

# UCD today



15. THE BIG BANG

UCD - CERN Test Success

5. ALZHEIMER'S

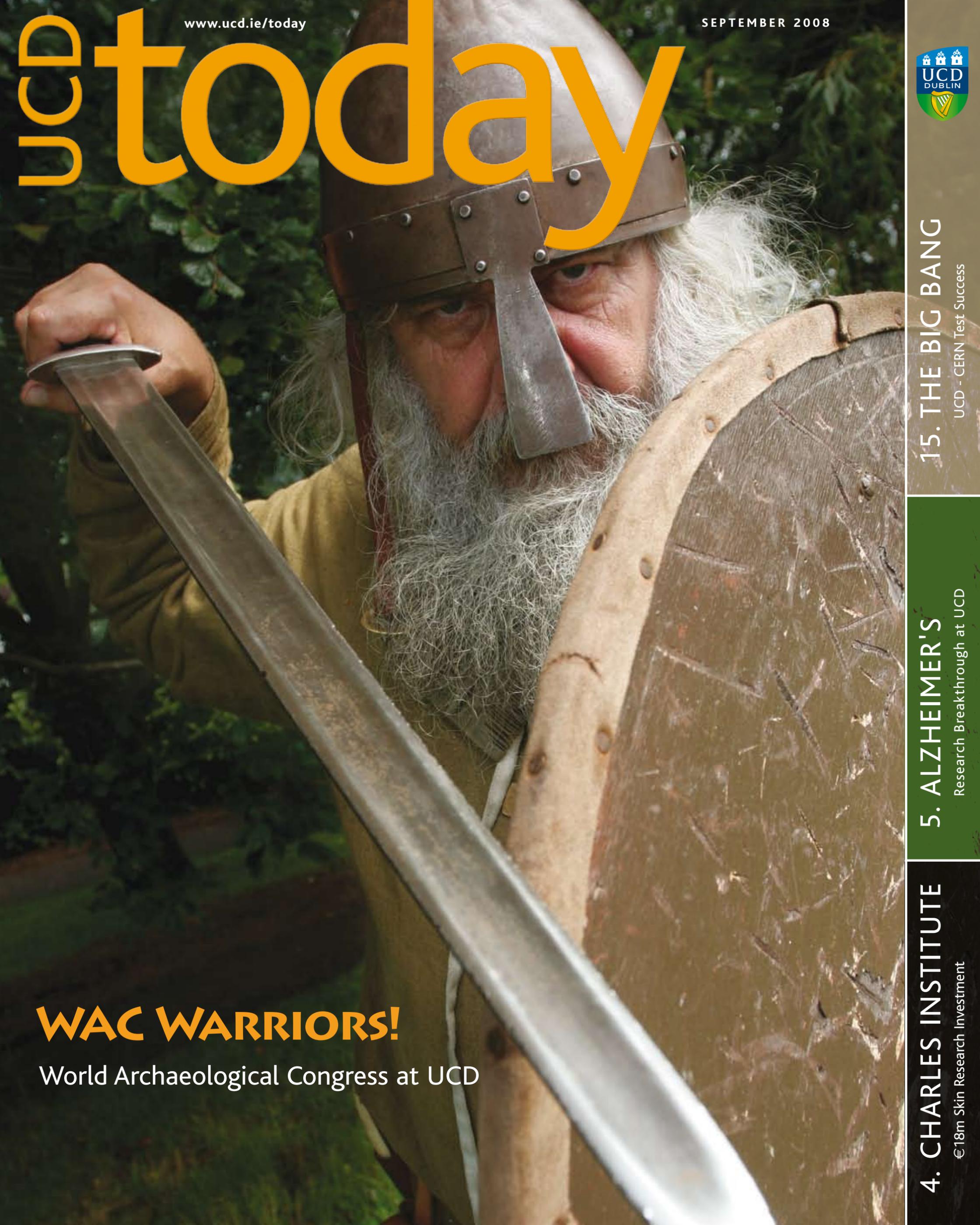
Research Breakthrough at UCD

4. CHARLES INSTITUTE

€18m Skin Research Investment

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World Archaeological Congress at UCD



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## Welcoming new students to UCD

As new students come through the campus for the first time we can take a quick look at how they got here. The vast majority of our first years are school leavers entering on the basis of their Leaving Certificate points. As the third level sector has expanded and the Institutes of Technology extended their courses to include more level 8 degrees, the choice for school-leavers has ballooned. There are now over 1,200 level 8 options from which students can choose.

Since the CAO system offers students their highest preference according to their points achieved, competition for first preferences has grown with each HEI vying to attract the best students. The importance of first preferences is

reinforced each year as subsequent cohorts of 6th year students rank and measure courses on the basis of their points in the previous year. Consequently, new courses – sometimes with small class numbers and topical names - attract great interest and are "rewarded" with high points. This creates a cycle of new programmes with rarely any retirement of older course titles.

UCD currently offers 74 degree entry codes for school-leavers. Taking a broad look at the fifteen larger programmes (those with over 55 places catering for 66% of the students) the points have maintained good consistency with little fluctuation beyond +/- 5 points. Engineering and physiotherapy

fell by 20 and 15 points respectively. Agriculture recorded the highest undenominated degree climb with 60 points.

Entry points represent the leaving certificate performance of the last student offered a place on a programme. Last year the typical science student had 415 points even though the entry was 305. The typical engineering student had 530 points even though the entry was 495. The proliferation of CAO codes is a consequence of the first preference competition and many students rank their preferences according to their own points expectation with the highest point course first.

To break out of this cycle requires a shift in the message. Instead of using new and newer entry codes to attract high point students, we need to convince them that their classes at UCD will be filled with similarly bright students. Then we can concentrate on the more important element – the course content. Modularisation gives us the mechanism for offering multiple progression routes out of a smaller number of entry routes. Perhaps we don't need all those DN codes after all...

**Eilis O'Brien**  
Director of Communications

### Cover Image

Combat archaeology was one of the 200 sessions which took place during the World Archaeological Congress (WAC) which was held from 29 June - 4 July at University College Dublin. It was the first WAC to be held in Ireland and was attended by 1,800 participants from over 70 countries. WAC is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization and is the only elected international body of practising archaeologists. The international congress is held every four years to promote the exchange of the results of archaeological research; professional training and public education for disadvantaged nations, groups and communities; the empowerment and betterment of Indigenous groups and First Nations peoples; and the conservation of archaeological sites.

## UCD thanks...

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



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# WAC Warriors!

Juno McEnroe speaks to UCD archaeologist, Dr Barry Molloy, about how Irish Bronze Age warriors fought on the battlefield. His research paper on this subject was presented at the largest ever international gathering of archaeologists in Ireland - the World Archaeological Congress, which was hosted by UCD in June-July 2008

The crafting of replica ancient swords and shields, using the knowledge of martial arts experts and then testing these replica weapons on materials replicating human physiology, is helping researchers to gain new insights into the fighting skills of warriors thousands of years ago. The new findings are dispelling previous beliefs that these ancient warriors were untrained and brutish in combat. It's a project that has involved taking measurements from sword remains in museums across Europe and lead researcher, Dr Barry Molloy, is set to release a book on the findings. "Most of the time, history has focused on the broad strategic picture of how armies operated. We wanted to look at it more from the aspect of how people moved, how people operated, the practicalities of what actually happened on a battlefield. It is about understanding the mechanics of the swords and shields, what they can and can't do. From this perspective, we assess movement and patterns of action on the battlefield," explains the UCD School of Archaeology researcher, who has worked on a number of excavations since 1997 in Ireland, Britain, the Czech Republic and Greece.

Dr Molloy's current research position, a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in UCD's School of Archaeology, is being funded by the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences. His current research on warfare links in with his PhD, which focused on the practical use of Bronze Age weaponry in the Aegean and in Ireland. This led to publication last January of his findings in the international journal, *World Archaeology*. But archaeology wasn't his first passion. Initially, he embarked on a computer science degree at Trinity College Dublin in 1995, but he soon discovered his passion for archaeology and switched courses. Graduating in 2000, he worked in contract archaeology until 2001, when he began his PhD in the School of Classics, University College Dublin. Over 2006-7 he worked full-time as a research associate on the *Keros and the international spirit of the Cycladic Early Bronze Age* project at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research in Cambridge. He is presently co-director of the Priniatikos Pyrgos excavations in the Gulf of Mirabello region of East Crete, which will continue until 2011.

His presentation on combat archaeology was made at the World Archaeological Congress this summer with his UCD colleague, Dr Alan Peatfield. In a practical display of their findings, they demonstrated the effectiveness of bronze swords with a series of cutting tests. But long before this work got to the presentation and cutting test stage, a precise process was needed to actually reproduce these replica swords, both Irish and Aegean, to the specifications of those which would have been used broadly from c.1800 – c.800BC. Looking at the weight of the swords, their balance and the biomechanics behind their use in battle, the researchers were able to piece together just how warriors handled the weapons. Tests included using the replicas to cut flesh and also in sparring matches. Dr Molloy took detailed measurements of sword remains in museums in Ireland, the UK and Greece including their width

and the thickness of the weapons' handles. "The manufacturing process is very important because that dictates how hard and tough the sword will be. We tried to take that into account to make replicas as accurate as possible," he explains.

Dr Molloy's research took him to Dublin's National Museum, Belfast's Ulster Museum, Oxford's Ashmolean Museum and London's British Museum. He also visited museums in Athens, Heraklion and Pylos. Then, passing the measurements to a craftsman in Cornwall, Niall Burrige, the researchers were able to make the replica weapons. Other replicas were recreated at foundries in Dublin using wooden templates. In total, the UCD team crafted some 14 swords ranging in size from 35 centimetres up to 70 centimetres. Each of the weapons weighs between 300 and 600 grams. The team also made five shields including a leather one and others made of copper alloy. They then consulted a UCD martial arts Tai Chi class, whose expertise enabled them piece together how the weapons might have been used. To reproduce the effect of the swords cutting through flesh, the team also used an ancient Japanese method called *tameshigiri*. The replicas cut through water-soaked rolled straw mats to simulate the feel of the blades slashing flesh. Once the team had perfected the way the swords cut best, the researchers went on to test the weapons on the bodies of dead pigs. "We did some test cutting against the forelegs and against the chest of some recently slaughtered pigs. We got them literally when they had been slaughtered within an hour so there was no chance of rigor mortis setting in," recalls Dr Molloy.

With no texts from the era describing the swords, the UCD team looked to the Medieval period for clues on similar fighting methods. "It was basic information on how people used swords because it's quite different from swords used in the Hollywood movie kind of thing. It demonstrated the limitations of the swords, that they weren't

quite as robust as might be thought and they had to be used in a particular fashion to be effective at all. Previous literature said these were used like an axe and it was basically - clobber clobber clobber! But we were able to show that it was much more subtle than that," continues the archaeologist. "They used these swords effectively. It wasn't a case of just twice a year picking them up and going into battle. It took a daily training regime to be effective. We learnt that even with our training they were liable to bend, and get damaged if you struck them the wrong way at all. So you had to be very fluid and very skilled to use them in a fashion which ensured that they wouldn't get broken in battle," he adds.

Examining the remains of damaged swords in museums showed evidence of where they might have struck a bone, or a shield or where they clashed with other sharp edged weapons like spears. This has led researchers to speculate that each time warriors fought with swords, the weapons are likely to have come away damaged. "It seems likely that they would have had to be heavily re-sharpened after every use. That would suggest that the life cycle of a sword might not have been as long as has sometimes been suggested – it is possible that it was a matter that you bring it out, use it once or twice and after that it was recast again," says Dr Molloy. The significance of the warfare research lies in the fact that it would seem to reinforce previous theories on Bronze Age Ireland and mainland Greece, which suggest that there were no hierarchical ruling structures in settlements and that the swords would have been commonly used. This is based on the sheer numbers and types of remains which have been recovered by archaeologists. "Martial arts types of activities would have been a daily part of their life," explains Dr Molloy. But it changes the picture of Bronze Age Crete, which is believed to have been a peaceful society.

Further insights into this practical and social approach to combat archaeology will be found in Dr Molloy's forthcoming book on Irish Bronze Age warfare, entitled *'The Birth of the Sword'*, which is expected to be on bookshelves in 2010. In the meantime, the UCD archaeologist is currently working on a number of digs, including a major excavation in Greece.

*Dr Barry Molloy is IRCHSS Postdoctoral Fellow, at the School of Archaeology, University College Dublin and IJHSA Director: Priniatikos Pyrgos excavation project - www.priniatikos.net as well as Project coordinator: Combat Archaeology Research Project - www.combat-archaeology.org*

*Juno McEnroe (BA 2000 and MA in Journalism [DCU] 2001) is currently a journalist with the Irish Examiner.*

*Dr Barry Molloy (3rd l) with UCD colleagues, Dr Alan Peatfield (1st l) and Professor Gabriel Cooney, Professor of Celtic Archaeology, (2nd l) and Dr Aidan O'Sullivan (4th l), try out their replica swords during the WAC conference at UCD*



A Bronze Age Mycenaean ring depicting a battle

## World Archaeological Congress

**The World Archaeological Congress (WAC) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation and is the only elected international body of practising archaeologists.**

WAC holds an international congress every four years to promote the exchange of the results of archaeological research; professional training and public education for disadvantaged nations, groups and communities; the empowerment and betterment of Indigenous groups and First Nations peoples; and the conservation of archaeological sites.

The Sixth World Archaeological Congress (WAC-6) was held at University College Dublin from 29th June - 4th July 2008. This was the first World Archaeological Congress to be held in Ireland. It was attended by over 1,800 archaeologists, native peoples and international scholars from 74 nations. Motions from the Plenary Session of the Congress were considered by subsequent meetings of the World Archaeological Congress Council and Executive.

The Congress Patron for WAC-6 was the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese. Previous Congress Patrons include Prince Charles and Nelson Mandela.



## Go-ahead for New Sutherland School of Law

The proposed new purpose-built UCD Sutherland School of Law, announced in August by the Minister for Education and Science, Batt O'Keefe, is expected to be completed by 2011.

The new centre will be named after UCD Law graduate, Senior Counsel and former Attorney General, Peter Sutherland, who will part-fund the project. The remainder of the funding has been pledged under the National Development Plan, from UCD and from other private funding. It will be situated within the precinct of the University's Gateway development. According to Professor Joe McMahon, Interim Dean of the UCD School of Law, the new School will "continue our tradition of pioneering and delivering the best possible legal education. Something clearly evidenced in the continued success of our past students."

This innovative new centre will roll out facilities for up to 1,500 students and staff. The centrepiece of the new building will be the Clinical Legal Education Centre – the first of its kind in Ireland, which will underline the School's commitment to a strong teaching and research mission.

In the opinion of UCD Professor of European Law, Professor Imelda Maher, who is the academic director of the project, "The learning and research environment will be transformed" by this addition to UCD's facilities. Furthermore, "the Clinical Legal Education Centre will be an important resource for UCD, the wider legal community, and those interested in the central role that law plays in the economic and social development of Irish society."

## €18million Skin Research Investment

The country's first academic institute devoted to the study of dermatology was formally launched in June by the Minister for Health and Children, Ms Mary Harney, TD. The €18 million Charles Institute will, when it is completed, be a major research and training facility on the UCD campus, augmenting the clinical research and patient care provided by St Vincent's University Hospital.

The Charles Institute will recruit upwards of 50 scientists, graduate students and doctors who will focus their research on common skin diseases such as psoriasis, eczema, skin cancer and rare genetic skin diseases, as well as the training of health professionals in dermatology. Utilising frontier biotechnologies, it is hoped that research here will develop new therapies, including micro-therapeutics for the generation of new drugs for clinical research; stem cell therapy; tissue engineering and nanobiology.

"Skin conditions affect so many people, in so many ways and for some, all through their lives," Minister Harney acknowledged at the launch. "I am confident that the Charles Institute will contribute significantly to the successful treatment of skin conditions resulting from research initiated at the Institute," she

added. Between 25 and 33 percent of the Irish population suffer from a dermatological condition at any one time, while skin conditions are the fourth most common reason for GP visits in Ireland.

The Charles Institute is named in honour of Andrew Charles FRCSI, the founder of the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital (Hume Street Hospital) and his son Havelock Charles, who worked as a consultant dermatologist at Hume Street all his life.

Mr Peter O'Flanagan, Chair of the Board of the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital, underlined the need for training in dermatology. "Until now there has been little routine formal training in dermatology among health practitioners in Ireland. Most GPs in Ireland only learn about dermatology through exposure to skin disease in their daily practice. Even primary care nurses, 25 percent of whose caseload is patients with skin disease, have had no formal training programme in dermatology."

The construction of the Charles Institute is being funded by a €12 million contribution from the Board of the former City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital (Hume Street Hospital) and €6 million from UCD.

The Minister for Health and Children, Ms Mary Harney TD (right); Dame Beulah R Bewley DBE (centre-left), niece of Andrew Charles; Norma Futers (left), granddaughter of Andrew Charles, and Dr Paul Collins, Consultant Dermatologist, St Vincent's University Hospital, pictured with an architectural model of the Charles Institute at the announcement on 13 June 2008 at UCD



## The Future of the Humanities

'The Future of the Humanities' was the title of the plenary lecture given by Professor Stanley Fish, Davidson-Kahn Distinguished University Professor of Humanities and Law at Florida International University, which was hosted by the UCD Clinton Institute and the Humanities Institute of Ireland.

According to Professor Fish, when asked what use there is in the humanities, the only appropriate answer is, "none whatsoever". By resisting the temptation to justify the academic study of the humanities for reasons of social usefulness, such as for tackling prejudice or increased productivity, there is a realisation that their real value is contained in the pleasure of the common pursuit of knowledge. This realisation frees academic Schools from attempting to meet demands that they cannot fulfil.

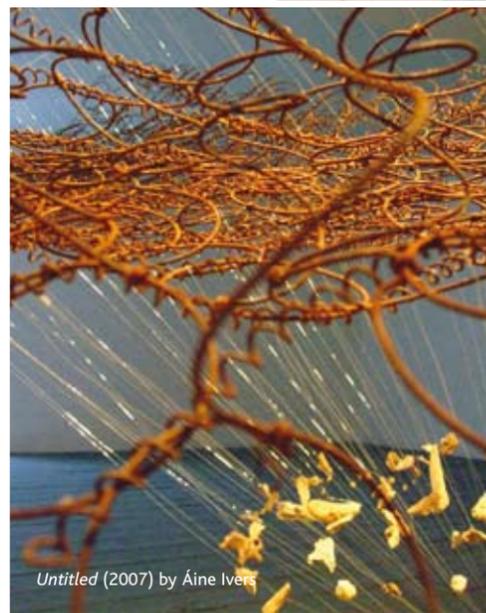
Speaking about his latest book project, entitled *Save the World on Your Own Time*, which has just been published by Oxford University Press, he said it puts forward the highly contentious claim that the academy has but two responsibilities: to introduce bodies of knowledge to students and to equip them with the analytical skills which would allow them to confidently navigate these traditions.

In an increasingly political world, the role of academic teaching

is, he said, "not to practise politics, but to study it." Professor Fish went on to discuss his three guidelines for all academic instructors: "do your job, don't try to do someone else's job, and don't let anyone else do yours".

On a number of occasions he invited audience members to challenge his assumptions before returning to an excoriation of the average university "mission statement" in typically blunt fashion. Referring to Cardinal John Henry Newman's thesis on this matter, Professor Fish's doctrine of "knowledge for its own sake" provoked much discussion amongst the international audience which continued to reverberate for the duration of the summer school.

Professor Mary Daly, College Principal and Director of the Humanities Institute of Ireland; Professor Stanley Fish, Davidson-Kahn Distinguished University Professor of Humanities and Law at Florida International University; and Professor Liam Kennedy, Director of the UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies.



Untitled (2007) by Áine Ivers

## Of Glass Houses and Stone

The Glass House Stone exhibition took place in the Health Sciences Gallery in July 2008 as part of UCD's hosting of the Sixth World Archaeological Congress. Curated by Dr Ian Russell, it explored whether archaeology, just as art, is a system of negotiable propositions whose strength lies not in any essence but in the fascination and enthusiasm of humans to engage with and mediate things in order to render our world intelligible.



