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13. The supernova that wasn't

9. Evolution of echolocation

7. War in peace

5. Austerity and recovery in Ireland

INSIDE

The Supernova that wasn't

Tidal disruption event resolved doubt surrounding the most luminous supernova

Contents

Features



5 Austerity and recovery in Ireland

7 War in Peace

9 Evolution of Echolocation

13 The supernova that wasn't

World University Subject Rankings – The measures are all in the right direction



EILIS O'BRIEN
Director of Communication and Marketing

The publication of the QS World University Subject Rankings prompted a general reaction of genuine satisfaction with the upward trend. Two subjects in the top 50, 13 in the top 100, 31 in the top 200, 35 out of 43 ranked, 9 rising into higher ranking bands and 28 with increased scores. In an Irish context, we are now number 1 in 40 subjects and in each of the 5 faculty areas. So, overall, a very positive endorsement of the quality of our output and the calibre of our faculty.

What makes these subject rankings of interest beyond the overall university rankings is that certain measures – such as staff student ratios and funding – are not included. Instead, the scores for the subjects are based on 4 measures that focus specifically on the performance of academic disciplines, aggregated over 5 years (2012 to 2016). These are:

1. Reputation amongst fellow academics: Academics are asked to list 10 national and international universities they consider excellent for research in their field.
2. Reputation amongst employers: Employers are asked to list 10 national and 30 international universities they consider excellent for the recruitment of graduates.
3. Citations per paper: The number of times an academic publication is cited in other academic publications.
4. H-index: A measure of the productivity and impact of research where the number of citations is linked to the number of publications of a scientist or scholar.

The weightings vary according to subject. For example, Environmental Sciences attracts a citations weighting of 25% and an academic survey weighting of 40% while Sociology has a citations weighting of 5% and an academic survey weighting of 70%. Anomalies occur as certain disciplines can be listed under different subjects but faculty can look into this with the support of the Director of UCD Institutional Research.

Recognising the interest in subject rankings – particularly in the international higher education arena – QS has created badges that can be downloaded and used on emails, websites and other materials. The link is here: www.iu.qs.com/2017-qswur-by-subject-badges

Readers who wish to find out more about the rankings and how to use them are welcome to call University Relations and/or Institutional Research.

UCD thanks...

Contributors: Jonnie Baxter, Rupert Bowen, Alex Boyd, Carla Briggs, Eoin Casey, Mags D'Arcy, Jamie Deasy, Damien Dempsey, Jane Devitt, Andrew Fogarty, Marcellina Fogarty, Morgan Fraser, Andreas Hess, Robert Gerwarth, Sinead Kelly, Olive Keogh, Naonori Kodate, Chen Ma, Kate Manning, Juno McEnroe, Noelle Moran, Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Claire O'Connell, Philip O'Connell, Hugo O'Donnell, Darina O'Hanlon, Andrea Prothero, Elaine Quinn, Claire Redmond, William Roche, Mark Simpson, Mary Staunton, Da-Wen Sun, Emma Teeling, Cathy Timlin, Micéal Whelan, Andrea Zanetti

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Cover image: Supermassive black hole with torn-apart star (artist's impression). Credit: ESO, ESA/Hubble, M. Kornmesser





Pictured at the presentation of the UCD Foundation Day Medal in New York were (l-r): Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President; and Colm Tóibín. Credit: Ben Asen Photography

UCD Foundation Day Medal awarded to Colm Tóibín

Irish novelist Colm Tóibín has been presented with the UCD Foundation Day Medal in recognition of his distinguished literary achievements. Tóibín is the author of Brooklyn, winner of the 2009 Costa Book of the Year. The novel was adapted into the Oscar-nominated film of the same name. He has published 10 books that include fiction, non-fiction, and collections of essays and short stories. His body of work also includes two plays and a memoir.

Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President, presented Tóibín with the award at a ceremony in New York City. He said Tóibín is “one of [UCD’s] most outstanding Arts and Humanities

graduates.” Tóibín is Professor of Humanities at Columbia University in New York and Chancellor at University of Liverpool. He was previously Visiting Professor at Princeton University and Stanford University. “Colm’s work is distinguished by an elegance, brilliance and precision of style,” said Barbara Jones, Consul General of Ireland in New York, who read the citation at the award ceremony. “His gifted artistic talents enable him to transfigure the minutiae of everyday life, to reach readers from very different times and places, and to lead us to a greater imaginative understanding of a shared and diverse humanity – qualities comparable indeed to another UCD graduate, James Joyce.”

The UCD Foundation Day Medal is presented to distinguished alumni of UCD who have achieved international recognition in their field. It was inaugurated in 2004 to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the opening of UCD’s antecedent, the Catholic University of Ireland.

Previous winners include novelist Maeve Binchy, Riverdance music composer Bill Whelan and former Irish rugby captain Brian O’Driscoll.

UCD and Origin €17.6 million Strategic Research Partnership

UCD and Origin Enterprises plc have announced the establishment of a dedicated digital, precision agriculture and crop science collaborative research partnership, supported through the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Strategic Partnership Programme. This is a €17.6 million five-year research programme.

The collaboration encompasses a strong multi and inter-disciplinary approach, combining the leading expertise of UCD in data science and agricultural science with Origin’s integrated crop management research, systems capabilities and extensive on-farm knowledge exchange networks.

A cornerstone of the partnership will be the creation of scalable, dynamic and integrated crop models which incorporate consistent and real-time data driven and data analytical approaches that optimise sustainable crop performance through enabling enhanced predictive intelligence capabilities at field level.

UCD Honorary conferrings

UCD has awarded honorary degrees to diplomat and peacemaker Tim O’Connor, labour rights advocate Kieran Mulvey and economist Professor Michael J. Brennan. Honorary degrees are awarded to individuals who have attained outstanding distinction in their fields.

Tim O’Connor – Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature

Tim O’Connor has played a pivotal role in improving Ireland’s relations with the world and within its own borders as a diplomat, peace builder and diaspora advocate.

O’Connor was a diplomat in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 1979 – 2007. He was appointed to several crucial posts during the Northern Ireland peace process including Deputy Secretary General of the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation. O’Connor was a senior member of the Irish Government delegation during talks that led to the Good Friday Agreement in April 1998. In 2005, he served as Consul General of Ireland in New York. In 2007, O’Connor was appointed Secretary General to the President of Ireland. He worked closely with President Mary McAleese, supporting her in work she did under her presidential theme of Building Bridges between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Kieran Mulvey – Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws

Kieran Mulvey has spent his career as both a campaigner and mediator in labour rights issues.

He served as a member of the UCD Governing Body as a student before becoming the first General Secretary of the Irish Federation of University Teachers at the age of 24. At 29, he became General Secretary of the Association of Secondary Teachers of Ireland.

In 1991, Mulvey became the founding CEO of the Labour Relations Commission, later serving as Director General of the Workplace Relations Commission. In 2010, he called for a negotiated accord between the government and trade unions during a turbulent time of public service funding cuts. This led to the Croke Park Agreement and later the Haddington Road and Lansdowne Road Agreements. Mulvey brokered each of these as chairperson during negotiations.

Professor Michael J. Brennan – Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws

Professor Michael J. Brennan is Professor Emeritus at UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management. He is a former Director of the National Bureau of Economic Research, home to 26 Nobel Prize winners in Economics.

Professor Brennan’s research covers several areas including microstructure, asset pricing and corporate finance. He has published four books and almost one hundred articles in leading research journals.

He is a former President of the American Finance Association and served as Editor of the Journal of Finance. He was also a founding editor of the Review of Financial Studies.

His work has contributed to a large body of literature covering topics such as liquidity, option valuation and arbitrage.



Dr Marie-Luce Paris, UCD Sutherland School of Law

UCD's Dr Marie-Luce Paris awarded Chevalier (Knight) of the Ordre des Palmes Académiques

Dr Marie-Luce Paris has been awarded the Chevalier (Knight) of the Ordre des Palmes Académiques for her work promoting legal education and research in Ireland and France. She was nominated by the French Minister of National Education and Research.

Dr Paris is an Assistant Professor and Academic Director of two French Law programmes in UCD Sutherland School of Law. She previously led internationalisation

efforts in the School as Head of Global Engagement.

She is a member of the European Union Studies Association, Dublin European Institute, Academy of European Public Law and Irish Centre for European Law.

The Ordre des Palmes Académiques (Order of Academic Palms) is the oldest non-military decoration in France. It was created by Napoleon Bonaparte in the 19th century to honour distinguished academics and educators for their contribution to French education and culture.

UCD Smurfit MBA 70th in global ranking

The full-time Masters in Business Administration (MBA) programme at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School has risen by nine places to 70th in the annual Financial Times Top 100 world rankings.

The UCD Smurfit School is the only Irish school that has successfully made the rankings this year. This is the 18th consecutive year that it has been listed among the top 100.

The School's full-time MBA programme also improved its ranking by two places to 22nd in Europe.

The Financial Times lists the 100 best programmes in Europe and around the world.

The improved ranking comes just three months after the UCD College of Business published a €65 million strategy, targeting Top 50 Global business school status by 2020.

Graduates of the programme could expect a 71% increase in their salaries to €104,721 within three years of completing the course, which was an improvement of 5.5% from last year's report.

UCD Smurfit's full-time MBA programme was also placed in the top 10 in Europe for value for money and 16th globally.

The School's ranking in measures of diversity including female faculty representation and female student participation also improved, placed 39th and 44th respectively in the top 100.

The Financial Times Top 100 Global Full-time MBA Rankings are based on a number of criteria including the salaries achieved by graduates, career progression and placement success.

This year, France's INSEAD maintained its place at the top of the ranking, with the Stanford Graduate School of Business in second place, followed by the University of Pennsylvania: Wharton.

Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, College Principal and Dean, UCD College of Business said the quality of research and teaching was a relentless focus at UCD College of Business and this required "significant ongoing investment".

UCD Professors named highly cited researchers by Thomson Reuters

UCD Professors Da-Wen Sun and Colm P O'Donnell, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering, have been included in the 2016 Highly Cited Researchers list compiled by Thomson Reuters.

Professor Sun's work is standard reference material for researchers in the areas of computer

vision, computational fluid dynamics modelling and vacuum cooling. He has had over 1,000 papers in the Thomson Reuters science citation index, Web of Science. Some 72 of these papers have been cited more than 100 times.

Professor Sun is a global authority in food engineering research and education. He was elected to the Royal Irish Academy in 2010, selected as a member of Academia Europaea (Academy of Europe) in 2011, and inducted as a fellow of the International Academy of Food Science and Technology in 2012. He is editor of the journal Food and Bioprocess Technology, series editor of Contemporary Food Engineering and former editor of Journal of Food Engineering.

Colm P O'Donnell is Professor of Biosystems and Food Engineering and Head of the UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering.

