

UCD

# today

WINTER 2016



13. Childhood obesity  
- a societal problem

9. Shift work puts  
health at risk

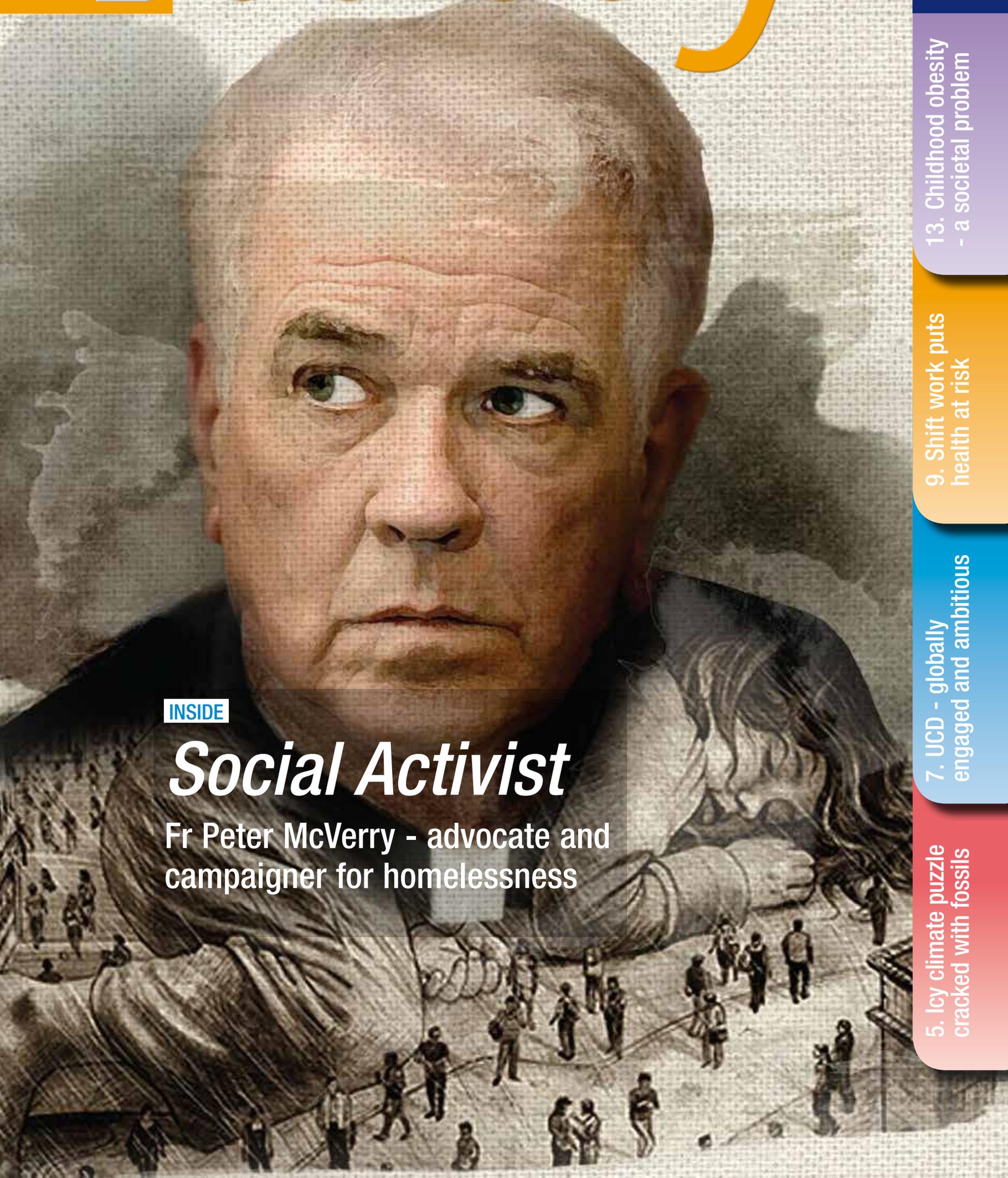
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INSIDE

## *Social Activist*

Fr Peter McVerry - advocate and  
campaigner for homelessness



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## “Shame on a city that lets its children sleep on the streets”



*EILIS O'BRIEN*  
Director of Communication and Marketing

**Fr Peter McVerry is an extraordinary man. A science graduate of UCD and a Jesuit, for over 40 years he has lived and worked with thousands of young homeless people in Dublin's north inner city. As a social activist, Peter is a strong advocate for those who have no voice in society. His Trust has provided services for some 4,705 this year – many of whom are homeless having spent time in prison, on drugs or struggling with personal or mental health crises.**

He can and does call us out for the neglect he deals with every day. “Shame on a city that lets its children sleep on the streets.” His words should do more than shock us. They should prompt us to become advocates for the right to a home and to pressurise our politicians to deliver on a housing policy that takes care of the 6,837 people recorded as homeless last month in Ireland.

The people helped by the Peter McVerry Trust are real people who – like us – never expected to end up on the street. Their stories are full of hope.

Peter was chosen to feature in a recent campaign designed to inspire. He epitomises the empathy and conviction of our graduates who make a difference in society. Through this campaign we feature the characteristics of integrity, excellence and creativity which are integral to the DNA of UCD and which we aspire to live up to and pass on to our students.

Peter McVerry, Maeve O'Rourke, Maeve Binchy, Dave Burke, Rena Buckley and Brian O'Driscoll feature as UCD alumni who embody these characteristics. We showcase their impact on the UCD Alumni website: [www.ucd.ie/alumniawards](http://www.ucd.ie/alumniawards)

## UCD thanks...

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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: Fr. Peter McVerry BSc 1969, Founder of Peter McVerry Trust



## UCD Professor elected President of Society of Legal Scholars

**Professor Imelda Maher has been elected President of the Society of Legal Scholars. She is the first Irish woman to become the President of the Society.**

The Society of Legal Scholars (SLS) has close to 3,000 members consisting primarily of academic lawyers in the UK and Ireland. It was founded in 1908 and is the oldest as well as the largest learned society in the field of law on these islands.

The Society is the principal representative body for legal academics in the UK and Ireland, as well as one of the larger learned societies in arts, humanities and social science.

Professor Maher is Professor of European Law at UCD Sutherland School of Law.

The President of the Society's duties include organising the SLS annual conference in their year of office as President. The SLS annual conference will take place at UCD in September 2017.

This is the first time the SLS conference will be held outside the UK. The theme of the conference is "The Diverse Unities of Law". It will explore different legal traditions and how diverse interpretations and practices have emerged between common law jurisdictions.

Professor Maher is an expert on the relationship between law and governance, especially in economic spheres. She has published extensively in competition law and also on EU governance.

Before returning to Ireland in 2006, she worked at the London School of Economics; the Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University; Birkbeck College, University of London; and Warwick University.

Professor Maher, a UCD (BCL) graduate, was general editor of the Journal of the



*Professor Imelda Maher, UCD Sutherland School of Law*

Society of Legal Scholars, Legal Studies, and is a member of the editorial boards of the European Law Journal and the Irish Yearbook of International Law.

Elected as a member of the Royal Irish Academy in 2011, she is currently Secretary for Polite Literature and Antiquities for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Election to the RIA is Ireland's highest academic honour. She will become Dean of the Sutherland School of Law in September 2017.

## UCD Ulysses Medal recipients

**The UCD Ulysses Medal is the highest honour that University College Dublin can bestow. It was inaugurated in 2005, as part of the University's sesquicentennial celebrations, inspired by the 'creative brilliance' of UCD alumnus James Joyce. It is awarded to individuals whose work has made an outstanding global contribution. Previous recipients include: former President of Ireland, Mary McAleese; former US President, Bill Clinton; and public intellectual and linguist, MIT Professor Noam Chomsky.**

**Professor Jeffrey Sachs** was awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal for his global contribution. He is widely considered to be one of the world's leading experts on economic development, global macroeconomics, and the fight against poverty.

For over thirty years, Professor Sachs has advised dozens of heads of state and governments on economic strategy, in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

He is Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Sustainable Development Goals, and previously advised both UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals.

**Professor Susan Haack** received the UCD Ulysses Medal in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the arts, in particular, philosophy and law.

She is Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, Cooper Senior Scholar in Arts and Sciences, Professor of Philosophy, and Professor of Law at the University of Miami.

Professor Haack was included in Peter J. King's 'One Hundred Philosophers: The Life and Work of the World's Greatest Thinkers' – one of the handful of living philosophers so honoured.

She has also been honoured for excellence in teaching, by the American Philosophical Association, and the University of Miami; for excellence in research (the Provost's Award, Miami), and for excellence in writing (the Forkosch Award).

**Dr Lee Hood** was awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal in recognition of his outstanding contributions to science.

Dr Hood was involved in the development of five instruments critical for contemporary biology - automated DNA sequencers, DNA synthesizers, protein sequencers, peptide synthesizers, and an ink jet printer for constructing DNA arrays.

More recently, Dr Hood has been a leader in the development of systems biology, its applications to cancer, neurodegenerative disease and the linkage of systems biology to personalised medicine.

He is one of only 15 individuals elected to all three National Academies—the National Academy of Science, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine.

He has founded or co-founded 15 different biotechnology companies including Amgen, Applied Biosystems, Rosetta, Darwin, Integrated Diagnostics, Indi Molecular and Arivale.

## European Connected Health Training Programme led by UCD

**CATCH, a new €2.1 million connected health innovative training programme, involving 6 partner organisations from 3 European companies, has been launched at UCD.**

CATCH (Cancer: Activating Technology for Connected Health), funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions initiative, will provide a unique training and research platform for 8 PhD students, from across Europe, and aims to improve the lives of cancer survivors through rehabilitation.

CATCH, which is led by UCD, includes two other universities, Universidad de Deusto, Spain and University of Southern Denmark, along with Spanish companies, Salumedia Tecnologías and Oncoavance, and the Beacon Hospital. Professor Brian Caulfield, who leads UCD's Connected Health Programme, is the CATCH project co-ordinator.



*Pictured: Professor Brian Caulfield, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science*



*Pictured at the Annual O'Brien Lecture were (l-r): Mr Denis O'Brien, Dr Jennifer Westrup, Consultant Medical Oncologist, Beacon Hospital; Professor Ramanan Laxminarayan, Director of the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics and Policy and Senior Research Scholar and Lecturer at Princeton Environmental Institute; Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President; and Professor Joe Carthy, College Principal and Dean, UCD College of Science*

## Annual O'Brien Science Lecture

**On 7 October, over 200 medical professionals, friends and supporters of UCD, faculty, staff, alumni and students turned out at the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science to hear the Annual O'Brien Science Lecture.**

Professor Ramanan Laxminarayan, a distinguished economist and epidemiologist discussed why the overuse and abuse of antimicrobial medicines in human and animal healthcare has become a threat to global public health.

"Widespread overuse will create potentially catastrophic results, we must think twice before

we tap into this resource for non-lifesaving purposes, like treating the flu and raising cheaper chickens. The drugs will stop working for everyone, as the bacteria they target grow more and more resistant," Professor Laxminarayan explained. He highlighted the threat of antimicrobial resistance as a major societal challenge, causing more than 700,000

deaths in the past year. He called on patients and doctors alike to think of antibiotics and their ongoing effectiveness as a finite resource. It is estimated that the death toll from treatable infections could rise to 10 million worldwide by 2050 if resistance to antibiotics is not addressed. The lecture was followed by a robust question and answer session.

