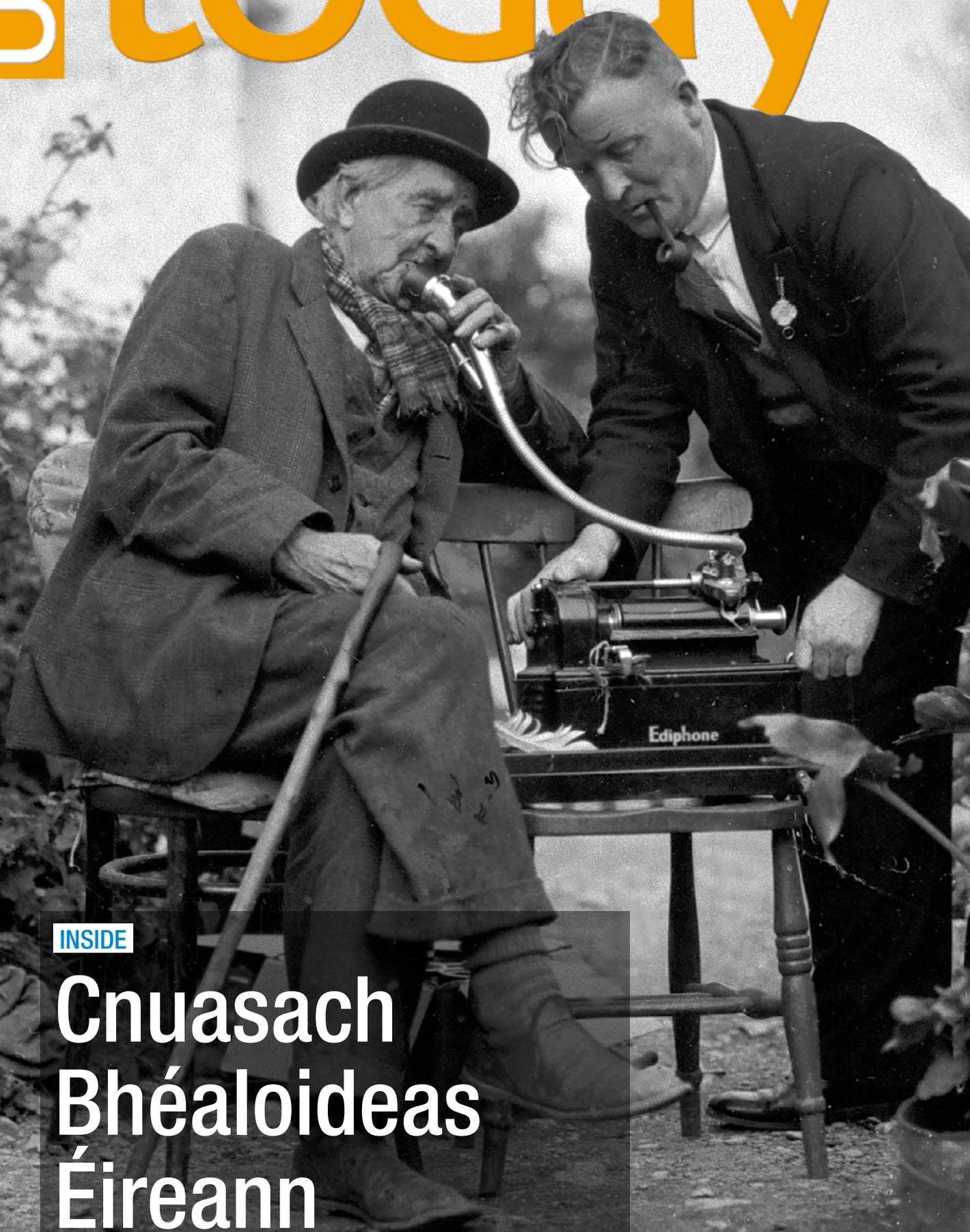


# UCD today

SPRING 2018



**INSIDE**

## Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann

Bás, Beatha agus Béaloideas

13. Obesity in pregnancy

11. Shine your spotlight

9. Migration and the Making of Ireland

4/5. Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann

# Contents

## Features



4/5 Cnuasach  
Bhéaloideas  
Éireann

9 Migration and the  
Making of Ireland

11 Shine your  
spotlight

13 Obesity in  
pregnancy

## Oireachtas Affinity Group – Politics matters



ELLIS O'BRIEN  
Director of Communication  
and Marketing

UCD's input into the formation of the Irish State is well recognised and documented. A glance through the Decade of Centenaries timeline ([centenaries.ucd.ie/1912-1923-timeline](http://centenaries.ucd.ie/1912-1923-timeline)) opens with Thomas MacDonagh's appointment as Assistant Professor of English in 1911 and notes Professor Eoin MacNeill's appointment as the Free State's first Minister for Education after the 1923 general election, alongside UCD graduates, Kevin O'Higgins as Minister for Justice and Deputy President and Patrick Hogan as Minister for Lands and Agriculture.

A century later, our involvement in national politics today may be a quieter affair but is no less committed. Of the current Oireachtas, 38 are graduates; 28 in the Dáil and 10 in the Seanad. Six of the Cabinet are UCD-educated. Alongside these elected representatives are 62 Oireachtas and party-political staff and 9 political journalists.

Prompted by their engagement with the political system, Professor David Farrell, UCD School of Politics and International Relations, and former student auditor of the Politics Society, RTÉ journalist Martina Fitzgerald, approached Nicole Black, Director of Alumni Relations with a view to setting up a UCD Oireachtas Affinity Group: a non-political, shared space for UCD Alumni and Friends, which provides opportunities for members to connect and network with each other and with current students.

Hosted by the Ceann Comhairle, Seán Ó Feargháil TD, the Group was officially launched in Leinster House in February and was attended by 40 ministers, deputies, senators, journalists and staff. Their conversations reached across party lines and touched on shared values, as well as their sense of connecting with the University. We came away with an open offer of student internships and a real sense that our contribution to national politics is very much alive.

## UCD thanks...

**Contributors:** Amanda Barton, Emer Beesley, Derval Conroy, Damien Dempsey, Emma Donovan, Jennifer Doyle, Michelle Doyle, Georgina Dwyer, Mairéad Egan, Bryan Fanning, Ashlee Feng, Marcellina Fogarty, Ronan Gormley, Helen Graham, Pat Guiry, Anna Kelly, Shane Kelly, Una Kelly, Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh, Liz McFeely, Gavin Murphy, Simon O'Connor, Hugo O'Donnell, Darina O'Hanlon, Diane Payne, Claire Redmond, Rowland Stout, Cathy Timlin, Micéal Whelan

**Produced by:** Ellis O'Brien, Mary Staunton

**Design:** Loman Cusack Design Ltd

**Print:** Fine Print

**Thanks to:** Diarmaid Ferriter, Pat Guiry, Ann Lavan, Damien McLoughlin, Regina Uí Chollatáin

In the compilation of this publication, every care has been taken to ensure accuracy. Any errors or omissions should be brought to the attention of UCD University Relations ([ucdtoday@ucd.ie](mailto:ucdtoday@ucd.ie)). We also welcome your suggestions for articles in future editions.

Cover image: National Folklore Collection





*Pictured at the launch are: UCD President, Prof Andrew Deeks; philanthropists, Carmel and Martin Naughton; and Dr Linda Deeks*

## Launch of the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI)

**Plans for the transformation of the Aula Maxima in UCD Newman House were announced on the anniversary of James Joyce's birthday on 2 February. The Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI), is a major collaboration between UCD and the National Library of Ireland to create a new landmark cultural institution in the heart of Dublin.**

Named for Joyce's muse Molly Bloom and picturesquely located within the original home of the University, MoLI will celebrate Ireland's literary culture and heritage.

"It is beyond coincidence that the inspiration for MoLI centres on Newman House," said Professor Andrew Deeks, "When he established a new university here in 1854, John Henry Newman's aspiration was to provide an environment that fostered true enlargement of mind. It was in this spirit and in this House that the young James Joyce flourished as a student – MoLI will capture and express Joyce's genius and influence, inspiring not only visitors but the next generation of creative writers."

Immersive exhibitions, priceless artefacts (including Joyce's own 'Copy No.1' of Ulysses), performances, historic house tours, digital broadcasting, research facilities and a café set in one of Dublin's most tranquil gardens will make MoLI a major contribution to the local and international literary landscape.

Professor Margaret Kelleher, Chair of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama and UCD Academic Lead for the project, described plans to advance scholarship through the museum: "MoLI will present and interpret the history of Ireland's literary cultures, while looking to the present and future of Irish writing".

Simon O'Connor, Director of MoLI, spoke about the uniquely contemporary approach that MoLI will offer: "The 21st century museum is not a place that simply remembers what went before. It is a site of vastly different experiences, inspired by the past and imagining the future, through an open door and with an open mind."

The Museum of Literature Ireland opens in Spring 2019. For more information, visit [www.moli.ie](http://www.moli.ie)

## Intel partners with UCD to fund eighteen masters students

**Intel recently welcomed 18 UCD masters students in science, engineering and related disciplines to their Leixlip site to meet their mentors and to be presented with a commendation for their achievements to date. The sponsorship programme is part of an ongoing strategic partnership between Intel and UCD.**

In addition to providing the Masters students with financial support for their academic studies, the program also provides the students with employee mentors from Intel to give them a direct relationship to the world of work.

Intel Ireland General Manager Eamonn Sinnott said: "To borrow a phrase from Andy Bryant; Chairman of the Intel Board of Directors, 'The ingredient we begin with is sand, everything else is value added by people'. So the bridge



*Pictured front to back are Noreen Lenihan, Clara Zehe, Megan O'Donnell, Tao Lin, Sam Cassidy and Abel Paul Kannan*

between sand and leading edge 14 nm devices is the determination, ingenuity and creativity of the people working here, and that is why talent development is at the cornerstone of this [strategic partnership] with UCD."

UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks added, "As well as the scholarships announced today, UCD is also pleased to partner with the Intel Women in Technology scholarship programme and is grateful to Intel for its support of the development of the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science."



*Pictured (l-r) are: Ari Shiels, Auditor, UCD LGBTQ+ Society; Prof Colin Scott, UCD Vice-President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and Principal, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law; Tonie Walsh; Katherine Zappone TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs; Paula McGarry, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture and member of EDI policy working group; Prof Andrew Deeks, UCD President; and Dr Lydia Foy, LGBTQ+ rights activist.*

## Minister Zappone salutes UCD for its Gender Identity and Expression Policy

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Katherine Zappone TD officially launched UCD's Gender Identity and Expression Policy at an event attended by 200 faculty, staff and students. Speaking at the event, the Minister said, "This is a significant moment in the advancement of gender identity and trans rights, not just in UCD or in the education sector, but in our country. We now have in one of our top colleges a Gender Identity and Expression Policy which goes beyond aspirations. It takes concrete steps which will positively impact on the everyday lives of students, faculty, staff, graduates and indeed those who aspire to join UCD into the future."**

This policy, for the first time, allows trans and gender non-binary employees and students in UCD to change their records and have their preferred name used across university systems, without the requirement to produce a gender recognition certificate. In addition, trans students can change their name on official university award documents.

