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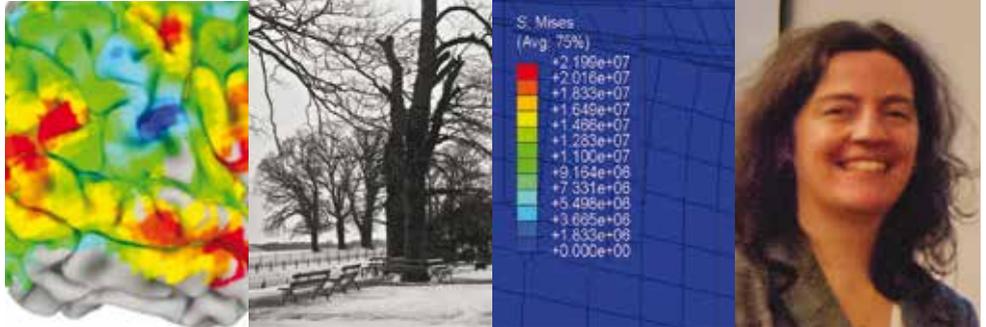
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EILÍS O'BRIEN
Director of
Communication

First preferences for UCD continue to climb despite the reduction in CAO entry codes

A recent article in *The Irish Examiner* highlights concerns that – with the exception of UCD – the trend in the university sector has been to increase the number of entry routes listed in the CAO handbook, with a consequence of increasing pressure on Leaving Cert points. Over the past three years the number of Level 8 degrees has increased from 567 to 579 while the number listed for UCD has been reduced from 56 to 45.

When UCD began to reduce the number of CAO codes there was a concern that our first to third preferences would suffer, that we would receive less “mentions” on the CAO form and that points for our degrees would fall.

However, there is an argument that, for example, the old see-saw between languages and points is simply unfair on students, as one year French tops German and the next year Spanish out-climbs them both. This year, the codes for denominated languages were merged into the BA International and while it will take a little time for the preferences to settle, we have seen a rise in demand in Commerce International of over 17%, where a similar merger of denominated languages took place in 2011.

The publication of application statistics for this year shows that although overall numbers increased by 3% nationally, first preferences for UCD rose by 8.7% - breaking through the 9,000 barrier for the first time.

So, how do we manage to buck the trend and increase our first preferences while at the same time reducing the number of entry codes? Could it be that applicants do manage to battle their way through the maze of options and work out that going through “general entry” in for example, science, commerce, law, engineering and arts keeps their options open and doesn't shoe-horn them into specialisms before they know what really interests them?

Since the trend to reduce the number of CAO codes began, UCD has consistently improved its rate of first preference applications. We know that an increasing number of applicants avail of the change-of-mind option which is open until July 1st, so we will continue to encourage students to look at their university choice as the opening of a new book, rather than the selecting of a paragraph.

UCD thanks...

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This publication is also available online at www.ucd.ie/ucdtoday

Cover image: Irish supporters Gemma Kerrigan and Muirne Robinson sing 'Ireland's Call' at an RBS 6 Nations Ireland vs Italy match in the Aviva Stadium, Lansdowne Road in February 2012.



■ €2 million ERC funding for UCD scientists to make drug synthesis safer and less expensive

Noble metals like gold, platinum, and palladium are used as catalysts in key chemical transformations during the preparation of over 90% of pharmaceutical drugs. These metals can leave behind residues in the drug product which must be removed to a minimum recommended level before the drug can be considered safe for patients.

Speaking on current global challenges, PreCommon, and less expensive, metals like nickel, iron and manganese do not leave behind dangerous metal residues when used

as catalysts, but they do not have the “catalytic activity levels” required for similar chemical transformations. As a result, industry continues to use noble metals in the drug production process.

Professor Martin Albrecht at UCD aims to develop a new catalytic system which he believes has the potential to vastly increase the “catalytic activity levels” of common metals making them potentially usable in drug production.

The European Research Council (ERC) has awarded Professor Albrecht 2 million to advance his catalytic system.

“By applying our catalytic system we are aiming to massively increase the activity levels of common metals,” says Professor Albrecht, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at the School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology and the Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology at UCD.

“If we are successful, this will enable cheap and abundant metals like iron or nickel to replace the use of noble metals in the chemical transformations needed to create new compounds. This would make the processes much less expensive and leave little or no harmful residue behind in the final compound.”



Minister for Research and Innovation, Mr Sean Sherlock T.D. who, with Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mr Richard Bruton T.D., recently officially launched Insight, a new SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics

■ €88 million Insight data analytics research centre launched

In today's society, an increasing torrent of data is being created every second in the world around us. A new research centre will play a leading role in developing next generation technologies to capture and transform the raw data into valuable concepts and ideas that can inform better decisions about society, the economy, healthcare and government.

The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mr Richard Bruton T.D. and Minister for Research and Innovation, Mr Sean Sherlock T.D. officially launched Insight, a new Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Research Centre for Data Analytics. In a joint initiative between DCU, NUI Galway, UCC and UCD, Insight brings together more than 200 researchers from these and other Higher Education institutions, with 30 industry partners, to position Ireland at the heart of global data analytics research.

The Centre will receive funding of €58 million from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation through SFI's Research Centres Programme, along with a further contribution of €30 million from 30 industry partners. These industry partners range from small Irish startups

to established SMEs and large multinationals, including RTÉ, The Irish Times, Cisco, Microsoft, Alcatel-Lucent, Santry Sports Clinic, the IRFU, Avaya, TE Labs, TreeMetrics, UTRC, and Shimmer. They will collaborate with Insight on a range of projects to advance data analytics technologies in Ireland - a new approach to research and development in Ireland, by connecting the scientific research of Ireland's leading data analytics researchers with the needs of industry and enterprise.

Speaking at the launch of Insight, Minister for Research and Innovation, Mr Sean Sherlock T.D. said: “The launch of Insight is an important step forward in the development of the skills base necessary for Ireland to harness and channel the current and future potential of Big Data. Insight

is a major national investment in this new area of research and one that is essential for Ireland's future success in the technology sector.”

Commenting on the potential for the data analytics market in Ireland, CEO of Insight, UCD Professor Barry Smyth, said: “Data analytics represents a huge growth opportunity for Ireland and we are perfectly positioned to take advantage of it. Spending on Big Data technologies is growing at 30% per annum as demand for data analytics skills continues to outstrip supply. In Insight we have brought together the country's leading data analytics researchers to meet this demand and create new opportunities for Ireland and our industry partners.”



Professor Orla Feely, who has been appointed as Vice-President for Research, Innovation & Impact

■ Professor Orla Feely appointed VP for Research, Innovation & Impact

The Governing Authority of UCD has announced the appointment of Professor Orla Feely as Vice-President for Research, Innovation & Impact.

Professor Feely, who is Chair of the Irish Research Council, undertook her primary degree in electronic engineering at UCD. She completed a PhD in electrical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, before returning to UCD in 1992 as a lecturer. Currently Professor and Subject Head of Electronic Engineering in the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic & Communications Engineering, she leads a research group in nonlinear circuits and has received three successive SFI Principal Investigator awards, along with grants and prizes from other national, international and industry sources.

A Fellow of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) and former Chair of the IEEE Technical Committee on Nonlinear Circuits and Systems, Professor Feely is also a Fellow of Engineers Ireland and the Irish Academy of Engineering. She is a director of the Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition and a member of the EU Horizon 2020 Advisory Group on Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

Professor Feely spearheaded the development of UCD's energy research strategy, which led to the foundation in 2013 of the UCD Energy Institute.

At the announcement, UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks said: "Since returning to Ireland from UC Berkeley, Professor Orla Feely has built up an international reputation for her pioneering research in the area of nonlinear circuits. In addition she is a highly respected lecturer and supervisor. As well as taking a leadership role within her own College, Professor Feely plays a central part in supporting the broad University and indeed, as Chair of the Irish Research Council, the national research agenda."

■ UCD and NYU support new laureateship for Irish fiction

A new award which will honour an outstanding Irish fiction writer, and encourage the next generation of Irish fiction writers, has been developed by the Arts Council and is supported by UCD and New York University (NYU).

The Laureate for Irish Fiction will be awarded by the Arts Council to an Irish writer of national and international distinction, writing in the English language. The honour will be used to promote Irish literature nationally and internationally and to encourage the public to engage with high quality Irish fiction.

The Laureate will receive €150,000 over the three years. During the period, he or she will teach creative writing to students at UCD and NYU, will spend time developing his or her own work, and will participate in a number of major, public events and promotions. The Irish Times is media partner for the Laureate.

"I am very proud that the Laureate for Irish Fiction has been created by the Arts Council. The Laureate represents a milestone for Irish literature and will place Irish writing at the forefront of global public thought," said Ms Pat Moylan, Chairman of the Arts Council.

"The Laureate will be a terrific honour for a literary fiction writer and his or her work will

benefit all emerging writers. The Laureate will have an impact on the wider public through major events, a blog and promotions each year, all with the purpose of getting people reading high quality literary fiction."

"Irish fiction has a high international reputation and the Arts Council is keen to celebrate our writers' achievements and to encourage even more people to read great work."

"I am particularly excited about how people will be able to get involved with the Laureate and his or her work and I look forward to the person's appointment next year."

Mr Denis Staunton, Deputy Editor of The Irish Times said the newspaper is honoured to support the project.

"The Irish Times has a proud tradition of excellent writers and we are delighted to support this. The Laureate will build on the illustrious literary history of the Irish and aim to encourage the next generation of Irish writers."

Deborah Landau, Director of the Creative Writing Program at NYU, said: "The NYU Creative Writing Program is honoured to partner with these respected literary organisations to bring a distinguished Irish writer to our campus. NYU is uniquely placed to raise the profile of Irish writing globally."

■ First 'Earth Gathering' held at UCD

As part of the Gathering Ireland 2013 the UCD Earth Institute convened the first Earth Gathering in November 2013, bringing together members of the diaspora, academia, industry and government agencies in UCD's new O'Brien Centre for Science. Event convener, Professor Frank Convery, conceived Earth Gathering as an opportunity to explore how recent and future technological, policy and scientific advances can contribute to sustainable societal and economic development.

The three day event featured speakers from a diverse range of backgrounds including Sean O'Sullivan (Co-founder and CEO of Carma), Pat Burt (former mayor of Palo Alto and CEO of Palo Alto Tech Group), Martin Curley (VP Intel Corporation and Director of Intel Labs Europe), Laura Burke (Director General of the EPA) as well as a via video message from Janez Potočnik, current European Commissioner for Environment.

Dr Kerri-Ann Jones, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES), U.S. State Department, both opened and addressed the conference and also took part in a 'Women in Science'

working lunch attended by over thirty women working at the forefront of science and technology in research and enterprise. Dr Jones' address was titled 'Making a Difference: Science, Sustainability and International Partnerships'. Concluding the address, Dr Jones said: "Events such as the Earth Gathering allow us to discuss the challenges we all face and learn from our collective experience"

A full day of plenary sessions was followed by a day of fifteen break-out sessions covering topics ranging from climate modelling, waste as a sustainable energy source, food for the future and policy innovation. UCD Earth Institute and ENS Doctoral Studies programmes are funded under the Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions (PRTL) and co-funded under the European Regional Development fund. A poster session consisting of over fifty posters was presented by the students of the PRTL-funded Institute's affiliated Earth and Natural Sciences Doctoral Studies programme, showcasing their research across the Institute's key research themes. Over three hundred people attended the event across the three days which was also live streamed from the UCD Moore Auditorium. Video highlights are available at: youtube.com/user/EarthUCD



Dr Fred Cummins

Despite its universality, longevity and deep integration into situations

of great importance - including worship, protest and educational practices - speaking in unison has been the subject of little or no scientific research to date.



