



SPRING 2021

# UCD today

## FAREWELL TO OLD MAN BELFIELD

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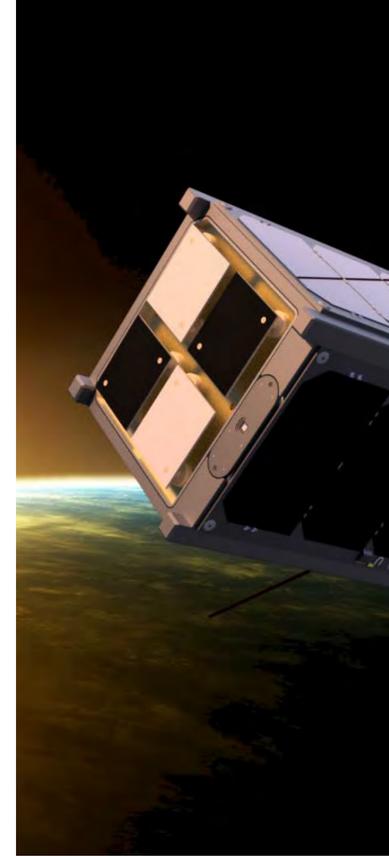
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# EDITOR'S LETTER

**EILIS O'BRIEN** DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING



I have been running the communication and marketing function for UCD since 2004 and in all my years I have never witnessed a response to the scale of our posting of the sad passing of Michael Byrne, or 'Old Man Belfield' as he was affectionately known, on 10 January 2021. We posted the news at around 8pm on that day and by 9am the following morning the posts had been shared with tens of thousands of students, graduates and staff and the messages of genuine sadness and personal tribute came pouring in.

Steve McCarthy and his family had been looking after Michael since his mother first came into contact with him in the 1980s. Steve was Michael's allocated next-of-kin and gave his eulogy at the [funeral service](#) we arranged in Belfield Church. As COVID restrictions limited the number of people who could attend the funeral, we thought it best that those who took most care of Michael could say their farewell in person. So, along with Gary Smith from UCD Estates, the funeral was attended by Jimmy Fitzsimons from the Restaurant, Denise

Byrne and Attracta Bell from the SU Shop and Dolores O'Riordan, Vice-President for Global Engagement. Fr Eamonn Bourke officiated, student Alan Fegan played the organ, graduate Declan Wildes was the soloist and student Helen Vysotska did the readings.

For over 30 years Michael lived in quiet corners of the UCD campus. His footsteps are ingrained in the paths of Woodbine, Nutley and Greenfield, across the N11 flyover into the campus, through the front gates, up the main avenue, by the side of the lake, and along the Oak walk - settling behind Conway when the weather was poor and over by Rosemount when it was warm.

He slipped into buildings, strolled through the science atrium - to the surprise of visiting academics attending conferences. He was a regular in the restaurant, the SU shop, and at other eateries and cafés where he was given his meals or cups of tea and sat amongst the students.

His quiet calmness seemed to spread to the students – osmosis-

like. Everyone knew Old Man Belfield – or felt that they did.

In January, we had arranged with RTÉ for a [Sunday Miscellany on Belfield 50](#) and, as Michael was so obviously an integral part of the campus, added a piece about him to the programme.

We were inundated with enquiries about a memorial in his honour and decided that we could remember him in two appropriate ways: a bench in the memorial Rose Garden by Belfield House, and the [Michael Byrne Community Fund](#) to foster and recognise community-building activities at UCD. This fund will support Cothrom Na Féinne Scholarships, as well as UCD in the Community initiatives and an annual student award.

Michael Byrne didn't have a roof over his head, a home of his own. But he made his home in the Belfield campus. Thank you to those who quietly looked out for Michael. And thank you Michael for being part of our lives.

We will miss you around campus.

## UCD thanks...

**Subscribers:** Judith Archbold, Brett Becker, Carla Briggs, Caroline Byrne, Joshua Clark, Jane Curtin, Mags D'Arcy, Emma Donovan, Mary Doorly, Declan Downey, Jennifer Doyle, Samantha Drennan, Audrey Drohan, Ashlee Feng, Antonella Ferrecchia, Ruth Ferris, Beth Gormley, Liz Hannon, Judith Harford, Naonori Kodate, Shane Lordan, Maurice Manning, John McCafferty, Debra McCann, Clár Ní Bhuchalla, Darina O'Hanlon, Theresa O'Leary, Eimear O'Reilly, Annette Patchett, Avril Patterson, Stephen Pigott, Emilie Pine, Elaine Quinn, Geraldine Quinn, Diane Sonnenwald, Miceal Whelan, Nerys Williams.

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Cover image: Farewell to Old Man Belfield (Image courtesy of Humans of Ireland Official)



## CARING FOR STUDENTS

**UCD Student Services and the associated facilities and supports within the Student Centre have remained open to serve and care for students since COVID-19 emerged on our shores. Access to Student Health Services (in person and remote) was maintained with access to the pharmacy, café and bookable study spaces. They also supported medical and nursing students to complete their training in full and have produced society, fitness and well-being content remotely for students across the globe.**

By modifying and redesigning service delivery to the new virtual world we all currently reside in, deep student engagement was maintained through multiple sub-unit initiatives.

UCD Sport & Fitness moved to serve students, staff and the wider community online by implementing a successful series of Live Zoom Fitness Classes which are ongoing. In excess of 3,000 members have subscribed for the classes so far, with an average of 35 members participating per class per day. Additionally, UCD Sport and Fitness established a Wellness Hub, enabling students and staff to take fitness classes and explore health resources on-demand from the comfort and safety of their home. Analytics have shown over 10,000 students and staff have accessed the Wellness Hub and virtual resources to date. The Wellness Hub currently hosts over 90 fitness classes to choose from alongside healthy recipes, mental health material and podcasts.

The UCD Student Health and Counselling

team rolled out their COVID-19 Service Delivery Adaptation Plan, creating virtual spaces for students to receive medical and counselling appointments both online and by phone. This swift action enabled the service to maintain engagement levels on-par with previous years. In-person essential appointments were, and are, still in operation under strict health and safety protocols.

Our students' spiritual well-being was also supported by the Chaplaincy team in the form of online and on-campus activity. Socially distanced 'Walk & Talk' sessions were hosted when guidelines allowed, an online multi-faith prayer wall was established and weekly virtual coffee mornings rolled out. Most recently, Ash Wednesday Mass was livestreamed, with technical support from their IT Coordinator, which saw new, current and prospective students along with local community members virtually welcome new Archbishop Dermot Farrell on-campus.



*Virtual classes from UCD Sport and Fitness*



Pictured at the site of the new athletics track are (l-r): Joanna Siewierska, former UCD Students' Union President; Paul O'Donnell, UCD Athletics Club; Dominic O'Keefe, Director of UCD Student Services; and Niamh O'Neill, UCD Athletics Club.

## CARING FOR STUDENTS (CONTINUED)

Student activity units, UCD Societies and UCD Sport, and their student members were also provided with the required tech production support from the Student Services team to create their own virtual events. This platform produced over 650 online student events from September to December 2020. Events ranged from sports club officer workshops to live virtual debates with the L&H society.

The Student Services operations team ensured UCD Cinema delivered an adapted service by teaming up with online film subscription service Mubi in the first lockdown to guarantee all students had access to a 3-month free subscription. Most recently, UCD Cinema has launched its own New Online Cinema Experience, in association with screening partners Access Cinema Ireland and Modern Films Entertainment. Students currently can watch modern films shot through a cinematic lens, giving them the cinematic experience they long for during this lockdown from the comfort of their homes. Part of the rental fee, in alignment with Student Services outreach work, will be donated to support a Irish-based charity.

By utilising resources within the aforementioned sub-units, Student Services partnered with Healthy UCD to empower 1,206 students to complete the UCD100 Challenge. This challenge provided students who were learning remotely from 26 counties nationally and 12 countries internationally a platform to improve their physical fitness while continuing to maintain contact with



Pictured at the cheque presentation to St Vincent de Paul are (l-r): Jason Masterson, Head of UCD Student Services; Ceolán Mc Mullin, Auditor UCDSVP; Brian Mullins, Healthy UCD; Maria Heffernan, Healthy UCD; and Dominic O'Keefe, Director of UCD Student Services.

their peers albeit virtually within the UCD Community. The work by Student Services created the synergy required for students to raise an impressive €23,115 for St Vincent De Paul (UCD Society branch) over the 30 days.

Looking to the near future, Student Services has industriously adapted to current circumstances and continued in the background at every viable opportunity to progress works on UCD's New Athletics Track Development. With work continuing steadily, they will proudly launch the development this Summer.

# COVID-19

## In Brief From around the University

### STUDY HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF COVID-19 GENOMIC SURVEILLANCE

A study across four Irish hospitals has highlighted the importance of COVID-19 genomic surveillance to inform where the virus originated, how it changed over time and how it impacts on health.

In this study titled '*Whole-genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 in the Republic of Ireland during Waves 1 and 2 of the pandemic*', samples were collected from 225 individuals who attended four hospitals (Beaumont, Mater, St Vincent's and Wexford General) during the first and second waves of the pandemic.

Speaking about the study conclusions, Professor Paddy Mallon, UCD School of Medicine and Consultant in Infectious Diseases, SVUH said: "The findings from this study suggest that common COVID-19 lineages and variants of concern can be eliminated using 'non-pharmaceutical interventions' such as lockdowns and travel restrictions and can curb progressive pandemic wave re-emergence within communities.

"Travel restrictions need robust implementation in our efforts to do everything we can to protect us against new variants coming into the country. Essentially, the introduction of new variants through travel puts everything we are doing to control COVID-19 at risk, as people can bring in potentially vaccine resistance variants. We also need granular knowledge as to where the variants are coming from through contributing to large-scale surveillance sequencing programmes in Europe and around the world".



Prof Paddy Mallon

# HOW INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY REIMAGINED AND STREAMLINED UCD LIBRARY SERVICES

**In its *Guidelines for re-opening Libraries in Ireland under COVID-19 Restrictions*, the Library Association of Ireland reiterated that libraries have always strived to be welcoming and inclusive spaces delivering high quality services to user communities. This maxim was at the heart of UCD Library services, as it bolstered online services and informed their plans for re-opening the doors – just 10 weeks after they closed.**



Meeting student needs is the key principle in service provision and, while blended service (online and on-campus) was available preCOVID-19, the weighting matched students' presence onsite. The reverse presented a challenge, particularly as the shift was sudden, of indeterminate duration and without knowledge or resources.

It was time to be innovative and use new technologies. Access to increased volumes of e-books was instigated within a tight timeframe which enabled students to continue study and exam preparation. Costs were alleviated by short-term publisher deals and strong negotiating.

The Library Management system was pressed into overdrive to manage extensions to loan periods, to remove barriers to lending, culminating in the introduction of an automatic renewal system – a service enhancement which will remain in situ post-COVID-19.

Throughout the period, information was provided via revamped email services. However, it became apparent that a virtual reference service was required. A new query management system was put in place, including a new public interface, LibChat, which not only handles responses in real time, but queues queries received out of service hours for email response. In addition, it comprises FAQs, a knowledge base which may well answer the query without direct intervention and provides statistical reporting too.

However, the requirement to provide physical access to the library for onsite services, particularly browsing, borrowing and study space became apparent as soon as there was some relaxation of lockdown. Aligning with the Government's roadmap,

onsite services resumed in the James Joyce Library incrementally, initially supporting research with access restricted to faculty, staff and postgraduate students who could avail of bookable single study rooms. The access control system was set to ensure access for designated cohorts only.

Preparations for the autumn trimester and the return of undergraduates to campus presented the challenge of management of the much reduced, socially-distanced study space. Springshare's LibSeats system was put in place, mapping study seats in all five library sites at the required 2m social distancing, utilising the prime real estate of desks with power and data first. To futureproof the system, the seats were also mapped at 1m social distance, so that when restrictions ease these inactive seats can become bookable. The flexibility of the system allowed the Library team to act quickly to expand the seat bookings at exam times. The benefit of this system is not just that the student knows they will have a seat when they come to the library, but it also facilitates contact tracing for COVID-19. This seat booking system was shared with Estates Services to manage other study spaces on campus.

With decreased capacity in the libraries the access control system facilitated setting occupancy caps. Occupancy levels, available laptop loans and seat bookings are all displayed in real time on an Availability Dashboard displayed on the website.

In many ways COVID-19 has accelerated the rate of change in service provision and has ensured the focus is on service both on and off campus. Technology enables this, and some of the processes and systems adopted in the past year were developed to meet these newly recognised requirements. The human effort in adopting and adapting cannot be underestimated, and we thank our colleagues for the work which enabled these initiatives.



## In Brief

### From around the University

#### IMPROVED SURVIVAL RATES WITH TOCILIZUMAB

A study of 2,000 critically ill patients with COVID-19 in 260 hospitals across the world has shown that treatment with the immune modulator, Tocilizumab, was 99% more likely to reduce deaths and time spent in intensive care, compared to patients who did not receive the treatment.

The findings published in NEJM come from the REMAP-CAP trial, led in Ireland at St Vincent's University Hospital and UCD School of Medicine and globally by Imperial College London, Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre (ICNARC) in the UK, and Utrecht University.

"These findings show that a single course of treatment with this immune modulating drug can significantly improve the outcomes for the most critically ill COVID-19 patients, receiving organ support in intensive care units. Patients receiving Tocilizumab were 99% more likely to improve (measured as survival or a shorter period of organ support in ICU) compared to patients who received no immune modulator. However, the trial does not yet know the relative benefits of Tocilizumab compared to the other immune modulators. Further data are expected in the coming months," said Professor Alistair Nichol, Study Co-Author, UCD Chair in Critical Care Medicine, Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine at St Vincent's University Hospital Dublin and Director of the Irish Critical Care-Clinical Trails Network (ICC-CTG).

The DSMB (Data and Safety Monitoring Board) reported an estimated odds-ratio of 1.87 for a better outcome with Tocilizumab compared to no immune modulation, with a 99.75% probability that Tocilizumab is superior.

REMAP-CAP is an international, adaptive platform trial designed to determine effective treatment strategies for patients with severe pneumonia in both pandemic and non-pandemic settings. REMAP-CAP began investigating treatments for COVID-19 in March 2020, enrolling hospitalised patients with either moderate or severe (requiring ICU care) COVID-19.



Prof Alistair Nichol



# RESEARCH UPDATES



Dr Christine Linehan

## Impact of COVID-19 on Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Caregivers

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) may experience significant and disproportionate distress during a pandemic. Among many disparities with the general population, individuals with IDD are more likely to experience communication difficulties, co-morbid physical and mental health conditions, and inequities in healthcare access and health promotion.

Analysing key data, the project will identify, for the first time, the impact of a pandemic on the lives of people with IDD.

Without appropriate support, individuals with IDD may be unable to alert others to the onset of symptoms. They may find the experience of restrictive practices unsettling prompting an escalation in behaviours that challenge, and they and their caregivers may experience inequitable access to healthcare, raising significant ethical issues in the context of under-equipped health systems.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities affirms the rights of all persons with disabilities to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability.

This project aims to conduct an anonymised online survey of those supporting people with IDD, including family and paid caregivers, across a number of international jurisdictions. The

survey will be conducted in conjunction with the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disability's (IASSIDD) Comparative Policy and Practice Special Interest Group (CPP), a global organisation of which a number of project partners are members. Through these networks, project partners will contact disability and advocacy organisations worldwide asking that they share the link to the online survey with their members. The analysis of these data will generate new insights into the impact of a pandemic on the lives of people with IDD.

Dissemination includes open access to the anonymised dataset, and the production of infographics and brief videos to share findings with families, service providers, national and international stakeholders such as WHO, the Fundamental Rights Agency and the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities.

Lead researcher Dr Christine Linehan, UCD School of Psychology and Director of UCD Centre for Disability Studies commented: "People with intellectual disabilities face specific disadvantage during the pandemic; symptoms may go unnoticed, treatment may be withheld, social distancing measures may result in behaviours that challenge. Our survey aims to capture people's experience so we can use findings to develop policy and practice guidelines for this population."

See the published protocol for the study on HRB Open Research [here](#). For more information and outputs from the project visit the [UCD Centre for Disability Studies](#) on the UCD School of Psychology website.



## In Brief

### From around the University

#### CO-VISION



Dr Suja Somanadhan

The Co-Vision project, led by Dr Suja Somanadhan, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems aims to learn more about how children have creatively found ways to manage the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funded by the HRB and the IRC, the project will explore the creative and innovative ways children have been responding to the changes during and after the pandemic, and how their initiatives may help other children, particularly addressing their sense of safety, calm, hope, self-efficacy and connectedness. In this project, researchers will specifically focus on the active engagement of children, what we can learn from them and how this can be translated and adjusted to other groups within our society on how to deal with the effects of this pandemic.

While children may experience an impact from the COVID-19 pandemic on their health and well-being, as well as their sense of safety, they are also capable of responding positively and creatively to the challenges presented, helping themselves and others to survive and thrive in taxing times.

This research will explore strategies in the home and community, where children's creative and innovative responses have helped them and their friends and families adjust to changes during and after the pandemic. It will also look at how children's actions in the pandemic may affect the ability of others in their community to adjust to changes.

Lead Researcher Dr Suja Somanadhan said:

**"Project Co-Vision will enable us to connect with children from across the globe and to learn from their life experiences. This can provide indicators for potential early interventions and recommendations for future research and can help promote positive community actions and responses during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond."**

## RESEARCH UPDATES (CONTINUED)

### UCD is National Coordinator in EU-wide network to accelerate COVID-19 vaccine Phase 2 and 3 clinical trials

VACCELERATE, the European Corona Vaccine Trial Accelerator Platform, will be the pan-European backbone accelerating Phase 2 and 3 COVID-19 vaccine trials, connecting all stakeholders involved in vaccine development and providing a platform for clinical trial design and conduct. The network now constitutes a rapid response single entry-point for all stakeholders from public health authorities to vaccine developers, to address respective needs and kick-start Phase 2 and 3 vaccine trials.

Phase 2 and 3 clinical trials involve larger numbers of people (several hundred and >3,000 respectively), having passed safety requirements from Phase 1. There are 21 countries involved in the network including Ireland. Irish Partners are UCD and NUI Galway, led from UCD by Infectious Diseases expert [Professor Paddy Mallon](#), director of [UCD Centre for Experimental Pathogen Host Research \(CEPHR\)](#) and consultant at St Vincent's University Hospital Infectious Diseases department.

Professor Mallon said: "In my role as National Coordinator for the VACCELERATE network, I will be involved in identifying and linking clinical sites across Ireland to opportunities to participate in vaccine research to enable Ireland and its citizens to fully participate in vaccine research into COVID-19 and other pandemic infections.

"The award to UCD recognises the considerable research undertaken by the University and CEPHR which will play leading roles in developing and validating new assays to be used in vaccine trials as part of VACCELERATE, as well as providing laboratory capacity to this important European Network to assist with specialist laboratory and research capacity."

Also involved, director of the [UCD Clinical Research Centre](#) and Associate Dean of Research, Innovation and Impact at UCD School of Medicine, [Professor Peter Doran](#) said: "An essential component of the VACCELERATE Network will be the alignment of our vaccine trial methods so large-scale, Europe-wide clinical trials can be initiated quickly whilst maintaining the highest regulatory and scientific standards. Our work will diffuse a detailed set of protocols and standards across all the partners, so we can establish new trials quickly."

VACCELERATE will allow capacity mapping of clinical trial and laboratory sites across Europe, to identify suitable sites for individual Phase 2 and 3 vaccine trials. In addition to providing access to laboratories and a standardised set of assays essential for clinical Phase 2 and 3 trials, the network will also build capacity and increase quality across the bloc via shared best practice and training, while volunteer registries will facilitate patient recruitment.

### SARS-CoV-2 in Sewage and Bodies of Water

What happens when the COVID-19 virus gets into the environment through human digestive waste? We know that faeces from people infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus can contain genetic material (RNA) from the virus, and that it is possible to detect that viral RNA in sewage.

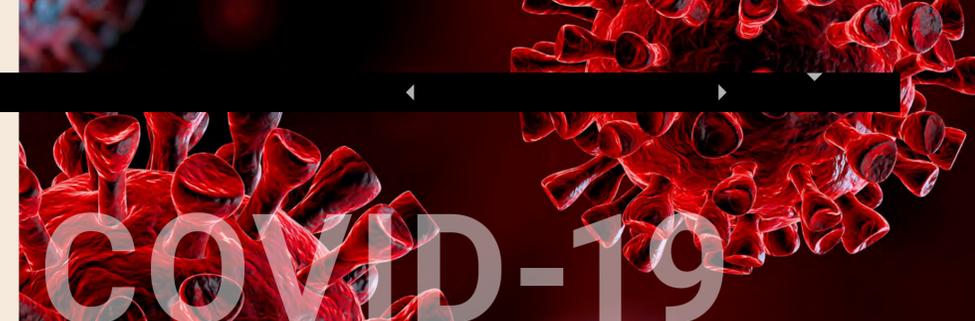
SFI is funding a new project at UCD to measure levels of SARS-CoV-2 at wastewater treatment plants. This will provide insight into the prevalence of the virus in the community and serve as an early warning system for a new wave of infection. The project also aims to work out what happens to the virus in nearby bodies of water such as rivers, streams and sea, including the waters where we swim. The research will benefit from the expertise of an existing EU Interreg-funded project at UCD called Acclimatize, which determines the levels and origins of faecal contamination in Dublin Bay.

When a person is infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, they can pass viral material out with their faeces. The amount of virus genetic material in sewage is therefore a reflection of the number of people who are infected. However, we don't know if the virus is still infectious, how quickly the virus dies off and what the fate of the virus in the environment is.

This project combines the expertise of microbiologists and environmental biologists (Professor Wim Meijer, Dr Laura Sala-Comorera, Dr Liam Reynolds and Niamh Martin, MSc) with expertise in virology (Dr Nicola Fletcher) and engineering (Professor John O'Sullivan). They will monitor the levels of SARS-CoV-2 in incoming wastewater at treatment plants at Ringsend (Dublin), Shanganagh (Bray) and Enniskerry, and determine if the virus is viable. The team will also determine how long it takes for the virus to decay in sea and river water, and if water bodies that are contaminated with sewage contain the virus.

