

# UCD today



15. EXPERT ENGINEERS

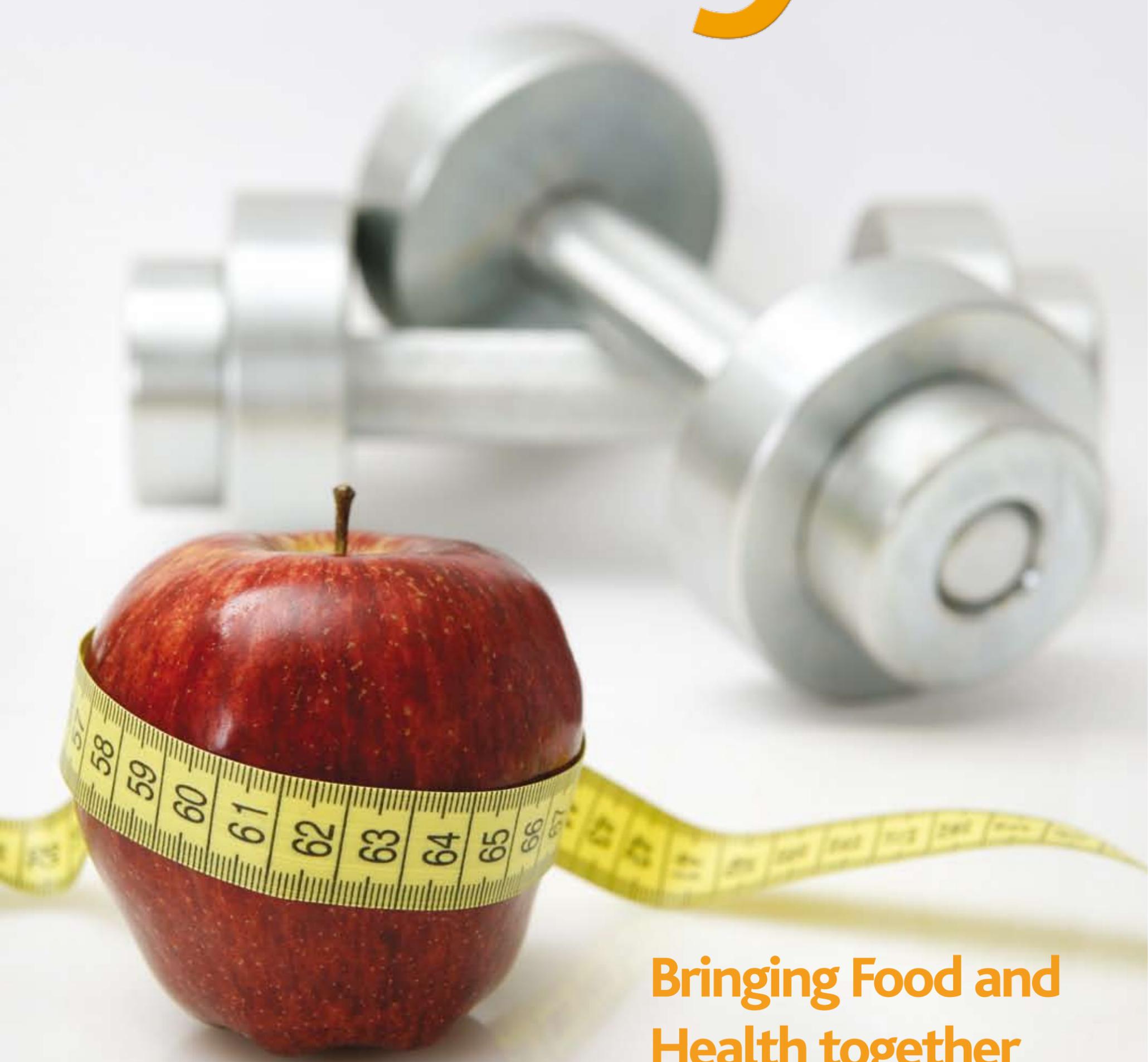
UCD's electrical expertise

10. STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Shaping international student life

7. DINOSAUR HUNTER

New discoveries from the Sahara



## Bringing Food and Health together

New Institute to inform food production and guide public health policy

# what's inside...



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**15** Professor Orla Feely (pictured here) talks about being honoured as the first Irish woman to become a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

## Using web well...

Check out the topics on any good marketing communications conference programme and you'll find titles on "ignore online at your peril", "trust in business blogging", "web offers performance-based advertising model". The days of measuring column inches or cost-per-thousand viewers are diminishing and the 2008 US presidential election campaigns famously exploited online tools to their maximum advantage. The communications channels have changed and so too must the presentation of the message.

This principle holds true in the planning of external communications for a university. We have monitored the rapid movement of undergraduates to online channels – *remember just a few short years ago when they all filled out their CAO on paper forms*. Graduate students and young researchers are already ahead of the curve when it comes to web.

Consequently, when we undertook an audit of academic websites throughout the university last summer, we did so with a view to assessing their effectiveness as a channel of external communication, looking specifically at design, navigation and most importantly, content.

But long before visitors land on school or college pages, they hit the UCD homepage. There is no doubt that strong 'real news' stories from UCD with attractive images and catchy headlines bring in readers. However, the original central design simply wasn't working hard enough or at multiple levels.

The challenge was to create a sustainable communications channel that projects our three goals – recruit students, build community and promote expertise. The content is specifically created to draw in the reader – increasingly using audio and video footage.

The options for embedded links are endless but the principle of clean, logical navigation is maintained.

The homepage communications channel aims to project quality and excellence. The research showcase is just that – an opportunity for academics to spread their enthusiasm and ideas to a wider audience. Already, the clips on tackling environmental changes are on YouTube and Bebo. The channel is dynamic in nature and will change every two months. The next step is to launch a podcast channel offering visitors the best of speakers on the widest of topics.

**Eilis O'Brien**  
Director of Communications



Screenshot of new UCD homepage design

### Cover Image

Currently, obesity costs the EU an estimated €32.8 billion each year. According to the latest Department of Health Report, 66% of Irish adults are overweight with close to 25% per cent being defined as obese (Dietary Habits of the Irish Population, 2008). It is estimated that 50% of Europeans will be obese by 2050. The interplay between nutrition, genetics and physical activity will be scrutinised in the new UCD Institute of Food and Health, which aims to catapult UCD's expertise onto a wider national and international platform and inform the public and policy-makers alike.

## UCD thanks...

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# Bringing Food and Health together

Sometimes collaboration can be more than the sum of its parts. That's the thinking behind the UCD Institute of Food and Health. Its director, Professor Mike Gibney tells Claire O'Connell how by bringing together strands of food and health research from across the campus and beyond, the Institute aims to catapult UCD's expertise onto a wider national and international platform and inform the public and policy-makers alike.

Heading up the initiative brings Professor Gibney full circle in a career that began in UCD and has seen him become an internationally renowned and respected figure in nutrition.

It all started with a primary degree in agriculture at UCD's Glasnevin site at Albert College, followed by a Masters in agricultural chemistry. From there, Gibney crossed the globe to the University of Sydney where he taught in the veterinary school and earned his PhD on the digestive physiology of newborn lambs.

Soon after coming home, he moved from agriculture into human nutrition, working at Southampton University and Trinity College Dublin, and he moved to UCD in 2006. "It has been a great fit," says Professor Gibney, explaining how food and health research in UCD had grown since his days as a student.

"If you look at it historically, when I was here in the late 1960s and early 1970s, UCD was absolutely focused on agriculture. It was primary production, it was farming. There was forestry and horticulture there too, but it was largely about output," he says.

Then in the 1980s, the food science element started to develop. "Now the emphasis was on not only how many pigs and chickens you could rear but what happened in food processing," explains Gibney. He watched with interest as UCD made appointments around the turn of the century that brought food and health together.

"Cecily Kelleher was appointed as professor of public health medicine [and epidemiology], Pat Wall was appointed to her area and Séamus Fanning was appointed professor of food safety," he notes. "Then there were lectureships, including my daughter Eileen, who was appointed a lecturer in nutrigenomics."

So when UCD started a thematic recruitment scheme in 2006, Gibney took the opportunity and became professor of food and health.

"I saw that this would be a very attractive thing for me to do," he recalls. "I thought a

change would be good and I come to UCD and go from farm to fork, the whole food chain, and that's fantastic for me."

Now Professor Gibney has brought that research chain together under the umbrella of the UCD Institute of Food and Health, consolidating the seven academic "pillars" of food safety, production, regulation, nutrition, science, biosystems and consumer issues. "On their own they are all good, but UCD had reached a point where in order to be internationally competitive it really has to get cohesion in food and health, bring this group together and have a vision for where we are going to go in the next five years and five years after that. The situation could have stayed as it was, but it will marshal itself far better now."

The Institute aims to promote food and health within UCD, on a national level and in the international community, notes Gibney, describing how the new Institute is benchmarked against world-leading research at the University of Reading, the Technical University of Munich and the University of California, Davis.

"Within food and health we are trying to be as excellent as we can. And we are looking at where we can put together large multi-disciplinary teams and address issues outside us," he says.

Current areas include analysing food intake in Ireland, understanding how consumers perceive food risk, teasing out the interactions between food and genes, developing functional foods for the future and a collaboration with the UCD Earth Systems Institute to log the carbon footprint of the Irish diet.

"So many things connect with food and health," says Professor Gibney. "And we want people to see that food and health is probably one of UCD's very big strengths."

*Claire O'Connell (BSc 1992, PhD 1998) is a freelance journalist.*

## Irish waistlines are expanding

It's estimated that a quarter of adults here are now obese. That's undoubtedly spurred on by an increasingly "obesogenic" environment, where cheap and available food combines with a sedentary lifestyle to pile on the pounds. But how can we tackle that trend? In part by addressing the built environment, according to Professor Mike Gibney, Director of the UCD Institute of Food and Health.

"We are looking at the built environment to see how physical activity and obesity are linked to the way we design buildings," he says.

"If you have obese people that go from five to 75, if you were to stop obesity in the morning it would take 70 years for those five-year-olds to die off. Now if in fact obesity is not being cut off then it follows that you are going to have obesity for 100 years. So if you

were going to design a school or office, would you not say how do we incorporate aspects of a built environment that are useful."

"I should be able to press a button and bring a desk up so that at least I stand. There should be simple things I can do in an office environment to improve physical activity. We have a meeting bike – eight people sit on it, they all pedal, one person steers and has the brakes. We don't exactly have the climate for it but there's no reason why meetings can't be occasionally held outside."

"Physical activity is absolutely vital. Without physical activity we are all kidding ourselves."



*Trevor Sargent TD, Minister of State for Food and Horticulture and Prof Mike Gibney, Director of UCD Institute of Food and Health on the Institute's meeting bike*

## Genes, diet and health

How do genes and diet interact to influence health? Can we use gene technology to tackle obesity and heart disease? Those were some of the questions addressed by the five-year EU LipGene programme, which saw 22 organisations from 10 European countries collaborate.

Co-ordinated by Professor Mike Gibney and Professor Helen Roche from the UCD Institute of Food and Health, the EU-funded project looked at the metabolic syndrome, a cluster of symptoms that increases the likelihood of diabetes.

The results, discussed at a public meeting in UCD in December, found that a diet high in saturated fat is associated with the metabolic syndrome, and switching to mono-unsaturates

and fish oils can have a positive impact on health, but an individual's genes affect the impact of the changes in diet.

Meanwhile gene technology could help improve the profiles of fat in our diets: LipGene has developed plant seeds that can produce the marine omega-3 fatty acids DHA and EPA, which are thought to support heart health in humans. The project also boosted the healthy fat profile of milk by feeding dairy cows a rapeseed supplement high in a monounsaturated fatty acid.

If EU consumers switched to such products, 15,000 early deaths from heart disease and stroke across the EU could be saved each year, according to the researchers.

## Austin Clarke – Collected Poems

A newly edited and corrected edition of *Austin Clarke – Collected Poems* with Clarke's original Notes restored, edited by R Dardis Clarke, was officially launched in November at UCD Newman House.

Throughout much of the twentieth century, Austin Clarke created poetry of passionate, idiosyncratic modernity, rooted in place and time, universal in its resonance. His first book of poetry was published in 1917, and his last in 1971.

Challengingly elliptical or as robust and earthy as folk tradition, Clarke's poetry dares the terrors of the damaged soul. Thomas Kinsella described his later poems as 'wickedly glittering narratives... poetry as pure entertainment, serious and successful'.

Austin Clarke was born in Manor Street on the north side of Dublin city in 1896. He was educated at Belvedere College and won a scholarship to University College Dublin, then in St Stephen's Green, where he obtained a first class honours BA (1916) and a first class honours MA in English with a thesis on the plays of John Ford (1917).

"Clarke holds a unique position in Irish literature because his work is so deeply embedded in native tradition of the early and medieval period, his sensibility so expressive of the Catholic conscience and so directly engaged with Irish life in his later years," said Maurice Harmon in *The UCD Aesthetic, Celebrating 150 Years of UCD Writers* (2005).

"The city of Dublin from the relaxed Edwardian era, through the excitement of cultural and nationalist revolution, to the uncongenial modern period of middle-class supremacy is strongly represented in his work, continued Harmon. "Throughout his career he was a committed craftsman with the result that his technical skills are varied and exemplary. In the areas of moral analysis, psychological investigation and social engagement he has left work of outstanding achievement, marked by compassion and understanding."



*Pictured at the launch of Austin Clarke Collected Poems, were (l-w) Thomas Kilroy; Seamus Heaney; R. Dardis Clarke; Brendan Kennelly*

## Irish State and Diaspora - Centenary NUI O'Donnell Lecture

"There were, and are, few Irish families without direct experience of emigration," said Professor Mary Daly, Principal of the UCD College of Arts & Celtic Studies, at the Centenary NUI O'Donnell Lecture in November 2008.

In her lecture, *The Irish State and the Diaspora*, she examined how successive Dublin governments have interacted with the Irish overseas – some 80 million diverse individuals internationally who claim Irish descent.

Mass emigration from Ireland predated the foundation of the State, and the diaspora played a role in the struggle for independence - making it an internationally-reported media story and cause for fundraising. In describing the early policy of the new State, Professor Daly noted, "...from the beginning it trod a slippery line on emigration: exploring the practice, while not criticising individual emigrants, and reaching out to the Irish overseas."

Professor Daly elaborated on the chronology of relations between the State and its diaspora in terms of citizenship and rights, and explored cultural and economic implications. In particular, she dealt with the question of emigration and identity in respect of Northern Ireland, and also the impact of the Donnelly and Morrison visas in the 1980s.

Considering more recent history, Daly stated, "Interest in ethnic origins and identification with ethnic communities has grown rapidly in recent years – it is a product of global travel and new digital media, and the fashion for tracing family origins – in many ways it is a consequence of the mobility and lack of geographical and community roots in the modern world. This renewed interest in the mother country has promoted new efforts by Ireland to connect with this diaspora."

In her conclusion, Professor Daly commented on the new ethnic groupings in Ireland, "The emergence of these diasporic communities in Ireland, with their complex and sometimes contradictory loyalties and identities should help to promote greater awareness of the complex loyalties and identities that result from migration beyond the nation state."

The annual National University of Ireland (NUI) O'Donnell lecture deals with themes in Irish history and literature. The first lecture was given by Micheline Walsh on the subject of *The O'Neills in Spain* in 1957.

