

UCD today



Launch of Dictionary of Irish Biography,
Ireland's most authoritative biographical
reference work

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23 UCD alumnus Brian O'Drioscoll was on hand to launch the UCD Elite Athlete Academy, the new scholarship programme for sports people competing at the highest levels



24 Former President of Ireland, Dr Mary Robinson (above) speaks at the *Irish in Britain: Conversation with the Diaspora* forum, at which she was presented with the inaugural UCD John Hume Medal

Handing over the microphone ...

Parents have views, teachers have views and certainly university academics have views on what students look for when making their college and course choices in the CAO system each year.

Having spent many years managing public awareness campaigns, marketing campaigns and media strategies, one valuable lesson always re-emerges. You have to reach your audience first before you can engage and convince them of the merits of your proposition.

The youth market is quite different to the adult environment. They live in a networked world, where youtube is the primary source of online entertainment and just about everyone is on facebook or some social networking site.

In order to reach them we created the Video Wall – the centrepiece of this year's CAO campaign. Over the past two years we have enlisted students to tell their story. Unscripted, they talk about study and learning, life and experiences, challenges and achievements.

This year, the plan to pass production over to the students themselves was prompted by the need to "keep it real" for a very knowledgeable, technologically literate audience. The Video Squad

were given camcorders, training in how to shoot and edit material, along with a set of guidelines and deadlines for submission. The results can be viewed online www.ucdlife.ie

When you ask students to film things that might interest next year's first years, they inevitably focus on student life. They want to show off their campus and their interpretations range from gently falling leaves to stand-up comedy and floodlit sports. There is no doubting the academic and career ambition of these students. They talk seriously about their motivations and as the year progresses will share their experiences around assessments and learning.

Having commissioned the students, there remained a challenge: how to get across the programme messages in a way that prospective students would find interesting and convincing. The old adage — show don't tell — comes to mind. So, in the additional pieces created by the UCD University Relations, Alan Peatland quotes Homer while wielding a lethal sword of "bitter bronze"; Blanaid Clarke makes contract law real with everyday examples; and Michael Gilchrist demonstrates the educational value of the Fastest Egg Alive.



The Video Wall hosts these and many other pieces that project the holistic world of UCD. If you have a film of interest or an idea of some aspect of UCD life, get in touch and join the wall.

Eilis O'Brien
Director of Communication

Cover Image

Pictured at the launch of the Dictionary of Irish Biography were, l-r: Dr James Quinn, Executive Editor; An Taoiseach Mr Brian Cowen TD; and James McGuire, Adjunct Professor, UCD School of History & Archives and Managing Editor of the Dictionary

UCD thanks ...

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In the compilation of this publication, every care has been taken to ensure accuracy. Any errors or omissions should be brought to the attention of UCD University Relations (communications@ucd.ie).

We also welcome your suggestions for articles in future editions.

UCD Today is also available online at www.ucd.ie/ucdtoday



Saints and sinners and more besides

Dipping into the *Dictionary of Irish Biography* is simply not possible. It may be catalogued as a reference book but readers will find it impossible to confine themselves to their original search. The temptation to delve into other Irish lives is too great.

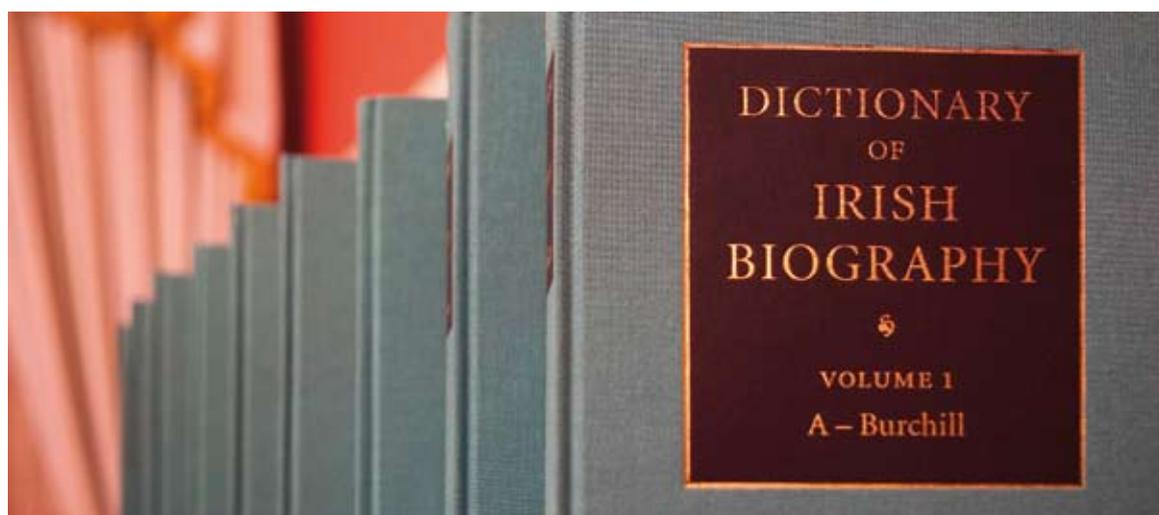
Stretching from earliest times to December 31, 2002, the Dictionary presents an unprecedented catalogue of Irish men and women who have made their distinct mark.

Early 20th century artists such as Mainie Jellett (1897–1944) and Norah McGuinness (1903–1980), rub shoulders with Palladian architect James Hoban (1762–1831), designer of the White House in Washington. James Gamble (1803–91), a soap-maker from Co Fermanagh, who founded the now transnational corporation, Procter & Gamble, made his contribution to posterity in a considerably different manner to Daniel O’Connell (1775–1847) ‘The Liberator’.

Published by Cambridge University Press for the Royal Irish Academy, the Dictionary has been the largest humanities research project ever undertaken in Ireland. Some 700 scholars from Ireland and abroad contributed to nine volumes with 9,014 entries, detailing 9,700 lives, from the Huguenot refugee Jacques Abbadie to Zozimus, the Liberties-born balladeer.

Over a decade’s work of researching, compiling, composing, cross-referencing and proofing has delivered what An Taoiseach, Mr Brian Cowen, TD, described as “a seminal work which will be consulted for generations.”

“In the main, of course, the *Dictionary of Irish Biography* is about people who made a difference, for the better, to Ireland. This is a very good time to be reminded of our rich heritage and of the significant achievements of many people of Irish descent based on their ingenuity, their creativity and capacity for hard work. If we think about what some of the people recorded in the Dictionary achieved and the challenges they faced, we can



draw renewed strength and inspiration as we face the challenges of our time. And we can feel proud — and fortunate — to hail from the same country as so many people of note.” The Taoiseach said at the launch of the Dictionary.

Under D for Dempsey: Jack Dempsey (1862–95), the ‘Nonpareil’, middleweight boxing champion of the world in the 1880s. G returns Guinness: Arthur Guinness (1725–1803), brewer and creator of the most famous Irish brand. O yields up Nace O’Dowd (1931–87), iconic Sligo footballer of the 1950s who was eulogised in three successive editions of the Sligo Champion after his premature death. R includes another GAA icon who died before his time, the legendary Christy Ring (1920–79). S brings out Snow: Carmel Snow (1887–1961) editor of both *Vogue* and *Harper’s Bazaar*. W is for Wadding: Luke Wadding (1588–1657), Franciscan friar and historian.

Managing Editor of the project, James McGuire, refers to the compilation of the Dictionary as “a great adventure”. Alongside Executive Editor, James Quinn, McGuire guided the project with

what many involved described as “true and typical diplomatic aplomb.”

“With the publication of the completed nine volumes, the project is now working on the preparation of the first of the twice-yearly supplements” added McGuire. “These supplements will cover those who have died since 2002, as well as articles on subjects who do not feature in the first edition. We welcome feedback about the first edition as well as advice on subjects who might be considered for treatment in the supplements.”

Giving the last word to Taoiseach Brian Cowen – who noted the enormous variety of biographical subjects from artists and architects; journalists and broadcasters; actors and directors; musicians and composers; sports men and women; business people and trade unionists; doctors; scientists and engineers; religious figures; writers; politicians, public servants and philanthropists – “Saints and sinners and more besides.”

Visit the *Dictionary of Irish Biography* online at <http://dib.cambridge.org>. For information on purchasing the book in Ireland, see www.ria.ie/projects/dib/

Research centre for protection of the elderly established

In order to help policymakers understand, locate and tackle elder abuse in Ireland, the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney TD has announced the establishment by the Health Service Executive of a National Research Centre for the Protection of Older People (NCPOP) at University College Dublin.

One of the first tasks of the NCPOP is to identify the prevalence of elder abuse in Ireland. Experts at the NCPOP will also work to develop ways to prevent and manage elder abuse in the community. A key element of the work of the NCPOP is the involvement of older people themselves. The idea is to offer older people a voice to express their experiences and attitudes towards elder abuse, and to enable them to alert older people to the issue of elder abuse through existing older people networks and agencies.

“There is a lack of understanding as to what actually constitutes elder abuse but this is an issue which affects each and every one of us, either directly or indirectly, through our family,

our friends and our local community” says Dr Jonathan Drennan, co-director of NCPOP.

The NCPOP brings together a combination of expertise from the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery, and Health Systems; the UCD School of Applied

Social Science; the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy, and Population Science; the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science; and the UCD Geary Institute.



Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney TD (centre-right) and Professor Desmond Fitzgerald, Vice-President for Research, UCD (centre-left) pictured at the announcement of National Research Centre for the Protection of Older People



Somalia 1992, courtesy of Paul Lowe/Panos Pictures, is one of the photographs featured on the UCD Clinton Institute Photography & International Conflict website

Do photographs shape our view of international conflict?

Photography and International Conflict is an interdisciplinary research project at the UCD Clinton Institute. It provides expert commentaries and documentation on the histories and theories of the photographic representation of international conflict.

The recently-launched project website www.ucd.ie/photoconflict hosts a number of case studies that provide detailed, illustrated analyses of particular geopolitical conflicts and issues surrounding the making and consumption of conflict imagery.

Funded by the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS), it brings

together scholars and practitioners in visual media and international relations to examine the roles of image producers and the functions of photographic imagery in the documentation and communication of wars, violent conflicts and human rights issues.

Videos of presentations from two conferences organised by the project, 'Imaging Human Rights' and 'Photography & International Conflict', are available in the conferences section of the site, which is designed as a resource and discussion site for scholars and practitioners.

St Michael's House partnership with UCD

Minister for Mental Health, John Moloney TD has launched a unique teaching and research partnership between St Michael's House, one of the largest service providers of services for people with an intellectual disability in Ireland, and UCD.

The partnership aims to enhance and facilitate service-based research in disabilities and to support the research and teaching strategies of both organisations.

This is the first time in Ireland that a service provider and a university have formally agreed to jointly undertake research on an ongoing basis.

Dr Eilis Hennessey, Head of the UCD School of Psychology commented, "This collaborative venture will further embed research and practice within the development and delivery of innovative teaching programmes in the university."

Welcoming the partnership, Dr Philip Dodd, Director of Research, St Michael's House, said: "This is an important initiative that will support the development of evidence-based, person-centered services for people with intellectual disabilities in Ireland".

Nanovation Laboratories launched by Nobel Prize-winning chemist



Prof Nick Quirke Principal, UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (left) is shown here with Nobel Prize-winning scientist Prof Walter Kohn at the launch of the UCD Nanovation Laboratories

Nobel Prize-winning scientist Professor Walter Kohn officially opened new nanovation laboratories at UCD to support the research and development of new energy technologies. Using the facilities, scientists and industry will work together to develop nanotechnologies and products targeted at the global renewable energy market worth an estimated €113 billion by 2015.

Nanotechnology involves the study and use of materials on an unimaginably small scale. Nano refers to a nanometre (nm). One nanometre is a millionth of a millimetre or about one eighty thousandth the width of a human hair.

"At this scale, materials can behave very differently from when they are in larger form. Nanomaterials can be stronger or lighter, or conduct heat or electricity in a different way. By finding out more about the nanoscale world, scientists aim to use nanotechnologies to create new devices that are faster, lighter, stronger or more efficient," says Professor Nick Quirke, Principal of the UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences.

Professor Walter Kohn, who officially launched the new facilities, is one of the world's leading scientific figures in the search for ways to harness the sun's energy. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1998 for his seminal work on the electronic structure of materials.

According to Professor Kohn, solar energy is a major part of the solution to the provision of future energy needs. He believes it offers an economically realistic, clean and safe energy source to help replace diminishing fossil fuels. "Solar energy is quite realistically estimated, in two or three decades, to contribute perhaps something in the vicinity of 25% of total electricity consumption," he says.

The UCD Nanovation Laboratories were funded by Science Foundation Ireland and the Higher Education Authority to €3.4 million. Over 30 scientists and 120 PhDs and post doctoral scholars conduct research in the laboratories, which measure more than 630 square metres.

The official opening event was part of Innovation Dublin 2009 — a week-long festival of events to showcase, highlight, promote and encourage innovation and creativity in Dublin.



The UCD School of Law hosted a conference in conjunction with the Joint Committee of the Irish Human Rights Commission and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission on the topic of a Charter of Rights for the Island of Ireland. Pictured here are: Prof Brendan O'Leary, University of Pennsylvania, who gave a key-note address on "An all-island Charter of Rights as Mutual Assurance and Insurance"; Suzanne Egan, UCD School of Law, and UCD Dean of Law, Prof John Jackson. The theme for the Conference, which was opened by Dr Maurice Manning, stemmed from the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement

Unravelling the origins

It is quite fitting that almost 150 years to the day that Charles Darwin's seminal work *On the Origin of Species* was published, scientists around the world proposed the creation of a genome zoo; a project called *Genome 10K* aimed at uncovering the origins of 10,000 vertebrate species by genome sequencing – or mapping their genetic material.

One of the 68 scientists pivotal to this project is Dr Emma Teeling, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science, an extraordinary scientist with a PhD in molecular phylogenetics and whose world-renowned expertise on bats led to her being chosen.

Through Darwin's work and all scientists that have followed in his wake, we have experienced a paradigm shift, a world where knowledge of natural selection and evolution has deepened and where disease and immunity can be better explained by understanding our genes, what they contain, and why they are different or similar to other species.