Professor O'Donnell leads a research team working on a range of Process Analytical Technology and Non Thermal Processing projects funded by EU Framework, Irish Research Council, Food Institutional Research Measure, Enterprise Ireland and industry. He is also Head of the Food Quality and Processing Pillar in the UCD Institute of Food and Health.

His primary research focus is on Process Analytical Technology for food and bioproduct engineering and novel food processing technologies.

He is editor of the International Journal of Food Properties and Associate Editor (Food Engineering) of Transactions of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.



Pictured (l-r) are the editors of *Austerity and Recovery in Ireland - Europe's Poster Child and the Great Recession*: Professor Philip O'Connell, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, and Director of UCD Geary Institute; Professor Andrea Prothero, UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School; and Professor William Roche, UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School

Deprivation, pay cuts, bailouts, emigration, debt and human pain. Everyone was and in many ways remains scarred by the recession. The country – or certain sections of the country – enjoyed the fruits of the boom and then suddenly the lights went out as every corner in society felt the squeeze and weight of the economic crash.

Austerity and Recovery in Ireland

Bailing out domestic banks cost €64bn, a €32bn austerity package was inflicted on the nation, employment dropped by 14%, public service pay was cut by 21% and half of mortgages experienced negative equity.

UCD academics Professor William Roche, Professor Philip O'Connell and Professor Andrea Prothero, editors of the book *Austerity and Recovery in Ireland – Europe's Poster Child and the Great Recession*, reflect not just on the cumulative hurt of the recession but digest how the foundations for the upturn were built and where reforms, past and current, helped clear the debris of austerity out of the path to recovery.

In doing so, Ireland has stood out as the “poster child” among nations for economic regeneration. But in reality it is a “beautiful freak” with a very alternative set of conditions and environments that have facilitated the recovery compared to other bailout countries.

Some new reforms took hold, others have yet to be tested. But the UCD academics in part maintain that a lot of work that cemented the recovery evolved over previous decades.

And once we exited the bailout, Ireland was held up as a beacon of hope and as a model for others.

Co-editor, Professor William Roche, Professor of Industrial Relations, UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School explained: “It wasn't only a view that was held by the Troika, it was a view that the Irish government began to promulgate as well.” This was evident when during the 2015 Greek crisis Irish ministers openly lectured the Syriza-administration in Athens on the need to take ‘the medicine’ and accept austerity, he adds.

The recovery was also thanks to multi-nationals here trading into other countries. Regeneration was largely thanks to foreign

direct investment, which had been a cornerstone of policy here for decades, says Professor Roche.

The 17-chapter book examines the effects of the crash but also the resulting reforms in finance, politics and the public service sectors.

“A consensus among main political parties that austerity was inevitable and an acceptance by trade unions of entrenchment in services were foundations for the recovery”, said Professor Roche. These were not factors in other bailout countries.

Deals involving pay bargaining in difficult and recessionary conditions had been tried and tested before in Ireland.

Other factors that the book concludes equally shielded more bruises during the crash was the government's ability to keep social expenditure high, to help the unemployed. Emigration also soared where an estimated 600,000 people, mostly young and Irish, left the country over seven years.

All these factors and conditions were “institutional features of the beautiful freak phenomena,” deduces Professor Roche, adding that emigration acted as a “safety valve” in keeping down the rate of unemployment.

But of course there was suffering during several years of austerity, as co-editor Professor Andrea Prothero, Professor of Business and Society, UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School details.

Above the economic penalties, there were social costs including health problems, housing shortages and the damage done to cultural institutions.

Quoting the book's chapter on inequality, Professor Prothero explains that there was an increase in suicide among men, a rise in self-harm among both sexes, all of which were accompanied by mental health problems.

Men were severely affected by the recession especially as one in five had worked in the construction sector which had collapsed.

Significant cutbacks in funding also hurt cultural institutions, which felt a double-hit with fewer patrons attending events. Personal debt was another factor, adds Professor Prothero.

“Credit card debt during the recession was enormous,” she explains.

Furthermore, a quarter of people at one stage were experiencing deprivation in lacking two or more basic necessities, such as heating or the ability to buy meals.

There was increased inequality too, affecting single mothers, minorities and others, Professor Prothero concludes.

Other chapters in the book look at banking reform and new regulations for lenders, as co-editor Professor Philip O'Connell, Professor of Applied Social Science, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, and Director of UCD Geary Institute, outlines.

But reform is remarkably slow, Professor O'Connell says, pointing to the political arena where promises have not been met.

Professor O'Connell also notes that many of the more successful reforms adopted particularly in banking and state finances, were there before the arrival of the IMF-ECB-EU Troika in 2010.

We have come a long way and still have some road to go, particularly to overcome severe shortages and rampant inflation in housing. But far from being “the poster child” for austerity, as the editors of *Austerity and Recovery in Ireland* maintain, the nation's ability to overcome suffering and loss from the crash was a result of policies and practices sown into the economy and society many years before the recovery.

Professors Roche, O'Connell and Prothero were in conversation with Juno McEnroe, a political reporter with the Irish Examiner

UCD's "engineering visionary" honoured by Irish Academy of Engineering

Professor Tony Fagan has been awarded the 2016 Parsons Medal for Engineering Research for his role in the improvement of global communication technology.

The Parsons Medal is awarded by the Irish Academy of Engineering (IAE) to those of exceptional ability who have achieved excellence in engineering.

Professor Fagan, UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, received the honour for his influence in the field of digital signal processing (DSP).

DSP is a technology that allows instant communication across the world. It is the technical brains behind television, the internet and devices such as phones and digital cameras.

Since the early 1980s, Professor Fagan has been "prominent in creating a high-tech DSP ecosystem in Ireland," said Eoin O'Driscoll, Irish Academy of Engineering.

"Dublin now has a 'DSP Valley' that is the envy of many high-tech regions elsewhere" and his impact meant that he can "rightly be described as an engineering visionary."

Professor Fagan received his PhD from University College Dublin in 1978. Following early career experience in Marconi Research Laboratories in the UK, he returned to UCD to set-up the DSP Research Centre in 1980.



Pictured (l-r) were: Eoin O'Driscoll, President of IAE; and Professor Tony Fagan, UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

The centre generated several spin-out companies that were responsible for key developments in the field of DSP. These include the first high-speed single-chip dial-up modem and first wireless high-precision system for locating objects or people inside buildings.

He has raised €4.5 million in funding during his career and published more than 130 papers.

The Parsons Medal was named after Sir Charles Algernon Parsons. Parsons was an Anglo-Irish engineer who invented the steam turbine.

20 Years of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

On 29 November, an event was held in Brussels to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), which have supported almost 100,000 researchers to date. Speakers at the event included Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact and Chair of the EU MSCA Advisory Group, and Dr Shane Bergin, UCD School of Education.

UCD has a strong track record of success in the MSCA with over 130 grants awarded to date supporting the careers of researchers spanning a wide range of disciplines. Under Horizon 2020 to date UCD has reached pole position nationally in the number of grants secured through MSCA and has achieved highest ranked proposals in both the Individual Fellowship (2016) and Innovative Training Networks (2015, 2016) schemes.



Dr Shane Bergin, UCD School of Education, speaking at the 20 Years of MSCA Celebration in Brussels. Photo credit: The European Commission.

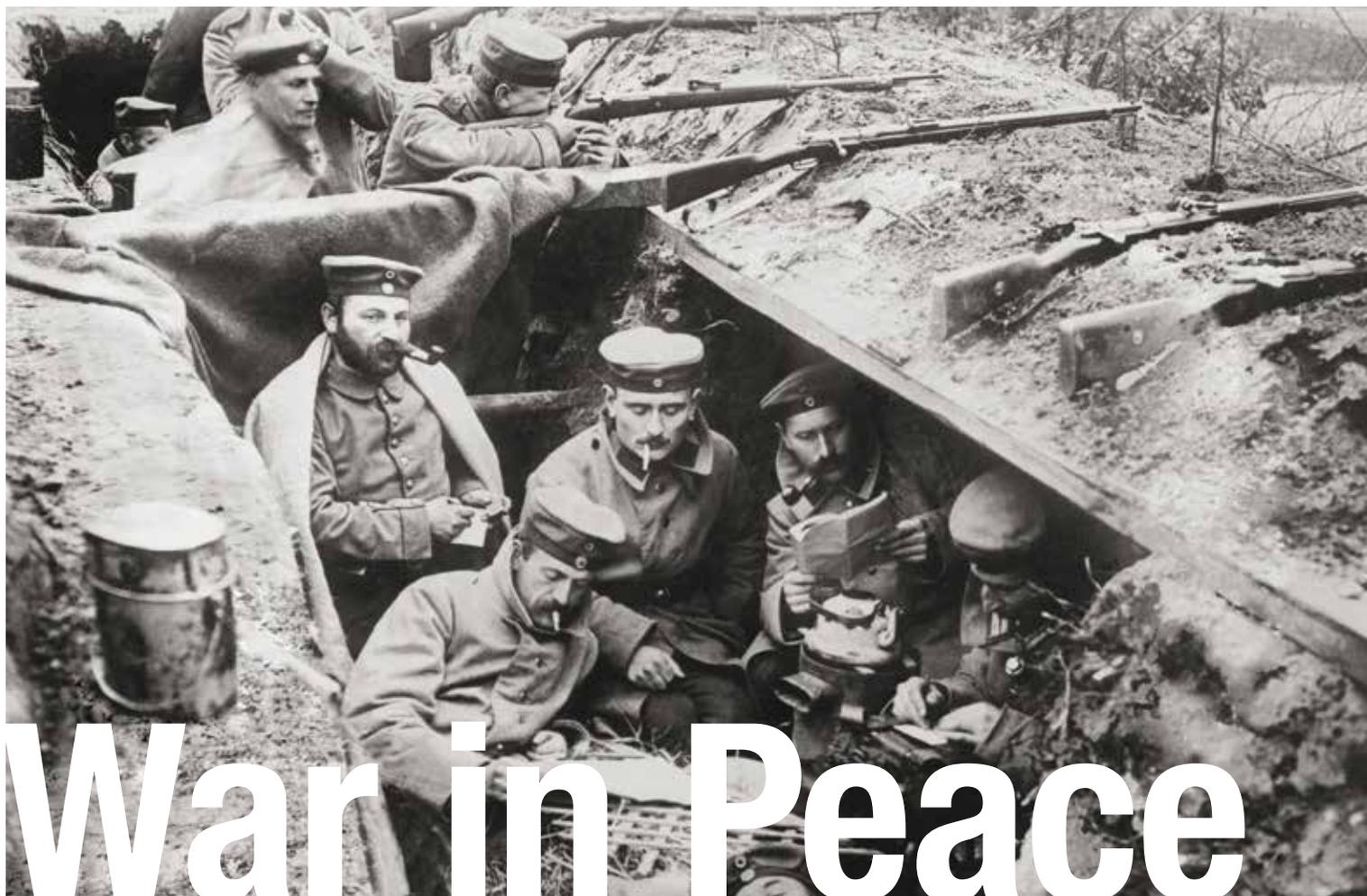
UCD HR Strategy 2016-2020 launched

Growing through People, UCD's new Human Resources strategy was recently launched by Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President. The strategy has been developed over the past year following extensive consultation with the UCD community and covers the period to 2020. *Growing through People* is designed to support the UCD mission of providing a supportive community in which every member of the University is enabled to achieve their full potential.

