



UCD

# today

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## When tragedy strikes far from home



*EILÍS O'BRIEN*  
Director of Communication and Marketing

### 8 hours and 8,000 kilometres away

Over the course of my career I have handled the communication of quite a number of crises. Fatal gas explosions, customer protests, food poisoning outbreaks, frauds and threat of having to shut down the ATM system due to criminal activity are a few that come to mind.

Here at UCD we deal with tragedies that affect our students and there is always a depth of sadness associated with incidents that affect young people. The Berkeley accident on 16th June was shocking in its scale and although it was not on campus, we quickly realised that we could and should help on the ground in California as well as here in Dublin.

And so we mobilised: motivated to provide care and protection to our students and their families and their friends. Across this university staff, faculty and students rallied to help in any way they could. Offers of support from alumni, partners and friends in California poured in.

There were two lines of support: primarily for the families of the students who lost their lives and those who were in hospital with serious injuries; and having two staff on the ground – Karina O'Neill and John McNerney - meant we could provide this practical and emotional support. The second line was to provide an outlet for the outpouring of grief and sympathy that emerged here, while managing the sizeable and sometimes frantic demands of the media. The most poignant aspect of the memorial service on 19th June was the sincerity and dignity of those who took part and those who attended. The book of condolence was signed by over 19,500 people who took the time to send a message to the families.

Throughout this dark time the depth of the UCD community showed itself. We are all too aware that when our students return to campus in September some will find it difficult to come to terms with the loss of their friends and classmates. And once again, we will be there to support and care for them.

## UCD thanks...

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This publication is also available online at [www.ucd.ie/ucdtoday](http://www.ucd.ie/ucdtoday)

Cover image: image of the breach between the Atlantic Ocean and Trustom Pond along the thin stretch of Moonshine Beach on coastal Rhode Island. Photo courtesy of creative commons licence, by US Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Region



## UCD contributes €1.3 Billion annually to Irish economy, report shows

A report on the economic, cultural and social impact of UCD to the Irish economy was launched in May by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD. The report shows the University's role as a major economic actor and employer in Dublin and Ireland. According to the findings, the total economic output generated by UCD and its students in Ireland amounts to €1.3 billion annually and the total number of jobs they generate is 8,914.

This report highlights that University College Dublin, as Ireland's largest University, is playing a key role as an economic force in Dublin and in Ireland overall," said An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD.

"UCD is not only creating economic activity, stimulating and supporting over 8,900 jobs but generating output across a wide range of economic sectors. UCD also has a key role to play in Ireland's ongoing economic recovery. The best international companies are attracted to Ireland because of the range of talent and skills available to them here.



Pictured at the launch of the report 'Delivering Impact: The Economic, Cultural and Social Impact of University College Dublin' were Andrew Byrne, a final year UCD BComm student and auditor of the UCD Volunteers Overseas Student Society; An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD and Dr Madeleine Lowery, a biomedical engineer and ERC consolidator grant awardee in the School of Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering

UCD is at the forefront in Ireland in educating the next generation of leaders in all disciplines," he added.

The President of UCD, Professor Andrew J. Deeks said, "Impact reports, such as *Delivering Impact*, are increasingly important and are being widely applied across the international higher education landscape. As such this is the first report produced by the university to identify and quantify the diverse ways in which, UCD, Ireland's most globally engaged university, is making an economic, cultural and social impact, both nationally and internationally."

"We will use these impact results over the next few years to realise our strategic vision for 2020."

The findings of the report are based on a detailed impact assessment carried out by Viewforth Consulting to ascertain the value and impact of UCD's activities to the local and wider Irish economy.

The report entitled *Delivering Impact: The Economic, Cultural and Social Impact of University College Dublin* is available to download via [www.ucd.ie/innovation/newsevents/deliveringimpact/](http://www.ucd.ie/innovation/newsevents/deliveringimpact/)



Pictured at the Bloomsday honorary conferrings in UCD: (l-r) John Hearn, Emeritus Professor, University of Sydney; Professor Margaret Murnane, University of Colorado, Boulder; Dervilla Donnelly, Emeritus Professor of Organic Chemistry, UCD; UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks; Professor Diana Harrison Wall, Colorado State University; Julie McEnery, Adjunct Professor of Physics, University of Maryland; and Dr John Brown, Emeritus Lecturer in Organic Chemistry, University of Oxford

## UCD Ulysses medal awarded to environmental scientist, Professor Diana Harrison Wall

**Synonymous with James Joyce and his ground-breaking, modernist novel, *Ulysses*, Bloomsday is the most important honours day at UCD.**

On Tuesday, June 16th this year, the university honoured six outstanding academics whose work in the sciences has made extraordinary contributions to society, not just in Ireland, but worldwide.

UCD Honorary Degrees of Doctors of Science were awarded to Dr John Brown, Emeritus Lecturer in Organic Chemistry at the University of Oxford; Professor Margaret Murnane, the University of Colorado, Boulder; Dervilla Donnelly, Emeritus Professor of Organic Chemistry at UCD; John Hearn, Emeritus Professor of Reproductive Physiology at the University of Sydney; and Julie McEnery, Adjunct Professor of Physics at the University of Maryland.

The UCD Ulysses Medal, the highest honour the university can bestow, conferred upon individuals whose work has made an outstanding global contribution, was awarded to Professor Diana Harrison Wall.

A passionate soil ecologist and environmental scientist, the American academic has devoted her research career to raising awareness of the importance of soil biology.

Professor Harrison Wall is the director of the School of Global Environmental Sustainability, a university distinguished Professor of Biology, and Senior Research Scientist at the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory at Colorado State University.

She has served as a member of the US Commission of UNESCO and was co-lead author of the Millennium Development Goals Committee Chapter of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

Professor Harrison Wall is actively engaged in research exploring how soil biodiversity contributes to healthy, productive soils and thus benefits society, as well as the consequences of human activities on soil sustainability.

Her global research includes almost 30 years of research in the Antarctic McMurdo Dry Valleys, examining how global climate changes impact soil biodiversity, ecosystem processes and ecosystem services.

Professor Joe Carthy, College Principal and Dean of Science at UCD, who read the citation for

Professor Harrison Wall, said: "Her work on these low diversity systems has contributed not only to our knowledge of the functioning of soil biological systems but also to our realisation that these delicate systems are likely to be particularly impacted by human activities. In 2004, the Antarctic Wall Valley was named after Diana in honour of her extensive research in the area."

"Her earliest work on nematodes in desert, prairie and arctic regions not alone described the soil fauna in those regions but also examined their responses to climate, particularly rainfall patterns, and their contributions to ecosystem services – topics which did not enter the public consciousness until the 1990s when the potential effects of the massive rates of species extinction due to human activities were realised. She has been a tireless advocate for the science of soil biology. Her activities as Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative has raised the profile of the discipline and highlighted the role of soil biology in affecting global change and the provision of essential ecosystem services, such as the provision of food and clean water."

## Honouring the O'Malley Trust



Cormac O'Malley (l), pictured with the bust of his father Ernie O'Malley (sculpted by his mother Helen Hooker) and UCD Principal Archivist Seamus Helferty, on the occasion of the termination of the O'Malley Trust, established in 1974 to facilitate the deposit of the O'Malley Papers in UCD Archives. The papers consist not only of original IRA operational archives from the period 1917-23, but also include the series of over four hundred interviews conducted by O'Malley with veterans of the war of independence and civil war. The papers have been an indispensable resource for the history of the revolution for almost forty years. With the termination of the O'Malley Trust, the papers pass into the ownership of UCD

## UCD launches comprehensive Decade of Centenaries programme

As a major holder of archives of national and international significance relating to the period 1912 to 1923, UCD is commemorating the events of this decade in order to inform national debate and understanding; with over 25 events planned by UCD to commemorate the decade of centenaries.

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD visited UCD to officially launch the programme, remarking "The scale, ambition, depth and breadth of the UCD commemorations forms a seminal part of the national programme."

The Minister examined some of the unique papers, documents and photographs held by UCD Archives including the diary of civil servant JR Clarke. She also explored some of the 450 interviews conducted by Ernie O'Malley with people active in the revolutionary period from the Rising to the end of the civil war. The O'Malley papers have been an indispensable resource for the history of the revolution for almost forty years and have recently passed into the ownership of UCD with the termination of the O'Malley Trust.

100 years ago, as the steps towards independence gathered momentum, many staff, students and graduates of UCD played a pivotal role in the actions that took place.

Among the staff of UCD who played a role in the events of one hundred years ago were Thomas MacDonagh, Assistant Professor of English, signatory of the Proclamation and commandant of the Dublin Brigade, Eoin MacNeill, Professor of Early and Medieval Irish History, and Irish Volunteers Chief of Staff, Mary Hayden, Professor of Modern Irish History and founder of the Irish Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and Agnes O'Farrelly, Lecturer in Modern Irish and founder of Cumann na mBan.

Students and graduates too numbered among the activists who fought for social justice, women's rights and of course independence. Well known names included Louise Gavan Duffy, Francis and Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, Padraig Pearse, Jack & Geraldine Plunkett (siblings of Joseph Mary), James Ryan, Kevin Barry, Kevin O'Higgins, Ernie O'Malley and Richard Mulcahy.

The UCD programme to commemorate the Decade of Centenaries is the most comprehensive of any university. Professor Orla Feely, Vice-President for Research and Innovation said: "The University has appointed Dr Conor Mulvagh as lecturer in Irish History with special responsibility for the Decade of Commemoration, and has funded over 25 projects to provide an intellectual legacy on these commemorations for the Irish people. Some of these project have also received funding from the Irish Research Council, the Royal Irish Academy, and other State bodies".

A full programme of the events that will take place this year is available on the UCD Centenaries website: [www.ucd.ie/centenaries](http://www.ucd.ie/centenaries)

## ERC grants for UCD research into nutrition and deep brain stimulation

University College Dublin researchers have been awarded two of the six European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grants presented to Irish based researchers under the latest funding round. Part of the European Union Research and Innovation programme Horizon 2020, the ERC Consolidator Grants are worth up to €2.75 million each, with an average of €1.91 million per grant. The funding enables researchers to consolidate their research teams and to develop their most innovative ideas

The UCD researchers successful under this funding round are: Dr Lorraine Brennan, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, for a project entitled "Metabolomics based biomarkers of dietary intake- new tools for nutrition research"; and Dr Madeleine Lowery, UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering, for a project entitled "Multiscale Modelling of the Neuromuscular System for Closed Loop Deep Brain Stimulation".

Dr Brennan's research will allow the development of new tools that will aid nutrition researchers to assess the relationship between diet and health which in the long term will impact on public health policies.



ERC Consolidator Grant awardees (l-r) Dr Lorraine Brennan, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science and Dr Madeleine Lowery, UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering

Dr Lowery's research aims to create computer models of the human brain and neuromuscular system. The models will be used to understand how stimulation of the deep structures of the brain can alleviate the symptoms of Parkinson's disease, and to develop new approaches for treating Parkinson's disease using adaptive deep brain stimulation.

"With every project of this calibre, we're making Europe the laboratory of the world. Our most extraordinary and creative researchers benefit from EU funding and, in turn, Europe benefits every day from its investment in knowledge and people," said Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation.