Scientists like Teeling are looking at Darwin's theories on a molecular level.

"The most challenging intellectual problem in biology for this century will be the reconstruction of our biological past so we can understand how complex organisms such as ourselves evolved," said Sydney Brenner, pioneering geneticist, Nobel Laureate and one of the authors on the *Genome 10K* paper.

Teeling is well placed to tackle the *Genome 10K* undertaking. Having spent the past ten years of her life looking at the evolution of mammals, focusing specifically on bats, she was one of the co-authors on a paper aiming to uncover the bat evolutionary tree, which was published in *Science* in 2005.

"This was essentially a spring board into being considered an expert in bat comparative genomics. I understood the bat phylogenetic tree, I knew which taxa were important for sequencing from a comparative genomics point of view, and also I had access to a sizeable tissue collection and knew collaborators with large tissue collections of their own," explained Teeling.

In April 2009 at a three-day meeting at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Teeling and other vertebrate experts met to discuss *Genome 10K*. Gathered in one room were world authorities on everything from rodents and primates to whales and armadillos.

Part of the work Teeling carries out at the BatLab in UCD is akin to piecing together a huge jigsaw puzzle without seeing the picture on the box

"One of the reasons they picked bats was that they account for one fifth of living mammals but they are also very, very different: when you think about it, their genome must be so startlingly different because they are mammals but they can fly, they live for an incredibly long time and they use echolocation," explains Teeling.

Despite these differences bats, as mammals, are related to us yet they have small genomes, making it easier to study genome limits, so the study of their DNA has wide-ranging implications beyond their own species.

While the Human Genome Project was completed in 2003 after 13 years' work, the research being undertaken by Teeling and her fellow scientists is ground-breaking, as it involves pushing the boundaries of gene technology with next generation sequencers.

"One of the reasons the *Genome 10K* project is so unusual is that it moves sequencing technology forward to a new level of discovery."

"If we get the impetus and the funding to push it forward, the technology will exist in the next three years."

Part of the work Teeling carries out at the BatLab in UCD is akin to piecing together a huge jigsaw puzzle without seeing the picture on the box, she says: "When sequencing a genome you take, for example, three billion base pairs of DNA – a big long string of A, T, C and G – and you randomly chop it up into tiny fragments that are 76 base pairs long: you have to try and piece these all together.

All this work is being carried out, explains Teeling, because it reveals fascinating new information about what makes one animal different from the next: "It is the parts of the genome that are different that makes a species unique, for example parts of the genome that will allow an animal to respond to certain changes in their environment such as climate change or disease".

"When we look at every single base pair in a genome and see how it changes over time in response to the evolutionary challenges that all of the vertebrate ancestors were faced with: what does it take to be a bird? What does it take to be a fish? What does it take to be human and why are we so different to everything else. Or are we really that different?"

"I really think that we will uncover how life evolved by doing this. I'm sure we'll also find that things are an awful lot trickier than we think.

Perhaps there will be more to the evolution of life than the genome alone but this will not be known until all of these genomes are sequenced."

When *Genome 10K* is completed, Teeling and her colleagues will have genetically mapped one sixth of all living vertebrates in a science project unprecedented in both its size and ambition.

Specifically at the BatLab, Teeling is interested in the plethora of interesting questions that can be answered by studying how bats evolved.

She talks about the wealth of information in the bat genome, especially their extraordinarily long lifespan that points to natural immunity evolved over time.

"What is different about the bat genome in comparison to others that they have longevity and can resist certain diseases? If you want to know best how to fight a disease you study something that already does."

"The Human Genome Project was unprecedented but *Genome 10K* is the next step. Because of this our lives will be very different in the next five to ten years, as it will make personal genomics a very real thing, where you can find out your predisposition to certain diseases amongst other things," explains Teeling.

"I've told my first year medical students that in the near future they will be dealing with this as doctors; they will be undertaking much more genetic testing or screening."

Thanks to the work of Teeling and the numerous other scientists involved, *Genome 10K* won't simply give us insight into bats and other mammals, it will bring us closer to ourselves both as a species and on a personal level.

Marie Boran (BSc 2002) writes in the Technology Section of the Irish Independent and for online magazine, Silicon Republic.



Dr Emma Teeling

TV and the City

How do the urban and the televisual now coincide, overlap and even mutually define one another? This was the question considered at the three-day *Television Cities* conference held as part of Innovation Dublin 2009, a week-long celebration of innovation, culture, environment, enterprise and people.

Professor Anna McCarthy from New York University opened proceedings with a keynote speech on "Television and the Architecture of Integration in Postwar New York". Subsequent papers addressed themselves to a wide range of television series

including celebrated ones such as *The Wire*, *Sex and the City*, *True Blood*, *Friday Night Lights* and the *Red Riding* trilogy.

Other papers homed in on less scrutinised but nonetheless significant forms of television programming such as World Wrestling Entertainment matches, the television geographies of Jamie Oliver and the urban imaginaries of gay media.

The conference, which was jointly sponsored by the UCD School of English, Drama and Film and the UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies, also heard about such diverse representational phenomena as the television broadcasts of Bishop Fulton Sheen, the installation of BBC Scotland at Pacific Quay in Glasgow, television fan pilgrimages to Vancouver and the functions of outdoor televisions in Beijing during the 2008 Olympic Games.



How do the urban and the televisual now coincide?

Hyperactivity label warning based on too high levels of consumption

A new EU food label warning that confectionary and sugary drinks may lead to hyperactivity in children is based on unrealistically high consumption levels, according to research led by UCD scientists.

"We strongly recommend that the risk assessment process which led to this legislation be urgently reviewed," says Professor Mike Gibney, Director of the UCD Institute for Food and Health, who headed up a consortium of Irish universities including University College Cork and the University of Ulster.

"Quite simply, no child in our survey of Irish children and teenagers came even remotely near the doses used to inform the introduction of this new additives labeling," he says.

A child between 7-10 years old would have to consume 4 x 56g bags of sweets per day to reach the required exposure levels, and that would mean that half the daily calories of these children would have to come from sweets. "The reality is that the figure is less than 10%," explains Professor Gibney.

The EU regulation stipulates that any food on sale in the European Union which contains particular food additives (Sunset Yellow, 30 Carmoisine, Tartrazine, Ponceau 4R, Allura Red, and Quinoline Yellow) – be labeled to indicate that these additives 'may have an adverse effect on activity and attention in children'.

Enhancing wastewater treatment through a new engineered wetland system

A by-product formed when treating water supplies for drinking could be re-used to enhance wastewater treatment in a new, engineered wetland system, thanks to UCD research.

The novel system, developed by Dr Yaqian Zhao's team at the UCD Centre for Water Resources Research in the UCD School of Architecture, Landscape & Civil Engineering, makes use of alum sludge, an aluminum-rich waste product of drinking water treatment plants that use aluminum salts as coagulant.

Each year Ireland produces about 18,000 tonnes of dewatered alum sludge from its public drinking water treatment plants, and the sludge is entirely land-filled at a cost of about €130 per tonne.

The new system instead uses the alum sludge in an engineered wetland matrix. A pilot demonstration of the system at UCD Farm, Lyons Estate in Newcastle, Co Dublin, showed that flushing wastewater through the aluminum-enriched system helps to remove phosphorous, particularly from high strength animal farm effluents.

It is expected that the new system will offer a new and novel beneficial re-use alternative to the landfill disposal of the alum sludge. At the same time, it will serve to significantly reduce phosphorus load in wastewater and enhance overall wastewater treatment in the novel engineered wetland system.

Funders include the Environmental Protection Agency, Enterprise Ireland and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and Ballymore Water Treatment Plant and UCD Farm assisted with the research.

Wildflowers of Offaly launched by Taoiseach

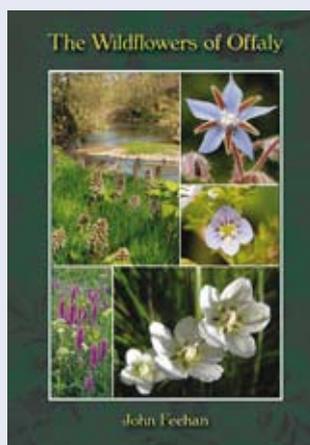
Taoiseach Brian Cowen launched *The Wildflowers of Offaly* by Dr John Feehan, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine in December 2009.

The book, which includes brief descriptions of every species and limited pictures, is not a conventional county flora publication. *The Wildflowers of Offaly* is unique in the way it attempts to describe the character of the plants: their ecological preferences, their uses and the beliefs associated with them, and in particular the extraordinary diversity of the strategies they have evolved to ensure pollination and the production of seed. It contains numerous colour photographs mostly taken by Damian Egan, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science and is supplemented with a selection of plates detailing the classic older floras of Northern Europe.

Published by Offaly County Council as part of the county's Biodiversity Action Plan, the book is designed to bring a deeper appreciation of wildflowers to the wider public. Although it

describes the wildflowers of County Offaly, the same species — more than 500 of them — occur much more widely.

In his review, Michael Viney of the *Irish Times* described it as 'a revelation of Offaly's wildflower beauty and diversity by one of Ireland's top ecologists and communicators of nature. His up-close-and-personal portraits give each plant a vivid and distinctive presence, aided by superlative illustration — another landmark in books about our countryside'.



Partners in history

Taking the long view, the contribution of the Irish Franciscan Order to Ireland's development is a new and rich history. Now, a partnership project that is both an insider and outsider account sheds new light on the coupled fates of Ireland and the Irish Franciscan Order.

The Irish Franciscans 1534-1990, published in November 2009, is the culmination of years of collaboration between the Irish Franciscans and the UCD Micheál Ó Cléirigh Institute, where the order's vast archive is now housed. This treasure trove of manuscripts, documents and early books have been in the possession of the Irish Franciscans since the seventeenth century, but are now under the care of UCD and have been digitised, conserved, catalogued and researched over the last decade, with the result that the archive is now accessible to a much wider group of scholars and interested groups.

The flowering of the archive has paved the way for a very unusual history, says co-editor Dr John McCafferty, Director of the UCD Micheál Ó Cléirigh Institute. "For some time, the Franciscans have been looking to a history of the order, and we wanted to produce something that would reflect its life with a wide focus. This history is not handled by the order itself. We saw no point in replaying the dichotomies of insider/outsider history, which is why this book is a collection of essays by academics from a broad range of disciplines and by Franciscan scholars."

There are 18 articles in total, with multiple perspectives. "Irish history has tended to be written from the point of view of politics and great men," says McCafferty. "This is a work that focuses on history through the lenses of art, architecture, the Poor

Clare Sisters and the Third Order (a lay religious movement dedicated to St Francis)". The broad span of the book offers a vision of an order that has been through tough times and survived. For example, the work reveals, amongst the friars minor, overall

numbers have fallen to about 100 or below at least once in every century since 1500, with the exception of the last century. "Through the centuries the Franciscans have been courageous and cowardly, generous and greedy, humble and haughty, poor and prideful, smart and silly but always of significance in Irish life," the introduction tells us.

"Almost everything that happened in Ireland in the last 800 years involves a Franciscan," says McCafferty. "A history of the order is a history of the country. They had a special affinity with the Irish language, they continued to preach in that language; this is the reason that so many Irish remained Catholic throughout the period." The ruins of Franciscan friaries are among the striking in the country, and the order retained strong and meaningful relationships with its communities. "Even after the penal laws and the destruction of abbeys in places like Drogheda and Ennis, the Franciscans kept coming back to those communities where they retained dynamic, embedded relationships," Dr McCafferty explains.

A large section of the book is devoted to colour illustrations of the spectacular indigenous Irish art and architecture collected and preserved by the order. "Everybody thought that Cromwell destroyed all indigenous Irish art," says McCafferty. "However, there is a lot of material that has lain undiscovered under beds or at the back of libraries; lots of important religious art and the illegal work of goldsmiths."

The publication hits two key anniversaries for the order. Eight hundred years ago, in 1209, St Francis of Assisi walked to Rome to ask Pope Innocent III to approve his way of life. His request was granted and the Franciscan Order was born. Four hundred years ago saw the opening of St Anthony's College, Louvain, which became home to a group of Irish elite who fled Donegal to find refuge in Europe and seek help for their cause in Ireland.

The Franciscan archive at UCD includes the only copy of the diary of the 1607 Flight of the

Earls by historian Tadhg Ó Cianáin. It is the first diary written in Irish and gives an account of the many cities and dignitaries visited by the earls as they moved through France, Flanders, Switzerland and Italy. The diary and countless other national treasures were subject to a special viewing by President Mary McAleese in autumn 2009 to commemorate 800 years of the Order.

Although the Franciscan library is now housed in UCD, the order is still very much part of the story. Working as partners, the Franciscans and the Micheál Ó Cléirigh Institute have re-imagined the future of these precious texts and objects. In its new home the collection has attracted the attention of scholars from many disciplines leading to a "richly contextualised and collaborative understanding of just under 500 years of religious, social and economic life of Irish people at home and abroad," the book's editors tell us.

"If you know nothing of Irish history and read 'The Irish Franciscans' you'd learn a lot," says McCafferty. "We believe it is for everybody and it is intended for a wide audience. It will appeal to the academic community too, because the essays have been rigorously reviewed. The work has been subsidised to keep the price low for all types of readers."

An enormous number of copies have been pre-ordered – unusual for a work of its type. At 400 pages and €26 the work presents a valuable opportunity for the armchair historian to enrich his collection. The work also has appeal for art historians, linguists and social scientists.

The Irish Franciscans 1534-1990 is edited by Franciscan Joe McMahon, Dr Edel Bhreathnach and Dr John McCafferty of the UCD Micheál Ó Cléirigh Institute.

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



The Psalter of Caimín

The Franciscans – Gatekeepers of History

The Irish Franciscans collected and protected a very special collection of books, including countless significant works from the beginning of the print era and dating back to the sixteenth century.

They set up the first printing press using an Irish font, established in Louvain in 1614. The thousands of rare works in the UCD Micheál Ó Cléirigh collection provide an unrivalled resource to historians all over the world. Their importance is only now being realised.