It's a blind spot that cognitive scientist Dr Fred Cummins, a senior lecturer at the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics, has been working to address for several years.

Cummins defines joint speech as being speech in which multiple people say the same thing at the same time. "It's a behaviour that's ubiquitous in the world and is most commonly found in collective prayer," he explains. Other common versions include protest and sports chants, educational chants used in memorisation and pronunciation training, as well as some specialised uses such as swearing oaths.

"And there's no body of scientific work studying the behavior", says Cummins, who has a background in speech motor control and developed a particular interest in this area when studying the way in which two people can synchronise their speech. "This remarkable ability we seem to have to speak in time without any training, despite the fact that this is highly co-ordinated movement and the voice is very flexible, appears to be a skill all speakers have. The universality of the phenomenon is really interesting.

"From a phonetic perspective I was interested in this as an example of highly co-ordinated activity among people," he explains. "Then I realised that these situations in which people display this behaviour in the wild as it were - and not in my lab - are all extremely important occasions and they all exhibit the sentiments of a group rather than an individual."

Through his lab work, Cummins began to see that when two people spoke together more was

Joined up speaking

going on than just the sum of speaker A and speaker B. "There was evidence that there was a reality at the supra-individual level, a collective reality. That was interesting. And the fact that this had been neglected and yet it was clearly something we ought to be looking at, motivated me further."

The pieces started falling into place when a neuro-imaging experiment carried out by Prof Sophie Scott, deputy director of University College London's Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, found "startling evidence that brain activity when we speak together is very different from when we speak alone", he adds.

"This has to do with the real-time interaction between people. It's not present if we speak along with a recording for example".

According to Cummins, the imaging evidence suggests that when you speak together with other people, the brain treats your voice as if it was someone else's rather than your own. "This parallels the feeling that people who are familiar with singing in choirs or praying in groups or chanting recreationally can have, which is a sense of community or transcendence or communion.

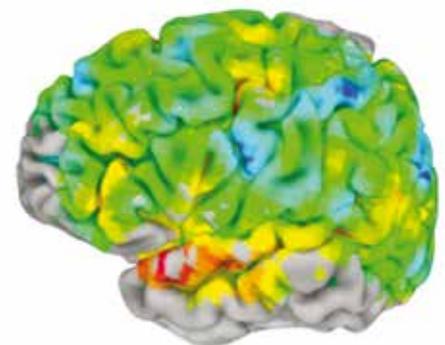
"Voicing a belief together with other people entails surrendering some of your own autonomy and merging into an ad hoc collective identity, at least while you're speaking.

"So, there's a much larger agenda here than I had guessed. It has implications for how we understand people, how we understand the relationship between the individual and the collective, and how we understand minds and our practices. We're inching towards having a vocabulary and a scientific view on certain things that we all know intuitively anyway. Science might be useful in identifying, for example, when crowd situations become volatile and might become dangerous, how crowds react or what they're doing when everyone joins in chants, or what happens when someone doesn't join in a chant."

Now, together with Professor Roger Moore in the University of Sheffield and Dr Jens Edlund at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Cummins is developing computer-based technologies to enable people to very easily participate in electronic chants.

While prayer groups and sporting fans and teams should have uses for such technology, it could also potentially have a significant impact on how online activism is carried out, Cummins says. "Adding your electronic signature to a cause is not very meaningful. On the other hand, making a vocal expression of your intent feels right. If we had this kind of technology, it would provide a means in a democratic society for unsanctioned voices of collective identities to be heard.

(a) Lateral LH, pial.



(b) Lateral RH, pial.

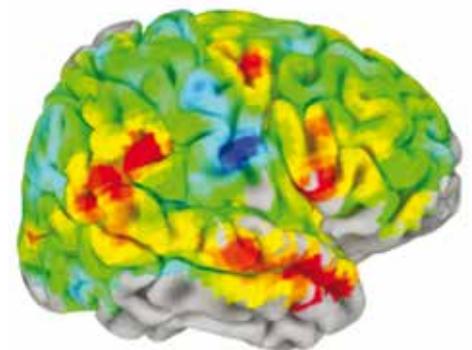


Figure 1: illustrates increased brain activity when subjects spoke together with a live person, compared with speaking along with a recording. This is evidenced by a large change to the lateralization of cortical activity, with greatly increased activity in the right hemisphere

"What we want to do is make it really, really easy for people with no tech skills to start this kind of electronic chant themselves and keep them going and add to them."

Unlike many developments in the social media sphere, Cummins stresses that he and his colleagues are not trying to form new identities or tribes or provide people with new ways of hooking up. "What we want to do is just add the opportunity for vocal expression to existing collective groups and collective identities - the football clubs and the churches and so on."

And he maintains that his body of research on joint speech suggests that a recalibration of the currently held view on what language is might be in order. "To give voice is not the same thing as to write, or type. And of course the voice and spoken language is far, far older than writing. This re-emphasises the role of the voice."

Dr Cummins was in conversation with Grainne Rothery (BA 1986), editor of Irish Director magazine and businessandleadership.com

Systems Biology Ireland officially opened at UCD

The Minister for Research and Innovation, Seán Sherlock TD has officially opened the research facility for Systems Biology Ireland at UCD.

Supported by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation through Science Foundation Ireland, Systems Biology Ireland combines the power of computers and modern biology to understand diseases such as cancer

and develops diagnostics and therapies that are tailored to the individual patient.

Finding the right drug for the right patient is a major problem, especially in cancer therapy where often only one third of patients respond to treatment. By 2020, SBI's research programme aims to significantly increase the number of patients that cancer drugs work for.

"This magnificent new facility is a major step that will enable Systems Biology Ireland to lead in the advancement of personalised

medicine on a global scale, and in a key area prioritised for investment under Horizon 2020," said Minister Sherlock.

"To really take advantage of the new drugs becoming available for targeted therapies, we urgently need the telescopic sights that will allow us to take each patient's cancer into the crosshairs individually. Systems Biology Ireland is developing these sights," said Professor Walter Kolch, Director of Systems Biology Ireland.



Peadar Ó Lamhna, An Cumann Gaelach UCD; An tOllamh Andrew J Deeks, Uachtarán UCD; Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, An Coimisinéir Eorpach, agus Hugh Cannon, An Cumann Gaelach UCD

Bhronn An Cumann Gaelach UCD Gradam de hÍde ar an gcoimisinéir Eorpach Máire Geoghegan-Quinn

Bhronn An Cumann Gaelach UCD Gradam de hÍde ar an gcoimisinéir Eorpach Máire Geoghegan-Quinn mar aitheantas ar an obair mhór atá déanta aici chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn le linn a saol poiblí. Tharla an searmanas bronnta oifigiúil i Seomra Díospóireachta Fitzgerald, Lárionad na Mac Léinn, an Coláiste Ollscoile Baile Átha Cliath. Tá Gradam de hÍde ainmnithe i ndiaidh duine de bhunaitheoirí agus iar-Uachtaráin An Chumainn Ghaelaigh UCD, Dubhghlas de hÍde.

Bronntar Gradam de hÍde ar dhuine a gcreideann An Cumann Gaelach UCD a chuir an Ghaeilge chun cinn agus a thacaigh léi le linn a shaol/a saol poiblí. Rinneadh an chéad Ollamh le Nua-Ghaeilge i gColáiste Ollscoile Baile Átha Cliath de Dhubhghlas de hÍde i 1909. Bhí an post sin aige go dtí gur éirigh sé as i 1932. Toghadh é mar chéad Uachtarán na hÉireann i 1938 agus d'fhóin sé go dtí deireadh a théarma i 1945.

"Aithnítear leis an ngradam seo an obair mhór atá déanta ag an gCoimisinéir Geoghegan Quinn chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn in Éirinn agus san Eoraip - ón tráth a bhí sí ina hAire Gaeltachta, ina hAire Dlí agus Cirt agus ina hAire Iompair agus Turasóireachta go dtí an lá atá inniu ann agus í ag fónamh ina Coimisinéir Eorpach um Thaighde, Nuálaíocht agus Eolaíocht," a deir Peadar Ó Lamhna, Leas-Reachttaire An Chumainn Ghaelaigh UCD.

Tar éis di glacadh leis an ngradam, mhíneigh Coimisinéir Geoghegan-Quinn dóibh

siúd a bhí i láthair, a thábhachtaí is atá an Ghaeilge mar theanga oifigiúil san Aontas Eorpach, léirigh sí na slí ina dtugann sí féin tús áite don Ghaeilge ina chuid oráidí agus labhair sí ar na deiseanna fostaíochta atá ar fail dóibh siúd le Gaeilge, sa Choimisiún Eorpach.

Sa bhliain 2008 a bhronn An Cumann Gaelach UCD Gradam de hÍde an chéad uair. I measc na ndaoine ar bronnadh an gradam orthu roimhe seo tá: an fear grinn, Des Bishop; an craoltóir, Hector Ó hEochagáin; agus Uachtarán na hÉireann, Micheál D. Ó hUigín.

An Cumann Gaelach UCD recently presented the Hyde Award (Gradam de hÍde) to European Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, in recognition of her tireless work promoting the Irish language throughout her public life. The Hyde Award (Gradam de hÍde) is named after one of the founders and former Presidents of An Cumann Gaelach UCD, Douglas Hyde, who became the first Professor of Modern Irish in UCD in 1909. He held the

chair until his retirement in 1932. He was elected the first President of Ireland in 1938 and remained in office until his term was finished in 1945.

The award is presented to an individual who An Cumann Gaelach UCD believe has supported and promoted the Irish language throughout their public life. Accepting the award, Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn outlined to students and guests the importance of Irish as an official language in the EU, her role in promoting the Irish language in her speeches and public engagements, and the opportunities that exist for Irish speakers in the European Commission.

An Cumann Gaelach UCD first presented the Hyde Award (Gradam de hÍde) in 2008. Previous recipients include: comedian, Des Bishop; broadcaster, Hector O hEochagáin; and President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

The year was 1914. UCD graduate James Joyce, then an obscure author, had just published *Dubliners*. The closing tale in this book of short stories was *The Dead*, set in a house on Usher's Island in Dublin City, on January 6th. It was to become one of the most famous and loved short stories ever written.

“DEAD” APP BRINGS JOYCE TO LIFE



An image of the Phoenix Park on a snowy day in 1914: one of the selection of images of Joyce's Dublin included within app. Image courtesy of The National Library

Academics continue to pore over the details of Joyce's life and works, but the public appetite for Joyce – and *The Dead* – has never waned. A copy of *Dubliners* still occupies many Irish bookshelves. The story of *The Dead* finds eager eyes on the Feast of the Epiphany, the last day of Christmas. Every year during Dublin's Culture Night – an evening of free cultural events – long queues form down the city's south quay for a peek inside James Joyce House on Usher's Island, the setting for *The Dead*.

