

UCD

today

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UCD Number 1 in Ireland in QS World University Employability Rankings



EILIS O'BRIEN
Director of Communication and Marketing

For the third year in a row, University College Dublin is ranked number one in Ireland for graduate employability by QS World University Rankings. UCD is ranked 78 in the world.

This ranking is a subset of the overall QS World University Rankings and focuses on measures they feel demonstrate how well universities prepare their graduates for an ever-more-challenging job market. They take five criteria: Employer Reputation, *Alumni Outcomes*, *Partnerships with Employers*, *Employer-Student Connections*, and *Graduate Employment Rate*, and rank the world's top 500 universities. While we are not ranked highest across all of the five indicators, we take the number 1 slot overall.

UCD is particularly strong in the area of industry and employer partnerships, which has a weighting of 25%. This indicator comprises two parts. First it uses Elsevier's Scopus database to show university-industry partnerships in citable, transformative research. Second, it considers work-placement related partnerships organised by universities for their students.

We also do well in alumni outcomes, which uses 150 'high-achiever' lists to source stand-out graduates who are innovative, creative, wealthy, entrepreneurial and/or philanthropic.

Interestingly, we come fourth in Ireland for graduate employment rate. However, the rate across all Irish universities is very high and there is no appreciable difference between any of us.

In order to hold our national position and increase our global position, we need to improve the response rate to the survey that measures our employer reputation. In December faculty will be asked to provide names of employer contacts that are sent on to QS. The response rate and accuracy of this process has a direct bearing on this important measure.

UCD thanks...

Subscribers Ciaran Bennett, John Brannigan, Caroline Byrne, Licia Carlesi, Kate Conroy, Tasman Crowe, Nadia D'Alton, Mags D'Arcy, Emma Donovan, Rachel Farrell, Porscha Fermanis, Pat Gibbons, Beth Gormley, Helen Graham, Pat Guiry, Liz Hannon, Judith Harford, Anna Kelly, Una Kelly, Naonori Kodate, Christine Linehan, Kate Manning, Jason Masterson, Noelle Moran, Lynda Mulvin, Clár Ní Buachalla, Hugo O'Donnell, Tadhg O'Leary, Niamh Patwell, Paul Perry, Elaine Quinn, Ellen Rowley, Michael Staunton, Liam Thornton, and Miceal Whelan.

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

Cover image: Piel Castle and South Walney Nature Reserve



UCD Moore Centre for Business launches as new world-class facility for undergraduate business education

The new €20 million UCD Moore Centre for Business was opened on 2 September by UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks and founding donor and business leader Angela Moore. The new centre honours the legacy of Angela's late husband - entrepreneur, philanthropist and UCD alumnus Dr George Moore, remembered as one of the founding fathers of the data analytics industry. Key corporate partners include KPMG, PwC and EY. UCD BComm alumni also significantly contributed to the creation of this transformative facility.

"As Ireland's leading business school we have a consistent track record of investing in world-class facilities that present our students with every opportunity to excel and differentiate themselves as they enter the world of business", said Professor Anthony Brabazon, UCD Dean of Business. "The launch of the UCD Moore Centre for Business exemplifies how leadership from alumni and donors, academia, industry and the student body can collaborate to design an educational environment that not only looks towards the future, but is built with flexibility at its core in order to prepare students for a rapidly changing future."

Integrating fully with the UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business across three levels, this expansive new wing increases the School's physical space by close to 50%. Designed by internationally leading architecture firm RKD, the UCD Moore Centre for Business brings a new generation of dynamic spaces and student experiences for the changing ways we live, learn and work.

"Our students have told us that when we change spaces, it changes how we teach and what is learned", said Associate Professor Maeve Houlihan, Director, UCD Lochlann Quinn School



Pictured at the opening are (l-r): Seamus Hand, Managing Partner of KPMG Ireland; Prof Maeve Houlihan; Prof Andrew Deeks; Prof Anthony Brabazon; Angela Moore; and Feargal O'Rourke, Managing Partner of PwC Ireland.

of Business. "Through this extraordinary initiative, we will expand the mix of learning experiences we offer to meet an evolving and more diverse world. We especially want to create new types of informal working spaces for students and faculty to occupy and interact in more adhoc and side-by-side ways that spark dialogue, innovation and collaboration. This is about students, about business, about society and about changing the way we live and work. This is the future of business education."

A panel discussion, *Looking Back and Looking Forward*, led by RTÉ presenter and UCD alumna Miriam O'Callaghan, featured distinguished UCD business alumni across the generations to share their vision of the changing world of work toward 2030, 2050 and beyond. Panellists include Breege O'Donoghue (Chair of Design and Craft Council of Ireland, Chair of Real World Analytics and brand ambassador at Primark); Philip Berber (Irish-American entrepreneur and philanthropist, Founder of

Glimmer of Hope Foundation); Gareth Lambe (Head of Facebook Ireland); Aengus Kelly (CEO of AerCap); and Jane-Ann McKenna (Strategic Plan Development, Médecins San Frontières HQ).

Key features of the new project include the PwC Lecture Theatre, a transformative space that promotes student dialogue with throwable mics and amphitheatre style seating, the KPMG Skills Zone supporting professional skills development, the EY Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hub and the George Moore Digital Collaboration Space, enabling business students to tackle complex business ideas through the latest advances in learning technology. Throughout, extensive co-working spaces mimic those in start-ups and innovation hubs, encouraging informal and formal interaction and collaboration. Media suites, problem-solving classrooms with Oculus virtual-reality headsets, a green roof and slow-down zone to encourage mindfulness, are some of the highlights of this forward-looking learning environment.

Announcing a new Collaboration between UCD Press and The University of Chicago Press

UCD Press is delighted to announce a new distribution, sales and marketing partnership with the University of Chicago Press. UCD Press joins an illustrious list of over 100 international scholarly presses that are currently served by UCP. UCD Press is the first Irish press to join the list.

University of Chicago Press is the largest and one of the oldest North American university presses. With a special focus on producing books that promote education, foster public understanding and enrich cultural life, UCP are at the forefront of academic publishing. They have a strong sales department and wide-reaching marketing and distribution wings. UCD Press publishes contemporary scholarly writing in a broad range of subjects including history, literary studies, music, science and more recently migration studies, gender studies, and a special focus on Irish Studies.

This new venture will greatly enhance UCD Press's presence in the North American academic market – ensuring every UCD Press title is adequately sold, distributed and marketed on both sides of the Atlantic. The new relationship will further allow our current authors to build on their profiles across the Atlantic and encourage authors from further afield to publish with UCD Press. Finally, the

alliance will further enhance UCD's name as a leading research university of international standing.

Professor Orla Feely, Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, UCD told UCD Today: "The international research output of UCD Press will be greatly enhanced by this new relationship. We look forward to a long and fruitful collaboration between both internationally respected presses."

Noelle Moran, Executive Editor, UCD Press told us: "We are committed to a fruitful and wide-reaching working relationship with the University of Chicago Press. It is extremely good news for our Press, our University, our readers and our authors – present and future." Saleem Dhamee, Director, Client Services and Business Operations, The University of Chicago Press said:

"We are pleased to add UCD Press, our first Irish publisher, to our family of international



publishers and excited to promote the visibility and sales of UCD Press's books throughout North America."



Our photo shows the CEMEC Cross Cultural Timeline on display at the National Museum of Ireland.

Connecting Early Medieval European Collections

As a part of Connecting Early Medieval European Collections (CEMEC), an EU project funded by Creative Europe, UCD teamed up with Noho Ltd and the OPW to host two seminars.

On 6 September, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy, in conjunction with CEMEC, hosted a seminar at UCD Humanities Institute on *Digital Technologies and Education: Keeping up with the pace of Change*, which brought together leading specialists in the field of digital culture from UCD and elsewhere. It explored some of the latest European digital interactive research projects, and presented the CEMEC EU project interactive website, comprising a Cross Cultural Timeline utilised as an educational toolkit; animations on Irish medieval travellers; and a virtual online exhibition <https://ucdcemec.crossculture.ie/>. The

suite of tools highlights the connectivity and diversity among the early medieval museum collections in the CEMEC project in Europe. The main focus of the website is to support research and education and to promote links between the European medieval museum collections, bringing a new level of engagement with the material past made possible by the innovative employment of digital techniques.

On 13 September, the School staged a seminal conference on the Role of Digital Technologies in framing policy in Cultural Heritage, Education and Conservation. This event took place in the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks. It is a major collaboration between UCD, CEMEC and the OPW. The focus was on cultural heritage and the all-important questions around the challenges to conservation posed by climate change. As well as up-to-the-minute insights into developments in the field, CEMEC partners launched online exhibitions, gauged to have a significant impact on a wide range of agencies and institutions.

The exhibition website has been developed by Noho Ltd and is academically supported by UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy and the National Museum of Ireland.



Our photo shows the participants with their tutors and Prof Paul Fanning, UCD International Dean for China.

New International Study Abroad Programme

UCD Global Engagement with UCD Innovation Academy and UCD College of Arts and Humanities hosted a new two-week Study Abroad programme for Chinese partner universities this summer. The course focused on giving participants the experience of living and studying in an international English-medium higher educational institution. Forty-eight undergraduate and graduate students joined the programme from a cross-section of HE institutions including South China Agricultural University (SCAU), Chang'an University (CHD), Beijing-Dublin International College (BDIC) and Northwestern Polytechnical University.

The participants, who represented a wide variety of academic disciplines, actively engaged in structured 'innovation workshops' fostering creative, collaborative and entrepreneurial thinking relating to their disciplinary fields. They were introduced to aspects of Ireland's historic heritage and culture, its changing global role in the 21st century and to recent developments in China-Ireland relations. Developing individual and collective intercultural awareness was a key and recurrent theme throughout. The programme provided opportunities for students to meet representatives of UCD academic and support programmes, Chinese graduates of UCD and senior Chinese officials from Irish public and corporate sectors. The complimentary feedback showed that this short two-week course allowed participants to achieve and discover a great deal to help them plan their future lives and academic goals.

U21 European UN SDG Workshop hosted by UCD School of Medicine

The ninth U21 European UN SDG student workshop took place in UCD in June. Nadia D'Alton, UCD Health Sciences Programme Office Director was pleased to host the workshop at UCD, which is a members of the U21 UN SDG Strategy Working Group.

50 health sciences students representing a range of disciplines including medicine, nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, public health and biomedical sciences, attended the workshop from a number of U21 European partners such as Universities of Birmingham, Nottingham, Glasgow, Amsterdam, Lund and of course UCD. The students engaged in group-based case studies and delivered group presentations on the second day of the workshop.

A number of keynote speakers also presented on the day. Dr Cliona O'Sullivan, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science presented on 'Is Survival enough – strengthening rehabilitation towards 2030 Agenda', Dr Virginie Gautier from the Centre for Infectious Diseases presented on 'Global HIV epidemic: achievements and current challenges in Treatment, Prevention and Cure', Dr Niall Conroy, UCD School of Medicine on 'Innovating to reduce new-born mortality rates in Bo Government Hospital Sierra Leone', and finally Professor Helen Heneghan, newly



Our photo shows the workshop attendees at UCD School of Medicine.

appointed professor of Surgery in UCD School of Medicine presented on 'Obesity: treating the biggest preventable health threat of the 21st Century'. The talks helped students in their global health case studies the following day.

Professor Barbara Dooley, UCD Deputy Registrar opened the event with Professor Michael Keane, Dean of UCD School of Medicine.

