

UCD

# today

SUMMER 2017



**INSIDE**

## Fellow of the Royal Society

UCD Geneticist elected fellow for outstanding contribution to science

13. Breastfeeding and children's intelligence not linked

9. Dairy fat - not such a foe for health?

7. Worm populations and healthier soils

5. Work-related road fatalities

# Contents

## Features



**5** Work-related road fatalities



**7** Worm populations and healthier soils



**9** Dairy fat - not such a foe for health?



**13** Breastfeeding and children's intelligence not linked

## Great Teaching in Practice



*ELLIS O'BRIEN*  
Director of Communication and Marketing

**Associate Professor Paul McCabe, UCD School of Biology and Environment Science, is an inspiring teacher. His desire to engage students in his subject – plant science - prompted him to create an experimental garden for Bloom last year, which has now been given a permanent home as an outdoor classroom in the Science Quad. The Evolution of Land Plants Garden illustrates how plant evolution coincided with climate change over the eras and ultimately enabled the development and survival of humans.**

As Paul describes the garden himself: "Travelling through plant evolution, from their humble origins and dependence on water, to plants colonising water margins, to finally plants gaining independence in where they can grow, the garden tells the story of plant development: from cuticles, to vascular systems, to seeds and finally to flowers. This journey through time is accompanied by a set of panels making references to animals - spiders, dragon flies, dinosaurs and humans - whose existence depends on, and would not be possible without, plants to sustain their life."

Designed by Dr Caroline Elliott-Kingston, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, and architect and horticulturalist, Nicola Haines, the Evolution Garden won the Gold Medal for Best in Concept category at Bloom. But it is as a teaching facility that the garden really engages. Reaching into the past to show how plants evolve and become extinct leads students into thinking about how climate change impacts on food production. What starts out as a visual and tactile experience turns into a discussion around global problems such as feeding the global population. It also links to Paul's research into how plants struggle with climate change so as to breed better and stronger crops that can cope with future environmental conditions.

When we promote our undergraduate degrees to prospective students, we focus on the quality of the education we offer here at UCD. We regularly pose the question – Do you want to be taught by those who write the books or those who simply recommend them? Faculty like Paul and colleagues in UCD School of Archaeology, who created the experimental archaeology site at Roebuck, take this challenge one step further by creating an environment in which students can physically immerse themselves in the subject.

No doubt the Evolution Garden will inspire students to become the next generation of scientists who set out to solve our global challenges.



*The Evolution of Land Plants Garden*

## UCD thanks...

**Contributors:** Pascale Baker, Jonnie Baxter, Ursula Byrne, Eoin Casey, Marie Clarke, Maeve Conrick, Ciarán Crilly, Eddie Cunningham, Jamie Deasy, Damien Dempsey, Elke Dickson, Orla Doyle, Anne Drummond, Angela Ennis, David Farrell, Emma Feeney, Andrew Fogarty, Kathleen James-Chakraborty, Sinead Kelly, Una Kelly, Chen Ma, Wolfgang Marx, Juno McEnroe, Clár Ní Bhúachalla, Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, Claire O'Connell, Rosalind Pan, Elaine Quinn, Deirdre Raftery, Claire Redmond, Olaf Schmidt, Mary Staunton, Cathy Timlin, Patrick Paul Walsh, Miceál Whelan, Nerys Williams, Brendan Williams, Kenneth Wolfe

**Produced by:** Ellis O'Brien, Niamh Boyle, Jane Devitt

**Design:** Loman Cusack Design Ltd

**Print:** Fine Print

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

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

Cover image: Professor Kenneth Wolfe, Professor of Genomic Evolution, UCD School of Medicine, UCD Conway Institute, and newly elected Fellow of the Royal Society (UK).



## Two new world-class SFI research centres for UCD

**Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) will invest €72 million, over the next six years, in four new world-class SFI Research Centres in Ireland, two of which are from UCD.**

The new SFI Research Centres will be supported by 80 industry partners who will provide an additional €38 million to support cutting-edge basic and applied research with strong industry engagement, economic and societal impact. The decision follows a comprehensive international peer review process involving leading industry and academic experts over the last 12 months.

Innovation 2020, the Government's five-year strategy for research and development, science and technology, directs that the network of SFI Research Centres should be further developed to build critical mass in strategic areas of research strength and address enterprise needs.

The two new SFI Research Centres from UCD are:

- Biological resources as alternative materials to finite fossil resources, led by Professor Kevin O'Connor, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science

(Project Title – BEACON). UCD Co-PIs are: Professor Eoin Casey, Professor Pat Guiry, Professor Nick Holden, Professor John O'Doherty and Professor Torres Sweeney.

- Innovative techniques and processes in Additive Manufacturing, led by Professor Denis Dowling, UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering (Project Title – Déantús). UCD Co-PIs are: Professor Alojz Ivankovic, Professor Fengzhou Fang, Professor Robert Shorten and Professor Pádraig Cunningham.

Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact said, "This is a wonderful achievement by all involved at UCD. The research that will take place in these Centres over the coming years will advance knowledge, train excellent researchers, and deliver impact to the economy and society."



## UCD Professor first in Ireland to receive Governor General's International Award in Canadian Studies

**The International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS) has announced that the Governor General's International Award in Canadian Studies has been awarded to Professor Maeve Conrick, UCD College of Arts and Humanities and former Principal of the College. Each year, this award honours a researcher who has made an outstanding contribution to scholarship and to the development of Canadian Studies internationally.**

Professor Conrick's research interests are in the areas of Sociolinguistics and Applied Linguistics, with particular reference to French and English, and include Language Policy and Planning, Language and Gender, Canadian Studies and Québec studies. She has published extensively in those areas. Her most recent publication is a co-edited book, *Landscapes and Landmarks of Canada: Real, Imagined, (Re)Viewed*, published with Wilfrid Laurier University Press in 2017.

Professor Conrick has held office in several national and international professional associations including the European Second Language Association (EuroSLA), British Association of Applied Linguistics (BAAL), *Association internationale des études québécoises* (AIEQ) and as President of the Association for Canadian Studies in Ireland (ACSI). She served a term as a member of the Higher Education Authority (HEA), appointed by the Irish Government, and a term as its Deputy Chair. Career distinctions include an appointment as a specialist advisor to a UK House of Commons Committee and the award of the *Prix du Québec* by the Government of Québec. She is currently a Trustee of the Ireland-Canada University Foundation (ICUF) and Membership Secretary of the Association of University Professors and Heads of French in the UK and Ireland (AUPHF). She is also a Board Member of the National Library of Ireland (NLI).

## UCD Professor elected Fellow of the Royal Society

**Professor Kenneth Wolfe, Professor of Genomic Evolution, UCD School of Medicine and UCD Conway Institute, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (UK).**

He is one of 50 distinguished scientists elected as new fellows for their outstanding contributions to science. The Royal Society was founded in 1663. It has played a part in some of the most fundamental, significant, and life-changing discoveries in scientific history. It published Isaac Newton's *Principia Mathematica*, and Benjamin Franklin's kite experiment demonstrating the electrical nature of lightning.

"I'm honoured, surprised, and delighted. It's recognition from the scientific community that the work we're doing is important and of the highest quality," said Professor Wolfe. "The Royal Society is saying that my group here in Dublin has made major contributions towards how other scientists think about evolution."

"It is also an acknowledgment that the approach I've taken, which is a traditional single-investigator curiosity-based type of science, that doesn't require a huge consortium or huge equipment, is a good way to make discoveries. I'd like to thank Science Foundation Ireland and the European Research Council for their funding support over many years," he added.

"Membership of the Royal Society is one of the greatest accolades a scientist can receive from their peers, and I am very pleased Professor Wolfe has been judged worthy to join such an illustrious group. His election is further confirmation that the quality of the research at UCD is equivalent to the very best anywhere in the world," said Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President.



*Professor Kenneth Wolfe, Professor of Genomic Evolution, UCD School of Medicine and UCD Conway Institute and Fellow of the Royal Society (UK)*

Professor Wolfe studies how genomes and chromosomes are organised and how they came to have the structures they have today. His group discovered that the genomes of many species became completely duplicated during their evolution, doubling the number of genes they contain.



*Pictured (l-r): Mr Manan Kumar Mishra, the Honourable Chairman, Bar Council of India; and Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President*

## UCD Sutherland School of Law receives accreditation from Bar Council of India

**The UCD Sutherland School of Law has formally received accreditation from the Bar Council of India for all undergraduate law degree programmes. It comes after the Bar Council carried out an extensive review of the School's teaching and learning resources, facilities and student support systems during a visit led by the Chair of the Bar Council to the School in October 2016.**

The outcome of this was the co-signing of a Letter of Intent in the headquarters of the Bar Council of India by Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President, and Mr Manan Kumar Mishra, the Honourable Chairman, Bar Council of India,

in March 2017. Speaking afterwards, Professor Deeks said that "University College Dublin is honoured to receive this prestigious accreditation for our undergraduate law programmes, and we look forward to working with the Bar Council, and to forging new relationships through this unique opportunity." Mr Manan Kumar Mishra stated "Over the past twelve months, the Bar Council of India has had the opportunity to visit the UCD Sutherland School of Law, and to see first-hand, the level and quality of the UCD undergraduate law programmes. The Bar Council is delighted to bestow this accreditation to University College Dublin, which is the first Irish Institution to receive this acknowledgement."

On receipt of the accreditation letter from the Bar Council, Professor Joe McMahon, Dean and

## €6.7 million initiative to improve water quality off beaches in Ireland and Wales

**A €6.7 million EU-backed initiative to combat the effects of pollution on bathing waters in Ireland and Wales has been announced by both governments.**

The Acclimatize project will help to improve the quality of seashores in both countries, helping to boost tourism and supporting marine activities, including shellfish harvesting.

Led by UCD in partnership with Aberystwyth University, the project will identify sources of pollution and their impact on bathing waters as a result of climate change.

The project has been backed by the EU's Ireland-Wales cooperation programme and will use and develop a range of technologies, including smart real-time predictive tools to monitor water quality to protect human health and the marine environment.