The strategy envisages a supportive, developmental environment and is based on four key strands: Transforming Service and Partnership; Enhancing a Performance Culture; Developing Talent; and Becoming an Employer and University of choice.

In launching the strategy, President Deeks emphasised that it is its people that already sets UCD apart from other universities and this strategy sets out an ambitious plan to invest, support, develop and nurture this talent.

Growing through People, UCD HR Strategy 2016-2020 is available online at: www.ucd.ie/hr/a-z/hrstrategy



War in Peace



UCD Historian Professor Robert Gerwarth discusses his recent book project which offers insights into the violent aftermath of WW1

Over the past five years six post-doctoral students working in 13 languages under the direction of Professor Robert Gerwarth, Professor of Modern History and Director of the UCD Centre for War Studies, have pieced together a disturbing picture of the violent conflicts that took place across Europe in the aftermath of the First World War.

“People are aware of the turmoil that followed in their own countries, as we are in Ireland,” says Gerwarth “but this is the first time there has been a systematic pan-European study that shows the scale of what happened. In the period 1918-1923 more than four million people died as a result of wars and civil wars (that’s more than the wartime casualties of the US, Britain and France combined) and there were nearly 30 violent transfers of power across Europe.”

The UCD Centre for War Studies is a multi-disciplinary research centre that draws together those with an interest in the history of conflict from political, sociological, historical and cultural perspectives. “What’s new about our research for this project, which was funded by the Irish and European Research Councils, is that we developed new methodologies and drew all of the available detail together and joined the dots,” says Gerwarth.

“This relied on the brainpower and linguistic abilities of a team that worked with source material in 13 languages - something no individual scholar could ever hope to do alone. Humanities scholars are not always convinced about the

benefits of collaborative research, but this is a good example of how pooling the resources of people working on different specific geographic areas was very beneficial.”

The researchers painstakingly sifted their way through vast amounts of documentation relating to the Baltics, the former Ottoman Empire, central Europe and Poland while Gerwarth, who was born in Berlin, worked on the German material. “In most people’s minds World War I ended in November 1918 with the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front. For France and to a lesser extent for Britain that was true. But for the vast majority of combatants it transformed into a series of extremely violent conflicts, border wars and civil wars,” Gerwarth says. “Through our research we were able to determine the scale by placing national stories into a broader pan-European picture and identifying certain patterns of violent escalation and ultimately to take issue with the view that when the Great War ended it was followed immediately by a period of peace.”

Gerwarth disputes the commonly held view that the First World War itself was primarily responsible for opening the floodgates to other violent conflagrations of the 20th century. “What our research shows is that it was actually the post-war conflicts that pointed towards the Second World War and contributed to problems still going on today in the Middle East and the Ukraine for example,” he says. “There is little doubt that 1918-23 was the period when these seeds were sown.”

Ireland was also immersed in its own troubles and while the main focus here was inward at the time, Professor Gerwarth says there was some awareness of the wider conflict taking place in Europe, especially among the intelligentsia. “The similarities between Ireland and central Europe did not escape astute contemporary observers in Dublin,” he says citing the insightful lines of poet W.B. Yeats in *The Second Coming*:

“things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.”

While much of the post World War I conflict can be traced to specific events such as the disappearance of Europe’s vast land empires, the collapse of reigning dynasties and the knock on effects of the Bolshevik Revolution, what also changes significantly, Gerwarth says, is the nature of conflict itself.

“Initially war was still mainly fought between soldiers although of course civilians did die in large numbers,” he says. “But in the conflicts that followed the violence is specifically directed at civilians. They are not just ‘collateral damage’ any more but targeted by design. So you are starting to see the beginning of a kind of genocidal logic. Also whereas the First World War was about forcing the enemy to accept certain conditions, however harsh, the post-war conflicts were very often about making that enemy disappear completely”.

This violent transition from world war to chaotic peace is the subject of Professor Gerwarth’s critically acclaimed new book, *The Vanquished: Why the First World War Failed to End, 1917-1923*. “In many ways the European Research Council project provided the groundwork for the book, which is very much a general history of conflict in the immediate aftermath of the Great War,” he says. “The story of Europe in the years between 1917 and 1923 is crucial for understanding the cycles of violence that characterised the continent’s twentieth century. And the starting point has to be the cataclysmic events that played out in Russia in early 1917, when the most populous of all combatant states in the Great War became the first to descend into the chaos of revolution and military defeat.”

Professor Robert Gerwarth was in conversation with Olive Keogh, a contributor to The Irish Times

UCD PhD student captures SFI Research Image of the Year award



Pictured: Organic ChemisTree, a Telescopic View, the winning SFI Research Image of the Year 2016

A PhD student at UCD has won the Science Foundation Ireland Research Image of the Year 2016. The competition celebrates images captured by Science Foundation Ireland funded researchers during the course

of their research. Andrea Zanetti, a Chemistry PhD student, working under the supervision of Professor Pat Guiry, at the UCD School of Chemistry, won the award for his image: 'Organic ChemisTree, a Telescopic View'.

Launch of third year of Aurora Leadership Development Programme

The Aurora Leadership Development programme is an innovative programme aimed at women in faculty and staff roles in higher education institutions. UCD has been involved since its beginnings in Ireland. The purpose of the programme is to encourage women to think of themselves as leaders, to develop leadership skills and to help institutions like UCD optimise the leadership potential of women. The programme uses a combination of development days, self-directed learning from online resources, cross-institutional action learning sets, and in-house mentoring.

The programme was first established in 2013 and was initially run in a number of venues in the UK. Dublin was added as a new location in January 2015 on a pilot basis, in

which 15 women from UCD participated. The programme has continued to run in Dublin with 22 women taking part in 2016 and a further 21 participating in the 2016/2017 programme. The University created a central fund to cover the costs of the programme for the current cohort of participants.

The 2016/2017 programme was launched by Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President, on 1 December. At the launch a host of speakers, ranging from previous Aurora participants and mentors, shared valuable learning from their experiences for the current participants and their mentors. Brid Horan, former Deputy CEO, ESB, gave a very engaging talk on the 30% Club and her experiences during her vast senior business career. She is a member of the 30% Club Ireland Steering Committee and a mentor on the WXN Wisdom Top 25 Mentoring Programme.



Professor Eoin Casey, Head of School, UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering; and Professor Jonathan Seville, IChemE President, celebrating 60 years of UCD Chemical & Bioprocess Engineering

60 Years of Chemical & Bioprocess Engineering at UCD

On 18 November, 400 UCD graduates and friends returned to campus, to celebrate 60 years of Chemical & Bioprocess Engineering, with a gala event in UCD O'Reilly Hall. Alumni, from classes spanning the years 1957 to 2016, travelled from the US, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines and all over Europe and Ireland.

Guests hosted by the Head of School, Professor Eoin Casey (Class of 1994), included Professor Jonathan Seville, President, Institution of Chemical Engineers; Professor David FitzPatrick, College Principal and Dean of Engineering, UCD College of Engineering & Architecture, as well as former Heads of School, Professor Don MacElroy (Class of 1974), Professor Geoffrey Hamer and Professor Jim Walsh. PJ Rudden, President, UCD Engineering Graduates' Association and former President, Engineers Ireland was also in attendance. The MC for the evening was Pat Kenny (Class of 1969).

The highlight of the event was the presentation of awards for Outstanding Contribution to Chemical & Bioprocess Engineering to Professor John Kelly and Paddy O'Flynn (both Class of 1957).

The UCD School of Chemical & Bioprocess Engineering remains the largest and oldest of its type in Ireland and has, since 1956, produced more than 1,400 graduates, who have gone on to play leading roles in industry and in business, throughout the world. The 60th Anniversary event provided an opportunity not just to celebrate the past, but to look to the future and to launch the School's new strategic plan, which places the enhancement of the student learning experience at its core. This year, the School has introduced the new 5-year integrated Masters (ME) programme in Chemical & Bioprocess Engineering and, in the next two years, the School will invest significantly in the enhancement of its teaching laboratories. Photographs and videos from the event, as well as the commemorative booklet are available at: www.ucd.ie/chembioeng/about/60thanniversary



Pictured: *Corynorhinus townsendii*. Credit Professor Brock Fenton

Tuning in to clues about the evolution of echolocation



UCD scientist Professor Emma Teeling is on a mission to find out how bat echolocation evolved, and the latest twist has taken her deep into their inner ears.

Most bats have a great party trick. Put them in a dark room (or cave or forest) and they expertly find their way around. How? Using echolocation they emit an extremely high-pitched sound and then ‘read’ the sound waves that bounce back to them. They use this sonic information to build up an accurate real-time ‘view’ of the landscape, of obstacles and of potential food.

Echolocation has helped bat species to colonise most parts of the world. But in evolutionary terms it ‘costs’ a lot: bats need the anatomy to create and receive the sounds and the brainpower to process the sound information quickly.

A big scientific question is whether echolocation evolved once in early bats millions of years ago or whether it evolved several times independently.

That is a key issue that evolutionary geneticist Professor Emma Teeling wants to resolve. She is co-author on a new study that suggests echolocation evolved once and that some bat species lost it.

Blasting away past assumptions

When Professor Teeling started working in the field, she encountered some long-held assumptions about the bat ‘family tree’ and the origin of echolocation. “People had assumed since about the 1800’s that echolocation, this

ability to perceive your environment with your ears, had a single evolutionary origin in mammals,” she explains.

“And based on the anatomy and morphology of species, the evolutionary tree had grouped all of the bats that could echolocate together. Then the ones that could not echolocate, such as the big fruit bats in Australia, were at the base of the tree.”

This assumption that echolocation had arisen some time after the fruit bats came along was not supported by the fossil record of bats, according to Professor Teeling, who directs the Centre for Irish Bat Research at UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science.

Then again, the fossil record is not great for bats. “Bats don’t preserve well, they live in caves and forests and when they die they fall down and [decompose quickly],” she explains. “So good fossils are hard to find.”

Genes – a bat among the pigeons

Instead of looking for hard-to-find fossils, Professor Teeling and colleagues started to search for clues about bat relatedness elsewhere – in their genes. “Over several years we collected and compared DNA samples from bats around the world,” she explains. “And that redrew the bat family tree. The genetic data now showed relationships between bat species that had not previously been linked on the basis of morphological data, or how they looked.”

