



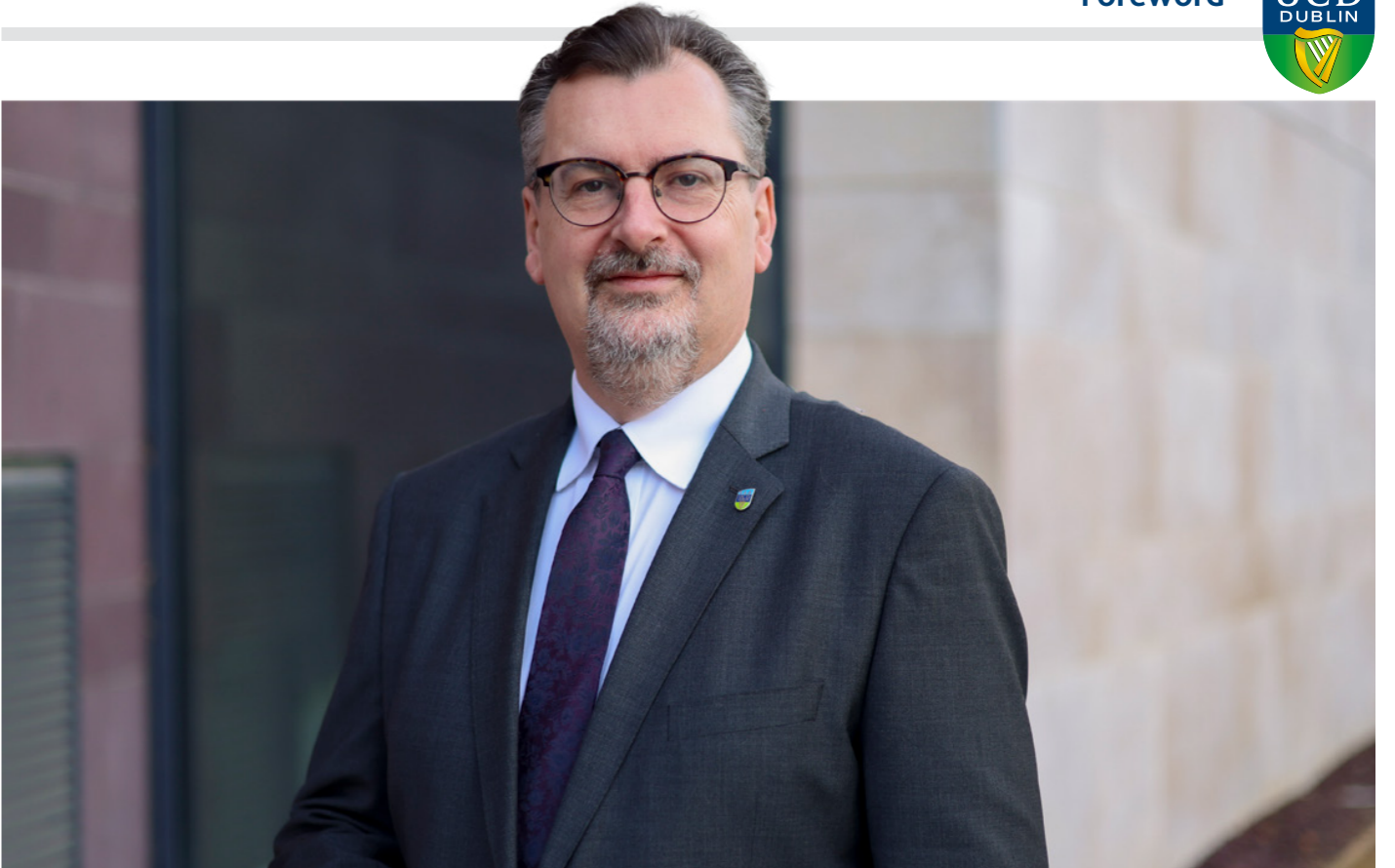
University College Dublin  
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath  
Ireland's Global University

# UCD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

September 2022 - August 2023







# Foreword from Professor Colin Scott

I am delighted to be able to present to our University and wider partners this annual report of the very diverse activities which come under the umbrella of UCD in the Community.

University College Dublin has a long tradition of positively contributing to the needs of society, demonstrated by its ongoing commitment to fostering community engagement and leading impactful initiatives that address pressing social challenges. This report tells the story of UCD's current engagement with the wider community, highlighting the effort, impact, and ongoing initiatives that foster meaningful connections and make a positive difference in society. These activities bring to life the values of UCD and demonstrate our ethos of openness, creativity, diversity and collaboration as we actively engage with the wider community for mutual benefit.

Amongst the many objectives and outcomes of UCD's engagement with the community we can see opportunities which have been taken to

- foster sustainable development and address challenges of climate change
- encourage the development of global citizens and professionals with a sense of civic and societal responsibility
- contribute to building a vibrant campus culture that values service, diversity, and inclusivity
- provide students with real-world learning experiences outside the classroom, enhancing their academic and personal development

- cultivate a sense of civic responsibility and social awareness among students, encouraging active citizenship
- encourage staff to apply their expertise in meaningful ways, advancing research and teaching with practical implications
- strengthen the university's reputation and visibility as a socially responsible institution committed to public service

The purpose of this report is to acknowledge, celebrate, highlight, and document the significant contributions made by our staff, students, and alumni, both within and outside the University. These community-university partnerships make a real difference. They enrich our teaching and the student experience, as well as offering innovative ways of engaging communities with research. These collaborative partnerships provide real and meaningful benefits for all those involved.

I hope you enjoy reading these stories of engagement and that they serve as an inspiration to get involved, make a difference and contribute to a more just and sustainable world.

**Colin Scott**  
Registrar, Deputy President and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
May 2024



# UCD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

September 2022 - August 2023





UCD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

# Introduction

**Community-university collaborations make a difference. They enhance our research, teaching and the student experience, while offering genuine and significant benefits to all those involved.**



This report is comprised of submissions received from across the UCD community and was compiled by UCD in the Community, UCD’s community engagement initiative. It showcases just a snapshot of the community engagement activities that have taken place between September 2022 and August 2023.

Campus Engage, based within the Irish Universities Association (IUA), define community engagement as:

“A mutually beneficial knowledge-based collaboration between the higher education institution with the wider community, through community-campus partnerships including the activities of community-based learning, community engaged research, volunteering, community/economic regeneration, capacity-building and access/widening participation”.

UCD strives to play an active and positive role within our communities, but often the people and success stories around community engagement activities across the university are unseen and unrecorded. UCD in the Community recognises the need to shine a light on these activities while, at the same time, supporting the establishment of new and diverse community initiatives. This year’s report highlights exceptional

achievements by UCD employees, students and alumni, that emphasise the profound impact of community engagement. From advancing research to addressing educational inequality, the UCD community is committed to enriching our communities and transforming lives through education, engagement and collaboration.

## Delivering on Strategy and Building Reputation

Community engagement directly contributes to the UCD Strategic Plan 2020-2024: Rising to the Future, in particular with Core Objective Three - ‘Continue to build our engagement locally, nationally and internationally’ and Strategic Theme Four - ‘Empowering Humanity.’ UCD in the Community is identified in the Strategic Plan as a means of “empowering the UCD community as socially aware, global citizens”. At a national level, engagement with wider society is named as a core role of higher education in the ‘National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030’ (Department of Education and Skills, 2011), and ‘Towards a Performance evaluation framework: Profiling Irish higher education’ (Higher Education Authority, 2013). This emphasis on engagement, highlights the increasing importance of higher

education institutions engaging with, and responding to, the needs of the community.

As plans are being made for the next UCD Strategy to 2030, the UCD in the Community team looks forward to collaborating and contributing towards this new strategy and continuing to better society through meaningful societal impact. In addition, UCD is honoured to be part of Una Europa, an alliance of 11 European Universities, sharing the common goal of developing a truly European University of the Future. As part of this alliance, UCD in the Community and peers from eight other alliance universities will collaborate under the WP6 – Una Europa For Society, service learning (community-engaged) network. The stories in this report clearly demonstrate that community engagement is alive and well in UCD and ready to be further supported and built on across the lifetime of the new UCD Strategy and beyond.

Engagement with the community is also key to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with universities being identified as playing a critical role in guiding the SDG response and building global capacity to implement the goals. UCD’s community engagement activities deliver on our national commitment to supporting this global framework and clearly demonstrates that UCD is committed to playing a key role

in achieving the SDGs. We have a responsibility through our teaching and research to equip the next generation of leaders, innovators and creatives to understand the global challenges facing the world and the role they play in addressing them. Throughout this report you will find tangible and real examples of how the university is delivering on this and the benefits that are gained by those involved.

A key part of the UCD in the Community team’s remit is to build and enhance UCD relationships with community-based organisations and work with them to identify needs that UCD is uniquely capable of addressing. There is mutual value in strengthening relationships with the community, enabling UCD employees and students to learn while they serve and simultaneously supporting and addressing local needs. At the same time boosting the institution’s reputation and cohesion in local, national and international communities.

**UCD in the Community hope that this report gives you a taste of some of the excellent community activities that are currently taking place, while inspiring new ideas for engaging with the wider community.**





UCD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT, UCD

# Employee Engagement & Volunteering



Culture & Engagement’s mission is to support employees by providing information, activities, and opportunities to connect them as a community to each other and the objectives of the University, while promoting good physical, mental and financial wellbeing. Ultimately making UCD an employer of choice.

A key aspect of the unit’s work is the organisation of events, with a move in the year to more in person events to help connect colleagues and build community. Some 36 initiatives and events were organised attracting nearly 7,000 employee registrations. These included webinars to mark world mental health day, an autumn fitness challenge and a winter celebration.

## UCD Employee Thank You Day

Over the past two years the efforts of UCD colleagues through the pandemic to ensure the University continued to teach and support our students, carry out vital research and contribute to the national effort, were immense. This took place against an environment of fear, stress, and personal loss and sacrifice for many. Together, through supporting each other, the university community got through a time of great difficulty and as we returned to a more normal life and times, the University wanted to acknowledge this collective effort.

On Thursday, 1 September 2022 we held a day to remember, celebrate and reconnect on campus. The day started with a remembrance, an event where those of any faith or none were welcomed to join together to remember colleagues, family and friends who passed away during the pandemic. The afternoon provided an opportunity to have lunch, enjoy some entertainment and reconnect with colleagues on campus.

## Concert for Ukraine

Culture & Engagement partnered with UCD in the Community to organise a concert in April to raise funds to support the work of the UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Sciences to provide lifesaving medicines and training for Ukrainian paramedics on the front line of the war. The concert, featuring staff and student performances, raised approx. €10,000 on the night with further significant donations received via the UCD Foundation.



UCD employees gather on the lawn of O’Reilly Hall as part of the University’s Thank You Day.



UCD Community Choir performing at the Winter Celebration for all UCD employees.

## Health and Wellbeing

The benefits of physical exercise for all employees were promoted through a number of programmes run in conjunction with Healthy UCD. These included bootcamps, circuit training, pilates, Desk to 5K and learn to swim classes held in October and February, attracting over 200 participants. The Autumn Fitness Team Challenge attracted 37 teams and the Hello Spring Team Challenge 46 teams, with a total of 400 participants. The challenges focussed on getting everyone moving regularly while also introducing an element of good-natured competition. A social event was also held on completion of the challenge, with the objective of helping to strengthen the UCD community.

SUBMITTED BY: Mark Simpson

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT, UCD

# 2022 UCD Values in Action Awards

In their fifth year, the Values in Action (VIA) awards celebrated individuals or teams/committees who acted as ambassadors for the UCD Values through their daily work, volunteering or establishing initiatives that brought the UCD Values to life. The awards were established by the Employee Engagement Network.

For the 2022 awards, 39 submissions nominating 23 individuals or teams were received. The adjudication committee awarded 10 UCD VIAs, out of the pool of high quality nominations that captured the diverse achievements of colleagues to bring the University's shared values of Collegiality, Creativity, Diversity, Engagement, Excellence and Integrity to life.

The Adjudication Committee was chaired by Prof. Joe Carthy, Chair; Assoc. Prof. Niamh Pattwell, previous VIA recipient, UCD School of English, Drama and Film; Andrea Forde, previous VIA recipient, UCD Agile; Rory Carey, Director Culture & Engagement; and Mark Simpson, Culture & Engagement.