Things Fall Apart (2008) by Andrew Burton

# Nanomedicines set to Revolutionise Drug Treatments



Over the next ten years the interface between bioengineering and nanotechnology is set to bring about revolutionary new treatment methods for diseases such as cancer and arthritis.

Some 120 delegates from Asia, Europe, South America and the US who recently attended the *SBE 4th International Conference on Bioengineering & Nanotechnology* at the O'Reilly Hall, UCD, heard speakers outline the advances being made in nanomedicines and nanosystems for drug delivery. It is a field which is bringing together frontier science and technology.

This year is the first year that the conference has been held in Europe and it was organised around three key themes:

1. Nanomedicines and nanosystems for drug delivery
2. Tools for the study and characterization of biological systems derived from nanoscopic phenomena and devices
3. The use of nanostructured materials for the delivery of biochemical and biophysical cues that stimulate cellular functions.

Professor Nicholas Abbott of the University of Wisconsin, Co-Chair with the other Co-Chair, UCD Professor Gil Lee, SFI Stokes Professor of Bionanoscience at the opening of the SBE 4th International Conference on Bioengineering & Nanotechnology. The conference outlined to delegates the advances being made in nanomedicines and nanosystems for drug delivery.

According to the conference organisers, the programme of speakers was designed so as to promote a dialogue regarding the balance of opportunity and risk that accompanies nanoscience and nanobiotechnology as well as the need for responsible science policy. "Knowledge is coming out of the intersection of bioengineering and nanotechnology," according to Professor Gil Lee, SFI Stokes Professor of Bionanoscience at UCD.

One of the keynote speakers, Professor Ruth Duncan of Cardiff University and Director of the Centre for Polymer Therapeutics, spoke about her research into nanopharmaceuticals which is producing drug delivery systems and biologically active drug products. Three of her drugs are currently in phase II of testing. If they successfully come through phase III, these new nanomedicines should ultimately prove a more effective treatment for cancer. Professor Duncan's research seeks to use nanomedicines in nanometre size, which should prove to be a more effective system of delivering the drug unit to the affected cell because as nanoparticles, they can target the affected area more readily than normal drugs, which are often too big and powerful. In time, it is hoped, they will herald a more effective therapeutic.

Another keynote speaker, Professor Jeffrey Hubbell of the Laboratory for Regenerative Medicine and Pharmacobiology, Integrative Biosciences Institute, Ecole Polytechnique

Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland, is working on a drug delivery treatment for arthritis.

His area is polymer chemistry and cell biology with applications in tissue engineering and drug delivery. Through his innovation he hopes to utilise what could be termed as 'intelligent molecules' to deliver drugs to specific parts of the tissue affected by arthritis, such as the cartilage. The research he is undertaking seeks to create a system whereby the nanomedicine is embedded in and delivered more slowly and thus more effectively.

The work of the conference's keynote speaker, Professor Jérôme Bibette of the Ecole Supérieure de Physique et Chimie Industrielles de la ville de Paris, (ESPCI) has been described as "visionary". He is currently developing a very practical way to identify and measure diseases. This new diagnostic takes advantage of technology through the adaptation of magnetic particles for diagnosis, a method termed "superparamagnetism". Simply put, these magnetic particles are used to 'capture' the molecules of a virus and allow them to be identified and counted in a more accurate way.

The conference on Bioengineering & Nanotechnology was supported by the Science Foundation of Ireland, University College Dublin and the National Science Foundation. Representatives from Enterprise Ireland, Novartis and other biotechnology companies also attended.

## Breakthrough in Understanding Alzheimer's

A team of researchers from the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Research led by Professor Dominic Walsh and neuroscientist, Professor Ciaran Regan, Director of Applied Neurotherapeutics Research Group (ANRG), has made significant progress in identifying how a cascade of molecular events leads to the onset of Alzheimer's Disease.

The study's breakthrough findings, which were reported in *Nature Medicine* (22 June 2008), show that the accumulation of amyloid  $\beta$ -protein (A $\beta$ ) in the brain initiates Alzheimer's Disease and that it directly alters the structure and function of brain cells.

Some 40,000 people in Ireland and up to almost 29 million people around the world are affected by Alzheimer's. By identifying the role played by the amyloid  $\beta$ -protein, the researchers may have pin-pointed a new key

target for future drug therapies, specifically the development of new therapeutic strategies for combating the accumulation of amyloid  $\beta$ -protein.

Professor Ciaran Regan, one of the authors of the study, described Alzheimer's as "a major personal and societal tragedy". Speaking following the announcement of the new understanding gained through this research, he explained, "The onset of the disease is insidious with the earliest symptoms often manifested as subtle and intermittent deficits of episodic memory. The disease's progression is torturously long and debilitating, and extorts a huge emotional and economic cost."

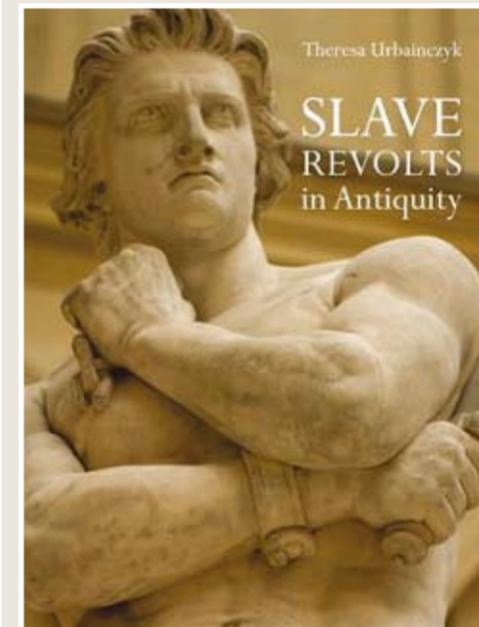
Speaking about the study, he added, "These new findings support the growing theory that Alzheimer's memory deficits may result from loss of dendritic spines and this process is



mediated by amyloid $\beta$ -protein (A $\beta$ ) oligomers, not monomer or plaque associated A $\beta$  as previously considered."

The co-authors in the study include researchers from University College Dublin, Harvard Medical School, Trinity College Dublin and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

## Slave Revolts in Antiquity



By Theresa Urbainczyk,  
Senior Lecturer in Classics, UCD  
University of California Press

Described as the first in-depth work on slave resistance in two decades, UCD Classics Lecturer, Theresa Urbainczyk, challenges the school of thought which dismisses slave revolts as historically insignificant or exceptional events. Urbainczyk, who is also the author of *Spartacus (Ancients in Action)*, utilises the ancient sources to shed light on a longer and far more significant history of slave resistance. She looks at how slave leaders have been recorded in history, what their aims were and what constitutes freedom.

## Taoiseach Appoints UCD Professor as Special Adviser

In June, the Taoiseach, Mr Brian Cowen, appointed UCD environmental economist, Professor Peter Clinch as his Special Policy Advisor. The Jean Monnet Professor of European Environmental Policy is an international authority on economics and the environment, and his area of expertise includes the relationship between economic growth, sustainability and quality of life; EU environmental policy; and cost-benefit analysis. In addition to providing policy advice across a range of economic and other areas, the 37-year-old professor will advise Mr Cowen on the process of integrating policies across

Government departments in anticipation of the challenges posed by the international environmental policy agenda.

Professor Peter Clinch has a PhD in environmental economics and a Diploma in environmental impact assessment. Since 2003, he has been, concurrently, Jean Monnet Professor of European Environmental Policy and Professor of Planning at UCD. In the past he has worked for the OECD, the World Bank and the Overseas Development Administration and has served on a number of government advisory panels, including serving on the National Economic and Social Council in 2007-2008.



## Few Surprises as the Points Race Rumbles on...

Despite commentary suggesting an economic downturn has influenced student choices in the CAO, Arts at UCD continues to attract considerable interest and the largest single entry code in the country, DN012, recorded a small increase in points from 345 to 350 in the first round offers for 2008. Over the past four years we have seen a small but steady percentage increase in the number of students selecting the BA as their first preference.

Social Science – which recorded a phenomenal increase of 115% in first preferences this year, increased points from 370 to 390. Psychology, with 75 places, increased to 500.

Business degrees showed good consistency with points in undenominated commerce holding steady at 455 and international commerce degrees all holding or increasing points. Actuarial & financial studies (requiring a HB3 in maths) also held at 555 points and remains the joint second highest degree at UCD – along with veterinary medicine and just behind medicine.

Law fell slightly to 500 points but the suite of joint law degrees with subjects such as economics and politics retained or climbed in points.

Points are, to some degree, a consequence of supply and demand and the expansion of course availability can affect the entry level. Architecture at UCD slipped 5 points to 525 this year and while this may be partially explained by future outlook on the construction section, it also has to be considered against the introduction of architecture at UCC, UL and Waterford IT in recent years. Closer inspection shows that the established architecture schools at UCD and DIT are least affected by the 7% fall in first preferences nationally by comparison with the three new arrivals.

With almost 70 level-8 engineering entry degrees on offer throughout the country and a poorer performance at higher level maths in the Leaving Certificate, the general fall in points is hardly surprising. The likely fall in civil engineering was flagged by a 31% fall in national first preferences for built environment courses but points also dropped in undenominated engineering, electronic & electrical engineering and in mechanical engineering. Only chemical/Bioprocessing engineering bucked the trend in any substantial way.

Computer Science, which, unlike engineering, doesn't require a higher level C in maths, saw an increase in points to 355 for the BSc and held steady at 300 for the BA.

Science, again the largest class of its kind in the country with 350 places, held steady with a small fall in points from 305 to 300, although the high-point denominated degrees in science had mixed fortunes.

Although numerically small, agriculture was expected to increase in points this year as the number of first preferences rose by over 10% and UCD is the only university to offer this suite of degrees. With the exception of horticulture programmes, agricultural science degrees all increased in points. The introduction of human nutrition (on 515 points) didn't dent the performance of food science where the points leapt from 315 to 360.

With over 470 students giving their first preferences for the 70 places in veterinary medicine, points remained high and stand at 555 despite increased overseas competition.

Nationally, nursing first preferences fell by almost 7% so, although general nursing at UCD slipped to 355 points, this is still a good performance. General & children's nursing now stands at 460 points while midwifery climbed to 415 points.

And finally, medicine: although first preferences fell slightly this year, points returned to 575. Next year's applicants will have to undergo a separate entrance examination for medicine but it remains to be seen if the results vary from the current high-point candidates.

Pictured following UCD's scarving ceremony, at which UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady welcomed new students to the college, were student volunteers Lydia Cumiskey, a 2nd year Civil Engineering student, with Paul Dunn, a 3rd year Electronic Engineering and Leona Behan, a 2nd Year Nursing student.



## 'How are we Doing?' ask Cultural Managers

"Failure is not necessarily bad. Failing to meet an objective – now regarded as a hanging offence in the managerialist lexicon – is nothing of the kind! It's just missing a target which may have been the wrong one in the first place."

That was Sir John Tusa's message to 120 Arts managers from all over Ireland who attended a conference on cultural management hosted by the UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy during the Summer.

The 'How Are We Doing? Managing Culture and the Arts in Ireland' conference was co-funded by the Heritage and Arts Councils and aimed to give cultural sector managers, collectively and personally, an opportunity to take stock of their work in the wider context of policy and practice for the Arts in Ireland.

Speaking to the delegates, Sir John Tusa, the former Managing Director of the BBC World Service, and former Managing Director of London's Barbican Centre from 1995-2007, and current Chairman of the University of Arts in London said, "Admitting to and recognising failure allows you to look again at the original target and decide that a totally different direction may be needed. All the masters

of good management insist that junking an objective that hasn't worked is not a sign of failure but an indicator of strength, of flexibility and speed of response."

The conference was also addressed by Robert Hewison, Professor of Cultural Policy and Leadership Studies in the Department of Cultural Policy and Management at City University in London. He is an Associate of the think-tank Demos, and was also instrumental in devising the Clore Leadership Programme for arts managers.

The conference was organised by Pat Cooke and Dr Emily Mark FitzGerald of the School of Art History and Cultural Policy. Further details can be viewed at: [www.artsculture08.ie](http://www.artsculture08.ie)



Cultural Management Conference (l to r) Doireann Ní Bhriain, independent consultant; Sir John Tusa, recently retired director of the Barbican Centre; Pat Cooke, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy, Eugene Downes, Director of Culture Ireland, and Gerard Cavanagh, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School

## Duolog Technologies Scoops Three Awards

Duolog Technologies, the NovaUCD-headquartered collaborative design automation™ company lifted a number of prizes at the 'Best of DAC' awards – which were part of the 45th annual Design Automation Conference (DAC) in June in California. The company won awards across the following three categories: 'Most Interesting First-time Exhibitor' award; the Trendsetter award in the 'Best Overall New Product' category for its Spinner tool; as well as the Trendsetter award for 'Best Demonstration on Exhibit Floor'.

The Design Automation Conference is the premier event for the design of electronic circuits and systems, and for Electronic Design Automation (EDA) and silicon solutions. More

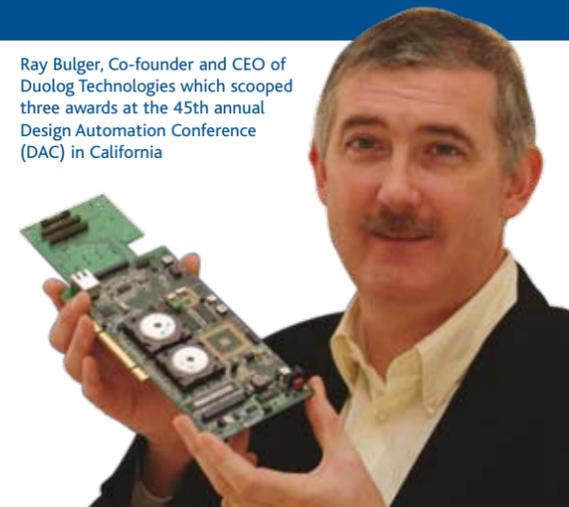
than 1,500 organisations are represented each year, with approximately 8,500 attendees and 250 of the world's leading and emerging EDA and silicon providers exhibiting at the show.

It was the first time Duolog Technologies, which develops software tools that enable chip design companies to design their products faster and with fewer bugs, attended the conference. The NovaUCD company entered three of the six categories and won all three.

The awards came just as Duolog Technologies announced that it is expanding internationally and has opened a sales, marketing and support office in California. The company plans to establish a similar presence in Japan later this year.

Speaking following the company's success, Ray Bulger, co-founder and CEO of Duolog Technologies said, "We are extremely pleased with the excitement and interest generated by our premiere at DAC and the awards we received, including recognition as a trendsetter for our Spinner tool and our product demonstrations." Using Spinner's Perfect By Construction™ methodology, chip design companies can eliminate bugs, greatly simplify the integration effort and radically improve quality. Spinner has been used on over 17 chips to date, including the multimedia processor chip found in the new Nokia N95 Smartphone.

Ray Bulger, Co-founder and CEO of Duolog Technologies which scooped three awards at the 45th annual Design Automation Conference (DAC) in California



## British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Inquiry hear from UCD Sociologists

Dr Alice Feldman and Dr Steven Loyal from the UCD School of Sociology gave evidence to Committee D for Culture, Education and Environment of the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body on the integration of migrants in Ireland. Their research was commissioned by the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI). They were joined by Ms Denise Charlton (ICI CEO) and Mr Fidèle Mutwarasibo (ICI Research Officer and UCD Sociology PhD student) to discuss the findings of a report by UCD's Migration and Citizenship Research Initiative for

the ICI which they co-authored with Dr Bettina Migge (UCD School of Irish, Folklore and Linguistics) and Dr Mary Gilmartin (Geography Department, NUI Maynooth). A copy of the report, *Getting On: From Migration to Integration (Chinese, Indian, Lithuanian and Nigerian Migrants' Experiences in Ireland)* can be read at: [www.immigrantcouncil.ie/](http://www.immigrantcouncil.ie/)

# Sugar... more than the spice of life

Professor Pauline Rudd moved to Ireland two years ago following the decision by Oxford University's Glycan Sequencing Group to relocate to UCD. Claire O'Connell spoke to her about her research into complex sugars which may unlock the potential of the genome project to tackle major diseases.

Sugar in the diet may be the *bête noir* of anyone trying to keep their waistline in check. But for scientists, understanding the important complex sugar molecules that our bodies make naturally can tell us much about our immune systems, how our cells communicate with their environment and even how we can detect early signs of disease.

Complex sugars called glycans latch on to around 60 percent of the proteins in our body, and in particular they sugar-coat our cells. "If you are outside a cell looking at the surface, by far the biggest impact would be made by the sugars - almost all of the cell-surface proteins are covered in sugars," says Professor Pauline Rudd, NIBRT Professor of Glycobiology at UCD.

Sugars have a protective, cushioning role, they help proteins to fold properly in the cell and their bristling ends also mediate specific reactions in the body. Yet despite their importance, they have been something of a poor relation in research, lagging behind more high-profile molecules like DNA and protein. "[Sugars] are much more complicated to analyse," explains Professor Rudd in her office at the UCD Conway Institute, where she and her 12-strong team have been based since they moved from Oxford two years ago. "So the field has been going along quietly in the background for a long time because people have been focused on the genome project and proteins."

But sugars also play a key role: DNA is translated into proteins in the cell, and then the addition of sugars can further refine a protein's function. "It's what enables us to have a relatively small genome because the gene products can be further diversified by post-translational modifications. I think it took a while for people to really understand how significant that could be." And when something goes awry, the results can be serious. "There's a series of congenital disorders of glycosylation where the sugars are grossly disturbed," notes Professor Rudd. "Most of them are lethal in utero but those who survive have very severe problems, usually ocular, motor and intellectual

problems. They often don't go through puberty because the pituitary hormones are not properly glycosylated. These diseases give you an insight into the things that can go wrong and understanding these is the first step towards designing treatment."

Professor Rudd has spent her academic career at the forefront of glycan research, working with pioneer Professor Raymond Dwek at the Oxford Glycobiology Institute on highlighting how the sugars attached to a protein can change its function in the body, and developing techniques for glycan analysis that are now used around the world. She has also looked closely at how sugars allow the immune system to recognise invaders. "The innate immune system involves a lot of sugar recognition because they are on the surfaces of bacteria or parasites," she explains. But it's a fine balance. In the case of some auto-immune conditions, like rheumatoid arthritis, the body's own proteins can become glycosylated in a way that makes it a target for the immune system. "If it goes wrong your proteins can look like a parasite or look like a yeast," she says.



Professor Rudd's team has also developed an interest in sugar changes in cancer. "I went to a meeting with research colleagues and realised that very little progress had been made in cancer diagnostics for a long time," she says.

#### Dublin-Oxford Glycobiology Laboratory

Left to right: Derek Chatterton, Jodie Abrahams, Jonathan Bones, Cliana Smyth, Marion Boland, Maurice Treacy (CEO of NIBRT), Matthew Campbell, Margaret Doherty, Ronan Kelly. Front row: Naoibh O'Donoghue, Professor Pauline Rudd, Radka Saldova



"Sugars are always altered in cancer and so we said we would look at them." Their work showed that when cancer was present, sugars were altered on tumour proteins and some inflammatory proteins, and that the changes could be detected in blood and tissue samples.

Looking for such early "biomarkers" of disease is one area where glycobiology can help to refine current, protein-based approaches, and Professor Rudd's group and collaborators are working on identifying potential sugar indicators for prostate, cancer, ovarian and breast cancers. "In our prostate cancer studies with Professor William Watson (UCD) we are targeting a subset of PSA molecules that has altered sugars. We are also collaborating with Professor Dolores Cahill (UCD) to look for markers of ovarian cancer and in our breast cancer study with Professor Joe Duffy from St Vincent's University Hospital we are attempting to find markers that will detect metastasis in advance of those that are used at the moment," says Professor Rudd, who explains they may be picking up changes from the process of a tumour starting to move to other sites in the body. "The markers that come directly from the metastasised tumour won't be able to give you a marker until the metastasis happens and it grows. But the migration from the primary site might initiate information in advance of that event."

