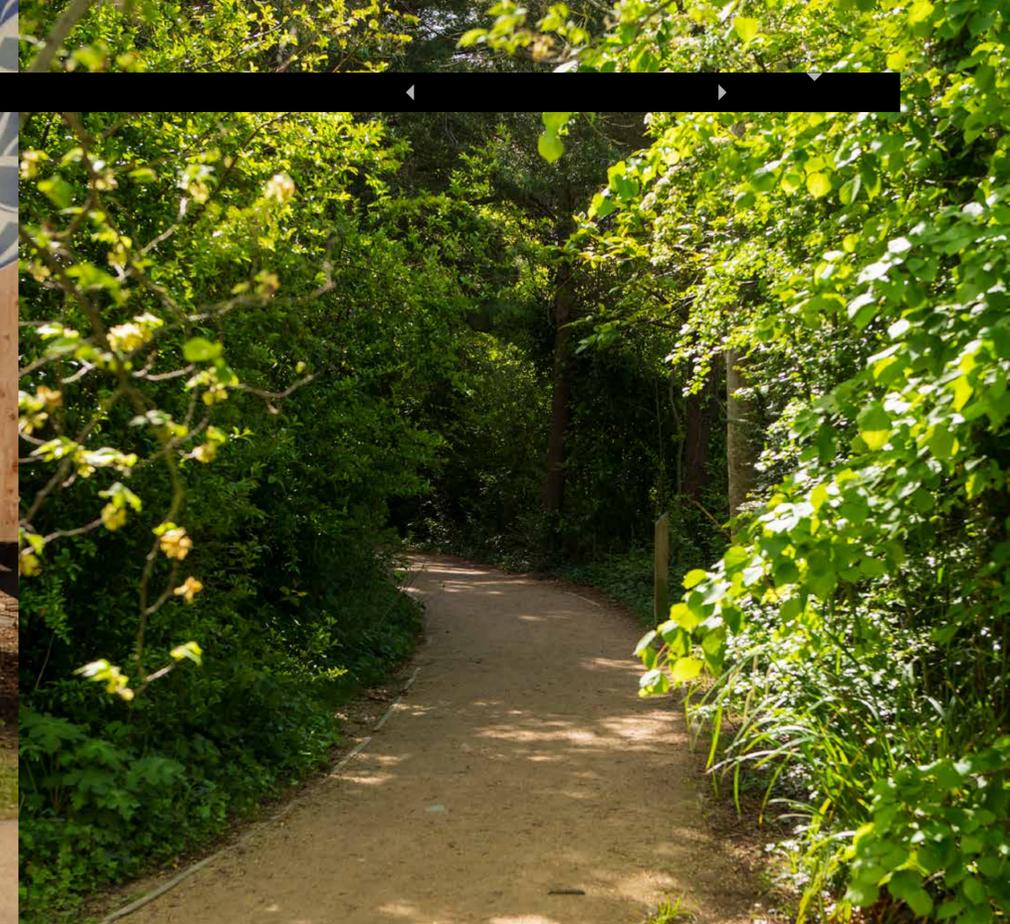
An entirely virtual International Study Abroad [iSA] Programme was held in summer 2022 for 72 students from UCD's three Joint International Colleges in China.

This Joint Colleges project is led by Professor Paul Fanning, UCD International Dean for China and Provost of the Beijing-Dublin International College at Beijing University of Technology (BDIC), the Chang'an Dublin International College of Transportation at Chang'an University (CDIC), and the Guangzhou-Dublin International College of Life Sciences and Technology at South China Agricultural University (GDIC).

The virtual programme, coordinated by Hugo O'Donnell, was created to replace a face-to-face on-site iSA model which had taken place pre-Covid. It was structured around three main pillars: 'Innovation and Enterprise', 'Design Thinking for Life', and 'Discover Ireland and Europe'. An English element enabled students to develop English fluency in academic contexts. Working with staff from across UCD, the two-week Study Abroad programme focused on giving participants the experience of studying in an international English-medium higher educational institution.

Course participants, representing a wide variety of academic disciplines, actively engaged in structured 'innovation workshops' fostering creative, collaborative and entrepreneurial thinking relating to their disciplinary fields. They were introduced to aspects of Ireland's historic heritage and culture, its changing global role in the 21st century, and recent developments in China-Ireland relations. Developing individual and collective intercultural awareness was a key and recurrent theme. There were opportunities to meet UCD academic and support unit representatives, Chinese graduates of UCD and senior Chinese officials from the Irish public and corporate sectors.

The complimentary feedback at the end showed that such a short two-week virtual course, despite all the constraints of physical distance and remoteness, can enable participants discover a great deal about 'Study Abroad' and support them in planning their academic goals and future lives.