The Acclimatize project will focus on bathing waters, including Dublin Bay, Cemaes Bay in Anglesey and other beaches. Real-time models will be developed to inform the effects of climate change through altered weather patterns, affecting rainfall, temperature and tides which impact on coastal areas.

Professor Wim Meijer, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, is leading the project collaboration with Professor John O'Sullivan, UCD School of Civil Engineering and Professor Gregory O'Hare, UCD School of Computer Science.

Head of UCD Sutherland School of Law, commented "the accreditation represents an historic departure for Ireland, for UCD, Ireland's Global University and for Ireland's leading Law School. The presence of Indian students in the School's undergraduate programme will add to the great diversity of students from around the world currently enjoying their studies at both graduate and undergraduate levels at UCD Sutherland School of Law."

## Knowledge Transfer Ireland 2017 Impact Award

**John Halligan TD, Minister of State for Training, Skills and Innovation, has presented UCD with a Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI) 2017 Impact Award.**

UCD received the Knowledge Transfer Initiative of the Year Award, jointly with Trinity College Dublin, in recognition of the establishment and launch of the Atlantic Bridge €60 million University Bridge Fund.

The annual KTI Impact Awards showcase and celebrate successes in knowledge

transfer carried out in Irish publicly funded research organisations in the previous year. The awards recognise and commend some of the top performances in the areas of collaborative research, consultancy, licensing and the development of spin-out companies.

The University Bridge Fund, launched in 2016, was initiated in a joint leadership collaboration between UCD and TCD. It was established to invest in early-stage

companies, with global potential, that are built from world-class research outputs generated at UCD, TCD and at all Irish third-level institutions and universities.

The Fund, which is managed by Atlantic Bridge Capital, provides capital and expertise to scale such companies into global markets. This Fund brings together significant institutional investment from the European Investment Fund, Enterprise Ireland, AIB, Bank of Ireland, UCD and TCD.



**Professor Anne Drummond, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science, recently led an extensive study to discover how many**

**people died in work-related road traffic accidents in Ireland.**

**The findings, in her Institution of Occupational Safety and Health funded study, raise concerns about how well prepared people are for driving when working, and highlight how a high proportion of victims in work-related road fatalities were mere bystanders when tragedy struck. Here, she tells of what still needs to be done and her hopes that better understanding of issues will reduce the death toll.**

The headline figure from Professor Anne Drummond's research is that one-in-four road traffic deaths were 'work-related'. However, the standout finding is that most of those who died were 'bystanders' to the work activity. They happened to be involved in a collision with someone who was driving in connection with their work.

The distinction reflects the lengths to which Professor Drummond and her team went, via coroners' report data, to identify the relationship between road deaths and work-related deaths. It sheds exceptional light on a significant area of road deaths and raises questions and challenges on reducing victim numbers.

The UCD researchers analysed coroner records on road traffic fatalities between 2008 and 2011. Of the 833 examined, 193 (23%) were identified as 'work-related'. They included 29 victims who died while actively engaged in a work activity – either driving as part of their job or working on the side of the road – but bystanders (people not at work, whose deaths followed a collision with someone engaged in a work-related driving activity) comprised by far the greatest number.

# Work-related road fatalities

Among bystanders, 45 died where a work activity or process was a 'primary contributor' to the collision: for example, someone in a blind spot knocked down by a truck, or where a worker-driver was going too fast. Another 119 bystanders died in collisions where the work activity was not a direct contributor (an intoxicated pedestrian for example).

Professor Drummond has great sympathy for truck drivers and says advances in technology, cameras, etc. will help reduce the risk of 'blind-spot accidents'. Such workers can emerge from a collision physically uninjured, but traumatised and may need access to counselling.

Then there is the 'grey fleet'. This refers to 'non-liveried' vehicles, that don't belong to the company but are used for frequent or occasional travel.

"We're really saying these 'grey fleet' workers should be told of the risk and given advice. If you spend four hours driving to Tralee, do six hours work there, you should ask yourself: 'Am I really fit to drive back?' The headline will be: 'Woman killed near Naas in single-car collision'. But 'work' will never be mentioned.

"In such single-vehicle collisions, where the sole occupant (the driver) dies, we may never know the role that fatigue or pressure may have played because the only person who knows cannot give evidence."

Employers have a major responsibility in this area. "They are required to assess risks and ensure workers are trained properly". But Professor Drummond says in some cases workers may need to take advanced driving courses. "Many larger organisations provide such training but smaller companies, in particular, may not fully appreciate the extent of the risk

that employees who drive for work can be exposed to on the road, and if you drive for a living your risk exposure is very high."

Employers are required to report any work-related fatality and, after dealing with gardaí, etc., should notify the Health and Safety Authority (HSA). But, Professor Drummond says, in the midst of trauma sometimes they don't. Unfortunately, that means vital information for recognising the deaths as work-related is lost. "Recently, when gardaí collect data on collisions at the side of the road, one of the responses to the 'purpose of journey' question is 'At Work' and that information will improve our knowledge of the extent of the problem and highlight risk areas". The Road Safety Authority (RSA), HSA and gardaí recognise the issue and work with key stakeholders to get the message across to employers.

There is encouraging news. "The number (of work-related deaths as well as the number of total road traffic deaths) seemed to be reducing over the four-year period of the study."

"The real story," Professor Drummond emphasises, "is that workers can be killed when driving for work, or they can be the driver of a vehicle that kills other people. Employers of those who drive for a living or who drive a few times a year, have responsibilities, not just to train workers to drive safely but to anticipate the unsafe actions of other drivers and pedestrians."

Employers don't always realise how much of an impact their responsibility could have on road safety.

*Professor Anne Drummond was in conversation with Eddie Cunningham, journalist and Motoring Editor with the Irish Independent*

## Professor Dervilla Donnelly first woman to receive Royal Irish Academy's Highest Honour

**Professor Dervilla Donnelly, Emeritus Professor of Phytochemistry at UCD, has become the first woman to receive the Royal Irish Academy's highest honour. She has received the RIA's Cunningham Medal which recognises "outstanding contributions to scholarship and the objectives of the Academy".**

The medal is the Academy's premier award and dates back to 1796. It is awarded every three years.

Previous recipients include Nobel laureate, Seamus Heaney, John McCanny (microelectronics expert), Maurice Craig (architectural historian), Sir William Wilde (polymath and father of Oscar Wilde) and Robert Mallet (father of seismology).

Professor Donnelly, who is from Dublin, studied chemistry at UCD. She has led a distinguished and varied career that includes scientific research and teaching, as well as leadership in science policy. She has also made valuable contributions to the wider public service in Ireland.

After Professor Donnelly completed her BSc and PhD at UCD and her postdoctoral



*Professor Dervilla Donnelly*

studies at UCLA, she returned to UCD and began lecturing in chemistry in 1956. Professor Donnelly was appointed Professor of Phytochemistry at UCD in 1979.

Professor Donnelly was elected the first female President of the Royal Dublin Society and was also appointed Chairman of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.

She has held many international appointments, including Chairman of the European Science Research Council and Vice-President of the European Science Foundation.

The Royal Irish Academy elected her to membership in 1968 and she served as Senior Vice-President and Vice-President on two occasions.

Two examples of her many academic honours are a fellowship from the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Boyle-Higgins Medal from the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland.

## UCD academic elected IACR President

**Associate Professor Amanda McCann, UCD School of Medicine and Fellow, UCD Conway Institute is the newly elected President of the Irish Association of Cancer Research (IACR). She began her term of office at the 2017 IACR conference. Associate Professor McCann takes over from UCD colleague and Conway Fellow, Professor William Watson.**

Within UCD her group's specific interest is focused on understanding the mechanisms underlying chemoresistance for women presenting with breast and ovarian cancer. These interests have led to collaborations with oncologists and histopathologists across the country and with colleagues based in the Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG) NIBRT, and the UCD Schools of Veterinary Science, Chemistry, Biomedical Engineering and Physics

Professor McCann's most recent initiative entitled The Patient Voice in Cancer Research took place at UCD in April. The initiative brings together people living with cancer and their families with healthcare professionals, academic and clinical researchers; clinicians, patient advocates; funding agencies, policy makers and charity groups.

## UCD hosts EU Treaty of Rome anniversary exhibition

**On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, the Historical Archives of the European Union launched a travelling exhibition: Ever Closer Union – The legacy of the Treaty of Rome for Today's Europe (1957-2017). The exhibition was organised in collaboration with the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the National News Agency ANSA.**

The exhibition ran from 4-27 April in UCD Library and was formally launched by H.E. Mr. Giovanni Adorni Braccesi Chiassi, Ambassador of Italy to Ireland.

The UCD hosted exhibition was in partnership with the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES), the Embassy of Italy, the Italian Institute of Culture in Dublin, UCD Library, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law, UCD School of Politics and International Relations (SPIRe) and UCD School of History.

The exhibition was available in 29 languages in both digital and print versions. UCD was one of only two universities in Ireland to host the exhibition and the only university in Dublin to do so.



*Pictured (l-r) were: H.E. Mr. Giovanni Adorni Braccesi Chiassi, Ambassador of Italy to Ireland; Dr John B. Howard, UCD Librarian; Cav. Rita Marsella Macari, outgoing President of Club Italiano Irlanda; and Mr. Giovanni Borza, incoming President of Club Italiano Irlanda*

# Worming our way towards healthier soils

**New research involving UCD has quantified the effects of farming practices on earthworm populations in soils. Associate Professor Olaf Schmidt spoke to Claire O'Connell.**

Earthworms. Whether they fascinate or repel you, collectively we humans owe them a huge debt of gratitude. As 'nature's plough', worms churn and enrich the soil, enabling it to support life and grow the food we ultimately eat.

But are we doing worms a disservice with intensive tillage practices that mechanically break up the soil?

A new analysis involving UCD shows that keeping soil disruption to a minimum and covering soils with harvest residue or manure is the formula to keep those worms alive and working.

## Not-so-lowly worms

"In farming systems earthworms are the goody-goodies, they are highly beneficial, everything they do is good for us," says Associate Professor Schmidt, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science.

Worms are 'ecosystem engineers', explains Associate Professor Olaf Schmidt, describing how their mechanical movements and digestion in the soil can shape the environment.