The cancer work could also shed light on how sugars can change when cells are grown in culture under different conditions to produce therapeutic drugs, says Professor Rudd, whose work receives funding from Enterprise Ireland and Cancer Research Ireland among others. And commercialising the technologies they develop has been one goal of moving her group from Oxford to the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training, a not-for-profit partnership between UCD, TCD, DCU and IT Sligo. "It's easier here than in Oxford because Ireland has a more direct pipeline from academia to industry," she says.

## Inventive Beginnings

Ask successful scientists what attracted them to the profession and they will often recall a remarkable interest that started in childhood. But even among those, Professor Pauline Rudd stands out. By age 15 she had co-founded what would become one of the most successful early biotech ventures in Britain.

"I was just passionate about chemistry," recalls Professor Rudd, who is Professor of Glycobiology with the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT). "I had a chemistry kit at home [in Bournemouth] and I used to walk up and down the road to the different pharmacists begging a few grams of copper sulphate!"

One pharmacist had a son with a similar interest - he was trying to make glucose-1-phosphate from potatoes and inorganic phosphate - so he introduced the two young scientists and together they started Wessex Biochemicals.

"We were making rare sugars and sugar phosphates from natural products," recalls Professor Rudd. "We started off in his kitchen using a washing machine with a side-paddle, making trehalose by boiling up ethanol and tipping in baker's yeast."

From such inventive beginnings the business expanded to produce high-purity compounds for use in research. "I went off to university and got a chemistry degree but then I went back and we built up the business. We had the very first ion-exchange columns which went from floor to ceiling from the hall right up through the stairwell, and we had just food grinders," says Professor Rudd. "And all my family used to come in and make chips once a week so we could get an enzyme from the potatoes. It was very exciting."

US company Sigma took up the company, and Professor Rudd continued to work there, eventually moving to Oxford University where she became a Senior Research Fellow at the Glycobiology Institute in the Department of Biochemistry in the University of Oxford before moving to UCD to become Professor of Glycobiology. In 2006, she and her fully trained research team, which has filed a number of patents, moved to the newly established National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training at the UCD Conway Institute.

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

## The Sense of Creation

The launch of *The Sense of Creation: Experience and the God Beyond* at Newman House on 25 June 2008 brought past and present UCD presidents together as author, Dr Paddy Masterson, was joined by Dr Hugh Brady and Dr Art Cosgrove to celebrate this new work which has been described as a major contribution to contemporary philosophy of religion. At its core, the book explores whether, if all knowledge derives from empirical science and all meaning and value from human subjectivity, God becomes the unneeded hypothesis.

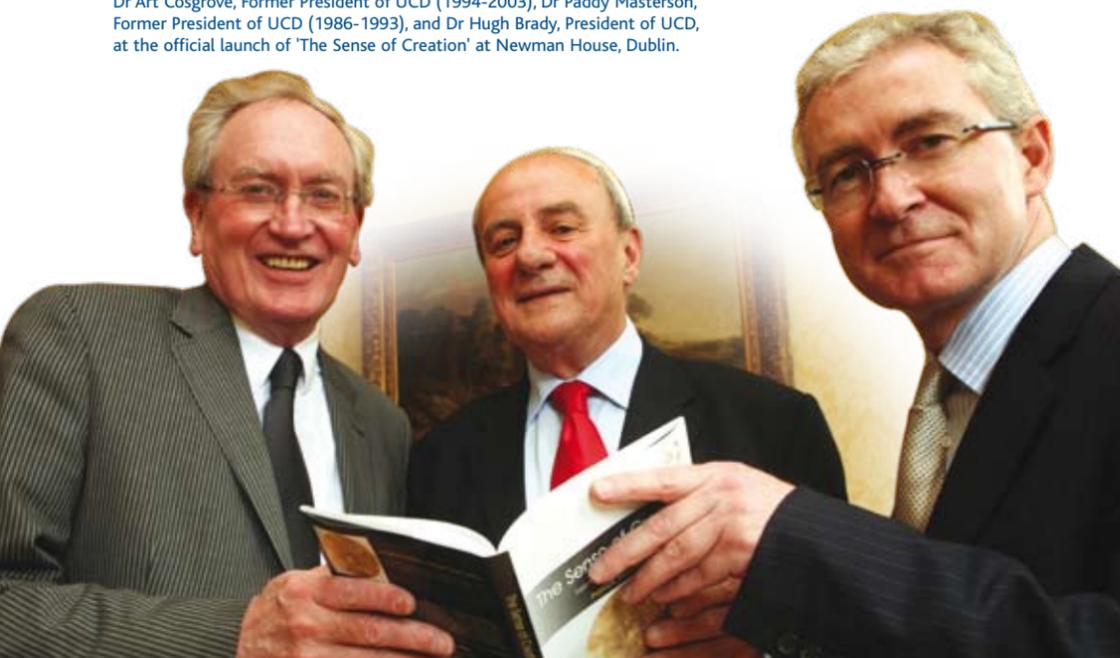
Delivering the revived annual UCD Newman Lecture on the same evening, Dr Masterson said, "To ask whether God exists, one needs to have some understanding of what is meant by 'God'. And if God does exist this will have self-involving implications for human existence." Both his Newman Lecture and his book focus on the idea of creation, not in the sense with which the term is often evoked in debates between some scientists and so-called creationists, but as evoking what he calls 'the asymmetrical relationship' between the world and God – meaning that the world is really related to God in a relationship of total dependence but God is in no way modified by the created world.

Dr Art Cosgrove, Former President of UCD (1994-2003), Dr Paddy Masterson, Former President of UCD (1986-1993), and Dr Hugh Brady, President of UCD, at the official launch of 'The Sense of Creation' at Newman House, Dublin.

The three fundamental strands or questions in which this asymmetrical relationship is teased out by Masterson in his work are: the question of meaning, the question of existence and the question of co-existence. *The Sense of Creation* explores various 'ciphers' of this relationship through an engagement with philosophers as diverse as Aquinas and Levinas and through reflection on our knowledge and our relationships, particularly on the sense of obligation we feel to vulnerable neighbours.

Dr Pádraic Conway, Vice-President for University Relations at UCD and Director of the International Centre for Newman Studies, who officially launched the book, said its value lay "as a reality-check to some of the more over-heated current debates in this philosophical space". He added that it would "continue to be appreciated for decades to come."

*The Sense of Creation: Experience and the God Beyond* is published in the Ashgate Philosophy of Religion Series. It has been described by former UCD lecturer, and Boston College Professor, Richard Kearney, as combining "the best traditions of metaphysics and the most cutting-edge debates of contemporary thought".



## Ulysses Medal for Poet Thomas Kinsella

"Thomas Kinsella's career has been marked by a rigorous dedication to the craft of poetry." In recognition of this "rigorous dedication", Ireland's foremost poet was awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal at a ceremony on Bloomsday, 16 June.

In his address, Emeritus Professor of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama at UCD, Maurice Harmon said the award honoured Kinsella's poetic works, which reverberate with "established personal places". He added that the poet's "sense of menacing evil was born out of Irish conditions, the circumstances of his birth and upbringing in the Kilmainham-Inchicore area west of Dublin city, the savage destruction of the second World War and the menace of the atomic age." Looking at Kinsella's corpus as a whole, he noted that "The integrity of his remarkable career is confirmed in the two sides of his work, the translations from the Irish language and the significant and singular achievement of his own poetry."

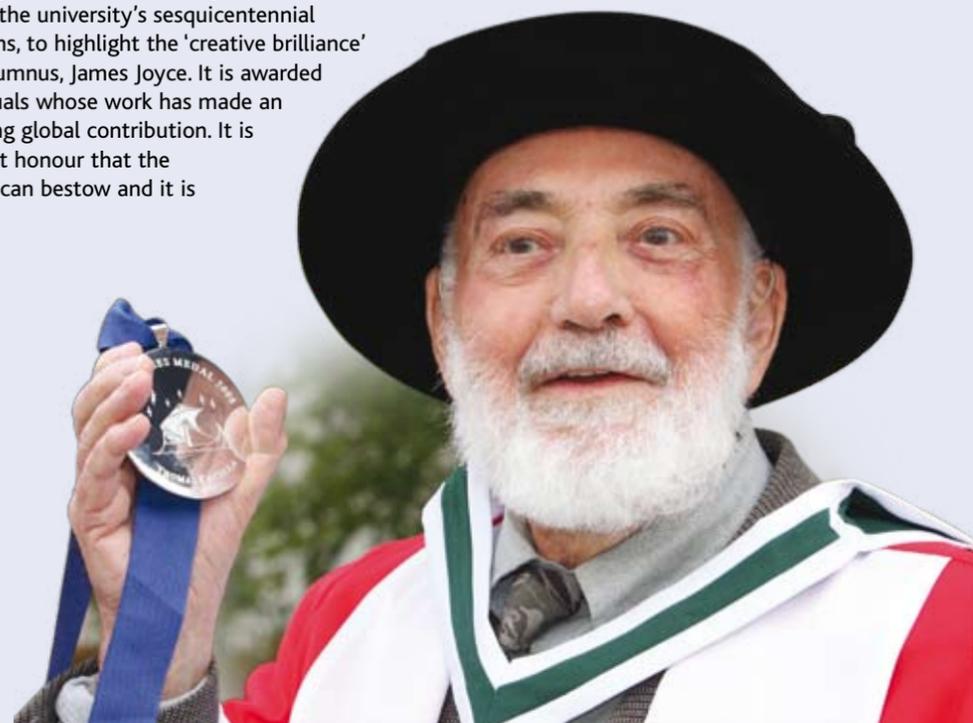
The Ulysses Medal was inaugurated in 2005, as part of the university's sesquicentennial celebrations, to highlight the 'creative brilliance' of UCD alumnus, James Joyce. It is awarded to individuals whose work has made an outstanding global contribution. It is the highest honour that the university can bestow and it is

awarded to individuals who have created an entity or body of knowledge which adds significantly to the public good.

Previous recipients include Nobel economist, Professor James J Heckman; Nobel laureate, Dr Phillip Sharp; and founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum, Professor Klaus Schwab.

Thomas Kinsella's first collections *Another September* (1958); *Downstream* (1962); *Nightwalker and other poems* (1967) were all choices of the Poetry Book Society in Britain. *The Táin*, his acclaimed translation of the Irish prose epic *Táin Bo Cuailgne*, illustrated by a unique series of brush drawings by artist Louis le Brocqy, was published in 1969. In 1972, *Notes from the Land of the Dead* was published, and in the same year Thomas Kinsella established Peppercanister.

In May 2008, UCD Press published, *The Sea of Disappointment, Thomas Kinsella's Pursuit of the Real* by Andrew Fitzsimons.



## Minister Launches Report on Climate Change

The Government "is committed to sustaining and developing" a climate modelling framework "to ensure that Ireland has an advanced capability for the prediction of future climate conditions." Minister for the Environment, John Gormley, TD, made this pledge as he launched a report which he said "scientifically underpins the Government's climate change campaign."

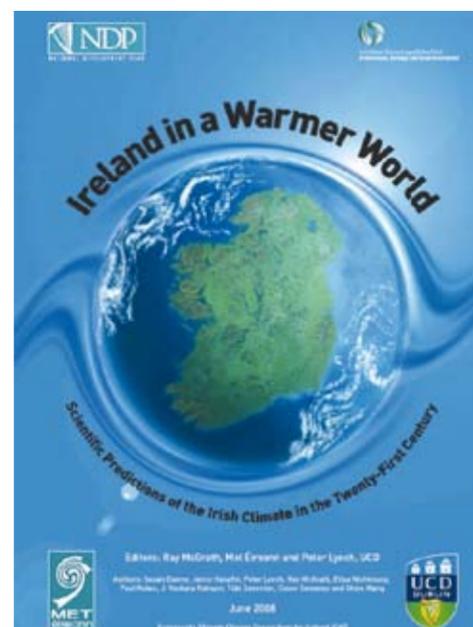
'*Ireland in a Warmer World: Scientific Predictions of the Irish Climate in the 21st Century*', projects the possible impact of Ireland's changing climate, based on a comprehensive series of computer simulations with regional climate models. Noting that the element of uncertainty in such projections could never be completely removed, Minister Gormley underlined, "but we can reduce it by further research. This is a challenging and ongoing process but it is an essential strategy for supporting Ireland's climate mitigation and adaptation policies."

The extensive climate modelling work was carried out by the C41 team of scientists at Met Éireann and the UCD Meteorology & Climate Centre. The primary objectives of the project were to build a capability for carrying out regional climate modelling in Ireland and

to use this resource to deliver information on the impact of future climate change at regional level to planners and developers.

The report's authors, Professor Peter Lynch of UCD and Mr Ray McGrath of Met Éireann note in the summary that as the impact of climate change makes itself felt, "Renewable energy sources are of growing importance." Elsewhere they write, "The challenge of global climate change and its potentially devastating consequences are now widely acknowledged. Climate scientists throughout the world are working to increase our knowledge of climate processes and our ability to anticipate the nature and magnitude of changes resulting from increased concentrations of greenhouse gases."

Some of the key findings of the report suggest that the climate will continue to warm, particularly in the summer and autumn, with possible increases of 3-4°C towards the end of the 21st century. These warmer temperatures will affect the south and east of the country most. Winters will become wetter and the seas around Ireland will continue to warm while sea levels will continue to rise on average 3.5cm per decade. Ocean modelling results indicate an increase in the frequency of storm surge events around Irish coasts, notably in the northwest.



Changes in precipitation and temperatures are likely to lead to a rise in winter stream flows, increasing the risk of flooding while summers are likely to see a reduction in flows.

## Appointment at BBSRC for Conway Director

UCD is bidding farewell to UCD Conway Institute Director, Professor Janet Allen, FRSE, as she takes up her new appointment as Director of Research at the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) in the UK.

This senior management position will see her involve herself with one of the seven research bodies that work together as Research Councils UK (RCUK), which is funded from the British Government's Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). With a current budget of £400M, it supports a total of around 1,600 scientists and 2,000 research students in universities and institutes in the UK.

As the new Director of Research at the BBSRC, Professor Allen will be joined by Dr Celia Caulcott, who has been appointed Director for Innovation and Skills at the BBSRC and by Paul Gemmill, currently BBSRC Interim Executive Director who has been appointed Director of Communications and Information Management.

# Accounting Education: It's all about High Standards in High Places

With up to 1,800 members from 60 countries, the European Accounting Association is the second largest academic accounting organisation in the world. It has just elected its first Irish President. Dr Aileen Pierce of the UCD Quinn School of Business spoke to Sarah Mac Donald about this honour for Ireland, UCD and for herself

In the wake of the corporate frauds exposed at Enron, WorldCom, Parmalat, etc, accounting standards came under scrutiny as the business world sought to restore credibility and trust in the financial markets and in accountancy as a profession. Some observers pointed to a lack of ethics in business and accounting as partially responsible for fostering a mentality of 'greed is good no matter what the cost'.

There is a school of thought that believes education has a role to play in raising awareness of business ethics in order to combat lax standards and foster integrity. In UCD's Quinn School of Business, Dr Aileen Pierce believes, "Education is crucially important," as it plays a fundamental role in making students ask the "hard questions". The Director of the UCD Quinn School, who took up her appointment 18 months ago observes, "There is a tendency for business students to be ambitious and attracted by the potential to earn a lot of money. It is important that students question what they are doing and what the areas that they are interested in may expose them to – that they are aware of the consequences of the decisions they may make."

According to Aileen Pierce, UCD Quinn School is a place that nurtures teamwork and interaction. Accountancy is very popular with students and significantly, when the economy takes a wobble, the numbers enrolling tend to increase. It could be said to be "a kind of safe harbour".

As a lecturer who has managed to maintain one foot in the academic world and the other in the professional world, it's no surprise that one of her research projects had a professional-academic dimension and so secured her financial support from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, which likes its projects to have a practical orientation and relevance. Her investigation of "Professionalism and the Professional Accounting Firm" was launched against the backdrop of the financial reporting scandals, and the project proved a highly relevant piece of research on ethics. Other professional/academic research includes surveys of financial reporting practice and the findings of such studies have been published by her in books such as 'Group Accounts: Principles and Practice'. Generally-speaking, "accountancy is", Dr Pierce believes, "very rigorous with high standards of accountability and commitment." Her early professional training with KPMG has left its imprint and "influenced the way I go about things as well as my outlook. Obviously the university is a totally different environment and sometimes there is almost a clash of cultures between the very cut and dried professional office approach and the university culture. It is nice to be able to mix the two."

Having taken a BComm in UCD between 1972-75, Dr Pierce qualified as a chartered accountant with KPMG in 1978, though teaching was her first love. But as job opportunities were scarce, she opted for the professional route.

In 1979 she managed to fulfil both interests when she was offered a teaching position at the RTC in Athlone. However, at the same time, UCD was

setting up its diploma in professional accounting (now Master of Accounting) and lured her back to her alma mater, where she remained until 1981, before once again returning to KPMG, this time as a training manager. That role included the opportunity to teach on the diploma in professional accounting on a part-time basis. "While I absolutely adored having the two jobs - it was the perfect mix for me in many ways - eventually a decision had to be made and on balance I decided that UCD was the better place for the long term and so I came back to UCD full-time in September 1984." She and her husband, (Professor Bernard Pierce, who is currently the Dean of the Business School at DCU) also spent two years between 1985-87 in Zambia, lecturing in accountancy at the University of Zambia.

Her own initial academic research interests were very much influenced by her professional background, specifically her interest in financial reporting. She concentrated on the development of financial reporting practice, as well as documenting and investigating the convergence towards harmonisation in Europe. Her PhD thesis at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, was entitled: '*Measuring de facto harmonisation of financial reporting within and between two countries using company account data: the case of deferred tax accounting in Denmark and Ireland.*' Alongside her interest in the harmonisation of accounting practice, she has a parallel research interest in the ethics of professionalism in accounting firms and accounting practice. "Business drives economies and the truth behind accounting is a fundamental principle of financial reporting." Having concentrated on the financial reporting side she is now also interested in impression management in financial reporting, which looks at the extent to which companies may, in the worst case scenario, try to mislead or massage their performance impression.

In May 2009, Dr Aileen Pierce will become the first Irish person and the first female President of the European Accounting Association in its 32-year history. "It is clearly a big personal honour and a privilege. The EAA is an organisation with almost 1,800 members from over 60 different countries." Honours aside, this role is a very onerous one. However, no one would seem better equipped for the position than Pierce, who in person strikes you as courteous, warm and ultra efficient. There is an energy about her personally, which suggests that no task would be too much – and that will stand her in good stead at the helm of the second largest academic accounting organisation in the world.



Pierce's background in the EAA goes back to 1992, when she attended her first European conference to launch the European financial reporting book which she and two UCD colleagues had just published.

She became more immersed in the Association on account of its supportive culture and its commitment to accounting research. Towards the end of the 1990s she was selected as the country representative for Ireland and in 2003, she joined the EAA's executive committee. Her organisational skills were tested and proven by the delivery of the Association's conference at UCD in 2006. "I was the Chair of the organising committee of what was a very large conference: some 1,200 delegates, 27 parallel sessions and 12 large-scale symposia. It was an enormous logistical exercise and took two to three years of planning."

She sees her role as president as "one of influence" but it is also about "negotiating and hearing the different desires and wishes of the many people involved," and she hopes in some way to move the organisation forward. The EAA, she says, "is a great organisation which provides opportunities for young academics to develop". It also provides "a forum for researchers to test their outputs and network, while facilitating all sorts of introductions across Europe, across ages, and across institutions in a very positive, constructive and friendly way. It has always been very strong in facilitating the development of accounting as an academic discipline." There is a greater appreciation of qualitative research, she suggests, on this side of the Atlantic whereas in the US there is greater emphasis on quantitative research and market-based accounting research.

But for the coming academic year, Dr Pierce will be pushing forward some papers on a joint research project she has been involved in with a PhD student and with her colleague, Professor Niamh Brennan, relating to impression management in press releases disclosing annual results for companies in Spain and the UK. It is part of the nine-country EU-funded *Harmonia* research programme. Juggling so many high-profile roles, it is not surprising that she observes that "the level of commitment of academics has increased hugely". But, she adds, "maybe that's the difference of 30 years..."

Sarah Mac Donald (BA 1989, MA 1994) is editor of *The Word* magazine. She is currently studying for an MA in International Relations at DCU.



