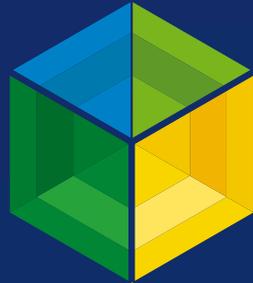


UCD

# today

WINTER 2019



**RISING  
TO THE  
FUTURE**  
UCD Strategy 2020-2024

11. Finding the Cure  
for Diabetic Kidney  
Disease

9. Augmented  
Reality Educational  
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## UCD: Rising to the Future



**EILIS O'BRIEN**  
Director of Communication and Marketing

**The new UCD Strategy for 2020-2024 *Rising to the Future* is on the one hand an evolution of the last strategy and on the other, an ambitious response to the unprecedented opportunities and challenges we face, locally, nationally and globally.**

In this edition of UCD Today, the architect of *Rising to the Future*, the President of UCD, Professor Andrew Deeks, shares his insights that led to the articulation of four strategic themes, the objectives that will determine the key performance indicators across the University and the six enablers that will facilitate those objectives.

"The world is now a very different place to that of five years ago," Professor Deeks refers not only to the economic austerity we endured but to the digital transformation that has swept society and the dawning realisation that our world cannot actually self-sustain without a global movement. These two factors form the basis of the first two themes set out in the strategy: 'Creating a Sustainable Global Society' and 'Transforming through Digital Technology'. The third, 'Building a healthy world' draws from UCD's position to be able to contribute to the One Health agenda. The fourth, 'Empowering humanity' is, in his view, the most important. "As more and more work is enhanced by digital technology, human skills become more important. We need to prepare the transferable skills of our graduates, the interpersonal and intrapersonal skills, leadership, teamwork, and the ability to work with people from different backgrounds and different cultures."

*Rising to the Future* will embed the four themes into the operation of the University. They will influence the teaching and learning experience of our students, and the research topics and methodologies undertaken by our faculty.

## UCD thanks...

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Cover image: UCD Rising to the Future

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# UCD Strategy 2020-2024: Rising to the Future



Launching the new UCD Strategy 2020-2024 *Rising to the Future* are (l-r) Prof Andrew Deeks, UCD President; Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, Minister of State for Higher Education; and Marie O'Connor, Chair of the UCD Governing Authority.

**Professor Andrew Deeks presented the strategy to the University at a meeting attended by the Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, Chair of the UCD Governing Authority, Marie O'Connor, members of the GA and UCD staff and faculty, as well as external stakeholders.**

*'Rising to the Future' sets out four strategic themes that will shape research, influence teaching and learning, and impact on the way the university behaves and functions as a community and as an institution.*

"The world is now a very different place to that of five years ago", said Professor Deeks, setting the scene for the new strategy. "The last strategy was about rebuilding out of an era of economic crisis. In today's world there is much more awareness of the fragility of the environment in which we live. About the need to think of sustainability, but also transformation. We are more aware of the impact of human activity on the environment in which we live. At the same time society is more connected than ever before. And as we engaged in the consultation for the strategy the themes emerged organically. The focus is very much long-term, hence the orientation of the strategy to 'Rise to the Future'".

The themes set out in the new strategy will enable UCD Rise to the Future in an age of unprecedented opportunity and challenge.

## **Theme 1. Creating a Sustainable Global Society**

As a matter of urgency, humanity must learn to live sustainably, without degrading our shared planet. Professor Deeks said: "This theme encourages thinking about sustainability in the biggest possible manner; beyond the campus, beyond Ireland, contributing globally through research, as well as embracing those principles in everything we do."

## **Theme 2. Transforming through Digital Technology**

The nature of work is already undergoing a revolution. Professor Deeks said: "Digital technology is changing the nature of many jobs. We need to recognise that this transformation goes through every discipline and indeed everything that we do as a university. Our graduates need to be equipped to make use of these technologies and to adapt to the changing working environment and the changing society that these technologies are going to create. We will also look at the interrelationship between technology and sustainability."

## **Theme 3. Building a Healthy World**

Professor Deeks said: "Although the UN sustainable development goals include health within their framework, we think that health needs to be looked at more broadly. We are living in an age where in developed countries, life expectancy is starting to fall due to life-style factors. UCD is very well-positioned to contribute to the One Health agenda: looking to the health of society rather than just the health of the individual."

UCD is the only Irish university which brings together human and animal health sciences, agriculture and food sciences, and environmental and social sciences.

## **Theme 4. Empowering Humanity**

Understanding what shapes human thinking and motivates behavioural change holds the key to successfully addressing the societal challenges represented in the first three strategic themes.

Professor Deeks said: "As more and more work is enhanced by digital technology, human skills become more important. We need to prepare the transferable skills of our graduates, the interpersonal and intrapersonal skills, leadership, teamwork, and the ability to work with people from different backgrounds and different cultures. This theme will be embedded within our community as well as influencing our research."

These four themes will be embraced in four core objectives and the University will have a set of key performance indicators and targets against which it will track its progress.

**Objective 1: Increase the quality, quantity and impact of our research, scholarship and innovation**

**Objective 2: Provide an inclusive education experience that defines international best practice and prepared our graduates to thrive in present and future societies.**

**Objective 3: Continue to build our engagement locally, nationally and internationally**

**Objective 4: Attract, retain and develop an excellent and diverse cohort of students, faculty and staff**

"The pursuit of our strategic themes and core objectives will be facilitated by six key enablers, which will provide the foundations for our success," explained the President. "Over the past five years we have developed plans of varying detail for the future of each of these enablers. During the next five years we will pursue, refine and extend these plans."

**Enabler 1. Recruit additional excellent faculty members**

Earlier this year UCD launched the Ad Astra Fellows programme. Aimed at bringing in an additional 500 new faculty over five years, the appointment of these early career academics will specifically support the strategic themes and directly improve the student faculty ratio. Currently this ratio stands at 20.7:1. The aim is to improve this towards the international norm of 16:1.

*Continued next page*

**Enabler 2. Increase our student population, enhancing quality and diversity**

UCD plans to increase student FTEs (full time equivalents) by 25% over the coming ten years to 32,000. The University will increase its current enrolment of Irish/EU undergraduate students (c. 4,000 per annum) in line with national demographic trends and increase both graduate and international numbers significantly.

**Enabler 3. Build world-class academic facilities and student amenities**

The overall capital development programme for the campus spans academic, amenity and residential projects. The core academic developments include the Centre for Creativity and Centre for Future Learning, which will comprise of 22,500 m2 in an iconic entrance plaza to the University, UCD Centre for Science Phase 3 and the Newman Building Redevelopment.

The University plans to increase the number of student residences on campus from 3,000 to 6,000 and include a village hub at Roebuck. Plans are also envisaged for the sports precinct and work on the new running track has already commenced.

**Enabler 4. Implement advanced systems and services**

The President said that UCD would develop a masterplan, mapping out the improvements to service structures and new IT systems needed to support the mission of the strategy. Much of the roadmap will be designed to ensure appropriate

digital systems are in place to simplify and reduce the need for staff times to be absorbed in routine tasks, releasing staff to provide higher-level support and assistance.

Intention to develop a masterplan for our systems and services, understanding that those systems and services will be transformed through digital technology

**Enabler 5. Develop our faculty and staff**

Professor Deeks said: "Every sector recognises that it needs to reskill, retrain and advance its workforce and the University is no different. As we transform our systems and services, we are going to have to transform our people. The emphasis will move away from the procedural, processing of information into the human interaction and skilling up of our people in terms of contributing at the higher level. This is about evolving our skill set and our people to deliver the new services and supports that are required in a society that is being transformed through the four themes outlined in the strategy."

**Enabler 6. Generate additional non-exchequer income**

The final enabler is to continue to generate additional non-exchequer income and by the end of the strategy period the University plans to be generating an extra €25 million each year.

"We have put in place much of the plans that will allow us to do this. This is an enabler of everything that we want to do," Professor Deeks said.

*"I hope that the whole UCD community will be excited by the potential that this strategy has to transform the experience for our students and for all members of our community as we work together to Rise to the Future for this University, and beyond for Ireland and for the world, by contributing to the creation of a sustainable global society, transforming through digital technology, building a healthy world, and most importantly, empowering humanity," concluded the President.*

Quoting Abraham Lincoln at the launch, Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor said: "The most reliable way to predict the future is to create it. And UCD is doing just that."

## University celebrates honorary degree recipients

During a week when the University conferred almost 3,500 undergraduate, masters and PhD degrees, three outstanding leaders were awarded honorary doctorates by the University.



Professor Brian Havel was awarded with a Degree of Doctor of Laws and is Full Professor and Director of the world-renowned Institute of Air and Space Law at McGill University Montreal. He is the first Irish person to hold the position in an Institute that is synonymous with academic excellence with an extraordinary reach and influence. He has held visiting positions and taught at the University of Oxford, Leiden University and Northwestern as well as having held positions with key international bodies including the World Economic Forum and the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The citation was delivered by Professor Imelda Maher, Dean and Head of UCD School of Law.



Joseph M Hassett was awarded a Degree of Doctor of Literature in recognition of his outstanding work as scholar, literary critic and champion of Irish writing who has fostered public initiatives that have safeguarded Irish culture, opened new audiences and readers for Irish literature, and enabled artists to flourish. Vivaldi for the future of Irish studies, he has donated a highly significant collection of Irish poetry from the 20th and 21st centuries to UCD Library Special Collections. These include a number of Yeats's first editions and also correspondence, works of literary criticism and a rich range of contemporary Irish poetry. The citation was delivered by Professor Margaret Kelleher, UCD School of English, Drama and Film.



Professor Thomas Sterner was awarded a Degree of Doctor of Science. He is Professor of Environmental Economics at the University of Gothenburg Sweden and an expert in the design of environmental policy instruments for climate and environmental policy. He has published over 100 articles in refereed journals such as Nature and Science, and more than 20 books and monographs. In addition to his academic achievements, Prof Sterner's Environmental Economics Unit at the University of Gothenburg is recognised for remarkable achievements in the creation of environmental economic capacity to aid development across five continents. The citation was delivered by Professor Peter Clinch, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy.

**These wise words from Joseph Hassett sum up the meaning of any graduation ceremony and its meaning for the new graduates:**

"UCD's founder Newman is justly known for his celebration of liberal education as an end in itself. But he also insisted that the education he proposed was 'of great secular utility'. This utilitarian Newman speaks directly to our times when he asserts that a liberal education constitutes 'the best and highest function of the intellect for social and political life...'. Newman's faith in the very existence of fact and truth is under constant challenge today. But he faced the same devaluing of fact and truth in his own time. That is what led him

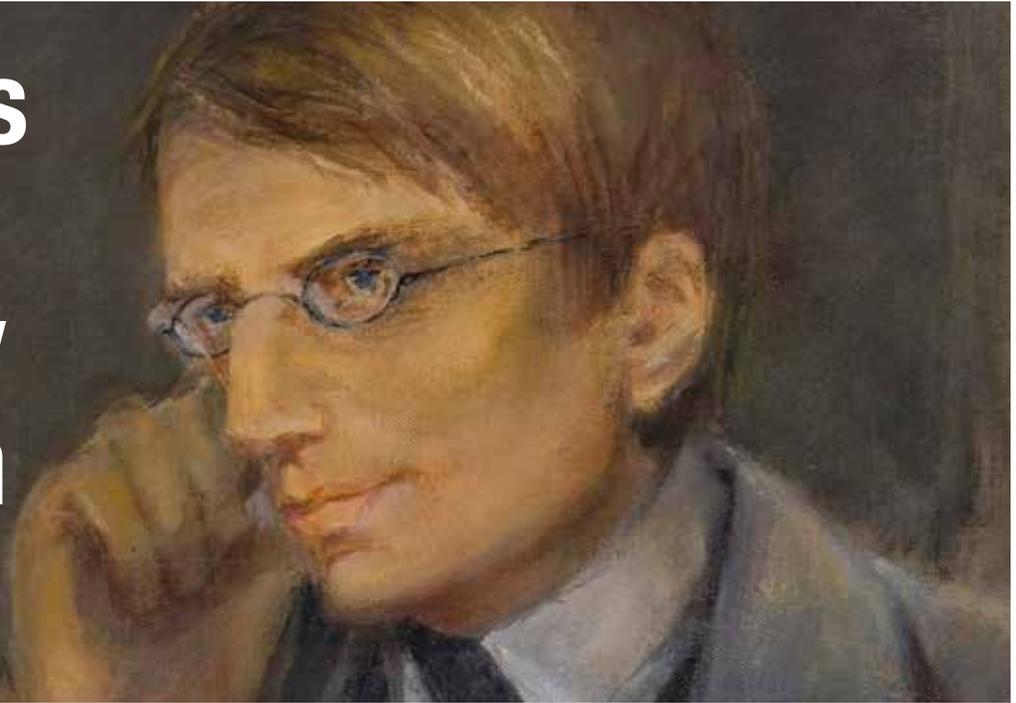
to esteem the hard work of acquiring knowledge. We see this in his lament that educated people were expected to have pre-packaged 'views' on any and every subject. 'It is 'almost a disgrace', he wrote, 'not to have a view at a moment's notice on any subject'. He could have been speaking of today's political discourse on television and social media.