The second day of the workshop focused on group work with students working together in both inter-professional and international groups. Two tasks were allocated to each group; to review a case study developed previously to provide learning experiences around the SDGs, and secondly to develop an outline of the content of a new case study to support learning about the SDGs. Such was the enthusiasm for the work that it continued through the lunch break! A plenary feedback session completed the day with the groups reflecting on the relevance of the previous SDG case studies and presenting the new case outlines. The presentations stimulated some degree of questioning and challenge from the floor and overall a very positive discussion and involvement from students and staff.

Delving into the cultural value of coastlines



Our photo shows Piel Castle and South Walney Nature Reserve

For many people, the coast is a place of tranquillity where they can unwind, go for a walk or admire the scenery. The seaside has a special – almost mystical – power; it can inspire, fulfil and bolster. Particularly for city dwellers, coastlines can act as a place of sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of life. Understanding that power, however, is a different matter – and understanding the coastline has never been as important, as the climate crisis wreaks havoc on our planet’s natural resources.

It is for these reasons – and more – that four UCD researchers spent the last two years studying coastlines along the Irish Sea to better understand their cultural significance. The Cultural Value of Coastlines was a two-year project funded by the Irish Research Council. The interdisciplinary team behind the project published its first academic article in April and wrapped up their work in June of this year.

Led by Professor John Brannigan, Head of UCD School of English, Drama and Film, and Professor Tasman Crowe, Director of UCD Earth Institute, the project looked at the cultural influences and impacts of ecosystem change on coasts along the Irish Sea. They were joined by postdoctoral researchers Dr Fran Ryfield and Dr David Cabana.

“Researchers for a long time have really been focusing primarily on the more tangible sort of things that could be changed,” Professor Crowe explains. “But I think the cultural kind of services, the sense of well-being, the aesthetic appreciation of the landscape have been harder to get to grips with, so they’ve been less thoroughly studied.”

Crowe and Brannigan knew that an interdisciplinary approach was necessary if they wanted to gain a better understanding of the cultural significance of coastlines.

“Most interdisciplinary projects are spearheaded by one discipline that’s using the methods of another discipline quite instrumentally,” Brannigan says. “Whereas our project, from the very beginning, aimed to integrate the perspectives together and to really learn from each other throughout.”

The team decided to zone in on three coastal locations along the Irish Sea for their research: Dublin Bay, Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland

and the Cumbria Coast in the North of England. They had field trips in each location, where they undertook on-site research.

“The primary method we were using was to engage with local communities, so local government, local councils, museums that were in the area, environmental organisations in the area, owners of amenities by the coast,” Brannigan says. “But then also to get in touch with writers, artists, local historians, people who are involved in local heritage, so that’s what we did in terms of advisory meetings and focus groups for the project.”



Pictured are Prof Tasman Crowe, Dr David Cabana, Prof John Brannigan and Dr Frances Ryfield.

They also designed a survey and stopped people on beaches and asked them questions such as why they were there and what the value of the coast was to them. The survey was later rolled out online.

Those they surveyed were “remarkably enthusiastic,” Crowe says.

“People are happy to be listened to by people who are interested in listening to them, which we very much were. There were a lot of interesting points of view that I hadn’t ever really contemplated before. You never know quite what people would say, which was really worthwhile, and cements the value of doing it. You have to go out and talk to people to know what they’re thinking and feeling. You can’t really pre-judge what that’s going to be.”

The responses showed that people who live in coastal areas feel a sense of calm and a deep connection to the seaside.

“People slow down and relax a bit when they get to the sea,” Crowe says. “It gives people a sense of place and a sense of perspective.”

This sense of place and perspective is also exemplified in the artistic representations of coastal areas the team examined. Both Brannigan

and Crowe point to the writings of James Joyce as being of particular interest.

“In *Ulysses*, there’s a chapter in which Stephen Dedalus is walking along Sandymount Strand and he’s constantly thinking about time,” Brannigan says. “He’s meditating on deep time, going back to geological time, and that puts his own life within a framework that makes him more contemplative, more tranquil, more humble about his own existence. That resonates with a lot of people who go to the coastline and have that feeling of watching the sea going in or out, and realising the enormity of the planet and the changes that are taking place on our planet at the moment.”

By looking at cultural representations of the seaside, the team was able to think about emotional and symbolic values attached to coastal areas in a new way.

“We found that literature and art was a really good way of thinking about those values,” Brannigan adds. “One of the things that we’re particularly interested in as an outcome of the project is, can you use the power of art, literature and storytelling to encourage people to care about the environment more?”

While the project has concluded, it should act as a jumping off point for other researchers who are interested in working in an interdisciplinary way – and who are interested in protecting the environment from the devastating effects of climate change.

“Almost all environmental and sustainability challenges need more than one discipline to address them,” Crowe says. “There’s very often a technological or scientific aspect, but it’s going to need an economic and social perspective as well. We need to better understand how people are responding to environmental challenges and how they might respond to changes in policy, so for that we need social sciences and humanities analysis.”

The fundamental mission of the UCD Earth Institute, Crowe says, is to bring people together from different disciplines to enrich environmental research and enhance its impact.

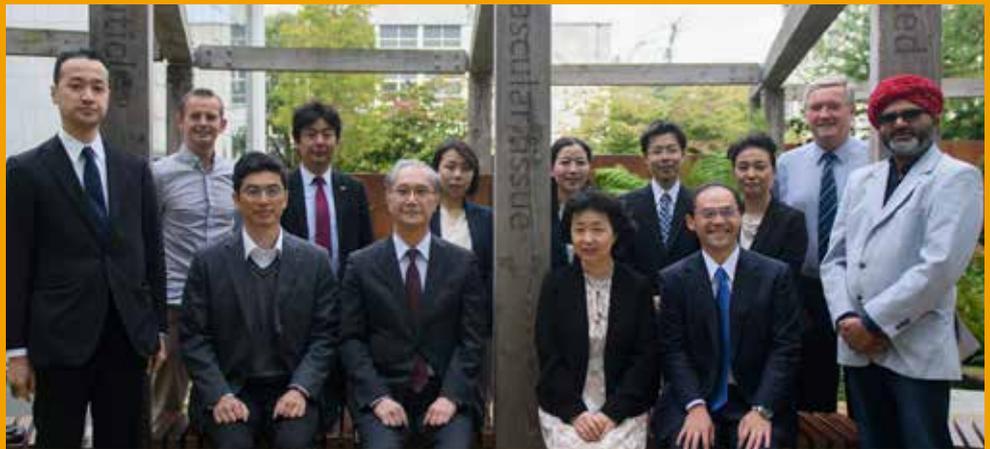
“One of UCD’s greatest strengths is its size and diversity, but day-to-day, people tend to stick within their disciplines. I see the job of the Institute as being to provoke new conversations between those traditional disciplinary boundaries. The intellectual benefit is great – you come to think in new and different ways. It makes the University a more stimulating environment.”

Professor John Brannigan and Professor Tasman Crowe were in conversation with Patrick Kelleher (BA 2015, MA 2017), a freelance journalist.

Japan-Ireland Collaboration

Awarded competitive funding from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), the UCD Japan Group (UJ) and UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice (SPWJ) hosted a two-day public seminar 'Technology-supported Community Care in Japan and Ireland' at UCD and at Tramore's Coastguard Cultural Centre, in partnership with Chiba University (CU) in Japan and Tramore Development Trust, Co Waterford.

The seminar brought together academics, practitioners, and early-career researchers to present cutting edge research on the use of technologies for social care and rehabilitation in Japan and Ireland. Researchers from life sciences (nursing, medicine and physiotherapy), mechanical engineering (automation and robotics), architecture, urban development and social sciences (social anthropology, social work and social policy) discussed how to bridge the gaps between policy/practice and research in this area. Professor Toshio Ueno (Director, JSPS) praised the great effort being



Pictured at the seminar are (l-r): Dr Masataka Ando (JSPS London), Prof Brian Caulfield (Insight and UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science), Prof Wenwei Yu (CU), Mr Sou Watanabe (Embassy of Japan in Ireland), Prof Toshio Ueno (JSPS London), Ms Fuki Yokoyama (JSPS London), Dr Akiyo Yumoto (CU), Prof Sayuri Suwa (CU), Mr Kohei Ikeda (University of Tokyo & UJ), Assoc Prof Naonori Kodate (SPWJ / UJ), Dr Astuko Shimamura (Toho University), Dr Diarmuid O'Shea (St Vincent's University Hospital), and Assoc Prof Hasheem Mannan (UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems).

made to establish interdisciplinary collaborations across the two countries, primarily through UJ's work, in this very important domain of care sciences.

Associate Professor Naonori Kodate (SPWJ, Co-Chair of UJ) is the lead on this project, working closely with Dr Diarmuid O'Shea (St Vincent's University Hospital) and Dr Sarah Donnelly (Co-Director, Professional Masters in Social Work). The CU team led by

Professor Sayuri Suwa (Graduate School of Nursing, Director of Japanese Society for Dementia Care) and Professor Wenwei Yu (Vice Director, Center for Frontier Medical Engineering), together with another delegation from Japan College of Social Work and an intern from University of Tokyo, visited the Royal Hospital in Donnybrook and the Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens among other places.

UCD Researcher Named Member of Horizon Europe Mission Board on Climate Change

Professor Kevin O'Connor, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, UCD Earth Institute, and the Director of Beacon, the SFI Research Centre for Bioeconomy, has been named as a member of the EU mission board on adaptation to climate change, including societal transformation, one of the five mission areas that will be part of Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation funding programme (2021-2027).



Professor Kevin O'Connor

Professor O'Connor is an international expert in areas such as the bioeconomy, bioprocessing, protein engineering and biocatalysis. His research output, to date, includes over 100 international peer-reviewed articles and 150 international conference papers.

He is also the co-founder and CEO of Bioplastech, a UCD spin-out company, which uses a patented manufacturing technology

process to convert waste materials into high value-added, environmentally friendly (ie biodegradable) polymers.

In 2016 the NovaUCD Innovation Award was presented to Professor O'Connor in recognition of the quality and impact of his peer-reviewed research, his technological developments for the production of bio-based products as well as his industrial collaboration and successes in the commercialisation of the intellectual property arising from his research at UCD.

Each mission board consists of 15 experts, including the chair. They will also establish an assembly, a gathering of a larger number of high-level experts, who will provide an additional pool of ideas, knowledge and expertise that will be actively called upon to contribute to the success of the five missions.

Over 2,100 experts from across the EU and beyond applied to become a member of a mission board. The selection process ensured that the boards are composed of creative and highly motivated experts from a wide range of backgrounds, including academics, innovators, civil society, industry, finance and end-users.

International Award for UCD Scientist

Professor Catherine Godson has been honoured by the International Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS) in recognition of her outstanding research and leadership contributions. Professor Godson was presented with the 2019 Women in Science award at the 14th World Congress on Inflammation 2019 in Sydney, Australia, which took place from 15-19 September.

Professor Godson is Professor of Molecular Medicine in UCD School of Medicine; Director of the UCD Diabetes Complications Research Centre and a Fellow, UCD Conway Institute. This award recognises an outstanding scientist in the field of inflammation who has also helped to inspire and facilitate the scientific and career advancement of women scientists in inflammation research.

The IAIS Executive Committee considers a potential awardees for the annual Women in Science Award, which is approved by the organisation's steering committee representing member societies globally. Professor Godson

delivered an award lecture as part of the WCI2019 meeting where she was presented with an award recognition plaque.

Commenting on the award, Prof. Godson said,

"I am really delighted that this international award recognises the quality of the research produced by my lab in UCD over the years. It is great that our sustained contributions are recognised in a global context. The award reflects the wonderful graduate students and research fellows in my group, past and present, my colleagues in UCD Conway Institute, and our collaborators.

"I am especially flattered that this award recognises leadership in inspiring and facilitating career development, especially of women scientists. Throughout my career I have benefitted from several brilliant and generous mentors. Having received the support of such distinguished academics in my career, I am naturally inclined to follow their lead. Whatever contributions I have been fortunate enough to make, I owe to this community and to my supportive family.