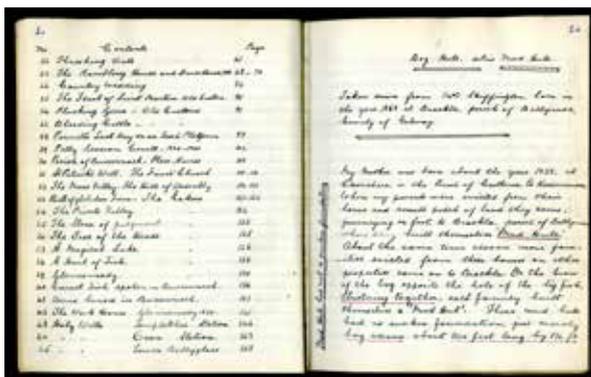
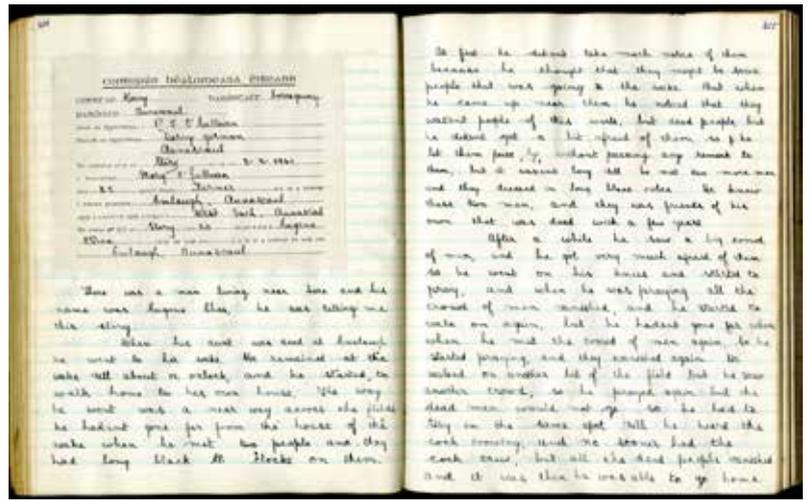
UCD is currently re-designating single stall facilities (bathrooms and changing rooms) on

campus as gender neutral and highlighting their locations online. In addition, multi-stall facilities in the UCD Sports Centre will be signed to facilitate transgender patrons in choosing the facility of the gender that they identify with.

A UCD employee and student working group developed this policy in consultation with TENI -Transgender Equality Network Ireland, with university-wide consultation. To date over 100 frontline staff have been trained around the implementation of the policy.

"The launch of this policy is a milestone achievement for UCD demonstrating our commitment towards a more inclusive community. This policy affirms and celebrates the diverse genders and gender expressions that are reflected in our large multicultural faculty, staff and student population," said Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President.

This event also recognised one of Ireland's most significant LGBTQ rights activists Tonie Walsh, curator of the Irish Queer Archive. Tonie was presented with the UCD LGBTQ+ student society Foy-Zappone award, as he is the custodian of our nation's LGBTQ history and a voice reminding us to never become complacent and to continue the fight for civil rights.



# Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann - Bás, Beatha agus Béaloideas

I bhfolach ar bhunrlár Áras Newman na hOllscoile, tá Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann. Shílfé gur i measc na n-uaisle atá agus seilfeanna lán le leabhair agus lámhscríbhinní timpeall ort. Tá maorgacht in atmaisféar na háite, gan aon agó. Deir Jonny Dillon, cartlannaí sa Chnuasach gur 'áit bheannaithe' í seo do go leor daoine

Tá Cnuasach Choimisiún Bhéaloideas Éireann 1935-1970, atá faoi chúram anois ag Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann le háireamh ar Chlár Chuimhne an Domhain UNESCO mar gheall ar an 'tábhacht dhomhanda' atá ann. Tá an Cnuasach anois áirithe i measc an Magna Carta, Dialann Anne Frank, Taipéis Bayeux agus Leabhar Cheanannais (an t-aon ábhar eile as Éirinn).

Bhí sé mar aidhm ag Séamus Ó Duilearga duine de bhunaitheoirí an Choimisiúin, mar a thugtaí air ag an am, eolas beacht a bhailiú ar an saol dúchasach in Éirinn mar gur thug sé go raibh nósanna fós in Éirinn a bhí imithe as radharc níos faide i gcéin. Idir an focal scríofa, glórtha na ndaoine a d'imigh romhainn agus grianghraif áille, ríomhann an bailiúchán seo stair na tíre seo i gcomhthéacs an domhain mhóir. Tuairiscíodh saol laethúil na n-Éireannach, ón bhfeirmeoireacht go féilte chomh maith le tubaistí móra ar nós An Ghorta Mhóir i lámhscríbhinní, ar thaifead na nguthanna, i gceistneoirí agus in íomhánna cumhachtacha. Tá dearcadh na ndaoine ar a raibh ag titim amach timpeall orthu agus na bealaí a bhí acu dul i ngleic leis an saol

le sonrú i bhfríotail na bhfocal a roinn siad leis na bailitheoirí.

Sa bhliain 1935 a cuireadh tús leis an gCoimisiún Béaloideas Éireann nuair a bhronn An Dáil céad punt ar gach contae chun ábhar béaloideas a bhailiú. Théadh bailitheoirí lán-aimseartha agus páirt-aimseartha ag caint leis na daoine, ceantair Ghaeltachta a bhí ag dul i léig mar thosaíocht, macasamhail Thír Eoghain agus Aontroma, ag iarraidh a raibh acu a bhreacadh síos ar phárag agus a thaifead ar fiteáin céarach. Chuirtear an t-ábhar ar ais go Baile Átha Cliath, áit a mbíodh sé á chartlannú. Sa tSualainn a cuireadh traenáil cartlannaíochta ar fhoireann an Choimisiúin, scileanna a tugadh abhaile agus a chinntíonn go bhfuil taifead ar gach atá sa Chnuasach go dtí an lá inniu. As an bhfoghlaim sin, d'eascair an leabhar The Handbook of Irish Folklore, le Seán Ó Súilleabháin, 'bíobla' an Bhéaloideas, mar a thugann Jonny go ceanúil air.

Cé go n-áirítear Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann ar cheann de na bailiúcháin is cuimsithí dá bhfuil ann, tá beannaí ann. Léiríú ar shochar na hÉireann mar a bhí atá sa Chartlann agus mar sin, tá glórtha fear níos forleithne ná glórtha ban sa Chnuasach, mar shampla. Bhí easnaimh freisin i mbéaloideas uirbeach na tíre toisc gur tugadh faoi bhéaloideas tuaithe mar bheart práinne. Cuireadh tús leis an Urban Folklore Project in 1979 le haghaidh a thabhairt ar an easnamh seo. Leanann obair an Chnuasaigh ar aghaidh ag bailiú stair na ndaoine dóibh siúd a thiocfaidh inár ndiaidh.

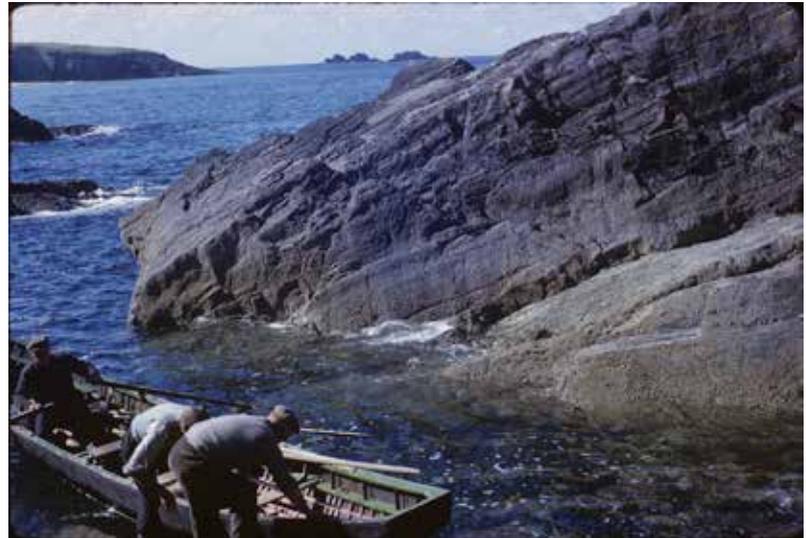
I measc na ndaoine a thagann ar cuairt chuig an gCnuasach, tá scoláirí, páistí scoile, scríbhneoirí, ealaíontóirí agus daoine nach iad ag lorg eolais ar á sinsear, nó ar a gceantair

dhúchais. D'aithin foireann an Chnuasaigh nach raibh sé ar chumas gach duine a raibh spéis acu sa bhailiúchán teacht chomh fada leo agus chuige sin a bunaíodh an tionscnamh digiteach, Dúchas.ie (páirtneireacht idir Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann, An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath (UCD) agus Fiontar agus Scoil na Gaeilge (DCU) áit a bhfuil fáil ag an bpobal ar líne ar chuid de bhailiúcháin an Chnuasaigh.

Sa bhailiúchán ar líne, tá Bailiúchán na Scol faoi stiúir Shéamus Uí Dhúilearga agus Sheán Uí Shúilleabháin idir 1937-39; scéim cheannródaíoch í a chuir páistí ó 5,000 bunscóil ag bailiú béaloideas i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge óna muintir. Nochtann a bhfuil sa bhailiúchán go leor faoi thír a bhí ag streachailt le teacht ar a féiniúlacht féin i ndiaidh Chogadh Cathartha trí shúile na bpáistí.

Deir Jonny nach raibh ionadh air faoin ráchairt mhór ar an ábhar mar go bhfuil 'bearna' sa saol comhaimseartha á líonadh ag eolas domhain den chineál seo. Is léir ón spéis atá léirithe ag an bpobal san ábhar go bhfuil ceangail domhain acu lena ndeachaigh rompu.

Nuair a luaitear béaloideas, is minic a shamhlaítear sióg agus fórsaí osnádúrtha. Dár ndóigh, tá sin ann ach tá i bhfad níos mó sa Chnuasach freisin. Liotáiltear logainmneacha agus a bhfréamhacha, cuirtear síos ar stíl éadach na ndaoine, nósanna bia, amhrán, ceol, filíocht agus tuilleadh nach iad. Tá cruatain an tsaol leis an freisin, iarrachtaí na ndaoine dul i ngleic leis an mbás, cuimhní an Ghorta Mhóir greanta go smior sna glúinte a tháinig ina dhiaidh. Tá sé dodhéanta cur síos ar luach Chnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann, is ann atá stair ár muintire, inár bhfocail féin.



# Feast, Famine and Fairies - The National Folklore Collection

**Hidden in the halls of the ground floor of the University's Newman Building, The National Folklore Collection is located. Surrounded by leather-bound books and manuscripts, you can't help but feel like you're somewhere special. And you are. Jonny Dillon, one of the Collection's archivists says this is 'a holy place' for many.**

Séamus Ó Duilearga, one of the founders of the Irish Folklore Commission, as it was then, aimed to accurately record Irish life as it was. Ó Duilearga understood the pace at which European culture was changing and what was being lost. Ireland's history in the context of the world at large is captured in the written word, the voices of those who have gone before us and an extensive collection of photographs.

Visitors can expect to witness daily habits, from farming to festivities, as well as the momentous events such as trauma of The Great Famine. These events and how the Irish people came to terms with the world around them make the Collection a history like no other.

In recognition of its "world significance" and "outstanding universal value to culture", the Irish Folklore Commission Collection 1935-1970 at UCD has recently been inscribed into the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. Other items on the World Register are the Magna Carta, the Diary of Anne Frank, the Bayeux Tapestry and the Book of Kells (the only other item from Ireland).

The Irish Folklore Commission was established in 1935 to collect and preserve Ireland's declining oral tradition and vulnerable cultural heritage. Government provided £100 to every county in order to employ full-time and part-time folklore collectors. These collectors travelled around the country collecting folklore, prioritising weakening Gaeltacht areas like Tyrone and Antrim. Collecting their stories on paper and voices on wax cylinders, their work was then sent back to Dublin to be archived.

The staff of the Commission trained in Sweden, where Folklore work had begun previously. This training ensured every piece of material has been accurately recorded and is still in use in the Collection. From his learning in Sweden, Seán Ó Súilleabháin, one of Folklore's foremost scholars published *The Handbook of Irish Folklore*, 'the Bible', as Jonny fondly calls it.