The Psalter of Caimín, like all the precious works collected by the Franciscans, has journeyed many miles to the Institute. This unique fragment of an illuminated 12th century Irish manuscript from Co Clare was saved by Micheál Ó Cléirigh,

the Irish Franciscan who directed the compilation of the Annals of the Four Masters. The Annals chronicle Irish history from prehistory to 1616 AD. Ó Cléirigh was given the manuscript for safe-keeping by the family that had preserved it on the island of Inis Cealtra throughout the medieval period. He brought it to Louvain where it remained in the possession of the Irish Franciscans until the next leg of its journey, to its new home in UCD where it will be studied by scholars from all over the world.

Dr John McCafferty, Director of the Micheál Ó Cléirigh Institute and co-editor of The Irish Franciscans 1534-1990

Government Chief Scientific Adviser honoured by UCD

His work has been published in some 100 papers in refereed journals, and has twice featured on the cover of Nature. In recognition of his remarkable achievements, the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser Dr Patrick Cunningham was awarded an honorary degree by UCD in December 2009.

A UCD Agricultural Science graduate, Dr Cunningham, Professor of Animal Genetics at Trinity College, took up the post as Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government in January 2007.

Having secured his PhD in Animal Genetics from Cornell University in the USA in 1962, Dr Cunningham began a research career with An Foras Talúntais (now Teagasc), becoming Department Head in 1970 and Deputy Director of Research in 1980.

"Professor Cunningham's work in An Foras Talúntais focussed mainly on genetic improvement in the Irish cattle population. He pioneered methods of genetic evaluation, introduction and assessment of new breeds and strains, and the economic evaluation of breeding options and strategies," said Professor Maurice Boland, Principal of the UCD College of Life Sciences who delivered the citation at the conferring ceremony. "The theoretical work which accompanied this research attracted considerable international attention."

In 1964, professor Cunningham began to contribute to the newly-established Department of Genetics in TCD, and in 1974, he was appointed Professor of Animal Genetics.

In 1988, he moved to the World Bank as visiting professor at the Economic Development Institute. From 1990 to 1993, he was appointed Director of Animal Production and Health at the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the UN in Rome. During this period also directed the Screwworm Eradication Programme for North

Africa, the largest international campaign of biological control ever undertaken.

"Following the BSE crisis in 1996, Professor Cunningham and his colleagues developed a system of DNA traceability for the meat industry, which has been used successfully in Europe for some years," said Professor Boland. "They went on to establish a biotechnology company IdentiGEN, which deploys these technologies in Europe and the USA. Professor Cunningham is the Chairman of IdentiGEN."



Pictured (l-r) at the conferring ceremony: Professor Maurice Boland, Principal of the UCD College of Life Sciences; Professor Patrick Cunningham, Chief Scientific Adviser to the Irish Government; and UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady



International award for knee joint research

Dr Garrett Coughlan, postdoctoral researcher in the Stim-XDP team at the UCD Institute for Sport and Health, won the Best Paper award at the 3rd International Conference on Movement Dysfunction.

The paper looked at analysis of the motor control response to a simulated knee effusion model, created by injecting 60ml of saline into a healthy knee joint and investigating the effect that the subsequent knee swelling had on how subjects landed from a jump. This work is critical to the understanding of how athletes become susceptible to lack of movement control that can result in recurrent injuries and delayed rehabilitation. The simulated effusion model had previously been studied by many other research groups, mainly in the USA, but had focussed mainly on evaluation of its effects in a static environment. The major innovation in Dr Coughlan's work was to take the model to the dynamic environment where its applicability to the sports field was greatly enhanced.

The paper was based on PhD work completed at UCD under the guidance of Dr Brian Caulfield and was supported by a UCD Seed Funding Award. The research also was also the result of successful collaboration with Dr Ulrik McCarthy Persson from the UCD School of Population Science, Physiotherapy and Public Health, Dr Rod McLoughlin from O'Neill's Sports Medicine in UCD and Dr. Riann Palmieri-Smith from the University of Michigan, USA.

Dr Garrett Coughlan's paper on motor control response was recognised with the Best Paper award at the 3rd International Conference on Movement Dysfunction

Walls come tumbling down

Just over two decades ago the Berlin Wall fell, literally opening up barriers and catalysing social and cultural change. To mark this 20th anniversary, a 3-day conference at UCD looked at how Berlin has changed post unification: the 'critical reconstruction' of Berlin, commemorative projects and how Berliners and people from the former East Germany have been represented in popular culture.

Participants explored the way in which diverse voices from both sides of the once divided country have worked both to develop symbols for the new Berlin republic and to continue to express their distinctive identities within it. *Re-Imagining the Nation: Transformations of German Cultural Identity since 1989* was co-organised by the UCD Schools of Art History & Cultural Policy, Languages & Literatures and Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Civil Engineering. It was opened by his Excellency Busso von Alvensleben, the German Ambassador to Ireland.

UCD academic honoured for teaching excellence



Dr Amanda Gibney receiving her award from the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese

In recognition of her exemplary teaching and innovative research, and her ability to successfully combine these two roles, Dr Amanda Gibney, UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering, was honoured with a National Award for Excellence in Teaching. The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese presented the award in Dublin Castle in November 2009.

The awards were introduced by the National Academy for the Integration of Research & Teaching & Learning (NAIRTL) in 2008. Candidates are nominated by their institutions and selected by a committee which includes international representatives, representatives of the Irish University Association, the Institutes of Technology Ireland, and the Union of Students in Ireland. This year there was an 80% increase in the number of nominations received with fourteen Higher Education Institutions taking part. A total of 5 individual awards were made.

A window on pregnancy

Imagine being a doctor and having to treat patients you can't see. Nor can you ask them how they are feeling, or whether they have noticed particular symptoms. That's the challenge presented by a foetus developing in his or her mother's womb. But over recent decades ultrasound has provided an invaluable window into pregnancy to check that all is well. And if all is not well, the approach can pick up hard-to-diagnose conditions like heart anomalies and blood disorders in the womb, enabling life-saving treatments in some cases.

"Ultrasound can tell us a lot about the foetus that we wouldn't otherwise know," says Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist and maternal and foetal medicine specialist at the National Maternity Hospital in Holles Street and associate professor in obstetrics and gynaecology at UCD.

"Ultrasound allows us to assess the foetus — we can look at foetal wellbeing and foetal structure, see are they developing normally, are they moving and breathing, and measure bloodflow."

The technology forms an integral part of Professor McAuliffe's clinical and academic work, which includes monitoring special situations such as twin pregnancies or pregnancies where the mother has a condition like diabetes or hepatitis C, and more generally, even looking at how a mother's diet can impact her baby long after birth.

Professor McAuliffe was drawn to the challenges and rewards of obstetrics while studying medicine at UCD before building up her expertise in Toronto and the UK and then returning to Dublin.

"It is a fascinating specialty, it's very challenging — it covers medicine and surgery and it can be very exciting when things happen on the labour ward," she says. "Also, these are young women at a very happy time in their lives, so that makes for a very nice atmosphere in the hospital."

But while pregnancy is often a happy time, problems can arise. And if they do, ultrasound has given medical staff new ways of detecting and addressing some of those threats, including anaemia, or low iron levels in the blood.

"Some babies are anaemic in the womb and the only way you can detect this it is by ultrasound to look at the blood flow in the brain.

An anaemic foetus will send whatever oxygenated blood they have up to the brain because the brain is an essential organ, so if the blood flow in the brain is increased it's quite a sensitive marker for anaemia. If we don't manage those cases properly those babies would die," says Professor

McAuliffe. "And if one looks at the annual reports from the 1950s, 60s and 70s there were a lot of foetal deaths from rhesus disease where the mothers are rhesus positive, but now we can monitor those pregnancies and carry out blood transfusions — at the NMH we do about 30 to 40 transfusions per year."

Blood flow problems can also arise in twin pregnancies, where one twin gets the lion's share of blood supply. In severe cases, the other twin could die without intervention.

Careful monitoring with ultrasound can diagnose the problem, then doctors can perform surgery in utero to fix the communicating blood vessels, explains Professor McAuliffe.

In some cases the mother has a pre-existing condition that could be passed on to or otherwise affect the baby. For pregnant mothers with hepatitis C, efforts have been focussed on managing delivery to help minimise the risk of 'vertical' transmission of the virus from mother to child.

A five-year study of mothers at the Rotunda and NMH by Professor McAuliffe and her team showed that managing such deliveries with a planned Caesarean section did not affect the risk of the virus from mother to child. "Some centres internationally have been doing C-sections for these women but our study showed that C-section doesn't have an impact in vertical transmission," says Professor McAuliffe.

The finding has already informed practices at the Dublin hospitals for managing delivery in Hep C pregnancies, and the study is also exciting international interest, says Professor McAuliffe: "We are not doing C-sections now as a result and I think it saves a lot of ladies unnecessary sections."

Diabetes too can pose potential challenges for pregnancy, and professor McAuliffe has been monitoring foetal development in mothers with Type 1 diabetes.

The work has highlighted the impact of poorly controlled sugar levels in pregnancy on the structure and function of the foetal heart. "We found that even at 14 weeks [into pregnancy] there were differences in the foetal hearts in the women with Type 1 diabetes — that was quite surprising and we were the first people to show that," says professor McAuliffe.

"Then later in the pregnancy there were definite changes in the heart and the higher the sugars were the more marked the changes were."

Her more recent work has consolidated the structural findings, showing that the foetal heart can also be under physiological stress in poorly controlled type 1 diabetic pregnancies.

And while the majority of the babies in these studies were clinically well, the findings could help shed light on why the babies of diabetic mothers tend to have somewhat increased risks of obesity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes later in life, she explains.

The long-term impact of the prenatal environment is also the focus of another study to which Professor McAuliffe is contributing: a Health Research Board-funded trial to examine the effects of maternal diet on a child's appetite and weight after birth.

The study is tracking and comparing pregnancies where mothers are on a typical 'Western' diet and mothers on a diet rich in wholegrains.

"After you eat high glycaemic index foods like white bread and potatoes there's a rapid rise in sugars in the bloodstream and that will cross directly over to the foetus and could stimulate foetal growth," says Professor McAuliffe. "If one ingests brown bread and wholegrains there won't be such a rise in sugar and the foetus won't be exposed to that sugar."

The ongoing trial of around 700 women is monitoring foetal, baby and toddler growth and relating it back to diet in pregnancy, she explains.

"We are in the middle of an obesity crisis where one in four of our nine-year-olds are obese and if some of that is due to mothers eating high sugar foods in pregnancy then perhaps a simple intervention by changing to brown bread and whole grains," she says.

"From a public health policy it can be very rewarding to intervene in pregnancy, so if for instance money was put into promoting maternal health and good maternal nutrition, that could reap benefits for 30 or 40 years down the road in terms of cardiovascular disease and diabetes. I think that looking at this area could have a big impact down the road."

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

Perinatal Ireland

Around one in every 50 pregnant mothers in Ireland gets some special news: that she is carrying not one baby but two.

Twin pregnancies can deliver double the joy, but they need to be carefully monitored to ensure both foetuses are doing well in utero.

And now the largest study of its kind in Ireland has collected data on around 1,000 twin pregnancies here to help inform clinical practice.

The aim is to better understand how twins grow in pregnancy, explains Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe, a principal investigator in the Perinatal Ireland consortium that links six academic centres north and south and covers around 40,000 births each year.

The approach is building up a wealth of clinical data that can form the basis of research, and a new study to start in 2010 will examine growth restriction to see how outcome can be improved, says Professor McAuliffe, who is a co-investigator for UCD and the National Maternity Hospital in the consortium.

Why don't boys go into primary teaching?

Over the past two decades, primary teaching throughout the developed world has become increasingly a female profession. In a recently published book, *Education in Ireland, Challenge & Change*, Professor Sheelagh Drudy, UCD School of Education investigated the factors influencing the 'feminisation of teaching' in Ireland (North & South) to explore specific reasons for the trend.

The book, which was launched by former President of Ireland Dr Mary Robinson, suggests that men's interest in female-dominated fields is, in general, less usual than women's interest in male-dominated fields. Professor Drudy proposes that when all of the factors are considered, the main difference influencing the decision to go in to primary teaching between the genders is that the men place a greater emphasis on extrinsic factors such as income, career status and peer reaction.

From the mid-1990s the increases to primary teaching were accounted for mainly by females. By 2009, 89% of B.Ed graduates in the Republic of Ireland were female while in Northern Ireland 84% were female.

Comparative research of both jurisdictions looked at trends in female and male academic points at entry; the role of career guidance; perceived job satisfaction and making a difference to others; along with the question of status in their occupation and peer reactions to their choice of career.

In respect of status and reaction, males perceived proportionately much lower levels of support from influencers such as parents, guidance counsellors and friends when they showed an interest in primary teaching as a career. Females, by comparison, perceived that they would have the support of almost everybody when choosing primary teaching.

Professor Drudy added that rural-urban residence is another factor. 26% of rural and

small-medium town schools leavers as against 17% of urban school leavers in the Republic said that teaching was one of their preferred choices.

"The research also looked at social class background and choice of teaching as a career. It is well documented that pupils from professional, employer, managerial and farming social classes are more likely to achieve high points. The influence of having teachers within the family is highly significant in the decision to pursue teaching as a career."

All of these factors have implications for primary education. "We face a challenge," Professor Drudy said. "The high proportion of teachers who are female, from rural backgrounds and from relatively high-income backgrounds creates a fairly homogeneous body of student teachers to work with increasingly heterogeneous pupil populations."

Having said this, it remains crucial that teacher education continue to focus on attracting calibre students rather than attempting to redress the gender imbalance. The male teachers themselves, although aware of the image of the profession, believe that it is important that men teach in primary schools and that they have a valuable contribution to make to teaching.

Given that job security figured prominently among all survey respondents, perhaps this economic downturn may change this image and prompt young men and their parents to look at teaching in a new light."



Professor Sheelagh Drudy

Labharfad le cách! I will speak to you all!

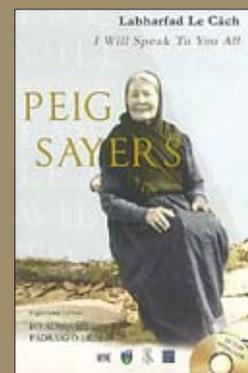
Seoladh an foilseachán seo deireadh na bliana seo caite sa Seomra Machnaimh, Áras Uí Chuinn, An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath. Is éard atá ann scéalta agus seanchas ó Pheig Sayers, taifeadta ag Radio Éireann agus an BBC. Ba iad an tOll. Bo Almqvist agus an Dr Pádraig Ó Héalaí a rinne trasríobh ar an ábhar fuaime. Chuireadar nótaí agus réamhrá, maille le haistriúchán leis an ábhar.