## World 100 Network Conference

UCD Director of Communication and Marketing, Ellis O'Brien hosted the annual World 100 Network conference on campus in October. This network comprises the communication and marketing directors from the world's top universities. 100 delegates enjoyed the wonderful facilities at UCD and explored the history of Dublin with a tour of the city and a visit to the Guinness Storehouse.

It was fascinating to listen to Professor Frank McGuinness, UCD Professor for Creative Writing, address the attendees on the conference theme of *Communicating University Reputation and Research through Storytelling, Heritage and Culture*. Speakers from universities across the globe covered wide ranging topics. Groups of delegates attended 'Research Cafés' around campus, highlighting the best of our research and facilities at UCD. The delegates visited the UCD Centre for Experimental Archaeology, Insight, the Irish Poetry Reading Archive, the National Folklore Collection and the Veterinary Hospital.



*Pictured at the World 100 Network conference were (l-r): Ellis O'Brien, UCD Director of Communication and Marketing; Terry Hudghton, Head of University Marketing, University of Manchester; and Ailie Ferrari, Director of Marketing Communications, University of Glasgow*

## GradsCONNECT 2016

UCD Graduate Studies welcomed incoming taught and research graduate students at the third annual GradsCONNECT event on 20 September at UCD O'Reilly Hall. This event showcased the comprehensive academic, administrative and social suite of supports that UCD has to offer to incoming students. There were representatives from UCD's Library,

Student Desk, Student Societies, Career Development Centre to name but a few. In addition, it was an occasion for students to clarify queries and network with their peers over light refreshments in an informal and welcoming environment.

The UCD Dean of Graduate Studies & Deputy Registrar, Associate Professor Barbara

Dooley, opened the event. UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks welcomed the students by holding a 'scarving ceremony' whereby the students were invited to don their scarves and greet each other while being officially welcomed into the UCD community.



Professor Dolores O'Riordan, Vice-President for Global Engagement

# UCD – globally engaged and ambitious

**Many voters across the Western world may be turning their backs on globalisation. However, a very different trend is underway at many leading third level institutions where the focus is very much on the development of international linkages. UCD, in particular, has recognised the necessity of extending and developing its strategic relationships with sister universities and institutes.**

A year ago, Professor Dolores O'Riordan was appointed UCD Vice-President for Global Engagement. She comes to this new university role with extensive experience in food research. A graduate of UCC, she completed postgraduate studies at Cornell University, before returning to Ireland to work for Kerry Ingredients Plc, part of Kerry Group.

"At the time it was very unusual for someone with a PhD to go into the food industry. I was informed by UCC that Kerry was looking for a protein chemist (her area). It was a fantastic experience. It was the beginning of my international exposure."

Professor O'Riordan worked on the development of tastes and flavours for a wide variety of consumer markets across Europe, North America and South America.

***"The customs and habits varied greatly from country to country. It is all about relationship building".***

"As a technical person, it was important for me to understand what the client wanted." In this case, the clients included large corporations such as Nestle and Mondelez International. Products had to be tailored to individual needs.

Professor O'Riordan joined the faculty at UCD as a food scientist in 1995. "Food science was only a small part of the School of Agriculture. It has evolved tremendously. It was fortunate that the Government decided to invest in food research. I was also able to get a research program going very quickly."

In 2013, Professor O'Riordan was appointed as Director of the UCD Institute of Food & Health, having built up a track record of extensive commercial activity and overseas strategic relationships, a stand out being that between UCD and UC Davis in California. The Institute has 150 postgraduate research students and its PIs (principal investigators) bring in circa €10m in research income annually, with a considerable proportion coming from the dairy industry.

***Along with the USA, China has been identified as a major source of research collaboration.***

Ireland accounts for almost one quarter of milk formula output globally and the Chinese are major customers. Professor Pat Wall of the UCD Institute of Food & Health played an important role as a food safety expert at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. The Institute is involved in joint research with Chinese Universities in Agri-food, working on adding value to agrifood waste. "We are beginning to see the value of the relationship."

All of which makes Professor O'Riordan a logical choice to spearhead the University's global engagement strategy. While fulfilling this role, she is working at the Institute on a part time basis, reluctant to allow the grass to grow over her research work.

***The global engagement strategy covers a range of areas from the development of cross-frontier strategic research partnerships and university collaborations to the attraction of and care for overseas students in UCD and the encouraging of Irish students to spend part of their degree at an overseas university, to the building of alumni networks globally.***

"The aim is to bring coherence and coordination to these activities."

Professor O'Riordan now has oversight of the International Office, the Applied Language Centre, the Confucius Institute and the Institute for Chinese Studies.

A four-year strategic plan covering the period 2016 - 2020 has been published. The broad aim is the development of a "distinct global culture to encompass all aspects of university life." Says Professor O'Riordan: "There has been significant growth in the international student body, with up to seven thousand on campus, here, and a further 5,500 in overseas (UCD) campuses or programmes e.g. Beijing, Hong Kong and Penang. We are keen to ensure greater diversity among our overseas students here in Dublin. But, conscious of recruitment practices in some universities overseas, we want to ensure diversity within our classrooms and avoid dominance by any one nationality (with the obvious exception of Irish students). We have currently over 1,200 students from the USA, 700 from China and we are seeing growth in India and have over four hundred students from there."

Efforts to improve the experience of students coming from overseas are underway.

International students are met at the airport and the University provides "pastoral care" as well as a global lounge for social interaction. First year non EU students are given priority access to campus accommodation. Increasing levels of contact between foreign and Irish students, many of whom go home at weekends is another priority. The International Student Society is one of the most vibrant on campus and attracts Irish as well as overseas students.

At UCD, 37% of researchers and staff are from overseas. UCD has also put in place four global centres in New York, Beijing, Kuala Lumpur and Delhi, with the aim of boosting links to the University's network of graduates.

New partnerships are being developed across a broad range of disciplines. "We have over four hundred existing partnerships - we are keen to deepen some of these relationships."

In the wake of the Brexit vote, strengthening research links is, if anything, more important than ever.

*Professor Dolores O'Riordan, Vice-President for Global Engagement, was in conversation with Kyran Fitzgerald, a journalist with the Irish Examiner.*

## National Folklore Collection at UCD and the Traveller History Project

While the Travelling community in Ireland has long been recognised as a distinct group in Irish society, there is a dearth of historical information about their origins. Important information about Traveller culture and tradition has been gathered in the past century or so by a number of anthropologists and sociologists, as well as by field collectors of the Irish Folklore Commission and its successor organisation, the Department of Irish Folklore, University College Dublin.

In 1952, for instance, the Commission circulated a detailed questionnaire regarding Traveller social and religious practices, customs and beliefs, language etc., to its network of correspondents and part-time collectors. The questionnaire elicited valuable information about them, and this is now stored in the National Folklore Collection at UCD. It should be noted, however, that the Commission's collectors and correspondents were drawn exclusively from the settled community. Thus while many of them would have consulted Travellers directly when compiling their responses, the words and views of Travellers themselves were not to the forefront.

In an effort to redress this deficiency, in early 2016 the National Folklore Collection at UCD teamed up with film director Liam McGrath and a team of collectors from the Travelling community, led by actor John Connors, to interview Travellers in different parts of Ireland about life before and after 'settlement'. As a result, poignant family stories, life histories, details of the secret Travellers' 'Cant' language, and much more besides, have been recorded and are now preserved in the National Folklore Collection at UCD. A series of three documentaries, aired on RTÉ, followed these collectors as they record the oral history of family and friends.

The final documentary placed the origins of the Travelling community in a historical context. By sampling the DNA code of fifty separate Traveller families, the documentary produced some surprising findings, chief among them that the Travelling and settled communities in Ireland appear to have diverged at some point between 500 and 1,000 years ago, disproving the oft-repeated theories that Travellers first emerged as a group following the collapse of the old Gaelic order in the 17th century, or as a result of the Great Famine.

## UCD Professor elected President of the IEEE Microwave Theory & Techniques (MTT-S) Society



**Professor Tom Brazil has been elected President of the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S). The MTT-S promotes the advancement of microwave theory**

**and its applications. These include mobile phones, Wi-Fi, radio and radar.**

The MTT-S has more than 13,000 members and 190 chapters worldwide. It is the largest society dedicated to the promotion of radio frequency (RF) and microwave engineering. Improvements in modern technologies like

wireless internet and communication depend on research in these areas.

Professor Brazil, Chair of Electronic Engineering, UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, is also Head of UCD RF & Microwave Research Group and has served as Head of UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering from 2011 – 2015.

His research has received funding from the European Space Agency and Science Foundation Ireland. He is a reviewer/evaluator for the European Commission and has worked on science policy for the European Union.

He will become President of the MTT-S in 2018 and serve as President-elect in 2017. Professor Brazil was Secretary of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) from 2009 – 2013.



*Pictured at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between UCD and Devenish Nutrition were (l-r): Dr Owen Brennan, Chairman of Devenish Nutrition; Associate Professor Graeme Warren, Head of School, UCD School of Archaeology; UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks*

## UCD and Devenish Nutrition Research Partnership

**On 14 October UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks and UCD colleagues from UCD School of Archaeology, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science and UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science were present at Dowth Hall, within the Lands at Dowth, Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site, Co. Meath to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Dr Owen Brennan and representatives of Devenish Nutrition.**

The Lands at Dowth encompass more than 20% of the World Heritage Site's core area and have been the focus of innovative research by Dr Stephen Davis, UCD School of Archaeology and collaborators since 2012.

Using a range of non-invasive survey methods, the team have uncovered a wealth of previously unrecorded archaeological features, transforming our understanding of this previously little-researched part of the World Heritage Site.

Devenish Nutrition have provided support and funding for this ongoing research, with additional funding provided by the National Monuments Service and the Royal Irish Academy.

At the signing of the MOU, Dr Owen Brennan, Chairman of Devenish said "We are really pleased to formalise this significant and novel research partnership between Devenish and UCD. Scientific research underpins all our work in Devenish - from soil, right through to

society. Perhaps the 6,000 years of farming that is etched into the Dowth landscape is an implicit reminder that these are the timescales we need to envisage when we are developing solutions for the future of farming and human health. The emerging approach on these lands is perhaps best captured by the President of EAAP (European Federation of Animal Science) Philippe Chemineau, on a recent visit to Dowth, when he said "You are looking to understand the past, so that you can innovate for the future".

Professor Deeks commented that "The partnership between Devenish and UCD is of direct benefit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, as it not only acknowledges the importance of preserving this internationally important landscape here in Meath, but seeks to discover more about our ancient past and literally bring to the surface new knowledge regarding our ancestors and how they lived."



# UCD scientist cracks icy climate puzzle with fossils



**Professor Jennifer McElwain led a major study that explained how carbon dioxide levels linked with ice sheet changes in Earth's deep past. She spoke to Dr Claire O'Connell.**

If you were to get a sense of a person's life by looking at their photo album, examining several pictures across their life span would give you a better understanding than only seeing snapshots of them as a toddler or as an elderly person.

In a similar way, a major study, just published in the prestigious journal *Nature Geoscience*, has enhanced our understanding of climate during a 10-million-year 'frozen' period of Earth's history by capturing rich information about carbon dioxide levels at that time.

The project, led by UCD scientist Professor Jennifer McElwain, has helped to solve a puzzle that had flummoxed geologists and climate modelers about that 'freeze' on Earth 300 million years ago, and it also sounds a stark warning about changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide today.