Despite being one of the most comprehensive and well renowned collections in the world, omissions have been identified in the Collection. The archive reflects Irish society in the era in which it was collected, therefore women's voices, for example aren't as well documented as men's. At the beginning, rural folklore was collected with a sense of urgency and as a result, urban folklore was incomplete until 1979 when The Urban Folklore Project was initiated. Work continues to this very day in preserving the people's history of Ireland.

Amongst those who come to visit the Collection are students, schoolchildren, writers and artists - usually seeking information on their predecessors and their local area. The team behind the Collection is conscious of those members of the public who are interested in the

Collection but can't pay a visit. For this reason the digital project, *Dúchas.ie* was created. This is a partnership project between The National Folklore Collection, UCD, Fiontar and the School of Irish, DCU, whereby some of the Collection has been digitised and made available online.

The Schools' Collection, under the direction of Séamus Ó Duilearga and Seán Ó Súilleabháin makes up part of the collection available online. This pioneering project set schoolchildren collecting folklore from their parents and grandparents in both English and Irish in 5,000 schools during the period 1937-1939. The contents of what was collected reveals post Civil War society coming to terms with its identity, through the eyes of children.

Jonny says the public's interest in the project hasn't been a surprise as this information fills 'a void' in contemporary society. Appetite for the Collection's content suggests how deeply its contents resonate with the public.

Fairies and other worldly forces are often the central topic of conversation around folklore and whilst these are important features of the Collection, there is a whole world gone by on the shelves of the Collection. Place names and their origins, descriptions of clothing, food, songs, music, poetry and much more besides feature alongside trauma, efforts to cope with grief and memories of the Great Famine. It is impossible to gauge the value of The National Folklore Collection; it is the history of our people, our collective past, in our own words.

*Cristóir Mac Carthaigh and Jonny Dillon, UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore were in conversation with Siún Ní Dhuinn, (BA 2006 and MA 2007) journalist with RTE*

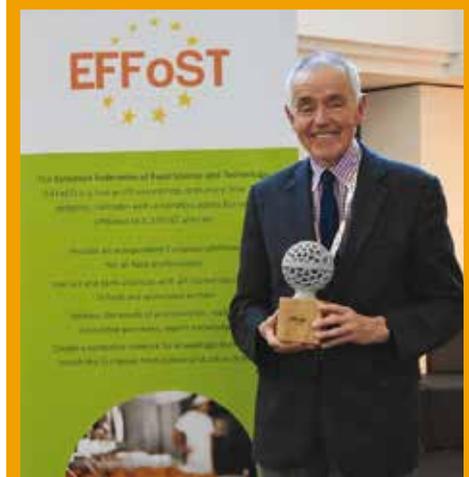
## Social Simulation for a Digital Society

UCD Dynamics Lab was delighted to host the Social Simulation Conference 2017 in UCD O'Brien Centre for Science. This international event was the annual conference for the European Social Simulation Association (ESSA), the main European scientific society to promote social simulation and computational social science. The conference topic for 2017 was 'Social Simulation for a Digital Society', where the aim was to share and foster a deeper understanding of how complex social problems can be understood through computational simulations and techniques. A range of prestigious speakers addressed the conference, including Michael Macy, Arnout van der Rijt, Kathleen Carley, Blake LeBaron, Nigel Gilbert and Flaminio Squazzoni.

The conference provided a platform to discuss how to develop and enhance international collaboration in undergraduate

and postgraduate training in the field of social simulation and computational social science. A number of training initiatives were presented including UCD's new 4-year BSc in Computational Social Science. There was widespread support across UCD in hosting this conference, including UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, UCD Institute for Discovery, the College of Social Sciences and Law and not least the commitment of the local conference committee which included UCD academics from the mathematical sciences, social sciences including sociology and political science, and the natural sciences, with conference chair Professor Diane Payne, who heads up the UCD Dynamics Lab - the Centre for Computational Social Science at UCD. Industry sponsorship for this conference included RTI International and Microsoft.

## EFFoST Award



Professor Ronan Gormley, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science received the 2017 Science to Society Award from the European Federation of Food Science & Technology (EFFoST) in November 2017. This was in recognition of his outstanding contribution in presenting the outcomes of research to the widest possible audience by 'translating' scientific reporting into an easy-to-understand layman's style.



Pictured are: Prof Martin Smith, Prof Steve Davies, Prof Alison Hulme, Prof Pat Guiry (Director, CSCB), Prof Don Hilvert, and Prof Larry Que

## 16th Annual CSCB Symposium

Over 150 people from academia and industry attended the 16th Annual CSCB Symposium 'Recent Advances in Synthesis and Chemical Biology', held in UCD in December. Five internationally renowned scientists Professors Martin Smith (University of Oxford), Steve Davies, (University of Oxford), Alison Hulme (University of Edinburgh), Don Hilvert (ETH Zurich) and Larry

Que (University of Minnesota) delivered plenary lectures across the breadth of synthetic chemistry and chemical biology. In addition, there were over 65 poster presentations and five poster prizes were awarded to Roisin McCarthy (UCD), Jordan Magtaan (IT Tallaght), Hao Jiang (UCD), Sean O'Byrne (University of Glasgow) and Robert Connors (UCD).

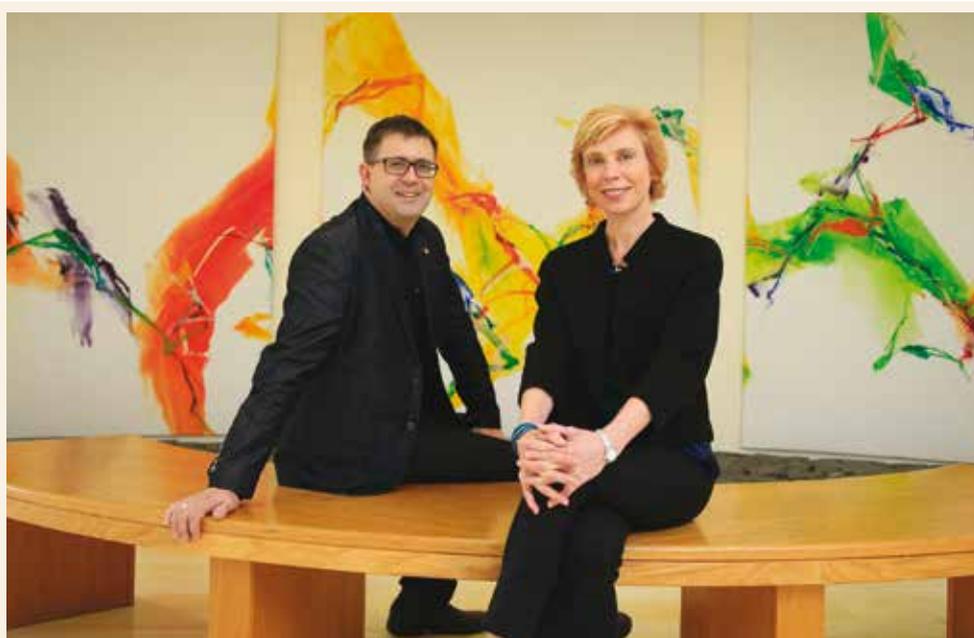
## Insight Centre for Data Analytics at UCD announces new €4 million Artificial Intelligence Research Project with Samsung Electronics

**The Insight Centre for Data Analytics at UCD has announced the launch of a new and collaborative €4 million artificial intelligence (AI) research project with Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, the multinational electronics company headquartered in South Korea.**

This collaborative research project will leverage deep data science and AI expertise at the Insight Centre for Data Analytics, including machine learning, user modelling and recommender systems, to enable Samsung create smarter products and more personalised experiences tailored for its customers and users.

The three-year research project will be led by Professor Barry Smyth, Dr Aonghus Lawlor and Associate Professor Neil Hurley and will involve a team of over 25 researchers and highly-skilled staff from Samsung and UCD, and will result in the establishment of 12 new research posts at UCD.

A key feature of this collaborative project will be the transfer of research skills between staff at Samsung and UCD. In addition there will be career placement opportunities at Samsung's research facilities in the UK and in South Korea for the talented pool of computer and data science students from the Insight Centre for Data Analytics.



*Pictured at UCD are Dr Barry Molloy, UCD School of Archaeology and Professor Susi Geiger, UCD College of Business.*

## Two UCD Researchers Awarded €4 million in ERC Funding

**Two UCD researchers have been awarded prestigious European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grants of €2 million each, over five years, to pursue groundbreaking research in archaeology and business. The funding will result in the establishment of ten new research positions (PhD students and postdoctoral researchers).**

Dr Barry Molloy, UCD School of Archaeology, will receive his funding for a study entitled 'The Fall of 1200 BC', while Professor Susi Geiger, UCD College of Business, will receive her funding for a study entitled 'Misfires and Market Innovation'.

ERC Consolidator Grants are awarded under the 'excellent science pillar' of Horizon 2020, the European Union's research and

innovation programme. Researchers of any nationality with 7-12 years of experience since completion of their PhD, a scientific track record showing great promise and an excellent research proposal can apply.

The ERC evaluated over 2,500 research proposals in this latest competition, 13% of which will be funded. The grantees will carry out their projects at universities and research centres in 22 different countries across Europe.

Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact said, "I would like to congratulate Professor Susi Geiger and Dr Barry Molloy. Their success in this highly competitive, and Europe-wide funding call, is indicative of the quality of the world class research being carried out at UCD."

## UCD Smurfit Executive Development admitted to elite international Executive Education Network

**In December UCD Smurfit Executive Development, based at UCD Smurfit School, was formally admitted to UNICON. This is an invitation only alliance of the world's leading university-based executive education providers where members share knowledge, research and perspectives to support the evolution of executive development programmes to ensure they continually provide best practice informed by global insights.**

Through admission, UCD Smurfit Executive Development becomes the only Irish member and one of just 22 European business schools including INSEAD, London Business School, IESE and IMD to be awarded full membership. Other international members include the elite of Ivy League business schools; Harvard, Cornell, Columbia, Dartmouth, Yale and the University of Pennsylvania.

Admittance to UNICON is yet another endorsement for UCD Smurfit School, its Executive Development Centre and programmes. Earlier this year UCD Smurfit Executive Development Open Enrolment programmes were ranked 48th globally by the Financial Times.



*Paul Muldoon pictured with Prof Sarah Prescott, Principal, UCD College of Arts and Humanities (right) and Assoc Prof Regina Ui Chollatáin, Head of UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore (left).*

## Paul Muldoon – Inaugural College Lecture

Poet and professor of poetry at Princeton University, Paul Muldoon was welcomed to a packed house of scholars and scribes at the inaugural College of Arts and Humanities' Annual Lecture, hosted by UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore. The lecture,

entitled 'The Drowned Blackbird: An Introduction to 18th Century Poetry', explored the rich tradition of poetry in South East Ulster, featuring poets such as Peadar Ó Doirnín, Art Mac Chumhaigh and Séamas Dall Mac Cuarta.

The Annual Lecture will become a feature of the College of Arts and Humanities' academic calendar, welcoming global figures, such as Paul Muldoon, with an opportunity to shine the spotlight on interesting cultural and literary topics.

## Launch of University for All

**In November 2017, the Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD joined Professor Mark Rogers, Registrar and Deputy President to launch the University for All initiative, yet another milestone on our journey to becoming a diverse and inclusive scholarly community. This initiative showcases UCD as an open, inclusive and welcoming university community, dedicated to making higher education a real option for all: realising aspirations, opening pathways and allowing students to fulfil their potential.**

The implementation is overseen by UCD's Widening Participation Committee and UCD Access & Lifelong Learning, working in collaboration with the academic and professional communities across the University. At the heart of it is a belief that access and participation need to move from the margins to the mainstream, and become embedded in all aspects of campus life. Fundamental to the University for All



Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, Prof Mark Rogers and Dr Anna Kelly, UCD Access & Lifelong Learning

approach is the conviction that equality of access extends beyond entry, to an inclusive learning environment, designed for the full range of human diversity, rather than a perceived notion of a typical or so-called 'traditional' student. The University aims is to be fully inclusive, with the educational experience, supports and facilities, as well as the built and

technological environments, designed around the needs of all students.