Cé go bhfuil cáil go forleathan ar an ábhar féinbheathaisnéise sna leabhair *Peig* (1936), agus *Machnamh Seanmhá* (1939), is beag dá stór scéalaíochta ná seanchais a foilsíodh roimhe seo.

Tá glór Pheig féin le cloisteáil ar an dá dhlúthdhiosca ar cuid den bhfoilseachán *Labharfad le cách!* iad. Rinne Harry Bradshaw athmháistriú ar an an na buntaifeadtaí atá leis an leabhar agus tá glór Pheig le cloisteáil ar na dioscaí seo. Ba iad Seán Mac Réamonn agus Séamus Mac Aonghusa a rinne formhór na dtaifeadtaí do Radio Éireann in 1947. Is iad New Island Press a bhí i mbun an fhoilseacháin nua seo ina bhfuil ceiliúradh dhá dhéanamh ag RTÉ, Cornhairle Bhéaloideas Éireann agus Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann, An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath ar scéalaí a maireann a cáil i gcónaí.

Ba í an file Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill a rinne an foilseachán a sheoladh sa gCOBAC. Labhair sí faoin saibhreas scéalaíochta ag Peig, faoin obair a rinne an bailitheoir Seosamh Ó Dálaigh ag bailiú scéalta ó Pheig agus faoin gcnuasach ábhar ó Pheig atá anois i gCnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann, An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath.

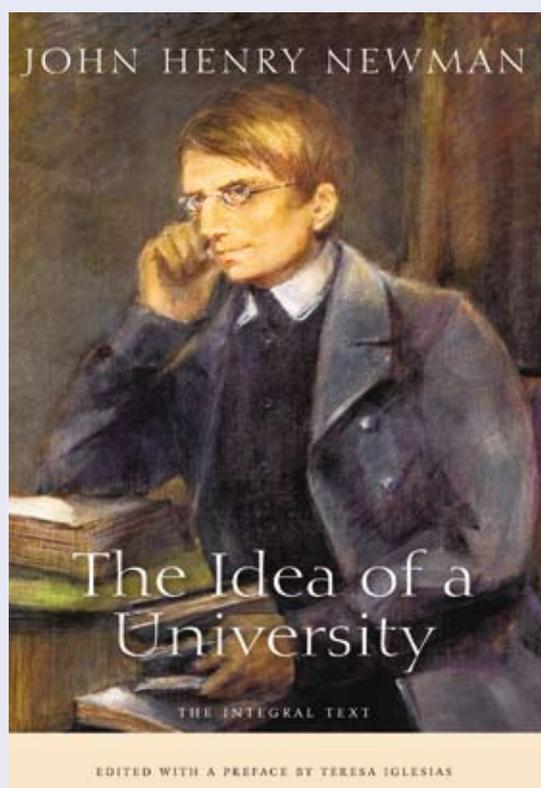
Tá suíomh gréasáin nua ag an gCnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann www.ucd.ie/irishfolklore



New and authoritative edition of Newman's *The Idea of a University*

First rector of the Catholic University, John Henry (later Cardinal) Newman was already a controversial figure whose writings and beliefs had led to his religious conversion and his move to Ireland when he delivered the *Discourses on the Scope and Nature of University Education in Dublin* in 1852. This first form of *The Idea of a University* was to become his legacy to Dublin and a source of great academic and intellectual debate ever since.

Now republished by the UCD International Centre for Newman Studies, the 2009 edition of Newman's *The Idea of a University* is an unabridged text with a preface by Teresa Iglesias, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy. "This publication brings back to prominence John Henry Newman's intellectual prowess and his provocation as an inspirational thinker and an educationalist," Dr Pádraig Conway, Director of the International Centre for Newman Studies said at the launch of the publication.



Financial Times ranks MBA amongst the world's best

The Financial Times ranking of the top 100 global full-time MBA programmes, published in January 2010, ranks UCD Smurfit School of Business amongst Europe's top 30, and maintaining its global top 100 position for the eleventh consecutive year. The School is among less than 50 schools worldwide that have been consistently ranked in the top 100 over the last eleven years, and is the only Irish-ranked business school.

In autumn 2009, the Economist ranking placed the School's full-time MBA programme at 37 in the world and at 15 in Europe. The Financial Times' ranking of the world's part-time Executive MBA programmes puts UCD Smurfit School at 65 in the world and at 25 in Europe.

Publishing successes in UCD School of English

From medieval literature, to modern Irish Drama, and questions of race, the breadth of research activity in the UCD School of English was showcased recently in succession of major publications.

In December, six books were launched in the Chester Beatty Library by Professor Declan Kiberd, who noted the centrality of the book as a research format in the Arts and Humanities. The books launched were:

- *Race in Modern Irish Literature and Culture* (Edinburgh UP), Dr John Brannigan

- *Sensation and Modernity in the 1860s* (Cambridge UP), Professor Nicholas Daly

- *Paradise Discourse, Imperialism, and Globalization: Exploited Eden* (Routledge), Dr Sharae Deckard

- *John Keats and the Ideas of the Enlightenment* (Edinburgh UP), Dr Porscha Fermanis

- *Exemplary Spenser: Visual and Poetic Pedagogy in 'The Faerie Queene'* (Ashgate), Dr Jane Grogan

- *The International Reception of Emily Dickinson* (Continuum) edited by Dr Maria Stuart and Professor Domhnall Mitchell from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Later in December, the Cambridge Companion to controversial Irish dramatist, JM Synge edited by Dr PJ Mathews was launched by Professor Frank McGuinness at the at the Abbey Theatre. In the Companion, fourteen leading academics offer analyses of Synge's works, and reflect on his engagements with the Irish Language, the processes of decolonisation, gender, modernism and European culture.

Also at the Abbey Theatre, the second edition of *Contemporary Irish Drama* by Professor Anthony Roche (Palgrave Macmillan) was officially launched by Patrick Mason in autumn 2009, who said of the book, "Tony Roche's book is a most limpid, clear, clean, elegant, deep analysis and insight into contemporary Irish plays and playwrights ... It is a necessary book, showing intimate knowledge of the Irish stage and drama scholarship. It is an act of love."



Pictured at the launch of six books from the UCD School of English were: Dr Maria Stuart; Dr Porscha Fermanis; Dr John Brannigan, Prof Nicholas Daly; Dr Sharae Deckard; and Dr Jane Grogan



Patrick Mason (left) and Professor Anthony Roche pictured at the Abbey Theatre for the launch of *Contemporary Irish Drama (Second Edition)*. In the centre is a portrait of the Irish playwright, Brian Friel by Basil Blackshaw

Making the case for equality in Ireland

Two new books from the Equality Studies Centre, UCD School of Social Justice, explore the realities of inequality and strategies for achieving equality of condition.

Recent events in Ireland and globally have highlighted inequalities that most people take for granted. What has come out most clearly are massive economic inequalities between the rich and the poor. What's less obvious are inequalities in the more intimate settings where people rely on the love and care of others.

Affective Equality: Love, Care and Injustice, is by Professor Kathleen Lynch, Professor John Baker and Dr Maureen Lyons with Dr Sara Cantillon, Judy Walsh, Maggie Feeley, Niall Hanlon and Maeve O'Brien. It explores those intimate inequalities. Its core chapters draw on thirty Care Conversations with people in caring relationships, including parents looking after young children, adults caring for their parents and family members who care for disabled relatives. Other chapters look at the emotional work of mothers, at men's perceptions of caring, and at how lack of care affected children's education in industrial schools. The book shows how carers and care recipients are affected by a lack of social recognition for care and by limited resources and supports; how the work involved in love and care is unequally divided; how caring relationships involve complex inequalities of power. Rich in personal narratives, the book has been described by Professor Madeleine Arnot of Cambridge University as 'a *tour de force* in terms of its depth, range, originality, lucidity and scholarship.'

Equality: From Theory to Action, 2nd edition is by Professor John Baker, Professor Kathleen Lynch, Dr Sara Cantillon and Judy Walsh. It presents a systematic analysis of equality issues in an original general framework. Examining both the realities of inequality and principles of social justice, it argues for wide-ranging changes in economics, politics, education, law and research. *Equality* also addresses the strategic questions facing egalitarians as they try to bring about a more equal world. First published in 2004, its second edition was launched in UCD by Niall Crowley, former CEO of the Equality Authority, who said it was particularly relevant at a time 'when we need to build a broad civil society movement to demand a more equal society.'

Both books are published by Palgrave Macmillan.

CDs to improve mental skills

Two CD's from Professor Aidan Moran, UCD School of Psychology, in association with MindCool Productions, focus on concentration and visualisation techniques that can enhance listening, studying and even golfing skills.

The CD *Learn to Concentrate* teaches the listener to focus their mental "beam" on what is most important in any situation while ignoring distractions. It also gives practical tips on listening and studying more effectively.

The second CD, *Learn to Win at Golf: Doing Your Best When It Matters Most*, endorsed by golfer Pádraig Harrington, provides tips on consistent play by preparing properly, focusing and visualising effectively. It also suggests ways to develop solid routines, deal with distractions, and cope with pressure. More information at www.mindcoolproductions.com



PhD Profile - Greener Farming

Pursuing a PhD examining environmentally friendly crop production was a natural progression for Gráinne Mead.

"The Nitrates Directive was introduced into agricultural law in Ireland in 2006 just as I was completing my degree in UCD. There were many practical issues involving agriculture being debated and research needed to be conducted, especially in the area of manure management and the environmental implications of manure usage on agricultural land," says Gráinne, who is originally a farm in Co Meath, in the heart of cereal and potato growing land in Ireland.

Funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Research Stimulus Fund, Gráinne's research examines the agronomic and environmental implications of pig manure application to Irish grown cereal crops. Under the supervision of Dr Tomás McCabe, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, Gráinne's research tackles a number of topical issues facing Irish farmers today.

"The major practical benefit of my research is the potential to reduce the use of artificial chemical fertilisers in tillage crop production while also creating a new outlet for the disposal of pig manure onto tillage land."

"I am also measuring gaseous emissions from the land application of pig manure to cereal crops. This is important since the introduction of the Kyoto & Gothenburg Protocols regulating gaseous emissions worldwide with agriculture being the highest contributor to green house gas emissions in Ireland."

Gráinne advises that postgraduate studies in practical agriculture are not for the faint hearted:

"You need to be prepared to face all weathers, be able to work with animals and work antisocial hours but at the end of the day I work in a healthy environmental, love the agricultural way of life, get great satisfaction from seeing positive results and have met many interesting people along the way!"



"How many spots can you spot?" image by Gráinne Meade taken in a field margin on UCD Lyons Research Farm. Ladybirds and their larvae are important in tillage production as they are natural predators of the ever present aphid (greenfly). Greenfly are carriers of numerous viral diseases which affect cereal crops. Shortlisted Image for UCD Research Images Competition 2009.

Return on investment for research

A recent report of independent international reviewers, Evidence Ltd, commissioned by Forfás and the HEA, finds that Ireland – and UCD – punches above their weight in terms of research output.

Assessing research activity via publications and their citation performance, the Evidence Report shows that Ireland's volume of research more than doubled between 1998 and 2007. By comparison, outputs for France, Germany and the UK were roughly level.

According to the Evidence Report, the research base is dominated by UCD, TCD and UCC: "The picture is of a small number of Higher Education Institutes which support diverse portfolios and have grown rapidly, supported by a network of medium-sized and smaller institutions with niche research."

Over the past five years the number of papers in all research fields has increased dramatically. UCD's performance shows a 36.6% increase from 2,861 papers in the period 1998-2002 to 4,510 papers in the period 2003-2007. The number of UCD research papers published in 2007 was 1,079 – double the annual output a decade earlier. Overall, UCD now leads the publications ranking with 7,371 papers published over the ten year period.

Overall, Ireland shows an increase (33%) in terms of research output in 2007 over the previous 5 years.



2009 Images of Research

The annual UCD Images of Research competition discovers the most compelling and imaginative research images that convey the depth and diversity of research conducted by UCD researchers. This year, A digital exhibition featuring the 325 submissions and the research projects that inspired them, is available at www.ucd.ie/research/images

This image by Eleanor Cunningham, PhD student in the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, was announced as the overall winner. It is entitled 'Into the Deep Blue', and depicts a microscopic image of sea lice. Sea lice are a parasite to salmon and feed on their mucus and skin. In high enough numbers, the sea lice can kill the salmon. It causes a major impact on the farming of salmon in Ireland.

In second place, for her image capturing the spirit of Filippo Tommaso Marinetti's autobiography, 'La grande Milano tradizionale e futurista' was Selena Daly, UCD School of Languages and Literatures. The conflict between past and future, is an ever-present issue in Marinetti's ideology, which strived to revolutionise all aspects of the visual arts, literature, theatre and music. This image contrasts the facade of the Duomo (cathedral) in Milan with a fragment of a temporary art installation displayed as part of an exhibition 'Futurismo 1909-2009' which took place between February and June 2009.

Dr Sebastien Peuchmalle, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science was awarded third prize for his image of a bat species which is adapted for hearing high frequencies inaudible to humans.

UCD students scoop 1 in 4 undergraduate awards of Ireland

UCD students won 11 of the 41 Undergraduate Awards of Ireland presented by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese. More than 1,600 undergraduates from universities across Ireland submitted papers, essays and dissertations produced as a normal part of their academic course work in the hope of winning one of the prestigious awards.

The winners were selected through an academic review process by 33 separate panels made up of academics and industry professionals. Each of the winners received a gold medal and their winning essays will be published in an annual journal. "These awards encourage our top undergraduates to believe in the validity of their work and in their entitlement to a public place of respect within scholarly discourse," said President of Ireland, Mary McAleese who presented the awards.

In addition to the undergraduate awards, NUI Awards given to UCD students in 2009 included: Travelling Studentships in the Humanities and Sciences (TS); Dr H H Stewart Literary and Medical Scholarships and Prizes (HHS); Duais Chiste Teach an Ardmhéara sa Ghaeilge; French Government Medal; and NUI Prize for Proficiency in French; and the Pierce Malone Scholarship in Engineering.