"I am also grateful to the funding we have received from SFI, HRB, The Irish Research Council, the EU, Wellcome Trust and the US Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation."



Pictured (l-r); Tom Flanagan, Director of Enterprise and Commercialisation, UCD; Prof Brian Caulfield, Director, Insight, the SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics; Prof Murray Hitzman, Director, iCRAG, the SFI Research Centre in Applied Geosciences; Dr Kelvin K. Droegemeier, Director, OSTP; Prof Orla Feely; Dr Siobhan Roche, Director of Science for the Economy, SFI; Prof Denis Dowling, Director, I-Form, the SFI Research Centre for Advanced Manufacturing; Prof Kevin O'Connor, Director, Beacon, the SFI Research Centre for Bioeconomy; and Triona McCormack, Director of Research, UCD.

Director of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Visits UCD

Dr Kelvin K Droegemeier, Director of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), accompanied by officials from the US Embassy in Ireland, recently visited UCD.

While at the university, Dr Droegemeier and the delegation met with Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact and the Directors of a number of UCD-hosted SFI Research Centres. They discussed the breakthrough achievements of these research programmes and the partnership approach across disciplines, universities, industry and policy-makers that they take. The Directors also highlighted the value of this approach in supporting excellent science, but also in delivering impact for all partners.

Dr Droegemeier, whose background is in extreme weather, numerical weather prediction, and data assimilation, leads the OSTP in its

co-ordination of science and technology initiatives across the US Federal Government. Before joining The White House, Dr Droegemeier served as Vice-President for Research and Regents' Professor of Meteorology at the University of Oklahoma, where he joined the faculty in 1985 as Assistant Professor of Meteorology.

Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact said, "The visit provided us with an opportunity to outline our strong collaborative links with US institutions, such as the University of California, Davis, and the significant US student population here at UCD."

She added, "As Ireland's global university one of our aims is to further develop education, research, innovation and cultural links between UCD and US institutions, leading to exchanges of faculty, staff and students, as well as ideas and knowledge, which will have impact on the Irish and US economies and societies."



Our photo shows the meadow at Belfield House.

Busy Bees

It has been an exciting Summer on our campus grounds as a number of initiatives in support of the UCD Campus Pollinator Plan come to fruition. The importance of providing habitats and food sources for bees and other pollinators is becoming increasingly well recognised, through the work of the National Biodiversity Datacentre and others, and UCD is fortunate in having campuses which support a rich array of biodiversity through our mature woodlands, watercourses and lakes in particular.

Equally importantly however, our campus grounds provide opportunities for us to build on and indeed enhance our biodiversity into the future, through such programmes as the Pollinator Plan and Green Campus initiative.

Wildflower meadows are an important and attractive source of food and shelter for pollinators and have been increasingly developed on campus over the past number of years, with the first Conway meadow sown as far back as 2004! A new meadow developed last year near the Arboretum, in conjunction with colleagues in UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, now forms the backbone of a Biodiversity Hub, enlivening and enriching one of the quieter areas on campus.

Sometimes, developing these meadows has simply involved altering the mowing regime, such as at the ring road to the rear of the Agriculture building, where a beautifully rich display of daisies, buttercups and even an orchid has naturally come into its own over the past five years.

And sometimes, it's a case of lending a hand, such as those meadows sown with a special wildflower mix at the rear of Belfield House and at the Watertower, source of many a photo and video of foraging bumblebees and other pollinators over the summer! So please remember to keep an eye out and ears open on campus for more exciting biodiversity initiatives like these over the coming season and years to come.

UCD hosts European Universities Association INVITED Peer Learning Seminar

UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks welcomed delegates from around Europe to the new University Club and Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, gave the opening address at the seminar in June 2019.

Professor Colin Scott, Vice-President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and the UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Unit collaborated with the European Universities Association to host this conference with a view to open dialogue and encourage collaboration on issues related to diversity in higher education.

The seminar brought together more than 30 university leaders and managers from 15 countries to discuss their strategies towards equity, diversity and inclusion, exchange good practice and learn from each other. The seminar featured talks on UCD's University for All initiatives by Dr Anna Kelly, Director of UCD Access and Lifelong Learning, and Professor Mark Rogers, UCD Registrar and Deputy President, and on UCD's award-winning Gender Identity and Expression Policy by Rory Carey, Director of UCD Culture and Engagement, and Marcellina Fogarty, UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager.

Colleagues from the EUA presented on the INVITED project on 'Strategies towards Equity,



Pictured are (l-r): Prof Andrew Deeks, Marcellina Fogarty, Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD and Prof Colin Scott

Diversity and Inclusion at Universities' and on preliminary results from the INVITED survey, with data from more than 160 higher education institutions from 36 European systems.

The European Students' Union also presented on European initiatives for student diversity and inclusion. A highlight were the speeches by UCD's Student Access Leaders, led by Dr Bairbre Fleming, Deputy Director, UCD Access and Lifelong Learning.

Delegates shared examples of diversity and inclusion best practice in their universities via 3-minute 'lightning' presentations. In the afternoon, seminar attendees participated in a World Café style workshop to discuss and explore current challenges that relate to diversity in academia.



UCD Veterinary Medicine sporting greats (l-r): Derek McGrath, Brian Dooher, Prof Michael Doherty, Evanne Ni Chuilinn, Susie Mitchell, Fiona O'Brien, Shane McGuckin, Dermot Weld, Kevin Foley, John Oxx and Ger Kelly.

UCD Veterinary Sporting Greats

UCD School of Veterinary Medicine hosted an event to celebrate sporting achievement in UCD Astra Hall on Friday, 19 July. Dean of Veterinary Medicine, Professor Michael Doherty, and colleagues from across the UCD Community were joined by a host of sporting stars – Brian Dooher (three-time All-Ireland Gaelic Football winner with Tyrone), Ger Kelly (member of Clare team that won the 1992 Munster Football Championship), Susie Mitchell (World Track Masters Champion), Derek McGrath (member of the 1987 Irish Rugby World Cup squad, Chief Executive of the European Rugby Cup and currently CEO of the Curragh), Shane McGuckin (double All-Ireland Hurling winner with Offaly), Fiona O'Brien (Six Nations winner with Irish Women's Rugby team in 2015), Sue Rackard (representing Nicky Rackard, Wexford hurling legend and top championship goal-scorer of all time) and Dermot Weld (legendary racehorse trainer - celebrated 4,000th winner of his career in 2016).

The event was hosted by RTÉ's Evanne Ni Chuilinn, with a panel discussion forming the centerpiece of the night. Guests were regaled with tales of sporting achievement and memories of studying in the Vet School. There was also discussion on the benefits of getting involved in sports – the panellists were in agreement about the benefits of sport in their lives. There were also contributions from sporting guests in the audience, including John Oxx (racehorse trainer), Mary Duane (Dublin football and camogie), Kevin Foley (Double All-Ireland Gaelic Football winner with Meath) and Brian Mullins (UCD Director of Sport).

The School is very proud to have current staff and students among our sporting guests, including students Alix Cunneen and Sarah Glynn (UCD Women's Rugby Club) and staff members Marijke Beltman, who has represented Ireland in Triathlon at European level, and Emma Golding who competes in Horse Driving Trials

and has represented Ireland at the FEI World Championships for Drivers with Disabilities.

Dean of Veterinary Medicine, Professor Michael Doherty told UCD Today: "I am very proud of colleagues, students and alumni who have achieved so highly in their chosen sports, as well as all those who participate in sport at so many levels, as players and volunteers, making a huge contribution to the community in Ireland - we are delighted to have had this opportunity to celebrate their sporting achievements. Thanks to our event sponsors Bimeda Ireland, Zoetis and MSD Animal Health for their generous support. And thanks are also due to everyone who contributed to the collection for the Irish Veterinary Benevolent Fund, a charitable trust established and supported by the veterinary professions."

For more on this event and to view the event programme and panel discussion video see: www.ucd.ie/vetmed



Dr Robert O'Connor, Head of Research, Irish Cancer Society addressing participants at The Patient Voice in Cancer Research workshop.

Patients inform National Cancer Survivorship Survey

The sixth patient involvement event by the Patient Voice in Cancer Research (PVCR) was jointly hosted by the National Cancer Registry (NCRI) in April.

More than seventy patients took part in the workshop to give their input to the design and circulation of a large nationwide survey to capture the unmet needs of cancer survivors. The results of this research will also help the NCRI develop methods to best capture the cancer patient experience on a routine basis.

A number of patient support and advocacy groups as well as charities attended the event; facilitated by journalist, Claire O'Connell. They included CanCare 4 Living; ARC Cancer Support Centres; Purple House; WigWorld, OvaCare, Cancer Trials Ireland, Irish Cancer Society, Lymphodeoma Ireland, Europa Donna Ireland, Marie Keating Foundation and Men Against Cancer.

Professor Amanda McCann, Director of the UCD Centre in Translational Oncology and PVCR Chair, welcomed the participants and the NCRI team led by Professor Kerri Clough, Director.

Professor McCann outlined that this event was taking place exactly three years after the first PVCR event on cancer survivorship. Patients and their families highlighted the need for a shift in focus to this issue and having regard for quality of life issues, coping strategies and supports for the many people now living with cancer. She expressed her and the PVCR committee's gratitude that the unmet needs of cancer survivors will now be the focus of a nationwide discussion.

UCD School of Philosophy Academic awarded €3 million Funding

Public trust in expert opinion will be put to the test as a part of a new €3 million Horizon 2020 project led by Professor Maria Baghramian, UCD School of Philosophy. Dubbed 'PEriTiA - Policy, Expertise and Trust in Action', the three-year research project, will investigate the role of science in policy decision-making and the conditions under which people should trust and rely on expert opinion that shapes public policy.

Beginning in February 2020, PEriTiA will bring together over 20 philosophers, social and natural scientists, policy experts, ethicists, psychologists, media specialists and civil society organisations to study trust in and the trustworthiness of policy related expert opinion. ALLEA (All European Academies) is a major partner of the project.

Other key partners include Professor Bobby Duffy of King's College London, Professor Gloria Origgi of CNRS in Paris, and Professor José Van Dijk of Utrecht University. Professors Onora O'Neill, Cass Sunstein,

Susan Owens, and Dan Sperber are among the advisory group.

Professor Baghramian commented that the aims of the project are to "better understand the nature and conditions of trust in the public domain and to discover indicators which can be used in measuring and establishing the trustworthiness of those involved in social and political decision-making".

Research in UCD will be carried out in the UCD Centre for Ethics in Public Life and UCD Geary Institute.

Direct Provision

Shocking conditions for asylum seekers in Ireland have been compared to settings in industrial schools or even prisons with residents sometimes trapped in limbo for up to a decade. Activists, United Nations human rights bodies, NGOs, lawyers, politicians and academics among others have documented their plight.



Photo credit: Vukasin Nedeljkovic



Dr Liam Thornton

Justice authorities recently apologised after a woman who died at a direct provision centre was buried without ceremony or prior notice to colleagues. President Michael D Higgins has said conditions for those seeking asylum are unacceptable while special rapporteur on child protection, Geoffrey Shannon, says children who are brought for protection to Ireland, often fleeing war-torn countries, are treated as “second-class citizens”. He compared direct provision arrangements to the mother and baby home scandal.

Dr Liam Thornton, UCD Sutherland School of Law has sought to put a spotlight on the asylum system. His academic work on immigration has influenced public debate and he has reported to the United Nations on Ireland’s breach of international human rights law in overseeing the system. Furthermore, he advised a case challenging the State system on human rights grounds. He believes that direct provision has parallels with how Ireland treated ‘problematic populations’ in the past, including people in industrial schools, borstals, mental health hospitals and mother and baby homes.