# Study findings show sea-level rise is accelerating



Niamh Cahill, UCD School of Mathematical Science and her co-author on a recent *Annals of Applied Statistics* paper, Prof. Benjamin Horton of Rutgers University, pictured collecting sea-level proxy data from a salt marsh in New Jersey, USA

**Rising sea levels are a threat to economics, population and infrastructure, but how fast is that tide encroaching? And how do rates of change in recent times compare to rates stretching back through millennia? A new analysis led by UCD researchers brings those answers - and the rapid rates of change - into context and stark focus.**

"We have shown that sea-level rise on the US east coast has been much less than 1mm per year for the entire period 0AD to 1800AD and since then it's skyrocketed," says principal investigator Dr Andrew Parnell, a lecturer in statistics at UCD School of Mathematical Sciences and member of the UCD Earth Institute. "We found the rate of sea-level rise on the east coast of the US is the highest it's been for at least 2000 years, and the rate of global sea-level rise is above the 1.7mm per year stated by the IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change]."

## Taking the long view

The study used existing measurements stretching back hundreds and even thousands of years, and applied statistical techniques to take uncertainty in the datasets into account.

"We looked at these longer records to compare with rates of sea-level rise that we are seeing now," explains researcher Niamh Cahill, a graduate student at the School of Mathematical Science and lead author on the study in the *Annals of Applied Statistics*. "We are seeing rates increasing now, but unless we look back at the past, we don't know how unusual those rates are."

Cahill, Dr Parnell and colleagues Professor Andrew Kemp from Tufts University and Professor Benjamin Horton from Rutgers University and Nanyang Technological University focused on two types of data - 'instrumental' measurements from tide gauges around the world dating back to the 1880s, and even longer-term 'proxy' measurements taken from cores of sediments on the east coast of the United States, that offer clues about sea levels over the last 2,000 years.

In both cases, there was uncertainty in the datasets, explains Cahill. "For the the instrumental data from tide gauges, the further back in time you go the fewer tide gauges there were around the world," she notes. "So the more recent part of the record has a lot more certainty in it as there are a lot more tide gauges, but if you go a little further back in time there is more uncertainty about the sea level because there are fewer measurements."

The proxies from cores of sediment taken in North Carolina also have their limitations - by analysing the remains of tiny biological fossils in the cores it is possible to reconstruct sea-level patterns across 2,000 years, but these proxy records bring with them uncertainty, not just in sea-level measurements, but also in time.

## More 'honest' findings

To tune up the findings from the datasets, the UCD statisticians put the datasets through their paces. "We wanted to develop a model that would take account of the fact that there is a lot of uncertainty in these datasets," explains Cahill. "We wanted it to be as honest as we could make it."

Applying a statistical method known as errors-in-variables integrated Gaussian processes, the researchers crunched the numbers from the datasets and confirmed that sea-level increases have sped up vastly in recent times.

Their analysis of the global tide-gauge record showed that the rate of sea-level rise increased continuously from 1.13 mm per year in 1880AD to 1.92 mm per year in 2009AD. Meanwhile, the mean rate of rise in North Carolina at 2000AD was 2.44 mm per year - the fastest rate of rise in the 2000-year long reconstruction. The difference in rates between North Carolina and the global tide gauges illustrates the role of local processes such as the land subsiding, explains Cahill.

## Pulling the story from the noise

"They are noisy datasets and we wanted to pull the story out of the noise," she says. "If you eyeball the data most people will say that looks like it is increasing, but we are showing it with the stats behind it. We are taking all the uncertainty into account and we are still coming to the same overall conclusions."

Trawling back through the proxy data from North Carolina sediments, the UCD researchers' findings also showed some variations in the rates of sea-level change over time. "There is an increase in the rate around the time period known as the 'Medieval Climate Anomaly' and there is a small decrease in the rate consistent with the 'Little Ice Age', when things are slowing down," says Cahill. "Then at the end of the 19th century, which is after industrial revolution has started, sea-level rise increases rapidly."

Taking account of the uncertainties to produce meaningful results is "fiddly but necessary" according to Dr Parnell. "I believe this study is the first time a group of statisticians have had a really close examination of sea-level data, and have properly taken account of the uncertainty in the data points," he says. "When people [previously] calculated rates or accelerations of sea-level change they were always quite hesitant to talk about their findings as they knew that they were ignoring parts of the data, such as the age uncertainties, or using techniques which didn't really stand up to scrutiny. In general this study should point to a way forward where people can confidently quantify sea-level rates for data sets at their own study sites."

The findings should also feed into better models for future sea-level predictions, notes Cahill. "When you can understand the variability in the sea-level trend you can use that information to constrain the models that are going to predict the future."

And while she believes there is a general public awareness of sea-level rise, she argues that the findings of this UCD-led study could help drive home the pace of change. "It is not going to come as a shock, we all know sea levels are rising," she says. "By using these statistical methods we are showing that this rise is accelerating over time. This needs to be taken into account for decisions about coastal defences."

*Dr Andrew Parnell and Niamh Cahill were in conversation with Claire O'Connell, science writer and contributor to Silicon Republic and The Irish Times*

## Royal Irish Academy honours UCD academics

Four UCD professors, in the disciplines of science, engineering, arts and law, have been elected to the ranks of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements. This is the highest academic honour in Ireland and membership is reserved for those who have achieved distinction in education and research.

The RIA is Ireland's premier learned body and it promotes distinction in scholarship, recognises achievements in learning and direct research programmes and carries out its own research projects, particularly in areas relating to Ireland and its heritage.

Professor Nicholas Daly is Chair of Modern English and American Literature at the School of English, Drama and Film. His major scholarly contribution is to 19th- and 20th-century literary and cultural studies, particularly in three widely praised monographs published by Cambridge University Press. He is currently working on a book entitled *The Demographic Imagination and the Nineteenth-Century City*.

Ian O'Donnell is Professor of Criminology, Sutherland School of Law. Criminology is a diverse, interdisciplinary field, and Professor



Four UCD Professors were elected to the ranks of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements. At the ceremony on May 29th were (l-r): Ian O'Donnell, Professor of Criminology at the UCD Sutherland School of Law; Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact and Professor of Electronic Engineering, School of Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering; UCD President, Prof. Andrew Deeks; Professor Geraldine Butler, School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science and UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science; and Professor Nicholas Daly, Chair of Modern English and American Literature, School of English, Drama and Film

O'Donnell has contributed across its entire range, with a particular focus on penology and criminal justice history. He has published 10 books and almost 100 articles. His latest book *Prisoners, Solitude and Time* (Oxford University Press, 2014) explores how isolated prisoners cope with the passage of time.

Geraldine Butler is a Professor at the UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, and the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science. She is an expert on the genomics, evolution and virulence of pathogenic yeasts. She led an international research consortium that sequenced the genomes of eight *Candida* species, which was published in *Nature* in 2009. She has pioneered high throughput gene knockout technology for

*Candida parapsilosis*, a pathogen affecting newborn infants.

Orla Feely is Professor of Electronic Engineering at the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering and is the UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact. She has served as Chair of the Irish Research Council and has a worldwide reputation as a leading researcher in nonlinear electrical circuit theory and its applications. In recognition of this, she was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the first Irish woman to achieve this distinction.

At a ceremony on May 29th, the new members signed the Academy roll book at the RIA on Dawson Street in a centuries old tradition.



Professor Cecily Kelleher, whose appointment to Principal of the new College of Health and Agricultural Sciences was recently announced

## Principal of new College of Health and Agricultural Sciences appointed

UCD has announced that the inaugural College Principal of the new College of Health and Agricultural Sciences will be Professor Cecily Kelleher. Professor Kelleher is a former Head of the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science and currently Chair of Public Health Medicine & Epidemiology in the same School. Professor Kelleher has a distinguished research and teaching record in Public Health Medicine including 457 research publications, is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, and has a strong working relationship with all five Schools comprising the new College; to include the School of Agriculture & Food Science; School of Medicine; School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems; School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science; and School of Veterinary Medicine.

## Scientific Spirit Award for Professor Pat Wall

While presenting at the recent International Forum on Food Safety in Beijing, Pat Wall, Associate Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science, received the 'Scientific Spirit Award' from the Chinese Institute of Food Safety and Technology and the International Union of Food Science and Technology.

While Chairperson of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in 2007, Professor Wall was invited onto the committee which oversaw food safety arrangements for the Beijing Olympic Games. This began his association with China, which has continued to date. He is currently a member of the Scientific Committee of China's National Centre for Food Safety and Risk Assessment and in this capacity, regularly appears on China's national news broadcaster CCTV speaking about issues of food safety.

Professor Wall co-founded the UCD MSC in Food Safety and Risk Assessment, with UCD Centre for Food Safety colleagues Professor Francis Butler, School of Biosystems Engineering and Professor Shea Fanning,



Pat Wall, Associate Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science, who recently received the 'Scientific Spirit Award' from the Chinese Institute of Food Safety and Technology

School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science. This course takes a group of Chinese students each year, many of whom end up working in Irish Food Companies trading with China.

# The impact of the Constitutional Convention: has politics changed?

Last May Ireland became the first country in the world to give people the right to vote on marriage equality. The question would not have been asked - let alone passed - if it were not for the Constitutional Convention. The forum, set up to consider changes to Bunreacht na hÉireann, made 40 recommendations. It was no easy feat.

**The 100-member convention debated changes to the Constitution including reducing the voting age, gender equality, constituency sizes, voting rights for those living abroad, and even whether the offence of blasphemy should be removed. Despite the group's commitment to discussing the complex matters on a number of weekends over some 14 months, so far only five of the forum's recommendations have been accepted by the current Government.**

Professor David Farrell, Chair of Politics, School of Politics and International Relations and a specialist in the study of parties, elections, electoral systems and members of parliament was the convention's research director and one of the key drivers behind setting up the forum. Many of the topics taken up by the convention, observes Professor Farrell, were ones the Coalition would not have found agreement on when the Fine Gael/Labour government agreed their programme for government. But now, following its success in putting the legalisation of marriage equality to the people and the subsequent passing of the marriage referendum, other governments and parties overseas have taken an interest in Ireland's convention.

Initially, there was more caution than enthusiasm for the forum, Professor Farrell explained: "It's a method that has proven itself. Back in 2009, when we were first talking about it, we were being told 'the Canadians and Dutch, who have done this sort of thing, that's fine there, but we're different in Ireland. It won't work here'... we've now shown that this can work here too and at a relatively low price."

Professor Farrell initially helped set up We the Citizens, a project to ignite citizen involvement in democracy in Ireland which held its pilot citizens' assembly in mid-2011. Backed by funds from Atlantic Philanthropies, the model later became the template for the Constitutional Convention.

"We were able to meet with the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste and party leaders and explain face-to-face the outcome of our research, which proved our pilot citizen assembly in Dublin in 2011 had very beneficial impacts on those who were involved. They could understand complexities and come to very tough decisions."

The convention and its predecessor allow free but purposeful deliberation, where members are chosen randomly. For the convention, a third of its members were politicians, but citizens, the other two thirds, were chosen randomly to represent a cross-section of society. It cost €1m to run, a relatively modest amount considering its volume of work.