It's been 100 years since the publication of the story. Now was the right time to bring it to a wider audience, says Professor Gerardine Meaney, Director of the UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland (HII). On January 6th 2014, UCD released *The Dead*, a new (and free) iPad app about the story. It includes, a complete narration of Joyce's atmospheric story, read by Barry McGovern, telling this tale of an evening of music, dancing, food, and conversation. At the heart of it is a story of revelation, as the protagonist, Gabriel Conway, realises his marriage is not all he thought it to be.

Why would anyone need an app to help them navigate a book? “The app is a way of reaching out to people who may not otherwise engage with the book,” explains Meaney. “We discovered that people might not want to listen to a 50 minute lecture about something that they are not studying. There is, however, a general interest in shorter talks and articles.” As well as McGovern's reading, the app explores the music, architecture, images, and ideas behind *The Dead* through 6-8 minute discussions. This is a story steeped in Dublin. The Gresham Hotel, the Phoenix Park's Wellington Park, Trinity College, and Dublin's

quays all feature. The River Liffey's presence is a constant character throughout the narrative.

“New technologies allow us to bring rare and unseen National Library of Ireland photos of Dublin from this period to fans of *The Dead*, as well as those who are discovering it for the first time,” says Meaney. “The app includes photos of Phoenix Park, Dame Street, and the Gresham Hotel in the early 20th century. We can allow people to feel how Joyce sensed the city, and we can give flesh to these senses.”

Perhaps more notably, the app provides a real soundtrack to the music of Joyce's *The Dead*. Throughout the story, there is piano, singing, and dancing, as Joyce creates a scene suffused with sound – a theme explored by UCD graduate Dr Katherine O'Callaghan, who has written and spoken on the musicality of Joyce's works.

In particular, O'Callaghan and other academics have focused on “*The Lass of Aghrim*” which, in Joyce's tale, is sung by one of the guests at the dinner party. This traditional Scottish ballad with Irish variants is unknown to most modern-day readers. The app features a video rendition of the song by Noel O'Grady, which was recorded in the house at Usher's Island and performed as it would have been in the early 20th century.

The app also features talks by various UCD academics, including Joyce Professor of English Anne Fogarty, School of English, Drama and Film, and Professor Mary Daly, School of History and Archives.

Within just a month, the app had almost 8,000 downloads, the majority in Ireland, but increasingly in the US, UK, China, India, Croatia and Australia.

“We are overwhelmed by all the good will and interest,” says Meaney, who worked on the project with several other collaborators, including Helen Shaw from Athena Media, Katherine

McSharry of the National Library of Ireland, and Anne Brady at Vermillion Design “We were only able to do it because so many people gave their time and resources for free. It was a labour of love.”

Professor Gerardine Meaney was in conversation with Peter McGuire (BA 2002, MLitt 2007), a journalist with The Irish Times

An appetite for apps?

The idea for *The Dead* app grew from a previous project on Joyce's Dublin, a series of podcasts produced by Athena Media for the UCD Humanities Institute. “The material was there, and we saw it would make a great app,” says Professor Meaney. “Technology can bring literature to wider audiences: the general public as well as students. We would love to develop the app further by featuring all the stories in *Dubliners*. The idea of an app for *Ulysses* has also been floated, although that is a big task. There are other Irish books and other Irish writers who, like Joyce, are no longer in copyright. There is huge scope to develop a similar app on [Irish author] Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, pulling it back into the world it was written in, and the context Stoker came out of.”

The success of *The Dead* app has ignited new possibilities: “There are interdisciplinary and exciting possibilities,” she says. “Archaeology and architecture are among the disciplines that could benefit from this kind of app and there is huge potential around 1916. We know there is an appetite for it.”

Two UCD researchers awarded ERC 'Proof of Concept' funding

UCD researchers are the most successful Irish based researchers in the latest round of

European Research Council (ERC) 'top-up' funding or 'Proof of Concept' awards.

Two of the three Irish based researchers who were awarded one of the thirty-four grants announced by the ERC in February are based at UCD: Professor Debra Laefer, School of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering; and Professor Frederic Dias, School of Mathematical Sciences.

The two UCD researchers, who already hold ERC grants, have received up to €150,000 each to bring their pioneering 'blue sky' research closer to the market. This form of basic science is focused on advancing knowledge, but it can sometimes generate unexpected applications. That is why the ERC provides top-up funding, 'Proof of Concept',

for its grant holders to bring their pioneering work closer to market.

"The funding announced [today] will help turn ideas into innovation. The ERC 'Proof of Concept' grants encourage a new type of thinking amongst researchers, backing them to make the most of their blue sky research. This mindset will help European recovery and improve our quality of life," said EU Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science.

The next call for proposals - 'Proof of Concept' 2014 - is currently open to ERC grant holders with a first deadline on 1 April 2014.



In front of a photograph of Professor Rosemarie Mulcahy [by Amelia Stein, RHA] Mr Rafael Soriano, Spanish Cultural Attaché; Professor Alistair Rowan, UCC; Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty; his Excellency, Mr Javier Garrigues Flórez, Spanish Ambassador; and Dr Lynda Mulvin

Seminar room named in honour of Prof. Rosemarie Mulcahy

The School of Art History & Cultural Policy recently hosted a reception and lecture, given by Dr Marta Bustillo (NCAD), to celebrate the renaming of its seminar room in honour of the late Professor Rosemarie Mulcahy. A world-renowned scholar who published extensively on sixteenth and seventeenth-century Spanish art, Professor Mulcahy had a long-standing relationship with UCD, as a student, occasional lecturer, Honorary Senior Research Fellow and Adjunct Professor. Among her many achievements was the recognition in 2001 by the Spanish state of Professor Mulcahy's outstanding contribution to the scholarship of its visual culture by awarding her the Officer's Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic.

Guests at the evening's celebrations included Professor Mulcahy's husband, Seán, family members, and close friends and colleagues from her years teaching at UCD and Trinity College Dublin. The School was honoured that his Excellency, Mr Javier Garrigues Flórez, Spanish

Ambassador, and his wife attended the celebrations accompanied by Mr Rafael Soriano, Spanish Cultural Attaché.

The evening's celebrations also marked the generous donation of Professor Mulcahy's significant library of Spanish art publications, as

well as Spanish archival material and her research and teaching papers to the School. This collection is now located in the Rosemarie Mulcahy Seminar Room and presents a major addition to the School's existing reference library, the Françoise Henry Reading Room.

Celebrating 100 years of Forestry at UCD

The Annual Sean McBride Forestry Lecture was held in November at UCD, marking the 100-year anniversary of UCD Forestry. Speaking at the event, organised jointly by the Society of Irish Foresters and UCD Forestry, the President of the Society of Irish Foresters congratulated UCD Forestry on their central and enormous contribution to Irish Forestry since 1913.

Forestry education at UCD has been pivotal in the development of Irish forestry, forest industries and many closely related areas of environmental management in Ireland. The many hundreds of UCD forestry graduates have worked in all sectors of the industry and played a key role in the creation of a sector now estimated at €2.2 billion annually.

It is now 100 years since the Faculty of Forestry was established at UCD (then the Royal College of Science), where Augustine Henry was appointed the first Professor of Forestry. The College of Sciences merged with UCD in 1926 and Henry remained as Professor of Forestry at UCD until his death in 1930.

Professor Emeritus John J. Gardiner and Professor Maarten Nieuwenhuis jointly prepared

a detailed and entertaining account of the life and times of the Department of Forestry. The lecture was very well attended, including former Professors of Forestry at UCD and their representatives; members of the Society, industry, current and former staff, and students from the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, as well as members of the public.

Taking a stab at measuring knife forces

Knowing how much force was used in a stabbing incident can provide crucial forensic evidence. UCD researchers have developed a formula to work it out.



Professor Michael Gilchrist

It may not be the most pleasant of thoughts, but when a person is stabbed there needs to be some force behind the knife to break through the skin. The amount of force used in a stabbing can provide important evidence about the nature of the event, but how do you work out the force that was involved? Professor Michael Gilchrist and colleagues have devised a formula that they hope in the future could be used to support evidence in legal cases.

A grey area

The main driver for the work is to define the force involved more objectively, explains Professor Gilchrist, Head of School at the UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering.

"In medico-legal cases when the pathologist is asked for an opinion as to the severity of the force, there is no quantitative way of saying the force involved was 'x' number of Newtons," he explains.

Professor Marie Cassidy, Ireland's State Pathologist, has experience of the situation in practice. "When a stabbing is fatal, the amount of force required to inflict the stab wound is often the source of much debate in court," she says. "As an expert witness, I am usually asked to quantify the force involved in the stabbing attack. The answer that I give is critical in determining the harmful intent of an assailant."

Traditionally, the pathologist assesses the force used based on the condition of the blade, the extent of the tissue damage, the presence of clothing and the wound itself, and then categorises the force as either mild, moderate or severe.

"The problem with such descriptions is that they are subjective - for example 'moderate' could mean something completely different to me than to a juror," says Professor Cassidy. "Clearly there is a need for a quantitative definition instead of these descriptive terms, to remove their potential ambiguity."

Cassidy and Deputy State Pathologist Dr Michael Curtis approached Professor Gilchrist and his colleagues Professor Michael Destrade (now at NUI Galway), and Drs Karine Bruyere and Melanie Ottenio from IFSTTAR (The French Institute of science and technology for transport, spatial planning, development and networks), to come up with a more objective solution to quantify the severity of the force in a stabbing.

Getting to the point

Experimenting on living humans was obviously out of the question, so Gilchrist and

his colleagues used comparable materials to explore the viscoelastic nature of human skin and the forces needed to puncture it. They carried out experiments in the lab on polyurethane, on samples of pig skin and on samples of human skin that had been donated to science after death.

Previous work with polyurethane had allowed the UCD researchers to characterise the sharpness of a blade, explains Professor Gilchrist. "We came up with a sharpness index, and we wanted to find out how the sharpness of a blade relates to the magnitude of the force required for stabbing."

As part of her doctoral research programme, Dr Aisling Ní Annaidh experimented on the samples with an array of blades, exploring the mechanical properties under different rates of loading.

"Our equation was quite robust and it would predict the measure of the force [in the experiments] to within 10 per cent accuracy. It was a breakthrough, this was a world-first, and we were very pleased with that," says Professor Gilchrist of the research, which was funded through the Irish Research Council and the Irish Department of Justice and Equality through the State Pathologist's Office. "We managed to conduct some fundamental scientific research and translate that into something that could have practical value for forensic pathology."

A case for the future?

The findings on stabbing biomechanics have been published in *Forensic Science International* and are soon to appear in the *American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology*. While it's a start, there is still some way to go before the formula is courtroom-ready, according to Gilchrist.

"There is still more work to be done on the speed of stabbing and on the effects of overlying clothing on the force required to perforate the skin," he explains. "Also most of the human skin samples we worked with were from elderly subjects, where the skin is more likely to be stiffer and less elastic, so we would need more data for younger subjects."

Still, the findings are starting to attract attention in legal circles, he adds. "There are people in the legal world who are sitting up. At the moment there is no legal precedent for this equation to have ever been used in a courtroom setting, but we would hope that in the fullness of time it will become accepted."