In 2008, the National University of Ireland celebrated the centenary of its establishment under the Irish Universities Act 1908, and the granting of its Charter in December of that year.

## Canadian Studies seminar and appointment

Professor Vera Regan, UCD School of Languages & Literatures has been appointed as a Director to the Ireland Canada University Foundation. Established in 1993, the Foundation aims to encourage and facilitate links between scholars in Ireland and institutions and scholars in Canada.

Professor Regan's appointment comes after the Seventeenth European Seminar for Graduate Students in Canadian Studies was held in the UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland in autumn 2008.

Twenty-five graduate students from Poland, Russia, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom and Ireland presented research papers and discussed current issues in Canadian Studies. Topics ranged from *Converging or diverging health care policies in Western Canada (1990-2007)* through to *The topic of Palaeo-Eskimo shamanism and the so-called Dorset miniature carvings and Achieving safe, liveable communities*. In attendance were Presidents of Canadian Studies Associations throughout Europe, as well as officers in the European and International Councils of Canadian Studies.

## Building IT infrastructure

Students and staff will have faster and better access to the internet, as UCD becomes the first Irish university to connect to HEAnet, the National Education and Research Network, at 10 Gigabit per second (Gb/s). Previously UCD connected to HEAnet at 1 Gb/s.

As well as future-proofing for bandwidth requirements, the development means that researchers will have a better resource at their disposal. For example, 10Gb/s connectivity allows the equivalent of the entire 20 terabytes of published material in the US Library of Congress to be transferred in a little under 5 hours.

Other expansions to UCD's information technology capacity were showcased at an IT Services event *Connecting Research and Learning Through Technology* in December 2008, which demonstrated the collaborative teaching and learning, and research technology available.

During the event, the attendees toured three new technology-enabled spaces, the *Teaching and Learning space*; the *Collaboration and Visualisation space*; and the *Flexible Learning space*. Attendees also visited the *Research IT Data Centre*, which was recently expanded to host the Stokes ICHEC supercomputer and UCD's own High Performance Computing (HPC) cluster. The 'Stokes' ICHEC cluster was listed as 116th on the November 2008 top 500 list of fastest supercomputers worldwide. UCD has purchased 11% of this cluster for use by UCD researchers on a first come basis.

## New science facilities at Belfield

The first phase of the UCD Science Centre was officially opened in December. Up to 60 researchers are working in the space, on diverse areas of chemical research including new anti-cancer agents and the recycling of carbon dioxide as a fuel.

The new 4-storey facility was developed at a cost of €6 million, following a total refurbishment of one part of the chemistry building, originally developed in the 1960's. The complex was funded through a combination of PRTL 3 and 4 funding, combined with additional UCD Research and UCD College of Life Science funds.

The newly-developed building houses the latest technology to ensure excellent air quality while meeting the new guidelines for building energy conservation. The façade exceeds building regulations in terms of air tightness and insulation and is 40% more efficient than a traditionally constructed building.

The ground floor provides bio-nano science space which is characterised by its flexibility of design to accommodate different research requirements. The first, second and third floors comprise wet chemistry labs with each researcher provided a fume hood, piped gases and write up space. The facility is occupied by

researchers in synthetic chemistry and bio-nano science.

The project started in early spring 2007 and acted as a testing ground for the €450 million redevelopment of the entire UCD Science Centre. During the official opening, UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady unveiled the latest concept designs by RKD Architects for the transformation of science facilities in UCD.

The next phase, Science South, comprising 6,300 sq. meters is funded under PRTL 4 and will include facilities for research programmes in biopharmaceutical sciences and bio-nano science, and host the UCD Institute of Food and Health.



*UCD Science Centre*

## US Presidential Inauguration

### Visiting students celebrate Obama inauguration

UCD's American student community watched the inauguration of US President Barack Obama at a welcome reception hosted by UCD Centre for Study Abroad. The inauguration was viewed live on a big screen at the Astra Hall in the UCD Student Centre.

The event was attended by 150 Study Abroad visitors, who are students at UCD's partner Universities in the USA - including Georgetown University, Boston College, University of Notre Dame, Fordham University,

Princeton University, Rutgers University, Boston University, and University of San Francisco. The students are studying Arts, Business, Science and Agriculture for a semester at UCD.

The UCD Centre for Study Abroad was established in 2008 to develop Study Abroad Programmes throughout the university and to provide visiting students with a first-class social and cultural experience during their time at UCD.



Visiting American students watch the Inauguration of US President Barack Obama

## Professor Robert Schmuhl on the American Presidency

The possibilities and perils of America's highest political and governmental office were examined in historical terms and within contemporary realities by Professor Robert Schmuhl, Chair in American Studies and Journalism at the University of Notre Dame, in a hard-hitting public lecture at UCD.

In his lecture, entitled *The Splendid Misery of the American Presidency*, Professor Schmuhl

outlined how the American Presidency has changed since the 18th century, and why recent White House occupants have found governing so difficult. He also examined what is legitimate to expect from US presidents, and what qualities characterise effective presidential leadership.

The public lecture is part of the UCD John Hume Institute public lecture series, curated

under the general rubric of "Communication, knowledge and the citizen in the global environment". The lecture series is intended to provoke public interest, engagement and debate on a number of themes implicit in the rapid transformation of and access to the communication and transmission of knowledge.

Professor Robert Schmuhl is currently John Hume Visiting Research Fellow at University

College Dublin. He is Walter H. Annenberg-Edmund P. Joyce Chair in American Studies and Journalism at the University of Notre Dame, and Director of its John W. Gullivan Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. He is a respected teacher and author on the subjects of American communications, political culture, and contemporary national affairs.

## Fish "fingerprinting"

The marine waters of the Atlantic and the Irish and the Celtic Seas surrounding Ireland contain a surprisingly rich and still poorly understood diversity of life. Ireland's freshwater lakes, reservoirs, rivers and waterways are also home to complex fish communities resulting from the interplay between native and introduced species.

Angling in Irish coastal and inland waters makes one of the most significant contributions to water-based leisure activities, and plays an important socioeconomic role for many communities. Yet, as new evidence is gathered, it becomes apparent that there is still much to be learned about Irish aquatic biodiversity.

Researchers at UCD, in the group led by Dr Stefano Mariani of the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science, are working with the Central Fisheries Board, to introduce DNA technology to identify species, populations and hybrid forms of a number of fish that are of great interest to anglers, fishermen and

conservationists. Many fish species, in fact, are virtually indistinguishable to the human eye, despite independent evolutionary history separating them. Furthermore, in certain conditions, they can hybridise, further complicating identification.

To identify the species, a tiny piece of tissue from a fish (a scale, or a clip of skin) is required, and the appropriate molecular genetic methods are applied. This way, the true identity of a species – or a diverged population, or a hybrid crossing – can be ascertained. Current research at UCD is helping identify the occurrence and the extent of hybridisation between species of cyprinids (roach, rudd, bream) or between endangered shad species (twaiter and allis). Work on marine species is focusing on the provenance of sea bass market samples and the identification of smooth-hound shark species for the purpose of both fisheries management and angling records.

IRCSET PHD Scholar Edward Farrell holding a female specimen of starry smooth-hound shark caught off the Wexford coast. A tag is also visible on the dorsal fin



## European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics

Dr Simon Dobson, UCD School of Computer Science & Informatics, has been elected to be one of the three vice-presidents of the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM).

ERCIM brings together the major ICT research labs across the EU to provide a single voice for influencing EU research policy, acts as a broker for forming proposal consortia, and provides project management for successful proposals, with an annual budget of over €24m.

ERCIM also runs a number of working groups to help co-ordinate research across Europe, with UCD taking a leading role in the recently-formed Sensor Web group looking at integrating sensor networks into wider distributed systems.

Dr Dobson is involved with the ERCIM Structural and Strategic task groups.

## Taoiseach launches major study of the Ireland-EU relationship

*Ireland and the European Union* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008) is a major new study of Irish-European relations by Professor Brigid Laffan, Principal of the UCD College of Human Sciences and Jane O'Mahony, from the University of Kent. It provides a rich account of Ireland's membership of the EU and the impact of the EU on the institutions, policy and economy of Ireland.

In the first decade of the 21st Century, Ireland was portrayed as a successful EU member state, a showcase of European integration.

The Taoiseach said that the book, "...reminds us that Ireland's relationship with Europe is not a success just because of what we got from Europe, but rather what we were able to achieve through and with Europe. It reminds us that the decision of the people in 1972 to join the European Economic Community, as it was back then, was fundamental to securing Ireland's economic and political independence. It traces back the original thinking about membership and how it was driven by a new national economic vision and confidence," said An Taoiseach Brian Cowen TD who officially launched the book in Dublin on 08 December 2008.

"This book ably demonstrates how our membership of the European Union has greatly enhanced our international standing and our ability to act on the matters of most concern to us on the international stage," continued An Taoiseach.

*Ireland and the European Union* outlines how Europeanization can not be understood from a top-down institutional perspective, nor can it be properly interpreted as a process of influence deriving from European decisions impacting on the policies, political and administrative structures of member states. It argues that Europeanization can only truly be understood as a 'process of structural change, variously affecting actors and institutions, ideas and interests'.



Pictured at the launch of *Ireland and the European Union* is An Taoiseach Brian Cowen TD

## Protestants, print and Gaelic culture

UCD secured funding from the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences under a Project Grants scheme in Theology and Religious Studies, in conjunction with the Department of the Taoiseach, for a three-year research project entitled *Protestants, print and Gaelic culture in Ireland, 1567-1722*.

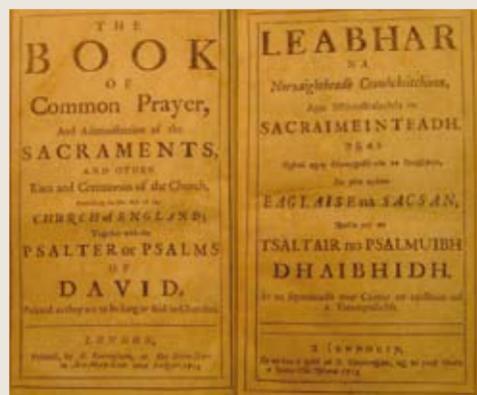
The prestigious and competitive research award was made to the Director of UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland, Dr Marc Caball, who received €194,000.

A key objective of the research project is to deepen knowledge and understanding of a common historical inheritance which so far has little informed processes of ecumenical and political rapprochement and reconciliation on the island of Ireland.

The project investigates a critical episode in Irish religious and cultural history during the early modern period: the use of print in Irish for Protestant evangelisation. Beginning with the publication of John Carswell's Gaelic version of the *Book of Common Order* printed in Edinburgh in 1567, a remarkable and now largely obscured Protestant programme of translation of devotional texts was undertaken. In particular, the publication of the Irish translation of the New Testament in Dublin in 1602 and the much delayed publication of William Bedell's Old

Testament in Irish in London in 1685 represent extraordinary achievements in this Protestant evangelical engagement with print and the Irish language.

However, this textually-productive amalgam of reformation ideology, print technology and Irish has been largely overlooked by subsequent historians and its legacy overshadowed by the sectarian and ethnic controversy engrained in the Irish historical experience. The project aims to re-evaluate and offer new interpretations of an unparalleled meeting between native and newcomer in early modern Ireland.



John Richardson's Irish version of the *Book of Common Prayer* (London, 1712). Courtesy of UCD Library Special Collections

## Romanticism, violence and nature

Guinn Batten delivered the most recent UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland (HII) Distinguished Lecture in December. Batten, Associate Professor of English at Washington University at St Louis (Missouri), is a renowned scholar of modern Irish poetry and has published widely in this field as well as in the area of English Romanticism. Her monograph *The orphaned imagination: melancholy and commodity culture in English Romanticism* (1998) is considered a seminal work of analysis.

Addressing a large audience at the Humanities Institute, Professor Batten delivered a lecture entitled '*Feeling into Wordsworth: romanticism, violence and nature in Heaney and Lacan*'. During the course of her talk, she investigated the ambivalent legacies of a Romanticism that, on the one hand, celebrates a childhood in proximity to nature while it also, on the other, seeks to establish an

ethos (the legacy of the Enlightenment) of egalitarianism based on mutual, neighbourly self-restraint.

Professor Declan Kiberd chaired the lively discussion which followed the lecture. Dr Batten held a Fulbright Fellowship in the UCD School of English, Drama and Film during the autumn of 2008. Along with her husband, Professor Dillon Johnston, Dr Batten founded the Wake Forest Press University Press which is the major publisher of Irish poetry in North America.



From (l-r): Prof Guinn Batten (Washington University); Dr Marc Caball (Director, HII); Prof Declan Kiberd (UCD School of English, Drama & Film) and Dillon Johnston (Wake Forest University Press)

## UCD project to examine Newman's legacy

A new research programme, *John Henry Newman: Global and Local Theologian*, has been launched by Dr Jimmy Devins T.D., Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation.

The programme, which will explore Newman's legacy from historical, theological and scientific perspectives, received €119,000 funding from the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) under a Project Grants scheme in Theology and Religious Studies. The work will be conducted through the UCD International Centre for Newman Studies (Newman Centre), under the direction of Dr Pádraic Conway, and will consider Newman's work from historical, theological and scientific perspectives. It will comprise four strands.

The first strand will examine Newman's Dublin writings during the period 1851-58. It will demonstrate how the Dublin period played a pivotal role in both the establishment of Newman's distinct theological identity and in the defining of Irish religious, cultural and civil

identity for the remainder of the nineteenth and into the twentieth century.

A second strand will examine the relationships between the theologies of Newman and George Tyrrell, the Dublin-born theologian, the centenary of whose death falls on 15 July 2009. Dr Andrew Pierce of the Irish School of Ecumenics, Visiting Fellow at the Newman Centre for 2008-09, will deliver a Tyrrell Centenary Lecture to mark the anniversary of his death.

Strand Three will examine Newman's relationship to the First and Second Vatican Councils, as well as making a significant contribution to contemporary debate on the precise significance of Vatican II.

The fourth strand will examine the relationship between Newman and his contemporary, Charles Darwin, addressing key questions in the religion-science debate. This exploration will be led jointly by Dr Pádraic Conway and UCD Conway Institute neuroscientist, Professor Ciarán Regan.

Pictured at the launch of the research programme *John Henry Newman: Global and Local Theologian* were, (l-r): Dr Pádraic Conway, Director of the UCD International Centre for Newman Studies; UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady; Dr Jimmy Devins T.D., Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation; and Prof Brigid Laffan, Principal of the UCD College of Human Sciences



# Dinosaur Hunter

Next time you buy a book for a child, choose carefully. You might put them on a career path that takes them half way around the world. UCD PhD student Nizar Ibrahim tells Louise Holden how the childhood gift of a dinosaur book kicked off a fascination with vanished creatures that has captivated him ever since.

"I already loved animals, their diversity, their adaptations. But something about dinosaurs really captured my imagination," says Ibrahim, now a third year PhD student in the School of Biology and Environmental Science in UCD. "They were so different from anything alive today. In the old days, explorers travelled around the world to discover new species of living animals. Dinosaurs offer the chance to make new discoveries from a different age."

Ibrahim was born to German and Moroccan parents, grew up in Berlin and was educated in a French school. Over the next few years his passion for ancient life never faded and over the course of his adolescence he began to hatch a plan that would unite his love of dinosaurs with his desire to travel to remote areas of the globe.

UCD PhD student Nizar Ibrahim

The young Nizar left school with six languages. His next conquest was to perfect the language of dinosaur scholarship.