## A mismatched puzzle

The puzzle at the centre of the project was a mismatch between the clues that geologists see in the ground from the late Palaeozoic period around 300 million years ago, and the amount of carbon dioxide that was thought to be in the atmosphere at that time.

"The geologists would go out into the field and map the extent of polar ice in the North and South poles during this period," explains paleobotanist Professor McElwain, Professor of Plant Paleobiology and Paleoecology, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science and a member of UCD Earth Institute.

"The geologists would document the waxing and waning of ice sheets, suggesting glacial and interglacial cycles. But on the other hand, modelers who look at carbon cycle models

estimated that levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere were about 200 parts per million in this period. At those levels, the ice sheets would stay stable, they would not wax and wane. So the two sets of information didn't match up."

## Converging results

To resolve this discord between the field data and the atmospheric carbon dioxide estimates, McElwain and colleagues sought to more finely map carbon dioxide levels over time using late Palaeozoic fossils from coal deposits in North America.

McElwain spent a summer at the University of California, Davis, working on the fossils with study co-lead Professor Isabel P. Montañez. The two scientists sought different types of clues about carbon dioxide: Professor Montañez analysed fossil soils and Professor McElwain analysed fossil leaf anatomy.

"We used two independent methods of estimating the atmospheric carbon dioxide over time, and where we saw consensus that gave us really robust evidence," says Professor McElwain.

By digging closely into the fossil record, the two scientists discovered that carbon dioxide waxed and waned in the atmosphere across 100,000-year time scales. "We worked on the raw data and we started to see this close convergence using both methods," recalls Professor McElwain. "It was so exciting."

## Clear resolution

Collaborators on the study, which was funded through the National Science Foundation and the European Research Council, then brought their expertise to bear in climate modeling, chemistry, ancient ecology and plant function.

Soon a picture emerged of peaks and troughs of carbon dioxide that coincided with glacial and interglacial periods, with sea-level rise and fall and with phases of plant growth and extinction.

"One of the ground-breaking things we did was to link the biological and the geological

results," says Professor McElwain. "Also this kind of resolution in the deep geological record is unheard of, and it means that the geology and climate modeling records now match and we can see the climate changed dynamically in this period."

The resulting paper made the cover of *Nature Geoscience* with an image by UCD Earth Institute artist-in-residence Siobhan McDonald, who photographed an ancient tree fern using a silver-gelatin-based technique.

"The reaction we have had to the study has been really positive so far," says Professor McElwain. "People are impressed that we got such high resolution in deep time, and it stands out because we used multiple proxies for carbon dioxide and ice level measurements."

The next step of the study will be to simulate interglacial and glacial periods from the late Palaeozoic in specialised growth chambers that Professor McElwain operates in UCD, and to see how plants respond.

## Stark warning

As well as bringing the Palaeozoic climate into clearer resolution, the UCD-led study also sounds a stark warning about the rate of change in atmospheric carbon dioxide we see today, notes Professor McElwain.

"We looked at the rate change of carbon dioxide levels in that change from the glacial to the interglacial periods in the Palaeozoic," she says. "We found that at minimum the rate of change we see on Earth today is at minimum 400 times faster and at maximum it is 2,000 times faster. So it paints a stark contrast between the relatively slow rate of carbon dioxide changes in that geological process 300 million years ago where the ice melted and species went extinct, and the much faster rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide now."

*Professor Jennifer McElwain was in conversation with Dr Claire O'Connell, science writer and contributor to The Irish Times and Silicon Republic*

Image details: Title: "Tree Fern, 300 million year, high oxygen 25%." Silver Print, Photogenic Drawing: Images made re-enacting old 18th century photographic processes. Materials: Salt, silver nitrate, tree ferns (*Cyathea australis*) and light on antique paper. Dimensions variable. The tree fern leaves were grown in simulated Carboniferous glacial atmospheres of 400 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> and 24% O<sub>2</sub>. Artist and copyright holder ©Siobhan McDonald, Ireland. Photographer: Vincent Hoban, University College Dublin



*Pictured at UCD College of Business Strategy launch were (l-r): Micaeal Connery, full-time MBA student; Niall FitzGerald KBE, Chairman UCD Smurfit School; Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, College Principal and Dean, UCD College of Business*

## UCD College of Business Strategy Launch

**On 6 October UCD College of Business launched a new strategy and investment programme to achieve Top 50 Global status within five years.**

UCD College of Business comprises: UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School; UCD Lochlann Quinn School; Smurfit Executive Education; and UCD Business International operating in Singapore, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka.

The strategy unveiled has four key pillars – the commitment to research, innovation and impact on business and society focused in particular on strategically important business sectors for Ireland, namely digital business and financial services; the development of a transformational learning environment; further deepening of mutually beneficial partnerships with leading corporates and other organisations; and ensuring graduates are aware of their broader responsibilities in not only contributing to business but also to society by acting with integrity at all times.

The advisory board of UCD College of Business, Chaired by Niall FitzGerald KBE, has sanctioned the investment of additional €65 million over the next five years to support the achievement of this aim.

The €65 million incremental investment committed to in this five year programme will include: a focus on world class expertise by adding to existing faculty of international standing already at UCD College of Business; implementing The Future of Learning Project with the creation of a learning environment on par with global leaders with new buildings and the development of a world-class Executive Education facility; and creating leaders of the future by attracting the very best students from Ireland and overseas with new scholarships.

This €65m will be fully funded from non-exchequer sources through a mix of operating surplus, income from overseas operations, sponsorships and gifts.

Speaking at the announcement, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean, UCD College of Business said: “UCD Business has, over many years, been relentless in becoming an exemplar in the provision of business education in Ireland. While much has been achieved in consistently attaining Top 100 status out of some 16,000 business schools internationally there has always been a desire to do better and be among the Top 50 business schools internationally. Our students compete with the best in the world – and so must we.”

## UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

On 21 November the first seminar in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) seminar series in UCD took place. This event highlighted the work undertaken in this area by the University community. The Minister for Social Protection, Leo Varadkar TD, gave the first seminar on the topic of Equality and Human Rights to an audience of over 200 UCD employees and students. Minister Varadkar spoke about the freedom to make choices in one’s life without unreasonable barriers being put in place, and the removal of barriers being the ultimate goal. He referred to the various European conventions and their impact on Human Rights, and the recent political changes internationally. He also said that we shouldn’t be afraid to engage with people as that is the “only way that hearts will soften and views will change” and quoted a line from the poem *Protest* by Ella Wheeler Wilcox “To sin by silence, when they should protest, makes cowards of men”.

During this event UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks launched the first UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report which reflects on the range of EDI related activities that have taken place over the past year, and outlines the ambitious priorities for the coming year. He spoke about UCD as a leading global



*Pictured at the launch of the UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion annual report were (l-r): Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President and Leo Varadkar, TD, Minister for Social Protection*

University that is becoming increasingly diverse and the many benefits this brings. He emphasised the importance of mainstreaming where every member of our community has a stake in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. A copy of this report can be found on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion website: [www.ucd.ie/equality/newsandevents/](http://www.ucd.ie/equality/newsandevents/)



*Pictured at the appointment of the McCann FitzGerald Chair of International Law and Business were (l-r): Professor Colin Scott, College Principal, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law; Sarah Begley, Director of Human Resources & People Development, McCann FitzGerald; Barry Devereux, Managing Partner, McCann FitzGerald; Professor James Devenney, McCann FitzGerald Chair of International Law and Business; Professor Imelda Maher, UCD Sutherland School of Law; and Professor Joe McMahon, Head of School, UCD Sutherland School of Law*

## McCann FitzGerald Chair of International Law and Business appointed

**Professor James Devenney has been appointed to the McCann FitzGerald Chair of International Law and Business, replacing outgoing Chair Professor John Flood.**

In his new position, Professor Devenney will oversee a Master’s Degree in International Law and Business. The programme, established in 2014, offers a specialised and innovative degree for students who have successfully completed an undergraduate degree in law, business or related disciplines.

The prestigious course is being offered jointly by the UCD Sutherland School of Law and the UCD Smurfit Graduate School of Business. Professor Devenney will work with McCann FitzGerald to coordinate joint activities

which will benefit the School, its students and the wider business and legal communities.

Commenting on Professor Devenney’s appointment, Barry Devereux, Managing Partner, McCann FitzGerald said, “We are delighted to announce the appointment of Professor James Devenney as the McCann FitzGerald Chair in International Law and Business at UCD Sutherland School of Law. James is widely recognised as a world leading expert on Transactional Commercial Law and having him represent the firm in the legal educational world is something we are very proud of.”

He added: “We recognise that today’s generation is the future and we will strive to do all we can to support both the new Chair’s progress and also the students.”



# SHIFT WORK PUTS HEALTH AT RISK



**Most people feel out of sorts if their sleep or eating patterns are disrupted even occasionally. But for shift workers this is the norm and can have a detrimental impact on their health according to a new report authored by Dr Clare Corish,**

**Associate Professor in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science.**

An estimated 15% of the workforce on the island of Ireland works shifts and Dr Corish's 32-county study: *Managing Food on Shift Work*, was undertaken on behalf of *safe food* in conjunction with colleagues from the Dublin Institute of Technology and Ulster University. It looked at the impact of shift working on the eating habits and related lifestyle behaviours of 1,300 employees in three sectors - accommodation and food services, health and social care and manufacturing.

"Shift work results in people's routines being frequently and severely disrupted," says Dr Corish. "Skipping meals is common but this is compensated for by an increase in snacking. The problem with this substitution can be weight gain especially when combined with the poorer levels of physical activity that typically go with shift work. The other major problem is lack of sleep. Only a third of shift workers get adequate rest."

The report shows that the majority of shift workers do not meet healthy eating guidelines on fruit, vegetables, dairy and wholegrain consumption. However, when their diet was compared with the daily intake of the adult population as a whole, shift workers' dietary patterns were actually no worse. Where their erratic working hours had a more serious impact were on their levels of physical activity, smoking and alcohol consumption.

"Only 44% of shift workers met recommended weekly levels of physical activity and there were higher rates of smoking (30%) compared with general population rates (19.5%) in the Republic of Ireland," Dr Corish says. "The perceived effects of alcohol consumption were mixed, with both increased

and decreased consumption being reported. But of those who drink alcohol, a quarter reported 'high risk' drinking which means exceeding the recommended maximum weekly intake."

Age and gender also influence the dietary and lifestyle behaviours of shift workers. Young workers appear to suffer most with poor dietary, activity and sleeping patterns. Men are more likely to eat badly, be overweight and to have sleep problems while women are more likely to be high-risk drinkers.

The other major influencing factor is sector related. The health and social care and accommodation and food sectors come off worst with erratic and unreliable break times, uncertainty around finishing times and poor facilities to store food or prepare meals while at work. By contrast, those in the manufacturing sector benefited from better structured work patterns, regular breaks, more clearly defined workloads and better facilities.

"There are both intrinsic and extrinsic factors at play when it comes to how well individuals cope with shift work," Dr Corish says. "By intrinsic we mean a person's resilience and their motivation to change. By extrinsic we mean factors such as work schedules and the absence in the workplace of a canteen serving healthy eating options but the presence of vending machines offering only high fat and high sugar content snacks.

"What we hope people will take from the report is that they as individuals must take responsibility for their own wellbeing by getting organised and bringing healthy food to work and having healthy meals when they get home. Physical activity needs to be included not least

because it improves sleep, so a walk or a run before going to bed is a good idea," she says.