And where did that leave the non-echolocating fruit bats? Right in the middle of the echolocators, it turned out.

“We found that these big fruit bats were closely related to the most complex echolocating species, the tiny horseshoe bats,” recalls Teeling.

“We were left with this fundamental question: did fruit bats or their ancestors ever have the ability to echolocate?”

Turning echolocation on its ear

To find out, Professor Teeling and colleagues used X-rays to analyse how the cochlea in the inner ear – a structure that is important for echolocation – develops in the embryos of echolocating and non-echolocating bats and in the embryos of other species that do echolocate.

The study, published in January 2017 in *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, threw up some intriguing findings.

“Crucially all the bats, including non-echolocating fruit bats, started off with relatively big cochlea in their inner ears, they all had this strong similarity early on. Other mammals had small and even non-observable cochlea at this stage,” explains Professor Teeling.

“Then the echolocating bats go on developing big cochlea, but the fruit bats slowed down their cochlear development. All other mammals kept the same rate of growth. This meant the fruit bats ended up having inner ears that are more like other mammals that don’t echolocate.”

The early similarity of inner ear development across all of the bat species sampled supports the argument that echolocation evolved early on, and that fruit bats then lost it, according to Professor Teeling.

“It may be that the fruit bats got bigger and focused on their sense of smell, which would be important for finding fruit,” she suggests. “And they may have lost echolocation, which would have been an expensive thing to keep going if they didn’t need it so much.”

Professor Teeling and colleagues are now combing DNA samples from various bat species to look for more evidence of genes that would be involved in echolocation.

Curious questions

Pure curiosity drives the research, and the answers to questions about echolocation may also help us to understand the basic biology of sensations, notes Professor Teeling, whose work is funded by the European Research Council. “Understanding the development of echolocation is to understand how our brain perceives the environment, and how our hearing actually works,” she says.

Professor Emma Teeling was in conversation with Dr Claire O’Connell, science writer and contributor to The Irish Times and Silicon Republic

New UCD Access and Lifelong Learning Centre opens

A new purpose-built centre for UCD Access and Lifelong Learning (ALL) has opened in UCD James Joyce Library building. The opening was attended by Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Education and Skills; and Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President.

Located at the heart of Belfield, UCD ALL aims to increase the number of students from underrepresented groups who attend third-level education. This number is increasing with 28.5% of more than 16,000 current undergraduate students coming from these groups.

UCD ALL also offers a range of support services and a dedicated widening participation committee to help integrate students with their peers. These include students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds who enter through the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) and those with a disability who come through the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE).

UCD ALL supports the aim of the National Plan for Equity of Access to Education to mainstream equality of access so that the Irish student body “reflects the diversity and social mix of Ireland’s population.” This objective is a foundation of the UCD Strategy 2015 – 2020. The opening of the new centre maintains the University’s focus on achieving this outcome. UCD continues to gather data to measure its progress.

Together with HEAR and DARE, UCD has four other alternative entry routes. Mature Years offers places to those over the age of 23; two University Access courses prepare students for third-level and guarantee admission to undergraduate degree programmes and Lifelong Learning offers third-level modules to those who want to undertake informal learning.

Through UCD Alumni Access Champions, scholarships are available to students who require financial assistance.



Pictured at the official opening of the new UCD Access and Lifelong Learning Centre were (l-r): Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Education and Skills; Professor Mark Rogers, UCD Deputy President and Registrar; Julie Tonge, UCD ALL Disability Adviser; and Conor Lynott, UCD student

UCD Academic awarded 23rd RAMI Silver Medal

The 23rd RAMI Silver Medal from the Section of Bioengineering of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, has been awarded to Professor David FitzPatrick, College Principal and Dean of Engineering, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture.

The Medal is presented to a distinguished clinician or engineer who has made a significant contribution to the field of Bioengineering through academic endeavour and research, with the recipient delivering the distinguished Samuel Haughton Honorary Lecture at the annual Bioengineering in Ireland conference.

Professor FitzPatrick was cited for his significant and sustained contribution to the development of Bioengineering in Ireland. He is a contributing researcher within the Bioengineering Research Group within the College of Engineering and Architecture.

Upon receiving his Doctorate, he worked within the orthopaedic industry, initially as a Development Bioengineer with Howmedica International Ltd. followed by a career path within DePuy International Ltd. including managing product development and basic research programmes for knee, upper limb, trauma and spinal product lines.

As Senior Development Manager, he was directly responsible for the development of a worldwide knee product development strategy and for the close liaison with clinicians involved in the design and development of knee, spine and upper limb devices.

Professor FitzPatrick retains collaborative links with leading researcher centres around the world. His primary research interests are in the fields of musculoskeletal modelling and anthropometrics, medical device design and design process methodologies.

UCD Press and NYU collaboration

Pictured at the launch of UCD Press published Ireland's Allies: America and the 1916 Easter Rising on 14 November was: Professor Tony Fahey, Chairperson, UCD Press Editorial Committee. This book discusses the significant role played by the New York Irish in the 1916 Rising. Ireland's Allies originated through the Irish Studies programme at Glucksman Ireland House NYU. This book received launches in both the Royal Irish Academy (pictured here) and later in New York on 1 December.

UCD President receives 2016 Confucius Institute Individual Performance Excellence Award

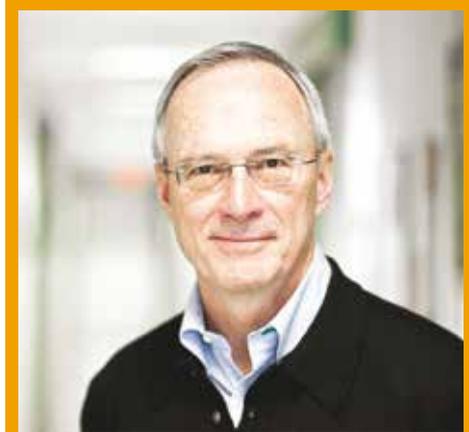
The 11th Confucius Institute Conference was held in Kunming, China from 10-11 December. Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President was among the 2,200 university presidents and regional Confucius Institute representatives from 140 countries who attended the Conference.

Madam Liu Yandong, Vice Premier presented the Medal for the 2016 Individual Performance Excellence Award to President Deeks for his outstanding leadership working as the Chairman of the Executive Board of UCD Confucius Institute. Since its inception a decade ago, UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland (CII) has won a number of the Confucius Institute of the Year awards, but President Deeks is the first person to be awarded the Individual Performance Excellence Award.

At the Conference, Professor Deeks chaired and delivered a speech at the University Presidents' Forum entitled 'Expanding the

Platform of Cooperation between Chinese and Overseas Partners'. He also made a speech as one of four representatives at the closing ceremony.

The theme of the 2016 Conference was 'Innovation, Cooperation, Inclusion and Sharing'. A total of 14 International University Presidents' Forums and Confucius Institutes Directors' Forums were held during the conference. Professor Liming Wang, Director, UCD Confucius Institute, also delivered a speech entitled 'One Belt One Road: The Distinctive Role of Confucius Institutes' at the Directors' Forum.



Professor Richard E. Tremblay, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sport Science

World's most prestigious award in criminology for UCD Professor

The Stockholm Prize in Criminology has been awarded to Professor Richard E. Tremblay for his decades-long research into the early childhood origins of violent behaviour.

The Professor at UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sport Science's 'original sin' hypothesis suggests that humans are born with aggressive tendencies. Instead of the world teaching us to be aggressive, socialisation coerces us to control it. However, without a suitable environment to enforce this, our innate aggression is more likely to come out.

The theory is based on a 24-year Montreal study involving over 1,000 children and their families. Participants were divided into two groups: one that received biweekly support from a team of psychologists and another group that did not.

Data collected 15 years after the intervention ended found that 46 percent of boys whose families received support had graduated from high school compared to 32 percent for those who did not. By the age of 24, fewer also had criminal records with 22 percent compared to 33 percent.

Professor Tremblay is Professor of Child Development at UCD and Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics/Psychiatry/Psychology at the University of Montreal. He is founding director of the Research Unit on Children's Psychosocial Maladjustment and has produced more than 500 publications.

Professor Tremblay was involved in an Irish early-childhood longitudinal study called *Preparing for Life*. It lasted for six years and was evaluated by UCD Geary Institute. Home visits were provided to 200 pregnant women in North Dublin that covered areas such as nutrition, smoking and provided counselling for alcohol and drugs. The findings were reported by the Irish Times, Irish Examiner and Newstalk.

Previous winners of the Stockholm Prize include Professor Robert J. Sampson of Harvard University and Professor Joan Petersilia of Stanford University.

The prize is presented by the Swedish Ministry for Justice for outstanding achievements in criminological research or the application of research that has reduced crime or advanced human rights.

UCD Professor elected President of iAABE

Professor Da-Wen Sun, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering, has been elected President of the International Academy of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (iAABE), and becomes the Founding President of iAABE. Professor Sun is also one of 33 iAABE Founding Fellows. Fellowship of iAABE is the highest honour in the field of agricultural and biosystems engineering.

The establishment of iAABE was initiated and proposed by Professor Sun when he served as President of the International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR) in 2013-2014. The main purpose of the Academy is to identify and recognise top individuals distinguished by their scientific and professional contributions to agricultural and biosystems engineering in the world.

Currently the Academy has 33 Founding Fellows from 20 countries, consisting of previous CIGR Fellows, the CIGR President and Past Presidents, representing the highest academic level in the field. Starting from 2017, no more than 20 new Fellows will be elected every two years. The elected Fellows must be agricultural and biosystems engineers who have made exceptional contributions in research, education and industry for advancing agricultural and

biosystems engineering. The Academy is a source of scientific personnel and information to support international activities related to agricultural and biosystems engineering, and it will also act in an advisory capacity to CIGR.

Professor Sun has made very significant contributions to the promotion and progression of global agricultural and biosystems engineering. He has been involved in CIGR activities since joining UCD in 1995, and has served in various key positions including CIGR President. At the 4th International Conference on Agricultural Engineering in 2016, he was conferred with the title of CIGR Honorary President and also presented with the CIGR Merit Award for his distinguished services during his CIGR Presidency and for his outstanding leadership in food engineering.

New study opportunities at UCD for Georgian students

On 17 January, Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President visited Georgia and met with officials from the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) concerning Georgian government scholarships for Georgian students to study at UCD. President Deeks also met with the Rector and senior leaders from Tbilisi State University, Georgia's leading University, to discuss co-operation.



Pictured (l-r): Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President; and Nino Chelidze, Director of Georgia's International Education Centre (IEC) at the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between UCD and Georgia



Pictured at the launch of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Japan were (l-r): Hugo O'Donnell, UCD Applied Language Centre; John Neary, former Irish Ambassador to Japan; UCD Taiko Drum team members – Adam Phelan, Cillian O'Brien and JoJo Li; Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President; and Anne Barrington, Irish Ambassador to Japan

60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Japan

Marking 60 years of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Japan, a programme of events was launched by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Charlie Flanagan TD, and the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Fumio Kishida in Iveagh House on 9 January. During the event Hugo O'Donnell, UCD Applied Language Centre and member of the UCD Governing Authority, received a special commendation for his longstanding contribution to the promotion of Japanese language and culture in Ireland.