The presence of SARS-CoV-2 in sewage entering wastewater treatment plants is an indication of how many people are infected. This project will provide data on the effectiveness of public health-mandated measures to contain the virus and will serve as an early warning system for subsequent waves of infection. Knowing about the die-off rates of the virus in the environment provides critical information about the health risks for sewage workers and the public, who may be exposed to sewage-impacted bodies of water.

Lead researcher, Professor Wim Meijer, Head of UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, says: "This SFI funded project for surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in sewage and bodies of water will provide critical information on the prevalence of the virus in the population, and on the fate of the virus in the environment."



## In Brief

### From around the University

#### EXPANDING CARE CAPACITY THROUGH REMOTE MONITORING OF COVID-19 PATIENTS

One initiative that shows potential to increase efficiency in treating COVID-19 patients is remote monitoring (RM). patientMpower is an Irish digital health firm that has developed a remote monitoring solution for COVID-19 on behalf of the HSE. This enables home monitoring of otherwise healthy patients with mild to moderate symptoms who are in self-isolation, either having tested positive and/or are symptomatic. This project will explore the acceptability and utilisation of the device as well as the RM programme's potential to deliver appropriate care and reduce the COVID-19 burden on hospitals and GP practices. The project will focus on 2 sites: The Mater Hospital COVID-19 Virtual Clinic (MMUH CVC) monitoring patients who are using the app at home and Community Health Organisation 3 in the Mid-West where three COVID-19 Community Assessment Hubs – based in Clare, Limerick and Tipperary – are being established. The aim of the hubs is to prevent patients from overburdening the hospital system.

This mixed-methods study will adopt an iterative approach, engaging stakeholders to ensure the optimum study design, efficient data capture, informed analysis and interpretation of findings as they emerge, and timely and continuous dissemination, to inform the development of an expanded programme of RM.

The benefits of this approach include the patient being able to continue self-isolation, reducing infection risks associated with in-person GP attendances, reduction in unnecessary hospital bed occupancy and reassurance for the patient and the GP.

The project team is led by Professor Eilish McAuliffe, and Dr Aoife DeBrun, both UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, Professor Liam Glynn, Professor of General Practice at University of Limerick and Dr Tara McGinty, Consultant in Inclusion Health and Infectious Diseases at Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Associate Professor at UCD.

The Belfield 50 project marks the five decades since UCD transferred its administration and the faculties of Arts, Commerce and Law from Earlsfort Terrace to join Science on the Belfield campus.

Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact was project sponsor with Eilis O'Brien, UCD University Relations as the project director. Dr Ellen Rowley, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy was project curator and Mary Staunton was the project manager. A steering committee, drawn from University Relations, Estates, Library, Alumni Relations/Foundation, Architecture, and Colleges and Schools advised on the programme.



## LAUNCH

**Then President of Ireland Éamon de Valera opened the new complex designed by Polish architect Andrzej Wejchert on Tuesday, 29 September 1970.**

To celebrate Belfield and the generations of students and staff who lived and learned on the campus UCD President Professor Andrew Deeks and the Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Learning, Professor Orla Feely hosted a virtual launch of the central elements of the project: a timeline exhibition, [available online](#) and on display both inside and outside the lower ground floor of the UCD Restaurant; a book – *Making Belfield: Space and Place*, edited by Professor Finola O’Kane Crimmins and Dr Ellen Rowley, published by UCD Press; a photographic exhibition *Conveying Space* by Daniel Holfeld, on display in the plaza between Newman and Tierney; and a short film, *Shaping Belfield*, produced by Dr Ellen Rowley.

You can watch the official launch [here](#).

Project sponsor, Professor Orla Feely said: “Belfield 50 is a celebration for the generations of students and staff who breathed life into the campus over these five decades. It sets out to tell the story of UCD’s ambitious development of this wonderful campus, from the modest purchase of Belfield House and lands in 1933 to provide sports

facilities for the students to the building of the first academic building (Science) in 1964 and the subsequent arrival of all faculties to Belfield, along with student residences that now house 3,000 students.

**“Today, the campus continues to evolve and the future looks bright with plans for the Centre for Future Learning and the Centre for Creativity destined to form a new era of education, research and outreach for the University.”**

## BEFIELD 50 LAUNCH (CONTINUED)



Looking to the future, President Professor Andrew Deeks said: “We have developed a Strategic Campus Development Plan 2016-2021-2026 which defines three distinct character areas: academic, our teaching, learning, research and innovation activities; sports and student amenities, our sports pitches and halls, our student centre and our student clubs and societies; and residential, our student residences together with retail spaces, dining facilities, meeting rooms and support facilities in a ‘village centre’.

#### Timeline Exhibition

Located on the lower ground floor of the Main Restaurant, the exhibition can be viewed from inside and out. Although the first tract of land was purchased by the University in 1933 to provide playing pitches for the students, it was in the 1950s, under President Michael Tierney that the large-scale acquisition took place in a visionary plan to solve the chronic overcrowding in Earlsfort Terrace and develop a true campus experience for students.

In 1964, just as the science students and staff

took up residence at Belfield, Andrzej Wejchert along with Robinson Keefe Devane (RKD) was announced as the winner of the international competition to design the masterplan and central complex for the Faculties of Arts, Commerce and Law, along with the University Administration and Registry.

On Tuesday 29 September 1970, Éamon de Valera, Uachtarán na hÉireann, declared open the new building and President of UCD, Dr Jeremiah J Hogan, spoke as follows: “The opening of this new building... is a capital occasion in the history

**“We will ensure that our campus development supports the delivery of a student experience that defines international best practice, and that our strategic themes inform the development of an accessible, sustainable, healthy and digitally enabled campus that also represents international best practice.”**

of University College. We shall now have between seven and eight thousand students here at Belfield, while about 3,000 remain at our various older centres. The greater part of the College will be here, and it is a matter of time until all is here...

“Universities have many difficult problems at this time. But it may be said today that University College Dublin, with the means provided by the Irish Government and people, has made great strides towards the solution of one problem which was very urgent in our case – that of space in which to live and do our work.”

The Timeline Exhibition takes visitors through the evolution of Belfield, from the turning of the sod to the vision for Future Campus and the Centre for Creativity. Please take the opportunity to visit if you are on campus. [Alternatively, you can view it online here.](#)

## BELFIELD 50 LAUNCH (CONTINUED)



### Conveying Space – Photographic Exhibition

Shot by photographer Daniel Holfeld during the quiet of COVID restrictions, [this exhibition](#) of 19 pieces conveys the atmosphere of the architecture in Belfield and emphasises the interaction between structure and natural light.

Holfeld's photographs express fleeting moments of visual access, manifested in tightly cropped details. Through careful positioning and calculated framing, he illuminates the subtleties and nuances in architecture, while exploring the profession beyond its commercial appeal.

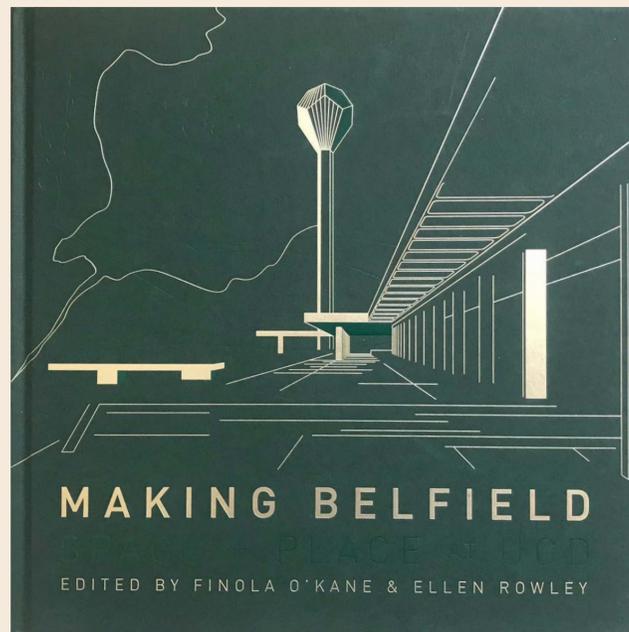
Choosing to work under cloudless skies and high sunsets the intention was to have transformative effect on the architecture. Deep shadows and powerful illumination reveal clearly defined lines and crisp geometric shapes, which abstract his surroundings into graphical vistas turning the utilitarian into the iconic.

To achieve this, Holfeld crops building parts out of context, zooms in on architectural detail

or isolates certain building features thereby creating, in the process, strong geometrical compositions that have a life of their own. Steps and lampposts, for example, shed their functional role to become two-dimensional flourishes while elsewhere façade segments lose their scale to become graphical abstractions.

In an intimate and powerful contemplation Holfeld's images provide access to a new look at the built legacy; deconstructing the elemental components of architecture, transforming the rebar, concrete and stucco of its buildings to change the way we think about the structures themselves.

Conveying Space is on display in the plaza between the Tierney and Newman Buildings.



### Making Belfield: Space and Place at UCD

Edited by Professor Finola O'Kane and Dr Ellen Rowley and published by UCD Press, [Making Belfield: Space and Place at UCD](#) examines the architecture of the campus from an academic perspective, with a focus on the origins and importance of UCD's architecture, collections and libraries.

Steeped in architectural history, editors Professor O'Kane and Dr Rowley have drawn together a series of fascinating topics that tell the story of Belfield as a space and place

that has fostered generations of students. Throughout the book are case studies on some of the architecture.

Their work is augmented by geographer Associate Professor Joseph Brady's chronicle and contextualisation of the steps involved in the move to Belfield.

Sean Phillips, former Librarian, reflects on the symbolic importance of the Library which, apart from its practical functionality, forms a focal point for academic endeavour as well as having a value as a social lubricant on the campus.

Art historian, Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty weaves through the international growth of campus universities with forthright views and comparisons. Dean of Architecture, Professor Hugh Campbell looks to the future in a personal narration of the changing landscape.

The book encompasses some Belfield treasures and Professor John McCafferty, Evelyn Flanagan, Kate Manning and Ruth Ferguson provide an insight into the UCD Collections, while Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin and Dr Críostóir MacCarthaigh describe how the globally renowned National Folklore Collection came about.

The essays will evoke memories of Belfield and of time spent there in the various spaces and places and will give the reader a deeper understanding of the place that has shaped so many.

Making Belfield can be pre-ordered directly from UCD Press: [ucdpress@ucd.ie](mailto:ucdpress@ucd.ie) at a special rate of €25 (RRP €40) for UCD alumni, including postage.

### Shaping Belfield

[Shaping Belfield](#), a short educational and experiential film on the shaping of the Belfield campus, produced by Dr Ellen Rowley, tells the story of the architectural development of UCD on its Belfield site in broad chronological terms.

Much of the film's narrative is around the design and building of the Newman and Tierney Buildings, the Main Restaurant and Library buildings as the original infrastructure, overlaid on to historic greenfield landscape.

Side stories of the making of the Science

Buildings, the Water Tower, the Sports Centre and then buildings for Agriculture and Engineering are also told as part of this 'original campus' history.

The film then overviews Belfield's evolution through the 1990s and 2000s, pointing to significant additions and changes such as the O'Reilly Hall, the three architectural competitions (1999-2007) and the adaptation of Merville and Belfield Houses. Finishing up with a discussion on the Future Campus building plans and the impact on the estate.

Illustrated with archive photographs, archive ephemera including the NUI Commission of Enquiry and the competition conditions, original construction footage (RTÉ), new drone footage and architectural drawings, this is a richly visual and contextual educational piece. Architecture and Belfield's spatial histories form the seam through the story.

As with so many projects during 2020, COVID-19 took its toll and a number of events are on hold until public health guidelines are relaxed. Keep an eye on the website [www.ucd.ie/belfield50](http://www.ucd.ie/belfield50) and on Twitter [@UCDBelfield50](https://twitter.com/UCDBelfield50) for news on future events.



## ■ Celebrating the Decade of Centenaries

Ireland continues to celebrate many aspects of its Decade of Centenaries and has now entered a phase post-Rising where the new country was finding its feet and forging a new identity.

A series of supplements was produced by the [Irish Independent](#) in November 2020, (Scroll to Links) in conjunction with UCD. Richly illustrated with material from UCD Archives as well as the Military Archive, the features were compiled by Eilis O'Brien, UCD Director of Communication and Marketing, Dr Conor Mulvagh, UCD School of History and Kate Manning, UCD Archives and edited by Jon Smith, Irish Independent.

The supplements covered:

- **Bloody Sunday:** the timeline of events and commentary from differing perspectives on its impact.
- **The Burning of Cork:** following the assassination of Tomás MacCurtain and the death of Terence MacSwiney, Mayor of Cork, on hunger strike, these features chronicle the reprisals reaching "a grim zenith".
- **Two Deaths that shook the Nation:** outlining the impact of the deaths of Terence MacSwiney and Kevin Barry, fuelling the cause of republicanism and eliciting global sympathy.
- **Kilmichael Ambush:** reprisals followed reprisals, "propaganda, espionage and frenzied bloodshed" continued.

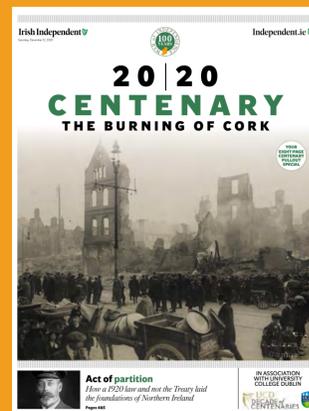
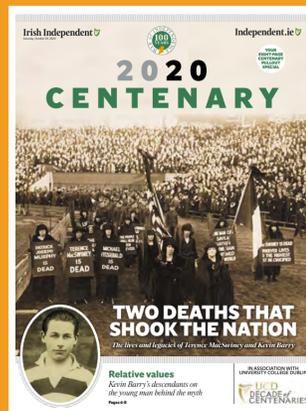
Focussing on UCD medical student Kevin Barry, [a new series of UCD videos explores his life, death, and historical legacy](#), the first Irish republican to be executed during the War of Independence. It marks the centenary of his execution on 1 November 1920 and is part of the UCD programme of events to commemorate the [Decade of Centenaries](#). The videos were recorded by Mary Daly, UCD Emeritus Professor of History; Dr Conor Mulvagh, UCD School of History; Síofra O'Donovan, Kevin Barry descendant; and Eunan O'Halpin, Emeritus Professor of History, Trinity College Dublin.

Kevin Barry, a UCD medical student and member of H Company, 1st Battalion of the IRA's Dublin Brigade, was captured on 20 September 1920 during a failed arms raid on British soldiers at Monk's Bakery on Upper Church Street, near the corner of North King Street in Dublin city centre.



Three British soldiers, Henry Washington, Matthew Whitehead, and Thomas Humphries, died as a result of the IRA ambush in which Kevin Barry was captured. Barry was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death by hanging at Mountjoy Prison.

In 1934, UCD graduates commemorated Kevin Barry with a stained-glass memorial which is now located in the UCD Charles Institute of Dermatology on the Belfield Campus.



## ■ Dr Laurence G Crowley CBE (1937-2020)

It was with deep sadness that the UCD community marked the passing of Dr Laurence G Crowley CBE in December.

Laurence was an esteemed and inspiring member of the UCD community, as well as of the Irish and international business communities. Appointed as UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School's first chairman in 1990, his leadership, commercial awareness and unwavering belief in the power of teams laid the foundations for UCD Smurfit School to receive global recognition as Ireland's leading business school.

"Laurence had an outstanding belief in the transformative power of education and the role it played in the enabling of future talent", said Professor Tony Brabazon, Dean of UCD College of Business. "The development of business education in Ireland owes a great deal to Laurence as his vision provided the pathway for UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School to thrive and flourish. It is because of him, that the School has become what it is today."

After stepping down from his role as chairman, he remained an active member of the School's advisory board and a trusted advisor until his passing. His sustained support through initiatives like the annual Laurence Crowley Lecture Series offered students new ways to engage with leaders in the international world of business.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from UCD in 1959, he followed two of his older brothers into his father's accountancy practice, Kennedy Crowley. He qualified as a chartered accountant and enjoyed a successful career in corporate reconstruction and insolvency. Subsequent mergers saw him become a partner at KPMG Stokes Kennedy Crowley, which would later become KPMG Ireland.

He served as deputy governor and governor of Bank of Ireland and described it as the pinnacle of his career. He displayed innovative leadership and considerable business acumen



in his many directorships with leading organisations.

However, corporate success was not his only ambition. In a 2011 interview with the *Irish Times*, he described how his parents had instilled in him an understanding that privilege brings with it a responsibility to "give something back".

His humanity, charisma and warmth enabled him to broker relationships and build bridges between communities on both sides of the Irish Border. His pragmatism and commitment to bring business leaders and civil servants together in the North-South Roundtable Group he co-founded helped to transform the relationship between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. In 2004, the NUI recognised Laurence's role in the peace process by conferring on him an honorary Doctorate of Law. In 2009, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II awarded him an Honorary CBE.

Among his considerable accomplishments, Laurence saw the establishment of the UCD Smurfit School as a career highlight. His humility and pride in the institution were evident when he accepted the UCD College of Business inaugural award for Outstanding Contribution to Business Education in 2019. Speaking to an audience of distinguished guests and friends, he described the event as "one of the most wonderful days of my life".

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



## Patients input to research challenges in virtual Dragons' Den

**Three research groups stepped into a virtual Dragons' Den on Tuesday, 24 November 2020 as part of the Patient Voice in Cancer Research (PVCR) initiative. Rather than investors, these dragons were patients with a lived experience of cancer. They offered advice and feedback to researchers on specific questions or challenges being faced in cancer research projects.**

This public and patient involvement initiative provides cancer researchers with valuable insight that will help to improve ongoing and future cancer research projects.

The research groups taking part included those led by Dr Stephen Thorpe, UCD School of Medicine and UCD Conway Institute; Dr Ananya Gupta, School of Medicine, NUI Galway; and Ross Nelson, Research Assistant in the group of Dr Antoinette Perry, UCD School of Biology & Environmental Science and UCD Conway Institute.

The Thorpe group invited feedback on developing an approach to access patient

biopsy samples in pancreatic cancer. There was agreement that patients needed time to process both the clinical aspects of their illness and idea of participating in research. It is seen as vital that patients fully understand the research and have an opportunity to ask questions of a trusted individual such as a clinical research nurse or GP.

It was the second time in the Dragons' Den for the Gupta group who are developing a device for home management of neutropenia (low white blood cell counts), a side effect of chemotherapy. Based on previous feedback, they are now developing a mobile application to support the device and its use. Patients believe that knowing

the status of their neutrophils will help to save time, resources and prevent unnecessary stress.

Research is ongoing in the Perry group to develop a better way to detect aggressive prostate cancer from a simple urine test (epiCaPture). They were keen to hear from patients how the process of testing and diagnosis could be improved. It was clear that there are many areas for improvement in terms of communication. Patients want health professionals to explain the terminology they use and how it relates to a patient's stage of cancer.

The research groups have committed to updating patient participants after six months on how their feedback has been incorporated into research projects. Professor Amanda McCann, UCD School of Medicine and UCD Conway Institute leads the PVCR initiative.

## Old Man Belfield

**The death in January of Michael Byrne; a cherished and familiar figure affectionately known on campus as 'Old Man Belfield', was a great loss to the UCD community. Following his passing, the National Folklore Collection invited staff to contact them with memories and reminiscences regarding Michael. These accounts (selections of which are reproduced here) attest to the fond regard in which Michael was held and the positive impact his presence had on those around him:**

"Every day like clockwork at 5 pm Michael would slowly pass across the entrance to the vet school. As we passed, I'd say hello and sometimes he would silently look my way and there was always such peace and constancy in his look and demeanour. His steadfast presence will be missed."

"He always struck me as a figure of extraordinary self-containment. In spite of his bedraggled appearance, there was never anything seemingly desperate or pitiable about him. Michael, as I only learned after this death that he was called, seemed always himself; an unhurried, deliberate person who shared our space on a journey of his own... He inspired thought, reflection, speculation, and acts of generosity and respect."

"Michael was a constant presence right throughout my time here. I noticed that he brought out the best in everyone. Generation after

generation of students respected him and his privacy. They cared about him and his welfare. I don't believe there is a person who has passed through UCD's gates that wasn't impacted by his quiet presence."

"He was a quiet reassuring presence."

"A few mornings every week on my way back from the school run I'd see Michael leaving Spar Woodbine after getting his coffee and a roll or a pastry, he would head off on his way back up through Woodbine and Seafield and as he went he would share his snack with his feathered friends who would follow him in droves to get their own 'breakfast'. A beautiful sight and a demonstration of his kind gentle nature."