## Recipient: Library Period Poverty Team

**TEAM MEMBERS:** Vanessa Buckley, Lorna Dodd, Mark Jenkins, David Larkin, Fanchea Rooney, Catherine Bodey  
**NOMINATOR:** Dr Sandra Collins, Carla Gummerson

The members of the Library Period Poverty Team are being recognised for their work to pilot the period poverty initiative and in doing so demonstrating the values of engagement, excellence, creativity and diversity. The Library and UCD Students' Union realised that there was potential overlap in the provision of

period products on campus and with COVID restrictions that the traditional provision by the Students' Union may not be sufficient.

The Period Poverty initiative was initiated as a collaboration between the Library, the UCD Dean of Students, and UCD Students' Union to provide free period products via dispensers in the James Joyce Library located in the women's, men's and unisex/wheelchair accessible toilets. This voluntary team in the Library receives products weekly from the Students' Union (provided at cost) and distributes them among the dispensers in the Library. The initiative was promoted through inclusive communication materials that were developed by the Library for use onsite and online.

This initiative has been delivered operationally through the dedication and commitment of the Library team and the UCDSU, and has acted as a pilot project / proof of concept for a wider roll-out across the campus which would not have been possible without demonstrating the need through the Library. The Library is now committed to ongoing and long-term provision of free period products, as part of their suite of onsite service provision for all students and staff. The project also links with the UN SDGS including no poverty and health and wellbeing. The voluntary work of the team is widely appreciated and recognised by the students and staff who avail of the service.

## Recipient: Dr Rachel Farrell

**UNIT:** UCD School of Education  
**NOMINATOR:** Niamh Byrne McKenna



Rachel Farrell is being recognised for the values of engagement, creativity, diversity and collegiality demonstrated through her work to support Ukrainian refugees. During the summer of 2022, Rachel helped empower Ukrainian refugees to have a voice through language acquisition support and development. She voluntarily gathered a team together to deliver English language classes three

evenings each week on the Belfield Campus, accommodating some 350 people since May 2022.

In addition, to help those Ukrainian families living on the UCD campus during the summer, she sourced funding and organised multiple day trips to places such as Powerscourt, Glendalough and Tayto Park. This was a very welcome distraction for those families who were struggling with having left members behind in Ukraine. Rachel continued to demonstrate her creativity and collegiality by successfully applying to The Community Foundation for Ireland, receiving €20,000 to help fund activities, delivered with UCD in the Community, to include moving classes online to facilitate those who cannot travel to campus. Rachel has worked continually to encourage and engage members of the UCD community to come together to help others in their time of need and in doing so building a more diverse UCD community.



## Recipient: Dignity & Respect Support Colleagues

**TEAM MEMBERS:** Conor Buggy, Cormac Taylor, Declan Fahie, Eoin Cummins, Joan Simon, Joanna Long, Katherine Fama, Katherine Mulfaul, Letizia Vettor, Marie-Louise Ryan, Ruth Harrison  
**NOMINATORS:** Catherine Tormey, Carla Gummerson

The Dignity & Respect (D&R) Support Colleagues are being recognised for their role to promote awareness of dignity and respect issues across the University and for the personal support they provide to employees. The panel consists of academic, professional and technical employees who volunteer for the role in addition to their regular workload. The panel are appointed by the UCD President and undertake training to ensure they are equipped to support employees impacted by issues of bullying, harassment or sexual misconduct.

Panel Members are available to listen and provide independent, unbiased, non-judgemental support and information about sources of help. In addition, Dignity and Respect Support. Colleagues have an in-depth knowledge of the informal resolution options available and how to submit a formal complaint. They provide support for either the person reporting, the person being reported or any witnesses/bystanders.

The impact they have is daily. In some critical situations they are the first person that someone may disclose to, ensuring that the employee is supported from the moment they disclose a situation. Unfortunately, issues relating to dignity and respect will

continue to impact the UCD community and this team is there to ensure that there is a listening ear and a safe space to talk when needed the most. The Support Colleagues help promote UCD's values of excellence, collegiality, integrity, engagement and diversity through their daily interactions to assist colleagues to work and study in an environment free from bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct.

## Recipient: Dr Paul Perry

**UNIT:** UCD School of English, Drama and Film  
**NOMINATOR:** Kelly Michels (student)



Paul Perry is being recognised as the driving force behind the Space Poetry Project and in doing so demonstrating collegiality, creativity, engagement, diversity and excellence. EIRSAT-1 (Educational Irish Research Satellite 1) is Ireland's first satellite and is being designed, built and run by a team of students and academic staff led by Prof. Lorraine Hanlon.

In 2020, Paul was approached by Lorraine to explore how a poem might be etched onto the satellite. Under his leadership, he developed a multivalent arts initiative which interfaced seamlessly with the most exciting science story in Irish history. This included students, staff and the UCD community, as well as the Museum of Literature Ireland and the JCSP Demonstration Library Project in the design and roll out of a workshop in poetry for students from around the country. In a very short space of time, the lines and poems of all involved were sifted through, redeployed, and curated as one co-authored poem, All Ways Home, which the UCD artist Emer O'Boyle then designed for etching onto the satellite.

In all, over 200 people worked on the project who needed to be coordinated and kept informed of progress, with weekly meetings, workshops and performances. This was all managed by Paul voluntarily on top of his day job. The poem is a testament to Paul's collaborative nature, creativity, engagement and empathy in working with diverse communities, including students from neurodiverse backgrounds and Deis schools.



SUBMITTED BY: Mark Simpson

TO SEE THE FULL LIST OF 2022 VIA RECIPIENTS VISIT:  
[www.ucd.ie/engage/engagement/events/ucdawardspage/2022viaawards/](http://www.ucd.ie/engage/engagement/events/ucdawardspage/2022viaawards/)



GAELTACHT UCD, UCD GLOBAL CENTRE FOR IRISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

# Acadamh na Lianna/ Association of Irish Speaking Doctors

Acadamh na Lianna's purpose is to provide a network for Irish speaking medical professionals and thus increase the availability of services for Irish speaking communities. UCD facilitated An Acadamh in bringing its message to a new generation of students.



In 2023 Gaelacht UCD worked closely with An Acadamh, with Áine Ní Shúilleabháin of Oifig na Gaeilge TCD and with representatives from UCD and TCD student medical societies, Sarah Ní Laoide and Eoghan Ó Ceallacháin, with the aim of raising the profile of the organisation and increasing membership among current students. On 18th March during Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023, it welcomed An Acadamh to host its first Irish-language intervarsity debate in the UCD Fitzgerald Chamber, Belfield. A lively debate was held, attended by UCD and TCD medical students, Cumann Gaelach UCD, Cumann Gaelach TCD, and members of Acadamh na Lianna from both general practice and hospitals in Ireland. The competition was adjudicated by Acadamh members and former CEO of An Chomhairle um Oideachais Ghaeltachta agus Gaeilge, Muireann Ní Mhóráin.

In March 2023, Gaelacht UCD hosted Acadamh na Lianna, the National Association of Irish-Speaking Medical Doctors, in UCD Belfield. The purpose of Acadamh na Lianna, established in 1968, is to promote the use of the Irish language within the medical and other health professions. The association, chaired by Professor Séamas Bernard Breathnach, comprises medical doctors from universities, hospitals and medical practices, as well as medical students throughout Ireland. Currently there is a shortage of medical professionals competent in Irish within the Irish health service, an issue which is of particular concern to Irish speaking or Gaelacht Communities. This was highlighted during the recent pandemic when clarity of communication and trust in medical professionals was of particular importance.



Acadamh na Lianna 2023 UCD/TCD debate during Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023



Gaelacht UCD worked with UCD School of Medicine and Professor David Gibbons in communicating the event internally, it sponsored digital adverts in advance of the competition as well as refreshments at the event. The first prize was awarded to the TCD team; Emilie Ní Dhubhghaill, Eoghan Ó Ceallacháin, Eoin MacCárthaigh, Seán Mac Eoin, and Sophie Ní Bhanáin, with the best speaker prize awarded to UCD medical student and former Teach na Gaeilge scholar Micheál Ó Cathasaigh. Micheál is a native of the Donegal Gaelacht who has been on placement within Irish-speaking communities and was particularly involved in the covid vaccination programme, where his language skills were of value. His fellow UCD teammates were Meabh Killalea, William Kinsella, and Gareth O'Brien. The event was a great success and Acadamh na Lianna intends to expand the 2024 competition to include competitors from RCSI alongside UCD and TCD and to extend it to competitors from a broader range of health science courses.

SUBMITTED BY: Clár Ní Bhuachalla

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [gaelacht@ucd.ie](mailto:gaelacht@ucd.ie)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







GAELTACHT UCD, UCD GLOBAL CENTRE FOR IRISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

# RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta's Live Belfield Broadcast

In November 2022 as part of its 50 year anniversary celebrations, Raidió na Gaeltachta broadcast live from UCD connecting UCD's Irish language community with Irish speaking communities globally

In 2022 the national Irish language radio station, Raidió na Gaeltachta celebrated 50 years since its foundation. In November 2022 Gaeltacht UCD welcomed it on campus, where it hosted a live broadcast from the UCD Student Centre. Raidió na Gaeltacht presenter Áine Ní Bhreisleán, a UCD alumna from UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Irish Folklore, presented her program 'Bladhaire' from the Fitzgerald Chamber; she interviewed students and employees including Gaeltacht UCD staff, members of Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD, UCD Cumann Gaelach and UCD Students' Union.



Áine spoke with native speaking PhD students from UCD Science and UCD Arts and Humanities, representatives from UCD Education, UCD Sociology, UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Irish Folklore, UCD Law and the National Folklore Collection. UCD TradSoc musicians entertained the listeners. The program provided an insight into the Irish-language community in UCD and connected it with Irish speaking communities nationwide. Gaeltacht UCD is grateful to Áine Ní Bhreisleán and the Raidió na Gaeltachta team for organising this broadcast from Belfield and for the support of UCD student centre staff.

SUBMITTED BY: Clár Ní Bhuachalla

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



UCD Students and Staff interviewed by RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta as part of its 50 year anniversary celebrations





HEALTHY UCD

# Healthy Campus Charter Signing

On the 15th of May this year, the HEA Healthy Campus Charter was signed and is an exciting new chapter for Healthy UCD.

The Healthy Campus Framework offers guidelines to third-level institutions to build on existing wellbeing actions and healthy campus activities and assists with the integration of health and wellbeing across the whole campus including teaching and learning, student supports and services, staff development and policies.



From left to right: Prof Catherine Blake, Head of the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sport Science\*, Prof Patricia Fitzpatrick, Professor of Epidemiology and Biomedical Statistics (Former Chair), Dominic O'Keefe, Director of UCD Student Services\*, Anne Scrivener, Project Coordinator, SIRC, Mark Simpson, Manager, UCD Culture and Engagement\*, Caroline Mahon, National Healthy Campus Coordinator, Higher Education Authority, Prof Barbara Dooley, UCD Acting Registrar, Kevin Griffin, UCD Senior Director of Registry\*, Dr Celine Murrin, Chair, Healthy UCD Steering Committee\*, Maria Heffernan, Healthy UCD Lead\*.

\*Members of the Healthy UCD Steering Committee.



**UCD Healthy Eating Week**  
7th-11th November

Promoting balance as part of healthy eating for the UCD community

@healthyUCD @HealthyUCD @Healthy\_UCD

HEALTHY UCD

# Healthy Eating Week

Healthy UCD worked with MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics students to deliver a Healthy Eating Week across the UCD campus in November 2022.

The purpose of this week was to support the students in achieving their required competencies for professional practice through facilitating the planning, delivery and evaluation of a health-promoting project.

Included in the initiatives were a restorative morning yoga session accompanied by some healthy breakfast options, mindfulness sessions in the Harmony suite, a talk on nutrition and mental health by dietitian Sarah Keogh, games on alcohol awareness in the Student Centre, fake-away (healthier versions of takeaway recipes) cooking demonstrations and a TikTok recipe competition with fabulous prizes on offer. Overall, it was a great effort by this cohort of students and a very well run and well received event.

