

# UCD today



Ireland's next generation sports stars begin the UCD Elite Athlete Academy

13. FOLKLORE TRADITION  
UCD's folklore collections on display

9. EUROPEAN YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD  
Irish first for cancer researcher

7. DIGGING UP THE PAST  
Archaeological finds in the Philippines

5. SUM OF ALL PARTS  
Systems biology at UCD

# what's inside ...



**10** UCD secures major funding under PRLTI 5 to boost innovation – investment in UCD Science Centre



**21** HE Mr Li Changchun makes an official visit to UCD, as Irish and Chinese governments agree to co-finance new building for UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland



**23** UCD graduate Mark Rohan brings home Ireland's first gold medal at the UCD ParaCycling World Road Championships



**24** UCD alumnus and donor Peter Sutherland SC turns the sod at the new home of Irish legal education and research

## International rankings – in or out of the top 100, UCD still holds a position within the top 5% worldwide.

Confusion round the university's position in international rankings is not surprising – given the publication of two tables in recent weeks. The most recent, the Times Higher Education, places UCD at 94, with QS placing the university at 114. Up to last year these two organisations partnered to produce a single table but their parting of ways led to the double publication and, according to themselves, new and more comprehensive methodology for both.

Regardless of position, UCD is in the top 95<sup>th</sup> percentile of world universities and retaining this rank is a significant achievement.

The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking is widely regarded as the most comprehensive and prestigious of the international rankings.

Using Thompson Reuters for publication data collection and analysis, the THE ranking includes 13 performance indicators, rather than 6 in the past, and according to Times Higher Education, is designed to provide 'the most sophisticated and

robust global rankings system ever, reflecting three of the core missions of a university – teaching, research and knowledge transfer'. The performance indicators are divided into five broad categories:

- Teaching – the learning environment (weighting: 30%)
- Citations – research influence (32.5%)
- Research – volume, income and reputation (30%)
- International mix – staff and students (5%)
- Industry income – innovation (2.5%)

A full breakdown of the methodology is available on: <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/2010-2011/analysis-methodology.html>.

Interestingly, UCD's strongest area was citations (86.3), which is considered to be a university's research influence as measured by the number of times its published work is cited by academics. The weighting given to citations reflects the relatively high level of confidence the global academic community has in the indicator as a proxy for research quality.

The citations data are drawn from the 12,000 academic journals indexed by Thomson Reuters' Web of Science database. The figures are collected for every university with data aggregated over a five-year period from 2004 to 2008. The THE noted there was insufficient time for the accumulation of such data for articles published in 2009 and 2010.

When it comes to teaching and the learning environment, the THE ranking is more reliant on an academic survey completed by over 13,000 academics worldwide.

However UCD goes far beyond the numbers suggested in these surveys. There are no metrics that can capture the support given to students, the pride in our sports' teams successes, the friendships made on campus or the lifelong connections that come through shared experience of UCD.

Eilis O'Brien  
Director of Communications

Cover image: Joining the UCD Elite Athlete Academy 2010: Track and field athlete, David Campbell who is studying Physiotherapy at UCD. David was national 800 champion 2007; national 1500 champion 2007 and 2009; world championship representative for 800 in 2007; and has attained Euro 2010 championship standards for 800/1500. Also joining the Academy were hockey players, from left, Chloe Watkins who is studying Physiotherapy, Niamh Atcheler who is studying Sports and Exercise Science, and Brenda Flannery who is studying Physiotherapy

## UCD thanks ...

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# Elite athletes join UCD academy

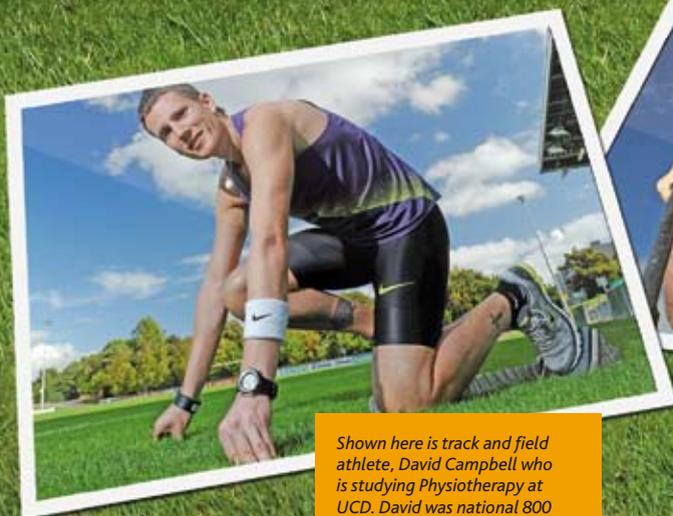
Seventeen athletes representing rugby, hockey, GAA, track and field, rowing, and pentathlon have joined the UCD Elite Athlete Academy for 2010. "The Academy supports student athletes so they can achieve at the highest national and international level in their sport while studying for their university degree," says Professor Colin Boreham, Director of the UCD Institute for Sport and Health, about the programme, which is run with UCD Sport and the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy, and Population Science.

Recognising that a dedication to sport at the highest level can sometimes prevent students from achieving the CAO points they require for their chosen degree, this scholarship programme offers student athletes a supplementary route to degree programmes at UCD. It takes into account a students' capability to simultaneously achieve in sport and academia.

Students who join the UCD Elite Athlete Academy receive financial assistance, campus accommodation, sports science mentoring, sports medicine and physiotherapy support, elite strength and conditioning training, nutrition and psychology support and tailored training and testing. They are also assigned an academic

mentor who helps them to balance their academic and sporting commitments."

"This is our first intake of athletes into the Academy, and I have no doubt that they will become excellent role models for other student athletes at University College Dublin and nationally," says Professor Boreham.



Shown here is track and field athlete, David Campbell who is studying Physiotherapy at UCD. David was national 800 champion 2007; national 1500 champion 2007 and 2009; world championship representative for 800 in 2007; and has attained Euro 2010 championship standards for 800/1500.



Rowing, Sean Jacob who is studying an MA in history at UCD is an Elite Athlete. Sean won the Bronze medal at the Rowing World Cup in Munich 2008; and took 10th place in men's four at the World Championships in 2005. Shown with Sean is pentathlete Arthur Lannigan O'Keefe, who is studying Business and Law at UCD. Arthur won the British Junior (u21) Modern Pentathlon Championships in 2009.



Joining the 2010 UCD Elite Athlete Academy: back row, from left, Niamh Atcheler (hockey); Chloe Watkins (hockey); and Brenda Flannery (hockey); middle row, from left, Sean Jacob (rowing), Arthur Lannigan O'Keefe (pentathlon), John O'Loughlin (Gaelic Football & Hurling); Robert Hynes (rugby); Luke Chadwick (hockey); and David Campbell (track and field); and front row, from left: Matthew O'Hanlon (hurling); Sam Coughlan Murray (rugby), Eoin Joyce (rugby), Robert Hynes (rugby); and David Doyle (rugby). Not in photo are: Claire Lambe (rowing); Joseph Lyng (hurling) Kevin McGourty (Gaelic football & hurling).

# 10 out of 23 Fulbright Awards go to UCD graduates and staff

In recognition of their academic merit and their leadership potential, ten UCD staff and students were named as recipients of the Irish 2010-2011 Fulbright Awards. The scholars will have the opportunity to research, teach or study at leading US universities.

"To have received such a high number of 2010-2011 Fulbright Awards is a great reflection on the depth and relevance of UCD scholarship. These young scholars are at an early stage in their careers and are part of the new generation of research-active, teaching academics," said UCD President Dr Hugh Brady, congratulating the UCD recipients. "From teaching Irish at Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas, to researching historical and policy determinants of Irish health and well-being at Princeton University, to studying mechanical engineering at MIT, our academics and students are making a valuable contribution to knowledge exchange between Ireland and the US."

"The mission of the Fulbright Commission in Ireland is to build on the deep historic, cultural and economic ties between Ireland and the United States and to create

mutually beneficial and sustainable educational exchange programmes which are responsive to national and global challenges and opportunities," explained Colleen Dube, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission in Ireland. In Ireland, the Fulbright Programme is administered by the Fulbright Commission in Ireland. The Commission is supported by the US Department of State and the Department of Foreign Affairs to operate this

educational exchange programme between Ireland and the United States.

The 10 recipients are: Paul Alexander, awarded the Fulbright-Environmental Protection Agency Award in Environmental Science & Policy; Michael Casey, awarded a Fulbright Award for Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas; David Comerford, awarded a Fulbright Award to undertake research as part of his PhD in the area of consumer judgment and decision making at Duke University, North Carolina; Dr Katherine Curran, awarded a Fulbright Award to research at the University of Illinois; Dr Liam Delaney, awarded a Fulbright Award to research at Princeton University in the area of historical and policy determinants of Irish health and well being; Ian Hastings, awarded a Fulbright Award to attend the University of Chicago's LLM; Ronan McGovern, awarded the Fulbright International Science & Technology Award; Sinead Murnane, Fulbright – CRH Awardee in Business Studies; Siobhán Ní Mhaolagáin, teach Irish as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant in Lehman College, City University of New York in the Bronx; Dr Emilie Pine, Fulbright Irish Studies Scholar at the University of California – Berkeley.



UCD Fulbright awardees pictured with front row (l-r): Minister Dick Roche, Minister for European Affairs; Dan Rooney (US Ambassador to Ireland) and Patricia Rooney; Una Halligan, Government and Public Affairs Director, Hewlett Packard Ireland; and Colleen Dube, Executive Director, the Fulbright Commission in Ireland.



Pictured at the UCD Agricultural Science conferring ceremony in July 2010 are from left to right: Ms Lorraine Davis, Borrisokane, Co Tipperary; Barry Cahalan, Borrisokane, Co Tipperary and Kate Cahier, Wicklow. Lorraine, David and Kate were three of eight UCD Agricultural Science graduates who each received a €20,000 scholarship, generously sponsored by leading Agribusiness organisations. Sponsors included: Richard Keenan and Co., Kerry Group, Green Belt, Bord Bia, Bord Na Mona, Dawn Meats Group, Devenish Nutrition and Alltech. Lorraine graduated with a specialism in Animal and Crop Production and her scholarship was supported by Richard Keenan and Co. Barry graduated with a specialism in Agri-Environmental Sciences, supported by Bord Na Mona and Kate graduated with a specialism in Food Science, supported by Kerry Group



Shown at the 6th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health were (l-r): Prof Gail Austender (Israel); Ms Glenda Bawden (Australia); Prof Suzanne Quin (UCD School of Applied Social Science); Prof Andrew Weissman (USA); President Mary McAleese; Prof Haluk Soydan (USA); Prof Uri Aviram (Israel); Prof Brigid Laffan, Principal UCD College of Human Sciences

## President McAleese commends 'noble profession' of social work

In their work reconstructing lives that have been affected by accident or circumstance, social workers form a 'noble profession' according to Mary McAleese, President of Ireland. In an official opening address at the 6th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health at University College Dublin, President McAleese said social workers are an 'important part of our collective, civic response systems through which we take shared responsibility for the suffering of our fellow citizens and try to bring the best support and problem-solving skills we can to bear on their lives'.

She continued by saying "Your work often takes you to the margins of society where positivity is not easy to find, where healthy interactions and relationships, even with the best will in the world, are inhibited by all sorts of embedded attitudes, experiences, systems and structures."

The 6th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health ran in July 2010 and was hosted by the UCD School of Applied Social Science and supported by the Irish Association of Social Workers. The theme of the conference was 'Changing Health: Acting and Reacting, Challenges for Social Work Theory and Practice', a subject chosen to encompass new and ongoing challenges for practitioners, researchers and educators of social work. Around 550 delegates from 37 countries attended the conference, which is run every three years, comprising of social work educators and practitioners in the field of social work in health and mental health. There were a number of important papers from Ireland on bereavement; involving service users in social work education; innovative work in the area of cancer; cardiac rehabilitation; the ethics of care; living with HIV; abuse of older people; and community-based mental health care.

## Eight new Newman Fellows appointed

Eight postdoctoral researchers have been awarded prestigious two-year Fellowships in the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, in this the 21st year of the Newman Fellowship Programme.

The newly appointed Newman Fellows are:

**Dr Aoibhlinn O'Toole**, Abbott Laboratories Newman Fellow in Inflammatory Bowel Disease, mentored by Professor Diarmuid O'Donoghue in St Vincent's University Hospital.

**Dr Elizabeth Ryan**, St Vincent's Private Hospital Newman Fellow in Colorectal Disease, mentored by Professor Diarmuid O'Donoghue.

**Dr Siobhán Kelly**, St Vincent's University Hospital Newman Fellow in Multiple Sclerosis, mentored by Professor Niall Tubridy.

**Dr Cheryl Sweeney**, Janssen-Cilag Newman Fellow in Dermatology, mentored by Dr Brian Kirby in St Vincent's University Hospital.

**Dr Adrian Murphy**, Seamus Dargan Newman Fellow in Colorectal Disease, mentored by Dr David Fennelly in St Vincent's University Hospital.

**Dr Andrew Roy**, Actelion Pharmaceuticals Newman Fellow in Translational Medicine and Pulmonary Hypertension, mentored by Professor Patrick Murray in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital.

**Dr Okka Kimmich**, St Vincent's University Hospital Newman Fellow in Dystonia, mentored by Professor Michael Hutchinson in St Vincent's University Hospital.

**Dr Cara Dunne**, Darren Gibbons Newman Fellow in Colorectal Disease, mentored by Professor Hugh Mulcahy in St Vincent's University Hospital.

Each Fellowship offers financial support for a period of two years, allowing the Fellow the freedom to pursue their particular area of research. Working alongside their academic mentors, the Fellows contribute greatly to the academic research agenda of their particular discipline and to university life in general.

## Clinton Institute summer school

The fourth annual summer school at the UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies was opened by Professor Robert Brigham of Vassar College, New York State, who gave a plenary address entitled "Bill Clinton in the World". Speaking to the students and faculty of the summer school, Professor Brigham described the development of a new critical oral history of the Clinton administration, with particular reference to his foreign policy during those years.

This year students, who attended from Europe, America, Asia and the Middle East, had the opportunity to work with distinguished scholars on their area of expertise such as Professor Donald Pease (Dartmouth College, New Hampshire) on American Studies and the State, Professors Liam Kennedy (Director of UCD Clinton Institute of American Studies) and Professor Scott Lucas (University of Birmingham) on Media and International Conflict, Professor Amy Kaplan (University of Pennsylvania) on new readings of *Moby Dick*, and Professor Ruth Wilson Gilmore (University of Southern California) on Racial Capitalism and the Current Crisis. Daily workshop seminars and plenary lectures fostered the close interaction between students and faculty. *Read about the work of the UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies and the recent visit of former US President Bill Clinton in the Winter 2010 edition of UCD Today.*

# The sum of all parts

Professor Walter Kolch tells Claire O'Connell (BSc 1992, PhD 1998) about the wide-reaching potential of using mathematical techniques to understand what's happening within our cells.