Newman addressed the sterility and meanness of public discourse by calling for a university whose graduates never mistake

'personalities or sharp sayings for arguments', and who would observe the ancient maxim 'that we should ever conduct ourselves towards our enemy as if he were one day to be our friend'.

Respect for truth breeds respect for our fellow humans - and fosters common effort to solve common problems. That is why the university envisioned in Newman's idea is useful. UCD has delivered on Newman's promise. Its graduates have contributed greatly to social and political life everywhere."

# Newman's Vision for University Education



**Newman's contribution to the debate around university education and the central elements of *The Idea of a University* need to be set in context. Coming from Victorian England where admirers of the newer universities challenged the Oxonian education as "useless and unpragmatic", Newman articulated the value of a liberal education balanced with the utilitarian training required for the professions such as medicine, law, engineering, and agriculture. Undoubtedly he was a great writer and a persuasive speaker. His legacy, his philosophy of education, stretches well beyond England and Ireland.**

Historian and author of *The History of University College Dublin*, Donal McCartney writes: "Newman bequeathed a philosophy of university education that is as valid today as it was when first written and that may be profitably studied by administrators, academics and students alike. In that philosophy he provided a definition and a defence of liberal, as distinct from professional education and emphasised the significance of arts in the life of the university.

"Newman strove for a proper balance between utilitarian and liberal objectives. He not only sought to preserve what was best in the older university courses but was also eager to have his university respond to the needs and the developments and ever-widening field of knowledge of his own time."

Indeed, despite his liberal badge, Newman was a pragmatist who wrote: "If then a practical end must be assigned to a University course, I say it is that of training good members of society... It is the education which gives a man a clear, conscious view of their own opinions and judgements, a truth in developing them, an eloquence in expressing them, and a force in urging them. It teaches him to see things as they are, to go right to the point, to disentangle a skein of thought to detect what is sophistical and to discard what is irrelevant."

Newman was a visionary. In one of his best remembered passages he held forth a challenge and a prophecy for Ireland as well as for his university:

"I look towards a land both old and young; old in its Christianity, young in the promise of its future... I contemplate a people which has had a long night and will have an inevitable day. I am turning my eyes towards a hundred years to come, and I dimly see the island I am gazing on become the road of passage and union between two hemispheres, and the centre of the world..."

"The capital of that prosperous and hopeful land is situated in a beautiful bay and near a romantic region; and in it I see a flourishing University, which for a while had to struggle with fortune, but which, when its first founders and servants are dead and gone, had successes far exceeding their anxieties."

## The path to a secular university

Although Newman left Dublin in November 1858, it wasn't until 1861 that a new rector, Monsignor Bartholomew Woodlock was appointed. He served as rector until 1879. He attempted to bolster student numbers with evening (affiliated) students but the only successful faculty was the School of Medicine.

Years of political machinations eventually produced the University Education (Ireland) Bill (1879) brought in by Benjamin Disraeli and led to the establishment of the Royal University of Ireland in 1880. The Royal University was a non-teaching, degree awarding institution and students from any of the existing college could take its examinations. To avail of funding, the Catholic University was reorganised in 1882 and renamed University College.

Its management was transferred to the Jesuits in 1883 with William Delany SJ appointed President. The new century led to new efforts to reform the university system in Ireland and in 1908, under HH Asquith's Liberal Party Government, the Irish Universities Act elevated Queen's College Belfast to the status of a university, left Trinity College untouched, and created the National University of Ireland, consisting of three constituent college: the Queen's Colleges in Cork and Galway and a new college in Dublin formed around the existing University College and the School of Medicine – to be called University College Dublin.

They were to be undenominational: all religious tests would be debarred by law in the new universities and their colleges and no public money could be spent on building or maintaining a church or other place of religious observance or in providing any theological or religious teaching.

Women were to be "equally eligible with men" for all the privileges of the new universities. And so it was, after 54 years, that University House, now Newman House, would part ways with the Jesuit administration and become a fully secular institution as University College Dublin.

## The UCD Newman Centre: Past, Present and Future

The UCD International Centre for Newman Studies was founded in 2009 by Professor Emerita Teresa Iglesias, UCD School of Philosophy. The Centre was founded with the support of the Newman Foundation and with the aim of "revitalising the academic legacy of John Henry Newman to UCD, to the city of Dublin, and to Ireland as a whole".

In 2019, the UCD International Centre for Newman Studies was officially refounded as the UCD Newman Centre for the Study of Religions with Assistant Professor Daniel Deasy, UCD School of Philosophy, as Director.

Whilst the study of John Henry Newman's work and legacy remains at the heart of the refounded Newman Centre, the Centre now has the broader aim of supporting and encouraging intellectual engagement with matters of religion and faith at UCD, as well as investigating the role of religion and faith in Irish and global culture and society in a spirit of inclusivity towards different religious perspectives, values, and traditions.

In particular, the refounded Centre provides an interdisciplinary space for postgraduate and senior researchers across UCD to pursue research that engages with issues at the intersection of religion with politics, culture, science, and society.

The refounded Newman Centre is organised around three major funded research projects:

- Newman Studies, led by Professor Emerita Teresa Iglesias and supported by the Newman Foundation.
- Neoplatonism and Abrahamic Traditions (NeopIAT), led by Associate Professor Dragos Calma, UCD School of Philosophy
- Religion and Society, led by Professor Maeve Cooke, UCD School of Philosophy and Dr Daniel Deasy, UCD School of Philosophy.

*This article draws content from:*

*UCD A National Idea: The History of University College Dublin*, written by Donal McCartney and published by Gill & Macmillan, 1999

*The Idea of a University: The integral Text*, written by John Henry Newman, edited with a preface by Teresa Iglesias and published by UCD International Centre for Newman Studies and Ashfield Press, 2009

*Why Newman Went to Dublin: Teresa Iglesias*

*This article is an excerpt from a news story on UCD News and Opinion - [www.ucd.ie/newsandopinion/news/2019/october/10/newmansvisionofaliberaleducationtoday/](http://www.ucd.ie/newsandopinion/news/2019/october/10/newmansvisionofaliberaleducationtoday/), written by Ellis O'Brien, UCD Director of Communication and Marketing.*



Pictured are (l-r) David Gardiner, CeADAR UCD, Dr Ricardo Simon Carbajo CeADAR UCD, Dr Oisín Boydell CeADAR UCD, Dr Robert Ross CeADAR TU Dublin, Dr Deirdre Lillis CeADAR TU Dublin, Dr Edward McDonnell Director CeADAR, Dr David Lillis UCD School of Computer Science, Dr Susan McKeever CeADAR TU Dublin, Dr Mark Scanlon UCD Computer Science and Dr Chris Bleakley UCD School of Computer Science.

## Artificial Intelligence Innovation Hub CeADAR secures Funding of €12 million

**CeADAR, a market-focused Technology Centre working with industry to accelerate the development and deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI), data analytics and machine learning recently received funding of €12 million from Enterprise Ireland over five years.**

Based in UCD, in partnership with TU Dublin and supported by Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland, CeADAR is the only Irish centre among a network of 30 AI innovation hubs across Europe to be selected by the European Commission to collaborate on AI projects and to help create the foundation for future European policies on AI technology. The funding package approved by Enterprise Ireland will be matched by an additional industry contribution of almost €10 million with another €6 million expected to be won from other competitive funding sources.

The funding will enable CeADAR to expand its operations to meet the growing demand

from Irish industry and SMEs to implement AI technologies into their businesses to gain competitive advantage.

Since CeADAR was established in 2013, it has worked with over 80 member companies, completed 60 industry-focused projects and influenced more than 600 additional Irish-based companies to move towards implementing data analytics and AI as viable business tools. It has also developed almost 50 demonstrator prototypes which are highly valued by industry, leading to over 50 technology transfer licences signed with Irish industry.

Dr Edward McDonnell, Centre Director, CeADAR said: "I wish to acknowledge and thank Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland for their significant continued investment in CeADAR. The impact of the centre is measured against its economic value add in Ireland in facilitating the deployment of AI, machine learning and analytics."



Pictured (l-r) Tom Flanagan, UCD Director of Enterprise and Commercialisation; Prof Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact; Dr Stacey Kelly, Case Manager, Knowledge Transfer, NovaUCD; Prof Kevin O'Connor; Dr Alison Campbell, Director, KTI; Bill Morrissey, Glanbia Ireland and Dr Ciaran O'Beirne, Head, Knowledge Transfer Services.

## UCD Wins Two Knowledge Transfer Ireland Impact Awards

**The University, through NovaUCD, has won two Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI) 2019 Impact Awards. The partnership between UCD and Glanbia received the 'Collaborative Research Impact Award' for the AgriChemWhey project, while the second award was the 'Licence2Market Impact Award' for its work with Atlantic Therapeutics.**

Funded by Enterprise Ireland, with co-financing from the Irish Universities Association (IUA), the annual KTI Impact Awards recognise efforts by Ireland's Technology Transfer Offices to bridge the gap between industry and academia when it comes to commercialisation of research.

The AgriChemWhey project is a €22 million Horizon 2020 funded partnership, led by Glanbia in collaboration with Professor Kevin O'Connor, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, focusing on the transformation of dairy waste products into high-value, bio-based products.

Atlantic Therapeutics working alongside Professor Brian Caulfield, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science, has developed an externally worn electrical muscle stimulator to help treat incontinence. Recently approved by the FDA, the INNOVO therapy technology is the first ever transcutaneous electrical stimulator cleared as a safe, clinically effective and non-invasive product to treat stress urinary incontinence.

## Work/Life@UCD 2019



Work/Life@UCD 2019, UCD's annual employee engagement day, was recently held in O'Reilly Hall. Over 800 employees attended the programme of ten information seminars and visited the 40 stands where they were provided with information on the development opportunities, supports and benefits of working in UCD.

## UCD Alumni Awards 2019

The 6th annual UCD Alumni Awards were held in O'Reilly Hall on Friday 22 November. It was a wonderful showcase event and a true celebration of UCD's outstanding alumni. The awards were attended by over 390 alumni, supporters, faculty, staff and friends of UCD.

The evening was expertly hosted by Pat Kenny BE 1969, joined 'In Conversation' by Simon O'Connor, Director, Museum of Literature Ireland and Anne Enright, the first Professor of Fiction in UCD School of English, Drama and Film, to discuss the inspirational project that is the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI).

The nine awardees were nominated by their peers, faculty, staff and students of UCD and have made a global impact in their field, their work is inspiring and showcases the multidisciplinary and breadth of the programmes at UCD.

The awards ceremony followed dinner where the nine honourees were presented with their awards. The Choral Scholars of University College Dublin closed the formalities with a rousing performance under the direction of Dr Desmond Earley.

### UCD Alumni Award for Arts and Humanities, Dr Barbara Dawson BA 1979

An astute observer of the international contemporary art scene and an outstanding curator, the first female director of Dublin's Hugh Lane Gallery, Dr Barbara Dawson has been one of the most significant figures in the Irish art world in recent decades. In her role, Barbara has led transformative changes for the Hugh Lane and has been a leading advocate for the visual arts in Ireland. In 1998, she secured the gift of Francis Bacon's Studio and Archive and relocated it from London to Dublin.

Barbara is adjunct professor at UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy, a UCD Creative Fellow and is a notable mentor of women in the arts.

### UCD Alumni Award in Business, Shaun T Kelly BComm 1980

The Belfast native was global Chief Operating Officer for KPMG International, having retired in September 2019. During his time with KPMG, he ran the US tax practice and through his leadership KPMG served a long list of blue-chip American corporations. Through his various roles and his extensive work serving a broad range of significant US companies spanning several industries, Shaun has kept insights regarding strategic and operational issues as well as marketplace trends and the issues companies face in today's global environment. He is on the board of the Ireland Funds America and the Irish Arts Centre in New York and he is the chair of the Northern Ireland US Advisory Council for the East Coast.

### UCD Alumni Award in Engineering and Architecture, Noelle Walsh BE 1985

A senior figure at Microsoft, Noelle Walsh leads Cloud Operations and Innovations, a role that includes supply planning and strategic acquisition as well as global construction and data centre operations. Previously, she spent 25 years with the Dow Chemical Company, where she worked across multiple businesses. Noelle has worked extensively around the world, running large-scale commodity businesses and manufacturing facilities to leading major strategic divestitures and integrating acquisitions. Noelle's trademark is working with teams to unleash best-in-class performance and an operational excellence mind-set for businesses at scale.