**Brendan Egan & Daniel Davey**

Wednesday 9th November 1pm

**Fake-away Cooking Demonstration**

Healthy Eating Week 2022

↑ Brendan Egan and Daniel Davey - Fake-away Cooking Demonstration



SUBMITTED BY: Mags Carey

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [healthyucd@ucd.ie](mailto:healthyucd@ucd.ie)





HEALTHY UCD

# Active Living Week

Active Living Week took place during the week of the 14th of November with students from the MSc in Physiotherapy encouraging the UCD community to build activity into their everyday routines.

Information stands and competitions were used to raise awareness on the importance of being active. Basketball courts and football targets were set up across the campus with participation encouraged through raffles with prizes.

Bike safety clinics with free bike services were offered by the UCD bike shop to encourage more people to cycle to campus. A petition for more standing desks in the library was drafted, along with a proposal for a GPA neutral physical activity module, the use of movement breaks in lectures to encourage movement and targeted gym sessions aimed at introducing women to using gym equipment.



HEALTHY UCD

# Staff wellbeing activities with UCD Culture & Engagement

Healthy UCD continued its successful collaboration with UCD Culture & Engagement to deliver a wide range of staff wellbeing activities in 2022-2023.

In the autumn, a "Back to the Campus" range of activities were offered, with yoga classes, bootcamp, and a learn-to-swim programme, along with an opportunity for employees to try out the fantastic new running track. Coinciding with this was an "Autumn Fitness Team Challenge", aiming to encourage increased activity levels through the support of a team. These fitness programmes continued throughout the year with a "Winter Fitness Challenge" in February, consisting of circuit and learn to swim classes and a "Spring into Summer" programme from April to June that included boot camp, Pilates, and learn to swim classes.



SUBMITTED BY: Mags Carey

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [healthyucd@ucd.ie](mailto:healthyucd@ucd.ie)



HEALTHY UCD

# Wellbeing Wednesday

Wellbeing Wednesday took place on the 12th of April.

Healthy UCD worked with MSc and PhD students to provide a series of online videos on mental health and wellbeing that were shared on the various social media platforms. These included videos on being aware of critical self-talk, the importance of gratitude and the benefits of meditation.

A wellbeing wall was set up to incorporate artwork from students to promote their idea of "Health for All". The activities on the day proved very popular, particularly the fitness challenges which included a skipping challenge that attracted crowds of participants and spectators as people aimed to get onto the leader board for each challenge.

Healthy UCD presents  
*Wellbeing Wednesday*  
Date: 12th April 2023  
Time: 10 - 5 PM  
Venue: UCD Student Centre  
Add some art to the Wellbeing Wall, take part in our skipping challenge and much more!  
Lots of prizes to be won!  
Healthy Snacks included!



Healthy UCD and volunteers from the Masters in Public Health

HEALTHY UCD at the UCD Festival

HEALTHY UCD

# UCD Festival

Healthy UCD was delighted to participate in the UCD Festival on the 10th of June.

This year the festival targeted healthy eating for kids with activities including "Build the Healthy Food Pyramid" (using toy food and pyramid shelves), Healthy Food Fact Finders (a 'scavenger' hunt with a clue sheet and prize at the end), a favourite fruit and vegetable poll (live poll on a screen) and a drawing activity, all of which were well received. The team worked with the UCD Alumni office to provide healthy lunch tips for families with the free lunch bags offered in the UCD University Club.



SUBMITTED BY: Mags Carey  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: [healthyucd@ucd.ie](mailto:healthyucd@ucd.ie)



SCOIL NA GAELIGE, AN LÉINN CHEILTIGH AGUS AN BHÉALOIDIS UCD

# Ceardlann úrscéalaíochta le Laureate na nÓg Áine Ní Ghlinn agus AerachAiteachGaelach

Thug an scríbhneoir Áine Ní Ghlinn ceardlann don chomharghrúpa ealaíon AerachAiteachGaelach maidir le conas úrscéal a scríobh do léitheoirí óga agus é i gceist go spreagfaí duine acu le húrscéal a scríobh a mbeadh téamaí aiteacha i gcroílár an scéil.

Is comharghrúpa aiteach ealaíon é AerachAiteachGaelach ar chuir Eoin Mc Evoy (UCD) agus Ciara Ní É (Ealaíontóir Cónaitheach le Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh agus an Bhéaloidis UCD, 2023) tús leis i dtús 2020. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an ngrúpa cúnaimh agus comhairle a chur ar fáil dá bhaill, tionscadail chruthaitheacha a roinnt leis an bpobal agus tuilleadh daoine aiteacha le Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht agus san iarGhaeltacht a spreagadh i dtreo na healaíne. [www.aerachaiteachgaelach.net](http://www.aerachaiteachgaelach.net)

AerachAiteachGaelach is an LGBTQ+ arts collective which functions through the medium of Irish. It was established in 2020 by Eoin Mc Evoy (UCD) and Ciara Ní É (Artist-in-Residence with the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore, 2023). The aim of the group is to provide support and advice to its members in the arts, to share creative projects on queer themes with Irish-speaking audiences and to encourage more queer people from the Gaeltacht and the post-Gaeltacht to produce more artistic works in Irish. [www.aerachaiteachgaelach.net](http://www.aerachaiteachgaelach.net)



SUBMITTED BY: Eoin McEvoy



FOR MORE INFORMATION: [eoin.mcevoy@ucd.ie](mailto:eoin.mcevoy@ucd.ie)





STUDENT ADVISERS

# Peer Mentoring

Connecting a group of first year undergraduate students with an experienced older year student who supports them in their transition to UCD, helps to familiarise them with the campus, make friends and share their knowledge and experience of college life.

The main aim of the UCD Peer Mentor Programme is to support the successful transition of new students to university life. For the year 2022-23, there were 645 Peer mentor volunteers assisting just over 5,100 new entrants. Peer mentors share their experiences, insights, and challenges of being a student and also offer guidance, practical support, advice, and referral information about UCD support services.

The intended outcomes of the programme include the development of a sense of community and belonging for first

year undergraduate students. This is achieved by helping them to make friends and guiding them through the early stages of their UCD experience.

Through the creation of this informal student support network, routine problems and challenges experienced by first year undergraduate students are identified and addressed as early as possible. The Programme aims to facilitate enhanced academic and social engagement.

THE SPECIFIC AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME ARE TO:

- help new students make friends and settle into their programme
- encourage new students to get involved in social activities
- prepare new students for first year by encouraging them to develop specific study skills
- reassure new students when it comes to concerns they may have about starting college
- support new students in solving problems which at the start of Stage 1 can seem very difficult but which, with the right help, can be easily addressed
- provide a space where new students can ask questions, no matter how big or small they may seem
- assist new students in navigating the various academic and personal supports that are available to them in UCD
- enhance the overall quality of the first year experience
- equip peer mentors with organisational, communication and leadership skills which are valuable transferable skills for their future

SUBMITTED BY: Nadia Clarkin  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: [nadia.clarkin@ucd.ie](mailto:nadia.clarkin@ucd.ie)



*"MY PEER MENTOR BROUGHT ME to a society she belonged to. I wouldn't have gone on my own. This year I am on the committee of Dance Soc thanks to her."*

Peer mentors benefit from the programme through their enhanced relationship with the university and in the development of various leadership, organisational, and communication skills. In addition, they expand their own social groups. Peer mentors who successfully carry out their role can also seek a reference from the university.

UCD peer mentors are volunteers and year-on-year there are in excess of 600 older year students who volunteer to become peer mentors. For many of them, the intention is to 'give back' as they themselves had a positive experience. A small number apply as they had a poor experience and wish to provide a better experience for the incoming students.





UCD ACCESS & LIFELONG LEARNING

# Pathways to the professions, building aspirations in DEIS Primary Schools



Pathways to the Professions (P2P) is a strategic project improving access to the professions, starting with Law. A key strand of this project, Law in the classroom, sees final year law students work with DEIS schools to demystify the legal professions.

Pathways to the Professions is a strategic initiative to improve access to the professions, starting with Law. The project follows the student lifecycle and has a number of work strands including; pre-entry, University participation; early career progression, and inclusive workplaces. Funded by UCD Sutherland Opportunities supported by Mason Hayes & Curran and Rethink Ireland and led by the UCD Access and Lifelong Learning. Taking a holistic approach, the Pathways to the Professions seeks to address barriers, whilst working to overcome structural issues, the project uses the Law profession as a test bed to develop a model of best practice, and adapted to a range of professions, including Archaeology, Architecture, Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Social Work.



UCD ACCESS & LIFELONG LEARNING'S vision is that UCD will be a University for All, where all students, regardless of background or circumstances, feel welcome, belong and are valued. In doing so, all students can undertake their studies, participate fully in the life of the University, and realise their academic, professional, career and personal goals. Led by UCD widening Participation committee, Access & Lifelong Learning works to enable the University to fully realise its ambition to be a University for All, where access and inclusion is everyone's business. The unit focuses on a) University for All b) Outreach & Engagement, c) Student Support, d) Part-time/Flexible education, and e) Lifelong Learning, all to improve access and inclusion for all students.



Law in the Classroom, a flagship project falling under the pre-entry work strand. In collaboration with Dr. Suzanne Egan, Sutherland School of Law, who is the academic lead for the module, final year UCD law students, over a trimester run a series of workshops in 7 DEIS primary schools, Scoil Cholmcille Senior NS, Good Shepherd NS, Francis Street, St Audeons, St. Johns' national school, Scoil Na Mbrathar and Holy Spirit.

***"WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL there were no such things. I think if I had such an activity, I would have probably considered law."* Primary School Teacher**

The overall goal of the module is to prepare law students to act as role models and active participants in demystifying the law and the legal profession for children in DEIS schools, whilst developing their confidence and supporting young people's aspirations.

The Law in the Classroom module utilises role playing and participatory learning approaches to capture the imagination and enthusiasm of young learners in primary schools. The classroom workshops introduced young people to a wide range of legal concepts: truth, evidence, fairness, and justice. Through child friendly games and group activities the pupils develop their legal knowledge on child rights and amassed an impressive legal vocabulary. By the third week, phrases such as burden of proof, appellate, advocate, plaintiff, and class action, had become a staple of the children's game hangman. The pupils are also introduced to the difference between criminal law and civil law.

From the 27th to 31st March 2023, these aspiring young legal minds visited UCD to participate in a Moot Court Trial in the



custom built Moot Court Room in the Sutherland School of Law. During the mock trial sessions, thorny cases were heard, and unexpected verdicts were delivered to the grumbling disquiet of the courtroom.

In addition to the mock trials, Access Leaders led the primary school students and their families on a treasure hunt to explore the UCD campus and 'Going to College' workshops.

SUBMITTED BY: Fiona Sweeney  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
 Kathryn Orr, [kathryn.orr@ucd.ie](mailto:kathryn.orr@ucd.ie)







UCD ALUMNI VOLUNTEERING

# The UCD Alumni Volunteering Programme

Alumni Volunteers make a difference at UCD. By volunteering, alumni enrich the lives of current students and help build a vibrant community. In 2022-2023, over 2,500 alumni of all ages showed immense generosity and commitment by getting involved.

↑ Volunteers at the 2023 UCD Festival, made up of UCD students, alumni, staff and members of the community.

UCD is shaped and sustained by the lifelong engagement of alumni across the university. Alumni volunteering activity was as vibrant as ever in 2022-2023 and helped foster connections worldwide. We are grateful to the 7,500 alumni who, over the years, have collectively volunteered to support students, fellow alumni, and the wider UCD community.



Throughout the year, alumni spoke at Career Panels, Open Days, Guest Lectures, and Global Chapter events. We were delighted to welcome alumni to campus for in-person events, including the UCD Festival, Golden & Diamond Reunion, and UCD Awards. Alumni gave testimonials as part of social media campaigns and shared encouraging words through one-to-one conversations on the online UCD Alumni Network.

Our growing mentoring and alumni buddy programme list reached hundreds of students this past year. The UCD Career Mentoring Programme supported over 400 students across four colleges (Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences & Law, Engineering & Architecture, and Science), and bespoke mentoring programmes across the College of Business continued to thrive and engaged over 200 students with over 150 mentors and mentees attending a hybrid launch event in the student village. The Alumni Buddy Programme brought together incoming international students and local alumni with over 100 one-to-one matches, monthly group walks, and vibrant events to help them settle into life in Ireland.