## New Technology to Enhance Internet Searching

If you like to share information collated from the web with other interested parties – then a new approach to internet searching, devised by a team of researchers from UCD, may be what you need. HeyStaks is a new web-browser plug-in which works with Google and provides users with the ability to create so-called 'search staks' as a means to organise and share search information.

According to Professor Barry Smyth of the School of Computer Science and Informatics, HeyStaks is "an important part of the innovation cycle within CLARITY", the €16 million research centre which he is director of and which has brought together researchers from UCD and the Tyndal National Institute. HeyStaks works by allowing, say, a group of students collaborating on a project to create a search stak to capture their individual searches

and share what they have found with the group, leading to more productive research.

Dr Maurice Coyle, one of the co-founders of HeyStaks and a recent UCD graduate, described himself as "very excited about the potential of HeyStaks". He added, "It is a unique take on Web searching which we believe will greatly improve how people mine for information online."

HeyStaks technology is one of four new initiatives which have shared Eircom's €100,000 Web Innovation Fund. This innovative new technology is still awaiting a patent, according to HeyStaks co-founder, Dr Peter Briggs. "The Eircom innovation Award gives us a real opportunity to accelerate the commercialisation of the new technology. Right now we are moving to an invitation-based beta release of the service."

Professor Barry Smyth (centre) and Dr Peter Briggs and Dr Maurice Coyle, co-founders of HeyStaks



## Interdisciplinary Approach to Animal Disease Management

The UCD Herd Health Group has embarked on a pilot study with the support of the Research Development Fund of the School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine which will develop an innovative Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach to mastitis control and will be applied on-farm. The sociological component of the study will draw on the principles of qualitative research allowing the project team to evaluate and respond to sociological and physical barriers to implementation, including farmers'

perceptions and expectations, in the context of the new disease management system itself and in relation to interaction and cooperation with the team veterinarian. Professor Michael Doherty of the UCD Herd Health Group believes that the project represents a new and exciting collaboration in the context of the rapidly developing herd health agenda in Ireland. The project will work with Professors Suzanne Quin and Bairbre Redmond of the UCD School of Applied Social Science.

Pictured at the launch of the research project were the cooperating dairy farmers, members of the UCD herd health team, Professor Suzanne Quin of the UCD School of Applied Social Science and researchers Lies Beekuis and Catherine Devitt.



## UCD Professor Elected to Atlantic Philanthropies



*The Atlantic Philanthropies*, which aims to bring about lasting changes in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people, has elected a UCD Professor to its Board.

Professor

William Hall from the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, is also the Director of the Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases and an expert in the role of viruses in the development of leukemia and lymphoma.

Professor Hall was the project coordinator for Ireland for the Vietnam Blood Borne Virus Initiative, a project supported by Irish Aid and *The Atlantic Philanthropies*. He is Chair of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of Irish Aid, which advises the Minister of State in the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Irish Government on overseas development aid. The Belfast native was appointed as a consultant to

the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, TD, on a number of topics including influenza pandemic preparedness and bioterrorism.

Reacting to the news of Professor Hall's appointment, the newly elected Chairman of *The Atlantic Philanthropies*, Frederick "Fritz" A. O. Schwarz, Jr, described Hall as having a powerful intellect and wide-ranging interests. "Billy's background will be invaluable in guiding our health and medical work," he said.

*The Atlantic Philanthropies* was founded by Chuck Feeney, founder of the Duty Free Group, in 1982. The organisation focuses on disbursing its donations across four critical social problems: Ageing, Disadvantaged Children & Youth, Population Health, and Reconciliation & Human Rights. The group has funded Community Restorative Justice and The Alternatives in Northern Ireland. To achieve its mission, *Atlantic* partners with grantees, as well as other funders and governments. It believes in the power of advocacy by those who will benefit by it, especially the disadvantaged.

## Exchange Agreement to Strengthen Sino-Irish University Relations

Thirteen students from China's Shenzhen University (SZU) commenced studies for masters degrees at UCD this September while a small group of UCD students who are studying for the BComm with Chinese Studies will spend a year at Shenzhen University from 2009. The students are part of a Sino-Irish academic exchange programme between the two universities which was strengthened last July by the visit to UCD of a high profile delegation from the South China university.

Led by Professor Zhang Bigong, President of Shenzhen University, and Professor Gao Litian, Director of SZU's International Office, the five-member delegation from China met with representatives of the UCD College of Business

Professor Zhang Bigong, President of Shenzhen University, and Professor Gao Litian



and Law as well as UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady and Dr Liming Wang, Director of the Irish Institute for Chinese Studies at UCD.

The delegation came to UCD to review the existing joint programme with the Smurfit Business School; to formalise and sign the agreement on the joint '3+1+1' degree programme in Law; and to sign the agreement on a student exchange programme between the two universities.

At a meeting at University Lodge Dr Brady and Professor Bigong signed a Memorandum of Understanding which commits the two universities to strengthening exchanges between students and academic staff and to set up joint programmes for graduate students in order to better foster cooperation in education and culture and offer international educational opportunities to students from the Chinese university.

Through a proposed joint programme with UCD School of Law – the '3+1+1' degree programme in Law – both sides have agreed to set up structures which will enable students from Shenzhen who have completed their first three years of undergraduate study in China undertake a course developed by UCD in English language and law in their fourth academic year. Upon successful completion of the fourth year, Shenzhen students, who meet the entry requirement of UCD's School of Law, will be eligible to formally register for a LLM masters degree. Successful students will be awarded a Bachelor's degree from SZU and a LLM from UCD.

# Thrilling TRIL

Marie Boran spoke to UCD's Professor Paddy Nixon about his research with the TRIL Centre's BioMOBIUS™ Research Platform which is utilising cutting edge sensory technology to enable therapists, clinicians and engineers adapt technology solutions for biomedical research

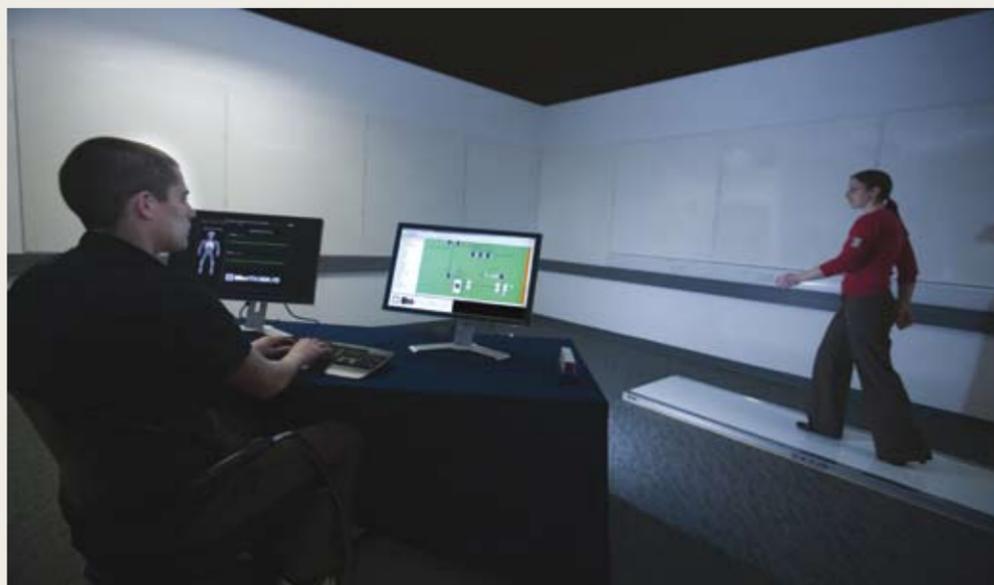
By the year 2050 those aged 65 and upwards will have doubled to 25.9 percent of the population. Put simply, people are living longer and healthcare for the aged, specifically preventative healthcare, is an increasingly important area of research. A world of intelligent sensors is being created where your mobile phone can help with the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's by analysing your speech patterns and technology is being developed which may prevent falls by alerting you to a change in balance and gait. Falls prevention and cognitive health not only improve quality of life and promote independent living but importantly tackle the issue of global health bills associated with caring for an ageing population. EU member states already spend 30 percent of their GDP on healthcare – something that will not be financially scalable in the future without research like that spearheaded by Professor Nixon in his role as director of TRIL, the Technology Research for Independent Living centre.

Nixon is SFI Professor of Distributed Systems and Head of the Systems Research Group (SRG) within the the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics which ultimately led him to his role as Director of the TRIL centre which carries out research aimed at improving quality of life of older people with three specific focuses: cognitive, physical and social. After being appointed Professor of Computer Science at Strathclyde University at the age of 32, making him the youngest professor in the UK in his field, Nixon returned to Ireland as a Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Professor in Distributed Systems. He then set up a team of 30 researchers in the broader areas of information systems which is all about using

sensors – a key component of TRIL research. "I was involved in the early stages of the design and development of the TRIL centre and at the end of the first year they were looking for a new director, so my area of expertise was naturally aligned to that," he explains. Nixon's specific interest in personalised healthcare as part of his research within UCD also made him an ideal candidate for the Directorship of TRIL. "It was an opportunity too good to turn down! While retaining my professorship in UCD I was given a unique opportunity to take our technology in the Systems Research Group and look at how it might be applied to TRIL and to shape the development of that technology base at an industrial level as well."

TRIL, which involves collaborative research between Intel and academic partners in UCD, Trinity College Dublin and NUI Galway, was launched in January 2007. When Nixon took over as director in December of that year the research lab had already been set up, so his goal was to begin the development of the core technology platforms and research roadmap for the next three to five years. "One of the key things about this research is the medical and clinical context – who is actually going to be using this technology to carry out the research in hospitals? It won't be computer scientists or technologists – it will be medical staff. We keep this in mind when we design how the technology, sensors etc will be designed. If you have some mad computer scientist in the corner with an overly complicated gadget declaring 'I'm sure they'd want this,' you would have a problem! As part of this research we needed a patient cohort – a set of patients with the various medical conditions that we were interested in but who were also willing to take part in this study. So it was critical to have a clinic set up."

This was where St James' hospital came into the equation. "This involved a year of establishing the clinic, where medical staff were trained up and the clinic itself was fitted into the normal operational day of a hospital. Professor Rose-Anne Kenny of Trinity College led the establishment of the clinic. We got the clinic up and running with all the technology in place in a constrained but open environment to assess both the patients and the technologies involved." So far over 300 patients have been assessed through the TRIL clinic at St James' and are now part of the programme. Nixon says that he is currently looking towards having 6,400 patients come on board. Because the TRIL clinic is part of the medical treatment of these patients, the data collected and the subsequent health benefits delivered will be available to them for the duration of the treatment of their condition. An exciting development in the future will involve bringing this intelligent sensor technology into the home and the implications



are far reaching: longer life-spans through independent living, remote monitoring of patients through integrated wireless sensors and communications. It makes an important contribution to being able to live longer in your own home and neighbourhood in your golden years, which has obvious social benefits for individuals and society.

"The next stage for us at the end of year two is to roll out some technologies with specific applications in the home. We are hoping to have them implemented in up to 100 homes by the end of this year and into hundreds of homes by the end of the third year." Naturally, depending on the medical conditions, TRIL would be assessing the need for different monitors in each home. For instance, the monitoring of people's cognitive abilities to try and spot any indicators of decline and so offer back ways in which those affected can train themselves and fight the cognitive condition. "Professor Richard Reilly of Trinity is incorporating technology into phones that analyse voice patterns. All they have to do is make a call, even to an answering machine or talking clock, and read a short passage of text. There are very subtle indicators of decline, such as pausing between sentences because you cannot quite read and process and then speak. It is not necessarily discernible to a human but the computer will pick up these elements."

Another key area is falls prevention and a technology which Intel has worked on in this area is called SHIMMER. Unlike the full comprehensive medical assessment technology deployed into the TRIL clinic in St James', SHIMMER is a small matchbox-sized device that can detect a multitude of biometric information, it can also detect movement and thus change in balance of gait, explains Professor Nixon. The key thing about applying technology research to TRIL is that the medical experts must have a medical question they want to solve and this is where BioMOBIUS enters the picture. The BioMOBIUS™ research platform, which is an open shareable hardware and software system, has been exclusively developed within UCD alongside Intel. "BioMOBIUS can be used in a lab setting by medical experts but also has the potential to be deployed in the home. Essentially it is a platform that allows for

personalised systems comprising various sensors that can be observed and monitored," explains Dr Aaron Quigley from UCD, who is a principal investigator on the technology platform strand. "It could be a computer monitor, a wireless sensor and software that combine to analyse a patient's heart rate and alertness to keep an eye on change that could indicate an event such as a potential fall." He adds that the research team has just returned from the 30th Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society in Vancouver, British Columbia, where, he explains, "we demonstrated BioMOBIUS during our workshop on Platform Oriented Approaches to Biomedical Application Development for In-lab and In-home Deployments."

With BioMOBIUS, TRIL is trying to do something that is significantly different to any other venture like this internationally and this is a reason why Intel is putting so much money into it. "Research in this area typically keeps re-inventing things – every time engineers or scientists get together in a university or company to solve a problem they have to develop a solution from the ground up. At TRIL we want to develop a platform that everyone can use – almost like an R&D standard in this area that allows people to experiment," explains Nixon. The overarching principle is that should a doctor approach TRIL with a request to assess a certain characteristic in a certain time period, Professor Nixon and his researchers can, using SHIMMER and other technologies, produce a unique test application that will collect that data. "We can rapidly prototype ideas and technologies for healthcare researchers – this has not been done anywhere else."

With BioMOBIUS providing an open platform that anyone can download to use and SHIMMER being an off-the-shelf device, TRIL, directed by Professor Nixon is leading the healthcare industry into a bright new future for the ageing.

*Marie Boran (UCD BSc 2002) is a technology journalist with Silicon Republic.com and eThursday in the Irish Independent. She has been nominated for the Irish Internet Association technology journalist of the year 2008.*



# Deal Struck between Taiwanese Mobile Operator and ChangingWorlds

During the Summer, UCD spin-out company *ChangingWorlds* announced an important deal with Taiwanese mobile operator, Far East Tone (FET). The agreement will see *ChangingWorlds'* ClixSmart Intelligent Portal Platform solution deployed to provide full portal management support that will enable FET rapidly develop, update and publish a feature-rich mobile portal.

The 'one-click-publishing' features which operate via *ChangingWorlds'* portal reduce the time-to-market of new data services and minimise portal administration overheads for FET.

FET will also deploy ClixSmart Content Integration Manager, a solution which automatically generates personalised, dynamic content teasers that enrich the customer's experience of the FET mobile portal, stimulates increased click-through and drives up mobile data ARPU (Average Revenue Per User). ClixSmart teasers, which include

text and images, are rotated dynamically and personalised according to the ClixSmart user profile to provide relevant user experience that entices portal users to download more portal content, thus driving up traffic and increasing data revenues.

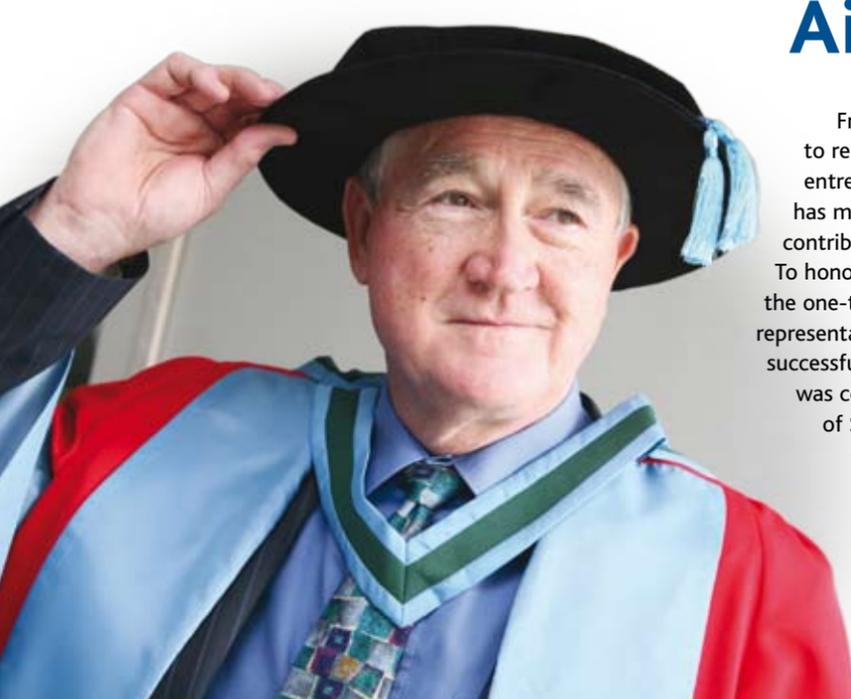
As part of its service to FET, *ChangingWorlds* will also deliver ClixSmart Device Manager, a high-performance rendering and transcoding solution which optimises the portal content presentation on different subscriber handsets.

This international deal follows on from the seven figure deal which *ChangingWorlds* announced in January with Vodacom, the number one mobile operator in South Africa with over 23 million customers.

*ChangingWorlds'* customer base worldwide includes Vodafone Global, the O2 Group, T-mobile, TeliaSonera, CSL Hong Kong and Celcom Malaysia. The company continues to maintain a strong strategic link with UCD as

its ongoing R&D activities are taking place in the university's Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre, NovaUCD. The company now employs over 140 highly qualified staff in NovaUCD, Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) and USA (San Francisco).

David Moran, CEO of *ChangingWorlds*, a company now employing over 140 highly qualified staff in Dublin, including NovaUCD, Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) and USA (San Francisco)



## Airtricity Entrepreneur Honoured

From the 'gentle revolution' to renewable energy, 'green entrepreneur', Eddie O'Connor has made a significant contribution to Irish society. To honour that contribution, the one-time students union representative and founder of the successful company, *Airtricity*, was conferred with a Doctorate of Science *honoris causa* by the University last June.

In his citation, Professor Don MacElroy, Head of the UCD School of Chemical & Bioprocess

Engineering, paid tribute to "Eddie O'Connor's unique ability to accurately assess the feasibility of wind-generation and to bring cheap renewable energy to the market." Underlining O'Connor's foresight in pioneering renewable power, Professor MacElroy warned that as "our current dependency on fossil fuels is unsustainable – we must embrace renewable energy". He added that "Eddie O'Connor was one of the very first to recognise its potential and to act on it."

Citing *Airtricity's* phenomenal growth over a decade from initial investments totalling €1 million to a company worth in excess of €1 billion and with a customer base of 50,000, Professor MacElroy said, "While others agonised over different alternative energy strategies, Eddie took action. *Future Wind Partnership*

ultimately grew into *Airtricity Holdings Ltd*, the leading independent competitor in wind-generated renewable energy in Ireland and a major international player in the field." Last October, *Airtricity* announced the sale of its North American business unit to the German energy giant E.ON for almost \$1.4 billion. Following the sale of *Airtricity* in January, O'Connor went on to found Mainstream Renewable Power.

A graduate of UCD in Chemical Engineering, during his career Eddie O'Connor gained a Masters in Industrial Engineering and was awarded a doctorate in business administration from the International Management Centre. He is Secretary of the European Wind Energy Association and was named world energy policy leader by *Scientific American* magazine in 2003.

## It's a Cat's Life

With more people in Ireland living in high-rise apartments than ever before, the question of whether cats can adapt to living in confined conditions indoors is taxing more minds than in the past. Study findings presented at the 42nd Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology last August brings good news for cat-owners living in apartments.

A survey carried out in Melbourne, Australia, of 1,600 cat-owners, which had a response rate of 38 percent, found that "although most cat-owners perceive that cats need to roam outdoors", in fact our feline friends successfully adapt to their level of confinement and specifically to living indoors, "providing the indoor environment contains features that enable 'natural' behaviour and redirect behaviour that could cause damage or could be classed as a nuisance to the cat owner".

The study by E.C. Jongman of the Animal Welfare Science Centre in Australia, was just one of 300 presentations made at the Congress organised by the International Society for Applied Ethology, which was attended by up to

400 delegates and scientists from 32 countries worldwide. The society is a global professional organisation involved in improving the welfare of home, farm and laboratory animals and applied ethology is the study of animal behaviour as related to their use by humans.