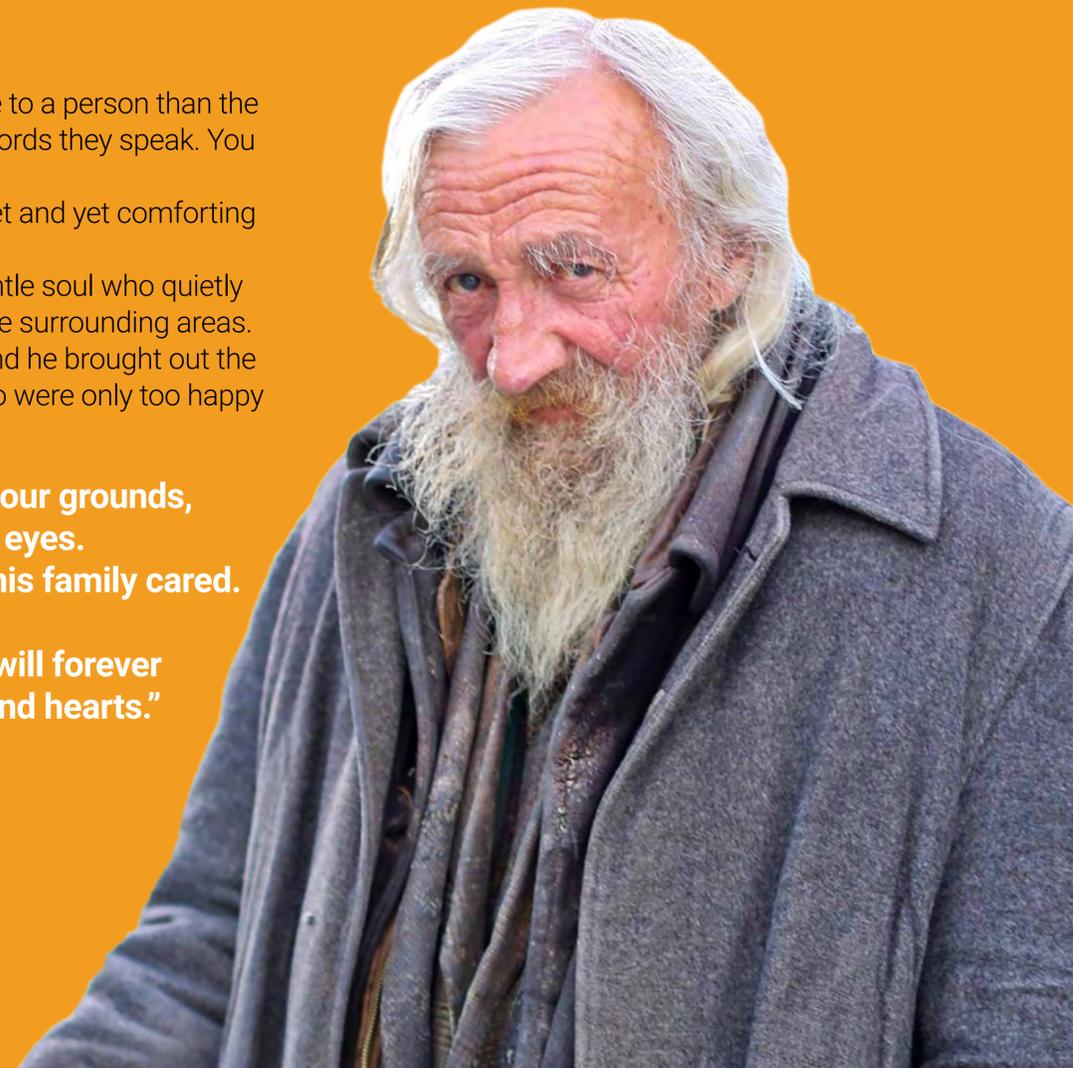
"Many times you cheered me up with that shy look, like you knew how I was feeling. It was comforting having you around. Will really miss you."

You taught me there is more to a person than the clothes they wear and the words they speak. You are in heaven now."

"I knew Michael as a quiet and yet comforting presence around campus."

"An iconic man and a gentle soul who quietly lived in his life in UCD and the surrounding areas. He was loved by so many and he brought out the good in so many people who were only too happy to help him out."

**"He wandered through our grounds, Surrounded by friendly eyes. Feeling safe, knowing his family cared. We cared, we smiled. He stayed with us and will forever stay in our memories and hearts."**





Lille School of Architecture and Landscape

## IN PROFILE: NASRINE SERAJI

Nasrine Seraji, recently appointed Professor of Architectural Design at UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, has had a distinguished career in both academia and architectural practice.

Prior to her engagement at UCD she was a Full Professor at the University of Hong Kong. She has taught at Princeton and Columbia, and served as Professor and Chair of Architecture at Cornell University. She has also taught in leading schools in London, Paris and Vienna.

Professor Seraji's architecture studio has produced many notable projects, starting her career with the Temporary American Centre in the French capital. Big-heavy-beautiful, a complex mixed-use building for the Paris transport authority was inaugurated in 2017. Nominated twice for the Mies Van Der Rohe Prize for student housing in Paris and the School of Architecture in Lille, Romeo and Juliette apartments was granted the special mention of Équerre d'Argent.

Professor Seraji AA DIPL FRIBA has received a number of honours, including the Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres, Officier de l'Ordre National du Mérite and Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur.

Professor Seraji was in conversation with Patrick Kelleher, (BA 2015, MA 2017), a freelance journalist.

## ■ An interview with...

### **Q What are some of your proudest achievements in your professional and academic work?**

**A** The most exciting and rewarding times in my double-life as a teacher and architect have been when I have contributed to the discourse of architecture.

In 1991, I won the competition to build the Temporary American Centre in Paris two years before Frank Gehry's permanent design was constructed. My first teaching job in an American university stemmed from this project. I was invited to teach at Tulane University, then at the Architectural Association in London, and then at Columbia University in New York City. That's when I felt that I was officially recognised as an architect with an intellectual position worthy of the academic community.

### **Q What areas of research and education are you most passionate about?**

**A** I am interested in collective housing as the main ingredient of the city. I have explored this relationship historically in my book *Housing, substance of our cities, a European Chronicle 1900-2007*.

I am equally interested in other questions concerning the city, its architecture, landscape and geography, public spaces as well as its economy and governance. Most recently, I have been working on what I call 'Integrative Architecture'; an architecture that is simultaneously a piece of infrastructure, a landscape, a building and public space – in short, a piece of the city that acts as a negotiating element amongst all the spaces around it, in it, over it and under it.

### **Q As an academic and practitioner, how do you balance scholarship with creativity?**

**A** It is difficult for me to call myself a practitioner or an academic. I am fully and simultaneously engaged in both areas.

As an architect-teacher, I try to efface the burdened walls that separate creativity from

research, research from practice, making from thinking and analogue from digital. The answer to how I balance these two seemingly opposing concepts is through understanding architecture as cultural systems. I have always run my architecture studio as a place where we read, debate, think and test ideas. In my teaching studios, we discuss ideas, draw them, narrate them as if they are literary graphic novels, sequence them as if they are films, and choreograph them as if they are dance.

### **Q How has the pandemic changed the way you work, and how has it impacted on your profession more generally?**

**A** The pandemic has made us question a lot of things in our lives: time, globalisation, local governance, economic fragility, inequality, perspective and future, affordability and accessibility – all things architects have to work with and design for. Our relationship to the world has become two-dimensional whereas in our discipline the third and fourth dimensions are of the essence. Before the pandemic, everything in schools revolved around the design studio. Lockdowns have imposed the same mode of teaching for all courses. Zoom has created an orthogonal relationship between the students and the teacher, whereas the studio creates a spatial relationship.

### **Q What do you hope to achieve in your new role as Professor of Architectural Design at UCD?**

**A** I hope to make architecture as central to the ranking of a university as research and publications are. I want to demonstrate why it is so important to study architecture in the 21st century.

Architecture is mostly referred to as a commercial, professional and creative discipline. Seldom is it understood as an intellectual discipline that draws from reality, and through abstraction produces new realities.

### **Q What would you like people working in other fields to understand about architectural design?**

**A** The architect is, first and foremost, an intellectual who possesses tools for transforming the world. Architecture is not only about designing a functional building – it is a necessity for our societies if we are to accept that everyone has the right to a decent living space, a good public space and a city that is inclusive and common property.

### **Q Did you always want to design particular types of buildings?**

**A** I have never wanted to design particular types of buildings, but I would have loved to design a house for a client like Dr Farnsworth or the Savoye family or Fritz Schminke, or a monastery for Dominican monks, like Le Corbusier, or the University for Thomas Jefferson.

I have designed a lot of collective housing, which is exciting as you have to find ways to exalt the everyday life within tight constraints. But I would have loved to build large cultural facilities, such as our runner-up competition proposal for the Bremen Philharmonic Hall. It had an incredible hall where each person in the audience would have a specific individual listening experience (almost as if you have your earphones on) as well a totally collective one.

### **Q Where did the inspiration for your architectural style come from?**

**A** I do not have an architectural style! I am interested in the why of things and not so much in their shape. For me, architecture is a cause and not a style. I am interested in processes that produce results which contribute to the discourse of architecture, allowing it to be understood as an up-to-date cultural system. My architecture changes with the particular, physical, environmental, material, economic and cultural conditions of each project. It would be very difficult to look at a building or

a project and say this is a 'Seraji' – you need to experience it, read its plans and see how it asks you questions, and only perhaps then my signature would be recognisable.

### **Q You were nominated for the Mies Van der Rohe Prize for your work on the School of Architecture in Lille. How did your career take you to this particular building?**

**A** We had worked on a competition for a new Architecture School in Tours in 1997, which we lost. Seven years later, we were invited to the competition for the extension of the Architecture School in Lille, which we won. By then I had taught architecture in many schools around the world, and I was eager to offer a synthesis of my ideas on the spatial articulation of this specific programme. Designing a school of architecture is the most familiar yet the most difficult of all types of projects an architect/teacher can ever have in a lifetime.

The opening ceremony at Lille was one of the happiest days of my career as an architect and a teacher. In the meantime, I had been appointed as director of the School of Paris-Malaquais, on the venerable site of the former Ecole des Beaux-Arts, where architecture education began in the 17th century... Back to the future!





*Pictured is Prof. Andrew Keane, Director UCD Energy Institute.*

## UCD ESRI Energy Policy Research Conference

**UCD Energy Institute hosted the annual UCD ESRI Energy Policy Research Conference in September. The**

**online conference showcased some of the ongoing energy policy research underway in both organisations. The event was opened by Matthew Collins, Assistant Secretary General with responsibility for Energy at the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment and was attended by people from across the energy industry and research community.**

Energy policy research looks at how effective current policies are and assesses the potential impact of new policies or processes under consideration. One of the key findings presented at the event was that rental properties with better

energy efficiency have higher rental incomes that are in line with the estimated energy bill savings, highlighting the effectiveness of the Building Energy Rating (BER) scheme in communicating energy efficiency. This research was presented at the conference by Ivan Petrov, a PhD student in the UCD Energy Institute.

The conference also covered research in the areas of renewable electricity targets, blockchain for energy, climate change deniers and the economic and environmental impacts of COVID-19 for Ireland.

UCD Energy Institute Director, Professor Andrew Keane said: "Our history of collaboration with ESRI really helps strengthen our research by bringing together the leading experts covering a range of different areas including economics, behavioural science, engineering and climate science, among others. The challenges of decarbonisation require a collective effort."

## Spin-out Wins Global Chemical Engineering Award

**AquaB (AquaB Nanobubble Innovations Ltd), a UCD spin-out company, won the Water Award category at the 2020 Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) Global Awards, the only Irish company to do so. The awards which celebrate chemical, process and biochemical engineering excellence, are widely considered as the world's most prestigious chemical engineering awards.**

AquaB was established in 2020 with the support of NovaUCD to commercialise a new energy-efficient method to generate and release substantial volumes of metastable, nano-scale gas bubbles in water. This method is based on research carried out by Professor Niall English and Dr Mohammad Reza Ghaani at UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess



*Prof Niall English, UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering.*

Engineering, who are the co-founders of AquaB.

Nanobubbles are tiny gas bubbles on the nanometre (nm) scale. They are thermodynamically metastable for many months, or even longer, and have enhanced gas-transfer properties and substantial industrial potential. AquaB's new method of generating nanobubbles has the potential to deliver a step-change in the operational efficiencies of a number of industrial sectors including, among others, wastewater treatment, gas storage, biopharma, brewing, disinfection, agriculture and food.



## UCD Centre for Japanese Studies

**The UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (UCD-JaSt) was established in April 2020. Hit by COVID-19 from March onwards, it has not been possible to hold a launch event as yet and to lift our spirits and connect friends in Ireland, Japan and elsewhere, UCD-JaSt decided to reach out globally online.**

Five webinars (covering the themes of Japanese food, music, theatre, job opportunities and politics) were hosted in conjunction with UCD Japan and supporting organisations, with speakers from Tokyo, Dublin, London, and New York. The plenary was given by Professor Hugo Dobson (University of Sheffield) on 'Post-Abe Japan and Political Leadership' with Bill Emmott (formerly of The Economist) acting as respondent. [You can catch the recordings on the UCD Japan YouTube channel.](#)

The UCD Japanese Society has been very active, reaching out and connecting students with partner universities, particularly during the pandemic, organising a variety of events. The Society

continued its good work, setting up an online hub which has proven very popular

Two webinars were arranged to celebrate the establishment of the Centre. HE Mr Mitsuru Kitano (Ambassador of Japan to Ireland) delivered the first: 'Why Japan Matters'; and Professor Mariko Bando (Chancellor, Showa Women's University) delivered the second 'Why Women Leaders? Fostering Tomorrow's Leaders in Japan'. Furthermore, master musicians, Dónal Lunny and Hiro Hayashida, coordinated by Ms Nobuko Ijichi, played a special concert and created a new composition to celebrate friendship between Ireland and Japan and Narita City which is Ireland's 'Paralympics 2021' host city.



# PREDICTING PATIENT OUTCOMES IN PREECLAMPSIA

**"EVERY YEAR 50,000 WOMEN AND 500,000 BABIES DIE FROM PREECLAMPSIA," SAYS PROFESSOR PATRICIA MAGUIRE, DIRECTOR OF THE UCD INSTITUTE FOR DISCOVERY AND CO-DIRECTOR OF THE INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH GROUP SPHERE AT UCD CONWAY INSTITUTE. "AND ANOTHER FIVE MILLION BABIES ARE BORN PREMATURELY EVERY YEAR AS A DIRECT RESULT OF PREECLAMPSIA. I GET GOOSEBUMPS EVERY TIME I SAY THIS," SHE ADDS.**



**Professor Maguire is a biomedical scientist and project lead on AI\_PREMie, an innovative interdisciplinary effort that has resulted in the development of an advanced test using machine learning to both diagnose preeclampsia (PET) and accurately predict a patient's outcome.**

Right now, there are no other diagnostics that can do this; there are only tests that can rule out rather than confirm PET. In fact, clinicians are largely reliant on blood pressure and protein urea as indicators of preeclampsia, just as they have been doing for the past 200 years.

The AI\_PREMie test will change all of this and it is now available in the three biggest maternity hospitals (the Mater, the Rotunda, and Holles Street) covering almost 50% of all births in Ireland. So how did it come about?

It started with a serendipitous cup of coffee in UCD Conway Institute. Six years ago, Maguire met with then new arrival to the Institute Dr Fionnuala Ní Áinle to discuss their research interests. As a consultant haematologist between the Mater and the Rotunda hospitals, Ní Áinle described her experiences seeing women with severe preeclampsia and told Maguire that there was no good way to either diagnose the disease or to predict its severity. But what if there was something in the blood, a unique biomarker that could serve as a clue?

Maguire had been working on a specific blood cell - the platelet - and alongside her research team they were the first group to discover and define the unique information that the platelet contains: "We coined the term 'platelet releasate' back in 2004. It is all the cargo that the platelet carries, and this cargo is activated when you cut yourself, it has wound healing and tissue regeneration properties that respond in real time."

"The platelets are the only blood cells in our body that have a unique ability to collect

information in real time and it got me thinking. What if this cargo or information changes in disease - and what if this could tell us even before symptoms of the disease manifested, that this disease was already there?"

And so, the conversation over coffee turned to how platelets might be the key to detecting preeclampsia. Could the platelet releasate in individuals with preeclampsia be markedly different to healthy individuals? Then-PhD student and junior clinician Dr Paulina Szklanna came on board the project and processed blood samples from a small but very important study of pregnant women at the Rotunda.

"It was an incredible study. We found significant peptide protein differences in the platelets between the women we recruited and samples from women who were healthy and pregnant as well as healthy women of the same age who weren't pregnant," explains Maguire.

As this research was built upon and strengthened, she had another serendipitous coffee-related encounter, this time in the University Club Café. Maguire bumped into Dr Colm McMahon, a senior research partner at UCD Research and Innovation who suggested she apply for SFI's AI for Societal Good Challenge, which was looking for interdisciplinary projects leveraging artificial intelligence to tackle societal challenges on a national or global scale.

"I looked at him and thought 'how does preeclampsia fit there?' And he said 'you've always told me you have so much data. So maybe now is the time to harness that data'. So that's what we

did. We applied, got picked as one of the 12 initial teams and as our societal champion we brought on board Professor Mary Higgins, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Holles Street and senior lecturer here in UCD School of Medicine."

Maguire says that one of the unexpected benefits of this SFI-funded project was the prerequisite for PPI (Public Patient Involvement). It meant that her team had the opportunity to work directly with women diagnosed with preeclampsia: talk to them and their families, record their experiences.

"It was an incredibly moving experience to understand what journey those women were on, and how I could help as a scientist. That's where this really took off as project," reflects Maguire. "The amazing thing was that even though some of these women had lost their child, they wanted to make sure that it didn't happen to anybody else. They told their story so that they could help others."

Other stakeholders in the project include clinicians but also data scientists, computer scientists and statisticians. All the valuable data collected throughout the project has been used to create machine learning models that can not only diagnose preeclampsia but suggest a path to treatment by predicting the progression of the disease in an individual patient.

The road to creating AI\_PREMie has been paved by the powerful software provided by AI and data analytics company SAS Institute. "It is what has enabled us to get our machine learning model so quickly from the lab into production. And as a team member, SAS' Chief Technology Officer meets with us every week, helping push us along."

The data insights provided by the AI\_PREMie algorithm is crucial to a clinician who needs to make a critical decision on whether to deliver a

premature baby by emergency C-section or wait another day, which may be vital extra time for the development of the baby. When a clinician suspects someone may have preeclampsia, they will be able to order the AI\_PREMie test, which pulls in the patient data and lab data in order to produce a read-out within a couple of hours. It doesn't tell the clinician what to do, it helps them make a decision with the best information possible. As Maguire puts it, it is augmented decision-making.

"Within a year we've brought AI\_PREMie out of the lab and got it into three maternity hospitals but the next phase is to develop a standalone kit so that the biomarker testing can be carried out in the hospital itself. I'm blown away by how fast it has moved from lab to hospital, and I don't think it could have worked without the passion and hard work by everyone involved," says Maguire.

When this is done, she says the aim is to go further and reach clinicians in developing economies. If AI\_PREMie could be developed into a blood-prick test on a device that works with a smartphone app it would become more affordable and could be used in remote areas.

**"We really do believe that if we can get AI\_PREMie into the hands of clinicians across the world, that we will save lives. That's why I studied science - to make a difference."**

*Professor Patricia Maguire was in conversation with Marie Boran (UCD Computer Science BSc 2002, DCU MSc Science Communication 2012, NUIG MSc by research (Insight Centre for Data Analytics, NUIG) 2015), a freelance journalist.*

PERSONALISED  
TRANSLATIONAL  
MEDICINE

Using information about a person's genes, proteins, or environment to prevent, diagnose, or treat disease.



## 2020 AbbVie Innovation Award Winner

**Dr Paulina Szklanna, UCD School of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science and UCD Conway has won the 2020 UCD AbbVie Innovation Award for the potential within her research to develop an affordable clinical tool based on blood-borne markers to track the progression of multiple sclerosis over time. This award will provide Dr Szklanna with a bursary of €8,000 to enable her to progress her research.**

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is an inflammatory and neurodegenerative condition that remains the most common cause of non-traumatic disability in young adults. 9,000 Irish people are currently living with MS and their individual disease progression is highly variable. Clinically predicting the course of the disease remains a huge challenge and biomarkers are urgently required to help in this effort.

Dr Szklanna and her colleagues have uncovered biomarkers released in the blood from platelets, the fragments involved in blood clotting. They used an interdisciplinary platform called PALADIN™ or platelet-based diagnostics, which draws on cutting-edge biomedical, clinical and machine learning knowhow.

The team use these blood-borne markers with AI\_PredictMS (Artificial Intelligence to Predict the future in Multiple Sclerosis); a prototype risk stratification solution for MS. In a recent trial, they have shown that AI\_PredictMS can differentiate between people with milder and people with more debilitating forms of multiple sclerosis with 97% accuracy.

The team believes this test will become part of worldwide MS screening programmes within the next 5 years and help to slow the progression of chronic disability and improve quality of life for all people living with MS.

## New appointment to Chair of ECPR

**Professor David Farrell, Head of UCD School of Politics and International Relations has been elected as the next chair of the European Consortium for Political Research (<https://ecpr.eu/>). David is the first Irish person to be elected to this role and he will take up the three-year term in May 2021. Previously he held the position of speaker of the Council of the ECPR from 2013 to 2018 and he was the first speaker elected to this position when it was created in 2013.**

The ECPR is the leading European political science association, with an annual turnover of €2 million. This year it celebrates its 50th anniversary. Its members are universities and research institutes, of which there are more than 320 across Europe and further afield, comprising a community of tens of thousands of political scientists. Its mission is to advance political science through a series of conferences and workshops, training programmes, and the publication of two book series and five political science journals. It is among the leading social sciences associations in the world and it is a great tribute to David's leadership experience and commitment that he should receive this recognition.



## Invisible Disabilities Week

**UCD's Disability Sub-Group, in collaboration with MoLI and RTÉ's Ailbhe Conneely, launched their podcast Hidden Stories to coincide with Invisible Disabilities Week in October. The podcast aims to raise awareness of the lived experiences of people with invisible disabilities in UCD, highlights the cultural and social importance of sharing those stories in our society and addresses the question of how best to support our colleagues who have such conditions.**

Guest speakers included Ailbhe Conneely, Social Affairs and Religion Correspondent, RTÉ; Dr Blánaid Gavin, UCD School of Medicine; Dr Clare Hayes-Brady, UCD School of English, Drama and Film; Veronica Keegan, UCD Research Finance; Dr Deirdre O' Connor, Chair of the EDI Disability Sub-Group; and Professor Colin Scott, Vice-President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

In addition, Dr Deirdre O'Connor, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science contributed a piece to UCD's EDI Blog, 'Inclusion Never Stops', and a webinar was held in collaboration with Adam Harris from AsIAm, the national autism charity. This webinar included a consultation with UCD employees in support of the review of the UCD Code of Practice for the Employment of People with Disabilities.

[Hidden Stories is available here.](#)

## ■ Shaping the Future – New Strategy for UCD Research, Innovation and Impact

**The strategy, launched by Professor Orla Feely, Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, outlines how UCD will build on successes to date to produce excellent and impactful research and innovation that makes a real difference in areas of national and global challenge. The overall objective for the strategy is to increase the quality, quantity and impact of UCD's research, scholarship and innovation.**

To achieve this objective, the University will emphasise excellence and impact in all aspects of its research and innovation, delivering both at a scale that allows UCD to make a difference nationally and internationally. This will be achieved by investing in people and providing a research culture and environment in which they are supported to deliver on their potential and ambitions.



Key UCD research and innovation facts and figures include:

- **UCD's annual research income exceeds €120 million**
- **UCD research publications have a citation impact 75% above the world average**
- **UCD has collaborated with over 850 companies on research projects during the past 10 years**
- **UCD researchers have disclosed over 365 inventions during the past 5 years**
- **Over 60 start-ups and established companies are currently located at NovaUCD and NexusUCD and across the UCD campus.**

Feely said, "I am delighted to launch Shaping the Future our new strategy for research, innovation and impact until 2024. By rising to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic with resilience, creativity, and commitment, our researchers have shown how we can rise to other major global challenges, in areas such as climate change, digital transformation and healthy ageing. The period of this strategy will be one of great disruption, but we can act to shape the future through the excellent and impactful work of UCD's vibrant research and innovation community."