Alumni based around the world volunteered to support student recruitment efforts. For example, the Global Alumni Ambassador Programme offered prospective UCD students access to helpful alumni who could give first-hand advice and answer questions about life in Ireland and studying at UCD. We are eternally grateful to all our alumni mentors, buddies, speakers, panellists, media contributors, chapter reps, class agents, board members, and more who have volunteered their time. They make a real difference to the University community in so many ways.

Volunteering with UCD not only provides an opportunity to impact the lives of current students but can also spark meaningful personal connections, broaden horizons, advance skills and expertise, and cultivate innovative thinking. The UCD Alumni team offers and supports alumni volunteering programmes and projects across the university and is open to collaborating on new initiatives.

**TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST** in creating volunteer roles in your College, School, or Unit or to learn more about getting involved, join the online UCD Alumni Network ([www.ucdalumninetwork.com](http://www.ucdalumninetwork.com)), visit the Alumni Volunteering webpage ([www.ucd.ie/alumni/volunteering](http://www.ucd.ie/alumni/volunteering)), email the team at [alumnivolunteer@ucd.ie](mailto:alumnivolunteer@ucd.ie), or call +353 1 716 1232.

 SUBMITTED BY: Niamh McGowan  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: [alumnivolunteer@ucd.ie](mailto:alumnivolunteer@ucd.ie)





UCD ALUMNI VOLUNTEERING

# UCD Alumni Buddy Programme

The UCD Alumni Buddy programme is a collaboration between UCD Alumni and UCD Global. It brings together local alumni and international graduate students to help ease their transition to life in Ireland.

An active collaboration between UCD Alumni and UCD Global, the UCD Alumni Buddy programme, brings together local alumni and international graduate students to help ease their transition to life in Ireland. In 2022-2023, the programme returned to in-person activity with one-to-one matching, Global Lounge events and group walks.

Since its launch in 2017, the Programme has linked incoming international students with locally based UCD alumni. It has enhanced the student experience significantly by:

- providing friendly and practical support to students, especially on their arrival in Ireland
- helping students integrate into UCD and local communities and become familiar with Irish culture
- facilitating intercultural and intergenerational exchanges between students and alumni

The broader benefits of the programme, frequently reported by students, include networking opportunities, general and practical advice, getting to know Dublin, professional mentoring and friendship, and learning about Irish culture and traditions. On



← Students and alumni interacting at the 2022 UCD Alumni Buddy Programme Welcome event held in the UCD Global Lounge.

several occasions, Alumni Buddies have exceeded expectations, even inviting students to their homes for a family dinner on Christmas Day.

We were delighted to return to one-to-one matching this year with alumni encouraged to offer individual support online or in person, depending on their circumstances and comfort levels. Alumni Buddies demonstrated great enthusiasm and adaptability by supporting students virtually, including via the UCD Alumni Network. Global Lounge events with themes such as Irish culture, Christmas and Easter were insightful for students. Monthly outdoor scenic walks exploring Dublin and beyond gave students and alumni the opportunity to network and form lasting friendships.



**"AMAZING. I was very nervous coming to a place that was completely different from my home, but the Buddy Programme helped me understand Irish culture and gave me a feel of a second home here in Dublin. Without this programme, I would never have met my buddy. Thank you!"**

SUBMITTED BY: Niamh McGowan  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: [alumnivolunteer@ucd.ie](mailto:alumnivolunteer@ucd.ie)







UCD ALUMNI VOLUNTEERING

# The UCD Career Mentoring Programme

The UCD Career Mentoring Programme provides students with a fantastic opportunity to network with professional alumni mentors who can offer support in developing their career ideas, clarifying their goals, and improving their employability.



HERE'S WHAT MENTEES HAVE SAID:

**90%**

of students felt more confident approaching their career planning as a result of participating in this programme

**81%**

of students know more about roles/career paths/sectors that might interest them due to this programme

**86%**

of students would recommend this programme to other students

The UCD Career Mentoring Programme is a joint initiative delivered by the UCD Careers Network and UCD Alumni Relations. It began in 2014 with 10 students; in 2022-2023, over 400 students applied to participate.

Mentees have the opportunity to review and request mentors online via the UCD Alumni Network. Both alumni and students are trained and supported to navigate this process. Mentoring sessions occur online, by telephone, or face-to-face at least 3 times in 6 months (January – June).

Alumni mentors are volunteers who come from a range of different personal and professional backgrounds with vast knowledge and a range of experience. They provide a sounding board and offer practical information on specific roles and sectors, including what is required to work in that area and what their day-to-day job involves.

This programme aims to support students at a critical time in their career planning as they decide about their next steps in employment, internships, or further study. Overall, the feedback from participants is excellent, and alumni mentors' time and commitment are valued. Students are grateful to alumni volunteers who give their time.

SUBMITTED BY: Niamh McGowan



**"ONE OF THE PROGRAMME'S MOST COMPELLING** facets was the opportunity to glean insights from individuals with real-world experiences. Textbooks and classroom lectures can only offer so much, and I was aware that authentic wisdom comes from those who have walked the path before me."





UCD CAREERS NETWORK

# UCD Advantage Award

The UCD Advantage Award facilitates students in reflecting upon their interests and activities to evidence personal and professional development, contribution to UCD and the wider community, health and wellbeing and culture and engagement. Students are recognised at University level for developing transferable skills through their co-curricular engagement and activities.

The UCD Advantage Award is an important addition to the UCD community and is based around four key 'themes' or 'pillars'. To achieve the award the student has to demonstrate engagement across four themes, which were developed in line with UCD's strategic objectives and strive to reflect UCD's values. Students are required to have a minimum of two co-curricular activities but can include as many as they wish and the focus is on what they have learned in the process of undertaking these activities.

The four themes are listed below:

- THEME 1: Personal and Professional Development
- THEME 2: UCD and the Wider Community

- THEME 3: Cultural Engagement
- THEME 4: Health and Wellbeing

There are many co-curricular activities that UCD students can engage in. Examples include volunteering in the community, actively engaging as a member of a club or society to participating in a Careers Network event to holding a part-time job.

In the Academic Year 2022- 2023 there was a significant increase in Advantage Award achievers from 220 to an impressive 531. Collaboration with units such as Student Recruitment, UCD Library and UCD Estate Services, played a pivotal role in effectively promoting and marketing the award. A pathway was



developed for student ambassadors, enabling them to include their Student Ambassador activities and Careers Network activities towards their award applications. Notably, 48 student ambassadors completed the process and achieved the award. A UCD library module on Brightspace called 'Exploring your digital identity' was added to the award framework. More than 90 students completed this module on Brightspace and included it in their award application.

The award is managed by the UCD Careers Network on behalf of the University by the Co-Curriculum Project Officer. The application is hosted on SISweb and details and activities a student can undertake are explained on the UCD Careers Network Website. Students attend an induction session which covers all aspects of the award. Once a student begins their application, they can add activities and begin answering the application questions. Additional support is available throughout the process via one to one appointments and a specific email address skillsaward@ucd.ie. One on one appointments are available for students to book for queries relating to the application.

The award ceremony takes place in April where students are invited to receive their certificate. Students also receive a digital version of their certificate to share on their social media, and UCD Advantage is listed on the Diploma Supplement.

For UCD staff engaged in Co-Curricular activities and awards, please contact Aradhna Mathur at aradhna.mathur@ucd.ie, for further information on how to ensure your co-curricular activities can contribute to the achievement of the UCD Advantage Award. We are keen to work with other colleagues around UCD who are working in the co-curricular space.

SUBMITTED BY: Aradhna Mathur

FOR MORE INFORMATION: aradhna.mathur@ucd.ie



**"I WOULD ABSOLUTELY RECOMMEND taking part in the UCD Advantage Award. It is a wonderful opportunity to get recognition for tasks that might otherwise go unnoticed. Besides, it is a great way to come to realise how much you have learned by taking part in extracurricular activities, and how they have been incredibly beneficial in improving your transferable skills for the future. Overall, it is absolutely worth the effort!"**



UCD CENTRE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SCIENCE, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

# UCD CEMS Ukraine Trauma Project

The UCD CEMS Ukraine Trauma Project was established by Professor Gerard Bury with the aim of training Ukrainian emergency medical services personnel in advanced life-saving pre-hospital interventions for massive hemorrhage. The project has been highly successful and continues to grow.



Volunteers packing the supply kits on a Saturday in early October 2023

The war in Ukraine has caused large numbers of trauma patients with limited access to advanced pre-hospital emergency care.

In the latter part of 2022, Professor Gerry Bury was requested by Ukrainian authorities to deliver training on advanced pre-hospital interventions for massive hemorrhage control for Ukrainian emergency medical services (EMS) personnel– as well as providing equipment and drugs.

A small group of tutors travelled to Ukraine in November 2022 to train 30 EMS staff with a primary focus on the prompt delivery of tranexamic acid (TXA) using (IO) intraosseous access. The course



Dr Laura Gorman worked around the clock to produce a range of high-quality 3-D printed anatomic models – used in UCD's courses in Kyiv and currently in use in Ukraine. RIGHT: In October 2023, the course expanded to include Airway Management training workshop.

was highly successful, and more courses for higher numbers of EMS personnel were requested.

The faculty of trainers was increased; a total of four "train-the-trainer" courses have been held in Ukraine by UCD's Ukraine Trauma Project for 200 EMS personnel (doctors, nurses, paramedics).

In Ireland the project is supported by the HSE, the Department of Health, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Ukrainian ambassador to Ireland, Larysa Gerasko. The support of the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly is particularly acknowledged.

In UCD, the Ukraine Trauma Project has received tremendous support from many colleagues – including Prof Joe Carthy, Prof Walter Cullen, Prof James Jones, Prof Michael Keane, Ms Eileen Bradish, Ms Joanna Koziolec, Mr Mark Simpson, Mr Christian Myles, and Dr Laura Gorman (whose bespoke 3-D printed anatomic training models are currently being used in IO-TXA training courses in different parts of Ukraine). Special thanks are also due to the UCD student societies for fundraising, and to Ms Sheena McLoughlin of the UCD Foundation.

Led by Emeritus Prof & Director of UCD's Centre for Emergency Medical Science Gerry Bury and Prof Chris Fitzpatrick, the project continues to grow to meet the demand. Another consignment of equipment and drugs is being prepared for dispatch in the coming weeks, and three or more training courses are being planned for the Spring.



A gift presented by the course participants to the UCD Trauma Project tutors in Kyiv October 2023.

SUBMITTED BY: Eileen Bradish







UCD CENTRE FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

# Japanese Language Summer Camp for Secondary School Students in Ireland

The UCD Centre for Japanese Studies offered the very first Japanese Language and Culture Summer Camp for Secondary School students in Ireland. The programme was held on the Belfield Campus between the 8th and 18th August and was supported by the Department of Education, Post-Primary Languages Ireland through the Governments 'Languages Connect' Strategy to encourage and promote Foreign Languages. With this kind support, the programme was free of charge, except for a booking deposit which is refundable on successful completion of the course.

Twenty three secondary school students joined the programme's various activities including Wadaiko (Japanese Taiko drumming), Bon-odori dance, an excursion to the Japanese Gardens in Kildare, sessions on manga, care robots in Japan, and of course, the Japanese language. This was the very first time any Irish HEIs hosted a summer camp for Japanese language, and the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies also secured funding from the Department of Education to run two Science, Technology and Innovation seminars and Wadaiko experience tours in secondary schools, scheduled for November 2023, as part of #ThinkLanguages Week 2023.

*"I ENJOYED LEARNING about the various backgrounds of attendees with an interest in Japanese as well as seeing how many are interested in Japanese language and culture."*

SUBMITTED BY: Naonori Kodate  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: [nobuko.ijichi@ucd.ie](mailto:nobuko.ijichi@ucd.ie)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







UCD CENTRE FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

# The Spirit of Samurai Taiko

Wadaiko Experience' brought the thunderous beat of Japan's Taiko drums to 12 schools, captivating +800 students in Cork, Ennis, Wexford, Gorey, Dublin and UCD. Many of these schools already teach and plan to expand Japanese language and culture courses.