Indeed, Professor Farrell, like others, maintains that it has a healthy future and some version of it will likely come back into operation in any new government, amid the need for further debates about changing the Constitution.

More resources and a narrower agenda could lead to even better outcomes for a newly chosen forum. "It would be a brand new convention. The other thing is I wouldn't have it go on for so long. Ours lasted for a 14 month period. By the end, the members got to know each other too well and that's not a good thing. Because then they get used to the idea that they're there to make change. That's not their role. The role of the convention is not to make change, it's to consider questions."

"The first topic that they were asked to discuss was should the Irish presidency be a seven year or five year term. They just said no, and instead said they wanted to do other things instead...they had a much more important recommendation, which was to open up the presidential nomination process."

This proposed reform, one of the 40 recommendations, has not been taken up by the government.

A new convention will have to consider other issues, as an impetus to keep its members committed to giving up their weekends on debating possible changes to the Constitution. It's not the case that future members would have to be paid, contends Professor Farrell, but that some sort of support is given to them.

"The need for better resources next time is not just for media or PR (to promote the forum), it's for other things which may sound mundane. We had no budget for childcare, which makes it so difficult to recruit women, particularly young women. And the whole purpose of this is that you get good random representation of the whole population of the country."

And what about future issues?

Reform of government and the Dáil, abortion and local government reform should be some of the first issues that would make the wish list for a new convention, he adds. The latter would be particularly important if any body of work was to be done on the greater issue of political reform in Ireland, he maintains.

But despite the optimism and future vision, the president of the Political Studies Association of Ireland admits that Irish politics has not substantially changed because of the forum. But rather magnanimously, he praises elements of reform that have come directly from government, particularly under the remit and instigation of Public Expenditure and Reform Minister Brendan Howlin. These changes, he notes, include the opening up of the freedom of information system, legislation to protect whistleblowers, the setting up of a register for lobbyists and changes to how Oireachtas committees scrutinise legislation.

But it's not enough, maintains Professor Farrell.

"The democratic revolution we were promised, we've by no means had it."

Since the passing of the marriage referendum, there has been huge international interest in the convention and how it functioned, he adds: "The Catalan government are fascinated in the process that we did because they are having a fight with the Spanish government and trying to get more independence for themselves. The Irish Constitutional Convention is one of the models that's very interesting for them."

"Before the British election a lot of interest was shown in the Irish example. If Labour had won, we would have seen a convention there, but the issue hasn't gone away."

Two citizens assemblies are in the process of being set up in Britain. There is also interest in Chicago in looking at our convention process, as questions are raised over the electoral system in the state of Illinois.

"It's not the issues that matter, it's the method. This was the whole selling point of We the Citizens. We weren't trying to promote particular kinds of policy changes, we were just trying to promote a method of engaging with a random selection of ordinary citizens and letting them be at the heart of a discussion to design the questions that might go to a referendum. And that's what is attracting a lot of interest overseas."

*Professor David Farrell was in conversation with Juno McEnroe, a journalist with The Examiner*



Pictured at the launch of UCD's USA global centre in April were (l-r): Barbara Jones, Consul General of Ireland in New York; UCD President, Prof. Andrew Deeks; the Ambassador of Ireland to the United States, H.E. Anne Anderson

## UCD opens global centre in US

In April, UCD announced the opening of a new Global Centre for North America, based in New York, with representative offices in San Francisco and Chicago.

UCD has had a presence in New York for four years, but the opening of the Global Centre will add considerable impetus to activities focusing on academic and innovation partnerships, alumni and Irish diaspora networks, as well as on student exchange and graduate placements.

The development of the UCD Global Centres in North America will be matched with centres in Beijing, Kuala Lumpur, and New Delhi. The opening of these centres will enable UCD to pursue its new global engagement strategy, which aims to place the university in the top ten in the world for global engagement.

The UCD USA Global Centre will greatly enhance valuable existing relationships with

study abroad partner institutions, students and parents and will contribute greatly to expanding new links and relationships in the region. For the University's institutional partners and students, the Global Centre will provide an accessible local point of contact and the provision of an additional level of support and advice pre-departure, in their own time zone.

At the official launch event, UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks, announced details of a new MA scholarship in Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama. The Gus Martin Memorial Scholarship offers full tuition fees to the successful US applicant. In addition, UCD has opened a major scholarship scheme for study abroad students. The Generation Study Abroad scholarship will provide 50 scholarships of 1,000 Euro and is designed to support the Institute for International Education (IIE) initiative to encourage US students to study overseas.



EGA president PJ Rudden (left) presented Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact with the EGA Distinguished Graduate Award in May

## EGA Honours Successful Engineers

Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact was presented with the Engineering Graduates Association (EGA) Distinguished Graduate Award at the EGA's annual dinner in May. At the same event the Founder of the EGA, UCD Emeritus Professor and former Dean of Engineering John Kelly, was presented with an EGA Lifetime Achievement Award.

The EGA Distinguished Graduate Award recognises a UCD graduate in active service who is making an outstanding contribution to Irish Society. Professor Feely was Chair of the Irish Research Council from 2012 to 2015, during which time the IRC supported the work of more than 1,400 researchers and made 4,000 awards, about 3,000 of them in support of PhDs and Masters students.

EGA President PJ Rudden stated "Orla Feely was a very worthy winner this year due to her success as Chair of the Irish Research Council and in UCD as Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact. In UCD she has demonstrated her impact on research activity and output across all disciplines, including the very successful NovaUCD facility. She has also highlighted the significant impact of UCD on the Irish economy. She is therefore an ideal role model for the engineering profession as a whole."

## UCD President reflects on the challenges for engineering education in the 21st Century

UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks addressed the UCD Engineering Graduates Association (EGA), giving the Annual Spring Lecture on the topic of "The challenges for engineering education in the 21st Century".

Some of the challenges he addressed are common to many of UCD's disciplines, and relate to the second major strategic initiative of the UCD Strategy 2015-2020.

One challenge that is particularly important in engineering, and which has parallels in other disciplines, is the technological change to working practice brought about by computer analysis and software packages, he noted. Much of a traditional engineering education

was taken up in developing mathematical skills and analytical techniques. However, while engineers still need to understand the fundamentals and have sound analytical skills, much of the work they will do in practice is through computer analysis, and consequently the benefit of teaching advanced manual techniques has become very marginal.

On the other hand, globalisation and the changing work environment have increased the need for engineers to have good communication, team-working and leadership skills, together with innovativeness and cultural awareness. Although such skills have been brought into learning outcomes in recent years, the President expressed his belief that there is still opportunity to address them more explicitly; by

spending more time on these than on other skills which have been rendered less useful by information technology.

Prior to the lecture, Professor Deeks unveiled a plaque at NovaUCD to celebrate 30 years since the opening of the University Industry Centre (UIC). The establishment of the UIC was an initiative of the EGA under the leadership of Professor John Kelly, then Dean of Engineering, and Dr Tom Hardiman, the first president of the Association. The success of the University Industry Programme based in the UIC contributed to the setting up of NovaUCD in 2003 and established UCD as the leading university centre for new ventures and entrepreneurs.

# Data and health: Joined up thinking for better healthcare

**Professor Brian Caulfield on how health innovation starts and ends with the patient; with data scientists and clinicians working together in between.**

“Data science offers solutions to problems. Clinicians encounter plenty of problems and need solutions. It’s in the middle of health and data analytics that the excitement lives.”

Professor Brian Caulfield is Dean of Physiotherapy at UCD and a founding Director of the Insight Centre for Data Analytics. Having spent much of his research career at the interface of health and data analytics, he sees the potential for a revolution in healthcare.

“If you walk into a hospital today the processes haven’t changed much in 50 years. Data provides so much potential for innovation, but people in healthcare are struggling to leverage all the various digital devices and data to deliver better health models.”

Professor Caulfield figured out early in his career that there were limitations to what you could learn in a one-on-one interaction with a patient.

“A physiotherapist can monitor an exercise in a clinical setting, but when a patient engages in sport or home exercise, the clinician can’t assess that. I realised early on in my clinical work that people do not behave normally when a clinician is present, so the information is not ecologically valid. When I met data researchers like Professor Barry Smyth (another founding director of Insight and UCD Professor of Computer Science) I started to look at using sensors outside the lab. Back then you couldn’t buy a sensor off the shelf or put one on a mobile phone, like you can today, so we built them.”

Brian and his team use their clinical expertise to read the data that is gathered by the sensors and then processed and presented by the data scientists. “We are teaching each other and feeling our way forward together. It’s really interesting to watch it happen. We are bridging the digital world and the care setting.”

Insight is the perfect environment for this kind of innovation, he says, because with 350 researchers across a range of disciplines, the centre combines both data science and clinical science expertise. Insight, established in 2012 by Science Foundation Ireland with funding of €75m, is a joint initiative between UCD, NUI Galway, UCC and DCU.

“Insight places us at the centre of connected health. Companies and sports organisations are coming to us for solutions now. We are in demand,” says Caulfield.

The IRFU is a recent client. Using body sensors and cameras, Insight researchers could match the movements of players as recorded by the cameras to the alignment of their joints as recorded by the sensors. In this way they could



*Prof. Brian Caulfield, Dean of Physiotherapy at UCD and a founding Director of the Insight Centre for Data Analytics*

judge whether players move differently on an artificial surface. This is vital intelligence for the IRFU, helping the organisation to select optimal training surfaces for its players. Such analysis was not possible five years ago.

Beyond sport, in the care setting, about 70 per cent of physiotherapy patients will admit that they are not compliant with what has been prescribed.

“We are looking at the new world of wearable sensing to monitor people and provide tools to motivate adherence and improve technique,” says Professor Caulfield. “We have developed sensors to guide technique and provide meaningful information to the clinician.”

The work that he and his team are now doing to develop data based orthopaedic therapies holds significant promise for people in rehabilitation after surgery. The work was recently recognised internationally: Professor Caulfield took the top prize in the 2015 Google Wearables in Healthcare Pilot Challenge.

“Our idea addresses the unmet needs that patients and clinicians cite as the major challenges to successful rehabilitation,” Caulfield explained at Google’s Cambridge headquarters, in Cambridge, Massachusetts in April. “By using a mobile phone as a sensing device, we are removing the need to purchase additional sensing hardware.”

Professor Caulfield won the Grand Prize because, according to the six judges from major Boston healthcare organisations, his idea was practical, simple and had the potential to reach many patients.

In a hospital setting the potential is enormous. The number of elective joint replacements in the OECD is expected to increase fivefold in the next

15 years. The outcome for patients is heavily dependent on rehabilitation, however, in the drive for efficiency, hospitals across the world are cutting back on physiotherapy services. Patients are left in charge of their own rehabilitation, often with poor results.

Professor Caulfield’s work is regarded as mission-critical for the Irish economy. This summer the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Richard Bruton TD launched the €5 million Applied Research for Connected Health Technology Centre (ARCH), which is funded by the Department of Jobs through Enterprise Ireland and is also supported by IDA Ireland.