It's usually easier to understand a situation when you get a wider perspective on it. A bit like stepping back and seeing the entire wood rather than an individual tree: the workings of the entire forest can seem vast, but they make more sense.

It's the same in biology. For decades, scientists have been zooming in closer on biochemical entities in cells, focusing on single genes, proteins or other molecules.

But in recent years the field of 'systems biology' has been taking a broader view and using mathematical modelling to try and understand and the complexity of biological processes and predict how we might control them.

The result? New avenues of understanding that are changing the way people think about how to design and use therapeutic drugs.

Professor Walter Kolch and his colleagues at UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Research have been examining important processes relating to various questions in cell growth, cancer and how stem cells repair tissues.

They recently published a number of papers in high-impact scientific journals detailing their findings – including a discovery about how breast cancer cells interpret signals to grow, which was published in *Cell*.

So what is systems biology, and why is it widening horizons? "There are probably as many definitions of systems biology as there are people that you ask, but I think it can be described by the aims and that is to use mathematical and computational methods to understand biology," says Professor Kolch, director of Systems Biology Ireland (SBI), a Science Foundation Ireland-funded CSET that was launched last year. "Over the last decades we have been very successful in cataloguing all the parts and components, we know all the genes, we know the proteins. But it's like having a telephone book where you know all the people but you don't know how they interact."

Getting a handle on those thousands of interactions requires more than the human brain can handle. Enter computers, mathematics and even nano-engineering, which combine to help us see the bigger picture and a more systems-based understanding that takes greater complexity into account.

And complexity is the name of the game: it's emerging that even within the same tissue – or cancerous growth – not all cells act the same way, which can cause problems if you are treating a tumour with a drug and some cells stubbornly resist. "If you treat a tumour which consists of several billions of cells, not all cells will respond to the drug in the same way," says Professor Kolch. "Many of them will die but some won't because they will respond in a different way."

Devising models and experiments in systems biology goes back to the basic hypothesis, he explains, which needs to be tight because maths is precise. Through a blend of mathematical algorithms, computer modelling and lab experiments,

including using tiny 'nano-devices' to measure the responses of individual cells, the researchers bring the questions through a number of iterations – does the model stack up with the experiment and if not why not? – until the pieces of jigsaw start to come together.

The approach has seen the SBI group figure out how biochemical signals that appear quite similar on the face of it can have markedly different effects on whether and how cancer cells grow.

"The take home message is that biological differences can be specified by small changes in dynamic behaviour of the networks, and this is only possible to find out using the systems biology approach," explains Professor Kolch.

"With experimentation you would need to be very lucky to hit the right one, or else you would have to do an enormous amount of experiments."

They have also developed and tested a model which challenges the thinking that a small number of 'master genes' control cell growth and development.

Instead their findings suggest that rather than a select bunch of puppeteer genes pulling the strings, multiple genes have an input, and this more distributed control means a biological system like a cell is able to compensate if one gene gets knocked down because others can still kick in.

This shift in understanding is an important consideration for drug design, according to Kolch, who argues that the trend towards developing drugs that act highly specifically on or in the cell is misguided, because biochemical systems can compensate.

"The [drugs] which are clinically successful are the dirty ones that hit many targets," he says. Instead, systems biology can help design better combinations of therapies by highlighting the points in a biochemical network that the drugs need to hit in order to be effective, says Professor Kolch, who believes the field will also help explore how we can get the most from therapies by giving them at the optimum time of day too.

Stem cells are also getting the systems biology treatment, with SBI researchers working with Remedi at NUI Galway to identify the processes by which adult stem cells find and repair tissues.

Timing is an important issue here too, stresses Professor Kolch, and the researchers are looking to optimise drug treatments to help support the regenerative properties of stem cells that could be used to help heal heart and joint tissues.

SBI researchers are working with a number of industry partners, including AstraZeneca, Servier, Ark Therapeutics, Hewlett-Packard and Siemens, and Professor Kolch believes solutions developed for the systems biology approach can cross over into other fields, such as managing enormous amounts of data on the web.

And while the more immediate impact of the approach will probably be felt in drug design and development, systems biology stands to inform in many other areas of medicine too, notes Professor Kolch.

## Cancer genetics

Mining genes for clues about cancer, Systems Biology Ireland is a Science Foundation Ireland-funded centre based at UCD with partners in National University of Ireland, Galway. SBI is leading a €12 million EU-wide project to explore genetic mutations that lead to the development of cancer cells, with a particular focus on understanding childhood cancers.

The project, which sees collaboration between basic and clinical research groups across Europe, will use computational and mathematical tools to mine genetic data to unravel some of the complex processes that underpin cancer development at a cellular level. The initiative is funded under the EU 7th Framework Programme for Research (FP7).

"More long-term goals are using these models to design clinical trials *in silico* or predict toxicity effects or drug interactions," he says.

"They are feasible but they are still far off because we need to build up more data and also in this iterative process, you need the time to go through the iterations."

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

*Prof Kolch, director of Systems Biology Ireland*



## Engineering and architecture in music

Participants in a recent *National Heritage Week* seminar learned how the acoustics of heritage buildings can be analysed by combining historical research and the latest aural and spatial modelling techniques.

Addressing the seminar, Fiona Smyth of UCD Architecture and UCD Urban Institute Ireland, and Gavin Kearney of TCD Engineering outlined the work of the *Musical Heritage and Architectural Acoustics Research Group*, a UCD/TCD collaboration formed in 2008.

Combined work to date has concentrated on St Patrick's, Christchurch and St Albans cathedrals. It has focused on establishing a best practice methodology for acoustic analysis in buildings of historic note, establishing a framework for context-specific analysis of music, as well as on acoustic archiving through onsite data capture and the creation of accurate aural and visual models.

Modelling has also been employed as a means of analysing acoustic changes which have occurred as the consequence of changes to architectural fabric and structure resulting from restoration programmes carried out on each cathedral.

The group, which was established with the aim of centralising research in this area in Ireland, uses methods of aural and spatial modelling, up-to-date engineering technologies, historical research and skills drawn from a number of disciplines across both universities. Principal collaborators are Donal Lennon and Fiona Smyth of UCD, and Frank Boland, Marcin Gorzel, Gavin Kearney and Henry Rice of TCD.

The work has been supported by a number of research grants so far, including two from the Irish Heritage Council in 2009 and 2010, a Seed Funding Grant from UCD in 2009 as well as a number of smaller bursaries awarded to further related research on the part of individual members.

The *National Heritage Week* seminar was formally opened by Councillor Gerry Breen, Lord Mayor of Dublin and was chaired by Professor Frank Convery of UCD.



Acoustic analysis on site in Christchurch cathedral, as part of the work of the Musical Heritage and Architectural Acoustics Research Group

## Engaging with archaeological heritage at Glendalough

The UCD School of Archaeology opened its trenches to the public during Heritage Week 2010.

Every summer the School holds a field school to allow undergraduate students gain vital archaeological fieldwork experience. For the last two years the field school has taken place at Glendalough, Co Wicklow. The 2010 fieldwork targeted the area between the Upper and Lower Lakes, with investigations focused on unveiling features that were identified by geophysical survey during the 2009 campaign.

The excavations produced evidence for former field boundaries and cultivation (i.e. ploughing) as well as a path and possible paved track both made up of stone cobbles. Also uncovered were medieval and post-medieval pottery from near these features — discoveries which may aid better understanding of the significance of Glendalough in the past, beyond the area's celebrated monastic history.

Given the prominent location of the site, UCD students had the opportunity to explain their work to many passers-by, while some 200 people participated in formal tours of the site. The site also welcomed a group of post-primary school



Members of the public visiting a medieval site at Glendalough, under excavation by UCD students at a field school in summer 2010

students from Avondale Community College in nearby Rathdrum, who worked for a day in small teams with UCD students to get a real sense of archaeological fieldwork.

Funding for the initiative came from Campus Engage, and the project was supported by the Office of Public Works, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Heritage Council.

## Research on environmental noise highlighted to EU policy makers

New research into the EU's Environmental Noise Directive analysed some of the issues around implementation of the Directive by Member States. The study, conducted by Dr Enda Murphy from the UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy and Dr Eoin King (TCD), demonstrated large differences in the way noise levels are calculated and geographically mapped between countries and called for more standardised and clearer guidelines.

The research, which was originally published in *Environment International*, was drawn to the attention of EU policy makers in *Science for Environment Policy*, the European Commission's environmental news service for policy makers.

The study, entitled '*Strategic environmental noise mapping: Methodological issues concerning the implementation of the EU Environmental Noise Directive and their policy implications*' explored methodological issues and policy implications concerning implementation of the Directive and considered the relevance of these issues for future environmental noise policy.

## Re-Framing the Neolithic in Ireland

In the past ten years, advances in archaeological techniques have led to new insights into the diet and lifestyle of our ancestors.

A one-day seminar recently held at the UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland presented research on the lives of the earliest farming communities in Ireland, some 6000 years ago.

Some of the most exciting advances in understanding the distant past are emerging from the field of archaeological science. In the past decade, refinement of scientific techniques such as stable isotope analysis, lipid analysis and ancient DNA tracking has enabled archaeologists to identify what people ate, whether their diet was predominantly marine-based or terrestrial-based, where they started and ended their lives and how physically stressful these lives could be. A similar revolution has occurred in radiocarbon dating and

it is now possible to talk about the prehistoric past at the scale of generations or decades rather than centuries or millennia. These multi-disciplinary developments have re-ignited discussion and debate on the spread of agriculture across Europe, which appears in Ireland at c. 4000 BC.

The boom years of infrastructural development in Ireland, and the accompanying archaeological mitigation, has produced a wealth of new data on the island's first farmers and the *Re-Framing the Neolithic* seminar presented the changes in traditional views of the period that have occurred in recent years, highlighting the scientific approaches behind many of these shifts in knowledge. The seminar, organised by Dr Jessica Smyth from the UCD School of Archaeology, was attended by a large number of Irish and international academics, students and members of the public, and is the latest in a series of events organised by postdoctoral fellows based at the UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland.

# Digging up the past

When UCD archaeologist Dr Helen Lewis learned that a cremation burial found by her team in the Philippines was between 8,500 and 9,500 years old, making it the oldest in south-east Asia, her reaction was one of disbelief. Speaking with Pamela Newenham (BCL 2006) she tells how a cave looted by treasure hunters led to important historical discoveries and the development of archaeology in the Philippines.

The discovery, which was published in *Antiquity* in 2008, was made in Ille Cave on the island of Palawan, one of the Philippines' key archaeological sites. Recalling the news, Dr Lewis says, "You don't believe it's that old so you do a lot of checking first and you do a lot of reading to make sure there aren't any others," she says, adding that while one or two other burnt skeletons may have earlier dates, they weren't definite burials.

The *Palawan Island Prehistory Project* is based in the southwest of the Philippines, a nation of some 7,000 islands scattered in the western Pacific ocean. While studies with an archaeological component have a relatively long history in northern part of the Palawan island province, the *Palawan Island Prehistory Project* is part of a new generation of work looking at other parts of the island.

Recent excavations by Lewis and a multinational team have yielded stone tools and many animal bones. The earliest dated layer found with human occupation is approximately 16,000 years old.

The tools and faunal remains reveal the story of hunter-foragers switching from a focus on deer to pig over time, according to Dr Lewis. The findings suggest that human activity, in addition to environmental change, may have contributed to the extinction of deer on the island; deer has not been found dating to later than around 3,500 years ago on Palawan.

Other animal remains have also been unearthed. The team, which includes Drs Victor Paz and Phil Piper from the University of the Philippines and Mr Wilfredo Ronquillo (National Museum of the Philippines) and Dr Peter Lape from University of Washington, found tiger bones dating back to at least 11,000 years ago.



Shown at the Ille excavations in 2010 are Dr Victor Paz of the University of the Philippines and Dr Helen Lewis from UCD School of Archaeology. Photo: Reed Robinson

This represents the first evidence of the past existence of the tiger in Palawan according to Dr Lewis, who says the discovery also supports various theories about environmental changes in the past relating sea level change to the expansion and contraction of polar ice sheets. "The site where we are working now would have been quite a distance from the coast some 11,000 years ago and now the coast is only 4 km away", she says.

"Most of the animal bones we find are related to human consumption; they are burnt and broken. They are mostly deer and pig but we've actually found two individual tiger bones, which is very interesting because there is no known find of tiger on that island ever," she adds.

The team's excavation site has provided many clues to the region's past, and the value of the area has long been known locally. Dr Lewis says the position of the site was chosen because it had been looted by treasure hunters. "We went along and had a look at it. The site had been previously excavated and had a sequence so we started a rescue excavation".

While the *Palawan Island Prehistory Project* started off as a rescue mission in 2004, it subsequently evolved to become an international collaborative research and teaching project, according to Dr Lewis who says it has contributed to people doing masters and PhDs in the Philippines where, at that time, "they had only just started to develop a formal archaeology programme in universities".

**"This project has been central to the development of teaching archaeology in the Philippines, and the impact of the University of the Philippines programme, and thus the project has influenced how archaeology is taught in South-east Asia as a whole."**

During the course of the excavations the team also uncovered a large cemetery dating back to at least 1,000 BC. "We think the earliest phases may be somewhere between 3,000 and 5,000 years old," says Dr Lewis. A significant research paper is currently under development considering whether the modified human remains found in the cemetery site are indicative of early mortuary rites for those whose remains are now coming to light.



Multinational team of the Palawan Island Prehistory Project at Ille Cave in 2010. Photo: Ian Ostreicher

Dr Lewis' team's discoveries add to the history of UCD's School of Archaeology, which also uncovered (under Dr Seamus Caulfield) the largest Stone Age site in the world in the 1960s in the Céide Fields in Mayo. Every summer since 1968, archaeology students have come to the area to study and the Céide fields and its research centre at Belderrig continue to inspire experts and amateurs.

While the Palawan project gives insights into prehistoric hunting patterns, the Céide Fields work shines a light on Stone Age farming practices. Dr Lewis acknowledges that no matter archaeologists work, it's the human stories that emerge when a site is excavated, that are exhilarating.

*Pamela Newenham (BCL 2006) writes for the Irish Times.*

## Palawan Island Prehistory Project

The *Palawan Island Prehistory Project* was established in 2004 by Dr Helen Lewis from UCD School of Archaeology, Dr Victor Paz of the University of the Philippines and Mr Wilfredo Ronquillo (National Museum of the Philippines) to investigate the archaeology of prehistoric landscapes in various parts of Palawan Island in the Philippines. Tabon Cave, site of some of the earliest human remains in the region, is also located on the island.

The project currently involves excavations at an important cemetery and early occupation site, Ille Cave; landscape survey for environmental and settlement archaeology; and new investigations at caves in the Dewil River Valley and the adjacent island of Imorige.