Celebrating cultural fusion and community harmony, Experience Japan 2023 stands tall as a beacon of cross-cultural exchange between Ireland and Japan. Our initiative, pulsating with taiko beats and Samurai Music Zi-Pang, transformed historic Collins Barracks into a vibrant hub during the St. Patrick's Festival. With heartfelt gratitude to EU-Japan Fest, 'Languages Connect,' UCD Centre for Japanese Studies, and the visionary leadership of Nobuko Ijichi, this event epitomised the spirit of international cooperation. Notably, the esteemed presence of H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama, the Japanese Ambassador, further elevated our engagement by embracing local schools and delivering a speech in Irish, captivating the crowd's hearts.

Our collaborative effort, uniting over 7,000 attendees, including festival-goers, volunteers, and children, echoed the Samurai ethos of unity and harmony. The stage was set, quite literally, at Collins Barracks, once a bastion of military history, now transformed into a space for cultural celebration. The rhythm of taiko drums intertwined diverse souls, fostering unity among performers and audiences. Experience Japan 2023 - a testament to the power of cultural dialogue, a tapestry woven with shared moments of joy and cultural understanding.

**"THE RHYTHM OF TAIKO DRUMS intertwined diverse souls, fostering unity among performers and audiences."**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SUBMITTED BY: Naonori Kodate  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: nobuko.ijichi@ucd.ie





UCD CHAPLAINCY SERVICE

# Liturgies and Outreaches

**Inclusion of members of the wider community in Chaplaincy liturgies and activities and the involvement of UCD students in local parishes.**

The UCD Chaplaincy is deeply embedded in the community, involving and engaging volunteers from across the UCD community and wider local community, at our weekly masses and events.

Our Weekday and Sunday Masses (and occasional weddings and baptisms) attract a significant number of people and families from the surrounding areas of Donnybrook, Booterstown, Mount Merrion and Clonskeagh. This year a number of our students volunteered to assist with the Easter Ceremonies in Donnybrook Parish providing instrumental and choral accompaniment for a Taize prayer around the cross service.

A number of our students also participated in the planning sessions for the worldwide Synod of the Church at Booterstown and Donnybrook Parish Centres. A significant number of UCD students also participate in and contribute to the weekly Thursday Vespers service in the Church of Ireland at Rathmines.

SUBMITTED BY: Brendan Ludlow





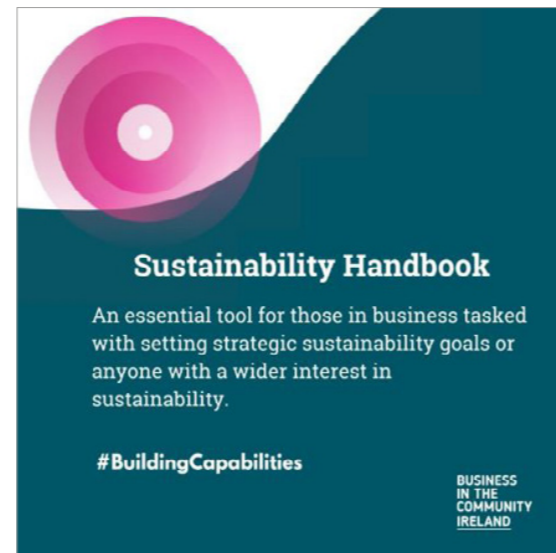


UCD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

# UCD Centre for Business and Society

## Playing a critical role in Business in the Community Ireland Sustainability Handbook

The Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) Sustainability Handbook was recently launched as an essential tool for those in business tasked with setting strategic sustainability goals or for anyone with a wider interest in sustainability.



As a member of the BITCI Leader Subgroup on Building Capabilities for the past 20 months, UCD College of Business Professor of Employment Relations Colm McLaughlin played a critical role in providing input for the publication, drawing on the sustainability expertise of members of the UCD's Centre for Business and Society (CeBaS), of which he is Co-Director.

"The BITCI Sustainability Handbook was written for the business community, so it has a very practical and action-oriented focus on how organisations can become more sustainable, but is also an invaluable resource for teaching our students about sustainability," said Professor McLaughlin who also represents the UCD College of Business as Coordinator for the UN Principles for Responsible Management Education (UN PRME).

According to the BITCI website: Transformational change is needed if we are to meet global commitments on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, restoring nature and working towards a more equal society. To do this, we need to align on what sustainability means and on the pressing need for businesses to adapt and change.

This handbook will help develop a common understanding of the role of business in working collectively to bring about a low-carbon economy and inclusive society.

The BITCI handbook follows the Economic, Environment, Social and Governance (EESG) framework as used by the BITCI Business Working Responsibly Mark.

The handbook includes best practice examples from across BITCI's membership, questions to reflect on leadership in sustainability, and draws on existing BITCI publications, academic insights from knowledge partners, and global and national insights gained through partners WBCSD – World Business Council for Sustainable Development and CSR Europe.

"I'm proud to have played a role in producing this very valuable resource and extend my appreciation to my UCD CeBaS colleagues for their input, to my fellow members of the BITCI Leader Sub-Group, and to Rebecca Kummert and Marian Curry of BITCI for their leadership in bringing this handbook to fruition," concluded Professor McLaughlin.

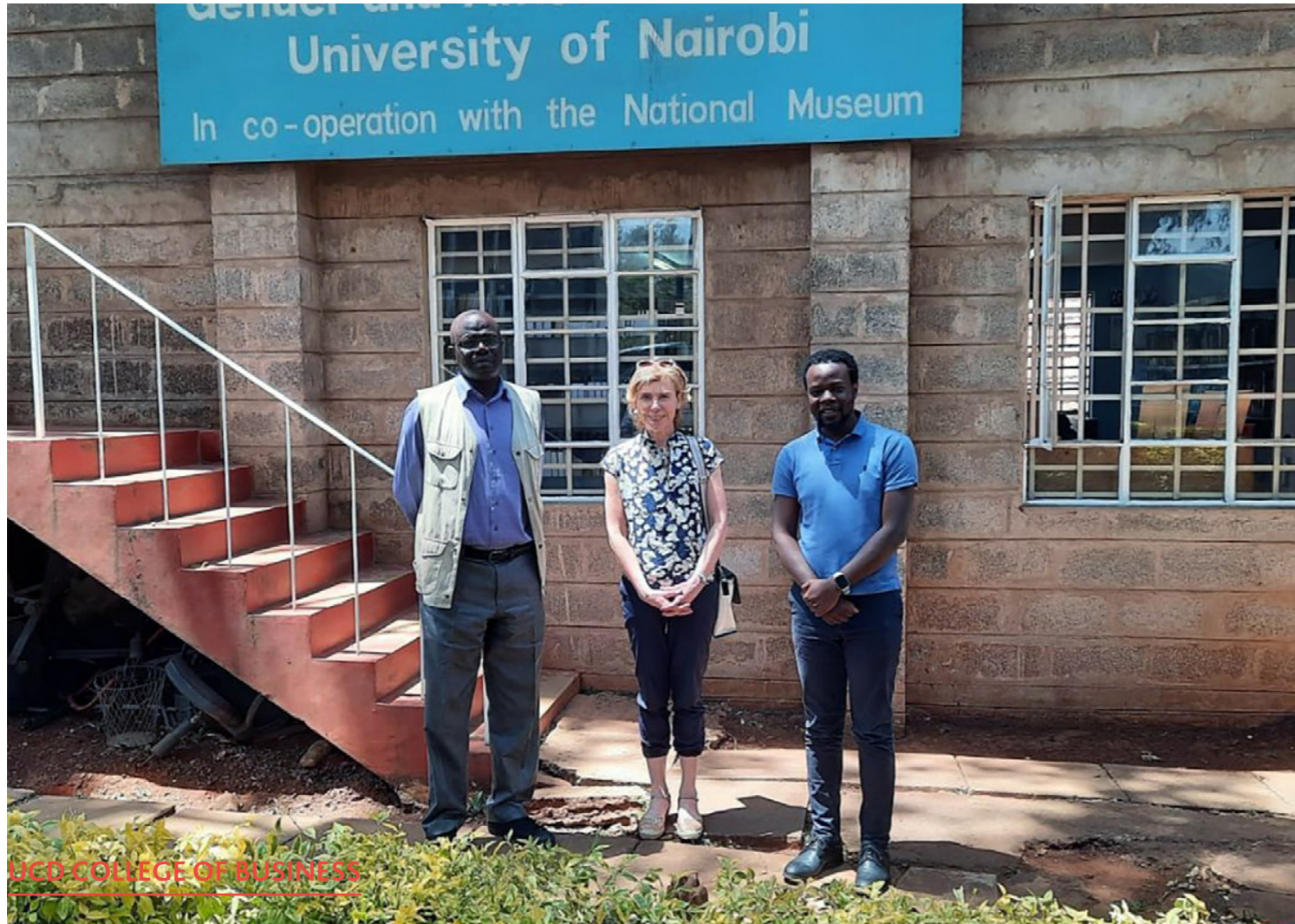


**SUBMITTED BY:** Beth Gormley

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[colm.mclaughlin@ucd.ie](mailto:colm.mclaughlin@ucd.ie)







UCD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

# Professor Susi Geiger appointed to new WHO Technical Advisory Group

Professor Geiger delivered a lecture at the University of Nairobi

Professor Susi Geiger has been appointed as an independent expert with the newest World Health Organization (WHO) Technical Advisory Group on Pricing Policies for Medicines (TAG-PPM).

The goal of the organisation is to strengthen pricing policies, transparency of markets, and affordable access to medicines no matter where one lives. According to the organisation’s website, WHO has increasingly been requested by Member States for technical input on matters relating to pricing and affordability of health products.

Professor Geiger was selected to the group as a leader in healthcare, pharmaceutical markets, market failures, patents and medicine prices. Her academic work investigates the organisation and shaping of markets, with a particular focus on how civil society contests these markets. Professor Geiger’s current research is focused on market failures and collaborative market innovation in pharmaceutical markets.

“There are serious concerns over social justice in healthcare markets today,” said Professor Geiger. “Through privatisation of healthcare providers and the consolidation of pharmaceutical innovation into only a handful of firms, we are in many areas

being taken hostage by private industry in what is essentially a public good— access to healthcare. I would like to see everyone, everywhere in the world, be able to access the medicines they need.”

As the only-ever Irish female business scholar to be awarded a highly prestigious €2 million ERC (European Research Council) Consolidator Grant, she is carrying out research on market failures in healthcare, for instance, high prices, patent abuses, lack of innovation. As part of this grant, she founded the MISFIRES Project, an initiative that refocuses the issues of market failures and market design from economic principles towards collaboration and participation.

Earlier in the year, Professor Geiger was invited to give a public lecture at the University of Nairobi entitled “Global solidarity, vaccine equity and the responsibility of the pharmaceutical industry”. The lecture was based on a recent publication from Prof Geiger’s ERC MISFIRES project.

The event which was opened by Prof Onyango-Ouma, Director of the Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies welcomed over 200 academics from various faculties of the University of Nairobi and other Kenyan Universities.



**“THERE ARE SERIOUS CONCERNS OVER social justice in healthcare markets today,” said Professor Geiger. “Through privatisation of healthcare providers and the consolidation of pharmaceutical innovation into only a handful of firms, we are in many areas being taken hostage by private industry in what is essentially a public good— access to healthcare.”**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Susi.Geiger@ucd.ie

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







UCD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

# UCD College of Business and Howard University create new exchange to tackle global challenges

The programme was designed to create space to learn about the cultural similarities and differences between Ireland and the US, allowed for our future leaders to experience a hands-on international business experience, to understand the role companies can play in responsible consumption and production, alongside the importance of developing professional networks.



Vice President of the United States Kamala Harris commented on the innovative collaboration between UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School and Howard University School of Business during An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar's visit to the Vice President's Residence as part of St. Patrick's Day celebrations earlier this year.

"An Taoiseach visited my alma mater, Howard University, to celebrate and strengthen programs between the students there and the Smurfit Business School in Dublin," commented Vice President Harris. "So, through this and many other exchanges, including the pride that both Ireland and the United States take in the relationship between Frederick Douglass and Ireland, we show that through the years, through generations, this is a strong and enduring relationship that makes us all very proud."

