

UCD **today**

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SPRING 2011



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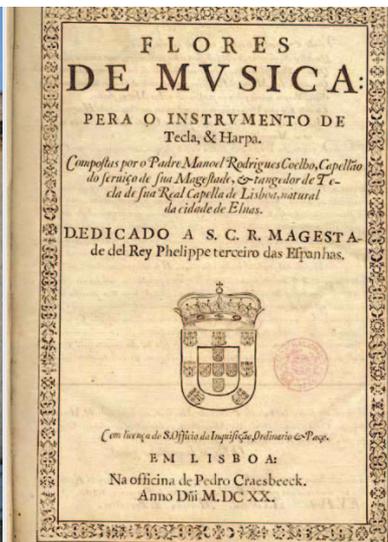
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We also welcome your suggestions for articles in future editions.

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



Beauty and the Beast at UCD

The work of over 200 UCD students, staff, alumni and friends, the 2011 UCD Community Musical was enjoyed by over 2,000 people during its four-day run at O'Reilly Hall in early 2011.

The show, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, was produced by UCD law alumnus, Aileen Ryan, who says, "I believe that a show of this scale could not happen in any other university in Ireland. We were able to find the specialist talents we needed from within UCD. Seventeen UCD musicians played the score. A UCD architecture student made the box model of the set that we needed for the stage design. Staff on the steering committee, and working with students front of house and on-stage gave valuable perspectives. Student societies like DramSoc and Musical Society were heavily involved, but we also had support from less expected places - we even borrowed flying

harnesses from the Mountaineering Society! It was an amazing experience to be involved with."

Major projects such as the Musical reinforce a sense of community, says Dr Martin Butler, UCD Vice-President for Students, "This was a particularly ambitious production, and one that could only be delivered through cooperation between all parts of our community. The support of our sponsors played a critical role in enabling the show, but it was the commitment and determination of the teams on- and off-stage that made the production a success. The ability of the community to pull together on a project like this is heartening in

difficult economic times, where vision and hard work are required in equal measure."

In the lead role of Belle, in this, the fourth Community Musical, was English and Drama student Megan Cassidy, who sang for Andrew Llyod Webber as one of the final 30 of 6,000 contenders for the TV programme "How To Solve a Problem like Maria". The "Beast" of the show was played by Community Musical veteran Alec Ward. In addition to alumni, and students, the leads were joined on stage by staff members Agnieszka Wisniewska from the UCD School of Mathematical Science who played the Enchantress, and Danielle Ní Chróinín, UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science.

The cast of the UCD Community Musical in their production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*



Photograph by Stephen Murray.

Computer scientists scoop top award in Cambridge

Computer Scientists from UCD have received the top technical award at the AI-2010 conference in Cambridge, UK. The winning paper describes how product recommendations and consumer patterns can be derived from short online text messaging services like Twitter.

"Our system can automatically mine data and information from short messages to build a user profile. This enables us to associate consumer profiles with product likes and dislikes," explains Dr Michael O'Mahony, a post-doctoral researcher at CLARITY Centre for Sensor Web Technology, and co-author of the work.

"The information we collect is richer than the simple product ratings information regularly used by recommender systems such as Amazon and Netflix. In addition to simple ratings, we extract and analyse the language and words that people use when referring to items that they like and dislike and our research has shown how this

additional information, combined with ratings information, can lead to superior recommendations," he explains.

"To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that researchers have looked to harness Twitter-type information in this way and we believe that it represents a significant new approach to recommender systems."

The scientists have built and tested a prototype incorporating a range of recommendation scenarios including books, movies, music, and apps.

The winning paper: "Effective Product Recommendation using the Real-Time Web" was authored by PhD student Sandra Garcia Esparza with Dr Michael O'Mahony and Professor Barry Smyth.

AI-2010 is the 30th Annual International Conference of the British Computer Society's Specialist Group on Artificial Intelligence (SGAI) and is held each year in Cambridge.

UCD Smurfit School moves up Financial Times MBA rankings

The latest Financial Times global ranking of the top 100 full-time MBA programmes places the UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School at 78th in the world. Professor Tom Begley, Dean of UCD School of Business welcomed the improvement from 98th in the world last year, as the rankings show that the School has improved across ten of the twenty ranking criteria including: growth in graduate salaries, value for money, and the aims achieved by students during their MBA. This is the twelfth year that UCD Smurfit School has been included in the global top 100. The School is also the only Irish business school that appears. The full-time MBA programme at UCD Smurfit School was also ranked 31st out of 100 of the world's leading MBAs, by the Economist.

Art on Campus

'Newman's Razor' by Brian O'Doherty

'Newman's Razor', 1972, is one of a series of works by O'Doherty using ogham, the linear writing system found in early Ireland. Newman's Razor is a tall free-standing column made of highly polished steel with the ogham words for 'One', 'Here' and 'Now' incised along one angle of the sculpture. The reflective nature of the material used means that the surrounding environment and indeed the viewer, become part of the work.

Brian O'Doherty was born in Roscommon in 1935 and studied Medicine in UCD and Science at Harvard. He is a conceptual artist and art critic of international repute. He has been based in New York since 1960 and his work questions our notions of art and aesthetics. In 1972 in response to the Bloody Sunday atrocity in Derry, O'Doherty made a performance in which he ritually changed his name to Patrick Ireland. He officially buried his Patrick Ireland pseudonym in the grounds of the Irish Museum of Modern Art in 2008.

The title 'Newman's Razor' refers to the philosophical notion of 'Occam's Razor'.

This can be summarised as - the simplest explanation being most likely the correct one. This original principle was formulated by William of Ockham (occam) a 14th century Franciscan friar and theologian. In this work, the artist places John Henry Newman, the first rector of the Catholic University in 1854 and the intellectual founder of the university on par with William of Ockham and sets up a discourse between them. Occam's Razor also appeals to O'Doherty as it reflects the 'less is more' dictum of modernist architects and designers Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe.

'Newman's Razor' encapsulates ideas of intellectual discourse, acknowledges the history of UCD and plays with the viewers' perceptions. It literally and metaphorically reflects its locus in the university. It is a sophisticated work which is perfectly at home in a university environment.



'Newman's Razor', Brian O'Doherty, Belfield House

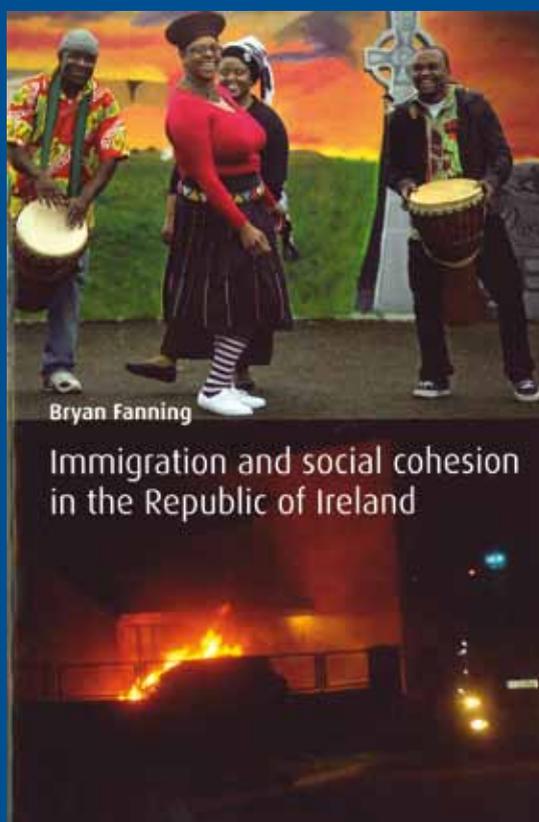
Immigration and Social Cohesion in the Republic of Ireland

In the last decade, Ireland's immigrant population grew to more than one in ten. In the midst of an economic crisis, the integration of immigrants has become a topical issue. *Immigration and Social Cohesion in the Republic of Ireland* by Professor Bryan Fanning, UCD School of Applied Social Science, is the first major academic book to offer a detailed account of how immigrants in Ireland are faring.

Launched in early 2011 by Denise Charlton, CEO of the Immigrant Council of Ireland, the book draws extensively on demographic data and research on immigrant lives, immigrant participation in Irish politics and the experiences of immigrants living in deprived communities.

Case studies examine the effects of immigration on social cohesion, the role of social policy, the nature and extent of segregation in education, racism and discrimination in the labour market, and barriers faced by immigrants seeking Irish citizenship.

Published by Manchester University Press, the book also makes a distinct contribution to the field of integration studies through its focus on the capabilities and abilities needed by immigrants to participate successfully in Irish society.



Human rights: seductive, dangerous and necessary

The Humanities Institute's Distinguished Lecture series aims to facilitate new debates and conversations which engage the humanities with broader social and cultural challenges.

In his lecture on "*Human rights: seductive, dangerous and necessary*" Professor Conor Gearty presented a characteristically acute, impassioned and insightful appraisal of human rights practice and discourse. He argued that for rights to work effectively in the wider promotion of social justice, they need to be kept as far away as possible from the courts. Professor Gearty acknowledged the contribution of rights language in legal and political discussion and suggested that human rights are not uniquely civil and political, with social rights language clearly having a progressive, emancipatory dimension. However, he maintained that lawyers risk undermining the achievability of the kind of radical transformation in the priorities of states that a lasting commitment to social rights requires.

Conor Gearty is a professor in the department of law at the London School of Economics and has most recently published (with V. Mantouvalou) *Debating social rights* (2010). His paper was chaired by Dr Maurice Manning, former UCD academic and chairman of the Irish Human Rights Commission.

Ancient heroes in the campus corridors

Every morning, for millions of years, she opened the gates, and her brother emerged to ride his chariot across the sky. He was Helios, the Greek god of the sun. She was Eos, the goddess of the dawn, a full figure with a fascinating inner life. Powerful, beautiful, and consumed by desire, Eos, like many gods of ancient myth, was imperfect. A seducer and kidnapper of young men, her story is just one of hundreds that came to be portrayed in the art and architecture of the period, and which can be further explored in a krater (vase) at the UCD Classical Museum.

Wander through Belfield's Newman Building (the 'Arts block'), and you'll find the Classics Museum, one of UCD's many hidden treasures, and Ireland's main public Classics exhibit. A small, teaching-focused collection of Greek vases, Greek and Roman coins, bronze and bone objects of daily life, terracottas, Egyptian antiquities and some papyri, as well as Roman pottery and glass, the museum has a rich and complex history of its own. Students at the UCD School of Classics have had a hands-on interaction with these objects, the stories behind them, and the everyday realities of life in the ancient Greek, Roman, and Egyptian worlds, for over 100 years.

The museum's founder and first curator, the Rev Henry Browne, Professor of Greek at UCD, was a visionary. "He firmly believed that students would gain the greatest insight into the real life of ancient Greeks not by sitting passively in lectures but by actively engaging with archaeology – what people did and how they lived their lives," explains Dr Christina Haywood, Lecturer and Curator of the Classical Museum.

Since its inception in 1910, the museum has been central to the work of classical scholars and students at UCD. The current exhibition, *Heroes and Mortals in Ancient Greece*, was created by UCD students and shows how the Greeks made sense of their heroes.

"Teams of student volunteers compile the exhibitions, choosing the most suitable pieces to illustrate a particular theme" says Dr Haywood. "The artefacts make a connection between the human and heroic conditions. The heroes, portrayed as historical figures, were half-mortal and half-God and seen by the ancient Greeks as much closer to the human condition."

Classical hero tales rarely have a pleasant ending, usually concluding with the tragic death of the protagonist rather than a happy-ever-after marriage – and this comes across in the pieces. One vase depicts the flawed hero Theseus in pursuit of a woman whom he abducted and raped; the reactions of the figures also seem to indicate social disapproval of his actions.