She added, "In implementing this strategy, UCD will emphasise excellence in every aspect of our delivery and support of research and innovation. We will invest in people and in an environment that enables their success. Our research culture will prioritise integrity, dignity and respect, and we will reflect our commitment to sustainability throughout our research and innovation. We will collaborate and learn across disciplines, and the strategic themes and major campaigns will provide cross-cutting opportunities for our community to deliver impact at scale in areas of global need."

Simon Harris TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science said: "I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate UCD, a leader in research and innovation, on the launch of Shaping the Future, its new and ambitious research, innovation and impact strategy. During the last year UCD researchers across many disciplines have demonstrated the importance of research and scientific evidence in tackling the coronavirus pandemic, and how investments made over many years were key in enabling the research community to respond so quickly to the challenges posed by COVID-19."

As we emerge from the worst of the pandemic, we are all looking to the future, and building capacity and capability of the research and innovation system through excellence, impact, and in particular people and creating the right environment within which research and innovation can flourish is key."

He added, "My vision is to see us become an innovation island, with my Department providing direction on strategy, funding and structural reform for the research and innovation ecosystem and regional and national linkage with enterprise, in particular SMEs. I am delighted to see that UCD's research and innovation strategy complements this vision and have no doubt that UCD in delivering on Shaping the Future will not only strengthen research and innovation within the university but will also play a key role at both a national and international level in shaping the future."

He concluded, "I look forward to continuing to work with the UCD research and innovation community as we look to building a brighter future together."

[Click here](#) to download a copy of Shaping the Future.



Prof Orla Feely

**Our research culture will prioritise integrity, dignity and respect, and we will reflect our commitment to sustainability throughout our research and innovation. We will collaborate and learn across disciplines, and the strategic themes and major campaigns will provide cross-cutting opportunities for our community to deliver impact at scale in areas of global need.**

## Training the next generation of Computer Scientists

The ubiquity of computing technologies in all aspects of modern life makes it important for a wide range of people to understand computers and computational thinking. To address this need, the Department of Education and Skills has introduced Computer Science as an optional subject for the Leaving Certificate.

Dr Brett Becker, Assistant Professor in UCD School of Computer Science is co-author, with Dr Keith Quille, TU Dublin, of the first textbook for the new subject Computer Science for Leaving Certificate.

Dr Becker is highly regarded in the field of Computer Science education. He is chair of the recently launched Ireland Association for Computing Machinery SIGCSE (Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education) Chapter and was the recipient of the Best Computer Science Education Research Paper award at the 2019 SIGCSE Technical Symposium.

UCD is already involved in second-level teacher training as part of a Professional Diploma in Educational Studies (Computational Thinking) jointly offered by UCD School of Computer Science and UCD School of Education. This programme is intended for those who want to become post-primary Computer Science teachers. The new book combined with new programmes puts UCD at the forefront of Computing Education in the Irish context.



Dr Brett Becker and Dr Keith Quille



UCD alumna, Suzanne Linnane was the inspiration for the book! Dr Becker met her in his 'How Computers Work' module, where the book was 'born'. Suzanne made the introduction to the eventual publisher, and worked on the book as the educational consultant, testing material in her classroom as it was being produced and providing super valuable first-hand feedback. Suzanne teaches at Adamstown Community College in Lucan and is pictured with her fifth year Computer Science students.



Pictured at the launch are (l-r): Prof Judith Harford, Prof Colin Scott, Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion Josepha Madigan TD, Phyllis Clegg and Assoc Prof William Kinsella.

## National Online Training Programme for SNAs

Associate Professor William Kinsella, Head of UCD School of Education recently secured a contract to the value of €2.7 million from the Department of Education to establish a national online training programme for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) working in Irish schools. The programme is being developed in conjunction with UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and

Health Systems. This is a landmark programme which will provide for first-time training on a national scale for 3,500 SNAs over the next three years. It will fundamentally impact on the care and support provided to the most vulnerable students within the education system and contribute significantly to UCD's equality, diversity and inclusion commitments.

## The Irish University Review



The Irish University Review is the leading international journal of Irish Studies. Its home, since its foundation in 1970 by Professor Maurice Harmon, is UCD School of English, Drama and Film. Over the past five decades, the journal has published fifty volumes, including forty special issues, and represented the work of more than 1,120 creative and academic contributors in over 800 articles and literary pieces. The Golden Jubilee issue (Spring/Summer 2020) celebrated this rich intellectual history.

In the opening section, all five former editors provide insightful reflections on their tenures, the new traditions they forged, and the intellectual trends they saw come and go. In addition, the Jubilee issue addresses our current moment, with searching and searing contributions from a broad range of international authors writing on subjects as diverse as Irish studies in Japan and South America, digital early modern Irish studies, 'weak comparison', poetic form, YA literature, #MeToo in Irish theatre, and Ireland's working-class literature.

Appropriately, the founding School is strongly represented, notably by Dr Deirdre Flynn on precarity in the university, Dr Anne

Mulhall on academia and whiteness, Éilís Ní Dhuibhe Almqvist on memoir, Associate Professor Lucy Collins on the future of archives, and Professor Margaret Kelleher on plurilingualism. Current and former students, too, engage with a dazzling array of subjects, from a gender analysis of the IUR's publication history (Dr Katie Mishler), to trans identity (Matt Kennedy), and racial diversity in contemporary Irish poetry (Dr Emma Penney and Chiamaka Enyi-Amadi), to the intersection of disability and Irish identity (Dr Emma Creedon).

At 50, like Belfield itself, the IUR has come a long way, and there is little in Irish life and letters that it has not addressed. We look forward, now, to the next half century.

# NEW UCD RESEARCH RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT ANXIETY LEVELS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Children are often told by well-meaning adults that their schooldays are the best days of their lives. Unsurprisingly, they don't always agree and initial findings from research, undertaken by UCD School of Education, suggests there is some evidence that anxiety levels among primary school children are in fact rising.



Asst Prof Gabriela Martinez Sainz

The *Children's School Lives* research prioritises children's voices about their primary schooling. It looks at their lived experience of education and how their rights and well-being are affected or improved by the school environment and their interaction with their peers, their teachers and the system at large. Indeed, one of the system's 'givens', that of standardised testing in second and fourth classes, has been highlighted as an area of concern in terms of contributing to anxiety as have family breakdowns, homelessness and poverty.

Children's School Lives is a first of its kind study of the Irish primary school system and it is using a cross-sequential longitudinal design to produce a rich set of mixed methods data. The study is being led by Professor Dympna Devine, Associate Professor Jennifer Symonds, Assistant Professor Seaneen Sloan and Assistant Professor Gabriela Martinez Sainz.

The study was launched in 2018 when the team of researchers from the UCD School of Education began following 4,000 children in two age cohorts in 189 schools from all over the country as they progressed through the junior education system. The schools included were single sex and co-ed, of different sizes and of mixed ethos and the study has been designed to provide all stakeholders with an in-depth and comprehensive overview of policy and practice in primary schools.

The study will span six years and by the end of it researchers will have formed a very accurate picture of what it is like to be a child in primary school in Ireland today. The study, which was commissioned by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, is comprehensive in that it also incorporates the views and experiences of parents, grandparents, teachers and school principals to better understand children's school lives. Ultimately, researchers on the project will use this 360-degree view of the primary education system to inform future decision-making in areas such as education policy and curriculum development.

The current primary school curriculum has been in use for the last 21 years and over that time society has changed dramatically, particularly in the area of diversity. This has had a significant impact on life in the classroom. These changes are reflected in the themes covered by the research which cover equality, voice and inclusion, well-being and engagement, leading and teaching, learning outcomes and educational transitions from pre-school to primary school and between primary and secondary schools.

**"THE STUDY IS REALLY DIGGING DEEP INTO THE PRIMARY SCHOOL SYSTEM COVERING SCHOOLS IN URBAN AND RURAL SETTINGS AND ALL OF THE STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED," SAYS DR MARTINEZ SAINZ. "IT IS PARTICULARLY ENLIGHTENING BECAUSE IT IS LONGITUDINAL AND LOOKING AT CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING OVER TIME WHICH IN TURN TOUCHES ON ENGAGEMENT AND ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS. BECAUSE THE STUDY WAS ONGOING AT THE TIME OF THE PANDEMIC IT HAS ALSO CAPTURED UNIQUE INSIGHTS IN THE WHOLE PROCESS OF HOME SCHOOLING, REMOTE TEACHING AND LEARNING AND ITS CHALLENGES."**





Almost 90% of the schools participating in the Children's School Lives study are of mixed gender and 86% are Catholic, 7% are multi-denominational and 5% are Church of Ireland. English is the predominant language of instruction. Minority group representation in the study is varied with 81% of school principals indicating they had some children from immigrant families in their schools. However, in some schools they represented over 40% of the student population while in others it was less than 5%. Almost 80% of the schools in the study have children with a learning or intellectual disability while 33% of them reported having some pupils experiencing homelessness.

The first report from the research looks both at children's experiences of attending primary school and the formative details of their backgrounds including where they were born, their mother tongue, what social, cultural and material resources are at their family's disposal, the structure of the family they live in, their home learning environment and their involvement in extra-curricular activities. The second report, *Experiences of Remote Teaching and Learning in Ireland During the COVID-19 Pandemic* (March to May 2020), gathered data on what it was like for children, principals, teachers and parents as the

country entered the unknown territory of the first national lockdown.

"Children are the experts of their own experience and this study is providing a long view of education from the child's point of view," Dr Martinez Sainz says. "As part of this big picture looking at children's well-being, we can see that there is a level of anxiety present. Of course this was not helped by the pandemic when the transition to home schooling and missing school had a big effect on children and indeed anxiety levels were above normal for the population as a whole. The second report highlighted the centrality of school in children's everyday lives and also how the experience of remote learning was not equally good for all. As such, the focus of future-directed efforts should be not only on realising children's rights to education but also on realising the rights of all children to have a balanced and rich experience of that education be it from home or in school."

**"WHAT WE WILL CAPTURE IN THE UPCOMING YEARS IN THE STUDY WILL BE THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND THE LOCKDOWNS ON CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCES OF SCHOOL AND EDUCATION," DR MARTINEZ SAINZ ADDS. "ALSO, IT WILL BE PROVIDING INSIGHTS INTO THE BIGGER PICTURE THAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE AND ULTIMATELY CHILDREN'S LEARNING. FURTHERMORE, IT WILL REFLECT HOW THE PANDEMIC HAS AFFECTED CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING BUT ALSO THEIR ENGAGEMENT WITH LEARNING, HOW THE SCHOOL CULTURE AND RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN IMPACTED AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC AND WHAT ISSUES IN RELATION TO EQUALITY AND INCLUSION HAVE EMERGED BECAUSE OF THE SCHOOL CLOSURES."**

*Olive Keogh MA is a contributor to the Irish Times. She was in conversation with Dr Gabriela Martinez Sainz, UCD School of Education.*



# ■ Presentation of UCD Teaching and Learning Awards 2019-20

**UCD's national and international reputation for educational excellence has been built over many years by the passion, innovation and commitment of its faculty and staff. Eleven individuals and two teams were honoured with UCD Teaching and Learning Awards at an online ceremony on 24 March 2021. The awards, presented by the Dean of Graduate Studies and Deputy Registrar Professor Barbara Dooley, are the highest honour bestowed by the University for teaching and learning and recognise the transformative impact of the awardees on their students' learning experience.**

A call for nominations for the 2019-20 awards was met with enthusiasm by the UCD community, with 3,050 nominations submitted by students, faculty and staff. Student nominations accounted for 94% of all nominations received. This was an increase of 22% in nominations submitted compared to the last awards in 2017-18. The increase in the number of nominations is particularly noteworthy in light of the challenging year experienced by all members of the UCD community. Many students gratefully highlighted the additional support they received due to the pandemic. The content and volume of their nominations is a testament to the huge achievement of UCD faculty and staff in creating such a positive impact on so many lives.

In their nominations students attested to the care and effort invested in their development and the outstanding teaching qualities and skills of the awardees. They wrote of the impact of the awardees on their confidence and overall university experience. They also highlighted exceptional communication skills, ability to explain difficult topics and inclusive teaching approaches which respond to students of different abilities enabling them to feel comfortable in the UCD learning environment. Students appreciated cross-disciplinary and real-life learning experiences and the ability of the awardees to bring clarity, challenge and inspire.

The University has a long tradition of teaching and learning awards dating back to 2002. The current awards were established in 2017. The awards are tiered, with awards at College and University levels.



Following the nominations an application stage took place. A total of 248 applications were considered by seven College-level adjudication panels. This resulted in 81 awards at College level which were celebrated locally. Each of the College adjudication panels then made recommendations for consideration for a University level award. Following a competitive process, 13 of those awardees were selected to receive prestigious University Teaching and Learning awards.

There are two award schemes. Teaching Excellence Awards recognise individual faculty for sustained commitment to teaching excellence and student learning. Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning recognise individual staff or teams including staff and faculty, who have made outstanding contributions to student learning in a specific area.

Congratulations on the wonderful achievements of the UCD 2019-20 Teaching and Learning Awardees:

## Individual Teaching Excellence Awardees:

Dr Anthony Cronin, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics, Teaching Excellence Award;

Dr Sarah Fulham-Mcquillan, UCD Sutherland School of Law, Teaching Excellence Award;

Dr Melinda Halasz, UCD School of Medicine, Teaching Excellence Award;

Dr Olive Lennon, UCD School of Public Health Physiotherapy and Sports Science, Teaching Excellence Award;

Ms Marion Maher, UCD School of Medicine, Teaching Excellence Award;

Dr Deirdre McGillicuddy, UCD School of Education, Teaching Excellence Award;

Dr Neal Murphy, UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, Teaching Excellence Award;

Dr Lisa Padden, UCD Access and Lifelong Learning, Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning Award;

Dr Mark Pickering, UCD School of Medicine, Teaching Excellence Award;

Dr Catherine Redmond, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, Teaching Excellence Award;

Mr Emmett Scanlon, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, Teaching Excellence Award.

## Team Awardees:

Architectural Design VII "Open Heart City" Staff, Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning Award;

UCD Centre for Safety and Health at Work, Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning Award.

To read about the wonderful achievements of the awardees to go the [UCD Teaching and Learning Website](#).

Follow this on Twitter: [#UCDTLAwards](#)



Brett and Geraldine are pictured (socially distanced!) at UCD.

# ■ Inaugural Teaching and Learning Research Fellowships

**Dr Brett Becker, UCD School of Computer Science and Associate Professor Geraldine O'Neill, UCD Teaching and Learning were each been awarded a Teaching and Learning Research Fellowship worth €45,000 following a national, three-stage competition.**

The fellowships are an initiative of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, in partnership with the Irish Research Council. The Fellows will work together and with the National Forum on projects of sectoral importance, bringing a new dimension to the research-led teaching and learning culture in Irish higher education and contributing to a robust evidence base for future teaching and learning enhancement and decision-making across the sector.

The Teaching and Learning Research Fellowships are Ireland's most prestigious national individual teaching and learning awards in higher education.

Dr Geraldine O'Neill is an Associate Professor and educational developer in UCD Teaching and Learning. She has supported many institutional teaching, learning and assessment projects, recently leading the development of UCD's framework for programme-focused assessment and feedback.

Dr Brett Becker is an Assistant Professor in UCD School of Computer Science where he researches computing education. He is author of the textbook Computer Science for Leaving Certificate and President of the All-Ireland Society for Higher Education.

# Pushing the Frontiers of our Knowledge



**We'd been in lockdown for weeks. Confined to her home like the rest of us, Professor Lorraine Hanlon, an astrophysicist at the UCD School of Physics, stepped out the front door.**

Hanlon was recently appointed as Director of C-Space, the first Irish centre dedicated to collaborative space research and industry. The centre, formally established in March 2020, with a virtual launch last December, brings together space researchers from science, engineering and other disciplines with companies working on space technologies. And, in one of the most significant and historic developments for Irish scientists, C-Space is home to the researchers

developing EIRSAT-1, Ireland's first satellite (see panel).

C-Space is working with Irish companies who are feeding into the European Space Agency's (ESA) objectives, says Hanlon. "We are testing new technologies for space which can spin into applications such as aerospace and aviation, as well as providing valuable research that could be used in hostile environments on Earth, particularly in polar, ocean or desert conditions."

There are more than 70 Irish companies - primarily small to medium-sized enterprises - working with ESA on space projects, most of which are supported through Enterprise Ireland. Significantly, these are jobs created by small to medium-sized Irish enterprises rather than larger multinationals, putting Ireland on a more secure industrial footing.



**"THE NIGHT SKIES HAD BEEN CLEAR FOR WEEKS," SHE SAYS. "GOING INTO THE GARDEN AND LOOKING AT THE STARS WAS ONE OF THE FEW THINGS WE COULD DO"**

**“WHEN I THINK ABOUT SPACE, I THINK ABOUT THE FRONTIERS OF OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIVERSE: MY JOB IS TO TAKE THE JOY OF THE NIGHT SKY AND HELP US TO UNDERSTAND IT. IN ORDER TO LEARN MORE, WE NEED TO DEVELOP NEW MISSION CONCEPTS AND WAYS TO DISCOVER NEW INFORMATION.”**

A 2015 [evaluation](#) for Technopolis estimated that every euro invested in space exploration would yield a return of at least an additional three euro. Meanwhile, Ireland's investment in ESA is bringing well over 1,000 high-value technology jobs into Ireland, across a wide range of areas and industries.

[The National Space Strategy for Enterprise 2019-25](#) highlights a range of opportunities for space research in Ireland including aviation, automotive, medical and data analytics sectors. For instance, Ireland's strength in ICT places the country in a good position to analyse the large volumes of data generated by Earth observation which, in turn, can help create new products and services for agriculture, marine and planning which will ultimately impact what we buy in shops or online. Other jobs are being created in forest management, with another indigenous company, Treemetrics, relying on space technology for its work.

Space technology can also provide solutions for more earthly problems such as:

- **Traffic management: satellites can monitor traffic flows and gather data about patterns over time, which can be used for planning public transport and reducing traffic congestion**
- **Flooding is the world's most expensive natural disaster - and the problem is getting worse. In March 2021, Australia suffered catastrophic floods leading to mass evacuations. Closer to home, flooding is a constant issue in Cork but there is political division over what structures should be used to tackle it. The ESA is working on a project using satellite imagery of rivers and floodplains to improve flood simulation models.**
- **Observations from space can also tell us about air, land and sea quality, and help us monitor vegetation and agricultural land to address climate change and food security issues.**

Hanlon's ambition for C-Space, however, would see the conversation shift towards a broader understanding of the space sector. Her own research is on gamma-ray bursts, which are among the most powerful explosive events in the known universe.

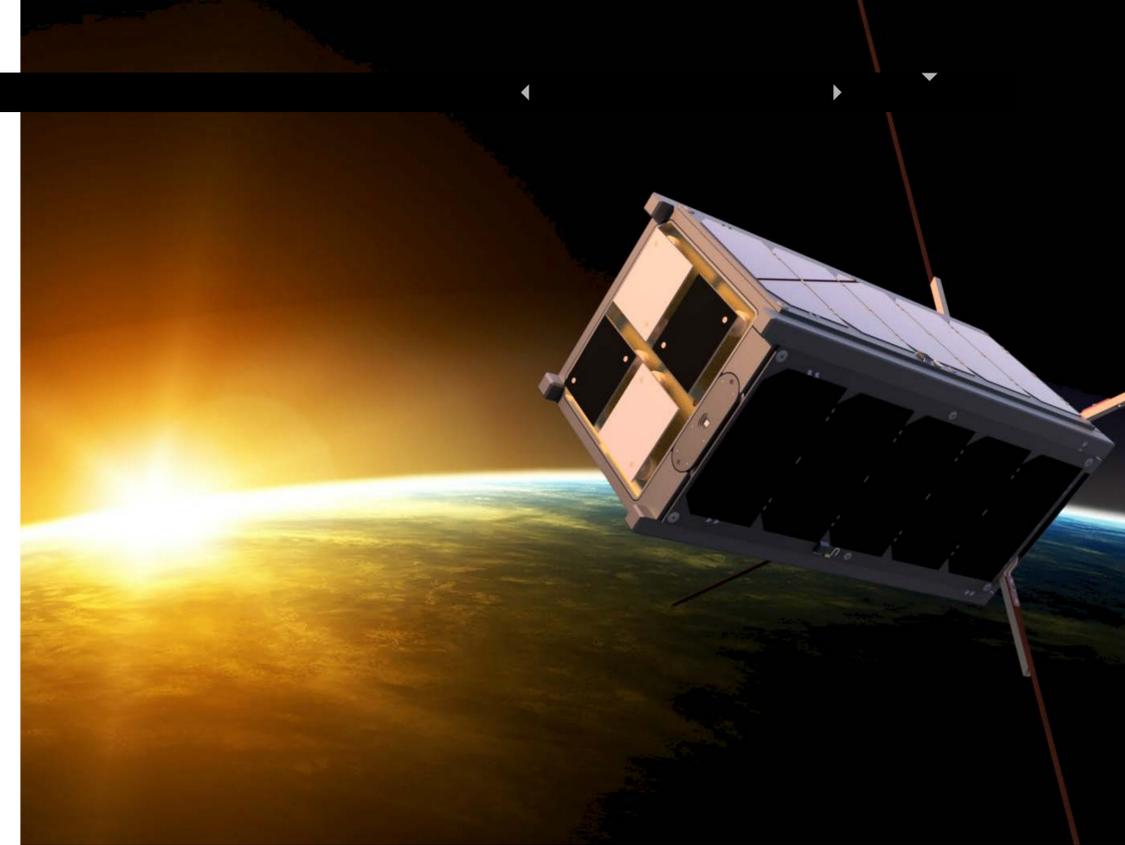
“I have colleagues working on gravitational waves, supernovae, exoplanets and much more,” she says. “We want to inform, guide and advise on space policy in Ireland, to move beyond an industrial focus, to include education and research in science and engineering. For instance, there is currently no space law in Ireland, and this has practical implications for the launch of EIRSAT-1 as well as the development of future Irish space missions.”