"I left Berlin to study geology and biology at the University of Bristol, because it was a good spot for palaeontology," Nizar explains. Throughout his undergraduate years he fashioned his research plan to go to the Sahara desert in search of new frontiers of palaeontological discovery. He was drawn to the virgin ground of the Sahara that had awaited scrutiny for millions of years.

"I love the detective work, the travelling. Because of my background I love to work in different countries, with scientists from around the world, so I was happy to follow the dinosaur trail," he says.

The first dinosaur descriptions were made in England and North America and those areas have been extensively sampled since. The fossil records of Australia and South America are also expanding, albeit more gradually. For various socio-political and geographical reasons, Africa remains one of the least explored palaeontological areas in the world.

After completing his undergraduate degree course he applied immediately to do a PhD, hoping that someone would help him to discover the secrets of the Sahara.

"You need research money to go to the desert," he admits. "I searched for a university that would be prepared to send me there." Nizar secured the funding at UCD, and he is now a third year Ad Astra PhD student within the School of Biology & Environmental Science.

With a mandate to proceed with his quest, Nizar continued the process of preparation that began when he was four years old. He collected extensive data on dinosaur ecosystems, visiting museums in Paris, Chicago and Ottawa. He visited the region and studied detailed maps to ascertain and prepare for the challenges of the dig. Political instability has hampered biologists and geologists in the Sahara before.

"We would be searching in a military zone on the Moroccan/Algerian border. There was no internet or telephone and limited water. We had to be well prepared."

One of his colleagues on the expedition, Dr David Martill of the University of Portsmouth, had first-hand experience of this challenging terrain. In 1984, violent sandstorms thwarted his search for a Saharan dinosaur. The site that Martill had identified for exploration was within

sight when impassable conditions brought his project to an end.

At 26, Nizar is a young Principal Investigator but, with his background research complete and an expert team in place, he felt ready to advance his project.

The team comprised scientists from University College Dublin, the University of Portsmouth and the Université Hassan II in Casablanca. Over the course of an eventful month, they discovered hundreds of bone fragments; part of the beak of what appears to be a new genus of pterosaur; a metre-long leg bone from a previously unknown giant plant-eater, as well as dozens of dinosaur footprints. The mission had exceeded all expectations.

**We would be searching in a military zone on the Moroccan/Algerian border. There was no internet or telephone and limited water. We had to be well prepared.**

Bringing home the treasure was not without its special effects. Indiana Jones has been blamed for giving the occasional student a false impression of the exploratory sciences, but in Ibrahim's case, the parallels are striking. The team covered a thousand miles in a Landrover through the Atlas mountains, braving sandstorms, floods and military zones, and relying on the help of local camel herders.

Extrading the giant sauropod meant crossing a flooded river by moonlight, crossing the Atlas mountains in a severe snow storm and carrying the massive sauropod bone down a mountain on a wooden stretcher. Occasionally the weight of the bone overcame the Landrover and the explorers were forced to proceed on foot.

"At times we weren't sure how we would get the bone home, but I never considered leaving it behind," says Ibrahim. "From our initial examination on site, we're almost certain that we have a new species of sauropod on our hands." Ibrahim will now examine the fossils in UCD as preparation for his PhD thesis, before the bone is repatriated back to Morocco. It looks as if the pterosaur is also a new genus and species.

Ibrahim will have the honour of naming the new species and in future, young dinosaur lovers may even marvel over a "Nizarsaurus" just as Ibrahim was inspired by the Tyrannosaurus twenty years ago.

*Louise Holden (MEd 2008) is a journalist with the Irish Times.*

## The Story Connected to the Thigh Bone

A metre-long leg bone from a plant-eating giant of the Sahara has arrived at UCD. The sauropod bone, found in the Sahara Desert, is significant for a number of reasons. The bone suggests that its owner was around 20 meters (65 feet) in length and a plant eater - a rare discovery in the Cretaceous rocks of Morocco.

So far, the Saharan dinosaur ecosystem is proving unusual, says the finder of the sample, UCD PhD student Nizar Ibrahim. "We have found evidence of many large predators, similar to *Tyrannosaurus rex*, and some flying reptiles and crocodiles. However, we have so far found very few plant eaters in North Africa. In most dinosaur ecosystems, predators account for a very small percentage of the overall population. This part of the Sahara has so far revealed the opposite ratio dozens of specimens of meat eating dinosaurs for every fossil of a plant eater."

The question of what the predators fed on is intriguing. Ibrahim plans to collect more data to find out whether this ratio is a real biological signal or not.

The bone almost certainly belongs to a previously undiscovered species, a fact that Ibrahim will set out to prove in the laboratories of UCD as part of his studies in the School of Biology and Environmental Science.

Another spectacular sample found on the month-long Sahara dig was a large fragment of the beak of a giant flying reptile, or pterosaur. Pterosaur finds are rare because their bones are light and don't preserve as easily as the bones of dinosaurs. There have only been three or four significant pterosaur finds in Africa to date, and this latest is thought to be part of a previously undiscovered genus.

Ibrahim and his team also found hundreds of dinosaur teeth, samples of giant crocodiles and turtles and new species of fish. "It's amazing to think that millions of years ago the Sahara was a lush green tropical paradise, home to giant dinosaurs and crocodiles. It gives one an overwhelming sense of deep time," says Ibrahim.



# Qualified to lead

Dr Jennifer Craig tells Jane Suiter how she balances her many roles as CEO of UCD spin-out company Berand Neuropharmacology.

Dr Jennifer Craig is an incredibly youthful looking CEO, yet she has more qualifications behind her than many twice her age. Head of Berand Neuropharmacology is also one of the few female chiefs at the UCD's Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre, NovaUCD.

As a UCD undergrad Craig had wanted to be a pathologist, but was stung by a lecturer's comments that perhaps "science was not for her". "I think that comment actually spurred me on," she laughs. By the time she graduated, she had found her niche in physical chemistry and in particular, molecular modelling. "I just loved it," she says, "and I found that research project in my final year really got me interested in pursuing a career in Science."

**Much of Berand's own research is focussed on autism and obesity. While it may seem like an odd combination to the lay person, Craig says it appears that the same drug strategies may work on both. "We are trying to discover new drugs by examining alternative applications for existing drugs, or overlooked therapeutics."**

Determined to continue with her studies, she entered into the world of biosensor design with Professor Robert O'Neill in the UCD School of Chemistry & Chemical Biology. "You really had to fight for a place on that team," she recalls, noting how she immersed herself in the work, which involved examining polymer coatings on brain sensors. The idea was that they would allow real-time management of brain function following car accidents or other trauma. Peer-reviewed publications followed, providing international acclaim of Craig's PhD work and consolidated her position as a research scientist.

For a time Craig continued down the traditional route of post-doctoral research where she was involved in some lab management. This time it was the management aspect she enjoyed. Soon she was offered a job as project manager of the Applied Neurotherapeutics Research Group based in UCD Conway Institute. It was one of the first groups to be funded by SFI to the tune of €10.2 million and was run between UCD, TCD and Wyeth Discovery Research and involved managing some 46 people in multidisciplinary teams. "I loved the job - particularly the business end."

Motivated by the role, Craig went for a position on the MBA Programme in the UCD Smurfit School of Business and within weeks, for the first time since school, she was studying non-scientific subjects. "It was a huge challenge, I had not written any essays in years but it was worth it."

The benefits extended beyond the course. Her group in the MBA programme still act as a sounding board for one another. "It's a lonely job being a CEO, you often have to take quite big decisions and the group is a great support mechanism."

Not long after she graduated another opportunity arose. Her former employer, co-ordinator of the Applied Neurotherapeutics Research Group, Professor Ciaran Regan had set up a UCD spin-out company Berand Neuropharmacology to carry out research and development and niche contract research for pharmaceutical companies. Wanting someone at the helm he obviously felt Craig would be ideal and she joined at the beginning of 2007 and Berand located in NovaUCD at the same time.

The company now has several large clients and employs six full time staff, up from three when she joined. All split their time between contract research for larger corporations such as pharmaceutical companies and the company's own research. At the moment the split is about 80:20 in favour of contract research but Craig says she is determined to tip this ratio back to about 50:50.

**At the heart of the approach is an in-depth understanding of the mechanisms regulating brain function which when dysfunctional contribute to the emergence of brain disease and thus how novel drugs may be developed to facilitate the brain's adaptive ability to overcome disease.**

Much of Berand's own research is focussed on autism and obesity. While it may seem like an odd combination to the lay person, Craig says it appears that the same drug strategies may work on both. "We are trying to discover new drugs by examining alternative applications for existing drugs, or overlooked therapeutics."

In obesity research, the company focus is on binge eating and behaviours associated with this that lead to repeated failures by individuals attempting to lose weight. The core symptom

of social withdrawal has been the focus of research for novel autism therapeutics, this being an area of unmet clinical need. Initial tests throw up the possibility of using novel compounds which are normally used in cancer treatment. At the heart of the approach is an in-depth understanding of the mechanisms regulating brain function which when

**Keeping an ear to the ground of the scientific and business communities, as well as understanding the practical issues faced by potential clients allows us to understand and address the issues facing the sector.**

dysfunctional contribute to the emergence of brain disease and thus how novel drugs may be developed to facilitate the brain's adaptive ability to overcome disease. Although at an early stage, she stresses that successful proof of concept studies have been carried out to date.

The contract research focuses on behavioural pharmacological research in neurological conditions, such as depression and schizophrenia, and degenerative brain diseases caused by the loss of neurons in Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease. Much of it concerns characterisation and proof-of-concept of proposed new drugs that are at the preclinical/clinical stage of development.

Craig relishes the role which she says is both hugely challenging and rewarding. "You have to be very adaptable, you need management skills, people skills and flexibility - a small company is quite different from a more formal corporate environment. You don't have IT or HR or Finance people so you need to be able to do a bit of everything as well as management accounting, finance and business planning. I could never have done it without the MBA."

Crucially she says she also needs to be able to understand the research and what it is that the client needs. Her scientific background enables her to quickly establish credibility and get to the heart of the client's requirements.

"The solution we provide is unique and can be tailored to meet the client's specific needs. This means our solution is not only more cost efficient but also provides results in a quicker more efficient manner which allows clients to focus on later stage development and have more cost effective research programmes in house," says Craig.

"Keeping an ear to the ground of the scientific and business communities, as well as understanding the practical issues faced by potential clients allows us to understand and address the issues facing the sector."

*Jane Suiter (BA 1989) is a financial and economics journalist.*



Dr Jennifer Craig

## UCD economists on Ireland's financial challenges

A conference on the Irish economic situation was hosted by Colm McCarthy of UCD School of Economics, who along with other UCD economists and colleagues from TCD, NUI Galway, Davy Stockbrokers and SocGen Paris, presented papers dealing with the government's current budget deficit, the property market and the banking crisis.

The conference which took place on 12 January was attended by over 200 people including senior civil servants, leading Irish economists and politicians. At the conference, participants highlighted the linkages between the property market collapse, the banking crisis and the rapid deterioration in public finances.

Commenting on the event, Professor Rodney Thom, Head of the UCD School of Economics said: "This conference, originally suggested by

Professor Brigid Laffan, Principal of the UCD College of Human Sciences, demonstrates both the agenda-shaping role of UCD's School of Economics and our commitment to serving the wider community of which we form part. We are delighted with the impact of the event, reflected in the standing-room only attendance and the cooperation we received from other Irish universities and the private sector. If the conference reached any conclusion it is that Ireland's current difficulties cannot be underestimated and there are no simple solutions. Tough decisions have to be made on public expenditure, taxation, public sector pay and competitiveness. There is light at the end of the tunnel but the way forward will be difficult and painful. In conjunction with academic, public and private sector colleagues, the UCD School of Economics has made a significant contribution to this debate and will continue to use its expertise to assist in resolving the crisis".

## UCD historian at Gladstone celebrations

2009 marks the bicentenary of the birth of Liberal statesman and four-time British Prime Minister, William Gladstone (1809–1898).

The bicentennial celebrations commenced with a seminar at the Foreign Press Association in London. The seminar was addressed by Lord Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the British Labour Party (1983–1992) and UCD historian Professor Richard Aldous, whose recent books include *The Lion and the Unicorn*, a double biography of Gladstone and Disraeli.

St Deiniol's Library is leading the series of events. The Library, which now houses 250,000 volumes, was founded by Gladstone in 1894 near his home in Hawarden, North Wales, with 32,000

of his own books. It is the UK National Memorial to Gladstone.



Pictured at the seminar to launch the bicentennial Gladstone celebrations, were (l-r): Prof Richard Aldous; and Lord Hattersley



## Hidden Treasures of UCD

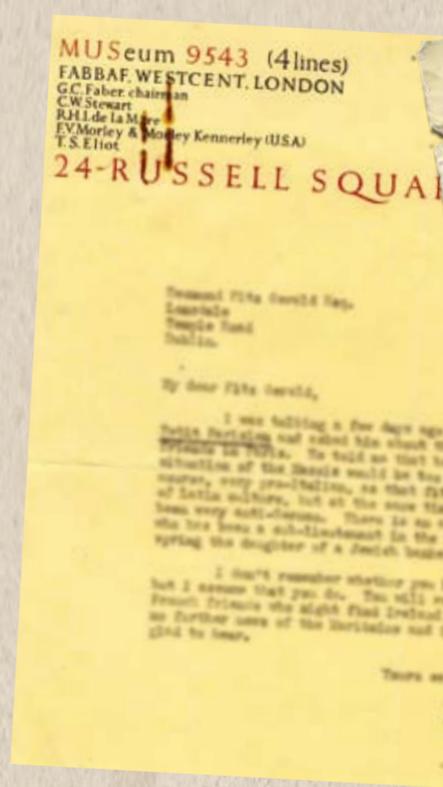
### Correspondence from T.S. Eliot and Ezra Pound

UCD Archives specialises in the acquisition of private paper collections associated with the history and development of the modern Irish state. These collections are consulted primarily because of government positions held by the individuals concerned, or political or cultural organisations in which they were involved. However they often shed light on other aspects of an individual's life and work.

Desmond FitzGerald, father of former Taoiseach Garret FitzGerald, served as Minister for External Affairs (1922–27) and Minister for Defence (1927–32) in the early Free State governments. He married Mabel McConnell, a Belfast Presbyterian who had worked in London as secretary to George Bernard Shaw and George Moore. Besides a large amount of papers relating to Desmond's ministerial positions, the collection contains much correspondence with a wide circle of literary and intellectual friends.