Social mores and norms are also communicated in a piece depicting the hero Achilles. The vase shows him dragging away the body of Penthesileia, warrior queen of the Amazons, after he kills her in battle. But Achilles had already fallen in love with the slain queen, his enemy. When a fellow warrior taunts him for breaking another taboo – salvaging an enemy corpse – Achilles kills him too.

Other vases depict the triumphs and battles of their heroes during their often all-too-brief lives, giving insights into their battles, chariots of war, armour, and weapons.

"I use these objects to explain how the composition was constructed, how a myth was told, and how the creators and users of these pieces lived their lives," says Dr Haywood.

"They're an invaluable teaching aid, and from a personal point of view, I feel a great emotional connection to each piece. When I get a new object to research, it is very exciting."

An archaeologist by training, Dr Haywood is currently undertaking a fieldwork project on Kefalonia, one of the Ionian islands, with assistance from UCD undergraduate and postgraduate students. But her heart lies in a room in Belfield, this museum that still has teaching at the core of its purpose.

"The museum doesn't get a lot of outside visitors due to its location, but it is accessible to our students and that was always its primary aim. It always should be."

The Story of Henry Browne

At the turn of the 20th century, one man's discoveries at a small site on Crete, an island off Greece, changed our view of the ancient world forever. Arthur Evans' excavations at Knossos, the ceremonial and political centre of the Minoan civilization, shed new light on both the historical truth of Greek mythology and the deeper meaning of Homer's poems.

The finds had a huge influence on Rev. Henry Browne, who went on to establish the Classics Museum at University College Dublin. An Anglican convert to Catholicism, Browne was Professor of Greek in UCD from 1890 until his retirement in 1922. He stood at a generational precipice: Classics, which at the time consisted largely of linguistic studies, was under threat from new and emerging disciplines such as modern languages and the sciences.

Retreat or advance? Browne argued that the future of the subject no longer lay exclusively in the analysis of texts, but also in an understanding of the material culture unearthed by this bold, fledgling discipline known as archaeology. In a few short decades, it had arguably pushed back the frontiers of civilisation in Greece more than centuries of previous scholarship.

"What grandeur, what beauty, what individuality has been disclosed by the spade of the archaeologist," said Browne during a series of three lectures at UCD in February 1905.

Browne, a figure of boundless energy, set about gathering artefacts for the new Classics museum. His task began with a single letter to the University of Oxford's Ashmolean Museum requesting "duplicate" specimens.

The British Museum also played a pivotal role in the development of the collection, sending figurines and metal finds from Greece, Cyprus and Egypt, which are still amongst the museum's holdings. Browne closely co-operated with the National Museum of Ireland, organising and negotiating reciprocal loans and joint purchases.

Then, in 1922, the steady flow of additions ceased until, in 1936, the museum purchased an important collection of funerary sculpture and inscriptions from the sale of the contents of Shanganagh Castle in Bray, Co. Wicklow.

No major collections have since been added, although the museum has received occasional donations from individuals, including coins from private collectors.

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

Dr Christina Haywood

Writingirishhistory.eu



This decorated capital letter is taken from a manuscript psalter commissioned by Luke Wadding OFM, written and illustrated by Br Josephus O Morchua (Joseph Murphy), Rome, 1654. Picture: John McCafferty, courtesy of the UCD-OFM partnership

www.writingirishhistory.eu is the online extension of the unique collaboration of Irish institutions that saw all known copies of the iconic *Annals of the Four Masters* exhibited together.

The virtual exhibition features manuscript images from the UCD Franciscan partnership, the Royal Irish Academy and Trinity College. Designed and managed by the UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute's Dr Edel Bhreathnach, the site guides users through the sources, texts and influences that went into the compilation of the *Annals of the Four Masters*. The *Annals* were the first attempt to create an entire history of the whole island of Ireland from the mythical dawn of time up to the early 17th century. Their influence on Irish identity, culture and history writing has been so pervasive that it has often been overlooked.

The striking manuscript images are matched with short introductions by expert scholars, which offer up-to-date insights and easy navigation through one of the most turbulent and colourful of all history projects ever undertaken in Ireland.

In particular they highlight the profound links between medieval Irish scholarship and the world of Renaissance Europe.

Writingirishhistory.eu forms part of a suite of projects being undertaken by the UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute to survey and understand hidden archives and libraries. The Institute works to bring the results to the wider public through online exhibitions and digitization projects. The director of the Institute, Dr John McCafferty, is currently engaged on a UCD President's research fellowship to assess over 10,000 pre-1700 books and pamphlets assembled by Irish Franciscans in exile. Recent work in Rome has uncovered the largest intact library of a 17th century Irish continental college. As the projects continue UCD will make a very significant contribution to recreating the mental world of those who formed Irish identity. The result is that the Irish public and the online community are able to interact with some of the island's greatest hidden treasures.



UCD Conway genetics researcher Lisa Shine won the Irish Times "Bang" science supplement photography competition with this image of a stormy Fort Lauderdale skyline

Ancient Philosophy award

UCD Philosophy lecturer Dr Tim Crowley was a winner of Oxford University's prestigious Conington Prize for 2010 for his DPhil thesis, *Aristotle on the Matter of the Elements*. The prize is awarded triennially by the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Oxford for the best dissertation in the field of 'Ancient Philosophy and Ideas'.

Dr Crowley achieved his BA and MLitt in Philosophy at UCD School of Philosophy. His DPhil thesis is a groundbreaking study of the lowest level material entities recognised by the great Greek philosopher Aristotle - or to put it more familiarly, a study of the four elements: fire, air, water, and earth. It was supervised by the late Professor Michael Frede, one of the foremost authorities in Ancient Philosophy of the last fifty years, and Dr Ben Morison, now of Princeton University. Dr Crowley's research at Oxford was funded by a Scatcherd European Scholarship and a Royal Institute of Philosophy Jacobsen Fellowship.

Dr Crowley has already published portions of the thesis in article form in two of the foremost journals in the field, *Phronesis* and *Classical Quarterly*.

New UCD "Virtual Research Environment" tool allows better e-research use of web

A new Virtual Research Environment (VRE) tool called Ojax++ was recently launched to the global e-research community to allow scholars get the most from popular web-based applications.

Funded by Science Foundation Ireland, under the direction of Dr Judith Wusteman at the UCD School of Information and Library Studies, Ojax++ enables researchers to use popular online tools, such as GoogleDocs, Delicious, blogging tools and Twitter, as well more research-specific Web 2.0 tools. Ojax++ then aggregates the data from those applications so that, regardless of which web applications researchers use to conduct their research, they can organise their work and collaborate on that work in one place, using Ojax++.

Dr Wusteman says, "The new generation of research emerging from Irish universities and industry is epitomised by its collaborative, multi-disciplinary nature, the increasingly huge volumes of data it processes and generates, and the advanced infrastructure that enables the sharing of vast amounts of computer power and storage. Ojax++ responds to the need of this new generation of research, often referred to as e-research, which requires a new generation of tools and technologies to support it as colleagues work internationally in virtual environments."

The tool has been made freely available to the e-research community, along with a report providing guidelines for future research, and insights into the development and use of VREs in Ireland.

Further details can be found at the Ojax++ project website at www.ucd.ie/ojax

Digitising history for tomorrow's scholars

The internet has transformed how we access information, conduct business and interact with each other. Kyran Fitzgerald (BA 1976) learns how a major digital repository, the IVRLA (Irish Virtual Research Library & Archive), has unlocked the door to vast resources in some of UCD's priceless collections, spanning four centuries of cultural heritage.

The ambitious IVRLA programme was conceived in the early 2000s by UCD historian and College Principal, Professor Mary E. Daly, and Sean Phillips, then UCD Librarian, to create a centre of excellence for digitisation and to enable online access to UCD's archival holdings.

The IVRLA repository includes almost 13,000 individual objects such as photographs, music, manuscripts, drawings, letters, paintings and rare printed books, and material continues to be deposited. Among the wide range of historical, literary and cultural material are a collection of the personal papers of Michael Collins, the schools' manuscript collection of the Irish Folklore Commission, index cards on phonetics from Gaelic linguist Tomás de Bhaldraithe, and press photographs from the papers of Éamon de Valera and former Minister of External Affairs, Frank Aiken.

Professor Gerardine Meaney is joint Research Project Director and Vice-Principal for Research and Innovation within the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies. She says, "Deciding what material to select for digitisation was a major task in itself. The project managers sat down with the repository managers to decide on what was the most appropriate material to digitise. We had to be aware of archival sensitivities as well as the privacy and ethical considerations which arose with some folklore material."

She says, "The potential was there for collaboration between the humanities and new technology. We wanted to train our students so that as scholars they should develop a familiarity with digital tools." However the project sees traditional and digital scholarship as complementary.

The active phase of the project took place between 2005 and the end of 2009. This involved digitising and cataloguing material as well as creating electronic finding aids to facilitate online viewing and searching. Focussing on preservation and access, the team paid particular attention to maintaining the archival integrity of fragile documentary material. Audrey Drohan was Operational Project Manager during the latter part of the process, during which 32 distinct collections were digitised in collaboration with the National Folklore Collection at UCD, UCD Irish Dialect Archive, UCD Archives, UCD Library Special Collections, UCD Micheál Ó Cléirigh Institute, UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy, and UCD School of Geological Sciences.

Drohan highlights the IVRLA's remit of creating an open-access, easily-searchable repository. As some of UCD's material has been either gathered from or donated by members of the public, this is particularly appropriate. Material from the 1937-38 folklore schools' scheme has elicited a big online response, as have other folklore collections gathered in the 1940s and 1950s, as it allows scholars greater insight into cultural changes over a seventy-year period. However, issues of ethics,

data protection, and copyright emerged in relation to these and many other collections across UCD's holdings. The sensitivities of individuals and families had to be taken into account. People collaborating with folklore collectors in the middle years of the twentieth century could have had no idea that their responses, perhaps including detail of familial economic circumstances, political views, or other sensitive details would be available globally, reproduced in digital form, a few generations on. Along with this, the copyright position needed to be verified for every single item in the repository, with clearance being obtained where required, as the IVRLA is an online publisher of digital surrogates.

These digital surrogates (the online representation of the physical object) have facilitated access to UCD's valuable historical and cultural material. "The improved access has allowed scholars to look materials in a new way," says Dr Dervila Layden, Research Coordinator. Seventeen research projects have been undertaken to date including three on folklore and folk music, one on Georgian Dublin architecture and the built environment, one on the library of the Royal College of Science, and a project on Irish women writers' of children's literature from 1870 to 1940. These and other literary and historical projects both present the research and aim to create online research resources.

There has been strong international interest in the collections and the research projects, notes Layden. Private individuals and scholars worldwide can use the materials for their specialist and interdisciplinary work. Digital media also allows for direct contact with the public and reaches out to different audiences, with podcasts such as the one created for the Joyce's Dublin project proving popular. The project has also produced a series of videocasts in which prominent academic and curatorial staff including Professors Diarmaid Ferriter, Mary E. Daly, and Andrew Carpenter discuss key digital objects and collections which are available through the IVRLA.

More formal external collaborations have also been made possible. Since 2009, the materials of the IVRLA have been available through the cultural heritage portal Europeana (www.europeana.eu), while hundreds of images of Dublin's architecture, digitised through the IVRLA project, will shortly be available to educators, scholars and researchers across the world under an agreement between the UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy and ARTstor (www.artstor.org), a digital library of more than one million images in the areas of art, architecture, the humanities, and social sciences.