With the introduction of Horizons in 2005, UCD students had, for the first time, the

opportunity to take for credit modules in Japanese Language and Culture. These modules attracted a high level of interest. In response to this interest an initiative *Experience Japan* was founded by Hugo O'Donnell, firstly at UCD, but following this success was also taken up by a cross section of educational institutions, government bodies, embassies, public bodies, industry and the general public. *Experience Japan* has become a national brand around which diverse Japan-related interests in Ireland can rally and interact. A national 'Japan Day' - now the largest Japan-related event in Ireland - was created and takes place at 'Hanami', cherry-blossom time every year in the State Guest House in Farnleigh and is attended by a large and diverse audience including cross-sectoral leaders, families, students and others, with up to 20,000 attending each year.

Core and fringe events celebrating Japan take place throughout Ireland. At UCD, a major success has been the creation of UCD's T.ej (Ted-type) 'Japan Talks Day', as well as the establishment and growth of a 400 strong Japan Student Society which organises an exciting annual programme of events and volunteer opportunities. Another venture is the creation of

the 'Taiko Team', a group of UCD students who have learned to perform the ancient and powerful art of Japanese drums fusing it with bodhrán playing and Irish dancing under the leadership of Nobuko Ijichi. The 'Taiko Team', now a much in-demand performing group around Dublin, was invited to perform at the 60th anniversary launch on 9 January. Commenting on his award Hugo O'Donnell said: "I am honoured to have received this award which I believe recognises UCD's deep commitment to cultural diversity and intercultural engagement across many spheres. With the establishment of the UCD Global Engagement Strategy under Vice-President Professor Dolores O'Riordan, this commitment is going from strength to strength".

European law enforcement officers commence UCD MSc in FCCI

On 23 January, 14 law enforcement officers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Kosovo began the MSc in Forensic Computing and Cybercrime Investigation at UCD School of Computer Science. iPROCEEDS, the joint project of the European Union and the Council of Europe on targeting crime proceeds on the internet in south-eastern Europe and Turkey, is financing participation of 14 representatives from Cybercrime Units, Prosecution Services and Financial Intelligence Units in UCD School of Computer Science's long-distance master programme.

The programme will run for two years and will cover modules like Computer Forensics, Financial Investigation Techniques – Following the Money, Network Investigations, Mobile Devices Investigation, Live Data Forensics, VoIP and Wireless Investigations and others. Learning will take place through a mix of lectures, hands-on labs, case studies, reading, small group and individual exercises, tool demonstrations and in depth-discussions.

Equipped with increased knowledge and improved skills gained during the programme, the students will strengthen the capacity of their respective authorities to search, seize and confiscate cybercrime proceeds and prevent money laundering on the Internet.

UCD hosts symposium on Big Data in Agriculture and Food

More than 250 delegates, with an interest in finding out how predictive data analytics are impacting agriculture and food industries in Ireland and beyond, attended the Harvesting Knowledge: Big Data in Agriculture and Food symposium which was held at UCD on 13 December.

The one day symposium took place at UCD O'Brien Centre for Science and was targeted towards agriculture and food industry professionals and academics who wished to learn more about how predictive data analytics is impacting agriculture and food industries in Ireland and beyond.

Internationally recognised speakers addressed three broad themes: What is Big Data? How do we do Big Data? How do we use Big Data in Agriculture and Food? The high profile speakers included Professor Mark Keane, Principal Investigator, Insight Centre for Data Analytics at UCD; Charles G Sheridan, Director, Internet of Things, Systems Research Lab at Intel Corp; Robert Walker, CEO, Keenan;

Professor Richard Tiffin, Chief Scientific Officer, Agrimetrics Ltd; and Professor Maarten Nieuwenhuis, Professor of Forestry, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science.

During the symposium the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science launched a new undergraduate degree programme Agricultural Systems Technology. The new four year honours degree programme is aimed at students who wish to build their knowledge and skills-base to address the complexities of developing, deploying and managing technology for the agriculture and food sector.

Commenting on the new Agricultural Systems Technology undergraduate programme, Professor Alexander Evans, UCD Dean of Agriculture said "Agriculture and Food industries need more innovation and Big Data and new technologies offer enormous potential to improve efficiency and to create new opportunities. UCD is delighted to introduce this innovative new programme which will develop graduates with the necessary skills and competencies to inform complex decision making, planning and strategy formulation."

The mystery of the supernova that wasn't



UCD astrophysicist Dr Morgan Fraser helped to figure out that an exceptionally bright object in a faraway galaxy was the blaze of a star being shredded by a spinning supermassive black hole.

Supermassive black hole with torn-apart star (artist's impression). Credit: ESO, ESA/Hubble, M. Kornmesser

When you look up at the night sky, much of space can feel like a vast nothingness, stretching on to infinity. But don't be fooled: there's plenty of drama to be found.

One especially fiery event is a supernova: the massive explosion of a dying star that goes out with a bang. Each year astronomers record thousands of supernovae in distant galaxies, and in 2015 scientists spotted an especially bright supernova named 'ASASSN-15lh'.

But now a group of astronomers, including Dr Morgan Fraser from UCD, argue that this bright blaze was not a supernova at all, that the light came from a supermassive black hole at the centre of a galaxy 'eating' a star. This, they say, was a rarely spotted phenomenon called a tidal disruption event, when a star gets too close to the edge of a black hole and gets shredded or 'spaghettified'.

The supernova that didn't add up

The story starts with the discovery of ASASSN-15lh, a bright astronomical object almost 4 billion light years away. "This object was described over a year ago," explains Dr Fraser, a Research Fellow in UCD School of Physics. "And at the time it was described in the scientific literature as one of the most luminous supernova ever seen."

But not everything seemed quite right, and some astronomers wondered if this was a supernova at all.

"It has some superficial similarities with a supernova, in that it is bright and contains fast-moving material," explains Dr Fraser. "But there were some inconsistencies too. For a start, supernovae come from massive stars, and you tend to find them in hot 'blue' galaxies that are forming lots of stars. This object, ASASSN-15lh, was right in the middle of a very old 'red' galaxy. These galaxies tend to be passive, they have

formed all their stars. So you don't expect to find a supernova there, and especially not a superluminous one."

The central location of ASASSN-15lh in the galaxy also raised a few eyebrows. "Supermassive black holes are found in the centres of galaxies," explains Dr Fraser. "Plus there were some other more technical 'aha' moments too, like a missing component of an oxygen doublet. It all added up to us scratching our heads."

Turning the tide

Numerous astronomers across different disciplines came together to have a closer look. Using survey data that had originally pinpointed the bright object, and combining other data from the ground-based telescope in Chile and elsewhere and the Hubble telescope in space, their analysis suggested this bright object was a tidal disruption event, or a supermassive black hole shredding a star.

Such events are rarely observed, explains Dr Fraser, in part because they are less common than supernovae and also because the centres of galaxies where black holes reside tend to be harder to view.

But why did the earlier description of ASASSN-15lh not figure this out? "That description argued that a tidal disruption event would happen too deep inside the black hole to be detected, given how massive the black hole was," explains Fraser. "But we worked out that it would be detectable if the black hole was spinning, that a star could be shredded further out, where we could still see it."

The resulting paper - "The Superluminous Transient ASASSN-15lh as a Tidal Disruption Event from a Kerr Black Hole" - was published in *Nature Astronomy* in December 2016, although the findings had been discussed among the astronomy community for months beforehand, notes Dr Fraser.

And the reaction? "I think the majority reckon this is a tidal disruption event, and that maybe people are beginning to appreciate more how we might use such events to find out more about black holes in galaxies that are not doing much else," says Dr Fraser. "A tidal disruption event can illuminate and tell us more about the supermassive black hole causing it."

Supernova surprises

Dr Fraser, who in November 2016 received a prestigious University Research Fellowship from the UK Royal Society (through Science Foundation Ireland), is continuing his work mainly on supernovae in nearby galaxies.

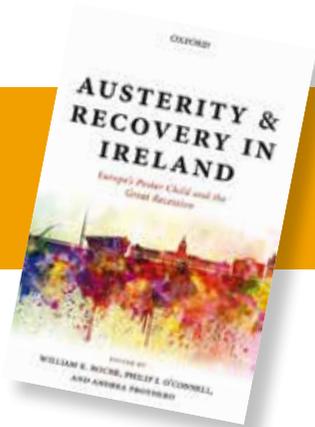
"When a massive star explodes, I look at the image of that galaxy before and after the explosion to find the progenitor of that supernova, and what that star was like - how big was it, what was its structure and composition - then I link that to the type of supernova that it formed."

He is currently interested in outbursts or eruptions that have been observed just before a star explodes. "We don't know the physical mechanisms behind that," he says. "And we don't know how a star 'knows' to eject that material before it dies."

Another unknown is when the next telling supernova might appear in our sights. "That's one of the things I really like about working in this field - you don't know what the Universe is going to give you," says Dr Fraser. "I could wake up tomorrow morning, and there could be a weird supernova in a galaxy nearby, ready for me to study."

Dr Morgan Fraser was in conversation with Dr Claire O'Connell, science writer and contributor to The Irish Times and Silicon Republic

Books



Austerity & Recovery in Ireland – Europe’s Poster Child and the Great Recession

Editors, Professor William Roche, UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School; **Professor Philip O’Connell**, UCD School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, and Director of UCD Geary Institute; and **Professor Andrea Prothero**, UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School

Oxford University Press

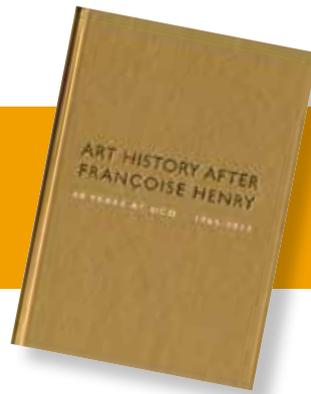
As Christine Lagarde, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said in relation to Ireland’s economic recovery “Ireland was setting standards”. This was mere months before Ireland was due to exit the bailout arranged by the IMF-ECB-EU Troika.

This book came about due to the consensus of the editors, Professors William Roche, Philip O’Connell and Andrea Prothero, and contributors that it was important that Ireland’s experience of austerity, and later of recovery, should be the subject of in depth social scientific analysis. Was Ireland the “poster child” that it was being portrayed as?

The distinct chapters of this book discuss the economic and fiscal policies that were implemented, the social effects including the labour market, consumption, housing, public service reform and migration, the effects on businesses, financial and political institutions, and are written by Ireland’s leading social scientists.