When the human body meets another object with force, the results can be devastating. Professor Michael Gilchrist is taking an engineering perspective to better understand the biomechanics of head trauma and, more recently, stabbing.

"We want to understand these impacts at a more fundamental level," he explains. "This means you can get new insights and, in some cases, develop better protective mechanisms."

"I spoke recently at a major European conference about head trauma and there were a number of people there who had suffered brain injury as a result of sports accidents," he says. "It was distressing but it is very rewarding to know that the research of biomedical engineering into devising better helmets can minimise the severity of the injuries that people have in future years."

Professor Michael Gilchrist was in conversation with freelance journalist Dr Claire O'Connell (BSc 1992, PhD 1998).

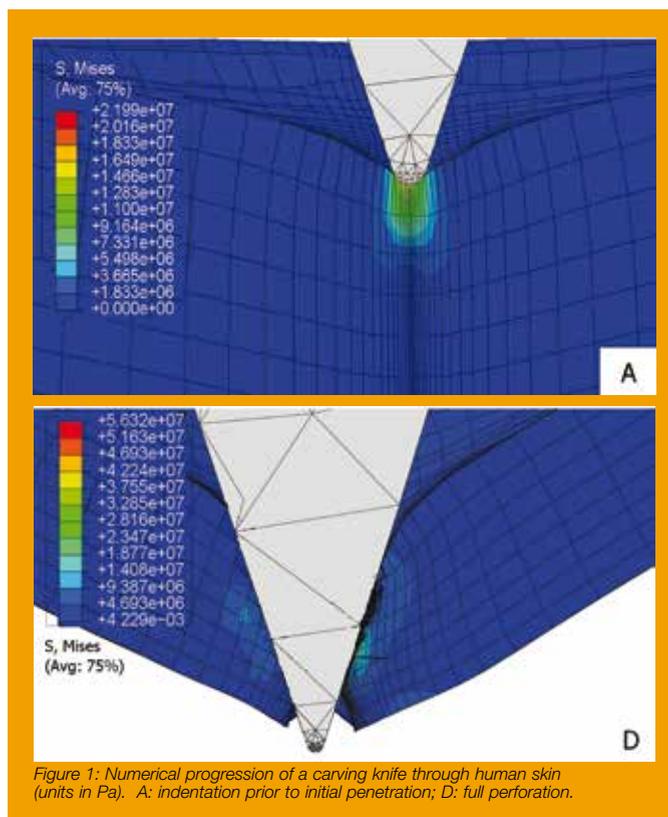


Figure 1: Numerical progression of a carving knife through human skin (units in Pa). A: indentation prior to initial penetration; D: full perforation.

"Typically what she found was that the energy that is required to perforate will depend on three key factors associated with the blade: the tip angle, the tip radius and cutting edge angle," says Gilchrist. "This was consistently true for all types of knives we looked at and it was true for human, porcine and synthetic skin."

A new formula

The next step was a series of computer simulations to analyse the effects of systematically changing the angles of the blades. This helped Dr Ní Annaidh to develop a formula to predict how much force was associated with a particular blade.



One of the 179 historic photographs from the recently-digitised Fitzgerald Collection, entitled 'Irish Free State Army officers standing at ease and smiling outside a heavily fortified building (Civil War)'

Irish Civil War: a visual history

The Fitzgerald Collection of photographs, recently digitised and available in UCD Digital Library, provides a visual resource and insight into key periods in Irish history.

The collection of 179 photographs, mainly from the studio of W.D. Hogan, came to UCD Archives in the papers of Desmond FitzGerald. As Minister for Foreign Affairs, FitzGerald was responsible for the operation of the Free State Publicity Department, directed by Seán Lester.

While there are small groups of photographs relating to the Easter Rising and the war of independence, the majority were taken during the civil war and are a uniquely valuable visual diary of that most unhappy period of modern Irish history.

Given that the photographs were commissioned by the Government's Publicity Department, it is hardly surprising that a significant proportion of the civil war photographs depict the mayhem and destruction wrought by the actions

of anti-Treaty forces and the disciplined operation of the Free State Army.

Hogan was not an embedded war photographer in the modern sense. Many of the photographs are taken in the aftermath of military engagement, when groups of civilians, particularly small boys, congregate almost immediately, curious and at ease.

A final group of portraits and photographs of historical occasions from 1921-2 includes interesting images of Harry Boland with Ernest Blythe, Michael Collins in sporting mode with a group of Kilkenny hurlers, and the former UCD premises at Earlsfort Terrace during the Treaty debates. The collection can be viewed in the UCD Digital Library at <http://digital.ucd.ie/view/ucdlib:30685>

Irish Cancer Society funding for 3 UCD Conway early career scientists

Conway PhD students, Clare Butler and Brian Mooney and postdoctoral fellow, Dr Sudipto Das were among six early career researchers to receive Irish Cancer Society Research Fellows and Scholars awards at a recent ceremony in Dublin.

These awards are designed to foster home-grown cancer research talent in Ireland and to ensure new research projects are commenced in a range of cancers including brain tumours, colorectal, oesophageal, prostate and breast cancers. The awards are supported through the fundraising efforts of volunteers around Ireland as well as the Tesco Charity of the Year Partnership 2010-2011 and the Movember Foundation.

Clare Butler will work in the laboratory of Conway Fellow, Dr Breandan Kennedy to investigate the potential of a number of new compounds to treat colorectal cancer.

Estrogen plays a significant role in the development of the mammary gland and promotion of breast cancer growth. Brian Mooney, working with Conway Fellow, Dr Darran O'Connor, aims to gain an insight into how some breast tumours become resistant to treatment with Tamoxifen, one of the most common anti-estrogen drugs used to treat estrogen receptor positive (ER+) breast cancers.

Dr Sudipto Das is another member of Dr Darran O'Connor's team. His research will look at the role of epigenetics in regulation of the angiogenic switch and patient response to anti-angiogenic therapy in metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC).

Prof. Mark Crowe to lead €9m EU FP7 Dairy cow genotype and environment project

UCD recently won a multi-partner EU FP7 award to study the interaction between genes and environment in dairy cows. Professor Mark A. Crowe, School of Veterinary Medicine, will act as coordinator for the GplusE (Genotype and Environment contributing to the sustainability of dairy cow production systems) project. The overall aim is to develop more sustainable dairy cow production systems through the optimal integration of genomic selection with improved management, assisted by novel approaches to gathering reliable phenotypes.

The award of €9m involves 15 partners across 6 EU member states plus one US and one Chinese partner, in a project to run for five years. The Irish participants also include the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation, with significant participation from the Agri-food Biosciences Institute in Northern Ireland. The project aims to significantly advance the science, efficiency and management practices in dairy production well beyond the current state-of-the-art.

■ Focusing in on high-resolution network biology

A central challenge in genetics is to understand how changes in DNA result in observable changes in an organism; how genotype maps to phenotype.

As genes and their protein products do not act in isolation, connecting genotype with phenotype requires thinking of genes in their network context.

Traditionally, network biology has treated genes and proteins as simple nodes in a network, ignoring their structural properties. However, scientists need to focus in greater detail to find out the particular parts of multi-functional proteins responsible for specific interactions, or to identify the functions that will be impacted by a specific mutation. UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research postdoctoral research fellow, Dr Colm J. Ryan from UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science along with colleagues in the University of California, San Francisco reviewed the 'fine-grained' techniques that seek to address this gap in a recently published article in *Nature Reviews Genetics*.

Dr Ryan, first author on the publication, said, "The work set out to review computational and experimental advances that allow us to identify both the parts of proteins responsible for mediating specific interactions and the functional consequences of specific mutations. These functional consequences include altered sensitivities to different drugs, and increased dependencies on the functions of other genes."

Ultimately, methods such as those discussed in the review may lead to the development of improved targeted therapeutics. For example, it has been observed in cancer that different mutations of the same oncogene can result in different clinical outcomes, including differential sensitivities to therapeutics.

Such phenomena are poorly understood, and drug-gene and gene-gene interaction screens of the type discussed in the paper will be necessary to address this gap in our knowledge.

Dr. Ryan is funded by ICON Plc through the UCD Newman Fellowship programme.



Professor Jens Bleiel, CEO Food for Health Ireland, 6 month-old Alyssa Flynn, Richard Bruton T.D., and Olympian Dr Ronnie Delany, at the official launch of FHI Phase 2 at the Enterprise Ireland Technology Centre Expo in November 2013

■ Food for Health Ireland Moves to UCD

In late 2013, Richard Bruton T.D. Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation announced a second term of funding worth in total €21M for the functional foods Technology Centre, Food for Health Ireland (FHI). Under this second phase, the management team for FHI will be based in UCD.

The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, through Enterprise Ireland will invest €16M in FHI with the remaining €5M being provided by the companies involved in the

research centre; Carbery, Dairygold, Glanbia, the Kerry Group, and the Irish Dairy Board.

The research will be carried out by scientists in 7 major Irish public research organisations: UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, DCU, University of Limerick, and Teagasc and UCD.

The purpose of the Centre is to identify novel ingredients coming from milk to develop functional food ingredients which will offer health benefits to consumers. The research is focusing on infant nutrition, healthy cheese, performance nutrition and healthy ageing as well as products that can be used to manage elevated glucose levels, for example in Type 2 diabetics.

Commenting on the launch, Professor Jens Bleiel, CEO FHI said "We are delighted to be hosted for phase 2 in UCD. Over 40 % of the research will be carried out in here. FHI is bringing an array of promising ingredients into this second phase of our work. We look forward to seeing them on the market where consumers can reap the benefits of this research."

■ UCD joins EU FP7 project to study European human rights

UCD's School of Politics and International Relations is leading UCD's role in an EU Commission-funded research project that will last until 2016, with important participation from members of the School of Law and the UCD Human Rights Network. This FP7 project was awarded as part of the EU's seventh framework funding programme and seeks to foster coherent human rights policies among diverse EU agencies and institutions.

Eighteen other universities from around the globe – including non-EU-based research institutes – are partners in this initiative, coordinated by Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. UCD's participation will examine policies of EU agencies such as the Fundamental Rights Agency as well as institutions like the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Council and the European Commission. In

addition, human rights policies in the individual Member States will also come under scrutiny, particularly in the areas of migration, security and counterterrorism and judicial cooperation.

Dr Graham Finlay, School of Politics and International Relations, is the Principal Investigator in the project. He is joined by Tamara Lewis, a post-doctoral researcher, who will collaborate with academics at the University of Nottingham, the European Training and

Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at Graz, and others.

According to Dr Finlay "The remit of the broader project is nothing short of reforming human rights policy as it applies to every activity of the EU and its member states. It is very exciting to be involved, particularly because our partners include some of the most important human rights institutions in Europe and the world." UCD's participation in this network was made possible by the School's ongoing participation in the European Master's in Human Rights and Democratisation in Venice, Italy. UCD's Professor Emerita, Attracta Ingram, was a co-founder of this prestigious programme that has grown to a network of forty-one universities across Europe.

New community entrepreneurship programme launched

A new collaboration between the Innovation Academy, UCD and GAA, the Community Entrepreneurship Programme was launched in Croke Park by UCD President, Professor Andrew J Deeks, and Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Liam Ó Néill.