C-Space is the organic outcome of much of the work carried out by Hanlon and her colleagues. “We started thinking of it ten years ago when we realised that there were researchers across the university using space instruments and data and developing experiments and materials for space and that, rather than working independently, we could bring this activity together to harness it more effectively.”

In 2013, this led to the creation of UCD's MSc in Space Science and Technology, giving students much-needed hands-on experience in developing expertise for the space sector and building and testing technologies, further helping to develop Ireland's talent pipeline. But, Hanlon cautions, there is a risk that critical research expertise may be lost if C-Space cannot further support students and continue to grow its expertise. “Fundamental research is important in its own right and also to sow the seed corn from which applications and economic benefit will arise in the longer term,” she says.

For all the social and economic impact of space exploration, however, Hanlon comes back to the majesty of the universe. “The stars were hugely significant to our early ancestors, as we can see from archaeological wonders like Newgrange. Dark skies are a valuable resource and, when the sky is relatively cloudless, we can marvel at the universe and try to grasp our place in it.”

*Professor Lorraine Hanlon was in conversation with Peter McGuire, BA (2002), MLitt (2007), a freelance journalist and a regular contributor to The Irish Times.*



## Ireland's pioneering space researchers boldly going...

**EIRSAT-1 is C-Space's flagship programme and isn't much bigger than a shoebox, but there is - literally and metaphorically - a lot riding on it.**

“We've designed, manufactured, assembled and will operate this satellite,” says Hanlon. “It's a first for Ireland but we don't want it to be the last.”

Supported by ESA after being selected in a competitive process, EIRSAT-1 has been in development since 2017. The satellite carries three main “payloads” which will impact the data it returns to Earth.

“First, we've included a compact and efficient gamma-ray burst detector - a direct outcome of our research and particularly that carried out by my colleague Associate Professor Sheila McBreen,” says Hanlon. “Second, we've collaborated with ENBIO on an experiment to test how their surface treatments behave in low-Earth orbit. Some of that technology was developed by ENBIO in collaboration with Professor Kenneth Stanton. The third payload, led by Assistant Professor David McKeown, is software for attitude control of spacecraft with flexible parts such as antennae and solar panels.

As of now, it's unclear how long EIRSAT-1 will be in orbit. “Depending on various factors, it could potentially be in orbit for 20 years, which would allow it to be a brilliant educational tool for many more students, allowing them to gain live spacecraft operations experience, while using the satellite to gather science data and for wider community outreach projects,” says Hanlon.

## Two Conway Fellows Win 2020 SFI Mentorship Awards

Two Conway Fellows, Professor Pat Guiry, UCD School of Chemistry and Director of the Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology and Professor Patricia Maguire, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science and Director of the UCD Institute for Discovery are among the winners of the prestigious 2020 Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Science Awards, and each has been announced as a winner of a 2020 SFI Mentorship Award. This award recognises outstanding mentorship provided by a researcher funded by SFI.

Professor Pat Guiry has supervised 56 PhD and 3 MSc students to graduation to date and has worked with over 20 postdoctoral researchers. His group has published over 140 papers, review articles, book chapters and patents with over 7000 citations.

Professor Patricia Maguire has demonstrated strong and outstanding leadership in research supervision with,



Prof Patricia Maguire and Prof Pat Guiry.

to date, 12 graduate researchers (8 PhDs, 3 MSc and 1 MD) completing their theses under her direction and she has worked with 8 postdoctoral scientists. She has published over 50 papers and review articles.

## Japanese Honours for UCD Historian

**Over the past 25 years, UCD is the only Irish third-level institution to offer Japanese History at primary and postgraduate levels, pioneered by Dr Declan Downey, UCD School of History. In recognition of his work, as well as of his outstanding contribution to the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Ireland, Dr Downey was awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation on 1 December 2020.**

He is amongst 172 individuals and 65 groups worldwide to be so honoured. He served as an advisor to the Asian Strategy Committee, Department of the Taoiseach from 1998-2005 and as a trustee of Chester Beatty Library from 2012-2017. As a leading researcher in Japanese studies in Ireland, Dr Downey has played an important role in fostering young researchers in the field, many of whom have availed of postgraduate scholarships and research fellowships awarded by the Japan Foundation and by the Japanese Government.

As Dr Downey commented: "Over the last ten years, I have been fortunate to be joined by Dr Naonori Kodate, Ambassador Emeritus John Neary, Dr Emma Sokell, Mr Hugo O'Donnell and Ms Nobuko Ijichi-O'Donnell in



Dr Declan Downey

developing the interdisciplinary Japanese Studies Programme in the University. Since 1995, when the late Professor Ronan Fanning asked me to teach Japanese History, which he called "the exotic course", I have been privileged to have the full support of the Embassy of Japan, of the Japan Foundation, of my colleagues and good friends in UCD and in Chester Beatty Library, particularly the late Professor Satoshi Ushioda and the late Dr Tom Hardiman. This official recognition of my small contribution to the reputation and profile of UCD School of History and of UCD Japan Studies Group, is greatly appreciated".



Pictured is Dr Antoinette Perry, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science.

## epiCaPture wins Start-Up of the Year Award

**epiCaPture, an early-stage venture which is developing a novel urine DNA test for aggressive prostate cancer, has been named winner of the 2020 UCD Start-Up of the Year Award. The test measures six epigenetic biomarkers which are indicative of aggressive disease, using a widely available PCR platform.**

epiCaPture won the Award, and a €32,000 prize fund, after being declared overall winner of the 2020 UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme, which is run by NovaUCD. The aim of the annual Programme, which took place virtually, is to support the creation and launch of sustainable and profitable new start-ups emerging from the University.

The epiCaPture test has potential as a non-invasive, early detection and screening test to augment the current PSA blood test for the early detection

of aggressive prostate cancer. A second application is as a repeated use monitoring tool for men with low-grade disease, to identify tumour progression.

The members of the epiCaPture team, a start-up emerging from the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science are Dr Antoinette Perry, Asia Jordan, Adele Connor and Ross Nelson, along with Edward Simons, a chartered accountant and former investment banker.

## Hope Fest @ Home

**Hope Fest is an annual wellness and music event for those experiencing homelessness in Dublin City. It is a collaboration between UCD, the Dublin Lions Club and Dublin Simon Community. The event began in May 2018 after the need was identified for a summer event for clients of Dublin's homeless services. This event would not only offer a hot meal, but would also provide wellness services, music, entertainment and a welcome break from the norm. Chiropody, hairdressing, mindfulness, massage and beauty therapy were all part of the services offered, while musicians provided entertainment and guests were provided with a hot meal and refreshments.**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hope Fest could not be held as before in the Iveagh Gardens in May 2020. The organising team from UCD in the Community, Dublin Simon Community and Dublin Lions Club, adapted and organised it virtually in 16 Dublin Simon Community services in Dublin, Wicklow and Louth on 10 October 2020, World Homeless Day. With support from Dublin Simon staff in these services, over 350 clients were provided with hot food, wellness activities and a video with messages of hope and live music from Gavin James, Lisa Hannigan, the UCD Choral Scholars, Keith Duffy, Mundy and more. The event was a huge success, with one client commenting that Hope Fest is what the homeless "need to believe in to keep them ticking". As the community sector has suffered huge financial losses due to the pandemic, a link was included to a JustGiving page for anyone else streaming the video, so that if people wanted to they could donate to Dublin Simon Community.

James Phelan the Community and Events Fundraising Manager in Dublin Simon commented that Hope Fest is one of those events that their clients thoroughly enjoy, "it gives them a great sense of involvement, a great sense of community, and more importantly a great sense of hope, something they need now more than ever due to COVID".



## Cultúr na Céadaoine

### Irish Culture online with Gaeltacht UCD

Irish proverbs, folklore, literature, wildflowers, food and drink were some of the themes which brought UCD students and staff together for a series of workshops, providing new insights and some light entertainment once a week. Gaeltacht UCD, the University's Irish language and cultural centre, welcomed UCD students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to share their expertise over lunch for 30 minutes each Wednesday. The series which was held live, encouraged participation and attracted friends of the University from Connemara to Connecticut.

Bhí an tsraith dírithe orthu siúd gur theastaigh uathu cur lena gcuid eolais ar an gcultúr Gaelaigh agus toisc na ceardlanna a bheith beo ar zúmáil chuir na rannpháirtithe go mór leis an bplé. B'iontach an deis a bhí inti, comhghleacaithe a fheiceáil, cairdeas a athnuachan taobh istigh de phobal na Gaeilge in Éirinn agus fáilte isteach a thabhairt do sheanchairde agus alumnuí de chuid na hollscoile lonnaithe níos faide i gcéin.

*Cultúr na Céadaoine guest speaker, Aedin Ní Thiarnaigh, UCD postgraduate student of Irish folklore spoke about the native names of wildflowers in Ireland.*

## UCD Digital Daffodil Day



*UCD President Professor Andrew Deeks, President of UCD Rugby Club and supporter of this year's Digital Daffodil Day at UCD. Organised as usual by the UCD Rugby Club and the BSc Sport and Exercise Management second year class, they raised €10,000 in donations for the Irish Cancer Society.*

## UCD and Microsoft launch Ireland's First Digital Policy Programme

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD joined UCD and Microsoft in a special virtual event to officially mark the commencement of Ireland's first Digital Policy Academic Programme. The Digital Policy Programme was established through a collaboration between Microsoft and UCD to achieve an ambition of building digital policy capability amongst the public and private sector in Ireland and across the wider EU.

Welcoming the programme, Minister Harris highlighted the importance of digital policy education and research: "Technology has been given the opportunity in recent months to prove its transformational capabilities. In addition to impacting every part of society it has transformed how governments across the globe have had to conduct business. We understandably need our policies to adapt to this changing environment. I'm delighted to see UCD and Microsoft launch this programme at such a timely juncture for many policy-makers working across the public and private

sector. I look forward to seeing the impact the programme."

Under the direction of Programme Director, Professor Kalpana Shankar, UCD School of Information and Communication Studies, the programme is designed to build capabilities amongst Irish and EU policy-makers on matters that arise in the context of digital technologies, infrastructure and production that are now prevalent in all dimensions of life. Course participants will also learn about the economic, social and political conditions that give rise to such technologies and their governance.



Prof Eugenia Siapera, UCD School of Information and Communication Studies; Caspar Klynge, Vice-President for European Government Affairs, Microsoft Brussels; Cathriona Hallahan, MD Microsoft Ireland; and Minister Simon Harris TD.

## Honorary Professorship Appointment

Durham University has appointed Professor John McCafferty, UCD School of History, an Honorary Professor of the History of Catholicism in the Department of Theology and Religion. John has been collaborating with Durham academics, especially those in the Centre for Catholic Studies for a number of years. Working closely with Dr James Kelly, he has organised a number of conferences on early modern Catholic history and on the archival collections of religious congregations. John has been involved with the UCD-Franciscan partnership since its inception in 2000 and labours to bring researchers and church bodies into dialogue and cooperation with each other. James and John are co-editors of the forthcoming (2022) five volume Oxford History of British and Irish Catholicism which covers the years from Henry VIII's 1530s break with Rome up to the year 2010. This Oxford History, featuring over 70 expert authors, will be the first attempt to capture the Catholic experience on both islands over five centuries in one work.

Durham Theology was ranked 4th in the world



Prof John McCafferty

according to the 2020 QS University Subject Rankings and the university is a member of the UK's Russell Group of Universities.

## Zipp Mobility Announces Plans to Create 30 New Jobs

**Zipp Mobility, a micromobility start-up headquartered at NovaUCD, plans to create at least 30 additional jobs in 2021 as it is set to launch e-scooter services across Ireland once new e-scooter legislation is passed into law.**

The announcement follows on from a successful year for the company in which it secured €1.1 million in seed funding, including €250,000 from Enterprise Ireland, launched e-scooter operations in three UK locations (Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Taunton) and grew its team to a staff of 20 in Ireland and in the UK. Since last October Zipp customers in the UK have completed over 40,000 journeys and travelled over 125,000 km, using the company's e-scooters.

Zipp Mobility was founded in 2019 by Charlie Gleeson, a graduate of the UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business, the same year in which he completed the NovaUCD Student Enterprise Competition and the UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme.



Charlie Gleeson, CEO and founder, Zipp Mobility



Prof Oran Rigby, CEO and co-founder, Akkure Genomic.

## ■ Akkure Genomics

**Akkure Genomics, a digital health scale-up headquartered at NovaUCD, has raised just over €1.2 million in a crowdfunding campaign from 318 investors.**

The funding will be used by the company to accelerate the roll-out of its next-generation clinical trials platform with a view to launching into the US market in the next 12 to 18 months. The platform provides members of the general public with a means of leveraging their personal genetic and clinical data to match and participate in clinical trials relevant to their condition.

The company, which used the Spark Crowdfunding platform, had set itself a 35-day target to raise €500,000 but passed the €1 million mark in just seven days and completed the campaign in 12 days.

Clinical trials are the principal method that medical researchers use to establish if a new treatment, such as a new drug or medical device is safe and effective in people. While over 280,000 clinical trials are performed annually around the world, 85% of them fail to enrol enough patients and 80% of them fail to finish on time. This is a major problem for an industry that is worth \$60 billion annually, a figure that is now growing considerably due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To solve such systemic issues Akkure Genomics has developed a clinical trials platform, using natural language processing and artificial intelligence (AI), to match patients with relevant clinical trials. By using both precision medicine and virtual trials the Akkure platform increases both the recruitment and retention of patients which benefits both pharmaceutical companies performing clinical trials and patients seeking new therapies or cures. Simultaneously the company is deploying its patented robotic process automated telemedicine and clinical consultation technology to facilitate virtual and remote trial participation allowing global access for patients to clinical trials.

Akkure Genomics was founded in 2019 by Professor Oran Rigby, a consultant in intensive care medicine and surgery and an associate professor of robotics and autonomous systems, along with Dr Amy Hollingworth, an Australian respiratory and lung transplant consultant specialist. The company has previously secured €1.3 million in funding through the Disruptive Technology Innovation Fund (DTIF) and Enterprise Ireland.



Gaelacht UCD Irish Language Residence Scheme Scholars: Clodagh Nic an tSaoir (Physiotherapy), Aimee Ní Bhraonáin (Medicine), Eoghan Ó Curnáin (Science - Chemistry), Áine Ní Chualáin (Law with French Law), Annie Ní Shiocháin (Law with Irish), Clár Ní Bhuachalla, (Gaelacht UCD Director), Colm Ó Ruanaidh (Computer Science), Alannah Ní Bhaoil (Business & Law), Catriona Ní Dhomhnaill (Nursing), Louise Ní Mhathúna (Law with Irish) agus Lorcán Ó Ruairc (Engineering).

## ■ Cruthaitheacht agus Comrádaíocht ó Mheantóirí Ghaeltacht UCD

**Bliain neamhghnách a bhí ag Teach na Gaeilge UCD, scéim chónaithe Gaeilge na hollscoile, ach bliain inár léirigh 24 mac léinn scoláireachta an tí, féith na cruthaitheachta agus na samhlaíochta.**

Bíonn sé mar dhualgas ar mhic léinn scoláireachta Ghaeltacht UCD, áitritheoirí Theach na Gaeilge, an teanga agus an cultúr a chur chun tosaigh agus a roinnt. Bíonn caint, ceol, spórt agus spraoi lárnach i ngach a déanann siad. Ní féidir a shéanadh ach go raibh dúshlán ag baint leis an tasc céanna i mbliana agus na mic léinn ag maireachtáil faoi shrianta an rialtais; bhí teacht aniar iontu, áfach. Rinneadar freastal ar mhic léinn dara leibhéal ag soláthar diancheachtanna do na béaltrialacha ar líne agus d'eagraíodar comórtais spráíúla do mhic léinn a bhí i mbun foghlaim na Gaeilge thar lear. Bhí podchraoltaí agus físeáin a léirigh scileanna ar an bpáirc imeartha, scileanna cócaireachta agus eile á chraoladh go rialta acu, rud a chur lena gcuid scileanna féin agus

a chuir siamsaíocht ar fáil dá gcuid comhscoláirí. Chruthaigh na mic léinn cairdeas fíorúil le mic léinn in Ollscoileanna eile, muintir Áras Uí Thuama in Ollscoil Chorcaigh agus muintir Thaigh na Gàidhlig in Ollscoil Ghlaschù ach go háirithe. Tá scéim mheantóireachta Theach na Gaeilge ar an bhfód le 3 bliana anuas agus tháinig tacaíocht thar na bearta ó mheantóirí/alumni na scéime le linn na bliana. Is iad Dónal Ó Catháin, iarmhac léinn de chuid Scoil na Síceolaíochta UCD agus Peadar Ó Lamhna, iarmhac léinn de chuid Scoil an Dlí UCD a dhéanann comhordú ar an scéim chéanna agus thugadar féin agus baill fhoireann meantóireachta an tí dá gcuid ama go fial. Bhí na meantóirí lárnach in imthreorú ag tús na bliana; chuireadar comhairle ar na mic léinn agus thugadar spreagadh dóibh. Is a bhuíochas don tacaíocht seo go raibh pobal dearfach, fuinniúil i dTeach na Gaeilge arís i mbliana in ainneoin dúshláin na paidéime a deir Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Stiúrthóir Ghaeltacht UCD, is ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann pobal Theach na Gaeilge i gcónaí.



Pictured (l-r) are: Alva O'Loughlin Kennedy, Institute Administrator; Prof Dolores O'Riordan; Assoc Prof Eileen Gibney; and Dr Geraldine Quinn, Institute Manager.

## UCD Food and Health Research Strategy Launch

**UCD Institute of Food and Health launched its Research Strategy for 2020-2024 at an online event in October. Launching the strategy Institute Director, Professor Dolores O'Riordan set out the Institute's ambitions for the next four years. The overarching goal is to future-proof food systems to enable healthy living and societal well-being. The strategy is closely aligned to the UCD's strategy 'Rising to the Future'.**

Across its five research themes, Food Safety, Food Sustainability, Primary Production Systems, Innovative Processing and Health, and Nutrition and Health, the Institute has set three goals:

1. Increase the quality and quantity of our research and innovation
2. Deepen and expand our partnerships and collaborations with leading research institutions, the agri-food commercial sector and regulatory bodies
3. Demonstrate global leadership by communicating and translating our research to impact positively on society

The event was opened by John Bell, Director of Healthy Planet, DG Research and Innovation, EU Commission, who said the launch of the strategy was "incredibly timely as we see the food systems moving front and centre in the transitions ahead".

There were presentations from some of the Institute's leading researchers including Professor James Lyng, Dr Fionnuala Murphy, Dr Fiona McGillicuddy, Dr Saoirse Tracy and Professor Paula Bourke, showcasing the breadth of the Institute's research activities. The finalists from a poster competition run amongst the Institute's research students and postdoctoral

staff gave short presentations on their work, with the overall awards going to Aislinn McCourt and Dr Tesfaye Bedane.

A discussion panel chaired by Associate Professor Eileen Gibney addressed the challenges that the food industry currently faces. Invited panellists included Professor Tom Arnold, chair of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's Food Strategy 2030; Dr Pamela Byrne, CEO of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland; Dr Albert McQuaid, Chief Innovation Officer, Kerry Foods; Cliona Murphy, VP Quality Assurance at PepsiCo; and Professor Orla Feely, VP for Research, Innovation and Impact. Challenges identified by the panel included the impact of the ongoing Brexit negotiations and COVID-19 pandemic; an increase in demand from consumers for personalised products and more transparency with respect to sustainable production chains, balanced against the

regulatory requirements; growing demands from customers for more sustainable and healthy products as well as the growth of plant-based products bringing its own functional challenges around texture, taste and shelf life. The impact and potential of digitisation of the sector and the benefits to the industry was noted as the use of the Internet of Things and AI has grown in more recent years. In closing the session, Professor Orla Feely, UCD VP for Research, Innovation and Impact, welcomed the suggestion that industry and academia have complementary roles to play in the future success of the food industry, forming the basis for a real partnership to address the challenges and share learnings from each other along the continuum.

## UCD Live Engagement and Attendance Project

UCD School of Veterinary Medicine (UCDSVM) is hosting UCD's 'Live Engagement and Attendance Project' (LEAP). This project is funded by the HEA as part of a cross-institutional initiative with DCU entitled 'Supporting Student Success: A Collaborative Approach to Enhancing Engagement Employability and Life Skills'. The project is led by Professor Jason Last, UCD Dean of Students and Associate Professor Sue Rackard (UCDSVM), and the project team is Dr Niamh Nestor, Student Adviser UCDSVM, John Wyatt UCD LEAP Project Manager and Dr Maurice Kinsella, UCD LEAP Research Assistant.

LEAP examines the feasibility of a blended Student Support Toolkit that leverages digital resources to inform and augment pastoral and academic student supports. A core component of this project is a feasibility study into an interactive physical attendance management system that enables students to personally 'check in' to classes using Bluetooth and smartphone technology. The technology enables staff to offer personalised and timely support should student disengagement become apparent. These supports include, where appropriate, interventions via the UCD Student Advisory Service. The philosophy underpinning this

project is that technological innovations can be meaningfully integrated into students' engagement experience and deepen the value of student-staff relationships. In this way, it contributes to UCD's Strategy 2020-2024 aim of bolstering student support through "Advanced systems using student data to target and personalise timely interventions".

During its first HEA-funded phase from July 2019-June 2020, LEAP expanded from ~90 students, who participated in the pre-HEA pilot during the 2018/2019 academic year, to ~290 students in both Years 1 and 2 at UCDSVM. Bluetooth beacons were



installed in >50 locations across campus in collaboration with UCD Estate Services and UCD IT Services. Following the shift to blended learning in March 2020 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, LEAP initiated the collection of student engagement metrics from Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) engagement. The remainder of the 2020/21 academic year will evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of using VLE data as an indicator of student engagement.

## UCD Volunteers Overseas

**During 2020 UCDVO reimagined its volunteering and global citizenship programme for the virtual world. The pilot virtual programme enabled over 50 UCDVO volunteers to connect with partners and communities in Uganda, Tanzania, and India. The development education activities that frame the volunteering programme were redesigned for the online space in the form of the Summer Series, in partnership with Comhlámh.**

Colleagues in UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science created a new Telehealth module which supported the physiotherapy elective students in preparing for the health project. A 3-week camp with Irish NGO Nurture Africa in Nansana, Uganda was held for 30 children with disabilities and their guardians. They participated in pre-recorded and live workshops on topics such as first aid, positioning, toy-making and nutrition, and the children received necessary postural support, including wheelchairs and seats.