New areas for research have been opened up, such as the under-examined field of Irish women writing children's literature. The women writers' project draws on the three-hundred-strong book collection of Thomas Manning from the late 19th to the early 20th century. Researcher Dr Susan



Pictured at the launch of the IVRLA were (l-r, back row): Dr Marc Caball Director, Humanities Institute of Ireland; Dr John Brooks Howard, University Librarian; Eamon de Valera. (Middle row): Dr Dervila Layden, IVRLA; Professor Gerardine Meaney, UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies; UCD President Dr Hugh Brady. Front: Audrey Drohan, Professor Mary E Daly, Principal of UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies

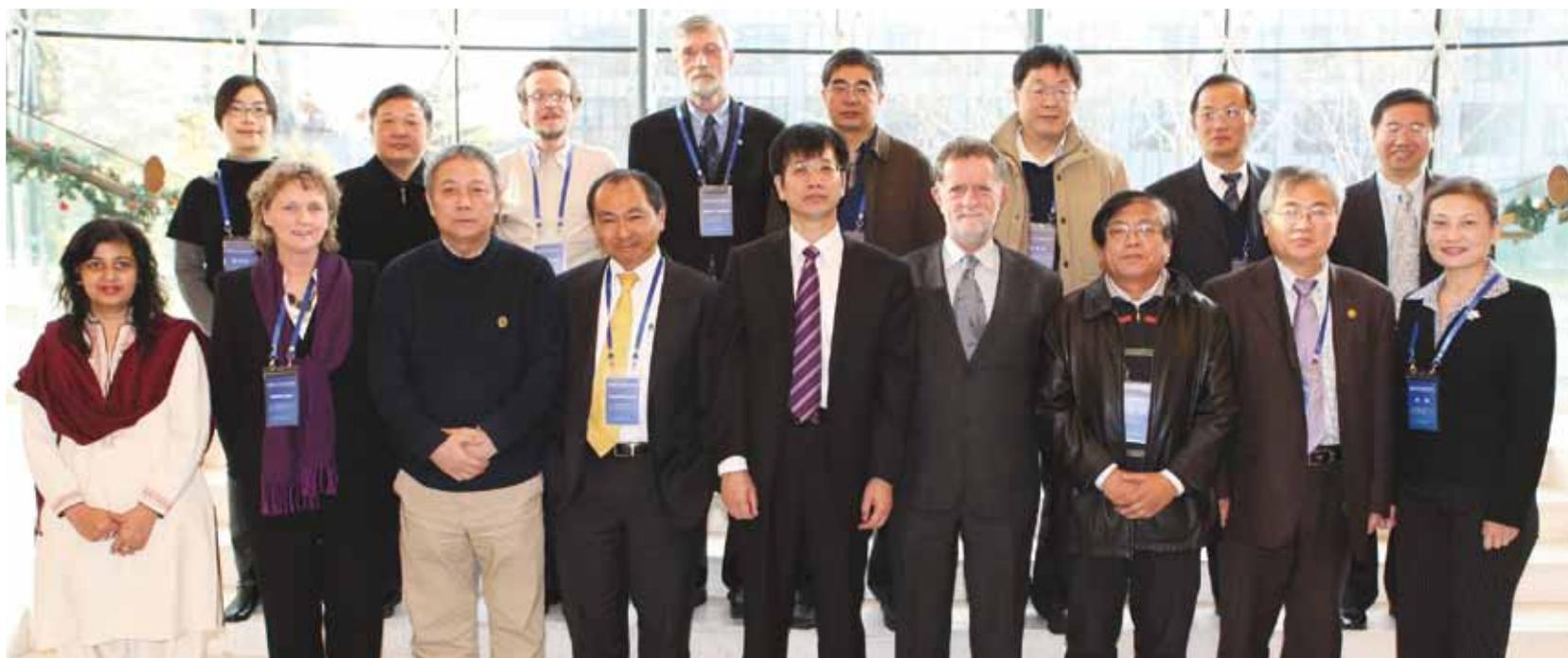
Cahill has carried out an extensive examination into this genre of writing and several of the books have been digitised as part of the project. "A whole chapter of literary history has been made visible," says Professor Meaney.

The IVRLA is a part of the Humanities Institute of Ireland (HII) and is based in the James Joyce Library. It received €2.1m in funding through the Higher Education Authority (HEA) under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL) Cycle 3. As the funded project phase is complete, Dr John Brooks Howard (UCD Librarian) will oversee the transitioning of the IVRLA content and structure into an ongoing digital library programme. Dr Howard notes that an external academic review of the IVRLA project has cited it "as a model exemplar of research-driven digital technology development."

Professor Meaney says, "It is important that this work is carried out by universities rather than commercially. There is a need for quality control - there are huge dangers in contextless reading and research." There may be an opportunity here for UCD, and Ireland, to take a leadership role as a creative producer of digital content and knowledge. While the research opportunities are clear, Meaney also notes how the materials bring a new dimension to students' learning. "The focus now is on sharing with the broader public. I can now teach material which I could not teach before as it was out of print and not available in the Library. It is really good for students to gain access to the primary material as they now have to focus on the text."

Access the IVRLA collections, research projects and videocasts at www.ucd.ie/ivrla

Kyran Fitzgerald, BA 1976, is a freelance journalist.



The China Centre for Comparative Politics and Economics (CCPE) in Beijing hosted an International Conference in December 2010 on Dignity, Equality and Justice. Shown here is the conference group, which welcomed Professor Kathleen Lynch (front, second from left) of the UCD Equality Studies Centre at the UCD School of Social Justice as the main international speaker on the theme Equality. The Symposium was held in Peking University. It was an intensive two day event where a small number of leading scholars from China, and invited international scholars, shared papers and discussed ways of promoting Equality, Dignity and Justice in China. The Conference was organised to address issues raised by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in his 2010 Government Report where he noted that 'dignity' and 'fairness' are fundamental political values among all mankind. The event was sponsored by the Ford Foundation and hosted by Professor Yu Keping, Director of the China Centre for Comparative Politics and Economics (shown front, centre). The international speakers included Professor Thomas Pogge (back, third from left), Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs, Yale University; Professor Francis Fukuyama (front, fourth from left), Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow, Stanford University; Professor Craig Calhoun, Director of the Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University and Professor William Coleman (back row, centre), CIGI Chair of Globalization and Public Policy and Professor of Political Science, University of Waterloo



Tian Li from Beijing University of Technology is pictured with UCD biomedical engineering students Ciaran Hendry and Ian Woods prior to their departure for Beijing, where they are studying as part of their International Engineering Programme. As well as taking Chinese language and culture courses, they will be working in research labs there for their ME Placement and will return to UCD to complete their final year. The two students are the first ever Engineering students to go on a study abroad trip to China and they are the pioneering Irish students to register at Beijing University of Technology.

Former Newman Fellow gives Royal Institution lecture series

Materials scientist and former UCD Newman Fellow Dr Mark Miodownik gave the prestigious Royal Institution of Great Britain Christmas lectures in December. The lecture series, aimed at school children, included talks on "Why elephants can't dance" which looked at the materials science of animal size, "Why chocolate melts and jet planes don't", which touched on quantum mechanics, and "Why mountains are so small", which teased out challenges in large-scale engineering.

The Royal Institution is an independent charity dedicated to connecting people with the world of science, and the Christmas lecture series is one of the cornerstones of its outreach programme. The Christmas lectures are broadcast via the BBC.

Dr Miodownik was the 'Materials Ireland Newman Fellow in Mechanical Engineering' from 1999-2000. His fellowship was in metal processing and he was supervised by Professor Gerald Byrne, UCD School of Electrical, Electronic & Mechanical Engineering. He is now Head of the Materials Research Group in the Natural and Mathematical Sciences School at King's College London where his main research area is self-organising materials. In 2003 he co-founded Materials Library (www.materialslibrary.org.uk) and is also the publisher of a popular podcast with the Tate Modern "What can the matter be?"

For more information, and to watch videos about the talks, conducted in partnership with Microsoft Research, search for "Christmas Lectures" at www.rigb.org

Iranian Women's Rights expert at UCD

Human rights advocate Parvin Ardalan spoke in UCD in January about the women's rights movement in Iran. Her talk, sponsored by the UCD School of Social Justice in association with Amnesty International, emphasised the democratic, horizontal, grassroots nature of the women's movement. She characterised the movement as a diverse set of groups, campaigns and coalitions that have intervened in every aspect of unequal gender relations, and described how their tactics have changed in light of changing political conditions. Despite setbacks, the period since 1990 has involved the 'rational, active, methodical presence of women in the public sphere...Women have transformed the streets from many forbidden spaces into the main forum for the intellectual and theoretical development of the movement.' Iranian

women should not be portrayed as victims, but as people who actively resist their oppression.

Parvin Ardalan is a graduate in journalism and women's studies. She has been a journalist for more than 20 years and has worked for a wide range of outlets, including the web-based Zanestan and Change for Equality. As a campaigner for women's equality and one of the founders of the One Million Signatures Campaign, she has appeared in the courts on many occasions for alleged crimes against the Iranian state and has received both suspended and custodial sentences. In 2007, she was awarded the prestigious Olaf Palme Prize for her courageous work, but was banned from travelling to the awards ceremony. She was able to leave Iran in 2009 and is currently living in Sweden.

Forging ahead with metals to boost green energy

Professor Martin Albrecht tells Claire O'Connell (BSc 1992, PhD 1998) how he and his team at the UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology are investigating at how using metals and their surroundings might help us generate clean, green energy.

Sometimes when you face a problem, it can help to look to Nature for answers - over the course of sometimes billions of years, natural systems often evolve ways to overcome pressing issues.

The energy crisis is a case in point: plant cells store energy from sunlight through photosynthesis, and part of the process involves splitting water - the most abundant compound on Earth.

And now around the world, scientists are seeking to split water in a bid to generate hydrogen as a clean energy source.

"The race is largely because of the energy problem we are facing - this huge demand for energy and the unsustainability of using fossil fuels," says Martin Albrecht, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at the UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology.

"If we do the water splitting properly we would form dioxygen, which is obviously beneficial for breathing, and dihydrogen, which is considered to be the fuel of the future."

His group has been looking at how to modify metals so they can boost the oxidation of water - which would be important for ultimately splitting it.

Together with collaborators at Carnegie Mellon University, Professor Albrecht and his team recently published details of an iridium-based catalyst with record efficiency.

More generally, metal catalysts have a wide application in industry, where they can help keep operations leaner and greener, explains Professor Albrecht.

"In perhaps any pharmaceutical [manufacturing] there's a step these days that's mediated by metal," he says.

"It helps in saving resources because what these metals are typically doing is making two or three steps in one, so you use less solvent, you produce less waste, you can transform at lower energy costs and you don't have to heat as much."

Of course nature got there first and metals feature in many biological processes, but we can go that step further through experimentation, notes Professor Albrecht, who in 2007 secured a prestigious European Research Council grant to support his work.

"Nature uses the metal centres and we can boost the activity by using different surrounding ligands, different surroundings on the metal centres," he says, comparing the ligand to a bird's nest that supports the egg, or active site of the metal.

"Nature probably uses only a handful of metals and that's the advantage of using the lab, because we can use more exotic elements and see how they perform."

His work - which has so far seen him positions at the University of Fribourg, Yale University, and in industry, before moving to University College Dublin almost two years ago - has looked at metal-ligand complexes in many applications.

One is a step in water splitting called water oxidation, which removes electrons from the water molecule.

"The race is on for water oxidation, because the water reduction part has been solved and there are many reasonably cheap systems or materials that can do this," he explains.

But while it happens all the time in plant cells, it's not that easy to achieve because the electrons tend to want to stay put.