The collaboration will build on the combined strengths of the two parties: (i) community participation on the part of the GAA, (ii) action based entrepreneurial education as developed by the Innovation Academy, UCD.

Also in attendance were well-known Entrepreneurs and Programme Champions Pat McDonagh, founder of Riverdeep and Brian McEniff, Director McEniff Hotels.

"We are delighted to partner with UCD on this exciting innovative project and believe the reach of our organisation has the potential to bring opportunities to both members and non-members alike right across the island," said Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, Liam Ó Néill. "There is no shortage of talent amongst our people and this is not restricted by any means to those who live in large urban areas. I hope this initiative engages people of all ages from different backgrounds and makes a tangible difference in helping people to find career paths in the areas where they live across our four provinces."

The Community Entrepreneurship Programme facilitates those in rural communities to take a fresh look at their resources and examine how they can best harness them. Delivered over 18 weeks it is facilitated by entrepreneurs who apply their own experiences and knowledge to the design and delivery of the programme. They help students to develop the confidence and skills to turn their ideas into new ventures.

"Entrepreneurship is at the heart of sustainable communities and this is recognised by the Government which [today] has launched its National Entrepreneurship Strategy," said Professor Suzi Jarvis, Founding Director, Innovation Academy, UCD.

The programme is open to HEA Springboard applicants and participants who complete the Level 7 course will be presented with a Certificate in Community Entrepreneurship from UCD. The programme is being championed by entrepreneurial leaders in each province, Pat McDonagh, founder of Riverdeep, Brian McEniff, Director, McEniff Hotels, Pat McDonagh, Managing Director, Supermacs and Frank Murphy, CEO, Monex.

The first four Community Entrepreneurship Programmes will be delivered in Portlaoise, Ballyhaunis, Limerick, and Monaghan during 2014 with a view to extending the programme to other areas in 2015.



Dr Méidhbhín Ní Úrdail (Ceann na Nua-Ghaeilge, UCD), Prof. Andrew J. Deeks (Uachtarán UCD), Dr Pádraig Ó Liatháin (Coláiste Phádraig, Droim Conrach), An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, an tOllamh Máire Ní Annracháin (Ceann SÍCSIFL), Prof. Daire Keogh (Uachtarán Choláiste Phádraig, Droim Conrach), an tOllamh Máirín Nic Eoin (Coláiste Phádraig, Droim Conrach), Dr Regina Uí Chollatáin (UCD) agus Dr Ríona Nic Congáil (Coláiste Phádraig, Droim Conrach) ag oscailt na comhdhála ar 'Litriocht na Gaeilge ar fud an Domhain', i dTeach Newman ar 20 Feabhra. Comhfhiontar i an chomhdháil idir Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh, Bhéalóideas Éireann agus na Teangeolaíochta, UCD, agus Roinn na Gaeilge, Coláiste Phádraig, Droim Conrach

Litriocht na Gaeilge ar fud an Domhain

Bhí litriocht na Gaeilge i dteagmháil leis an domhan mór riamh anall agus téann cáil na scríbhinní agus na scríbhneoirí i gcomhthéacsanna éagsúla taobh amuigh d'óileán na hÉireann i bhfad siar. Dob é sin go díreach ábhar comhdhála idirnáisiúnta dar teideal Litriocht na Gaeilge ar fud an Domhain: cruthú, caomhnú agus seachadadh téacsanna Gaeilge i gcomhthéacsanna idirnáisiúnta' (20-22 Feabhra). Comhfhiontar a bhí anseo a d'eagraigh an Dr Meidhbhín Ní Úrdail agus an Dr Regina Uí Chollatáin (An Nua-Ghaeilge, UCD) agus an Dr Ríona Nic Congáil, an tOllamh Máirín Nic Eoin agus an Dr Pádraig Ó Liatháin (Roinn na Gaeilge, Coláiste Phádraig, Droim Conrach).

D'oscail an Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, an chomhdháil go hoifigiúil i dTeach Newman, Faiche Stiabhna, ar an Déardaoin, 20 Feabhra. I

measc na ndaoine a chuir fáilte roimhe chun na hócáide bhí an tOllamh Andrew Deeks, Uachtarán UCD, agus Máire Ní Annracháin, Ollamh le Teanga agus Litriocht na Nua-Ghaeilge, UCD. Dúirt an Taoiseach gurb é 'an comhoibriú is suimiúla idir Scoil na Gaeilge i UCD agus Coláiste Naomh Pádraig ná iniúchadh ar leathadh na Gaeilge agus na litriochta ar fud na cruinne le linn a staire fada saibhre'. Mar chuid de chomradh míle bliain an chatha i gCluain Tarbh (1014), bhronn an Dr Ní Úrdail cóip dá leabhar *Cath Cluana Tarbh. 'The Battle of Clontarf'* ar an Taoiseach. Lean léacht oscailte na comhdhála inar labhair an tOllamh Pádraig Ó Siadhail, Ollscoil Naomh Muire, Halifax, ar bhundúchasaigh Mheiriceá i bpróslitriocht na Gaeilge.

Ba é cuspóir na comhdhála féin ná scoláirí agus pobal na Gaeilge ó chian is ó chongar a thabhairt le chéile chun gnéithe idirnáisiúnta de léann na litriochta a chioradh agus a cheiliúradh. Idir chainteoirí agus lucht éisteachta, tháinig daoine ó thíortha éagsúla san Eoraip, ó Cheanada, ó Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá, agus ón Astráil. Chuimsigh ábhar na léachtaí teagmhálacha liteartha le háiteanna ar fud an domhain, agus dob iad na haoichainteoirí ná an Dr William Mahon, Ollscoil na Breataine Bige, Aberystwyth, an Dr Máire Ní Mhaonaigh, Ollscoil Cambridge, an Dr Niall Ó Ciosáin, Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh, agus an tOllamh Pádraig Ó Macháin, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh.

International conference continues the fight against cybercrime

A conference held recently in UCD aimed to help in the fight against cybercrime including terrorism, human trafficking, child abuse, illicit drug and arms trafficking, corruption and fraud.

The CyNC 2013 conference, held in the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science, was opened by Paul Gillen, Head of Operations at the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) at Europol in The Hague. Mr Gillen was formerly a Detective Inspector and Head of An Garda Síochána's CCIU (Computer Crime Investigation Unit).

Hosted by UCD Centre for Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Investigation (UCD CCI), the three-day conference brought together cybercrime Centres of Excellence from across

Europe to showcase efforts taking place to combat crime in the cyber environment.

Some 225 delegates from 34 countries travelled to UCD for the conference. They included senior investigators from law enforcement cybercrime and hi-tech crime units, information security specialists from industry, government agencies, professional consultancy services and academics.

They attended demonstrations of open source forensic tools, investigator training workshops and updates from experts working in the field. There were opportunities for participants to meet and network, view the outputs of the national Centres of Excellence and to engage in productive discussions on the future cyber landscape.

Fostering collaboration between Art and Science

What began as a simple poster project subsequently gathered momentum and has since developed into the UCD Art in Science programme.



Professor Lorraine Hanlon, UCD School of Physics (left) and Artist Emer O'Boyle, pictured at a recent event to announce the UCD Science: 2014 UCD Artists in Residence

Four years ago Professor Lorraine Hanlon, UCD School of Physics, commissioned a series of posters from artist Emer O Boyle to capture the excitement of the research being carried out by physicists at UCD. As their collaboration unfolded, Hanlon and O Boyle discovered that bringing science and art together produced a rich seam of inspiration.

From this they have developed the UCD Art in Science programme, which includes a series of artists' residencies and represents a ten-year commitment from the UCD College of Science to support high quality inter-disciplinary practice, exploration and collaborative partnerships between artists and scientists.

The initiative was formally launched in January of this year with the announcement of the three artists selected for the 2014 residencies. Over 60 artists from different disciplines applied for the positions. The artists are provided with studio space, access to lectures and talks, but most importantly to the vast range of subject matter investigated by academic and research staff.

"The poster project led us in a different direction to what we initially envisaged," says Lorraine Hanlon, associate professor of Astronomy. "It quickly persuaded us that there was enough potential to take the idea of collaborating across art and science and run with it. What has emerged from the collaboration is the Art in Science programme which encompasses the residencies, but also stretches into the academic heart of things through a module called 'Tunnelling Art and Science' in which students from UCD Science and Fine Art NCAD (National College of Art and Design) create new work through collaboration."

Emer O Boyle is the creative director of the Art in Science programme. She also teaches the Tunnelling Art and Science module with Lorraine.

According to O Boyle "It is the same passion and curiosity that drives both art and science. The process of bringing artists and scientists together, who have shared interests and values in areas of research, offers valuable access to new perspectives, knowledge and methodologies. The processes of mutual exchange and collaboration enrich the research of both disciplines and provide pathways for the reimagining and dissemination of research in new contexts."

According to Hanlon "The process of rigorous questioning and critical reflection is as familiar in artistic processes as it is in scientific enquiry. However, artists and scientists often speak their own specialised language, honed over years through their training and professional practice. Working collaboratively allows ideas to surface that wouldn't necessarily emerge from within the closed world of one's own specialised language. That's where the value is. Both disciplines have robust ideas but communicating and sharing them opens up a much wider sphere of activity and interest."

Some examples of what can happen are already emerging from the 2013 artists in residence. Artist Meadhbh O'Connor and UCD biologist, Dr Tamara Hochstrasser, School of Biology and Environmental Science, discovered many connections in the way they work, their shared values and their environmental concerns. They presented their environmental vision in a public forum at the Red Stables 2013 Art & Ecology summer school and engaged the audience in a dialogue about how our society nurtures the aesthetic and natural aspects of the environment it depends on, subsequently extending this dialogue into a written article. Meadhbh is currently working on a sculptural piece inspired by her interactions with UCD

scientists that will be shown in the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science later this spring.

Siobhan McDonald's work explores processes of entropy and geological time. This work immediately resonated with geophysicist Professor Chris Bean and his colleagues and led to Siobhan joining their field trip to Iceland last summer. Siobhan's work on the residency has more recently led to a collaboration with campus company Enbio, who make surfaces for satellites. And so, materials and technology used for space exploration have found a place in Siobhan's artistic process and are given new life through her work.

The work of Emma Finucane and that of cognitive scientist Dr Fred Cummins found a natural synergy through their shared interest in how we communicate with each other and how that in turn affects the quality of our lives. Their work on joint speech and Dr Cummins' research on brain activity during chanting has led them to work with the monks of Glenstal and the Hari Krishnas in County Fermanagh.

Between each artist and scientist, a unique model of collaboration arises...from drawing inspiration through conversations, to co-authoring written work, participating in scientific experiments and co-creating video and screen prints.

Hanlon and O Boyle are now working on a project together called GLORIA, an EU-funded initiative to bring astronomy to younger people and children in particular.

"Many people share the wonder of the night sky and this collaboration has allowed us to develop ideas and tools that will open up those night skies to a wider audience," Hanlon says.