In 2010 the project welcomed participants from ten countries and thirteen universities in Southeast Asia, the USA, Europe and China. Over the years the project has received funding from the British Academy, the University of the Philippines, UCD Seed Funding, IRCHSS, the Luce Foundation, the Solheim Foundation and a number of private businesses in the Philippines.

## High percentage of pregnant women overweight and obese, research finds

Obesity during pregnancy can lead to medical complications and a greater need for medical intervention. Almost half of all pregnant women in Ireland are overweight (43%) with 13% of this number obese and 2% morbidly obese, according to a study conducted by the UCD Centre for Human Reproduction at the Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital (CWIUH).

The study indicates a higher risk of complications for morbidly obese expectant mothers. The induction rate for morbidly obese women was 42.1% compared with 23.5% in the normal BMI group; a pregnancy induced hypertension rate of 35.8% compared with 9.8% in the normal BMI group; a caesarean section rate of 45.3% compared to 14.4% in the normal BMI group; and an increased rate of diabetes risk with 20% of morbidly obese mothers developing gestational diabetes.

"There is no national data on trends in maternal obesity," says Dr Nadine Farah, UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science who was involved in the CWIUH study. "But the incidence of morbid obesity in the CWIUH is high compared with the limited amount of international data."

Research also revealed that maternal obesity in Ireland tends to be under-reported because mothers generally report their BMI inaccurately. "Our research has shown that BMI calculations based on self-reporting leads to under-reporting of obesity in 5% of women," adds Dr Farah.

The study, in conjunction with the Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital (CWIUH) in Dublin, looked at almost 6,000 pregnant women. The research was conducted under the supervision of Professor Michael Turner, UCD Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Dr Mairead Kennelly and Professor Bernard Stuart at the UCD Centre for Human Reproduction at the Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital (CWIUH) in Dublin.

## Irish women in the diaspora

Geographers, historians and sociologists met at the UCD John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies in summer 2010 at a symposium organised by Dr Jim MacPherson looking at "Irish women and the diaspora".

The interdisciplinary symposium reflected on recent theoretical perspectives and indicated how concepts such as transnationalism and diaspora could shape the study of Irish women abroad. Papers included: Irish women's engagement with

the British Empire, the Catholic Church in Scotland and Canada, concepts of modernity in interwar Liverpool, and Irish women's work in wartime Britain, the symposium addressed the experience of Irish women in the diaspora from the nineteenth century through to the present day.

The symposium concluded with a roundtable discussion led by Professor Mary J. Hickman, London Metropolitan University and distinguished Visiting Research Fellow at UCD John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies, and Professor Mary E. Daly, Principal of UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies, in which participants reflected upon the diversity of Irish identity in the diaspora and how this identity can be gendered. It is hoped that the papers presented at the symposium will be published next year as a special issue of the journal *Immigrants and Minorities*.

## 'Significant challenges' in regulatory approaches await governments, says Minister

Regulation is needed not only in the financial arena but also in environmental, energy, food and social areas, according to Minister for Natural Resources and the Knowledge Society, Conor Lenihan TD, as he officially opened a major international conference on regulation at UCD.

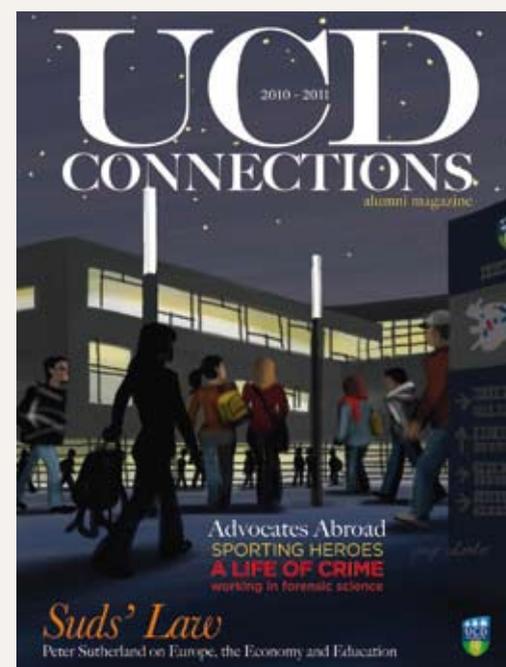
During his opening address at the 'Regulation in the Age of Crisis' conference, the Minister cautioned that: "... This is also a time for reflection and considered analysis of our models of governance and how we get things done in the interests of our economies, our environment, our citizens ..."

Hosted by UCD, the conference in June 2010 saw over 200 delegates from more than 30 countries in attendance. Among the themes debated included the nature of regulation, its failures and its potential across politics, law, sociology, history and economics. Participants comprised some of the most distinguished scholars and authors in the field of regulation such as keynote speaker Adrienne Héritier, Professor of Comparative and European Public Policy at the European University Institute.

To further develop capacity for research UCD recently approved the establishment of the UCD Centre for Regulation and Governance. Its first Director is Colin Scott, Professor of EU Regulation and Governance at the UCD School of Law. Dr Niamh Hardiman of the UCD School of Politics and International Relations is also centrally involved in the establishment and research direction of the Centre. Initial members will be drawn from six UCD schools and three UCD colleges.



Pictured at the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine exhibit at National Sheep Day 2010, held at UCD Lyons Research Farm were (l-r): Dr Dermot Ruane; Mr Damien Dempsey; Dr Karina Pierce; Mr Brendan Smith TD, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prof Michael Doherty and Prof Frank Crosby. National Sheep Day, "A Time to Refocus", was attended by upwards of 6,000 people, and covered regulatory, farming and commercial developments in the sector



The 2010 edition of UCD's alumni magazine, UCD Connections, was launched in September 2010, featuring a major interview with UCD alumnus and philanthropist, Peter Sutherland. More online at [www.ucdconnections.ie](http://www.ucdconnections.ie)

# Young researcher takes top prize

The best researchers reach across borders. They leave their doors and minds open to new ideas and opportunities. They display an evident passion for their discipline. Donal Brennan talks to Peter McGuire (BA, MLitt).

At just 31 years old, Dr Donal Brennan's talent and quiet determination stand out. Last July, his pioneering work on cancer treatment — conducted as a part of a research team from UCD, overseas universities, and partner companies — was recognised when he became the first Irish winner of the coveted European Young Researcher Award.

Dr Brennan picked up his award at the Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) in Turin, where physicists rubbed shoulders with economists, climate change scientists meet food science experts, and nanotechnologists collaborate with geneticists. It was an enlightening experience.

"It's always good to open yourself to new perspectives and there's always something new to learn," he says. "In the current economic climate, funding can be difficult to find, but international collaborations will always open new avenues."

The interdisciplinary science forum — which Dublin will host in 2012 — brought together thousands of scientists, tourists and members of the general public to see a range of educational talks, displays, and discussions in the vibrant and cosmopolitan north Italian city.

The judges were impressed with Dr Brennan's innovative approach to collaboration and his focused, disciplined commitment to transforming the lives of cancer patients. The research team is focused on identifying certain biomarkers, or proteins, to identify which drugs and treatments are most appropriate for cancer patients.

"We're trying to move away from the idea that we must treat all cancers the same," he explains. "Historically, treating cancer has been akin to using a nuclear missile to blow up a garden shed: throw everything at it in the hope that the cancer is killed, causing a lot of collateral damage in the process."

**"Our approach was slightly different. We weren't identifying new drugs but instead improving the drugs we have. We need to develop companion tests, known as molecular diagnostic, to identify which patients will respond to which drugs; in some cases certain drugs could make the tumours worse."**

The identification of proteins in cancer patients, coupled with advances in cancer diagnostics and therapeutics, is good news for sufferers of a disease that currently accounts for almost 25 per cent of deaths in Ireland. As a child, Dr Brennan, watched a family member battle — and, against the odds, beat — this disease. The experience brought Dr Brennan closer to a career in medicine.

"Cancer research is always changing, and there are always new developments in the area. Great advances have been made. There's been a huge revolution in targeted therapy. Ultimately, the patient wants to know what their long-term prognosis is. By identifying the proteins involved in their illness, we can treat them on that basis and hopefully indicate their chances."

Dr Brennan points out that the team is involved in a work in progress. With his principal investigator William Gallagher, Associate Professor of Cancer Biology in the UCD School of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science and a UCD Conway Institute Fellow, the inter-disciplinary team also includes mathematicians, statisticians, clinicians, geneticists, computer scientists, and a range of other specialists. Dr Elton Rexhepaj, a postdoctoral researcher at UCD Conway Institute; Dr Stephen Hewitt of the National Cancer Institute, Washington; Prof Karin Jirstrom, Lund University, Sweden; and Professor Fran Balkwill of St. Bart's and the London School of Medicine are key players. Commercial collaborators include OncoMark, a cancer diagnostic and therapeutics firm based at the NovaUCD centre; Agendia, an international molecular cancer diagnostics company; and Slidepath, an Irish software solutions company with a focus on digital pathology imaging and data management. Funding from the EU Marie Curie Transfer of Knowledge initiative, Science Foundation Ireland, Health Research Board, and Cancer Research Ireland made the research possible.

## Dublin: European Capital of Science 2012

In 2012, Dublin will host the ESOF — where Dr Brennan picked up his award — as the highlight of its year-long European City of Science celebrations. UCD will play integral role in the celebrations.

Planning is underway for a range of science-related conferences, talks, activities, projects, and events throughout 2012, aimed both at the scientific community and the general public. The highlight, the Euroscience Open Forum, will incorporate seminars, workshops, debates, and exhibitions alongside a careers programme for young researchers and an outreach programme to engage the general public.

The City of Science title comes at an ideal time for Ireland. Interest in science soared among young people this year, with points for UCD science courses jumping from 385 to 435 points — a recognition, perhaps, that science will be at the economic and cultural heart of future growth in Ireland.

"Professor Gallagher has been immensely supportive throughout my career," says Dr Brennan on his former PhD supervisor. "He's another relatively young investigator who is enthusiastic about what we do. He gives people the opportunity to flourish, is extremely successful in raising funds for research, and knows how to manage expectations."

Dr Brennan believes that international collaborations are of growing importance — to Irish research academics more than most: "Ireland is a small country, and we can't have expertise in every single discipline. We need to collaborate internationally."

### Dr Donal Brennan: Life at a glance

Dr Brennan attended Summerhill College Secondary school in Sligo. In 2003, he graduated with a medical degree from UCD, before working for a year as an intern in the Mater Hospital. Between 2004 and 2007, he undertook a PhD at the Conway Institute under the supervision of Professor William Gallagher. He now works as a specialist registrar in obstetrics and gynaecology at the Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital, Dublin.

Aged just 31, Dr Brennan already has a slew of awards under his belt. Along with the European Young Researcher Award, he has received the 2010 St Luke's Young Investigator Award, the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland Registrar's Prize (2009) and the O'Connell Medal for Oncology Research (2006).

*Peter McGuire (BA, MLitt) is a freelance journalist, working primarily with the education section of The Irish Times.*

## Innovation boosted through PRTL 5 investment at UCD

UCD has been awarded €62.7m under PRTL 5 as part of the largest single investment in third-level research in the history of the Irish State. The PRTL 5 awards were announced by An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen TD in July 2010.

In total, €296.1m will be invested across all Irish universities and third-level institutions under PRTL 5. The construction of many new infrastructural developments such as research facilities and laboratories are included in the funding.

The investment will fuel innovation, research and the creation of jobs. Through this funding, the government aims to support universities in contributing to Ireland's economic recovery.

"This announcement is another clear signal that we are confident about the future of our country," said An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen. "... we are signalling our confidence - to ourselves and to the world - with concrete measures to support our economy and create new jobs," he said.

### Science Centre

Of the fifteen key UCD projects to receive funding, the UCD Science Centre received the largest single award of €37.7m.

The UCD Science Centre will transform research, teaching, training and innovation in science and engineering in Ireland.

It will become a national resource accommodating 2,000 researchers and postgraduate students in over 45,000 m<sup>2</sup> of purpose built space. It will build on UCD's flagship research and graduate education programmes to create a coherent physical, academic and technological resource in support of the university's major research themes.

### Innovation Academy

The Innovation Academy is the educational centrepiece of the Innovation Alliance. The Academy is a collaborative joint venture in PhD education that builds on existing resources and synergies between the two institutions and recognises the need for Higher Education to be a catalyst for innovation in Ireland.

The mission of the Academy is to develop a new breed of creative graduate, expert in their discipline, but with a thorough understanding of how innovation can rapidly convert knowledge, ideas and inventions into products, services and policies for economic and social benefit.

The Academy will play a central role in the emergence of Ireland as a global hub for innovation. Through its formation, the two universities will "future proof" quality graduate education by dove-tailing with discipline-based PhD programmes, thus enhancing Ireland's reputation for PhD education and attracting high-quality international students.

### Dublin Graduate Physics

This joint UCD/TCD graduate programme builds on the Dublin Region Higher Education Alliance and will elevate physics graduate education in Ireland by providing PhD students with the knowledge, skills, confidence and focus to drive new enterprise creation and successful industry employment in the State.



Architectural impression of the UCD Science Centre

The funding awarded to UCD under PRTL 5 will support new infrastructural developments, structured PhD programmes (€18.7m across 9 projects) and ground-breaking research in emerging areas (3 projects awarded €4.7m).

### Economics and Political Science (PhD)

Working with TCD and ESRI, this structured PhD programme will harness the research and mentoring capacity of over fifty economists and political scientists to: explore the economic, political and public policy response to the global crisis; consider the tools of econometrics and specialist statistical design; and train students to work within an evolving business culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across a range of sectors.

### Electricity Research Centre

Also working with partners in TCD and ESRI, this project will develop the necessary techniques for Ireland to achieve its targets of 40% of electricity produced from renewable sources by 2020, and in the process create intellectual property and human capital that will underpin Ireland's Green Technology Enterprise.

### Earth Systems Institute (PhD)

The UCD Earth Systems Institute and its partners will bring together research leaders, policy makers and industry to create an interdisciplinary, innovation-focused, structured PhD programme to draw together a wide range of relevant disciplines and expertise at UCD (e.g. agriculture, biofuels, climate and simulation modelling, environmental biology, risk analysis and prediction) and its partner institutions.

### Graduate programme in Chemistry

The Graduate programme in Chemistry trains graduates to the highest international standards; essential to the continuing success of the pharmaceutical chemical, healthcare and ICT industries.

### Graduate programme in Engineering

The Engineering Structured PhD Programme will provide the infrastructure to produce the critical mass of talented and capable engineers required to underpin the design and development of products and devices that will drive economic growth and sustainability.