## ■ Revolution Farm at UCD

**Two years ago, when Patrick Arnold told his friends that he was going to start using coffee grounds to grow oyster mushrooms at the bottom of his garden, his friends laughed.**

Patrick is a chef by training and, before Covid, had been planning to open a restaurant in Dublin. Like so many of us, Covid forced him to recalibrate. “I had time to reflect,” he said. Instead of opening a restaurant, which, during Covid, was a non-starter, he, working closely with a good friend and physicist, James Egan, decided to tackle food waste.

In 2020, these two friends started Revolution Farm and Kitchen. The premise is simple. Using a large container as the farm and collecting coffee grounds from local restaurants and cafes which they use as their soil, they grow oyster mushrooms. (For all of the times you have tossed coffee grounds into the bin you may not have realised how nutrient rich they are. They have also, as James reminds us, travelled a long way to get here so why not make the best use of them.) Benefiting from Patrick’s expertise as a chef and time spent working in Bologna, Italy, where he came to love making ragu, they now make a mushroom ragu and a mushroom chilli which they sell, by the jar, in select shops and delis in Dublin, and via the Neighbour Food app.

Their micro-business caught the attention of Professor Suzi Jarvis, founding director of UCD Innovation Academy, and it immediately piqued her interest. This was the philosophy of UCD Innovation Academy in action: an interdisciplinary collaboration – in

this case a chef and a physicist – assessing the challenges we face in the 21st century and using the entrepreneurial mindset to think creatively, seize an opportunity and run with it.

Suzi invited Patrick and James to bring Revolution Farm and Kitchen to UCD’s Belfield campus. Students participating in the Innovation in Sustainability module were offered the opportunity to work with the Revolution Farm and Kitchen team, and to help make their business grow.

“This is an important collaboration,” Suzi says, “because unless we can find some mechanism whereby these sustainably focused micro-businesses can be financially sustainable, we’re going to struggle in the coming years.”

The timing of the collaboration couldn’t have been better. UCD Innovation Academy, in partnership with TU Dublin, is running a ground-breaking collaborative project – Convene – funded by the government’s Human Capital Initiative. It aims to transform how enterprise and higher education work together, for their mutual benefit and the benefit of society and the economy.

Revolution Farm is now a Convene Enterprise Partner. With the farm up and running on campus, the next step is to start supplying UCD’s many cafes and restaurants with Revolution Ragu, stamped ‘UCD Grown’. “On the last count there are nearly a quarter of a million students in higher education in Ireland – that’s more than the population of Cork City,” says Eleanor Kelly, who leads Convene at UCD Innovation Academy. “If these students can see the circular economy in action, can participate – regardless of their discipline – in sustainable partnerships like this, and see the final result on their campus and in their cafeterias, that’s a powerful learning for them to take forward into their future careers.”

## ■ UCD Campus Biodiversity Trail

**On Saturday 11 June, UCD Earth Institute and UCD Research launched an engaging and interactive audio trail of the biodiversity UCD Belfield campus at the UCD Festival, [available online](#).**

Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you’ll find in one area - the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life. Biodiversity supports everything in nature that we need to survive: food, clean water, medicine, and shelter.

But as humans put increasing pressure on the planet using and consuming more resources than ever before, we risk upsetting the balance of ecosystems and losing biodiversity. Join us on this short audio trail to hear from UCD staff and researchers about how the Belfield campus is managed to support biodiversity, ongoing biodiversity research and steps you can take to support biodiversity at home.

Thanks to Veronica Braga, Finbarr Brereton, Ed Cox, Karen Foley, Adam Kane, Brendan O’Neill, Noeleen Smyth, Dara Stanley, Brian Tobin, Lucy Collins, Michael Langley, Críostóir Mac Carthaigh, Jonny Dillon, Irish Poetry Reading Archive, National Folklore Collection and UCD Estate Services.

## ■ UCD Academic Advising Pilot Projects Draw to a Close

Although UCD students have access to a range of advice and support at Programme level, School level and centrally, there is a significant policy gap around the formalised provision of academic advice to undergraduate and taught graduate students. In March 2021, UCD was awarded funding through the HEA and the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning to support an academic advising initiative with a number of work strands to promote the value and importance of high-quality academic advising as a fundamental element of the UCD educational experience. The initiative will facilitate research-informed and evidence-based decision-making about academic advising in UCD.

A total of €475,000 was made available to support collaborative development and piloting of different approaches to academic advising, reflecting distinct advising contexts, student cohorts and disciplinary needs. A call for applications was issued in May 2021, following a competitive process funding was allocated to 17 projects in August 2021. The projects concluded on 31 May 2022.

The projects are now showcases on the [UCD Teaching and Learning website](#) where you can read about what worked well with the different approaches and access resources full of good ideas for implementing academic advising. Some of the projects explored opportunities for leveraging technology to support personalised and flexible approaches to academic advising. A key strength of all the projects was the student-centric approach, with meaningful engagement of students in the design and/or implementation of the projects.