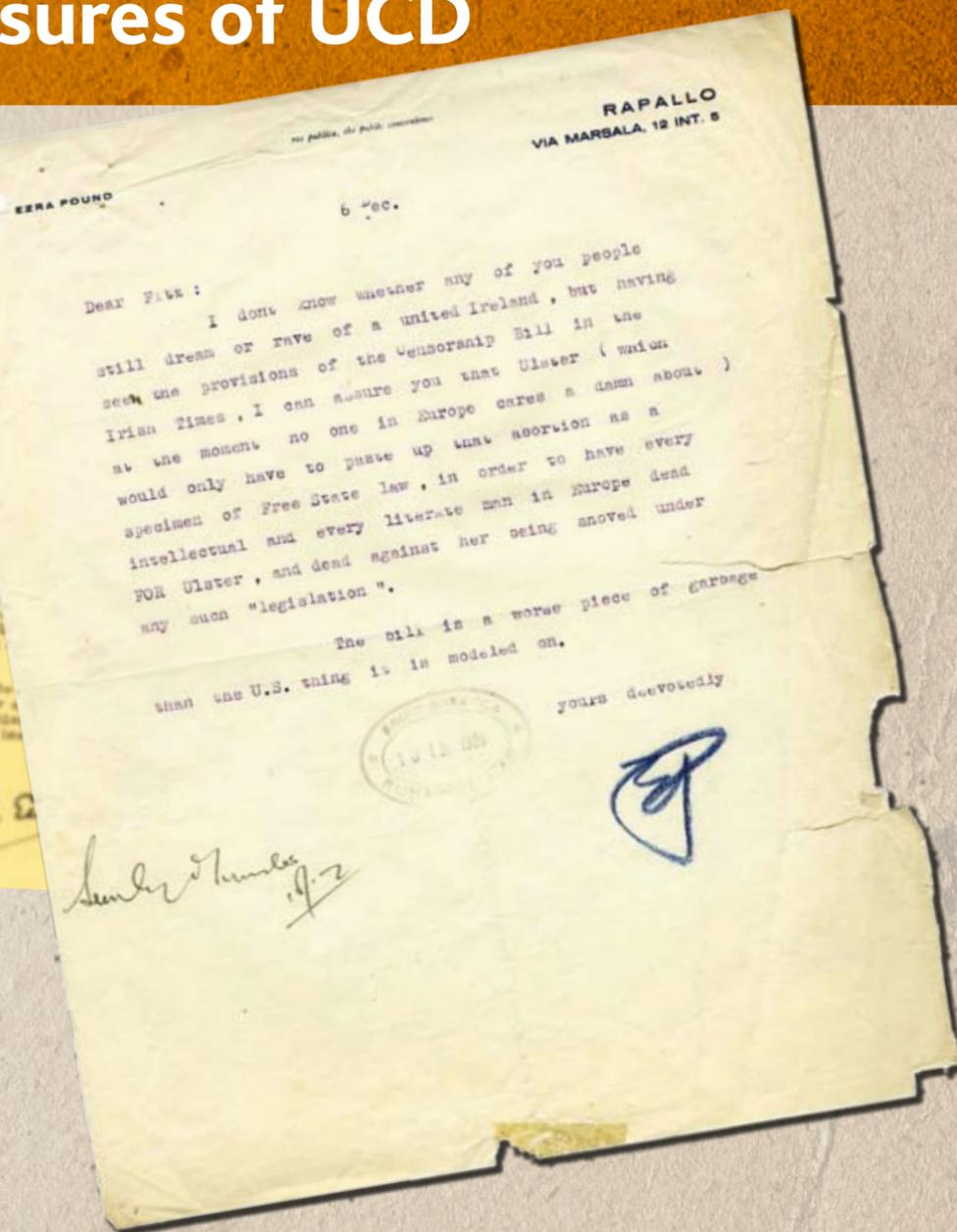
In the examples shown here, Desmond defends his position on censorship to Ezra Pound, and T.S. Eliot discusses the plight of French friends in occupied France in 1940.

The Pound/Fitzgerald correspondence is friendly and humorous but Pound is shocked by the 1928 Censorship Bill, writing that 'The bill is a worse piece of garbage than the US thing it is modeled (sic) on' (6 December 1928). Fitzgerald writes a detailed response defending his position arguing that 'Here there is a proposal to put the matter in the hands of a Committee who will be enlightened and who will carry



authority amongst the less enlightened' (13 December 1928).

Whilst the letters from Eliot to Fitzgerald mainly discuss literary matters, he expresses concern about the situation of the right-wing, pro-Italian writer Henri Massis who has 'an added difficulty for his son who has been a sub-lieutenant in the French Air-Force married this spring the daughter of a Jewish banker' and recalls Fitzgerald's 'conversation about French friends who might find Ireland healthier than France' (29 July 1940). Eliot is grateful to Fitzgerald for pointing out 'the difficulties in the way of getting our French friends out of the country, to which of course is added the difficulty of finding out which friends need the most to get out' (12 August 1940). In the same



letter he writes that 'I do not know of any cases which strike me as so urgent as that of Raissa Maritain [a Jewish convert to Catholicism], but there are so many people of whom I have no information at all'.

Learn more about UCD Archives at [www.ucd.ie/archives](http://www.ucd.ie/archives)

# Putting it down to student experience

Dr Martin Butler, UCD Vice-President for Students, speaks to Rob Lowney about his 'journey of discovery', and the importance of the student experience.

Cardinal John Henry Newman defined a university as "a place where students come from all quarters for all types of knowledge", and it is within this context that Dr Martin Butler, UCD Vice-President for Students, maintains his vision for what students should experience at UCD, and what type of person they should be after graduation.

As the ultimate custodian for the UCD student experience, Dr Butler is responsible for all aspects of student life – societies, sport, health and welfare, and student facilities. However, it is not from within these areas that his journey began: "My journey was as an academic, of thirty years standing in the Quinn School of Business. I was dreadfully conscious that when a student comes to UCD, there's an experience they should have, and there's an importance that we, as an institution, provide for all eventualities.

## There's an importance that we, as an institution, provide for all eventualities.

"Bereavement, poor health, financial difficulties and personal problems are just some of the things that can adversely affect a students' academic and personal experience while at university. We have to make sure that the safety nets are in place."

The position of VP for Students was created in 2004, shortly after current UCD President Hugh Brady took office. It was the first of its kind in any Irish higher education institution, and the first post-holder, Professor Mary Clayton (UCD School of English, Drama & Film) established its importance within the university, as a means of ensuring that "safety nets" were in place. Upon entering office in 2007, Dr Butler sought to develop this further.

"I sat down one evening and wrote. The blank canvas was 'journey of discovery', and beside that I wrote down what I thought a student should get while they're here at UCD. Some way in the context of what Cardinal Newman defined as a university. I identified twelve deliverables from us to all types of student."

"It starts off with knowledge; a doctor needs to know how to doctor. And then skills come next. But there's a whole range of items below that. For a graduate leaving here, what should they have? For certain, they should have an appreciation of research, they should have an understanding of lifelong learning. We should give them values while they're here, we should give them an understanding of tolerance, we should give them a feeling they can make a difference."

"These are things that we as educators, need to pass on to our students. We need to teach them more than just the knowledge and the skills. There are other aspects of their development, of their education, that we need to provide for."

Dr Butler speaks highly of his days in the UCD Quinn School, and credits it enormously in helping him in his current role. As the school's director, Dr Butler spear-headed the shift from large class sizes to small group learning, and introduced community engagement as an opportunity for students to earn credits.

## We need to teach students more than just the knowledge and the skills. There are other aspects of their development, of their education, that we need to provide for.

One might wonder how a person from the perceived 'cut-throat' world of business adapted to the more holistic role of VP for Students, but Dr Butler brings with him many of the UCD Quinn School's lessons: "the importance of revenue, the importance of a business model, and that things can be done."

He cites the development of the Student Learning, Leisure & Sports Facility as an example of "looking outside the box", with the combination of university and student money underpinning it – "to a certain extent, that would be the entrepreneur from the business world coming out."

Over the past two years, Dr Butler has become highly involved in NASPA, an association of student affairs administrators. NASPA, an American organisation, represents approximately 1,400 institutions, with countries outside of the US enjoying affiliate status.

Dr Butler does not downplay its importance: "It's the professionals who work in the student experience, it's their association. I felt it was absolutely vital that I work with them, engage with them on the issues are they discussing; It's of comfort to know that the issues they're addressing, we're also addressing here. We can get their perspective on them."

Dr Butler encouraged NASPA to adopt a more international approach, and secured a voice for European members on the association's board. Becoming Europe Director, he now "needs to represent Europe at the deliberations, to bring the European perspective to the NASPA board."

Arising out of this involvement, UCD will host the first NASPA European conference in summer 2009, "an opportunity to showcase UCD to the international community, for them to see what we're doing, and for us to learn from them."

Of particular interest to Dr Butler at the moment is the need to identify the quality of student services in universities overseas, which links into his work with NASPA: "Internationalisation in itself is something we need to embrace as a university. But alongside that, we now need to ensure that when

students embark on their international journey, that the same supports are in place."

He points to the AACBS international academic accreditation attained by the Quinn School, and says, "maybe there is a need to develop an international accrediting body for student services. So when you look up the web and decide 'I'd like to go to that particular school', you can see if it is academically accredited, and also if it is student experience accredited."

It's clear that were such an accreditation body to exist, UCD would rank highly within it. In tandem with the development of the role of VP for Students over the past few years, UCD's student services have improved greatly. Dr Butler speaks of his pride over how the various stakeholders who work within the student area have come together as a team, "to support students on their journey of discovery."

## We now need to ensure that when students embark on their international journey, that the same supports are in place.

He believes this student experience team has had an impact on each and every UCD student. "The response I get back to my fortnightly email is encouraging. Like the recent political slogan, "A lot done, more to do", I think we've got to keep working at this. I think as we move into the next phase of the economy, there's going to be a huge challenge on UCD to maintain the morale of students, to maintain the spirit of community."

With such a challenge ahead, and with two years as VP for Students behind him, is Dr Butler feeling weary?

"Weary? No, it wouldn't be my style to be weary. I'm invigorated by it, I'm enthused by it, the team keep me going. The challenge is



huge. I think the rewards are huge. The rewards are in the smile you get at graduation from somebody when you say, "Did you enjoy your time at UCD, was it challenging, was it rewarding, was it what you wanted it to be?", and they say yes. I think that will keep us going."

*Rob Lowney is a former editor of The University Observer*



*UCD Vice-President for Students, Dr Martin Butler*

## Tanzanian schools to benefit from UCD computers

They are thrown away because they are too slow or won't run the latest applications. However, for students in Tanzania learning basic computer skills, older computers can provide a vital learning resource.

186 old computers were recently collected by UCD staff for Tanzanian schools. These will have major impact on the lives of the children who receive them. Working with Camara, a specialist charity whose mission is to enhance the educational system in Africa by using Irish technology resources, UCD Volunteers Overseas (UCDVO) plans to establish at least four computer labs in Tanzanian schools.

By supplying basic refurbished computers, skills development software and e-learning programmes (including HIV AIDS awareness resources) each computer lab will become a key

resource for the schools involved. In time it is planned that UCDVO members will travel to Tanzania to support the ongoing establishment of new labs and training of local teachers. To ensure the equipment is valued and protected, schools which participate in the scheme have to make a small contribution for each computer.

The chairman of UCDVO, Professor Jim Phelan, UCD School of Biology & Environmental Science, is a regular visitor to Tanzania through his work in rural development. "I see this initiative as having many benefits both for the Tanzanian schools, and UCD students and staff who volunteer. By establishing a longer-term educational initiative such as this we hope to have a sustained impact in a small region of this vast country."



Camara staff work on some of the 186 old computers collected by UCD staff for schools in Tanzania

## Dublin James Joyce Journal

The UCD James Joyce Research Centre, with the National Library, has launched the *Dublin James Joyce Journal*.

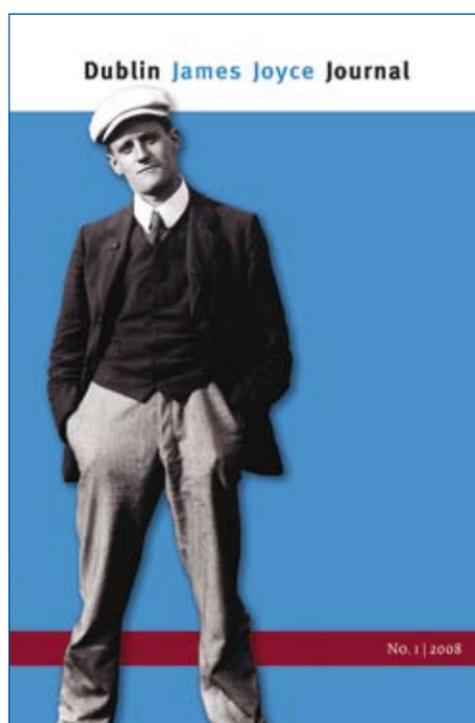
Co-edited by Dr Luca Crispi and Professor Anne Fogarty, the new journal will showcase the ongoing work of the UCD James Joyce Research Centre and especially concentrate on archival, historical, and textual research that draws on the rich resources of the National Library.

The *Dublin James Joyce Journal*, to appear annually, is the first Irish journal wholly devoted to the writing of Joyce.

The inaugural issue encompasses work by Irish and Dublin-based scholars, including Christine O'Neill, Stephanie Rains, C oil n Owens, Terence Killeen, Malcolm Sen, Anne Fogarty, and Fintan O'Toole. The subjects addressed range from the identity of Alfred H. Hunter, the historical model for Leopold Bloom, and Joyce's attitude towards the Orient, to the Araby bazaar, the critical views of Niall Montgomery, one of Joyce's first Irish readers and commentators, and the geopolitics and monumental history of Dublin.

Professor Fogarty was awarded the first Charles Fanning Prize for excellence in Irish Studies by the Southern Illinois University, Carbondale in November 2008. She gave a

formal lecture to members of the Faculty of Arts and the Department of English on the occasion and was presented with a medal.



## Research to improve quality of Frozen Foods and Meat

Consumers could look forward to better-quality frozen foods and meat that is more tender, thanks to UCD Biosystems Engineering research.

Professor Da-Wen Sun, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine has been awarded with research funding of €1.14 million for two major grants from the EU and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The EU 7 Framework Project "MINICRYSTAL – Method for Improving the Quality of Frozen Foods by Assisting the Freezing Process and Reducing the Size of the Ice Crystals" is based on UCD technology of ultrasound-assisting freezing, developed by Professor Sun. With previous funding from the UCD President Research Award, and the SFI Research Frontier Programme, Professor Sun and his team have shown the promising ability of using power ultrasound to initiate ice nucleation and to control crystal size distribution in the frozen food product during immersion freezing process, leading to shorter freezing time, increased freezing efficiency and improved product quality. The aim of this project is to design and

develop a prototype system for its industrial validation in food freezing facilities, which will be cost-effective, easy to operate and readily integrated with commercially available freezing equipment.

The *Food Institutional Research Measure* (FIRM) project "Rapid, Objective and Quantitative Determination of Meat Quality by Non-Destructive and Non-Contact Hyperspectral Imaging System" is one of three successful UCD projects funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the recent round of FIRM programmes. This new FIRM project is in collaboration with Teagasc Ashtown Food Research Centre and holds a total grant of €835,519, of which UCD shares €676,919. It will expand the research beyond the visible light range by adapting a hyperspectral imaging technique to develop a novel screening imaging system that will be able to assess the quality of meat, especially tenderness. The system will be a rapid, non-destructive and non-contact system and will be of great interest to both industry and consumers.

## Safeguarding infant nutritionals

Over the past two decades, Ireland has become one of the world's leading producers of infant nutritionals, producing 15% of the world's powdered formula supply. Ireland's grass-based production system makes it a unique natural location for this industry, enabling a close collaboration between dairy producers and the manufacturing industry.

All powdered infant formula is manufactured and tested under strict regulatory guidelines requiring the manufacturers to operate to the highest standards. All formulations are carefully developed and evaluated before they become available commercially. Extensive analytical and microbiological testing, tailored for each individual product, is carried out at each stage of the process.