The Corkman’s research has been relied on by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and Geoffrey Shannon. He advised members of Seanad Éireann, as a research consultant to lawyers in an unsuccessful challenge to the system in 2014. Dr Thornton has also discussed the treatment of persons seeking asylum at the United Nations, in the Oireachtas and at conferences.

Peer-reviewed journal articles of his work have appeared in legal and socio-legal journals. These examined how the then non-legislative system of direct provision emerged and later triggered human rights concerns.

Crucially, Dr Thornton has tracked the direct provision system from its inception almost 20 years ago through to the most recent calls and efforts to reform it. This year, UCD provided funding to enable him to make available over twenty years of Freedom of Information Requests. These will be available from www.exploringdirectprovision.ie in the coming months and will give an insight into how the system of direct provision in Ireland developed.

He outlines how there is a tension between the neglected human rights of those in direct provision and the protection by justice authorities of the state’s welfare system. He says the legal test prior to the formal commencement of direct

provision in 2000 was whether the state must provide welfare for asylum seekers as opposed to just their basic needs, such as food and shelter.

“The law was just brushed to one side. The views of the Department of Justice took precedence whereby they just set to one side Irish welfare law and said ‘we know under the law that asylum seekers could potentially be entitled to supplementary welfare payments but we are actually providing that through accommodation, meals, centres and at the time €19.10 per adult per week’.”

“Protecting the welfare state from outsiders became much more pronounced since 2004,” explains Dr Thornton. This was in part because of EU enlargement, he explains, and is documented through departmental correspondence and exchanges. He says the clampdown on welfare rights here for asylum seekers was “absolutely” as a result of EU enlargement. And exchanges between civil servants reveal this through Freedom of Information releases.

Between 1997 and 1998, there were as he calls it “tensions” between justice and social protection officials.

“The Sun newspaper was reporting that asylum seekers were entitled to BMWs or free cars. You had the then Justice Minister John O’Donoghue writing to the then Social Protection Minister Dermot Ahern saying ‘Dermot, this is disgraceful, how can you allow this?’ and Dermot Ahern replying ‘what the hell are you talking about, there are no such entitlements’.

“And then over time the views of Justice won out with the discussions dominated by a feeling that ‘we need a different approach. We are being told by all our European partners we need to take asylum seekers out of the core Irish welfare state. We are being told by our British colleagues that this is a threat to the Common Travel Area’.”

Dr Thornton explains that by the time direct provision was proposed at the turn of the millennium, there was a lot of [people saying] ‘we have decided to do this because Britain has implemented a similar system’. But that was wrong. Britain was only trialling a pilot system for asylum seekers. “We decided to adopt a system based on a British pilot scheme which failed abysmally after a year,” he adds.

In the mid 1990s, there were limited numbers of asylum seekers in Ireland, mainly from Yugoslavia and they were entitled to welfare and housing. But numbers shot up to just under 11,000 in 2001. The system then, after it came in, largely remained unchanged up until 2017, despite reforms proposed by the McMahon Working Group on the system of direct provision. For seventeen years, the weekly payments remained

at €19.10 a week for adults. This rose to €21.60 in 2017.

Thankfully, there have been some positive changes since the system of direct provision was provided with a legislative basis in June 2018. A limited right to work has been introduced and Minister Regina Doherty made a significant increase in the direct provision allowance to €38.80 since March 2019.

A chief concern is the length of time residents remain in the system waiting for decisions on their asylum applications. Dr Thornton says that, as of 9 July this year, over 59% of those in direct provision had been there for 12 months or more, with over 23% for more than three years.

“For the first time since the introduction of the system of direct provision for protection applicants, some had to be placed in hotels and guesthouses. Over 1,000 asylum seekers are in emergency accommodation, in hotels and guesthouses, outside of the formal direct provision system,” he adds.

The original intention had been that applicants would spend limited periods in centres. But some have spent years in it. Furthermore, there were no public tenders for accommodation providers in the initial years either, he says.

Previous correspondence between civil servants unearthed by Dr Thornton also blamed asylum seekers for contributing to housing shortages and this resulted in applicants being placed in centres outside Dublin and other urban areas.

Dr Thornton says, given all the problems with direct provision, that one solution could be to allow asylum seekers access the welfare system. This would be cheaper than the current model used to support asylum applicants, he says citing two recent state reports.

However, it would be difficult if not impossible for thousands of asylum seekers in Ireland to independently find accommodation, notes the UCD academic.

In the absence of any ultimate solution to resolving the system, Dr Thornton says practical measures, some proposed by the McMahon Report, could be introduced to ease the plight of asylum seekers. This could include raising their allowances, allowing families to cook for themselves in centres, providing more privacy and helping asylum seekers integrate into communities.

He adds: “These solutions have been proposed ad nauseum since 2001...”

Juno McEnroe (BA 2000, MA in Journalism DCU 2002) is Political Correspondent with the Irish Examiner.



Pictured are (l-r): Prof Dolores O'Riordan, UCD Vice-President for Global Engagement, Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Director of Gaeltacht UCD, with Irish Language Summer School participants, Edwin Mzila, Aaron Mabaso and Smanga Mabuza from University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Gaeltacht UCD, a Gaeltacht in Ireland's Global University

UCD, has recommitted itself to the Irish language by bringing all of the Irish language initiatives, promoted by the University's Irish Language Board, Bord na Gaeilge, under one heading, 'Gaeltacht UCD'. Gaeltacht UCD, UCD's Global Centre for Irish Language and Culture has now joined the UCD Global Engagement portfolio.

Tá cáil cheana féin ar scéim scoláireachta chónaithe na hollscoile, a bunaíodh in 2000, i measc na mac léinn mar 'mhionGaeltacht' UCD. Bíonn liosta feithimh ann gach bliain le haghaidh mic léinn gur mhian leo maireachtáil agus foghlaim 'as Gaeilge' in UCD, agus iad ina gcónaí i dTeach sonraithe na Gaeilge. Tá an scéim seo, a bhfuil duaiseanna buaite aici, i ndiaidh aitheantas a fháil mar gheall ar a deachleachtas i gcothú teanga agus an Lipéad Eorpach Teanga 2016 bronnta uirthi.

Tá an pobal bríomhar Gaeilge, atá cruthaithe ag UCD do mhic léinn agus d'fhostaithe, i bhfad níos leithne ná na gníomhaíochtaí inmheánacha amháin. Ó 1997 i leith, tá teagasc na teanga curtha ar fáil ag 5 leibhéal éagsúla do mhic léinn agus d'fhostaithe UCD, agus tá féilire lán ann freisin d'imeachtaí cultúrtha dá pobal d'fhoghlaiméirí Gaeilge, a bhíonn i gcónaí ag fás. Cothaítear gach gné de chultúr na hÉireann agus cuirtear deiseanna rannpháirtíochta ar fáil do phobal domhanda UCD.

Scoil dhomhanda chónaithe samhraidh is ea Tionól Gaeilge UCD, a eagraíonn Bord na Gaeilge UCD. Tagann na rannpháirtithe ó áiteanna ar fud na hEorpa, na hÁise, Mheiriceá Thuaidh & na hÁfraice. Foghlaimíonn na mic léinn faoin teanga, casann siad ar amhránaithe, rinceoirí agus ceoltóirí traidisiúnta agus tugtar léargas dóibh ar ár gcluichí náisiúnta fiú.

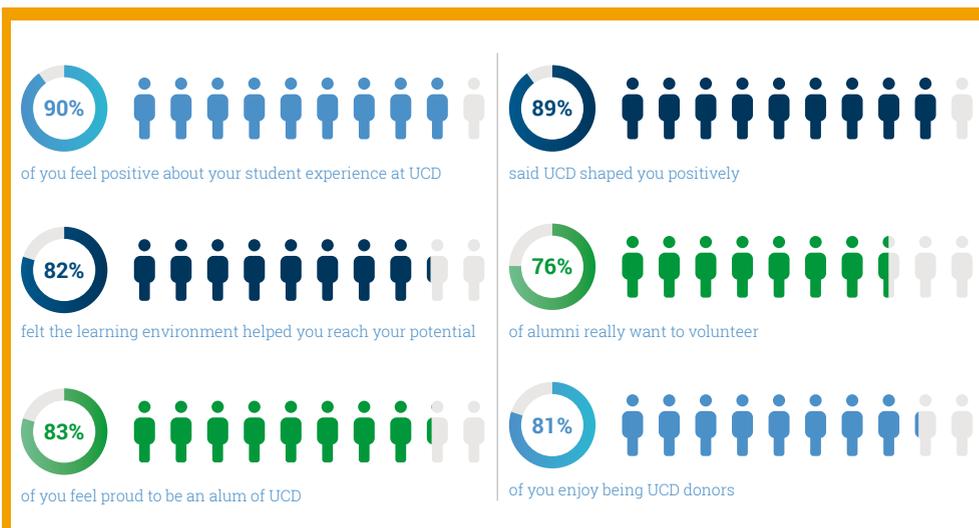
Agus í ag tabhairt a tuairim ar an athbhrandáil go Gaeltacht UCD, is ea a dúirt an Leas-Uachtarán do Ghnóthaí Domhanda UCD, an tOllamh Dolores O'Riordan, ná, "An spríoc atá againn ná mic léinn ó gach cearn den domhan a mhealladh chuig UCD. Tá ár gcaighdeán acadúla den chéad scoth ach tá rud éigin sa bhreis ó mhic léinn agus iad ag

roghnú ollscoile, braistint éigin go bhfuil a rogha ollscoile ag iarraidh difríocht a dhéanamh sa saol".

Agus UCD ina mórollscoil Éireannach, cuid dá straitéis dhomhanda is ea an chuid is fearr den domhan a thabhairt go hÉirinn agus an Éire is fearr a thabhairt don domhan, trín ár dteanga

náisiúnta agus a cultúr sainiúil a chothú <http://www.ucd.ie/ucdglobal/>

Tá ag éirí leis an straitéis sin UCD a idirdhealú ó institiúidí eile. Go dtí seo, tá spéis ar leith curtha ag mic léinn na hÁise in obair Bhord na Gaeilge, agus tá cuid mhaith díobh á mealladh go UCD mar gheall ar bhéim na hollscoile ar an gcultúr.



We asked, You answered

"UCD opened doors which otherwise would have been closed to me and thus has changed my life completely"

Recently a survey run by UCD Alumni Relations asked alumni to share their #UCDStory, and to let us know how their time at UCD shaped the person they are today, and how Alumni Relations could provide our alumni with better ways to connect with UCD and with each other.

More than 5,500 alumni participated. Findings have shown that alumni made lifelong friendships, found love on campus, joined clubs and societies, and developed learning and skills. The results have provided insights that are of great value to us but may also interest you – find out more at www.alumni.ucd.ie/survey-2019/

The feedback from the survey to improve our programme of alumni relations activity and ensure our alumni have rich ways to connect with UCD and with each other.

It was wonderful to hear the alumni memories about their time on campus

"The degree I earned at UCD afforded me the opportunity to travel the world and to build my career globally"

"I really grew up when I was at UCD. Not only did I love what I learned inside the lecture theatres, I loved all the societies I was involved with and made amazing friends"

"Thinking back, UCD gave me the opportunity to meet a plethora of people I otherwise may never have crossed paths with and form friendships which are so strong to this day."

"Found the love of my life."

Architecture in the City

A layered and complex place

Architectural historian Dr Ellen Rowley says knocking buildings down without first reflecting on their historical and cultural significance is a mistake.



Dr Ellen Rowley

Conventional wisdom has it that politics and religion are two subjects best avoided at dinner parties. Perhaps architecture should be the third as everyone has an opinion about what constitutes beauty in the built environment.