The 2019 UCD Alumni Award Winners with UCD President, Prof Andrew Deeks (l-r): Noelle Walsh, Dr John Bell, Katie Mullan, Shaun T Kelly, Dr Barbara Dawson, Prof Mary Horgan, Caroline Keeling and Dr Sinéad Walsh

### UCD Alumni Award in Health and Agricultural Sciences, Professor Mary Horgan MB Bch BAO 1986

A world-renowned expert in infectious diseases, Professor Mary Horgan is the President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland — the first female in this role since its establishment in 1654. She is a consultant in infectious diseases at Cork University Hospital. Mary's work has been instrumental in reversing the downward trend in uptake of HPV vaccination from 50% to 71% in one year. Previously Dean of the Medical School in UCC in 2013 for a four-year term, Mary has become a role model for a generation of medical graduates and trainees. She also serves as President of the Infectious Diseases Society of Ireland, on the boards of the Health Products Regulatory Authority and the Mercy University Hospital and the Governing Body of UCC.

### UCD Alumni Award in Law, Colin Ryan BCL 1997

Colin Ryan is Co-Head of Mergers and Acquisitions: Americas at Goldman Sachs. He was named Managing Director in 2010 and in 2014 he was one of two Irishmen inducted to the partnership of Goldman Sachs. During his tenure, Goldman Sachs' Technology Mergers and Acquisitions business has consistently ranked as the #1 Technology M&A franchise globally.

Colin has advised some of the most iconic companies on their most important strategic transactions in the technology and media industry, including Amazon, Applied Materials, IBM, Qualcomm, Salesforce, SAP and Vodafone, on over \$300 billion of industry-defining transactions.

### UCD Alumni Award in Science, Caroline Keeling BSc 1990, MSc in Food Science

Caroline Keeling is CEO of Keeling's, Ireland's largest fruit and vegetable distributor, dating back to the 1920s. Since becoming CEO of the 100% Irish-owned company in 2013, the company's turnover has increased by 50%. During her tenure as CEO, Caroline has grown the brand on the international stage and now employs over 2,000 people.

Caroline has proven her commercial acumen in business and has brought the Keeling's brand from strength to strength while being heralded as one of Ireland's most powerful businesswomen. Caroline was a nominee for the EY Entrepreneur of the Year in 2013.

### UCD Alumni Award in Social Sciences, Dr Sinéad Walsh MSc 2005

Dr Sinéad Walsh is the EU Ambassador to South Sudan and has worked with the Department

of Foreign Affairs and Trade since 2009. Prior to this, Sinéad served as the Ambassador of Ireland to Sierra Leone and Liberia and was Head of Irish Aid in the two countries, based in Freetown from 2011 to 2016. Stationed in Sierra Leone in 2014 when Ebola first began to spread, Sinéad and her colleagues found themselves facing a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented scale. She worked relentlessly to highlight the country's plight and alert the world to the growing catastrophe. Sinéad has co-authored *Getting to Zero* detailing her experience of the Ebola crisis.

Prior to joining the DFA, Sinéad spent ten years in the NGO sector, with Concern Worldwide, working in India, Pakistan, Rwanda and South Sudan.

Sinéad has a BA in English from Harvard University, and a PhD in social policy from the London School of Economics. She was a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative in 2016/17.

### UCD Alumni Award in Research, Innovation and Impact, Dr John Bell BA 1986

Dr John Bell is the 'Healthy Planet' Director of DG Research and Innovation at the European Commission in Brussels. In this role, he has been the leader in the development of the potential of the bioeconomy. He is leading the Research and Innovation transitions on Climate Change within Planetary Boundaries, Bioeconomy, Food Systems, Environment and Biodiversity, Oceans and Arctic, Circular Economy, Water and Bio-based innovations.

John was previously Director of Bioeconomy, delivered the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, and policy initiatives including FOOD2030 and the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance.

### UCD Alumni Award in Sport, Katie Mullan BSc 2017, ME 2018

Katie Mullan is the captain of the history-making Irish hockey team, the first ever Ireland team to qualify for the Olympic Games, she also led her country to sporting history in August 2018. During her time as a student at UCD, Katie helped UCD Hockey Club win several trophies. Katie is an inspirational leader whose attitude, dedication and determination has enabled a whole generation of young women to push their limits and achieve success. She started her sporting career as a camogie and Gaelic football player for Eoghan Rua Coleraine CFG, where she helped them win the 2010 All-Ireland Intermediate Club Camogie championship. Katie made her hockey debut for Ireland in 2012, amassing 165 international caps for Ireland, achieving 100 of those caps before the age of 22.



Prof Gavin Barrett and Prof Imelda Maher with Ruairi Quinn.

## UCD Business Alumni Awards 2019

**In November, members of the UCD Oireachtas Affinity Group, friends and academics gathered in Newman House to celebrate the publication of two books by professors at UCD Sutherland School of Law.**

Professor Colin Scott, Dean of Social Sciences and Vice-President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion acted as MC on the evening for the discussion between Professor Gavin Barrett, Head of Teaching and Learning at UCD Sutherland School of Law and Professor Imelda Maher, Dean and Head of Sutherland School of Law on the topic of parliaments and the EU.

Discussing his book *The Evolving Role of National Parliaments in the European Union - Ireland as a Case Study*, Professor Barrett analysed the evolution in national parliaments'

roles in the EU, discussed the reasons for this change and the challenges that would have to be faced in making further progress, and considered in particular the case of Ireland's Oireachtas. Professor Maher introduced her book *The Transformation of EU Treaty Making - The rise of parliaments, referendums and courts since 1950*, by explaining the process undertaken by herself and her co-author Dermot Hodson in completing the work, including studying EU treaties and all 28 constitutions from across the EU to explore how and why parliaments, the people and courts have entered a domain once dominated by governments.

UCD alumnus and former government minister Ruairi Quinn joined the panel as a discussant and provided valuable commentary on the wider context of Europe as a political entity. A lively discussion followed, joined by members of the audience.



Pictured at the symposium are (l-r): Assoc Prof Naonori Kodate, Assoc Prof Allen Kim (ICU), Prof Eilish McAuliffe, Prof Mark Williams (Vice President, ICU), Prof Imelda Maher, Prof John Neary and Prof Joo-Young Jung (ICU). Photo by Kosuke Sato.

## UCD – ICU Joint Seminar on the role of the Global University

**A symposium on “The Role of Higher Education in a ‘Globalizing’ World: The Experiences of Ireland and Japan” was held on the campus of the International Christian University (ICU) in Mitaka, Tokyo in November.**

UCD and ICU, being a bilingual campus since its establishment in 1949, are ideally positioned to explore the roles of higher education in the era of globalisation. Participants discussed a wide range of topics such as public diplomacy, post-Brexit/EU, multilateral student exchange, and leadership education in Ireland and Japan.

Irish Ambassador to Japan, HE Mr Paul Kavanagh opened the symposium by video letter, followed by a series of presentations from senior academics from UCD and discussants from ICU. In addition, former Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations and now Distinguished Professor of the ICU, Yoshikawa Motohide outlined the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degree Programme in International Humanitarian Action (NOHA+), and three students gave testimonials, two of whom represented UCD.

UCD's academic delegates were Professor Imelda Maher, Head of School and Dean of UCD Sutherland School of Law; Professor Eilish McAuliffe, Professor of Health Systems and Director of the UCD Centre for Interdisciplinary Research, Education and Innovation in Health Systems (IRIS Centre); Adjunct Professor John Neary, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice and Former Irish Ambassador to Japan; and Associate Professor Naonori Kodate, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice/Co-Chair, UCD Japan Group. The event was primarily funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as part of The Top Global University Project in Japan.

## RCVS and VCI Sign Historic Agreement for Mutual Recognition of Veterinary Degrees

**The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI), the UK and Ireland veterinary regulators, have agreed an historic mutual recognition agreement (MRA) to facilitate the recognition of each others' accredited veterinary degrees. The agreement means that UCD's MVB degree can be recognised by the RCVS and the current eight UK veterinary degrees can be recognised by the VCI.**

As it stands, EEA citizens who graduate from UCD have an automatic right to work in the UK via the European Union's Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive. The MRA means that, whatever the outcome of the UK leaving the EU, following successful accreditation visits, UCD graduates can join the Register of Veterinary Surgeons in the UK and UK graduates can join the VCI's equivalent register.

Professor Michael Doherty, Dean and Head of UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, described the MRA as “excellent news for students and graduates of the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine in the context of Brexit uncertainty. It provides reassurance to our students that whatever the outcome of the UK leaving the EU, following successful visits of accreditation, our graduates can continue to join the RCVS register”.



Vets at work

The MRA states that, in order to maintain the agreement, the RCVS and VCI will have the opportunity to attend accreditation visitations to each other's veterinary schools in order to ensure that they are meeting their respective accreditation criteria for veterinary education. It is expected that these visitations will be carried out in conjunction with, or as part of, those of any international accreditation bodies, such as the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

# How a UCD professor is bringing Augmented Reality to classrooms



***Technology has presented educators everywhere with new opportunities to impart knowledge and help students to learn. In the last couple of decades alone, it has enabled teachers to make huge strides in the classroom.***

Augmented reality has become one of the biggest drivers in the tech economy, but until recently, it didn't get much of a look-in within the education system. This is something that Professor Eleni Mangina is trying to change. She is a professor in UCD School of Computer Science and recently secured €3.9 million for a project that aims to bring augmented reality learning content to students across Europe.

The project is called ARETE (Augmented Reality Interactive Educational System) and is funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 framework programme. It follows on from Professor Mangina's previous project, AHA (ADHD Augmented) which focused on augmented reality educational tools for children aged 9-11 with a diagnosis of ADHD. Now, ARETE will build on the work completed in that project and will design and pilot augmented reality educational tools for classrooms in countries across Europe. The new project will focus on improving literacy, STEM subjects and behaviour in the classroom.

The funding of the project represents a major achievement for Professor Mangina. Applications to the funding scheme have a success rate of less than 10%, so getting to this point was the culmination of years of hard work and dedication. To her delight, her application for funding got a perfect score of 15/15 from Horizon 2020 assessors.

The UCD professor believes passionately in the potential for augmented reality to revolutionise the way children learn, and she has tried out these methods in her personal life too. Her own children learned the alphabet through augmented reality before they started school. She believes that we have not sufficiently explored ways to use all of our senses in the learning process, and

this is something she wants to change with the dawn of augmented reality educational tools.

She first came up with the idea for the ARETE project around five years ago. She had two earlier applications for funding rejected, but rather than be discouraged by these, she chose to learn from them. "Technology is growing at speed, but at the same time society is not accepting the technology at as fast a pace as it's growing," she explains. "I think it was the right time where technology and society had adapted, and the European Commission realised that this was worth investing into."

ARETE came at the tail end of Mangina's earlier project, which focused on augmented reality educational tools for children diagnosed with ADHD. That project had "fantastic results," she says.

"We had students diagnosed with ADHD that were nine years old who had a reading age of five," she explains. "After the intervention, within the year, their reading age actually increased by 3-6 years, which is amazing." She also says that using augmented reality in the classroom helped those children to improve their confidence and self-esteem. ARETE's first pilot will take what they learned from the previous project and apply the findings to all students. More than 100 students took part in this pilot project.

The second pilot of ARETE will evaluate the impact of augmented reality in STEM subjects and English literacy skills. This section will be rolled out to more than 3,500 students. Researchers will examine the use of augmented reality in the teaching of maths, physics, chemistry and geography in countries across Europe. The project's third section will look at whether augmented reality can help students to

focus better while also encouraging better behaviour.

The ARETE project has the potential to change the way students learn. In this sense, the project's success in funding is unsurprising. But getting a project of this scale successfully funded is no small feat, and Professor Mangina says she knew the application would have to be perfect.

"I had the proposal ready three months before the deadline and I started it a year before," she says. "Once the call was out, I started to prepare. The last three months before the deadline, I just read it again and again."

Mangina is now helping a number of other researchers with their applications to the Horizon 2020 programme. She recommends that those applying make sure their work is flawless. "Read the call in detail," she says. "Address all the issues and spend a lot of time to cherry pick the right partners." She also recommends that applicants find consultants to read over their finished applications before submitting to "find any flaws and any issues that haven't been addressed". Enterprise Ireland has been a great support for H2020 co-ordinators.

"For these calls, your proposal has to be "perfect"; a "good" proposal is not good enough" she says.

This is the beginning of an incredibly exciting time for Professor Mangina and for her partners across Europe – but also for the capacity of education to grow and evolve.

"It's all about science for good," she says. "The bigger vision is 'Education for all'. It might sound a little bit bold, but it's about education outside the norm and outside the standardised tests. Because not everybody learns in the same way. How do we learn? We learn by doing things, by using all our senses. It's time we bring this into our classrooms."