"The difficulty in water oxidation is that it requires substantial energy to abstract both hydrogens from the water and then to get the oxygen in the proper state to couple to another oxygen," says Professor Albrecht.

"Electrons are rather reluctant to move and Nature does this in an extremely complicated way - there are perhaps 20 steps in a cascade reaction, and each step is very subtle. That has been an evolution of billions of years, and even though we are fast in the lab this is an

extremely complicated task. So we are searching for systems that can make bigger steps so we don't have to couple too many things together."

In effect they are seeking and modifying metal-ligand complexes that can offer shortcuts between A and B. Professor Albrecht's team has discovered that a combination of the metal iridium with a ligand of so-called 'abnormal carbenes' has a particularly high efficiency in the water oxidation process.

Details of the findings were recently published in the scientific journal *Angewandte Chemie*.

"We determine efficiency in turnover numbers, how much it cycles, adding a water molecule and exiting dioxygen and getting back again to the starting state - the more cycles a catalyst does the more efficient it is," he explains.

The iridium and carbene setup they have discovered has the highest efficiency yet published: "We have turnover numbers in the ten thousands," says Professor Albrecht.

To demonstrate it in more real-world terms, he gestures to a tiny speck, no larger than a grain of sand. This represents a milligram, which in the iridium-based catalyst system they have discovered would generate enough oxygen to fill a soccer ball.

At around €25,000 per kilo, iridium doesn't come cheap, but Professor Albrecht notes we could eventually be using a variety of metal-based systems of differing costs and efficiencies - some to generate energy continuously and others to generate large spikes of energy quickly.

The iridium paper has generated some resonance and been well received, according to Professor Albrecht, who describes it as a "stepping stone" to other research findings.

And there's plenty of work left to do - not least to figure out how to split water completely, a puzzle his group is tackling along with collaborators in the UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering, and the UCD Solar Energy Conversion Research Cluster.

He also stresses the need to continue working out the fundamentals of how to modify metal-ligand complexes, so that choices made by industry can be well informed.

Professor Albrecht's ongoing research collaborations include work with researchers at CMU in Pittsburgh to examine reaction rates and getting high catalytic activity, and with the Institut Català d'Investigació Química Avgda in Tarragona, Spain, to look at underlying mechanisms.

"Based on a deeper understanding, we would be able to shape and see where are the critical steps, and how can we boost this further," he says.

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



Prof Martin Albrecht is shown here (centre) with his team Ana Petronilho; Anneke Krüger; Ralte Lalrempuia; and Lucille Bernet

PhD Profile - Images of Research Winner

Climate Change: Coming Closer

Judith Kochmann is a PhD student in 'Sustainable Development' at the UCD Urban Institute Ireland. Part of the Graduate Research Education Programme, her research focuses on biodiversity and climate change and specifically on the Pacific oyster.

The Pacific oyster originates from the Sea of Japan and is commercially used in marine aquaculture worldwide. It was introduced to Ireland in 1973 and since then it has played a significant role in Ireland's aquaculture industry. Although considered an invasive species in many coastal areas outside its native range, it was thought that oysters would not be capable of reproducing and living in Irish waters due mainly to unfavourable temperatures. Nevertheless, there is now evidence of populations becoming established in the wild in Ireland.

Judith's research project will help to gain insights into the current range and status of wild Pacific oyster populations in Ireland and identify factors that limit or increase the likelihood of their further spreading. She will also assess the genetic variability of natural populations and aquaculture

populations. The work will be used to inform strategies to reduce the risk of invasion and will provide management recommendations to underpin the sustainable development of aquaculture in Ireland.

In a world of constant change on a global and local scale, ecosystems can be transformed and many species are redistributed and their abundance patterns changed. Pacific oysters are one example of ecosystem engineers: they can restructure habitats, for example, turn a bare mudflat into a structurally complex oyster reef. Judith's image 'Climate Change: Coming Closer', shown here, was shortlisted in the 2010 UCD Images of Research competition. The image shows how periwinkles have accumulated on a hard substrate. These snails might take advantage of the new habitat structure oysters create by forming dense oyster reefs and use them as a new living structure to graze on.

Judith's research collaborators include: BIM (Bord Iascaigh Mhara), Loughs Agency, Londonderry, Marine Institute, Galway and UCC. The research is undertaken in association with the

EPA-Strive funded project SIMBIOSYS. Her main supervisor is Dr Tasman Crowe of the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science with additional advice provided by Dr Francis O'Beirn of the Marine Institute. The research is funded by IRCSET and IRCHSS. UCD seed funding was secured in May 2010 to work with Stefano Mariani (UCD) and Jens Carlsson (UCC) on the genetic aspects of the project.



"Climate Change: Coming Closer" by Judith Kochmann

First Andrew W Mellon Foundation award for UCD - Iberian Book Project

Dr Alexander Wilkinson, Centre for the History of the Media, UCD School of History and Archives, was recently awarded an Andrew W Mellon Foundation grant under its Scholarly Communications and Information Technology Programme. The grant, the first awarded by the Foundation to UCD, will support Dr Wilkinson's IB17: The Iberian Book Project (1601-1650).

The Iberian Book Project 1601-1650 (IB17) is a three-year research project based at the Centre for the History of the Media at UCD. It will undertake an initial global survey of books published in Spain and Portugal or in Spanish or Portuguese between 1601 and 1650, and provide for the foundation of a national short-title catalogue. IB17 will be made available as a free online resource and will offer a portal for digital reproductions of Iberian works which are freely or commercially available. Provisional indications suggest that the total corpus of works will be around 40,000-45,000 items surviving in over 200,000 copies worldwide. No equivalent resource exists at present.

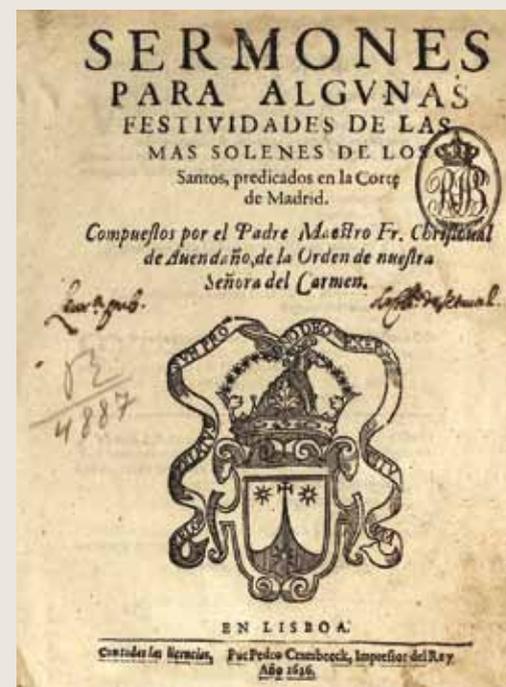
IB17 represents the second and most substantial part of an initiative which strives to understand how the production and consumption of print evolved on the Peninsula during the Golden Age. The first stage of the project - IB16 - covered the period before 1601 and is now complete.

Dr Wilkinson says: "Even though it will need to continue to evolve and develop IB17 will, even after three years, offer a powerful aid to scholars interested in the history, literature and culture of early modern Spain and Portugal. It is difficult to overstate the very substantial barrier to research that exists at present, with scholars forced to

confront information fragmented across various published and online catalogues and bibliographies. IB17 will aid conservation of what is a truly global printed heritage. In particular it will make libraries aware when theirs is the only known surviving copy of a book or pamphlet, and thus a priority for conservation filming. At a glance, libraries and commercial publishers will also be able to see whether other items have already been digitised elsewhere. It is very much hoped that the project will encourage greater global strategic thinking in the preservation and dissemination of early printed books."

Dr Wilkinson has considerable experience with managing large bibliographical projects. He has held doctoral and postdoctoral scholarships from the Carnegie Trust, the British Academy and the Arts and Humanities Research Council. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and founding editor of Palgrave Studies in the History of the Media. He is also one of the series editors of the St Andrews Studies in French History and Culture Series. From 2001-2006, he managed and was a co-author of French Vernacular Books (Brill, 2007) funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council before taking up the post as Director of the Centre for the History of the Media at UCD in 2006. Between 2006 and 2009 he compiled IB16 which was published by Brill in May 2010. An online version of this catalogue will be made available free of charge in 2012. A special edition of the Bulletin of Spanish Studies will be guest-edited in 2012 by Dr Wilkinson, containing articles which make use of information contained in IB.

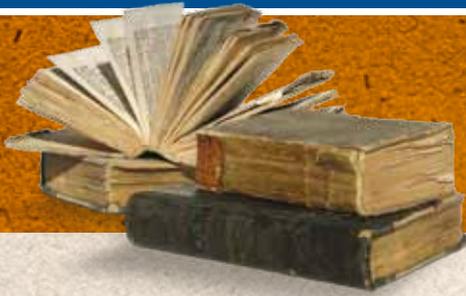
UCD has a long tradition in early-modern history, Hispanic and Lusophone Studies and



One of the items from the Iberian Book Project 1601-1650 - Cristóbal de Avendano, *Sermones para algunas festividades de las mas solenes de los santos predicados en la corte de Madrid* (Lisboa, Pedro Craesbeeck, 1626). Portuguese National Library. While the conception of Golden Age Iberia is naturally dominated by the great works of literature, such as Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, by far the largest category of print was religious literature

Information and Library Studies. With the presence of figures such as the late Professor Albert Lovett and the now retired Professor Don Cruickshank, UCD has the best holdings in Ireland on Peninsula history and in Spanish bibliographical studies.

For more information, please visit www.ucd.ie/ibp



Hidden Treasures of UCD

Molloy collection of Physics instruments

Gerald Molloy (1834-1906) was appointed Professor of Theology at Maynooth at the age of 27 and in 1873 he became Professor of Natural Philosophy and vice-rector at the Catholic University of Ireland, St. Stephen's Green, becoming rector 10 years later. Molloy was a renowned and gifted public lecturer in physics, with a 'clear, metallic, well-modulated voice'. He was a master of experimental lecture demonstrations, which were always well rehearsed and which had broad popular appeal, covering topics such as electricity and heat. Many of his lectures took place in the RDS (then in Leinster House), with whom he had a close association. Molloy's book '*Gleanings in Science*', which describes his RDS lectures, is available as a free internet download.

Marconi attended a lecture of Molloy's on wireless telegraphy and the two worked together on various radio experiments before Marconi's first live wireless report in 1898 of the result of the Dun Laoghaire regatta. Molloy clearly loved technology and was one of the first priests in Ireland to drive a motor-car.

The Molloy Collection contains some of his original instruments and lecture demonstration experiments and has been catalogued in an inventory of historic scientific equipment in the UK and Ireland. The collection was transferred to Belfield in 1964 at the time of the move of the Physics from Earlsfort Terrace. In storage until 2001, the collection was then properly housed in restored pine display cabinets that were brought from the Terrace. This collection has much to teach us about enthusing students and the public about science.

The 'Manometric Flames' apparatus (pictured) was a device invented by physicist Rudolph Koenig in 1862 that was used to visualise the shapes of sound waves, using resonance and the stroboscopic effect. In full swing, it is a spectacular demonstration and is located in the lobby at the UCD School of Physics on the 2nd floor of Science North. The majority of the collection can be viewed in Room 134 on the 1st floor of Science North. It reflects both the science and the craftsmanship of the late 19th Century.