Dr Ellen Rowley is a research fellow at UCD School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy and one of her main areas of interest is the heritage and value of our 20th Century architecture. It's a period sometimes described as the "dark age" of Irish architecture and one that tends to polarise opinion about the buildings we love to hate.

The towering spectacle of Liberty Hall is a prime example. For every 10 people that want it to stay, 10 more want it knocked down and if it is judged purely on fit-for-purpose criteria then there is a compelling argument to raze it, Rowley says. "Liberty Hall was built at a time when wind-bracing technology was more basic so to support its height, the square tower had to have an oversized core. As a result, the amount of useable floor space is actually very limited," she says. "From this perspective it's commercially obsolete, but if you consider it in a social, historical and skyline context then its value is significant. The problem with the unloved buildings of the 60s and 70s is that they have low value in public perception and where this is the case people won't fight for their survival.

"What we're really grappling with when we consider the merits of what buildings should stay or go is their perceived value," Rowley adds. "In truth, because of sustainability, the 'greenest' buildings in the city are the ones still standing, because once you demolish a building you lose all of its embodied energy. To adapt and re-use something is ultimately better for the planet, but that undermines the very discipline of architecture itself which is all about bringing on new design and bringing new technologies into play, so it's not simple."

Also muddying the water is the fact that how we value buildings has not changed in centuries. The measure still widely used is the enduring Vitruvian Triad (coined by the first-century Roman architect, Vitruvius) which defines the three essential elements as structural soundness, functionality, and beauty or sensory appeal. "The third category is the most complex, fluid and controversial especially when it comes to Irish architecture from the 1940s onwards," Rowley says. "Before that, there were some straightforwardly 'handsome' structures pointing to Art Nouveau and Deco influences such as the original terminal building at Dublin Airport which was built in the late 1930s while the red brick flats in James's Street, Ballybough and Chancery Place are some of the finest modernist buildings in the country."

Aesthetics aside, these 20th century buildings are also the bread and butter of everyday architecture and the buildings that framed the daily life of people in the new Free State. As such they form part of social commentary because they

often made people's lives better (health clinics and handball alleys for example) while also providing an insight into what society of the time thought was morally and ethically in the interests of its citizens. As a consequence Dublin has very little city centre housing because it was believed people should live away from the city in the fresh air of the new housing developments in places like Crumlin, Cabra and Doneycarney. Only the poorest who couldn't afford to move stayed in town.

Rowley says that older buildings are most likely to be demolished during periods of economic prosperity which makes this a particularly risky time for those that don't fit the contemporary skyline. "A lot of the materials used in buildings of the 60s and 70s were experimental and haven't stood the test of time the way brick and masonry has. Buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries are distant enough to evoke the past; they are historically significant. Buildings from the 1960s and 1970s are too young to be considered historically significant and this raises questions about the merits of retention. Hawkins House, the former AIB Centre in Ballsbridge and UCD's own Newman Building are examples.

So, with numerous functional and aesthetic strikes against them, is it time to put these buildings out of their misery? "It's tricky, because they are stuck in a difficult place, obsolescence is a strong Capitalist force, and tastes change from generation to

generation," Rowley says. "But if people don't like a building or administrations reckon it's underperforming, it doesn't stand a chance. We need to better understand its history in order to shift perceptions."

For anyone interested in the stories behind Dublin's 20th century buildings *More than Concrete Blocks* is a series of richly illustrated architectural histories full of previously unseen archive material. "The series considers the city as a layered and complex place and makes links between Dublin's buildings and its political, social, cultural and economic histories," says Rowley who has lead, edited and co-written the series (Volume 3, 1973-200, is in production) and whose latest book, the 2019 *Architecture, Housing and the Edge Condition*, presents an overview of Dublin's mass-housing building boom from the 1930s to the 1970s. Rowley has also been closely involved with Dublin City Council on the development of the Tenement Museum Dublin Project in Henrietta Street and says that what's "so compelling about many of the buildings now under threat is their social history and folk life and how people's lives were improved or enabled by them. Until the history is written and people's eyes are opened to what is hidden in plain sight, the familiar built environment remains undervalued and in peril."

Olive Keogh MA is a contributor to the Business + Innovation sections of The Irish Times.

Fitzwilton House, Shoolheifer & Burley, 1969 (G & T, Crampton Photograph Archive. © Unknown. Digital content by Dr Joseph Brady, published by UCD Library, UCD)





Pictured are (l-r) Licia Carlesi, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; Dr Siobhan McClean, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science; Dr Meriel McClatchie, UCD School of Archaeology; Prof Orla Feely, Vice -President for Research, Innovation and Impact; Marcellina Fogarty, Equality Diversity and Inclusion Manager; Prof Frank Monahan, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science; Prof Torres Sweeney, UCD School of Veterinary Science; and Eimear O'Reilly, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Missing from photo is Dr Saoirse Tracey, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science.

First Four Schools in UCD receive Athena SWAN Gender Equality Award

Four UCD Schools received Bronze Athena SWAN Awards in May for their commitment to gender equality. Athena SWAN is a gender inclusion charter and awards framework to advance the careers of women in higher education and ensure gender equality and inclusion for all.

The four Schools receiving the Awards as recognition of their commitment to transforming their culture and driving gender inclusion for their faculty, staff and students are UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science; UCD School of Archaeology; UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science; and UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. Together these four Schools encompass some 525 faculty and staff, with 3,648 students.

Building on UCD's institutional Bronze Award, these awards mark the first round of

UCD Schools that have embarked on a data-driven audit and a School-wide consultation of gender equality and inclusion among employees and students. As a result of the audits, they have begun to implement ambitious four-year gender equality strategies.

Examples of steps these Schools are taking to create an inclusive culture include: gender-proofing their workload distribution models to ensure work is transparently and equitably allocated; developing female talent via the Aurora mentorship programme; outreach to secondary schools to increase participation of under-represented gender in their subject; and increasing visibility of women and highlighting female role models in disciplines where there is under-representation.

A further 18 Schools and one College are currently progressing applications.



Prof Pat Guiry.

BEACON awarded €4.4m from SFI for Joint Centre for Doctoral Training with the University of Nottingham

BEACON, SFI's Bioeconomy Research Centre, has set up a joint EPSRC-SFI Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in partnership with the University of Nottingham entitled 'Atoms-to-Products, an Integrated Approach to Sustainable Chemistry'. The programme was awarded €4.4 million from SFI and £10.2 million from the EPSRC and UK industry which will fund 25 PhD students in UCD and 60 in Nottingham over the next five years.

The CDT will assemble a cohort of PhD students from a range of disciplines (synthetic chemistry, catalysis, synthetic biology, chemical engineering) and will share all aspects of formal training, support mobility and provide additional opportunities for longer-term secondment, providing a bridge to international collaboration in both training and research. UCD and the University of Nottingham plan to harmonise elements of both PhD training programmes by sharing access to all multimedia recorded training resources, adopting common PhD examinerships and attending partner symposia and cohort events. The link will also enable diversity in provision of industrial secondments and research opportunities with industrial partners embracing potential new collaborations and PhD student mobility. The BEACON bid to SFI was led by Professor Pat Guiry MRIA and the University of Nottingham bid to the EPSRC was led by Professor Pete Licence.



Pictured are (l-r): Prof Martha Driver, President of the Society (Pace University, New York); Dr Niamh Pattwell; Prof Michael Kuczynski (University of Tulane); and Dr Margaret Connolly (University of St Andrews).

Sixteenth Biennial Early Book Society Conference

The Sixteenth Biennial Early Book Society Conference was hosted by Dr Niamh Pattwell, UCD School of English, Drama and Film at UCD in July.

The event was attended by over 100 delegates who travelled from Japan, USA, England, Scotland, France, the Netherlands and Italy, as well as from within Ireland to discuss 'Social Media in the Middle Ages: the Production, Reception and Distribution of Manuscripts and Early Printed Books'. With a focus on the period from 1350 to 1550, the papers included discussions on the compilation of medieval texts across political divides in single manuscripts, the

interest of readers in medieval bills of fare and descriptions of feasts, the relationship between medieval texts and early modern readers as well as discussions on the relationship between texts produced for manuscripts but later reproduced for the early print market.

Professor Mike Kuczynski, Tulane University delivered an entertaining and enlightening plenary on the history of the Macro Plays manuscript in the Folger Library. The Long Room Hub and Dr Brendan O'Connell (School of English, TCD) hosted the second plenary delivered by Dr Margaret Connolly in which she explored the network of recusant readers and possible owners of a manuscript held in Trinity College Dublin.

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, delegates had an opportunity to sample the fine selection of medieval material available to scholars in Dublin through a series of organised visits to the Royal Irish Academy, Trinity College Dublin, Marsh's Library, the Edward Worth Library and Chester Beatty collections.



Assoc Prof Pat Gibbons with Building Resilience Through Education participants in Wolaita Sodo University (WSU), Ethiopia (l-r): Shimelis Tamirat, Vice-President for Administrative Affairs, WSU; Dr Berhanu Kuma, BRITE Focal Point, WSU; Assoc Prof Pat Gibbons; Dr Wondimu Wolde, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, WSU; Prof Ciaran Sugrue, UCD School of Education, Board of Management – BRITE; and Bereket K' Mariam, Expert in Project Office, WSU.

Building Resilience through Education

Associate Professor Pat Gibbons, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science was in Tanzania working on a project with Irish Aid when the harsh realities of war and poverty crossed the border. Ethnic conflict and genocide in neighbouring Rwanda had led to a major movement of refugees and migrants across Africa. He saw, first-hand, the challenges of providing safety and security to millions of people in need. The international community had to respond. But how?

“Back in the 1960s and 1970s, the United Nations was raising concerns about the level of inequality in a largely post-colonial era. The international community accepted, in principle at least, that well-off countries should be providing support. At around the same time, the idea of ‘charity’ was being questioned. Aid was a way to contain people, keep them quiet and leave them where they are. We needed to go beyond this and look at humanitarian approaches that could lead to real sustainable change and which put the needs of the people affected - rather than the wants of the western world - at its core.”

Gibbons had graduated from UCD with a bachelor's degree in agricultural science (BAgrSc) before going on to work as an agricultural advisor and then coming back to work in the University. His return journey to academia began when he decided to do some voluntary work overseas and, in 1988, established an agricultural high school in The Gambia. He spent three years there before moving on to work with the Agency for Personal Services Overseas, an organisation that funded his masters in rural development in UCD - the placement that brought him back to Africa.

Already, he was thinking differently about how developing countries could escape the poverty trap and, shortly afterwards, his mentor, Jim Phelan, UCD professor of rural development, asked him to come back to Ireland and work with him and a network of European universities on development issues. Gibbons travelled back and forth between Ireland and Tanzania doing more research and Phelan asked him to write up his research into a doctoral thesis.

“It led to me becoming an accidental academic,” says Gibbons. “This was 1996/97, and humanitarianism was not quite a discipline - yet. Speaking with various aid charities, it became clear to me that humanitarianism, the idea of doing good and looking after the welfare of fellow

humans, needed good management and business skills, although others focused on the legal dimension, or saving lives in catastrophes, or on social anthropology.”

In 1997, Gibbons was tasked with managing UCD's masters programme in humanitarian action under the auspices of the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA), an international association of universities that aims to bring more professionalism to the humanitarian sector through education, research and projects. This programme has grown: by 2012, the UCD Centre for Humanitarian Action (CHA) was established with Gibbons as director; in 2019, there were 40 students on its masters programme.