"They work the soil," he says. "They eat a lot of soil, they decompose harvest residues and manure and they excrete water-stable soil aggregates, which is good for soil structure and productivity. They release nutrients so plants and other organisms can use them and they make physical channels or tunnels in the soil, which are highways through soil for water and air."

Also, perhaps less fun for the earthworm, they themselves are a source of food for other



animals such as birds and badgers. "This is important for biodiversity," says Associate Professor Schmidt.

## Global view

So we are agreed: earthworms are good to have around. But what happens to worm populations when tillage practices in farming, such as conventional ploughing, mechanically disturb the soil?

To take a global look, Associate Professor Schmidt and Professor María J. I. Briones from the Universidad de Vigo analysed data from 276 studies across 40 countries dating as far back as 1950.

"There are a lot of individual studies in various countries and soil types and using different methods, and we ourselves have done some of those studies," says Associate Professor Schmidt.

"We wanted to get a global, quantitative picture, so we extracted the main results from all those studies and applied statistical analysis to mine into the data and tease out the generalisable effects of farming practices on worms."

The meta-analysis, published in the journal *Global Change Biology*, found that intensive tillage practices reduced the earthworm population of soils, while a more 'conservation'-led approach of reduced tillage and covering the soil with harvest residue, manure or mulch seemed to offer an environment where worms could thrive.

## The gritty details

Compared to conventionally ploughed soils, untilled soils had an average of 137% more worms and 196% more biomass, while the conservation approach saw an average of 127% more worms and 101% more biomass. "With this study we have been able to quantify the effects on worms of various tillage practices around the

world, in different soils and climatic conditions," says Associate Professor Schmidt.

By digging into the data, the researchers were also able to identify that larger species of worms were more sensitive to the detrimental effects of intensive tillage.

"There isn't just one type of earthworm, in Ireland alone we know of 28 species," says the UCD researcher. "So we looked at the effects of farming practices on the 13 most common species and we found the positive effect of reduced tillage is largest for species which we call the anecics. These are large worms that live all their lives in a single vertical channel called a macropore in the soil, which can take in water. If you plough the soil, these worms are chopped and killed and the channels are destroyed."

## Feed worms, don't turn them

When the study was published, Associate Professor Schmidt was inundated with interest from farmers and others who work with the soil.

"Farmers are interested in soils, they know their livelihoods depend on them," he says. "And worms are a visible indicator of how the soil is doing. If you dig up a bit of the soil and see lots of different kinds of worms that's good. If not, the farmer knows there is a soil issue."

Associate Professor Schmidt's advice to farmers is to consider adopting reduced tillage practices. "The worms will do many of the functions of the plough, they will mix the soil and incorporate manure," he says. "And if you help the earthworms you help to improve the soil quality overall."

## Soil – the thin veneer that sustains us

Associate Professor Olaf Schmidt is unequivocal when it comes to stressing the importance of soil for humans and for the planet. "The existence of humankind depends on soil," he says. "We get almost all of our food from soil, it locks up carbon and purifies water and provides a habitat for biodiversity."

He became fascinated with the biology of soil as a student in East Germany, and became 'hooked' on teasing out the many secrets science is discovering about it.

"Soil is a living entity, it is really complex and it has been described as a thin veneer that sustains us all. But it is not renewable in our lifetime, so we have to protect it," he says.

"UCD has a really good history in soil ecology and although the field work can be hard - you sit in a wet field and sort soil for ages - it is also great fun."

*Associate Professor Olaf Schmidt was in conversation with Claire O'Connell, science writer and contributor to The Irish Times and Silicon Republic*



## UCD Smurfit Executive Development ranked top 50 in the world by FT

**The 2017 Financial Times Executive Education Rankings has ranked UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School 48th in the world and 26th in Europe for its Open Enrolment programmes.**

UCD Smurfit jumped 21 places from last year to show the biggest year-on-year improvement of all institutions on the list. It is the only business school in Ireland included in the rankings.

“Increasing our standing in Financial Times’ rankings is independent verification of

our status as an elite provider of open enrolment executive education programmes,” said Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean and College Principal, UCD College of Business.

“This achievement marks continued evidence of excellence as three of our programmes are now ranked in the top 50 in the world by the FT.”

More than 600 executives undertook Open Enrolment programmes at UCD Smurfit Executive Development last year. Programmes on offer include a range of short courses and

industry programmes, 12 specialist diplomas and two MSc pathway programmes.

In January, UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School’s Full-time MBA was ranked 70th in the world in the 2017 Financial Times Top 100 Global Full-time MBA Rankings.

In 2016, the MSc in International Management was ranked 22nd in the world in the FT Global Masters in Management (MiM) report with the MSc in Finance ranked 34th. UCD Smurfit School was ranked 29th in the Financial Times European Business Schools ranking in the same year.

Rankings with strict objective criteria such as the Financial Times and the Economist are the only truly independent and internationally respected classifications by which the world’s top business schools are ranked.

## UCD Bord na Gaeilge and UCD Library host series of talks in Irish

**Members of Kila, the celtic rock band, Irish Times journalist Harry MacGee, Pearse Doherty TD, and Dr David Gibbons, Clinical Associate Professor, UCD School of Medicine visited UCD Library recently to take part in An Ghaeilge Bheo/The Living Language series of talks in Irish.**

Organised by a student/staff team from UCD Bord na Gaeilge and UCD Library, these talks on music, politics and medicine were very well attended by students, staff, and members of the wider community who wished to engage with the Irish language. Talks were followed by a lively series of questions and answers from the audience.



Students and staff from UCD Bord na Gaeilge & UCD Library together with guest speakers at the event series An Ghaeilge Bheo/The Living Language

This ‘An Ghaeilge Bheo/The Living Language’ project took place in Spring 2017, and was supported by the UCD SPARC programme. SPARC, which stands for Supporting Partnerships and Realising Change, supports UCD students in gaining real life experience along with a range of project management, problem-solving, and planning skills by working collaboratively with UCD staff.

Baineadh an-taitneamh agus tairbhe as na hócáidí a d’eascair as an gcomhfhiontar nua idir Bord na Gaeilge agus Leabharlann UCD, sraith cainteanna ar ábhair éagsúla, ‘An Ghaeilge Bheo’. Cuireadh tús spleodrach leis an tsraith nuair a chas Kila roinnt ceoil dúinn. Bhí caint

agus plé ar chúrsaí polaitíochta le Harry Mac Gee, a chuir agallamh ar Pearse Doherty TD, agus is ar chúrsaí sláinte agus leighis a bhí an Dr Daithí Mac Giobúin ag caint sa tríú seisiún. Bhí freastal iontach maith ar na cainteanna agus go leor plé leis an lucht éisteachta. Is ar dhaoine a bhfuil Gaeilge acu ach nach labhraíonn rómhínic í a bhí an tsraith dírithe agus is cinnte gur chuireamar aithne ar go leor Gaeilgeoirí dá bharr. Beidh an ócáid dheireanach sa tsraith á réachtáil i mí na Bealtaine do mhic léinn na hArdteiste a bhíonn i mbun staidéir i Leabharlann UCD roimh na scrúduithe. Seisiún deas séimh atá in ann dóibh siúd; ‘Aireachas agus lóga trí Ghaeilge’ le had a chur ar a suaimhneas roimh na scrúduithe.

## Clifden Arts Festival archive now in UCD’s safekeeping

**Hailed by Man Booker prize-winning author Kazuo Ishiguro as “Ireland’s best kept secret” in the 1990s, the Clifden Arts Festival has grown from a small community event to one of international importance. It is widely acknowledged among the arts community that this achievement is due to the vision, passion and ambition of Brendan Flynn, his fellow committee members and the entire Clifden community.**

Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President welcomed Brendan Flynn and his committee to UCD Library, where agreements were signed for the committee to deposit their paper and digital archives. Ursula Byrne, UCD Library played a pivotal role in the organisation of the deposit of the archive.

The quality of these materials, and the care with which they have been edited and archived, makes it possible to place this collection within UCD Digital Library. These media materials are unique, precious and fragile. Placing the archive into the care of UCD ensures that the record which maps the history and growth of the Clifden Arts Festival, its impact on the local community and the extensive range of artists who played



Pictured at the signing of agreements regarding the Clifden Arts Festival depositing their archive with UCD were (l-r): Carmel O’Sullivan, UCD Associate Librarian; Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President; and Brendan Flynn, founder of the Clifden Arts Festival

there over many decades will be preserved and where possible, made visible and accessible to a wider public, both nationally and internationally.

Academics and postgraduates in UCD College of Arts and Humanities will be working closely with the archive and forging links with future festival events, in keeping with UCD’s commitment to the preservation of our cultural heritage and the formation of partnerships with individuals and institutions in the field of the arts.

The ambition to provide an arts-based education, with creativity and performance incorporated into the school curriculum, has been nurtured over the years and still remains at the heart of the Festival. Today, the links established between Clifden Arts Festival and UCD present new opportunities to build on this commitment to second level education, and develop new partnerships between the arts and third level education in Ireland into the future.

# Dairy fat: maybe not such a foe for health?



**A new study led by UCD is shedding light on the subtleties of dairy fat in the diet.**

If you tune into health advice, you have probably heard that saturated fat is not good for you. So is it wise to ditch the high-fat dairy products such as milk and cheese?

Not so fast, according to a new study led by UCD Institute of Food and Health, which found that dairy fat intake – particularly from cheese – is associated with positive indicators of health.

“There has been a lot of confusion around dairy fat, whether it is good or bad,” explains Dr Emma Feeney, who led the research in the lab of Professor Eileen Gibney at UCD.

“So we went looking for links between the levels of dairy fat that people consume and signs of metabolic health, like body mass index and blood lipid profiles.”

## Digging into dairy data

The researchers from UCD and University College Cork analysed data from the Irish National Adult Nutrition (IUNA) Survey, which was collected between 2008 and 2010 and which included dietary details for more than 1500 adults.

“People kept a food diary for four days, recording everything they ate and drank and including lots of details such as brands of foods and even lists of ingredients in recipes,” says Dr Feeney. “While there are plenty of dairy alternatives on the market now, back then we saw that 99% of people consumed dairy in those four-day periods.”