*Dr Mark Coen, Miseon Lee, Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness and Tara Doyle at the unveiling. Photo credit: Ann Lane.*

## ■ Portrait Unveiling

On 11 July 2022 President Michael D Higgins unveiled a portrait of former Supreme Court judge Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness at the National Gallery of Ireland. The unveiling was the culmination of a project that began in April 2019, when Dr Mark Coen, UCD Sutherland School of Law contacted the Director of the Gallery, Sean Rainbird, making the case for the inclusion of a portrait of Judge McGuinness in the national

collection. Dr Coen liaised with the Gallery and with Judge McGuinness herself, and recruited a generous donor, Tara Doyle, who presented the portrait to the nation.

The unveiling was attended by Judge McGuinness' family and friends and by guests from the worlds of law and politics. Several UCD Law alumni, including Mr Justice Gerard Hogan, Mr Justice Michael Peart and broadcaster

Miriam O'Callaghan were in attendance. The portrait, by artist Miseon Lee, has been much admired by visitors to the Gallery since it went on display in July. It is a portrait of Catherine McGuinness the person rather than a formal judicial portrait and is a fitting tribute to her long and varied life of public service, including time as a senator, member of the Council of State and President of the Law Reform Commission.



## UCD Sports Facilities in demand

The National Fitness Games community landed in Ireland for the very first time this Summer and chose UCD Sports Facilities as their preferred host partner. The first of its kind in Ireland, the NFG was an action-packed functional fitness festival hosted across all of UCD Sport's fantastic facilities over a three-day period. Open to all levels of fitness, the games tested the power, endurance, speed and strength of all its participants.

UCD was the venue for the opening of the 41st edition of MayFest, an annual multi-sport activity weekend for people who are blind and vision impaired. UCD Sports Facilities were

thrilled to welcome over 350 participants and their family and friends, and volunteers across the weekend for the first in-person MayFest since 2019.

UCD Sport Facilities welcomed neighbours, Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club for their Summer Festival of Football. A total of thirty teams representing ten GAA Clubs across Ireland travelled to UCD for this prestigious annual event. The tournament put all the skills these young athletes are learning and developing each week into practice in a fun-filled day while ensuring they had an experience that will live long in their young memories.

## Zipp Mobility closes €6.1 million Funding Round

**Zipp Mobility, Ireland's leading micromobility operator, has closed a €6.1 million funding round led by Fasanara Capital, a UK-based asset manager, including follow-on investment from a number of existing investors.**

The funding, a mixture of equity and debt, will be used by the company to expand its e-scooter and e-bike operations in Ireland, UK and in mainland Europe and to expand the Zipp growth and operations team.

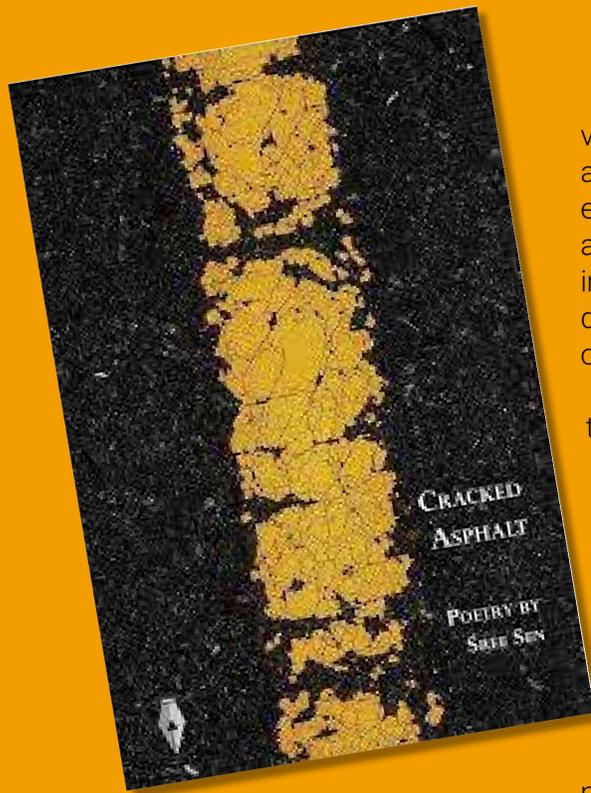
Zipp Mobility, established by Charlie Gleeson, a graduate of the UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business, in 2019 and headquartered at

NovaUCD, is already a significant player in the European micromobility sharing market, having launched e-scooter and e-bike operations in nine cities in the UK, Ireland and Poland. He said: "We are delighted to have secured this significant investment and backing from the Fasanara Capital team and existing investors. It's great to have so many investors who believe in our long-term vision of 'mobility done right'. This funding will help us bring this approach to more cities and provide more people in Ireland, the UK and mainland Europe with sustainable, safe and community-centric micromobility solutions."

Previous to this latest funding round Zipp Mobility, an Enterprise Ireland high potential start-up, had secured a total of €2.1 million from a number private and angel investors including, former Irish rugby international Brian O'Driscoll and Barry Maloney of Balderton Capital, Enterprise Ireland, and through a crowdfunding campaign on the Spark Crowdfunding platform.