Pictured at the NUI Awards Day were back row (l-r): Bertrant Lucat (HHS Scholarship in English); Anthony Cullen (HHS Scholarship in Biochemistry); Robert Ffrench O'Carroll (HHS 2nd prize, Pharmacology); David Brennan (HHS Scholarship in Physiology); Patrick Kelty (HHS Scholarship in French); Ronan O'Connell (HHS 3rd prize, General Practice) and Colin Black (HHS 2nd prize, Gynaecology and Obstetrics). Middle Row (l-r): Kimberly Geoghegan (TS Sciences); Maeve O'Hare (HS 2nd prize, Physiology); Aisling Ni Annaidh (Pierce Malone Scholarship in Engineering); Charlotte Berkery (French Government Medal and NUI prize for proficiency in French); Alice Brennan (HHS 2nd prize, Anatomy); Katie Murray (Duais Chiste Teach an Ardmhéara sa Ghaeilge); Adrienne Schofield (HHS Medical Scholarship in Diagnostic Imaging); Michelle Healy (HHS 2nd prize, Diagnostic Imaging); Alison Weldon (HHS Scholarship in German); and Caroline Daly (HHS Scholarship in Physiotherapy). Front Row, (-r): Dr David Redmond Registrar, NUI Maynooth; Dr Attracta Halpin Registrar, NUI; Chancellor of the NUI, Dr Maurice Manning; Dr Michael Murphy, Vice-Chancellor, NUI; Dr Martin Butler, Vice-President for Students UCD; and Mary O'Riordan, Vice President for Student Services and Human Resources, NUIG

GENIE-US investigations of diabetic kidney disease

The US-Ireland R&D Partnership has awarded €4 million to a research programme called GENIE (genetics of nephropathy, an international effort) which will apply a genetic approach called genome-wide association studies in the search for factors that influence the development of diabetic kidney disease.

GENIE is led by Professor Catherine Godson, UCD Conway Institute, and collaborators at Queen's University Belfast (PI: Professor Peter Maxwell) and The Broad Institute, Harvard and MIT (PI: Dr Joel Hirschhorn).

Kidney disease is a common and devastating complication of diabetes, and represents a major public health problem worldwide. Diabetes is the leading cause of end stage renal disease with patients requiring dialysis and transplantation. At present, treatment options are limited and do not reverse the decline in renal function associated with diabetic kidney disease.

Commenting on the project, Professor Catherine Godson said, "Inherited, genetic factors play a role in determining who will get diabetic kidney disease, and as long as these factors remain



Pictured at the announcement of the US-Ireland R&D partnership awards, l-r, standing: Prof Finian Martin (UCD); Prof Peter Maxwell (Queen's University Belfast); Dr David Savage (Queen's University Belfast). L-r, seated: Prof Catherine Godson; Dara Calleary, T.D., Minister for Labour Affairs; Dr Denise Sadler (UCD)

unknown, we are limited in our ability to develop improved treatments and preventive measures. We hope that these studies will identify novel biomarkers and targets for therapeutic intervention in this debilitating disease".

The US-Ireland R&D Partnership was established to increase the level of collaborative research and development among researchers across Ireland, Northern Ireland and the US in the areas of nanotechnology, sensor technology, diabetes and cystic fibrosis.

Technology brings Tara discussion to global audience



Frank Prendergast, UCD and DIT, addressing the symposium on his geo-spatial analysis of the enclosure discovered at Lismullin, Co Meath during archaeological excavations in preparation for the construction of the M3 motorway. Photo courtesy of Ken Williams

Tara – from the past to the future featured around 40 speakers who used new technologies and new analytical methods to interrogate and expand the existing archaeological data, offered various international perspectives on Tara and explored the site's significance from the Stone Age to the present.

Hosted by the UCD School of Archaeology in conjunction with the UCD John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies, the symposium featured the launch by Emeritus Professor George Eogan of *The Rath of the Synods*, Tara, Co. Meath, the second in the series of monographs produced by the UCD School of Archaeology arising from the archaeological excavations of the 1950s. The first monograph was *The Mound of the Hostages* volume, published in 2005.

Papers presented at this most recent symposium will appear as the third volume in the Tara series, and they addressed the data from these excavations as well as more recent fieldwork conducted under the auspices of the Discovery Programme, the National Roads Authority and other agencies.

A live Internet stream of the symposium at the Clinton Auditorium attracted almost 1000 hits per day while a designated Twitter account generated considerable attention. Questions from distant viewers were addressed and Professor Mike Shanks delivered his presentation from Stanford University via a web link.

The symposium was supported by the Humanities Institute of Ireland and UCD Research, the Office of Public Works, National Monuments Service, Heritage Council and Meath County Council.

The Silent Teachers

The Church of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom provided the setting for the Multifaith Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for those who donated their bodies to the UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science for education and research.

The event was organised by Gary Perry who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Body Donor Programme at UCD and was intended to serve as a way for students to acknowledge the ultimate gift that donors had given them and the sacrifices that families make by forgoing the usual ceremonies at the time of their loved one's death.

The service required many student ushers, 12 who read reflections on the meaning of the donor's gift to them, members of the UCD Choral Scholars, as well as musicians. Speakers at the service included Gary Perry; The Dean of Medicine, Professor William Powderly; Professor of Anatomy, John Bannigan and Rev. John Callanan, SJ.

The gratitude the students and staff for the patience of families and the gifts of the donors, referred to as 'Silent Teachers' and 'The Greatest Teachers', was fully recognised by each participant. Following the service more than 300 guests and students enjoyed refreshments in the Health Sciences Centre.

For more information about the Body Donor Programme at UCD call (01) 716 6617 or write in confidence to: The Body Donor Programme Office, UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science, Health Science Centre, Room C231, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4.

Gary Perry is also delighted to have been awarded a Master's Degree in Bereavement Studies from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland for his research into bereavement support interventions offered by funeral directors in Ireland. Gary is the first man in Ireland to be awarded this degree and looks forward to continuing to offer support to donors and the families at the Body Donor Programme at UCD.

Gary Perry, UCD School of Medicine & Medical Sciences

Digitising humanities

Some of the promises, paradoxes and problems associated with the development of a digital culture in the humanities were examined at a recent UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland (HII) Distinguished Lecture by Sally Wyatt.

Wyatt is Professor of Digital Cultures in Development at Maastricht University and Director of the Dutch Virtual Knowledge Studio for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Her lecture examined the development of a digital culture which is apparently poised to transform methodologies and analytical approaches to source materials.

Professor Wyatt argued that the presumption of a transformative impact in regard to digital cultures generally requires closer scrutiny on the part of scholars. Digitising knowledge is highly complex and takes many formats which are not all perceived currently to fall within the ambit of digital humanities. Digitisation also calls for a more strategic sense of how data is collected and how data is represented (visualisations and simulations). She argued that the global digital



Pictured at the (HII) Distinguished Lecture were Professor Sally Wyatt, Maastricht University and Dr Marc Caball

divide which is essentially a reflection of the economic divide between the developed and developing worlds represented along with the question of the actuality of open access a critical challenge in terms of deep and equitable participation. Wyatt also described the mission of the Virtual Knowledge Studio in Amsterdam which aims to contribute to the design and conceptualisation of novel scholarly practices in the humanities and social sciences in the field of digitisation. This event was organised by the HII in conjunction with its HEA PRTL 3-funded programme Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive.

Core Scanner — one of its kind in Ireland — major boost to physical geography research

The UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy recently launched a state-of-the-art ITRAX™ Core Scanner acquired with a €450,000 HEA Research Equipment Renewal Grant. For the past 12 months, the team led by Dr Jonathan Turner have been testing, training and piloting the Core Scanner facility, the only one of its kind in Ireland.

The scanner significantly enhances the potential for detailed climate change reconstruction from a range of depositional environments and provides useful baseline physical and geochemical characteristics of samples prior to specialist (destructive) investigations. The instrument analyses flat samples as well as cores or split cores with a combination of optical imaging, high-resolution radiographic density imaging and highly sensitive XRF analysis.

This new facility is being used in the analysis of core samples from a geoarchaeological investigation at Brú na Bóinne — a UNESCO world heritage site — amongst other projects.

Scientists resolve controversy over wing bone of flying dinosaur

The aerodynamics of the membrane which stretched over the 12-meter wing span of ancient flying reptiles called pterosaurs would have influenced the way these animals could fly, but scientists have not been able to agree on the orientation of a particular wing-bone that controlled the shape of this membrane.

New findings published in the Proceedings of The Royal Society B, suggest that the only conceivable positioning of the wing bone is a sideways orientation.

"Pterosaurs are believed to have had a wing span of up to 12 metres and a weight of between 80 and 250 kilograms," says Colin Palmer from the University of Bristol, the lead author on the paper. "We show that only a sideways pointing pteroid would have been able to withstand the stresses and strains involved in the take off and flight of such a large animal."

"A forward pointing pteroid would not have afforded enough of a safety margin against breakage which would have been catastrophic for the animal," adds Dr Gareth Dyke from the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science.

Pictured at the launch Bank of Ireland UCD Affinity Credit Card are: Aine Gibbons, UCD Vice-President for Development and Alumni Relations; with Des Crowley, Chief Executive, Retail Banking, Bank of Ireland. Bank of Ireland makes a one-off payment for each card and donates a percentage of the annual spend to the UCD Alumni Fund, which seeks to enhance the quality of the student experience, through grants to scholarship, clubs and societies, the Library and projects of urgent student need. More information at www.ucd.ie/alumni.



What now for Irish architecture?

The resilience of the architecture profession is certainly being tested as never before, right now. Some of its younger members are, however, refusing to take things lying down. During the summer, students and teachers at the UCD School of Architecture joined forces to develop an initiative with the fitting title: "Now What?"

The initiative was designed to tap into the wealth of creative talent among graduates and students who need space in which to research and people with whom to discuss ideas.

A series of workshops were organised with the support of Dublin City Council and the City Architect, Ali Grehan. The discussion groups addressed issues such as the physical legacy of the downturn in the form of unfinished sites which have morphed into vacant lots. A total of 25 workshops ran over the summer in various locations, mainly in facilities on campus. Students, graduates, and practitioners, some unemployed, were involved. A developer provided space for the participants in Smithfield, central Dublin.

With the backing of the City Architect, a house design competition was organised. Seventeen teams of three took part. Each was assigned a site of similar scale in Dominick Street just north of the ILAC centre. This was the location for one of the now abandoned public private partnership projects.

Alice Clancy, a tutor at the UCD School of Architecture, Landscape & Civil Engineering who also works as an architectural photographer, was one of the three main organisers of the 'What Now?' along with Fiona Hughes and James Rossa O'Hare. The group tapped into an external network of contacts and received support from the Irish Architecture Foundation. The aim was to generate a public discussion "with a view to shaking things up." The

group has established a blog site, nowwhatchview.blogspot.com

Speaking as an architect, Alice believes that "we have a lot to thank the boom for." It would be a mistake to conclude that the last ten to fifteen years were completely wasted from the point of view of the built

environment. She remains hopeful that the initiative may put down some roots, in the months ahead.

The joint winner of the Dominick Street design competition, Michael Pike, comes from a slightly older generation of architects, having graduated back in 1998. Michael, and his partner, Grace Keeley, won the competition jointly together with a three person team from DIT Bolton Street, including Jamie Conway, Cormac Nolan and Elizabeth Gaynor.

Michael's father, James Pike, is one of the best known architects in the country. Founder of OMP architects, he served as President of the RIAI in 2006-7. Michael gained some experience with his father before branching out on his own after his graduation.

He spent some time at the well-known firm, Grafton Architects, where he worked on the early stages of the award-winning design of the extension to University Luigi Bocconi in Milan. It landed the World Building of the Year award in 2008. Later, Michael set up GKMP together with partner, Grace Keeley.

Michael and Grace brought an approach of *living design* to the Dominick Street competition. "Dublin City Council has been looking at developing the Dominick Street site in smaller parcels. The Georgian squares in Dublin were originally built in this way. Small-scale developers took leases on two or three sites, built the houses and rented them out."

With the big private developer partners having pulled out, the best approach appears to be the incremental one.

The site for the competition was subdivided into seventeen parcels based on the 1907 ordinance survey map. "We were asked to make a proposal for a housing project on site which could include a mix of uses. Everyone opted for a contemporary solution, but one with a relationship to the Georgian Street" (Dominick Street contains a mix of Georgian, and Twentieth century local authority architecture) "we had just one working day in which to produce the design. The two of us (Michael and Grace) sketched an initial idea. We had to fix on a strategy in the first hour. Between then and lunch we worked to get the bones of the scheme worked out." "I made a model, with very thin plywood, while Grace did a set of drawings."

And the core proposal? "We had this idea about making a tall living room facing out on to the street, with the scale of the pre existing Georgian front rooms. The rooms at the back were much lower (in height)."

The aim was to avoid the squat windows, low elevations that exist in your typical recently built building. "There were six dwellings in our project. We tried to make each different, some family oriented, a couple on the ground floor which



Models from the Dublin House competition. Photo Alice Clancy

artists or professionals could use, at the top, a unit for a single person, or couple, and a unit for older people on the ground floor next to a private courtyard."

The pair had previously lived in Barcelona and drew on their experience of their time there. Apartments are designed with the needs of families in mind (with generous balconies and extensive utility space, for example). The City Council has introduced new guidelines aimed at making new apartments more family friendly, but unfortunately, their introduction coincided with the downturn.

Mike was impressed by the "enormous response" to the UCD initiative, with three to four hundred attending the opening night of the 'Now What?' project. He also has strong views about the current situation facing Irish architects.

"I certainly think that the whole question about how architecture services are procured needs to be looked at." In his view, the public design tendering process is geared to larger firms, but not to the many small dynamic practices which have emerged in recent times. GKMP has sought to get round this restriction by entering competitions.

His advice on the best tactics for surviving the current downturn: "Concentrate on trying to do one's project to the best standard — most work comes by word of mouth." The ability to keep a number of activities on the go may also be crucial. "I teach part time at UCD. This is really important from the point of view of keeping up with contemporary ideas. Teaching helps one to focus on the more aspirational side as opposed to the day to day work in one's own practice — as well as being, in itself, an enjoyable thing to do."