Issues more directly affecting Irish agriculture which were dealt with included maximising fertility detection rates in dairy cows, improving survival rates in young farm animals, and reducing harmful social behaviours such as feather pecking among chickens.

The keynote speech of the conference was given by Dr Françoise Wemelsfelder from the Scottish Agricultural College, who pioneered a radically new approach to measuring the welfare of farm animals by observing their body language.

The ISAE conference was organised by Dr Alison Hanlon of the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science & Veterinary Medicine, the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute in Northern Ireland, Dr Niamh O'Connell and Teagasc's Dr Laura Boyle.

## Anglo Irish Bank Scholarship 2008

The UCD School of English, Drama and Film recently announced Shannon Byrne as the winner of the 2008 Anglo Irish Bank Scholarship. Shannon is pictured here with (left to right): Mr Brian Donnelly (Supervisor of PhD thesis); Professor Nicholas Daly (Head of School); Professor Anthony Roche; Shannon Byrne (Scholarship Winner); Anthony Kavanagh (Director, Group Marketing and Communications, Anglo Irish Bank); and Sheila Peters (Group Marketing and Communications, Anglo Irish Bank)



## Researchers Honoured for Personalising YouTube

Researchers at the CLARITY Centre for Sensor Web Technologies ([www.clarity-centre.org](http://www.clarity-centre.org)) were the recipients of the 'Best Paper' Award at this year's International Conference on Adaptive Hypermedia and Adaptive Web-Based Systems (AH 2008) in Hannover, Germany.

The award-winning paper was selected due to its work on personalising the popular YouTube video-sharing site. Entitled "Social Information Access for the Rest of Us: An Exploration of Social YouTube", it is a collaboration between researchers in UCD

UCD Researchers receiving their Research Award for Personalising YouTube at this year's International Conference on Adaptive Hypermedia and Adaptive Web-Based Systems (AH 2008) in Hannover, Germany



(Dr Maurice Coyle and Dr Jill Freyne, led by Professor Barry Smyth, CLARITY Director) and researchers at the University of Pittsburgh, (led by Professor Peter Brusilovsky). The paper describes how the researchers were able to improve the way that users of YouTube gained access to videos that matched their needs and interests, by enabling YouTube to adapt to changing patterns of access over time.

"Everyday millions of people access YouTube but there is so much content it can be difficult to find truly memorable videos," commented Maurice Coyle, the paper's lead author. "At UCD we have been developing a wide range of social recommendation technologies that take advantage of willingness of users to share information with others, and we have combined these technologies with related work at the University of Pittsburgh to produce a version of YouTube that is capable of making suggestions to YouTube users, on the fly, as they browse and search."

The AH conferences have become the major forum for the scientific exchange and presentation of research results in the broad area of adaptive web-based systems, exploring technologies that allow web-sites to respond more intelligently to the needs of their users. This year's conference, which attracted submissions and participants from all over the world is the 5th in a series of biennial conferences that began in 2000. "An award like this speaks of the quality of Irish research in this important sector, helping to showcase Irish research to academia and industry around the world," explained Professor Barry Smyth.

## Irish Centre For Bat Research Wins Major Funding

The fact that bats are highly sensitive to habitat and climate change and play a vital role in the functioning of Ireland's ecosystems is just one of the reasons why the Government has provided financial backing for the establishment of Ireland's first ever research centre for bats.

Congratulating Dr Emma Teeling, the Director of Centre, on securing €687,000 from his Department's National Parks and Wildlife Service, Minister for the Environment, Mr John Gormley, TD, said he hoped the new centre would "go on to stimulate further research and interest in Irish bats." Referring to Ireland's national and international obligations on bat protection, the Minister added, "before we can protect them effectively we need to understand their ecology and their habits."



Over the next three years the research unit will examine the ecology of three of Ireland's bat species. Dr Teeling of the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science and her co-researchers from Queen's University and UCD will examine the ecology of Natterer's bat - *Myotis nattereri*, Whiskered bat - *Myotis mystacinus* and Brandt's bat - *Myotis brandti*. The Brandt's bat was only identified in Ireland in 2003.

Bats are one of the most difficult group of mammals to study "due to the logistic and technical difficulties of observing small, long-lived, highly mobile, nocturnal mammals that exist in a cryptic sensory environment", admitted Dr Teeling. Consequently, research into the bat population and their social biology has lagged behind that of other mammals.

Explaining the importance of this research, Dr Teeling said "Bats help maintain and regulate Ireland's insect populations, which are in turn necessary for the pollination of plants and some crops. Only through the combination of new forensic DNA methods, modern field techniques, cutting edge ecological methodologies and non-invasive sampling protocols that will be used by our team, can we uncover their unique biology and thus conserve our ecosystems."

## Equestrian Legend Addresses ISES Conference

Legendary horseman, Eric Smiley opened the fourth International Society for Equitation Science (ISES) conference in August at Dublin's Royal Dublin Society. The former European Championship medal winner, who represented Ireland at all levels of international competition, was one of the plenary speakers at the three-day event which addressed the topic: *'The Horse-human dyad: How can we improve our understanding of equine training, performance and welfare simultaneously?'*

The delegates were welcomed by the Chairman of the ISES Irish Organising Committee, Dr Jack Murphy of the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, while RDS President, Dr John Scott,

spoke about the horse and its relevance in Irish life. He related how the Royal Dublin Society was founded in 1731 and was, from its very beginnings, instrumental in the improvement of the Irish horse.

In his opening presentation, Eric Smiley, who is one of only 59 BHS Fellows in the world, outlined his vision of the relationship between the horse and humans. That relationship was still strong in Ireland he said because people in Ireland were still closely linked to rural life.

Warning that the horse had now become "a sports machine", he said the horse was now a "very wealthy piece of equipment and with increased value comes increased pressure!" Smiley underlined that "Dressage is pushing

young horses beyond the reasonable and that brings into question their longevity." He lamented the fact that society was "losing the feel of working with horses."

Other topics covered by the conference include the study of stress levels on horses while travelling, the matching of horse personalities to riders' personalities, welfare issues and how to deal with them, research into donkeys versus horses and the way they learn, stimulus' perception in horses, changes in heart rates during training of a three-year-old warmblood, and the effects of treed and treeless saddles on the stride of the horse.

Petra Haubrich discusses the range of movement attributes of the horse's neck, withers and back



UCD's Diploma in Veterinary Nursing has successfully maintained its European accreditation with ACOVENE for 2008-2009. Meanwhile this year's graduates of the Diploma in Veterinary Nursing were the first veterinary nurses in the history of the State to register with the Veterinary Council of Ireland as RVNs alongside the graduating veterinary surgeons (MVB) at the O'Reilly Hall in June. There are now over 200 veterinary nurses registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland.

## Queen's University Honours UCD President

"UCD has played a key role in the history of the modern Irish State," according to Queen's University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Gregson. He was speaking at the presentation of an honorary doctorate to UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady by the Belfast university. Acknowledging the role Dr Brady has played and continues to play in Irish university life, Professor Gregson added, "under Dr Brady's leadership UCD is now playing a leading part in shaping the future of Ireland, north and south."

UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady was in Belfast to receive an honorary doctorate in recognition of his service to higher education. He was a co-recipient of a Doctorate of Laws

with Dr John Hegarty, Provost of Trinity College Dublin. On the same day, 30 June 2008, Professor Frank Gannon, the Director General of the Science Foundation Ireland was also conferred with an honorary doctorate (Medical Science) by Queen's, in recognition of his distinction in medical science.

Delivering the citation for the President of UCD, Queen's Vice-Chancellor said: "In his distinguished medical career and as an academic leader, Dr Brady has displayed intellect, sound judgement, the ability to lead and to harness the energy and skills of others to gain results."



UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady (r) following the conferral of an honorary doctorate by Queen's University in recognition of his service to higher education and Professor Frank Gannon, (l) the Director General of the Science Foundation Ireland

## Harness Outputs of Research Investment, Urges Minister

The Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr Jimmy Devins, TD, has said that "Investment in science and technology is now firmly embedded in Irish economic policy." He was speaking following his visit to the UCD Conway Institute and NovaUCD to see how the supports provided by Enterprise Ireland and the SFI are used to deliver facilities that benefit businesses in their drive to increase competitiveness through innovation. The Minister added that the Government played a "vital role" in the process of maintaining competitiveness and that he believed that Ireland's overall economic performance remained healthy compared to many of our industrialised partners.

The Minister underlined though that "it must be recognised that Irish companies have been operating in an increasingly difficult global economic environment." He warned that, "To maintain our competitiveness in the face of these challenges, we must move our products and services up the value chain, by harnessing the outputs of our research investment in the last number of years."

While at NovaUCD, Professor Mark Keane, UCD Vice-President for Innovation briefed the Minister on the university's planned Innovation Strategy (2009-2013) while Dr Pat Frain,

Director of NovaUCD outlined the Centre's aims and successes to date.

The Minister toured the Conway Institute with UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady and Professor Desmond Fitzgerald, Vice-President for Research. He also met several researchers who gave brief presentations on four key research areas from ICT to biotechnology, all of which involve convergence in multi-disciplinary projects.

These included Professor Barry Smyth of the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics, who spoke about the recently announced €16.4 million CLARITY CSET and its work on the 'Sensor Web'; Professor Paddy Nixon also of the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics who spoke about the research being done by the TRIL Centre, where R&D is focused on accelerating independent living technologies to help those with age-related illness and injuries. Professor Mike Gibney of the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine provided an overview of the various functional food research projects currently being undertaken at UCD, while Professor Janet Allen, made a presentation on the Biopharmaceutical and Clinical Research being carried out at the UCD Conway Institute.

Dr Pádraic Conway, Vice-President for University Relations; Dr Pat Frain, Director of NovaUCD; Minister Jimmy Devins, TD; and Professor Mark Keane, UCD Vice-President for Innovation



## CAP at Fifty

Fifty years have passed since the foundation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was laid at a conference in Stresa, Italy. To mark this milestone, the summer issue of the journal, *EuroChoices*, devoted a special section to an analysis of CAP's past achievements and failures. The issue also considers the current

challenges facing the agri-food sector, such as those posed by the recent surge in global food prices. This special anniversary issue was guest edited by Dr David Stead of the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine.

*EuroChoices* 'CAP at Fifty', which includes an essay by the former European Commissioner for Agriculture, Franz Fischler, and Dr Stead's guest editorial, reflect on the policy's shift of focus away from commodity production towards concern for the welfare and health of the environment, animals and consumers, together with the promotion of rural development. Yet despite these changes and the vast sums spent over the years, the extent to which the problem of low farm incomes has been resolved remains unclear. Now food security – one of the original motivations for the CAP in the 1950s – has re-emerged as a policy issue as world food prices have soared. This and other challenges, the special section suggests, most probably will require more significant changes to the CAP than anything in the past.

*EuroChoices* is a peer reviewed, outreach journal published by Wiley-Blackwell which brings current research and policy deliberations on European agri-food and rural resource issues to a wide readership, including academics and decision makers in government and the private sector.



## Shared Histories: Plantation, Migration, Integration and the Irish

The 60th UCD International Summer School, which ran from 18-27 June, focused on the history of plantation and settlement, its role in moulding the Irish people and Irish society and its contribution to the formation of the Irish diaspora. Entitled, "*Shared Histories: Plantation, Migration, Integration and the Irish*", it covered the issue of economic migration and its transformative effects upon Ireland, its landscape, its economy and its social

infrastructure across three centuries from the Plantation period to contemporary Ireland. The Summer School drew a diverse cross-section of participants from Norway, Poland, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, Hungary, Italy, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, China, Uganda, Lesotho, Sweden, Malaysia, Mozambique, Denmark and Estonia. The programme was delivered in the form of lectures, discussion seminars and site visits as well as high-profile speakers.

## Two UCD Professors Named in Business Top 50

Two professors from UCD Business Schools have been named in the Irish Independent's listing of the *Top 50 Women in Business*.

Mary Lambkin is Professor of Marketing at the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business. She recently joined the board of Citibank Europe as a non-executive Director. Professor Lambkin also sits on the boards of Barclays Insurance (Dublin) and the Affordable Homes Partnership. A fellow of the Marketing Institute of Ireland, she is also Chairperson of Copy Clearance Ireland, which pre-vets advertising appearing in the Irish media. Professor Lambkin is involved in a range of research projects on marketing strategy and her research interests centre on strategic marketing issues, in particular branding. She frequently contributes regularly to Irish Director magazine amongst others.

Professor Niamh Brennan is the Michael MacCormac Professor of Management and Director of Academic Centre For Corporate

Governance at the UCD Quinn School of Business. She is also academic Director of the Centre for Corporate Governance at UCD. Professor Brennan is currently a non-executive director of Ulster bank and the HSE and has previously served on the boards of Lifetime Assurance, Coillte and Co-Operation Ireland. Contributing to the work of two professional bodies, she is Chairperson of the Committee on Professional Conduct of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland and is a member of the Disciplinary Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland. In 2002, Professor Brennan was appointed by the Minister for Finance to chair the Commission on Financial Management and Control Systems in the HSE, while in 1999 she was appointed by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment as vice-chairman of the Review Group on Auditing. She has published widely in the areas of financial reporting, corporate governance and forensic accounting.

## Internship Programme for Chinese and Korean Officials

Eight Chinese government officials from Shanghai and its surrounding areas travelled to Dublin in August to take part in the seventh annual internship programme hosted by the UCD Applied Language Centre (ALC) and funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

This annual programme aims to foster awareness of Ireland, its economic, political, social and administrative structures and its rich historical and cultural traditions, as well as offering the Chinese interns the opportunity to develop proficiency in English. Each year the content is designed collaboratively by the DFA and the ALC. English language classes are core to the programme, but important elements include corporate briefings and visits to government, semi-state and cultural organisations.

Launching this year's programme, Professor Frank Roche, Deputy Principal of the UCD College of Business and Law and Director of Entrepreneurial Strategy for UCD, highlighted the importance of the growing commercial links between China and Ireland and paid tribute to the success of this initiative.

The Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Liu Biwei paid tribute to Mary Ruane, Director of the Applied Language Centre for her role in supporting this programme and spoke warmly about the internship, emphasizing its importance in strengthening ties between the two countries.

To date, a total of 38 interns have come to UCD and have been based here for a 2-3 month period. Interns on the 2008 programme came from the cities of Hanzhou, Suzhou, Wuxi, and Shanghai. Two of this year's interns also travelled to Cork, Shanghai's twinned city, to spend time at UCC and Cork City Council.

This summer also saw four government officials from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) take part in the first English Language and Cultural Familiarisation Programme initiated by the DFA and organized by the UCD Applied Language Centre. The initiative was put in place in response to a request from the North Korean Ambassador to Ireland.

The Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Liu Biwei (centre) with Chinese government officials from Shanghai



## Tests Show Big Bang Experiment on Track

Physicists at CERN (the European Organisation for Nuclear Research) expressed satisfaction on 10 September over the successful switch-on of the largest piece of scientific apparatus in the world, which is housed in a 27km long tunnel 100m underground in the Swiss city of Geneva. The €6 billion giant particle collider, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), was launched following a final test series undertaken by a team of UCD researchers led by Dr Ronan McNulty from the UCD School of Physics on 22 August.

The first collisions in the world's largest particle physics laboratory are attempting to recreate a fireball of energy similar to the energy conditions of the universe one billionth of a second after the Big Bang. This has involved accelerating protons in opposite directions at almost the speed of light and colliding them at four points on the 27km ring. The research scientists involved hope that this will, in time, deliver new data which will shed light on fundamental questions about our universe such as: what is mass?, what makes up dark matter?, and is there a new 'supersymmetric' form of matter? According to Dr McNulty, answers to these questions will likely result in a Nobel Prize.

The successful test which the UCD team carried out on 22 August involved firing particles down the transfer line from the Super Proton Synchrotron (SPS) accelerator to the LHC over a 3km section. The clock-wise and anti-clockwise tests went off successfully, an indication that the 10 September launch was on track.

UCD has the only experimental particle physics research programme in Ireland and the university's research team has been involved with CERN since 2003. Speaking following the completion of the test, Dr McNulty said, "I am very excited about this. For UCD and the School of Physics, it is very important. We are at the start of a very large programme of research in which scientists from across the world have collaborated. It is cutting edge scientific research comparable to the Hubble Telescope or even the moon landing."

Paying credit to the role of UCD's technical staff and research students in this project, Dr McNulty said that a large team of people had contributed to UCD's success on LHCb. "The mechanical workshop constructed parts of VELO while graduate students spent long

hours in Dublin, Liverpool and Geneva testing nearly 200,000 readout channels. Without this collaborative effort we would not now be celebrating being the first experiment to reconstruct LHC interactions."

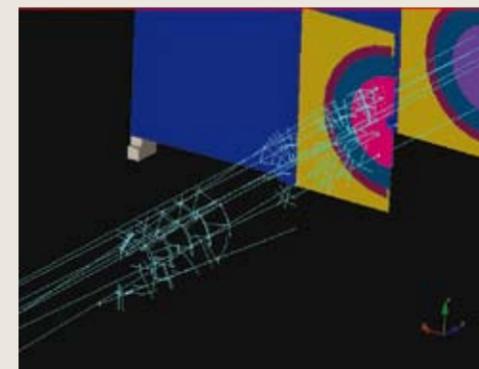
Further information: [www.ucd.ie/physics/lhcb](http://www.ucd.ie/physics/lhcb)



The VELO subdetector which UCD helped build



Sara Traynor, a member of the UCD research team, testing the readout cables ahead of the LHCb experiment at CERN.



Particle tracks seen in the LHCb vertex detector (VELO) and triggered by the experiment's calorimeter during synchronization tests last weekend

## Professor Prem Puri honoured

The Spanish city of Salamanca has made Professor Prem Puri of the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science an honorary citizen in recognition of his contribution to paediatric surgery.

Following a ceremony at Salamanca's Town Hall in August, Professor Puri said he was "deeply honoured and humbled by this public recognition of my contribution to the advancement of paediatric surgery."

Professor Puri is Newman Clinical Research Professor at UCD as well as Director of Research at the Children's Research Centre and Consultant Paediatric Surgeon at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Dublin. He is Programme Director for Paediatric Surgical Training in Ireland, and President of the World Federation of Associations of Paediatric Surgeons and President-Elect and Chairman of the

Scientific Office of the European Association of Paediatric Surgeons as well as Secretary of the International Board of Paediatric Surgical Research.

In the course of his research into the underlying mechanisms that cause common congenital birth defects, Professor Puri has pioneered the treatment of vesicoureteral reflux. He and his team revolutionised the correction of the condition.

Professor Puri was previously honoured with a People of the Year Award (1984), jointly with Professor Barry O'Donnell, also of the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Sciences, for discovering endoscopic treatment of vesicoureteral reflux and the Kafka Medal (2006) for outstanding contribution to Paediatric Surgery.

## Denis Kelleher Ad Astra Scholarship in Suicide Studies

World Suicide Prevention Day fell on 10 September. Just two years ago, in September 2006, the Denis Kelleher UCD Ad Astra Scholarship in Suicide Studies - the first such scholarship of its kind in Ireland - was awarded to Seamus McGuinness, an internationally renowned textile artist. The PhD scholarship has enabled the artist, who had been a Lecturer in Creative Arts at the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) since 1986, to join the Suicide Research Programme at UCD/ St Vincent's University Hospital under Professor Kevin Malone.

Professor Malone's research programme includes a National Study of Suicide in Ireland through interviews with family and friends of the suicide-bereaved (2003-2008). Mr McGuinness joined this research study and has developed his practice-based PhD Project: "Lost Portraits - Materializing Stories", centred on a unique creative arts "autopsy" approach with families.

Thus far, research data for the project, "Lost Portraits - Materializing Stories", has been gathered on over 200 people who died by suicide in Ireland since 2003, and 76 families have been interviewed by Professor Malone and Mr McGuinness. Over 40 families have donated personal belongings of the young suicide-

deceased to the project, creating a unique archive which will inform his art-practice-based PhD.

"The art practice will interpret how these collective donations and stories can create a platform to mourn and bear witness to the act of suicide and its consequences for those left behind. It will also consider how the public arena can actively include the lost but lived life as a culturally significant space for active engagement," explains McGuinness.