“We were interested in where dairy fat came from in the participants’ diets, and we divided them into high, medium and low consumers of those fats,” explains Dr Feeney, who carried out

the research as part of the Food for Health Ireland (FHI) consortium, which seeks to derive health-promoting compounds from dairy.

“And what was interesting about our study was that it included not only milk, cheese and yogurt but also butter and cream, which are not often included in these kinds of studies.”

## Dairy fat and health

So what did they find? The study, published recently in the journal *Nutrition & Diabetes*, showed that the people with the highest dairy intake overall tended to have relatively low body mass index measurements.

The researchers grouped consumers into those who ate lower fat options such as skimmed milk and no cream or butter, those who included high-fat options and a middle group that chose some low-fat options but also consumed high-fat dairy products.

Overall, the high-fat group fared well for blood lipids: “We found that in that high-fat dairy pattern group, they consumed a higher percentage of saturated fat but their blood lipids were more favourable,” says Dr Feeney.

Also, when the researchers compared the people who ate lots of cheese compared to those who didn’t, again the news was good for cheese and ‘bad’ cholesterol.

“The highest consumers of cheese showed no difference in their low-density lipoprotein (LDL) profiles compared to medium and low consumers,” says Dr Feeney. “We are all told that if we have high LDL cholesterol we should reduce high-fat dairy, but from what we are seeing in this association study it suggests that cheese may not be a culprit here.”

The counter-intuitive finding may be due in part to the entire package or ‘matrix’ of cheese, where the saturated fat is delivered with protein and calcium, she notes, and there are other plausible explanations too: “Some of the fat from cheese leaves the body in the faeces, cheese may have an effect on the bacteria that live in our guts and it may even affect the genes that

process cholesterol,” she says. “There is a lot to explore from this finding.”

“The advice people get when they are older and maybe carrying weight around the middle is to cut out butter and cream and cheese, but perhaps cheese might be a heart healthy food after all.”

## New trial

So should the dietary advice change? Again, not so fast: this study was a snapshot in time and while it is carefully designed and shows interesting associations, it doesn’t point to cause and effect, stresses Dr Feeney.

“What we don’t know is whether those people were eating healthily because they were actively trying to reduce cholesterol,” she says.

That’s why the UCD researchers are digging further into the links between cheese and metabolic markers of health.

They have almost completed a randomised controlled trial with 240 older adults who consumed the same amount of dairy fat per day for six weeks, but consumed it in different forms. “That might have been in the form of full fat cheese, reduced fat cheese plus butter or everything broken down into butter for fat and calcium tablets and protein powder.”

The project is looking at blood lipids and fecal fat across the different groups, which should give some indication if the matrix of cheese affects how the dairy fat is processed in the body.

It’s a long road in research to answer even seemingly simple questions such as whether dairy fat is heart healthy, but Dr Feeney appreciates the successes along the way. “When you get a paper published that is a great coup,” she says. “It keeps you going.”

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

## UCD hosts Universitas 21 events

In March, UCD welcomed colleagues from Universitas 21 (U21), a network of research-intensive universities from around the world who collaborate in areas of common interest and application. UCD's Professor Bairbre Redmond is the current U21 Provost.

UCD hosted the U21 annual Research Engagement Cluster which includes representatives from the Research Leaders Group and the Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies. The meeting opened with a workshop for the Deans and Directors of Graduate studies on 'The Future of the Doctorate'.

The University of Maryland delivered two and a half days of training to researchers, research managers and administrators from UCD, other European U21 members and other Irish universities on applying for National

Institute of Health funding, and Uniform Guidance for Foreign Entities (both pre and post-award). The workshops, delivered under the University's BRAKE initiative, were an example of knowledge sharing within the U21 network.

Running in parallel with the Research Engagement Cluster was a U21 Data Sharing Workshop, the first such event in the U21 network, which saw people responsible for data collection and analysis from the network gather to explore the benefits of data sharing among U21 members.



Pictured (l-r) at NovaUCD are: Dawn Walsh, Kernel Capital; Des O'Leary, CEO, OncoMark; Professor William Gallagher, Director, UCD Conway Institute and co-founder, OncoMark; Deirdre Glenn, Manager, Lifesciences Sector, Enterprise Ireland; and Kevin Healy, Senior Manager, Corporate Banking Ireland, Bank of Ireland

## UCD spin-out secures €2.1m investment to commercialise new diagnostic test for breast cancer

**OncoMark, a UCD spin-out, has closed a €2.1 million funding round which included Kernel Capital, through the Bank of Ireland Kernel Capital Venture Funds, the Irrus Investments syndicate, the Galway HBAN MedTech syndicate, private investors and Enterprise Ireland.**

OncoMark is focused on the development of novel panels of cancer biomarkers, to aid treatment decisions and allow more tailored patient management, ultimately improving the quality of life for cancer patients.

This investment round will fund the commercialisation of OncoMark's lead product, OncoMasTR, which it plans to launch in 2018. OncoMasTR is a novel prognostic test for early-stage breast cancer that will reduce the number of breast cancer patients receiving unnecessary chemotherapy.

OncoMark was previously awarded €2.7 million, through the Horizon 2020 SME Instrument Phase 2 programme, to clinically validate the OncoMasTR test. This new funding round will allow the translation of the test from clinical validation to regulatory approval and full commercialisation.

OncoMark, which was co-founded by Professor William Gallagher and Steve Penney as a spin-out from UCD's School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, is headquartered at NovaUCD.

The OncoMasTR test is based on a panel of genetic 'drivers' of breast cancer. The original research that resulted in the identification of the panel was led by Professor Adrian Bracken, Smurfit Institute of Genetics, Trinity College Dublin and researchers at the UCD Conway Institute, led by Professor William Gallagher. The OncoMasTR technology was subsequently exclusively licenced by both universities to OncoMark.



Pictured (l-r) at the launch of the 2017 Aspire Scholarship Programme were, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean and College Principal, UCD College of Business; and Karen Kennedy, Aspire Alumna MBA 2011-2013 and Director of Business Strategy at Clúid Housing

## UCD Smurfit School Aspire Scholarship Programme

**UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School has announced the Aspire Scholarship Programme for an eighth consecutive year. The 2017 Aspire programme will provide funding for twelve students and cover fifty per cent of the tuition costs for three MBA and nine MSc programmes.**

The Aspire Scholarship Programme was established in 2010 through the generosity of a €500,000 endowment from an anonymous benefactor with the objective of supporting graduates who may otherwise be unable to undertake postgraduate studies at a leading international business school. To date there have been 80 recipients of Aspire scholarship funding with participants progressing to work for some of Ireland's leading employers such as Google,

Citi, KPMG, Ulster Bank, PepsiCo, Microsoft, AIB, Accenture, Mitsubishi and PwC or establishing their own businesses following completion of their master's programme.

Speaking at the launch of the 2017 Aspire Scholarship Programme, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean and College Principal, UCD College of Business, said: "As educators at one of the world's leading business schools, it is our ambition to develop the next generation who will shape a better society. We strive to ensure our students are truly representative of all those with drive, initiative and talent; irrespective of their financial means. A programme such as Aspire allows students, who would otherwise be unable to undertake postgraduate business studies due to funding challenges, to learn from - and also teach to - our community of scholars and realise their - and our - full potential."



*Pictured: Associate Professor Brendan Williams, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy (front row, far left) with students from across a number of disciplines and Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (front row, fourth from the right); and Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President (third from the right)*

## National Planning Framework Student Consultation at UCD

**On 28 February, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy welcomed Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, and officials from his department to a UCD student consultation on the National Planning Framework.**

The National Planning Framework is representative of a major shift in Irish planning policy towards a more integrated approach. This represents a major shift from what is classified as a development-led planning system unlike examples of more managed development processes as experienced in Scandinavia and other parts of Europe.

Associate Professor Brendan Williams, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy welcomed the delegates and said: "A successfully managed planning and development strategy is essential for the ongoing economic development and growth of the country. The issues highlighted are

crucial to the student population of UCD who face into a future of both exciting opportunity and risks which need to be managed carefully. Our School and colleagues across UCD continue to provide strategic research, policy support and education in this important policy area."

The event included a discussion of the proposed National Planning Framework by Minister Coveney and a Q&A session moderated by economist David McWilliams with a closing address by Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President who said: "This seminar provided an opportunity for students to avail of an active learning opportunity in this important area and we encourage our students to continue their contributions to policy debates and all forms of civic engagement. It was useful to discuss and explore, not just the setting of some clear objectives for planning, but also the means, administrative and financial resources and commitments needed to achieve those objectives once established."

## UCD Annual Garret FitzGerald School and Lecture 2017

**UCD's Annual Garret FitzGerald School and Lecture is named to commemorate Garret FitzGerald's long-standing and close connection with UCD, and to recognise the significance of Dr FitzGerald's dedication to scholarship and many contributions to public life. One of Ireland's great statesmen and intellectuals, Garret FitzGerald had a deep-rooted commitment to the role of the university and to UCD in particular, where he studied and lectured, as well as to the National University of Ireland of which he was Chancellor. His personal papers are held in the UCD Archive.**

The 2017 UCD Garret FitzGerald School and Lecture was hosted by UCD College of Social Sciences and Law. In line with some major disruptions to expectations and understandings concerning governance issues with global significance the theme of the event was 'The Disruptions of 2016 and the Social Sciences'.

At the forefront of these disruptions were the referendum vote in the United Kingdom supporting a proposal that the UK should leave the European Union, and the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States. The UCD FitzGerald School drew upon disciplines from across the social sciences to interrogate the explanations for these disruptions and to consider their economic, legal, political and social implications. Dr Paul Gillespie, former foreign policy editor with The Irish Times chaired a panel which included academics from four Schools within UCD College of Social Sciences and Law.

The lecture was given by UCD alumna Catherine Day, former Secretary General of the European Commission, entitled 'Where to After Brexit/Trump? Navigating an Uncertain Future'.

## European Young Leaders 2017

**Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, Assistant Professor, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics, has been announced as one of the 40 under 40 European Young Leaders for 2017. This group of academics, politicians, entrepreneurs, cultural representatives and media figures, chosen from across the continent, will meet throughout the year to debate and collaborate on ideas and policies which support citizens throughout Europe.**

Dr Ní Shúilleabháin was nominated as one of 40 European Young Leaders for her role in the advocacy of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects and, in particular, for her promotion of diversity in these fields. This year, she is one of only two representatives from Ireland who are part of the 2017 40 under 40 European Young Leaders.