Her comments marked the beginning of the second half of the exchange, where 19 students from UCD Smurfit School and UCD Quinn School, visited Washington DC to focus on doing business in international markets, sustainable development goals, diversity and inclusion and cross-cultural learning. In addition, supporting Howard University's motto of "Truth and Service," students were invited to take part in an activity for Mamatoto Village—an initiative that offers safe, compassionate, inclusive, and radical collective care to combat inequities faced by Black women during pregnancy, birth and postpartum care.

The partnership has resulted in scholarships available to Howard University students to continue their studies at Ireland's leading business school for the upcoming academic year.

Also in attendance at the Howard University event was UCD's new President, Professor Orla Feely, who visited the campus along with Professor Gerardine Doyle, Director, UCD Smurfit School and Associate Dean, UCD College of Business; Barron Harvey, Associate Provost, Howard University; Ambassador Geraldine Bryne Nason, Ambassador of Ireland to the United States; Professor Anthony Wilbon, Dean, Howard University School of Business; Dennis Brownlee, Chairman, African American Irish Diaspora Network; and Shaun Kelly, Chair of the UCD College of Business North American Advisory Board and former Global Chief Operating Officer, KPMG International.



 SUBMITTED BY: Beth Gormley  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[beth.gormley@ucd.ie](mailto:beth.gormley@ucd.ie)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







UCD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

# UCD Smurfit School Christmas Carols Fundraiser Event

In support of The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland

The UCD Smurfit School Christmas Carols were held Thursday December 15th and were led by children and teachers from Carysfort National School. Festive treats were enjoyed by all, especially the children!

The event raised over €350 for The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland.



THE Alzheimer  
SOCIETY OF IRELAND







UCD COMMUNITY CHOIR

# Choir Activities 2022-23

UCD Community Choir has another fantastic year of singing on campus.

UCD's Community Choir was established in 2016 as a UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) initiative. The choir was seen as a way of bringing together staff from across Belfield's 330 acre campus and the Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business campus in Blackrock. The choir is comprised of current and retired UCD staff (approximately seventy regular singers) and is directed by the fabulous Caoimhe O'Neill.

This last year (2022-23) was a very busy one for the choir. During the first trimester, as we welcomed new members, we began trying an array of new songs, but by October we were practising for our Christmas performances. The highlights of our Christmas season were naturally performing at the lighting of the UCD Christmas Tree and UCD Winter Celebration in the Student Village in December.

In the second trimester we began our performances with LGBTI+ History Week with a wonderful performance in the O'Brien Science Centre. This was quickly followed by one of our favourite events – Choirs for Cancer. This event is a wonderful occasion bringing choirs from all over Ireland to sing together to support cancer survivors and their families but very importantly to raise awareness around groundbreaking cancer research being conducted in UCD through Precision Oncology.

The event sends a strong message of support and respect to those involved with cancer, be it those who have recovered from or are living with cancer, those involved in caring for people with cancer, those working in research or day to day activities in health and wellbeing. At the event we sang 'Treat People with Kindness' by

Harry Styles and we also sang 'The Water is Wide' with soprano Anne Randolph.

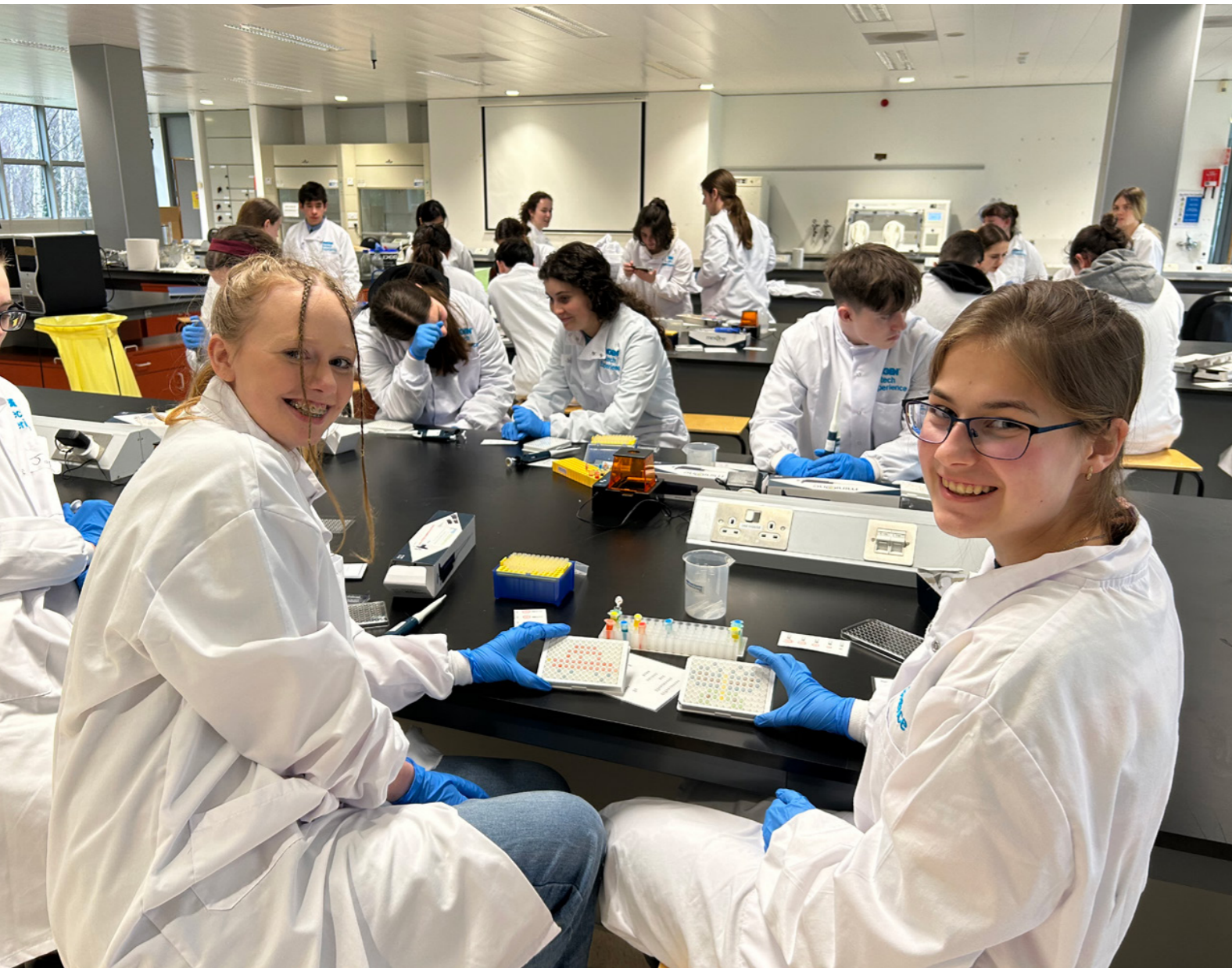
In April we led a fantastic event in its first year – the Concert for Ukraine. This event brought together musical talent from across the university and we were delighted to be a central part of that brilliant evening.

We rounded out the academic year by taking to the big stage at UCD Festival where we belted out some massive tunes including 'Let The River Run' which is definitely one we will be returning to in 2023-24.

SUBMITTED BY: Conor Buggy







From TY weeks to teacher workshops and equipment loans. Funding received from SFI Discover, the Department of Education, and Amgen Foundation to deliver high quality school outreach programmes across 2023, 2024 and 2025.

### CuriosiTY Programme

Systems Biology Ireland and UCD Conway Institute received funding in December 2022 from SFI Discover and the Department of Education for CuriosiTY, a transition year placement programme to broaden participation in STEM.

The award of €169,000 is funding eight immersive Transition Year placement weeks over 2023/2024 under the CuriosiTY programme. CuriosiTY focuses on increasing awareness of STEM education and careers as well as developing key skills within a framework that provides equity of access and widens participation.

CuriosiTY will provide places for 192 pupils to experience research life at UCD and will support public engagement training to 60 postgraduate researchers. Targeted measures will ensure pupils from DEIS designated schools linked with UCD and schools in areas of geographical disadvantage linked with the Amgen Biotech Experience Ireland programme can participate. The first two TY weeks took place in March 2023 and May 2023, where 48 pupils from schools around Dublin and Monaghan participated.

Postgraduate researchers are also trained in public engagement to lead the delivery of the CuriosiTY programme through small groups that facilitate informal mentorship. They guide pupils in exploring the world of research through hands-on laboratory activities and career talks.

Pupils learn how science works as a multidisciplinary, global endeavour to address societal challenges with a variety of STEM careers supporting this enterprise.

### Amgen Biotech Experience, Ireland

Amgen Biotech Experience (ABE) Ireland is the Irish site of the global education programme aiming to equip teachers to deliver cutting edge biotechnology labs in the classroom. We train teachers and offer loans of the equipment and samples needed, completely free of charge. In June 2023, further funding was obtained from Amgen Foundation to continue running the ABE programme in Ireland until 2025. ABE Ireland has been hosted at Systems Biology Ireland with support from the UCD Conway Institute since 2014. Since its inception, ABE Ireland labs have been delivered to over 19,357 secondary school students across Ireland, 3,539 of whom were reached in the 2022/2023 academic year.

In 2022/2023, 71 teachers were trained from schools across Ireland in eight workshops that took place in-person and online. Lab equipment was loaned by 64 teachers. ABE Ireland also linked classrooms up with UCD Conway Institute researchers who spoke about their research and careers to date.

UCD CONWAY INSTITUTE

# School Outreach - ABE Ireland & CuriosiTY Programme



Students involved in the March 2023 CuriosiTY week carrying out an ABE Ireland pipetting activity



*"Thanks again for all you've done for the girls, I have five converted scientists for certain. If there are any more sessions like that for TYs, even for a day, please let us know!"*

- SCIENCE TEACHER WHOSE STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE MARCH 2023 CURIOSITY WEEK

SUBMITTED BY: Anna Wedderburn

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CuriosiTY Programme: [curiosityprogramme@ucd.ie](mailto:curiosityprogramme@ucd.ie); Amgen Biotech Experience Ireland: [abe-ireland@ucd.ie](mailto:abe-ireland@ucd.ie)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





UCD CONWAY INSTITUTE

# The Art of Science in UCD Conway Institute

Over the last number of years, the UCD Conway Institute has worked closely with two artists to create artwork based on the research being carried out within the Institute.

The UCD Conway Institute has started exploring how art and science can work alongside each other. This began in 2020 when the Institute worked with its first Artist in Residence, Lorna Donlon. This year-long collaboration led to further funding being received from SFI Discover and the creation of 'STEP Through the Looking Glass: Stories Told of the Experimental Process' ([www.stepartexhibition.com](http://www.stepartexhibition.com)).

From September 2022 to August 2023, the exhibition toured the following venues: Barretstown, UCD Conway Institute, UCD Festival, University Hospital Waterford, St Vincent's University Hospital, and the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. Panel discussions with the researchers and patient partners involved in the exhibition were held at each venue, alongside a presentation at the Medical Grand Rounds in St Vincent's University Hospital. The exhibition has now found a semi-permanent home in St Vincent's University Hospital in the first floor atrium.

During this period, another science-inspired artwork was created by artist Vincent Devine in collaboration with 15 cancer researchers, one technical staff member, and one cancer patient with funding from the UCD-Wellcome ISSF initiative. Together,

they explored how cancer affects patients and their families, how research undertaken in the Institute may ultimately help patients, and how technology platforms within the Institute support this research. Inspired by the iconic drawing of 'The Vitruvian Man' by artist and scientist Leonardo da Vinci, Devine created a striking image of an androgynous human to visually map the different perspectives and approaches that researchers use to understand cancer at molecular, cellular, tissue and human levels. The painting made its debut at the 2023 UCD Festival.

On 31st August the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD, joined Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) to launch Science Week 2023, announcing €650,000 in funding for festivals and events happening throughout the week. 'The Vitruvian: Uncovering the Layers of Cancer' was included in this funding announcement, having secured funds to create four derivative paintings to accompany The Vitruvian, all of which are to be toured in Offaly and Dublin during Science Week 2023. Vincent Devine will walk visitors through the visual imagery of art works, while researchers and patient advocates will talk about their role in the creative process and the future they envision for cancer patients.