# Books



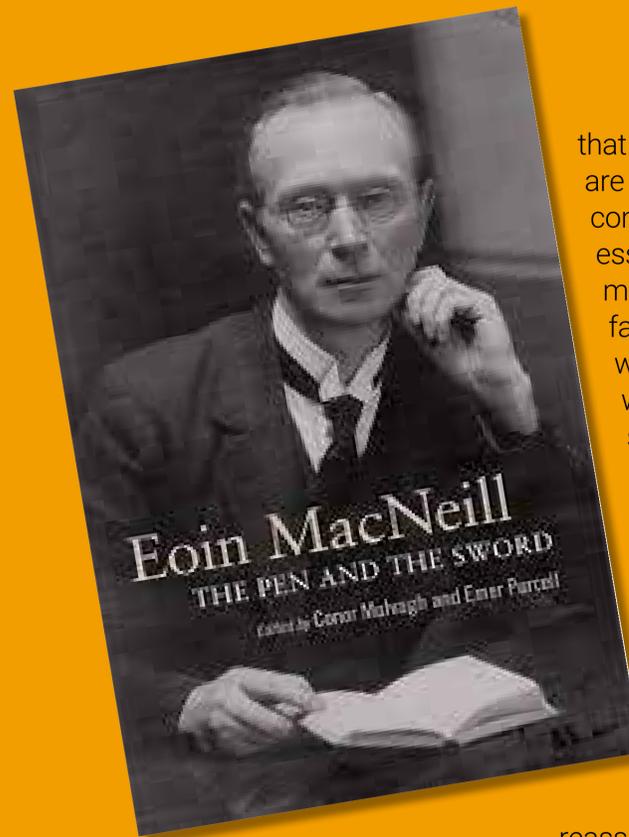
## ■ Cracked Asphalt

**Sree Sen,**  
UCD Global  
**Fly on the Wall Press, 2022**  
**ISBN: 9781913211837**  
**eBook: 978-1-913211-94-3**

The poems in Sree Sen's first book speak with a unique and memorable voice. The distances they chart are both geographical and personal – this book crosses continents and marks the difficult emotions that emerge from this movement. In the opening poem, the mundanity of Dublin street life is set against the sensual immediacy of the Bay of Bengal 'warmed by the tropical sun'. The contrasting details of these physical worlds emerge in the

vocabulary too – that 'racket of non-aligned speech' is, for Sree, vital to her exploration of states of belonging and alienation, which overlap and diverge in complex ways. The poems reflect deeply on these tensions and meditate on our human capacity for change.

In their concern with distance, these poems also explore intimacy. They invoke forms of connection that are lost in the movement across borders, but also acknowledge how closeness can be reclaimed through memory and new encounters. To be a woman in India is to contend with many forms of containment and oppression, but these are not easily left behind. Though the speaker may declare that she is 'free to chop off [her] hair/grown long for men', these poems are unsettled – and unsettling – in their meditation on gendered experience. Challenging familiar lyric forms, Sree experiments with the treatment of poetic space to express notions of freedom and constraint in new ways. In the poem 'white reflects every colour in the spectrum', western culture makes its presence felt in the hard rectangular shape of the text and the dissonance of its accumulated phrases, but spaces open within the poem and images drawn from nature, here and elsewhere in the book, suggest the possibility of renewal and regrowth. These are open-hearted poems, but they treat the inequalities of our world unflinchingly. (Lucy Collins, UCD English, Drama and Film)



## ■ Eoin MacNeill: The Pen and the Sword

**Dr Conor Mulvagh,**  
UCD School of History and Emer  
Purcell, NUI (editors)  
**Cork University Press**  
**ISBN: 978-1-78205-460-3**