Manometric Flames apparatus, part of the Molloy collection of Physics instruments

Taispeántas grianghraf - Through a Swedish lens

Tá taispeántas grianghraf *Trí Lionsa Sualannach* ar siúl in Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann: Saol na Tuaithe, Caisleán an Bharraigh, Contae Mhaigh Eo. Tharla an taispeántas i ngeall ar chuairt a thug Ambasadóir na Sualainne go hÉirinn ar Chnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann i 2008. Le cabhair ó shíolmhaoiniú ó COBÁC tá cúpla bliain caite ag an taispeántas ag taisteal ar fud na hÉireann. Rinne An tOll. Rionach uí Ógáin, Stiúrthóir Chnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann, COBÁC an taispeántas a sheoladh in Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann, Caisleán an Bharraigh ar an 12 Eanáir. Tugann na grianghraif sa taispeántas léargas ar shaol atá imithe.

Eitneolaithe oilte a thóg formhór na ngrianghraf ó na 1920idí go dtí na 1950idí. Bhí an eitneolaíocht ag teacht chun cinn mar ábhar taighde in Éirinn san am. Maidir le stair bhailiú an bhéaloidis in Éirinn léiríonn na hionann na dlúth-chomhoibriú a bhí ag teacht chun cinn idir Éire agus an tSualainn i léann an bhéaloidis.

Sa taispeántas díritear aird ar spéis eitneolaithe seo na Sualainne i saol agus i dtimpeallacht an gnáthdhuine. Rinneadar saol mhuintir na hÉireann a chur ar taifead. Ghlacadar grianghraif de chleachtas iascaireachta agus feilméarachta, maille le saol an teaghlaigh sa chathair agus faoin tír.

Bhí an-tionchar ag scoláirí Sualannacha ar bhunú Choimisiún Béaloideas Éireann, a bhfuil Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann mar chomharba air. Beidh an taispeántas ar siúl i gCaisleán an Bharraigh go dtí deireadh an Aibreáin. Táthar ag súil go mbeidh *Trí Lionsa Sualannach* ar taispeántas i COBÁC i rith an tsamhraidh.

Shíolmhaoiniú = seed-funding
Eitneolaithe = ethnologists

An tOll Rionach uí Ógáin, Stiúrthóir Chnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann UCD agus Clodagh Doyle, Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

PhD scholarship honours UCD sociologist's memory

An Ad Astra PhD scholarship in the area of Environment Sociology has been created with the support of the College of Human Sciences in memory of Dr Mary Kelly, who recently passed away following a 34-year career at UCD. Along with the scholarship, the Mary Kelly Medal will be instituted.

Dr Mary Kelly was an outstanding teacher, a distinguished researcher and colleague. She published widely over several fields in sociology, initially in the area of media studies and most recently in environmental sociology. Her last book was *Environmental Debates and the Public in Ireland* (Dublin: Institute of Public Administration, 2007). While at UCD she developed the first taught masters programme in sociology in Ireland and was a dedicated supervisor of doctoral students. She served as Head of School from 1999 to 2003 and was a founding member of the Centre for Equality Studies at UCD. She had a strong interest in comparative research and was a prominent member of the Euromedia Group.

Staff at the School were joined by her family in late 2010, to mark her contribution to UCD and to Irish sociology, as they planted a tree in the university's Boundary Woodland Walk and placed a bench beside it.

More information on the scholarship from www.ucd.ie/sociology/newsevents



Awards for supporting student learning

The winners of the inaugural UCD Awards for Supporting Student Learning scheme have been announced. They were:

- **Ms Elizabeth Greene**, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, who was recognised for her use of new media in the teaching of clinical skills and her research into practice innovations
 - **Ms Aishling Kennedy**, Buildings and Services who was recognised for her leadership in improving learning spaces and technologies in the UCD Newman Building
 - **Students Advisers Network**, represented by Ms Ros McFeely, for their development of a Peer Mentoring Programme
 - **Ms Jennifer Murphy**, Access Centre, who was recognised for her support of non-traditional students through the Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Programme and other measures
 - **Mr Lee O'Farrell**, Administrative Services, who was recognised for his work to use and analyse online information to identify at-risk students
- Special awards were given to:
- **Ms Nuala Curley** from Mathematics Support Centre in recognition of outstanding contribution
 - **Ms Julia Barrett, Ms Jane Nolan, Ms Maeve Tannam, Ms Lorna Dodd, Ms Evelyn Flanagan, Mr Mark Tynan and Ms Ursula Byrne** from the Library in an overall recognition to the involvement by the Library in three projects.
- www.ucd.ie/teaching

All-Ireland Institute for Hospice and Palliative Care

The All-Ireland Institute for Hospice and Palliative Care is a North-South partnership development designed to strengthen and improve the delivery of palliative and end-of-life care across the island of Ireland. The Institute, which is hosted by Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross, has been granted funding of €11 million by Atlantic Philanthropies and additional external funders to meet its aims and objectives. The bid for the Institute was led by Professor Philip Larkin, Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing (Palliative Care), UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems. The Institute will focus on the development of research, education and policy for the 10 year duration of the project.

The Institute is supported by a consortium of universities, palliative care service providers, hospices and hospitals in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. These include: University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, Queen's University Belfast, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland Hospice, Marie Curie NI, Milford Care Centre Limerick and the DAMC. There are currently 14 consortium members.

Professor Philip Larkin, Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing (Palliative Care) and Director of Clinical Academic Partnership at the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems has also been appointed Chairperson 2011 of the Irish Association for Palliative Care.

Patterns of Conflict Resolution: How to Draw Lessons from Northern Ireland



At the IBIS / Stratagem seminar on "Patterns of Conflict Resolution: How to Draw Lessons from Northern Ireland" were, from l-r: Quintin Oliver, Stratagem; Jennifer Todd, UCD School of Politics and International Relations; Dawn Purvis, MLA; Bronagh Hinds, DemocraShe; and Jim Fitzpatrick, BBC

Building on the findings from the 'Patterns of Resolution' research project at the UCD Institute for British-Irish Studies, a seminar was held in late 2010 with Stratagem, Northern Ireland's first dedicated lobbying company, to explore how lessons could be learned and shared with other conflict areas.

This project builds on research conducted at IBIS on the succession of attempts at conflict resolution in Ireland and Northern Ireland. It uses the Northern Ireland case as a benchmark for comparative study. It builds on existing networks and collaborative partnerships in choosing cases such as Macedonia, the African Great Lakes, the Cote d'Ivoire and the Mindanao region of the Philippines - comparing the succession of attempts at conflict resolution (failed and successful) within each case in order to show the processes which favoured success. It compares these processes between cases to identify the range of patterns of conflict resolution. Rather than applying an Irish model to these cases, the aim is to develop a repertoire of the mechanisms and processes which are combined in different sequences in different forms of conflict and conflict-resolution.

The seminar was funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Conflict Resolution Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Foreign Affairs' Reconciliation Fund. Speakers included: Professor Jennifer Todd, UCD School of Politics and International Relations, Jim Fitzpatrick (BBC) as chair; Bronagh Hinds (DemocraShe); Quintin Oliver (Stratagem); Dawn Purvis, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA).

Dr Karen Hennessy (right) is congratulated by her daughter Molly (aged 2) and Prof Mary Lambkin, UCD School of Business on graduating with her Phd from the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science in late 2010



The social network and people we trust

Social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, have enabled the rapid spread of both fact and fiction throughout the global village. Dr Áine McConnon tells Danielle Barron (BSc 2005), how a new European Commission-funded project aims to look at how food issues are communicated via these hugely popular online forums.

Nine EU member states are taking part in the FoodRisC consortium, which is comprised of experts in key fields relevant to food risk and benefit communication from research institutes, consumer organisations, and SMEs.

The EU consortium is coordinated by Professor Patrick Wall of the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science, and Dr Áine McConnon is the project manager.

Having studied nutrition within the context of public health, Dr McConnon is well-placed to examine the impact that both traditional and social media can have on the public's perception of foods that are perceived as beneficial and risky.

"We are looking at the communication of food risks and benefits across Europe, with the aim of developing tools to enable improved communication around these issues," explains Dr McConnon.

Recent food scares have had a significant, if not enormous, impact on public health, as well as eroding consumer confidence and causing huge economic losses.

"To start with, we are looking at how people perceive food risk and benefit because traditionally the focus has been on food risk as opposed to benefit, with food scares such as the BSE crisis, and more recently the dioxin crisis in Ireland and Belgium," she explains.

"The communication around the BSE crisis led to a lot of confusion," she says. As a direct result, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was established, whose remit is to communicate information about food risk to the consumer.

More recently, however, the focus has shifted towards looking at the dynamic between risks and benefits.

"Examples of this could be in relation to a new technology such as genetic modification or nanotechnology, but also traditional foods such as oily fish, where the consumer is encouraged to increase their intake of oily fish because of the health benefits of omega-3, but on the other hand they are also advised not to eat too much because it can contain high levels of mercury."

"These situations, where there are risks and benefits involved in the consumption of the food, are what we are examining," says Dr McConnon.

These may not always necessarily constitute health risks and benefits, she explains.

"It may instead relate to an ethical or environmental issue."

The starting point for the project is therefore examining the various risk/benefit relationships that exist, and how the consumer perceives them. From there, the project will look at how consumers are dealing with the information they are provided.

"We are also looking at their information-seeking behaviours, so where they go to look for information and what type of information are they looking for," says Dr McConnon.

The researchers are also investigating how people then deliberate on the information they come across.

"We are using web software, where we will look at the types of questions people have, so while they are reading the information they will be asked to report what kinds of questions pop into their heads," says Dr McConnon, adding that sometimes the information provided may raise more questions than it actually answers.

The project covers new media, including Twitter and Facebook, as well as traditional media. The increasing availability of information is a major issue.

"Until relatively recently information was only available in the mainstream press, where it came from sources such as journalists and scientists, whereas now it's more common for consumers to have a role in generating the information themselves, so we need to look at the influence this change may be having on people's views and behaviours in relation to accessing information about food risks and benefits."

Research has shown that consumers are more likely to trust people within their social circle, adds Dr McConnon.

"Consumers are more likely to trust people that they know, or feel they know, rather than people in an official position, such as the Government or politicians, who they may often consider to be biased."

According to Dr McConnon, the use of social media and media in general differs widely throughout Europe.

"We are obtaining a picture of what it's like across different European countries like Italy, Belgium, France and Spain, as there are very different habits and cultural differences."

"The use of social media in Ireland is very high, and relative to other parts of Europe we are very engaged in social media."

The potential for new media and online media in this domain, in the form of blogs and message boards, is massive, admits the public health nutritionist. Yet this hasn't been explored to date in relation to food and communicating its risks and benefits.

"More and more Government bodies and stakeholders are engaging with social media, admittedly, but mightn't necessarily know the impact that it can have or the best way to go about it."

Danielle Barron (BSc 2005) is editor of the Irish Medical News



Dr Áine McConnon UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science and UCD Institute for Food and Health

Original maps of Ireland from 1650s to 1950s on public display

Eighteen original maps dating from the 1650s to the 1950s acquired by the UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy over the past 40 years have returned to Belfield after an exhibition in Newman House and are now on display in the School. The maps in the exhibition, organised by Dr Arnold Horner, Stephen Hannon and Dr Gerald Mills, show some of the dramatic social, cultural and economic developments in Ireland over the period.

The Dublin Civic Survey 1925 explored urban regeneration. During the early part of the twentieth century, Dublin was a decaying city with the worst slums in Europe. In 1913, 29% of the Dublin population (approximately 80,000 people) lived in slums. One third of these slums were described as unfit for human habitation. About 20,000 families were living in one-room tenements, and illness and premature death were endemic. Two maps from the Dublin Civic Survey 1925 are in the collection: a 'hygiene' map surveying the health of the city, and a 'traffic map' surveying the congestion in the city at the time. The Survey warned that, if left unchecked, the tenement systems was likely to spread to other areas of the city. It recommended a policy of suburbanisation as the only way to tackle the slum problem.