"Then at an organisational level employers have a responsibility to provide the structures, supports, facilities and breaks that people need," Dr Corish adds. "For example, encouraging regular meal patterns by providing somewhere to buy or prepare healthy eating options. A small fridge and somewhere to heat up a meal can make a big difference. Thirdly, there is the issue around how shift work is structured. For example introducing a more natural rotation where people move from morning to afternoon to night shifts instead of going from morning to night every few days. Ultimately it is in an organisation's interests to make these changes, as stressed employees are less productive and more likely to be sick and off work."

## Overview of reported health behaviours

### Accommodation and food services sectors

- 67% skip meals on work days
- 35% are smokers
- 28% are high-risk drinkers
- 51% get inadequate physical activity
- 60% get insufficient sleep
- 40% are overweight

### Health and Social Care

- 64% skip meals on work days
- 26% are smokers
- 24% are high-risk drinkers
- 60% get inadequate physical activity
- 67% get insufficient sleep
- 51% are overweight

### Manufacturing sector

- 54% skip meals on work days
- 30% are smokers
- 15% are high-risk drinkers
- 62% get inadequate physical activity
- 78% get insufficient sleep
- 64% are overweight

Source: *Managing food on shift work*, Dr Clare Corish, October 2016

*Dr Clare Corish was in conversation with Olive Keogh, a contributor to The Irish Times*



Pictured are: UCD Diploma in Military Medical Care (DipMMC) students and UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science (EMS) staff at the Kevin Barry window.

## Diploma in Military Medical Care at UCD

**The UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science (EMS) welcomed its first cohort of Defence Forces students to the UCD Diploma in Military Medical Care (DipMMC) in September. Graduates will have an enhanced skillset in their role as Combat Medical Technicians, both at home and on overseas deployment.**

In 1934, UCD graduates funded the Kevin Barry window in Earlsfort Terrace, to commemorate the first year medical student who was executed during Ireland's War of Independence. The Richard King designed artwork from the Harry Clarke Studio, illustrates key episodes from Ireland's military history and includes one panel with the badge of the National Army, symbolised by the letters

'FF', now used as the Defence Forces logo. The window has since been moved to the UCD Belfield campus and is housed in the UCD Charles Institute of Dermatology.

Pictured at the Kevin Barry window bearing the Defence Forces logo (FF) are the DipMMC class and Centre for EMS staff (l-r) – Ms Helen Tobin, Ms Jacintha Vallely and Dr Niall Conroy.

## MSc in International Management ranked 22nd by FT global ranking

**In September UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School's full-time MSc in International Management was ranked 22nd in the world, according to the prestigious 2016 FinancialTimes global Masters in Management ranking (MiM).**

The MiM rankings analyse a number of criteria including: school diversity, career progress, international experience and research. With regards to school diversity, 48% of the 2015/16 class were female while 91% of the class were from overseas, positioning the school in the Top 10 for international students.

Other courses recognised for excellence by the FT include the MSc in Finance ranked at 34th, the Smurfit Executive Education Open Enrolment programme at 69th, the Smurfit full-time MBA is 79th with the Executive part-time MBA placed 89th.

Commenting on the ranking, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean, UCD College of Business said: "The FT ranking announcement clearly demonstrates that the teaching and research of our faculty rank among the very best internationally. The reputation of UCD Smurfit School continues to grow internationally and the fact that this course is recognised as 5th in the world for international mobility, indicates that UCD Smurfit School's graduates are in demand not just in Ireland but around the world."

## UCD hosts 10th International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment of Food

**LCAFood 2016, a bi-annual international conference on the Life Cycle Assessment of Food was hosted at UCD from 19–21 October by Professor Nick Holden, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering, with the support of UCD Institute of Food and Health.**

The conference was attended by over 300 delegates from all over the world. The theme of the 2016 conference was 'Putting LCA into practice', which was addressed by 11 keynotes and 20 parallel sessions that focused on the science, social science and application of LCA to food systems including production, processing, retail and consumption.

The conference was opened by Professor Orla Feely, Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact, who highlighted the importance of the agri-food sector in Ireland

and the alignment of the conference themes with the research and teaching mission of UCD. Professor Imke de Boer, Professor of Animal Production Systems, Wageningen University and Research, reflected on the changes in LCA Food since the first workshops organised over 20 years ago, noting the transition from how to do LCA towards applying LCA to find sustainable, healthy and secure food and nutrition systems. The opening session was followed by three keynote speakers: Padraig Brennan, Bord Bia, who presented on Origin Green and the use of LCA for continuous improvement of Irish food businesses; Urs Schenker, Nestle, Switzerland, who provided an overview on the LCA tools used by Nestle for new product design; and Dr John Ingram, University of Oxford, who presented the findings of the recent UNEP Sustainable Food Systems report.

## ■ Bonn Uan Uladh 2016

Ceapadh Úna Ní Fhaircheallaigh (1874-1951), nó 'uan uladh', an t-ainm cleite a d'úsáid sí agus í i mbun pinn, ina Léachtóir le Nua-Ghaeilge in Ollscoil na hÉireann sa bhliain 1909. Ceapadh ina dhiaidh sin mar Ollamh le Filíocht na Nua-Ghaeilge í sa bhliain 1932. Dob fhéidir a mheas go raibh sí ar an mbean ba phoiblí agus ba thábhachtaí i gConradh na Gaeilge lena linn. Ba bhall gníomhach í den *Irish Federation of University Women Graduates*, bhí sí i measc na ndaoine a d'oirbhig go dian ar son an chomhoideachais ar leibhéal na hollscoile agus is a bhuíochas uirthi, leis, a cuireadh comórtas camógaíochta idir-ollscoile ar bun arb é Corn Ashbourne a dhuais.

Bronntar Bonn Uan Uladh, bonn bliantúil ar an saothar cruthaitheach is fearr (filíocht, gearscéal, léirmheas, aiste) ó bhliain na céime, i ndisciplín na Nua-Ghaeilge. Stiofán Ó Briain a bhuaigh bonn na bliana seo as feabhas a chuid aistí. Cuid thaitneamhach den cheiliúradh i ndeireadh na bliana acadúla is ea bronnadh an bhoinn seo, agus tugann sé deis don fhoireann agus do mhic léinn araon an chuid seo de thraidisiún na Nua-Ghaeilge san ollscoil a thabhairt chun cuimhne.



An Comhollamh Meidhbhín Ní Úrdail, UCD Ceann na Nua-Ghaeilge; Stiofán Ó Briain, buaiteoir 'Bonn Uan Uladh 2016'; agus An Comhollamh Regina Uí Chollatáin, UCD Ceann Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh agus an Bhéaloidis

## ■ UCD hosts first European PEER Conference

**The first European PEER (Participation, Experiences and Empowerment for Roma and Traveller Youth) conference, promoting capacity building and participatory opportunities, was hosted by UCD in November. It was organised by UCD School of Education in partnership with Universitatis Babeş Bolyai, Romania and was funded through an EU JUST 2013 Action Grant. The PEER Project is an action-based research project, carried out across 9 European countries with the aim of promoting participation, empowerment and experiences for Roma and Traveller youth.**

The three-day conference was held in UCD O'Brien Centre for Science and UCD School of Education. International delegates attending the conference included academics, teachers, social and community workers from Traveller and Roma groups, with children and young people from Roma and Traveller communities

who participated in the project. This was the first time that many of these children and young people had been abroad and it was a significant achievement for them to travel overseas and feel confident to engage and speak publicly about their change initiatives as part of the PEER Project.

Professor Dymrna Devine, Head of School, UCD School of Education, welcomed the keynote speaker Dr Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children. In his address Dr Muldoon articulated the importance of children's rights and participation evident in the PEER project. He also met many of the children present on an informal basis and spoke to them at length about the steps they took to make change happen in their local communities. Activities at the conference included a synopsis and overview of projects undertaken in each country and the launch of a multimedia guide which can be used by people interested in promoting participation opportunities for Roma and Traveller Youth.



Dr Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children, with Mary Connors, St Thomas NS Jobstown; Sarah Jane Ward, St Thomas NS Jobstown; and Catriona Ward, Kishoge Community School, Jobstown, at the UCD hosted European PEER Conference

## ■ Cancer Week Ireland 2016

**Cancer affects one in three Irish people at some stage of their lives. More people are being diagnosed with cancer every year, yet more and more people are surviving and living with and beyond the disease.**

Cancer Week Ireland is a national initiative to get people talking about cancer and how we can prevent it, spot it, treat it, and survive and thrive afterwards. This year, UCD Conway Institute researchers were involved in three events on campus for Cancer Week Ireland 2016, which ran from the 17 – 21 October.

UCD Breast Health Day saw researchers joining forces with colleagues in Systems Biology Ireland, Breast-Predict and UCD Institute of Food & Health

as well as the UCD One Health student society and patient advocate group Europa Donna Ireland.

The Patient Voice in Cancer Research II welcomed cancer survivors and patient advocate groups to UCD Charles Institute for the second event in this series that aims to create a framework for patient and public involvement (PPI) in cancer research within the University.

While the concept of PPI is relatively new in Ireland, there has been a concerted effort over the past decade to imbed PPI within the research process in Northern Ireland. Participants heard the experiences of Ruth Boyd and Margaret Grayson from the Northern Ireland Cancer Research Consumer Forum (NICRCF), which is affiliated to the Northern Ireland Cancer Trials Network (NICTN).

Michael Howard and Carol Naylor from Macmillan Cancer Support spoke about their roles within this charity that provides professional and peer support to an online community of one million people, making it Europe's largest peer support community.

The Breast-Predict Cancer Week Symposium began with invited research seminars from guest speakers, Professor Robert Coleman, University of Sheffield; Professor Anne-Lise Borresen-Dale, Oslo University Hospital; and Dr Pernette Vershure, University of Amsterdam. The symposium continued with graduate presentations by students affiliated to this Irish Cancer Society Collaborative Cancer Research Centre.



*Pictured: Professor Kevin O'Connor, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science and the UCD Earth Institute, recipient of the NovaUCD 2016 Innovation Award*

## ■ NovaUCD 2016 Innovation Award

**Professor Kevin O'Connor, a leading green technologies researcher and innovator, has been presented with the NovaUCD 2016 Innovation Award.**

The Award was presented to Professor O'Connor, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science and the UCD Earth Institute, by UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks during an event held at NovaUCD, the Centre for New Ventures and Entrepreneurs.

The Award was presented to Professor O'Connor in recognition of the quality and impact of his peer-reviewed research, his technological developments for the production of bio-based products as well as his industrial collaboration and successes in the commercialisation of the

intellectual property arising from his research since joining UCD in 1999.

Professor O'Connor, who has already secured over €16 million in research funding, is the lead principal investigator in the UCD Biocatalysis Group. This group is focused on the synthesis of bio-degradable polymers as well as small bioactive molecules. The group also investigates the ability of bacteria, and their enzymes, to convert waste or inexpensive starting materials into value added products.

His research output to date includes the publication of over 85 international peer review articles and 150 international conference papers. His intellectual property portfolio currently consists of 11 invention disclosures; the filing of 9 priority patent applications and 6 licence agreements.

Professor O'Connor is also the co-founder and CEO of Bioplastech, a UCD spin-out company, which currently employs a staff of 7. The company uses a patented manufacturing technology process to convert waste materials into high value-added, environmentally friendly (i.e. biodegradable) polymers.