They analyse the extent to which austerity aided Ireland’s economic recovery while also detailing the important part that other factors had to play including the long-established structure of Irish economic and business activity, the Irish export sector, the importance of foreign direct investment and the recovery in the international economy. Positive international developments such as, quantitative easing and historically low interest rates assisted the recovering of the Irish financial system.

This book is the first of its kind to analyse the period of austerity, the impact of austerity on the Irish people and to examine the foundations of Ireland’s economic recovery.



Art History After Françoise Henry – 50 Years at UCD – 1965-2015

Editors, Carla Briggs, Dr Nicola Figgis, Associate Professor Lynda Mulvin and Professor Paula Murphy, Professor Emerita; all UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy

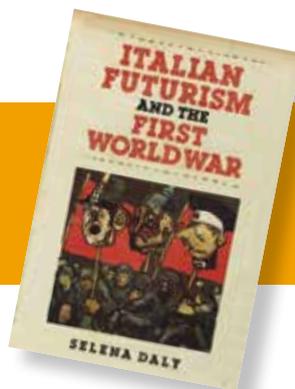
Gandon Editions

The genesis of Art History at UCD began when the artist Sarah Purser and the engineer Sir John Griffith had endowed a scholarship, the purpose of which was partly to ensure that the National Gallery of Ireland would be staffed by sufficiently trained Irish people.

The year was 1934 and a young woman named Françoise Henry, who had been teaching French at UCD, was invited to deliver a course in the history of European painting. Dr Henry went on to become one of the most eminent Irish-based academics of the 20th century. She was one of the first four women to be admitted to the Royal Irish Academy in 1949.

In 1965 Dr Henry established Ireland’s first department of Art History. This book came about to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this department, now UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy.

With chapters from current and former lecturers at UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy, covering Irish and international themes, from Art History at UCD to The Beit Paintings controversy, an Irish perspective on Louis Kahn’s Yale Centre for British Art to Mexico and Ireland in the imagination of Ernie O’Malley. Each chapter, written by a specialist in that particular field, demonstrates the breadth of approaches to Art History that underpins the success, strength and continuous evolution of the School over the past five decades.



Italian Futurism and the First World War

Dr Selena Daly, UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics

University of Toronto Press

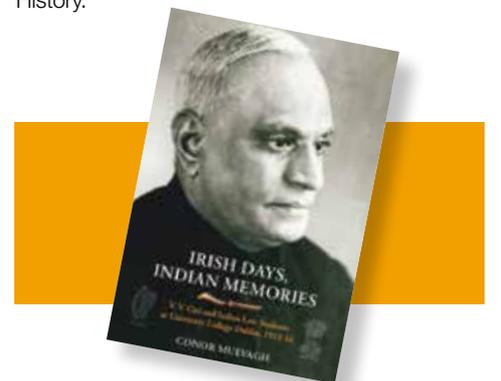
Taking into account Marinetti’s manifesto of Futurism which states “we want to exalt movements of aggression, feverish sleeplessness, the double march, the perilous leap, the slap and blow of the fist” will give context to Dr Selena Daly’s recent volume *Italian Futurism and the First World War*. She focuses on key protagonists

Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, Umberto Boccioni, Emilio Settemelli, and lesser known figures such as Giuseppe Steiner and Ennio Valentinelli.

The book considers the cultural, political and military engagement of the Futurists with the war effort. Starting with the interventionist campaign, to the separation of political and artistic strands during the last year of the war.

The Futurists considered war as celebratory and to be enjoyed – Marinetti viewed it as an improvised “artistic game”. Letters and diaries form the bedrock of Dr Daly’s research, offering new perspectives and details about Futurist combat experience. It explores the often explosive combination of arts and politics at every turn. Life in the trenches, for example, is outlined in detail: how the Futurists wove their artistic pursuits into the daily grind of active service on the front line: they were given some special status and could paint, read and write when possible. But boredom was a key feature of many of their days during the long wait between activist bursts.

Their story is painted in a factual but sympathetic way through the personalised diaries, visuals and letters. Dr Daly’s book would appeal to all with an interest in this period of Italian History.



Irish Days, Indian Memories – V.V. Giri and Indian Law Students at University College Dublin, 1913-1916

Dr Conor Mulvagh, UCD School of History

Irish Academic Press

Giri had said of his time at UCD “Although my student life at the University was spent, ostensibly, for the study of law and the pursuit of jurisprudence, I was drawn irresistibly into the cross currents of the Irish struggle”.

Irish Days, Indian Memories tells the little-known story of the fourth President of India and fellow Indian Law students attending UCD and King’s Inns during the dramatic years of 1913-1916. Diaries, letters and college records reveal unique insights into student life and the Indian students’ reaction to the political violence of the period. It provides a rare international perspective which inspired India’s independence movement.

The book provides a deep insight into the life and times of Indian students in Ireland at the time, with Giri as its focal point. Firstly what brought them to Ireland as opposed to England? In his autobiography V.V. Giri recalls how ‘Indian students preferred to study in Ireland in preference to England because there was neither a colour bar nor racial prejudice of any kind among the Irish, probably due to the adverse circumstances of their history’.

As is explained in the introduction of this book, it is intended to appeal to two different audiences. To Irish readers, this book offers an insight into a virtually unknown section of Dublin’s political and student life between 1913 and 1916. To Indian readers it is hoped that what is offered is a detailed insight into the Irish experience of V.V. Giri, whose three-year stay in Dublin to study law between 1913 and 1916 left a lifetime legacy.

UCD Archives presents descriptive catalogue to Gemma Hussey

On 18 November, UCD Registrar, Professor Mark Rogers, presented former Senator and government Minister, Gemma Hussey, with a bound copy of the descriptive catalogue of her papers which she deposited in UCD Archives in 2000. The collection of papers was catalogued, digitised and made available to researchers in 2016.

The collection spans Gemma Hussey's career from running a language school with her business partner Maureen Concannon (1963 to 1974), to her political career in both the Seanad and the Dáil. She served as a Senator (NUI panel) from 1977–82 and was elected to Dáil Éireann as a Fine Gael TD for the Wicklow constituency in February 1982. She was appointed as the opposition spokesperson on Broadcasting, Arts and Culture. She held her seat at the next general election in November 1982 and was appointed in the Fine Gael-

Labour coalition government as Ireland's first female Minister for Education (1982–86). Following a cabinet reshuffle, she briefly served as Minister for Social Welfare and Minister for Labour. She decided to stand down from Irish politics in 1989 but continued her constitutional service when the then President, Dr Patrick Hillery, appointed her to the Council of State that same year. A significant concentration of documentation concerns her involvement with organisations promoting gender equality and social awareness, including the Women's Political Association. The collection also includes material concerning her strong interest in arts and culture.

In his remarks before presenting the descriptive catalogue to Gemma Hussey, Professor Rogers noted that she was a graduate of UCD, commented on her distinguished service to the State and discussed her work concerning gender equality and social awareness.



Pictured at the presentation of the descriptive catalogue of the Gemma Hussey Papers were (l-r): Gemma Hussey, former Government Minister and Senator; and Professor Mark Rogers, UCD Deputy President and Registrar



Pictured at the launch of Science Week 2016 at the Department of An Taoiseach, and the presentation of the Science Apprentice book series were (l-r): Alex Boyd, Public Engagement & Outreach Manager, UCD Research & Innovation; Dr Ruth Freeman, Director of Strategy and Communications, Science Foundation Ireland; and Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

Science Apprentice book series

UCD Research's public engagement team produced the Science Apprentice book series which were published during Science Week 2016. The series of books, directed at children and adults of all ages, explored science, technology, engineering and mathematics of the world around us. In the weekly Science Apprentice series, supported by Science Foundation Ireland, readers took an interactive journey from Space to Food and Health, Energy and Resources, Computers and Data and Connected Future. Throughout the books, researchers from UCD and other institutions were on hand to explain concepts and answer questions and uncover some of the big ideas that are changing our lives.

The Science Apprentice books were available to primary schools and were free to collect with the Irish Independent in Tesco stores, 75,000 books were circulated through Tesco and through primary schools in 2016.

The books brought school children a world of knowledge in an attractive way and opened their minds to a world of potential careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Some of the content in the Science Apprentice series was shaped by schoolchildren who took part in special learning projects and workshops throughout Ireland.

"We hope the books will help inspire a young generation to explore science subjects, and consider future careers in these areas," said Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact.

Chinese Ambassador to Ireland delivers lecture on China's Foreign Policy at UCD

On 1 December, H.E. Dr Yue Xiaoyong, the Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, delivered a lecture on China's Foreign Policies for the 33rd Confucius PhD Students Forum of UCD and the Confucius Public Lecture Series. More than 120 staff and students from UCD, along with members of the Chinese Embassy, attended the lecture.

Ambassador Yue's lecture covered China's views on the current global situation, China's development of diplomatic strategies, China's foreign policy and China's advocacy on maintaining international order with the UN.

While talking about China's views on international order, Ambassador Yue advised that one should always put the avoidance of war as the top priority. China's reform and opening-up policy is based on the peaceful development of the world. It has reached the consensus that all countries should enhance collaboration in order to deal with humanitarian issues and disputes under current economic globalisation.

Ambassador Yue said that in the foreseeable future China will focus on the prevention of regional conflicts as well as its own social and economic development. China will maintain a path of peaceful development and endeavour to keep international peace and stability in order to create more positive conditions for its development.

MOU between Chiba University, Japan and UCD

A multi-disciplinary seminar and workshop “The Ageing Care Crisis – Is there a role for robotics-based solutions” was held at UCD on 17-18 November. The seminar was organised through the ISCA Japan programme, which has been strengthening Ireland–Japan research relationships since March 2014. The themes of Future Healthcare and Connected Health have been a key focus of the ISCA Japan programme, being recognised as both significant issues and areas of strength in R&D for the two countries.

Professor Mark Rogers, UCD Deputy President and Registrar welcomed five delegates from Chiba University, and Japanese Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Mrs Mari Miyoshi who gave an opening address. Ambassador Miyoshi mentioned the important role that Japan has long played in robotics technology, while highlighting the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Ireland in 1957, focusing on the opportunity for research collaboration in areas such as robotics and the ageing societies.

The delegation from Chiba University was led by Professor Wenwei Yu, Professor at the School of Engineering and Vice Director of the Centre for Frontier Medical Engineering. He was joined by Professor Sayuri Suwa, Professor in Visiting Nursing; Professor Mayuko Tsujimura and Professor Mina Ishimaru, Associate Professors in the Department of Life Innovation



Pictured at the signing of the MOU between UCD and Chiba University, Japan, were (l-r): Professor Colin Scott, College Principal, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law; Triona McCormack, Director of UCD Research; Professor Mark Rogers, UCD Deputy President and Registrar; Japanese Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Mrs Mari Miyoshi; Professor Wenwei Yu, Chiba University; Professor Sayuri Suwa, Chiba University; and Professor David FitzPatrick, College Principal and Dean of Engineering, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture

Nursing; and Professor Hiroo Ide, Associate Professor in Health Policy, Chiba University Hospital.