Speaking at the launch, the Minister said "I commend this progress and am aware that it has not happened by chance and has been on foot of an intense programme of work. There has been an institutional strategy which has been developed over many years and is still developing".



Pictured are (l-r): Prof John Geary, Prof Anthony Brabazon, Emeritus Prof Philippe C Schmitter, Prof Roland Erne, Prof Philip O'Connell

## The public launch of the European Research Council

The public launch of the European Research Council (ERC) project 'Labour Politics and the EU's New Economic Governance Regime (European Unions)' with Philippe C Schmitter (European University Institute, Florence) took place in March at the Smurfit School. Professor Anthony Brabazon, interim Dean of UCD College of Business, highlighted that Professor Roland Erne, of the HRM and Employment Relations Group, is the first academic at a business school in Ireland to be awarded a prestigious ERC Consolidator Grant. The grant, valued at €2 million, is only one of two nationally awarded ERC grants in this round of the competition with the objective to support ambitious high-risk, high-gain research projects at the frontier of science.

The project's short title is 'European Unions'. Labour movements are integral to European society. Neither national

democratisation processes nor Europe's social models would be conceivable without the mobilisation of workers. A similar analogy can be made in a transnational context. Yet, the democratic dimensions of labour politics are currently threatened by an increasingly authoritarian strain in EU governance. In the context of the resulting tensions that are dividing Europeans, this project therefore aims to map the EU's new governance regime and the shifts in labour politics it is triggering; to open up novel analytical approaches that are able to capture the underlying transnational social processes at work; to analyse the responses of European labour movements to the new EU governance regime in different subject areas and economic sectors; and to develop a new scientific paradigm capable of accounting for the interplay between EU governance, labour politics and EU democracy.



## Renault Ireland donates seven Renault Kadjars to ICRR

**Renault Ireland has donated seven Renault Kadjar crossovers to the Irish Community Rapid Response (ICRR) vehicle fleet at a handover at UCD School of Medicine.**

Irish Community Rapid Response is a registered charity which was founded by social entrepreneur John Kearney in 2008 to deliver professional pre-hospital emergency care directly to the site of emergencies throughout Ireland. ICRR works closely with UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science (CEMS) in supporting several initiatives within the pre-hospital emergency care environment.

Two of the seven Renault vehicles are assigned to UCD CEMS. This is in addition to the existing ICRR-sponsored Volvo Rapid Response Vehicle, also assigned to CEMS. Professor Gerard Bury, Director of UCD Centre for EMS with his colleagues, Dr Niall Conroy, Dr Tomás Barry and Dr Mark Ruddy are all ICRR volunteer doctors on a 24/7 basis for cardiac arrests occurring locally.

All ICRR RRVs are declared National Ambulance Service assets and are despatched to life-threatening emergencies via the 999/112 system across the country. ICRR also supports almost 200 other doctors responding to emergencies in their communities at local level. Overall, ICRR volunteer doctors responded to almost 1,000 calls in 2017, in partnership with UCD CEMS.



**Bryan Fanning is Professor of Migration and Social Policy in UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice. He explains how**

**he approached the task of examining how emigration and immigration has shaped Ireland over the last four hundred years. His book *Migration and the Making of Ireland* is published by UCD Press.**

Both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland have experienced large-scale immigration in recent decades. *Migration and the Making of Ireland* grew out of an attempt to write a book on how immigration has previously changed and is currently changing Irish society. However, any conversation in Ireland about immigration seems to quickly turn to the experiences of Irish emigrants and of the communities they left behind. Emigration, in the Irish imagination, is associated with the Great Famine and the subsequent hollowing out of rural society due to the emigration of millions of people in the decades that followed.

Emigration drove down the population of post-Independence Ireland decade after decade and there have been peaks during the 1980s, as well as during the last decade. It is recorded in folk culture and ballads as a great trauma – it has been grappled with by playwrights, painters and

historians, with a considerable body of academic scholarship, literature, drama and song seeking to address it. By comparison the lives and travails of recent and past immigrants have yet to become part of the Irish story.

The number of migrants who have settled in Ireland in recent centuries – some several hundred thousand – is small compared to the several million who emigrated during the same period. Yet, migration has shaped Ireland mostly through the impact of incomers and their descendants upon Irish society, economy and culture. Emigration has influenced Ireland mostly through processes of subtraction with some subsequent additions in the form of monetary, cultural and political remittances.

The virtual map sketched out in *Migration and the Making of Ireland* places a particular small island at the centre of the world. It explores commonalities and differences across space and time between the experiences of incoming and outgoing migrants with a strong emphasis on the recent waves of immigration that are re-shaping twenty-first century Ireland.

The literature on Ireland's new immigrant communities is still emerging. The chapters on Polish, African and Muslim immigrants in this book would have been impossible to write a decade ago. The perspectives on migration that have intrigued me the most are those of migrants themselves. Most immigrants and emigrants who left or came to Ireland journeyed to improve their circumstances without giving a huge amount of thought to the feelings of earlier inhabitants. They often migrated under circumstances that were not of their choosing. However, they generally made the best use of

the resources at their disposal. Often these came from family members who had already come to or left Ireland. Processes of chain migration have been common through history whereby migrants remitted resources to their kin that either supported communities at home or helped family members to follow in their wake.

The challenge has been to find similar ways of addressing the experiences of emigrants and immigrants across space and time, understanding the different political, economic, cultural and religious contexts. The basic similarities between many migrant journeys make it possible to fruitfully examine both immigration and emigration in the same breath. The kinds of wider circumstances that push and pull migrants from one place to another also recur again and again. Emigration push factors have often much to do with social, economic and political processes that, in effect, squeeze people out. Immigration pull factors include the draw of freedoms and economic opportunities that exceed those in places of origin.

*Migration and the Making of Ireland* draws on accounts of migrant journeys by historians and sociologists and from memoirs and newspapers across more than four centuries. It considers the political, economic and legal circumstances that made immigration and emigration possible or necessary. It provides illustrative examples of the experiences of migrants and their families. It draws on biographies, letters, newspaper accounts, recent social research, interviews and case studies produced by organisations advocating on behalf of migrants and on the work of many historians and social scientists.



## UCD Celebrates Kuwait National Day 2018

UCD was delighted to celebrate Kuwait National Day on Monday 26 February. Almost 60 students, faculty and staff gathered for coffee and cake in the UCD Global Lounge, a space that serves as the focal point for all international activity for students on campus. The students in attendance brought flags and festive pins from home and danced to traditional music. A highlight of the event involved all of the students joining together to

sing the Kuwait National Anthem, a special moment that was subsequently shared with the students' friends and families through photos and videos.

UCD is very proud to host some 85 students from Kuwait on campus and these celebrations reflect the strong relationship. The UCD National Day Series seeks to bring students together to celebrate the national days of their home countries.



Pictured at the conference are (l-r) Dr Derval Conroy, UCD, Prof Marie-Frédérique Pellegrin and M Marc Daumas, Cultural Services, Embassy of France in Ireland

## Gender Equality in 17th Century France

An international conference, entitled 'Constructing the equality of the sexes in the early modern period', organised by Associate Professor Derval Conroy (French and Francophone Studies, School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics) took place in October 2017, welcoming thirteen invited speakers from France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany, the UK, and the USA. The aim of the conference was to examine the ways in which an equality between the sexes is constructed, conceptualised, envisaged, imagined, dramatised, realised or dismissed in seventeenth-century France, a period and a country which produced some of the first egalitarian texts in European thought. The keynote speakers were Professor Siep Stuurman (Utrecht University), Professor Marie-Frédérique Pellegrin (Université de Lyon) and the well-known French feminist and philosopher Professor Geneviève Fraisse (CNRS, Paris).



Pictured at the launch are: Dr Niamh Howlin, Prof Hector MacQueen and Dr Thomas Mohr

## Two books launched by the Legal History Group

**Dr Niamh Howlin and Dr Thomas Mohr, both members of the Legal History Group at UCD Sutherland School of Law recently held a reception to jointly launch their latest books: *Juries in Ireland: Laypersons and Law in the Long Nineteenth Century* by Dr Niamh Howlin and *Guardian of the Treaty: The Privy Council Appeal and Irish Sovereignty* by Dr Thomas Mohr.**

The School was honoured to welcome a distinguished colleague from Edinburgh Law School, Professor Hector MacQueen, to deliver a lecture prior to the official book launches. Professor MacQueen, a Scottish Law Commissioner from 2010 until 2017 has also held the position of Dean of the Law School, Dean of

Research and Deputy Head of the College of Humanities and Social Science at the University of Edinburgh. The School of Law also welcomed guests from academia, the law library and the judiciary to the event.

During an engaging and thought-provoking lecture, Professor MacQueen pointed out that while both are books on Irish legal history, they differ in time period, subject matter and methodology. Dr Howlin's book is a work of socio-legal history, while Dr Mohr's book can be described as a constitutional legal history. Between them, the books represent the breadth and diversity of legal history scholarship in the School. Professor MacQueen congratulated both authors and noted that the discipline of legal history is clearly alive and well at UCD.

The Legal History Group was set up to promote the study of the history of law in its social, political and economic context and to foster collaboration with academics disciplines across the history of legal doctrine, crime, parliament, legal institutions, constitutional history, legal personalities and legal theory.

## UCD for ALL Student Experience

In February, UCD Access & Lifelong Learning hosted the UCD for ALL Student Experience for prospective students in DEIS secondary schools, further education colleges, community organisations and adult education settings. This innovative approach is part of the UCD Future You Community Outreach Programme, which builds 'bridges' to the University, offering connections and engagement by building relationships with communities that are distant from higher education.

The UCD for ALL Student Experience offers prospective students an opportunity to experience student life first-hand by connecting them with UCD students who act as 'buddies' and help the 'student for a day' to choose the subjects that interest them, and then spend time together attending lectures, going to the library, touring the campus, preparing an essay, spending some social time between classes, and utilising all the amenities that the University has to offer.

There was an enthusiastic response from student volunteers, with over 100 undergraduate students acting as 'buddies'. Over 200 prospective students from 40 linked educational institutions in Tallaght, Crumlin, Clondalkin, Ballyfermot, South Dublin, Wexford, Wicklow and Laois took part.

# Shine your spotlight

## A Critical Introduction to Sport Psychology



**The conversation with Professor Aidan Moran could meander into each and every tributary of sports psychology, if only we had the time. Dipping**

**our toes in the ocean of mind control, we settle for three strands (with two subsets, Rafa Nadal and Riverdance!):**

- **The Ireland place kicker at a “hostile Twickenham” or equally unnerving “silent Lansdowne road”.**
- **The Mayo football conundrum.**
- **The labyrinth that is Pdraig Harrington’s mind.**

“You need to understand how the mind works, which is my job, but you also need to understand the structure of the game and that’s where some psychologists fail, if they are not well trained or knowledgeable. Nowadays, there are many, many ‘experts’ in the field,” says Professor Moran.

We remain focused, our eyes dilating over breakfast in Booterstown while this esteemed Fulbright Scholar discusses *A Critical Introduction to Sport Psychology* and his life’s work.

“There are different types of distractions,” Moran states. “The fundamental principal is what I call ‘shining your mental spotlight’ – that’s extremely crucial for successful athletic performance no matter what level, whether you are a coach or player.

“Distractions come and go but the challenge is to do something that I think psychologically is really unnatural – and that’s to focus on the here and now. That’s why we struggle all the time in any job – whether you are a kicker like Johnny Sexton and have to block out the roar of a ‘hostile Twickenham’ or an equally unnerving ‘silent Lansdowne Road’.

Professor Moran worked with an Irish kicker in the 1990s who dreaded the respectful silence of Lansdowne Road because he had trained his mind to block out noise. “That’s something that has interested me since the mid 1990s when I

wrote this book called *The Psychology of Concentration in Sports Performers*.”