## ■ UCD Confucius Institute 10th Anniversary

**The UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland's 10th anniversary was officially launched on 24 September. The joint performance of the Renmin University Chamber Ensemble and UCD Symphony Orchestra was a fitting launch to the anniversary celebrations.**

His Excellency Dr Yue Xiaoyong, Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, Professor Jin Nuo, Chairperson of Renmin University Council, Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President and 500 guests attended the event. Director General of Hanban (Confucius Institute headquarters), Madam Xu Lin's letter of congratulations was read at the beginning of the concert.

The official launch of *Doing Business with China: The Irish Advantage and Challenge* was held on 27 September in UCD O'Brien Centre for Science. Professor Liming Wang, Director of UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland and one of the authors of the book, hosted the launch and spoke of the background of the book. Micheál Martin TD, leader of Fianna Fáil officially launched the book and delivered a keynote speech at the event.

On 28 September approximately 100 local teachers from Irish secondary schools and universities attended the launch of the Irish Secondary School Transition Year Chinese Language and Culture Teaching Upgraded Resource Package as well as the Irish

Association of Chinese Teaching Annual Conference, co-hosted by UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland and the Irish Association of Chinese Teaching.

The UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland hosted a number of other events during the anniversary celebration week including a Chinese quyi arts history lecture, a performance of Chinese traditional quyi arts, a showcase of Chinese cooking and a Chinese calligraphy and painting workshop.



*Pictured at the book launch were (l-r): Professor Liming Wang, Director of UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland; and Micheál Martin TD, leader of Fianna Fáil*

## ■ UCD Restart a Heart Day

**Cardiac arrest victims currently have a low survival rate in Ireland. One of the reasons for this is a lack of public awareness regarding how to help these people. Giving adequate chest compressions, accessing a defibrillator and calling the emergency services quickly gives these patients the best chance of survival. Many of the vital skills needed to save a life in such a circumstance can be initiated by members of the public.**

The UCD Restart a Heart Day, held in the Astra Hall on 13 October, aimed to train as many staff and students as possible in some of the basic life-saving skills involved in resuscitating a person in cardiac arrest. Attendees were coached in the recognition of cardiac arrest, how to provide chest compressions and how to access a defibrillator and mobilise the ambulance services.

The event was a great success, with 535 people trained over the course of nine hours, in one hour sessions. A number of UCD departments were involved in planning and running the training sessions, including UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science, UCD Student Health Services, UCD HR - Culture and Engagement, UCD Students' Union, Healthy UCD and UCD Media Services. There was also significant input on the day from UCD partners in the National Ambulance Service, the Defence Forces and Community First Responders Ireland.

Having so many people across campus trained in basic resuscitation techniques gives UCD faculty, staff and students the best chance of saving a life if these skills are ever required. Restart a Heart Day was part of a Europe-wide initiative. It is planned to make this an annual event.

# Childhood obesity-

## a societal problem we all must solve



Dr Mirjam Heinen

**There is, as recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), a global obesity epidemic. While much research focuses on adults, it is vital that childhood obesity be a research priority because there are severe**

**consequences: an overweight or obese child has as high as an 80% chance of becoming an obese adult says UCD's Dr Mirjam Heinen.**

Dr Heinen is a Lecturer and Assistant Professor at the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science and lead author of a new report from the Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) looking at the risk factors contributing to childhood obesity in Ireland where one in four children are either overweight or obese.

This report – commissioned by the HSE and undertaken by the UCD-based National Nutrition Surveillance Centre (NNSC) – looks at two waves of family questionnaires distributed to the parents of children in first class (7-year-olds) and third class (9-year-olds) in 2010 and 2012. These questionnaires shed light on the various contributing factors to childhood obesity, looking at everything from consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables to the number of hours spent watching television.

One important aspect of the questionnaires was to look at environmental factors relating to children in DEIS<sup>1</sup> designated schools (primarily located in disadvantaged communities) in comparison to other primary schools in the country. It was found that children in third class who attended a DEIS school were less likely to eat fresh fruit daily (45.5%) compared to those in others schools (61.1%). Similarly, they were less likely to eat vegetables on a daily basis (41.6%) compared to students in other schools (56.2%).

However, children from DEIS schools are more active in certain ways says Dr Heinen: "They played outside for longer compared to students who attended other schools. They also, rely less on cars or other motorised vehicles to get to school so there is more walking or cycling."

On the downside, says Dr Heinen, children from DEIS schools watch significantly more

television daily: "The problem with this is that, according to a meta-analysis in 2014, sedentary behaviour and physical activity seem to contribute separately to obesity risk."

This emerging research on the risk factors associated with childhood obesity is important because the general public can often oversimplify the reasons why people become obese, boiling it down to individual factors alone and assuming that if all overweight people simply decided to eat less and move more it would solve the problem.

"The world we are living in today is complicated; it is not only individual choices that lead to obesity, there are so many components and the whole environment plays a role," says Dr Heinen.

"For example, if you want your child to cycle to school but the roads are not safe, what can you do about it? Or the fact that secondary school children are permitted to leave school premises during break times: if there are only convenience stores and fast food places nearby this is where they will go to grab a bite."

This, explains Dr Heinen, is difficult to control because the human body is built to respond to the sights and smells of fatty and sugary food; it literally draws you in: "It is not as simple as saying 'no' to yourself [when tempted by unhealthy foods or unhealthy amounts of food]," she adds.

There are also cultural and family factors as well as a psychological component: if you are already slightly overweight you might eat more because of external pressures causing stress which in turn leads to overeating.

"The factors surrounding obesity are complicated and what I really want to underline is the fact that obesity is not only an individual problem," says Dr Heinen.

"It is a societal problem and we all should do something about it including the food industry and the government. What we have seen from the questionnaire is that a lot of people think they are doing a good job but they just don't know what healthy food is and food labels can be very misleading.

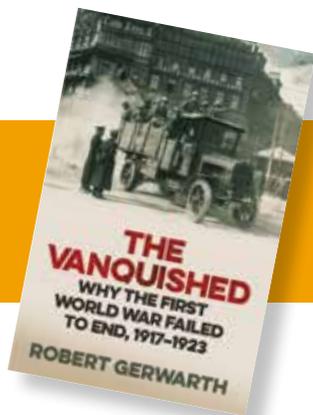
"Sometimes parents think they are doing right by their children but they don't always know what food is best. If a label says lower fat you have to ask 'by how much lower?' or if there is more sugar in the food as a result. That is why nutritional education is so important in order to teach people and children about healthy foods."

The risk factors relating to childhood obesity give us food for thought: we are now living more sedentary lives than previous generations, supermarkets are stacked with foods containing unclear or misleading labels, children who want to cycle to school do not have safe cycle paths on which to do so and there is not an adequate level of nutritional education in schools. Armed with these insights from the latest COSI report, the message seems to be that knowledge is power and all strands of society are responsible when it comes to fighting childhood obesity.

*Dr Mirjam Heinen was in conversation with Marie Boran, a freelance science and technology writer*

<sup>1</sup> Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools, est. 2005

# Books



## The Vanquished – Why the First World War Failed to End, 1917-1923

Professor Robert Gerwarth, UCD School of History

Allen Lane

As Ernst Jünger had said in his 1922 book, *Der Kampf als Inneres Erlebnis*, “This War is not the end but the beginning of violence. It is the forge in which the world will be hammered into new borders and new communities”. Professor Gerwarth references this pertinent quote in the introduction of his latest book, *The Vanquished – Why the First World War Failed to End, 1917-1923*.

The armistice of 11 November 1918 signalled the end of fighting which had destroyed a generation. The day also marked a vindication of a terrible sacrifice with the total collapse of the Western Allies principal enemies: the German Empire, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire. But for much of the rest of Europe this was a day with no meaning, as a continuing series of conflicts engulfed country after country.

Between 1917 and 1923, more Europeans died in violent conflict than British, French and Americans combined during the First World War, as Europe experienced over thirty violent transfers of power – many accompanied by open civil war.

The Great War was not immediately followed by a period of peace. On the contrary, violent incidents were no rarity in what is often (but rather misleadingly) referred to as the ‘interwar’ years. Between 1917 and 1920 alone Europe experienced no fewer than 27 violent transfers of political power, many of them accompanied by latent or open civil wars.

Europe’s violent transition from world war to a chaotic ‘peace’ is the subject of this volume. Split into three distinct sections – Defeat, Revolution and Counter-Revolution, and Imperial Collapse, this book aims to reconstruct the experiences of people living in those countries that were on the losing side in the Great War.



## That's Maths – The Mathematical Magic in Everyday Life

Professor Peter Lynch, Professor Emeritus, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics

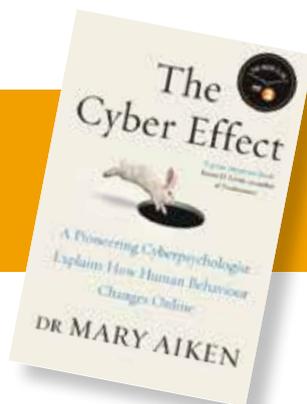
Gill Books

Professor Peter Lynch has been writing his “That’s Maths” column in *The Irish Times* for over four years now, with his 100th contribution being published in October of this year. He began the column as a way to “elucidate the beauty, utility and fun of mathematics by examining some of its many uses in modern society and to illustrate how it benefits our lives in so many ways”.

This book is a collection of articles covering all major aspects of mathematics. It is written for people who have a keen interest in science and mathematics but who may not have the technical knowledge required to study mathematical texts and journals. The articles are accessible to anyone who has studied mathematics at secondary school.

*That's Maths - The Mathematical Magic in Everyday Life* is modular in format, a collection of over 100 articles including pieces that have appeared in *The Irish Times*, blog posts from the author’s *thatsmaths.com* website and a number of new articles. Each article can be read as a self-contained unit.

As Professor Lynch says in the introduction to the collection it is regrettable that public attitudes to mathematics are predominantly unsympathetic. That the beauty of maths can be difficult to appreciate and that the significance of maths in our lives is often underestimated. With chapters on the beautiful equations behind designing a good concert venue, predicting the stock market and modelling the atom bomb, as well as playful meditations on everything from coin-stacking to cartography, the author demonstrates how mathematics is ubiquitous, vibrant and constantly evolving.



## The Cyber Effect

Dr Mary Aiken, Adjunct Professor, UCD Geary Institute

John Murray

Dr Aiken is an expert on human behaviour in the cyber realm and presents a study of the impact of emerging technology on our behaviour. Drawing on a fascinating and mind-boggling

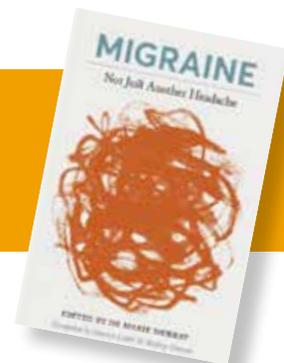
range of research and her experience as a cyber psychologist, Dr Aiken has written a book that terrifies but also consoles by pointing a way forward so that our online experiences do not outstrip our common sense. The Internet is omnipresent, billions of people now ‘live’ online. We have evolved to manage our relationships face to face but we are still novices in cyber space.

In the 1990s behavioural psychologists said the Internet was a passing phenomenon. In the mid 2000s they said no-one would communicate through social media... 15 years later, we are all playing catch-up.