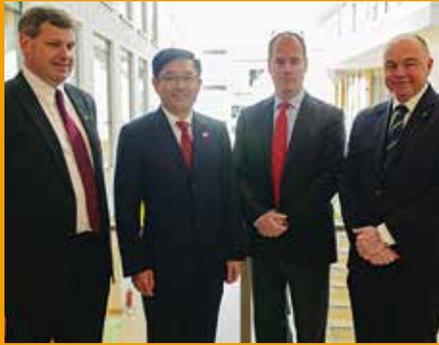
In March, the European Young Leaders 2017 held their first meeting in Lisbon, Portugal. There, over the course of three days, the group held discussions under the global theme of

'Leadership in an increasingly unpredictable world'. The topics discussed included migration, climate change and education.

Dr Ní Shúilleabháin chaired a discussion on 'Education in the 21st Century' with Monsterrat Gomendio, Deputy Director for Education & Skills at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and former Spanish Secretary of State for Education, Vocational Training and Universities (2012-2015). The next meeting of the group will be held in Tallinn, Estonia, in September 2017.



*Pictured: Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation (left), speaking with Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics, at the European Young Leaders meeting in Lisbon, March 2017*



*Pictured at the event were (l-r): Professor Patrick Paul Walsh, UCD Centre for Sustainable Development Studies; H.E. Dr Yue Xiaoyong, Ambassador of China to Ireland; Professor David Farrell, UCD School of Politics and International Relations; and Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President*

## Visit of Chinese Ambassador

**Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President welcomed H.E. Dr Yue Xiaoyong, Ambassador of China to Ireland, to UCD in April. This was the first student talk by the Ambassador who will undertake a tour of Irish universities and Institutes in the Higher Education Sector.**

An audience of UCD students, faculty, alumni and business leaders were part of the full house at the George Moore Auditorium, UCD O'Brien Centre for Science.

President Deeks said: "Mainstreaming China into our education, research, outreach and everyday life in UCD is important to us as Ireland's leading global university. Mainstreaming will lead to world-class research, education and policy outreach engagements between UCD and many Chinese universities. When we welcome the Ambassador today, we are welcoming every person in China to UCD. We are keen to deepen our growing engagements in education, research, policy areas and cultural exchanges. Today's talk and event is an important milestone on this journey."

Professor Patrick Paul Walsh, UCD Centre for Sustainable Development Studies said: "Dr Yue Xiaoyong's talk gave us wonderful insights into the reform process and the opening up of China since the start of reforms in 1978. He also reflected on the changing role of China in international relations."



*Pictured at the 2017 European Student Orchestra Festival are members of the UCD Symphony Orchestra*

## UCD Symphony Orchestra represents Ireland

**UCD Symphony Orchestra represented Ireland at the 2017 European Student Orchestra Festival, completing a memorable year that has included sellout performances in UCD Astra Hall and Christ Church Cathedral. UCD Symphony Orchestra also took part in the third edition of the European Student Orchestra Festival (ESOF) in April in Leuven, Belgium.**

This is the first time that an Irish university has been represented at the festival, which also showcased musical talent from Germany,

Denmark, France, Estonia, the Netherlands and Belgium in a series of concerts over four nights. The UCDSO opened the first group concert with an impassioned rendition of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4.

UCD's students had the opportunity to mix with over six hundred musicians from nine other universities – the festival having grown from just four participants in 2012 and seven in 2015.

Six of the students were then selected for the inaugural European Student Orchestra which featured over sixty musicians drawn from all the guest ensembles. UCDSO's Abbie Soon, 2nd year Science, was chosen to lead this very special orchestra, which closed the festival under Benjamin Haemhouts, Principal Conductor of the Chamber Orchestra of Belgium.

ESOF now plans to expand its activities with another orchestra festival to be held in Strasbourg in 2018 – a first appearance outside the University of Leuven – as well as editions for choirs in 2019 and wind bands in 2020.

## UCD Researcher awarded €1.5m ERC Starting Grant

**Dr Dieter F. Kogler, an early-career researcher, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy has been awarded a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant of €1.5 million to establish his own research team and to pursue groundbreaking social science research.**

The study entitled, 'Technology Evolution in Regional Economies' or TechEvo, will be funded over a five-year period.

The aim of the TechEvo project is to produce a series of economic indicators, models and tools which will enable firms and policy makers across Europe, to make more informed and better location-based investment decisions to boost innovation and drive regional prosperity. The project will also deliver an advanced science and technology policy evaluation tool.

Dr Kogler, whose research focus is on the geography of innovation and evolutionary

economic geography, will employ his novel concept of 'knowledge spaces'. This is a tool capable of identifying current economic development deficiencies, as well as future opportunities for innovative activities, within urban centres and in regional economies.

ERC Starting Grants are awarded under the 'excellent science pillar' of Horizon 2020, the European Union's research and innovation programme and aim to support a new generation of top researchers in Europe.



*Dr Dieter Kogler, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy*

# Breastfeeding and children's intelligence not linked



**A UCD study on breastfeeding and its impact on babies and toddlers has debunked the myth that youngsters may develop behavioural**

**or cognitive problems if they are not fed breast milk.**

Children from a young age who are fed formula rather than breast milk do not have lower intelligence levels, the research by UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science and UCD Geary Institute has concluded.

It is now hoped that further research could examine if older children or adults lose out as a result of not being breastfed at a young age.

Information on 8,000 children was assessed with the Growing up in Ireland (GUI) Data, which tracked nine-month olds through to when they turned three and five.

Co-author Dr Orla Doyle stressed the study, published in the journal *Pediatrics*, was not suggesting that mothers should not breastfeed their offspring, as there are conclusive benefits for a child's health from breastfeeding.

Nonetheless, the research fellow from UCD Geary Institute and UCD School of Economics emphasised that the findings were contrary to previous studies on breastfeeding that found it does boost intelligence.

The team of researchers from UCD-led by Dr Lisa Christine Girard, looked at how breastfeeding might or might not affect children's cognitive abilities, such as problem solving and vocabulary at ages three and five.

Previous research has suggested that mothers in Western countries who breastfeed

tend to have higher levels of education or be in better socio-economic positions.

To eliminate bias from the results, the team used a method called "propensity score matching" (PSM). This let them use complex statistical methods to match breastfed children with non-breastfed children who have similar family backgrounds. Such a process ensures results focus on the effect of breastfeeding alone and not any other family factors.

Dr Doyle added, "Over the last twenty years, a lot of studies have been published to say breastfeeding is really important for children's health and development. There's no question that it is. But many of these papers which have said that breastfed children have higher IQs than children who are not breastfed. But most of these studies do not use what we would call causal methods. So they find that children who are breastfed are smarter than children who are not breastfed. But, they cannot prove that being breastfed caused those children to have higher IQs."

Dr Doyle said the UCD team of researchers considered that it might be other factors that in fact influenced a child's cognitive abilities or behaviour.

"It could be that they have more invested parents. Better parents will breastfeed and promote their child's IQ. So it's not that breastfeeding causes their child to have a higher IQ but the type of family environment the child is exposed to."

The GUI longitudinal study started surveying children in 2008 when they were nine months old and then followed them when they were three and five years of age. The UCD researchers were able to drill down into that data for their study.

What made the study unique was its attempt to address 'selection bias' using PSM. This dictated that the types of parents who breastfed were not random. "What we are doing is trying to

compare like with like. We are trying to compare children who were breastfed to children who were not breastfed. But their parents and their families have similar background characteristics."

"What our paper is showing is that it [breastfeeding] is not going to make a child smarter, but it may still benefit their health. People should still breastfeed but not with the view that it is going to help their child's development," added Dr Doyle.

So how can these results benefit society as a whole going forward?

"Ireland has the lowest rates of breastfeeding of anywhere else in Europe. So we should be doing as much as we can to encourage people to breastfeed, in order to promote the child and mother's health.

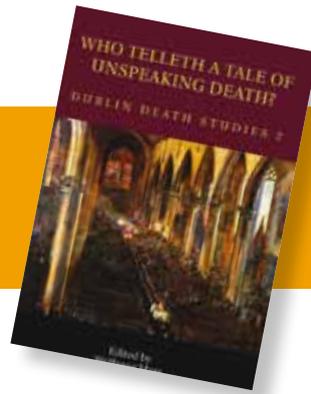
"But we don't have enough evidence to say 'if you breastfeed it is going to completely transform your child into a genius. There are lots of other ways you can promote your child's development, their education and language skills.

"Reading to children from birth onwards, the amount of time you interact with your child, the types of food you feed your child, the level of stimulation provided in your child's life and the quality of their childcare may all influence your child's development. There are lots of other things you can do to improve your child's cognition and behaviour. Breastfeeding probably isn't one of them though," concluded Dr Doyle.

Funding for the research was provided through the Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship, awarded to Dr Lisa Christine Girard, the lead in the three-person study including Dr Orla Doyle and Professor Richard Tremblay.

*Dr Orla Doyle was in conversation with Juno McEnroe, political reporter with the Irish Examiner*

# Books



## Who Telleth a Tale of Unspeaking Death – Dublin Death Studies 2

Editor, Associate Professor Wolfgang Marx,  
UCD School of Music

Carysfort Press

Associate Professor Wolfgang Marx's recently published volume examines the mysteries of death and the questions and rituals surrounding it. The contributors include UCD academics Associate Professor Joseph Brady, Emeritus Professor Michael Laffan and Associate Professor Andreas Hess. Together they examine death in all its aspects.

In Associate Professor Brady's chapter *Ignoring Death – War, Maps and Advertising*, Wilfred Owen's poem *Dulce et Decorum est* is referenced and highlights in graphic detail the death throes of one man due to the impact of a gas attack in World War 1.

The Irish obsession with funerals is explored in Professor Laffan's chapter: *Illustrious corpses: Burying Irish Nationalist Heroes*. The funeral being the "final public display on one's position in the community". The chapter details how a very different approach was employed for each funeral.