In 2004, Mr McGuinness created *21g* - an artwork depicting the 91 young males lost to suicide in 2003. This was depicted through shirt fragments. This artwork came to the attention of UCD Suicide Research Programme Principal Investigator, Professor Kevin Malone, and he and McGuinness established a research relationship, co-presenting 'Portrait of Suicide by a Young Artist' and 'Imaging Mental Suffering through Science and Art' at regional and international conferences.

More recently, McGuinness installed *21g* in Dublin Castle's Portrait Gallery last April to tie-in with a dinner, which was organised by Charity *Turn the Tide of Suicide*, to honour the architects of the Good Friday Agreement including Bertie Ahern, Tony Blair, George Mitchell, John Hume, Bob Geldof and Bono.



21g - installation artwork by Seamus McGuinness depicting the 91 young males lost to suicide in the year 2003 through shirt fragments

The Denis Kelleher UCD Ad Astra Scholarship in Suicide Studies, the first such University scholarship of its kind in Ireland, is presented to Mr Seamus McGuinness to work in collaboration with the Suicide Research Programme at UCD / St Vincent's University Hospital with Professor Kevin Malone



## New Software Products launched by NovaUCD companies

An easy to use system of recording staff timesheets is currently being rolled out to Irish recruitment agencies thanks to innovative new software developed by a NovaUCD company.

*Evolution*, the human resources software company founded by Alistair Thacker in 2006, unveiled *TempSheets.com* in July. This easy-to-use online system eliminates the need for paper-based timesheets and provides recruitment agencies with an efficient way to record temporary staff's work hours. It also helps them to schedule staff availability and obtain client approval. This in turn gives the agencies a competitive advantage over those still using time-consuming paper-based timesheets because *TimeSheets.com* allows temporary staff to complete and submit their timesheets online. These timesheets are then approved by the client company before being electronically submitted to the recruitment agency with all invoicing and payroll calculations already completed.

David Carpenter, CEO, NovaUCD-based Q-Validus



NovaUCD-based *Evolution* currently employs three people. It hopes to raise the funding later this year to enable it launch into the UK market next year. The company assists SMEs to reduce the cost of having a HR department by automating many manual HR tasks such as tracking sick leave, annual leave and time sheets by giving employees direct access to HR functions.

Meanwhile, *Q-Validus*, another of NovaUCD's 23 knowledge-intensive companies, has launched an innovative training and certification programme designed to assist business in reducing the risks associated with poor spreadsheet design, use and control.

*Spreadsheet Safe™* is delivered in a one-day course during which candidates are given a total training solution including web-based e-learning, a training manual, a certification test and a certificate on successful completion of the test. *The Spreadsheet Safe™* syllabus

is designed to cover key practical concepts of using spreadsheets and it assists candidates in demonstrating their skill and awareness in working carefully and productively with spreadsheets.

## UCD Researcher Wins FoodSim 2008 Award

A researcher at the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine was awarded the prize for Best Student Paper at the Biannual International Food and Nutrition Simulation Conference, 'FoodSim 2008'.

PhD scholar, Ilias Soumpasis is currently working as part of Q-Porkchains, a Europe-wide project, funded by the EU Commission on *Risk Assessment of Salmonella from 'farm-to-fork'*. Commenting on the award, Soumpasis said he was "delighted that this early part of my work has been widely recognised by the international research community. I am pleased that my paper has been acknowledged as a significant contribution to salmonella modelling on farms and ultimately, will go towards improving the safety of pork products."

Soumpasis presented his paper, which was entitled, 'A comparison of deterministic and stochastic epidemic models for the risk assessment of salmonella at the pre-harvest level of pork production', at the conference which was held in Dublin in June. Co-organised

by UCD, the European Technology Institute and Science Foundation Ireland, it was co-sponsored by UCD and EUROSIS, the European Multidisciplinary Society for Modelling and Simulation Technology.

The aim of Soumpasis's work, which he has undertaken with his supervisor, Professor Francis Butler of the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, is to show an alternative method of simulating the propagation of the salmonella pathogen at the farm level. This will help to more accurately predict how Salmonella develops on pig farms. Understanding the epidemiology of salmonella through accurate modelling should help scientists reduce the levels of this pathogen in pigs, and most importantly in pork products.

The objectives of the *FoodSim 2008* conference included looking at mathematical modelling and simulation in food and bio-industries and modelling processes under uncertainty including microbiological and process variation.

## Migration and Citizenship Summer Doctoral Programme

Nineteen PhD students from 10 different nationalities participated in the ten-day European Doctorate on Migration, Diversity and Identities (EDMIDI) programme from 19-30 June at UCD. The summer school was hosted by the Migration and Citizenship Research Initiative in co-operation with the Humanities Institute of Ireland and the UCD School of Sociology. It focused on issues pertaining to culture,

identity and diversity in the contemporary contexts of migration in Europe and consisted of an interdisciplinary series of lectures and fieldtrips. EDMIDI's mission is to contribute to the co-operative creation, strengthening and development of expertise and collaboration towards the consolidation of a European Area of Research in Migration, Diversity and Identities. For more information: [www.ucd.ie/mcric](http://www.ucd.ie/mcric)

# UCD Professor Ranked Among World's Top Agricultural Scientists



Professor of Biosystems Engineering in the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, Professor Da-Wen Sun, has been ranked among the top one percent of agricultural scientists around the world. The ranking by the *Essential Science Indicators* (ESI) database is based on data on individual scientists, institutions, countries and journals compiled by the ISI Web of Science, the world's most authoritative citation database. It is generally acknowledged as a form of peer recognition. Just 2,127 scientists make it to the top one percent of the most cited scientists in agriculture science and of these, Professor Sun is ranked at 51.

According to Professor Da-Wen Sun, "Such a high ranking is a strong indication of the exceptionally high quality research conducted by UCD researchers as recognised by international peers." The ranking system is considered to provide an authoritative means of comparing the performance of researchers within a discipline and between disciplines.

A recipient of the International Commission of Agricultural Engineering Merit Award in 2000 and 2006, Professor Sun was named 'Food Engineer of the Year' in 2004 by the UK's Institution of Mechanical Engineers. "I am very pleased with the ranking, as the ESI is based

on research output in international scholarly journals and is globally considered as evidence of academic excellence," he said.

Some of Professor Sun's recent research projects have included focusing on techniques for enhancing the food freezing process; the development of a novel non-contact and rapid computer vision system for quality evaluation and control of pre-sliced cooked ham; as well as the use of power-ultrasound in the acceleration of ice nucleation and control of ice crystal distribution during freezing of foods.

## A Sense of Ireland

A new book containing the results of a GIS mapping project is shedding light on the rapidly changing face of Irish society in the first decade of the 21st century. *A Sense of Ireland (Population Change 2002-2006)* translates information drawn from the 2006 Census into map format. It is the product of a research project by a team of graduate students from the UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy.

Describing itself as an atlas of the 2006 Census, the book incorporates 36 maps containing information on selected areas of change such as the ratio of Irish to Non-Irish nationals, the amount of time spent daily travelling, the number of households with two or more cars, the use of public transport, the number of Irish speakers. It was launched by the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Mr Éamon Ó Cuív, TD, on 1 July 2008.

As a country experiencing change in a number of areas, the book looks at these changes under five themes: demographics; socio-economics; travel and commuting; ethnicity; and health and education.

Being able to access and utilise data from the 2006 Census encouraged "exploration of regional differences and their causes", according to MA student, Karen O'Connell. For instance, the maps show that of the 498,432 mortgage free households in Ireland, the highest concentration are to be found along the Western seaboard, notably in the Gaeltacht areas and specifically in Donegal and Mayo. "These concentrations are likely to be the result of houses being inherited through the generations leaving the houses mortgage-free, something which is part of the traditional farming landscape," suggests Karen O'Connell.

Some of the other issues which emerged from the study underline the rural-urban divide. The findings underscore the clear distinction between the East and the West of the country, and the influence of the greater Dublin area on the rest of Ireland.

Community participation, levels of disability and the availability of carers were other themes which produced interesting patterns.

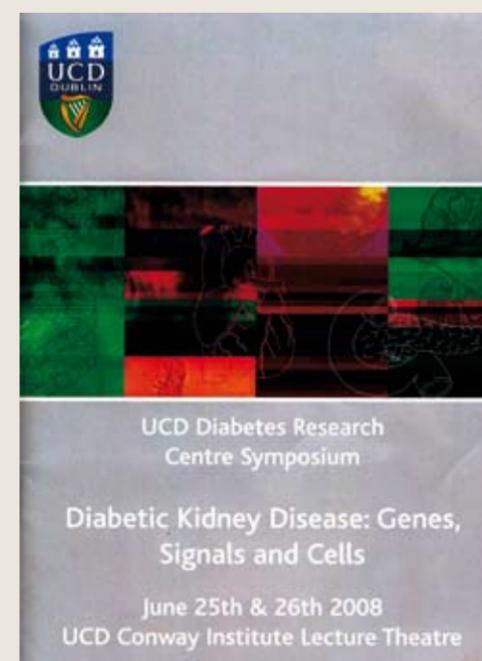
## Focus on Diabetes

It is a disease which is reaching epidemic proportions globally and consequently there is a huge health and economic cost for diabetics and healthcare systems nationally and worldwide. Delegates at a symposium on diabetes hosted by UCD on 25-26 June 2008, and chaired by UCD Professor Catherine Godson, learned how researchers are seeking to understand the signalling pathways that influence the progression of diabetic nephropathy, a condition that affects between 25-35 percent of all diabetic patients.

Diabetic kidney disease, or diabetic nephropathy (DN) can have devastating consequences for the sufferer and is the main cause of end-stage renal disease, for which patients would require dialysis or even kidney transplant surgery. Now researchers know that DN is also associated with an increased risk of cardio-vascular disease.

The symposium, entitled, '*Diabetic Kidney Disease: Genes, Signals and Cells*', opened with a series of presentations dealing with the area of genetic epidemiology – understanding genetic susceptibility to diabetic nephropathy. Not all diabetic patients develop this condition, and there is not always a correlation between its development and how well or poorly the patient manages their glucose or blood pressure levels. Investigators need to therefore understand what genes are switched on in a diabetic kidney and how these genes contribute to the development of diabetic nephropathy. Per-Henrik Groop of the University of Helsinki and Andrzej Krolewski of Harvard Medical School were two of the prestigious speakers who explored this issue in detail.

A greater level of understanding of the initiation and progression processes of diabetic nephropathy, makes the identification of targets for novel therapeutic approaches more likely. Mark Cooper of the Baker Heart Research Institute of Australia explained how diabetic nephropathy is a result of interactions between a variety of metabolic stimuli ranging from glucose itself to glucose-modified proteins to



a number of vasoactive hormones. Madeline Murphy and Derek Brazil, both of UCD, spoke on their work on the signalling pathways that influence the progression of diabetic nephropathy, while Roel Golschmeding of University Medical Centre Utrecht dealt with his quest to understand the biology of bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs) and connective tissue growth factors (CTGF; CCN-2) as determinants of renal fibrosis.

Valerie Clerin of Wyeth Research Cambridge, MA, told delegates about the work being done in Wyeth laboratories to address the increased prevalence of renal fibrosis among diabetes patients. Two other conference speakers, John Coffmann of Duke University and Kumar Sharma of UC San Diego, described exciting advances in developing appropriate models of diabetic kidney disease which will accelerate our understanding of the pathophysiology of this devastating condition.



## National recognition for first UCD Community Musical

The first UCD Community Musical held in O'Reilly Hall in February 2008 received six nominations in the 2008 Association of Irish Musical Societies awards. The UCD production of *West Side Story* came runner-up in the *Sullivan Best Overall Show* category, which had five nominees from around the country. The other nominations were for: director,

musical director, female singer, male singer and choreography. Over 130 musical societies throughout Ireland are members of the Association of Irish Musical Societies (AIMS), involving around 14,000 people directly in musical theatre and with an audience base of some 1.2 million. The second UCD Community Musical is planned for early 2009.

Representing the UCD Community Musical at the 2008 AIMS awards were (l-r): Michael Simpson, Assistant Director; Aoife Brady, Director; Alec Ward, who played 'Tony'; Emily Leonard, Box Office Manager; Anna Farrell, Producer



# Foclóirí agus Foclóirithe na Gaeilge

Liam Mac Amhlaigh agus an Dr Regina Uí Chollatáin, Léachtóir le Nua-Ghaeilge, Scoil na Gaeilge an Léinn Cheiltigh i dTeanglann na Nua-Ghaeilge, UCD



Spléachadh ar shaothair foclóireachta na Gaeilge ó Shanasán Uí Chléirigh (1643) go foclóir Néill Uí Dhónaill (1978) atá sa leabhar seo. Tugtar acoimre ar shaol na scoláirí Éireannacha agus idirnáisiúnta a shaothraigh an réimse léinn seo, fearann idirtheangach Gaeilge, Béarla agus Laidin. Léargas ar na foclóirí féin, an cur chuige, an stíl oibre agus an t-ábhar atá iontu atá le fáil sa leabhar. I ngach caibidil tá cur síos ar an bhfoclóirí féin agus méid áirithe eolais faoin bhfoclóirí agus faoin gcur le chéile go ginearálta. Tá grianghraif de na foclóirí go léir a luaitear sa leabhar curtha leis an téacs chun blaiseadh níos fearr a thabhairt ar an ábhar.

Seoladh an leabhar ag an Dr. Regina Uí Chollatáin, Léachtóir le Nua-Ghaeilge, Scoil na Gaeilge an Léinn Cheiltigh i dTeanglann na Nua-Ghaeilge sa Choláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath.



## Liam Mac Amhlaigh

Is iarrthóir dochtúireachta Nua-Ghaeilge i Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh, Bhéalóideas Éireann agus na Teangeolaíochta sa Choláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath agus léachtóir le litríocht agus teanga na Gaeilge i gColáiste Oideachais Froebel, comhcholáiste de chuid Choláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath é Liam Mac Amhlaigh. Céimí de chuid an Choláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath agus Coláiste na Tríonóide é. Tá suim thaighde aige i bhfoclóireacht na Nua-Ghaeilge, ealaín an ghearrscéil Ghaeilge, saol agus saothar Mháirtín Uí Chadhain agus filíocht chomhaimseartha na Nua-Ghaeilge.

Tá ailt foilsithe aige ar fhilí comhaimseartha na Nua-Ghaeilge mar Mháire Mhac an tSaoi, Sheán Ó Ríordáin agus Mháirtín Ó Direáin. Foilsíodh a chéad úrscéal dó *Teach na gColúr* (Comhar, 2006) leabhar a bhuaigh duais i gComórtas Liteartha an Oireachtais i 2006. Is é an saothar is déanaí leis ná *Foclóirí agus Foclóirithe na Gaeilge* (Cois Life, 2008) ina bhfuil spléachadh ar shaothair foclóireachta na Gaeilge ó Shanasán Uí Chléirigh (1643) go foclóir Néill Uí Dhónaill (1978). Rugadh i gCill Mhantáin agus tógadh i mBaile Átha Cliath é.

Baineann a thráchtas dochtúireachta le hÉabhlóid na Foclóireachta Nua-Ghaeilge san fhichiú haois agus tá sé faoi stiúir sa Scoil ag an Dr. Diarmuid Ó Sé, léachtóir sinsearach le Nua-Ghaeilge.

### Saothair fhoilsithe

**Litríocht – Úrscéal:** *Teach na gColúr* (Comhar, 2006)

**Taighde:** *Foclóirí agus Foclóirithe na Gaeilge* (Cois Life, 2008)

**Duaiseanna/Gradaim:** Duais d'ábhar litríochta d'fhoghlaimoirí fásta i gComórtas Liteartha Oireachtas na Gaeilge 2006

# Irish language dictionaries and lexicographers

Liam Mac Amhlaigh's new book, *Foclóirí agus Foclóirithe na Gaeilge* (Irish Language Dictionaries and Lexicographers) is an overview of lexicography in Irish from Sanasán Uí Chléirigh (1643) to Ó Dónaill (1978). A short biography of each scholar is accompanied by a description of over a dozen major works linking traditions and languages. The book provides an insight into a neglected but important strand of Irish studies and gives examples of methodologies and content of each dictionary.

The book was launched by Dr Regina Uí Chollatáin, UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics, in the UCD Irish Language Centre.

An tUas. Anraí Ó Braonáin (Uachtarán, An Cumann le Béaloideas Éireann) agus Liam Mac Amhlaigh



An tOll. Liam Mac Mathúna (Ceann, Scoil gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh, Bhéalóideas Éireann agus na Teangeolaíochta UCD) agus Dr Fearghus Ó Fearail



# Images of Research presented to UCD Collection

The first set of UCD Images of Research has been formally presented to the UCD art collection. Professor Desmond Fitzgerald, Vice-President for Research and Dr Aoibheann Gibbons, Director of Research Strategy and Planning presented the set of 12 winning images from the 2006 Images of Research Competition, to Ruth Ferguson, Curator of the UCD art collection.

The twelve framed images will become part of UCD's art collection and will be displayed in strategic positions across the UCD campus. Selected from over 400 entries, they illustrate the broad spectrum of innovative research taking place at UCD.

"The Images of Research Competition is a great vehicle for involving the students and staff of UCD in the visual arts and provides a wonderful addition to the UCD art collection," commented Ruth Ferguson, Curator of the UCD art collection. "UCD Research must be commended for such a successful initiative that will further enhance the UCD built environment," said Ms Ferguson.

According to Dr Aoibheann Gibbons, UCD Director of Research Strategy and Planning,

"Each image donated to the collection creates a lasting reminder of the individual researcher and the work undertaken here in UCD in a particular year. I hope that these visual references will build over time and serve the UCD students and staff of the future."

The Annual Images of Research Competition, which is now in its third year, offers UCD

Pictured left to right are: Ruth Ferguson, Curator of the UCD art collection; Professor Desmond Fitzgerald, UCD Vice-President for Research; Dr Aoibheann Gibbons, UCD Director of Research Strategy and Planning



researchers the opportunity to submit compelling digital images created in the course of their research. Almost one thousand images have been submitted to the Competition to date.

Winners of the 2008 competition will be announced at an awards ceremony and exhibition which will take place in October.

## Liam Mac Amhlaigh

Liam Mac Amhlaigh is a doctoral candidate in Modern Irish in the School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics at UCD and a lecturer in Irish language and literature at the Froebel College of Education, a constituent college of Trinity College, Dublin. He is a graduate of UCD and TCD. His research interests are Modern Irish lexicography, the Irish short story, the life and work of Máirtín Ó Cadhain and contemporary Irish poetry.

He has published articles on contemporary Irish poets such as Máire Mhac an tSaoi, Seán Ó Ríordáin and Máirtín Ó Direáin. His first novel, *Teach na gColúr* (Comhar, 2006) was published in 2006 and won a prize in the Oireachtas Literary Competition in the same year. His latest work is called, *Foclóirí agus Foclóirithe na Gaeilge* (Cois Life, 2008) which gives an overview of lexicography in Irish from Sanasán Uí Chléirigh (1643) to Ó Dónaill (1978). He was born in Wicklow and raised in Dublin.

His doctoral thesis relates to the evolution of Modern Irish language lexicography in the 20th century. His supervisor is Dr Diarmuid Ó Sé, Senior Lecturer in Modern Irish.

### Published Works

**Novels:** *Teach na gColúr* (Comhar, 2006)

**Academic Works:** *Foclóirí agus Foclóirithe na Gaeilge* (Cois Life, 2008)

**Awards/Prizes:** The prize for literary material for mature learners in the 2006 Oireachtas Literary Competition

# The Irish Voter: The Nature of Electoral Competition in the Republic of Ireland

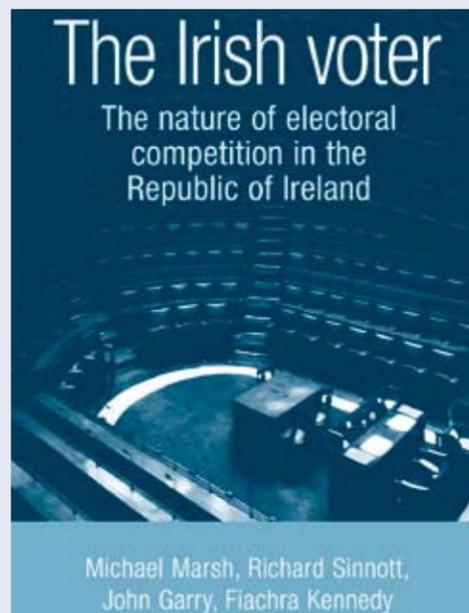
*The Irish Voter* is a significant study of Irish voting patterns and voter outlook and attitudes. Using the results of the first ever full-scale Irish election survey (Irish National Election Study 2002), the research is based on the detailed responses of some 2,500 voters to a survey conducted in the wake of the 2002 election.