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



Pictured at the San Francisco launch are Cuan Ó Seireadáin, HE Dan Mulhall and Brian Ó Conchubhair.



Marie Doyle, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science pictured at the launch with Minister Andrew Doyle TD.

## UCD Press launch

**On October 16th, editors Brian Ó Conchubhair and Cuan Ó Seireadáin launched the new UCD Press edition of *My American Journey* by Douglas Hyde at the Irish Consulate in San Francisco. The launch was the first of a series of events which took place across the United States to reintroduce the extraordinary story of Douglas Hyde's 1905/06 American tour to US audiences.**

Originally released in Irish as *Mo Thuras go hAmeirice* in 1937, this stunning new publication, edited by Professor Emeritus Liam Mac Mathúna, Niall Comer, Brian Ó Conchubhair, Máire Nic an Bhaird and Cuan Ó Seireadáin, includes a new English translation, updated and standardised Irish text, introductions by President Michael D Higgins

and Professor Emeritus Liam Mac Mathúna, as well as a wealth of archival material.

Hyde's eight-month fundraising tour of the United States has been the subject of increasing interest in recent years. The current Irish Ambassador to the United States, HE Dan Mulhall, has lectured on Hyde, his philosophy, and his relationship with America on several occasions, and he was delighted to launch *My American Journey* at Notre Dame University's Keough School of Global Affairs in Washington DC.

In addition to the events in San Francisco and Washington DC, *My American Journey* was also presented at the Irish Consulate in New York, at the University of California (Berkeley) and at Harvard. Copies of the book were also presented to members of the Irish Caucus as well as the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi.

## Minister launches the Society of Irish Foresters Ambassador Programme

**Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Andrew Doyle TD, launched the Forestry Ambassador Programme in Avondale Community College, Rathdrum, as part of Science Week 2019. Run by Forestry Careers Ireland, the programme aims to promote forestry as a career option for second level pupils. The Programme is one of the 15 projects funded by DAFM under the Department's 2019 call for proposals for forestry promotion.**

Minister Doyle said "I am very pleased to launch this project, aimed at encouraging young people to consider a career in forestry. The focus of Science Week is on climate change and forestry is an important part of the Government's response under the Climate Action Plan. I know that young people are acutely aware of the climate emergency we face and are more than prepared to play their part in finding solutions".

The programme has recruited a number of experienced forestry professionals, called 'Forestry Ambassadors' who will make presentations to senior cycle students throughout the country, outlining the benefits of forests, the science behind growing forests and the various career opportunities that the forestry profession offers, drawing from their own careers and experience.

## Enhancing Digital Teaching and Learning Project



Marian O'Connor (UCD) and Dr Sharon Flynn (IUA) pictured at the launch of the Enhancing Digital Teaching and Learning Project. This three-year IUA-led project is funded through the HEA's Innovation and Transformation Programme. It is aimed at enhancing the digital attributes and educational experiences of Irish university students through enabling the mainstreamed and integrated use of digital technologies across the teaching and learning process in the seven universities.

# Finding the cure for Diabetic Kidney Disease



Researchers at UCD Diabetes Complications Centre in UCD Conway Institute led by Prof Catherine Godson.

## UCD's Diabetes Complications Research Centre and Conway Institute in new gene discoveries that could block the path of kidney disease in Type 1 diabetes patients

In Ireland, approximately 250,000 people are affected by diabetes, at a cost of €1.35 billion to the health budget. Around 10-15% of this group lives with Type 1 diabetes, an autoimmune condition that causes a person's body to destroy the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas and requires them to inject insulin every day for the whole of their lives.

According to the World Health Organisation, there are some 60 million people with diabetes in Europe – including the highest number of children and adolescents with Type 1 diabetes.

Presently, Europe has the third largest diabetes-related expenditure worldwide, at over 145 billion. Furthermore, a twenty-five-year study published in the journal *Diabetologia* shows that the incidence of Type 1 diabetes is increasing by 3.4% per year across the region and, if this trend continues, incidence will double in the next twenty years.

Adding insult to serious injury, up to 40% of Type 1 diabetes patients develop chronic kidney disease during their lives – which is progressive and currently irreversible. This means their prospects are often limited to enduring life on dialysis and greatly reduced life expectancy.

Over the last two decades, researchers at UCD have been examining diabetes and its complications from different approaches – attempting to discover unique interactions between the disease and its pathways and the human genome.

In recent years, Professor Catherine Godson, Dr Eoin Brennan and their team at UCD's Diabetes Complications Research Centre (DCRC) and UCD Conway Institute, and their international collaborators, conducted the largest ever study investigating genetic predisposition to diabetic kidney disease (DKD) in patients with Type 1 diabetes.

The findings of the unprecedented study – which involved almost 20,000 Type 1 diabetes patients of European descent, with and without kidney disease – were published on 30 October in the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*, identifying sixteen new gene regions associated with DKD.

### Answers in the Genes

Although previous studies have shown that DKD has a genetic component, little was known about the genes involved until now. The groundbreaking recent research set out to uncover genetic differences (or variants) that might explain why some people are susceptible and others relatively resistant to DKD. The UCD team, including Dr Darrell Andrews and Dr Ross Doyle, UCD School of Medicine, collaborated with colleagues in Queen's University Belfast, the Broad Institute, Harvard Medical School and University of Helsinki to complete the Genome-Wide Association Study.

A major finding of the research was the identification of a genetic variant within the coding region of the *Col4a3* gene, which normally produces a specific type of collagen important for maintaining the structure and function of the kidney. Intriguingly, Type 1 diabetes patients who express this genetic variant are protected against developing DKD, as it is associated with reduced thickening of the glomerular basement membrane, thereby preserving kidney function. Significantly, the discovery has prompted researchers in the DCRC to develop new experimental models that could mimic the action of this variant.

Another gene implicated in the study with known or suggestive involvement in DKD is *BMP7*, which is connected with a family of proteins important for organ development and health. In a diseased kidney, the body produces several proteins which prevent the gene from signalling correctly. One such protein known as 'Gremlin' (*GREM1*) works by preventing *BMP7* from carrying out its function.

The discovery of this association builds on years of research by the DCRC into the biological function of Gremlin, which they discovered over 10 years ago. It has spawned new investigations into how to promote *BMP7* activity and prevent Gremlin activity, to support kidney health and defend against disease in DKD – and likely in other diseases such as lung and cardiac fibrosis.

### Inflammatory Evidence

A third major finding implicates genes and pathways that regulate inflammation, supporting the relatively recent hypothesis that inflammation plays a key role in DKD. It is important that the onset and resolution of the inflammatory response is tightly controlled. If unresolved, excessive

inflammation can lead to scar tissue (fibrosis) and other disease-causing insults to the organ.

However, in healthy conditions the body generates certain endogenous molecules that promote the resolution of inflammation. Researchers in the DCRC have worked extensively in this field over the last two decades, with a particular interest in Lipoxins. In collaboration with Professor Pat Guiry and his team in UCD School of Chemistry, the investigators have developed synthetic versions of natural lipoxin molecules and have been investigating the potential of these as new therapeutics in DKD and other complications of diabetes including atherosclerosis and heart disease.

Their studies show that by promoting the resolution of inflammation using these novel therapies, they not only halt the progression of diabetic complications but also reverse established disease. UCD Conway Fellow and member of the DCRC, Dr Eoin Brennan said: "A major benefit of our approach is that these new therapies target inflammation more subtly, as opposed to the suppressive action of anti-inflammatory drugs which may compromise the body's natural defence system. Our new therapies help to resolve inflammation, promote healing without hindering the body's defences, and do so without the creation of fibrotic tissue, which can lead to eventual organ failure."

### Beyond Kidney Disease

The sixteen DKD-associated gene regions will provide novel insights into the pathways of the condition and help identify potential biologic targets for prevention and treatment. However, beyond DKD, fibrosis is a source of many chronic diseases and researchers can now further explore how this inflammation resolution approach may work for different disease contexts.

The Genome-Wide Association Study was supported by a US-Ireland R&D partnership award from SFI and the HRB, the Northern Ireland Office and US National Institutes of Health, to investigators at UCD and its partners in Northern Ireland and the US. Additional funding for ongoing investigations comes from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in New York.

After recently receiving the Women in Science Award for her work, from the International Association of Inflammation Societies, Professor Catherine Godson commented: "This study was a truly collaborative effort, bringing together expertise from all over the world. It is only through these multi-centre international studies, such as the GENIE Consortium\*, that we can really start to understand the genetics of major diseases, such as DKD."

*\*Genetics of Nephropathy, an International Effort - This article is available online at <https://jasn.asnjournals.org/content/30/10/2000>. Salem R et al., Genome-Wide Association Study of Diabetic Kidney Disease Highlights Biology Involved in Glomerular Basement Membrane Collagen. *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* doi: 10.1681/ASN.2019030218.*



Pictured is Dr Lisa Ryan, Assistant Professor in Energy Economics at UCD School of Economics.

## Addressing Climate Change

**As part of the national celebration of Science Week, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, in collaboration with SFI, hosted a meeting of scientists and experts, all researching areas that are central to addressing the challenges we face related to climate change. The meeting focused on areas where there are opportunities for research to address some of those challenges.**

An Taoiseach said: "Our response to climate change must be underpinned by science and research. Indeed, science and technology will help us to unlock and identify new ways of

reducing emissions and adapting to our changing climate. Today's meeting with SFI in Science Week is a valuable opportunity for me to hear directly from some of the experts who are exploring high-tech solutions to make our economy and our society more sustainable. The Government is providing an extra €2 million to SFI for 2020 for its cutting-edge research programme because we want to ensure Ireland is at the forefront of adapting to a more climate resilient future."

The meeting was attended by: Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of Ireland; Dr Lisa Ryan, UCD

School of Economics and Energy Institute; Dr Conor Murphy, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, Maynooth University; Brian Ó Gallachóir, Professor of Energy Engineering in UCC School of Engineering and Vice-Director of UCC's Environmental Research Institute, Director of SFI Research Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy Ireland (MaREI); Professor Anna Davies, Professor of Geography, Environment and Society, TCD; Dr Barry O'Dwyer, SFI Research Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy Ireland (MaREI); Dr Kevin O'Connor, Director Beacon, SFI Bioeconomy Research Centre, UCD; and Dr Dara Stanley, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science and UCD Earth Institute.



Prof Sally Wheeler and Prof Dolores O'Riordan pictured at the official signing.

## UCD/ANU Fellowship Grant Agreement

**On 29 October, UCD and the Australian National University (ANU) signed a Fellowship Grant Agreement. The agreement was signed by Professor Sally Wheeler, ANU Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International Strategy) and Professor Dolores O'Riordan, UCD Vice-President for Global Engagement.**

The agreement will facilitate collaboration between researchers in Australian Studies at the ANU and UCD. This MoU will strengthen Australian Studies in UCD and promote the thematic focus of the ASI. It will enable researchers to spend time (up to six months) at the partner institution, working with a colleague, or group of colleagues.

## UCD SAFS School Awards 2019



The UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science annual Student Awards Ceremony was held in November 2019 in the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science. Recipients on the night were: (l-r) Aoife Courtney, winner of the Danone Nutricia Early Life Nutrition, Human Nutrition Medal; Laura McAteer, winner of the Agricultural Economics Society of Ireland Award; and Caoimhe Dignam winner of the Danone Nutricia Human Nutrition Medal.

## UCD Research Impact Competition

**Associate Professor Emille Pine, UCD School of English, Drama and Film was announced as winner of the 2019 Research Impact Case Study Competition, at an event in December. UCD President Professor Andrew Deeks and Vice-President of Research, Innovation and Impact Professor Orla Feely presented awards to Dr Pine and nine others.**

Her case study, 'Communicating the legacy of child abuse and helping victims heal', showcased research in a two-part project led by Dr Pine, combining humanities-led inquiry and digital technologies to produce new knowledge of the scale and complexity of institutional abuse. The first part of the project, *Industrial Memories* – in collaboration with Professor Mark Keane and Dr Susan Leavy, UCD School of Computer Science – generated new insights through digital analysis. The second part of the project, *Survivor's Stories* – an oral history in collaboration with UCD's Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh, Director, National Folklore Collection and the Christine Buckley Centre – helped victims heal by listening and preserving their memories, which are now housed in the National Folklore Collection.

Speaking at the awards, Dr Pine said: "I'm delighted with this recognition of the collaborative work of colleagues across the university and survivors of institutional abuse. This really shows the academic and real-world value of Humanities research."

Awarded second prize were Professor Barbara Dooley, Dr Clíodhna O'Connor and Associate Professor Amanda Fitzgerald, UCD School of Psychology, for their case study 'My World Survey: improving youth mental health in Ireland'. This was the largest national survey on youth mental health. The report was launched



Overall winner Dr Emille Pine with Prof Orla Feely and Prof Andrew Deeks.

by the Minister for Mental Health, Disability and Older People in 2012, and was extensively covered across the media. Its findings have contributed to national policy debate and have informed the development of community-based services.