### Innovation Policy Simulation for the Smart Economy

This project builds on research in traditional fields already firmly present in Ireland (e.g. tax, healthcare, financial services, management, industry R&D, policy research), to look at new

"The outcome of PRTL 5 is a major step which will empower all institutions in the state to help create a sustainable future for Ireland," said UCD President Dr Hugh Brady and the TCD Provost John Hegarty, in a joint statement.

problem fields for growth in the Irish Smart Economy (e.g. green economy, public sector innovation, adaptive policy networks).

### Molecular Medicine Ireland — structured graduate PhD programme

In this PhD programme in clinical and translational research, the MMI partner universities will address the shortage of scientists in Ireland undertaking innovative patient- and disease- focused research and with an understanding of how to bring research results to the clinical and commercial arena.

### Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms in Biology — structured graduate PhD programme

This programme prepares graduates to work and shape the growing indigenous biotechnology sector. It has strong inter-institutional and interdisciplinary components and develops existing strategic research strengths in cell and molecular biology of inflammation, transcending immunology, neuroscience and cancer.

### Nanoremedies

This is a research programme bringing together an interdisciplinary team of scientists who work in the fields of nanomechanics and systems biology to identify the molecular mechanism(s) of nanomechanical transduction in cells. The applications of the research are strongly linked to the medical device industry.

### Simulation Science — structured graduate PhD programme

Simulation is emerging a new paradigm in physical, biological, social and economic sciences. This programme equips students with knowledge of simulation techniques and their value in driving forward science, technology and innovation.

### Telecommunications Graduate Initiative

The Telecommunications Graduate Initiative is a graduate training programme with the primary aim of making Ireland the best European location for research in the broad domain of telecommunications.

UCD is also involved as a partner in several other projects led by other third-level institutions, such as the Irish Transgenic Network, which received funding under PRTL 5.

## Transport policy conference

"Smarter Travel" was the theme of the first annual conference of the Irish Transport Research Network, held at the UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering in summer 2010.

65 papers from transport policy makers and researchers were delivered, covering topics ranging from improving fuel efficiency and the advent of electric cars to road safety engineering and ensuring transport polices are more socially inclusive. There were over 100 delegates at the conference, which chaired by Dr Aoife Ahern UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering.

The conference was opened by Mr Tom O'Mahony, Secretary General of the Department of Transport and was sponsored by the Department of Transport and the National Roads Authority.

Two keynote speakers addressed the conference – Professor Roger Mackett of the

Centre for Transport Studies in University College London and Professor John Kim of the University of Illinois in the US.

The Irish Transport Research Network was formed in 2009 and aims to promote transport teaching and research. It aims to act as a focus for those involved in these activities in universities and institutions of higher education, government departments and industry on the island of Ireland. It also aims to inform policy and to assist the public and private sectors to plan and develop sustainable multi-modal transport systems using best engineering design, practice and technology solutions. The first AGM of the new network was held at the conference and Dr Aoife Ahern was elected chair. The next conference will take place in 2011 in University College Cork.

More at [www.itrn.ie](http://www.itrn.ie)

## Boost for search and connect technology

With users in over 60 countries after just six months, Weedle.com, the Irish-based social media company, is fast establishing its online presence. Building on this, Weedle and UCD scientists have been awarded an Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership Award of €200,000 to combine their expertise to enhance the company's online Search and Connect™ technology platform.

Weedle is a free web service where people can showcase their skills as part of a trusted network. The unique advantage of the Weedle platform is that it combines the trusted connections of online social networking with a search for specific skills. The Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership Initiative brings together private enterprises and third-level researchers to work on specific R&D projects.

"The UCD scientists based at CLARITY are leading experts in web search and information discovery systems which help distil vast quantities of online information into timely and accurate search results for users," says Weedle co-founder and CEO, Iain Mac Donald. "Through this R&D partnership we aim to improve the relevance and quality of Weedle's search results generated for our users. Ultimately this will lead to higher user satisfaction and enable Weedle to increase its pace of growth in countries around the world."

According to Professor Barry Smyth, Director of CLARITY, "Weedle leverages all the trusted connections of online social networking. Using Weedle you can instantly find someone with very specific skills who also shares a connection with you – perhaps they went to the same school or university, share your friends or acquaintances, or have some common interests".



Shown at the recent "Ireland-Taiwan Workshop on ICT and Energy" were: Prof Chen Ching Liu, UCD School of Electrical, Electronic & Mechanical Engineering; Dr Philip Nolan UCD Registrar and Deputy President; Representative David Lee, Taipei Representative Office in Ireland; Dr Wendy McLoone Science Foundation Ireland; Mr John Pery TD, Chair of Ireland-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Society. At the conference, 76 participants representing 15 academic institutions in Ireland and Taiwan, in addition to industry organisations and government agencies met to discuss the state-of-the-art of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in electric power grids, renewable energy, and smart grid subjects. UCD has established exchange agreements with National Taiwan University and National Cheng-Kung University in Taiwan

## Motorola and UCD: Using mobile technology in police work

As any regular viewer of CSI would know, there are many potential uses for mobile technology in police work. Investigative processes are expedited by mobile applications and devices that rapidly analyse crime scenes, identify people and provide instant access vast databases. GPS-enabled phones provide vital information on building structures.

In a new research project, supported by the Motorola Foundation, UCD researchers will investigate factors affecting the adoption and use of this technology by police in Ireland.

Commenting on the project, Professor Diane H. Sonnenwald, Head of the UCD School of Information and Library Studies and project leader said, "IT change in the public sector can take time, and in the law enforcement arena, there are legal and ethical issues to consider. Identifying these and other issues can enhance the design and roll out of new mobile technologies."

Postdoctoral scholar Andrea Johnson, UCD School of Information & Library Studies, is conducting much of the research, which will use interview and "visioning" techniques to identify socio-technical factors that influence the uptake

and use of mobile technology in the Garda organisation as well as Garda perspectives on the feasibility and advantages of this.

The research team will be resourced by former Chief Superintendent in charge of IT at An Garda Síochána, Dr Eddie Cussen. Members of the Project Oversight and Advisory Board include Dr Pádraic Conway, UCD Vice-President for University Relations and Mr Vincent Kennedy, Country Manager Motorola Ireland as well as experienced international law enforcement personnel.

Mr Vincent Kennedy from Motorola expressed his enthusiastic support for the project, saying, "This project brings together multiple groups who share a common interest in the challenge of law enforcement, in which we all have a direct interest. We hope that the research will outline how the potential of this technology could be realised for the work of An Garda Síochána."

Pictured at the launch of the project, "Identifying Contextual Factors Influencing Mobile Technology Adoption and Use in Police Work" are: Dr Andrea Johnson; Mr Vincent Kennedy, Country Manager Motorola Ireland; Prof Diane H. Sonnenwald, Head of the UCD School of Information and Library Studies; Dr Pádraic Conway, UCD Vice-President for University Relations





The UCD Medicine Gala Dinner celebrates individual achievement and academic excellence. For her achievement as first overall in the class, Dr Laura Brown was presented with the 1941 Medal and received awards for being first in the subjects of Medicine and Surgery. Josen McGrane was presented with the Medicine Student of the Year award by his classmates, while Catriona Quinn and Sarah Carroll received equivalent awards from students of the Radiography and Biomedical Health & Life Science degrees. The School's highest honour, the Fitzgerald Medal was bestowed upon Irish rheumatologist, Prof Barry Bresnihan in recognition of his distinguished career as a clinician, teacher and leader of an internationally-recognised research group in inflammatory arthritis and connective tissue diseases. Teaching excellence was celebrated with student-nominated awards to sixteen academic staff members with Dr Koon Meng Chan recognised as with the Teacher of the Year award. The 2010 graduating class are the first cohort to have completed a fully modularised curriculum and also includes a cohort of students who completed our first graduate entry medicine programme. Shown here at the Gala dinner were (l-r): Ms Sarah Carroll; Ms Mairead Cleary; Prof Bill Watson; Ms Jane Noble; and Ms Laura Slattery

## UCD leads the way in personalised nutrition

As policymakers increasingly move away from a broad model of public health and advance towards a more focused model of personalised nutrition, nutrigenomics has huge potential. To progress scientific research in the area, UCD is leading a €9 million, EU funded research consortium investigating if a nutritional diet can be formulated based on a person's genetic make-up.

Although the idea of personalised nutrition has been around for some time, emerging with the release of the human genetic blueprint in 2000, the scientific basis hasn't been decidedly established. "The goal is to merge the scientific, sensory and socio-economic aspects and show whether personalised nutrition based on a person's genes could deliver consumer benefits," says Professor Mike Gibney, Director of the UCD Institute of Food and Health and who will lead the €9 million Food4Me study. Unlike other genetic testing claims made by companies online which can be misleading and medically unfounded, "nutrigenomics offers significant opportunities to improve public health via tailoring diet on the basis of genotype and phenotype," says Professor Gibney. For instance, olive oil may help reduce cholesterol in 90% of people, but it could actually raise cholesterol among the other 10%, depending on their genes. "Our research will develop and test several models and concepts for the development, production and distribution of personalised foods," adds Professor Gibney.

The four-year Food4Me study, funded under the EU Framework Programme 7 (FP7), includes researchers from 11 EU countries and also international researchers from Australia, the US, Canada and New Zealand.

## First sequencing of Irish person's genetic code

With its isolated geography, its ancestral impact on further populations, and a high prevalence of certain diseases, the genetics of the Irish population is of interest to biomedical researchers across the globe. For the first time the complete genetic code of an Irish person has been sequenced.

"By adding these Irish DNA variants to international DNA databases, which currently lack an Irish representative, scientists can start to identify why Irish people are more susceptible to certain diseases," said Professor Brendan Loftus from the UCD Conway Institute who led the research team. According to the findings published in the journal *Genome Biology*, the DNA of the anonymous individual with an Irish ancestry of three generations was shown to possess 400,000 novel mutations of single DNA bases. Almost 8,000 of these appear to be inherited along with genes known to influence disorders such as inflammatory bowel disease and liver disease.

Funded by Science Foundation Ireland, Professor Loftus' laboratory used one of the next generation sequencing approaches, pair- and single-ended Illumina short read sequencing, to create 9 DNA sequence libraries, which were overlaid to generate a high quality genome sequence with 11-fold coverage. It took the UCD-led scientific team just over 12 months to sequence the first complete Irish human genome at a cost of €30,000. The scientific analyses were conducted with collaborators from Trinity College Dublin, the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland (RCSI), Beaumont hospital, the MRC Human Genetics Unit and University of Edinburgh.

## Study reveals insights into Traveller health

The Minister for Health & Children, Mary Harney TD officially launched the findings of an All Ireland Traveller Health Study at an event in Dublin in September 2010. Speaking at the launch, Minister Harney said "Traveller health continues to be a priority and considerable work has already been undertaken in this area. The findings will provide a framework for policy development and practice in relation to Traveller health." The Department of Health and Children in conjunction with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland commissioned researchers from UCD to conduct the three-year study to examine the health status of Travellers on the island of Ireland, to assess the impact of the health services currently being provided and to identify the factors which influence health status.

One of the key findings is that Travellers continue to have much higher mortality rates than the general population, with Traveller men now living on average 15 years less than men in the general population and Traveller women living on average 11.5 years less than women in the general population. The suicide rates among Traveller men were identified as 7 times higher than suicide rates among men in the general population. Among the positive results from the study were evidence of good access to health services and improvements in Traveller women's health.

According to Professor Cecily Kelleher, Head of the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science who led the study, this is the single largest and most comprehensive study on Traveller health ever conducted in Ireland. The findings of the Study are available to download from the Department of Health and Children website.



Pictured (l-r) Prof Cecily Kelleher; Minister Mary Harney TD; Ms Missie Collins, Traveller Primary Health Worker; and Mr Martin Collins, Pavee Point

# Preserving the folklore tradition

While history tends to deal with the broad sweep of social and political events that have shaped a nation, folklore is more concerned with the stories, traditions, and popular beliefs that define its people. From a paste of cow parsnip, ashes and watercress to cure all ills to prayers imploring calm seas, the subject matter of folklore is rich and diverse. Olive Keogh (BA 1979, MA 1984) talks with some of the UCD folklore custodians.

UCD has a significant folklore collection running to hundreds of thousands of items. A small sample has just gone on show in the James Joyce library in an exhibition to mark the 75th anniversary of the Irish Folklore Commission. The exhibition is entitled *Béaloidéas, Folklore in UCD Collections and Archives*, and will run until December.

For historic reasons, folklore material is held in three different repositories on the Belfield campus. The largest of these is the National Folklore Collection which is home to one of the most important collections of oral and ethnological material in the world, consisting of recorded information (in various media types) and related documentation. This collection has been housed at UCD since 1971 when the university was entrusted with the holdings of the Irish Folklore Commission. The National Folklore Collection also contains books, periodicals and off-prints on Irish and comparative folklore, ethnology and related fields.

Special Collections, which is part of the UCD James Joyce library, also contains folklore material. This collection was formed when UCD took over the collections of the Catholic University of Ireland and the Royal College of Science and it contains books, pamphlets and journals on a variety of subjects from the 17th to the 20th centuries.

The third repository for folklore is within UCD Archives. The Archive is home to outstanding collections of private papers and institutional archives which document the foundation and development of modern Ireland.

All three repositories are represented in the exhibition.

"Each repository has important source material of outstanding quality that sheds light on the Irish folk tradition," says Ríonach úí Ógáin, Director of the National Folklore Collection and Professor of Irish Folklore in the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore & Linguistics, where today ever-increasing numbers of students participate in folklore collection as part of their modules in folklore. "This exhibition aims to underline the importance of tradition and to illustrate aspects of the history of folklore collecting in Ireland. UCD has a national role to play in the conservation of folkloric material that is both unique and historically highly significant."

Deciding what to include in the exhibition was the greatest challenge. "Basically we were spoilt for choice so we decided to choose materials from full-time collectors that would give a good geographic and chronological spread," Professor úí Ógáin says. "The exhibition reflects the documentation of tradition on a number of levels. Contextual information adds levels of potential interpretation which are of interest from an academic point of view."

Evelyn Flanagan is Special Collections librarian. "The oldest exhibit is actually from our collection and is a manuscript written in 1726 containing prayers and herb prescriptions (in Irish) collected



*Pictured at the opening of the Béaloidéas exhibition were: Seamus Helferty, Principal Archivist; Evelyn Flanagan, Special Collections librarian; Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, Mary Hanafin TD; Prof Ríonach úí Ógáin, director of the National Folklore Collection*

by Eugene O'Curry, a 19th century antiquarian," she says. "We hope the exhibition will be informative for academic staff and students alike and will encourage more people to come and explore what's available."

The exhibition is compact, offering time-pressed visitors a quick snapshot of the folklore within archives. "The exhibit is just the very tip of the iceberg," stresses UCD Librarian Dr John Howard. "We hope it will raise awareness of the different collections and will whet people's appetites to explore them in more detail."

The exhibition was opened by Mary Hanafin TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport. "The UCD folklore collection is a real treasure that reminds us of our history, culture and heritage," Ms Hanafin said. "I'm often struck by how little is being written down in this era of mobile phones and short messaging. I really wonder will we still have collections like these in the future?"