Aid often comes with strings, Gibbons says. “Humanitarian action has to be apolitical, whereas development aid is very political. When I started off, around €800 million was spent every year on humanitarian action - last year that had risen to €28 billion. We developed an interdisciplinary platform to deliver the programme and then developed transdisciplinary research themes including urbanisation and, today, the links between urbanisation, climate change and the migration crisis. And all of these are connected: poor people are displaced from their homes by conflict or crop failures and they have few options but to go to cities, where there is massive growth in informal settlements with refugees and migrants. These areas are poorly serviced, but urbanisation is expected to grow from 55% today to 70% by 2030 - and much of this is happening in sub-Saharan Africa.”

Today, politics throughout Europe, as well as in the United States, have been shaken by the mass movement of refugees and migrants escaping conflict, poverty and climate-change related droughts. In 2016, the international humanitarian community came together in a consultative process to discuss these problems.

Working with the office of the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, the CHA co-ordinated with various stakeholders and put together a presentation for the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016. Out of this, the CHA - and Gibbons - tightened their research themes to focus on urbanisation, gender-based violence, resilience and localisation (how humanitarian assistance, including money, should be distributed on the ground).

“The million euro question is how do we increase empathy and help people,” says Gibbons. “Yes, Ireland were never colonisers, but we are very much part of The North and Northern society, which did benefit from colonialism. And yet Ireland has never met its commitment to provide 0.7% of GDP to try and address global inequalities. We can be doing more, although the quality of nature of Ireland's engagement in the global ‘aid’ sector has been tremendous, including President Higgins' magnificent contribution to the summit.”

The CHA is now a core member of the BRITE (Building Resilience Through Education) project, an intersectoral and multidisciplinary approach bringing together partners from the academic, private and NGO sectors in the EU to find innovative ways to strengthen the resilience of communities affected by recurring disasters.

But this doesn't mean that communities in the developing world are simply being asked to be more stoical, Gibbons explains and, of all western developed countries, Ireland is perhaps the best example of how a poor country can exit the cycle of poverty. “We have to increase opportunities and supports for countries to help them. We were lucky in Ireland to have TK Whittaker, a visionary civil servant who saw that Ireland needed to leave protectionism behind. Ireland, maybe because of our complicated history of famine, colonisation and partition, brings a rich experience to be shared on the global stage.

“Africa, however, does not have to open up: we have to change the terms of trade so that Africa can engage beyond mere subsistence, and BRITE is about trying to push for a way to bring about this change, including education.”

The CHA is currently working with an Ethiopian university to explore ways in which technology could transform the country; partners include Concern, Carlow IT and Future Analytics. “We are trying to encourage research and incubation units, as well as facilitating meetings with companies here,” says Gibbons. “It is not about us being saviours but helping countries to develop as Ireland did: with emigrants coming back from other countries with enthusiasm and ideas. Ireland's perspective can make a difference.”

Peter McGuire, BA (2002), MLitt (2007) is a freelance journalist and a regular contributor to The Irish Times.

Books



Early Public Libraries and Colonial Citizenship in the British Southern Hemisphere

Professor Porscha Fermanis, Dr Sarah Comyn, Dr Lara Atkin, Dr Nathan Garvey, UCD School of English, Drama and Film

Palgrave Macmillan
ISBN: 978-3-030-20425-9
e-book: 978-3-030-20426-6

This book was a result of a collaborative research project with each of the four chapters written by one or more of the co-authors. They examine public libraries in the southern hemisphere in what are now former British colonies. How did the export and subsequent localisation of the British public library system impact on reading habits, education, literacy, and identity formation in those 'new' cultures.

Four chapters cover various aspects of the development of libraries:

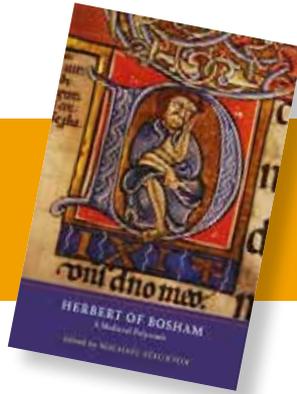
Chapter 2 covers the emergence of public libraries and the local factors that influenced their development, how liberal some societies were in 'allowing' access to libraries and the consequent education of the local populations.

Chapter 3 looks at how the different types of readers were catered for across the southern colonies, how reading educated local populations and gave a voice to lower and middle class people who formerly did not have the words to express their feelings. There was a growing realisation that public libraries were not just for the elite classes, and the fact that, wow, there was a new audience of women readers and they were no longer the romantic novel reading type!

Chapter 4 covers data collection over the years, which was hindered by the level of information available from historical catalogues, which covered the availability of classes, rather than granular detail. As libraries developed, it was no longer enough to hold the 'classics', readers demanded newly published books, those that were deemed fashionable.

Chapter 5 examines the role of research libraries and how they provided vital information about the indigenous populations of their countries. Collections were expanded to cater for areas of study and to become repositories for scientific knowledge and supported the flourishing of science.

If you have an interest in the development of libraries, this is the book for you, it's extensively researched and written in a very accessible style. **MS**



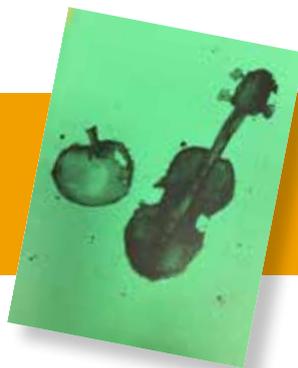
Herbert of Bosham

Edited by Associate Professor Michael Staunton, UCD School of History
York Medieval Press
ISBN: 978-1-903153-88-8

Herbert of Bosham (c1120 - 1194) was Thomas Becket's closest advisor and confidant – and a staunch supporter until his untimely end and beyond. He begged to stay with Becket when both knew the end was in sight but returned to France only two days before Becket's death.

Outspoken and difficult, he often had to be reined in by Becket himself when Herbert criticised the crown or other ecclesiastical contemporaries. While he would attract admiration and patronage from some quarters, he often complained of being shunned and neglected. His story remained very much in the background until the turn of the century when a number of PhD dissertations were completed and, following a conference in 2013, many papers have been written on his scholarship and publications.

Nine well-researched chapters take us through what those nine academics have gleaned about Herbert of Bosham in the short time since he came to the attention of medieval scholars. There is a general sense of excitement about what has been learned to date – and what further papers and discoveries can tell us about this time in history. **MS**



The Ghosts of Barnacullia

Dr Paul Perry UCD School of English, Drama and Film
above/ground press
ISBN: 978-1-989335-16-1

The prolific Dr Paul Perry produced this pamphlet of poems following his participation in *Text/Sound/performance: Making in Canadian Space*, a conference held in UCD in April 2019.

Paul is the author of five full length collections and two pamphlets of poetry and is co-author of the Karen Perry series of best-selling novels.

I have to confess to not having read poetry for many years, apart from the irregular dabbling in Yeats... tread softly and all that.

Reading Paul's poems sitting in my office one afternoon was a very calming experience. So evocative of feelings and people long buried. I read them quickly first, then returned to some favourites and savoured them, the language, the lyricism, the mystery, the possibilities...

I felt a sense of times past with talk of 'your mother baking' or 'your father singing'. I dare you not immediately return to your childhood and remember those sweet moments. Ghosts, the sense that those gone past are still with us, that we are still a part of that past.

There was an ever present theme of love throughout the poems, a theme that came to the fore especially when his children were mentioned, a sense of continuing love and happiness.

My favourites were 'The Double', 'Evidence' and 'The Room with the Yellow Door' – but read it for yourself and enjoy the time you spend choosing yours! **MS**



Professor Da Wen Sun

Da-Wen most-cited Agricultural Sciences researcher in the world

Professor Da-Wen Sun, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering was listed among the top 1% of researchers for most cited publications in Agricultural Sciences indexed by Clarivate Analytics for the fourth consecutive year.

He has had sixty-eight publications classed as 'Highly Cited Papers' by the Essential Science Indicators database – compiled by Clarivate Analytics – a list that surveys over eleven thousand journals from around the world to rank top-performing research in twenty-two broad fields based on publication and citation performance. Professor Sun published over a thousand papers, including more than five hundred peer-reviewed journal papers indexed by Web of Science, with a Web of Science h-index of 95, SCOPUS h-index of 101 and Google Scholar h-index of 110 – ranking him Number 1 in Agricultural Sciences in the world.

Furthermore, thirteen other publications were listed as 'Hot Papers', which are papers published in the past two years that have received a large number of citations soon after publication.

At present in UCD, Professor Sun is at the leading edge of non-destructive hyperspectral imaging technique for food quality and safety evaluation, with particular focus on food processing such as microwave-vacuum drying. The technique is a combination of imaging and spectroscopy, with the former providing spatial information and the latter providing spectral information on food products.

Speaking about his research, Da-Wen said: "The technique allows the industry to see food quality attribute distribution that cannot be seen using conventional methods."

Discussions in Disability 2019

UCD Centre for Disability Studies was delighted to collaborate with YOULEAD, a doctoral training programme in youth mental health, on the 2019 Discussions in Disability Conference 'Youth Mental Health: Break the Stigma'. Hosted in UCD on 30 August, this day-long conference was chaired by Professor Ellis Hennessy, UCD School of Psychology and YOULEAD research supervisor and Dr Christine Linehan, Director, UCD Centre for Disability Studies.

The morning session explored the evidence-base and lived experience of youth mental health stigma. Contributions included: Dr Amanda Fitzgerald, UCD, sharing new data from the My World Survey of youth mental health; Professor Ellis Hennessy explaining the nature and impact of stigma; Elliott MacGabhann vividly sharing the lived experience of psychosis; Emer Conneely, a YOULEAD doctoral candidate examining the representation of young people in mental health service delivery; and Dr Aileen O'Reilly and Youth Advisory Panelist Rachel White discussing Jigsaw's work, which included a contemporary and thought-provoking rap delivered by Rachel. The morning closed with a



Pictured at the conference are (l-r): Beatrice Dooley, Institute of Guidance Counsellors; Rachel White, Jigsaw; Dr Aileen O'Reilly, Jigsaw; Assoc Prof Amanda Fitzgerald, UCD School of Psychology; Elliott MacGabhann, self advocate; Emer Conneely, YOULEAD Trainee; Assoc Prof Suzanne Guerin, UCD School of Psychology; Assoc Prof Christine Linehan, UCD School of Psychology; Dr Tony Bates, Jigsaw; Prof Colin Scott, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law; Laurence Bond, Irish Human Rights and Equality Authority; Donie O'Shea, National Disability Authority; Prof Ellis Hennessy, UCD School of Psychology; and Deirdre McHugh, National Educational Psychology Service.

lively question and answer session, much of which was directed to our two invited youth advocates, Elliott and Rachel.

In the afternoon, national campaigns to reduce youth mental health stigma were outlined by: Deirdre McHugh, National Educational Psychological Service, discussing the National Wellbeing Policy for Schools; John Saunders, Shine, who highlighted our use, and misuse, of stigmatising terminology; and Kim Dempsey from Pieta House who outlined Pieta's Resilience Academy programme. Our day ended with a panel of expert policy advisers and practitioners

chaired by Jigsaw founder, and UCD Adjunct Professor, Tony Bates. Panelists comprised Donie O'Shea, National Disability Authority; Sinead Reynolds, HSE Mental Health; Rosemary Smyth, Mental Health Commission; Laurence Bond, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; and Beatrice Dooley, Institute of Guidance Counsellors. Panelists praised the excellent research and initiatives being undertaken to tackle stigma, noting that the inclusion of young people themselves is central to the ongoing development of quality services in this field.



Pictured are (l-r): Access Leader Garrett Sullivan Kelly; Mariam Asiyandi (Arts and Humanities); Noelle Clinton (Access to Arts, Social Sciences and Law); Dr Anna Kelly; Grant Tria (Nursing General); and Oisín McGinley (Architecture).