Olive Keogh, MA 1984, is a contributor to The Irish Times

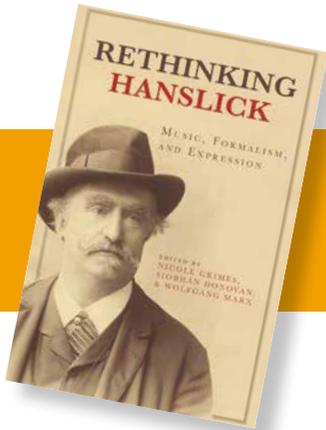
The 2014 UCD Art in Science Artists in Residence

Cindy Cummings is an award-winning dance artist based in Dublin whose practice crosses the boundaries between dance, theatre and live art. She has considerable experience of collaborating with international artists across many disciplines.

Sofie Loscher is an installation artist and sculptor working at an intersection between art and science. Her work is characterised by an interest in the physical properties of the natural world such as air pressure, temperature, magnetism, fluid density and specular reflection.

David Stalling, a German-born artist, has been working as a composer, improviser and sound and installation artist since the early 1990s. He is particularly interested in exploring the consequences of human actions on flora, fauna, and ecosystems.

Books

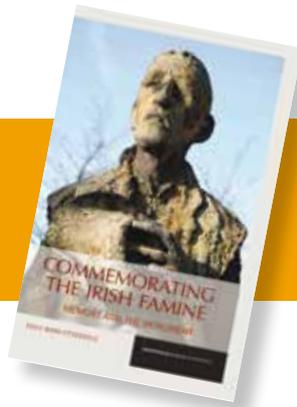


Examining the influence of Eduard Hanslick

Any serious account of musical criticism or aesthetics in the nineteenth century has to confront Eduard Hanslick at some point. For more than forty years, he was the leading music critic in Vienna and his brief treatise on aesthetics *Vom Musikalisch-Schönen*, remains the central document in the history of the concept known as “absolute music”, the idea of music as a wholly self-referential art of pure form. An extensive English-language study devoted to this seminal figure in nineteenth-century musical life did not exist, however, until the recent publication of *Rethinking Hanslick: Music, Formalism, and Expression*.

The volume, published by University of Rochester Press as part of the Eastman Studies in Music series, brings together eminent scholars from several disciplines to examine Hanslick’s contribution to the aesthetics and philosophy of music, while looking anew at his literary interests. A selection of essays are edited by Dr Nicole Grimes, Marie Curie Fellow at UCD and the University of California, Irvine; Dr Siobhán Donovan, college lecturer at the UCD School of Languages and Literatures; and Dr Wolfgang Marx, senior lecturer at the UCD School of Music.

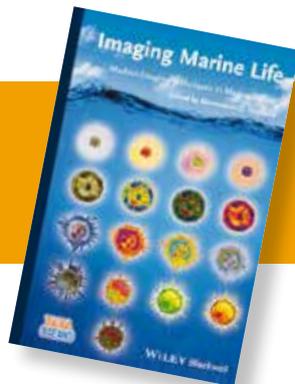
The essays tease out the nuances and contradictions of Hanslick’s thought and embrace ways of thinking about his writings that go beyond the polarities that have long marked discussion of his work such as form/expression, absolute/program music, objectivity/subjectivity, and formalist/hermeneutic criticism. This approach takes into consideration both Hanslick’s important *On the Musically Beautiful* and his critical and autobiographical writings, demonstrating his rich insights into the context in which a musical work is composed, performed, and received. *Rethinking Hanslick* serves as an invaluable companion to his prodigious scholarship and criticism, deepening understanding of the major themes and ideas of one of the most influential music critics of the nineteenth century.



Commemorating the Irish Famine

The events of 1845-52 in Ireland, known as the ‘Great Famine’, constituted a cataclysm unequalled in Irish history. Drawing on an extensive global survey of recent community and national responses to the anniversary of the Irish Famine, Dr Emily Mark-FitzGerald, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy, traces the representation and commemoration of the Irish Famine from the nineteenth century up to its 150th anniversary in the 1990s and beyond.

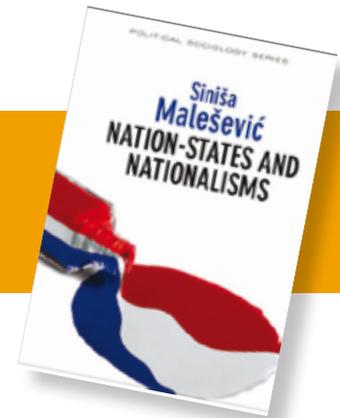
Commemorating the Irish Famine: Memory and the Monument presents for the first time a visual cultural history of the 1840s Irish Famine, the political and social impacts of which profoundly shaped modern Ireland and the nations of its diaspora. Mark-FitzGerald examines the Famine commemorative boom of the mid-1990s which was unprecedented in scale and output, with close to one hundred monuments newly constructed across Ireland, Britain, the United States, Canada and Australia. Published by Liverpool University Press, the volume details why these memories matter and to whom, and argues how the phenomenon of Famine commemoration may be understood in the context of a growing memorial culture worldwide. It offers an innovative look at a well-known migration history whilst exploring how a now-global ethnic community redefines itself through acts of public memory and representation.



Imaging on land and sea

The oceans cover 70% of our planet and are abundant with microscopic, invisible life forms, which have been capturing our imagination since the green algae *Spirogyra* was first observed in 1674. Recent advances in microscopy and imaging methods now offer new possibilities to further investigate, describe, and understand the largest biotype on Earth.

Written by an international team of experts from the Tara Oceans Marine Biology Imaging Platform (TAOMI), *Imaging Marine Life: Macrophotography and Microscopy Approaches for Marine Biology* is the first and only compendium to focus specifically on the imaging needs of marine biologists in relation to marine imaging technologies, and includes all known underwater as well as on-land techniques. TAOMI is imaging the largest collection of marine organisms in recent history, ranging from viruses to corals, and is duplicated on land to perform high throughput confocal analysis of plankton, X-ray tomography as well as cryo-electron microscopy. Edited by Dr Emmanuel U.C. Reynaud, Stokes Lecturer in Biology, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science, and published by Wiley Blackwell, it is a definitive resource for every marine biologist who is planning to image marine species, whether underwater or on land.



The creation of nations

Despite many predictions made over the last two hundred years that nation-states and nationalism are transient phenomena that will eventually fade away, the historical record and contemporary events show otherwise. Nationalism still remains the most popular, potent and resilient ideological discourse and the nation-state the only legitimate mode of territorial rule.

Nation-States and Nationalisms is an insightful analysis of two key related socio-political phenomena: nation-states and nationalism. The book provides an in-depth analysis of the processes involved in the emergence, formation, expansion and transformation of nation-states and nationalisms as they are understood today. Professor Siniša Malešević, Head of UCD School of Sociology, examines the historical predecessors of nation-states (from hunting and gathering bands, through city-states, to modernizing empires) and explores the historical rise of organizational and ideological powers that eventually gave birth to the modern nation-state. The book also investigates the ways in which nationalist ideologies were able to envelop the microcosm of family, kin, residential and friendship networks. Other important topics covered along the way include: the relationships between nationalism and violence; the routine character of nationalist experience; and the impacts of globalization and religious revivals on the transformation of nationalisms and nation-states.

With thanks to the Campus Bookshop

The European Periphery and European Integration

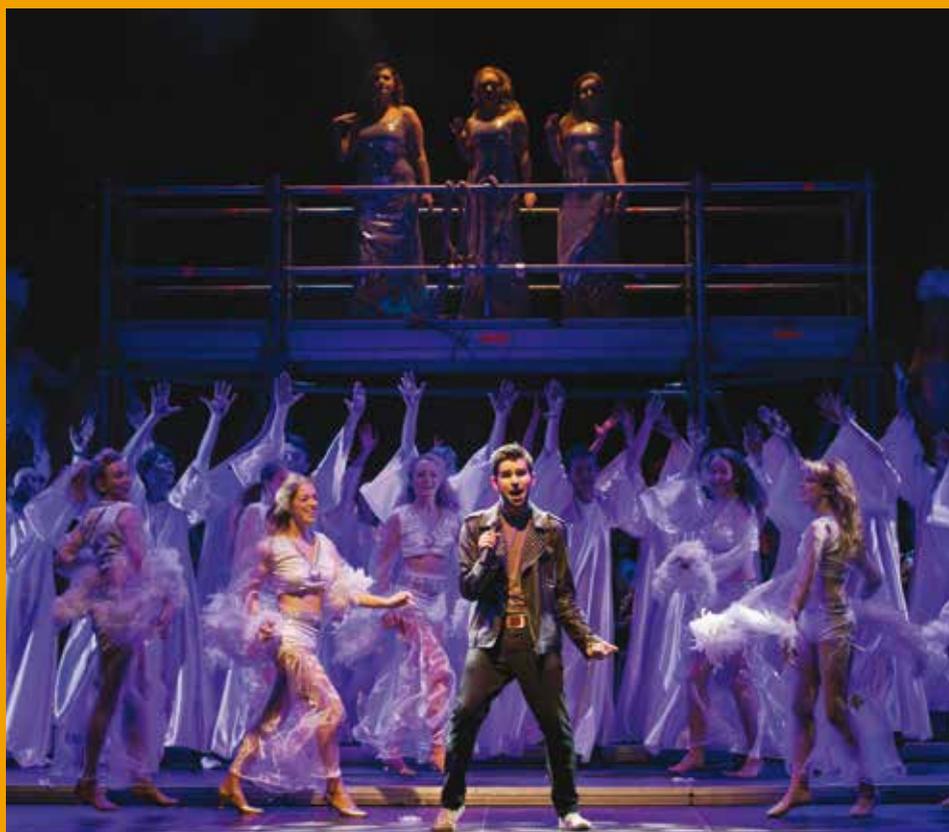
The challenges in recovering from economic crisis in Spain and in Ireland were examined at a recent UCD conference. Entitled *The European Periphery and European Integration*, the conference, held in December, was organised by Dr Niamh Hardiman, senior lecturer, UCD School of Politics and International Relations, through the Geary Institute. The large attendance included participants from among the universities and research institutes, the public service, politicians, and from the embassies of Spain, Portugal, and Greece. The conference was a presentation of work in progress arising from an IRC-funded project and Hardiman's related co-authored book, to be published by Oxford University Press, on *The Political Economy of the European Periphery*.

Among the guest speakers was Professor Sebastián Royo, from Suffolk University, Boston, who spoke on the topic: *After the fiesta: What can we learn from the economic crisis in Spain?* Professor Royo pointed out that recovery from crisis in Spain, as in Ireland, will require effort across a number of domestic policy fronts, as well as a more coordinated international effort to rebalance trade relations between the economic core and periphery of the Eurozone.

Among the domestic challenges he noted are the need to address 'institutional degeneration' - corruption, bad practices, poor priorities, and poor accountability mechanisms. Spain has to 'clean up the domestic political culture of impunity'. These are lessons that Ireland would do well to learn too.

Professor Seán Ó Riain, NUI Maynooth, spoke on *One and a half explanations of Ireland's collapse - Between market liberalism and the incomplete European project*. He demonstrated the degree to which construction-related activity was incentivized in Ireland during the 2000s as well as a growing reliance on export-related activity as the main driver of growth in the European core, especially Germany. Even before the crisis, the growth models of Ireland and Germany were diverging.

The current European policy mix, he argued, involves the worst combination of policy options: fiscal retrenchment not stimulus, and reliance on markets rather than states to lead new growth-supporting investment.