Kyran Fitzgerald, BA 1976, is a freelance journalist.



Competition winner, Michael Pike

From student project to tinnitus therapy

A student project to investigate a low frequency therapy for temporary tinnitus, which took runner-up prize at last year's BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition and won the Health Research Board's special prize for medical innovation, has evolved into a web-based client company at NovaUCD.

Restored Hearing offers a therapy which lasts for approximately one minute, and only requires a broadband connection, and a pair of outer ear headphones. It has a 99% success rate proven by scientific trials.

The initial project was carried out by Eimear O'Carroll, Rhona Togher, and Niamh Chapman while studying for their Leaving Certificate at Ursuline College in Sligo. Rhona is now a first year UCD Science student studying physics and maths.

Restored Hearing has received international interest and sales in Ireland/UK, Europe,



Pictured at NovaUCD are Rhona Togher, Eimear O'Carroll and Anthony Carolan, co-founders Restored Hearing.

North America and Australia. Following a recent 'live-test' of the therapy on national Dutch TV, the company have received a significant boost in sales in the Netherlands.

HeyStaks Technologies wins European entrepreneurship competition

HeyStaks Technologies, has won the inaugural Europe-wide UNICA entrepreneurship competition for students and young researchers. The company was presented with the €20,000 prize in recognition of its revolutionary social web search platform that improves internet searches, and helps internet users to better organise and share the resources they find while searching and browsing the Internet.

UNICA is a network of 42 universities from the capital cities of Europe with a combined strength of over 120,000 staff and 1.5 million students.

UCD company launches test for 'speed gene' in thoroughbred horses

A breakthrough genetic test that can identify the optimum racing distance for individual thoroughbred horses has been launched by Equinome, a new NovaUCD biotech company. The identification of 'The Speed Gene' is the first known characterisation of a gene contributing to a specific athletic trait in thoroughbred horses, and has the potential to transform decision-making processes in the global bloodstock industry.

The thoroughbred horse racing and breeding industry is an international, multi-billion euro business, with more than 100,000 foals born each year. Using the Equinome Speed Gene test, racehorse owners and trainers around the world will be able to identify if a horse is ideally suited to racing over short, middle or middle-to-long distances.

The development of the Equinome Speed Gene test is a result of research led by Dr Emmeline Hill, an expert horse genomics researcher at the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine. Following the success of the research programme, Dr Hill, along with trainer and breeder Mr Jim Bolger, co-founded Equinome in 2009 to commercialise the test.

The data supporting the Equinome Speed Gene is published in a scientific paper entitled *A sequence polymorphism in MSTN predicts sprinting ability and racing stamina in Thoroughbred horses* in the open access on-line Public Library of Science Journal, PLoS ONE.

Equinome was the winner of the NovaUCD 2009 Campus Company Development Programme. Co-founder Dr Emmeline Hill is shown here at the Award ceremony



UCD student wins at the 2009 Irish Software Association Awards

Yuandong Zhu, a PhD student in UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics has been awarded the student medal at the 2009 Irish Software Association (ISA) Awards.

The Awards, sponsored by Enterprise Ireland, William Fry and Software Skillnet, recognised the outstanding contribution of companies and individuals in the software industry to the development of Ireland's smart economy.

Yuandong was presented with the Award in recognition for developing the most commercially viable piece of research in 2009 by a student.

He is developing easy-to-use, highly automated tools to revolutionise computer forensic investigations. Yuandong's research is funded by Science Foundation Ireland's 2007 Research Frontiers Programme.

Yuandong is also the co-promoter of TraceHunter, a new venture which participated on NovaUCD's 2009 Campus Company Development Programme, established to commercialise the output of this research. The other co-promoters are Dr Pavel Gladyshev, Yuandong's PhD supervisor, and Joshua James.

Construction starts at new Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training

Minister Mary Hanafin TD, Minister for Social and Family Affairs performed the ground breaking ceremony for the commencement of construction of the new National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT) at Belfield Innovation Park in Dublin in November. The investment, in the region of €50 million, is funded by IDA Ireland.

The Minister said "The investment in NIBRT illustrates the commitment of the Irish Government and IDA Ireland to developing Ireland as one of the world's leading locations for biopharmaceutical research and production. Biotechnology is one of Ireland's most successful business sectors with over €4.5 billion invested by companies to-date. The sector is the major growth segment of the pharmaceutical industry and now accounts for over 30% of all new drugs in development."

As the sector world-wide suffers from a shortage of skilled people, and the industry faces challenges around process improvement and scale-up, NIBRT as a unique one stop shop differentiates Ireland by bridging the skills gap and assisting industry to overcome these challenges. NIBRT was established in 2006 and its research initiatives and education and training programmes are playing an important role in the development of Ireland's Smart Economy."

Dr Maurice Treacy, CEO of NIBRT, the collaboration between UCD, Trinity College, Dublin City University and Institute of Technology Sligo, commented "We are delighted to commence construction of this strategic infrastructure. This is not just a building: this is realisation of a vision and tangible mechanism to allow the growth and expansion of the biopharmaceutical sector in Ireland."



In 2009, UCD launched a Cycle to Work Scheme which allowed staff to purchase a bicycle and associated equipment tax-free up to the value of €1,000. Response to the scheme was very strong, and pictured here are some of those who availed of it. (l-r): Patrick Walsh (History and Archives), John McCafferty (History and Archives), Elaine Cregg (College of Arts and Celtic Studies), Elaine Byrne, (Registry), Henna Laamanen, (Registry), Elva Johnston (History and Archives), Marian O'Connor (Graduate Studies), Stephen Bowie (Registry) and Marie O'Flanagan (Registry)

Humanitarian Action graduates in Red Cross conference

Graduates and academics of the UCD Humanitarian Action master's programme played key roles in the recent Irish Red Cross conference to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.

The Conventions, which today are universally applicable, were adopted in 1949 to limit the barbarity of war and are commonly referred to as "the law of war".

Two members of the International Department of the Irish Red Cross are graduates of the Humanitarian Action programme: Jackie Queally, International Administrator and Colm Byrne, Policy and Donor Liaison Officer. The programme is delivered as part of Network on Humanitarian Assistance (NOHA), of which UCD is a key member. Speaking at the conference were Geoff Loane, International Committee of the Red Cross and NOHA UCD lecturer, and Aisling Swaine, a graduate of the programme in its first year, in 1999.



Pictured at the conference to mark the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions were, l-r: Aisling Swaine, PhD student and NOHA UCD Graduate; David Andrews, Chairman of Irish Red Cross; Micheál Martin T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs; John Roycroft, Secretary General of Irish Red Cross; and Geoff Loane, International Committee of the Red Cross and NOHA UCD Lecturer

According to Course Director, Dr Pat Gibbons, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, the Humanitarian Action programme now has 234 graduates, 85% of whom have or are currently working in disaster areas with the UN, Red Cross and other NGOs. Current roles include disaster relief in Haiti, where graduates bring coordination and communications expertise as well as essential advice and expertise in rebuilding communities.

Reconstructing Irish science



Students of the Royal College of Science for Ireland

Victorian and Edwardian Ireland was a golden age for the teaching of science yet the history and work of the Royal College of Science for Ireland (1867-1926) has not received the attention it deserves. With the aim of redressing this situation, the Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive (IVRLA) has, in co-operation with the Humanities Institute of Ireland (HII) funded a research project entitled 'Reconstructing Irish Science' which is retrieving part of the library of the RCSI, long held in storage in UCD.

The RCSI was founded at 51 St. Stephen's Green 'to supply as far as practicable a Complete Course of instruction in Science applicable to the Industrial Arts, especially those which may be classed broadly under the heads of Mining, Agriculture, Engineering, and Manufactures, and to aid in the instruction of Teachers for the local Schools of Science'. The RCSI educated generations of young Irish and British men and women in the sciences and the College was revitalised when it moved to splendid new buildings on Merrion Street in 1911 (now Government Buildings). In October 1922, in the midst of civil war, the RCSI was officially closed following a bomb scare and part of it was taken over by the Free State government for use as offices. In June 1926 the RCSI was amalgamated with UCD adding staff, students, and a huge library to the Faculties of Science and Engineering.

The project is directed by Dr Marc Caball (HII Director) and the project researcher is Dr Shane McCorristine. A key objective of this project is to examine and research the extant RCSI collection held in UCD Library Special Collections. Highlights of this important collection will be made available in electronic format to researchers and students via the www.ucd.ie/ivrla



Shown here at the presentation of the UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science undergraduate Summer Student Research Award Scheme (SSRA) are, back row l-r: Dr. Marion Rowland; Mr. Terence Cosgrove, Irish Medical Times; Dr. Yvonne O'Meara; Prof Bill Powderly; Prof Michael Keane. Front row (l-r); Dr Amanda McCann; Mr Brian McEllisrem, winner of SSRA poster competition; Mr Niall Nelligan gold medal winner of the Award Scheme; Mr Brendan Kelly, who was placed third in the SSRA Scheme

UCD Law team meet fact-finding Georgian delegates

A programme of reform of the judicial system has been underway in Georgia since 2005. The new Criminal Procedure Code, which introduces trial by jury for a limited number of serious crimes, is currently being discussed by the country's parliament and is expected to be implemented from July 2010.

To investigate how the jury system operates in other countries, a delegation from the Georgian High Council of Justice visited the UCD Institute of Criminology in November 2009 to meet with Dr Deirdre Healy, Professor John Jackson and Professor Ian O'Donnell. The meeting focussed on the selection of jurors, mechanisms for refusal to serve on a jury, types of cases that are dealt with by jury, voting protocols, the use of the jury in civil cases, how trials are covered by the media and whether the system enjoys public trust.



Pictured at the UCD Open Days in December 2009 were: UCD Agricultural Science graduate Mairead McGuinness MEP; and student Pdraig Kelly. Ms McGuinness spoke as part of the talks programme at the Open Days, which gave prospective students a first-hand taste of life at UCD, along with graduate and current student perspectives

Science Week — beyond the lab

Astronomy, weather forecasting, crime scene analysis, web searches and even a night on the tiles were on the menu for secondary school students who visited UCD as part of National Science Week in November.

The events, part of UCD's outreach programme, were attended by over 550 secondary school students from 50 schools in Dublin, Wicklow, Wexford, Monaghan and Sligo.

Careers were in the spotlight, and the students heard from physics graduate and teacher Dr Stephen Gammell who has analysed data from telescopes in Arizona, and from microbiologist Dr Clár Donnelly of the Forensic Science Laboratory in Dublin. Evelyn Cusack from *Met Éireann* gave her insights into meteorology and broadcasting, while computer scientist and entrepreneur Dr Maurice Coyle spoke about turning research into a business in the form of search-engine plug-in HeyStaks. And keeping with search engine theme, mathematician Fergal Daly spoke about his work with Google.



Sean Behan and Jack McIraith, 6th year Chemistry students from the Marian College with Dr Graeme Jones at his RSC sponsored Saturday Night Science show, which was held as part of UCD Science's celebration of Science week

Then from work to play: Dr Graeme Jones from Keele University put on a chemistry show in a Royal Society of Chemistry-sponsored event. "I'm going to prove that science can help you have a better Saturday night out in town," explained Dr Jones in his opening sequence as he challenged

the students to come up with pop songs containing the words chemistry, biology or physics.

Then he looked at the nature of chemical attraction and even got the audience dancing to the rhythm of a vibrating methane molecule excited by the absorption of a quantum of infrared radiation.



Pictured at the Futurism conference held by the UCD School of Languages and Literatures with the sponsorship of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura Dublino and Humanities Institute of Ireland Seed Funding were, from left: Dr Bruno Buseti Director Italian Cultural Institute; Prof Deirdre O'Grady conference organiser; Prof Pietro Frassica, Princeton University; Prof Mary Daly, Principal of the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies; Prof Arnaldo Di Benedetto, University of Turin. The conference, held in summer 2009 marked the Centenary of the First Futurist Manifesto

The Unthinkable Edge: International Research Seminars in Psychology

What makes creative thought? According to the psychoanalyst Otto Rank it is when we allow our ideas the freedom to cross the edge of the previously unthinkable. Rank's notion of creativity lends its name to the UCD School of Psychology's International Research Seminar Series, "The Unthinkable Edge".

The idea behind the seminars is to invite leading researchers from around the world to talk about the work they are thinking about, which excites them and represents the crossing of their unthinkable edge, according to Head of School Dr Eilis Hennessy.

The series kicked off with, James Maguire, Professor of Clinical and Forensic Psychology at the University of Liverpool, who spoke about his current ideas on the prediction of violent behaviour.

Professor Maguire drew together research work from evolutionary biology, genetics, social psychology, and clinical neuropsychology to argue that the 'unthinkable edge' of forensic psychology will take us to an accurate prediction of violent behaviour in individuals and in our society, and lead to better intervention for the reduction of violence.

The next international guest speaker was Professor Jim Cummins, a graduate of the UCD School of Psychology and a leading international expert in the field of language and education. Now based at the University of Toronto, in January Professor Cummins came back to UCD and asked *When Can You Ask Why? Exploring Language Policy Choices in Ireland, Past, Present and Future*.

Commenting on the series, Dr Eilis Hennessy said: "As a school we like the idea that these forward looking and innovative seminars from leading psychologists are presented to staff, graduates and undergraduates, as the future of innovative research requires contributions from all."

UCD computer scientists scoop British Computer Society award

A group of UCD computer scientists have received a distinguished award from the British Computer Society for developing a technique to improve the helpfulness of user-generated online reviews.

"Our technique automatically analyses online user-generated reviews based on four key factors — reputation, social, sentiment and content — and determines how helpful the reviews are likely to be to customers before presenting the most helpful first — including both positive and negative reviews," says UCD Professor Barry Smyth, Director of CLARITY, one of the researchers involved in the work.

"Some online user-generated reviews can be biased or poorly written, while others can be balanced and insightful," says Professor Smyth. "That is why we worked to develop an automated technique of accurately identifying helpful product or service reviews for the user."

During the course of their research the scientists noticed that users tend to be drawn more towards positive reviews and often ignore negative reviews. According to Dr Michael O'Mahony, another of the UCD researchers involved in the work, users often ignore negative reviews even though they can be very revealing and informative. "One of the benefits of our system is that it can be used to promote helpful negative reviews that might otherwise be hidden within a mass of review content."