UCD ALL Welcome Programme

The UCD Access and Lifelong Learning Welcome Programme took place on 27-28 August. The purpose of this event was to extend the warmest welcome to the new group of diverse students, to salute their success in earning a place in UCD, and to mark the start of the next chapter in the story of their lives.

Almost 700 students participated in the Welcome Programme, all who gained entry via the seven access routes, and are about to begin their studies across 16 different disciplines. These students represent communities and groups where access to higher education is not a given, not always expected, and often, is not the norm. They include students with disabilities, first generation entrants, students from low-income households, mature students, lone parents, part-time students, refugees and asylum seekers.

The Welcome Programme is an ambitious undertaking and is underpinned by UCD's commitment to be a 'University for All', which recognises, promotes and values diversity, fosters and embraces the spirit of inclusion, and appreciates the breath of talent, experience and contribution of all students. Preparations for this two-day event were led by Fiona Sweeney, Head of Outreach, Engagement and Transition, who worked with the entire Access and Lifelong Learning team, 60 Access Student Leaders, and colleagues from across the University.

The Welcome Programme featured the Pinning Ceremony, where students were

presented with the UCD Pin, marking the symbolic beginning to their life as a UCD student. They were reminded that while they represented different backgrounds and experience, had used different entry routes, are studying different disciplines, and have different dreams and hopes, they are now united by their new status as UCD student.

A central component of the Welcome Programme is to enable new students to make friends, to gain confidence, and to develop a sense of belonging. Led by the Access Student Leaders, students were introduced to their peers, toured their programme locations, engaged in taster lectures, and met key student services and supports. A social programme, including dinner, karaoke, table quiz, cinema, and sports were also offered. Participants were also introduced to the role of Access and Lifelong Learning, which was represented as a 'Signpost' to guide, support, and point the way to the range of supports available throughout the University. Family and friends were also welcomed and attended tailored information sessions.



Distinguished Historian Award

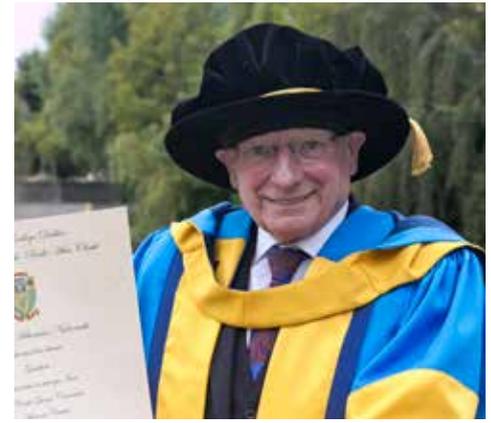
Professor of the History of Education at UCD School of Education, Deirdre Raftery received the Distinguished Historian Award 2019, at Notre Dame, Indiana, in June.

University celebrates honorary degree recipients

During a week when the University welcomed 4,500 new students and conferred 3,800 undergraduate, masters and PhD degrees, seven outstanding leaders were awarded honorary doctorates by the University.



Philip Berber - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws - is an Irish-born, Texas-based technology entrepreneur, now engaged in philanthropy, international aid, social entrepreneurship and impact investing. He and his wife Donna built a family foundation called A Glimmer of Hope. Focused on Ethiopia, A Glimmer of Hope provides Humanitarian Aid and Microcredit initiatives.



Kevin Duffy - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws - is former Chairman of the Labour Court and retired in 2016, having overseen the transformation of its role under the Workplace Relations Act 2015, and was chosen by the Government to chair both the Commission examining Water Charges and the Public Service Pay Commission.



Catherine Corless - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature - is an individual whose enormous and inspiring courage, in the face of significant resistance, has changed the lives of so many past and present. She brought to light the atrocity of the Tuam home, and the network of Mother and Child institutions across Ireland.



Pádraig Ó Snodaigh - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Celtic Studies - bhí sé ag saothrú ar son na hÉireann agus na Gaeilge, agus ar son a litríochta, gach lá dá shaol. Ghriosaigh sé na filí nua chun pinn, d'fhoilsigh sé iad, chuir sé in eagar iad, chruthaigh sé spás dóibh.



Catherine Marshall - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Fine Arts - is an inspiring teacher who, throughout her career as a leading historian of twentieth- and twenty-first century Irish art, spent most of her career outside the classroom, organising pioneering exhibitions in museums and galleries across the country and around the world.



Pictured (l-r) are: Fang Zhao, Caoimhe O'Brien, Conor McVeigh, Prof Wim Meijer, Prof Orla Feely, Josiah O'Sullivan, Eleanor Glancy and Rebecca Gorry.

ENGAGE 2019 Seminars Grand Final at UCD – Accessible Science for the Public

In April 2019, six PhD students took part in the Grand Final of the ENGAGE Seminars at the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science in front of a packed auditorium which included colleagues, friends, families and members of the public. The ENGAGE Seminars are hosted by UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science (SBBS) and they challenge late-stage PhD students to present their own PhD research to a public, non-specialist audience in an accessible and engaging way. The final event was hosted by Science Communicator and RTÉ presenter, Dr Jennifer Cleary. The topics that were presented at this year's final included research into: New Cancer Therapies, Depression & the Immune System, Biodiversity in Ireland, Stem Cells & Development and Drug Addiction.

After lengthy deliberations by the judges and inclusion of the audience vote, Rebecca Gorry was announced as the overall ENGAGE 2019 grand final winner for her presentation entitled 'Shooting the Messenger - Targeting CypA to fight cancer'. The ENGAGE 2019 runner-up was Caoimhe O'Brien for her presentation entitled "Fantastic Yeasts and where to find them". Niall Beagan won Best Poster Presentation for his poster entitled 'Turning the Tide on Plastic Pollution. Professor Wim Meijer, Head of School at SBBS emphasised the critical importance of communicating scientific research to the public and applauded the finalists for their excellent efforts.



Sheila Willis - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science - is a chemist who became the voice of forensic science in the UK and Ireland. She has served on a number international bodies regulating and establishing analytical standards in forensic science.



Brother Tony Dolan - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science - is highly respected for his work on sustainable agriculture and in particular in agricultural education. Farmers and community leaders in Western Kenya and Northern Uganda know him as Brother Tony, a man who lives with them and supports them in achieving sustainable systems of farming that provide better livelihoods for their families.

PhD students from around the world attend 2019 Atlas Agora in UCD

UCD Sutherland School of Law was honoured to host the Association of Transnational Law Schools (ATLAS) Agora in June 2019. The two-week event was organised by Dr Richard Collins and co-ordinated by UCD PhD student, Aphrodite Papachristodoulou. UCD joined the ATLAS network in 2016 and partner institutions currently include the National University of Singapore, Osgoode Hall Law School (Canada), University of Montreal (Canada), Erasmus School of Law, Rotterdam (Netherlands), Bar Ilan University (Israel) and Queen Mary University of London (UK).

ATLAS was formed in 2006 with the mission of bringing together talented doctoral students in the field of transnational law (broadly defined). The annual Agora consists of a programme of dissertation workshops, allowing students to share and receive peer and expert feedback on their research, masterclasses, and a series of



Conference delegates with Senator Michael McDowell SC at Leinster House.

educational visits and social events. The Agora also provides an opportunity for an annual meeting of the partner universities and a faculty conference showcasing current research in progress.

Masterclasses included 'Managing the Research Process', Professor Kalpana Shankar; 'Grant Applications and Proposals', Suzanne D'Arcy; 'Publishing your thesis', Professor Aidan Moran; 'Regulation / Economics and Law', Professor Colin Scott; 'Public International Law', Dr Richard Collins; 'EU Law and Regulation', Professor Imelda Maher; 'Litigation and Arbitration', Mr Justice Donal O'Donnell; and 'Big Data issues and the right to be forgotten', Michael M Collins SC.

The day-long faculty conference included contributions from Professor Craig Scott

(Osgoode) and Dr Liam Thornton (UCD), speaking on the subject of Human Rights. Professor Michel Morin (Montreal) and Dr Richard Collins (UCD) spoke on Legal Histories. And on the subject of 'Legal Pluralism and Regime Confrontation', there were contributions by Derek McKee (Montreal) and Ori Arronson (Bar Ilan). The final topic of 'New Challenges and Trends' saw presentations from UCD's Dr Suzanne Egan and Professor Klaus Heine (Rotterdam).

In addition to the extensive academic programme, the students visited the Houses of the Oireachtas, the Department of Foreign Affairs (including a tour of Iveagh House), EPIC, the Irish Emigration Museum, the Guinness Storehouse and took walking and boat tours around Dublin.

UCD Researcher Awarded ERC Proof-of-Concept Funding for Parkinson's Disease Project

Professor Madeleine Lowery, UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering is among 62 European Research Council (ERC) grant holders who have been awarded an ERC Proof-of-Concept or 'top-up' grant of €150,000 to explore the commercial or societal potential of their ERC-funded frontier research results.

Professor Lowery's research is focused on using engineering methods to model the brain, nerves and muscles to improve technology which is used to treat motor symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease. In 2015 Professor Lowery was awarded an ERC Consolidator Grant of €2 million over five years, for a research project



Professor Madeleine Lowery

focused on deep brain stimulation (DBS) therapy used to treat the symptoms of the disease.

While DBS has emerged as an effective treatment for the symptoms of the disease over the last 25 years, the mechanisms of DBS are not yet fully understood. Current DBS systems

operate in an 'open-loop' configuration with stimulus parameters (amplitude, pulse duration and frequency) empirically set and remaining fixed over time. Patients can however experience side effects and poor control of symptoms associated with suboptimal programming of stimulus parameters. A 'closed-loop' DBS system offers an alternative approach that has the potential to overcome current limitations and increase therapeutic efficacy while reducing side-effects by automatically adjusting stimulation parameters as required.

Through her ERC-funded project, Professor Lowery and her research team have developed biophysically detailed computational models of the neural circuits in the brain during DBS and are using these to develop and test novel algorithms.

Launch of the digitised Oram Diaries (UCDA P258)

On Tuesday 25 July, UCD Archives and UCD Digital Library launched the digitised diaries of John and Arthur Oram, now available online via UCD Digital Library.

Father and son, John and Arthur Oram were farmers and land agents in Burrishoole, Co Mayo. Their diaries hold a wealth of information on farming life and estate management, covering the periods 1854–1907 and 1887–1919. They record information such as the planting and harvesting of crops, trips to livestock markets, and repairs to farm buildings. As land agents, the Orams' duties included collecting rents and negotiating tenants' arrears. Growing tensions between landlords and tenants impinged directly on their personal lives when John was shot in 1872. The influence of the weather on their lives is also evident: both men record daily weather observations and note the impact of droughts, wind storms, and major snow falls.

The diaries also refer to events of national and international importance: a famine in 1879; the foundation of the Land League in 1879; the 1882 Phoenix Park murders; the death of Queen Victoria in 1901; the sinking of the Titanic in 1912; news of a Rising in Dublin in 1916; and the 1918 influenza epidemic. Relevant to those with an interest in agriculture, landed estates, meteorology, as well as the general history of Ireland at the time, the diaries are also fascinating as a record of the intricacies of human life.

The diaries were deposited in UCD Archives by Carolyn Sturdy and Christopher Oram in June 2012 and were catalogued by archivist Orna Somerville in 2013. Audrey Drohan and Orna Roche were responsible for the digitisation of the diaries and their publication via the UCD Digital



Pictured at the launch are (l-r): Orna Somerville, Archivist; Audrey Drohan, Digital Library Manager; Orna Roche, Assistant Librarian; Carolyn Sturdy, depositor; and Dr John Howard, University Librarian.