Learning from the pilot indicates that it can contribute to personal growth and skills development of volunteers, while benefitting local communities and sending a strong message of solidarity to overseas partners. Most participants reported feeling better equipped to reflect on their role as a global citizen, with a strengthened understanding of what they can do, both in Ireland and overseas.

Building on the learning from last year, in January 2021, UCDVO launched its virtual volunteering programme with 50 volunteers and five overseas partners. Speaking at the event, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Hazel Chu said: "I salute all the UCDVO volunteers

embarking on this innovative global citizenship and virtual volunteering programme. You all have the ability to make the world a better place. I wish you all well on your journey".

UCDVO plans in future to offer a blended programme, bringing together the best of virtual and on-site volunteering to provide a more accessible volunteering and global citizenship programme.

### Making a Difference

UCDVO provided over €40,000 for healthcare and livelihood programmes in Uganda in 2020. Over 15,500 women, men and children in Nansana, Uganda, were able to access primary healthcare through the work of our partner Nurture Africa. Their primary healthcare services encompass care and anti-retroviral treatment for HIV infected children and adults; child immunisation clinics; safe delivery clinics and ante-natal/post-natal care; and supporting children with disabilities with physiotherapy and rehabilitation care

The team at UCDVO will launch a fundraising campaign in April to ensure the continuation of their projects. Please visit their website [www.ucdvo.org](http://www.ucdvo.org) for details.

## Fellowship Award



Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy has been awarded a prestigious Ailsa Mellon Bruce Senior Fellowship for 2021-2022 at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA), National Gallery of Art, Washington DC. The fellowships support research in the history, theory, and criticism of the visual arts of any geographic area and of any period. Her research project will

focus on expanding the ways in which the impact of women upon the history of modern American architecture can be understood by including women who edited journals, ran design businesses, and developed real estate, as well as how they gained authority from experiences abroad.

## Remembering Professor Brian Hillery



Prof Brian Hillery

**Professor Brian Hillery was appointed to the foundation chair at UCD in 1974, becoming Esso Professor of Industrial Relations. This was the first university chair in the academic field on the Island. He established the then Department of Industrial Relations, which soon became the centre for pioneering empirical research on key contemporary issues, including trade union membership and organisation and industrial conflict. With Aidan Kelly, Brian set up and taught on the MBS in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management, which trained generations of senior HR practitioners and currently thrives as the MSc in Human Resource Management. Under Brian's headship the Department expanded to include Mary Keating, Teresa Brannick, Tom Murphy, Bill Roche, John Geary and Geraldine O'Brien.**

Brian also taught many who proceeded to senior academic careers in the subject area, including Professor Bill Roche, who succeeded him in the Chair of Industrial Relations and Human Resources, Professor

Patrick Gunnigle and Professor Tom Turner (UL), Professor Gerry Griffin (University of Melbourne and University of South Australia) and Professor Patrick Flood (DCU).

He made many contributions to the growth of the Faculty of Commerce at UCD. Genial and polite, Brian fostered career opportunities for students and colleagues and was unfailingly available to provide wise and worldly advice.

Brian's academic career was punctuated by political office as a member of the Senate and the Dáil and by his appointment as a director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. He retired from UCD in 1997 and continued as a chair and member of numerous boards, including Independent News and Media, the Central Bank of Ireland and Provident Resources.

The University extends its deepest sympathies to his wife Miriam, his daughter Cliona, and his sons Conor, Eugene, Brian and Gavin.

**This was the first university chair in the academic field on the Island. He established the then Department of Industrial Relations, which soon became the centre for pioneering empirical research on key contemporary issues, including trade union membership and organisation and industrial conflict.**

## Choirs unite in tribute to the global cancer community

To mark World Cancer Day on 4 February, hundreds of singers across the world lent their voices in an online community tribute to those whose lives have been touched by cancer. 'Choirs for Cancer 2021' brought cancer patients, family members, allied medical professionals and cancer researchers together to share the story of their cancer journey.

These stories were interspersed with inspirational songs from multiple choirs from around the world, many linked with cancer support centres or cancer fundraising efforts. The event also recognised the tireless work of patient advocates, including Sheila Kissane (UK) and Roberta Horgan (Ireland), as well as highlighting ongoing advances in cancer research.

Organiser Professor William Gallagher, Deputy Director of Precision Oncology Ireland and academic lead for the All-Island Cancer Research Institute said: "The 'Choirs for Cancer 2021' event provides a fantastic opportunity for those impacted by cancer to tell their story, and for their collective voice to be



**'Choirs for Cancer' is jointly organised by Precision Oncology Ireland, the Patient Voice in Cancer Research and the All-Island Cancer Research Institute with the ongoing support of the 'Choirs for Cancer' committee. The event is available to view 'on demand' on the 'Choirs for Cancer' YouTube channel.**

heard. Although the pandemic forced us to move the event online this year, the positive outcome is that location is no longer a barrier to choirs participating. We heard singers, including schoolchildren, young adults, cancer patients and their families, from Boston, Philadelphia, New York; from Umeå, Sweden and Trelew, Argentina, as well as Ireland, the UK and Italy".

Each choir brought a song with a special meaning to them on the theme of togetherness, followed by a combined choral performance of 'From Now On', a song from *The Greatest Showman*.

## ASIS&T Award of Merit

**Professor Diane Sonnenwald, Emerita Professor and Emerita Head of UCD School of Information and Communication Studies recently received the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) Award of Merit, its highest honour. The award recognises an individual who has made particularly noteworthy and sustained contributions to the information science field. The award is based on three criteria: impact on theory, scholarship, and practice; exemplary leadership and sustained involvement; and education and mentoring.**

Her work has built bridges to computer science, design studies, biomedicine, education, communication and computer-supported cooperative work. She has been a principal investigator on major grants and is widely published.

Students and practicing professionals globally have been directly influenced by her contributions as a teacher and faculty member.

Professor Sonnenwald told UCD Today: "ASIS&T is a preeminent association and its many members throughout the world have significantly influenced my work for decades. I am deeply honored to receive this distinguished recognition from the ASIS&T community."



Prof Diane Sonnenwald

## Prof Geraldine Butler elected as Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology



**Professor Geraldine Butler, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science and UCD Conway Institute was elected in February as Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology.**

Fellows of the American Academy of Microbiology (AAM), an honorific leadership group within the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), are elected annually through a highly selective, peer-review process, based on their records of scientific achievement and original contributions that have advanced microbiology. Founded in 1899, the ASM is one of the largest life science societies in the world with over 30,000 members across the globe.

This year's Fellows were represented from 11 different countries, including Australia, Canada, China, France, Ireland, Sweden, Slovenia, Mexico, and Singapore, the UK and the United States.

Professor Butler was recognised by the AAM for her research, which uses a combination of next generation sequencing, comparative genomics and gene editing approaches to study evolution and virulence in pathogenic fungi, particularly *Candida* species..



## Tomorrow's Medicine

**UCD School of Medicine launched their Strategic Plan titled 'Tomorrow's Medicine' in early March 2021.**

The strategy, underpinned by ten strategic objectives, recommits the School to being a globally engaged, research-intensive medical school that contributes to discovery and prepares our graduates for practice at home and abroad. It builds on the considerable achievements of faculty, staff, students and alumni in line with the School's mission to be a community of healthcare professionals and scientists that improves health outcomes through excellence in education, research and patient care.

## UCD teams shortlisted for Future Innovator Prize

**Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris, TD, has announced that 15 teams have been shortlisted as part of the SFI Future Innovator Prize.**

UCD researchers are leading two of the teams and are members of three of the other shortlisted teams. The two challenge-based prize programmes, with a prize fund of €2 million each, are calling on the research teams to develop innovative solutions to food waste and plastics. At the end of the 12-month programme two overall winners will be announced.

UCD researchers are leading two of the ten shortlisted teams in the SFI Plastics Challenge. This will support the development of innovative STEM-led solutions that will enable the sustainable use of plastics in a circular economy, restore and preserve our oceans' health, and maximise how we use the earth's finite resources.

*Eco-labs* is focusing on the challenge of making sustainable lab consumables. The members of the team are: Dr Nan Zhang, UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering; Professor Wenxin Wang, UCD School of Medicine; and Professor Michael Gilchrist, UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering; and MiNAN Technologies, a UCD spin-out company supported through NovaUCD. *Eco-labs* is aligned with UN SDG GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

*Plastic Raiders* is focusing on the challenge of removing polluting plastics from the coastal marine environment. The member are: Associate Professor Francesco Pilla, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy; Associate Professor Jennifer Symonds, UCD School of Education; and Tim Ferguson, Irish Surfing Association.

*Plastic Raiders* is aligned with UN SDG GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

UCD researchers are members of three of the five shortlisted teams in the SFI Food Challenge. This will support the development of sustainable solutions to reduce food loss and waste across the full breadth of the food supply chain.

*Bluestreambio* is focusing on the challenge of addressing waste in the fishing industry – alternative uses of fish blood. The team members are: Dr Graham O'Neill, TU Dublin; Professor Paula Bourke, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering; and Nadine Bonner, Irish Fish Cannery. *Bluestreambio* is aligned with UN SDG GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

*Eye-Q* is focusing on the challenge of reducing premature spoilage of fruit and vegetables in global supply chains. The team members are: Dr Ultan McCarthy, Waterford Institute of Technology; Dr Anastasia Ktenioudaki, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering; and Jean-Pierre Emond, The Illuminate Group LLC. *Eye-Q* is aligned with UN SDG GOAL 2: Zero Hunger and UN SDG GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

*WAVA* is focusing on the challenge of valorising food waste into value added commodities. The team members are: Dr Sushanta Kumar Saha, Limerick Institute of Technology; Dr Ajay Menon, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science; and Adam Lord, Food Surplus Management Ltd. *WAVA* is aligned with UN SDG GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

## Over 500 Laptops Distributed to UCD Students

In August 2020, the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD announced a funding package of €168 million to address the impact of COVID-19.

€15 million of the funding package has been earmarked to provide students with appropriate technology to bridge the digital divide experienced by many in the move to online and blended models of learning. UCD received €777,018 in funding and through the UCD Access and Lifelong Learning Centre, developed the Laptop Loan Scheme.

The purpose of the scheme is to allocate and distribute laptops to new and continuing UCD students from low-income households as rapidly as possible. Managed by the Access Student Support Officer, Michelle Tracey, and with support from a number of ALL colleagues,

500 students have received a laptop since October 2020. Distribution in a pandemic is challenging, however, students have had their laptops delivered to their doorsteps across the length and breadth of the country. The James Joyce Library will also benefit from the scheme and will receive 48 laptops which will enhance the existing laptop loan scheme.

The Laptop Loan Scheme remains open and it is anticipated that it will benefit approximately 850 eligible new and continuing students, supporting and enabling them to continue with their studies and complete their academic year.

## Celebrating Lunar New Year

To celebrate the Lunar New Year, UCD Confucius Institute streamed the 2021 Spring Festival Gala Ireland on 14 February to bring blessings and festivity to audiences all over the world through YouTube and Bilibili. More than 1,000 people watched the show online.

Unlike previous years, the online programme this year was a compilation of more than 20 specially selected videos from the Institute's students of what Chinese New Year means for them. The variety of programmes range from Beijing opera, modern dance, classical instruments, comedy kit to mini documentary.

Distinguished guests also sent their warmest New Year's wishes, including the



Ceann Comhairle, Mr Seán Ó Fearghail sends his New Year's greetings.

Ceann Comhairle, Mr Seán Ó Fearghail; Lord Mayor of Dublin, Hazel Chu; Irish Ambassador to China, Dr Ann Derwin; Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, Mr He Xiangdong; and UCD President, Professor Andrew J Deeks.

## Inaugural Shane Kenny Memorial Lecture



Dr Shane Kenny RIP.

**Dr Shane Kenny, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, passed away unexpectedly in his sleep on 27 July 2020. It came as a huge shock his colleagues and friends at UCD, who are still suffering as a result of their**

**loss. Shane was a huge personality with so much energy and dedication. He was based in UCD over a period of nearly 20 years.**

Shane was a graduate of Industrial Microbiology and joined the laboratory of Professor Kevin O'Connor for his PhD where he studied a combination of chemistry and microbiology to convert waste plastic to biodegradable plastic. He continued his research as a postdoc in Professor O'Connor's lab. He published his work in the American Chemical Society journal Environmental Science and Technology and that paper has been cited over 100 times since 2008. His research was also successfully patented in the US and EU and licensed to the UCD spin-out company Bioplastech. Shane became Bioplastech's first employee and led the development of the technology through multiple international collaborations and scale-up projects.

The School and BiOrbic Bioeconomy SFI

Research Centre held a memorial Biotechnology lecture in honour of Shane on what would have been his 38th birthday on 22 February 2021. Professor Lars Blank, RWTH Aachen University, Germany delivered the lecture entitled 'Exploiting nature's biosynthetic capabilities by metabolic engineering' virtually. There were 133 attendees from all over the world, which is a testament to Shane's professional and personal popularity. His family and friends also attended with Tanja Narancic, Shane's partner saying a few words in memory of Shane along with Professor Wim Meijer, Head of SBBS and Enrico Altieri, CEO Bioplastech. Professor Blank and Shane collaborated on a number of EU projects and it was great that he accepted the invitation to speak at the inaugural lecture. Ricardo Egea of Bionet, a fermentor company that Shane collaborated with, produced a miniature replica

of one of the scale-up fermentors that Shane used extensively. The replica was 3D printed using biodegradable plastic and presented to Professor Blank as a memento.

Shane has helped so many undergraduate students, visiting students, graduate students, and postdocs during his time at UCD and MSc biotechnology students placed with Bioplastech. He was always willing to help, always willing to do that little bit extra for the success of a project. His energy and willingness to help others meant he was forever fixing and maintaining equipment so that projects could keep going. In a university and in a start-up his skills and his mindset were critical to keeping the boat afloat and moving forward. His passing has left a huge hole and his absence is felt every day.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

## Smurfit Executive Development wins InBusiness Recognition Award for 2020

Smurfit Executive Development has been awarded an **InBUSINESS Recognition Award for Best in Executive Education in 2020** to acknowledge their work in designing and delivering impactful learning experiences to business executives so that they can better understand, manage and shape rapidly changing business environments. This is the first time that Smurfit Executive Development has received this award.

The awards honour and celebrate success, achievement and ambition within Irish business and acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of

individuals to grow business in this country.

Helen Brophy, Director, said: "We are absolutely delighted to receive the InBusiness Recognition Award which is an endorsement of the business and the service we provide to our open enrolment participants and customised clients. Winning the award is a huge honour for the team in Smurfit Executive Development. This recognition comes at a time when we are seeing extraordinary changes to 'business as usual' as we collectively face the defining challenge of a generation. Now more than ever, investment in the development of leadership talent is essential".

## MGA Distinguished Graduate Award Recipient

The MGA (Medical Graduate Association) awards are presented to outstanding alumni in recognition of lifelong achievements in medical education, research and/or clinical practice, in appreciation of the drive, leadership and commitment to make a difference in society and to celebrate the success and contribution of our most distinguished alumni worldwide.

On 25 February, at a virtual MGA Award event, Sr Marian Scena (Class of 1975), Doctor and Coordinator, Faraja Hospice and Palliative Care Centre, Tanzania was presented with her award. Sr Scena was interviewed by her classmate, Dr Bernie Mangan, Retired Consultant Psychiatrist and former Clinical Director of St John of God Hospital, current Board Member of the Hospital and Class of 1975 Rep.

During the inspiring conversation Sr Scena told us that she was born in Stamford, Connecticut in 1945, joined the Congregation of the Medical Missionaries of Mary in 1963 and was encouraged by them to study medicine at UCD. She completed her intern year in 1976 and undertook additional training in obstetrics and paediatrics at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. Sr Scena was then assigned to Tanzania and has worked there for the last 37 years in three different mission hospitals in rural areas of the country. She has always enjoyed surgery but has also practiced obstetrics, general medicine, paediatrics and TB and HIV/AIDS related work.



During the conversation Sr Scena told us about her experience at UCD which equipped her to work in an African hospital, how she continued her learning and expansion of her clinical practice over 40 years since graduation. She also told us about times when her knowledge and skill was challenged, how she shared her knowledge with others and the advice she gave to medical students and young doctors who came to do an elective or to spend time at the hospital in Tanzania.

Sr Scena concluded by telling us about her current service in palliative care and how her spiritual and environmental experience influenced her as a clinician and whilst working in palliative care. Sr Scena has a love of guitar playing, bird watching and has contributed more than 33,000 entries to the first Bird Atlas of Tanzania which is currently being compiled.

Watch the interview [here](#).

## Minor Harbours of Ireland

UCD Digital Library would like to present a significant new research collection, created as part of the Irish Research Council-funded project, **Minor Harbours of Ireland**, led by Professor Elizabeth Shotton, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy. The project examined the evolution of maritime engineering in small harbours in Ireland from the seventeenth century to the present, and the digital collection records the construction and evolution of a selection of these minor harbours. It includes short historical descriptions, onsite LiDAR scans, photographic site surveys, and an exhibition poster for each harbour.

While the major Irish harbours have been well documented, there remain considerable structures that, due to their small size, have been overlooked by researchers. These minor harbours describe a significant coastal infrastructural system and represent a considerable source of information, many having originated through local efforts, only to be later modified through government works in the 19th and 20th centuries. The danger posed to these structures from deterioration and rising sea levels is increasing and it is imperative to create accurate records to support a comprehensive analysis of the evolution of maritime engineering in Ireland.

The project was initially conceived and funded as a pilot project by the IRC to establish protocols for the capture and management of LiDAR-based surveys of these coastal structures in tandem with historic research on their development. Many of these structures have long, complex histories tied to the shifting patterns of governance, land tenure, material resources, technology



and trade. Unravelling and visualising these histories involves a complex negotiation between text based archival documents, historic surveys and maps, other forms of pictorial representation such as topographical illustrations, all used in tandem with LiDAR based surveys to articulate their evolution.

The resulting output of the project was deposited in UCD Digital Library, which is focused on providing global access to Cultural Heritage and primary source data, as well as undertaking the preservation of the digital files.

The project culminated in a collaboration between Professor Shotton and Peter Clarke (Digital Services Programmer in UCD Library) after the collection was deposited, which resulted in the LiDAR data being visualised in the UCD Digital Library using Potree, a free open-source WebGL based point cloud renderer for large point clouds. By embedding the Potree visualiser into each Harbour record, researchers can view and manipulate the point cloud data, without the need to download the substantial files themselves.

Explore the minor harbours, including Fethard (Wexford), Balbriggan (Fingal), Bullock (Dublin), Port Oriel (Louth), and Boatstrand (Waterford), on the UCD Digital Library (<https://digital.ucd.ie>), or directly at [https://doi.org/10.7925/drs1.ucdlib\\_255666](https://doi.org/10.7925/drs1.ucdlib_255666)



Celebrate *Wind and Water* (2013) by Paddy Campbell, on the banks of the new lake.

## ■ Sculptures in University College Dublin

**The *Sculptures in University College Dublin* collection supersedes the original UCD Sculpture Trail collection in UCD Digital Library, which itself was based on the guided walking trail of the many sculptures dotted around the UCD Belfield campus.**

The trail was originally devised, compiled and edited by Ruth Ferguson, Curator, UCD Newman House, and Dr Paula Murphy, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy, and the sculptures have been brought to life by UCD photographer Vincent Hoban. The physical collection is beautifully curated and made accessible by UCD Estates. The collection is a visual feast which highlights the public works of art that are an integral part of the urban fabric of the University, enriching the sense of place and the physical beauty of the natural environment.

Varying in style and material, this collection is a representation of national and internationally renowned artists including John Burke, Jason Ellis, Thomas Glendon, James Hogan, Kevin O'Dwyer, Bob Quinn and Giorgio Zennaro. The sculptures in the collection were created between 1844 and 2014.

Given that most of the UCD Community are currently unable to view this collection of sculptures in person due to the pandemic restrictions, the UCD Digital Library offers the opportunity to virtually navigate the Belfield campus and marvel at these stunning pieces of art.

Please [visit the collection on the UCD Digital Library](#) or [follow the UCD Sculpture Trail here](#).

## ■ The Power of Narrative in Rights Education

**The UCD Rights Education Network was joined in conversation at a recent webinar by renowned human rights champion Dr Mary Robinson and author and journalist, Caitriona Palmer, to discuss the power of narrative and storytelling as a means of rights education. The UCD Rights Education Network is an interdisciplinary and cross-institutional network led by Dr Deirdre McGillicuddy and Dr Gabriela Martinez-Sainz, UCD School of Education; Dr Suzanne Egan, UCD Sutherland School of Law; and Dr Muireann Ní Raghallaigh, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice.**

Former President of Ireland, Dr Mary Robinson is the author with Caitriona Palmer of *Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience and the Fight for a Sustainable Future*. Caitriona is the author of her own personal memoir *An Affair with My Mother: A Story of Adoption Secrecy and Love*. Mary Robinson spoke about how the idea for the book came about and the power of narrative used throughout. She highlighted through the conversation that storytelling is such an essential part of human rights and human dignity. Caitriona Palmer spoke about how each of us desire and crave connection and as a reader and a writer she found connection in human stories.

Dr Deirdre McGillicuddy summed up four emerging themes covered during the conversation. The first focused on bringing humanity to stories, bringing the female voice into



Dr Mary Robinson speaking at the webinar.

more technical conversations and the impact this is having in terms of climate change and changing the world. The second theme focused on the powerful thread around dignity and inherent dignity that can be brought to stories and the impact of mistreating stories and the destructive force that it can have on individuals and our society. To this end the idea of treating stories with compassion is important from a human rights perspective. The third theme focused on empowering others through stories and how we bring forward marginalised voices including the power of young people's voices and the leadership they demonstrate in changing lives. The final theme focused on our collective responsibility for the future and how we address inequalities and break down silos.

## ■ UCD Employees raise €7,779 for Special Olympics Ireland

In February 2021, some 500 UCD employees took part in the UCD Challenge to improve their physical and mental health and raise funds for Special Olympics Ireland. Together they covered 80,743kms of walking, jogging or running and raised €7,779. The funds were raised in two ways. Nearly 90% of participants beat their individual kilometer target for the month and in doing so raised €4,230, with Culture & Engagement donating €10 per person for those beating their target. In addition, €3,549 was raised through an online fundraising page by the participants and their supporters. The initiative was organised by Culture & Engagement and Healthy UCD.