Moran worked with the Mayo footballers before they reached the 2004 All-Ireland final (when they were beaten by Kerry). So the story goes, depending on who you believe, that Mayo are cursed or bottlers or just desperately unlucky as, since 1989, they have reached the GAA’s red letter day on nine occasions yet failed to capture the Sam Maguire.

“I don’t believe they are cursed. Bottlers, no. Unlucky? I think you can be unlucky from time to time but I don’t think you are consistently beaten by an opponent like Dublin in recent years without learning lessons. I think deep down they haven’t been good enough... Maybe they didn’t really believe they could win in the 2017 game. There were signs. I think they had settled for a replay and stood back. Look at that last picture there was virtually no-one in there.”

As an amateur golfer Pdraig Harrington would read a putt but at the last second the thought would enter his mind “Is this really the right line?” “We built in a step where he says to himself, “I’m happy with my choice. I am going to act on this now”. Even if it is wrong, it is better to be decisive, then come what may.”

Harrington graduated from Professor Moran to working with Dr Bob Rotella on the PGA tour. “If you are thinking too much about of performing the job that’s what they call paralysis by analysis”, Moran continued. “Shining the spotlight inwards is probably a bad thing. Shining the spotlight too far ahead is also a bad idea. The only thing to do is to focus your spotlight on the job you are doing right now.

“Lots of performers have struggled with not thinking. For example, Rory McIlroy - and this fascinates me - uses his caddie in between some shots, not to get advice, but to talk to him about anything other than the shot. The key is to think at the right time, which is when you stoop over the ball and weigh up your target, decide upon your shot, get rid of your thoughts. Be happy with your choice.”

He continues, “There is a famous snooker player, Mark Williams, who I describe in the book. It was 16-all in the world championship final against Ken Doherty. It was very tight, he felt himself getting very nervous. What did he do? He started singing Delilah to himself. The singing inside his head took his mind off what he was doing and brought him back to automatic pilot.

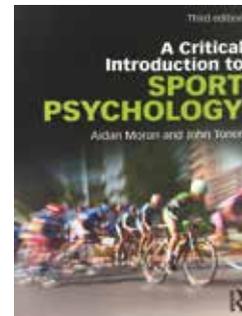
The worst thing you can do when you have an automatic skill, that you have spent thousands of hours working on, is to start thinking about it.”

Nowadays, there are many, many ‘expert’ sports psychologists – there has to be a few quacks? “That’s in the title of the book. Criticism is the whole theme of being sceptical. One should be sceptical.”

Thankfully, for everyone who loves sport, Vicente Feola didn’t listen to the sports psychologist Brazil brought to the 1958 World Cup. “Don’t pick that 17 year old, he is too immature,” was advice Feola decided to overrule. That 17 year old? Pele!

“Sports psychologists have always been there – we could go back to the Greeks for the use of psychological strategies – but they are not always right!”

*Professor Aidan Moran was in conversation with Gavin Cummiskey (BA 2001), sports journalist with the Irish Times.*



### Professor Moran on...

#### Rafa Nadal

“The pre-performance routine is under the control of the performer but the ritual/superstition controls the performer. The problem with the ritual is it starts earlier and earlier in the week. You have got someone like Nadal who is a victim of a huge number of superstitions in his routine (Roger Federer isn’t). Organising water bottles in a line. All of that comes from wanting to repeat past performances that were successful but, somewhere along the line, he crossed the boundary between superstition and routine. The simple distinction is if you were in a real hurry – if something happened where there is ten seconds left to kick that ball over or the game is over – someone with a superstitious orientation probably couldn’t do that.”

#### Riverdance

“Years ago I was asked to give some consultancy advice to Riverdance. I was wary about what was involved but I discovered, that with any successful touring performance, the organisers face the challenge of getting the dancers to come down after a standing ovation at 10pm day in, day out across several months of touring. The way the performers had been coping had been to party and maybe do things that were bad for them. Being on your own is one method - just letting things sift - but that’s very hard in a team environment. Professionalism is everywhere; not just on stage or the pitch, it is before and after. You can party occasionally but sustained top level performance needs professionalism.”



Pictured are Assoc Prof Lucy Collins and Paula Meehan

## Writers in Conversation

Theatre L in the Newman Building was buzzing when the UCD School of English, Drama, Film and Creative Writing hosted its recent 'Writers in Conversation' lecture series during the first semester. Featuring four exceptional contemporary Irish authors, the series was programmed across four individual lectures for first year students studying the Contemporary Irish Writing module. Each lecture was chaired by a UCD lecturer who invited the authors to read a piece of their work and to speak about their experiences as writers. Each lecture closed with animated Q&A session.

Commenting on this series, Professor in Anglo Irish Literature and Drama, Margaret Kelleher said: "We were delighted to welcome these world-renowned authors to UCD; in sharing their insights and experiences with our students, they have shown the dynamism of contemporary Irish writing and encouraged the next generation of emerging authors".

The writers and their UCD hosts are Harry Clifton with Dr Catriona Clutterbuck; Anne Enright with Professor Gerardine Meaney; Kevin Barry with Professor Margaret Kelleher; and Paula Meehan with Associate Professor Lucy Collins.



Peter Garbutt, McDonald's UK & Ireland; Louise O'Connor, Stage 3 BAgSc Animal Science; Michael Kean, Stage 3 BAgSc Animal Science; David O'Heney, Stage 4 BAgSc Animal and Crop Production; Owen Cashman, Stage 2 BAgSc Animal and Crop Production; Una Sinnott, Stage 2 BAgSc Food and Agribusiness Management; Tommy Meade, Stage 2 BAgSc Food and Agribusiness Management; Niall Browne, CEO, Dawn Meats; and Tara McCarthy, CEO Bord Bia

## The 2018 Great Agri-Food Debate

**UCD was crowned winner of the third annual Great Agri-Food debate, organised by Dawn Meats and McDonald's Ireland, as students from five third-level colleges gathered in Waterford Institute of Technology. The event has become a key date for agriculture students with a growing number of teams competing this year and ambitious plans to expand further in 2019.**

Throughout the day teams from Waterford Institute of Technology, UCD, UCC, Cork Institute of Technology and Dundalk Institute of Technology debated key topics for the Irish agriculture industry including; Brexit, consumer behaviour, sustainability and CAP.

The event culminated in a heated and well-informed debate between UCD and CIT on the motion "Ireland takes its environmental responsibilities and commitments seriously".

The UCD team was drawn from students of the School of Agriculture and Food Science, from across stages and majors including Animal and Crop Production, Animal Science and Food and Agribusiness Management. The team was captained by David O'Heney (Stage 4, Animal and Crop Production) who was joined by Owen

Cashman (Stage 2, Animal and Crop Production), Louise O'Connor (Stage 3, Animal Science), Una Sinnott (Stage 2, Food and Agribusiness Management), Tommy Meade (Stage 2, Food and Agribusiness Management) and Michael Kean (Stage 3, Animal Science).

UCD, supporting the motion, argued that Ireland's reputation around the world as a green, environmentally conscious producer is evidence that the country has embraced the environmental challenge. They argued that targets alone are not a measure of whether Ireland takes its environmental responsibility seriously. The team also flagged the many ways in which Ireland has been an innovator, from Croke Park's designation as the first carbon neutral stadium in the world, to the introduction of the BER scheme and the way that Ireland is leading the world in passive design.

CIT argued that Ireland has failed to "walk the walk" on its environmental responsibilities time and time again, and that the country continues to choose the economy over the environment. They put it to the audience that going green costs money, money that Ireland doesn't have. They also referred to the recent coverage of plastic waste in the form of disposable coffee cups, and questioned why these cannot be banned sooner than 2030.

## 2018 Spring Festival Gala Ireland

**2,000 people gathered at the Convention Centre Dublin on 16 February and enjoyed a spectacular gala show featuring the Zhengzhou Song and Dance Theatre and the Songshan Shaolin Warrior Monks Troupe, to celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year. The event also marked the opening of Dublin Chinese New Year Festival, which ran for two weeks until 4 March.**

The director of UCD Confucius Institute and Irish Institute for Chinese Studies, Professor Liming Wang welcomed distinguished guests such as the Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, HE Dr Yue Xiaoyong; Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture, Andrew Doyle TD; and the Dublin Lord Mayor's nominated representative, Cllr Paddy McCartan. The show was a wonderful opportunity to share the celebratory mood of Lunar New Year with the local Chinese and Irish communities, and to enjoy performances of traditional Chinese singing, dancing and martial arts, actively promoting cultural diversity and friendship between Ireland and China.



Pictured is a colourful performance from the Zhengzhou Song and Dance Theatre.



# Obesity in pregnancy

## – a risk women can do without



**No pregnancy is without risk. Many factors are beyond our control. However, there are pregnancy risk factors we can tackle and, at the Obstetrics and Gynaecology unit in UCD School of Medicine, researchers are working to equip women and their clinicians with the best information available on how to reduce the potential for complications in pregnancy and childbirth.**

Obesity is a major risk factor for a range of complications from gestational diabetes to premature birth. In a recent UCD audit of births at the Coombe Hospital, it was established that women with obesity are up to three times more likely to have a premature child during their first pregnancy\*. This is worrying not only for the mothers involved, but also for our national neonatal health outlook. In Ireland, the rate of obesity in mothers during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy is between 19 and 25 per cent.

Professor Michael Turner, UCD School of Medicine has spent much of his career dealing with health problems that arise in pregnancy; “fire-fighting” as he describes it. He knows that many of the issues arising for pregnant women are preventable and he is now focused on heading off problems before they surface.

“When I took up the post of Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in UCD in 2008 I set up the Centre for Human Reproduction with the intention of studying risk factors that are modifiable. We have focused on a number of areas such as maternal infection, smoking and diabetes.”

A key area of enquiry has been obesity. “We were the first group in the country to focus on the subject of maternal obesity. One in 6 women presenting for antenatal care to the Coombe is obese. The evidence suggests that maternal obesity is increasing. The first piece of research we undertook looked at how people calculate Body Mass Index – underreporting of obesity rates in this group was an issue.”

Gathering accurate data is a critical first step in improving outcomes for women and their babies. Having established the real rates of obesity in pregnancy in Ireland, the Centre turned its attention to the examination of causal links between obesity and pregnancy complications. “We found that maternal obesity is associated with an increase in pregnancy complications such as gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, hypertension and thromboembolism - pulmonary embolism is one of the most common direct causes of maternal death in Ireland,” Professor Turner explains.

Centre studies also found that pregnant women with obesity are more likely to need childbirth interventions – they are twice as likely to require a C-Section, for example.

The Centre has also done a great deal of work improving the screening process for gestational diabetes, a rising problem in pregnant women with obesity. Dr Niamh Daly was awarded a major international prize for her work on the pre-analytic handling of blood sugar samples as a result.

“When we did research to apply best international test handling standards we discovered that half of the women in the study who were obese had gestational diabetes,” says Professor Turner.

Armed with this information, the Centre for Human Reproduction is now working on interventions to help women with obesity to improve outcomes through lifestyle changes. It’s difficult, if not impossible, to achieve significant

weight loss during pregnancy – dieting is not an option when the nutritional needs of the foetus are factored in. Exercise, however, can help. Professor Turner and Dr Daly conducted an intensive exercise programme using the Random Control Trial method. One group took part in sessions three times a week. Gestational weight gain was reduced in the participant group compared to the control group. The work was published in the US journal ‘Obstetrics and Gynaecology’.

“One of the main things we have learned is that it is hard to modify risk during the course of pregnancy,” says Professor Turner. “A lot of these modifications need to take place before or after. However, exercise is an intervention women should be encouraged to partake in right throughout pregnancy – this goes against the old advice about resting up.”