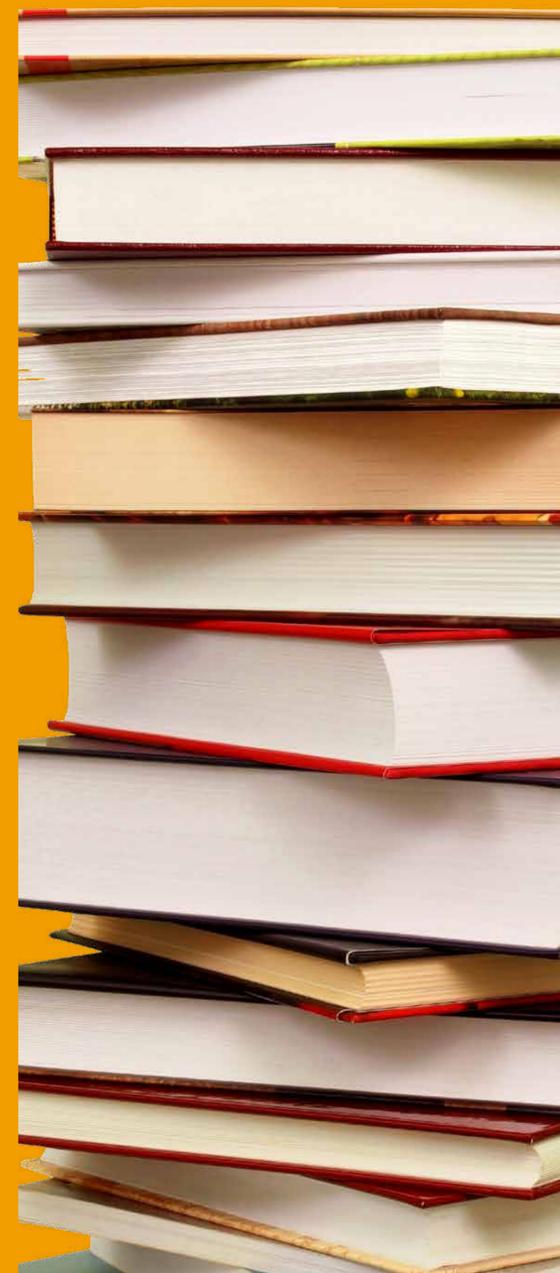
Dr Michael Tierney, a former president of UCD and Eoin MacNeill's son-in-law, wrote of MacNeill that "he was a pioneer historian, and he made history". That duality is reflected in the subtitle of this collection of essays, *Eoin MacNeill: The Pen and the Sword*, edited by Dr Conor Mulvagh and Emer Purcell. The essays which address these aspects of MacNeill's career –

that is, the scholarly and the political – are complemented by essays on his contribution to the Gaelic Revival and essays which explore more private matters, notably his family life. The family was touched by tragedy when MacNeill's second son Brian, who fought on the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War against the provisional government in which his father was serving, was shot dead in September 1922 after being captured in Sligo by the National Army.

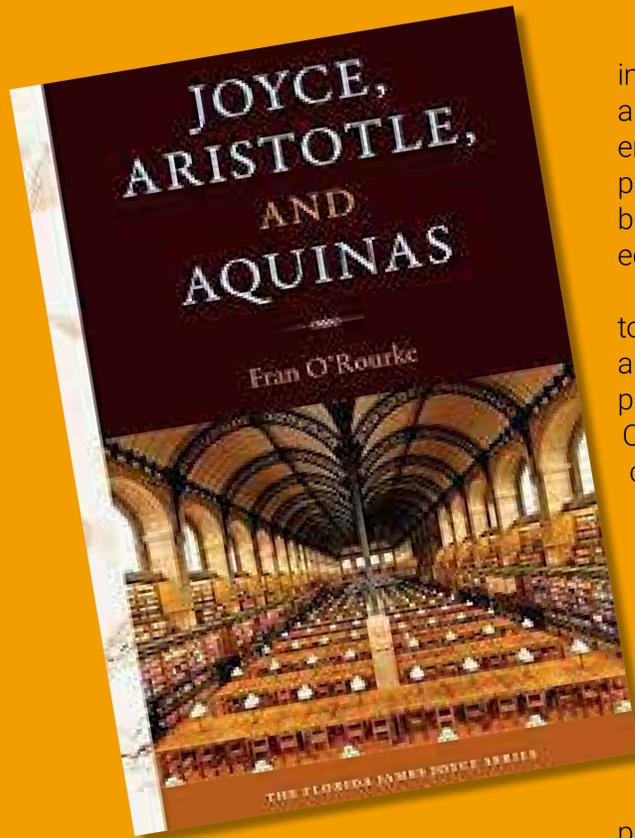
History has not always been kind to MacNeill, as Mulvagh and Purcell point out in their introductory remarks. This volume sets out to reassess his record. On the political front, the verdict in Professor Liam Mac Mathúna's essay is eminently fair: "the Boundary Commission debacle, and even the 1916 countermanding order, are offset by the enduring significance of the two organisations and movements he may be said to have set in motion, viz. the Gaelic League and the Irish Volunteers".

As a scholar, MacNeill is regarded as the founding father of the discipline of early medieval Irish history. This volume reaffirms that evaluation. Associate Professor Elva Johnson, for example, notes how in his writings "antiquarian enthusiasm gave way to the beginnings of history", though she and others in the volume acknowledge that MacNeill's politics coloured his scholarship. His commitment to history as a profession was nevertheless

genuine, and it led to the establishment of the Irish Manuscripts Commission in 1928. Michael Kennedy contributes an essay outlining MacNeill's role as the Commission's principal begetter and its first chairman. Kennedy argues that the Commission is MacNeill's "lasting legacy to historical scholarship". (Felix M Larkin, Alumnus, UCD School of History)



# Books



## ■ Joyce, Aristotle, and Aquinas

**Professor Fran O'Rourke,**  
UCD Emeritus Professor of Philosophy  
**University Press of Florida**  
**ISBN: 9780813069265**

UCD's most famous alumnus, James Joyce, attended a university in which "Aristotelean Thomism enlivened the entire curriculum". Professor O'Rourke has adroitly demonstrated how Joyce's often unsuccessful attempts to answer the key questions posed by Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas have a pervasive influence on his first three prose works and the development of his much-discussed personal aesthetic theory.