*Olive Keogh (BA 1979, MA 1984) is a freelance business journalist.*

## Folklorists at work

*"Jim Dunne here below, the foes got his grandfather and put him in a barrel. They put spikes in the barrel and rolled him down Newtown hill, about a mile from here. He was dead when he came to the bottom."*

Folklore accounts often shed light on the bare bones of historical events. Good students of Irish history will know the facts of the United Irishmen's rebellion, but this rather bloodthirsty account of the demise of Jim Dunne's grandfather in Co. Wexford in 1798 brings home the personal reality of such conflicts. The account, which is featured in the exhibition, came from 83 year old Walter Furlong from Rathnure, Co. Wexford who recounted it to collector Jim Delaney in 1954.

There have been full-time folklore collectors at different times down through the years, but much of the available material has been gathered by enthusiastic individuals with an interest in a particular subject.

Retired teacher, Leslie Matson, now in his 80s, who attended the exhibition, has had a lifelong fascination with the Blasket Islands. He has painstakingly researched the lives of the islanders over many years and has recently completed life histories of 125 islanders which he has given to UCD and hopes will be of interest to scholars.

"Many individuals have an important role to play in folklore collecting today," says Professor úí Ógáin. "We have not had a full-time collector since 2007 though colleagues at the National Folklore Collection frequently undertake fieldwork whenever possible. We are dependent on people to contribute written material, photographs and recordings. Folklore is very much about capturing what's in people's minds and imaginations whereas history might be said to be more about determining the accuracy of events. Folklore is a product of the past but also a process of the present - it is ongoing."

## Gender, Ireland and Cultural Change - Race, Sex and Nation

In her new book *Gender, Ireland and Cultural Change - Race, Sex and Nation* Professor Gerardine Meaney, UCD School of English, Drama & Film, analyses the roots of Irish social and sexual conservatism. The study looks at the dramatic change in one of the most basic areas of human experience: how we understand our roles as men and women. The relationships between feminism and nationalism, and between gender and modernism are investigated alongside ideas of tradition.



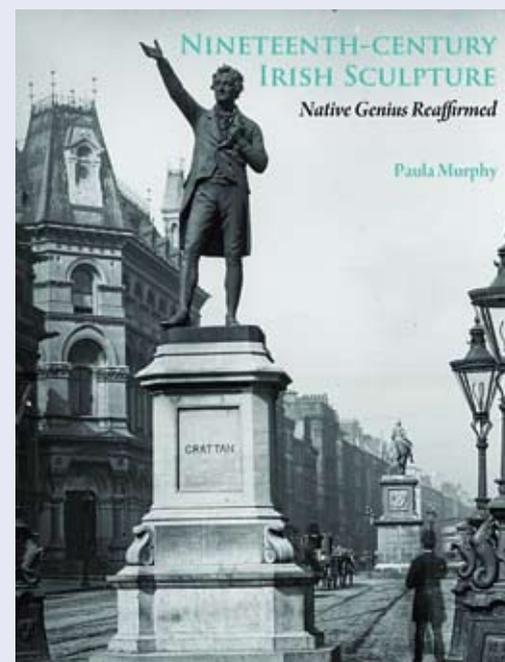
In the book, Professor Meaney uniquely challenges conventional understandings of the Irish literary tradition by setting the work of Yeats and Synge in the context of their lesser known female contemporaries. The book concludes with an analysis of the relationship between race and masculinity in Irish characters in US and British culture, with pop culture examples from *Patriot Games* to *Rescue Me* and *The Wire*.

## Nineteenth-century Irish Sculpture: Native Genius Reaffirmed

*Nineteenth-century Irish Sculpture, Native Genius Reaffirmed* (Yale, London: 2010) by Dr Paula Murphy of the UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy is a new book covering fine art sculpture of the period. With extensive use of primary sources including newspapers, the book is presented with photographs of vanished monuments in their original settings.

The nineteenth century was a time of political and cultural resurgence and Murphy's book explores how this shifted the character of public works. Particular emphasis is placed upon the monumental public works during the Victorian period by such major figures as Patrick MacDowell and respect is also paid to Irish-born sculptors such as John Henry Foley working abroad.

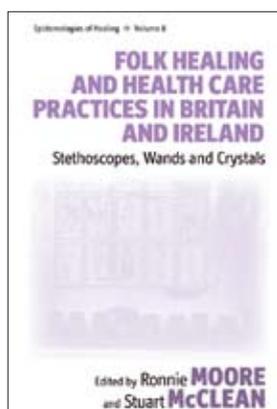
Although books and monographs have been written on the subject, Dr Murphy's is the first



book to provide a connected narrative and analysis of the subject and the main issues affecting Irish sculpture. The book combines critical analysis with vivid description in a significant addition to Irish art historical studies.

## Revival of folk healing practices explored in new book

Folk, alternative and complementary health care practices have experienced a renaissance in contemporary Western society. A new book *Folk Healing and Health Care Practices of Britain and Ireland: Stethoscopes, Wands and Crystals*



explores this phenomenon and the factors leading to the revival of more traditional or unconventional remedies. Edited by Dr Ronnie Moore, Lecturer at the UCD School of Sociology and Dr Stuart McClean, Senior Lecturer at the University of the West of England, Bristol, the book looks at new complementary and alternative medicines, spiritual healing and issues of regulation and medicine in the nineteenth century among other topics. The book draws together cross-cultural, interdisciplinary research in Britain and Ireland and explores the role and significance of healing practices in diverse local contexts, such as the use of crystals, herbs, cures and charms. Published by Berghahn Books, the book also scrutinises biomedicine and the number of multifaceted crises it is experiencing.



Pictured at the launch of "The Dynamics of Desistance: Charting Pathways through Change" were (clockwise): Dr Gwen Robinson, UCD School of Law; Mr Michael Donnellan, Director of the Probation Service; Prof Ian O'Donnell, UCD Institute of Criminology; Dr Colin Webster, Leeds Metropolitan University; Ms Maura Butler, Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development and the Law Society of Ireland; Dr Deirdre Healy (seated)

## Dynamics of Desistance

Dr Deirdre Healy, IRCHSS postdoctoral research fellow and lecturer at the UCD Institute of Criminology, recently published a new book *The Dynamics of Desistance: Charting Pathways through Change*. Coinciding with this, the Institute of Criminology, in association with the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development, hosted a seminar exploring the issues raised in the text.

Healy's book investigates the well-established theory that the majority of offenders cease to continue committing crime in early adulthood, and in particular the mechanisms behind the shift from a criminal

to a conventional lifestyle. Dr Healy provides a phenomenological account of the psychosocial processes involved in desistance from crime by drawing on a variety of methods, including in-depth interviews with repeat offenders and their probation officers, police records and psychometric scores. This book charts the early stages of a journey taken by individuals over a four year period.

## New CD helps teach university study skills

Professor Aidan Moran, UCD School of Psychology, has released a new CD entitled 'Learn to study for success at college and university' through Mind Cool Productions. The CD teaches listeners about managing their own independent learning and studying. It gives practical tips on an array of study areas such as motivation, managing study time, learning from lectures, listening and note-taking skills. Students new to university life may find the CD particularly useful, as it provides information on remembering and understanding what has been learned and gives tips on how to evaluate and think critically about study material.

## UCD English graduate shortlisted for Man Booker Prize

*Room*, the seventh novel by Emma Donoghue, a first class honours degree graduate from UCD, has been shortlisted for the prestigious Man Booker Prize 2010.

The prize recognises the best novel of the year by writers from the British Commonwealth and Ireland. The winner is awarded £50,000 by a judging panel including literary critics, writers and academics. *Room* is already a bestseller in Ireland, the UK and Canada but Donoghue will benefit from the extra exposure of this award as both the winner and the shortlisted authors are guaranteed a worldwide readership as a result.

Recalling Emma Donoghue's earliest contribution to the UCD English Literary Society while she was an undergraduate student at the university, Professor Anthony Roche, UCD School of English, Drama and Film, told the Irish Times: "After a series of earnest and rather lengthy readings by other students, this very elegant, tall woman quietly got to her feet and read a number of very short poems which absolutely floored everyone else. We knew then she was a writer in the making."

Emma's father, Denis Donoghue was Professor of Modern English at UCD before he accepted the Henry James chair at New York University. The winner of the Man Booker Prize is announced on 12th October 2010.

## Work on Suicide Bombing awarded best politics thesis in EU

Dr Paul Gill has received the ECPR Jean Blondel Prize for the best political science thesis in Europe for his work *The Dynamics of Suicide Bombing in Campaigns of Political Violence* which he completed for his PhD at UCD. In his thesis, Dr Gill shows that suicide bombings have become the ultimate smart bomb in the repertoire of militant groups.

The ECPR Jean Blondel Prize is awarded by the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), an independent, scholarly association. The award is given to the thesis that will make the best research monograph in a politics book series

Dr Gill is now Postdoctoral Fellow at the International Center for the Study of Terrorism (ICST) at Pennsylvania State University. He completed his doctoral thesis in 2009 under the supervision of Dr Tobias Theiler, UCD School of Politics and International Relations. The work was funded by the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS). He is currently working on a manuscript entitled: "Marketing Martyrdom".

## "Spatialities of Europeanization"

Europeanization is a topic of interest in the social sciences but to date there is little consensus among scholars over what Europeanization is or how it should be analyzed. The newly published *Spatialities of Europeanization* (Routledge) by Professor Alun Jones, UCD School of Geography, Planning & Environmental Policy and Dr Julian Clark, University of Birmingham is the first work to comprehensively analyse contemporary research across the social sciences and humanities in order to bring together critically-informed and previously unconnected contributions on this topic.

In the book, unexplored communalities between these different research traditions are identified and the authors argue that its neglected geographical and spatial dimensions are critical to understanding Europeanization in the 21st century. By offering empirically grounded insights, the book concludes that Europe's governance must now become more transparent and accountable to its 500 million citizens.

## New history title for UCD Press — European Culture Wars in Ireland

UCD Press, the publishing imprint of University College Dublin, has recently added to its array of new academic titles with the publication of *The European Culture Wars in Ireland* by Professor Colin Barr, Associate Professor at Ave Maria University, Florida. The new book tells the story of Father Robert O'Keefe and his conflict with ecclesiastical authority. Professor Barr's book examines not only the riotous local events and the spectacular libel trial in Dublin, but also the complex and politically charged response of the British state.

UCD Press is a leader in historic research and regularly publishes a diversity of academic titles from contemporary international scholarship. Colin Barr is also the author of *Paul Cullen, John Henry Newman, and the Catholic University of Ireland, 1845-65* (University of Notre Dame Press).



Pictured at annual scientific meeting of the Irish Pain Society in September were (back row, l-r): Prof Sean Mackey, Stanford University; Prof Stephan Schug, University of Western Australia; Dr Maureen Cooney, Westchester Medical Centre New York; Dr Brian McGuire, Centre for Pain Research at NUI Galway; Ms Eileen Furlong, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems/Pain Programme Academic Co-ordinator; Dr Liam Conroy, President Irish Pain Society. Front row (l-r): Prof Kathleen Puntillo, University of California; Joanne O'Brien, CNS Pain Management Beaumont Hospital; Dr Laserina O'Connor, ANP Pain Management, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital/ Senior Adjunct Lecturer UCD; Ms Grainne Crowley, Recipient of Irish Pain Society scholarship for UCD Professional Certificate in Clinical Judgement, and Pain Management Registered Nurse, St Vincent's University Hospital; Dr Roisin MacSullivan, European Chapters of International Association for the Study of Pain

## Insights into inflammatory bowel disease

UCD Conway scientists led by Professor Cormac Taylor have pinpointed a key regulator involved in maintaining the functional integrity of the gut lining as part of their research into inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Together with their national and international collaborators, they recently published findings in *Gastroenterology* that may provide vital information for developing a new therapeutic approach to the treatment of this disease. More at [www.ucd.ie/conway](http://www.ucd.ie/conway)

# “Faith: Beyond Belief?” — Merriman Summer School 2010

The *Cumann Merriman* was founded in 1967 in honour of eighteenth century poet Brian Merriman. It has for over forty years held annual summer schools that stimulate animated discussion on aspects of Irish culture. The 2010 theme, “*Faith: Beyond Belief?*”, was chosen in the context of turbulence in matters of faith, religion and religious practice in Ireland.

In the school’s opening lecture, “*When Disbelief is Gone*”, UCD Vice-President and Director of the UCD International Centre for Newman Studies, Dr Pádraic Conway stressed the need for Christianity to take more seriously its own central narrative of death and resurrection. For faith to have a future, many elements which might have seemed central in the past will, literally, have to die for a new life of faith to be born. The lecture title was taken from Philip Larkin’s poem *Church Going* where Larkin asks “What remains when disbelief has gone?” One answer is that what remains is faith, but a very different faith. That new faith will be radically ecumenical and person-centred, but not in a way that promotes any cosy individualism. Conway was scathing of many contemporary purported critiques of religion which, he says, are nothing more than dubiously marketed versions of the straw man fallacy and, in point of fact, tell us more about bookselling in late capitalism and little if anything about religion.

Closing the school’s programme, Diarmaid Ferriter, Professor of Modern Irish History in the UCD School of History & Archives gave an address, “*From Cullen to Connell: The Rise and Fall of the Irish Catholic Church*”. He spoke about the incongruities between the personal and institutional experiences of religion in Ireland and called for a more rigorous examination of the Church and its people, moving away from a focus on the top level of the establishment. Commenting on Merriman, Ferriter said, “What we do with the summer school is unique. It provides a frank forum for real exchange at a time when this is critical. The school’s commitment to probe the important questions, even if the discussions make us feel uncomfortable, is vital.”



President of Ireland Mary McAleese is shown here (centre) with her husband Dr Martin McAleese (left) speaking with Dr Liming Wang, Director of UCD Irish Institute for Chinese Studies (right) at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai. President McAleese attended the celebrations of Irish Day at the Ireland Pavilion. As part of her visit she encouraged the Institute to further strengthen Irish-Sino links. Shown in the foreground is a conceptual model display of the new UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland

## Bridging the gap between second and third-level

Over the summer, prospective students discovered more about UCD at the UCD UniLife Summer School and the UCD Open House.

In June, through the UniLife Summer School, approximately 250 students entering 6th Year were able to explore academic and non-academic opportunities available at UCD. They participated in sample classes and activities in Agriculture, Architecture, Business, Engineering, History, Law, Science and Computer Science. They attended

sample lectures given by UCD academics, completed chemical lab work, sampled life as a geologist, dabbled in robotics and debated criminal law.

In July, the UCD Open House welcomed 130 students, parents and families to information sessions giving CAO applicants practical advice on what to do once they received an offer for a place at UCD. A cross-university initiative coordinated by UCD Student Recruitment, UCD Open House showed CAO applicants how to accept their offer, how to register for modules, how to secure a place in UCD accommodation and how to engage with the vitally important UCD Orientation Week activities.