We live in a hyper connected world, an enormous challenge for parents. How do we keep children safe in their digital lives? Dr Aiken says we cannot stand idly by and watch the cyber experiment play out. The Internet has opened up the world to children, but also gives the world access to them. They are being catapulted into cyberspace before they are psychologically capable of making sense of it. Figuring out how to guide children is one of the biggest challenges for today’s society.

Dr Aiken also covers the near normalised phenomenon of online dating, the addictive and fatal extremes of gaming and even murders that are motivated by aspirations of fame.

All human behaviour is continuing to evolve, we act differently when we enter cyberspace. Behaviour changes, then slowly becomes the norm. This book doesn’t criticise technology, it sets out to achieve balance.



## Migraine – Not Just Another Headache

Editor Dr Marie Murray, former Director of Psychology, UCD Counselling Services

Currach Press

As the name of the book suggests, migraine is not ‘just a headache’. It is a severely debilitating, complex and disabling condition which affects over 500,000 people in Ireland.

This book is aimed at both the general public and health professionals and is written by foremost migraine professionals on the island of Ireland.

It is a book that guides the reader through all aspects of migraine that anyone who suffers from migraine, or lives with a sufferer, would wish people to know. Distinguished by its pain and unpredictability, this book shows how migraine can strike anywhere, anytime, holding the sufferer’s life to ransom because of its unpredictable nature.

Knowledge about migraine gives the sufferer the power to combat it. Knowledge is what this book provides through the combined expertise of clinicians and respected professionals across all aspects of migraine. Each chapter is written by a different professional and addresses a distinct aspect of migraine – from international developments and services available in Ireland to personal migraine experience, from migraine in children to the neurological perspective of migraine, from the minefield of medications for migraine to the multidisciplinary approach.



Joe Steve Ó Neachtain a thug Léacht Uí Chadhain 2016 agus a bhean Máirín, i dteannta An Comhollamh Meidhbhín Ní Úrdail agus An Comhollamh Regina Uí Chollatáin, UCD Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh agus an Bhéaloidis

## ■ Léacht Uí Chadhain 2016

Nuair a thosaigh Léacht Uí Chadhain sa bhliain 1980 anseo sa Choláiste Ollscoile mar chomórada deich mbliana ar bhás Mháirtín Uí Chadhain (1905-70), duine de mhórscribhneoirí comhaimseartha na Gaeilge, bhíséigceist: (i) gon-aithbheithneofaí litríocht na Nua-Ghaeilge trí chéile agus (ii) go ndíreofaí go háirithe ar shaol agus ar shaothar Uí Chadhain. Le blianta beaga anuas, is mó a dhírigh léachtaí na sraithe ar an gcéad chuspóir acu seo, ach ba í an dara cuspóir cúram léacht na bliana seo ar 6 Deireadh Fómhair. Is ag teacht le Zeitgeist níos leithne, b'fhéidir, atá sí seo. Cuimhnimis air go bhfuil aird an phobail (idir náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta) dírithe arís ar Mháirtín Ó Cadhain a bhuíochas ar Ollscoil Yale a d'fhoilsigh dhá aistriúchán Béarla ar Cré na Cille, mar atá *The Dirty Dust* le Alan Tittley (2015) agus *Graveyard Clay* le Liam Mac Con Iomaire agus Tim Robinson (2016). Ina léirmheas ar an dara aistriúchán acu seo (*Irish Times*, 9 Aibreán 2016), bhí an méid seo le rá ag an Ollamh Máirín Nic Eoin:

[T]he decision to commission two translations was a master stroke by Yale, as it avoids canonical status being attached to the first published English version and brings Cré na Cille to a worldwide readership in a manner that encourages ongoing engagement with the original text.

Cé fear a d'fhillfeadh ar an bhfear féin agus ar a shaothar ná cainteoir na bliana seo, Joe Steve Ó Neachtain, scríbhneoir cruthaitheach a thuigeann idir íogaire agus áilleacht focal — saoirseacht focal más maith leat — agus í sin óna pheann agus óna bhéal.

‘Ó Cadhain: an ag doras an bháis atá lorg a láimhe anois?’ teideal léacht Joe Steve, agus labhair sé sa chéad chuid ar a thaithí phearsanta ar údar Cré na Cille, ag breacadh amach an sórt comhludair agus an béaloideas saibhir a mhúnlaigh iad araon. Tá dúshlánacht iontuigthe sa teideal céanna, áfach, agus tháinig na tuairimí dúshlánacha i ndara cuid na cainte. I measc nithe eile, loirg Joe Steve go neamhbhalbh go seasfaí leis an nGaeilge sa Ghaeltacht ainneoin na n-éachtaí atá déanta ar a son lasmuigh di. Cic sa tóin, dar leis, a bhí ag teastáil ó phobal na Gaeltachta féin i dtaobh cheist na teanga, ach d'áitigh sé ina theannta san go bhfuil faillí á déanamh ag gluaiseacht na Gaeilge trí chéile ar thobar beo na Gaeilge labhartha nach féidir déanamh dá éagmais. Lón machnaimh, is fíor!

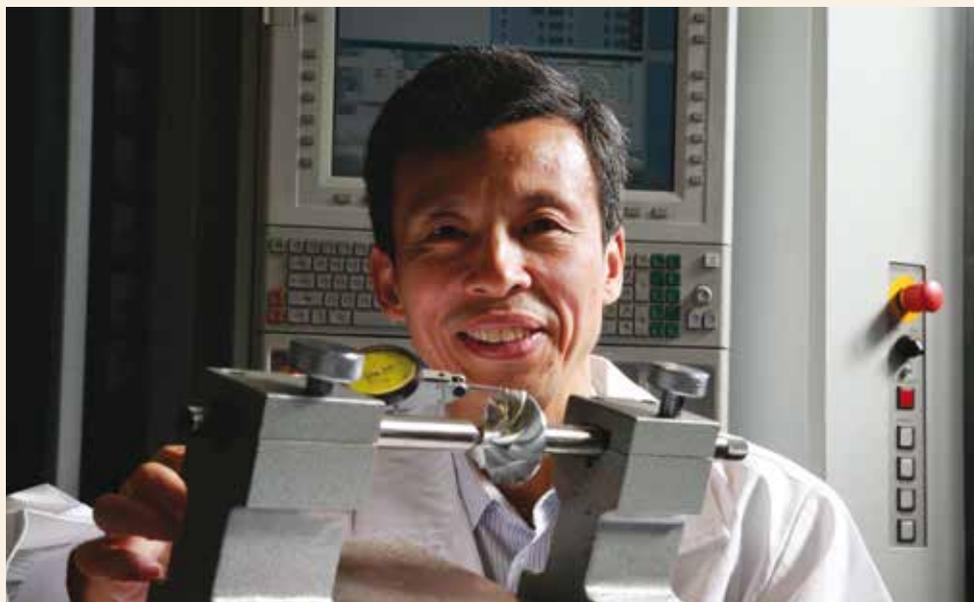
## ■ Signatories at the Olympia Theatre

Having received its world premiere at Kilmainham Gaol for the anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, *Signatories* returned to the stage in October, during the Dublin Theatre Festival, at the Olympia Theatre. Originally commissioned by UCD, writers Emma Donoghue, Thomas Kilroy, Hugo Hamilton, Frank McGuinness, Rachel Fehily, Éilís Ní Dhuibne, Marina Carr and Joseph O'Connor present the seven signatories of the Irish Proclamation, along with the interesting perspective of Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell, who delivered the surrender in the Easter Rising. The production was directed by Tony Award-winner Patrick Mason, and was delivered by some of the country's most outstanding actors.

Eilís O'Brien, UCD Director of Communication and Marketing said, "This additional run at the Olympia brought yet another nuance to the production, shining a light once again on these wonderful celebrated characters. It was interesting to see two new actors take the parts of Patrick Pearse and Hugo Hamilton's 'woman' – how their different interpretation of the parts drew the viewer in once more".



Pictured during the performance of *Signatories* at the Olympia Theatre was Roseanna Purcell as Min Ryan, performing the Sean MacDiarmada monologue by Eilís Ní Dhuibhne. Photo credit © Tom Lawlor



Pictured: Professor Fengzhou Fang at UCD Engineering and Materials Science Centre

## ■ World Expert in Advanced Manufacturing Technologies Joins UCD

**Professor Fengzhou Fang, a world renowned expert in advanced manufacturing research and innovation, has joined UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering.**

At UCD Professor Fang will lead a cutting edge research programme, through an investment of €6 million under the Science Foundation Ireland Research Professorship Programme, to increase Ireland's capability as a global centre for micro/nano manufacturing technologies.

Professor Fang's current research addresses ultra-precision machining of complex surfaces, at micro and nanometre scales and in soft and hard materials. These surfaces are used in the global, multi-trillion euro medical devices industry. His UCD research programme could lead to key technical breakthroughs to enhance the processing efficiencies in manufacturing such complex surfaces.

Professor Fang, regarded as one of the world's pioneers in developing nanomanufacturing, has an impressive track record of combining leading academic research with successful commercialisation of the resulting intellectual property.

He has written numerous highly-cited papers that are fundamental to the development of ultra-precision machining, micro/nano manufacturing and optical freeform manufacturing. He has successfully collaborated with industry partners on over 100 projects, holds more than 60 patents and has established two companies.

Professor Fang comes to UCD from Tianjin University (TJU), China. His appointment consolidates a recent Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between both universities which will see a strengthening of the collaboration between TJU's Centre of MicroNano Manufacturing Technologies and UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering.

The SFI Research Professorship Programme, in partnership with Irish universities, aims to attract outstanding research talent to Ireland. The recruitment of iconic scientists and engineers will build the national research base and enhance Ireland's international reputation as a centre of excellence for research.

## 50th anniversary of UCD Urban and Regional Planning

This year sees UCD Urban and Regional Planning celebrate its 50th anniversary. Established in 1966, UCD Urban and Regional Planning has a long legacy of excellence in education and research. This long legacy is imprinted on the development of the planning profession in Ireland and beyond, with the high-profile Masters in Regional and Urban Planning (MRUP) recognised today as a premier professional planning degree. To mark this milestone, the School has prepared a programme of events that are taking place over the course of this academic year themed as *Planning Futures*.

UCD Professor of Spatial Planning Zorica Nedovic-Budic officially opened the series on 20 October in UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy. The first event was themed Urban Design: from visions to reality. Guest contributors at this event were: Ali Madanipour, Professor of Urban Design, Newcastle University; Kevin Murray, Glasgow University and Kevin Murray and Associates; and Dick Gleeson, former Dublin City Chief Planner and urbanist.