Artist Vincent Devine with 'The Vitruvian: Uncovering the Layers of Cancer' at UCD Festival 2023

SUBMITTED BY: Anna Wedderburn

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[anna.wedderburn@ucd.ie](mailto:anna.wedderburn@ucd.ie)





Our dream teams of patient partners and researchers were Tom, Clodagh, Raymond, Manan, Paula, Mary, Rawaa, Valentina, Vidhyutha, Haleema, Kay and Deirdre



UCD CONWAY INSTITUTE

# Patient Voice in Cancer Research

Building Connections Between Researchers and Those Impacted by Cancer

## PVCR Roadshow

The Patient Voice in Cancer Research (PVCR) brought a roadshow event to the Radisson Blu, Athlone on the evening of 21 February 2023 ahead of the Irish Association for Cancer Research annual conference. 'Have Your Say in Research' gave attendees an opportunity to hear 'patient voice' partners speak about their experience of working with researchers through the PVCR initiative.

Eight people spoke as part of this event: Mary Staunton, Rebecca Sheridan, Ramon Whelan, Kay McKeon, Tina O'Neill, Dr Nicolette Warner, Dr Ananya Gupta, and Prof William Gallagher. We heard about patient voices and PhD students working together to prepare an accessible presentation for a national competition (which they won), patient participation in reviewing the public & patient involvement (PPI) section of grant proposals, carving a niche as a patient advocate and researcher alongside a career in graphic design, the benefits to each side of the PPI relationship between patients and researchers, the important role of patient feedback in the development of a device to measure white blood

cells from the comfort of their own home, and the importance of PPI in the new 'All-Island Cancer Research Institute' initiative.

Anyone interested in joining the PVCR network can sign up on [www.ucd.ie/patientvoicecancer](http://www.ucd.ie/patientvoicecancer)

## Patient Innovation Workshop

Inspired by Patient Innovation, an online platform for patients and caregivers around the world to connect and share the solutions they developed to cope with a health-related problem, the Patient Voice in Cancer Research in collaboration with the UCD Innovation Academy brought patient partners and researchers together on a similar innovative journey during Autumn 2022.

Three teams of patients and researchers worked together in a design thinking sprint over a two-week period and during two half day workshops on challenges for cancer research. The teams were each given a topic to work on and presented some great suggestions to address these questions; how do we focus on the

'person' and not just the 'disease'? (2) how do we include diverse voices from all communities in public patient involvement in research? (3) how do we meaningfully involve patients in laboratory-based research?

Maurice Knightly and Eileen Diskin from the UCD Innovation Academy expertly facilitated the workshops, which were made possible through funding from the UCD Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund.

Our dream teams of patient partners and researchers were Tom, Clodagh, Raymond, Manan, Paula, Mary, Rawaa, Valentina, Vidhyutha, Haleema, Kay and Deirdre. The Patient Voice in Cancer Research was represented by Professor Amanda McCann, Elaine Quinn, and Anna Wedderburn.



SUBMITTED BY: Anna Wedderburn

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [patientvoicecancer@ucd.ie](mailto:patientvoicecancer@ucd.ie)

Kay McKeon, Dr Ananya Gupta (University of Galway), Tina O'Sullivan, Dr Nicolette Warner (Irish Cancer Society), Rebecca Sheridan (UCD), Mary Staunton (UCD), Ramon Whelan, Prof. Amanda McCann (UCD) at the PVCR Roadshow





UCD HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

# Post-extractivist legacies and landscapes: Humanities, artistic and activist responses

Led by the UCD Humanities Institute, the Andrew W. Mellon-funded CHCI project, 'Post-Extractivist Legacies & Landscapes' (PI: Prof Anne Fuchs, Co-Is: Dr Sarah Comyn and Dr Megan Kuster), is based on a partnership with colleagues in Tallinn University (Estonia), University of Witwatersrand (South Africa), Rice University (USA), and the Australian National University (Australia). The project draws on creative methodologies for analysing extractivism and engages with extractivist sites using a wide-range of artistic forms.

In 2023, the project hosted three conferences in Tallinn University (Estonia), 28-30 May 2023; in UCD, 4-8 July; and at the University of Witwatersrand (South Africa), 27-30 November. Each meeting brought together artists, activists, and scholars with expertise in a wide range of creative forms, connected to particular communities and sites of extraction, and working across a range of different humanities disciplines.

The pre institute meeting, convened by Professor Eeva Kesküla (Tallinn University), brought together 26 scholars from the core partner institutions, a number of Irish and Estonian artists, and local miners, community-level politicians, and expert regional cultural guides. A one-day seminar featured insights into local and post-Soviet/post-colonial legacies, presentations of project partners' case studies, and a roundtable on diverse methodologies of artistic engagement with extractivism. This was followed by

a two-day tour of the Ida-Virumaa region of eastern Estonia (the former coal and uranium mining areas with majority ethnic Russian populations), which served to connect the theoretical discussions with excavated landscapes, architectural ensembles, and artistic engagements of the past with imaginaries of (post)-extractivist futures.

The main conference, hosted by UCD, included presentations from 62 academics and artists from Ireland, Estonia, South Africa, the US, Australia, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Argentina, Finland and Italy, across 4 roundtable plenary panels and 10 paper panels. We delivered the conference in a hybrid format, with over 80 guests participating in-person, and 75 people registering to attend online, via zoom. A special highlight was a lively and well-attended 'Arts Evening' in the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI): seven emerging and established writers presented poems and prose writings on mining themes. The 'Arts Event' also included a keynote presentation from the main project artist, Judy Carroll Deeley, who presented her original post-mining paintings; a co-commissioned (UCD HI and MoLI) sound installation by Ian Maleney was launched, and the winners of the student zine competition were announced. A key part of the conference included connecting the academic research to landscapes impacted by extraction through a series of in-person site studies and a reflective postcard exchange (led by Dr Sarah Comyn and Dr Katherine Fama). Conference participants visited the Abbeyleix Community Bog Project, Glendalough Mines, and the National Museum of Ireland's 'Bog Bodies' exhibition, the first two of which were led by community partners.

Following on from the project, UCD Estates has purchased four original paintings produced by the project artist, Judy Carroll Deeley. These will form part of UCD's art collection and will initially be showcased in the Humanities Institute.

In addition to all of this, and with seed funding from the UCD Humanities Institute Seed Funding Scheme, the next phase of the project will include a series of workshops in 2024, each including an academic and artist pairing, that explores how experimenting with different creative mediums can change our relationship with an extractivist site in Ireland.



SUBMITTED BY: Dr Sarah Comyn  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: sarah.comyn@ucd.ie





UCD IN THE COMMUNITY

# UCD Community Engagement Report

## UCD in the Community launches its sixth Community Engagement Report

UCD employees, students, and alumni continue to make enormous contributions to the wider community. In May 2023, UCD in the Community was honoured to launch another inspiring community engagement report showcasing the significant contributions of community engagement happening across UCD. The purpose of the report is to celebrate, highlight, and showcase the wide variety of community engagement that is happening across UCD, from community-engaged research and innovation, and community-engaged teaching and learning, to volunteering. The activities in the report bring to life the values of UCD and demonstrate the open, creative, and collaborative spirit in which we engage with the wider community for mutual benefit. The report can be viewed on the UCD in the Community website.



UCD Community Engagement report 2023







↑ UCD Students receive Volunteer Award in 2022

UCD IN THE COMMUNITY

# UCD in the Community Student Volunteering Awards

During 2022/23 as most colleagues and students returned to campus, UCD in the Community moved towards reconnecting with colleagues, students, and the wider community to facilitate the University objectives around community engagement.

The UCD in the Community Student Volunteering Awards took place in the UCD Global Lounge on November 8, 2022, celebrating students who volunteer to make outstanding contributions to society. Almost 40 students from across UCD were recognised during the ceremony for their contribution to the wider community and UCD activities, such as clubs, societies, peer mentoring, class representatives, and the SU. These volunteering activities bring immense value to the university and the wider community, and these Volunteering Awards help to support and foster a culture of volunteering, active citizenship, and community engagement amongst the student population.

All awardees used the StudentVolunteer.ie platform to log their volunteering hours and apply for the awards.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



*“My experience with UCDVO has already impacted my life in a large way. I have learned valuable skills and have been given a new insight on how interconnected the world is. These are things that will truly help my day to day life and how I see the world”*

*“Volunteering gave me insight into the importance the Charity and non government sectors have in providing essential services and supports, that otherwise I would not have known”*

*“My volunteering experience will certainly impact my life and career as it has been and will continue to be an experience that has taught me things beyond the limits of a degree course”*



UCD IN THE COMMUNITY

# Hope Fest 2023

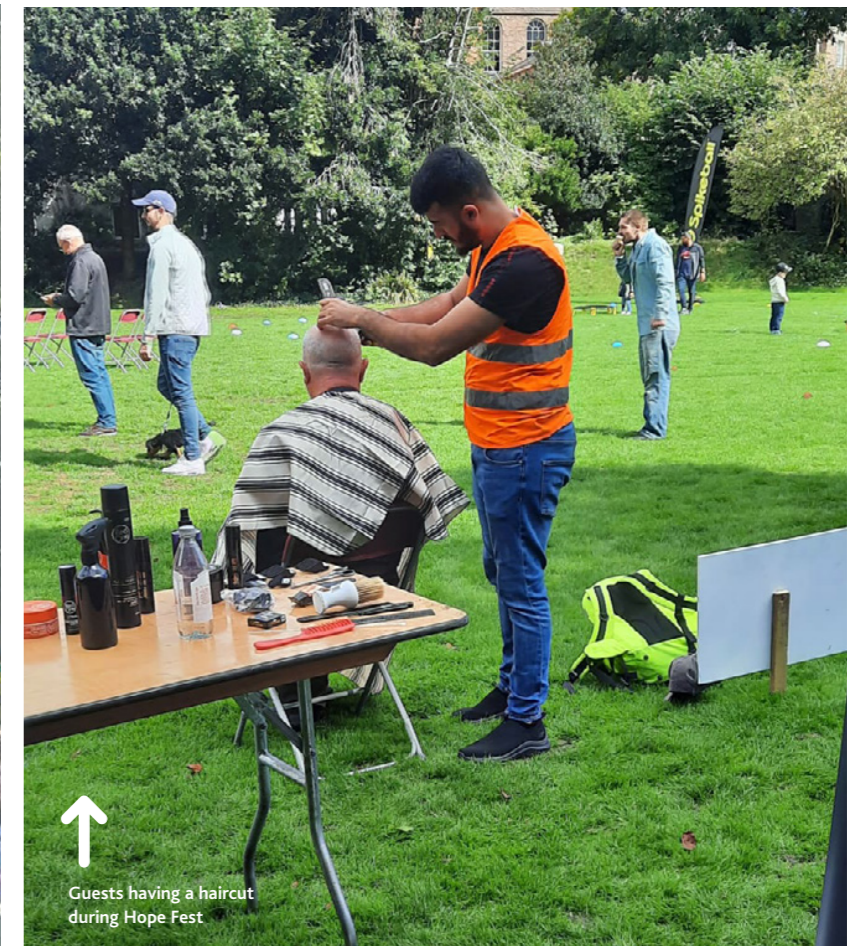
## Hope Fest returns in 2023!

Hope Fest, UCD's annual music and wellness event for those experiencing homelessness, was held on Saturday 13th May 2023 in the Iveagh Gardens Dublin with 500+ guests in attendance. The event is run annually in collaboration with UCD, Dublin Lions Club and Dublin Simon Community. Guests attend from multiple organisations, including; Dublin Simon Community, St Vincent De Paul, the Capuchin Day Centre, Iveagh Trust, Alice Leahy Trust, Salvation Army, Crosscare, Stepping Stone, Lighthouse Cafe, and others.

It is a hugely beneficial day for the homeless community and is the highlight of the year for many attendees. The OPW has kindly made Iveagh Gardens available for this unique festival type event over the past number of years and the area is transformed with areas for food, wellness, and various musical acts including the UCD Community Choir, and The Metabolix with Dr Luke O'Neill.