For students arriving at UCD in September, a full week of Orientation events staffed by 400 UCD students volunteering as Orientation Guides assisted new students in their transition to third level.

## Erasmus Mundus China project

As part of the Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window with China (EM ECW) UCD has welcomed Chinese students and staff at different levels of education to study at UCD. Although UCD has engaged in other Erasmus Mundus projects in the past, this is the first year of this particular programme and UCD is the only Irish university involved. The programme aims to share knowledge and understanding between Europe and China through a scholarship scheme for students and academic staff. The programme successfully attracted €5.2 million in European Commission funding and involves 10 European and 10 Chinese universities. UCD has welcomed 7 students, at undergraduate, graduate taught and graduate research level, and 4 academic staff from a number of leading Chinese universities. In return, UCD exchanged 6 students to China as part of the scheme.

## UCD academic named Ireland Professor of Poetry

Harry Clifton, UCD School of English, Drama & Film, has been named as the new Ireland Professor of Poetry. He takes over the position from Michael Longley, making him the fifth individual to hold the prestigious title. Speaking of the appointment, he said it was a ‘huge honour and totally unexpected.’

Created by the Arts Council, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, and Queen’s University Belfast, the Chair is for 3 years, during which time Mr Clifton will be attached to the three universities in turn and will give lectures and readings to the public. The role was established in 1998 to honour the achievements of Seamus Heaney following his Nobel Prize in Literature. Harry Clifton’s work has been translated into several European languages and, after spending many years living and working abroad, he returned to Ireland in 2004 to teach at UCD.



Enjoying UniLife — Chloe Doyle, Oonagh Kerr and Andrej Pacher measuring protein concentration during a biochemistry experiment at the UCD Science Summer School

## PhD Profile - Man and Modernity

Dr Selena Daly completed her PhD in UCD School of Languages & Literatures, specialising in Italian Literature of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Her project, entitled 'Man and Modernity', explored the thematic and ideological links between two authors – Arrigo Boito (1842-1918) and Filippo Tommaso Marinetti (1876-1944).

Daly's research set out to prove that there was a tangible link, previously unconfirmed, between them. Ultimately, she found evidence of actual correspondence between the two, giving credence to her assertion that there was a hitherto unacknowledged influence exerted by Boito on the formation of Marinetti's Futurist world vision.

Boito was a poet, short-story writer and a composer who is most noted for his collaborations with Giuseppe Verdi on the operas *Otello* (1887) and *Falstaff* (1893). During the 1860s, he was a prominent member of the anti-conformist, revolutionary Scapigliatura movement.



'La grande Milano tradizionale e futurista' ('Majestic Milan, traditional and Futurist') by Selena Daly achieved second place in the UCD Images of Research competition in 2009. It contrasts the facade of the Duomo (cathedral) in Milan with a fragment of a temporary art installation displayed as part of a Futurist exhibition

In 1909, Marinetti founded Futurism, the first European avant-garde literary and artistic movement. The movement decried tradition and those who loved the past, exalting instead modern technology, speed, war and violence. Futurism

infiltrated all aspects of art and life – painting, sculpture, poetry, music, dance, theatre, film, politics, fashion and cuisine.

After her primary degree in Italian and German in UCD, Selena completed an Erasmus year in Rome and then undertook her masters degree jointly between UCD and Roma Tre University – specialising in Italian theatre and translation.

To complete her PhD, supervised by Professor Deirdre O'Grady at the UCD School of Languages & Literatures, she received funding from the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) and also shared a Travelling Studentship Scheme award from NUI. This funding facilitated a year of study in Milan, travel to Yale for further research and the completion of her PhD at UCD. She also received funding from the Italian Government for her study year in Milan.

Selena is now lecturing in Italian at the Manchester Metropolitan University.

## 6th Celtic Linguistics Conference

Tionóladh an Séú Comhdháil ar Theangeolaíocht na dTeangacha Ceilteacha sa Choláiste Ollscoile thar dheireadh seachtaine 10-12 Meán Fómhair. Bhí idir pháipéir agus phóstaer i gceist ag scoláirí ó líon mór ollscoileanna, ina measc scoláirí Éireannacha, scoláirí ón Bhreatain Bheag, Albain, Sasana, an Fhrainc, Meiriceá, an Pholainn, an Rúis, agus an Iorua.

Bhí réimse leathan ábhar faoi chaibidil, ina measc patrúin thonaíochta i gcanúintí na Gaeilge, sealbhú inscne sa Bhreatnais, forbairt stairiúil na gclásal diúltach sa Bhreatnais agus sa Bhriotáinis, chomh maith le páipéir ar ghnéithe éagsúla de

chomhréir, de fhoghraíocht, de fhóineolaíocht agus de mhoirfeolaíocht na dteangacha Ceilteacha. Chaith na rannpháirtithe tráthnóna Dé Sathairn i gcomhchomhairle ag plé na ndúshlán a bhaineann le hobair theangeolaíoch ar na teangacha Ceilteacha, ceist an chainteora dúchais agus an chaoi le plé leis na canúintí nua atá ag teacht chun cinn. D'éirigh thar cionn leis an gcomhdháil de bharr chaighdeán na bpáipéir, agus de bharr líon na scoláirí aitheanta a bhí i láthair mar aon le líon mór scoláirí óga. Is cinnte go mbeidh borradh ar chomhoibriú ina measc agus go bhfeicfear toradh air amach anseo.

Is í an Dr Máire Ní Chiosáin (Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh, Bhéaloideas Éireann agus na Teangeolaíochta) a d'éagraigh an chomhdháil, i gcomhpháirtíocht le hInstitiúid John Hume do

Léann na hÉireann. Bhí maoiniú síoltacaíochta ón gColáiste ag an gcomhdháil.

The 6th Celtic Linguistics Conference was held at UCD in September. It attracted papers from scholars in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England and France, as well as from the United States, Canada, Russia, Poland and Norway. Presentations covered a range of linguistic topics, and a roundtable discussion focused on issues concerning data collection and the analysis of contemporary dialects and varieties of the Celtic languages. The conference was organised by Dr Máire Ní Chiosáin of the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics, in conjunction with the UCD John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies and was funded by UCD Seed Funding.

## Mature Access programme expands at UCD

UCD, which was the first Irish university to offer Mature Access courses guaranteeing entry to the university, has expanded its Access portfolio to include a day programme. According to Dr Bairbre Fleming, Director of Adult Education, "Demand for Access courses for mature students is increasing so we have added an additional programme this year to meet that demand. In excess of 125 mature students will take an Access to Arts or Human Sciences course in UCD this year, and a further 30 will take Access to Science and Engineering." This is an increase of approximately 30 students on last year. Students who meet an agreed standard on completion are guaranteed a place on the BA or BSocSc courses.

The Mature Access programme is designed to prepare adults who may not have formal qualifications for successful study at university, in the area of the Arts and Human Sciences or in Science and Engineering. Susan Millett, who received her Social Science degree in June 2010 said, "The Access Programme gave me the motivation and confidence I needed to achieve my degree".

The daytime programme is located in Belfield and aims to give students a greater sense of identity and belonging within UCD prior to progressing to undergraduate study.

Mature Access students Susan Millett and Catherine Twomey graduate with their Social Science degrees in June

## President's Teaching Awards

The President's Teaching Awards scheme was launched in its new format this year and was awarded to two recipients. Dr Crystal Fulton, UCD School of Information & Library Studies, the author of a new textbook, *Information Pathways* (Scarecrow Press) that focuses on information skills development for increased information literacy, will receive support through the Award for a new teaching and learning project. The project will facilitate doctoral students' development as effective instructors through a new course *Learning to Teach; Teaching to Learn*. Dr Fionnuala Dillane, UCD School of English, Drama and Film, has been organising writing clinics for English undergraduates with basic writing difficulties since 2007 and her award will allow for the establishment of a centralised writing clinic for undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Celtic Studies.

## Collaborative Networks Essential for Innovation Island

The objective of the InterTradelreland 2010 All-island Innovation Conference, held at UCD in summer 2010, was to explore and deepen the understanding of the potential economic opportunities which arise from building collaborative networks. The common theme, which emerged from all speakers, was that such networks are essential to drive and facilitate innovation and to develop a dynamic and indigenous knowledge-based economy on the island of Ireland.

During a keynote address, Professor Woody Powell, a leading economic sociologist at Stanford University, California outlined key factors required to build robust business clusters within an economy. His address focused on the development of the biotech industry in the United States. Each of the 11 regions he studied were rich in resources such as scientific knowledge, money and business skills and had the potential to form biotech clusters. However only three of the regions formed robust clusters while the other eight failed to do so.

Professor Powell concluded that the successful clusters were marked by the presence of local



Aidan Gough, Director — Strategy & Policy, InterTradelreland; Prof Woody Powell, Stanford University; Prof Petra Ahrweiler, UCD Innovation Research Unit, Damini Kumar, Director of Design and Creativity, NUI Maynooth and European Ambassador of Creativity and Innovation (EU); and Dr Pat Frain, Director, NovaUCD

'anchor tenants' who fostered the values of openness and transparency in the region and encouraged exploration, a diversity of types of organisations and a dense web of local relationships.

Speakers at the conference also included some of the island's leading business and industry leaders, Dr Leonora Bishop, IDA Ireland; Dr Martin Curley, Intel Labs Europe; Bernie Cullinan, Clarigen; Dr Peter FitzGerald, Randox Laboratories; Dr Hubert Henry, Bord na Móna and Damini Kumar, European Ambassador of Creativity and Innovation,

who discussed the theme of building collaborative networks for innovation in a knowledge economy.

The InterTradelreland 2010 All-island Innovation Conference was organised by NovaUCD, the Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre and the UCD Innovation Research Unit. The conference formed part of the InterTradelreland All-island Innovation Programme which is organised by InterTradelreland, Queen's University Belfast, NovaUCD and the Centre for Innovation and Structural Change, NUI Galway.

## Geologists Scoop NovaUCD 2010 Innovation Award

The Fault Analysis Group from the UCD School of Geological Sciences has been presented with the NovaUCD 2010 Innovation Award.

The Award was made to the Group in recognition of its successes in the establishment of strategic and collaborative research links with global industry partners and in acknowledgement of its successful commercialisation activities.

The Group, which includes 13 researchers, is recognised as one of the leading international teams studying the geological and engineering properties of faults and in applying its research outputs to solve practical problems encountered in hydrocarbon and mineral exploration and production activities.

Since 2000, when the Group relocated from the University of Liverpool to University College Dublin, it has been awarded €6 million in research funding. This funding has been secured predominantly from industry partners, including British Gas, Shell, Statoil and Tullow Oil. The Group has also received funding from Enterprise Ireland, IRCSET, Science Foundation Ireland and the European Union.

The Group's research output is embodied into software systems which have been licensed to Badley Geoscience, a leading UK software vendor, resulting in the joint development of commercial software products such as TransGen and TrapTester. The TransGen software system has become an industry-standard package. TransGen is routinely used by many of the world's major oil companies to predict the impact of faults and to analyse the flow of hydrocarbons in geological reservoirs. The software licences have provided a significant royalty income to both UCD and the University of Liverpool. The most recent software package has generated royalties of €350,000 over the last number of years.

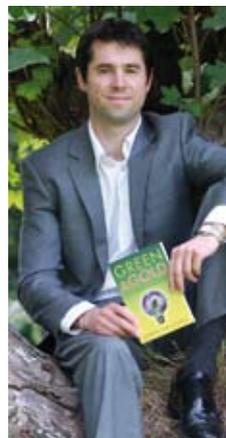
The Fault Analysis Group was founded in 1985 by Professor Juan Watterson and Professor John Walsh within the Department of Earth & Ocean Sciences at the University of Liverpool. Professor John Walsh succeeded as Director in 1996 and oversaw the re-location of the Group to University College Dublin in 2000. The Group is now jointly directed by Dr Conrad Childs, Dr Tom Manzocchi along with Professor John Walsh.

The Group has also published more than 120 articles in leading international journals and special publications, and is the most cited structural geology research group in the UK and Ireland.



(L-r) Dr Tom Manzocchi, Dr Conrad Childs and Prof John Walsh, Directors, Fault Analysis Group, UCD School of Geological Sciences, recipients of the NovaUCD 2010 Innovation Award

## Potential of renewable energy resources



John Travers, launching his new book, *Green & Gold – Ireland a Clean Energy World Leader?* at NovaUCD

Ireland has more than 3 times its total energy requirements available from readily accessible renewable energy sources on its own doorstep. Yet despite access to such vast and plentiful clean energy resources, Ireland is still heavily dependent on volatile foreign fossil fuel, importing almost 90% of its energy needs.

As conventional energy sources run out Ireland has an extraordinary opportunity to use its

own natural resources, in a cost competitive way, to achieve energy independence and become a world leader in the use of clean energy. That was the key message delivered during the summer at NovaUCD by John Travers, author and CEO of Alternative Energy Resources, at the launch of his new book entitled *Green & Gold – Ireland a Clean Energy World Leader?* Alternative Energy Resources, a leading Irish alternative energy company, is headquartered in NovaUCD.

In the new book, published by The Collins Press, Travers discusses the role energy plays in the Irish economy and lifestyle, the country's consequent thirst for imported oil and how an energy crisis that could ravage the nation may be avoided.

He assesses in clear terms practical energy alternatives using renewable sources such as wind,

solar, wave and biomass, which would allow Ireland to meet all of its energy needs and achieve energy independence. This would provide an opportunity for Ireland to become a global beacon in the use of clean energy.

Conclusions outlined in the book include that 20% of total Irish energy needs can be met by renewable energy within the next ten years and 80% by 2050 and that 20% of Irish GDP can be derived from clean energy exports.

John Travers, an international energy expert, is an engineering graduate of University College Dublin and a MBA graduate of Harvard University. He has previously worked for Shell International and McKinsey & Company. He is also the author of *Driving the Tiger, Irish Enterprise Spirit*.

## Socowave secures €3 Million funding led by Balderton Capital

Socowave, the NovaUCD-headquartered developer of advanced wireless access systems for mobile communications, has secured €3 million in a Series A investment round led by Balderton Capital. Balderton Capital, based in London, is one of the leading venture capital firms in Europe managing \$1.9 billion in committed venture capital funds.

This funding will enable Socowave to accelerate the development of technology that substantially increases the data handling capacity of cellular radio infrastructure whilst reducing the energy consumption.

Barry Maloney, a Partner at Balderton Capital, and a University College Dublin graduate, will join the Socowave board.

Socowave was founded in 2008 by Joe Moore who has extensive senior management experience in the mobile telecoms arena, having held senior positions with companies such as Motorola and Sigma Wireless.