Other award winners were:

**Professor Gavin Barrett** for 'Democracy in the European Union – getting it right'

**Professor David Brayden** for 'No more needles: developing oral peptide treatments for diabetes'

**Dr Desmond Earley** for 'Promoting Ireland's rich cultural heritage with contemporary choral music'

**The Eirsat-1 Team** for 'Ireland's first satellite'

**Dr Kelly Fitzgerald** for 'Housing memories: the Dublin Tenements Museum'

**Dr Mirjam Heinen, Dr Silvia Bel-Serrat and the team at the National Nutrition Surveillance Centre** for 'The weight of the issue: policy impact of childhood obesity surveillance in Ireland'

**Dr David Kelleghan, Professor Enda Hayes, Associate Professor Mark Everard, Dr Tom Curran** for 'AmmonicN2K: addressing atmospheric ammonia pollution'

**Dr Antonia Trotta** for 'Protecting our brains with safer helmets'.

The case studies of all 10 finalists are available at [www.ucd.ie/research/impact/researchimpact/winners/](http://www.ucd.ie/research/impact/researchimpact/winners/)

## UCD Sports Technology Spin-Out Wins Awards

**Output Sports, the UCD sports technology spin-out company, has won the Best Business Idea Award and a €15,000 prize at the final of the 2019 Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur competition, and has also been named 'Best Early Stage' company, and won a €20,000 prize, at the Dublin Final of the 2019 InterTradelreland Seedcorn Investor Readiness Competition.**

Output Sports shrink lab-grade athlete performance analytics into a wearable system so coaches can truly understand athletes and optimise their performance. It is an end-to-end system designed to streamline the off-field athlete performance optimisation process. It is capable of testing an athlete's performance profile, such as strength, power, balance, speed and mobility, and tracks their exercise programmes. This is completed using off the shelf wearable sensors and applying sophisticated signal processing and machine learning applications to the sensor data.

Output Sports, a spin-out from UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science, was founded by Dr Martin O'Reilly, Dr Darragh Whelan, Julian Eberle and Professor Brian Caulfield, based on research they carried out at the SFI-funded Insight Centre for Data Analytics at UCD. The company is headquartered at NovaUCD, and last year completed the 2018 UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme.



Pictured (l-r) are Shane O'Hanlon, InterTradelreland's Funding for Growth Manager with Output Sport founders; Julian Eberle; Dr Martin O'Reilly and Dr Darragh Whelan.



Pictured (l-r) are Sarah Poutch, UCD Archivist; Cormac O'Malley; and Dr John Howard, UCD Librarian.

## Launch of UCDA P17a Papers of Ernie O'Malley (additional material) and UCDA P244 Papers of Frances-Mary Blake

**Cormac O'Malley, son of revolutionary and writer Ernie O'Malley, launched two collections in UCD Archives on Friday, 20 September: an additional collection of O'Malley material added as a fourth series to the existing three series in the catalogue for P17a, and a new collection of Frances-Mary Blake papers.**

The O'Malley collection is one of the most significant sources for the War of Independence and the anti-Treaty position of the Civil War. They were transferred to UCD in 1974 under the terms of the O'Malley Trust (ownership has since transferred to the University). In addition to contemporary documents, this new series includes tape recordings of Cormac O'Malley's interviews with Seán Lemass and Sighle Humphreys, Madge Clifford and Jack Comer; and Sighle Humphreys, George Gillmore and Peadar O'Donnell.

The Papers of Frances-Mary Blake constitute a unique and significant addition to the collections of women's papers in UCD Archives, although not typical of them. Her work on Ernie O'Malley's literary and archival output has made an important contribution to O'Malley's reputation. Her own papers also offer an insight into the work of a biographer and editor as well as someone who became enamoured of the Republican cause. She initially intended to publish a biography of O'Malley but it never came to fruition. However, as part of her research Blake interviewed and corresponded with many figures from the Irish republican struggle, such as Máire Comerford, Peadar O'Donnell, Liam Deasy, Kathleen Barry Moloney, and Sighle Humphreys, as well as members of the O'Malley family.

Blake prepared O'Malley's Civil War memoir, *The Singing Flame*, for publication and edited and wrote the introduction to *Raids and Rallies* (originally a popular newspaper column written by O'Malley from September 1955 to June 1956). She later published her own thoughts on the period in *The Irish Civil War, 1922-23: And What it Still Means for the Irish People*.

Both collections were catalogued by Sarah Poutch.

## Education for the love of it: PepsiCo's first UCD graduates

**UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science delivers a variety of programmes to help organisations to develop global leaders in agriculture and food industries through Executive Education. One such programme is the Food Safety and Quality Professional Diploma that was co-designed by the School and senior PepsiCo staff to ensure that it meets the specific needs and vision for PepsiCo and its staff. September 2019 saw the graduation of the first students of this professional diploma.**

"Our executive education programmes are designed for professionals to equip current and future industry leaders with fresh insights, enhanced skillsets and improved leadership skills to thrive in this fast changing and challenging sector," says Associate Professor Eileen Gibney. "We currently provide a range of

courses aimed at both organisations and individuals, to support the continued education of all sectors of this broad industry, from agriculture, food and nutrition, to forestry, the environment, agriculture extension, innovation and more."

Celebrating its first graduates, PepsiCo's global director of governance and compliance, Dr Manus Mitchell, described the course as "a big success" for the organisation. "It has enabled our future executive leaders to build the right regulatory, food safety and quality mindset, at the right time in their careers." According to Paul Kent, head of PepsiCo's Quality & Food Safety College, "UCD has been a first-rate partner, providing us access to world-class faculty and content and setting a new standard for the industry."

UCD has a long history of delivering education to professionals in all industries, and UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science is now increasing its Executive Education offerings. "We are finding that more and more people, sometimes UCD graduates from years back, are looking for education opportunities to enhance their career opportunities either through widening their knowledge to new areas, or deepening their skills and knowledge in specific areas," said Professor Alex Evans, Dean of Agriculture and Head of School.



Brendan Rowan, UCD School of Medicine and competitor at Fonn Steip & Ceoil UCD 2019 with UCD alumna and TG4 presenter Doireann Ní Ghlacáin.

## Fonn Steip & Ceoil UCD 2019

**Gaeltacht UCD, the most recent addition to the UCD Global Engagement portfolio, recently organised Fonn, Steip & Ceoil, an intervarsity talent competition to provide a platform for students competent in traditional music, dance and song. Participants included those frequently seen at national festivals such as Oireachtas na Samhna and Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann as well as international competitors who perfected their skills abroad and who are now studying in UCD.**

Bhain a raibh i láthair an-thaitneamh as eagsúlacht na siamsaíochta, idir damhsa na scuaibe ó Euan Mac Donnell, Scoil na hInnealtóireachta, agus veidhleadóireacht ó Fhionnuala Mac Aodh, Scoil na Fisiteirpe. Ba í an Bleá Cliathach Caoimhe Ní Mhaolagáin, damhsóir ar an sean-nós a rug an chéad duais léi. Is mac léinn í Caoimhe de chuid Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Atha Cliath, tá iliomad duaiseanna bainte amach aici ag leibheál náisiúnta agus go leor damhsa déanta aici go hidirnáisiúnta freisin. Comhthionscnamh a bhí

sa chomórtas seo idir Gaeltacht UCD, Cumann Gaelach UCD agus Trad Soc UCD, le tacaíocht ó theagascóir an ionaid Sibéal Davitt agus ó na hOifigigh Gaeilge Ollscoile eile, a dúirt Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Stiúrthóir Gaeltacht UCD. Bhí an tádhlinn go raibh an t-amhránaí agus ceoltóir Doireann Ní Ghlacáin ar fáil mar bhean an tí. Bhí Doireann ina láithreoir le *Gradaim Cheoil* TG4 an oíche roimh réidh ach bhrostaigh sí anuas ó Bhéal Feirste chuig a alma mater UCD do chomórtas *Fonn Steip & Ceoil 2019*.



Look! (l-r) are Prof Brendan Murphy, Head of UCD School Mathematics and Statistics; Bernard Capraro, Intel Research and Development Ireland Ltd; and Prof Patricia Maguire, Director, UCD Institute for Discovery.

## Leonardo da Vinci celebration event

**UCD O'Brien Centre for Science's light-infused, multi-story atrium provided the perfect backdrop for the recent Machines of Leonardo exhibit, showcasing Da Vinci's precocious genius. Dotted around the fourth floor - or suspended from the ceiling - were ten marvellous machines. Full-scale and in wood, they were made by an Italian *artigiano* based on drawings in Leonardo's Atlantic Codex, a twelve-volume bound set of drawings and writings.**

The story of how Leonardo came to UCD began with a bold vision that grew wings and took flight thanks to the passion and persistence of Dr Antonio Benedetto, UCD School of Physics.

"I was fascinated by his incredible design for a parachute. This was in the 15th century - his ideas were way ahead of his time. I loved that the most," enthused Professor Patricia Maguire, Director of UCD Institute for Discovery, which facilitated the installation.

Italian Ambassador HE Paolo Serpi was one of over a hundred guests who attended the grand finale of the week-long event on 22 November - a gala dinner prepared by Michelin-starred chef Eugenio Boer. Chef Boer's mouth-watering four-course meal was inspired by the old recipes of Da Vinci, who was also a keen cook and kitchen gadgets inventor.

Each course was introduced by the chef himself along with a "scientific commentary" by

Fabio Bruni, Full Professor of Biophysics at the University of Roma Tre. Exquisite Tuscan wines, in honour of the region where Leonardo was born, matched each course. Continuing with this feast for the senses, guests were entertained with an Italian opera performance.

Professor Dolores O'Riordan, UCD Vice-President for Global Engagement praised the partnerships between UCD and Roma Tre University, which include joint PhD agreements in Science and Law. "These developments show the value of our existing relationship and the opportunities we see to expand in the future."

The Machines of Leonardo exhibition drew a steady stream of visitors over the course of the week. Such was the stunning success of this flagship event that UCD Physics and UCD Discovery have already had requests to repeat it next year - and 'complaints' that the exhibition left far too soon!



Pictured is the 2019 joint winner Jonathan Gorman, Network and Security Engineer in the Irish Defence Forces receiving his medal from the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána, Drew Harris.

## Commissioner of An Garda Síochána visits UCD for Conferring

**On Tuesday 3 December the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána, Drew Harris, attended the conferring of degrees on this year's cohort of graduates of the MSc in Forensic Computing and Cybercrime Investigation. Afterwards he presented a medal to the top students in the year. The 2019 joint winners are an Engineer in the Irish Defence Forces and a senior analyst in the US Internal Revenue Service.**

This year, 104 students were awarded the MSc and 48 the Graduate Diploma. Since this international distance-learning education programme started in 2006, 800 students from 70 countries have graduated from it. Among them are 275 Irish police officers from the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau, the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau, the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation, and Counter-Terrorism, Immigration, Telecommunications and IT divisions. As well as police officers, the programme has had students from defence forces, government ministries and agencies, tax and revenue, competition and regulatory organisations, national security and intelligence agencies, international law enforcement agencies such as Europol, Interpol, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and EU Monitoring Missions.

UCD's education and training programmes are helping law enforcement worldwide to upskill to fight cybercrime and cyber enabled crime. Students - all full-time law enforcement officers - learn advanced digital forensic investigation skills to uncover evidence that can convict perpetrators of crimes. The skills they develop in the programme are valuable for investigating and preventing organised crime and terrorism, human trafficking and child exploitation, money laundering and the trade in illicit goods.

## US Ambassador Edward F Crawford launches IMPACT MAKERS: UCD Smurfit MBA Speaker Series

UCD Smurfit School was proud to welcome and partner with US Ambassador to Ireland Edward F Crawford to launch the School's exciting IMPACT MAKERS: UCD Smurfit MBA Speaker Series. A new initiative, the series will feature business leaders who will share unique insights from their careers. These leaders are characterised by vision, empathy and a track record of global, business success that has had a positive impact on society.

There was standing room only as Professor of Management and Founder/Academic Director of the UCD Centre for Corporate Governance



US Ambassador Edward F Crawford with Prof Gerardine Doyle, Director, UCD Smurfit School (left) and Prof Niamh Brennan.

Niamh Brennan interviewed Ambassador Crawford in his first public speaking engagement in the role.

The theme of the conversation was 'Rejection is Energy' – the principle that serial entrepreneur Ambassador Crawford used to build his billion-dollar business before accepting the

ambassadorial appointment. The event also marked the launch of the Ambassador's ASPIRE Series, where he will share insights to inspire the next generation of Irish entrepreneurs and strengthen the foundation for the US-Irish economic relationship of tomorrow.