UCD colleagues selected Special Olympics Ireland (SOI), a well-known charity to many members of the UCD community who already volunteer providing year-round sports training and a programme of competition for people with an intellectual disability, as the University's external charity of choice. UCD employees are also hosting zoom coffee chats with athletes and giving webinars on nutrition and other supports to athletes, coaches and volunteers. If you would like to get involved please contact [Mark Simpson](#), UCD Culture & Engagement.



## Celebrating International Women's Day 2021

UCD College of Social Sciences and Law hosted a special webinar to celebrate International Women's Day 2021 with a panel discussion on the theme 'Giving a Voice to Women on the Margins'. The event was hosted by Professor Judith Harford, College Vice-Principal for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion who warmly welcomed Ms Sabina Higgins who gave the opening address to attendees. Ms Higgins emphasised the importance of the affiliation to United Nations Women and also of working collectively towards the objectives of achieving the UN Sustainable Development goals in particular Goal 5 pertaining to Gender Equality and Goal 4 of Quality Education.

Speakers included Professor Aisling Swaine, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice whose research focuses on feminist legal theory, gender peace and security and women's experiences of armed violence; Emma Penney, post doctoral fellow in UCC whose research focuses on working-class women's community writing; and Dyuti Chakravarty,

doctoral student in UCD School of Sociology whose research examines women's movements for bodily autonomy in India and Ireland.

A common thread in the discussion was centred around access to education based on social class. The importance of "what counts as knowledge" was discussed by all speakers on the panel in relation to the politics of knowledge production and an understanding of feminist knowledge that exists within nations. Professor Swaine emphasised the importance of having frames of understanding and constructing knowledge like gender equality, critical theory, colonial theory and class theory. She stressed it was important in third-level education to have these classes available for students and she encouraged the use of "knowledge of the everyday" in relation to shared stories, shared experiences and for these elements to also count as knowledge and for universities to support and recognise this.

The full webinar can be viewed [here](#).



Pictured from top left (clockwise): Prof Judith Harford, Prof Aisling Swaine, Ms Sabina Higgins, Dr Emma Penney and Dyuti Chakravarty.



Professor Ben Tonra



Professor Cecily Kelleher



Professor Frank McDermott



Professor Máire Ní Annracháin



Professor Margaret Kelleher



Professor Niamh Brennan

## UCD Academics elected to Royal Irish Academy

Six professors from UCD were elected to the Royal Irish Academy, the highest academic honour in Ireland. In a break from its 235-year tradition, the RIA admitted the group of academics in a video call rather than with a handshake and an invitation to sign the Academy's members book.

The UCD professors newly elected to the RIA on Friday, 22 May are: Professor Niamh Brennan, UCD Quinn School of Business; Professor Margaret Kelleher, UCD School of English, Drama and Film; Professor Cecily Kelleher, Principal, UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences; Professor Frank McDermott, UCD School of Earth Sciences; Professor Máire Ní Annracháin, UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore; and Professor Ben Tonra, UCD School of Politics and International Relations.

The six were among 29 new RIA members elected as part of a virtual ceremony due to the ongoing restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



## UCD 2020 Impact Competition Winners Announced

**Associate Professor Catherine Cox has been named winner of the UCD 2020 Research Impact Case Study Competition. Her case study, entitled 'Out of sight, out of mind: changing public perceptions of the mental health crisis in Irish prisons', details the significant impact of her project exploring the history of prisoner health.**

The five-year project is funded by a Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Award and led by co-Principal Investigators Associate Professor Cox and Professor Hilary Marland from University of Warwick. The research identified long-standing neglect of people with mental illness in Irish prisons. Working with partners in the arts sector, she co-devised a series of events that communicated these challenging histories, changing perceptions of prisoners' right to psychiatric services and contributing to the well-being of prisoners and ex-offenders.

Associate Professor Cox is director of UCD Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland, a senior member of faculty at UCD School of History and leads the Health Medicine and Wellbeing research theme in UCD College of Arts and Humanities.

She said: "Leading and working on the Wellcome Trust Award 'Prisoners, Medical Care and Entitlement to Health in England and Ireland, 1850-2000' was hugely rewarding. The team at UCD School of History collaborated with brilliant artists, dedicated advocates and imprisoned people to communicate with large audiences about an important but neglected issue, mental health in the criminal justice system. In doing so, we co-created artistic works and exhibitions that were marked by excellence and innovation. Importantly for me, a historian, we put the history of these issues in conversation with our present."

The annual UCD Research Impact Case Study Competition encourages researchers of all disciplines to write a case study that tells the story of how their work has made a positive difference. Despite the challenges of the year, UCD Research received more entries than ever before in 2020.

### There were nine runners-up in the 2020 competition:

Diabetes Complications Research Centre (UCD DCRC)  
Addressing the stigma faced by people living with obesity

Associate Professor Ainhoa González  
Planning for sustainability through Environmental Sensitivity Mapping

Assistant Professor Jennifer Keenahan  
Protecting the built environment from the effects of wind

Associate Professor Marie Keenan  
Reimagining justice and healing after sexual violence

Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe  
Right technology, right time: how the PEARs app is improving pregnancy outcomes

Professor Cal Muckley, Dr Gaurav Kumar, Linh Pham and Darragh Ryan  
Protecting older adults against financial exploitation

Dr Kevin Nolan  
Reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission in hospitals

Associate Professor Francesco Pilla  
iSCAPE: improving the smart control of air pollution in Europe

Dr Heidi Riley  
Promoting women in peace mediation across the island of Ireland



## Cothrom Na Féinne Scholarships

**Cothrom na Féinne, meaning justice and equality, is the overarching brand for UCD scholarships for access students and is now the largest access scholarship scheme at undergraduate level. This year UCD Access and Lifelong Learning is delighted to announce developments on the graduate scholarship front with the UCD College of Social Science and Law and the Huawei TECH4ER scholarships.**

UCD College of Social Sciences and Law has committed to supporting up to 15 scholarships for taught masters programmes and this year 13 access students were successful. Priority is given to students who were supported by an access programme for their undergraduate programme.

Huawei has committed €30,000 to support the Tech4Her scholarships. This is a clear commitment to support female access scholars who demonstrate motivation to pursue higher education despite educational challenges faced, and who demonstrate leadership to others experiencing similar challenges, in particular in choosing STEM programmes. Two scholarships have been awarded at undergraduate level and one at masters level, covering the duration of their studies.

## ■ Premodern Digital Cultural Heritage

**Growing numbers of digital archive projects are engaging with cultural heritage issues, from digitising historic photos of archaeological sites in regions in conflict, to recording data on sites under threat from climate change. To support open communication and avoid duplication of effort, the Premodern Digital Cultural Heritage Research Network has been established.**

It promotes collaboration between open-access (i.e. freely accessible) digital projects based in the UK and in Ireland that focus on ancient and medieval cultural heritage, including art, architecture, and archaeology. The network is run jointly by Dr Sean Leatherbury, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy and Dr Ine Jacobs, University of Oxford and includes participant projects such

as Manar al-Athar ('Guide to Archaeology'), Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA), Historic Environment Image Resource (HEIR), the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, Gothic Past, and Monastic Ireland, among others.

In 2020-2021, the network will host a series of workshops, allowing members of participating digital projects to gather and discuss issues related to project missions, sustainability, usability and accessibility for different audiences, and outreach. In addition to improved communication between projects, the organisers of the network will survey current users of the various projects, and produce a series of publications on collaboration between open-access digital heritage projects.

## ■ UCD Leadership in Healthcare Network launches with RCPI

**In September, UCD Smurfit School and the Royal College of Physicians Ireland hosted a webinar which brought together healthcare, government, business and education leaders to examine key learnings from the response to the initial wave of COVID-19 in Ireland from healthcare delivery and organisational points of view. The event also explored the societal and economic consequences of the pandemic both in Ireland and abroad.**

The event was the brainchild of the UCD Leadership in Healthcare Network which was established earlier in 2020 to bring together people with an interest in healthcare and leadership to share knowledge, experience and expertise. The network was originally proposed

by two graduates of the UCD Smurfit Executive MBA programme.

The impressive line-up of speakers for the event included then acting chief medical officer Dr Ronan Glynn, HSE chief clinical officer Colm Henry, Roche Diagnostics Ireland director Finbarr Kenny, IBEC chief executive Danny McCoy, KPMG partner Emer McGrath, PwC managing partner Fergal O'Rourke, IDA chief executive Martin Shanahan and many more.

The opening session dealt with the rapid response required by the onset of the pandemic. The second session looked at the impact on patient care and frontline carers. The third session featured panel discussions on the societal and economic impacts of Covid-19. The webinar can be viewed [here](#).

## ■ AgRefine European Training Network

**AgRefine is a European Training Network (ETN) led by Dr Fionnuala Murphy, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering. The ETN consists of 15 interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral PhD projects, each specialising in specific aspects of the bioeconomy. The 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) are hosted in UCD (4), Bantry Marine Research Station (1), Technische Universität Wien (2), Austria; Ghent University (3), Belgium; Wageningen University & Research (1), The Netherlands; Centre for Research & Technology Hellas (1), Greece; and tbw Research (1), Austria.**

AgRefine is training the 15 ESRs in the necessary skills and knowledge to position Europe as the global leader in developing an agri-bioeconomy industry based on advanced biorefinery technologies. The network is combining assessment of legislation and policy as it applies to the bioeconomy, with industry-led innovation of AgRefine technology, and market-led experience of sustainable value chain creation.

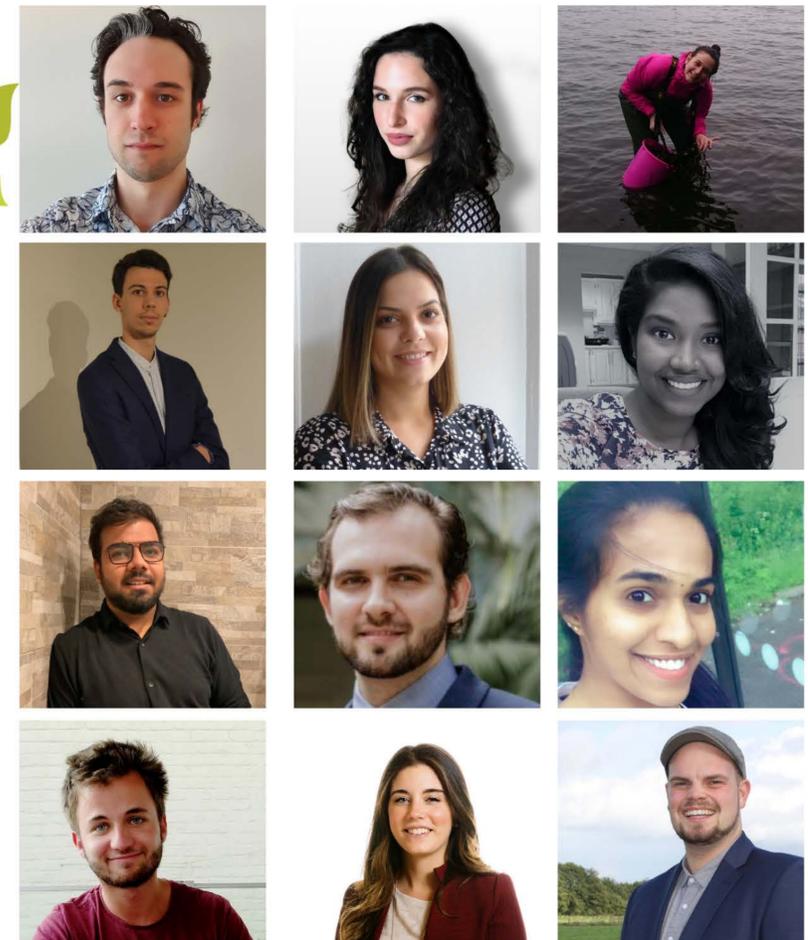
AgRefine ITN researchers, like many across the globe, have faced many challenges due

to the coronavirus pandemic. Although travel restrictions and lockdowns across Europe have negatively impacted the project, the consortium has been extremely busy, with the students and supervisors tirelessly working to set up experiments and arranging collaborations.

If nothing else, the pandemic has shown the consortium how resourceful it is and created a bond across a virtual world. Each week, the ESRs have a virtual coffee break where they come together and discuss the project and all things PhD.

**AgRefine**  
EUROPEAN TRAINING NETWORK

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 860477





Israel Olatunde

## Athletics

**The Irish Life Health Elite Micro Meet was held on the 20-21 February as a replacement for the cancelled Indoor National Championships. The event was held under strict COVID-19 guidelines with Government approval via the Sport Ireland Expert Group.**

The plan was to provide athletes with some race experience and potentially identify some more qualifiers for the European Indoor Championships in Poland and instead it turned into an exciting festival of national records and personal bests many of which were from UCD students past and present.

Eighteen-year-old Israel Olatunde broke both the U20 and U23 indoor men's 60m records and also qualified for the European Championships. One of the stars of the weekend, the Ad Astra scholar and Computer Science student claimed his first record-breaking time of 6.74 when he finished second to Leon Reid at the final race event of the qualifying meet. Olatunde's second 60m run saw him cross the line in 6.73, breaking the record he set an hour before.

Fellow Ad Astra scholar Darragh McElhinney opened his season with a new U23 record in the men's 3,000m. The 20 year-old Arts student from West Cork ran a personal best of 7:50.80 finishing second behind John Travers. His time smashed the existing Irish U23 indoor 3000m record of 7:51.35, which has stood since 1994.

Engineering student Luke McCann held on to his lead in the 1,500m following a strong early pace to finish with yet another UCD personal best of 3:40.03, and another qualifying time well inside the European standard.

UCD graduate and former Ad Astra scholar Mark English ran one of the races of the weekend as he just about held off the challenge of rising teenage star McPhillips to break his own Irish indoor 800m record on Saturday evening, clocking 1:46.10

In the Women's 1,500m Ellie Hartnett crossed the line in a particularly strong race in 4:35.27, finishing first ahead of the 800m national champion Amy O'Donoghue and Paralympian Greta Streimikyte.

Another UCD graduate and former Ad Astra scholar Sarah Lavin has been in phenomenal form this year and won the 60m hurdles in 8.20 - her second fastest time ever. She went on to break her personal best twice and claim third in the 60m hurdles final at the World Indoor Tour in Madrid. Lavin had clocked a PB of 8.14 seconds to come through her semi-final before raising the bar again in the final, running in 8.13 to take third behind Spain's Teresa Errandonea and Nadine Visser of the Netherlands.

The UCD students and graduates were part of a bumper Irish team of 23 athletes set for the European Indoor Athletics Championships.

## Guinness Rugby Writers of Ireland Players of the Year

**UCD Ad Astra Academy Elite Sports Alumni, Beibhinn Parsons and Garry Ringrose have been named the Guinness Rugby Writers of Ireland Players of the Year.**

Beibhinn Parsons is studying Biomedical, Health and Life Sciences whilst on a UCD Ad Astra Academy Elite Sports Scholarship, having joined UCD this year. She was the youngest player ever to play rugby for Ireland at sixteen years of age. In January, she was awarded Player of The Year following her breakthrough season in 2019/20. Beibhinn was delighted to have won the award saying: "Winning this award is a real 'pinch me' moment. To follow in the footsteps of incredible players like Ciara Griffin, Claire Molloy and Sene Naoupu is just incredible! To even be nominated for an award of this calibre has exceeded all my expectations. I would have never considered myself to be in the same bracket of players with those women."

Garry Ringrose, a recent Business and Law alumnus plays centre for both Ireland and Leinster and has had an outstanding 2019/20 season for both club and country. He said: "It is a real honour to receive this award. 2020 was an extremely challenging year and I am very grateful to the rugby writers of Ireland for selecting me as the winner of this prestigious award." Garry is representing Ireland in the 2021 Guinness Six Nations Rugby Championship and Beibhinn is on the Irish squad that will be part of the Women's Six Nations starting in April.



Garry Ringrose

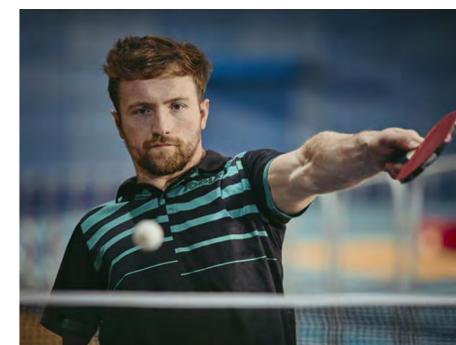


Beibhinn Parsons

## Towards Tokyo

**UCD Ad Astra Academy Elite Sports Alumnus, Colin Judge recently appeared on RTÉ's Late Late Show with several other Irish para athletes to raise funds for Paralympics Ireland's 'The Next Level' campaign. Colin, 25 is a para table tennis player who has competed for over eleven years in his sport.**

He was part of the Ad Astra Academy Elite Sports Programme during his studies in Actuarial and Financial Studies and graduated in 2017. He has now put his career on hold to focus full-time on training and competing in the hopes of qualifying for the Tokyo 2021 Paralympic Games taking place this August. He is the current European Champion and has won several other medals



Colin Judge in action

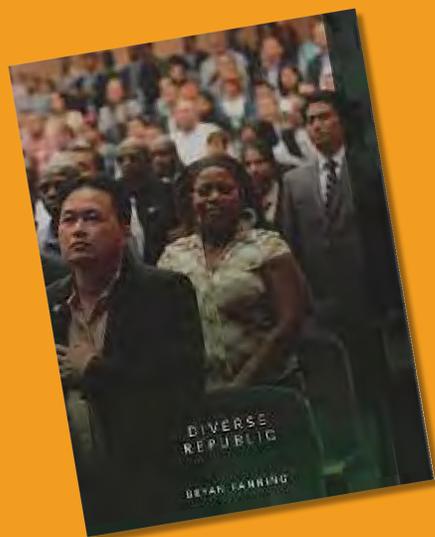
at international competitions. He is a five-time Irish national champion and was ranked number one in the world at under 23 in his class.

The aim of 'The Next Level' campaign is to give para athletes full credit for their remarkable level of performance - a level that goes beyond sporting achievement. They are aiming to raise funds to help Team Ireland compete at Paralympics Tokyo, Paris 2024, Los Angeles 2028 and beyond. To find out more about the campaign or Colin's personal journey towards Tokyo, go to [www.paralympics.ie](http://www.paralympics.ie) or [Colin Judge GoFundMe page](http://Colin Judge GoFundMe page).

# Books

## ■ Diverse Republic

**Professor Bryan Fanning,**  
UCD School of Social Policy,  
Social Work and Social Justice  
**Published by UCD Press**  
**ISBN: 9781910820711**



Professor Bryan Fanning's new book, *Diverse Republic*, is a timely discourse that challenges us to look closely at our behaviours and attitudes towards immigrants in today's Ireland. The opening chapters provide historical context that helps explain the political position on social cohesion and integration policies.

Ireland's early years as a sovereign state in the 20th century dealt with its own "Brexit" as the politicians chipped away at colonial economic dependence and propagated a cultural view of Ireland that grew upon ethnicity, language, and dominance by the Catholic Church.

Fanning points out that Irish nationalism was "inspired by republican ideals of equality". The 1916 Proclamation declared a Republic that would 'cherish the children of the

nation equally.' "This aspiration", he points out, "drew on a non-sectarian tradition of republican nationalism that could be traced back to Wolfe Tone." However, now in the 21st century, although far-right parties who dominate the political platform on racial exclusion in other countries do not have a foothold in Ireland, Fanning calls it out that they have laid "claim to the symbols and heroes of the Republic" as they appeal to potential supporters through campaign tactics supported by nationalists in other countries.

Fanning writes a fascinating account on far-right perspectives operating in Ireland, focusing on individuals such as Gemma O'Doherty and John Waters as well as on parties such as The National Party and The Irish Freedom Party. Given the strategic COVID campaigns of the past twelve months, he could fill a sequel to this book.

Fanning's thought process is very clear: "Poverty and inequality are... the main drivers of social exclusion. Segregation, whether this results from economic inequality or occurs on the basis of ethnicity, is the main characteristic of poor social cohesion." He points out that the opposite – integration and social cohesion – meaningfully occur within specific localities, even if the rhetoric and arguments that characterise the politics of immigration play out at national level. He illustrates this point by recounting a tweet by Gemma O'Doherty which showed a picture of 31 Longford primary pupils and claimed "... Irish people will soon become an ethnic minority..." and the response from Longford Cricket Club who posted a team photograph of

mostly Asian-origin players.

Addressing the issue of citizenship, Fanning highlights an important distinction in public perceptions: He argues that although "to prevent somebody from voting or going to university because they were black would be an outrage" (and is covered by the Equal Status Act 2000 and the Employment Equality Act 1998), "to prevent someone from voting or from having the same entitlements to further education because they were not an Irish citizen can appear entirely reasonable."

To the problem of legal citizenship, with consequent absence of political representation, add the issue of language fluency, and both attitudes and experiences step dangerously close to exclusion and racism.

In a society where almost all residents in the country have been affected by the housing crisis and the political failure to tackle the problem, plays into the hands of nationalists. Fanning points out that from a social policy perspective, integration and social inclusion overlap to a considerable extent.

"The needs of new arrivals including asylum seekers should be addressed jointly with those of long-term residents and more resources should be made available to both groups as a result of the arrival of new groups." In other words, if you tackle the problems of all of the people – such as housing – you enable social cohesion and integration of the new Irish.

Fanning concludes with a list of nine questions that a Citizens' Assembly on Ireland might consider in order to create a *Diverse Republic* for all of the people. **EO'B**

## ■ A Very Short Introduction to Enzymes

**Emeritus Professor Paul Engel,**  
**Oxford University Press**  
**ISBN: 9780198824985**



This 'Very Short Introduction' series from the Oxford University Press has a very broad sweep of topics in every discipline. They are ideal for someone who wants a stimulating and accessible way into a new subject.

The reviewer must fess up to not having any kind of expertise on the subject of Enzymes but this compact, very easy to read book kept me company one sunny afternoon in the park. It would be perfect for students who want to have a (somewhat more than) basic understanding of the subject before delving deeper.