## Protein role in Alzheimer's disease

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common human dementia and as such confers a huge burden on patients, caregivers and society. The molecular pathways leading to AD are not well understood, but substantial data indicate that the amyloid  $\beta$ -protein ( $A\beta$ ) plays a central role.

Studies recently published in *Brain* by the group of Conway Fellow, Professor Dominic Walsh, looked at the relationship between various biochemical forms of  $A\beta$  and the presence of AD-type dementia.

Using 43 samples from the MRC Cognitive Function and Ageing Study, the Conway-based group examined the relationship between biochemically distinct forms of  $A\beta$  and the presence of dementia. Analysis revealed that the level of SDS-stable  $A\beta$  dimers is strongly correlated with the presence of AD-type dementia.

A follow-up study looking at the relationship between biochemically distinct forms of  $A\beta$  and AD-type dementia in 220 samples has received secured funding of €550,000 from the MRC and should allow for further validation of  $A\beta$  dimers as mediators of disease. Parallel studies (funded by NIH, EU, SFI and HRB) aimed at developing antibodies and small molecules which bind to  $A\beta$  dimers and neutralise their activity are ongoing.



Shown here (l-r) are: Simon Thorpe, Roche Diagnostics Limited pictured with the winner of the 2010 Conway Festival medal, Dr Marc Birtwistle, postdoctoral researcher in Systems Biology Ireland and UCD Conway Institute. Dr Birtwistle won the 2010 Conway Festival medal for his moderated poster presentation, 'Ligand-Specific c-Fos Expression Emerges from the Spatiotemporal Control of ErbB Network Dynamics'. The research applies a systems biology approach to the task of understanding the mechanism cells use to turn on and off biological decisions. Marc will now represent UCD at the Roche 'Researcher of the Year' competition, in November. Photograph by Bartłomiej Lukasz

## CIGR appointment for UCD professor

Professor Da-Wen Sun, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, has been elected Incoming President of the International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR).

During the CIGR World Congress in Quebec City, Canada in June 2010, Professor Sun was also presented with the CIGR Fellow Award. The title of Fellow is the highest honour in CIGR, and is conferred to individuals who have made sustained contributions worldwide, and that continue to improve the outcomes of the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering profession. A leading international authority in food engineering research and education, as CIGR President elect, Professor Sun will serve as a member of the CIGR Presidium for six years starting January 2011.

According to recent data released by the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) database of the Thomson Scientific from Thomson Reuters a total of 2,554 scientists are among the top one percent of the most cited scientists in the category of Agriculture Sciences (ISI Web of Science) and Professor Sun tops the list by ranking at 31, a rise of 20 places from 51 two years ago.

Founded in 1930, CIGR aims to serve the needs of humanity by fostering mutual understanding, improvement and rationalisation of sustainable biological production systems, while emphasising the protection of nature and the environment.

## SmartBuilder iPhone App assists construction sites clean-up

SmartBuilder Software, the NovaUCD-based start-up company, has recently launched "Site Clean Up", a novel iPhone application to assist building firms of all sizes to clean-up their construction sites more efficiently and cost effectively. SmartBuilder Software was established earlier this year to develop mobile software applications for use on construction sites in Ireland and internationally.



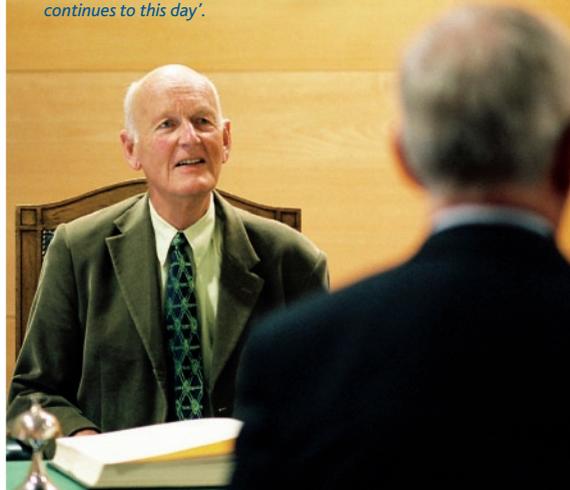
Shown here at the Shanghai Expo 2010 Awards is the team from the CEMS Masters in International Management programme at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School who won the prestigious Schneider Electric Award for their 'SC Tree' solar change project. In their work, Karel Vanecker (left), Tineke Franssen (centre), Kai Hermesen (right) proposed a way to enable slum inhabitants to become entrepreneurs by providing them with an ecological, technological and social business model that would make their environment more sustainable and a better place to live. CEMS is a strategic alliance of 27 member schools from 4 continents and over 50 prestigious corporate partners. UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School is the only Irish member of the CEMS alliance



Former UCD Societies' Officer Paddy O'Flynn is shown here at an extraordinary meeting of the UCD Literary & Historical Society, where he was honoured with the title of Vice-President of the Society, in recognition of his many years' service and outstanding contribution to UCD extra-curricular life.

Along with a prolific academic career in Chemical Engineering and numerous roles at UCD, Paddy O'Flynn was the first Director of the Student Consultative Forum, and first Societies Officer of the University. He held the role for over 20 years. As the first Director of the Forum, he was key in establishing the structures, constitution and policies which still guide it today.

At the ceremony, was presided over by UCD President Dr Hugh Brady, auditor of the 154th Session Ian Hastings stated, "... the contribution of Paddy O'Flynn to student and society life in general, and to the L&H in particular, enriched the lives of many students during their time in UCD. Paddy's support for the L&H and for all societies was always palpable, and his contribution continues to this day'.



"Graduates 4 International Growth" (G4IG), developed and delivered by Enterprise Ireland in partnership with UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School was recently launched by Minister Batt O'Keeffe TD.

Graduates will undertake an initial six-month intensive training and skills development programme in an Enterprise Ireland client firm followed by a 12-month placement in a relevant overseas market. G4IG is aimed at developing firms' export market development strategies and at the same time advancing graduates' international business skills.

Successful graduate participants will be awarded a Post-Graduate Diploma in International Growth by UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School.

Pictured are: Prof Frank Roche, Director UCD Smurfit School; Mr Batt O'Keeffe TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation; Frank Ryan, CEO Enterprise Ireland; with student Niamh Roddy

## Power, Decision-Making and Social Networks UCD Conference

Presenters at a recent conference jointly organised by Dr Diane Payne (UCD Geary Dynamics Lab and UCD School of Sociology) and Professor Christofer Edling (Jacobs University, Germany), co-hosted with UCD CASL, explored the ways in which people interact in social networks.

The August conference was funded as part of the European Science Foundation's network programme to support research in the quantitative social sciences.

The conference papers presented included a range of social network studies of power and

decision making, which paid particular attention to the dynamic social interactions between actors, embedded in collective action scenarios.

Professor Jeffrey Broadbent (University of Minnesota) discussed a cross-national, comparative study of the network composition of environmental politics in Japan, Germany and the United States.

Professor Mario Diani's paper presented a relational typology in the study of collective movements and Professor Frans Stokman's (University of Groningen) paper argued that while there is extensive network literature on the different kinds of actor interaction, moving forward more research is needed to explore the relative importance of these different types of interaction (e.g. social exchange) under different contexts of actor interdependency.

Other papers looked the impact of political supporter networks on Twitter and social network studies regarding the role of elite organisational power.

## Strong UCD performance in SFI report

The Government's science agency, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), linked 349 firms with college researchers last year in a move that will harness the commercial potential of college research and lead to job creation, according to the Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Conor Lenihan TD.

Minister Lenihan was launching SFI's 2009 annual report when he spoke of SFI's partnerships between academia and industry which grew by 25pc last year. 'Collaborations and partnerships between Ireland's scientific research and enterprise communities are now being formed at an unprecedented level and they are a critical component of our developing "smart" economy.

To date UCD has benefited strongly from SFI's recognition of the power of academic research. In 2009 UCD received funding amounting to €39.7m, 23% of SFI's total of €171m. The university received 198 grants out of a possible 822. In 2009 SFI-funded researchers produced 4,057 scientific publications. 825 of these were UCD-based. Similarly, 56 of the 267 pre-commercial outputs were from UCD.

The chairperson of SFI, Professor Pat Fottrell, said: 'The Government's recently-announced capital investment programme is an endorsement of the progress made in innovation and a clear pledge to sustain investment in this highly competitive and critically important arena.' Over the next six years, the Government will invest €2.4 billion in science, technology and innovation programmes.

## Next generation solar technology on the way for electric cars

When applied to powering up houses, businesses and the motor industry, solar power has the potential to change everyday life. Using solar panels that can be incorporated into the roof surface of vehicles means that alternative sources of energy can be generated by the conversion of light into power. To further utilise solar energy in electric cars, Italian car giant Fiat has partnered with University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin and Solar Print, a Dublin-based SME to come up with roof surface solar panels.

Under the terms of the deal, the consortium has begun working with the Centro Ricerche Fiat (CRF) on the development of a 'smart roof'. This will incorporate low cost photo voltaic (PV) – or solar - cells and lithium batteries and will in turn be used to power on board devices in cars. Professor K. Ravi Thampi, UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering, will be leading the UCD element of the SMARTOP project. "The SMARTOP project is truly a revolutionary step forward for the automotive sector," said Dr Mazhar Bari, a UCD physics graduate, who founded SolarPrint with two colleagues. "It shows that for Ireland solar energy is not only beneficial for the attainment of self-sufficient and sustainable energy practices, but also for the development of a new export oriented industrial base," said Professor Don MacElroy, Head of the UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering.

'SMARTOP' is a €3 million European Commission funded research project under the FP7 RTD programme. Centro Ricerche Fiat (CRF) was established in 1978 as the Fiat Group's centre of expertise for innovation, research and development and is now an internationally recognised centre of excellence.

## "Please talk" suicide prevention initiative goes nationwide

Mental health issues, anxiety and depression are particularly prevalent among 15-24 year olds and Ireland has the 4th highest youth suicide rate in Europe. Originally set up by UCD students in 2007 the "Please Talk" initiative aims to reach out to students in need.

With the support of HSE funding through the Strategic Innovation Fund, the student-based initiative has gone nationwide to reach 250,000 students across 27 colleges throughout Ireland and was formally launched at a special conference at UCD. "Suicide has a devastating effect on families, friends and communities" says Barry Colfer, former president of the UCD Students' Union and one of the founders of Please Talk. "By promoting Please Talk we aim to make students aware of campus services so that, if it comes to a time of crisis, they will know where to turn for help."



HE Mr Li Changchun, Member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China meeting students during an official visit to UCD in September 2010

## Irish and Chinese governments to co-finance new building for UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland

The governments of the Republic of Ireland and the People's Republic of China have agreed to co-finance a new flagship building for the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland.

The Institute will promote the Chinese language, academic study of China and public awareness of Chinese culture in Ireland. It will also strengthen educational, cultural and business links between the two countries.

It will serve as a national resource through collaboration, partnerships and outreach programmes involving educational, cultural and business

organisations and other relevant stakeholders. In addition, the Institute will continue to build and strengthen its relationships with relevant Chinese institutions, most notably its founding academic partner Renmin University of China.

"This will be the first Confucius Institute internationally to receive capital funding from the Chinese authorities and testifies to the strong performance of the institute since it was established in 2006," a statement released by the Government Press Office said.

The agreement was signed during the official visit to Ireland of HE Mr. Li Changchun, Member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

"The UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland, and Chinese Studies in general, are priority projects that link directly to UCD's strategic aim to be one of the world's leading research-intensive universities," said Dr Hugh Brady, President of UCD.

"We strive to produce graduates who are global citizens and equipped with the knowledge,

skills and trans-cultural awareness to flourish in an increasingly globalised economy and society. UCD has many educational and research links with prestigious Chinese universities and in our recently-launched strategic plan for the period to 2014, we stated

that the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland, the first of its kind in this country, will serve as a ready-made channel to develop relationships with China."

Dr Liming Wang is Director of the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland.



During his official visit to UCD HE Mr. Li Changchun presented the university with a bust of Confucius, which will ultimately be housed in the new UCD Confucius Institute

## Entrepreneurs' Boot Camp to set up in Dublin

Researchers at Bell Labs Ireland based at Blanchardstown, Dublin, in collaboration with R&D specialists working in Irish universities, are creating an 'Innovation Alliance' which is designed to deliver practical help to commercialise research discoveries and inventions. UCD and Trinity College Dublin have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bell Labs' parent company, Alcatel-Lucent, to deliver an entrepreneurship and innovation training programme using a 'boot camp' concept. Originally pioneered by Bell Labs in Belgium, the first entrepreneurial boot camp in Ireland will be hosted in the TCD-UCD Innovation Academy in 2011.

The boot camp concept started its life within Alcatel-Lucent as a means to educate and nurture entrepreneurialism within the company. The Irish model is the first to widen participation to include local academic research partners.

"By providing this kind of environment for researchers we will generate a momentum that gets them thinking about how to bring their ideas to the market place," said Professor Des Fitzgerald, Vice-President for Research at UCD. "The Innovation Academy faculty will take them through their paces and ultimately get them to develop business plans for their ideas. This experience is invaluable for researchers and may ultimately prepare them for investors and industry partners."

Dr Sam Samuel, Executive Director of Bell Labs Ireland & UK concludes, "This announcement underlines our commitment to the Government's call for greater co-operation between academia and industry. It is very possible that by collectively harnessing the potential of frontier discovery, these boot camps can make an important contribution to the economy."

## UCD President addresses 2010 MacGill Summer School

Speaking at the 2010 MacGill Summer School, UCD President Dr Hugh Brady delivered an address entitled "*The Inconvenient Truth - about the global contest for smart people, smart ideas and smart jobs*".

Dr Brady outlined how Irish universities are at the vanguard internationally in terms of both reform and performance, as well as the major challenges that must be addressed if this hard-won success is not to be lost. He detailed his hopes for the recommendations that the report of the Higher Education Strategy Group would make, declaring it to be "an opportunity to empower the Irish universities to play their full part in Ireland's recovery".

Others speaking in the session included Mary Coughlan TD, Minister for Education and Skills, Martin Murphy, CEO Hewlett Packard, Dr Chris Horn, founder and former CEO Iona Technologies and Dr Finbarr Bradley, former professor, UCD, NUI Maynooth and DCU.

The MacGill Summer School, founded in Glenties in Donegal in 1981, celebrates the memory of local writer, Patrick MacGill. The School has grown into a vital forum for the analysis of topics of national and international interest.

Read the text of the President's address via [www.ucd.ie/news](http://www.ucd.ie/news)

## Philosophy conferences at UCD

President of the Aristotelian Society, Professor Anthony Duff (University of Stirling) opened the society's Joint Session 2010 with an address entitled, "Towards a Theory of Criminal Law?", stimulating a lively response from an audience that included ex-Taoiseach Dr Garret Fitzgerald. The conference, run by the Aristotelian Society in conjunction with the Mind Association, was making its third visit to Ireland in the Society's 92-year history.