ARCH is headquartered at NexusUCD, the Industry Partnership Centre at UCD and Professor Caulfield is one of its principal investigators.

Speaking at the launch of the new centre, chair of ARCH industry steering group Oliver Tattan gave a sense of the excitement that is building around connected health.

“The ARCH approach enables us to shift from a reactive episodic healthcare model to a more proactive model that connects stakeholders across the spectrum – from the home to the acute care setting – throughout the lifespan and puts the patient at the centre of the process. In doing so, a connected health approach has the potential to empower patients, clinicians and healthcare planners alike.”

*Professor Brian Caulfield was in conversation with journalist Louise Holden (MEd 2008)*



Members of the Dynamics Lab at the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy who recently organised a research workshop on *Research Applications in Analytical and Computational Social Science* included (back row, l-r): Paul Wagner, Yueji Zhu, Colman McMahon, Travis Trent, (front row, l-r): Xiong Hang, Gillian Golden, Dr Nasim Mahmud, and Zizhen Wang; with (front, centre) Professor Emeritus at Duke University, Nan Lin, and Dr Diane Payne, Head of School of Sociology

## Social Networks and Economic Activities - an Embedded Economy Perspective

Professor Emeritus Nan Lin from Duke University delivered the final lecture of joint UCD/TCD Sociology keynote lecture series for the 2014/2015 academic year. His keynote lecture pointed to the significance of social networks for presenting a context that facilitates and promotes economic activities. This social networks-embedding-economy phenomenon persists and there is strong evidence that such embedding social networks can be constructed and sustained beyond ethnicity, family and location to dictate economic activities. Online cybernetworks such as Facebook are examples. He discussed the implications of this social-network-embedding-economy perspective for theory,

research and strategic actions. Amongst Professor Nan Lin's various books is the key text *Social Capital: A Theory of Social Structure and Action*, published by Cambridge University Press. Many influential writers in the field of Social Network Analysis have praised this work as "the definitive work on the subject of social capital". As part of his recent visit to Dublin, Professor Nan Lin also attended a research workshop on *Research Applications in Analytical and Computational Social Science* organised by the Dynamics Lab at the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy. A range of papers were presented by members of the Dynamics Lab group at this UCD research workshop.

## UCD professor appointed to National Advisory Council on Climate Change

**A National Expert Advisory Council on Climate Change, which will advise Government Departments and agencies on the actions required to significantly decarbonise the Irish economy by 2050, has been announced by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly TD.**

Professor Peter Clinch, UCD Professor of Public Policy, has been appointed as one of the eleven members of the Advisory Council, the first of its kind to be established under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill. Professor John FitzGerald (recently retired from the ESRI) has been named as the Chair of the Advisory Council.



Professor Peter Clinch, UCD Professor of Public Policy

## A decade of learning and collaboration

**UCD Adult Education and the National Library of Ireland have been working together for almost a decade to promote adult learning to a growing community of over 1,000 learners. Through this public engagement partnership a series of courses has been developed, which incorporate access to the Library's exhibitions and archives with interdisciplinary academic course content.**

From an initial pilot course in 2006, *WB Yeats at the National Library*; the partnership now provides a programme of literature and history courses, including *Writing Rebellion, Dublin: UNESCO City of Literature* and *Joyce in the National Library*.

In Autumn 2014 a new course, *Themes in Irish History: from Rising to Republic*, was run in collaboration with the UCD School of History and Archives.

To date the National Library has hosted thirty-six courses, and 1015 students have been registered. The National Library benefits from the collaboration through having more adults engage with their resources, while UCD Adult Education Centre benefits from enhanced course provision and the opportunity to offer multidimensional courses in a beautiful city centre location. Planning is now underway to add to the expanding library learners for 2015-2016.



Prof. Jochen Schweitzer, University of Heidelberg and Prof. Alan Carr, Head of UCD School of Psychology, convenors of seminar on family therapy practice and research, held in April at the University of Heidelberg

## Heidelberg-Dublin Seminar on Family Therapy

At the University of Heidelberg in April Professor Alan Carr, Head of the UCD School of Psychology, gave an invited keynote address on family therapy outcome research conducted at UCD. This was followed by a joint Heidelberg-Dublin seminar on family therapy practice and research convened by Professor Jochen Schweitzer and Professor Carr at the University of Heidelberg Centre for Psychosocial Medicine. Both Professors Schweitzer and Carr have been pioneering the development of assessment instruments for evaluating systemic therapy and conducting controlled trials of family and systemic therapy in Germany and Ireland respectively.



*Pictured (l-r) are OxyMem co-founders and winners of the Spin-out Company Impact Award 2015, Dr Eoin Syron and Professor Eoin Casey, UCD Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering, Minister Damien English TD and Dr Alison Campbell, Director, Knowledge Transfer Ireland*

## UCD Wins Two Knowledge Transfer Ireland 2015 Impact Awards

**Damien English TD, Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation recently presented two Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI) Impact Awards 2015 to UCD.**

The Licence2Market Impact Award recognises a commercial product or service that is based on a licence to intellectual property rights from an Irish publicly-funded Research Performing Organisations (RPO) and its path to licence. Professor Mark Rogers, UCD Deputy President and Registrar, won this 2015 award for his development of a novel diagnostic test for BSE which was subsequently licensed to Enfer Scientific by NovaUCD, UCD's technology transfer office.

The Spin-Out Company Impact Award was established by KTI to recognise a spin-out company from an Irish publicly-funded RPO that has achieved a significant event in the previous year. This 2015 award was presented to Professor Eoin Casey and Dr Eoin Syron, co-founders of OxyMem, a spin-out company from UCD's School of Chemical and Bioprocess

Engineering. OxyMem's achievements include securing several rounds of investment, successfully delivering field trials of its membrane aerated biofilm reactor (MABR) wastewater treatment technology, creating over 25 full-time jobs at its Athlone facility, and securing early orders.

Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact also received an award on behalf of UCD in recognition of the University's support and promotion of knowledge transfer. Dr Ciaran O'Beirne, Manager, Technology Transfer, was also presented with an award in recognition of the support provided by the team at NovaUCD to developing the OxyMem's proposition and leading on licence and company formation agreements.

## Minister Bruton Launches €5 million Connected Health Technology Centre

**Healthcare services in Ireland could be transformed as a result of research conducted at the new Connected Health Technology Centre launched in May by Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.**

The €5 million Applied Research for Connected Health (ARCH) Technology Centre is funded by the Department of Jobs through Enterprise Ireland and is also supported by IDA Ireland.

ARCH is hosted at UCD where researchers from clinical, engineering, technology, policy and economic fields - with input from UL and almost all higher education institutes in the country with connected health research capabilities - will collaborate to deliver on the connected health research agenda defined by its industry steering group.

Connected Health is the utilisation of "connecting" technologies i.e. communication systems - broadband, wireless, mobile phone, fixed phone lines - and medical devices and treatments for healthcare applications. In addition, technologies relating to sensors, alarm systems, vital sign monitoring devices, health informatics and data management systems are also fundamental to the development of connected health solutions.

During the initial research phase, the team at ARCH under the direction of Professor Brian Caulfield, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science, focused on caring for patients with dementia. The ARCH model will now be applied to a broader range of clinical conditions as determined by industry and healthcare needs such as diabetes and heart disease.

ARCH is headquartered at NexusUCD, the Industry Partnership Centre, and there are currently 15 industry partners steering the ARCH research programme including; ADA Security Systems, Boston Scientific, Hermitage Medical Clinic, ICON, OpenHealth, Novartis, Relate Care, S3 Group, Swiftqueue, Theya Lingerie, Two Ten Health, Vitalograph, Philips, ResMed and Vu2Vu; all actively involved in the connected health sector.



## UCD Presents Research Plans to Visiting European Commissioners

*Pictured outside the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science are Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development; Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation and Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact. During the recent visit of the EU Commissioners senior researchers presented the university's strategic plans for research and innovation over the next few years, focusing on agrifood and ICT, and outlined how UCD intends to lead important EU initiatives in these areas. The Commissioners also participated in a roundtable discussion with executives from companies working in the agrifood, energy and ICT sectors.*



Pictured at the Launch of UCD Centre for Dewey Studies during the 2015 Summer Institute in American Philosophy (SIAP) in UCD Newman House on Friday, 12 June were (l-r) Junguo Zhang, PhD student at UCD; Jiang Yi, Professor at Beijing Normal University; American Philosopher Prof. Joseph Zalman Margolis; Prof. Maria Baghramian, UCD School of Philosophy; Liqing Zhang, a former visiting professor in UCD (2012-13) from China University of Political Science & Law, Beijing; and Qiong Zhao, a visiting student from Beijing Normal University

## UCD first European host of prominent American Philosophy conference

UCD School of Philosophy hosted the 2015 Summer Institute in American Philosophy (SIAP) at UCD from June 8th to 13th. This was the first time SIAP, organised by the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, had been held in Europe. The prestigious annual event attracted faculty members, early career researchers and advanced graduates in philosophy from around the world. The event explored the influences, interconnections and encounters between pragmatism and other philosophical traditions. Keynote speakers included Professor Cheryl Misak, University of Toronto; Professor Robert Brandom, University

of Pittsburgh; and Professor Hilary Putnam, Harvard University, who gave his address over the web. Participants also enjoyed historic tours and cultural events in Dublin for the duration of their visit. The 2015 Summer Institute was organised by Professor Maria Baghramian and Dr Sarin Marchetti as part of the American Voice in Philosophy research project, and was supported by Fulbright Commission and the College of Human Sciences. The Summer Institute was launched by Professor Colin Scott, Principal, UCD College of Human Sciences with Kevin O'Malley, the Ambassador of the United States to Ireland in attendance.



Prof. Joe Carthy, Dean of Science, with Light & Shadow keynote speaker, Deputy Head of Forecasting at Met Éireann and UCD Science Alumna Evelyn Cusack

## Public invited to 'see the light' at UCD

**A 'Light & Shadow' event took place in the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science on May 23rd, as part of a programme of events to tie in with the UN International Year of Light; raising global awareness about how light-based technologies promote sustainable development and provide solutions to global challenges in energy, education, agriculture and health. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland, is Ireland's patron of the Year of Light; UCD Professor John Sheridan, School of Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering is Vice-Chair of the Irish Year of Light Committee.**

Inspired by light as a theme that spans several disciplines, UCD College of Science, College of Engineering and Architecture and School of Agriculture and Food Science jointly developed a family-friendly programme of short talks, interactive demonstrations, tours and film screenings. Ireland's favourite weather presenter RTE's Evelyn Cusack opened the event with a keynote address titled 'Light(s), Camera, Action...'. Evelyn is Deputy Head of Forecasting at Met Éireann, former Secretary of the Irish Meteorological Society and UCD Foundation Day Science Alumni Awardee 2014.

Young visitors could engage hands on with demonstrations in chemistry, optics and biology or watch 360o film screenings in an inflatable planetarium. An additional treat were tours of UCD facilities that are generally not open to the public. At UCD's state-of-the-art Sensory Suite or the Program for Experimental Atmospheres and Climate (PEAC) expert guides shared their knowledge and passion with fascinated visitors.