A recent performance of *Jesus Christ: Superstar*, the UCD Community Musical staged by students, staff and alumni in O'Reilly hall from February 11th to 15th

Fishy business: cod mislabelling not yet eradicated in Dublin

The Irish media's coverage of the fish mislabelling scandal in 2010 contributed to ending the practice of cod mislabelling in supermarkets but not takeaways, a newly-published study has found.

Four years ago a genetic study uncovered the widespread mislabelling of cod in Dublin's supermarkets and takeaways, finding that 28% of the products belonged to a different species of fish.

In 2011, Professor Stefano Mariani of the University of Salford, who co-authored the original research, investigated the effect of the media scrutiny with colleagues from UCD and the University of British Columbia, revisiting the same Dublin shops to genetically test products labelled as cod.

In a study published in February in the journal *Conservation Letters*, the researchers found that the practice of mislabelling had been completely eradicated in the surveyed supermarkets. However, they found that mislabelling was still rife in the takeaway industry,

where 41.7% of fish was still mislabelled as cod (compared to 50% in 2010).

Professor Mariani said: "The timeline of events suggests that the media coverage highlighting the findings of the first cod mislabelling study put the large supermarkets under intense scrutiny, which acted as a positive catalyst for change."

"This hasn't happened to the same degree in the takeaway industry, probably due to the less systematic custom and the convenient nature of the food."

"Despite the impact of media coverage in this instance, it remains necessary that the authorities commit to adequate effective enforcement, in order to eradicate illegal practices in the sector."

'Rhythm and blues': the history of natural family planning in Ireland

Among the papers presented in the recent UCD Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland seminar series, was the intriguingly named "*Rhythm and blues': natural family planning in Ireland 1930s-1980s*" presented by Professor Mary E. Daly, School of History and

Archives. Daly's paper discussed natural family planning and its central role in Ireland's fertility decline or lack thereof during the twentieth century.

The paper was part of a wider study in which Daly aims to compile the first narrative of family planning in Ireland; in 1974, market research revealed that 55% of women using family planning were using natural methods. Daly identified several key differences between Ireland and other Catholic countries when it came to family size and planning, including very late fertility decline and a much longer acceptance of larger families. It was argued that international networks emerged which encouraged the exchange of advice on natural family planning, with information coming to

Ireland from the UK, Australia and the US and that explicit support for natural family planning methods among the Catholic hierarchy in Ireland coincided with the arrival of other forms of contraception, notably the pill. A lively question and answer session with the large audience followed the conclusion of the presentation.

Based in the School of History and Archives, the seminar series seeks to promote the study of social and cultural history of medicine in Ireland and hosts a number of distinguished speakers in the field.

Audio recordings of all seminars are available on the podcast series - <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/centre-for-history-medicine/id397741868>

■ €7 million EU FP7 FutureNanoNeeds Project launched

On 9th January 2014, in one of his first official duties as UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks welcomed an audience of international guests to a two-day launch meeting of the €7 million EU FP7-funded project, FutureNanoNeeds, led by Professor Kenneth Dawson and colleagues at the UCD's Centre for BioNano Interactions.

The President highlighted the fact that the FutureNanoNeeds project is one of the first projects of its kind, aiming to look far into the future potential richness of nanomaterials, and their applications, rather than focus only on familiar first-generation materials. The range of nanostructures is almost unlimited, and currently there is little understanding of their potential. Specifically, the project will seek to understand those classes of materials that may more rapidly be of value, manufacturable in industry, safely applied, and translated more simply and successfully into useful products in consumer and medical applications. FutureNanoNeeds will also develop a framework to name, classify, and provide

some early hazard and environmental impact assessment.

To launch the project, a number of keynote speakers were in attendance including Dr. Françoise D. Roure (Technologies and society, French High Council of Economy and OECD WPN) and Dr. Gernot Klotz (CEFIC, Executive Director Research and Innovation). These speakers provided an economic and industrial context to the project. Current investments in nanotechnology are significant, but Dr Roure sought to clarify how these investments led not just to short, medium but also the long-term impact, including broad industry and national economic benefits.

■ Smurfit School partners with Yale on new international case study

Damien McLoughlin, Professor of Marketing and Eamonn Walsh, Professor of Accounting at UCD Smurfit Graduate School of Business have been instrumental in developing a new 'raw case' discussing Wilbur Ross & Co.'s investment in Bank of Ireland.

In August 2011 WL Ross & Co. took a risk and invested \$1.6 billion, a 35% stake, in Bank of Ireland. Ross's private equity company focuses on bankrupt and distressed businesses. Although Ireland's economy was troubled in the wake of the financial crisis, with many banks being nationalized or liquidated, Ross and his colleagues saw signs that it could recover. They saw a strong opportunity for investment since Ireland had a fully funded national pension fund, a favourable trade balance, more than \$160 billion in American foreign direct investment, and a young, well-educated labour force.

The case was developed in cooperation with senior academics from Yale and from IE Business School in Madrid. The development was made possible by UCD Smurfit School's membership of the Global Network for Advanced Management. UCD Smurfit School is the only Irish Business School in the Alliance.

The case has been developed in a multimedia format and features filmed interviews with Wilbur Ross and Bank of Ireland CEO, Richie Boucher. The case was presented to students for the first time on January 11th by an international panel at Yale with live interactive links to UCD and IE in Madrid. UCD Smurfit School Dean, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, featured on the panel at Yale along with Wilbur Ross.

■ UCD Smurfit School ranked 34th in European Business Schools

In December 2013 UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School was ranked 34th in the Financial Times' rankings of the top graduate business schools in Europe; it is the only Irish business school to appear in this prestigious ranking.

The ranking, now in its tenth year, assesses the combined performance of Europe's leading business schools over four FT rankings in 2013: full-time MBA, Executive MBA, masters in

management, and non-degree executive education programmes.

Speaking about the ranking results, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean, UCD Business, said, "We are once again delighted to stand as Ireland's only entry among the top business schools in Europe. This ranking is a measure of both the quality and breadth of our schools' programmes. Our students compete with the best in the world and so must we."



Seven of Ireland's leading business journalists were honoured at the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School Business Journalist awards in late November; (l-r) Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean, UCD Business, congratulates Tom Lyons, Sunday Independent and Richard Curran, Irish Independent with Carolan Lennon, MD of sponsor eircom Wholesale



Dinny McGinley T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, at the official launch of Dúchas.ie at NovaUCD

■ Launch of Dúchas.ie: creating global access to the National Folklore Collection at UCD

The National Folklore Collection at UCD is one of the largest folklore collections in the world, comprising ca. 2 million manuscript pages, ca. 500,000 index cards, ca. 12,000 hours of sound recordings, ca. 80,000 photographs and ca. 1000 hours of video material. A new scheme sets out to digitise this major Irish cultural resource, to facilitate greater public access to it, and to establish a data management system for the Collection to which other material can be added in future.

Dinny McGinley T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht recently launched Dúchas.ie, a new Irish folklore repository, at an event held at NovaUCD. The launch is the result of a partnership formed originally in 2012 between the National Folklore

Collection, UCD, Fiontar, DCU and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Dúchas.ie currently features some 64,000 pages of hand-written folklore and local history recorded in 1937-38 by Irish schoolchildren in counties Dublin, Mayo, Donegal and Waterford. This original material, digitised for Dúchas.ie in a project funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, is part of the Schools' Manuscript Collection. More is soon to be added, from this selection which forms part of the National Folklore Collection.

At the event Minister McGinley TD also announced €1.75 million of new funding jointly provided by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and UCD. Running from 2014-2016, the funding will support the main phase of digitising of the National Folklore Collection, including the remaining Schools' Manuscript Collection material.

■ EU Career Opportunities for UCD Graduates

A recent event in the UCD Global Lounge gave UCD students the opportunity to discover what careers may await them within the European Union. On January 27th, the Minister for European Affairs Paschal Donohoe T.D. delivered a public lecture entitled *Careers with the EU: Opportunities for Irish Graduates*. The lecture formed part of a special seminar arranged by EU Jobs Ireland, which will also include presentations by experts from the

European Commission, the European Parliament and European Movement Ireland.

In addition to the Minister's speech, students heard from Mr Francis Jacobs, Head of the European Parliament Information Office, Ms. Joan Flanagan, Representative of the European Commission, and Ms Jenny Flynn, European Movement Ireland.

During the speeches, students learned that with 40,000 staff across a vast array of institutions, the EU career opportunities available are almost endless. Whether as a policy officer at the European Commission, a lawyer-linguist with the European Parliament or a trade analyst at the Council, there is are many roles to suit graduates' interests and strengths. A question and answer session with the visiting experts, moderated by UCD Career Development Office, gave students a chance to discover more details about the EU career prospects and how to apply.

■ VentureLaunch Accelerator Award for Kinesis Health Technologies

Falls are a costly, complex and common problem with 1 in 3 of people over the age of 65 falling once per year. This figure rises to 1 in 2 in the over 80s. The direct and indirect societal costs of falls are very significant - 40% of all injury deaths in older people are as a result of a fall.

The work of a new startup company, Kinesis Health Technologies Ltd, will enable healthcare professionals to improve the accuracy of falls risks and mobility assessments in older adults. Improved identification of those at risk of falling will enable targeted intervention and care services tailored towards those who are actually at risk of falling.

Kinesis is a spin-out company which has emerged from internationally peer-reviewed research carried out over the last 6-year in the TRIL (Technology Research for Independent Living) Centre at UCD. Its founders are Seamus Small, Dr Barry Greene, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science and Bill Bollengier who is based in the USA.

The start-up recently won the inaugural UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Award and a €25,000 prize, for their new development: QTUG (Quantitative Timed Up and Go), a novel, patent-protected falls risk and mobility assessment technology which can be used by a broad range of healthcare professionals to facilitate objective assessments of falls risk in older adults. QTUG uniquely provides an objective assessment by the quantitative analysis of gait and mobility data collected using body-worn inertial sensors.

Kinesis Health Technologies plans to launch QTUG into the European (Ireland and the UK) and Northern American (USA and Canada) markets in mid-2014 and plans to be employing 15 people by end 2016.



Representing winners UCD Volunteers Overseas at the 2013 Better Together awards were (l-r) Prof. Frank Monahan (UCDVO Chairperson, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science), Dr. Oonagh Breen (UCDVO Board member, UCD School of Law), Caroline O'Connor (UCDVO Manager), Zoe Liston (UCDVO Programme Assistant), Sean O'Connell (Volunteer, UCD Law graduate)

UCDVO wins at The Better Together 2013 Awards

UCD Volunteers Overseas claimed the top prize in its category at the Better Together Awards held in Dublin Castle on the 12th December 2013. Better Together is a nationwide campaign which aims to build support for hundreds of charities, community groups, clubs and associations across the country by encouraging the public to support these good causes and make a difference in their communities.

UCDVO's video Developing Communities, Developing Students received 3,524 online votes as part of this awareness campaign and was awarded a prize of €1,000 at the event.