Professor Attracta Ingram, Emeritus Professor, UCD School of Politics and International Relations presented on female philosophers in Ireland. The event also launched the new Irish Society of Women Philosophers.

Also in summer 2010, the UCD School of Philosophy hosted the annual meeting of the British Society of Philosophy of Science, in which one hundred international philosophers gave papers on topics as varied as the philosophy of quantum mechanics to biology.

World-renowned philosopher Professor Jürgen Habermas gave a public lecture at the School on 'The Political': *The Rational Meaning of a Questionable Inheritance of Political Theology*, when he was at UCD earlier in the year to receive the Ulysees Medal.

## Emeritus biologist's work recognised

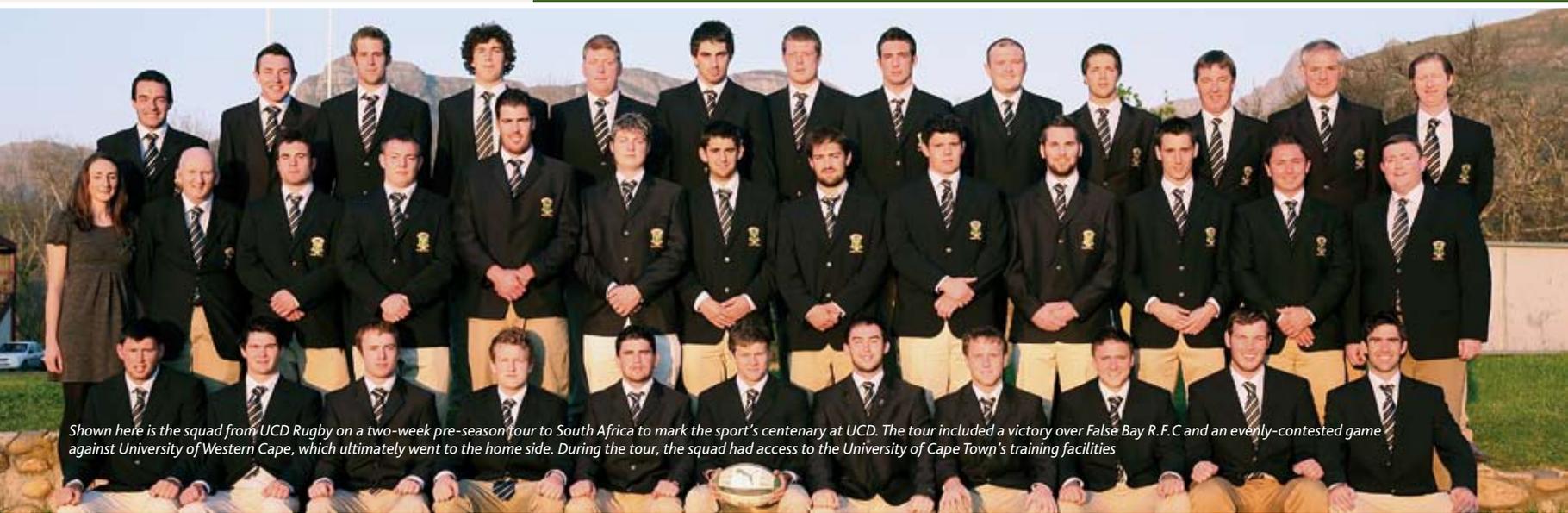
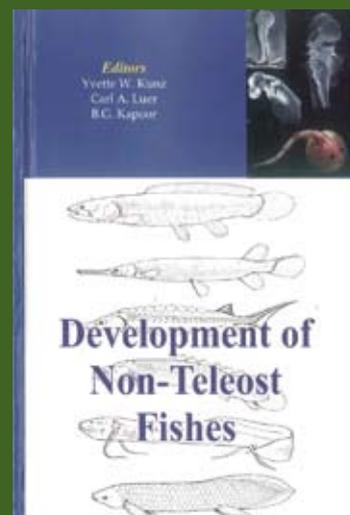
Based in the UCD Maurice Kennedy Research Centre for Emeritus Staff, scientist Dr Yvette Kunz's work focuses on the developmental biology of fish, an area associated with evolutionary studies. Her work recently was reviewed in a 2010 issue of CHOICE, a publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries in the United States.

Kunz co-edited and prefaced the book, *Development of Non-Teleost Fishes* (Science Publishers, 2009) which presents chapters on the development of several taxonomic groups, each written by a specialist in the field. The book focuses on the early-life history of non-teleost fishes, which includes fish varieties ranging from jawless fish, cartilaginous fish (such as sharks, rays and skates) through to sturgeon and coelacanths (the "living fossils").

In his review for CHOICE, Dr Gregory C. Jensen, University of Washington highly recommended the book, suggesting that it will "undoubtedly be an important reference for these interesting groups for many years to come."

Dr Kunz's 2004 work, published by Springer, *The Development Biology of Teleost Fishes* expansively dealt with the fish lifecycle, with extensive references reaching back as far as 1833.

Dr Yvette Kunz's work on ageing in the eye of teleost fish provides a vital platform for the study of retinal development.



Shown here is the squad from UCD Rugby on a two-week pre-season tour to South Africa to mark the sport's centenary at UCD. The tour included a victory over False Bay R.F.C and an evenly-contested game against University of Western Cape, which ultimately went to the home side. During the tour, the squad had access to the University of Cape Town's training facilities

## UCD report prompts industry response to horse welfare issue

A working group comprising Horse Sport Ireland, Horse Racing Ireland, and the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association have come together to devise an industry response to a recent UCD report on horse welfare in Ireland.

During the Celtic Tiger era excess numbers of horses were bred, but the recession combined with poor prices has resulted in a sharp increase in unwanted, abandoned and neglected animals. The UCD report "Challenges and Solutions to Support Good Equine Welfare Practice in Ireland" shows that increasing numbers of horses are at risk.

"A key issue is the lack of a comprehensive system of registered ownership, including transfer of ownership, for horses in Ireland," says Dr Joe Collins, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, one of the authors of the report. "This has implications for equine health and welfare, including the spread of disease and not being able to identify an owner/keeper to hold responsible in the event of problems such as the neglect or abandonment."

The original report was co-written by Dr Collins, Dr Alison Hanlon, Professor Simon Moore, Professor Patrick Wall, and Dr Vivienne Duggan, from the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine and was funded by World Horse Welfare. The industry group responding to the report met in August and will produce its findings in winter 2010.

## Play brings journey of Franciscans to life

"With My Bare Hands", a play portraying the journey of two Irish Franciscans to Jerusalem in 1323 A.D. was performed during Heritage Week 2010 by local youth groups in the Granary Theatre in Cork.

Aimed at teenage audiences, the play was a collaboration between the UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute, the UCC School of History, and the Franciscans in Cork with Mark D'Aughton (actor), Frances Kay (playwright) and Nico Brown (musician).

The play was based on the account written by Franciscan Simon Simeonis, a 14th-century Irish friar, who travelled from Clonmel to Jerusalem via England, France, the Balkans, Crete and Egypt, accompanied by another friar, Hugo the Illuminator.

The production was supported by the Heritage Council & Arts Council and is part of the Institute's *Bringing History to the People* programme, which also includes the recently-launched online exhibition [www.writingirishhistory.eu](http://www.writingirishhistory.eu) portraying the Annals of the Four Masters.

## UCD rowers' victory at Henley Royal Regatta

UCD rowers claimed the Prince Albert Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta on July 2010 with an impressive two lengths win over the University of Bristol.

The victorious UCD Men's Student Coxed Fours crew included Tom Doyle, Finbarr Manning, Colm Pierce, Dave Neale, and cox Jennie Lynch. The coach was Pat McDonagh.

This was UCD's second win at Henley Royal Regatta - 36 years since the Plate win in 1974.

The Prince Albert Challenge is contested by Men's Student Crews in Coxed Fours. It has been held since 2004. Every year, the challenge is oversubscribed and qualifying races have been

held. In 2010, international competitors included the USA and Holland.

The trophy, designed and created by Hector Miller, is named after Prince Albert who became the first Royal Patron of the Regatta in 1851. The names of the winning crew are inscribed on the trophy.

Since 2004, the Britannia Challenge Cup event, originally introduced at Henley Royal Regatta in 1969, has been restricted to club crews only and a new event has been offered for the student crews. This event, first known as the Men's Student Coxed Fours, became The Prince Albert Challenge Cup in 2006.



*Shown celebrating their Henley Royal Regatta victory are: Dave Neale; Colm Pierce; Finbarr Manning; stroke Tome Foyle and cox Jennie Lynch*

## Strong UCD presence in Irish lacrosse team

Seven members of the past/present UCD community played on the Irish National Lacrosse Team at the World Lacrosse Championships in Manchester in July. Currently ranked 7th in the world, the team won the inaugural Irish Lacrosse League (ILL) this year.

Following a pre-tournament training camp at UCD, the team travelled to Manchester, where they won against South Korea, Slovakia, Switzerland, Sweden and Finland. Included in the team were: Michael Kennedy from Academic Secretariat in UCD Registry (one of the team captains); Paddy O'Leary (UCD Conway Institute PhD student) who scored 4 goals over the course of the tournament; students John O'Connor, Zak Jordan and Martin Scanlon who each scored a goal; recent graduate Dara McCreary in defence; and student Kevin Quinn in goal.

The team placed 9th in the tournament, up against 29 countries from around the world. One team, the Iroquois, an association of several tribes of indigenous people of North America, made international headlines when they were unable to travel to the event when attempting to travel on their Iroquois passports.



*Shown here is recent UCD Sports Management graduate Mark Rohan, who won the first ever gold medal for Ireland at UCI ParaCycling World Road Championships in August 2010. Athlone athlete Mark was one first members of the UCD wheelchair basketball team. He is shown here with mother Carmel and family and friends on his return home to Dublin Airport. Photo: Sportsfile*



Peter Sutherland SC turns the sod on the site of the UCD Sutherland School of Law in September 2010.

## Sod-turning at new home of Irish legal education and research

Peter Sutherland SC turned the sod on the site of the UCD Sutherland School of Law in September 2010.

Once completed, the facility, measuring approximately 5,133 square metres, will cater for 1,500 students and staff.

The new building will include a Clinical Legal Education Centre and moot court (where students learn how to present cases in a courtroom setting). This will benefit students, academics and the legal professions, and others associated with the law in practice such as mediators, arbitrators, expert witnesses and tribunals.

The new UCD Sutherland School of Law is funded under the National Development Plan 2007 – 2013, a lead gift from Peter Sutherland SC,

resources from the university and support from leading law firms A&L Goodbody; Arthur Cox; Mason, Hayes and Curran; and William Fry.

Speaking at the sod-turning ceremony, Mr Sutherland noted the esteem in which confident, able Irish graduates are held. He stated that he firmly felt that educational investment from public, private and philanthropic sources is imperative to Ireland's economic recovery.

UCD Dean of Law, Professor John Jackson acknowledged the support of then Minister for Education Mary Hanafin TD in making the building a reality and noted the hard work of former Dean of Law Paul O'Connor, project leader Professor Imelda Maher and team, and the UCD Law School development committee under the chairmanship of Declan McCourt.

The UCD Sutherland School of Law will be situated within the precinct of the university's landmark Gateway development.

## UCD Remembering Newman

As part of the *UCD Remembering Newman* series to coincide with the beatification of John Henry Newman during Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United Kingdom, the British Ambassador to Ireland Julian King addressed a special reception at UCD Newman House St Stephen's Green in September.

In his address, as well as anticipating the Papal visit which was to commence the following day, the Ambassador reflected on the life of John Henry Newman (1801-1890), who moved from Britain to Ireland and became the founding rector in 1854 of the Catholic University of Ireland, the antecedent institution of University College Dublin.

Newman lived in Dublin, on and off, from 1851-58 and in those years delivered the lectures and wrote the articles which were later published together as *The Idea of a University*, one of the most enduring texts ever written about university education.

Newman's definition of the university as a place of teaching universal knowledge and his insistence, against contemporary utilitarian trends, that knowledge is its own end, make him someone whose influence is felt in every university worthy of the name to this day.

On September 19th, 2010, Newman became the first English non-martyr to be beatified since the reformation.

The *UCD Remembering Newman* series included an exhibition of artworks and artefacts from UCD Library Special Collections and UCD Archives at Newman House; a performance of *The Dream of Gerontius* in the National Concert Hall by Our Lady's Choral Society with the UCD Choral Scholars and the RTE Concert Orchestra; a lecture from Joseph O'Leary, Professor of English Literature, Sophia University, Tokyo on "*Modernity and Metaphysics: Between Newman's Grammar of Assent and Leo XIII's Aeterni Patris*" and an Ecumenical Service, broadcast live on RTÉ. More information about the series is at [www.ucd.ie/newman](http://www.ucd.ie/newman)



UCD Vice-President and Director of the UCD International Centre for Newman Studies, Dr Pádraic Conway (centre) and UCD President Dr Hugh Brady (right) listen to British Ambassador Julian King at Newman House in September 2010

## UCD VO rally raises awareness of HIV/AIDS in India

In summer 2010, UCD students volunteered in an orphanage in South East India to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in the region. By organising a rally, the students brought hundreds of singing, dancing and chanting children from orphanages and institutions around the city of Vijayawada.

Organiser of the campaign Donal Hanratty, 4th Year Medicine, UCD explained the purpose of the event: "We knew that HIV AIDS and the stigma attached to it was a major problem in this region. Stories of people being banished from their village when discovered to have contracted the virus were common, and very few schools or hospitals in the area accepted children who had the disease. We were shocked that many of the children knew little or nothing about HIV AIDS, even though many of them had it from birth. So we set about educating hundreds of children about relationships and their sexual health in informal youth groups."

The rally had far reaching effects for UCDVO with articles appearing in national newspapers and radio shows about the volunteering students. Donal Hanratty said, "we are delighted with how it went; we have drawn attention to issues surrounding HIV/AIDS in one of the worst affected regions in India. We hope that it was a step in the right direction to eliminate the taboos that surround the disease in India".

The work of UCDVO volunteers is varied and can sometimes involve aiding humanitarian disasters. UCDVO began working in Gros Morne, Haiti in 2005 but following the massive earthquake which hit Haiti on the 12th January 2010, volunteers were more fervent than ever to get out and raise awareness and funds for the troubled state. In 2010 alone, volunteers constructed classrooms for a primary school, carried out sports camps for over 700 children, and constructed dry-stone walls up the hillsides to guard against flooding. Other projects in Haiti involve reforestation and flood prevention measures to installing accommodation for elderly people and creating sanitation and electricity.

UCD Volunteers Overseas has recently received formal recognition as a university society while also retaining its charitable status and is bound by a UCDVO Constitution. The charity currently has projects in India, Haiti, Nicaragua and Tanzania.



Children of Vijayawada, in southeastern India participate in the HIV/AIDS awareness rally organised by the UCD Volunteers Overseas in summer 2010