The book examines long-term influences on voting behaviour, such as party loyalties, as well as the impact of short-term influences, such as the economy, party leaders and the local candidates. It also examines the impact of the Irish system of proportional representation. Exploring the divisions between parties, *The Irish Voter* shows that competition between Irish parties on ideological grounds or on the basis of values tends to be more limited than in other countries. It also brings out the extent

and significance of candidate-centred voting, with some 40 percent of voters clearly placing the emphasis on candidate choice rather than on party choice.

The book is the result of a collaborative research project involving Richard Sinnott, Professor of Political Science at the UCD School of Politics and International Relations and Michael Marsh, Professor of Comparative Political Behaviour at TCD as Principal Investigators.

Professor Sinnott's expertise in analysing voter behaviour has been very much in demand following the outcome of the referendum on the Lisbon Treaty. A selection of his newspaper articles and working papers on this and related issues can be found at <http://geary.ucd.ie/popb/>



## They Made It!



Three students who set off on an epic journey by bike from Ireland to China last September reached their destination in August - over 300 days and almost 20,000 kms later and just in time for the Olympic Games.

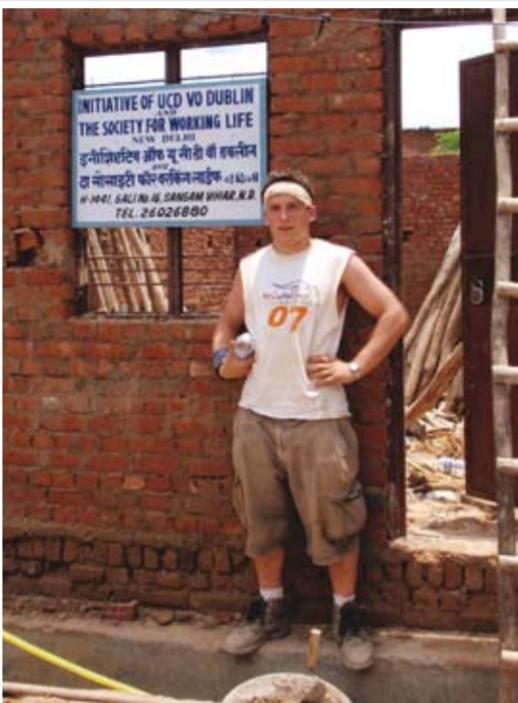
The *Bike to Beijing* fund-raiser was completed by UCD third-year Veterinary Medicine student, Conor Rowan, and History and Politics graduate, Paul Ryan. They were accompanied by DIT Construction Economics and Management graduate, Mark Donlon. The trek saw them travelling through some of the world's most difficult terrains and extreme climates as they passed through countries including France, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. While in the Chinese city of Xian they witnessed first-hand the earthquake which killed approximately 70,000 mainly in Sichuan Province.

Originally the trio intended to follow the same route as the Olympic flame, but when they discovered that this would involve travelling through Iraq and Afghanistan, they decided on safety grounds to re-route. One of their stated aims before setting out was to be in Beijing to lend their support at the Olympic Games to Irish athlete, double European Indoor 400m champion and UCD graduate, David Gillick, as he competed in the track and field events.

Prior to their departure, the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland sponsored the trio by giving them free Chinese language courses. The journey raised €36,000 for UCD Volunteers Overseas, which offers Irish students the chance to take part in voluntary work abroad, funds life-saving projects in the developing world and the ARC Cancer Support Centre in Dublin, which provides support to those affected by cancer and their carers.

## UCDVO 2008!

Despite torrential rain and a tough drive every day, UCD student and staff volunteers who travelled to Nicaragua as UCDVO showed once again what they are made of when they helped build a medical centre for the people of El Kairo and surrounding communities in the hills bordering Honduras over the summer. They also installed 10 stoves with chimneys for villagers in Santa Isobel, where the first *UCDVO Centro de Salud* was completed in 2007. Elsewhere, UCD volunteers lent their skills and time working in India and Haiti, and were involved in building as well as literacy programmes. From Nicaragua to India to Haiti – for all concerned – it was an experience of a lifetime!



## Prize to Commemorate Roger McHugh

To mark the centenary of the death of the late Professor Roger McHugh, a prize which has been endowed by his family, has been inaugurated to commemorate his pioneering work as a scholar, editor and teacher, as well as his achievement in setting up a world-class postgraduate programme in Anglo-Irish Literature.

Roger McHugh was the first professor to hold the Chair of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama at UCD. Born in July 1908, the year University College Dublin and the National University of Ireland were established by Charter, he was appointed to the staff of UCD's English Department in 1934 and became Professor of English in 1965. A year later he was made Professor of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama.

Esteemed for his academic work, notably his publications on a number of novelists and poets, his creative output was also highly regarded – his play *Rossa* won the Abbey Theatre's Award for an historical play in 1945. His papers are currently in possession of UCD's Archives. These include

material relating to his position as a lecturer and memoranda on the development of Anglo-Irish Studies (1949-82) as well as drafts of published works such as material relating to his book on the correspondence between W.B. Yeats and Margot Ruddock (1935-1936: 1968-1969). He retired from the College in 1978.

Speaking of his former mentor and colleague, Professor Maurice Harmon said, "Roger McHugh stands at the head of Irish literary scholarship." Professor Declan Kiberd said that as the holder of the first Chair in Anglo-Irish Literature on the island of Ireland, Professor McHugh had brought about a situation "where Irish writers, who tended to be lumped in with English literature, established a distinctive category of their own." He paid tribute to McHugh's work in editing some of Yeats' later letters.

The prize, worth no less than €4,000, will be awarded annually on the basis of academic excellence to an MA student of Anglo-Irish literature who wishes to pursue a doctorate.

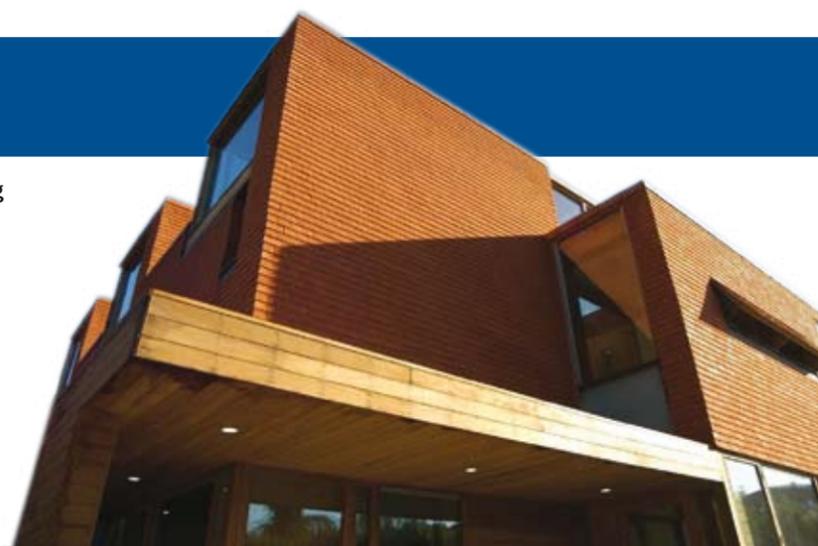
## PHD in sustainable development

Ireland's first ever PhD in Sustainable Development has accepted its first six students for a programme which commenced this autumn. Funded by the IRCHSS and IRCSET, the programme is run by the UCD Urban Institute (UII) and will enlist the support of the UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering, the UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy and the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science. Structured around four main pillars: Environmental Economics & Policy, Biodiversity

& Climate Change, Transport & Infrastructure and Planning & Land Use; the programme contains taught modules, research seminars, professional placement/internship and a thesis.

The six pioneering graduates who have been accepted on to the programme come from a variety of backgrounds including human and social sciences, engineering and life sciences and they hail from a number of different countries including Vietnam, the Netherlands, Germany, and USA. In addition to the PhD, the programme offers a Certificate in Sustainable Development,

which will incorporate training opportunities and funding. Courses commenced on 8 September, with a formal reception at the UII, Richview, on 10 September. Further information: [www.ucd.ie/phdsust/](http://www.ucd.ie/phdsust/) or email: [uui.admin@ucd.ie](mailto:uui.admin@ucd.ie)



## American Exceptionalism Tops the Agenda at Clinton Institute Summer School

"The Janus-face of American Exceptionalism" was just one of a number of issues taxing the minds of participants at this year's summer school at the UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies (13-19 July) at Belfield House.

In an intensive week of daily workshop seminars and plenary lectures, graduate students and junior faculty members in American Studies heard a host of prestigious academics in the field, including Professors Cindi Katz (CUNY), Scott Lucas (University of Birmingham), and Werner Sollors (Harvard), discuss the rise of Neoliberalism, and the theory of unipolarity in the foreign policy doctrines of the United States.

Discussing the issue of American exceptionalism, Professor Donald Pease of Dartmouth College, New England, posed the question as to "how America could represent itself as at once an exception to the laws of nations and as an exemplary political experiment". He described this conundrum

as having "posed a perennial challenge to the imaginative powers of its interpreters." Explaining his description of American exceptionalism as "Janus-faced", he said he wished to call to attention the fact that "America has, since the time of its founding, been (and continues to be) at once an exemplarily utopian political experiment, yet also productive of violent states of exception."

In her seminar, Professor Cindi Katz discussed 'Historical Geographies of the Neoliberal Present 1973-2008'. Citing John Clarke's definition of 'globalisation', she looked at how the term 'neoliberalism' has become promiscuous, omnipresent and omnipotent, to emphasise its flexible, contingent and conjunctural aspects and how it takes shape and is contested in particular historical geographies.

Director of the Clinton Institute, Professor Liam Kennedy, along with Professor Scott Lucas of the University of Birmingham, presented a seminar entitled '*Enduring Freedom: Ideology and US Foreign Policy in the 21st Century*'.

## Alltech Executives Participate in Partnership Programme

Bridging the gap between leading-edge thinking and real-world decision-making was one of the practical insights gained by participants on the Advanced Management Development Programme for the senior executives of Alltech at the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School. The programme was developed and tailored by the Executive Education unit at the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School for senior executives of Alltech, a global leader in animal nutrition. According to Aidan Connolly, Vice-President of Alltech and a graduate of the UCD MBS, "The programme combines academic and research excellence with practical insight."

The Advanced Management Development programme is taught through a combination of lectures, group and individual assignments and case studies. Much of the case study material taught on the programme has been written specifically to deal with strategic and tactical issues facing Alltech. In Aidan Connolly's opinion, "Due to the intensive nature of the programme and its emphasis on powerful teamwork, candidates find that they learn not just with their colleagues, but from them too."

Commenting on the relationship with Alltech, Dr Phillip Matthews, Director of Executive Education, said, "The future of executive development lies in the partnership



Alltech managers participating in tailored Advanced Management Development Programme for the senior executives at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School

between firms with growth ambitions and providers with the ability to understand these ambitions and contribute to their achievement through sharpening the analytical and soft skill set of current and future leaders within those firms. Alltech is a leader in recognising this, we appreciate our partnership with them and look forward to welcoming the ninth group of Alltech managers this year".

## Visualising Ireland

Exploring the intersections of a peculiarly Irish visual culture and its attendant theoretical considerations was the focus of a symposium: *Visualising Ireland (Theory, Culture, Image)* hosted by the UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland from 4-6 July and organised by the UCD School of English, Drama and Film. Plenary speakers included Professor Gerardine Meaney, Director of Irish Studies at UCD and former

Director of the UCD Centre for Film Studies; Dr Colin Graham (NUIM) whose publications include *Deconstructing Ireland* (Edinburgh University Press, 2001); and Dr Lance Pettitt (Leeds Metropolitan University), who was an Irish/British Government Exchange scholar at UCD in 1985/86 and took his PhD here in 1990 with a thesis on TV drama.

## Exploring written and oral traditions in Ireland

Following the UCD Humanities Institute Print Culture symposium in 2007, the Humanities Institute in partnership with the UCD School of English, Drama and Film organised a second symposium focusing on the links between written and verbal cultures in Ireland from the seventeenth century to the end of the nineteenth century. While Ireland's rich written and oral traditions in both Irish and English have been the subject of much research in recent years, so far little attention has been paid to the complex and diverse interactions between print and oral cultures.

Leading Irish and international experts addressed aspects of interlinked patterns of influence across oral and written cultures and boundaries in their field of expertise. The symposium, which was directed by Dr Marc Caball and Professor Andrew Carpenter, was inter-disciplinary in focus and speakers drew on a wide range of printed and oral material in both Irish and English with a view to enhancing understanding of this fascinating and important topic. These annual symposia complement UCD's commitment to its development as a leading centre for the study of the history of the book.

Pictured are speakers at the HII symposium (l-r) Pictured left to right are: Marie-Louise Coolahan; John Moulden; Gearóid Ó Luing; Evelyn Flanagan; Marc Caball; Charles Benson; Andrew Carpenter; Rolf Loeber; Nicholas Williams; Lesa Ní Mhunchaile



## Spotlight on Infant Mortality at Geary Symposium

Why did the infant mortality rate in Ireland peak in 1943 and suddenly drop by 1950? Research currently being undertaken by research assistant, Bróna Ní Chobhthaigh, at the UCD Geary Institute, is helping to shed light on the progression of Irish infant mortality over the course of the twentieth century. Using time series econometrics, she presented her findings at a one-day symposium at the UCD Geary Institute on health and behaviour. Looking at historical trends in Irish infant mortality between 1920 and 1960, her research aims to isolate whether health or social policies brought about the decline in rates from 82.6 in 1943 to 46 by 1950.

A range of possible factors have been identified as contributing to better health, including the clearance of Dublin's slums from 1933 onwards, as well as the free fuel and milk provisions. The central hypothesis of Bróna Ní Chobhthaigh's paper is the possible impact of the introduction of penicillin and antibiotics and the development and dissemination of water and sanitation schemes across the country.

Amongst the other issues addressed in the papers presented at the symposium were female suicide; mental health issues in young Irish men; the health implications arising from transport policies, specifically the possible physical and mental health effects of commuting; and how handedness – being right or left-handed or ambidextrous – predicts socio-economic success.

In her paper '*Patterns of Suicide Among Young Women in Ireland 1980 – 2005*', Emer Carey O'Loughlin of the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science and the UCD Geary Institute presented new findings indicating that there had been a substantial increase in young female suicide in this period. During the 1980s and 1990s Ireland experienced one of the fastest growing suicide rates among young people in the world; while the overall suicide rate doubled, the vast proportion of this rise is attributable to suicide among men. However, an examination of the official statistics reveals that the number of young women aged 15 to 24 years dying by suicide in Ireland trebled between 1990 and 2004.



Bróna Ní Chobhthaigh giving her presentation at the symposium on Health and Behaviour at the Geary Institute.

## Canada meets Ireland at the Dublin Writers' Festival

The UCD Humanities Institute and the UCD Centre for Canadian Studies hosted a popular joint reading at this year's Dublin Writers' Festival in June. The best-selling contemporary Canadian author, Wayne Johnston, and the Belfast novelist, Glenn Patterson, read from both published material and work in progress. Both discussed their work and answered questions during a lively interactive session with an enthusiastic audience. The event was chaired by Dr Marc Caball, Director of the UCD Humanities Institute.

This was the first reading by Johnston in Ireland whose works have elicited constant

praise and critical acclaim in his native Canada. Born in Newfoundland, Johnston's *Colony of Unrequited Dreams* and his *The Navigator of New York* spent extended periods of time on bestseller lists in Canada. While his novel *Colony* was identified by the Globe and Mail newspaper as one of the 100 most important Canadian books ever published. Glenn Patterson is the author of six novels. His *That Which Was* (2004) is set in Belfast and explores the interaction between memory, history and society. A new novel by Patterson, *The Third Party*, was published in 2007.

Pictured are: Wayne Johnston and Glenn Patterson



## Book Celebrates Spanish-Irish Relations

H.E. the Spanish Ambassador to Ireland, Don José de Carvajal (3rd l) with Peter Sutherland, SC, Chairman of BP and Goldman Sachs International (2nd l) and the Editors of 'Spanish-Irish Relations Through the Ages', Julio Crespo MacLennan (l) and Declan Downey (r). Published by Four Courts Press, the book contains a collection of essays which were presented at the 1st International Conference on Spanish-Irish Relations, held in Salamanca in 2004. The essays provide insights into the cultural, economic, diplomatic and political dimensions of the centuries-old relationships between Spain and Ireland over the medieval, early modern and modern/contemporary periods.



## Taking a Walk on the 'Wild' Side

As part of a sustainable strategy, and under the *UCD Woodlands Walkway* project, the university is currently enhancing its woodland boundary, which will include the phased creation of a jogging, cycling and walking track stretching 6.5km around the campus boundary. The first of these walks was finished at the end of August. Measuring approximately 2.15km long, it begins and ends at UCD Sports Centre, where information boards on it are situated.

The woodland boundaries, tree avenues and walled gardens visible around Belfield campus today pay testament to the 18th and 19th century period houses and associated lands from whose amalgamation the campus evolved. In all, land from eleven different estates were incorporated into Belfield campus. Seven of the original eleven period houses remain.

Since 1998 there has been a conscious decision to increase the number of trees on the campus. Approximately 25,999 trees have been planted, increasing the overall woodland

coverage on campus from 14 acres to almost 22 acres. According to UCD Vice-President for Capital and Commercial Development, Eamonn Ceannt, "In tandem with the preservation of the existing trees and landscape, there has been a drive to enhance and add to the tree avenues and wooded areas. This will improve the campus environment and boost the overall quality of life for all those who spend time on Belfield campus."

The woodland areas of Belfield are:

*Belfield Wood*  
*Oakland Walk*  
*Rosemount Wood*  
*Merville Wood*  
*Foster's Avenue Wood*  
*Bursar's Wood*

The *UCD Woodlands Walkway* project was awarded €10,000 by the UCD Alumni Fund in February 2008.



## Leadership in Context

UCD recently became the first university in Ireland to implement a leadership programme for both administrative and academic managers. Working on its design and delivery with Cranfield University, the emphasis of the programme was on developing the self-awareness of the individual through a mix of profiling, coaching and experiential group work. The programme also drew on current theories of leadership and learning including distributed leadership, authentic leadership and collaborative learning. The latter in particular was utilised throughout the programme to demonstrate how colleagues can learn from

each other even when coming from disparate parts of the organisation.

Both managers and leaders are essential to organisational performance – however unless an organisation is focussed on the 'right' things then no amount of managing will get them to where they want to be. The emphasis on management development has switched to an emphasis on developing leaders and building leadership capability.

The newly appointed Leadership Development Manager at UCD is Niamh O'Donoghue, who will oversee the ongoing leadership development work at UCD.

## ISEP Conference

'Building a Social Entrepreneurship Community' was one of the themes of the ISEP Conference hosted by UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School in June 2008. It was co-hosted with the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, an international body established in the USA in 1987 which teaches entrepreneurial skills to disadvantaged children, and Social Entrepreneurs Ireland.

Over 50 delegates attended the conference which took place at the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School campus in Blackrock. The Irish chapter is operating in Dublin and Belfast and is funded by Atlantic Philanthropies amongst others. Social Entrepreneurs Ireland was established by Declan Ryan in 2005. It has invested €2.5m in various projects which are funded by high net worth individuals.