Another map relates to the Catholic Emancipation Centenary at the Phoenix Park 1929. On 23 June 1929, Pontifical High Mass was celebrated in the Phoenix Park. This was one of three great religious gatherings of Irish people during the twentieth century - alongside the Eucharistic Congress of 1932, and the papal Visit in 1979. A special map was produced for the Pontifical High Mass. The map shows how 'fifteen acres' in the Phoenix Park were arranged to accommodate 300,000 people at the event. The assembly was organised by diocese, with separate areas for men and women, and separate areas for boys and girls.

The Geography map collection began in the 1960's when the Geography Department was located at Earlsfort terrace. The core of this collection comprised of sets of teaching maps



Also exhibited was this 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.

used in cartography instruction. When Geography was relocated to Belfield in 1971, the opportunity was taken to develop an expanded, dedicated collection that would provide essential support for a developing programme of research on the geography of Ireland. As a result, the Map Library concentrated on acquiring a good and diverse collection of Irish maps. This collection grew as strategic purchases were made when opportunities, such as estate auctions, presented themselves. Limited funding meant that maps were acquired after careful consideration of their intrinsic worth and their potential value to students and staff. The collection now consists of over 15,000 maps. Among this is a full set (1900 maps) of the 'six inch' map series that proved an invaluable resource to historical geography research. It also contains some exceptional, one of a kind, maps that are rarely seen in public. The map library continues to acquire maps on the geography of Ireland although these are now mainly for the purposes of research, rather than teaching. Map-making is now taught through the medium of Geographic Information Systems. However, the collection of paper maps remains a valuable complementary resource.

New academy links UCD and TCD microbiologists

UCD and Trinity College Dublin and have joined forces to establish a new academy to link research and teaching between microbiologists in both universities. Together, the Dublin Academy of Pathogenomics & Infection Biology (DAPI) includes nineteen laboratories applying functional genomic methods to the study of bacterial pathogens of humans and animals. Initially, DAPI will focus on research topics in bacteriology, but it will expand to include other areas of microbiology relating to infectious disease.

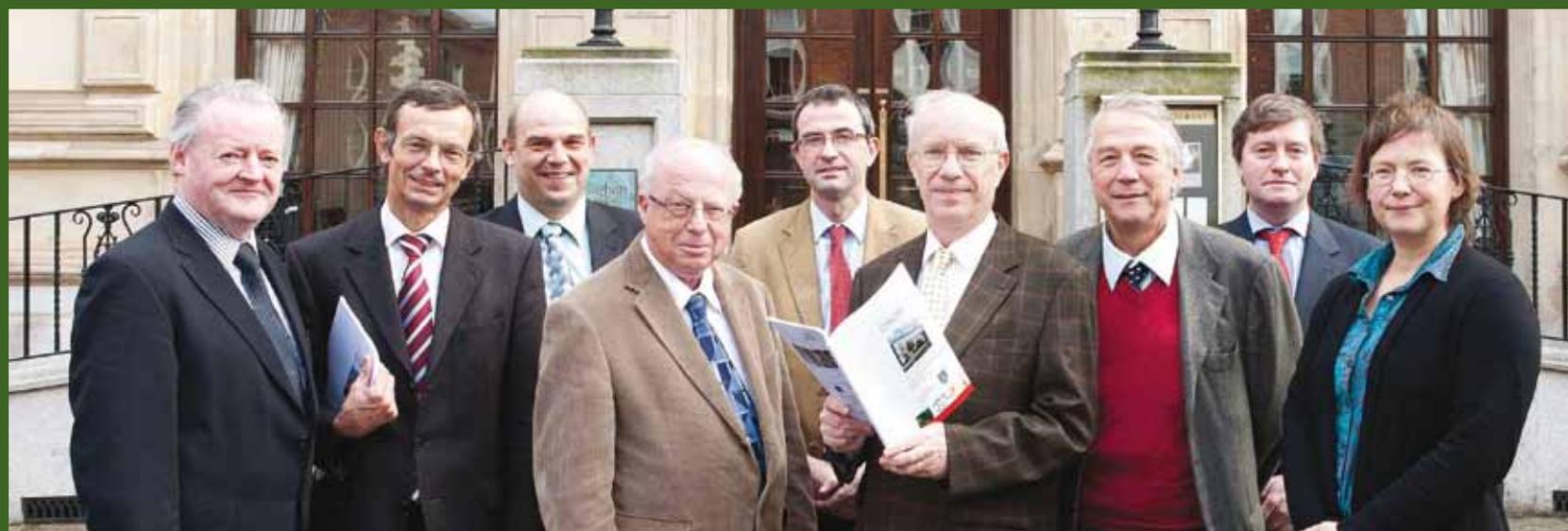
The new initiative reflects the strength of Dublin internationally as a centre for research and teaching in the areas of pathogenomics and infection biology.

The DAPI will help to maximise the use of research infrastructure in UCD and TCD for the pursuit of advanced research in bacterial pathogen biology and host-pathogen interactions. It will also enhance the educational experience of undergraduate and postgraduate students at the two universities who are involved in this area of biology, as well as benefit postdoctoral researchers.

The Inaugural Meeting of the DAPI, organised by Professor Steve Gordon, UCD, and Professor Jay Hinton, TCD, was held in the Health Sciences Building at UCD in December 2010. At the meeting, which focused on understanding how bacterial pathogens cause disease, PhD students and junior post-doctoral scientists based at the two universities gave a series of talks on their research activities.

Professor Carmen Buchrieser from the Institut Pasteur, Paris, gave the keynote presentation entitled: 'Intracellular parasitism, the driving force of evolution of Legionella sp.'. Legionella bacteria can grow inside protozoa in water supplies, and can infect human lungs to cause Legionnaire's disease. Professor Buchrieser's work has revealed that Legionella contains an unexpectedly high number of eukaryotic-like proteins, which can alter mammalian cell functions during the intracellular life of L. pneumophila. These bacterial genes are likely to have been transferred to the bacteria from protozoa that had been infected by Legionella.

www.ucd.ie/dapi



Pictured at the ninth annual symposium, 'Recent Advances in Synthesis and Chemical Biology IX', organised by the CSCB in December 2010, were (l-r): Professors Kevin Nolan, RCSI; Reinhard Brückner, Universität Freiburg, Germany; Matthias Senge, TCD; Itamar Willner, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel; David O'Hagan, University of St Andrews, UK; Pierre Braunstein, Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France; Bernhard Kräutler, Universität Innsbruck, Austria; Pat Guiry, UCD and Dr Anne-Claude Gavin (EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany)



Prospective UCD students Maggie Rek, Aoife Wall and Tobi Nabena are shown here with Dr Gethin McBean, Head of the UCD School of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science at the UCD Open Days in O'Reilly Hall in December 2010.

Students and families at UCD Open Day

Some 10,000 prospective students, parents and families visited the campus over the two-day UCD Open Days in December 2010, where the university's undergraduate programmes and teaching & learning facilities were showcased.

The central exhibition area featured 65 information stands where students could meet with UCD academic and student services staff.

Over 130 talks were held in lecture theatres across campus, and covered all undergraduate programmes, offering current student and graduate perspectives, and examples of career

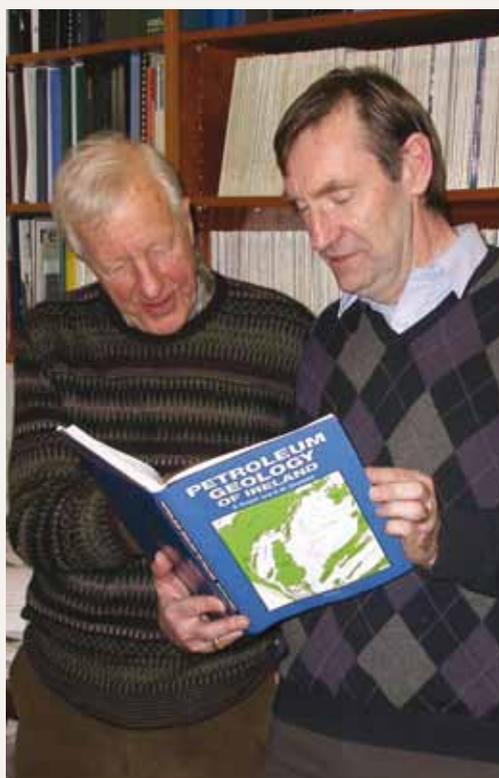
opportunities after undergraduate study. For the first time at Open Days, all subjects in the BA – Joint Honours degree programme were represented in the schedule of talks.

A new addition to the event this year was the 'Parents' & Alumni Haven', situated in the O'Reilly Hall conservatory. The UCD Student Ambassadors were also on hand to provide guided campus tours.

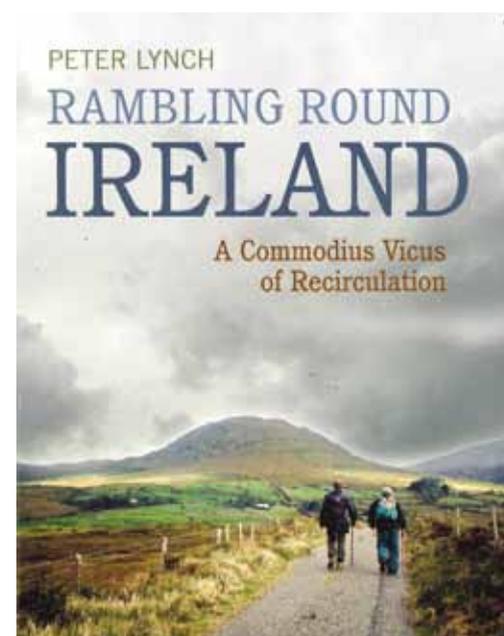
The 2011 Open Day will take place on Saturday 18th November and details will be posted at www.ucd.ie/opendays

New book on Petroleum Geology of Ireland

A new book 'Petroleum Geology of Ireland', written by two members of the UCD School of Geological Sciences was recently published by Dunedin Academic Press. The book's authors, David Naylor and Professor Pat Shannon, noted that 50 years have elapsed since the start of petroleum exploration in Ireland. The large volume of new geological and geophysical information that has been acquired in the past few decades has been a major stimulus for the writing of the book, which the authors hope will provide the reader with an insight into how ideas of sedimentary basin development and oil and gas exploration models have developed during the past few decades. The book charts the history of petroleum exploration in Ireland from the early drilling onshore to the present frontier exploration in the deep water basins west of Ireland. The book describes the geological development of all the major sedimentary basins of Ireland, both onshore and offshore. There is a comprehensive review of the exploration history, plays and prospects, as well as a discussion of future and potential prospects. It is hoped that the book will be of value to oil industry geoscientists, as well as to academic researchers and students with an interest in marine and petroleum geology.



David Naylor (Adjunct Professor) and Professor Pat Shannon, UCD School of Geology with their new book 'Petroleum Geology of Ireland' published in January 2011



Rambling Round Ireland

Written by Professor Peter Lynch, UCD School of Mathematical Sciences, *Rambling Round Ireland* was published by The Liffey Press in 2010.

The book is the story of Professor Lynch's "commodious vicus of recirculation", or tour, around 1,200 miles of the Irish coastline, over a 13-year period. It presents observations on the geographical, historical, linguistic, engineering, and of course meteorological sights and experiences along the way.