Given the formative nature of Joyce's education in Dublin, before his autonomous exploration of Aristotle

in Paris, O'Rourke provides a thorough and vibrant account, not only of Joyce's engagement with and deployment of philosophical principles in his work, but also a lively picture of elite Irish education at the turn of the century.

As present-day readers are unlikely to be familiar with the theological and philosophical ideas that had real primacy in Joyce's work and early life, O'Rourke proves a deft guide when charting the evolution of Joyce's philosophical outlook. In the opening two chapters O'Rourke presents a vigorous critical account of Joyce's engagement with Aristotle and Aquinas, that serves as the foundation for his elucidating discussion of how questions of identity, unity, and permanence, that first emerged in Greek philosophy, animate Joyce's works.

O'Rourke attributes Joyce's literary success to his contemplation of these "perennial mysteries" with "literary imagination rather than philosophical reason". Of particular interest is the argument that Joyce adopts Aristotle's emphasis on analogy as a structural principal in *Ulysses* and that Joyce's recurring conceptualisation of the soul is underpinned by Aristotle and Aquinas's theories. O'Rourke's philosophical explications include close readings of the "Proteus" in *Ulysses* and the debate between St Patrick and the Archdruid in *Finnegans Wake* to reveal how central Aristotle is to the former and that Aristotle and Aquinas only feature tangentially in the latter. The annotated commentary on Joyce's quotations from Aristotle in the *Early Commonplace Book*, will be an invaluable resource for Joyceans and those interested in his relationship with the philosopher. (Niels Caul, UCD School of English, Drama and Film)



## ■ Ruth and Pen

**Associate Professor Emilie Pine,**  
UCD School of English, Drama and Film  
**Hamish Hamilton**  
**ISBN: 978-0-241-39366-6**

This first novel by Emilie is a beautifully drawn story of two different characters, the eponymous Ruth and Pen whose only real encounter is almost by accident. Joycean in its telling over the course of one day in Dublin (with a London cameo), the reader is drawn into their stories, both sad and poignant.

Ruth is a counsellor, married to Aidan, both heartbroken after a series of failed IVF rounds and miscarriage. For anyone who has read *Notes to Self*, Emilie's autobiographical first book, they will understand the poignancy of this

story and the how brave it is to lay it out in such detail. A friend who read this at the same time as I did, had lived through the same experience and was deeply affected by the honesty and rawness of the telling.

Neither Ruth nor Aidan can articulate how they feel, both feel pushed away by the other, neither understanding. Aidan wants to try again, Ruth is exhausted with it. They flirt with other people, more than flirt...

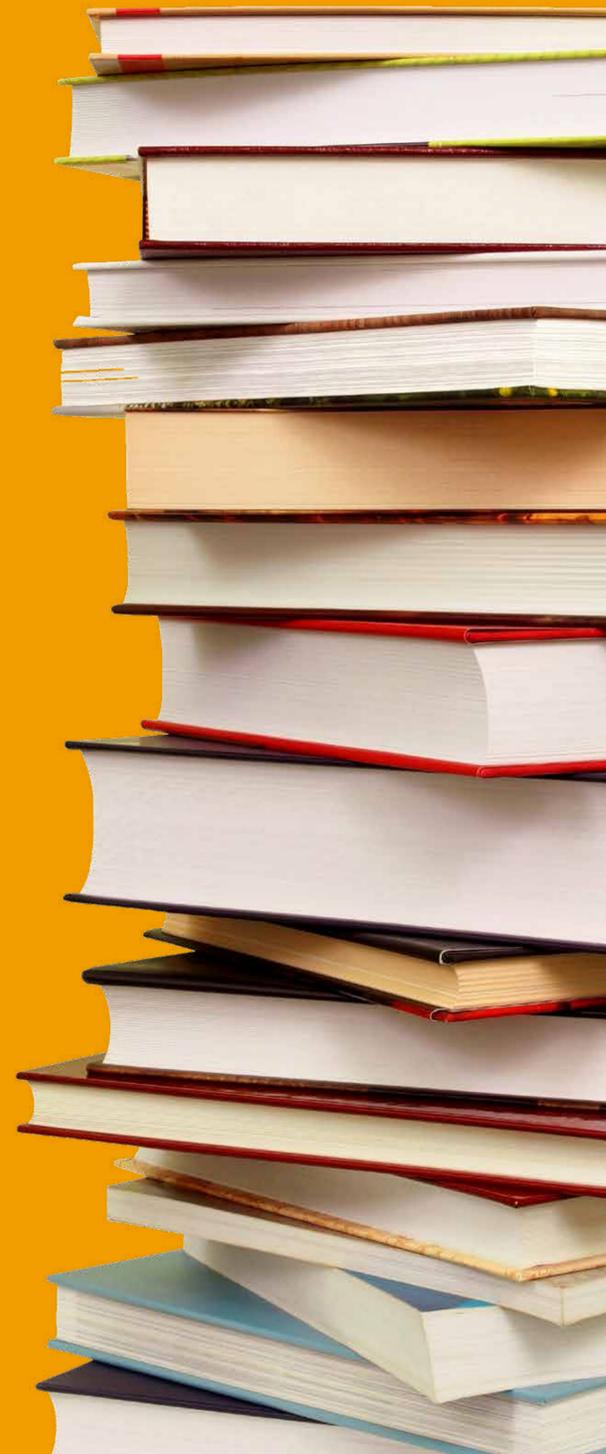
Ruth, wandering around town waiting for a dreaded hospital appointment, encounters Pen and Alice a number of times across the day.