## Young person of the year award for cystic fibrosis campaigner

UCD Arts student, Orla Tinsley has received a joint *Young Person of the Year Award* for her passionate, skilful and, ultimately, crucial role in the campaign for better services for people with cystic fibrosis. Orla's moving testimony and the resulting developments that have taken place will have a significant, positive impact on the life expectancy and quality of life of people with cystic fibrosis in Ireland. Orla, one of 1,200 people with Cystic Fibrosis in Ireland, is currently studying Ancient Greek & Roman Civilization and English at University College Dublin.

"It is incredibly surreal to receive the award," said Orla. "The fact that cystic fibrosis is now recognised on a national stage is because of the courage of people with cystic fibrosis who fought so publicly in the past few months for their basic human rights. I am honoured to accept the award and feel it is an extremely positive step in the right direction for cystic fibrosis patients and their families, although there is still a long way to go."

The *People of the Year Awards* pay tribute to members of the public who have enhanced the quality of life in Ireland, increased civic pride or who, through acts of bravery, have touched the lives of the wider community. The award winners are selected by members of the public through a nominations process and finalised by a panel of adjudicators comprising leading members of the media, business, public service and community sectors.

"The *People of the Year Awards* are widely recognised as one of the highest accolades a person can receive in Ireland and they are now firmly established as the Irish people's national Awards," said Angela Kerins, Chairperson of the Adjudicating Panel and Chief Executive, Rehab.

"The list of this year's winners is testament to the winners' bravery, strength of spirit and outstanding contribution to life in our community. Of course, more than all of that, our *People of the Year Award* winners also point the way forward to what we can achieve in ourselves and what we can achieve for our country and our world, to which we can all aspire and be inspired," said Sean Quinn, Chairman, QUINN Group.

"Now in their 34th year, these Awards recognise the remarkable achievements of some truly extraordinary people," said Clare Duignan, Director of Programmes, RTÉ Television. "As Ireland's public service broadcaster, RTÉ is particularly delighted to bring this national event to a national television audience and play our part in saluting the exemplary people recognised on this evening's programme."

## UCDSU Wins AIB Better Ireland Award

UCD Students' Union is to use the €10,000 prize money from its AIB Better Ireland Programme Award to further enhance and develop its annual Access Week Programme.

At the presentation of this year's awards in July at the AIB Bankcentre in Ballsbridge, AIB's University Branch Manager, Adrienne Murray, congratulated the Students' Union on its programme for school students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are less likely to take up a place at university.

Over the past four years, 1,500 disadvantaged primary and secondary school students have visited Belfield where they have been provided with information on the different supports available to help them attend a third

level institution. The students are encouraged to take part in a homework/grind programme to assist them with their studies and these are provided free by UCD student volunteers. The school children are also given a tour of the Belfield campus and get a chance to conduct their own science experiments in laboratory settings and visit the veterinary hospital.

Accepting the award, UCDSU's Education Officer for 2007/08, Ronan Shanahan said, "We believe education is the single greatest tool we have to effect social change in our community. The programme fosters aspiration by focusing on tackling the twin problems of cultural and financial barriers."

Vivian Rath, Welfare Officer 2007/2008, UCDSU (centre-left) and Ronan Shanahan, Education Officer 2007/2008, UCDSU (centre-right) receiving the AIB Better Ireland Programme award from Anne Egan, AIB, UCD Branch, (left) and Mary Wall, AIB, UCD Branch, (right).



## UCD Lecturer Wins IBM Faculty Award

Dr Eamonn Ambrose, lecturer at the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, received the prestigious IBM Faculty award, valued at \$25,000, in recognition of his work to develop and establish the SSME (Services Science, Management and Engineering) curriculum.

The UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School is one of the first to establish a module in SSME, which is emerging as a distinct field of study. It incorporates information and business services, the service economy's fastest growing segments along with the rise of web services, SOA and self-service systems.

Following the announcement, Dan Carrell, Executive of Dublin Technology Campus Executive and Director of ISC Server Manufacturing said, "IBM is very pleased to recognise Eamonn Ambrose with this faculty award for his leadership in Service Supply Chain Curriculum Development. I believe that applying supply chain principles effectively within the services arena will be key in helping IBM to achieve our goal of a globally integrated and optimized enterprise. We appreciate Eamonn's vision and support of this goal by creating curriculum, courses and teaching materials that allow our university partners to educate and teach our future leaders how to optimize the benefits for our business in this sphere."

In addition to developing a broader course for the post graduate business programme, Eamonn Ambrose and his colleagues from UCD and Dr Dan Lynch of Michigan State University delivered a workshop to the ISC Procurement team in Dublin.

## New Mediterranean antiquities exhibited in the Classical Museum

The UCD Classical Museum recently secured the long-term loan of a previously unknown collection of small Mediterranean antiquities owned by St Finian's College in Mullingar (Co Westmeath). To mark the occasion, an exhibition, held under the auspices of WAC-6, was organised by the UCD School of Classics MA students taking the new MA module on museum archaeology and the display of classical antiquities. The exhibition was launched on the 30 June by the Ambassador

of Cyprus, Mr Sotos Liassides. The President of St Finian's, Father Connell, who had kindly arranged the loan, was also present.

The collection, which has origins similar to the UCD Classical Museum's own collection, consists of forty artefacts presenting a great variety of types and provenance (Cyprus, Egypt, Greece and Asia Minor). The research into the collection has traced the origins of some of the artefacts to specific sites and excavations, or shown them to be significant examples

of their type. The thematic displays of the exhibition explore aspects of domestic space, death ritual, cult and technology in the ancient Mediterranean.

The exhibition attracted a good number of interested WAC delegates and other visitors, and can still be viewed in the Classical Museum (Newman Building, K216) during Museum opening hours (Tuesday and Friday 10 am – 1 pm, Thursday 2.15 – 5 pm), or by appointment (01-716 8576).



Ambassador of Cyprus, Mr Sotos Liassides, (l) who launched the exhibition of a previously unknown collection of Mediterranean antiquities owned by St Finian's College in Mullingar (Co Westmeath) with Professor Michael Lloyd and Dr Christina Haywood of the UCD School of Classics

# Fungi get Stamp of Approval!

For the first time, stamps illustrating mushrooms/toadstools have been issued as part of An Post's Fauna and Flora series. A team from UCD provided expertise in mycology and the Irish language.

According to mycologist and senior lecturer at UCD's School of Biology and Environmental Science, Dr Hubert Fuller, who acted as consultant for the series, "Fungi have never featured previously on Irish stamps and indeed, the Royal Mail in the UK have only once, in 160 years, illustrated a mushroom on a stamp." He believes that An Post's mushroom stamps will create public awareness of this "major kingdom of organisms that are often

overlooked, forgotten and maligned". Dr Fuller adds that the "stamps are an acknowledgement of fungi as components of Ireland's biodiversity and of the vital importance of these organisms to all life on the planet".

In September 2007, An Post's Design Committee asked Dr Fuller to advise them on choosing fungi for depiction on stamps to be issued in 2008. "We have such a rich diversity of mushrooms in Ireland the task of short-listing 6-8 species was challenging," Dr Fuller says of his task. Artist Ian Loe produced the drawings.

While many mushrooms/toadstools have English common names, apart from some generic Gaelic terms for fungi, very few individual species have Irish language names, reflecting the lack of a tradition of collecting and eating wild mushrooms in Ireland.

A decision thus had to be made as to whether or not to include mushroom names in Irish on the stamps. Londoner and UCD Professor, Nicholas Williams of the School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics set about constructing the Irish language epithets now shown on the stamps, based on the features of the particular mushrooms, the recommended English names and existing Gaelic terms.

Professor Williams produced a translation of 'Alice in Wonderland' in 2003 - *Lastall den Scáthán agus a bhFair Eilís Ann Roimpi* and this was followed in 2004 by a

translation of 'Alice Through the Looking-Glass' - *Eachtraí Eilíse i dTír na nIontas*, which was nominated as the best Irish language translation by BIBY (the international society of books for young people) for 2005.

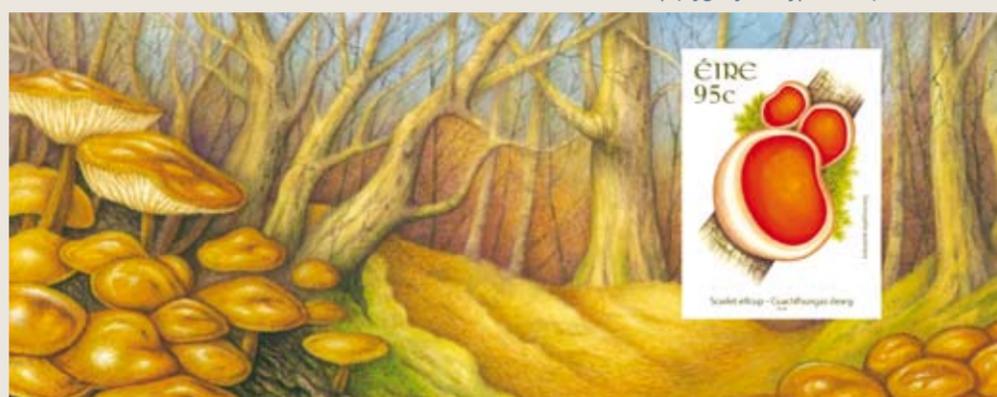
Each of the four new stamps features a species of fungus found in Ireland. Further information: [www.irishstamps.ie](http://www.irishstamps.ie)



The Parasol (*Macrolepiota procera*) and the Orange Birchbolete (*Leccinum versipelle*)

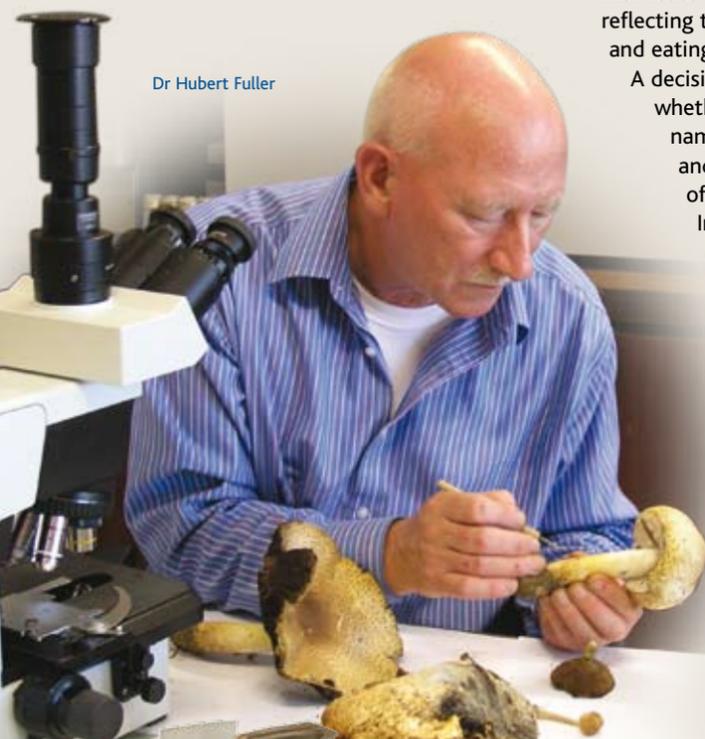


The Pink Waxcap (*Hygrocybe calyptiformis*).



The fungus depicted growing on the tree is Velvet Shank (*Flammulina velutipes*). It is typically found in mid-winter growing in clusters near the base of dead or moribund deciduous trees, often elm. The caps are moist, yellow to tan in colour and the stem has a black velvety appearance. It is a good edible fungus.

Dr Hubert Fuller

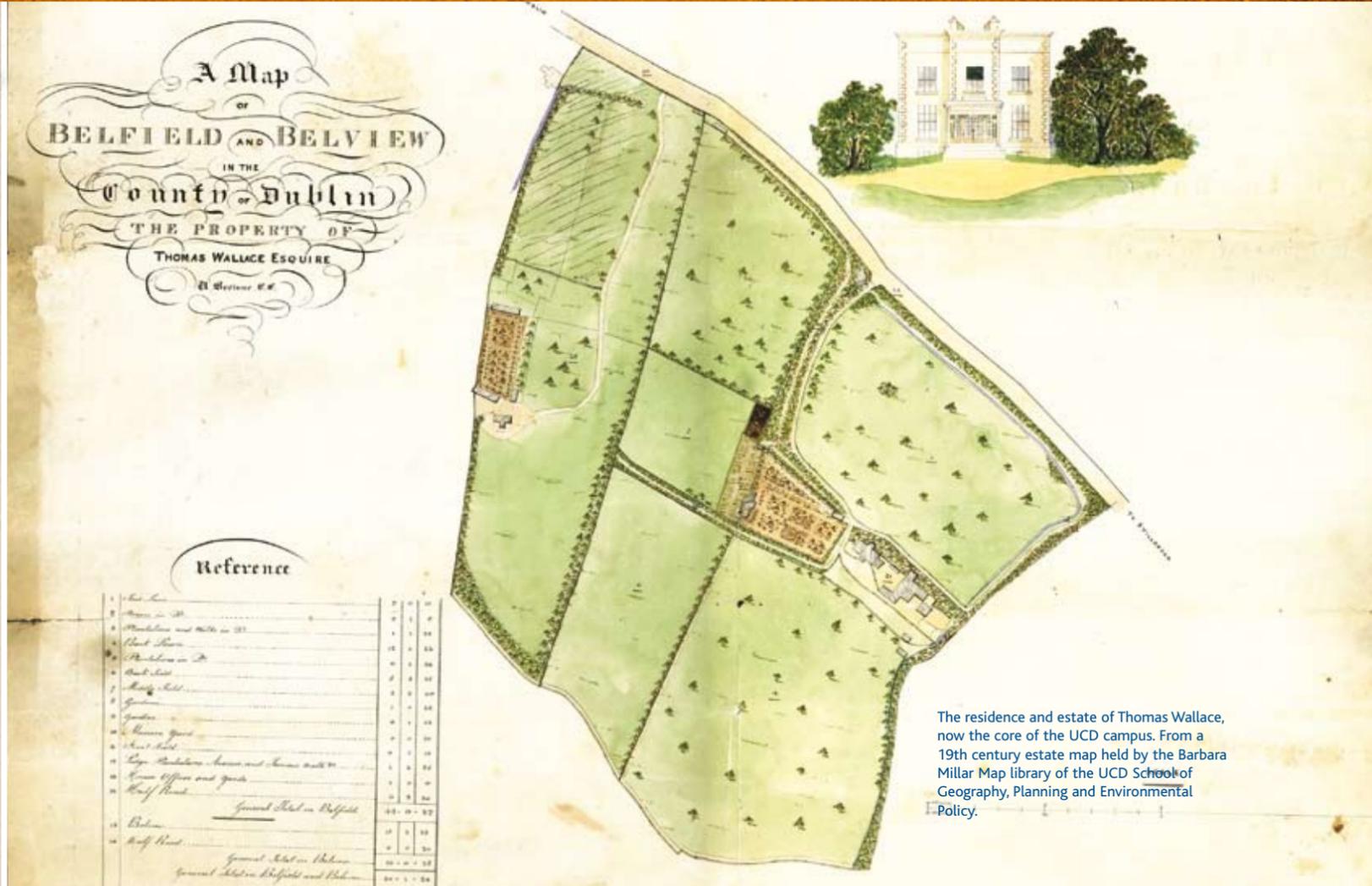


## Hidden Treasures of UCD

### A Map of Belfield and Belview in the County of Dublin (The Property of Thomas Wallace Esquire)

Over the past thirty years, the Barbara Miller Map Library in the UCD Newman Building has been acquiring maps of national and local interest. As part of a President's Teaching grant a number of the valuable maps in the collection were scanned by a team in the UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy led by Dr Gerald Mills, for more widespread use by students of Cartography and Historical Geography.

This particular map is a fine example of an Estate Map, produced in the first-half of the nineteenth century. This shows a portion of Belfield campus which comprises Belfield House and the surrounding lands. The estate at this time belongs to Thomas Wallace, a barrister. The modern campus can be identified from the alignment of the Dublin-Stillorgan road. The Belfield running track occupies the field shown at the rear of Belfield House and the walled garden adjacent to the house is clearly depicted.



The residence and estate of Thomas Wallace, now the core of the UCD campus. From a 19th century estate map held by the Barbara Miller Map Library of the UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy.

## Medal glory for UCD's Elite Athletes

Mairead Murphy winner of the 100m Junior Hurdles



The last weekend of June proved a highly successful one for UCD's Elite Athletes as the team collected five medals across two events. Three gold medals were secured at the Woodies DIY Junior & Under 23 Championships of Ireland in Tullamore, while silver and bronze were secured in the Irish National Road Race Championships in Cork.

In Tullamore, Mairead Murphy claimed the 100m Junior Hurdles in a time of 14.33 seconds, while Pdraig Whyte won the Men's Under-23 Hammer with a distance of 57.91m and the 35lb Distance with 9.30m. UCD cyclist Louise Moriarty finished third in the Irish National Women's Time Trials with a time of 35.41 over 24km and took second place on the podium in the Elite Women's 83.2km Irish National Road Race.

UCD's Pdraig Whyte, winner of the Men's Under-23 Hammer



## Road to Beijing!

UCD Medical student, Joanne Cuddihy, who is one of Ireland's most talented track and field athletes, was unlucky in the qualifying rounds for the semi-finals of the Women's 400m in Beijing. The 24-year-old Kilkenny woman was one of a number of Irish athletes disappointed in Beijing despite the rigorous pre-games programme of preparation. Cuddihy finished sixth in heat four in a time of 53.32 seconds. The heat was won by Great Britain's Christine Ohuruogu in 52.00.

The fourth year medical student at UCD, who took a break from her medical studies to avail of a UCD athletics scholarship in order to prepare for the Olympics, is the first Irish female athlete to run the 400m in under 51 seconds.

Having qualified for Beijing by posting 50.73 seconds in the semi-finals of last year's World Championships, Cuddihy made her Olympic debut after undertaking an intensive training programme in preparation for the Games.

However, those preparations were dogged by injuries. Despite her back problems in the spring, she was able to notch up a solid 51.98 in Hengelo in May. But then a knee injury in the early summer curtailed her training programme and she was forced to miss the National Championships in Santry. This was then followed by a calf injury, which may have affected her training programme in the run-up to the Olympics.

Despite her disappointment in Beijing, her performance was nonetheless a great achievement and a proud moment for UCD.



## Treble for UCD Cyclist



Ladies 500m TT – winner Louise Moriarty of UCD (c) flanked (r) by Joanna Hickey (Usher) and (l) Aideen Collard (Orwell)

At the National Track Championships over the weekend of the 26 July, UCD's Louise Moriarty stamped her authority as Ireland's top track cyclist when she scooped titles in three categories in a very competitive event. The UCD student came in tops at Sundrive Road in the Pursuit, Sprint, 500m races.

### Ladies Sprint

1. Louise Moriarty (UCD)
2. Aideen Collard (Orwell)
3. Jennifer O'Reilly (Ravens CRT)

### Ladies Pursuit (3k)

1. Louise Moriarty (UCD)
2. Heather Boyle (Ravens CRT)
3. Aideen Collard (Orwell)

### Ladies 500m TT

1. Louise Moriarty (UCD)
2. Joanna Hickey (Usher)
3. Aideen Collard (Orwell)



The triumphant Men's Senior VIII crew

## Triumphant Season for UCD Boat Club

A string of successes for UCD's Boat Club confirmed it as one of UCD's most successful clubs this year. The Senior VIII won the Inter VIII and the Novices won both the VIII and IV. UCD last won two VIII's Pots in the same year in 1992. The win in the Novice VIII sees UCD retain the trophy, no mean feat. Only Guards and UCD have done this previously, UCD being the last to do so in 1988/89. Meanwhile the UCD Ladies also won the Senior 2x Pot.

This season, the Mens crews therefore won:  
 Intermediate VIII Championship  
 Novice VIII Championship  
 Novice IV Championship  
 Wylie Cup  
 Gannon Cup  
 Dan Quinn Shield (Novice Gannon)  
 Pimms Cup - Most successful Club, Neptune Regatta  
 Senior VIII - Trinity Regatta  
 Senior VIII, Novice VIII & IV - Metro Regatta  
 Dublin Head Open VIII

While the Ladies also won both Colours races giving the first ever UCD clean sweep on Gannon Day!



UCD Ladies crew who won their Colours race