The seminar and workshop, organised by Dr Naonori Kodate, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, addressed one of the most important issues facing Japan, Ireland and many developed countries, that of the rapidly ageing population and the challenges this represents for effective healthcare.

In addition to the seminar, the delegation from Chiba University also attended the start of a UCD–Chiba University working group, a workshop with leading Irish researchers, and interviews and focus groups with care professionals in the Dublin Academic Medical Centre. A Memorandum of Understanding between UCD and Chiba University was signed to mark the occasion, setting out a will to collaborate further.

UCD contributes to IESBS 26 volume e-book encyclopedia

The second edition of the **International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences (IESBS)**, first published in 2001, is available now in e-book format from the UCD library. It has been fully revised and updated offering a source of social and behavioral sciences reference material that is broader and deeper than any other. The Elsevier Encyclopedia has received the 2016 American Publishers Association award for Excellence in Reference Works.

The extensive work comprises over 3,900 articles, commissioned by 71 Section Editors, including UCD Professor Sinisa Malesevic and Associate Professor Andreas Hess, both UCD School of Sociology. UCD colleagues from a number of Schools and Colleges, including UCD School of History, UCD School of Philosophy and UCD School of Sociology also contributed with individual articles and references.

The 26 volume collection includes 90,000 bibliographic references as well as comprehensive name and subject indexes. This e-book provides authoritative, foundational, interdisciplinary knowledge across the wide range of behavioural and social sciences fields.



Pictured are members of the UCD Community Choir at their first recital on 16 December in the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in harmony

On 16 December, the first recital of the UCD Choir took place in UCD O'Brien Centre for Science where they performed nine songs, complete with four part harmonies, an impressive achievement after just eight weeks of rehearsals.

The UCD Community Choir was formed in October 2016 by Associate Professor Patricia Maguire, Chair of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Events and Communications subgroup. The choir now consists of 155 faculty and staff members from across the University, with Caoimhe O'Neill as choir master. This initiative originated at a “Come and Sing” event at the UCD Festival where a pop-up

choir learned songs and performed on stage at the Festival.

The UCD Community Choir has been well supported by members of the University Management Team as an aspect of the University Strategy to strengthen the UCD community and to promote equality, diversity and inclusion. Research has shown that performing in a group is beneficial not only to broadening ones social network but also to improving physical and mental health.

Choir practice takes place every Tuesday at lunch time in the O'Brien Science Centre. The Choir will be performing at many other events throughout 2017.

‘Women on Walls’ exhibition

Three UCD researchers and three former UCD lecturers are featured as part of the Royal Irish Academy’s ‘Women on Walls’ exhibition. The campaign by Accenture in partnership with the RIA seeks to make women leaders visible through a series of commissioned portraits.

Accenture has commissioned five portraits of leading female academics to recognise their achievements and inspire future generations. The finished artworks are on public display in the Royal Irish Academy, the first portraits of female subjects to grace the walls in the Academy’s 230-year history.

The five portraits were unveiled at a special event on 7 December by An Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality Frances Fitzgerald TD. They consist of four individual portraits of the first four female Members of the Royal Irish Academy, elected in 1949, three of whom lectured at UCD - Dr Sheila Tinney, pioneering academic in mathematical physics, UCD lecturer and alumna; Dr Françoise Henry, historian of Irish art and UCD lecturer; and Dr



Women on Walls - Group portrait of eight contemporary female scientists; recipients of European Research Council Starter Grants (2012 – 2015). The eight scientists have been chosen as representatives of outstanding female scientists working in Ireland today. UCD academics pictured from (l-r) are: Professor Emma Teeling, UCD School of Biology & Environmental Science (far left); Associate Professor Debra Laefer, UCD School of Civil Engineering (third from left); Associate Professor Aoife Gowen, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering (fifth from left). Image credit: By permission Royal Irish Academy, Artist Blaise Smith, 2016.

Phyllis Clinch, UCD lecturer, known for her innovative research into plant viruses.

The fifth portrait is a group portrait of eight female scientists, recipients of the European Research Council Starter Grants 2012 – 2015 and have been chosen as representatives of a generation of outstanding young female

scientists working in Ireland today. The UCD researchers featured in this portrait include Associate Professor Aoife Gowen, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering; Associate Professor Debra Laefer, UCD School of Civil Engineering; and Professor Emma Teeling, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science.



Pictured at the launch of Tionól Gaeilge UCD were (l-r): Ashling Hartevelde, UCD Bord na Gaeilge; Professor Michael Doherty, Chairman, UCD Bord na Gaeilge; and Clár Ní Bhuachalla, UCD Bord na Gaeilge

UCD Bord na Gaeilge launches new International Summer School

Tionól Gaeilge UCD, Bord na Gaeilge’s first international Summer School was launched by Professor Michael Doherty, Chairman, UCD Bord na Gaeilge and Dean of UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, on 26 January. The school will take place at UCD between Monday 31 July and Friday, 4 August 2017.

Tionól Gaeilge UCD has been designed for adults who are interested in the Irish language and in Irish culture and will also suit students of Irish or Irish studies at home and abroad. Classes will be offered at five levels to ensure that all levels of competency are catered for, from those who are fluent in Irish to those who are total beginners. The emphasis in the classes will be on developing the participants’ spoken language skills.

“Tá Bord na Gaeilge ar bís maidir le Tionól Gaeilge UCD,” arsa Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Oifigeach Gaeilge na hOllscoile. “Measaimid go mbeidh ráchairt mhaith ar an Tionól i mbliana agus go dtiocfadh fás leanúnach air sna blianta atá romhainn. Beidh an scoil samhraidh seo an-tarraingteach go háirithe dóibhsean ar mian leo roinnt mhaith Gaeilge a fhoghlaim taobh istigh de thréimhse ghearr agus aithne a chur ar dhaoine eile i saol na Gaeilge. Tá spéis léirithe ag mic léinn agus baill foirne cheana féin agus cuirfear fáilte faoi leith roimh foghlaimeoirí idirnáisiúnta, alumni agus diaspóra na hÉireann”.

Tionól Gaeilge UCD forms part of the UCD Bord na Gaeilge International Programme and will run in collaboration with the organisation Gaelchultúr. The complete programme is available from the UCD Bord na Gaeilge Office and registration is now open on: www.ucd.ie/bnag/en/ucdsummerschool

UCD to lead new €4m European ITN to support mental health services for young people

TEAM, a new €4 million research and training network focused on developing new technologies to support the provision of mental health services for young people, has been announced at UCD.

TEAM (Technology Enabled Mental Health for Young People), a 4-year Innovation Training Network (ITN), is being funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions initiative.

TEAM, is bringing together a multi-disciplinary network of mental health experts, computer scientists, designers and policy experts from five countries, (Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Spain and the UK) to provide a unique doctoral training and research platform for 15 PhD students.

The overall objective of the TEAM network is to train this new generation of researchers to deliver more effective, affordable and accessible mental health services for young people. The network will also focus on the design, development and evaluation of new technology enabled mental health services.

TEAM, led by Dr David Coyle, a researcher in human computer interaction at UCD School of Computer Science, involves nine partners; four universities (Technical University of Denmark, Technical University Vienna, University of Glasgow and UCD); two university hospitals (Medical University Vienna and Psychiatric Centre Copenhagen) two not-for-profit organisations (The Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families; and ReachOut Ireland Ltd); and one industry research laboratory (Telefonica Alpha).



Pictured at the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School Business Journalist Awards 2016 were (l-r back row): Paul Colgan, UTV; Barry O'Halloran, The Irish Times; Will Goodbody, RTE; (l-r middle row): Barry Whyte, Sunday Business Post; Stephen Kinsella, Sunday Business Post; Paul O'Donoghue, Fora.ie/TheJournal.ie; (l-r front row): Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, College Principal and Dean, UCD College of Business; Emer Gilvarry, Partner, Mason Hayes & Curran; Charlie Weston, Irish Independent; and Carolan Lennon, Managing Director, open eir

UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School - Business Journalist Awards 2016

On 5 December, eight of Ireland's leading business journalists from The Irish Times, Sunday Business Post, UTV Ireland, RTÉ News, Fora.ie/TheJournal.ie and Irish Independent were honoured by UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School Business Journalist Awards 2016. The awards ceremony, in its tenth year and sponsored by open eir for the fourth consecutive year, was held in Dublin's Shelbourne Hotel to recognise the quality and diversity of Irish business journalism.

- The 2016 winners of the seven categories were:
- **Business News Story** – Barry O'Halloran, The Irish Times, for his piece entitled: 'Loan system is paying off for Cerberus'
 - **Economic Commentator / Business Analyst** – Stephen Kinsella of the Sunday Business Post for contributions: 'Crisis, what Crisis?', 'The Dickensian Repercussions' and 'Time to party like it's 2006'
 - **Business Feature** – Paul Colgan, UTV Ireland for his feature: 'Insight: Is the Property Bubble Back?'
 - **Specialist Business Reporter** – Will Goodbody of RTÉ for his reports on: 'ECJ rules US-EU data transfer invalid', 'National Broadband Plan Ownership Model' and 'World's First Autonomous Drone'
 - **Business Interview** – Barry Whyte, Sunday Business Post for an interview with Annette de Vere Hunt

- **Upcoming Journalist of the Year** – Paul O'Donoghue, Fora.ie/TheJournal.ie for articles on 'Gilead', 'Cork Science Park' and an interview with Brian Caulfield
- **Technology Reporter** – Marie Boran, The Irish Times for a piece entitled: 'Track Record'

In addition to the seven listed categories, an Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Charlie Weston of the Irish Independent for his contribution to business journalism over a career spanning 30 years for his work in print media and as a regular broadcast contributor.

Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, College Principal and Dean, UCD College of Business, said: "This year marks a decade of our involvement with the the Business Journalist Awards, which UCD Smurfit School first introduced in 2007 to recognise excellence in business journalism. In that time the awards scheme has grown in stature in tandem with the ever-improving quality of reporting on business matters."



Pictured (l-r) are UCD's 2016 Start-Up of the Year Award winners, co-founders of EpiCor Therapeutics, a UCD School of Medicine start-up, Dr Chris Watson, Dr Nadia Glezeva and Dr John Baugh

UCD 2016 Start-Up of the Year Award

EpiCor Therapeutics, an early-stage biotech start-up, has won UCD's 2016 Start-Up of the Year Award. The start-up won the Award, and a €20,000 prize, after being declared overall winner of the 2016 UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme.