"Light & Shadow offered us a unique opportunity to showcase our portfolio of expertise, facilities and outward engagement to the general public, donors, alumni and staff. Our family friendly programme assured that all age groups had an inspiring day out, exploring light in nature, science, art, technology and health" Professor Joe Carthy, UCD Dean of Science explained.

## UCD awarded highest number of Fulbright Awards

**Six UCD scholars have been awarded Fulbright Awards to undertake research and teaching at leading US universities and institutions. This is the highest number of the prestigious awards given to scholars at any university or institution in Ireland this year.**

Funded by the Irish and US governments under the Ireland-United States Commission for Educational Exchange, the Fulbright Awards offer Irish and US students, scholars and professionals the opportunity to study, lecture, and research at leading universities and institutions in the US and Ireland respectively. They were first established in 1957.

The six UCD recipients of the Fulbright awards for 2015 are:

Ms Mary Carey is a part-time Walsh Fellow with Teagasc and a PhD candidate in the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy. Mary is also an economist with the Department of Finance's Economic and Evaluation Service. Mary will research the impact of agri-businesses on the rural economy at the University of Missouri.

Dr Denise McGrath is a lecturer at the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science. As a Fulbright TechImpact Scholar, Denise will travel to the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University, to explore innovative wearable technology solutions that will enable people with Parkinson's to overcome the debilitating unpredictability of the disease.

Dr Deirdre Raftery is a historian and Senior Lecturer at the UCD School of Education, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. As a



UCD Fulbright recipients pictured at the awards ceremony in Iveagh House, Dublin, recently, l-r: Mr Jonathan Ruane, Ms Mary Carey, Dr Denise McGrath and Mr John Woods

Fulbright Scholar, she will be based at Boston College, working on her tenth book publication, a monograph which examines the contribution of Irish-born nuns to American education, in the period 1840-1940.

Mr Jonathan Ruane is a technology entrepreneur and an Adjunct Lecturer in New Venture Creation and Development at the UCD Quinn School of Business. As the Fulbright-CRH student awardee, Jonathan will undertake a Sloan Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, focusing on innovation and global leadership.

Mr John Woods is an MA candidate in Modern Irish at the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics. He will be a Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana.

Ms Síle Dolan completed a masters in Scríobh agus Cumarsáid na Gaeilge (writing and communication of Irish) in the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics in 2014-15, where she has also been working as a tutor. She will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at Elms College, Chicopee, Massachusetts.



William Butler Yeats, Courtesy National Library, Independent Newspapers Collection

# Yearning for Yeats hasn't abated

UCD is at the heart of celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Nobel Prize-winning poet, William Butler Yeats

**He was a poet, a cultural leader, and major historical figure. W.B. Yeats, born 150 years ago, jostles only with Seamus Heaney for the title of Ireland's greatest ever poet.**

The commemoration of his birth forms part of a decade of centenaries that includes major historical events such as World War One, the 1913 Lockout and the 1916 Easter Rising. At first glance, the anniversary of a poet's birth may seem like a slightly incongruous addition to this line-up. In fact, say UCD academics involved in the Yeats 150 events, he played a pivotal role in the early years of the new Irish State.

Margaret Kelleher, Professor of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama, UCD School of English, Drama and Film, is one of several academics involved in the anniversary celebrations. On June 26th last, she organised a writers' colloquium on Yeats, chaired by author Colm Tóibín and with contributions by internationally renowned Irish poet Professor Eavan Boland, award winning British poet Lavinia Greenlaw and poet and Irish Times poetry review editor John McAuliffe. The event was held in the historic surroundings of UCD Newman House.

**“He was a brilliant craftsman, making his work so resonant and versatile”**

“The evening explored Yeats' role as a powerful rhetorical writer,” says Kelleher. “It was a welcome occasion for writers to talk to and about fellow writers and the importance of Yeats to their work. Writers chose their favourite poems by Yeats and discussed their meaning and personal relevance to them.

Celebrations also took place earlier in the summer. Dr Lucy Collins, a lecturer in the UCD School of English, Drama and Film, convened “Yeats in Print 1889-1939”, a commemorative event held at the UCD Library on May 22nd, which focused on the print history of Yeats and his collaboration with publishers. “Material from several collections that are held by UCD were used to demonstrate the styles of printing used by Yeats' publishers, including his sisters who

published his work in the Dun Emer and Cuala Press imprints,” Collins explains.

The event, attended by graduate students, academics, librarians and interested members of the public, was just one of many such occasions being held across Ireland, Europe and the United States. Joseph Hassett, author of *W. B. Yeats and the Muses* (2010) and co-curator of the current UCD Library Special Collections exhibition “Yeats and his Muses”, was among the speakers.

“UCD is fortunate to have strong collections of poetry dating from the early years of the State, and Yeats is strongly represented there,” says Collins. “The Curran Collection, the Hassett Collection and the most recent addition, the Rake Collection, all contain invaluable Yeats material, including books, photos and documentary materials. When we started thinking of how we could commemorate Yeats, these unique collections were an obvious starting point.”

Yeats' interaction with his own printed works is unusually complex. “He might initially publish a poem in a journal, before revising it as part of a small collection for his sister Elizabeth's Cuala Press, and then reprinting it in a larger collection with a commercial publisher, which would have an international reach. This means that an individual work of Yeats may have a number of different versions.”

The most well-known instance of this is found in the poem *The Wild Swans at Coole* in which Yeats reversed the order of the stanzas, changing the mood of the poem and its impact on the reader.

Keynote speaker, Professor Tony Roche, School of English, Drama and Film, gave an engaging talk on Cuala Press, and the interpersonal dynamics between the Yeats siblings. He spoke, in particular, about the often fractious relationship between Elizabeth and Lily Yeats and presented his detailed research into correspondence between various family members, as well as the role of W.B.'s brother, the renowned artist Jack Yeats, in creating illustrations for the press. Professor Alex Davis of UCC spoke on a volume entitled *Poems 1889-1905* and outlined its complex publishing history. The art historian, Dr Nicola Gordon Bowe, spoke on the influence of the Arts and Crafts Movement on the design of Yeats' publications.

Why is there an enduring fascination with this poet? “He was a brilliant craftsman, making his work so resonant and versatile,” says Collins. “He constantly reinvented himself throughout his literary career: when he mastered one style, he moved on to another. He was always evolving

and changing, which makes him exciting for us to read now. His work embraces intimate love poems which speak to people interested in the private lyric. It addresses major events in history - ‘Easter 1916’ is one of the defining poems of modern Ireland. His later work raises philosophical and spiritual issues. And he was writing at a very important time in Irish and world history. His life and work have a huge resonance.”

A video of talks from the Yeats Symposium, which was held on June 26, is available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8O9kYUyKMGc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8O9kYUyKMGc)

For more information on the UCD Special Collections, see [http://www.ucd.ie/library/finding\\_information/special/poetry\\_at\\_ucd/](http://www.ucd.ie/library/finding_information/special/poetry_at_ucd/)

*Dr Lucy Collins and Professor Margaret Kelleher were in conversation with Peter Maguire, a journalist with The Irish Times*

## UCD Ulysses Centre will showcase the best of Irish writing

In late 2017, the UCD Ulysses Centre for Irish Writing at Newman House on Stephen's Green, will open its doors to the public.

It will, explains Professor Margaret Kelleher, be a public centre which will contain a core exhibition celebrating 20th century writing from James Joyce and other celebrated authors, as well as rotating more specialised exhibitions which can be responsive to the continued dynamism of contemporary Irish writing.

The centre was made possible with the support of the Naughton Foundation and a grant from Fáilte Ireland.

“It is not a museum,” says Kelleher, who is also the academic lead for the project and is working closely with project manager Eamonn Ceannt. “It is, instead, a centre of national and international significance, which celebrates the continuing narrative and success of Irish writing. We are a small country, but we have had a massive literary impact out of all proportion to our size. Why? That's the fun part: everyone has a theory on this. The role of this centre will be to celebrate our history and offer compelling answers to that question. It gives UCD a significant presence back in the city, and we hope it will be a must-see for all visitors to Dublin.”

# Books



## Fresh perspectives on the classic work of James Joyce

**Editors Anne Fogarty**, Professor of James Joyce studies, UCD School of English, Drama and Film and **Fran O'Rourke**, Associate Professor of Philosophy, UCD School of Philosophy.

**UCD Press**

A new book provides a fascinating investigation of the varied and extensive influences that informed the prose of one of Ireland's literary heroes. In *Voices on Joyce*, the editors have made an explicit effort to approach Joyce's work from a wide angle, and have thus drawn upon a wide cohort of specialists.

Owing to the ambitious breadth of the collection, we are afforded a chapter written by Justice of the Supreme Court of Ireland, Adrian Hardiman, who informs us that Ulysses is peppered with criminal intrigue and references to 32 legal cases. UCD Professor Emeritus of Modern Irish History, Donal McCartney's essay on Joyce's UCD allows us to peer back into the examination books of Joyce himself. A chapter on Dublin and Joyce examines our subject's well-established attachment to Dublin. With Ulysses, former Dean of Arts in UCD and urban geographer, Dr Joseph Brady, tells us how Joyce had hoped that if Dublin "one day disappeared from the earth it could be reconstructed out of my book."



## Insight into the Irish Literary Revival

**Editors, Professor Declan Kiberd**, University of Notre Dame and former Chair of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama at UCD and **P.J. Mathews**, lecturer, UCD School of English, Drama and Film

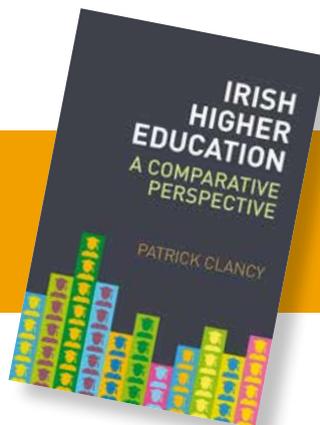
**Abbey Theatre Press**

Central to the Irish Literary Revival, which was born of the paralysis that ensued after the failure of parliamentary politics in the late 19th century, was the yearning for a regeneration of collective cultural narratives that would inform unique artistic expressions of Irishness. The various social and political failures of the previous century provided the wellsprings of thought and creativity from which some of the most gifted writers in the 20th century like William Butler Yeats, James Joyce, John Millington Synge and Sean O'Casey would derive their visionary art.

A new work, *Handbook of the Irish Revival – An Anthology of Irish Cultural and Political Writings 1891 – 1922*, highlights the most celebrated writers of the period, but also gives voice to some of the intellectual movement's lesser known contributors.

Divided into 16 themed sections, the book covers issues as diverse as literature, religion, drama, the natural world, women's rights, and the 1916 Rising. The almost forgotten contributors to the critical period in Irish history include writers, such as Stopford A. Brooke, a churchman and writer, Mary Colum, a literary critic and writer, and Helena Molony, a republican, feminist and labour activist.