In the chapter *How Tocqueville became 'Tocqueville'*, Associate Professor Hess explores how an icon is created. The almost daily nature of Beaumont's dispatches on the decline of Tocqueville assisted in building a complete persona of the man as he moved toward death.

*Human Attitudes to Animal Death* is a good synopsis of our views on animals through the centuries from friends to tools, vermin to demons: revered in some societies, abused in others.

Associate Professor Marx's book is both evocative and haunting. The text is punctuated with pictures and graphics which aid in highlighting some of the pertinent elements in the book.



## Transnationalism, Gender and the History of Education

Editors, Associate Professor Deirdre Raftery, UCD School of Education and Associate Professor Marie Clarke, UCD Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Dean of Arts

Routledge

This volume brings together 11 chapters written by internationally regarded scholars in the field of education, its transnationality and particularly the educational experiences of women and girls. The editors have curated a collection of essays, offering a fascinating insight into the transnational journey of education since the 1800s.

Contributors from Ireland, the UK, France, Australia and New Zealand examine subjects as wide-ranging as the mobility of teaching sisters, the influence of colonial powers, the impact of societal and political factors and the power of owning the education process.

From vocational education in rural Ireland to the development of teaching systems in colonial countries such as Algeria, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, we read about how those systems were adapted and how advances in teaching, e.g. in the area of child studies, influenced the development and flow of learning practices transnationally.

We read about how gendered attitudes, as well as societal and political factors, impacted on education for women and girls which, in turn, impacted on their future roles and job opportunities.

The book ends on a note of celebration of the life's work of William Graham Brooke as a champion of education for women and girls in the 1800s, which has had a knock-on effect into the following century.



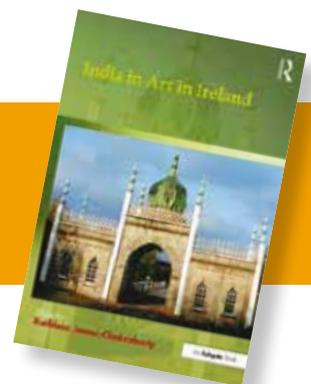
## Revolutionaries, Rebels and Robbers - The Golden Age of Banditry in Mexico, Latin America and the Chicano American Southwest, 1850-1950

Dr Pascale Baker, UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics

University of Wales Press

This book examines the cultural history of banditry in Latin America from 1850 to 1950. It takes these dates because this is the period during which the so-called social bandit, a prototype first suggested by Eric Hobsbawm (1969), proliferated on the continent, certainly in myth if not in actual recorded history. This was an era of dramatic political and social change in Latin America, when nineteenth-century wars of independence severed these colonies from their Spanish and Portuguese rulers and when the Mexican Revolution (1910-20), at the start of the twentieth century, overturned the status quo once again. Bandits and their accompanying folklore ensured that they were at the heart of popular culture in the period 1850-1950, making this very much a 'Golden Age' of Latin American banditry.

This volume looks closely at nations where bandit culture has manifested itself forcefully – Mexico (the subject of the case study), the Hispanic south-west of the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela and Cuba. *Revolutionaries, Rebels and Robbers* delivers a comprehensive study of banditry in Latin America, making use of tools from Latin American and Hispanic studies, film studies, visual studies, and legal and social history, and in so doing offers the most detailed and wide-ranging study of its kind presently available.



## India in Art in Ireland

Editor, Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy

Routledge

An introduction and afterword by editor Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty top and tail this pioneering exploration of artistic interrelations between Ireland and India. Four intervening chapters examine specific instances of Indian art, visual culture and architecture in Ireland and consider their influence and impact.

## ■ First Vice-President of the European Commission honoured by UCD Law Society

**Mr Frans Timmermans was presented with the UCD Law Society honorary lifetime membership award by Aodhán Peelo, auditor of the Society.**

Introducing Mr Timmermans to an audience of several hundred students and faculty, Professor Colin Scott, UCD Vice-President for Diversity, Equality and Inclusion, and College Principal, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law, described him as a “passionate supporter of democracy and human rights in the European Union”. At the talk Mr Timmermans appealed to the students to defend the ideals of the EU.

“If your generation doesn’t stand up and defend this Union, it will become unhinged, it will fall apart – I am absolutely convinced of that,” he said.

Mr Timmermans said the EU had tried too often to appeal to EU citizens with cold statistics. Instead, the Union should concentrate on connecting with them on an emotional level

by referring to their ideals and creating a positive vision for the future.

“If you want to rekindle [the notion] that this European project is at the service of European citizens, we need to start speaking to the hearts and minds again.”

As well as being First Vice President, Mr Timmermans is the European Commissioner for the portfolio of Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

He previously served as a member of the House of Representatives in the Netherlands for the Labour Party. In Holland, he also served as Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs charged with European Affairs from 2007 to 2010 and as Minister for Foreign Affairs from 2012 to 2014.



Professor William Gallagher (left) receives the inaugural IACR Cancer Research Medal from Professor William Watson, IACR President

## ■ Professor William Gallagher awarded IACR Cancer Research Medal

**Professor William Gallagher is the inaugural recipient of the Irish Association of Cancer Research (IACR) Cancer Research Medal in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the cancer research community in Ireland throughout his career.**

Professor Gallagher is Professor of Cancer Biology at UCD School of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science, Director of UCD Conway Institute, and Director of BREAST-PREDICT, the Irish Cancer Society’s first Collaborative Cancer Research Centre. He is the co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of OncoMark Ltd., which focuses on the development and application of biomarker panels for cancer, primarily aimed at identifying risk of recurrence.

In 2016, OncoMark Ltd was awarded €2.75 million from the EU Horizon 2020 SME Instrument programme to clinically validate a prognostic test for breast cancer, called OncoMasTR that is based on a panel of genetic drivers of breast cancer. OncoMark recently secured a further €2.1 million investment to support the ongoing commercial development.

Before presenting the award, Professor William Watson, IACR President, highlighted Professor Gallagher’s early understanding of the importance of commercialisation of research outputs and protection of intellectual property at a time when research and development activities in Ireland were still in their infancy.

Accepting his award, Professor Gallagher gave his perspective on the cancer research ecosystem in Ireland through his presentation entitled, ‘Cancer (Research) in Ireland: Past, Present and Future’.



Pictured at the 2017 Chinese Spring Festival Gala are artists from China Ethnic Song and Dance Ensemble

## ■ 2017 Chinese Spring Festival Gala Ireland

**The 2017 Chinese Spring Festival Gala Ireland, organised by UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland, was held in the Convention Centre Dublin on 11 February. It attracted nearly 2,000 people, including the Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Dr. Yue Xiaoyong. It has helped develop a keen understanding and appreciation of the diverse and colourful Chinese arts to its audience.**

The gala is hosted by UCD Confucius Institute in collaboration with China Ethnic Song and Dance Ensemble and supported by local

Chinese Communities and the Chinese Students & Scholars Association of Ireland.

The gala included well known Chinese songs “Jasmine Flower” and “Singing and smiling” from the Children’s Choir. The Chinese Zither show “Fisherman’s Song at Dust” was performed by twenty zither players including Chinese teachers from UCD Confucius Institute.

The diversity and colour of the gala was drawn from the diverse ethnic backgrounds: Tibetan, Zhuang, Han, Korean, Uyghur and Mongolia. Each region demonstrated their inherent artistic skills, ranging from the graceful folk dances such as Tibetan “Happy Tibetans”, Kazakh “A lovely Rose”, Korean “Dance in the Moonlight” to the dramatic finale “Carp Leaping over the Dragon Gate”. World renowned singers Ms. Mu Linlin and Mr. Teng Geer performed emotive well-known songs which contributed to the wonderful ‘memories of home’ feeling generated by the Gala.



Pictured at NovaUCD is Barry Kavanagh, CEO, O.C.E. Technology

## UCD spin-in introduces new satellite subsystems to European commercial space market

**O.C.E. Technology, a UCD spin-in company, has announced that it is introducing its new range of satellite subsystems to the growing European commercial space market.**

The company made the announcement at the 2017 Paris Space Week exhibition, Europe's premier B2B space event dedicated to launch vehicles, satellites and space related technologies.

The O.C.E. Technology subsystems are derived from those in use in the Chinese space programme and have been operational on Chinese satellites over the past 20 years. The company is currently working with European customers to customise the products for the fast growing commercial satellite market.

O.C.E. Technology, headquartered at NovaUCD and an Enterprise Ireland client company, develops software for technical applications and supplies radiation-hardened chip-level components targeted primarily at the space and high-reliability sectors.

## UCD academic awarded Welsh Government literary residency

**Associate Professor Nerys Williams, UCD School of English, Drama and Film, was awarded a literary residency by the Welsh Government through Literature Wales.**

The residency formed part of Barddoniaeth Colled | Poetry of Loss, a wider project commemorating the First World War and war poets Hedd Wyn and Francis Ledwidge. The project was delivered by Literature Wales in partnership with the Welsh Government's Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers 1914-1918 First World War Centenary Programme and the Government of Flanders.

Describing her vision for the residency, Associate Professor Williams said: "My focus during the residency is to complete a long poem 'Pontio' (Bridging) that centres on an imagined meeting between Welsh poet Hedd Wyn and Irish poet Francis Ledwidge. Both died at Plickem Ridge on 31 July 1917. The complexity of their situations – one as a Welsh speaking conscript and the other opting to fight for Britain at a time when Ireland was seeking independence – prompts relevant questions regarding: nationalism, Europeanism, linguistic inventiveness, as well as the challenge of modernity upon traditional verse forms. The poem asks whether a culture of militarism has grown in post devolutionary Wales and how do I, as a female, bilingual, non-combatant poet, engage with a history of warfare? It will also enable me to dedicate time to writing two proposed radio projects and visit the area surrounding Artillery Wood, where both Hedd Wyn and Francis Ledwidge are buried."

The literary residency was undertaken in Brussels in May and included a succession of public engagement events and a talk at the Irish Embassy.