Library. Both the Archives and Digital Library were delighted that Carolyn Sturdy and her husband Colin, were present for the launch. Ms Sturdy and her brother Christopher maintain an excellent website with additional contextual information and family history concerning the Orams: familyhistory.oram.ca/burrishoole/. The diaries may be viewed at doi.org/10.7925/drs1.ucdlib_256149.



Prof Colin Scott, Vice-President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Prof Judith Harford, Vice-Principal for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law were also in attendance to present a special SFI award to Transition Year students from Tullamore College for their project entitled "Representing Influential Women who were Airbrushed from the Narrative of Economic History".

UCD Schools of Education and Economics join forces to host the 2019 Young Economist of the Year

Rachel Farrell, UCD School of Education, in collaboration with Associate Professor Kevin Denny, UCD School of Economics was very proud to welcome over 600 second level students to UCD last May for the prestigious Young Economist of the Year National Awards. YEOTY, as it is affectionately known, is an initiative of the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) and supported by the UCD School of Education and Schools of Economics in UCD, Maynooth University, NUI Galway, TCD and UCC, in association with the Irish Economic Association (IEA); the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES), the Central Bank of Ireland and Laois Education Centre.

This national competition for the enjoyment and promotion of economics amongst secondary school students has grown over the past number of years and is now the gateway to the International Economics Olympiad (IEO). The top five students from YEOTY represented Ireland at the IEO in St Petersburg, Russia in July.

Sihoo Kim, aka Bob, is a native of South Korea who moved to Ireland to complete his second level education in Rockwell College, Co Tipperary. He was the overall winner of YEOTY 2019 and captained the Irish team at the 2019 IEO. Having achieved second place in the finance section of the competition, Bob received a bronze medal for his overall individual achievement throughout the gruelling seven-day Olympiad. He claims that winning YEOTY and representing Ireland at the IEO changed his life so much that he has moved back to Ireland to study at UCD School of Economics. Diana



Sihoo Kim, captain of the Irish team at the Olympiad.

Mirza from Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom, Co Limerick (2017 world school's chess champion) was another member of the team. Diana is also now a first-year student of Politics and International Relations in UCD.

GDPR and Capacity to Consent Roundtable

The introduction in 2018 of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) and the accompanying Health Research Regulations have required researchers to work in new ways to ensure participants make an informed decision when consenting to research, while being protected against violations of data privacy. Ensuring compliance with these new regulations is complex, and more so where research participants may be deemed to lack capacity to consent. To address this issue, the UCD Centre for Disability Studies hosted a high-level roundtable in July. Real life cases were discussed across the full spectrum of the research process from the generation of research questions through to dissemination of findings.

Contributors to the roundtable included Associate Professor Christine Linehan, UCD Centre for Disability Studies (Chair); Jonathan Barrett, Consent Declaration Committee; Dr Sarah Casey, National Rehabilitation Hospital; Dr Sarah Craig, Health Research Board; Associate Professor Suzanne Guerin, UCD Centre for Disability Studies; Alison Harnett, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies; Peter Lennon, Department of Health; Joanne McCarthy, Disability Federation of Ireland; David Murphy, Data Protection Commission; Suzanne Moloney, HSE Social Care; Dr Patricia Rickard Clarke, SAGE Advocacy; Dr Flavia Santos, UCD Centre for Disability Studies; Associate Professor Fintan Sheerin, Trinity College Dublin; Dr Joan Tiernan, UCD Human Research Ethics Committee; Dr Emily Vereker, Consent Declaration Committee; Dr Brian Waldron, Psychological Society of Ireland; and Dr Aideen Hartney, National Disability Authority.

Smurfit Executive Development joins forces with Leinster Rugby

Smurfit Executive Development (SED) and Leinster Rugby recently announced that they are joining forces to optimise leadership capabilities, generating shared advantages on and off the pitch.

As the FT ranked #1 Executive Education provider in Ireland, and within the top 25 in Europe, SED has a natural synergy with Leinster Rugby with results of this collaboration in leadership, team and business coaching delivering enhanced performance.



Michelle Burke, Head of Special Projects SED with Kevin Quinn, Commercial and Marketing Director Leinster Rugby at the Leinster v Coventry and Leinster Women's v Connacht double header at Energia Park in August.



Eimear Lambe (second from left) with her team-mates Emily Hegarty, Tara Hanlon, and Claire Feerick.



Katie O'Brien with her bronze medal.

Rowing World Championships

The U23 Rowing World Championships and Rowing World Championship were held the last number of weeks in July and August respectively.

Eimear Lambe, UCD Ladies Boat Club was part of the Ireland's women's four who took home a silver medal at the U23 championships in Florida. With only 1.46 seconds between Ireland and the winners Britain, it was an incredibly close race.

At the World Championships, Katie O'Brien, UCD Ladies Boat Club won bronze in the PR2 Women's Single in what was an exceptional performance by Ireland overall at the championships.

UCD GAA

UCD GAA had had a significant influence on this summer's All-Ireland Championships across numerous age grades and codes. Current UCD GAA player Brian Hogan was part of the Tipperary All-Ireland winning Hurling team.

UCD had 13 players (past and present) on the historic five in-a-row All-Ireland winning Dublin football panel this year; David Byrne, Brian Fenton, Michael Fitzsimons, Darren Gavin, Paul Mannion, Eoin Murchan, Jack McCaffrey, Robbie McDaid, Peadar Ó Cofaigh Byrne, Con O'Callaghan, Cian O'Connor, Rory O'Carroll and Cian O'Sullivan.



UCD Rugby Squad.

UCD Rugby - Canada Tour 2019

50 players and management from UCD Rugby jetted off to Canada on their Summer Tour in early August. Playing a total of six games over the course of 10 days, the squad and management used the tour as prep for the

upcoming AIL season. With new Head Coach, Kevin Croke taking over the reins of the first team, everyone at UCD Sport would like to wish the team and management the best of luck for the year ahead.

World University Games - Round Up

The 2019 World University Games were held in July and UCD representatives spanned Men's and Women's Football and Athletics.

Women's Football

The Women's Football team, captained by UCD's Chloe Mustaki who started every game at centre-back, produced some amazing performances. In their first outing of the Games, they defeated 2017 champions Brazil on a score line of 1-0. They ultimately topped their group with a 2-1 victory against South Korea in the second group game, setting up a quarter-final meeting with China.

In a dramatic game versus China, the Women's team came out on top in a nail-biting penalty shoot-out, winning 4-1 after the game ended level after 90 minutes. This was the first time since 2007 the team qualified for the semi-final stage.

With a chance of the final up for grabs, North Korea proved too strong in the semi-final and the game ended in a 5-0 loss. The Women's Footballers still had a chance for a bronze medal when they faced Russia. The team went 2-0 up but squandered the lead which meant the game was decided on a penalty shoot-out. Russia won the shoot-out and it was a disappointing way to end the team's chance of a medal finish.

Men's Football

UCD AFC goalkeeper Gavin Sheridan was the sole UCD representative on Team Ireland Men's Football team. In the first game of their group, the team came from a goal behind to beat South Korea 3-2. The team qualified for the quarter-finals with a 1-1 draw with Uruguay securing top spot in Group A.

Unfortunately this was as far as the team progressed as they lost out to Russia who held onto a 1-0 lead in the quarter-final.

Contesting a 5th - 8th place play-off, the Men's team were drawn against Ukraine but disappointingly lost 2-1 which meant Ireland



Chloe Mustaki (right), Captain of the Women's Football team at the WUG19

faced France for a 7th - 8th place finish. A disappointing end to their campaign with the team losing on penalties.

Athletics

Alanna Lally (800m) and Sarah Lavin (100m hurdles) were UCD's two athletics representatives at the games. Alanna qualified through her first round in a time of 2:06.74. In the semi-final she was placed 16th overall in a time of 2:06.36.

Sarah Lavin qualified from her heat in the 100m hurdles with a time of 13.32. She put in a hugely impressive performance in her semi-final, clocking in a season's best of 13.26. In the final she narrowly missed out on a medal finish, placing 4th with just 0.19 seconds off a bronze medal.

In total the travelling Irish delegation was made up of 53 athletes and 22 officials, with athletes competing in four sports, Athletics, Archery, Football (Men's and Women's) and Taekwondo. UCD Sport would like to thank Student Sport Ireland for their fantastic organisation and well done to all athletes who competed.

UCD Student Services Summer Investment for Student Endeavour

This summer, the UCD Student Services team has been busy ensuring once again that student facilities and supports are best-in-class for the forthcoming academic year.

A significant investment in student welfare and well-being has seen the Students' Union offices receive a contemporary refurbishment, while upstairs in the Health Centre, additional student counselling staff and offices have been added to an already well-established service offering.

UCD Student Services offers a large suite of supports and facilities, all of which are conveniently located within the UCD Student Centre. The building has over 12,000 people on average pass through its doors daily during term time and is an environment where students, faculty and staff can recharge and reconnect with their peers and mentors. The Centre is a home for all, housing in excess of 22,000 student society and sports club members.

However, to harness the current and future success and well-being of our students outside the classroom, it is imperative that facilities be maintained and enhanced. On the recent resurfacing of the University hockey pitch, Dominic O'Keeffe, UCD Director of Student



UCD and Irish international hockey players (l-r): Hannah McLoughlin, Clodagh Cassin and Elena Tice celebrate the pitch resurface announcement for the UCD National Hockey Stadium.

Services and Facilities told UCD Today: "We are surrounded by passionate young people who opt to break boundaries by succeeding both on the playing field and in the classroom, and we hope our investment mirrors their level of ambition." As the go-to pitch in Ireland for high level hockey games and tournaments, this latest upgrade has brought the stadium up to global standards. The works which took place over the summer saw the pitch re-levelled and re-carpeted and a new floodlighting system and fence installed. As planned, the pitch is providing as a world class surface for our 11 hockey teams and is nationally sought after to potentially host the ultimate Olympic qualifier for Ireland in November.



Sarah McEvoy, winner of the NUI Scholarship in Education

NUI Scholarship in Education 2019

Sarah McEvoy, who completed the Professional Master of Education with UCD School of Education has recently been awarded the NUI Scholarship in Education 2019. Sarah, who is now a newly qualified teacher, first started in UCD in 2011 with a BA in French and German (1st Class Hons). She progressed to an MA in Modern Languages (1st Class Hons) with UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics in 2015-16. In 2017, Sarah began her initial teacher education with UCD School of Education.

During her PME, Sarah facilitated workshops on the educational tool Flipgrid at the French Teacher's Conference and at a Post Primary Languages Initiative Community of Practice. Thanks to Rachel Farrell, Professional Placement Co-ordinator with UCD School of Education, Sarah became involved in a Digital Leader group working on the integration of e-portfolios in the classroom. As part of this group, she received training from Brendan Cawley at Microsoft Headquarters.

As part of her PME, Sarah completed a dissertation entitled 'A study of the impact of creativity on classroom-based assessment in the Modern Foreign Languages classroom at Junior Cycle'. Following an interview and a presentation of her research to a panel with representatives from the NCCA, Mary Immaculate College, CIT Crawford College of Art & Design and UCC, the selection panel recommended her for the NUI Scholarship in Education 2019. This is awarded to the top students of the Professional Master of Education degree, offered in each of the NUI constituent universities. She will receive a certificate from the Chancellor of the University, Dr Maurice Manning, at an awards ceremony in November 2019. Sarah is now teaching at her alma mater, Tullamore College.

Welcome and Conferring Ceremonies



The first week in September saw almost 4,500 new students arriving on campus to begin their studies, and over 3,800 graduates conferred with undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and with doctorates in many disciplines. The scarfing ceremony is now a critical part of our students' orientation – wearing the colours with pride! Photo credit: Matthew Rose Neil