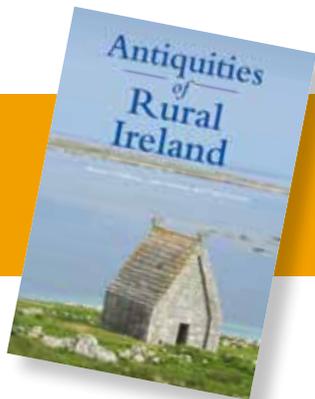
Another positive finding of the Centre has been the engagement of pregnant women from all socio-economic groups with smartphone apps about pregnancy and childbirth. “In the past there was a social gradient; well-off women tended to have more access to pregnancy information. Everyone has a smartphone now and virtually all the women we studied were getting pregnancy information from apps.”

As Director of the HSE clinical programme in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Professor Turner has been able to translate much of his research with Dr Daly into national policy and guidelines. There is much to build on - the ongoing work of the Centre will hopefully give women of all backgrounds the opportunity to have greater control over their gestational health and the health of their infants.

*Professor Michael Turner was in conversation with Louise Holden (MEd 2007), Director FH Media Consulting and journalist with the Irish Times*

\*A total of 39,528 pregnancies were studied by UCD researchers. Of these, 2,361 were premature deliveries. 1,075 were unplanned deliveries and 1,286 were planned. The title of the paper was *Maternal body mass index and the prevalence of spontaneous and elective preterm deliveries in an Irish obstetric population: a retrospective cohort study*. It was published in *BMJ Open* (volume 7, issue 10) in October 2017.

# Books



## Antiquities of Rural Ireland

Professor Muiris Ó Súilleabháin, UCD School of Archaeology, Dara Downey and Liam Downey

Wordwell, ISBN 978-0-993351891

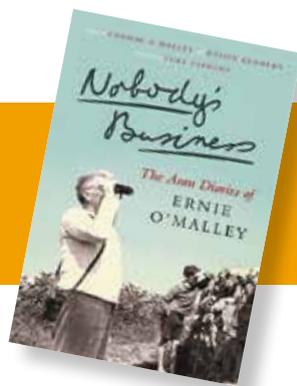
Originally written as a series of over fifty articles for Archaeology Ireland under the banner 'Know your monuments', *Antiquities of Rural Ireland* is much more than the sum of its parts. The book provides a contemporary overview of the Irish landscape conveniently arranged under seven themes – agriculture, food processing, settlement, getting around, local enterprises, coastal features and ritual & ceremony – that resonate with society today.

Beautifully produced and published by Wordwell, with support from Teagasc and the Heritage Council, *Antiquities* is a great crossover between scholarship and popular culture, which makes it a worthwhile read for serious students as well as the culturally curious.

Authors Professor Muiris Ó Súilleabháin, Liam Downey and Dara Downey, write exceptionally well; their breadth of vocabulary and style keeping the reader's interest piqued. The precis at the beginning of each article gives a quick overview and the reader can dip in or follow the structure of the book more systematically.

The authors' updating of accepted wisdom tells us two things: many antiquities such as promontory forts (or Dún) are older than originally thought and more excavation and investigation is needed to piece together the jigsaw of ancient Ireland. Shell middens, for example, which may have begun forming as early as 5500BC, are varied and poorly understood but indicate that society groups gathered together over 1,000 years before the establishment of farming. Their signs are to be found adjacent to high-tide marks, usually on fairly level sites and often close to fresh water. Bronze Age defensive hillforts, spectacular when seen from the air, show the emergence of powerful individuals and tribal formations. 3,500 souterrains, often including ogham stones, have been identified across Ireland, and probably doubled as storage cellars and temporary refuges in times of trouble. Dating from the second half of the first millennium to the earlier centuries of the second millennium, these underground structures were often constructed in a zigzag line thought to make it difficult for raiders to dig now and break in. The antiquities are numerous and intriguing.

So, the discovery prospects for the next generation of archaeologists are bright and for those who enjoy "reading the landscape", the book sets out diagnostic features that are readily identifiable, making it an essential companion to community groups who wish to connect with their local area as well as to visitors who are attracted by more than scenic beauty. **EOB**



## Nobody's Business – The Aran Diaries of Ernie O'Malley

Dr Róisín Kennedy, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy and Cormac O'Malley

Lilliput Press, ISBN 978-1-84351-715-

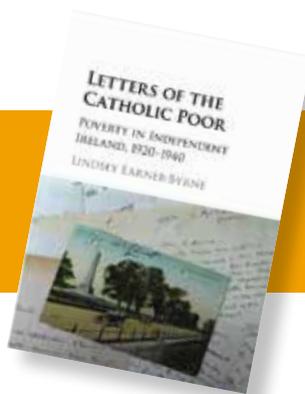
Labelled 'Nobody's Business' initially as they were never intended for publication, these three diaries in one volume record observations and private conversations on Ernie O'Malley's extended visits to the Aran Islands in 1941, 1955 and 1956.

After suffering a period of ill health, he spent a lot of time on the Islands and there befriended many contemporary artists, who were relishing the relative freedom of neutral Ireland during the Emergency. Subsequently the landscape for artists changed; the Government imposed levies and, in conjunction with the Church, further restrictions, forcing artists and galleries to abandon Ireland.

O'Malley continued his study of the Islands and their unique culture, including the impact of the Church, the role of women, modernisation and he continued to champion artists he deemed worthy.

The texts of the diaries are written in the first person, and tell the stories of the Islands at that time in a wonderful narrative style, bringing the characters to life in front of your eyes! His friends, Elizabeth Rivers, Phoebe and Mrs Keats, islanders PJ Mullen and Mrs Flaherty all appear regularly adding to the colour of the narrative.

The diaries, while written in the first person, speak to O'Malley's vision of the culture of the Islands and their future potential. While not a native, he had a keen understanding of the people and also had great hope for their future. **MS**



## Letters of the Catholic Poor

Associate Professor Lindsey Earner-Byrne, UCD School of History

Cambridge University Press ISBN 978-1-107-17991-2

The book outlines the text of and a narrative around the thousands of letters written to the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Edward Byrne (1921-1940). It steps outside the official sources that are often used to tell the history of Ireland at that time, and gives a voice to the letter writers, the people who suffered... the poor.

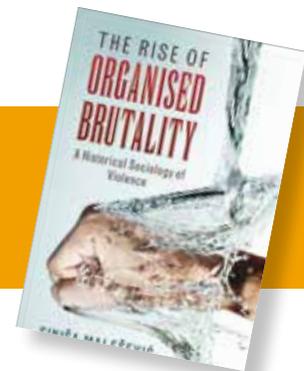
The book is set after a period of relative chaos in Ireland, post war and civil war but when many war related industries closed and jobs were scarce, causing mass unemployment and consequently extreme poverty.

It is raw in that it reproduces and interrogates the words of those people in dire need who, in an effort to resume their privileged perch in society, threw themselves at the mercy of the Archbishop. How the letters were phrased to ensure that the Church would look kindly on the request, the number of children for example was not understated and the likelihood of an 'errant' husband was considerably so.

It is fascinating, and somewhat with a sense of déjà vu that I read about the government's attempts to introduce various 'home assistance' commissions and practices – but the poor, whether deemed deserving or not, still had to recourse to assistance outside those official channels.

The texts of the letters reproduced in the book evoke a heart breaking sadness at the conditions people endured, their lack of access to social welfare of any kind – but the letters often spark of hope, the hope that the Archbishop will reach out, that their temporary poverty may be alleviated and they could resume their position as head of the family or provider for their children – surely not too much to ask, but in some cases, it was.

The author dissects the writing of the letters and their place in time and society in minute detail, giving the reader a unique insight into the realities of that period. **MS**



## The Rise of Organised Brutality

Professor Siniša Malešević, UCD School of Sociology

Cambridge University Press ISBN 978-1-107-09562-5

Challenging the prevailing belief that organised violence is in decline, this book provides an in-depth sociological analysis showing that it is, in fact, on the rise. Brutality, or violence, has existed since ancient times, the author recalls the stories of war, mass slaughter, excessive torture, often defined as 'medieval brutality', something in the past and not part of 'modern culture'. However, we know that 250 million people died as a result of violence during the 20th century – so, has organised brutality gone away?

The author would say otherwise and takes us in great detail through eight chapters on the history of organised violence: war, revolution, genocide and terrorism, analysing the paths of those forms of violence over the centuries.

While always related to organisational power, its form may have changed over the centuries, the definition moving from that of purely physical violence against a person to more subtle forms. Technology, society and politics have transformed violence as we understand it today and who knows what changes robotics, nanotechnology, cybernetics and pharmacology will bring – but despite how it is inflicted, sadly the end of violence and brutality in society is far from an end... **MS**



Prof Imelda Maher, Dean, UCD Sutherland School of Law; Minister Simon Coveney TD; Prof Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact; and Catherine Day, Secretary-General of the European Commission 2005-2015.

## Minister Simon Coveney Outlines his Vision for the Future of Europe

**Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade outlined his vision for the future of Europe during a keynote address at UCD, entitled 'The Europe we Want'. The address was delivered at the UCD Sutherland School of Law as part of the Citizens Dialogue in Ireland Initiative on the Future of Europe and was moderated by Catherine Day, who was Secretary-General of the European Commission 2005-2015.**

This initiative was announced by An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar TD with Minister Coveney TD and Helen McEntee TD, Minister of State for European Affairs. It follows on from

the publication of a White Paper on the Future of Europe by the European Commission in March 2017 and the publication in October of a Leaders' Agenda by the President of the European Council.

The Minister said: "My vision for Europe is an ambitious one. It will require funds to do the things that matter to us like the Common Agricultural Policy, regional funding, investment in research and support for successful programmes such as Erasmus. But we will also need resources for new challenges such as environmental protection, climate action, migration and security. Doing more in Africa and a new round of enlargement will have resource implications."

## New Horizon 2020 Funded Programme to Help Build Resilient Communities in Ethiopia

**UCD and Wolaita Sodo University (WSU, Ethiopia) have entered into a new partnership programme, with education and research as the critical ingredients to help build resilient communities in Ethiopia.**

In partnership with Concern Worldwide, Future Analytics Ltd and the Network on Humanitarian Action, the universities have secured €2.1 million in Horizon 2020 funding, for the 4-year programme, through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) scheme.

The Building Resilience Through Education (BRTE) programme will progress research and education across a range of disciplines including agriculture, education, engineering and healthcare. BRTE has its origins in an evaluation of the impact of Concern Worldwide's twenty-five year engagement in the Wolaita zone of Ethiopia which was conducted by UCD's Centre for Humanitarian Action in collaboration with Wolaita Sodo University, an important element in building the BRTE partnership.

The evaluation found that, despite significant improvements in communities' capacities to both absorb recurring disasters and to adapt their livelihoods based on experience of recent disasters, they remain extremely vulnerable to recurring climatic stresses. Dr Pat Gibbons, Director, UCD Centre for Humanitarian Action at the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, and the co-ordinator of the BRTE project said, "Due to the protracted and recurring nature of climatic shocks and stresses in this area of Ethiopia, there is a need for a paradigm shift in the way aid is delivered to meet immediate life-saving assistance while working towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals".

Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact said, "The BRTE partnership demonstrates that universities, such as UCD and WSU, are increasingly becoming key actors in multi-stakeholder partnerships to develop solutions which address the implementation of the UN's SDGs. The diversity of skills and approaches needed to develop solutions to the SDGs align with our aspirations and goals. At UCD we are focused on building strong partnerships on the continent of Africa to regionalise our agri-food knowledge and expertise, in areas such as the bioeconomy, smart and sustainable agriculture, to help create a vibrant African agri-economy. We believe that creating partnerships with African nations, including Ethiopia, will lead to synergistic research and trading relationships that will benefit Ireland and Africa."

Over the next four years, the BRTE partnership will build critical infrastructure to enable sharing of education and research between BRTE partners; establish an educational platform that will build human capital and transform livelihoods; and develop research and innovation capacity that will radically promote social and economic wellbeing.



UCD President, Prof Andrew Deeks pictured with the current Newman Fellows.