## Streamlining patient involvement in research biobanks

The Patient Voice in Cancer Research (PVCR) initiative is expanding nationwide and held its first regional meeting in Cork in October. This patient involvement workshop was jointly hosted with the National Biobanking Working Group.

The aim was to have public input in drafting two harmonised documents, which could be used by research teams nationally in future when asking people to take part in health research biobanks. Biobanking is the collection and use of human samples, such as blood or tissue, and associated healthcare data for health research.

The Working Group, facilitated by Clinical Research Development Ireland, was formed in January 2019 to address concerns researchers have in terms of consent and the use of patients' samples and data specifically for research purposes.

Researchers nationally want to ensure that patients/participants legal rights are respected, that their choice to give their samples and data for health research is informed and freely given, that samples and associated data are stored, managed and used both in an ethically and legally compliant way.

In addition to patients and family members, patient support, advocacy and charity groups attended the event. They included Men Against Cancer, Theya Healthcare, WigWorld, Amare wigs, Supreme Silhouette, Browtique Cork, All Woman, Irish Cancer Society and Marie Keating Foundation.

Professor Amanda McCann, Director of the UCD Centre in Translational Oncology and PVCR Chair, co-facilitated the workshop with patient advocate, Stephen Teap who is part of 221+, the CervicalCheck Patient Support Group.



Elaine Quinn, UCD Conway Institute; Dr Barbara Hughes, UCD Conway Institute; Stephen Teap; and Prof Amanda McCann, Chair, Patient Voice in Cancer Research.

## Chief Justice delivers Walsh Lecture 2019

UCD Sutherland School of Law was honoured to welcome Mr Justice Frank Clarke, Chief Justice in early November to deliver the 2019 Walsh Lecture. The title of the Chief Justice's lecture was 'Words words words – Text in the Law'. In front of a very large audience of distinguished guests, alumni, students, members of the judiciary and the wider legal profession, Mr Justice Clarke delivered an insightful, erudite and extremely interesting lecture. He finished the lecture by answering a series of questions from the audience, including those from law students who were present in large numbers to hear the Chief Justice speak.

The Walsh lecture honours the memory of the Hon Mr Justice Brian Walsh who was a judge of both the Irish Supreme Court and later, the European Court of Human Rights. He also held many prominent legal positions during his career, including member of the World Association of Judges, leader of the Irish



Pictured are Prof Imelda Maher, Head of School and Dean, UCD Sutherland School of Law; Axelle Voisin; and Mr Justice Frank Clarke.

delegation on the Anglo-Irish Law Enforcement Commission, President of the Irish Law Reform Commission and founding President of the Irish Society for European Law. The School was particularly pleased to welcome many members of the Walsh family to the 2019 lecture. The current UCD Law Walsh Scholar Axelle Voisin

was also present to hear the Chief Justice speak. She is studying for an LL.M. in International Commercial Law and comes to UCD as a graduate from the University of Angers and the University of Picardy Jules Verne, Amiens in France.



An Seomra Caidrimh - Má tá tú líofa, ag cleachtadh nó ar bheagán Gaeilge cuirfead fáilte romhat anseo.

## Refurbishing the Newman Building

**UCD Estates, UCD College of Arts and Humanities and UCD College of Social Sciences and Law are delighted with the recently completed phase of the Newman Building development as part of the ongoing upgrade of facilities by the University.**

The redesigned physical space in the College of Arts and Humanities Office and the College of Social Sciences and Law Office is enabling the provision of excellent administrative and support services to the faculty, staff and student community across both Colleges.

The development of some new active teaching and learning spaces within the building demonstrates the University's commitment to provide world class facilities and educational experience, enabling a dynamic approach to flexible teaching and learning within the Building.

The redevelopment of the spaces in consultation with the colleagues who occupy the spaces such as the School of Irish, Celtic

Studies and Folklore, School of Economics, School of English, Drama and Film and School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, enables the planning and shaping of our space and facilities to meet the current and envisaged needs of the UCD community. The recent phase included the development of the Seomra Caidrimh for those across campus who would like to avail of the opportunity to call in for a chat and even a coffee 'as Gaeilge'. Má tá tú líofa, ag cleachtadh nó ar bheagán Gaeilge cuirfead fáilte romhat anseo. We wish to acknowledge the contribution and collaboration with the partners who made our plans happen including QMAC Construction Ltd, Moston Construction Ltd,

Marron Bros Ltd, and Reddy Architecture + Urbanism (Design Team Lead on the project)

In addition to completing the remaining upper floors, it is planned to include the Ground and Lower Ground Floors in a future refurbishment phase, highlighting the original architecture and history of the Building, how the Building uniquely reflects the original vision for the Building and the Building's physical versatility and ability to evolve with the creative, cultural, humanities, political and social activities of the Faculty and staff, students and alumni who occupy it and have passed through its doors and will continue to do so for the future.

## MOU with University of Nottingham

**UCD and the University of Nottingham (UoN) through their respective faculties of Arts and Humanities signed a Memorandum of Understanding to further develop educational and research links between both institutions.**

This initiative, developed by UCD College of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Arts at UoN is the first College-to-College/ Faculty-to-Faculty MoU signed under the auspices of the Universitas 21 network. Faculty will work together to explore research collaborations, graduate programmes, joint PhD supervision, and educational opportunities, including student mobility and enhancing the student experience.

Both institutions are highly successful international research-led universities, who have worked closely together through an Arts and Humanities collaboration since March 2018. UCD College of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Arts (UoN) cover a comparable subject spread with shared expertise in Art History and Visual



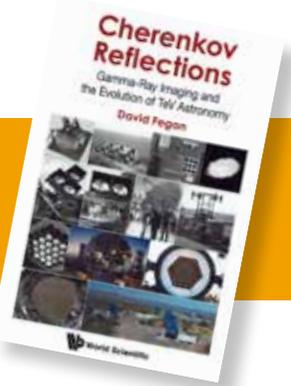
*Pictured (l-r): Prof Barbara Dooley, Dean of Graduate Studies and Deputy Registrar, UCD & U21 Senior Leader, Dr Aoife Whelan, Vice-Principal International, UCD College of Arts and Humanities (signing on behalf of Professor Sarah Prescott), Prof Mark Bradley, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and the Student Experience) signing on behalf of Professor Jeremy Gregory, and Charles Ivar McGrath, Vice-Principal for Research, Innovation and Impact, UCD College of Arts and Humanities.*

Studies, Classics, Cultural Policy/Studies, Drama, English, Film and Media, History, Modern Languages and Cultures, and Music (with Archaeology and Philosophy included in the collaboration through UCD College of Social Sciences and Law).

Shared research themes have been identified in both institutions, including culture, digital

humanities, British and Irish identities, medical humanities, and translation, and collaborations are already ongoing between colleagues from both universities, particularly in archaeology, music, modern languages, and philosophy. UCD and UoN have committed to strengthening this partnership through multi-disciplinary co-operation and collaboration across these faculties.

# Books



## Reflections: Gamma-Ray Imaging and the Evolution of TeV Astronomy

Professor Emeritus David Fegan,  
UCD School of Physics

**World Scientific**  
ISBN 9789813276857 (hardcover)  
ISBN 9789813276871 (ebook)

This review was written very much in conjunction with the author. It was so refreshing to hear him 'reflect' so fondly and passionately about his life's work and his decision to write the book. This is not my area of expertise but if it is yours, or if you just want to learn more, you will love this book.

The scale and richness of contemporary astrophysics might well astonish Albert Einstein. A century ago our understanding of the universe was based almost exclusively on visible-light observations made by conventional telescopes, operated in combination with high-sensitivity photographic plates. Today however, we confidently speak about a cosmic landscape of remarkable diversity and complexity, populated by a rich panoply of exotic objects such as black holes, quasars, pulsars and sources of gravitational radiation. We conjecture about dark matter, dark energy, cosmology, the big-bang and an expanding universe aged about 14.6 billion years. This deeper, more profound level of understanding has come about predominantly through the evolution of new observational astronomical channels, such as radio, X-ray, gamma-ray, and gravitational.

This book narrates how one such new observational channel was developed, an accomplishment in which UCD played a seminal role. During the latter half of the 20th century, high-energy gamma-ray astronomy became established as a new astrophysical discipline. In 1960, theoretical predictions posited that certain classes of astrophysical objects might possibly emit gamma-rays of energy one million-million times (one tera-electron volt or TeV) greater than the energy of visible light photons (1 eV).

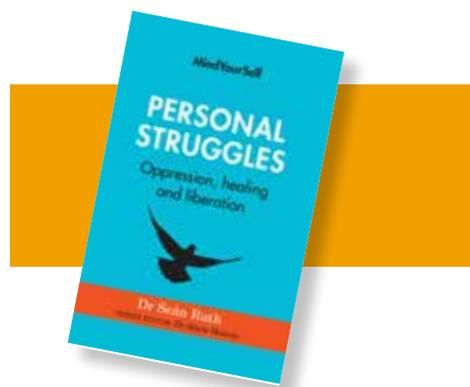
A collaboration between UCD researchers and a group at AERE (Atomic Energy Research Establishment) Harwell, UK, began in the early 1960s to search out such sources and radiation. Gamma-rays striking the atmosphere initiate cascades of charged particles which emit a flash of faint blue Cherenkov radiation, collectable at ground level by specialised mirrors and phototubes. Following more than 10 years of research, sensitivity of the Cherenkov light detectors slowly improved. However, by 1973 operations were reluctantly terminated due to an overwhelming contamination from background showers, induced by incident protons in the atmosphere.

Fortunately however, towards the end of the 1970s, significant technological advances in electronics and computing sparked a new wave of optimism, based primarily on the concept of photographing the Cherenkov light pool using a multi-pixelated fast imaging camera. The first Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescope (IACT) was developed and built at UCD in the early 1980s, initiating a new collaboration with several US and UK universities. The prototype camera was operated in conjunction with a large 10m aperture optical reflector located at the Whipple observatory in Arizona. Simple and elegant conceptually, practical implementation of the IACT technique proved challenging, requiring a further 10 years of painstaking development to perfect.

The astronomical importance of the IACT technique was demonstrated unequivocally with the successful discovery of both the first galactic TeV gamma-ray source, the Crab Nebula (a supernova remnant) in 1989, and the first extra-galactic TeV source, Markarian 421 (an active galaxy containing a suspected supermassive black hole) in 1992.

The book concludes with a brief overview of planned future developments. High energy gamma-ray astronomy is now very much the astronomy of exotic cosmic objects such as neutron stars, active galaxies, supernova explosions and of the remnants left behind from such explosions. The next generation of detectors brings together a world-wide community of gamma-ray astrophysicists.

Research which began in the foothills of the Dublin mountains in the early 1960s has been pivotal in establishing this new astronomical observational channel on the cosmos. **MS**



## Personal Struggles: Oppression, healing and liberation

Series Editor: Dr Marie Murray Clinical Psychologist UCD School of Medicine and former Director of the UCD Student Counselling Services. Author: Dr Sean Ruth, Organisational Psychologist

**Cork University Press**  
ISBN: 978-1-78205-348-4

Personal Struggles: Oppression, healing and liberation, while aimed at a general readership, is also a practical manual for service providers in health, psychology, education, therapy, social work and youth and community programmes. It recognises how people can be damaged by life experiences in family, community and society and the problems that follow. It is a guide for members of marginalised groups who want to develop their own leadership skills. Chapter by chapter, the reader is guided methodically through the text to 'learn' ways of countering and resisting the consequences of oppression, such as anxiety, poor self-esteem and lack of voice, legitimacy and power. The Conclusion and Question section at the end of each chapter adds to the therapeutic potential of the book.

This is the first title in the recently launched multidisciplinary self-help and well-being series MindYourSelf designed to bring safe, researched, peer-reviewed information from front-line professionals to help people to mind themselves. **MS**



## The Nature of Scholarship, a Career Legacy Map and Advanced Practice

Professor Laserina O'Connor, UCD School Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems

**Springer**  
ISBN 978-3-319-91695-8  
eBook available from [www.springer.com/shop](http://www.springer.com/shop)

This book is endorsed by the International Council of Nurses and is for educators, professional regulators, advanced practice nursing practitioners and those considering or aspiring to move into this distinguished profession. The dimensions of scholarship outlined by Boyer act as a triangular frame that provides the stable architecture for the nature of scholarship, a career legacy map and advanced practice that weave interdependently throughout this book.

Chapter one focuses on the landscape of scholarship and Boyer's vision of tomorrow's scholars who must be liberally educated, think creatively, communicate effectively and have the capacity and the inclination to place ideas in a larger context. Chapter two expands on Boyer's pillars of scholarship and guiding questions are presented in the context of scientific inquiry within discipline specific silos for reflective consideration by the advanced practice nursing practitioner/aspirant.