Each chapter of the book gives the personal and practical insights into different parts of the journey, which was completed in 87 stages. Typical of this is the description of the visit to the Giant's Causeway, outlined in Stage 72:

"The North Antrim Cliff Walk is about as good as it gets for walkers in Ireland: a good surface, well away from traffic, with constantly-changing views, all spectacular, and the surging surf providing a soothing acoustic backdrop. There is a good range of bird-life to be seen, and a rich fauna. But before all this comes the extraordinary geology. The 40,000 or so hexagonal prisms of basalt were formed in an uncertain volcanic maelstrom some sixty million years ago. They are arranged in many exotic formations with popular names: the Giant's Chair; the Amphitheatre; the Organ. Some of the basalt columns are more than a hundred feet tall. The area makes a lasting impression and prompts speculation as to how the causeway was formed. Discounting the usual stories about Finn McCool, the most popular theory is that the molten lava underwent intense convection or thermal overturning with the molten rock rising in some places and sinking in others. Such convection can spontaneously arrange itself into hexagonal patterns called Benard cells. These can sometimes be seen in a pan of water that is gently heated on a stove. But it is a delicate process, which easily degenerates into more chaotic motion and it is difficult to see how this process could be maintained for a long time and over a wide area. The causeway is an Area of Outstanding Beauty and an Area of Specific Scientific Interest and has recently been declared by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site."

More information on the book, and the tour itself, is available via www.ramblingroundireland.com

UCD honorary degrees for Maureen Toal and Brendan Halligan

Brendan Halligan — Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature

Brendan Halligan trained initially as a scientist and graduated with a Masters in Economics from UCD. His long and varied career included roles as a public servant, politician and political activist, educator and businessman.

After working for the Sugar Company in London marketing Erin Foods, in 1967 he shifted career and began Political Director and subsequently General Secretary of the Labour Party. He was central to the changes in the Labour Party which attracted individuals such as Conor Cruise O'Brien, Justin Keating and David Thornley to stand for election in the 1969 and 1973 polls.

According to Professor Brigid Laffan, Principal, UCD College of Human Sciences, who gave the citation, Halligan transformed the Labour Party from introspection to internationalism – bringing it into the Socialist International and the EEC/EU Social Democratic movement.

Prior to the outbreak of the Troubles in 1969, together with Michael O'Leary, he opened up contacts with both communities in Northern Ireland playing a most important role in the creation of the SDLP, dissolving Labour Party branches in Northern Ireland.

He was appointed to Seanad Éireann by Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave in 1973. He won a by-election in 1976 and served in Dáil Éireann until the 1977 General Election. Defeat in that election brought him back to the Labour Party as General Secretary until 1980. In 1983 he became an MEP.

The experience of the Single European Act referendum in 1987 persuaded him that Ireland



Dr Brendan Halligan and Prof Brigid Laffan

needed a 'Think Tank' on European Affairs and he established the Institute for International and European Affairs (IIEA). His commitment to maintaining Ireland's position within the EU led him to act as Campaign Coordinator for *Ireland for Europe* in 2009.

During this time, he continued to serve as Chairman of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and he also serves as a board member of Mainstream Renewal Power, the company run by Eddie O'Connor.

Maureen Toal — Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature

One of Ireland's most respected and most loved performers, Maureen Toal was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Literature.

Maureen Toal appeared many times on film and television, winning particular fame as Teasey McDaid in the long running series *Glenroe* on RTÉ. But she has had a long and distinguished career in

theatre, dating back to 1946 when she first joined the Abbey Company.

From her early performances of Dalton, Synge and O'Casey, Maureen Toal moved – under the direction of Tomas MacAnna and Ray McAnally, to the challenging demands of leading American playwrights, Albee, Miller and Williams. Her Maggie in *After the Fall* shouldered the sorrow and loneliness of Marilyn Monroe – on whom Miller based his play.

She served these dramatists brilliantly, as she did a later generation of Irish authors including Brian Friel and John B Keane.

In delivering the citation, playwright Frank McGuinness, UCD Professor of Creative Writing, UCD School of English, Drama & Film, spoke of her superlative performances – particularly in her lead roles in his own play, *The Factory Girls* and in the monologue, *Baglady*, where she told the toughest of stories with devastating honesty. "Hers is the look out of which were fashioned the masks of comedy and tragedy. She is our greatest actress," concluded McGuinness.



Dr Maureen Toal with her son Colm (left) and Professor Frank McGuinness

New archaeological discoveries at Brú na Bóinne

Recent research in UCD School of Archaeology has identified over one hundred potential new archaeological sites in the area of the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site.

The Boyne Valley Landscapes Project, led by Dr Stephen Davis, is conducted with collaborators in UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy, Dundalk Institute of Technology, Meath County Council and the University of Southampton, and is funded by the Heritage Council's INSTAR Scheme and now in its third phase.

The project has concentrated on the analysis of high-resolution aerial imagery and digital terrain models to identify potential new monuments, and on undertaking geophysical survey within the World Heritage Site. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data, high-resolution survey carried out using an airborne laser and provided by Meath County Council, has mapped the entire area at one metre point-spacing. Survey at this level allows the identification of extremely low-profile sites, effectively invisible on the ground. One such previously unknown site is clearly evident to the east of Newgrange on the first river terrace. The

site is an enclosure measuring more than 100m across, surrounding a central mound; however, both 'mound' and banks are no more than 15cm in height and effectively invisible through conventional aerial photography or fieldwalking. Geophysical survey at the site has highlighted further hidden, sub-surface archaeology, including an additional structure to the east, expressed as a slight rise in the LiDAR imagery. Other aspects of the project have included the application of visibility analysis to examine viewsheds and intervisibility of monuments within the Boyne Valley, and a coring programme of the 'ritual pond' at Monknewtown, which has dated the site to the late Neolithic.

Tem Project PI (Phase 3) Dr Stephen Davis, UCD School of Archaeology. Project researcher, William Megarry, UCD School of Archaeology. Project team: Dr Helen Lewis, UCD School of Archaeology; Dr Jonathan Turner, UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy; Dr Thomas Cummins, UCD Earth Sciences Institute; Conor Brady, DKIT; Loreto Guinan, Meath County Council; Professor Tony Brown, University of Southampton, Dr Robbie Meehan, Talamh Ireland.



Project researcher William Megarry and PhD student Gary Mulrooney undertaking coring at Monknewtown ritual pond.



Shown here with the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, is Dr Neil Ferguson, UCD School of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science and UCD Conway Institute, who received a President of Ireland Young Researcher Award (PIYRA) in recognition of his research into human hepatitis B virus (HBV) biology. One of Science Foundation Ireland's most prestigious accolades, the SFI PIYRAs acknowledge young engineers and scientists who have displayed extraordinary ability and leadership in their particular field. Using genetic engineering with state-of-the-art biophysical techniques to dissect HBV into its component molecules, Dr Ferguson aims to obtain new insights into the mechanism of HBV replication, and to design antivirals that will prevent HBV biomolecules from interacting with partner molecules.

At the same ceremony, Dr Nataša Mitić from NUI Maynooth, was also presented with a PIYRA. Dr Mitić's research will address the emergence of antibiotic resistance. Together, the award recipients will receive a total of €1.9 m funding from Science Foundation Ireland to continue their research.

An international study involving Dr Ferguson has described how the human papillomavirus interferes with the body's natural inclination to kill infected cells and exposes the individual to cervical cancer. The article by scientists from Uppsala University and Linköping University in Sweden, University of Copenhagen and UCD has been highlighted for mention in the February 4th issue of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

First Wellcome Trust funding for Irish-based PhD programme

For the first time in its history, the Wellcome Trust has announced funding for an Irish-based PhD programme. The UK charitable foundation will provide upwards of €3million towards a four-year structured PhD programme in Computational Infection Biology at UCD.

The UCD PhD Programme will contribute to one of the Wellcome Trust's major research challenges, namely to understand the emergence, transmission, pathogenesis and control of acute and chronic infectious diseases at the global level.

"The research programme will investigate the basis of pathogenicity and virulence in infectious organisms ranging from viruses (such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B, and influenza) to bacteria causing malaria, TB and other major diseases, and fungi, which grow on indwelling medical devices," says programme director, Professor Geraldine Butler, UCD School of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science and UCD Conway Institute.

"The areas of investigation will include the host response to infection, identifying therapeutic targets and developing novel drugs. One aspect unique to UCD is that the programme will investigate pathogenesis in both animals and man, addressing the 'One World, One Health' initiative, linking human, animal and environmental health."

Tiny 'one-fingered' dinosaur unearthed in China

Scientists have discovered the preserved skeletal remains of a previously unidentified theropod dinosaur in a rock formation on the border between Mongolia and China which dates back between 84 and 75 million years ago. According to the international scientific team, this is the only known dinosaur specimen with one finger and claw at the end of each forelimb (or arm).

The discovery published in the scientific journal *PNAS* (24 Jan 2011) highlights the complex pattern of evolution in the hand of the theropod dinosaur group. This dinosaur group ultimately gave rise to modern birds.

"We have named the theropod dinosaur *Linhenykus monodactylus*," says Dr David Hone from the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science, one of the scientific team involved in the discovery.

"This tiny insectivorous dinosaur lived roughly 80 million years ago, and would have weighed about 1 pound (450 grams), measured about 15 inches (40 centimeters) from head to tail, and reached to just below the average person's knee," he explains.

The international scientific team was led by Professor Xing Xu from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology & Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing. Xu is currently one of the world's leading palaeontologists. He has published several seminal scientific papers and has named more dinosaur species than any other scientist.

RTÉ donates cultural documents to UCD Archives

UCD Archives has become the custodian of the RTÉ Corporate Written Archives. The partnership brings to UCD a major repository that includes approximately 1,200 Irish language radio scripts, 1,800 to 2,000 English language radio scripts and about 6,000 Radio Drama scripts, some of which are in manuscript form. It also includes material from Samuel Beckett, Austin Clarke, Mary Lavin, Máirtín Ó Cadhain and many other distinguished Irish writers and commentators.

RTÉ said the collection constitutes a coherent and comprehensive account of the output of Radio Éireann between the 1940s and the early 1960s, and also offers insights into contemporary interest, opinion and preoccupation. Some materials date back to the 1920s.

RTÉ said it now wishes to ensure the long-term preservation and access of the documents of unique national cultural importance.

The partnership with the university was signed by the then RTÉ Director General, Cathal Goan, and UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady.

"In many ways RTÉ has been, since its beginning, the keeper of our collective national memory. In the tapes, scripts and images lie the stories of how our country has changed across the 20th and 21st centuries," said RTÉ Director-General, Cathal Goan.

"For archives to be truly valuable they must not only be dynamic and but also accessible. It is for this reason that RTÉ has entered into this partnership with UCD to ensure that these important national cultural documents, in both Irish and English, can be maintained and accessible to all, free of charge, so as to help us better understand our past, present and future."

UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady, and RTÉ Director General, Cathal Goan, examine written correspondence between Samuel Beckett and Hilton Edwards in 1961. Edwards, then head of drama at Radio Éireann, invited Beckett to write for RTÉ television. Beckett turned down the invitation because he was "très unfamiliar with the television and its possibilities".



UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady, and RTÉ Director General, Cathal Goan

Tethras Technologies enables multilingual publication of Apps

Tethras Technologies, a new Irish technology company based at NovaUCD, has launched a "disruptive localisation service" to assist mobile application developers in publishing their "Apps" in multiple languages.

The global Apps industry has experienced massive growth in recent years and is estimated to be worth \$4.4 billion by the end of this year. Application downloads in the Asia-Pacific region are expected to grow to 2.4 billion by 2013. China, Japan and Korea are already strong sources of growth and expansion in these regions is expected to continue. Downloads in France, Germany and Spain are also strong.

The vast majority of Apps are developed in the US and are published mainly in English. Tethras, identifying a gap in the market, has developed an innovative cloud-based, *localisation as a service* (LaaS), to allow App developers easily publish their content in multiple languages. This will enable App developers to access major, non-English speaking growth regions around the World.