## Newman Fellows Dinner

**UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks hosted a dinner in March 2018 to celebrate the 29th anniversary of the Newman Fellowship Programme. During the dinner, two of the postdoctoral Fellows, Dr Nonnie McNicholas, Biogen Idec Newman Fellow in Neurology and Dr Jana Musilová, AbbVie Newman Fellow in Dermatology shared with the audience of private donors, corporate benefactors and academic mentors their research findings and spoke of the impact the Fellowship is having on their career development. With the support of philanthropy, the Programme is able to attract international, high-calibre, early-career researchers to UCD for two years to conduct research across a range of academic disciplines. The Newman Fellowship Programme is managed by UCD Foundation.**

## Employers LOVE School of Agriculture and Food Science students

There was a lot of love in the air at UCD Agriculture, Food Science and Human Nutrition Careers Day on 14 February with a record number of exhibitors in attendance. This annual event was organised by final year students, with a keynote address from Minister of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Michael Creed TD.

UCD Dean of Agriculture, Professor Alexander Evans said: "This fantastic event is testament to the enthusiasm and commitment that both students and employers have to the agriculture and food industries both at home and further afield. I hope our final year students will make the best of the many opportunities that will come their way, and encourage them to make the biggest impact possible, to continue learning and also to engage with what they enjoy."

Minister Creed provided a stimulating address, which highlighted both the opportunities and challenges facing the sector. He acknowledged the important contribution of UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science graduates to Ireland's agri-food sector and his optimism,



Pictured are final year UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science students William Coffey, Nicole Groyer, Kate Jennings, Robert Moore, Hazel Darolis, Rachel Lane and Cara Yelverton.

following discussions with students from the Class of 2018, that Ireland's agri-food sector would continue to flourish.

William Coffey, Chair of the UCD Agricultural Science Careers Committee thanked each of the 44 exhibitors in attendance for their support with

Careers Day 2018 and he also wished his classmates every success with their careers following completion of their studies at UCD. Exhibitors included Teagasc, Dawn Meats, FRS Recruitment, Grant Thornton, Kerry, ABP, Agriland among others.

## Social and Behavioural Sciences at BT Young Scientist Exhibition

In January, for the second year running, the College of Social Sciences and Law sponsored the UCD Social Sciences Special Award in the Social and Behavioural category of the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE). This was the largest of the four

categories in the competition, with more than two hundred of the 550 projects selected for the finals. The UCD Social Sciences Special Award was presented to Susie Gill, Sarah Kelly and Adrienne Ward of Loreto College, St Stephens Green, Dublin for their project examining differences in knowledge of political issues between 16, 17 and 18 year olds - Let Science Influence the Voting Age.

The opportunity to interact with student participants before the exhibition opened to the public, and indeed throughout the four days at their posters and at the exhibition, was particularly enjoyable.

Professor Colin Scott, Principal, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law said: "The remarkable variety, ingenuity and rigour exhibited by the projects in the Social and Behavioural Sciences category demonstrates vividly the



Pictured is Prof Colin Scott presenting their award to Adrienne Ward, Sarah Kelly and Susie Gill of Loreto College, St Stephen's Green.

bright future for social sciences and related disciplines and their potential to contribute greatly to social and economic wellbeing and to public policy in Ireland and beyond."

## UCD Japan co-hosts events to commemorate diplomats recognised as Righteous Among the Nations

UCD Japan recently organised a series of events to commemorate a number of diplomats who risked their lives and careers to help Jews escape from Nazi-occupied Europe during the Second World War. An exhibition, produced by the Embassy of Israel, was held in UCD Student Centre in February, organised by UCD Japan, with the support of the Embassies of Japan, Lithuania and the Netherlands. The opening of the exhibition was attended by Simon Coveney TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and more than twenty ambassadors. Professor Dolores O'Riordan, UCD Vice-President for Global Engagement gave a welcome speech on behalf of the University.

Also in February, UCD School of History, in conjunction with UCD Japan, held a public seminar to provide an interesting and insightful historical context in support of the exhibition. Speakers included Professor Giedrius Janauskas, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas; Professor William Mulligan; Professor Robert Gerwarth, Head of UCD School of



Pictured are (l-r) HE Mr Egidijus Meilunas, Ambassador of Lithuania; HE Mrs Mari Miyoshi, Ambassador of Japan; HE Mr Ze'ev Boker, Ambassador of Israel; Prof Dolores O'Riordan; HE Mr Peter Kok, Ambassador of The Netherlands; and Prof John Neary.

History/UCD Centre for War Studies; Dr Declan Downey, UCD School of History/UCD Japan; and Ronan McNamara, UCD Centre for War Studies.

The launch of the exhibition and the seminar were both chaired by Ambassador Emeritus John Neary, Adjunct Professor, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice. Professor Neary was formerly

Irish Ambassador to Japan and the Netherlands.

These events helped to develop the collaboration between UCD and the diplomatic community in Dublin and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In this way, the University's leading role as a centre for promoting interest in international issues and international education was reaffirmed.



*Pictured at the event are Dr Danielle Petherbridge, UCD School of Philosophy, President Michael D Higgins, Assoc Prof Katherine O'Donnell, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice and Dr Alexa Zelletin, School of Politics and International Relations*

## President Higgins gives keynote address to UCD Centre for Ethics in Public Life

The UCD Centre for Ethics in Public Life (CEPL) welcomed President Michael D Higgins in February. The event celebrated five years of the President of Ireland's Ethics Initiative with an address from him on the theme of Making Ethical Ideas Matter. Director of the Centre, Professor Rowland Stout welcomed President Higgins, with Dr Danielle Petherbridge, Dr Alexa Zellentini and Professor Katherine O'Donnell giving short talks linking the themes and activities of the new Centre to the work of President Higgins as expressed in his book **When Ideas Matter: Speeches for an Ethical Republic**.

In his visit to the Centre, President Higgins talked about ethics, the economy and vulnerability. He said: "The dividing of society into 'those who are vulnerable' and 'those who are not' is to ignore the reality that 'vulnerability' is something that is shared by all humans and is, indeed, central to our humanity. Viewing 'those who are vulnerable' as something 'other' and separate from ourselves risks the loss of that critical sense of shared humanity

which lies at the root of truly just and equal societies". The guiding idea of CEPL's approach to vulnerability is in line with these words of President Higgins. The Centre aims to provide a dynamic forum for research and discussion of intellectual and public matters of ethics. It will engage with debates on a range of ethical issues and will foster practical engagement with non-academic stakeholders both locally and internationally.

## Appointment of 2018 Keith Cameron Chair in Australian History

**UCD College of Arts and Humanities and UCD School of History are delighted to welcome Professor Amanda Nettelbeck as the 2018 Keith Cameron Chair in Australian History. During her year-long tenure in the UCD Australian Studies Centre, Amanda will lecture on Australian History and its Afterlives and Contested Histories in Australia. She will also host the UCD Annual Lecture on Australian History in May.**



In the past decade, more than one thousand students have benefitted from the world-class visiting professors who have come to UCD to teach about the diversity of Australian historical experiences. The Centre also hosts an annual programme of public seminars.

Amanda Nettelbeck is a Professor at the Department of History at the University of Adelaide and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. Her research focuses on the history and memory of colonial race relations and the legal governance of indigenous people.



*Pictured are: (l-r) Prof Grace Mulcahy, Dean of Veterinary Medicine and Chair of EDI Refugee Working Group; Nick Henderson; Prof Andrew Deeks; Prof Veronica Crosbie; and Dr Emily Logan*

## UCD receives University of Sanctuary Award

**An event took place on 5 March to celebrate UCD's achievement of the University of Sanctuary status for the work it has been engaging in to support refugees, asylum seekers, those with leave to remain and those with subsidiary protection. This award is as a result of employees and students working through UCD Volunteers Overseas, UCD Centre of Humanitarian Action, the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Group, Fáilte Refugees and many other individuals and group efforts.**

UCD offers support and opportunities to widen the participation of displaced persons seeking sanctuary in Ireland and to provide access as students, for work experience, or as employees, as appropriate. A guidelines document to support this was developed by a University Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working group and approved by the University Management Team.

The award was presented to UCD President Professor Andrew Deeks by Professor Veronica Crosbie, as Chair of the University of Sanctuary steering committee. Other speakers were Dr Emily Logan, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Mr Nick Henderson, CEO of the Irish Refugee Council and Ola, a first year Computer Science student who has benefited under the new guidelines.

## OCE Technology signs agreement with Shanghai Aerospace Technology Control Institute

**OCE Technology, headquartered at NovaUCD, recently signed an agreement with Shanghai Aerospace Technology Control Institute to supply satellite subsystems into international markets. This new agreement is the first of its kind worldwide and represents an estimated €25 million revenue over the next five years.**

The deal is in line with China's new Silk Road Initiative, put forward by President Xi Jinping. The initiative promotes co-operation between Chinese and international industry and is reported to be the Chinese project of the century with \$8 trillion investment planned for its activities.

The OCE Technology subsystems are derived from those in use in the Chinese space

programme and have been operational on Chinese satellites over the past twenty years. The company is currently working with customers in Europe and South Korea to customise these products for the fast-growing commercial satellite market.

The company develops software for technical applications and supplies radiation-hardened chip-level components targeted

primarily at the space and high-reliability sectors. The company's new subsystems can be used to bring a satellite into a desired orientation in space and to a desired spin rate. This latest agreement is a logical co-operation as SACTI are already using high-reliability components as a critical part of its subsystems design.

## UCD International Study Centre: Renewal of Foundation Studies Agreement

**A new contractual agreement between UCD and Study Group in relation to the operation of the UCD International Study Centre has been signed. Located on campus in Richview Newstead Block A, the UCD International Study Centre offers international foundation year pathway programmes for international students and is a crucial channel for UCD in its international recruitment strategy.**

In the 2017/18 academic year, the UCD International Study Centre enrolled 103 foundation year students from 18 countries, with sizeable cohorts from the Middle East (Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Oman) and from China. To recruit and admit these students, UCD faculty and staff across the University work closely with the Study Centre, expecting at least 75% of eligible graduates from these programmes to then progress to a Bachelor's degree at UCD.

Hong-Bo Sun undertook the international foundation year in engineering and science as preparation for entry into the Bachelor of Computer Science, and has now founded his own company SimpliFly. He said: "When I first came here I felt lonely. The International Study Centre was the first touch point for me to meet my teachers and they were willing to listen. My English wasn't good but they made me feel like this was my second home and that gave me confidence when I progressed into UCD.

"I applied to graduate one year early as I already had my own company and wanted to devote myself 100% to pursuing my career.



James Pitman from Study Group Ltd (left) with Dr Douglas Proctor, Director, UCD International

SimpliFly is a global, airport shopping smartphone application that lets you browse any airport in the world. You can make a purchase before your journey or on your flight and we deliver it to your destination or give it to you at your arrival terminal. We are very ambitious and many world-class leaders have joined the company as advisors."

## Prolego Scientific scoops top prize at UCD Start-Up of the Year Award

**Prolego Scientific, an early-stage enterprise has won the UCD Start-Up of the Year Award and a €20,000 prize after being declared overall winner of the UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme. The founders of Prolego Scientific, a UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics start-up, are Associate Professor Andrew Parnell, Dr Mahdi Aminam and Dr Belinda Hernández (currently a bio-engineer and research fellow at TCD).**

Prolego Scientific offers proprietary artificial intelligence solutions that are used to improve the accuracy of genetic tests in many areas, for example improving animal health and performance metrics. These tests in turn improve the quality of the food chain and breeding values. The global animal genetic testing market has seen rapid growth in recent years and is currently estimated to be worth in excess of €3 billion.



Pictured are (l-r) Assoc Prof Andrew Parnell, Dr Belinda Hernández and Dr Mahdi Aminam

Prolego Scientific's proprietary algorithms make use of genetic data and pedigree information to predict phenotypic traits of commercial value within the agri-food and biotech sectors. Examples of applicability are the poultry and aquaculture markets, where this information can be used to predict metrics such as meat tenderness, resistance to antibiotics and protein yields.