The primary concern of powdered infant formula manufacturers is to ensure the highest level of quality and food safety associated with their products. Manufacturers recognise the serious threat posed by *Enterobacter sakazakii* (*E. sakazakii*), a rare bacterial cause of life-threatening neonatal illnesses.

As part of a Department of Agriculture-funded *Food Institutional Research Measure* programme, the UCD Centre for Food Safety, in collaboration with Teagasc and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) have worked with industry in Ireland and have developed protocols that improve the real-time detection and surveillance in the manufacturing environment. These developments contribute to a reduction in the spread of the bacterium, along with improvement in the quality and safety of the final product.

At the first International Conference on Cronobacter (*Enterobacter sakazakii*), held in UCD in January 2009, experts from academia, the food industry, food regulators and public health specialists, came together to discuss the issues related to the bacteria.

The conference, which was coordinated by Dr Carol Iversen with Professor S amus Fanning, welcomed attendees from Ireland and the UK, and also the Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

*Pictured at the 1st International Conference on Cronobacter (Enterobacter sakazakii), Were (l-r): Dr Peter Ben Embarek, World Health Organisation (WHO), Geneva; Dr Carol Iversen, UCD Centre for Food Safety; Mr Alan Reilly, Food Safety Authority (FSA) Ireland; and Prof Seamus Fanning, UCD Centre for Food Safety*





UCD Science hosted an interactive stand showcasing some of the latest UCD research as part of Irish Universities Promoting Science (IUPS) at the 2009 BT Young Scientist Exhibition. Primary school student, Seání Williams, is shown here looking at the hydrogen powered car that formed part of a demonstration from the UCD SFI-funded Solar Energy Conversion Research Cluster

## Oscar Nomination for UCD graduate

A UCD Film Production graduate has been nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Short Film category.

New Yorker, Stephanie Green wrote and directed *New Boy*. Adapted from a short story by Roddy Doyle, the 11-minute film humourously conveys how a nine year old boy deals with xenophobia and bullying when he enrolls in a new School in Dublin.

Stephanie has worked successfully on several productions in Ireland and the US since

graduating from UCD in 2002 with MA in Film Studies.

The industry links of the UCD School of English, Drama & Film were further strengthened recently, when Dr Harvey O'Brien (Film Studies) was elected to the Board of Directors of the Irish Film Institute. The Irish Film Institute is one of the most active cultural bodies in Ireland, dedicated to the preservation, presentation and promotion of film culture in Ireland.

## Bursaries support students' international work experience

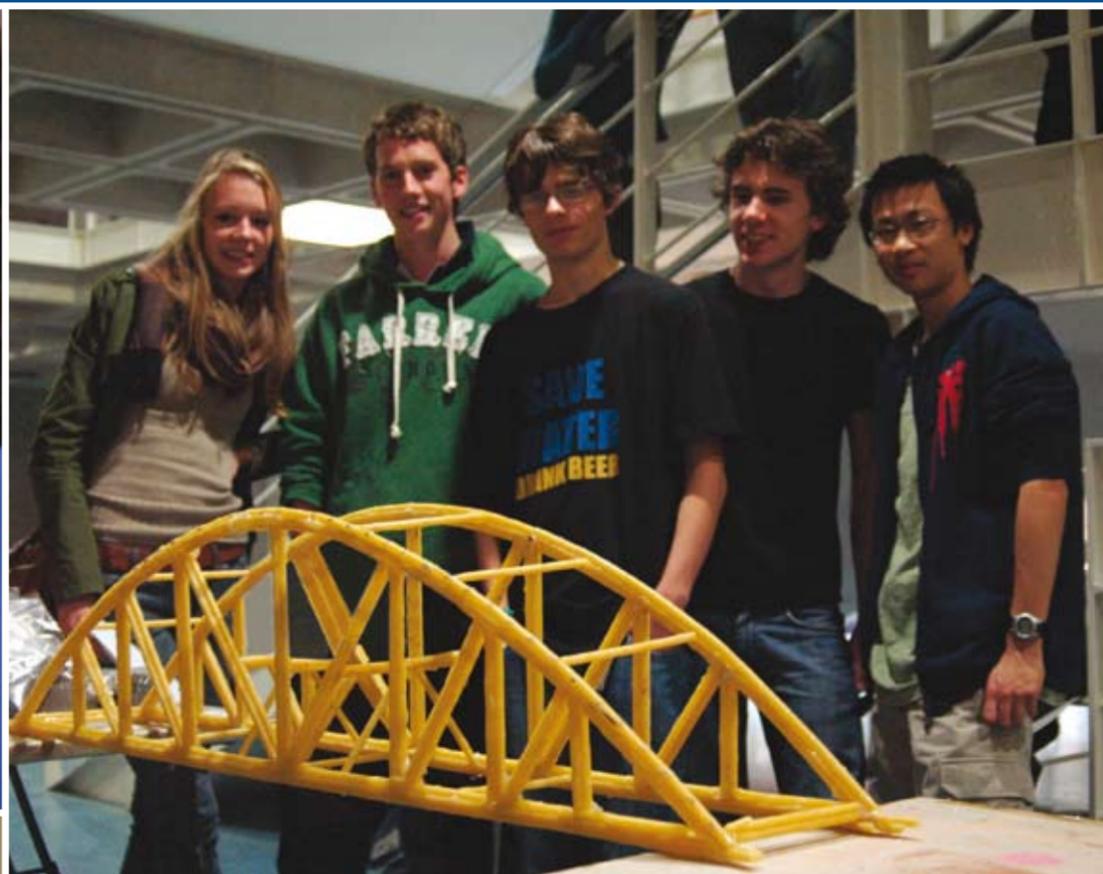
The Agricultural Science Association has awarded €1,000 bursaries to 4 third-year UCD Agricultural Science students to support them in gaining overseas work experience.

Sponsored by AIB, the aim of the award is to encourage students to broaden their knowledge and gain experience in the global agri-food sector; enhancing their personal and professional development. The bursaries are used to support travel and other costs

associated with completing the overseas work experience element of their programme.

Three of the recipients - George Blackburn, who is studying Animal and Crop Production, Leon Duffy and Fiona Gavin, who are both studying Animal Science - are undertaking their professional work experience in New Zealand. The fourth recipient, Sinéad Gill, a student in Animal Science - Equine, is travelling to Kentucky in the US to work on stud farms.

Pictured at the presentation of the bursaries (l-r): Michael Dowling, Head of Agri-Strategy AIB; Fiona Gavin; Leon Duffy; George Blackburn; Sinéad Gill and Elaine Farrell, President of the Agricultural Science Association



52 teams of first year UCD engineering students competed in the inaugural mechanics Design Challenge directed by Dr Liang Cui and Prof Michael Gilchrist, UCD School of Electrical, Electronic & Mechanical Engineering. The challenge was to design the lightest possible bridge to carry the greatest load across a 1m span using only pasta and glue. The winning entry from the "Queen of Hearts" team weighed 1.92kg and carried a total weight of 42.42kg. Shown here are winners, (l-r): Claire Lambe, David Kiersey, James Kilkenny, Stephen Killian and Gordon Lai with their bridge

## UCD Community welcomes Open Day visitors

Sixth Year secondary school students, mature students and their families got a taste of university life at the UCD Open Days in December 2008.

The re-structured event focused on giving visitors a deeper experience of the university. Students were given a planner to map out how best to use their time. They could choose to speak with staff and students in O'Reilly Hall, take campus tours, or attend one of the wide variety of talks held in O'Reilly Hall, Newman Building and Health Sciences Centre over the two days.

Talks included general presentations from the Deans on the degree programme areas, specific subject talks, sample lectures and addresses from alumni. Students could choose

from subjects as varied as, "Bring Me the Jaded and Cynical: Marketing to Youth in Early 21st Century" from Professor Damien McLoughlin, UCD School of Business to "What Will the Human Genome Project Mean for You" from Professor Geraldine Butler of the UCD School of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science.

Visitors had opportunity to ask questions, directly of the UCD Student Ambassadors on the campus tours, or at any of the interactive and innovative displays in O'Reilly Hall, where prospective students could swing Viking swords, disassemble a model of a human body, cradle a nursing training doll, or even stroke a stick insect. The 2009 Open Days will be held on 4 and 5 December.

Shown at the UCD Open Days 2008, is Dr Madeleine Lowery, giving her presentation, "Biomedical Engineering: How Engineers Helped a Man Who Lost Both Arms"



## New analytical facility for Geological Sciences

As the only one of its kind in Ireland, the newly developed National Centre for Isotope Geochemistry in the UCD School of Geological Sciences represents a major investment in research infrastructure for the Earth Sciences.

Located in the UCD School of Geological Sciences, and directed by Professor Stephen Daly, the centre will facilitate inter-disciplinary research by the UCD Schools of Geological Sciences, Physics and Archaeology, together with colleagues in Geology in University College Cork and Trinity College Dublin, who share common interests in radiogenic and heavy stable isotope geochemistry.

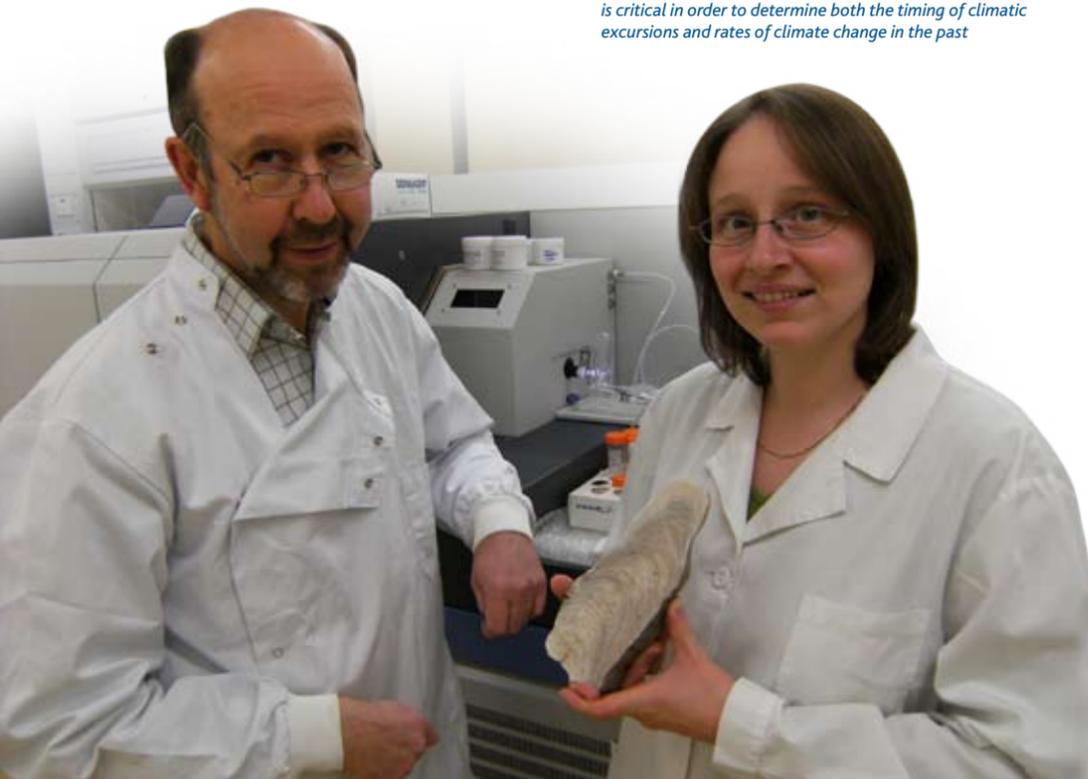
Instrumentation for the centre was initially funded in 2006 through a Science Foundation Ireland equipment award to a consortium from UCD, UCC and TCD, with contributions from the President's Strategic Fund, the UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, UCD School of Physics and UCD School of Biology and Environmental Sciences.

Further SFI and EPA equipment awards were used to upgrade the initial instrument – a Neptune multiple collector inductively-coupled

plasma mass spectrometer (ICPMS) and to equip it with a laser-ablation sampler to facilitate in situ isotope ratio measurements within single crystals. In 2007 the HEA funded a Triton thermal ionisation mass spectrometer, replacing an instrument that had been in use since 1976. To date, the total investment amounts to approx €1.5million. It provides a world-class analytical facility for Irish Earth Science and facilitates new research and training opportunities for staff and graduates.

The centre supports research by three UCD School of Geological Sciences research groups – Geochronology, Petrology and Isotope Geochemistry, Marine and Petroleum Geology and Palaeoclimatology. It will add significantly to the capacity of the emerging UCD Earth Systems Institute, specifically to its Earth Systems and Climate Change themes.

*Shown here is the Chief Technical Officer of the UCD School of Geological Sciences, Michael Murphy with PhD student, Adelheid Fankhauser in the Neptune multiple-collector ICPMS lab. They are discussing the feasibility of dating different layers in a 10,000-year-old stalagmite using isotopes in the uranium decay series. Cave deposits such as stalagmites are an important archive of past climate, for which precise geochronology is critical in order to determine both the timing of climatic excursions and rates of climate change in the past*



## Capturing and storing carbon

Capturing and storing carbon is essential if the world is to meet its energy needs and at the same time prevent serious climate change.

For China and India, coal remains by far the cheapest and most available means of meeting their rapidly rising demand for electricity; it is also a key energy source for the US, Australia and Eastern Europe. But it is also the main source of green house gas emissions.

At a workshop organised and hosted by the UCD Earth Systems Institute, and opened by Minister Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, related issues in technology, economics, environment and sustainability were examined.

Dr Bert Metz, former co-chair of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group III, made it clear that it will be impossible to successfully meet both our energy needs and address climate change unless we can capture the carbon emitted and store it safely for an indefinite period.

Speakers included John Kessels of the International Energy Agency (IEA) Clean Coal

Centre, Tim Dixon of the IEA Greenhouse Gas Programme, Professor Stuart Hazeldine Edinburgh University, and Carl Bozzuto from Alstom Power. They assessed the emerging technologies available and their cost, the role of European Union policy and the critical issues that must be addressed with regard to sequestration to bring this approach to a successful fruition. UCD professors Don MacElroy, UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering, and Chris Bean, UCD School of Geological Sciences, reported on their cutting-edge research on membrane separation technology and CO<sub>2</sub> capture, and applying volcanic seismology techniques to the study of sequestration respectively.

In 2009, the UCD Earth Systems Institute is holding a *Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change* seminar series dealing with topics such as *Soils and Climate Change*, *Nanotechnology*, *Urban Environmental Planning*, and *Crop Production*. For more information, see [www.ucd.ie/earth](http://www.ucd.ie/earth)

## Pobal Inupiat á chur i mbaol de bharr athrú aeráide

Go hard sa Chiorcal Artach, tá inmharthanacht phobal dúchasach Inuit in Barrow, Alasca i mbaol mar gheall ar iarmhairtí théamh domhanda.

Agus an Dr Cara Augustenborg, Taighdeoir Iardhochtúrachta i Scoil Bhitheolaíochta agus Eolaíochta Comhshaoil UCD ar thuras taiscéalaíochta san Artach, léirigh sí an baol atá ann don phobal Inupiat i ngearrclár faisnéise dar teideal *The Inupiat People of Barrow*.

Bhí an mionchlár faisnéise i measc na 10 scannán is fearr as 83 scannán a cuireadh isteach ar Chomórtas Scannán an Bhaic Dhomhanda maidir le hAthrú Aeráide.