Pen's mum, Claire, lectures in UCD (write about what you know!) and worries constantly about Pen who lives with autism. Pen is deeply in love with Alice and plans to proclaim her feelings on a day they will share the experience of an Extinction Rebellion march. She plans the day meticulously, including a phone map of where they will explore and tickets for a concert. As the day goes on, she feels close to Alice, sure of her love being returned, anticipating their date but there's always an undercurrent of Pen wanting too much and Alice not fitting exactly into the mould she has made for her.

Out of her depth in a noisy pub but sticking to her task, Pen takes her courage in her hands and professes how she feels to Alice. She is so confident of being accepted and having her feelings reciprocated that Alice's reaction floors her and she runs away.

Both women's stories come to a denouement at the end of the book

and both endings really make you think about love and how it can mean something different to everyone. Claire says "You don't always get the thing you wanted... sometimes you get something else instead". Did I enjoy it, yes, I did, I did, yes. **MS**





Ciara Mageean



Israel Olatunde Munich Euro Championships 2022



Mark English Munich Euro Championships 2022.

## Athletics

**Three current and past Elite Sports Scholars had amazing success at the European Athletics Championships in Munich in August.**

Astra sprinter Israel Olatunde is now the fastest Irishman ever, having achieved a new national record during his historic race in the 100m final at the European Championships. The 20-year-old is the first Irish runner to compete in a European 100 metre final, and his time of 10.17 in Munich was just four hundredths of a second away from claiming a bronze medal. Two UCD alumni were medal winners at the same event; Ciara Mageean won silver in the Women's 1500m, while Mark English won bronze in the Men's 800m.

Ad Astra track star Luke McCann claimed a new national record of 2:16.40 for the 1000m at the Monaco Diamond League, beating the Irish outdoor record which had stood since 1996.

At the Brussels Diamond League, Ciara Mageean broke the 1500m national record with a time of 3:56.63. This smashed Sonia O'Sullivan's time which stood since 1995.



Rowing

## Irish Rowing Championships

**UCD Boat Club enjoyed dazzling success at the 2022 Irish Rowing Championships with its rowers winning all four Men's Eight adult races for the first time in the competition's history.**

The historic quadruple win was made sweeter with the Men's Senior Eight claiming their third successive title at the National Rowing Centre in Farran Woods, Cork.

The Men's Senior Eights Champions were: David Joyce, Mikey Campion, Paul Flood, David

Somers, Thomas Earley, Andrew Kelly, Cameron Murphy and Fintan Earley. Cox: Robin Keane.

The UCD Novice Eight won their contest against rivals Trinity College Dublin to complete the historic set of wins following victories in the Men's Intermediate and Club Eights.

In total, rowers from both the UCD Ladies Boat Club and the UCD Boat Club won 46 tankards and six national titles over the course of the three-day event – with the Women's Intermediate Eight retaining following their 2021 win.

## American Football

UCD American Football were crowned Shamrock Bowl Champions for the first time ever in early August. The Club's historic season ended with a convincing win of 52-24 against Dublin Rebels. The Club were invited to carry out both the Irish flag and the American flag for the opening ceremony of the recent Aer Lingus College Football Classic game in the Aviva Stadium.

American Football - Shamrock Bowl Winners



## International Hockey at UCD National Hockey Stadium

The UCD National Hockey Stadium hosted an exciting week of international hockey with the Ireland's senior women's squad facing Japan on four occasions as part of final preparations for July's World Cup.

In addition, UCD's National Hockey Stadium also hosted the Under-23 5 Nations tournament with Ukraine, the Netherlands, USA and India competing, making for 17 international fixtures in total. A tournament representative said: "We are

delighted to be able to support a tournament that gives talented young players the opportunity to compete at international level at a great venue like the UCD National Hockey Stadium".



Ukraine national anthem U23 Uniphar 5 Nations, Ukraine v United States of America at the National Hockey Stadium, UCD Belfield

## UCD Soccer Reunion - China Tour 1976

The UCD Soccer Club visited China when the Club's 1975/76 freshman squad toured the Far East over a five-week period in 1976. The tour was organised by coach and aspiring sports administrator Tony O'Neill (The Doc) and was led by the President of the Club David Andrews TD. The tour captain was Paddy Dwyer from Drogheda.