In Chapter three parallels are drawn between clinical scholarship and the scholarship of application and practice. The qualities of the clinical scholar/practitioner such as integrity, perseverance and courage serve as a reminder that scholarship has a moral aspect in the clinical arena. Chapter four focuses on clinical scholarship and diagrammatically represents how the advanced practice nursing practitioner can earn the rites-to-passage towards becoming a scholar practitioner.

Chapter five centres on the debate surrounding the doctor of nursing practice as an alternative to the doctor of philosophy in the realm of advanced practice nursing. The distinction between researching professionals and professional researchers is presented with a note of caution from the literature that nurse scientists are also relevant to expand the knowledge base of the discipline of nursing.

Chapter six details the science of cartography and its relationship to career cartography. The components of career legacy cartography are presented as they embed in a portfolio.

In the final chapter the meaning of the patient story is narrated through the lens of Professor O'Connor who is also an advanced practice nursing practitioner in pain medicine. The capabilities expected of a clinical professor in practice are put to the test as the case unfolds. The outcome hopefully will provoke conversation among advanced practice nurse practitioners/aspirants on the enablers that nurses bring to the bedside in the context of 'what matter most to the patient' is 'what matters most to the nurse'.

This final chapter is part of the architecture that connects the nature of scholarship, a legacy and an advanced practice nursing perspective within the frame of Boyer's scholarship dimensions, namely, scholarship of engagement, discovery, integration, application and teaching. **MS**



Comedian Jarlath Regan, former Taoiseach Enda Kenny and UCD Smurfit School Masters in Business Management student and All-Ireland Football Champion, Brian Fenton.

## UCD Business London Alumni Dinner

UCD College of Business hosted former Taoiseach Enda Kenny as the guest of honour at the School's UCD London Dinner on Thursday, 7 November at the Savoy Hotel. The former Taoiseach joined comedian Jarlath Regan, host of the Irishman Abroad podcast, in a lively and entertaining interview that brought together UCD Business alumni and friends living in the greater London area. The annual

philanthropic event supported the advancement of scholarships for students at UCD Smurfit School.

Special guests on the night included eight UCD alumni who were part of the five-time, All-Ireland winning Dublin senior football team: Cian O'Sullivan, Con O'Callaghan, David Byrne, Eoin Murchan, John Small, Michael Fitzsimons, Brian Fenton and Peadar O'Byrne Cofaigh.



Our photo shows Prof Jarvis and Dr Farrell accepting their medal from President Nguyen Kim Son.

## UCD Faculty awarded Medals from Vietnam National University

**On 31 October VNU President Nguyen Kim Son presented Medals 'For the Development Cause of VNU' to Professor Suzi Jarvis and Dr Colman Farrell, UCD Innovation Academy in recognition of their valuable contributions to the sustainable development of VNU, as well as to promoting of partnership between VNU and UCD, and beyond, the relationship between Ireland and Vietnam.**

Presenting the medals, President Nguyen Kim Son said: "On behalf of VNU, I would like to congratulate and express our sincere thanks to Professor Jarvis and Dr Farrell, the partners who I first met in 2017 and have now become close friends of VNU. They are talented experts dedicated to educational activities. Established and developed from scratch, to date, after more than ten years, UCD Innovation Academy has become the flagship in implementing world-class innovative educational activities and promoting industrial linkages. I know that Professor Suzi's original aim of founding the Innovation Academy was to build a team of practitioner educators to provide a transformational educational experience to contribute to the socio-economic development of Ireland. Now, the activities and influences of the Academy and the two friends of mine have gone beyond the boundary of the beautiful country of Ireland. After two years of training VNU entrepreneurial educators under the VIBE Project, the spirit of VIBE has been deeply absorbed and widely spread across VNU, contributing effectively to the educational renovation at VNU in particular and in Vietnam in general".

With the support of the Irish Embassy in Vietnam and in collaboration with UCD Innovation Academy, VNU has been implementing the VIBE project on 'Building capacity of academic staff members and senior leaders at Vietnam National University, Hanoi by entrepreneurial approach to foster 21st century skills and attributes in students'.

The course is taught by Professor Jarvis and Dr Farrell who have piloted, developed and expanded the program for more than 500 teaching staff in Ireland, Malaysia, Switzerland and Vietnam.



## Access Classics

**In the spring of 2019 UCD School of Classics launched a new outreach initiative 'Access Classics'. Its fundamental aim is to introduce students in secondary schools and further education and training programmes across Ireland to the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome.**

Access Classics is rooted in a belief that everyone should be afforded the opportunity to explore the art, architecture, history, languages, literature, and philosophy of ancient Greece and Rome. With the support of Dr Alexander Thein, Head of UCD School of Classics, Tasneem Filaih, Dr Bridget Martin and Dr Christopher Farrell ran a successful pilot programme that saw visits to schools in Tallaght, Clontarf and Blackrock in March 2019.

Students enjoyed learning the Greek alphabet, handling artefacts from the UCD Classical Museum (based in Newman K216), as well as interactive talks on Greek tragedy,

ancient epic, and Alexander the Great. In summer 2019 the Department of Education and Skills endorsed Access Classics and circulated information about the initiative to every secondary school in Ireland. The response has been overwhelmingly positive with twelve schools participating in the programme to date. UCD School of Classics is currently scheduling additional visits for the spring 2020 trimester and developing plans to support teacher training and transition year programmes. To learn more about Access Classics, you can visit us at [www.ucd.ie/classics/study/accessclassics](http://www.ucd.ie/classics/study/accessclassics) or follow the School on Twitter @ClassicsUCD.



Jim O'Keefe, (left) proposed Managing Director of Retail Banking, AIB and Terence O'Rourke, Chairman of Enterprise Ireland with Prof Andreas Hoepner and Dawn Slevin.

## UCD Smurfit School Professor wins Irish Sustainable Finance Person of the Year Award 2019

**UCD Smurfit School Professor Andreas Hoepner was honoured with the Irish Sustainable Finance Person of the Year Award 2019 at the Climate Finance Week Ireland Conference held in Iveagh House in November.**

Professor Hoepner, the only academic appointed to the EU's Technical Expert Group (TEG) on Sustainable Finance, DG FISMA, shared the award with Dawn Slevin, Managing Director at Environmental Liability Solutions Europe Ltd, who also holds a place on the TEG.

"Having only arrived in the Republic of Ireland in 2017, I am deeply honoured to have received the Irish Sustainable Finance Person of the Year Award," said Hoepner who is Chair in Operational Risk, Banking and Finance at UCD Smurfit School.

The award recognises individuals who have made the most significant impact on the field of

sustainable finance in Ireland in the respective year. The award was presented during the annual gala dinner of Sustainable Nation Ireland in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

"My work in the European Commission's Technical Expert Group (TEG) for Sustainable Finance was both intellectually challenging and great fun," continued Hoepner. "Receiving a significant honour for this now and joining a prestigious list of awardees motivates me even more to teach our students and other relevant stakeholders about the EU's net climate-neutral ambitions and how to achieve these with Climate Transition Investing (CTI)."



Artists' Campaign to Repeal the 8th, 2018. Photo credit: Gina O'Kelly.

## Archiving the 8th

**In May 2018 the constitutional ban on abortion in Ireland was overturned following a highly charged referendum on the 8th Amendment, effecting one of the most significant changes to women's health and reproductive rights in Irish history. The scale and impact of the referendum campaigns have been profound, generating enormous amounts of records, political ephemera, websites/digital material, and visual/material culture.**

Yet how can the evidence and experience of this major social shift concerning women's health be preserved for use in future research, exhibitions and learning? *Archiving the 8th* is a national network of academics, archivists, and librarians who are organising the preservation and collection of the referendum (on both sides of the campaign), co-ordinated by Associate Professor Mark-FitzGerald, Head of UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy.

The network currently includes the Digital Repository of Ireland, Irish Qualitative Data Archive, National Museum of Ireland, National Library of Ireland, Women's History Association of Ireland, National Irish Visual Arts Library, and the Irish Museums Association; university-based academics, archivists and librarians; and representatives from activist groups. Dr Mark-FitzGerald's Archiving the 8th Network Project, which has been awarded funding by the Wellcome Foundation, is developing a 'rapid response' collecting and preservation toolkit; a researcher database; a dynamic, web-based research bibliography; a network website; and an academic conference in 2020. The ultimate ambition of this project is to consolidate and expand research on Irish reproductive rights, archiving, and activism.

## Project Kick-off



Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research Innovation and Impact, Professor Alexander Evans, UCD Dean of Agriculture, Professor Kevin McDonnell, PI Farm4More project and the project team at the launch of the €5.5 million #farm4more project recently at UCD. This project will demonstrate the production of animal protein feeds from a grass biorefinery technology. The project is led by UCD with Irish and Austrian partners and funded by the EU LIFE Programme and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

## Sustainable Development Goal 16 Seminar

UCD School of Politics and International Relations and the UCD Centre for Sustainable Development Studies, in collaboration with UCD Earth Institute, organised a seminar in November to discuss Goal 16 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Speakers included David Donoghue, former permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations in New York, Professor Colin Scott, Principal of UCD College of Social Sciences and Law, Dr Dawn Walsh, UCD School of Politics and International Relations and Dr Sinéad Walsh the current EU Ambassador to South Sudan who was also awarded the 2019 UCD Alumni awardee for Social Sciences.

The expert panel which was chaired by Professor Patrick Paul Walsh discussed the challenges posed by Goal 16 in the context of their own work and careers. Sustainable Goal 16 includes advances in ending violence, promoting the rule of law, strengthening institutions and increasing access to justice. This lack of equity also undermines the delivery of public services and broader economic development while attacks on civil society are holding back development progress.



*Pictured are (l-r): David Donoghue, Dr Dawn Walsh, Prof Patrick Paul Walsh, Dr Sinéad Walsh and Prof Colin Scott.*

## UCD Strengthens Strategic Partnerships with Californian Universities

UCD has signed agreements with two Californian universities which will strength the strategic partnerships between them. UCD has signed a five-year International Unit Affiliation Agreement (IUAA) with the University of California, San Francisco to develop closer educational, research, innovation and cultural links between both institutions. The agreement between UCD and the Quantitative Biosciences Institute (QBI) located at the University of California's San Francisco campus, will reinforce links between scientists in San Francisco and Ireland and broaden their collaborative ability to strengthen scientific research and innovation.

The universities will work together to identify opportunities to promote co-operative

biosciences research and training activities between both institutions, beginning with a joint symposium to be held in Dublin in 2020 that will focus on molecular networks of cancer and other diseases. The agreement builds on a relationship that dates back nearly twenty years when Professor Krogan and Dr Gerard Cagney, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, collaborated on several projects.

In addition UCD and the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) have signed an agreement of co-operation to further develop education, research, innovation and cultural links between the both institutions, which builds on a strategic partnership agreement signed in September 2014. The agreement builds on



*Prof Nevan Krogan, Director, Quantitative Biosciences Institute, University of California, San Francisco and Prof Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact.*

established links between both institutions, particularly in the areas of agriculture and food and One Health, in which both lead internationally.

## Mapping UCD Research Competition and Exhibition

UCD School of Geography, in conjunction with UCD Library, recently held the annual 'Mapping Research Competition'. UCD researchers, faculty and staff created maps which visualised their research and interests and submitted their entries to the competition. The winning entrants were Nicole Lanphier, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy and Tomás Barry, UCD School of Medicine with their applications of Geographical Information Systems.

The competition was sponsored by Ordnance Survey Ireland. The aim of the competition and subsequent exhibition was to showcase maps created by UCD researchers and staff from across the campus to illuminate the diverse ways in which maps have been used to enhance and disseminate their research.



*Pictured are Nicole Lanphier and Tomás Barry at the event.*



Bord Bia MSc 2019/21 cohorts pictured with Tara McCarthy, CEO, Bord Bia.

## An exciting contribution to a Global Success Story

**UCD recently welcomed 69 scholarship students onto four food industry full-time MSc programmes delivered by UCD Smurfit Executive Development in partnership with Bord Bia.**

“Fostering talent and developing future leaders is vital to the current success and future growth of the Irish food, drink and horticulture industry,” explains Michael Murphy, Bord Bia’s Organisation and Industry Talent Director.

Conor Heavey, UCD Smurfit Executive Development, told UCD Today: “Overseas assignments across 15 of the industry’s most important markets enable our MSc students to hone their professional and commercial capability. These graduates continue to be highly sought after by Irish food export companies. With over 80% graduate retention we now have 250 alumni helping to drive the success of this important sector in roles

including sustainability, supply chain, marketing and commercial development”.

Students of the MSc Business Sustainability known within the industry as Origin Green Ambassadors are currently undertaking assignments at the headquarters of some of the most important target firms for Ireland’s food exporters, including McDonalds, Nestlé, Sainsbury’s and Amazon.