Deir an Dr Augustenborg go ndeachaigh a comhráite leis na daoine áitiúla i gcion go mór uirthi agus gur mhothaigh sí go gcaithfeadh sí cuid dá gcuid tuairimí ar athrú aeráide a thaifeadh. Le linn an turais taiscéalaíochta, d'fhoghlaim sí faoin gcaoi a bhfuil an t-athrú aeráide ag cur isteach ar dhaoine agus ar a gcuid nósanna chomh maith le bheith ag cur isteach ar fhiadhúlra agus ar an gcomhshaoil.

Táthar ag súil go spreagfaidh an scannán daoine le haird a thabhairt ar an bhfreagracht atá orthu féin ó thaobh cuidiú le cultúir thraidisiúnta a chaomhnú ar fud na cruinne, trí laghdú a dhéanamh ar a lorg carbóin féin in Éirinn.

Bhí an turas taiscéalaíochta mar chuid de Chlár Idirnáisiúnta a d'eagraigh Coláiste Aeráide Ben agus Jerry le tacaíocht ó WWF Idirnáisiúnta, féachaint le teacht ar réitigh agus cleachtais nuálacha maidir le hathrú aeráide.

Is comhpháirtíocht idir an taiscéalaí Marc Cornelissen agus Ben & Jerry's é an Coláiste um Athrú Aeráide Ben & Jerry's. Áiríodh turas coicise allamuigh chuig an Artach sa chlár, áit ar thug na rannpháirtithe cuairt ar thionscadal Artach an WWF agus a raibh siad páirteach i dtaighde maidir le hathrú aeráide.

Mar chuid den chlár, d'fhorbair an Dr Augustenborg láithreán gréasáin wiki-bhunaithe -GreenDIY.ie a raibh an-tóir air, chun eolas agus tacaíocht a chur ar fáil do dhaoine sa bhaile maidir le hathrú aeráide. Tá sé mar aidhm leis an bhfeachtas úinéirí tí na hÉireann a spreagadh le beart a dhéanamh in aghaidh athrú aeráide agus a gcuid lorg carbóin féin a laghdú trí bhualadh faoi thionscadail shimplí sa bhaile.

Glossary:

Athrú aeráide: Climate change  
Téamh domhanda: Global warming

Turas taiscéalaíochta: Expedition

Mionchlár faisnéise: short documentary

Lorg carbóin: carbon footprint

Béar bán: polar bear



*Le feiceál anseo ar thuras taiscéalaíochta tá An Dr Cara Augustenborg, le Michael Donovan, fear faire béar bán*



*Pictured at the 7th Annual Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology Symposium are l-r in front: Prof Frank Schroeder, Cornell University; Prof Bernard Meunier, PALUMED, France; Prof Matthew Shair, Harvard University. L-r in middle: Dr John Brown, University of Oxford; Prof Sabine Flitsch University of Manchester; Prof John Wood, Colorado State University. At back: Prof Pat Guiry, CSCB. Over 200 delegates from universities and colleges around Ireland attended the symposium, which was held in the UCD Health Sciences Centre in 12th December 2008. The winner of the new 'Write Your Research' initiative was CSCB 2nd year PhD student, Caroline Barth who was awarded first prize for her entry 'Total Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Novel Leukotriene Analogues'*

## The role of the public intellectual

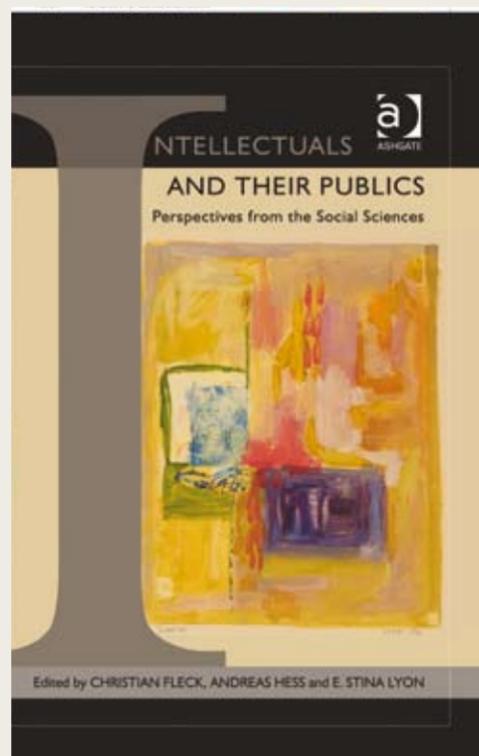
*Intellectuals and their Publics – Perspectives from the Social Sciences*, the new book co-edited by Dr Andreas Hess, Senior Lecturer in UCD School of Sociology considers the contemporary challenges facing intellectuals.

How do intellectuals engage with and affect their publics? What is the role of the public intellectual in the new age of political uncertainties? What challenges face female intellectuals and those speaking from an ethnic, national or class position?

Contributors to the publication, from eleven countries and three continents, include prominent experts such as Professor Jeffrey C. Alexander from Yale University; Professor Anson Rabinbach from Princeton University; and Professor Joseba Zulaika, Director of the Basque Studies in the University of Nevada, along with an upcoming generation of scholars.

The volume opens with provocative essays on the notion of, and role of, intellectuals. Chapters in the second section provide insights into subjects such as intellectuals' responses to totalitarianism, what it means to be a European intellectual, and the dissident intellectual in the collapse of communism. The third component of the book offers a variety of case studies from Tocqueville to Hayek, offering opportunity for debate of ideas proposed in earlier chapters.

The book emerges out of the context of an EU-funded project about what holds sociology together (some shared intellectual discourse and space) and what makes it drift apart (sociology as a field and discipline that is first and foremost culture- and nation-specific).



According to the *Times Higher Education* noted, "...the contributors offer a sobering reminder that some of those listening most intently to academics' views have been the people with guns, grudges, gulags and an extremely dim view of intellectual freedom... there may be no more loin-girding way to start the year."

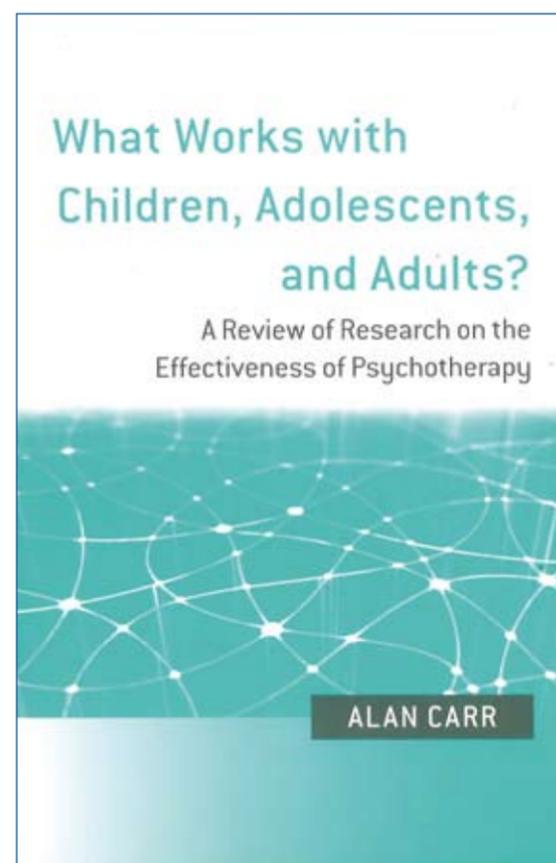
## The effectiveness of Psychotherapy

Published by Routledge, a new title by Professor Alan Carr from the UCD School of Psychology, *What Works with Children, Adolescents, and Adults?: A Review of Research on the Effectiveness of Psychotherapy* considers three main areas in response to its central question.

The book looks at the overall effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of psychotherapy. Professor Carr considers the contribution of common factors to the outcome of successful psychotherapy. The effectiveness of specific psychotherapy protocols for particular problems is also appraised.

The work draws on a wide range of evidence, including recent meta-analyses, systematic reviews and key research in psychotherapy.

As well as detailing specific problems for which psychotherapy and psychological interventions can be effectively applied, Professor Carr notes that, "The large rigorous body of evidence reviewed showed, unequivocally, that psychotherapy and psychological interventions are effective in helping children, adolescents, adults, people in later life and people with intellectual and pervasive developmental disabilities with a wide range of psychological difficulties."

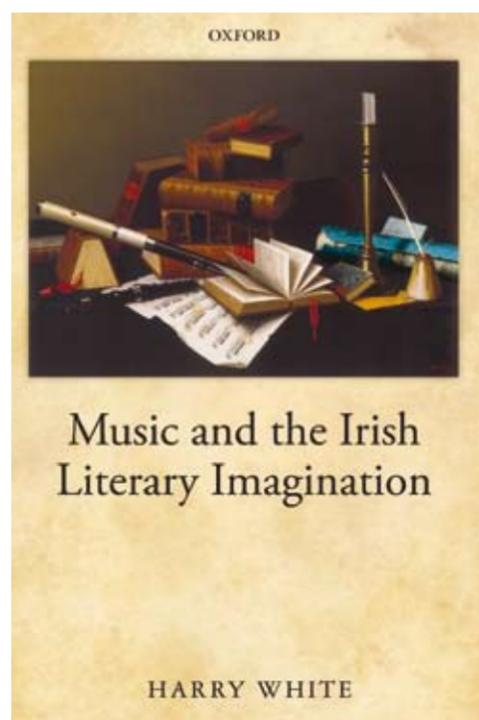


## Music and the Irish Literary Imagination

*Music and the Irish Literary Imagination* offers a radically new reading of the formative presence of music in Irish writing, from Thomas Moore early in the 1900's, to Seamus Heaney's works in the present day. It examines the influence of music on Moore, Yeats, Synge, Shaw, Joyce, Beckett, Friel and Heaney and argues that for many of these writers, poetry, drama and fiction have functioned as literary correlatives of musical genres.

Authored by Professor Harry White, UCD School of Music, the book demonstrates where these poets have used music as a tool in their writings. Although Yeats insisted on the synonymous condition of speech and song in his poetry, Synge, Shaw and Joyce explicitly identified opera in particular as a generic prototype for their own work. Shaw perceived himself as the natural successor to Wagner.

Beckett's works are also looked at in *Music and the Irish Literary Imagination* with Professor White acknowledging the poet's liberation from the limitations of words. The book also suggests that the writings of Brian Friel, to whom the book is dedicated, contain a strong presence of Mendelssohn, Chopin and Janáček, adding an essential dramatisation of Irish experience to his works.



*Music and the Irish Literary Imagination*, published by Oxford University Press was launched by Professor Roy Foster at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in November 2008.

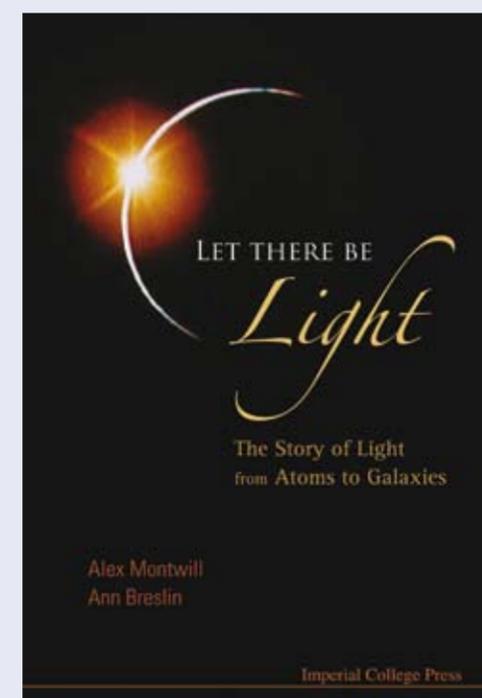
## The Story of Light from Atoms to Galaxies

*Let There Be Light* is the first book of its kind to devote itself at this level to the role played by light and electromagnetic radiation in the universe. Readers are introduced to philosophical hypotheses such as the economy, symmetry and universality of natural laws, before being guided to practical consequences such as the rules of geometrical optics and even Einstein's well-known but mysterious relationship,  $E = mc^2$ .

Most chapters in the book offer a profile of the life and character of a relevant scientific figure. Some of these include, among others, Galileo's conflicts with the Inquisition, Fourier's taunting of the guillotine, Neils Bohr and World War II, and the unique character of Richard Feynman.

Going one step beyond the popular level, this easy-to-read book gives an overall view to undergraduate and postgraduate physics students that is often missing when trying to assimilate the technical details of their courses. It will stimulate keen interest in general readers who are interested in science and have a basic mathematics background, as well as teachers looking for basic and accurate background information.

Alex Montwill is Emeritus Professor of Experimental Physics and Dr Ann Breslin is a Senior Astrophysics Lecturer, in the UCD School of Physics. *Let There Be Light: The Story of Light from Atoms to Galaxies* is published by Imperial College Press.



# Electrical Storm

Journalist Marie Boran speaks to Professor Orla Feely about being the first Irish woman to become a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

As Professor Orla Feely is appointed a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), she joins the few other women who have been presented with the honour since 1912. Today, women only account for 2.5% of the Fellows of the IEEE - one of the world's largest technical and professional societies with over 375,000 members in more than 160 countries. Only people of 'unusual distinction in the profession' are appointed Fellows.

So how did Professor Feely arrive at this honour? Her career began in 1986 with an undergraduate degree in electronic engineering from UCD. "Economically Ireland was in a fairly gloomy place at the time. There was a sense that electronic engineering, software, computing and related disciplines were going to be a big part of our economic future," she says.

"I remember attending an open day in UCD - in the then school of engineering, which is now government buildings - it was my first time encountering electronic engineering and I was very impressed by what I saw," explains Feely.

At the time, there was a growing sense in Ireland that educational institutes, particularly UCD, had an important role to play in developing world-class expertise in the fields of electronic and electrical engineering.

"In particular there was a big push in girls' schools to get women thinking about careers in electronic and electrical engineering."

"The Dean of Engineering at the time was Professor John Kelly who later became Registrar of UCD and he had a very strong goal to increase female participation in engineering."

"It worked very well because the numbers ramped up quite significantly over the space of a few short years in the early eighties."

**Professor Feely's research is at the theoretical and analytical end of the spectrum of electronic engineering and looks at non-linear circuits.**

Since coming to UCD, Professor Feely has herself been involved in continuing this legacy, taking part in outreach activities to secondary schools.

"I think it's so important, particularly now that the economy is changing: the disciplines of science and engineering are going to be crucial to the country's chance of economic recovery and we have to get out there and encourage the younger generation to get into these career paths again."

While the late nineties brought with it the Celtic Tiger, and the ensuing early noughties lead to a dip in college students applying for engineering and science related courses, Feely is hopeful: "Electronic engineering in UCD has seen a rise in student numbers over the past four or five years."

"This is something we should see more of, given the economic realities and the need to get a good solid degree that will be flexible and allow you to earn your living in difficult economic times," adds Feely.

Professor Feely's hope and belief are

rooted in her enthusiasm for the innovation underway in electronic engineering in Ireland right now - in no small part due to the ongoing research which has won her and her UCD colleagues numerous accolades.

Most recently, just after the IEEE appointment, Professor Feely, along with her colleagues Dr Paul Curran and former PhD student Dr Alon Ascoli, won the 2007 Best Paper Award in the International Journal of Circuit Theory and Applications.

Announced in January 2009, their paper entitled "Modeling the dynamics of log domain circuits" won the award in one of the leading journals in area of circuit theory and applications.