The collection of writings also offers a reminder that the ideas and challenges that the Revival generation faced on issues such as sovereignty and citizenship are some of the same questions that could help renew our own cultural identity today in post Celtic-Tiger Ireland



## Examining Irish Higher Education in a changing world

**Professor Patrick Clancy**, Emeritus Professor of Sociology and former Dean of what was the Faculty of Human Sciences at UCD

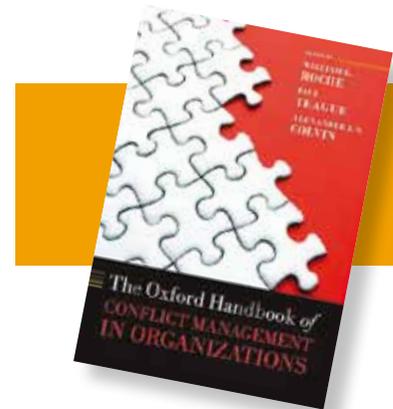
**The Institute of Public Administration**

Having undertaken research and policy engagement in the area of higher education for over three decades, Professor Patrick Clancy provides an authoritative account of Irish higher education from a comparative perspective in *Irish Higher Education: a Comparative Perspective*.

The higher education system has become a pivotal institution in contemporary Irish society. Increasing expectations of its contribution to personal growth and career enhancement and to the economic development of society have led to greatly increased participation rates. Two in every three of the current cohort of young people can expect to enter higher education.

The book reviews the expansion and diversification of the system in the light of global developments, and provides a rigorous comparison of relative participation rates and levels of equity. It examines features of the student experience, the role of the academic

profession, the research mission, and the linkages between higher education and the labour market. It reviews the funding crisis brought about by declining exchequer support, explores the changing patterns of governance and the rise of the evaluative state, and reviews critically the current focus on mergers and other forms of consolidation designed to achieve a structural reconfiguration of the system. This policy analysis is informed by an overview of developments in other countries and an assessment of the impact of supra-national agencies such as the OECD and other external 'experts' in setting the change agenda.



## A Comprehensive Handbook of Conflict Management

**Editors, William K. Roche**, Professor of Industrial Relations and Human Resources, UCD School of Business, **Professor Paul Teague**, Professor of Management, Queen's University Belfast, **Professor Alexander J.S. Colvin**, Professor of Labor Relations and Conflict Resolution, Cornell University.

**Oxford University Press**

The field of conflict management and in particular alternative dispute resolution (ADR) has been expanding in recent years. Much of the literature in the field, however, is scattered across specialist conflict management and general journals spanning the fields of HRM and industrial relations. Up to now no authoritative international review has been available to inform professional practice or synthesize academic knowledge. Comprehensive coverage of the main innovations in conflict management and ADR is now available, with the publication in 2014 of *The Oxford Handbook of Conflict Management in Organizations*.

The handbook, which includes chapters from a range of international experts on ADR, examines the theory and practice of conflict management in organisations. It features case studies of leading exemplars and innovators in the field, as well as covering developments in conflict management in countries around the world including Europe, the US, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and China.

New practices for managing conflict in organizations are set in the context of trends in workplace conflict and perspectives on how conflict should be understood and addressed.

## Monounsaturated fatty acids protect against type 2 diabetes

**Eating high saturated-fat food is contributing to the rise in obesity and this increases the risk of insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes. New research published in the scientific journal *Diabetes* shows that replacing saturated fatty acids with monounsaturated fatty acids within a high-fat diet can reduce inflammation in fat tissue and increase insulin sensitivity.**

UCD researchers led by Professor Helen Roche, Associate Professor of Nutrigenomics in UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research and the UCD Institute of Food & Health, compared how different types of fats controlled the release of IL-1 $\beta$ , a powerful immune system protein.

This protein triggers the development of insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes. Obese individuals have higher levels of IL-1 $\beta$  circulating in their system, which is thought to originate from adipose or fatty tissue. Before IL-1 $\beta$  is released, cells are primed to produce pro-IL-1 $\beta$ .

The research team have shown that replacing saturated fats with monounsaturated fats in a high fat diet reduced the pro-IL-1 $\beta$  priming in adipose tissue. This had a knock-on effect of reducing the extent of inflammation in adipose tissue and increasing insulin sensitivity.

"We have demonstrated for the first time that dietary monounsaturated fatty acids can lower IL-1 $\beta$  mediated insulin resistance and adipose dysfunction despite obesity", said Dr Orla Finucane, postdoctoral researcher in the Roche group and first author of the article.

Professor Helen Roche says, "The findings of this study are exciting as we have shown at a molecular level how monounsaturated fatty acids interact with immune cells within the adipose tissue to reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes developing. The molecular pathways involved in achieving this involve a metabolic sensor called AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) that also regulates inflammation.

Type 2 diabetes is routinely treated with a drug that targets AMPK called Metformin. However, there have been recent concerns suggesting potential adverse cardiovascular side effects associated with this drug. On the basis of this research, we propose that targeting AMPK through dietary means would be both cost effective and beneficial to the patient".



*Pictured at the launch of Vatican II in Ireland, Fifty Years On: Essays in Honour of Pádraic Conway were (l-r): Prof Dermot Moran, UCD School of Philosophy, Dr Ruth Ferguson, Curator, Newman House; His Grace Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Rev Dr Dermot A Lane, Editor of the book*

## Vatican II in Ireland, Fifty Years On

**On Tuesday 5 June, His Grace, Most Rev Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin launched *Vatican II in Ireland, Fifty Years On: Essays in Honour of Pádraic Conway* edited by Dr Dermot A Lane (Oxford, New York & Bern: Peter Lang, 2015) in the UCD International Centre for Newman Studies, Newman House.**

Professor Dermot Moran, Director of the centre, introduced the Archbishop and spoke about the late Dr Conway, the previous director of the UCD International Centre for Newman Studies as well as UCD Vice-President for University Relations. Dr Conway had planned the conference to examine critically the theological and sociological impact and enduring relevance of Vatican II in Ireland. Unfortunately he passed away shortly before

the conference took place in 2012. However, the conference went ahead with many distinguished theologians participating.

While the purpose of the publication was to honour the life of Dr Conway, it was also to look back at the reception and implementation of the Vatican Council in Ireland with a view to moving forward.

Book editor, Dr Dermot Lane brought past and present together, referring to two of Cardinal Newman's publications as being directly relevant to the challenges facing the Catholic Church in Ireland at this time: *An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*, published in 1845, and *On Consulting the Faithful in Matters of Doctrine*, published in 1859.

The book launch was attended by the family of the late Pádraic Conway and by many of his friends and colleagues.

## Natural molecule shown to help reduce risk of obesity-related diseases

**Scientists at UCD have shown that a naturally-occurring molecule could help reduce the cause of many obesity-related diseases. The research also represents a brand new way of understanding how the body copes with body fat and how it controls its response.**

The findings from UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research and from researchers in the United States were recently published in *Cell Metabolism*. In it, they show that one molecule, called lipoxin, can control cells in the immune system and help drive down the risk of obesity-related disease such as liver cirrhosis, diabetes and kidney disease.

Professor Catherine Godson, School of Medicine and Medical Science, who led the study, said the research represents a "paradigm shift" in the understanding of how the body copes with obesity-based inflammation.

These diseases stem from the body's fat cells, known as adipose tissue. The fat can build up around organs and can trigger an immune cell response to cause localised inflammation. Problems occur if this inflammation response happens over a long period of time, which can lead to serious damage to the organs. This research shows that lipoxins help stimulate molecules that dampen down these attacks.

"Lipoxins don't actually block inflammation," said Professor Godson. "Instead of being anti-inflammatory, they're pro-resolution. So what we're doing is we're mimicking what happens in health. That's what the real advantage of this is."

This advantage could also help in any future medicines based on lipoxin. Since it is based on something natural, future drugs would target only this adipose tissue and be less harmful to the patient.

The research, funded in part by Science Foundation Ireland, involved treating lab mice who had been fed a high-fat diet with naturally-occurring lipoxin. The treatments were effective, but the team also found similar results with an artificial lipoxin made by UCD's School of Chemical Biology. This artificial alternative could prove cheaper and easier to manufacture for future patient therapies.

## ■ First prize at Alltech Innovation Competition for UCD students

**UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business students Shannon Coco, Catherine O'Connell and Rebecca Fitzgerald were recently announced as the winners of the 2015 Alltech Innovation Competition for their outstanding entry – Moo Shoe.**

The Alltech Innovation Competition celebrates business and entrepreneurship, and challenges the creative minds of undergraduate and graduate students. Participating teams

from six third-level institutions across Ireland battled for the top prize of €4,000 while runners-up each received a cheque for €1,000. The teams submitted forward-thinking business plans on innovative ideas in food and agribusiness that can improve economies, create jobs, elevate efficiencies and foster sustainable practices.

The Moo Shoe provides a solution to one of the biggest problems in the dairy cow industry – lameness, an issue that affects one in five cows on Irish dairy farms. The Moo Shoe is

made from durable, antifungal polyurethane and rubber. The shoe slips securely over hooves, eliminating the need for glue or nails, and it prevents the primary causes of lameness. “When researching and developing our idea, we were amazed to discover that little exists on the market to prevent lameness. The average cost of lameness per cow in Ireland is a staggering €283, whereas the Moo Shoe ensures infection-free and injury-free hooves for a minimal cost per cow,” said team-member Rebecca Fitzgerald.



Business leaders Breege O'Donoghue, UCD Quinn School Alumna of the Year, and Gordon Hardie, UCD Smurfit School Alumnus of the Year, who were honoured at the UCD Business Alumni of the Year 2015 awards fundraising dinner

## ■ UCD honours Business Alumni of the Year

**Business leaders Breege O'Donoghue, UCD Quinn School Alumna of the Year, and Gordon Hardie, UCD Smurfit School Alumnus of the Year, were honoured on Friday 24th of April, at the UCD Business Alumni of the Year 2015 awards fundraising dinner.**

The Alumni Awards, which have been running since 1991, are the highest honour UCD Business bestows upon its graduates, recognising alumni who have demonstrated proven leadership skills, notable achievement in business and a significant contribution to the community, whether in Ireland or abroad.

Breege O'Donoghue (BComm '72), is currently Board Member & Group Director, Business Development & New Markets at Penneys / Primark. During her 35 year career, she has been directly involved in the transformation of the business from a small Irish retailer to an international fashion brand with annual sales of £4.95 billion – enjoying No. 1 volume market share in Ireland, UK, Spain and Portugal.

Gordon Hardie (MBA '94), has served as Managing Director, Bunge Food & Ingredients since July 2011 and is a member of the Executive Committee of Bunge Ltd. Bunge Ltd is a leading agribusiness and food company, listed on the NYSE, with integrated operations that circle the globe, stretching from the farm field to the retail shelf, with revenue of over US\$60 billion.

The Alumni of the Year Awards Dinner is sponsored by Tullow Oil and all profits raised will be donated to the UCD School of Business Centennial Scholarship Fund, supporting the next generation of business leaders.



Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin and Teresa Phelan, the grand-niece of Fr. Gleeson, display a page from the papers of Fr. Gleeson, an online archive of which was recently launched by UCD Library

## ■ World War I diaries of Fr Francis Gleeson digitised and published online

**For the first time in its history, papers from the Dublin Diocesan Archives have been made digitally available for scholars, researchers and members of the public. Experts in the Dublin Diocesan Archives and the UCD Digital Library, University College Dublin, have worked together for over 18 months to transcribe and digitize the diaries and papers of Fr Francis Gleeson, a Dublin Diocesan priest who ministered to soldiers in World War One.**

Fr Francis Gleeson was Chaplain to the Royal Munster Fusiliers as they faced battle on the Western Front. He was the priest depicted in the world famous painting, The Last General Absolution of the Munsters at Rue du Bois by Fortunino Matania, where he is seen mounted on a horse, giving absolution to the troops on the eve of the Battle of Aubers Ridge in May 1915.

He kept meticulous handwritten diaries of his time with the Munsters. They contain vivid, emotional and very often tragic accounts of his time with the troops near the battlefield. He was often the only person in a position to communicate with the families of soldiers missing or killed in action.

The Fr Gleeson collection consists of diaries, brigade roll books, letters and miscellaneous notes. These were transcribed by the Dublin Diocesan archivist, Noelle Dowling and volunteer archivist, Peter Sobolewski. They began work in January 2014 and finished nine months later. The collection was then given to UCD Digital Library, to start their work in November 2014.

The new digitised collection was officially launched by the Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, at a reception in the Holy Cross Diocesan Centre in April. The event was attended by members of Fr Gleeson's family and the British Ambassador to Ireland.

The collection is available at: <http://digital.ucd.ie/view/ucdlib:36570>



Speakers at a workshop on Leadership and Democracy held in UCD in June included (l-r) Dr John William Devine (King's College London); Dr Cara Nine (UCC), Prof. David Archard (Queen's University Belfast), workshop organiser Dr Iseult Honohan, School of Politics and International Relations, and Richard Bellamy (European University Institute/University College London)

## ■ Leadership, Democracy and Modern Successors of Machiavelli

**In June, UCD School of Politics and International Relations held a workshop on Leadership and Democracy attended by philosophers, political scientists, public servants and interested members of the public. This addressed a set of ethical issues arising in government and public affairs that are of concern to citizens, but have received limited attention in academic studies of politics. These included: 'Is political leadership inherently at odds with democracy?'; 'What does it mean for a political leader to be trustworthy?'; and 'What is the role of compromise in politics?'**

The opening paper by Professor David Archard, Queen's University Belfast, examined the tension between integrity and practical

efficacy not only for politicians, but also for philosophers and other academics called on to advise on public policy questions. Dr John William Devine, King's College London, pointed to problems resulting from the liberal focus on designing institutional constraints rather than on the question of what kind of political leaders we need. Dr Cara Nine, UCC, pointed to the essential role of compromise to secure lasting agreement on areas and resources, such as the Arctic, that are not yet clearly divided among territorial states. Finally, Richard Bellamy, European University Institute/University College London, noted the way in which some contemporary politicians - and their political advisors - who claim to be the modern successors of Machiavelli, are anti-democratic in a way that radically departs from Machiavelli's democratic realism.

## ■ Maths Sparks: demystifying the challenge of maths

The School of Mathematical Sciences and UCD Access Centre launched the inaugural 'Maths Sparks' programme in spring 2015. This free four-week series aimed to demonstrate to secondary school pupils the importance of mathematics and mathematical research, while encouraging them to continue studying higher mathematics at second and third level. Over 40 transition year and fifth year pupils from six secondary schools participated in the programme. The pupils were from schools and communities with some of the lowest progression rates to third level education in Ireland, where pupils traditionally do not sit higher level maths in their Leaving Certificate.

Each of the workshops, facilitated by volunteer students from the school, included mathematical tasks and applications in extra-curricular topics ranging from cryptography to Graph Theory. Lecturers from the school also spoke to participants about their research and the implications of their work on areas from internet security to financial modelling.

'Maths Sparks' is one of four SPARC projects funded by UCD Teaching and Learning to facilitate delivery of projects through student-staff partnerships. It is hoped to expand this 'Maths Sparks' initiative in 2016.



Dr Niamh Patwell (l) and Prof. Mary Clayton (r), of the UCD School of English, Drama and Film, join UCD President, Prof. Andrew Deeks to launch the publication of 'The Annals of the Emerald Isle' by PhD student Huiyi Bao, centre

## ■ An alternative perspective on literary Ireland

**Huiyi Bao, translator of nine books from English to Chinese, including *The Complete Poems* by Elizabeth Bishop (2015), *Ariel* by Sylvia Plath (2015) and *Good Bones* by Margaret Atwood (2009), is currently finishing her PhD at the UCD School of English, Drama & Film, supervised by Dr Niamh Pattwell and Professor Mary Clayton. She was born in Shanghai, gained her BA and MA in English at Fudan University and is the author of one book of poetry: *A Pagan's Book of Hours* (Beijing, 2012).**

Her latest book, *Annála an Oileáin Iathghlais* (*The Annals of the Emerald Isle*) tells the story of literary Ireland from an alternative perspective - that of a Chinese girl. As if shaking the crystal of Columcille, Huiyi Bao guides the readers to gaze at the glimmers and shadows of ancient and modern Hibernia: in the bog which buried the Fadden More Psalter, between the stanzas of Gaelic lyrics, amid spirals on the *Book of Kells* vellum, beneath the tarot cards scattered by Yeats.

This collection of essays is a labyrinth in which the author enjoys losing her way in Irish landscape, culture and literature, and seeks to present, to a Chinese audience, an Ireland that slows down the eyes.

President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, made an official presentation of Huiyi's translation of Yeats's *Sailing to Byzantium* on his state visit to China last December.

Huiyi is the author of one book of poetry, *A Pagan's Book of Hours* (Beijing, 2012), and is currently translating Colum McCann's *Everything in This Country Must*, and an anthology of poems by WB Yeats. She writes regular columns on medieval manuscripts and Irish literature for Chinese newspapers and magazines such as *The Paper* and *Shanghai Weekly*.

## UCD student wins Royal Society of Chemistry online video competition

**Matthew Coleman, a final-year chemistry student at UCD, has scooped first prize in a video competition run by The Royal Society of Chemistry, the UK's professional body for chemical scientists.**

The competition involved early-career researchers making an original one minute video highlighting to a non-specialist audience

how chemistry has helped to address challenges in health.

The competition entries were shortlisted by an expert judging panel and then put to a vote by members of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the public.

Matthew's winning video investigated nanoparticles as drug delivery couriers. In his one minute video, the UCD science student used the analogy of a courier driving around the streets of Dublin to convey how drug particles attached to the surfaces of nanoparticles, which could be equipped with what they need to potentially deliver a disease-free world.

"Nano science was my final year research project and I was working on functionalism in nanoparticles, with the end goal of potential for

new vaccine development and drug delivery carriers," said Matthew.

According to Matthew, the experience has helped him to see his detailed research in the broader context of how it could improve the delivery of healthcare to fight and kill diseases.

"Trying to simplify the data and the results to convey it to the lay person helped me to focus more on the application of the research. The process of doing the video gave me a broader perspective on how the research was helping the world."

The Royal Society of Chemistry online video competition was also won by a UCD student last year. John Gleeson, a then PhD student at UCD, claimed first prize with his one minute video on the topic of 'Chemistry in Health' which explained harvesting food for health gain.

## Corn Uí Chon Cheanainn 2015

**Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin, mac léinn TCD a bhuaigh Corn Uí Chon Cheanainn 2015. Bhí an comórtas ar siúl in Ionad na Mac léinn i UCD Dé Sathairn, 18 Aibreán 2015. Ba é seo an chéad bhliain ar an bhfód de Chorn Uí Chon Cheanainn.**

Bunaíodh an comórtas seo in ómós do Chiarán Ó Con Cheanainn a bhí ina mhac léinn PhD agus ina léachtóir i UCD nuair a cailleadh é sa bhliain 2009. Ba é amhránaíocht na Gaeilge a shainréimse taighde agus b'iontach an fonnadóir é féin, ghnóthaigh sé neart gradam amhránaíochta, Corn Uí Riada ina measc. Ba é an duine ab óige riamh é a ghnóthaigh sméar mhullaigh an Oireachtais sa bhliain 2008.

Chuaigh Ciarán go mór i bhfeidhm ar mhic léinn UCD agus a chuid comhghleacaithe, mar sin beartaíodh ar chomórtas sean-nóis a chur ar siúl in ómós do Chiarán i UCD.

Comórtas uile oileánda a bhí i gceist le hiomaitheoirí ó na cúigí ar fad agus iomaitheoirí amháin ó Mheiriceá Theas. 13 san iomlán a bhí san iomaíocht i gCorn Uí Chon Cheanainn. Rob Ó Caoindealbháin a bhí mar stiúthóir ar an gcomórtas agus an té a chuimhnigh ar an gcomórtas a chur ar bun an chéad lá. B'iad Aodán Ó Ceallaigh (An Rinn, Port Láirge), Brian Ó Domhnaill (Anagaire, Co. Dhún na nGall) agus Mairéad Ní Fhlatharta (An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe) a bhí i mbun moltóireachta ar an lá. Bhí Áine Ní Bhreisleáin (TG4) mar bhean an tí ghairmiúil agus ghalánta.

Bhí ardchaighdeán amhránaíochta ar an lá, meascán an-deas stíleanna agus ba mhór an trua nárbh fhéidir níos mó ná trí dhuais a bhronnadh. Bá é Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin (Dún Droma, BÁC) ó TCD a thug an corn leis, lena leagan de Liam Ó Raghallaigh agus an Sceilpín Draighneach. Tháinig Doireann Ní Ghlacáin (Cluain Tarbh, BÁC) ó UCD sa dara háit lena leagan de Cois Abhann na Séad agus An Gamhnaicín mar amhrán mear. Is í Ciara de Mórdha (Baile an Fhéirtéaraigh, Ciarraí) ó NUIG a thug an tríú háit léi, le leagan álainn de Raghadsa 's mo Cheití agus An Staicín Eorna.

Rinne Oireachtas na Gaeilge agus Gael Linn urraíocht ar dhuaisanna na mbuaiteoirí.

Bhronn muintir Chiaráin Uí Chon Cheanainn na duaiseanna ar na buaiteoirí.

Táthar ag siúl go rachaidh an comórtas ó neart go neart anois, agus gur comórtas bliantúil a bheidh ann feasta.

The inaugural Corn Uí Chon Cheanainn competition took place in the UCD Student Centre on Saturday, 18 April 2015. The competition was established in honour of Ciarán Ó Con Cheanainn who was a PhD student and lecturer at UCD when he died in 2009.

His research area was Irish language song and as a singer, he won many prizes, including Corn Uí Riada. He was the youngest ever to win this prize at Oireachtas na Gaeilge in 2008.

The competition was devised and directed by Rob Ó Caoindealbháin, with Aodán Ó Ceallaigh (Ring, Waterford), Brian Ó Domhnaill (Annagry, Donegal) and Mairéad Ní Fhlatharta (Spiddal, Galway) as judges. The show was compered by Áine Ní Bhreisleáin (TG4).