We will all have heard about enzymes and their role in food digestion or as an ingredient in washing powders, its job is to 'break down' large molecules into smaller bits that will wash away. But of course, their remit is broader than

just that.

We all understand the importance of our DNA, but crucial as it is, it is of no use on its own. Like a recipe, it contains a list of instructions but needs some actions to make it all happen. As Professor Engel says: "This active, executive role belongs to enzymes". This executive role is an excellent analogy as we read through the book which starts with the basics and delves into more detailed descriptions of the role of the enzyme.

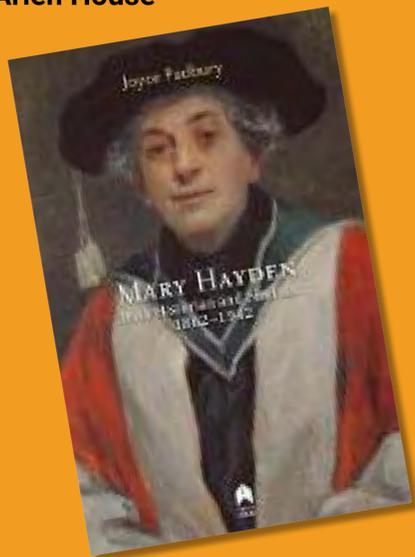
The author takes us through the history of the subject, weaving stories from across the developments since the 18th Century and how the various discoveries have impacted on scientific, and indeed lifestyle, changes over the years. Research and insights into enzyme catalysis and understanding how enzymes interact with the body have led to many discoveries, including new drugs and treatments.

Chapters delving into their catalysis, evolution and structure add to our understanding of the subject and the final chapter looks to the future and the role of enzymes in modern and future molecular genetics, and the inevitable ethical and regulatory issues.

While I would not be applying for a teaching role on the subject just yet, my overall understanding of the subject is more rounded. Thanks Professor Engel! **MS**

## ■ Mary Hayden, Irish Historian and Feminist 1862-1942

**Joyce Padbury (retired)**  
**ISBN: 9781851322633**  
**Arlen House**



For many years Joyce Padbury was a Senior Administrator at UCD, for much of that time heading up the President's office, working with former presidents Tom Murphy, Paddy Masterson and Art Cosgrove, all of whom valued her advice and greatly respected her.

Now, at the age of ninety she has produced an important and very readable biography of Mary Hayden, the first holder of the Chair of Modern Irish History (1911-1937), an important figure in the early history of UCD and, in the words of historian Nadia Smith, 'one of the most prominent feminists in the Irish Free State.'

Joyce Padbury's book is really three stories in one. It tells the story of the early years of the NUI and UCD with its strong personalities, competing aspirations, academic rivalries and jealousies and very real achievements. It is the story too of early Irish feminism, the hard draining struggle for recognition and equality and thirdly it is the story of the woman

herself, resolute yet vulnerable, brave and determined in an oppressively male milieu.

All three stories are well told and by the end of this very engaging and well documented book we have not just a very full picture of those days but also a sense of what it was like to be a feminist - or a woman - in that time. What makes the book particularly good is that - somewhat rarely these days - it is not a polemic with a case to make or cause to promote but just good historical writing based on extensive research and larded with good judgement.

In the decades after Independence Mary Hayden's name was known to thousands of school goers as the joint author of the standard text on Irish history which she co-authored (but largely wrote) with George Moonan. The book 'A Short History of the Irish People' known to most as 'Hayden and Moonan' was to remain the standard text for decades.

The book's reputation has taken a battering with the passage of time. The book was published in 1921 and as Padbury notes was written 'from a frankly nationalist standpoint, an approach that conformed to the postcolonial emphasis of the new State that the chief aim of teaching Irish history should be to inculcate national pride and self-respect'.

Historian Joe Lee dismissed the book as "vintage cowboys and Indians stuff" but the contemporary historian Edmund Curtis included it on his reading lists and Donal McCartney describes it as "a good interpretation of the contemporary research and a reasonable historical narrative".

One of the extraordinary things about Hayden was that when she was appointed she had no formal training in history, but then neither did her fellow history professor John Marcus O'Sullivan - he was a philosopher - and the first professor of economics, Tom Kettle had

trained in literature and law. But that was par for the course at the time and not at all surprising since there were few postgraduate opportunities and no graduate schools. Most candidates were genuinely widely read and the Dublin Commission which made the foundation appointments wanted people of a 'national' outlook who would excel at teaching rather than research and prepare a new nationalist generation to run home rule Ireland.

Joyce Padbury navigates us through the - often treacherous - academic politics of this period and in the case of Mary Hayden her appointment was never questioned or challenged and she had genuine friendships and respect from such as Patrick Pearse, Eoin MacNeill and Tom Kettle.

As to her personal life Mary Hayden was born in 1862 into a comfortable professional Dublin family, her father, a doctor had been a member of the first Senate of the Royal University of Ireland. From an early age she was impatient with the social and sartorial constraints on women as well as the absence of professional advancement. She could have married but was not enthusiastic wanting, as Padbury writes, "for her life something other than the traditional family and domestic roles... seeing marriage as an abandoning of independence and a narrowing of horizons".

One very interesting feature of the book is how her views evolved. Politically she began life as a 'Castle Catholic', indifferent to Home Rule but like so many others was caught up in the intellectual nationalism of the 1890s and while not too keen on 1916 was a strong supporter of Sinn Féin taking the Treaty side in the Civil War. But she had the capacity rare enough in those days to maintain friendships on both sides.

Her feminism was instinctive and

pragmatic. She had close friendships with many of the leading feminists of the time - Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, Anna Haslam, Margaret Cousins and others. She could always be called upon to lend her name and her hard work to whatever the cause was and was one of the leading critics of the treatment of women in the Constitution.

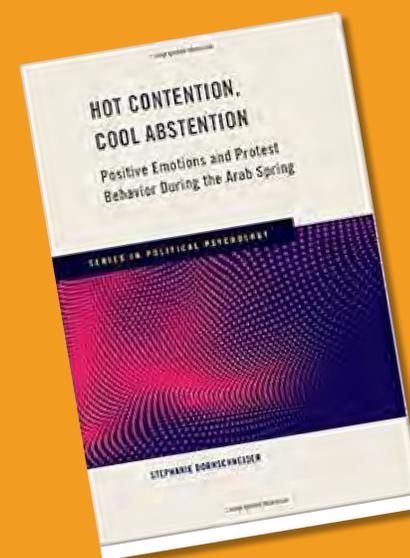
Mary Hayden retired (very reluctantly) from her Chair in late 1937 and died in 1942.

Joyce Padbury has done her memory full justice in this very fine biography.

**Maurice Manning**

## ■ Hot Contention, Cool Abstentions Positive Emotions and Protest Behaviour during the Arab Spring

**Dr Stephanie Dornschneider,**  
UCD School of Politics and  
International Relations  
**Oxford University Press**  
**ISBN: 9780190693916**



The Arab Spring was a series of pro-democracy uprisings in several largely Muslim countries, including Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Bahrain

which began in the spring of 2011.

What suddenly motivated millions of Arabs to mobilise against their rulers? Repressive regimes had existed across the Arab world for centuries. Why did some choose to participate and others to stay at home. In her book, Dr Stephanie Dornschneider uses political psychology and examines the reasoning processes by which people made their decisions.

Were decisions to participate made by 'hot' or 'cool' reasoning processes? Hot, based on emotionality, passion, impulse, reflex; or cool, emotionally neutral, contemplative, slow and strategic. It is fascinating to see how the data informs how stories are woven, how a person in x or y scenario will react differently, depending on the climate at play at the time.

Stephanie interviewed 121 people from two countries, providing a solid database. Some were from Egypt where the uprising involved millions of people and led to the fall of the president. Others were from Morocco, where mobilisation levels were much lower and did not result in the resignation of the head of state. The political outcomes across the Arab world differed greatly, following the risings.

Throughout the book, she interrogates this data, bringing the stories of the rising to life. We hear throughout about Leila, an Egyptian who took part in the rising, she still cherishes her memories of that time and has hope for the future.

For me, despite its focus on the interrogation of the data, this book was all about the people, those at the top of the regimes and those who either took part of sat it out. It is fascinating to delve into the psychology of any decision-making process - who really knows or can predict how they would react if this should happen again? **MS**

## ■ The Oxford Literary History of Wales

Volume 3 Welsh Writing in English, 1536-1914 The First Four Hundred Years

**Professor Sarah Prescott**, Principal, UCD College of Arts and Humanities and Professor Jane Aaron, University of Glamorgan

**ISBN: 9780199562831**

**Oxford University Press**



The painting on the cover of Jane Aaron and Sarah Prescott's *Welsh Writing in English, 1536-1914 The First Four Hundred Years* (Oxford UP, 2020) offers an insight into the volume's preoccupations. 'Hon X111' is a mixed media work by Iwan Bala from a series also entitled Hon (2004-07) - which depicts maps of Wales in gendered form - the nation with legs akimbo, and arms outstretched. 'Hon' also refers to the title of Welsh modernist T.H. Parry Williams' most famous poem. Provocatively, Williams' speaker asks "Beth yw'r ots gennyf i am Gymru?" - "What do I care about Wales?"

Aaron and Prescott certainly care. In this volume, they carve out an important

literary and historical space for Welsh Writing in English through their careful historical and literary deconstruction. The volume also showcases some impressive archival detective work. In its span of four hundred years, we are offered a discursive account of Wales' complexities as a country that, following the Act of Union (1536) lost independence, but somehow retained its language. Welsh, it is worth pointing out, did not regain legal status in court until 1967. However, Aaron and Prescott argue that the language's presence is felt in the explicit reformulations of literary forms, translations and "encrypted" texts of bilingual writers during the four centuries. The volume's aim is to show how writers "establish Welsh distinctiveness, both within Wales and beyond its borders". Citing Gwyn A Williams, the volume lays claims to how Wales is "an artefact" "which the Welsh produce" and how the Welsh remake themselves "generation after generation, usually against the odds, usually within a British context."

A sense of historical and cultural recuperation is made clear from the onset. The volume's clear intention is to review the more conservative timeline of Welsh Writing in English as beginning with the publication of Caradoc Evans's scathing *My People* in 1915 (the hyphenated term Anglo-Welsh literature was abandoned several decades ago). Aaron and Prescott argue persuasively that recent critical methodologies, combining feminist and postcolonial theory with readings of anglophone Welsh texts, extend the temporal breadth of Welsh Writing in English. There is also a range of material in this collection: the poems, pamphlets, translations, novels and prosody are read in tandem with a historical analysis of each century.

The chapters show us the mobility of Welsh literary forms and their responsiveness to political and religious

movements. The opening chapters situate us in the 16th century with Anglicans and Royalists, through to the 17th and 18th centuries defined by Puritanism and Methodism. The volume takes us into the 19th and early 20th centuries with a focus on industrialisation and 'language wars'. Attention is paid to how Wales is represented through its landscape and place (writers such as John Dyer and Jane Brereton) as well as the association of Wales with tropes of Romanticism and the Gothic (referencing writers such as Evan Evans and Hester Thrale Piozzi). Aaron and Prescott show how an increasingly self-aware writing community became alert to the construction of nationhood. Political traumas such as *Brad y Llyfrau Gleision* (the Treachery of the Blue Books) – a strategically damning report on the standard of Welsh education commissioned by Westminster in 1847 – generated not only shame and anger, but a will towards literary and political self-determination.

The American poet Susan Howe proposes that: "if you are a woman, archives hold perpetual ironies. Because the gaps and silences are where you find yourself". Crucially Aaron and Prescott bring voice to an impressive number of under-recognised Welsh women writers, granting them meaningful space within this volume (hence the extended Author Biographies at the close). I was delighted to encounter works by Jane Cave, Maria James, Sara Williams (Sadie) and Emily Jane Pfeiffer in tandem with works by more canonical figures such as Morgan Llwyd, O.M. Edwards and W.H. Davies.

The funding deficit of the National Library of Wales (Aberystwyth) at the close of 2020 generated an immediate concern for the future of a nation's archives. A recent resolution (following a campaign) hopefully means that archival voices will be cared for and enable similar ambitious projects as Welsh Writing

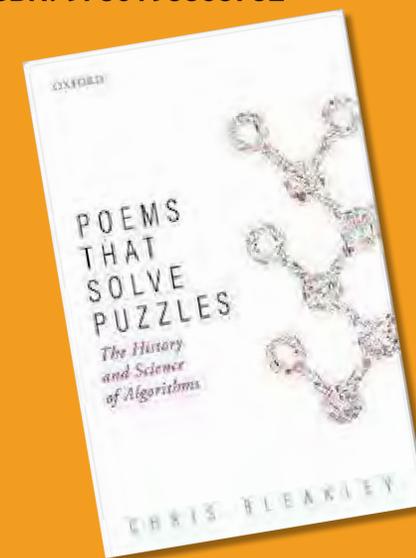
in English, 1536-1914. In conclusion, Aaron and Prescott's volume forms part of a dynamic and confident process of recuperation and rethinking in 21st Century Welsh literary scholarship. **NW**

## ■ Poems that Solve Puzzles The History and Science of Algorithms

**Associate Professor Chris Bleakley**, Head of UCD School of Computer Science

**Oxford University Press**

**ISBN: 9780198853732**



This book is beautifully designed and the gentle image on the cover beckons the reader into delving in. It is written for the general reader, with no previous knowledge needed – once I read the introduction with its simple, but not simplistic, description of what an algorithm is, I was hooked!

Simply put, an algorithm is a set of steps that can be performed to solve an information problem, not necessarily a computer problem but this has become their main application over thousands of years.

Algorithms have been around since the beginning of civilisation, originally etched on to tablets, with their language, meaning and impact hidden for centuries with many resurrected by archaeologists in the last few centuries. They were used to solve problems of water, flooding, capacity and a myriad of other challenges.

When Charles Babbage produced steam powered mechanical machines to calculate numbers, he spent most of his life trying to secure investment and interest from academia to no avail. Following this, Alan Turing, in the early 20th Century, moved from mechanics to digital machines, using the simplest but effective algorithms to invent the precursor of the computers we all know today.

Each development since Turing uses algorithms - in the development of the computer, the PC, the Internet, AI, Amazon... There's a fascinating chapter on 'Amazon recommends', charting the rise of Jeff Bezos with accurate algorithms forming the fundament of his 'new' service – who can resist 'You might also like...'. Google, Facebook, Netflix, these brand names have all become everyday phrases to us, they're our new nouns and verbs. And yes, they are actively using algorithms to keep us with them, 'helping' us with purchasing choices, 'offering' options on shoes, clothes etc based on what we might google or like on social media.

We know they're there, it can feel intrusive at times, and we can manage them to an extent but this is the way we're living our lives now. What does the future hold? The possibilities are endless! **MS**



## Medicine White Coat Ceremony

**Congratulations to the 254, Stage 4 Medicine and Stage 2 Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM) students who made the official transition from medical science to clinical science with the donning of white coats at the annual WCC (White Coat Ceremony) on Wednesday 10 March.**

The ceremony, which was held virtually this year, was opened by the Dean, Professor Michael Keane and he was joined by the students in the recital of the Declaration of Geneva.

Fergus Shanahan, Prof of Medicine Emeritus, UCC then

addressed the students. He reminded them that science has given them the necessary facts to move into clinical areas and the objective evidence that something is wrong with the patient. He then highlighted that the students are moving into an

arena that is about illness, which is the lived experience of disease and the only way you can care about patients is to be interested in them. He encouraged the students to learn how to speak to their patients and listen to them, as a patient's history is 'marvellously informative' and advised that a doctor equals science, plus emotion, plus passion with an equal measure of curiosity.

You can view the ceremony [here](#).

## UCD Architectural Graduate wins RIBA President's Medal

**Aisling Mulligan, an architecture student who graduated in 2020, received a RIBA President's Medal, one of architecture's top awards for student projects. In recognition of the growing importance of climate action in the development of architectural design, RIBA awarded Aisling its 'Award for Sustainable Design' Part 2 for her post-graduate thesis on restructuring the construction sector towards a circular economy.**

The project, entitled 'A Methodology for Reuse: Embracing a Circular Economy in a Carbon-Conscious Construction Sector', focuses on the current use of carbon-intensive construction methods and how the reuse of construction and demolition waste along with integration of low embodied energy materials such as dowel-laminated-timber could help the industry become carbon-neutral.

The concept aims to increase the length of a building's useful life by allowing for its structure and individual components to be disassembled and reused so that it can change to meet the needs of the community and its users.

The annual RIBA President's Medal awards program recognises the best



architecture student projects. This year the program received the highest number of project entries in its history with over 336 entries from 118 schools of architecture across 32 countries.

## UCD scoops awards at Montreal ENGCCOMM Case Competition

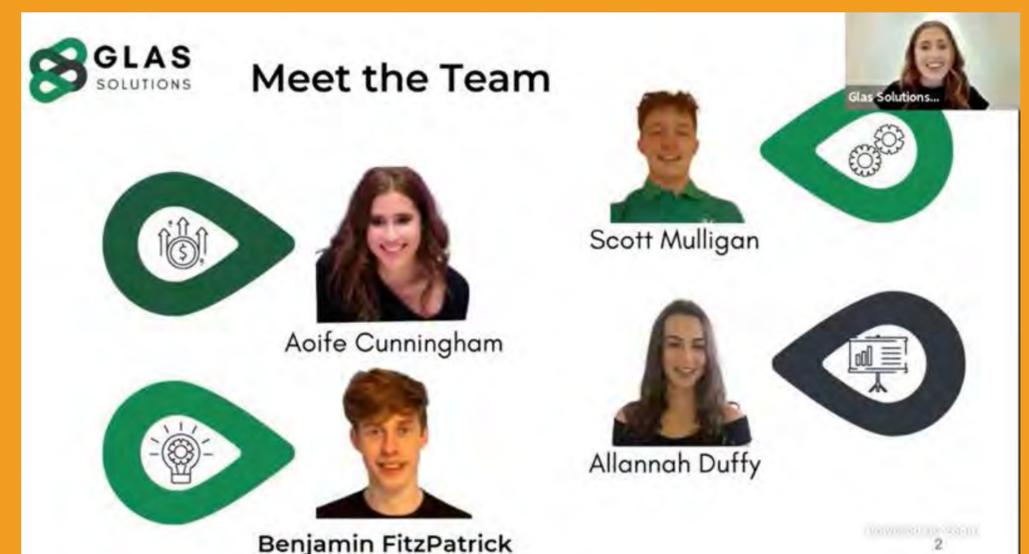
**A group of UCD students represented Ireland on the international stage at the ENGCCOMM 2021 Case Competition based in Montreal, Canada scooping four top awards.**

Captained by Aoife Cunningham, 3rd International Commerce at UCD Quinn School of Business, the team was comprised of UCD Mechanical Engineering students Scott Mulligan, Allannah Duffy and Benjamin FitzPatrick. The team competed against universities across the globe at the engineering and commerce competition.

Aoife received the award for the Best Individual Speaker in Division 2 and the

team won an impressive four awards including Best Engineering Solution Award, Best Business Solution Award, Best Sustainable Solution Award and Best Teamwork Award. With 16 top universities competing in the event, the standard was extremely high.

The team was coached by Associate Professor Aisling Ní Annaidh, who has helped three teams now claim victory at the ESB Inter-Colleges Challenge.





## ■ Samovar by Frank McGuinness

**The premiere of acclaimed Irish playwright Professor Frank McGuinness's short play Samovar, exploring the unknown fate of Swedish humanitarian, Raoul Wallenberg, was presented by Luna Collective in association with UCD Ad Astra Academy Performing Arts, in January 2021. It is the second association between the Ad Astra Academy and Professor McGuinness and follows a performance of extracts from Carthaginians at a ceremony in 2019, celebrating his acceptance of the UCD Ulysses Medal, the highest honour the University can bestow.**

Luna Collective, a theatre company of recent graduates from the UCD Ad Astra Academy Performing Arts scholarship, produced Samovar as part of their recent series of online theatrical presentations. Performed by Graham Butler Breen (graduate of UCD School of English, Drama and Film) and Ryan O'Donnell (graduate of UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems) and directed by

Rachel O'Sullivan (graduate of UCD School of Chemistry), Samovar is Luna Collective's fourth production to date, all of which have been produced for online audiences throughout the pandemic. Their latest online presentation is 100 Shades of Being. The members of Luna Collective met during their time on the Performing Arts scholarship in the UCD Ad Astra Academy, where they created and produced their first new work Addikt,

written by Ryan O'Donnell, which received six nominations and three awards at the 2019 ISDA Theatre Festival. Since graduation, the trio has been busy. Alongside their creative projects, Ryan has been working as a nurse in the Mater Hospital, Rachel is studying for a PhD in Chemistry in UCD and Graham began studying at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA) in January 2021.

[To view Samovar click here.](#)

The premiere was supported by the Ad Astra Performing Arts Alumni Hub, which provides production support, rehearsal space and mentorship to emerging artists who have graduated from the UCD Ad Astra Performing Arts Scholarship.



Zabaria is pictured at UCD.

## ■ The PiNNACLE Adventure

**When Zabaria Peter left the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for Ireland in June 2019 as the first scholarship candidate on the PINNACLE pilot research programme, she was indeed making history. Her fully funded PINNACLE scholarship enabled her to spend a year in Ireland to complete her Masters in Education, a remarkable achievement given the educational constraints for women in her home country. With a population of over 200 million people, boys tend to get all the educational opportunities and girls are typically married off at a young age. Zabaria's own mother never went to school.**

The youngest of eight children, Zabaria was educated by Irish nuns from the Presentation sisters, who recognised her potential. She completed her secondary schooling before she entered religious life, going on to complete her Bachelor's in Education in Sargodha University as a regular student. She became Principal at St Teresa's Girls High School in Rawalpindi, a position she held up until her departure to Ireland to study at UCD School of Education.

The programme was designed to develop initiatives in leadership and education for female teachers from India and Pakistan. The PINNACLE team is delighted to congratulate

Zabaria as their first MA (Ed) graduate. She told us: "This project will enable all female leaders in developing countries to get the same quality of education. I will be able to empower women with leadership qualities and show how they can learn in a positive atmosphere. I have gained an understanding of the most effective ways of teaching in a classroom environment with the limited resources and the huge number of students we have. I will be able to introduce new ways of teaching and learning, and various activities that can build the confidence of students, motivating them to learn and apply that learning in their daily lives".