UCDVO plays an important role in the UCD community as it provides opportunities for students, staff and graduates to work together on development projects which improve education, healthcare and infrastructure in some

of the world's most marginalised communities. To date 1,025 volunteers have participated in the UCDVO programme which is in its 11th year. Volunteers remain involved in UCDVO even after their studies finish, by returning as Project Leaders, Board members, fundraisers and supporters. This ongoing commitment from graduates and staff members, combined with the energy and enthusiasm of new UCD students, continues to drive UCDVO and shape it into the vibrant voluntary organisation it is today.

Padraig McDonald, a final year Biosystems Engineering student at UCD describes his experience with UCDVO: "Being given the opportunity to volunteer with UCDVO has been the most amazing experience of my life so far. The programme helps a person to develop some of the valuable skills required in life such as leadership and teamwork skills. In my opinion, the values and skills you obtain from volunteering cannot be taught in a classroom or lecture theatre."

Dr. Sunita Kaistha from the Delhi-based NGO The Society for Working Life notes "In the last decade more than 600 girls from the underprivileged areas ranging from the age group of 3 years to 13 years have benefited from the education centre which UCDVO built. It has also supported the teachers who are also from this area and it has given them the dignity of teaching as a career."

A new way to sample a semester at UCD

September 2013 saw the launch of a pilot UCD flexible learning programme. Twenty six adult learners registered to the programme, which offered the first year undergraduate module *Exploring Archaeology*. The adult learners attended the same classes as first year students, with a tutorial taking place immediately afterwards. The module could be taken for credit, with coursework and assessment, or by audit only.

A survey conducted at the end of the first semester demonstrated the positive response from the first cohort of students. In particular, they praised the quality of teaching in lectures and tutorials.

The tutorials were managed by Dr Maureen Doyle, who herself progressed from adult education student, to mature BA student, to full time academic. "It stretches your mind", according to Dr Doyle, "Whether students are doing it for credit or even just interest, it gives them a great framework. They see how the subject works at university level, how it is learned and put together." She adds that this university-level course offers a new perspective on the subject to those adult learners who already may be inclined to visit museums or archaeological sites. By joining with the first year students they receive a more authentic university experience "getting an insight into how archaeology works in academia"

Dr Bairbre Fleming, Director of Adult Education, added "This pilot initiative is a credit to Professor Gabriel Cooney and the School of Archaeology."

Semester two recently began, with the module *Introducing the Archaeology of Ireland*.

The Quest for Musical Knowledge

To highlight its success in the Marie Curie Research Funding Schemes, UCD Research organised an event to bring together early stage and experienced researchers to share their experiences of the scheme.

Marie Curie Fellowships are European research grants available to researchers regardless of their nationality or field of research. In addition to generous research funding scientists have the possibility to gain experience abroad and in the private sector, and to complete their training with competences or disciplines useful for their careers. Read more about various funding schemes and requirements for applying.

The value of the humanities to society was addressed in a public lecture from Dr Nicole Grimes, Marie Curie International Fellow in the School of Music on the topic *Highlighting the Humanities: The Quest for Musical Knowledge*.

Her lecture probed the intrinsic value of the humanities and how they enable the act of reflecting upon conceptions of the world. In particular, it focused on the quest for musical knowledge as a fundamental part of this process. The lecture mediated upon how the material of music is intrinsically related to some of our highest ideals as human beings.

Dr Grimes, whose research has been funded by the Irish Research Council, the DAAD German Academic Exchange Service (at Humboldt University, Berlin) and the Taylor Bequest, looks at Brahms and Modernist Culture in her fellowship.

Weekend wins in Athletics for UCD

UCD's Mark English underlined his world-class potential at the Woodie's DIY AAI Games in Athlone on February 2nd with a national 800m indoor record (1:46.82) which qualified him for the world indoors. Despite coming second to the Netherlands' Thijmen Kupers (1:46.78), Letterkenny man English showed why there has been such excitement in athletics circles about his talent. UCD medicine student English was thrilled with his opening race of the season and breaking Daniel Caulfield's national record of 1:47.21 set in Boston 13 years ago.

UCD's Sarah Lavin ran a brilliant new personal best of 8.25 seconds in the 60m hurdles final at the British Athletics Indoor championships in Sheffield on Sunday, February 9th. European junior silver medallist Lavin finished third and the time moves her to second place on the Irish all time lists behind Derval O'Rourke (7.84).

In the days prior, the Irish Universities Indoor Track and Field Championships 2014



European junior silver medallist, Sarah Lavin who celebrated recent 60m hurdles successes in Sheffield and Athlone.

in Athlone saw impressive wins across all events for UCD's talents.

Lavin won the 100m hurdles in a time of 8.36, just outside her personal best of 8.33 set at the U23 national championships in January. There were wins for Ellie Hartnett (1500m), Eric Keogh (3000m), Diarmuid Hickey (Shot Putt) and Tom Bouchier (Weight

for distance). There was silver for Jamie Davis (60m) and Karl Griffin (800m) and Bronze for the women's 4 x 200m relay team (Niamh Field, Ciara Leacy, Karen Blaney, Aisling Watters). With many more finalists and great performances all day by everyone, the UCD Mens team came 2nd overall, with the Women's team 5th overall.

UCD Progress to Sigerson Football Semi Finals

UCD earned a Sigerson Cup semi-final date with University of Ulster, Jordanstown (UUJ) after edging a titanic duel against city rivals DCU at Belfield on February 13th.

Dublin aces Paul Mannion and Jack McCaffrey were prominent as UCD, winners of this competition 32 times, advanced to finals weekend for the first time since 2011. UCD, who lost last year's corresponding fixture by ten points, gained sweet revenge for that defeat. Inspired by Dublin's Paul Mannion, UCD had the wind at their backs in the opening half and they went on to lead by eleven points at half-time, 2-9 to 1-1.

Conor McGraynor's 35th-minute goal sparked a DCU revival and when Dublin's



At the Sigerson Cup semi final clash against DCU on February 13th in Belfield, the UCD players defend the goal against a last minute free, maintaining the winning UCD 3-11: DCU 3-10 scoreline

Conor McHugh netted in the 47th minute, the gap was down to just a point, 3-6 to 2-10. Fintan Kelly surged forward to level proceedings but Mark Hughes bagged a crucial UCD goal 11 minutes from time and that handed the winners a platform they would not relinquish.

With the last play of the game, DCU had an outside chance of a winning goal but, as a host of UCD players stood on the line, the forward's drive was deflected over the crossbar to safety and a final score of UCD 3-11: DCU 3-10

UCD Ladies claim the WSCAI Futsal Cup

UCD beat holders IT Sligo 3-2 in a thrilling WSCAI (Women's Soccer Colleges Association of Ireland) Futsal Cup at the Mardyke Arena, UCC on January 31st.

The finals saw six regional winners of this indoor five-a-side game playing in two groups. In group two UCD showed their intentions by beating WIT 3-2 and Carlow 5-1, with Ireland senior women's team players Ciara Grant and Julie-Ann Russell among the goals.

UCD beat IT Carlow 5-1 for the second time of the day in the first semi-final, leading to a final clash with IT Sligo. Emma Hansberry started the scoring for IT Sligo with a great run and strike, but Julie-Ann Russell equalised for



The UCD team celebrate their victory over IT Sligo at the 2014 National WSCAI Futsal Cup Finals on January 31st in UCC.

UCD, who went 2-1 up within a minute after Niamh Walsh slid the ball under Rachel King in goal for Sligo.

The end to end game continued and it looked like it was going to be a bad day for UCD captain Ciara Grant as first she headed into her own net to tie the game then one minute later saw her penalty saved by goalkeeper King.

However, the Donegal native would lift the cup after sustained pressure from UCD resulted in a winner with another own goal to bring this enthralling game to an end. Champions UCD will now go on to represent Ireland at the 2014 European Championship Finals in Rotterdam in July.



The winning UCD Veterinary Medicine team at the 13th Annual Intercollegiate Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment contest (l-r): Treasa O'Rourke, Vivienne Phelan, Stephanie Fitzgerald, Jessica Zaffino (Team Coach), Laurie Freedman, Natasha Hunte

International first prize for UCD Veterinary Students

A team of students from UCD School of Veterinary Medicine won first place in the 13th Annual Intercollegiate Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment contest. The contest, which took place at the University of Guelph, Canada, in late November, involved students competing from universities all across North America. UCD was represented for the first time this year by Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (MVB) Students: Stephanie Fitzgerald, Laurie Freedman, Natasha Hunte, Treasa O'Rourke and Vivienne Phelan.

The prize was awarded for the best team in the veterinary division. In addition, Vivienne and Natasha achieved 2nd and 3rd place, respectively, for their individual scores.

The team was coached by Jessica Zaffino under the supervision of Dr Alison

Hanlon. The contest presents students with comparative scenarios about the conditions on farms or facilities, requiring the students to evaluate both ethical implications and animal welfare parameters in their evaluations.

94 scholars join the UCD Ad Astra Academy

The President of UCD, Professor Andrew Deeks, welcomed 94 new scholars into the Ad Astra Academy at a ceremony in the O'Reilly Hall on January 30th.

The new scholars, 61 academic, 22 elite sport and 11 performance arts, join 116 existing students in the Academy, bringing the total number up to 210. The Ad Astra Academy, launched in 2011, is an initiative designed to recognise and nurture exceptional students. Scholarships are awarded to new entrants and current students based on academic, sporting and performing arts achievement. The scholars benefit from a scholarship, discipline specific supports, mentoring and the opportunity to participate in development and networking opportunities.

The academic Ad Astra awards are given to new entrants who score six A1s (or equivalent) in their Leaving Certificate or final State examination, and to a number of existing students who top their year with a minimum first class honour.

Each year the composition of the Academy has grown more diverse and this year UCD has awarded scholarships in new elite sporting disciplines (Handball, Equestrian, Canoe / Kayak), new programmes (Vet Nursing) and to students from counties and secondary schools not previously represented. This year's scholars come from 74 schools throughout Ireland, as well as from Northern Ireland, Britain, Italy, Germany and the USA.

UCD L&H honour Nobel-Prize winning economist

Nobel prize-winning economist and New York Times op-ed columnist, Professor Paul Krugman recently received the James Joyce Award from UCD Literary & Historical Society (L&H).

"This award recognises Professor Krugman's outstanding contribution to our modern understanding of complex economic theories. As one of the world's leading economists, his work as an Op-Ed columnist with the New York Times has so often explained in clear and concise terms the economic issues that affect us all, which is critically important, especially in these times of global economic uncertainty," said Alex Owens, Auditor of UCD Literary and Historical Society, University College Dublin.

Professor Krugman received his BA from Yale University in 1974 and his PhD from MIT in 1977. He has taught at Yale, MIT and Stanford. At MIT he became the Ford International Professor of Economics. He is the author or editor of 20 books and more than 200 papers in professional journals and edited volumes. He joined The New York Times in 1999 as a columnist on the Op-Ed Page and continues as professor of Economics and International Affairs at Princeton University.

Professor Krugman won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 2008 for his analysis of trade patterns and location of economic activity.

The L&H's James Joyce Award is named after the UCD alumnus and author of *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake*. It is presented by the society to those who have achieved outstanding success in their given field.



Alex Owens, Auditor of UCD Literary and Historical Society, presents Nobel-prize winning economist Professor Paul Krugman with the UCD L&H James Joyce award, at an event in the UCD Student Centre