Tethras has already had significant success with a number of high profile Apps. Most notably, with 3D4Medical's Heart Pro, a highly-specialised,



Brian Farrell, CEO, Tethras Technologies with a Chinese version of the iPad Heart Pro Application

iPad medical App, which until recently was only available in English. Using Tethras' service Heart Pro is now a multi-lingual App, also available in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean and Spanish.

Tethras Technologies was founded in 2010 by experienced entrepreneurs Brian Farrell and Brendan Clavin. Tethras currently employs 10 people between its headquarters in NovaUCD and its US office in Mountain View, California.

www.tethras.com

HeyStaks opens social web search service to public

HeyStaks Technologies, the NovaUCD web start-up, has opened its web search services to the general public via a browser plugin (currently Firefox only) and a mobile application. HeyStaks' technology helps to make mainstream search engines like Bing, Google and Yahoo! more social. It allows searchers to collaborate with friends and colleagues as they search for information online and it improves the productivity of the average searcher by up to 50%.

According to Ciara Byrne in her New York Times article on the launch, "Search engines don't seem to have evolved much since the dawn of Google. If Google was the sports car of search engines when it launched, it's now a rather rusty

vintage sport car. Enter Heystaks, a new startup launching [today] which wants to make search more efficient by making it social."

HeyStaks, which recently secured €1 million in venture funding from The Ulster Bank Diageo Venture Fund managed by NCB Ventures, has opened a Dublin office, in NovaUCD, the Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre at University College Dublin, and an office in San Francisco. It is currently recruiting engineers for its Dublin office and plans to grow to 14 people within the coming months, with plans for 40 jobs by 2013.

HeyStaks is based on technology developed from a research group led by UCD Professor Barry Smyth and the CLARITY Centre for Sensor Web Technologies, a Science Foundation Ireland funded research centre between University College Dublin, Dublin City University, and the Tyndall National Institute.

Emerging Business Entrepreneur award for Equinome founder

Dr Emmeline Hill, a leading genomics researcher in UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine and co-founder of Equinome has been presented with the 2011 David Manley Emerging Business Entrepreneur Award.

The aim of the David Manley Emerging Entrepreneur Awards is to nurture and recognise the enterprising spirit in the following three categories, business, the arts and in social/community. The Awards, established in 2003, have become the premier award in Ireland for emerging enterprises. The Awards judging panel was chaired

by businessman Alfie Kane and also included entrepreneur Dr Chris Horn.

Equinome was established in 2009 to assist the bloodstock industry to maximise the genetic potential of Thoroughbred horses. The company has been acknowledged by several awards since its launch and has already secured major clients in Australia, France, Ireland, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, UK and USA. With new products scheduled for release in 2011 and 2012, Equinome's vision is to become the global industry standard for the provision of genetic information to the Thoroughbred horse industry.

Reduced-salt cheese improves diets

Food scientists at UCD have created a processed cheese product with 60% less sodium than full salt versions, and practically no difference in taste and structure.

Processed cheese is used by food manufacturers because it has several manufacturing advantages over unprocessed cheese, including extended shelf-life, resistance to separation when cooked, and uniformity of product. There are also significant economic advantages when compared to production by traditional cheese-making processes.

"With so much processed food being consumed, western diets have about three times more sodium than is needed," explains Michael O'Sullivan from the UCD Institute of Food and Health, one of the scientists involved in the research.

"This excessive intake of sodium is linked to increased rates of hypertension and stroke. So in recent years there has been a move towards reducing sodium in processed foods, including cheese products."

The processed cheese created by the scientists is made from dry protein ingredients such as casein powder rather than through the traditional cheese making process.

By altering the manufacturing conditions, the scientists could reduce the levels of the major contributor to added sodium, and maintain the taste and structure of the imitation cheese while reducing the sodium content by up to 60%.

"Reducing salt in imitation cheese: effects on manufacture and functional properties" by M. El-Bakry, F Beninati, E Duggan, ED O'Riordan, and M O'Sullivan, was published online in the journal *Food Research International*.

UCD Business School is EQUIS-accredited

UCD School of Business; UCD Smurfit School and UCD Quinn School, was recently granted a full renewal of its EQUIS accreditation; one of the world's leading international accreditations for business schools. UCD School of Business is the only Irish business school to hold this accreditation and one of less than 130 worldwide.

UCD Marian celebrate their victory in the Men's SuperLeague National Basketball Cup in January 2011



Historic victory for UCD Marian in Men's SuperLeague National Cup

Competing in the final for the first time ever, UCD Marian snatched a historic victory against the favourites 11890 Killester in the Men's SuperLeague National Basketball Cup.

UCD Marian Head Coach Fran Ryan knew that 11890 Killester were sitting favourites entering the game, but he always believed that his team had the right mix to upset the reigning champions and claim their first Cup title.

In the end, his team delivered one of the most memorable upsets of recent years in front of a packed audience at the National Basketball Arena.

Scorers: 11890 Killester 57 (35) (J Turner 12, P Kelly 10, P Madsen 9) / UCD Marian 60 (28) (J Crowder 17, C Meany 12, N Baynes 10) MVP: James Crowder (UCD Marian)

UCD Marian Team: James Crowder, Cathal Finn, Michael Higgins, Conor James, Daniel James, Matthew Kelly, Patrick Young, Niall Meany, Neil Baynes, Barry Glover and Conor Meany. Coach: Fran Ryan.

UCD-Marian Basketball Club is based in University College Dublin, and serves the south county Dublin area. Training and playing venues are located in Belfield, Marian College, St Andrews College and other facilities in South Dublin.

Success for UCD Boxers

The UCD Boxing Club claimed 4 titles outright in the closely-contested Senior Intersvarsity competition of the Irish Universities Amateur Boxing Association (IUABA), held February 2011. Light Middle Weight boxer Brian Kelly was awarded the 2011 IUABA Seniors Best Boxer Award.

Under the guidance of Head Coach Tom Butler, the club was represented by:

- **Conor Dowling** Feather Weight Senior Champion
- **Cillian Carroll** Light Welter Weight Senior Champion
- **Killian Walsh** Welter Weight finalist
- **Brian Kelly** Light Middle Weight Senior Champion
- **Bill Malone** Middle Weight Semi-finalist
- **Paddy Gallagher** Light Heavyweight Senior Champion
- **Alan O Reilly** (C) Cruiser Weight Semi-finalist
- **Greg Foley** (vC) Super Heavy Weight Finalist
- **Shona Maguire** and **Natalie Sheridan**

Earlier in the season, the club regained the Morrow Cup in the Junior Intersvarsity competition.



UCD swimmer and Food Science student Aisling Cooney set a new Irish record in the Women's 50m backstroke in the European Short Course Championships in Eindhoven in late 2010 and finished 9th overall in the Championships, though narrowly missing a place in the final, by 3/100ths of a second

100 years of sporting history

After the GAA Championships themselves, the Sigerson Cup is the oldest national football competition. It holds a place of special significance in UCD – not just because the university has taken part since its inception and clocked up the most wins – but also because George Sigerson was one of the father figures of the university during its early years.

To celebrate the hosting of the centenary of the Sigerson Cup at the UCD grounds at Belfield, the university has launched a commemorative book *UCD and the Sigerson*, drawing on the memories of great players over the decades. Players including Ogie Moran, Pat O'Neill, Brendan Ó hAinle, Benny Gaughran and Padraig 'the flying doctor' Carney, write of their Sigerson highs and lows, sharing their stories in this well-timed publication.

Written and researched by UCD historian Irial Glynn and edited by well known GAA historian Dr Paul Rouse, the book details the history of UCD in the Sigerson Cup since the competition began in 1911.

GAA journalist, Eugene McGee, who was involved as mentor with seven winning Sigerson teams, tells of the special place of Sigerson in the

lives of players. "From their point of view, possibly the biggest attraction of the Sigerson is that it offers those who are keen rivals at other times, a chance to temporarily suspend their sporting animosities and come together as 'bands of brothers' for the honour and glory of winning the Sigerson."

The book profiles the colourful Dr George Sigerson himself. Originally from Tyrone, Sigerson was the son of a mixed marriage. His education took him to France and back to Ireland, where he became enthralled with literature, culture and nationalist politics, while at the same time studying medicine and eventually becoming professor of biology at UCD. By 1911 Dr Sigerson was 70 years of age and his great legacy to the GAA was to personally fund the establishment of a football cup to be played between the three colleges of the then National University of Ireland. Now, 100 years on, the Sigerson Cup remains the most important GAA trophy competed for by all of the third level institutions.

Former UCD, St Vincent's and Dublin player and now UCD director of GAA, David Billings said, "This excellent publication detailing the history of UCD's involvement in the Sigerson Cup is an

attempt to peep through the last 100 years and stir the memories of golden days for past generations and warriors. It is also hoped to give an insight to those new to the Sigerson Cup of what the competition means to those people who have been fortunate enough to wear the UCD jersey over the years."



Shown at the launch of "UCD and the Sigerson" were Ciaran McManus, former UCD and Offaly player; with author Irial Glynn; and current UCD players, Cian O'Sullivan and Craig Dias



Among the first class to graduate from the BSc in Midwifery, in late 2010, were (l-r): Jennifer Carey; Melissa Marsh; Michelle Duanne; Lizzie Reeves; Helen Martin; Patricia McLoughlin

Mary Costigan from Laois helps Aliyah Zambri from Malaysia into her white coat at the clinical robing ceremony for medical students at UCD.

Mary and Aliyah were among the 240 students who received their white coats from the UCD School of Medicine in early 2011, signifying their progression to the clinical stage of their medical degrees.

80 of the students will return to Penang Medical College in Malaysia, where they will complete their medical training.

The remainder will continue their education at UCD through the university's six major Dublin teaching hospitals, the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, St. Vincent's University Hospital, the National Maternity Hospital, the Coombe Women's Hospital, Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children and the Children's University Hospital at Temple Street. Clinical training is also provided at a number of other affiliated hospitals and health care facilities around the country, including Midlands Regional Hospital - Tullamore, Wexford General Hospital, St. Columcille's Hospital Loughlinstown, the National Rehabilitation Hospital, St Mary's Hospital, Royal Hospital Donnybrook, and Mount Carmel. UCD also has an extensive primary care clinical training network for students.



Pictured at the UCD Agricultural Science Careers Day in February 2011 were final year Agricultural Science students Lesley Cox from Tullamore, Co Offaly and Tim McCarthy from Cahir, Co Tipperary.

Students heard from the Attorney General, Mr Paul Gallagher SC, who stressed the importance of developments in agriculture and food legislation. They also attended keynote addresses from CEO of ARYZTA, Mr Owen Killian and Mr Michael Egan, final year Animal and Crop Production student, and Chair of the Agricultural Science Careers Committee. UCD Dean of Agriculture, Professor Jim Phelan welcomed 27 exhibiting employer companies who attended the event to meet the next generation of Agricultural Science graduates.



We were all complicit in the degradation of Ireland in recent years, according to Cian Ferriter, barrister and alumni of the School of Law. Speaking at the Law Society's Centenary Debate, he argued against the idea that the Ireland of today was superior to that when the Society was founded, one hundred years ago. He challenged the audience to realise the mercenary pursuit of material gain had left us with riches that had evaporated overnight and had been bought at the price of our identity and integrity as a people and a nation.

Mr Ferriter is shown here receiving his Best Speaker award from Mr John Cronin, Chairman of McCann Fitzgerald. His speech was judged the best on the night by a panel that included Mr Justice Vivian Lavan, Ms Justice Mary Finlay Geoghegan and UCD President Dr Hugh Brady. Other speakers (all of whom were former auditors of the Law Society) included Michael McDowell SC and Eugene McCague.