Professor Feely's research is at the theoretical and analytical end of the spectrum of electronic engineering and looks at non-linear circuits.

"All useful circuits use non-linear elements and my research aims to analyse and control the behaviour that designers see as a result of this non-linearity." This has applications in many day-to-day devices such as mobile phones and laptop computers, and also in emerging areas such as micromachines and systems biology.

**To have people who are the absolute leaders in the profession go through your body of work with a fine tooth comb and decide that you have made extraordinary contributions is enormously gratifying.**

Professor Feely says that both the Best Paper Award and Fellowship of the IEEE were immensely rewarding, and for different reasons: "Both awards were gratifying in different ways. The Best Paper Award was for a specific piece of research, and it is great to gain recognition for a piece of research - and for a PhD student - of which you are proud."

The IEEE Fellow Award is quite different in that it is an award that gives recognition to an entire career.

"To have people who are the absolute leaders in the profession go through your body of work with a fine tooth comb and decide that you have made extraordinary contributions is enormously gratifying," she adds.

With Professor Feely's award, UCD now counts five IEEE Fellows among its academic and Emeritus staff - more than are in the rest of Ireland combined. Professor Tom Brazil, Professor Mark O'Malley, Professor Chen-Ching Liu and Emeritus Professor Sean Scanlan - the first Irishman recognised with the award - are all IEEE Fellows.

"When I was a student, Professor Scanlan was the only IEEE Fellow in the country and we are enormously proud of him and his achievements," says Professor Feely.

"Now the School's profile is really remarkable - I think it is a result of a good mix of people who were nurtured within UCD, combined with those who have recently been attracted to join us because of the world-class opportunities available here."

Feely herself completed her BE degree in electronic engineering in UCD and then went on to achieve her PhD in the University of California, Berkeley. There she won an award for best PhD thesis and was able to later bring this experience back to UCD as a lecturer and researcher.

"When I went to Berkeley I found that all of a sudden around me were the best students from the US, China, India and all over Europe so you are competing with these top minds.

"Initially you feel a bit daunted but I remember my first exams in Berkeley - the PhD preliminary exams - which are really based on how your undergraduate degree prepares you for PhD studies.

"I came top in these exams based purely on my UCD training," says Feely with pride. "That immediately reinforced my belief that UCD gave me a great education."

However she notes that in the eighties, with honourable exceptions, there was not much leading research happening in Ireland in electronic engineering. Now times have changed for the better: "It is now possible to stay in Ireland, achieve your PhD and do world leading research."

With the healthy flow of research students and faculty between Irish institutes and those abroad, Feely says that it is a sign of a mature research ecosystem, which she also attributes to important support from Science Foundation Ireland.

Where does Feely, who is currently on a sabbatical year funded by a UCD President's Research Fellowship, see engineering in UCD, and in Ireland as a whole, heading in the next few years?

Well, she looks back to when she first started in UCD as a student and her open day booklet (which she still has), which said that 70pc of engineering graduates in Ireland at that time were from UCD.

"To a very large extent UCD engineers built the Irish State. Since then many new programmes have been established, in my own area of electronic engineering in particular, so there is much more going on nationally, and in addition we now look to benchmark ourselves against the leading universities internationally.

"The challenges for UCD engineering now are two-fold. On the national stage we have a central role to play in national economic recovery - this recovery simply will not happen without the innovation that is inherent to engineering. At the same time we must continue to assert ourselves on the world stage as a leading centre of research in our discipline, and recognition such as that represented by the IEEE Fellowship will be crucial in this regard."

*Marie Boran (BSc in Computer Science 2002) writes in the Technology section of the Irish Independent and for Silicon Republic and Gadget Republic.*



Prof Orla Feely

## Five Years of Commercialisation at NovaUCD

- Since it opened its doors on the Belfield campus in October 2003, NovaUCD, the Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre, has provided incubation space and related services for 45 high-tech and knowledge-intensive companies. This includes 15 UCD spin-out companies that are commercialising research undertaken in the university. In addition, 30 new ventures have used NovaUCD's desk space facilities to undertake feasibility studies. Among NovaUCD's successful client companies are, BiancaMed, Celtic Catalysts, ChangingWorlds, Duolog Technologies and Visor.
- Since 2004, 90 people and nearly 60 projects have completed NovaUCD's Campus Company Development Programme (CCDP). Former participants on the NovaUCD CCDP, which has run annually since 1996, now collectively employ 700 people.
- Over the five years, UCD researchers have submitted over 170 invention disclosures and a total of 125 patent applications have been filed by UCD for intellectual property arising from research in life sciences, engineering and information and communication technology. In the last three years 25 licence agreements have also been signed with a range of indigenous and international companies.
- Twenty-five innovative new ventures with 200 employees are currently based at NovaUCD and occupy over 90% of the available incubation space. An additional 10 early stage companies are also currently based in NovaUCD's desk space.
- NovaUCD is responsible for the implementation of UCD policies relating to the commercialisation of intellectual property arising from UCD's research programmes and it has been funded through a unique public-private partnership that includes AIB Bank, Arthur Cox, Deloitte, Enterprise Ireland, Ericsson, Goodbody Stockbrokers, UCD and Xilinx.

## Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Awards for UCD engineers

Two UCD researchers from the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering, Dr David Browne and Dr Denis Dowling, have been presented with Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Awards in recognition of the successful licensing of technology developed by them to industry.

Dr Browne is a Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (FIMMM) and Senior Lecturer in the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering at UCD. His research group investigates phase transformations and transport phenomena in metals and alloys. Dr Browne and his group at UCD developed and patented a new casting process for manufacture of functionally gradient

alloys and components, and the license signed was with a major US supplier of cast parts to the auto industry.

Dr Dowling, also a Senior Lecturer in the School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering at UCD directs the Surface Engineering Research Group, which involves a team of 17 people involved in the deposition of functional coatings. The Commercialisation Award is in conjunction with Wendt, who licensed a processing technology for use in surface finishing.

The awards were presented to both researchers by the Minister for Science and Technology, Jimmy Devins, at a ceremony hosted by Enterprise Ireland.

## NovaUCD award for e-Learning venture ASimil8

NovaUCD's 2008 Start-Up Award was won by ASimil8, an e-learning venture, co-founded in 2008 by Paul Groarke and Garrett Hussey. The venture was also awarded €5,000 after being declared the overall winner of the 13th NovaUCD Campus Company Development Programme (CCDP).

There is currently no convenient way for most students learning languages to practise their language skills, other than travelling to foreign destinations, which can be expensive and impractical. To address this, and related

issues in the learning environment, ASimil8 has developed a next-generation learning platform to provide immersive education for languages and other subjects using virtual world and gaming technologies. The use of these technologies is designed to engage students in the same way that video games grab and keep their attention. By 'immersing' students in real-life settings where they must use their knowledge, ASimil8 will give students a deeper and more dynamic understanding of their subjects.



Garrett Hussey and Paul Groarke, co-founders of ASimil8, overall winner of the NovaUCD 2008 CCDP Award

## bioMérieux opens office

bioMérieux, a world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics has opened an office in NovaUCD to support its extensive Irish customer base of clinical, food and pharmaceutical laboratories.

A great emphasis will be placed on training, making use of the university's conference and laboratory facilities. Drawing on the microbiology expertise available through the UCD Centre for Food Safety at the UCD Veterinary Sciences Centre, bioMérieux will

provide training programmes, seminars and 'hands-on' workshops as part of its support to microbiologists throughout Ireland.

bioMérieux established a research collaboration 18 months ago with UCD's Centre for Food Safety, working on the neonatal pathogen *Cronobacter sakazakii*. The presence of this bacterium in infant food products, including powdered milk, can cause meningitis, sepsis and other serious infections, primarily in newborn or premature infants.

## Duolog Technologies expands into Asian market

Duolog Technologies, the NovaUCD-headquartered Collaborative Design Automation™ company has acquired, in a combined cash and equity deal, the technology and products of Beach Solutions Ltd as part of its global expansion strategy.

Beach Solutions is a privately held, UK-based, Electronic Design Automation (EDA) company established in 1998 which offers register management solutions for System-on-Chip (SoC) design. Having raised over £6 million in venture capital funding Beach researched and developed innovative products that are used by major semiconductor companies in Europe, US and Asia.

Duolog Technologies develops software tools that enable chip design companies to design their products faster, at lower cost and with fewer bugs. As part of its international expansion plans Duolog opened a sales, marketing and support office in Los Gatos, California last year. With this new acquisition Duolog has established a significant presence in the key Asian market. During the coming year Duolog intends to accelerate sales and to grow its revenues to \$15 million.

Speaking about the acquisition, Ray Bulger, co-founder and CEO of Duolog Technologies said, "This is an important and extremely beneficial acquisition for Duolog. We have

added valuable functionality to our products, further strengthened our client portfolio and attained an instant presence in the Japanese market, a major global market for EDA software and complex IC design, where Beach already had a strong presence." He added, "We are fully committed to supporting existing Beach customers and have taken on key members of the Beach team to achieve this."

Ray Bulger concluded, "The market for EDA tools for chip integration is maturing. As the market embraces IP-centric flows, more and more semiconductor companies are recognising the savings and productivity gains to be made by replacing overstretched, internal CAD

solutions with standards-based, scalable, off-the-shelf products. As the market matures, there will inevitably be consolidation and Duolog, with our award-winning products, is in an excellent position to drive this consolidation."

Duolog Technologies currently employs more than 80 people and is headquartered at NovaUCD, the Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre at University College Dublin. Duolog also has design centres in Galway and Budapest, Hungary, as well as US and international operations.

# PhD Profile - Graffiti meets Art

Connell Vaughan's research on aesthetics and the institutional theory of art brings him to obscure locations from the Blackrock Baths to the Graffiti Hall of Fame in Harlem, New York.

Vaughan originally completed a BA in Philosophy and Economics, so is interested in the overlap of the disciplines. From an economics standpoint, he examines the question of value. From a philosophical viewpoint, he explores the institutional theory of art, which broadly states that something is art if it is conferred this status by an art world and resides in an institution such as an art gallery or museum.

"I use the case of graffiti / street art as an example of where the value or status of art is ambiguous and changing, to highlight the nature of the contemporary economy of the art world. The idea that graffiti could be (street) art presents many problems for the theory as it stands. Primary among these is the

fact that graffiti / street art can be conferred the status of art yet appear to be outside the remit of the art world. I have developed a wider understanding of what an art world can be," says Vaughan, who is studying for his PhD in the UCD School of Philosophy under the supervision of Aesthetics expert Dr Brian Elliott, having previously done an MA in Philosophy.

"Perhaps the most unusual aspect of my research is my constant search for displays of graffiti / street art. As marginalised art forms they tend to exist in obscure spaces that are difficult to access," says Vaughan. His research sometimes requires him to visit locations that are off limits to the public, or in disuse.

"My research so far has revealed the close relationship that the art world has to marginalised art practices. Specifically I have been able to show how the contemporary graffiti artist works within the same economic structure as the fine artist. For both, institutional recognition is the goal."

*A graffiti artist creatively engages with the particularities of the urban canvas. Graffiti Hall of Fame in Harlem. Photograph, 2008 UCD Images of Research Competition*



## Witness seminar on Northern Ireland conflict

A "witness seminar" allows participants in a particular event (or theme) to come together to discuss their role and recollections. It is a form of qualitative research that establishes much of the factual detail, but also allows participants meet in an academic setting to discuss their understandings of what happened at the time and their subsequent reflections upon it.

In December 2008, the UCD Institute for British-Irish Studies, IBIS held their fourth such seminar in the research project *Breaking the patterns of conflict: The Irish state, the British dimension and the Northern Ireland conflict*. Participants in seminar brought with them diverse perspectives.

Professor Sean Farren, SDLP politician, was negotiator in the 1997-98 multi-party talks, former Minister for Finance and Personnel and former Minister for Higher and Further Education in the Northern Ireland Executive.

Mr Wally Kirwan, is a former Irish civil servant who served as the Assistant Secretary-General in the Department of the Taoiseach, responsible for the Northern Ireland Division.

Mr Colm Larkin was an official of the European Commission from 1974-2004 and a special adviser to Seamus Mallon in the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) from 1998 to 2001. He

was appointed to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission in 2007.

Mr Hugh Logue was special adviser to the OFMDFM from 1998 to 2002. He is a former official of the European Commission and a leading figure in the SDLP.

Mr Tony McCusker is a former civil servant and adviser to Secretary of State Mo Mowlam and to David Trimble and Seamus Mallon in the OFMDFM. He is currently chairman of the Community Relations Council and the Community Foundation.

Mr Tim O'Connor worked in the Department of Foreign Affairs from 1979 and has a long involvement in Northern Ireland affairs. He was Joint Secretary of the North/South Ministerial Council from 1999-2005 and is currently Secretary-General to the President.

Funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the *'Breaking the Patterns'* project builds on the John Whyte Archive, which is an archive of qualitative interviews conducted about the Belfast Agreement of 1998.

Along with the *'Breaking the Patterns'* project and the John Whyte Archive, the third main IBIS research stream is "Resolving Ethnic conflict: Approaches to Peace" (RECAP).

*At the IBIS Witness Seminar from top l-r were (top left to right): Dr Christopher Farrington, UCD; Mr Colm Larkin; Professor John Coakley, UCD; Mr Michael Anderson, UCD; Mr Wally Kirwan; Ms Melanie Hoewer, UCD; Mr Hugh Logue; Prof Jennifer Todd, UCD; Mr Tony McCusker; Ms Susan McDermott, UCD; Ms Siobhan Byrne, UCD; Prof Sean Farren*



## Boito, Shakespeare and other studies

His Excellency Dott. Lucio Alberto Savoia, Ambassador of Italy was at UCD in November 2008 to inaugurate an International Study Day on Arrigo Boito. Organised by Professor Deirdre O'Grady of Italian Studies in the UCD School of Languages and Literatures, the day was supported by the Italian Cultural Institute.

Arrigo Boito (Padua 1842-Milan 1918) enjoyed considerable personal success as a poet, writer of short stories, composer and collaborator with Giuseppe Verdi. As a major exponent of the Milanese *'Scapigliatura'*, the first Italian avant-garde movement, Boito, in the wake of Victor Hugo created the paradoxical tensions that point towards the macabre duality of Pirandello.

The Study Day provided the students of the Italian Studies module 'Opera and Literature'

with an opportunity to absorb unexplored aspects of the writer's work. Speakers for the day included two UCD doctoral students and a doctoral student from the University of Padua.

Professor Joseph Farrell, University of Strathclyde, Scotland spoke about Boito's adaptations of Shakespeare great Italian actress Eleonora Duse, born in 1858.

Other speakers included: Ms. Annina Ahola, UCD; Ms. Selena Daly, UCD; Dr. Rosa Solinas, University of Oxford; Dott. Elisa Bosio, University of Padua; and Professor Deirdre O'Grady, UCD School of Languages and Literatures. The first session, of the day was chaired by Professor Jean-Michel Picard, Head of the School of Languages and Literatures.

*Minister of State for Transport, Noel Ahern, TD, is shown the Evidential Breath Testing instrument by Professor Dennis A. Cusack, Director of the Medical Bureau of Road Safety during the official opening of the new premises in the Health Sciences Centre. The new forensic laboratory facilities enable the Bureau to conduct 20,000 analyses for alcohol in blood, urine and breath, and 1,500 analyses for other drugs in blood and urine per year. The work of the Bureau supports the Department of Transport in tackling a major public health challenge, the enforcement of substance free, safe driving conditions on the Irish roads*



## Kerouac manuscript at UCD

The original manuscript scroll of Jack Kerouac's seminal novel, *On the Road* was on public display at the UCD Clinton Institute in February 2009. One of the most iconic literary manuscripts in existence, the 120ft long original typescript scroll is displayed alongside multiple original editions of the novel, maps, photographs, records, books and other memorabilia exploring the novel's genesis and times.