The aim of the Planning Futures series is to celebrate UCD Urban and Regional Planning's contribution to the development of the profession in Ireland, to the subject of planning, and to stimulate debate about the role it can play in addressing future challenges in line with the Planning Futures theme. Further details on events in the Planning Future series are available here: <http://bit.ly/2fIK5we>



Pictured at the Agribusiness Awards were (l-r): Michael Berkery, Chairman, FBD; and Professor Alexander Evans, Dean, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science accepting the award for Leadership in Agricultural Education and Training

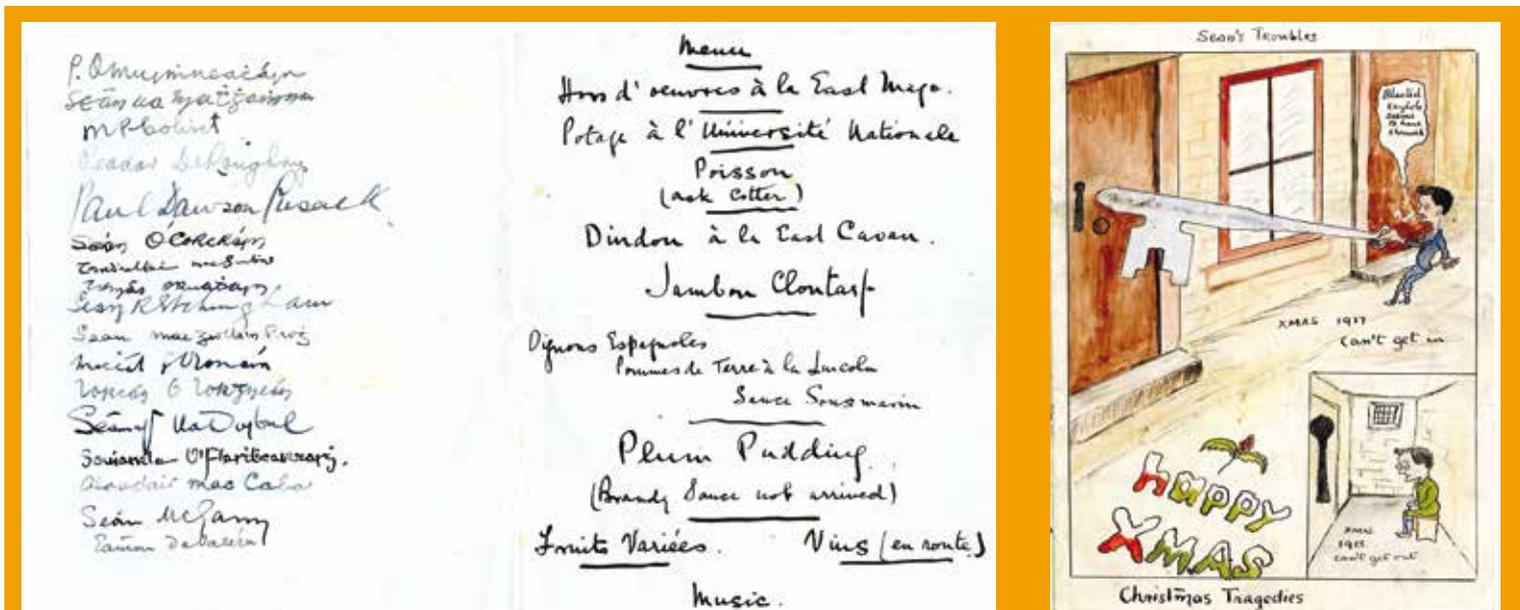
## UCD awarded for Excellence in Agricultural Education

**UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science received a major award recognising outstanding leadership in agricultural education and training at the 2016 Agribusiness Awards. The awards ceremony provides an important opportunity to celebrate the many achievements in agriculture and food and was attended by more than 200 distinguished figures from across the industry.**

Commenting on the award, Professor Alexander Evans, Dean, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science said, "I am delighted to collect this award on behalf of my colleagues at the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science. It is particularly gratifying to receive this award, from the agribusiness community, given that our programmes are designed to equip future leaders of this sector with the necessary

scientific, technical and business skills required to grow Ireland's global agri-food industry."

UCD is the only university in Ireland with a dedicated School of Agriculture and Food Science and the school is the first destination of choice for students in Ireland interested in developing their careers in the agri-food sector. The school is highly regarded both nationally and internationally.



Pictured (left) is Éamon de Valera's personal copy of a menu for Christmas Day 1918 from the 'Royal Hotel Lincoln' [Lincoln Jail] on blue prison paper, signed by De Valera and sixteen other prisoners. Two things are noted: 'Brandy Sauce not arrived' and 'Vins (en route)'. Pictured (right) is a coloured Christmas card depicting the Christmas tragedies 'Sean's Troubles'. Seán McGarry (IRB member) is shown with out-size key in hand with the captions 'Xmas 1917 can't get in' and 'Xmas 1918 can't get out'.

## From the UCD Archives: An Irish Revolutionaries' Christmas

The documentation of the Irish revolutionary period is wide and varied. Included amongst UCD Archives' unparalleled archival collections covering 1916-23, is a significant amount of material created by those who were imprisoned at various points during the period. Much of this material takes the form of letters and diaries but

also included are more ephemeral documents created in the prisons, by and for the prisoners. The files pictured concern De Valera's imprisonment in 1918 under the Defence of the Realm Act (1914) for his involvement in the 'German Plot': an alleged conspiracy between Sinn Féin and Germany to start an armed

insurrection in Ireland. De Valera escaped in February 1919 by copying the chaplain's key in wax during mass.

Papers of Éamon de Valera are reproduced by kind permission of UCD-OFM Partnership



*Pictured: Back row, left to right: Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President; Ian Quinn, John Horgan, Colm O'Rourke, Pat Kenny, Dr Dennis Jennings. Front row: Professor Eleanor Maguire, Dr Anne Merriman, Dr Aideen Hayden, H.E. Anne Anderson and Benjamin Cleary*

## UCD Alumni Awards 2016

**The third annual UCD Alumni Awards took place on 11 November at UCD O'Reilly Hall. An audience of almost 400 including UCD faculty, staff, alumni and friends of UCD celebrated the outstanding achievements of ten of our alumni at the awards ceremony.**

UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks presented this year's awards to ten of the University's notable graduates who have achieved excellence in their fields of expertise. This year's awardees have excelled in the arts, health, business, agriculture, sport, engineering, academic research and impact, social science and law.

**The 2016 Alumni Award recipients are:**

### **John Horgan - Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine**

Mr Horgan is Managing Director of the Kepak Group. He has been responsible for the driving the diversification and growth of the Kepak group from a traditional meat processing business into a consumer-focused food processor.

### **H.E. Ms Anne Anderson - Arts**

H.E. Anderson is currently the 17th Ambassador of Ireland to the United States. She has also served as Ambassador of Ireland to the UN, the European Union, France and Monaco. She is the first woman to hold each of these positions. She previously acted as Chair of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights from 1999 to 2000.

### **Martin Fraser - Business**

Martin Fraser is the current Secretary General to the Irish Government and Secretary General of the Department of the Taoiseach. Mr Fraser previously served as an Assistant Secretary in the department from 2007.

### **Ian Quinn - Engineering**

Mr Quinn is co-founder and Managing Director of Creganna Medical Devices and has also served as the company's CEO for the last 25 years. The firm currently employs 2,000 people across four continents and is ranked among the top three providers of minimally invasive medical device outsourcing solutions in the world.

### **Dr Anne Merriman - Health Sciences**

Dr Merriman is one of the leading hospice movement pioneers in the world and the undisputed leader of the hospice movement in Africa. In 2014, she was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. She received an MBE in 2002 for her contribution to health services in Uganda. In 2013, she was presented with the Irish Presidential Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her charitable works.

### **Benjamin Cleary - Law**

Mr Cleary is a writer and director. In 2015 he wrote, directed and edited his first short film 'Stutterer'. The film won an Academy Award in 2016 in the short film category. The film has won a number of other international awards.

### **Professor Eleanor Maguire - Research Innovation and Impact**

Professor Maguire is a neuroscientist and academic. She is Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at University College London. Her focus is primarily on memory. She was named as one of the 'Twenty Europeans who have changed our lives' and has won a number of awards for outstanding contributions to science.

### **Dr Dennis Jennings - Science**

Dr Jennings was instrumental in selecting the underlying technology and defining the architectural principles that established the foundation of today's global internet. He was UCD's first full-time Director of Computing Service from 1977 to 1999.

### **Dr Aideen Hayden - Social Sciences**

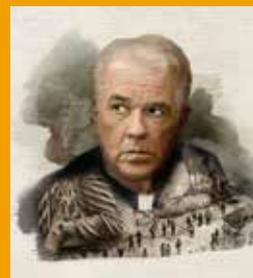
Dr Hayden has been the chairperson of the housing charity, Threshold, since 1999. She has made a significant contribution to enhancing legal protections and securing funding for housing matters over the last 30 years. She was appointed a Labour Senator in 2011. Her work has focused on policy solutions to mitigating the difficulties experienced by vulnerable groups in the housing market.

### **Colm O'Rourke - Sport**

Colm O'Rourke is an Irish retired sportsperson, columnist and analyst. He previously played Gaelic football for the Meath senior inter-county team with which he won two All-Ireland Senior Football Championship medals, in 1987 and 1988. He was also awarded three GAA All Star Awards.

## Inspirational UCD Alumni

Below are images of inspirational UCD alumni who were part of our recent campaign. Through the campaign the characteristics of integrity, excellence and creativity are demonstrated. These characteristics are integral to the DNA of UCD. For further details on the campaign visit: [www.ucd.ie/alumniawards](http://www.ucd.ie/alumniawards)



*Fr. Peter McVerry  
BSc 1969*

*Founder of Peter McVerry Trust for homelessness*



*Maeve O'Rourke  
BCL 2009*

*Justice for Magdalenes Campaigner*



*Brian O'Driscoll  
DipSMgmt 1999*

*World Rugby Icon*



*Maeve Binchy  
BA 1959*

*Bestselling Author*



*Dave Burke  
PhD Engineering  
2003*

*Google Vice President of Engineering*



*Rena Buckley  
BSc Physiotherapy  
2009*

*17-time All-Ireland Senior Champion*

## ■ Celebrating 178 years of Agricultural Education and Research



**Celebrating 178 years of Agricultural Education and Research:** UCD staff pictured at the Celebrating 178 years of Agricultural Education and Research at UCD exhibition at the Agricultural Science Association Banquet in September. The exhibition charts the roots of Agriculture at UCD, which extends beyond the foundation of the University itself, delving deeper into the 19th century to the establishment of the Albert Agricultural College in 1838. The Albert College, and later the Royal College of Science for Ireland, ploughed a furrow of higher agricultural education in Ireland that was followed by UCD with the establishment of the Faculty of Agriculture in 1926. Highlights of the exhibition also include the acquisition of UCD Lyons Estate in 1962, the transfer to Belfield and the subsequent development of new programmes in teaching and research into the 21st century

## ■ SiriusXT Secures €3 million in Horizon 2020 Funding

**SiriusXT, a spin-out from UCD School of Physics, has secured €3 million in the latest round of Horizon 2020 SME Instrument Phase 2 funding.**

The company was co-founded in 2015 by Dr Kenneth Fahy, Dr Fergal O'Reilly and Dr Paul Sheridan following 10 years of research developing technology that underpins a novel soft x-ray tomography (SXT) microscope, which is now being commercialised by SiriusXT.

This is the first, commercial, lab-scale SXT microscope of its kind in the world, allowing researchers to illuminate whole single cells or tissue samples and produce 3D images that cannot be produced in any other way.

The company plans to use this funding to take its technology from a current prototype to a first product with a pilot system being trialled by an early adopter in the UK in 2017.