The overall objective of the Programme is to support the creation, and to accelerate the launch, of sustainable and profitable new ventures based on intellectual property emerging from UCD. The programme aims to equip UCD researchers with the knowledge, skills and understanding that is required to work as part of a team successfully leading a new commercial venture.

The UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme, which is held at NovaUCD the Centre for New Ventures and Entrepreneurs, uses the Business Model Canvas approach to start-up development. The programme consists of ten three-hour workshops, delivered over a three-month period, and a series of one-to-one sessions with external experts in areas such as finance, marketing and customer validation.

The UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme evaluation panel, which selected the overall winner, was chaired by Dr Helen McBreen, Investment Director, Atlantic Bridge with Dr Sharon O'Kane, NovaUCD Entrepreneur in Residence in Life Sciences, Eddie Buckley, Head of AIB Dublin South and Dr Edward McDonnell, Centre Director, CeADAR.

## UCD Squared: UCD enters collaboration with Zoetis and University of California, Davis

UCD has entered into a collaboration with Zoetis and University of California, Davis in the area of One Health. Zoetis, the largest animal health company in the world, has been a key supporter of research and education activities at the Schools of Veterinary Medicine in both UCD and UC Davis. This support from Zoetis facilitates the development of a UCD-UC Davis (UCD2) Transatlantic One Health Alliance to advance the health of animals, people and the environment by

promoting innovative research collaborations to address global societal needs in areas such as antimicrobial resistance, vaccines and zoonotic infections.

The UCD School of Veterinary Medicine has been building links with UC Davis over the past number of years and is delighted to be part of this important initiative. In 2016, the School hosted the 'UCD Squared – Connected One Health' conference focused on a topic of global

significance – One Health, which encapsulates the idea that animal, human and environmental health are inextricably linked and must all be considered and understood in our efforts to improve global health. The links between UCD and UC Davis allow for the building of strong relationships around project ideas that utilise expertise and resources from both sides of the Atlantic in an effort to combat important and growing global problems.

## UCD Soccer – Double Jeopardy

**UCD AFC has been busy. The Airtricity League kicked off with a new season and so, as the Colleges and Leinster senior league competitions draw to a close, there is no time to rest. In February, the Collingwood final, hosted by Queens University Belfast, took place between UCD and the surprise finalists, QUB.**

Drama has become synonymous with the Collingwood Cup final in recent years and the 2018 game was no different. Despite playing the second half with ten men, UCD Ad Astra scholar and the competition's Player of the Tournament, Daire O'Connor netted a wonderful 93rd minute winner for UCD for them to win their 47th Collingwood title.

On the same night that UCD hosted Shelbourne FC in the opening night of the Airtricity league 2018 season, UCD were preparing for the Harding Cup semi-final against UCC, hosted by DCU.

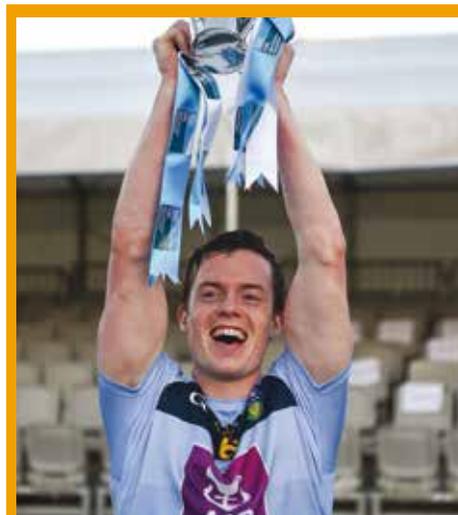
Unfortunately the young freshers team was not able to claim a triple crown for UCD and played out a goal-less stalemate to finish runners-up to UCC over 110 minutes. UCD who were last year's winners required a penalty shootout to decide matters but UCC netted the crucial kick in the 4-2 win.

UCD were quick to get their revenge however as the pinnacle of College football saw UCD face UCC in the College's League final at Home Farm FC. This was a repeat of last year's final where UCD came away with the title giving UCC that extra motivation to

prove themselves this year, but UCD had other ideas. It was not until the second half that the drama began and the crowd who literally weathered the storm were gifted with plenty of heart-in-mouth moments. There were goals ruled out and crossbars shattered but, with 22 minutes remaining, it was UCD's scholarship student, Jason McClelland's right-footed strike proving to be the difference between the two sides.



UCD celebrates after winning the Rustlers IUFU Collingwood Cup Final match between QUB and UCD held at Queen's University Belfast



Pictured is UCD Captain and Mayo senior footballer, Stephen Coen raises the Sigerson Cup for UCD as his team beat NUI Galway in the final

## UCD GAA – UCD Senior Footballers claim second Sigerson Cup in 3 Years

**UCD claimed their second Electric Ireland Sigerson Cup title in three years, thanks to a hard-earned win over NUIG at the Trinity Sportsgrounds, Santry. The Cup looked to be on its way west for the first time in 15 years when NUI Galway hit the net in the 50th minute but UCD's nerve held with Man of the Match, Monaghan's Conor McCarthy and Tipperary's Liam Casey having the last laugh to secure UCD's 34th Sigerson Cup title.**

College football has featured the most exciting clashes over the years and this year was no different. UCD were no doubt feeling the effects of a thrilling 100-minute marathon victory over UJJ on Wednesday night. They were slow to start and maybe NUI Galway were counting chickens a little too early. It was all square at half-time and was all to play for.

The second half should have been dead and buried for UCD with NUI Galway scoring a second goal and the somewhat frivolous free-taking of the team but John Divilly's men showed immense character, dug deep and Liam Casey pulled out two great points at the end of the match to secure yet another fantastic Sigerson win for UCD.



NatWest 6 Nations Championship Round 3, Aviva Stadium, Dublin, Ireland vs Wales - Wales' Gareth Davies with UCD's Andrew Porter

## UCD Rugby players part of Grand Slam winning 6 Nations Rugby Squad!

**Congratulations to the seven UCD players, including 6 UCD Ad Astra Academy Scholars, who were part of Ireland's 6 Nations Grand Slam winning squad.**

Josh Van der Flier took the starting No 7 shirt at the Stade de France for the first of the Irish 6 Nations matches in Paris. Unfortunately, due to a serious knee ligament injury just before the half time, he is now out for the rest of the season. He was replaced by Ad Astra colleague, Dan Leavy. Dan has already demonstrated his ability with a superb try in his third match against Wales and retained the No 7 jersey for the remainder of the

tournament. Andrew Porter made his 6 Nations debut against Wales, winning his fifth Cap. James Ryan, who captained the Ireland U-20s to their best ever finish at the 2016 World Rugby Championship, also made his 6 Nations debut against Scotland with Garry Ringrose scoring the first try of the Grand Slam win against England.

Former member of the Academy, Sean O'Brien and Luke McGrath, though selected, were both ruled out due to injury.

Together with alumni Rob Kearney and Jonathan Sexton, the men's team took home its third ever Grand Slam.

## Daffodil Day 2018

**The third annual campus-wide UCD RFC Daffodil Day was held on Thursday, 8 March. Congratulations to John Hammond and the UCD rugby club, who, with the support of the UCD community, managed to raise just over €10,000 for the Irish Cancer Society. Thanks to the 200+ rugby club students who collected throughout the day and to everyone who bought daffodil pins and made donations.**

To help promote the event, 13 of Collidge's representative players took part in a photoshoot at the launch at the UCD Bowl. The Irish and Leinster players included Garry Ringrose, Andrew Porter, Adam Byrne, Luke McGrath, James Ryan, Barry Daly, Dan Leavy, Ross Molony and under-20 Irish captain, Tommy O'Brien.

UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks showed his support for the event and received his daffodil pin from UCD RFC's Hannah Hanlon.



The recently appointed CEO of the Irish Cancer Society Averil Power was at the launch with Irish Cancer Society board member, Cormac Kilty. Also pictured are representatives of UCD RFC club sponsor, Crowe Horwath, the IRFU, UCD Sport, UCD Students Union, members of the UCD Women's rugby team and UCD Tag Rugby.

## Ad Astra Awards

The annual UCD Ad Astra Awards Ceremony took place in January 2018 in the O'Reilly Hall with almost 250 guests in attendance to celebrate and highlight its new high achieving scholars. The attendees included the new scholars and parents, their academic mentors, UCD faculty and staff and donors of the Academy. The Ad Astra Academy's Director, Professor Barbara Dooley marked the occasion by welcoming 54 new scholars - 32 Academic Scholars, 17 of whom were awarded based on exceptional academic performance in their first year at UCD; 15 Elite Sports Scholars and 7 Performing Arts Scholars. The full Academy membership now stands at 228.

The evening featured speeches given by alumni and current scholars in each of the three strands, Niamh McNamara (Academic scholar who is in her final year of Biomedical, Health & Life Sciences), Evan Lynch (Performing Arts scholar in his final year of English and Drama) and Adam Byrne (Elite Sports scholar completing his ME in Biomedical Engineering) 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 'Soave sia il vento' from *Così fan tutti*, the Italian-language opera in two acts by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Kellie Hughes, the Academy's Artistic Director, directed the piece which was performed by Performing Arts Scholars, Susie Gibbons, Marie Woulfe and Oisín Ó Friel.



Performing Arts Scholars Marie Woulfe, Susie Gibbons and Oisín Ó Friel performing *Soave sia il vento*

The 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. It has developed into a world class academy, many of whom like Dan Leavy and Josh van der Flier (selected to represent Ireland at Six Nations), Sam McGovern (performed in the award winning

Once at the Olympia Theatre) and Caitriona Ennis (starred in *Ulysses* and *Dublin* by Lamplight at the Abbey Theatre as well as been nominated four times for the Irish Times Theatre Awards as Best Supporting Actress and Best Ensemble), act as superb ambassadors for the University and Ireland.

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



## Inaugural Student Medical Summit

The University Medical Society staged the inaugural Student Medical Summit in February. A first of its kind, the summit is a student-led student-focused medical research conference which brought undergraduate students from all seven medical schools across the island of Ireland to Belfield to present original research.

The conference received over 100 entries, with over 250 attendees descending on Belfield on the day. Each participant had the opportunity to present their research in the poster gallery, with a panel of academics selecting eight finalists to present their work in front of the conference during the afternoon session. The judging panel was led by Professor Donal O'Shea and Dr Marguerite Clyne from UCD School of Medicine.

A number of world leaders in research addressed the conference throughout the day, including notable UCD alumni, Professor Sir Stephen O'Rahilly and Professor Orla Hardiman.

The overall winner, Irish Medical Undergraduate Researcher of the Year, was

Melissa Gabriel (RCSI) for her project titled 'Impact of Universal Newborn Hearing Screening on Cochlear Implanted Children in Ireland'. The runner-up was Sinead Donnelly (QUB), while third place went to Haley Ellis (UCD).

With plans already underway for next year's event, the Medical Society have optimistic ambitions for the future of the event, hoping to attract student researchers from further afield and from a wider range of disciplines. The event was spearheaded by Shane Kelly, Kate Bailey and Jonathan Hunter (All Stage 4 Medicine) and was a wonderful example of what can be achieved when UCD students, faculty, researchers, staff and alumni collaborate.



## Endeavour Research Fellowship

Gavin Murphy, PhD Research Fellow at UCD School of Education, has been awarded a 2018 Endeavour Research Fellowship by the Australian Government. The Australia Awards-Endeavour Fellowships is a prestigious program offered to support individuals to undertake study and research in Australia.

Gavin, whose PhD is supervised by Professor Ciaran Sugrue, is a member of the UCD School of Education research cluster on 'Teaching, Leading, Learning'. With colleagues at the University of Melbourne, Gavin will undertake research on professional education programmes and school leadership development from June until November.