In April 1951, Kerouac taped together eight twenty-foot strips of teletype paper to form a single scroll some 127ft long (now 120ft). Feeding it into a portable typewriter, he began composing the work that was to become the bible of the post-war Beat Generation. Kerouac completed the novel in twenty days of rapid, continuous typing.

*Pictured with the Kerouac scroll (l-r): Prof Liam Kennedy, UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies; James Canary, Lilly Library, Indiana University; and Prof Dick Ellis, Chair American and Canadian Studies at University of Birmingham. (Photo: Aidan Crawley)*

Almost entirely autobiographical and based on his own travels across America, *On the Road* tells the story of Kerouac and his friends and acquaintances over a period of approximately three years. In the published version, the characters are disguised by pseudonyms, but in the original typescript their real names are used: Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs and Neal Cassady. The novel portrays their fascination with jazz, the American landscape, women, sexuality and movement, and is the archetypal 'road-trip' tale.

This was the first time that the scroll, owned by a private collector, went on public display in Ireland. It has been on a public tour across North America since 2004.



*Pictured at the UCD Business Alumni 'An Evening in the National Gallery' sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) were (l-r) Lochlann Quinn BComm '62, Chairman, National Gallery; and Ronan Murphy Bcomm '78, DipPrAcc '81 & MBS '79, Senior Partner, PwC. Over 200 alumni from the UCD School of Business and the UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy gathered for the event*



## New stethoscope 'hears' wider range of heart sounds

Each week in Ireland, two people under 35 suffer from cardiac ailments. Dr Scott Rickard (UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering) is leading a team that includes an expert in volcanic lava flows (Professor Chris Bean, UCD School of Geological Sciences) as well as heart specialists, to develop a new stethoscope technology capable of detecting such hidden heart problems.

It is hoped that the device, which uses multiple microphones instead of just one, will lead to more rapid diagnosis of coronary artery disease and that eventually such diagnoses will be carried out in GPs' surgeries.

Detecting heart disease just by listening is challenging as the number and complexity of sounds coming from the body make it difficult to reliably determine the cause. The research team are developing methods which can listen to specific points inside the chest using a 6 microphone stethoscope.

Dr Rickard explains: "On the screen you can see the lub, dub sounds of your heart, a little

peak for the lub and a little peak for the dub evolve across the screen. Hidden between these peaks are the sounds that can tell a great deal about heart disease."

The device is now being tested by a team of cardiologists led by Dr Martin Quinn at St Vincent's University Hospital in Dublin. The research team are collecting data to bolster the scientific credentials of the new stethoscope technology.

Dr Rickard hopes that if the technology can be shown to work, then it should be powerful enough and robust enough to diagnose a variety of heart conditions from any GP's office that has the device.

"They listen to your heart and they should be able to diagnose a myriad of different things, not just coronary heart disease but congenital heart defects that go unnoticed simply because people aren't listening."

## Social Partnership: from Lemass to Cowen

Nearly half a century before the social partnership model came into being in 1987, Sean Lemass had sought to introduce a series of measures that would eventually become features of social partnership, according to Bill Roche, Professor of Industrial Relations and Human Resources in the UCD School of Business.

Delivering the 2008 Countess Markievicz Memorial Lecture, 'Social Partnership from Lemass to Cowen', at Trinity College Dublin, Professor Roche described Lemass, long-serving Fianna Fail Minister and Taoiseach between 1959 and 1966, as a corporatist visionary and pragmatist, who had sought to transform industrial relations in Ireland on the model of the small European corporatist democracies, in particular, the Netherlands and Sweden. Lemass had sought permanently to centralise pay bargaining in Ireland and to align pay determination with government economic

priorities. He had also favoured involving unions in aspects of industrial and workplace governance.

When tripartite bargaining between the state, employers and unions, first became a feature of Irish industrial relations during what Professor Roche described as the 'Lynch-O'Donoghue Keynesian Interlude' of the late 1970s, the result, he said, was near economic and industrial relations anarchy. It would take the deep and prolonged economic and social crisis of the 1980s to bring about the changes in the posture of governments, employers and unions that permitted social partnership to function in the broad manner Lemass had envisaged. While Charles Haughey has been viewed either as the supreme champion of social partnership, or as a monetarist in corporatist 'drag', Professor Roche said that the record revealed him more as a political

opportunist, who had embraced social partnership largely for reasons of realpolitik.

The social partnership paradigm had been extended in the mid 1990s, by Labour's Dick Spring and Fine Gael's John Bruton, when in government they invited civil society groups in the voluntary and community sector to become party to social partnership institutions and agreements. This they had done in response to the continuing political significance of persistently high unemployment and poverty, but their initiatives also reflected concerns in both political parties' about the accountability and exclusionary proclivities of agreements reached under social partnership.

Professor Roche suggested that Bertie Ahern's decisive role in influencing the direction of the social partnership model resided less in his role as an effective broker and mediation, or in institutional design than in his decision to shift Fianna Fail to the left after the

Party's disastrous result in the 2004 local and European elections. The consequence of what Professor Roche described as partnership's 'social turn' involved a series of redistributive budgets, the inclusion of an expansive social policy programme in the current partnership agreement, Towards 2016, and the introduction of a social investment programme in the current national development plan. Professor Roche described Taoiseach Brian Cowen's posture towards social partnership as considerably more instrumental than Ahern's and more focused on the achievement of short- and medium-term economic, financial and political results. Cowen's continued sponsorship of a process that is less central to his political identity and reputation is likely to depend on its results in these areas in times of unprecedented challenge, concluded Professor Roche.

## UCD sailors launch new boats

UCD Sailing Club is marking a double this year: celebrating the arrival of a new fleet of boats, and 60 years in existence.

The new boats took to the water for the first time in December 2008. The six new arrivals bring the UCD total to a dozen Rondar Fireflies, the vessel of choice for Irish team racers ever since the Team Racing Worlds in Dun Laoghaire in 1999.

UCD and Trinity started the global shift in college team racing in 2002, when both colleges purchased new boats. Both sides have added to their fleets, with UCD keeping the older boats, which still have plenty of team racing life in them.

Across the country, college teams have invested in Fireflies, transforming the calibre of sailing at varsity events. Although the equipment in Belfield has much improved, UCD has been unsuccessful in securing an intervarsity title since before the boats arrived, watching old

rivals Trinity and top sides from Cork take the honours since their last win in 2002, followed by Dublin Institute of Technology, the current intervarsity champions.

However, captain of the 2002 UCD winning team was Phil Lawton, who joined fellow UCD graduate, Ger Owens, to win two races at the Olympics in 2008.

Lawton, now a Post-Doctoral researcher in the UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy, was on hand to launch the new boats, along with Dr Martin Butler, UCD Vice-President for Students and UCD Director of Sport Brian Mullins. UCD Club captain, Nick Harger hopes that 2008 will be a successful year for the UCD teams, with a membership of 190 sailors.

The boats were funded by the UCD Student Forum Capital Grant Fund.

*Members of the UCD sailing clubs*



## 45 New Sports Scholarships

UCD Sports Scholarships were awarded to 45 first-year students in athletics, basketball, camogie, Gaelic football, hurling, golf, handball, hockey, rowing, rugby and soccer. This year's recipients included:

- Daniel Purcell, member of the Kilkenny Minor All Ireland Hurling Championship winning side in 2008
- Gavin Falconer former Irish Under-18 international soccer player
- Mark Ronaldson member of the victorious Mayo Under-21 Connacht Football Championship winning team in 2006
- Irish Under-18 hockey players Stella Davis and Elizabeth McInerney
- Liam Rushe, captain of the Dublin Minor hurling team in 2008 and member of the victorious Dublin Minor Leinster Championship side in 2007
- Leinster and Ireland Under-20 rugby player Ian McKinley
- Marianna Rushe All Ireland Minor handball champion in the 40 x 20 and 60 X 30 doubles events

The UCD sports scholarship programme aims to develop elite athletes who can compete

at the highest national and international level. In total, 111 UCD students are in receipt of sports scholarships in 2008/09.

Some of Ireland's best-known sports figures are former UCD sports scholars, including current international rugby players Brian O'Driscoll and Rob Kearney, captain of the Dublin County Gaelic Football team, Colin Moran and his teammates Alan Brogan and Paul Griffin, as well as international golfer Peter Lawrie.

At the same awards ceremony, 162 Entrance Scholars were recognised for their achievements as the highest point student in their degree programme. Further honours were awarded to members of the UCD Symphony Orchestra, the UCD Choral Scholars and the Bord na Gaeilge scholars.

Altogether, 220 students from 29 counties received scholarships at UCD in the academic year 2008. Speaking about the awards, UCD Registrar and Deputy President Dr Philip Nolan said, "Whereas the Entrance Scholarships and High Achiever Awards acknowledge the academic calibre of our students, the Sports, Choral, Orchestra and Bord na Gaeilge scholarships reflect the diversity of talent that we have here at the university."

527 students entered UCD in 2008 with over 540 points in their Leaving Certificate (or equivalent). The UCD High Achiever awards, also held in November 2008, acknowledged their accomplishments. Their results are recorded on their degree transcript when they graduate from UCD.

*The 2008 UCD Sports Scholars included two sets of twins. Shown here are international junior cross country athletes Rebecca (left), and Charlotte (right) French O'Carroll; with Irish Under-18 Basketball stars Daniel (left), and Conor (right) James*



## UCD Patterson Hockey Pitch opened

A new state-of-the-art floodlit hockey pitch has been opened at UCD. Located beside the synthetic rugby pitch, the new sand-filled pitch is a replacement for the polygrass hockey pitch, the site of which will become part of the new Student Learning, Leisure and Sports Facility.

The facility, which can also be divided into four 7-a-side soccer pitches, is finished to a high standard and has full FIH (International Hockey Federation) accreditation for international training and matches.

Commenting on the pitch, Brian Mullins, UCD Director of Sport said, "The Patterson Hockey Pitch is a great addition to the sport facilities currently available to both students and the wider community. Importantly, this development enables the SLLS project to proceed."

## Ladies' 2-0 victory secures Colours title

The UCD Ladies' hockey team retained the annual Colours title for the second year running, with an impressive stand-off against Trinity College Dublin on 5 February 2009.

Through some of the country's harshest weather conditions and missing several key players, including their international teammates due to an Irish training camp, the side delivered a consistent show of strength and skill. Even

when the UCD side held back in the second-half, they were always in control of the game and still managed to comfortably emerge the victors with a final score-line of 2-0.

Particularly notable players on the day were Megan Tennant-Humphrey, who scuppered any chances of scoring that Trinity created, Catriona McGlip and Rachel Burke, who dominated the middle of the field with excellent control of

the ball reducing Trinity's possession, and Holly Jenkinson and Orlagh O'Shea, who were the outstanding goal-scorers on the day.

The Colours competition is the highlight of the hockey calendar in both UCD and Trinity. The Mens' hockey team were also victorious in their game, securing a 2-1 result.

*Rachel Burke (UCD) is challenged by Danielle Costigan (left) and Caroline Murphy (TCD)*



## Bibliotherapy available to students

A "Books on Prescription" scheme to support students with their medical or counselling treatment was officially launched by RTÉ Presenter, Ryan Tubridy at UCD in January 2009.

Under the scheme, funded by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, as part of their treatment UCD students will receive prescriptions from the UCD student health centre for specially selected health and well-being books.

Over 183 health and well-being titles have been selected by the medical and counselling staff of the UCD student health service to assist students who present with medical or psychological problems.

"The value of carefully selected self-help materials is widely acknowledged by health professionals as a useful early step in the treatment of anxiety, depression and other mental health problems," says Dr Fiona

Thompson, GP in the UCD student health service.

"As a first step in treatment, during a patient consultation students may be recommended a specific title to assist them with understanding their specific problems and learning to cope with their particular issue," she says.

"To obtain the health or well-being books, patients present the prescription at the UCD Health Sciences Library. The books can be borrowed for 2 week periods," says Peter Hickey, Head of Academic Library Services at UCD.

UCD is the first Irish university to offer Books on Prescription as part of medical or counselling treatment for students. All doctors, nurses, psychiatrists, and counselling staff in the UCD student health centre have a list of books and prescription pads for the scheme.

The books, which are located in the UCD Health Sciences Library, adjacent to the UCD student health centre, are available on loan to all UCD students, with or without a prescription.

*Pictured at the launch of the Books on Prescription scheme were RTÉ Presenter, Ryan Tubridy and Dr Ciara O'Dowd, GP, UCD Student Health Service*



## Malcolm Gladwell at UCD



*Malcolm Gladwell, delivering his lecture as part of the UCD John Hume Institute public lecture programme*

Malcolm Gladwell, the best selling author of *The Tipping Point* (2000) and *Blink* (2005), delivered his first ever public lecture in Ireland at UCD in November 2008.

A global phenomenon, and one of the most brilliant and influential writers of his generation, Malcolm Gladwell explores and captures social trends and behaviour in ways that define the age.

In his lecture, Gladwell took the audience on an invigorating intellectual journey to reveal

what makes a 'successful person' - the question tackled in his latest book *Outliers: The Story of Success*.

"In this book, I'm interested in people who are outliers - in men and women who, for one reason or another, are so accomplished and so extraordinary and so outside of ordinary experience that they are as puzzling to the rest of us as a cold day in August," says Gladwell.

He argues that we currently pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and

too little attention to where successful people are from: their culture, their family, and their generation. He challenges conventional notions to create an entirely new model for seeing the world.

In 2005, Malcolm Gladwell was named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People.

## Year of the Ox Celebrations

UCD O'Reilly Hall was a sea of colour in January 2009, as some 400 people gathered to celebrate the Chinese Year of the Ox. The UCD Confucius Institute, with the Chinese Students and Scholars Association of Ireland presented a vibrant programme of traditional and contemporary Chinese entertainment.

The performance opened with the Loreto Secondary School Choir from Bray, who sang the "Kangding Qingge" (Lovesong from Kangding City). The show went on to include instrumental, dance, acrobatic and kung-fu performances. Sung pieces included two hip-hop songs, a rendition of "A Letter to My Dear Family" from the students of the UCD BComm with Chinese Studies, and a piece of Zhejiang Opera from Jiang Junlei.

The celebrations came shortly after the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland was awarded the accolade of Confucius Institute of the Year, 2008, at the ceremony in the Great Hall of the People, Beijing during the third Confucius Institute Conference held in December 2008. Only 20 institutes received

such honours among over 300 Confucius Institutes and Classrooms across the world. This is the second time in a row for UCD Confucius Institute to receive the accolade of Excellence from the Office of Chinese Language Council International (known as 'Hanban' for short).



*Pictured here is (l-r) Zhang Bin, acrobat; with Jiang Junlei, UCD BComm student who performed Zhejiang Opera at the Chinese spring festival gala at UCD*

## Hollywood star honoured



*Hollywood actor Aaron Eckhart was at UCD in December 2008 to receive the James Joyce Award from the Literary & Historical Society. Eckhart is best known for his roles in "The Dark Knight" and "Thank You for Smoking"*