## UCD's Sharon Bailey elected Chairperson of EARMA

**Sharon Bailey, UCD Research, was recently elected as incoming chairperson of the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA). The organisation currently has more than 1,000 members across 40 countries, representing the community of research managers and administrators who work in industry, academia, the public and private sectors. EARMA works with the EU Commission, as well as national and international funding agencies. It provides a networking forum, a learning platform, and a place to share experiences and best practice in the wider research management and administration community.**

First elected to the EARMA board four years ago as treasurer, Sharon said: "EARMA is in an exciting phase of development and I

look forward to undertaking this key leadership role to ensure that its full potential is achieved, and that member benefits are improved including, enhanced professional development opportunities, improved networks, and building the reputation of EARMA with stakeholders in our community.

"I am very lucky to have a hugely competent and committed board and executive to work with and also to have the support and encouragement of my colleagues in UCD. We now have the opportunity to become less focussed on operations and spend more time on governance and strategic issues. I look forward to exciting times ahead."

Sharon joined UCD in 2008 and is the Director of Research Finance & Operations within UCD Research. She is a qualified member of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants and the Irish Taxation Institute and holds a Masters in Organisation Behaviour.



*Pictured: UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks, and Bristol-Myers Squibb Biologics Ireland General Manager, Dr Noel Heaney, sign a memorandum of understanding*

## UCD signs MoU with Bristol-Myers Squibb

**UCD has launched a strategic partnership with global biopharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Squibb to support the University's drive to expand skills and talent supply to meet growing demand for well-qualified graduates in Ireland's expanding pharma sector.**

Bristol-Myers Squibb is currently building a \$1 billion new Biologics manufacturing facility in Cruiserath, Co. Dublin, which is scheduled to be operational in 2019, employing 400 people, about half of whom are already recruited and employed in a range of functions and training programmes.

A memorandum of understanding between the UCD and Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS), signed by BMS Biologics Ireland General Manager, Dr Noel Heaney, and Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President, will see collaborations across a variety of areas with the main focus on talent, research, and corporate social responsibility.

Relating to talent, course content will be reviewed to ensure that changing industry needs are being met; BMS staff will contribute to courses including review and content where appropriate as well as visit UCD to give visiting lectures, career talks and advice; and BMS will look at establishing a formal internship programme for UCD students.

UCD and BMS have enjoyed a longstanding relationship which, with the new partnership work-plan agreed and in place, will see them collaborate on a number of research activities. The corporate social responsibility element of the partnership will see the development of a strategy which may include initiatives such as scholarship and awards schemes for outstanding students, scholarship programmes for students from disadvantaged backgrounds or with special needs, and support for DEIS schools teaching STEM subjects to school children.

Commenting on the significance of the new partnership Dr Noel Heaney said: "At Bristol-Myers Squibb we have been proactively developing our advanced manufacturing capability in Ireland over the last 50 years. This development has been supported by the strong relationships we have built with academic institutions and the innovation community across Ireland. This agreement signals a new strategic approach to our engagement with UCD which will consolidate and build on this important relationship."

## UCD Maths Sparks workshops

**An awards ceremony for second level pupils who successfully participated in Maths Sparks: Problem Solving Workshops was held in April. 80 students from twelve second level schools, 10 of which are designated as DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools), attended the series of workshops, which was held over four weeks in UCD College of Science.**

The programme, directed by Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin and Dr Anthony Cronin, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics, aims to encourage pupils to continue to study mathematics and to pursue courses of study in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). In addition, the programme aims to develop the communication

and presentation skills of undergraduate students.

Each of the workshops was designed by a team of volunteer undergraduate students from UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics, under the guidance of academic staff. Workshops were held on a variety of extra-curricular topics including Topology, Astrophysics, Boolean Logic and Applications of Probability. Each of the four two-hour workshops also concluded with a talk from academic staff from UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics and UCD School of Physics on their associated research.

This year, undergraduate volunteers have received a Digital Badge in recognition for their participation in the programme. Volunteers will also receive recognition of their role on their degree transcripts.

This is the third year of Maths Sparks series, which is supported by SFI Discover and UCD Access & Lifelong Learning. Evaluation of the series to date has demonstrated a statistically significant increase in participating pupils' attitudes towards success in mathematics and in their perceived usefulness of mathematics.



*Pictured (l-r) at The Patient Voice in Cancer Research forum at UCD were: Dr Robert O'Connor, Head of Research, Irish Cancer Society; Derick Mitchell, CEO, Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry (IPPOS); and Eibhlin Mulroe, CEO, Cancer Trials Ireland*

## Involving patients in shaping the future landscape of cancer research

**Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, UCD College of Health & Agricultural Sciences, welcomed 85 participants to an open forum event entitled *The Patient Voice in Cancer Research* on 12 April. The focus was to identify the questions and needs that matter most to those living with a cancer diagnosis and those most likely to improve the relevance of cancer research.**

The initiative, led by Dr Amanda McCann, Associate Professor and Head of Pathology, UCD School of Medicine and Fellow of UCD Conway Institute, brings together people living with cancer, and their families, with healthcare professionals, academic and clinical researchers.

This was the third event in a series and the topic under discussion was clinical trials; explaining what they are, the types being carried out in Ireland and how patients can find out if a suitable clinical trial exists for their particular diagnosis.

Eibhlin Mulroe, CEO, Cancer Trials Ireland; Dr Robert O'Connor, Head of Research, Irish Cancer Society; and Derick Mitchell, CEO, Irish

Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry (IPPOS), led the round table discussion.

Participants also heard from Dr Aurelie Fabre, Consultant Pathologist, St Vincent's University Hospital and UCD School of Medicine on the process of tissue handling in the laboratory and how pathologists assess cancer cells using biomarkers.

The inaugural Patient Voice in Cancer Research event in April 2016 involved over 100 participants and produced a position paper with 14 recommendations in four key headings of research, clinical trials, information and support services.

## Professor Cass Sunstein - Nudging people towards “better” choices

**Professor Cass Sunstein, the eminent Harvard legal scholar, selected by former US President Barack Obama to head up the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, was at UCD in April to outline his work on how legal systems and policy interventions provide a social architecture that can help determine the choices of citizens.**

Professor Sunstein explained that “nudges” are “tools that involve freedom of choice but that inform people, that remind people, that warn people or that make it easy for people to go in a direction that would give health and safety and economic well-being the benefit of the doubt.”

They include the likes of a labelling strategy for the calorific content of food or the automatic enrollment of citizens in a pension plan.

“People in the United States and Europe like these things,” he says. “In fact, the percentage of enthusiasm is typically 70 percent or higher and it cuts across party lines.”



Professor Cass Sunstein pictured at UCD Sutherland School of Law

“If there is a nudge, an intervention, that is inconsistent with people’s interests or values, Europeans and Americans aren’t going to like it very much and they aren’t going to like it very much if they think that the political actor has personal or selfish motivations. But otherwise, they are enthusiastic.”

According to Professor Sunstein, the approval ratings for nudges – or interventions - among citizens in Ireland is somewhere between 75 to 80 percent. Research has shown this to be the case.

This doesn’t mean that public officials have a green light from citizens for these interventions, but, as Professor Sunstein explains, they have a welcome mat. In other words, they are “essentially being asked by citizens to please help us in these ways”.

Professor Cass Sunstein, Robert Walmsley University Professor at Harvard, is the co-author of the New York Times Bestselling book *Nudge: Improving decisions about health, wealth and happiness*.

## UCD Receives Athena SWAN Award on Gender Equality

**UCD has received the Athena SWAN Bronze Institutional Award in recognition of its commitment to improving gender equality.**

The award is given to higher education institutions that have demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of gender equality issues and have enacted an action plan to tackle them.

UCD signed the Athena SWAN charter in 2015. It has delivered the following actions:

- The appointment of a Vice-President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- The establishment of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group reporting to the University Management Team
- A new HR strategy and faculty development processes integrating gender equality

- The development of an Equality Impact Assessment Tool, which will enable and require all policy developers to ensure that UCD policies are inclusive and promote equality and diversity

- The introduction of a social levy, to distribute the costs of leave

“Receiving this award is a welcome recognition of UCD’s commitment to our community to enhance gender equality in the University,” said Professor Orla Feely, Chair of Athena SWAN Steering Group and UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact.

“Diversity is highlighted in the University’s strategic plan as one of the core values of UCD, and one of our strategic objectives is the attraction and retention of an excellent and diverse cohort of students, faculty and staff.”

By the end of 2019, Higher Education Institutions in Ireland will be required to hold an

Athena SWAN Bronze award to be eligible for research funding from Science Foundation Ireland, Irish Research Council and Health Research Board.

Athena SWAN was established in 2005 and is operated by the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU) in the United Kingdom. It aims to promote the advancement of women’s careers in higher education and research.

The Athena SWAN charter commits education institutions to adopt ten principles to tackle gender inequality and the underrepresentation of women in senior roles in higher education.



## UCD collaboration with Fujitsu and Insight Centre for Data Analytics targets new cancer therapies

**Fujitsu, the Insight Centre for Data Analytics and Systems Biology Ireland at UCD have joined forces to develop an automated system for predicting biochemical reactions that are involved in causing diseases such as cancer.**



*Picture: Professor Walter Kolch, UCD School of Medicine and Director, Systems Biology Ireland*

The new automated engine will provide scientists with a powerful tool for discovering the next generation of drugs to target these reactions by enabling them to conduct more precise, computation-guided experiments. Recent biomedical research shows that many serious diseases, in particular cancer, are

caused by persistent disruptions of cellular communication processes.

Scientists are confident that the detailed research, in particular around phosphorylation, will lead to substantially increased rates of discoveries in cellular computing which can, in turn, deliver the targets for more efficient cancer drugs.

As of March 2017, the team has finished working on the first functioning prototype of the prediction engine.

“This work with Fujitsu is an exciting glimpse into the future of drug target discovery in which

computational modelling will shortcut a laborious experimental process,” said Professor Walter Kolch, Director, Systems Biology Ireland, UCD.

The prototype is currently being tested on a comprehensive knowledge graph covering known phosphorylation reactions and related protein interactions in humans that are available in machine-readable format.

Further implementation details and preliminary results will be released later this year.