Led by Professor Damien McLoughlin and Helen Brophy, the relationship with Bord Bia, which commenced in 2009, goes from strength to strength with the recent intake doubling the usual cohort size and includes the addition of the MSc in Global Business Practice to the portfolio.

## Exploring the Transnational Neighbourhood conference

**Global mass migration on an unprecedented scale; dangerous journeys across the Mediterranean by refugees fleeing persecution and warfare; the loss of home; the challenge of integrating the arrivals; and conflicting notions of identity and belonging: these are some of the transcultural predicaments of the globalisation processes of the 21st century coming to a head in the local encounters of urban neighbourhoods.**

Whereas Singapore’s Holland Village, London’s Brixton and Berlin’s Kreuzberg have grown into trendy multi- and transcultural neighbourhoods coined by creativity and a newly affluent cosmopolitan class, others seem troubled by disenfranchisement, discord, and feelings of social displacement, with Molenbeek in Brussels and the Clichy-sous-Bois banlieue in Paris perhaps the most notorious examples.

On 25 September, the UCD Humanities Institute, together with the Institute of Modern Language Research, University of London, welcomed scholars from Europe, the Middle East, North America and Central America for a two-day conference to discuss the implications of these predicaments of globalisation. The aim of the conference was to shift the focus from a highly polarised and binary debate on migration to a more nuanced exploration of the various encounters taking place in often densely packed urban environments, as well as more rural areas.

As a starting point the transcultural – or indeed transnational – neighbourhood was framed as local but not provincial, as a space where diverse cultural backgrounds and practices can engender a feeling of togetherness as well as differences and conflict thereby fostering processes of cultural hybridisation. The invited scholars approached the topic from a variety of disciplines, including literary and film studies, urban planning, memory studies, linguistics, sociology, theatre studies, gender and postcolonial studies.

## Celebration of Twenty Years of French Law Degrees in UCD

**In early November, UCD Sutherland School of Law was delighted to co-host a celebration of Twenty Years of French Law Programmes with the Embassy of France in Ireland. The BCL Law with French Law Programme was first offered to students in 1999 and was followed by the launch of the unique Law Dual Degree in 2006.**

HE Stéphane Crouzat, French Ambassador to Ireland, joined Professor Colin Scott (College Principal), Professor Imelda Maher (Dean) and Dr Marie-Luce Paris (Academic Director of the Programmes) in welcoming Minister Mary Mitchell O’Connor TD to the celebration. The theme of the evening’s speeches was ‘*The Future of Legal Education in Irish and French Law: Law Languages and Legal Traditions*’. The audience heard inspiring speeches from the Minister, Ambassador and Professor Guillaume Leyte, President, University of Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas. They were joined by graduates Richard Kelly (BCL Law with French Law 2008) and Juliette Fauvarque (BCL/Maitrise 2018), both passionate advocates of their respective degrees. Richard and Juliette spoke about their experiences of studying in UCD and the excellent foundation that it provides for a future international career.



Pictured are (l-r): HE Stéphane Crouzat with Dr Marie-Luce Paris and Juliette Fauvarque.

All four partner universities in France were well represented on the evening with guests including Professor Emeric Jeanssen and Dr Georgia Schneider of University of Paris 2, Professor Peggy Ducoulombier of the University of Strasbourg, Professor Hervé De Gaudemar, Dean of Law Faculty, University of Lyon 3, Jean Moulin, Emilie Presthus of Aix-Marseille University, and Dr Charlotte Rault of University of Toulouse 1 Capitole.

## Club Activity Round-Up

**Relay for Life** - Over the course of October our Sports Clubs were asked to show their support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and raise vital funds for the Irish Cancer Society. Many of our clubs participated in the call to action 'Train in Pink', and helped collect and donate money at their training sessions, all while having fun and wearing pink.

**UCD Soccer** launched Super 5's, a new project aimed to provide a fun and social soccer league for males and females. Mixed teams compete in a 5-a-side game of soccer with two females having to be on the field at any given time. This new project complements UCD Sport's new 20x20 Third Level Membership and it has seen nearly 100 students taking part.

**UCD Ladies Basketball** has also begun a new social basketball evening that runs every Monday. Open to all levels of ability, the Club is proud to provide a fun social activity to keep fit and make new friends. UCD students, faculty, staff and graduates are all participating and registration reached capacity after three weeks.

**UCD Golf's** Charlie Denvir, who was participating in his first Irish Intersvarsity Championships, won the event at a rain-soaked St Anne's. Ellen O'Gorman, also participating in her first Intersvarsities, finished third.

Both the UCD Ladies Hockey and UCD Men's Hockey Club won their Irish University Hockey Championships held in early November.



Graduate Sport Scholars with Dominic O'Keeffe (left) and Brian Mullins.

## UCD Graduate Sport Scholarships

**On 1 October, UCD Director of Student Services, Dominic O'Keeffe opened the Graduate Sport Scholarship breakfast reception in the Student Centre acknowledging the contribution new graduate Sports Scholars have already given when they were undergraduate students. He continued: "You will be looked upon as a mentor in your sport, somebody who can guide the new generation of incoming UCD athletes through the roundabouts of sporting highs and lows".**

UCD Director of Sport, Brian Mullins outlined: "UCD is delighted to support students in their quest to further their professional qualifications and to give of their best in their

chosen sport and course work. We are grateful to the University for its commitment to the initiative and are confident of a significant dividend to the UCD Sport effort in the coming season as a result of the dedication and drive of these standard bearers".

He thanked faculty across the University who supported the programme, some of whom were unable to attend on the morning but included; Colm Small, Smurfit Graduate Business School Head of Admissions; Professor Dymna Devine, Head of UCD School of Education; Professor Imelda Maher, Dean and Head of UCD Sutherland School of Law; Associate Professor Orla Doyle, UCD School of Economics; and Professor Joe Carthy, College Principal and Dean of Science. Without their support this scholarship programme would not be possible.



Men's Hockey Captain (Aaron Empey) and Ladies Hockey Captain (Ally Priestman) opening the new surface of the UCD National Hockey Stadium

## New Hockey Pitch Surface

**This summer, the UCD Student Services team was busy at work to ensure, once again, student facilities and support services are best in class for the forthcoming academic year. UCD Student Services offers a large suite of supports and facilities conveniently located within the UCD Student Centre. The Centre itself sees over 12,000 people on average pass through its doors daily during term time. The building's relaxed environment allows students, faculty, staff and the local community to recharge and reconnect with their peers, colleagues and friends. It is also home to in excess of 22,000 UCD student society and sports club members.**

UCD prides itself on harnessing the well-being of its students both inside and outside of the classroom. It is therefore imperative that facilities are maintained and enhanced in line with our student's ambitions. Over the past few months, a significant investment in student welfare has seen; the Student Union's offices receive a contemporary refurbishment; while upstairs in the Health Centre, additional student counselling staff and offices have been added to an already well established service offering. Students have also been given a boost for their endeavours in a sporting sense, with the newly installed floodlighting system on the Thornfield grass pitch, adding to the National Hockey Stadium's new pitch surface.

The works which took place over the summer saw the pitch re-levelled, re-carpeted and a new floodlighting system and fence installed bringing

the stadium up to global elite standard. On a weekly basis the National Hockey Stadium welcomes between 500-600 people between training sessions and games. As planned, the pitch is providing as a world class surface for our 11 hockey student hockey teams and is the go-to pitch in Ireland for high level hockey games and tournaments.

UCD Sport also places a strong emphasis on community engagement through widening participation. The stadium welcomes national and local community partners such as Irish Hockey Association (IHA), Leinster Hockey, Genesis Colts Hockey Club, YMCA Colts Hockey Club, Pembroke Wanderers Juniors, Our Ladies Grove School, Jesus and Mary College, Lycee Francaise D'Ireland and Teresian School to name a few.



Club representatives from UCD Badminton, Ladies Basketball, Ladies Boat, Fencing, Orienteering Women's Rugby and Swimming clubs were in attendance for the launch.

## Student Sport Ireland / 20x20 Third Level Membership

**On 1 October, Student Sport Ireland in partnership with 20x20 announced the first ever national women in sport initiative for third level colleges and universities on the island of Ireland.**

Twenty-four Student Sport Ireland member colleges and universities, representing more than 200,000 students signed 20x20 Charters declaring their commitment to women and girls in sport.

UCD Sport are thrilled to be part of the initiative which aims to develop and support the reduction in the gender gap.

## UCD Researchers Win 2019 SFI Awards

Two UCD researchers have been announced as winners of prestigious 2019 SFI Awards which were presented at the annual SFI Science Summit held in Athlone.

Professor Kevin O'Connor, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science and Director, Beacon, the SFI Bioeconomy Research Centre, was named winner of the 2019 SFI Researcher of the Year Award while Professor William Gallagher, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science and Director, UCD Conway Institute, was named winner of the 2019 SFI Entrepreneurship Award.

Professor O'Connor's research is seminal in the area of circular economy, circular bioeconomy and biotechnology. He is also a member of the UCD Earth Institute and has published extensively and patented technologies on the conversion of waste plastics to biodegradable plastic and the biotechnological production of hydroxytyrosol, a health promoting molecule. As Director of the BEACON SFI Bioeconomy Research Centre, he is leading blue sky and industry-focused research to build and support the development of Ireland's bioeconomy. He is also shaping the European Bioeconomy Strategy through his chairmanship of the Scientific Committee for the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBIJU), a €3.7 billion Public-



Prof Orta Feely; Prof William Gallagher; Prof Kevin O'Connor and Prof Mark Ferguson, Director General of SFI and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of Ireland.

Private Partnership and through his recent appointment to Horizon Europe's mission board for Climate Change Adaptation and Societal Transformation. He is one of only two Irish members appointed to the EU's expert advisory boards on major challenges.

A major focus of Professor Gallagher's research at UCD is the identification and validation of candidate biomarkers of breast and other cancers, particularly those which guide

treatment decision-making. His research resulted in the establishment of OncoMark, a UCD spin-out company, currently headquartered at NovaUCD. OncoMark focuses on the development and application of biomarker panels which address critical unmet needs for cancer patients. Its lead product, OncoMasTR, is a prognostic test for early-stage breast cancer that can reduce the number of breast cancer patients receiving unnecessary chemotherapy.

## 2019 UCD Conway Festival gold medal for PhD student Dwayne Byrne

PhD student, Dwayne Byrne won the 2019 UCD Conway Festival gold medal for his research to understand how motor neurons work and why they stop working in certain neurodegenerative disorders.

Dwayne is part of a research team based in UCD Conway Institute under the supervision of Conway Fellow, Assistant Professor Niamh O'Sullivan, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science. He is currently working in the laboratory of Dr Craig Blackstone at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke in Bethesda, Maryland, USA as part of a collaborative project.



PhD student, Dwayne Byrne wins the 2019 UCD Conway Festival gold medal

Motor neurons are the nerve cells that connect the brain to muscles in the body. In this way, the brain can signal muscles to control movement, speech and breathing. In hereditary spastic paraplegias, long motor neurons which control leg muscles, degenerate over time. Patients suffer with progressive weakness and spasticity of the lower limbs, eventually needing a walking aid or wheelchair. There is no cure or preventive treatments currently.

Dwayne was awarded the gold medal sponsored by Cruinn Diagnostics at the closing ceremony of the 2019 UCD Conway Festival of Research and Innovation.

For the first time, panels of patient and public judges assessed the quality of plain English research abstracts by researchers in the UCD Conway Engagement Badge poster competition. Winners included PhD students Ailis Moran, Eve O'Reilly and Aoife Cosgrave.

## Ad Astra Academy Performing Arts Studio

The newly refurbished Ad Astra Academy Performing Arts Studio opened its doors to the public for the first time on 28 November. Ad Astra Academy performing arts scholars Dylan Browne, Ritchie Burbridge, Elliot Davis, Isolde O'Loughlin and Clodagh Reilly performed to a capacity audience in the first music recital to be hosted in the new studio. It formed a preview of some of the work that will be seen in the Ad Astra Academy recital next semester, which will feature Ad Astra soloists and also the newly formed chamber orchestra, which is under the guidance of Ad Astra music director Therese Timoney.

The Ad Astra music and drama scholars will be taking part in an intensive week of rehearsals, training and performance development in Sligo in early January 2020, hosted by Blue Raincoat Theatre Company and Hawk's Well Theatre. Led by Ad Astra Academy artistic director Kellie



Our photo shows Ad Astra Academy performing arts scholars: Isolde O'Loughlin, Ritchie Burbridge, Dylan Browne, Elliot Davis and Clodagh Reilly.

Hughes, who will be joined by Therese Timoney and vocal expert David Goldsworthy from the Theatre of the Voice, Maleragues, the week will include preparation for a new interdisciplinary

site specific performance currently in development, which will feature both drama and music scholars and will include new writing developed by the performing arts scholars.