Pictured (l-r) at the New York Benefit Dinner for the UCD College of Business were honorees Paul & Gary O'Donovan, Olympic silver medallists; and Marie O'Connor, Partner at PwC, with Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean, UCD College of Business

## ■ 14th Annual UCD College of Business New York Benefit Dinner

**On 19 October, over 220 UCD Alumni & friends of UCD gathered at the Metropolitan Club at Fifth Avenue in New York as the UCD College of Business formally acknowledged the 2016 New York Benefit Dinner Honorees at this important fundraising dinner. The event was attended by members of the College's Irish and North American Board Members along with senior professionals from the business, academic and alumni community.**

Marie O'Connor, Partner at PwC in Ireland was honoured for her achievements spanning her 30 year career. She was the first female partner of Craig Gardner/Price Waterhouse, admitted in 1986. Marie has specialised in audit and business advisory services to the financial services industry and has displayed unparalleled skills in bringing people together to further the interests of the investment funds industry in Ireland. She has also been a board member of the Ireland-U.S. Council for many years and leads the 30% Club of Ireland.

In June 2016, the Ireland-U.S. Council presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to Marie, to mark her notable and important achievements in building the business bonds between America and Ireland throughout her successful business career.

Cork brothers Paul and Gary O'Donovan were also honoured for their success at the Rio Olympics in August this year, where they won silver medals in the Men's Lightweight Double Sculls, and Ireland's first ever Olympic medals for

rowing. Paul and Gary began their rowing careers at the ages of just seven and eight years old and since then they have competed at Junior, U23 and Senior Level culminating in qualification for the Olympics in 2015 when they beat the Greek team to the all-important 11th place to secure qualification for Rio. Paul is a fourth-year UCD Physiotherapy student and an Ad Astra Athlete. Still in their early 20s, the brothers have ambitions to pursue gold at the Olympics in Tokyo in 2020.

An important event in the UCD College of Business's calendar each year, the New York Benefit Dinner raises much needed funds for the provision of scholarships to students from North America who wish to further their business education and gain international experience by studying at UCD.



Pictured with the 2016 UCD International Ladies GAA team were (l-r): Ollie Brogan, ESB International; Brian Mullins, UCD Director of Sport; Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President; and Gavin Leech, Bank of Ireland. Photo © Piaras Ó Midheach / SPORTSFILE

## UCD's International GAA team compete in the Asian Gaelic Games

The 21st Edition of the FEXCO Asian Gaelic Games took place in Shanghai in November.

Twelve international students travelled to Shanghai to represent the UCD International Ladies GAA team. The team comprised of players from six countries including Germany, Spain, the USA, the Philippines, the Netherlands and Vietnam.

Since 2014, over 150 international students have answered the call to train for a position on the UCD International Ladies' GAA Team. Most of the players have had no prior GAA experience

but have come together with great enthusiasm to learn the sport in the hopes of representing UCD at the tournament.

Director General of the GAA, Páraic Duffy commented: "The Asian Gaelic Games is a true reflection of the work and commitment of the Asian County Board and the participating players, managers and their support networks. I would like to extend my best wishes to all those involved in the 2016 edition".

## UCD Graduate Sport Scholarships 2016/2017

The recent presentation of Graduate Sport Scholarships for the 2016/2017 academic year honoured thirteen exceptional students across a range of Masters degree courses and sports. Dominic O'Keeffe, UCD Director of Student Services, acknowledged the contribution these students have already given as undergraduate students and hopes that now, as graduates they set examples, for both athletes and students to aspire to, and become leaders both on and off the field.

Brian Mullins, UCD Director of Sport, thanked the academic colleges and leaders present at the reception including Colm Small, Head of Admissions, UCD Smurfit School of Business; Dr Seamus Kelly, Director, UCD Centre for Sports Studies; Professor Dymphna Devine, Head of School, UCD School of Education; Professor Joe Carthy, College Principal and Dean, UCD College of Science; and Professor David FitzPatrick, College Principal and Dean, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture, without whose support this scholarship programme would not be possible.

The scholarships currently are available in Science, Sports Management, the UCD Smurfit School of Business and the Professional Masters in Education. The scholarship programme has doubled since its first year and continues to grow and develop to assist and support our talented sporting students to continue their education onto Masters level.



## UCD's Chloe Ryan claims Irish Intersvarsity Golf Championship

UCD's Chloe Ryan has won the women's title at the Irish Intersvarsity Championships held at Lahinch Golf Club in October. The final year Law student comfortably won the 2016 title with four shots to spare.

"I was feeling good the whole way 'round," said Ryan. "I had a few wobbles in the middle but I made up for it at the end."

Beginning the day with a one-shot lead, Ryan went on the attack and made birdies at the third and the seventh to open up a four-shot cushion at the turn.

"I think I got a little bit tired because I hadn't played a tournament in a month and a half. I was just trying to stay as relaxed as I could for the last few holes and happily it paid off," said Ryan, who held it together after running up bogeys at 12 and 16.

American Raychelle Santos, representing the University of Ulster, finished level with Maynooth's Mary Doyle on minus one. Santos took silver thanks to her final round 73, which bettered Doyle's closing effort by one shot.

UCD's Chloe Ryan is no stranger to success having won the R&A Foundation Scholars event back in April of this year.

## UCD U19's SSE Airtricity League Champions

UCD lifted the SSE Airtricity League U19 trophy with a 4-1 victory over Galway United at the UCD Bowl. Managed by former first team player Ian Ryan, and captained by Josh Collins, the young team were dominant from the start. This dominance paid off in the 18th minute as a move started and finished by Conor Crowley put UCD ahead.

Johnny Glynn's Galway took time to recover from the early set-back but almost drew level just past the half-hour.

Just after the break, UCD extended their lead as Josh Collins' ball found Robert Manley free on the left side of the area and he coolly converted.

Four minutes later, any hope of a Galway United comeback were extinguished with a moment of magic from Simon Power. He drove down the left and turned inside Mikey Whelan to rifle his shot into the top corner.

With 20 minutes remaining, UCD made sure of the win when Power was found on the left side of the area by Gareth Coughlan and he slid the ball home for his second of the game.

With many of the winning UCD side also members of UCD's Harding Cup and Collingwood Cup teams, this convincing win over Galway United will further spur them on in their aim to retain their previous year's titles.



## UCD wins Intervarsity Bioblitz 2016

On 29 and 30 September UCD employees and students took part in their first Intervarsity Bioblitz and won. The Bioblitz is a competition organised by the National Biodiversity Data Centre and An Taisce as part of the Green Campus Programme of which UCD is a participant.

The Intervarsity Bioblitz is a competition held annually between third level campuses designed to be a fun way to both raise biological awareness and to map the diversity of biological species in each campus. Teams from each third level institution had 24 hours to locate and identify as many native, naturalised or feral species as possible.

This year, three Universities took part, UCD, UCC and NUI Maynooth. UCD came out on top with a very impressive 523 species identified over the period, ahead of Maynooth who came second with 385, and UCC with

233. This highlights both the hard work, knowledge and commitment of the UCD team, as well as the wonderful natural resources that are to be enjoyed on the Belfield Campus. Highlights from the day include the sighting of over 40 different bird species, a newt near the "secret" lake as well as two different fish species.

The Green Campus Committee are involved in a number of projects in different areas, including waste, biodiversity and energy. For more information or to become involved, please contact: greencampus@ucd.ie



Pictured are: three of the 523 species located and identified at UCD during the 2016 Intervarsity Bioblitz



Dearbhla Lenehan, UCD PhD student

## 2016 UCD Conway Festival winner

UCD PhD student, Dearbhla Lenehan was announced as the 2016 UCD Conway Festival gold medal recipient for her research on the interactions between platelets and bacteria during the inflammatory response to bloodstream infections known as sepsis. This insight is vital to designing effective treatments to combat infections in future.

Escherichia coli (E.coli) is the most frequently isolated gram-negative organism in these infections. The bacteria can bind directly to platelets via lipopolysaccharide structures (LPS) found on their outer membrane. Dearbhla outlined the results of her research to provide a new insight into the mechanisms of direct E.coli platelet interactions that can cause life-threatening infections.

Dearbhla works under the supervision of Dr Jennifer Mitchell, UCD School of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science. Her results identified LPS regions vital for E.coli adhering to platelets as well as the receptors on platelets that recognise LPS and bind directly to it. Dearbhla explained how some antibiotic resistant, epidemic E.coli strains use LPS to conceal themselves from immune recognition, allowing them to survive and continue to cause infections.



Representing UCD Bord na Gaeilge at the European Language Label Awards 2016, were (l-r): Anraí Ó Braonáin, student UCD Bord na Gaeilge; Ashling Harteveid, Assistant Irish Language Officer; Professor Micheal Doherty, UCD Bord na Gaeilge Chairman; Clár Ní Bhuachalla, UCD Bord na Gaeilge Irish Language Officer; Frida Finnman-Ní Dholáin, Eoghan Mac Domhnaill and Dónal Ó Catháin, UCD students

## UCD first university to be awarded European Language Label for residence scheme

**Bronnadh an Séala Eorpach Teanga 2016 ar Bhord na Gaeilge UCD i dTeach Farmleigh ar an 30 Meán Fómhair. Is dá Scéim Cónaithe Gaeilge, Teach na Gaeilge UCD, a bronnadh an séala air. Bronntar an gradam seo ar thograí teanga ar fud an Aontas Eorpaigh a bhfuil nuálaíocht, misneach agus tiomantas léirithe iontu. Is é an Coimisiún Eorpach a thugann an t-aitheantas seo agus bíonn an séala á bhainistiú in Éirinn ag Léargas.**

Taithí saoil faoi leith atá i dTeach na Gaeilge, mion-Ghaeltacht na hOllscoile, áit a bhfuil 24 mac léinn scoláireachta curtha fúthu. Labhraíonn na mic léinn an Ghaeilge go laethúil agus cuireann siad chun cinn í trí ócáidí agus imeachtaí eagsúla a reáchtáil do phobal na hollscoile. D'aithin guiré idirnáisiúnta an tSéala go raibh structúr faoi leith forbartha ag Bord na Gaeilge a chinntigh éifeacht an tionscnaimh, go raibh na hacmhainní a chuirtear ar fáil ar ardchaidheán agus iad curtha in oiriúint do ríachtanais na mac léinn. Moladh tionscnamh

Theach na Gaeilge as an spreagadh a thugann sé do mhic léinn a gcuid scileanna ceannaireachta a fhorbairt agus moladh é mar eiseamláir dea-chleachtais a d'fhéadfaí a úsáid mar mhúnla do theangacha eile. Is mór an onóir é an gradam, ní hamháin d'fhoireann agus do mhic léinn na hollscoile, ach d'alumni an tí freisin, a chuir go mór le forbairt an tionscnaimh in imeacht na mblianta agus a thugann tacaíocht dó i gcónaí. Is mór ag Bord na Gaeilge tacaíocht leanúnach Oifig na nIonad Chónaithe UCD, Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh agus an Bhéaloideas UCD, Scoil na dTeangacha agus na gCultúr UCD agus Gaelchultúr Teoranta, sa tionscnamh seo freisin. Tá an scéim maoinithe ag an Údarás um Ard Oideachas.

UCD Bord na Gaeilge has been awarded the 2016 European Language Label for its Irish Language Student Residence Scheme. The European Language Label awards which are coordinated by the European Commission and managed in Ireland by Léargas recognise the application of creativity and innovation in improving the quality of language teaching and learning across a wide range of sectors and contexts. The UCD Bord na Gaeilge application was shortlisted by an international jury who visited its student residence scheme on campus during May 2016. The awards celebrate an openness to developing plurilingualism and embracing multiculturalism. It is envisaged that the award-winning projects will provide a source of inspiration and motivation for others teaching and learning languages. A video of the Bord na Gaeilge winning project can be viewed on: [www.ucd.ie/bnag/en](http://www.ucd.ie/bnag/en)