## UCD Women's Hockey team take Champions Trophy to seal season treble

**UCD Women's Hockey team have completed a treble of national senior titles in 2017, by beating Hermes-Monkstown to win the EY Champions Trophy.**

The Belfield outfit's goalkeeper, Clodagh Cassin, kept a clean sheet in a penalty shoot-out in the final of the competition with UCD's south Dublin rivals to win their third title of the season. UCD had already won the EY Hockey League title and the Irish Senior Cup in April.

They reached the Champions Trophy final by beating Loreto in the semi-final just two days previously, also in a shoot-out in which Cassin kept another clean sheet.



*Pictured: UCD Women's Hockey team goalkeeper Clodagh Cassin celebrates with her teammates after she saved all three penalties in a shootout in the final of the EY Champions Trophy 2017*

The final ended 1-1 after normal time. Cassin then saved all three penalties from Hermes Monkstown's Chloe Watkins, Ellen Curran and Rosie Carrigan. Katie Mullan and

Sarah Twomey converted their penalties for the students and Orla Patton slotted home the winner for UCD.



*Pictured (far right): Eoin Morton, UCD FitzCycles Credit: Stephen McMahon/Cycling Ireland*

## UCD cyclist defeats field of 190 riders to become King of the Mountains

**Amateur cyclist Eoin Morton overcame a field of 190 riders to claim the King of the Mountains jersey at the 500-kilometre Rás Mumhan in April. Morton finished seventh in the overall classification.**

The King of the Mountains jersey is awarded to the best climber over the four-day series. Racing took place in County Kerry, home to the ten biggest peaks in Ireland.

Several category two climbs were included in the first two stages of the race. Stage three saw riders cross to Valentia Island before taking

on the only category one climb at Coom an Easpaig. The final stage was a mostly flat section with repeated laps of Killorglin town.

UCD FitzCycles' Morton was awarded Male Rider of the Year at the 2016 Irish Cycling Awards following a breakout season. He won a stage of the 2016 An Post Rás, becoming the first amateur to do so since 2009. Morton also claimed the King of the Mountains jersey during the event.

The five-man UCD team was completed by Louis Carnec (who finished 34th), Ian Richardson (51), Niall Dwyer (119) and Terry O'Malley (126).

## UCD beats Trinity in Liffey boat race

**UCD won both the men's and women's senior cups in the annual Colours Race against Trinity College Dublin**

The senior men from UCD Boat Club won the Gannon Cup by three lengths. The crew was led by UCD Ad Astra Elite Athlete and medicine student David O'Malley. They took the lead soon after the start and maintained it through to the finish.

The seniors from UCD Ladies Boat Club took the Corcoran Cup in a race that saw Trinity College lose their rudder towards the end. Trinity had been keeping a distance of less than a length from UCD until the steering loss.

Both UCD and TCD took a race each in the novice events. UCD Ladies Boat Club won the Sally Moorhead Trophy after overcoming their rival's early lead. Trinity men's won the Dan Quinn Shield in a race that was close until the finish.

The annual Colours Race takes place every Saint Patrick's Day weekend. It has four eight-man events: novice men's, novice women's, senior men's and senior women's. Racing takes place from O'Connell Bridge to St James' Gate over a 2.2km course.

## UCD footballer wins FAI Senior Women's International Player of the Year

**UCD Waves midfielder Karen Duggan has been named Senior Women's International Player of the Year at the FAI International Football Awards.**

Duggan's UCD Waves colleague Áine O'Gorman and 2014 FIFA Puskás Award winner Stephanie Roche were also nominated.

Duggan joined UCD Waves in 2014 and has 24 caps for the Republic of Ireland senior team. She also played for the national side at under-15, under-17 and under-19 level.

"When I got that chance to step up to the starting eleven I was just working towards getting back in the next day and the next day after that," Duggan told FAI TV. "There's huge

competition for places which is great and it's helping me to improve my game."

The 25-year-old from Kilkenny was also awarded Women's National League (WNL) Senior Player of the Season for 2015/2016. She was named in the WNL Team of the Season for four consecutive years from 2013 – 2016.

This was the 27th year of the FAI International Football Awards.



Pictured at the Engineers Ireland headquarters was: Khadija Mu'azzam, final year UCD Chemical & Bioprocess Engineering student and winner of the inaugural Engineers Ireland Talking Engineers competition

## Inaugural Engineers Ireland Talking Engineers competition won by UCD student

**Khadija Mu'azzam, a final year UCD Chemical & Bioprocess Engineering student, was announced as the winner of the inaugural Engineers Ireland Talking Engineers competition, at Engineers Ireland headquarters on 23 March.**

The competition was open to final year Engineering students, from all third-level institutions in Ireland, with each institution

invited to nominate a single representative. Candidates were required to make a 12-minute presentation on "The Role of the Engineer in Ireland Today."

The audience for the presentation included members of the Engineers Ireland Young Engineers Society, industry representatives and students and staff from the participating institutions. Khadija's presentation focused on the success of Irish Chemical/Process Engineers in innovating locally for global application and on the challenges and opportunities facing young Engineers, like herself, as they embark on professional careers.

The winning prize included a 2-hour professional interview preparation session, a 1-day Engineers Ireland CPD course of choice and €150. The event was organised by the Engineers Ireland Young Engineers Society, supported by CPL, ESB and Irish Water.

On graduation, Khadija, who previously interned with PM Group, will join the company as a Graduate Process Engineer.



Dónal Ó Catháin, céimí de chuid Scoil na Síceolaíochta UCD atá i mbun Dioplóma Gairmiúil le Scoil na Matamaitice UCD faoi láthair; agus Oisín Ó Catháin, céimí de chuid Scoil an Bhéarla, na Dramaíochta agus na Scannánaíochta UCD

## An Bua ag Craoltóirí UCD ag Smedias 2017

Bhí an bua ag beirt mhac léinn de chuid an Choláiste Ollscoile Baile Áth Cliath, Dónal Ó Catháin agus Oisín Ó Catháin sa rannóg Raidió trí Ghaeilge ag Smedias 2017, gradaim náisiúnta meán a bhíonn ar siúl gach bliain do mhic léinn tríú leibhéal na tíre. Bronnadh an gradam ar an mbeirt mhac léinn as an gclár Craic Uí Chatháin, a chraoltar uair sa tseachtain ar Raidió na Life. Is céimí é Oisín de chuid Scoil an Bhéarla, na Dramaíochta agus na Scannánaíochta, UCD, agus is céimí de chuid Scoil na Síceolaíochta, UCD é Dónal, atá anois i mbun Dioplóma Gairmiúil ar Líne san Anailís Sonraí, le Scoil na Matamaitice, UCD.

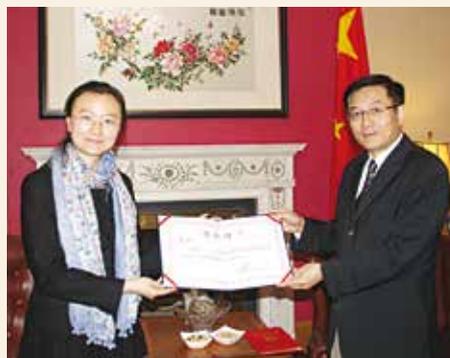
Arsa Dónal agus Oisín: "tá ríméad orainn faoi bheith ag fáil an ghradaim seo...is breá linn go háirithe an tsaoirse a thugann Raidió na Life dúinn réimse leathan topaicí a phlé. Bíonn idir ábhar trom agus ábhar éadrom ar an gclár, chomh maith le ceol ailtéarnach agus neamhchoitianta den uile sheánra".

Thosaigh Dónal agus Oisín ag craoladh 4 bliana ó shin agus iad sa chéad bhliain san ollscoil. Bhí clár nuachta trí Ghaeilge acu ar Belfield FM. B'iriseoir é Dónal don University Observer agus ceapadh ina eagarthóir Gaeilge é ar an College Tribune ina dhiaidh sin. Bronnadh scoláireacht Bhorad na Gaeilge UCD (Teach na Gaeilge) air 3 bliana as a chéile agus le linn an ama sin, rinne sé a chion do shaol na Gaeilge ar an gcampus, mar reachtaire ar an gCumann Gaelach agus mar Oifigeach na Gaeilge le hAontas na Mac Léinn, UCD.

## UCD PhD candidate receives Chinese Government Award

Yao (Sara) Han, PhD candidate, UCD School of Politics and International Relations and PhD researcher at UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, has been awarded a '2016 Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-financed Students Abroad' by the China Scholarship Council. H.E. Dr Yue Xiaoyong, Ambassador of China to Ireland, presented the award at the Chinese Embassy in Dublin on 24 February, facilitated by First Secretary Xiaochuang Wu.

This award was founded in 2003 by the Chinese government with the purpose of rewarding the academic excellence of self-financed Chinese students studying overseas. Only those with outstanding performance in their PhD studies are considered by the award selection panel.



Pictured at the Chinese Embassy in Dublin were (l-r): Yao Han, PhD candidate, UCD School of Politics and International Relations and PhD researcher, UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy; and H.E. Dr Yue Xiaoyong, Ambassador of China to Ireland

## UCD students win Great Agri-Food Debate

UCD hosted the second 'Great Agri-Food Debate' debating competition, which took place in the Garret FitzGerald Debating Chamber. The event, sponsored by Dawn Meats, drew teams of undergraduate students from UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science and Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT).

Students debated the motion, 'Brexit will be good for the Irish agri-food industry.' The debate saw students from the UCD team vigorously oppose the motion, citing issues such as the potential reduction in agri-food exports and loss of the UK-Ireland trading relationship. Proposing

the motion, the WIT team put forward their thoughts on the potential opportunities Brexit represents, while arguing that Ireland will remain a special trading partner of the UK.

Moderator for the night was Justin McCarthy, editor of the Irish Farmers Journal. The judging panel included: Niall Browne, CEO, Dawn Meats; Tara McCarthy, CEO, Bord Bia; and Adrian Crean, MD, McDonald's Ireland. Following the heated debate, team UCD were crowned eventual winners, with first year UCD student Una Sinnott being awarded the prize for 'Best Speaker'.



Pictured are the UCD winners of the Great Agri-Food Debate: front row (l-r) Una Sinnott, Niall Walsh (team leader) and Rachel Morris; back row (l-r) Patrick Hennessy, Clara Cronin and Anthony Jordan