There was a high standard of singing on the day, a very pleasant mix of styles. Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin (Dundrum, Dublin) from TCD took first place, with his version of Liam Ó Raghallaigh and An Sceilpín Draighneach. Doireann Ní Ghlacáin (Clontarf, Dublin) from UCD was second with her version of Cois Abhann na Séad and An Gamhnaicín as an uptempo song. Ciara de Mórdha (Ballyferriter, Kerry) from NUIG came in third place, with her beautiful version of Raghadsa's mo Cheití and An Staicín Eorna. Thirteen people took part from all over Ireland and one competitor from South America.

The prizes were sponsored by Oireachtas na Gaeilge and Gael Linn and were presented to the winners by Ciarán's family.

It is hoped that the competition will go from strength to strength, and that it will become an annual event.



*Nikiya La Bayader 2014, a sculpture by Eamonn Ceannt, bronze, 24x14cm*

## Performance Art

A selection of sculpture by Eamonn Ceannt was recently on view at Gormley's Fine Art, Belfast. Coming somewhat late to sculpture, Ceannt first went to Vivian Hansbury at NCAD in 2008 and then took classes with Pat Fortune and Jim Connolly. His former role in charge of capital development at UCD gave him plenty of opportunity to examine contemporary artists in detail as he and UCD art curator, Ruth Ferguson, developed the impressive sculpture trail on the Belfield campus, which includes Rowan Gillespie, Paddy Campbell, Ellis O'Connell, Jill Pitko and the late Conor Fallon.

Prior to joining UCD, he previously worked abroad and has travelled extensively, mainly in Africa; it is out of Africa that his love of bronze sculpture was born. Intent on telling a story, many of Ceannt's sculptures are women and often dancers. Presenting his third solo exhibition at Gormley's this summer, Ceannt has added new women to his 'Performance' collection. Nikiya (pictured) is inspired by the temple dancer from the Russian ballet, La Bayadere, choreographed by Petipa. Apart from his anatomical pieces and head studies, Eamonn Ceannt creates plant and animal sculptures. His Black tulip can be seen in the permanent collection at Blarney Castle and in front of the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science on the Belfield campus.

## UCD AFC make a big impact in the UEFA Europa League

UCD AFC have entered the Europa League after the club was awarded a place in the qualifying rounds of the competition on the back of Ireland's third place finish in the UEFA Fair Play table. Ireland was the final federation to be rewarded for their good discipline, with the Netherlands and England taking first and second place. Despite beginning this season in the First Division, UCD gained their place due to St Patrick's Athletic and Dundalk — both of whom finished above UCD in the Irish Fair Play league — having already qualified for European competition.

The Europa League first qualifying round saw UCD take on F91 Dudelange of Luxembourg. After a brilliant 1-0 victory in the first leg in the UCD Bowl, thanks to a Ryan Swan goal, UCD advanced to the next round on away goals despite a 2-1 defeat on the night in Luxembourg.



Dylan Watts and Robbie Benson, UCD AFC, in action against Slobodan Simovic, Slovan Bratislava, UEFA Europa League, 2nd Qualifying Round, 1st leg, Stadion Pasienky, Bratislava. Picture credit: Christian Ort/SPORTSFILE

In the first leg of the second round, UCD AFC faced an extremely difficult encounter against Slovakian giants SK Slovan Bratislava. The team have an impressive record in the Europa League, having advanced to the Group Stages of the competition last season and also in 2011/2012. The fixture saw UCD AFC lose 1-0, a cruel result not reflecting their performance. At time of print, UCD AFC still have all to play for, with the return leg in UCD Bowl on July 23rd.

The UCD players on the Irish squad were: Joey Carbery (UCD/Leinster); Billy Dardis (UCD/Leinster); Jack Dwan (UCD/Leinster); Jeremy Loughman (UCD/Leinster); Nick McCarthy (Captain); (UCD/Leinster); Sean McNulty (UCD/Munster), Josh Murphy (UCD/Leinster), Andrew Porter (UCD/Leinster), Garry Ringrose (UCD/Leinster).

Asked why the university's rugby club is so well represented on the Ireland Under-20 team, John Hammond, Administrator of Rugby at UCD, said: "Top players from schools are attracted to UCD, not only for the excellent academic programmes, but also for rugby where they may play within the Leinster Rugby system, or in the All-Ireland League with UCD. The top-class sports facilities are also a significant consideration."

## Nine UCD rugby players line out for Irish Under-20s

Nine UCD rugby players were among the 28-man squad representing Ireland at the World Rugby Under-20 Championship in Italy in June.

After hard-fought victories over Argentina and Scotland and a decisive loss to New Zealand, the team emerged in seventh place overall, concluding with a satisfying 17-9 win over Scotland.

## UCD to host pool matches of Women's Rugby World Cup 2017

It was announced in mid-May 2015 that Dublin and Belfast will host Women's Rugby World Cup 2017 after World Rugby awarded the hosting rights for the prestigious tournament to the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU).

With women's rugby continuing to experience record global growth, the pool stages will be held at UCD, before the world's top female rugby players convene in Belfast for the semi-finals and positional play-offs, including the final at the Kingspan Stadium.

A major international rugby success story, Women's Rugby World Cup attracted capacity crowds and record broadcast audiences in the last two tournaments in France in 2014 and England in 2010.

Ireland has been at the forefront of the success story, winning the Six Nations Grand Slam in 2013 and claiming the Six Nations title earlier this year.

Women's Rugby World Cup is being brought forward by one year to 2017 to maximise synergy with the Olympic Games and Rugby World Cup Sevens cycles for the world's top female players. The event will return to a four-year cycle after 2017. In further positive news for UCD, it was announced in late June that Belfield is to host the World Rugby Women's Sevens series qualifier 2015, on 22 and 23 August. Some 12 teams will compete in the UCD Bowl, including Olympic qualified Brazil and Colombia, battling for the two remaining places on the 2015-16 World Rugby Women's Sevens Series.

## Fourteen students represent UCD at 2015 World University Games

Fourteen UCD students were selected to represent Ireland at the World University Games. The bi-annual event, the second largest multi-sport event in the world, took place in Gwangju, South Korea, from 3rd – 14th July.

Chloe Mustaki, Catherine Cronin, Ciara Grant, Dora Gorman, Julie-Ann Russell, Orlagh Nolan, Siobhan Killeen and Niamh Walsh joined up with the Irish women's football team who concluded the tournament in 13th place after an 8-0 playoff against Columbia. UCD's Alan McGreal took his place in the men's football squad who beat France in a play-off for fifth place. Ciara Everard competed in athletics, placing 6th in the 800m final; while Alex Gleeson represented UCD in the sport of golf, with his team coming in 8th place. UCD was represented in swimming by Shani Stallard; Shauna O'Brien, who progressed to the semi-final of the 50m butterfly; and Alex Murphy who swam in the semi-final of the 50m breaststroke.

Of those chosen for the women's football team, six play for UCD Waves, including FAI senior women's Player of the Year, Julie-Ann



The Gwangju Universiade Main Stadium (World Cup Stadium) which played host to some of the events at the 2015 World University Games

Russell (who scored twice in the WUG game against Columbia). Their selection comes as a well-earned reward for the Waves players whose

season recently ended with a second place finish in the league and an FAI Cup final appearance.

## UCD students selected for Washington Ireland Program 2015

Four UCD students have been selected from hundreds of applicants to join the Washington Ireland Program (WIP) Class of 2015. Identifying young people with a commitment to service and a track record of leadership, the WIP builds their skills through work experience, educational opportunity, and hands-on citizenship both at home and in the US. Through these efforts, WIP is building the next generation of leaders that will achieve a peaceful, stable and prosperous future for Northern Ireland and Ireland.

The four UCD students selected for WIP Class of 2015 are:

Gary Cooke, a masters student studying Mechanical Engineering with Business. He is currently the treasurer for the Mechanical Engineering Society and is a former committee member of the UCD Literary and Historical Society.

James Gallagher, a UCD Ad Astra Academic Scholar and the head of the inaugural Academic Scholar's Council. He has been a mentor to incoming exchange students

at UCD. He is currently the treasurer, and was formerly the marketing director, of the Irish Student Entrepreneurship Forum.

Aoibhinn Kenny, a two-time UCD Bord na Gaeilge Scholar who has been heavily involved in An Cumann Gaelach and has organised many events in promotion of the Irish language. Aoibhinn is an avid mooter, having competed in national competitions and winning Bréagchúirt Uí Dháiligh in 2013.

Ciara McConnell, a final year Politics and International Relations student who is a part-

time intern with Women for Election, an organization dedicated to ensuring equal representation in Irish politics.

The WIP program internships include placements on Capitol Hill, government agencies and the private sector. Previous students have interned in the offices of then U.S. Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, former Presidential Candidate Senator McCain, at the Headquarters of the World Bank and at CNN.



UCD Registrar and Deputy President, Prof. Mark Rogers and UCD Director of International Affairs, Mr Alex Metcalfe, along with Women, Work and Health representatives Dr Sunita Kaistha and Ms Amita Sahaya, visited the Sangam Vihar Education Centre in Delhi in November 2014. The centre was built by volunteers from UCDVO and Delhi University with funds from Irish Aid. The scheme is one of the many community development projects that 143 volunteers from UCD Volunteers Overseas will work on this summer, across 5 countries. Donations are always welcome at [www.mycharity.ie/charity/ucdvo](http://www.mycharity.ie/charity/ucdvo)

## UCD Engineering Student Wins Prestigious European Award

Killian McKenna, a UCD electrical engineering graduate and current PhD student, fought off competition from students from across Europe to win the prestigious 2015 EURELECTRIC Student Award in Berlin in early June. EURELECTRIC is the sector association which represents the common interests of the electricity industry at a pan-European level.

Killian was chosen as the Electricity Association of Ireland (EAI) entrant for this year's award following his success in the all-island of Ireland competition sponsored by ESB. At the official award ceremony in Berlin, he presented his winning essay submission, chosen by a panel of experts, to the 400 delegates.

EAI Chief Executive Dr Owen Wilson said: "We're delighted to see Killian win this award. It's a wonderful recognition of the standard of young graduates on the island, on a par with those across Europe. Delivering sustainable energy is critical for the future of all our economies and the environment and it's wonderful that we have a new generation of people, like Killian, with the knowledge and enthusiasm to help solve some of the many challenges facing the industry."

## A Swedish Symphony

The 70 student musicians of the UCD Symphony Orchestra recently engaged in their second sojourn to mainland Europe in the last three years. The orchestra gave an extremely well received and well attended concert in the magnificent Main Hall of Uppsala University on March 14th. All three of the featured soloists were UCD Ad Astra Academy Performing Arts scholars.

Dignitaries in attendance at the orchestra concert included Her Excellency Orla O'Hanrahan, Irish Ambassador to Sweden, Her Excellency Ulrika Sundberg, Swedish Ambassador to Ireland, and Mr Justice Paul Carney, whose parents established a Department of Celtic Studies in Uppsala University.

The UCD Symphony Orchestra is indebted to the conductor and committee of the Royal Academic Orchestra in Uppsala University, whose kindness and hospitality made the venture possible.



UCD Symphony Orchestra Artistic Director Dr Ciarán Crilly conducts a UCD SO concert performance at Uppsala University in March