Economics at UCD in excellence group in European rankings

UCD economics has been awarded 'excellence group' status in the 2009 CHE (Centre for Higher Education Development) Excellence Rankings. The result is due to achievements in citations and the Erasmus-Mundus master's programmes. The CHE - Excellence Ranking compares the best European university research facilities for prospective masters and doctoral programme students.

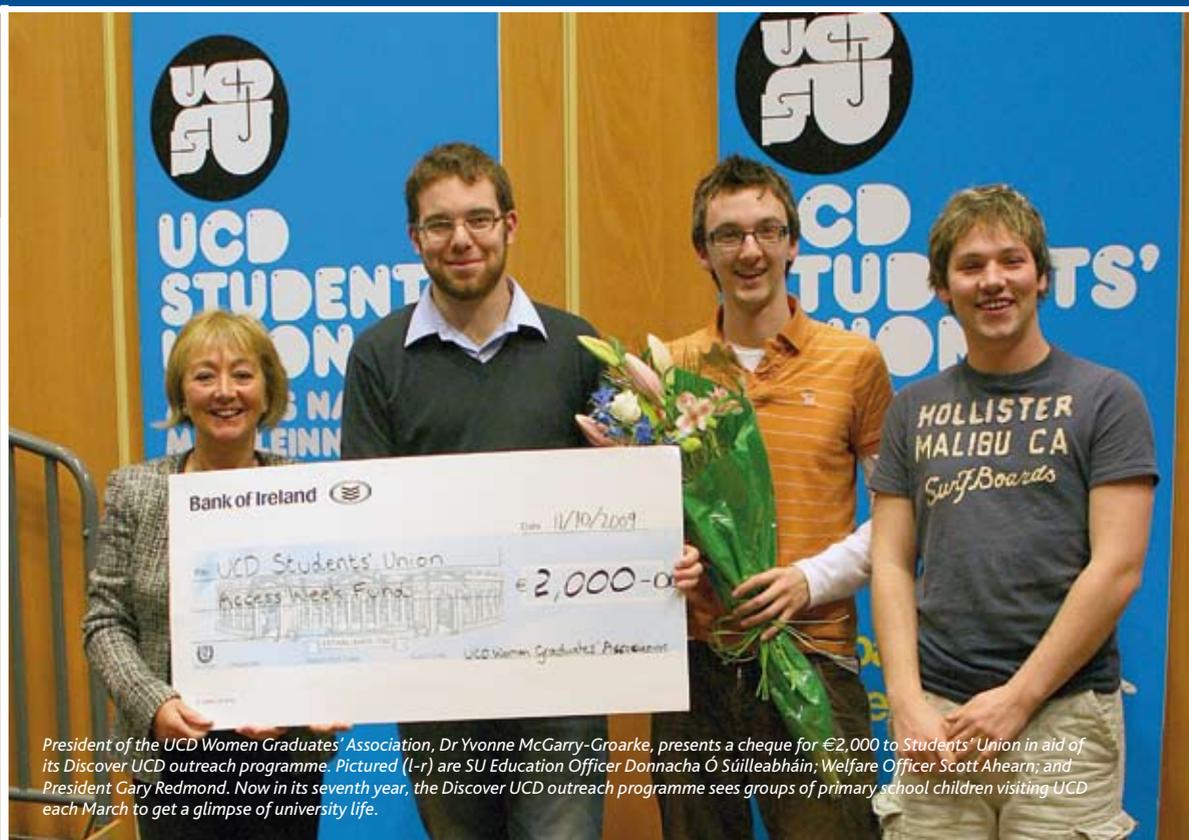
The awards are based on five indicators with either a research orientation (number of publications — including highly cited books and citations in relation to the international standard) or an international dimension (Erasmus-Mundus master's programmes, student mobility and staff mobility).

"The inclusion of the UCD School of Economics in the 2009 CHE Excellence Rankings is a tribute to the depth and breadth of economics scholarship at UCD. It also reflects our commitment to providing high quality graduate and undergraduate education," said Professor David Madden, Head of the UCD School of Economics.

In 2007, the CHE Ranking covered Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. In 2009, it was extended to include Political Science, Economics and Psychology.

Three Irish universities achieved Excellence Group status in the 2009 CHE Excellence Rankings — two in economics and one in political science.

The CHE Rankings are published in the German Weekly Newspaper, Die Zeit and are available at www.zeit.de/excellenceranking



President of the UCD Women Graduates' Association, Dr Yvonne McGarry-Groarke, presents a cheque for €2,000 to Students' Union in aid of its Discover UCD outreach programme. Pictured (l-r) are SU Education Officer Donnacha Ó Súilleabháin; Welfare Officer Scott Ahearn; and President Gary Redmond. Now in its seventh year, the Discover UCD outreach programme sees groups of primary school children visiting UCD each March to get a glimpse of university life.



Shown here are the winners of the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School Journalist Awards, who were selected from 115 entries across eight categories: Ciaran Hancock (Irish Times); Joe Brennan (Irish Independent); Gary McDonald (Irish News); Greg O'Connell (Irish Independent); Professor Tom Begley Dean UCD Business Schools; Tom Lyons (Sunday Times); Frank Fitzgibbon (Sunday Times); John Keenan (RTE); Laura Noonan (Irish Independent); Mark Paul (Sunday Times); and Brian Carey (Sunday Times); with Laurence Crowley (Irish Times) as the Panel.

New chemical reaction to support drug development

A chemistry problem which has stumped researchers worldwide for more than 10 years has been solved by scientists at UCD. The results have earned the group the cover story of the leading scientific journal, *Angewandte Chemie*. The problem involved a chemical reaction called 'homoallylation' which provides 'building blocks' for the advancement of new chemical compounds used in drug discovery and development.

"After 6 years of scientific research into the applications of a series of compounds called 'chiral bis(oxazoline) ligands' which we reported back in 2002, we hit upon reaction conditions which allowed them to promote homoallylation in good yield and with 100% selectivity for one of two possible products," says Professor Pat Guiry, a

synthetic organic chemist and Director of the Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB) at UCD, who led the research team.

Chemical reactions, which are sufficiently selective, useful and broad in scope, are applied in the large-scale manufacture of pharmaceutical drugs, many of which are made in Ireland. Pharmaceutical exports currently account for over 50% of Ireland's GNP.

The work is funded by Science Foundation Ireland and IRCSET. The synthetic and analytical facilities at the Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB) at UCD, which enabled the team to perform the scientific work, were funded by the Higher Education Authority under PRTL Cycle 3.

Irish financial sector set to benefit from UCD-led research cluster

A new, UCD-led research cluster has been founded to provide expertise to the financial services sector.

With a strong focus on risk, information and liquidity, the FMC² Science Foundation Ireland Strategic Research Cluster will bring together experts in financial mathematics, financial economics and computer science.

Announced by the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mary Coughlan TD, the five-year programme will be led by Professor Anthony Brabazon of the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School and involves a Government investment of over €4 million with an additional contribution of over €600,000 from industry partners Pioneer Investments, Ryan Capital Ltd and The Institute of Bankers in Ireland.

"Firms in the IFSC are facing ever increasing pressures from competitors in other jurisdictions so we need to 'up our game' if we want to continue to grow employment in this sector," said Prof Brabazon.

"A key enabling factor is the deepening of the pool of high-calibre, financially-trained graduates with quantitative skills for employment in financial services firms.

A prime objective of [this] research cluster is to support industry product and process innovation in order to grow employment in the financial services sector in Ireland."

The project team also includes members of UCD's Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratory, Dr Michael O'Neill from UCD School of Computer Science & Informatics, Dr David Edelman and Professor John Cotter from UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School and collaborators in Dublin City University, NUI Maynooth, the University of Ulster, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Columbia University, Federal Reserve Bank of New York and Technical University of Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Disadvantaged students benefit from support initiatives

Special support schemes encourage more students from disadvantaged areas to complete their university degrees and earn higher grades.

That's according to a report looking at the impact of the UCD New ERA Initiative, the scheme that engages with primary and secondary schools and offers financial, social and academic services to participating students at UCD.

The programme has seen over 500 students graduate since it was set up in 1997 and is currently supporting another 400 students.

Participants in the initiative, which links in with 36 secondary schools, are between 10% and 15% more likely to graduate than similarly disadvantaged students who were unable to take part in the scheme, says Dr Kevin Denny from the UCD School of Economics and the UCD Geary Institute, one of the authors of the report.

One approach the initiative takes is to place volunteer students from UCD in a second-level school one night per week over 8 weeks to offer academic help and act as personal mentors. Over 800 UCD students have volunteered through this scheme, now celebrating its 10th year. "The findings of this report clearly show that if we can encourage disadvantaged students to attend third level, and provide them with the right supports, they will succeed," says Dr Denny. "If we curtail these initiatives due to the current financial climate, we will lose out on the future economic benefits."

The 65-page report 'Evaluating the Impact of the New ERA Widening Participation Initiative' was funded under the Higher Education Authority's Strategic Innovation Fund.

International perspectives for Agricultural Science students

As part of the UCD Agricultural Science programme, students must undertake professional work experience. The Agricultural Science Association recently awarded AIB-sponsored bursaries to four students to support travel and other costs associated with completing work experience overseas.

Leon Duffy, Fiona Gavin and George Blackburn went to work on dairy farms in New Zealand. Duffy spent time in the Canterbury Plains of South Island, where the business operates on a vastly different scale — he worked on a dairy farm with 1075 head of cattle — the average herd in Ireland is around 50-strong. Meanwhile Sinéad Gill travelled to Kentucky, where she worked with Irish-born 'nomadic' horse trainer Michael Leahy.

For three weeks during her stay she was in full control of the operation while the trainer visited Chicago with two of the horses.



Pictured here are (l-r) Anne Finnegean (AIB); students Leon Duffy, Fiona Gavin, Sinéad Gill, and George Blackburn; and Dr Frank O' Mara (ASA President).

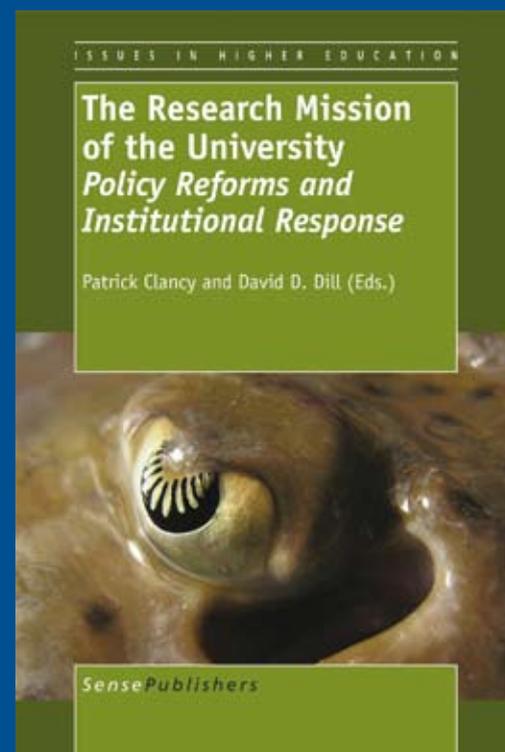
Research mission of the university

A new book, co-edited by Professor Patrick Clancy from the UCD School of Sociology considers the changing research mission of the university and the implications of these changes for the university itself.

The book, which is the inaugural volume in a series on *Issues in Higher Education* published by Sense Publishers (Rotterdam/Boston/Taipei), presents selected papers from the 2007 UCD-hosted Consortium of Higher Education Researchers (CHER) conference. Professor Clancy is a founding member, and currently a member of the Board of Governors, of CHER, which is the leading European based network of academics working on research on higher education.

With a strong comparative focus, the papers in *The Research Mission of the University: Policy Reforms and Institutional Response* show that the leading nations increasingly view the research mission of the university as a principal component of national innovation policies. The papers examine the current preoccupation of higher education policy with concentrating knowledge production to enhance national innovation and competitiveness and with assessing research. The authors explore how this new policy emphasis has influenced: research funding mechanisms; research evaluation; initiatives designed to encourage university knowledge transfer; and reforms of doctoral education. The papers analyse the impact of these reforms and the response of universities to the changing policy environment.

The book is co-edited with Professor David Dill from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill). The cover design features Edward Farrell's (UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science) *Ray-zor Sharp Vision*, winner of the UCD Images of Research Competition 2008.





UCD School of Archaeology has been participating in the Middle Mekong Archaeology Project for the past three years, supported by the Luce Foundation, UCD Seed Funding, National Museum of Lao PDR and the University of Pennsylvania Museum. The project is exploring the archaeology of northern Laos, with a focus on how the Mekong River has been a communication route in later South and East Asian prehistory. Recent test and training excavations turned up a jar burial cemetery with artefactual links to the Plain of Jars heritage site, the most famous prehistoric site in Laos. For further information on the project and the January 2010 findings: www.penn.museum/research-asian-section (Photo from Patrizia La Piscopi, UCD School of Archaeology)

Mandarin Chinese in schools would help support business relationships with China

Studies by the UCD Confucius Institute and the Irish Institute for Chinese Studies at UCD revealed that there is high demand among Irish companies (over 78%) for university level graduates who combine Business with Chinese studies.

But while 90% of businesses reported that information about Chinese business practice was essential for doing business in China, three out of every five reported that they had not participated in training in culture, language or doing business in China.

While in the UK almost 13% of all secondary schools provide Mandarin teaching, and in Australia it is on the school curriculum from primary level, the reports noted that Chinese is not on the Irish curriculum and that only six

schools in Ireland have run teaching programmes of any kind in Mandarin Chinese.

According to Dr Liming Wang, Director of the Irish Institute for Chinese Studies at UCD, and the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland, the reports make it clear that Ireland must act fast with long-term strategies.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin TD, who launched the reports said: "The dramatic economic growth of China and the development of its relations with the international community present great opportunities for mutual growth."

"Ireland's bilateral trade with China is increasing year-on-year. These excellent reports will assist greatly in strategic planning to avail of those opportunities," he said.

More resources needed for conflict resolution in the workplace

Many companies in Ireland lack sophisticated practices to resolve conflict in the workplace. That's the finding of a collaborative study between UCD and Queen's University Belfast.