EpiCor Therapeutics is developing new disease-modifying treatments that target the mechanisms underlying the development of heart failure. The initial focus of EpiCor Therapeutics is to repurpose an existing drug, 5-azacytidine, for the treatment of a devastating heart disease called hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy.

Research carried out at UCD by the start-up co-founders indicates that this drug targets the mechanisms that drive the abnormal thickening of the heart muscle which results in the development of this disease. The start-up is also investigating the use of biomarkers to deliver targeted treatment for individuals.

The founders of EpiCor Therapeutics, a UCD School of Medicine start-up, are Dr John Baugh, Dr Nadia Glezeva, Dr Chris Watson, Dr Mark Ledwidge and Professor Ken McDonald.

The overall objective of the annual UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme, which is held at NovaUCD, is to support the creation, and to accelerate the launch, of sustainable and profitable new ventures based on intellectual property emerging from UCD.

New Microneedle Platform Technology Wins UCD Commercialisation Award

An early-stage medtech venture developing a new microneedle platform technology has won a UCD commercialisation award. The creator of Micro Needle Slow-Mo is Ellen Cahill, a PhD student in the UCD Medical Device Design Group within the UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering. Ellen is working on this start-up technology with Dr Eoin O'Cearbhaill and Dr Shane Keaveney.

Microneedle patches are microsystem devices which are commonly used to painlessly pierce an individual's skin creating a pathway for therapeutic drug delivery. Many such needles have been designed for use in vaccine and therapeutic drug delivery. However there is an industry demand for biofunctional or stimulus responsive microneedles which can deliver a slow, sustained release of therapeutic drugs through a cost-effective, scalable process.

To solve this issue Micro Needle Slow-Mo has designed and developed a new type of

microneedle. This new microneedle platform technology has the potential to deliver slow-release therapeutics with enhanced mechanical performance compared to currently available microneedles on the market.

Micro Needle Slow-Mo was the overall winner of the 2016 UCD MedTech Innovation Sprint Programme, a 1-day initiative designed and delivered by UCD's technology transfer and enterprise development teams at NovaUCD. The programme aims to encourage the development of commercial outputs, arising from specific

research areas, by engaging with researchers at an earlier stage in the commercialisation process.

This research has been supported by Science Foundation Ireland through a Technology Innovation Development Award, the Naughton Foundation and a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship.



Pictured at NovaUCD is Ellen Cahill, winner, 2016 UCD MedTech Innovation Sprint Programme

UCD Rugby features strongly in Six Nations Men's squad



Pictured: Garry Ringrose, Ireland Six Nations Squad member and UCD Ad Astra Academy Sport Scholar.

Ireland's Six Nations Men's squad sees a strong representation of current and former UCD Rugby Club team members. 7 members of Ireland's Six Nations squad, including 3 current UCD Ad Astra Academy Sports Scholars have played or currently play for UCD Rugby Club.

Current UCD Ad Astra Academy Sports Scholars include Josh van der Flier, Garry Ringrose and Dan Leavy. Former UCD Rugby players that are part of the current Ireland Six Nations squad include Rob Kearney, Sean O'Brien, Luke McGrath and James Tracy.



Pictured: UCD cyclist Eoin Morton racing during the 2016 Ambergreen Tour of Ulster. Photo: Stephen McMahon/Cycling Ireland

UCD cyclist wins Male Rider of the Year

Eoin Morton was named Male Rider of the Year at the Cycling Ireland Awards on 26 November. The victory acknowledges a breakout year for the UCD rider who won a one-day race, took two stages as a single rider and set a new national record as a member of UCD Cycling in 2016.

"It's a fantastic achievement and my name will go down with some of the greats but none of it would have been possible without my UCD Fitzcycles teammates," said Morton. The UCD cyclist opened his season with a sprint finish victory at the Phoenix GP in Antrim. In April, he won the Nenagh Classic stage of the National Road Series and finished the twelve-race series in fifth place. In May, Morton won the second and longest stage of the An Post Rás and is the first amateur rider to win a Rás stage in three years. The Rás is Ireland's main road race in the cycling calendar and the only Irish race on the UCI Europe Tour.

Morton was also a member of the UCD Cycling team that set a new national outdoor record at the National Track Cycling Championships in August. The four-man team beat the previous record time by almost three seconds to become Team Pursuit National Champions.



Pictured: Shauna O'Brien of the victorious Intersarsity winning UCD Women's Swim Team

UCD Swim Team - Irish Intersarsity Champions 2017

The weekend of 12 - 13 February saw another outstanding performance from UCD Swimming, winning the men's, women's and overall categories at the Irish Intersarsity Swimming Championships in Shannon, Co Clare. The women's team established an early point's lead in the first competition session and carried that lead into the final session.

The UCD women's team maintained their successful run gaining more victories in the individual events and by dominating all the team

relays. The women's team finished with 97 points, well ahead of UL and DCU who finished with 35 points each. This is the UCD women's 8th consecutive year winning the Intersarsity title.

The UCD men's team had a more challenging time winning their title, with considerable opposition from the UL and DCU teams. The UCD men's team went in 10 points behind from the first competition session, however, they mounted a successful assault in the final session to pass both UL and DCU. Despite losing the last relay event to DCU, the UCD men had already secured their points position and had amassed

97 points over UL's 74 points. UCD is set to host the 2018 Intersarsity Swimming Championship.

Continuing on the success of UCD's Men's and Women's Swim Teams, UCD's Men's Relay Team broke the 8 year old Irish Relay Record at the Swim Ireland Dave McCullagh / Swim Ulster International in Bangor.

At the same event UCD's Shauna O'Brien took gold in the Women's 50m Butterfly. Other UCD medallists at this event included a silver for David Prendergast in the Men's 100m Backstroke and a bronze for Alex Murphy in the Men's 50m Butterfly.



Pictured with the UCD Ad Astra Scholars for 2016/2017 are (front row l-r): Professor Colin Boreham, Director, UCD Ad Astra Sports Programme; Tony Carey, Director, UCD Ad Astra Performing Arts Programme; Professor Mark Rogers, UCD Deputy President and Registrar; Associate Professor Barbara Dooley, Director, UCD Ad Astra Academy, Dean of Graduate Studies and Deputy Registrar; and Professor Liam Kennedy, Director, UCD Ad Astra Academic Programme

UCD Ad Astra Awards Ceremony

The annual UCD Ad Astra Awards Ceremony took place on 2 February in UCD O'Reilly Hall with close to 250 guests in attendance to celebrate and highlight UCD's new high achieving scholars. The attendees included the new scholars, their parents, their academic mentors, UCD staff and donors of the Academy. The Ad Astra Academy Director, Associate Professor Barbara Dooley marked the occasion by welcoming 51 new scholars to the Academy - 33 Academic Scholars, 17 of whom were awarded based on exceptional academic performance in their first year at UCD; 14 Sports Scholars and 4 Performing Arts Scholars. The full Academy membership now stands at 246.

The evening featured speeches given by current scholars in each of the three strands, Anita Tuesley (Academic), Evan Lynch (Performing Arts) and Paul O'Donovan (Sports) who spoke about what the Academy has meant to them, how it has helped them achieve and excel within their areas and build their engagement with the UCD community.

The event featured a performance piece called "The Long-Winded Lady" which paid tribute to writer and journalist Maeve Brennan on the centenary of her birth. Kellie Hughes, the Ad Astra Academy Artistic Director, directed the piece which was performed by Performing Arts Scholars, Rosa Bowden, Molly Murphy O'Kane

and Chloe Power. Both Molly and Chloe arranged the musical composition for this fantastic production.

The UCD Ad Astra Academy provides scholarships, mentoring and supports to high calibre students to foster their exceptional ability, creativity and drive. It is an environment where students are motivated, challenged and inspired to aspire, achieve and excel. Many UCD Ad Astra Academy scholars like Paul O'Donovan, Olympic Silver Medallist, act as superb ambassadors for UCD and Ireland.

The Academy is supported by alumni and friends of the University through donations to the UCD Foundation.



Pictured: Dara Keenan, BCL second year Law and Politics; Aisling Tully, BCL second year Law and French; and Katherine Zappone TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, at the presentation of the team competition trophy at the Irish Times Debate 2017 grand final

Top team prize for UCD students at Irish Times Debate grand final

UCD Law students Aisling Tully and Dara Keenan have won the team competition at The Irish Times Debate 2017 grand final, an annual student debating competition.

The two students, who represented the UCD Law Society, opposed the motion: 'This House believes the women of Ireland should strike to repeal the Eighth Amendment'. The Eighth Amendment refers to the article in the constitution that effectively bans abortion by recognising the right to life of an unborn child. Strike 4 Repeal, a non-affiliated group of pro-choice activists plan to hold a strike in workplaces if a referendum on the eighth amendment on abortion has not been called by March 8, 2017. The UCD debaters argued that striking would be an overly simplistic response to one of the most complex and controversial social issues in recent Irish history.

Explaining how the UCD team approached the motion, Dara Keenan said: "What we were trying to say was that ... it [striking] is an overly simplistic and unnuanced way of trying to discuss something that people in this country don't really have an answer to and really don't know where they stand on [the issue]."

Dara is studying in his second year of BCL Law with Politics and Aisling Tully is currently in her second year of BCL Law with French.

As winners of the team competition, Aisling and Dara will undertake a month-long debating tour of the USA this spring, visiting eight cities, courtesy of the National Parliamentary Debate Association of America.

The runner-up team was also from UCD - Engineering students Kevin Brennan and Sandi Ndebele, who are both members of the Literary & Historical Society.

The Irish Times Debate is the oldest intersarsity debating competition in Ireland.

Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe features two UCD students

UCD students Sam Blanckensee and Colin Keogh have been named in Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe list of people "who will impact Europe for the next 50 years." The listing features 300 young leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs under the age of 30 who are transforming areas including business, technology, media and culture.

22 year-old activist Sam Blanckensee was named in the Law and Policy and Youngest categories. He is National Development Officer at Transgender Equality Network Ireland and Education Officer at Irish Trans Student Alliance. Forbes described him as "an outspoken voice for the trans community across Irish media and politics." Blanckensee was part of the lobbying effort that helped pass legislation to allow people to self-declare their gender and receive new birth certificates. He is a student in the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine and was LGBT Coordinator with UCD Students' Union. Blanckensee received a UCD President's Award in 2014 for work advocating for the rights of transgender students inside and outside the UCD community.

PhD student Colin Keogh was featured for his work towards "using low-cost disruptive technologies to help improve the world." He was named in the Science and Healthcare category. Keogh is a research engineer at UCD College of Engineering and Architecture and founder of Rapid Foundation, which aims to put "technology

such as 3D printers and low-cost electronics in the hands of people who need it most in developing countries." The Rapid Foundation was a recipient of the 2016 Fritz Schumacher Award.



Pictured: Sam Blanckensee, Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe in Law and Policy and Youngest categories



Pictured: Colin Keogh, Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe in Science and Healthcare category