The tour itself took on even more historic significance when, shortly after the team's arrival, Chairman Mao, founder of the People's Republic of China, died at the age of 82. China was plunged into official mourning and went on high security alert in case of foreign attack.

It's a mark of the historic nature of the tour itself, the impression it made on the 18 and 19-year-old student players, and the respect for Tony O'Neill who went on to make such a mark on all sports in UCD, that 23 of the 24 playing squad travelled from all parts of the globe to attend the 46-year reunion with officials from UCD Soccer Club in the O'Neill Bar in the UCD Student Centre, which was coordinated by Dominic O'Keefe and the team from UCD Student Services and Facilities.

It was on this tour of the Far East and subsequent tours that Tony found inspiration for many of the sporting initiatives he introduced to UCD, most notably the Sports Scholarships.



China Tour 1976 Reunion Team

## Early-Stage HR Start-Up Wins NovaUCD's 2022 Student Enterprise Competition

**strive, an emerging HR start-up, was announced as the overall winner of the 2022 NovaUCD Student Enterprise Competition winning a €5,000 cash prize.**

strive is focused on providing higher quality information about career opportunities, transparency, and data driven insights to empower students to find careers they are truly passionate about and to enable employers to improve retention rates and hire better suited candidates for their organisation.

The members of the strive team are, Saoirse Kelders, who this year completed her studies in the UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business, Raena McElwee, who this year completed her studies in the UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics along with Yevhenii Mormul and Aness Al Qawlaq, both undergraduate students in the UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and Sean Hughes.

The NovaUCD Student Enterprise Competition, an intensive 4-week mentoring programme now in its 8th year, is run by NovaUCD, as a framework to support undergraduate and postgraduate students who want to work together to develop and grow start-up companies.

The aim of the competition is to assist the participating students in refining their start-up ideas through a series of structured workshops, including taught content from industry experts, interactive workshops, regular pitching sessions and mentoring.

Ten early-stage student ventures and 24 participants took part in year's competition and over 60 early-stage ventures and nearly 150 students have now completed the competition over the last 8 years.

strive was declared overall winner of the competition following final pitches to an external judging panel. Two other participating ventures, Trust Homes and ELTC.earth, were announced



*Pictured (l-r) at NovaUCD are strive team members, Aness Al Qawlaq, Saoirse Kelders and Sean Hughes.*

as second and third place winners and received €3,000 and €2,000 cash prizes respectively. The 7 other early-stage ventures taking part in this year's competition each received a €1,000 cash prize for completing the programme.

The sponsors of the 2022 NovaUCD Student Enterprise Competition were, AIB, Arthur Cox, Deloitte, Ericsson, Goodbody Stockbrokers and Xilinx.

## Interprofessional Education Student Challenge

**UCD is part of Universitas 21 (U21), an international network of 28 universities that collaborate with the shared aim of sharing resources and ideas to the mutual benefit of their students and staff. Within this group, the Health Sciences Group is a more specific global network of Health Sciences staff and students from 18 member universities worldwide, again with the overarching aim of collaboration through information exchange and resource sharing along with research.**

This Universitas 21 Health Sciences Group, specifically the Interprofessional Education Sub-Group, runs a three-week [Interprofessional Education student challenge](#) each summer, allowing international trainee health professional students from participating universities to come together and gain experience of working together on a collaborative project. This year the project explored a very topical theme: 'How can we improve health equity and prevent the next pandemic?' The project enrolled over 50 students internationally to work together on specific components of this theme, with students from UCD involved for the first time this year.

The specific aim with this summer project is to promote inter-professional learning and collaboration, highlighting the values this type of approach can afford.

The student teams worked together virtually to formulate evidence-based recommendations for improving health equity around the globe, delivering their outputs via five-minute video presentations which you can [listen to here](#). The students had the opportunity to share their experiences with other teams and discuss their projects at a final session which also featured a keynote presentation by Dr Sudhvir Singh, Technical Officer, Equity and Health, Department



of Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organisation.

UCD was represented by six students from schools in the College of Health and Agricultural Sciences, including Ruth Gardiner, Biomedical Health and Life sciences, Farhana Nabi, Graduate entry Medicine, Sue Yee Goh, Medicine joint RUMC-Penang programme, Zahra Jabir Abdullah

Al Lawati, Undergraduate entry Medicine, Elmira Somosierra, Nursing and Naoise Fitzwilliam, Physiology. Elmira Somosierra was on the [winning team](#) this year, with other UCD students being part of groups that were highly commended by the judging panel.

When asked for feedback from this year's participants, Elmira Somosierra commented about the experience saying, "[It] has inspired me to look at ways of improving our countries' healthcare systems, to grow and become a global citizen and a healthcare professional in the near future." Sue Yee Goh, spoke of it having "certainly been a rewarding experience. I remember the initial excitement ... I met my teammates, comprising like-minded individuals who are equally, if not more passionate about public health topics."