A survey of over 500 companies in Ireland, each employing over 20 people, found that 70 per cent of firms were establishing conflict resolution practices.

Key drivers included being able to resolve conflicts in-house (93.7%), improve the industrial relations climate (84.5%) and respond to legislation on individual employment rights (76.9%).

While the majority of firms had formal policies in place to deal with individual grievances, fewer than half had policies covering groups of employees, and fewer than one in 10 companies had alternative dispute resolution (ADR) practices such as employee hotlines, employee advocates, management review panels, company ombudspersons

and peer review panels. Meanwhile 30% of firms reported the cost of managing conflicts as too high.

"No organisation is immune to workplace conflict, it can occur in big firms or small firms, multinational organisations or domestically owned firms and unionised or non-union organisations," says UCD's Bill Roche, Professor of Industrial Relations and Human Resources in the UCD School of Business, one of the researchers who conducted the study on behalf of the Labour Relations Commission.

He notes that while firms want to address conflict resolution quickly, many do not have the tools to do so: "Significant numbers of workplaces still lack basic traditional mechanisms for conflict resolution, much less the kinds of modern ADR practices commonly now seen as constituting best practice."

KPMG doctoral scholarship at UCD

Kate Cullen has been awarded the inaugural Denis O'Connor KPMG Doctoral Scholarship in Accounting at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School. Endowed by KPMG, this Scholarship celebrates the achievement and leadership of the late Denis O'Connor, former Managing Partner of KPMG in Ireland who passed away in 2006. The Scholarship will contribute substantively to building the next generation of accounting educators and professionals in Ireland.

Kate (B comm' 03, MBS '04) will conduct research on the area of 'The Implications of Impression Management in Narrative Disclosures for Users of Annual Reports'.

Kate Cullen inaugural recipient of the Denis O'Connor KPMG Doctoral Scholarship in Accounting at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School.



UCD first in German Academy of Science and Engineering

In recognition of his contribution to the field of innovation in technology and engineering, Professor Gerry Byrne has been elected as an International Fellow of the German Academy of Science and Engineering (Deutsche Akademie fuer Technikwissenschaften, acatech). This is the first time an expert from Ireland or the United Kingdom has been elected to the Academy.

The German Academy of Science and Engineering represents the interests of science and technology in Germany and internationally. It supports policy makers and society with technically qualified evaluations and far-sighted recommendations. It works to promote sustained growth through innovation and acts as an advisor to the German Government on innovation.

Gerry Byrne is Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering, University College Dublin. He is a graduate of the Technical University Berlin where he gained a summa cum lauda doctorate degree (Doktor-Ingenieur) in mechanical engineering in 1989. He also holds an honorary doctorate (Dr h.c.) from DIT, which he was awarded in 2006 for his international contribution to the engineering profession. Following 12 years as Head of the former Department of Engineering at UCD, Professor Byrne served as Dean of Engineering in UCD.



Professor Gerry Byrne with Presidents of the German Academy for Science and Engineering, Reinhard Hüttel und Henning Kagermann

Lemass legacy conference

Economics, education, labour and relations with Northern Ireland were on the table for discussion at a one-day conference on *The Legacy of Lemass* held at UCD in autumn 2009. The conference was held to mark the 50th anniversary of his election as Taoiseach.

The participants heard from Professor Mary Daly, Principal of UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies, that the Lemass years "are a time of

massive change, energy and activity". However, while Ireland fared better than Britain, it did worse than all other OECD economies.

Dr John Walsh from Trinity College Dublin spoke on 'Education and National Salvation: Lemass and Educational Reform, 1959-66' and considered Lemass' role in the introduction of free post-primary education. Conference organiser Professor Diarmaid Ferriter, UCD School of History and Archives,

tackled the issue from the perspective of labour in his paper. Professor Michael Kennedy, (Royal Irish Academy) spoke on 'A Roadblock has been removed': The Lemass/ O'Neill meetings in the context of the development of crossborder relations in Ireland."

The concluding round-table discussion *Lemass: Writing the life and legacy* was chaired by UCD Professor, Michael Laffan, from UCD School of History and Archives.



Jessica Abrahams from Dublin; Syerfiah Hisamuddin from Kuala Lumpur; Sean Armstrong from Donegal and Tim Barry from Cork were among 240 students who received their white coats from the UCD School of Medicine in January 2010, signifying their progression to the clinical stage of their medical degrees.

80 of the students will return to Penang Medical College in Malaysia, where they will complete their medical training.

The remainder will continue their education at UCD through the university's six major Dublin teaching hospitals, the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, St. Vincent's University Hospital, the National Maternity Hospital, the Coombe Women's Hospital, Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children and the Children's University Hospital at Temple Street and a number of affiliated hospitals and healthcare centres.

UCD Bowl wins "Sportsground of the Year"

UCD Bowl, the home ground of the UCD Soccer team and UCD Rugby, has been named "Sportsground of the Year" by the FAI.

Phase one of the Bowl developments, completed in September 2007, was brought to fruition by a €1.25 million grant allocation from the Annual Sports Capital Grant Scheme of the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism. The balance of the funding was met by UCD, bringing total spend on the facility to €1.6million. The facilities have been radically upgraded with seating increased by 840 to 1500; with further standing accommodation for 1500, and additional turnstiles, spectator accommodation, press facilities, floodlights and dressing rooms.

In developing the facility, UCD endeavoured to deliver a high-quality outdoor sports venue, complying with UEFA licensing and IRB standards on the quality of the playing surface, while also meeting spectator expectations of comfort and safety.

UCD launches Elite Athlete Academy



Pictured at UCD Institute for Sport and Health, at the launch of the UCD Elite Athlete Academy: were (l-r): 3-in-a-row TG4 Ladies' Senior Football Championship winner with the Cork team Rena Buckley who recently qualified as a physiotherapist and is working in Cork; graduate of the diploma in sports management, captain of the Irish rugby team, Brian O'Driscoll, who is also a former sports scholar; and qualified doctor, Stephen Lucey, full back for Limerick Gaelic football and hurling teams

UCD has announced details of the new Elite Athlete Academy. This new scholarship programme is designed for students who, as well as working towards an academic degree, are competing at the highest sporting levels — generally at junior international, provincial or county level or have come through a recognised development academy.

UCD currently has 124 sports scholars across fourteen sports. Those who are selected for the Elite Athlete Academy will be at the very top representative level of their sport and will show potential for international or national achievement.

"The Academy offers special entry arrangements" said Dr Philip Nolan, deputy president of UCD. "We recognise that dedication to sport at the highest level can sometimes prevent students from achieving the CAO points required for our degrees. This entry route takes this into account and uses an additional application process, including an interview, to assess the students' capabilities and capacity to achieve in the sporting arena and academically."

Among the benefits to successful elite athletes are the Belfield campus sports facilities, financial assistance, campus accommodation, sports science mentoring including physiological and biomechanical monitoring, sport medicine and physiotherapy support, elite strength and conditioning training, nutrition and psychology support and tailored training and testing. Students will also be assigned an academic mentor and help with balancing their academic and sporting commitments.

"The sports science facilities we offer match the best of the universities overseas," added Professor Colin Boreham, Director of the UCD Institute for Sport and Health. "We will work with the elite athletes individually and alongside any external trainer to help them achieve their highest sporting potential."

"This Academy builds on the remarkable success on the sporting field by our existing students." Brian Mullins, UCD Director of Sport said. "In 2009 the university won the FAI first division in soccer, the Irish Senior Cup in hockey, the under-20s national championship in basketball as well as Irish intervarsity titles in women's volleyball, ladies' golf, men's golf, boxing, equestrian tetrathlon, women's tennis and world collegiate gold in women's handball. Many of our sports scholars are also on successful teams either at county level for GAA and ladies' football or at international level. The rugby heroes of this year's Grand Slam victory included UCD students, Rob Kearney, Gordon D'Arcy and Jamie Heaslip."

UCD's academic, sporting, music and cultural stars

Six Ireland underage rugby players, twin high-achieving future radiologists from Tipperary, and a theoretical physicist with violin talent were among the 217 UCD scholarship recipients recognised in 2009/10.

While 165 students were awarded entrance scholarships for their accomplishment in achieving the highest points in their degree programme, a total of 463 UCD First Years in 2009 reached the "High Achiever" status, by attaining 540 points in their Leaving Certificate.

The Entrance Scholars were joined at the November 2009 ceremony by eight Bord na Gaeilge scholars, 33 first year Sport Scholars, five Symphony Orchestra scholars and the new Choral Scholars.

Commenting on the awards, UCD Registrar Dr Philip Nolan said, "Whereas the Entrance Scholarships acknowledge the academic calibre of our students, the Sports, Choral, Symphony Orchestra and Bord na Gaeilge scholarships reflect the diversity of talent that we have here at the university."

Twins Ciara and Eimear Burke (both studying radiography) from Clonmel were among the 2009/10 Entrance Scholars

Twins Eimear and Ciara Bourke from Tipperary were among the 2009/10 Entrance Scholars



Double success for UCD AFC

UCD are the 2009 League of Ireland Under-20 Dr. Tony O'Neill champions after a remarkable season for UCD AFC.

The students claimed the title after a 5-3 victory over Salthill Devon in the competition final at the UCD Bowl in December.

Salthill Devon raced to a two goal lead in the opening 15 minutes, when Brian O'Grady netted a quick-fire double. However, a Paul Corry goal brought the score to 2-1 at the half-time break and Graham Rusk converted a penalty in the 58th minute to level the score. And just moments later UCD were in front when Sean Houston converted from close range, before making it 4-2 on 73 minutes. Salthill Devon's Larkin brought the

score back to 4-3 but Rusk scored UCD's fifth in the final moments to make it 5-3.

U-20 line-up: Ger Barron, Gareth Matthews, Ciaran Nangle, Michael Kelly, Michael Leahy, Paul Corry (Danny Fallon), Keith Ward, Robbie Creevy, Sean Houston, Peter McMahon, Graham Rusk.

The Under-20 success caps off a remarkable season for UCD, whose senior side secured the FAI First Division League championship after 5-0 away win over Athlone in November.

UCD First Division winners: Gerard Barron; Sean Harding, Ciaran Nangle, Andrew Boyle (Michael Leahy 75), Evan McMillan; Paul Corry, John Reilly (Keith Ward 78), Ronan Finn, Chris Mulhall, Robbie Creevy (Peter McMahon 55); David McMillan. Subs not used — Greg Bolger, Billy Brennan.





In recognition for his outstanding contribution to Irish sport Brian O'Driscoll (UCD Dip Sports Mgt 1998) received the UCD Foundation Day Medal on Friday 6th November 2009.

Inaugurated in 2004 during the University's 150th anniversary, the UCD Foundation Day Medal is the highest honour the university can bestow on a graduate. It publicly recognises the contribution made by the recipient towards the betterment of society and serves as an inspiration to the next generation of students. Previous Medal recipients include: Peter Sutherland, Patrick Hillery, Maeve Binchy, Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh and Pearse Lyons.



The UCD Choral Scholars received the top prize in Lyric FM's annual Christmas Choirs Competition, succeeding over 200 other choirs and ensembles. The award, which included a €750 prize and a specially-commissioned stained-glass plaque, was announced shortly after the Scholars' two sell-out concerts in University Church in December 2009, one of which is pictured here

Conversation with the diaspora

Possibly the most striking revelation at *the Irish in Britain: Conversation with the Diaspora* global forum event in London in November 2009 was the different sense of Irishness felt by those who attended by comparison with those who attended the 2007 New York event. This was the third of a series of annual fora hosted by the UCD John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies. Organised by the director of the Institute, Dr Brian Jackson, the events seek to reach out and engage with some of the 70 million people who describe themselves as Irish.

"UCD has educated generations of Irish who have left Ireland and sought a new life and new experiences. This most recent forum taps into the thoughts and experiences of our graduates in Britain. It seeks to draw together the relationship between the Irish and Britain and the Irish in Britain and to unpack some of the reasons why the Irish in Britain are so different to the Irish in America," said Dr Jackson.

The discussion in London was drawn around some broad themes. The first session, *Towards 2016* looked at the notion of the Irish abroad as the significant engine of political change, and was chaired by Mr Justice Adrian Hardiman. The *Jocye-ity (Diaspora as creative impulse)* theme considered diaspora, emigration and exile in Irish culture, and was chaired by Professor Anne Fogarty. The *Cultural branding* discussion was chaired by Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, and considered cultural marketing, identity and social cohesion provided by Irish and Irishness.

The forum was opened by His Excellency, Bobby McDonagh, Irish ambassador to Great Britain who noted, "Relations between the two islands have never been closer – or more important. The Irish are now part of the fabric of British society."

The closing session, *What does the future hold for Ireland and its Diaspora?*, chaired by the chair of the UCD Governing Authority Mr Dermot

Gallagher, included addresses from former Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald; Conor Foley of Worldspreads; Rory Godson of Powerscourt; Professor Mary Hickman of London Metropolitan University; Barry Maloney of Balderton Capital and former President of Ireland, Dr Mary Robinson.

In her address, Dr Robinson talked from her own personal experience, in particular noting the international response to her 1995 address to the Houses of the Oireachtas *Cherishing the Irish Diaspora*, and praising the contributions of Irish priests, nuns and aid workers overseas.

In her concluding remarks, she looked forward to: "...re-establishing of a spirit of being able to understand our unique history, our unique position as an island that was colonised and struggled against that - so we have an identity with many other countries. A country that could be a bridge now on climate change issues with developing countries.... A sense of the potential of an island that's lucky enough to have some seventy or eighty million people who have some connection with us, and who want to be part of the story. You can't tell the story of Ireland any more in terms of the island of Ireland, rich as that story is. It is a story of connections that are being made and remade and reinvented at all times. And we can re-imagine Ireland with much greater dynamism if we understand that huge resource of that wider diaspora."

The event culminated in the presentation of the inaugural UCD Hume Medal to Dr Mary Robinson, whom UCD President Dr Hugh Brady described as an iconic and inspirational figure. He said that the award came, in recognition of "Her distinguished role in highlighting the richness and potential of the Irish diaspora; [her] outstanding global contribution as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; and for [her] pioneering work on ethical globalisation and climate justice that is ongoing."



Dr Mary Robinson received the inaugural UCD Hume Medal in 2009