Children enjoying entertainment kindly provided by Silly Billy Events



↑  
Guests having a haircut during Hope Fest







(Left to right) Assoc Professor Jacob Eisenberg, Professor Joe Carthy, Dr Páraic Kerrigan, Dr Grace Ngai, Joe Houghton, Dr Adamaria Perrotta, Niamh Byrne



The Symposium took place on February 8, 2023. The morning session included case studies from 3 UCD Lecturers highlighting examples of tremendous community engagement activities undertaken on their course.

- **Dr Ellen Rowley:** Drafting, Realising, Building: Tales of UCD Architecture in the Community
- **Joe Houghton:** Building on 15 years of community engagement in the MSc in Project Management
- **Dr. Páraic Kerrigan** Media in the Community: Developing Community-Engaged Learning and Career Pathways for Graduate Students

The keynote speaker was given by a global expert in service learning, Dr Grace Ngai, Head of Service-Learning, Associate Professor, Department of Computing, Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Grace's talk was themed "A walk through implementing high quality community engagement in higher education" (outlined below).

The afternoon session included a discussion facilitated by Professor Jacob Eisenberg themed "Creating and Maintaining Successful Community-University Collaborations" where attendees talked about what constitutes good community engagement and types of learning outcomes for students. Using examples from their field experiences, attendees spoke about what might help create and maintain successful community-engaged learning projects, potential pitfalls and challenges, and how they overcame them.

The UCD CELT Symposium 2023 was organised by Dr Adamaria Perrotta, School of Mathematics and Niamh Byrne, UCD in the Community. It was funded by the UCD Global Seed Fund.

 SUBMITTED BY: Niamh Byrne  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: [ucdic@ucd.ie](mailto:ucdic@ucd.ie)

UCD IN THE COMMUNITY

# UCD Community Engaged Teaching and Learning Symposium 2023

The UCD CELT Symposium themed "Boosting Community Engaged Teaching and Learning in UCD" served to further enhance and bring together those in UCD who are already working with or interested in establishing community engagement as part of their work, whilst building on UCD international connections.





UCD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE - UCD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

# A socially engaged environmental art project by UCD at the Irish Museum of Modern Art

A socially engaged environmental art project by UCD Landscape Architecture part time tutor Sophie von Maltzan with UCD Landscape Architecture and NCAD Field students, the local community, visitors to the Irish Museum of Modern Art Earth Rising Festival and the Canal Basin Educate Together School, from October 2022 - February 2023.

Sophie von Maltzan is a socially engaged environmental artist and landscape architect. She works as a part time tutor at the Landscape Architecture section within the School of School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy. Since 2012, she has been working on co-collaborative community design projects with the students of the 5 credit module she runs. The module is open to all students of the school of APEP, which is great as it allows students with versatile backgrounds and skills to help the communities they are working with.

The projects she does together with the students and communities are focused on improving the public realm, often in the urban context. They are investigations into critical spatial practices: How can the people who live in the neighbourhood be given agency to improve their neighbourhoods together?

Many projects in the past have taken the form of interventions into ostensibly marginal spaces such as semi-derelict sites in Dublin or small neighbourhood parks. The module's working method is situational and action-oriented,



with a focus on the collaborative production of space as an open and unbiased process.

In 2022 and 2023 Von Maltzan and the UCD students, together with students from NCAD and over 200 National school pupils wove willow installations together at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, for the Earth Rising Festival.

Using willow as a medium, the group "spatially and socially activated" a strip of mowed lawn, the willow weaving process is entirely open, no need to cordon off, it is a playful act and especially children cannot resist to join in. Of course the installations are instantly "playable", Von Maltzan and the students see themselves as facilitators and practical helpers, encouraging the community members to create and therewith recreate THEIR park. These artistic interventions give a dimension of meaning and belonging to the participants. They literally weave themselves into their neighbourhood.

The resulting 7-15 willow installations vary in size from 1m x 1m to 30 m long and up to 7m height. They are designed and built in loose and spontaneous collaborations between various community groups and independent community members.

Primary school children, Landscape Architecture and Art students, as well as resident groups, neighbours and passers-by, work together over a week. The installations then stay in place for months, sometimes turning into living sculptures.

Building the willow structures is an effective and creative way to empower audiences to become agents of change and give civic space local and personal meanings beyond the often anonymous design and atmosphere of open green spaces in Dublin.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Sophie von Maltzan

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [sophie.vonmaltzan@ucd.ie](mailto:sophie.vonmaltzan@ucd.ie)

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

- 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
- 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
- 13 CLIMATE ACTION
- 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



UCD LIBRARY

JANE NOLAN (UCD LIBRARY) AND LIZ BRUTON (UCD EARTH INSTITUTE)

# UCD's Citizen Science Community of Practice

The goal of this community of practice is to provide a forum for UCD staff, researchers and students to engage with Citizen Science in their research and teaching through a network of practitioner and knowledge sharing in a culture of collaboration and openness.

In Autumn 2022, Dr. Elizabeth Bruton (UCD Earth Institute) and Jane Nolan (UCD Library) joined forces to establish the UCD Citizen Science Community of Practice with the input from an informal steering group of Citizen Science practitioners from UCD.

The aim of our Community of Practice is to provide a central hub for UCD academics, staff, researchers and students interested in Citizen Science and to support and advocate for using Citizen Science in research, which as the European Commission says "Active engagement with citizens and society has the potential to improve research and its outcomes and reinforce societal trust in science."

We provide a forum for Citizen Science at UCD through our active programme of events where UCD and external speakers

share their knowledge and practical experience of running Citizen Science projects. Our mailing list provides the opportunity to connect with Citizen Science practitioners and those interested in Citizen Science at UCD and externally.

The hybrid launch event for the UCD Citizen Science Community of Practice was held at the end of February 2023. This saw an engaging conversation, chaired by Dr. Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, between two leading practitioners of Citizen Science in UCD, Professor Francesco Pilla and Professor Mary Kelly-Quinn, who discussed what Citizen Science can do, the impact of their Citizen Science projects and their use in research and teaching at UCD.

All our talks and presentations have been hybrid (online and in person) as this facilitates and encourages participation and



makes the talks as open as possible to the UCD community and beyond. Recordings of our talks are also available on the Earth Institute YouTube channel at [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLK8\\_Avek3IAD2HBdhXq9pjhviQdG\\_9XIJ](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLK8_Avek3IAD2HBdhXq9pjhviQdG_9XIJ) or <https://citizenscience.ucd.ie/news-and-events/> including talks by Dr. Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh from UCD Library's National Folklore Collection on the Dúchas Schools Collection and Dr. Karen Keaveney from the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science on the Citizen Rural project. In May 2023 Martin Brocklehurst (Chair of the Citizen Science Global Partnership) outlined how Citizen Science can provide the tools to address the current challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

The website also includes Citizen Science case studies with UCD involvement. We welcome members from the UCD community and interested members of the public to join our mailing list. (<https://listserv.heanet.ie/cgi-bin/wa?A0=UCDCITIZENSCIENCE>) Our Citizen Science Guide ([https://libguides.ucd.ie/Citizen\\_Science](https://libguides.ucd.ie/Citizen_Science)) gives listings and links to a wide variety of resources such as apps and tools, journal articles and projects with which to get involved.

SUBMITTED BY: Joshua Clark  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: [jane.nolan@ucd.ie](mailto:jane.nolan@ucd.ie)

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
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UCD LIBRARY

# Maths Xplained

LORNA DODD & ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ANTHONY CRONIN

**The 'Maths Xplained' initiative engages with secondary-level students from disadvantaged communities and helps them to prepare for Leaving Certificate mathematics.**

The Maths Xplained initiative was initiated by UCD Maths Support Centre Manager Associate Professor Anthony Cronin and UCD Access and Lifelong Learning Outreach Officer Áine Murphy as part of UCD's outreach commitment.

This project, funded by Bentley Systems, UCD Recruitment, UCD Access & Lifelong Learning, and UCD Library, ran for 10 weeks from March to May 2023, with six DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) schools linked to the UCD Access & Lifelong Learning Centre. These are schools designated by the Irish Government for funded initiatives that target support at disadvantaged communities, particularly those located in urban areas.

Over the ten-week programme we had 49 participating students attend 238 two-hour sessions each Wednesday evening in the Maths UCD Support Centre located in the James Joyce Library. The tuition was free for students and the students' bus fare to and from UCD was provided, along with healthy food comprising sandwich, fruit, bottled water and a snack. Incidentals like examination papers, calculators, and stationery items were also covered. Students came to the sessions with their own questions

and were grouped by subject matter and level of Leaving Certificate (LC) mathematics (Higher or Ordinary).

This cross-university collaborative project supported students taking the Leaving Cert exams in June 2023 in their aspirations to progress to university. This is primarily to encourage those studying Higher Level to stay the course as 25 bonus points on offer for CAO purposes have meant mathematics is a high stakes subject. The project also supports Ordinary Level mathematics students to ensure they continue in their course, as dropping back to Foundation level offers no CAO points in terms of higher or further education pathways.

We extend huge thanks to Áine Murphy from UCD ALL for coordinating the programme, Debra McCann from UCD Library for facilitating the students' entry to the Library each week, and UCD Maths Support Centre tutors Aidan, Anthony, Cristina, Deeba, Emily, Finnegan, Kelly, Oisín, and Rachel.

This initiative supports both University and UCD Library strategic objectives by actively engaging with the wider community and working towards broadening participation. Finally, we are pleased to report that at least five of these Maths Xplained students are now studying in UCD!

 SUBMITTED BY: Joshua Clark  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: [anthony.cronin@ucd.ie](mailto:anthony.cronin@ucd.ie)

  
 **4** QUALITY EDUCATION  
 **10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES





UCD Library's Decade of Centenaries project, Poetry as Commemoration, held 70 poetry workshops in schools, libraries, archives, and museums across the island with the aim of connecting the public with the material history of the revolutionary period through creative engagement. Members of the public were guided by a team of experienced facilitators in responding to documents, letters and artefacts from the War of Independence and Civil War. Participants of all ages consulted materials selected from either local collections or UCD cultural heritage collections and composed poems which have been gathered in an archive housed in UCD Special Collections. Several workshops were held in the James Joyce Library during which Evelyn Flanagan, Head of UCD Special Collections, presented items from Special Collections and UCD Archives.

In collaboration with Wexford Library, a poetry reading featuring poets who had taken part in workshops was held as part of the Bealtaine Festival. The UCD Festival also included readings by poets who had contributed to the project in different ways. UCD Writer in Residence Victoria Kennefick, joined Dr. Lucy Collins in a public conversation about taking part in the Poetry as Commemoration commission.

A series of poet-poet conversations were held in collaboration with the Museum of Literature Ireland's First Fridays series attracting large audiences. Former poet-in-residence Julie Morrissy spoke to Bebe Ashley, Chiamaka Enyi-Amadi, Pdraig Regan and Nithy Kasa, while Aifric Mac Aodha joined Prof. Caoimhín Mac Giolla Léith to discuss her Irish language commission 'Hogan, Grianghrafadóir'. At the Verbal Arts Centre in Derry, Morrissy interviewed poet Stephen Sexton.

All ten commissioned poets were recorded reading their poems and the videos now feature on the Irish Poetry Reading

Archive and Poetry as Commemoration website (<https://www.poetryascommemoration.ie/commissioned-poems>). Martina Evans' poem 'Blood Pulled My Shoe Off', inspired by Máire Comerford's memoir and materials held in UCD Archives, was published in The Irish Times.

The local community of Cobh, Co. Cork, warmly welcomed UCD Library's Poetry Jukebox on 16 December 2022. The installation remained in place on the promenade until April 2023 when it moved to The People's Park in Limerick where it was launched by the Mayor of Limerick. A second unit was installed at the Verbal Arts Centre in Derry engaging passers-by on The Derry Walls. In August, the Poetry Jukebox was installed outside the Galway City Museum where it attracted many curious listeners.

The Poetry as Commemoration website continues to attract members of the public to the Virtual Poetry Wall (<https://www.poetryascommemoration.ie/virtual-poetry-wall/>) which features poems by well-known poets such as Paul Muldoon, Martina Evans, and W.B. Yeats, alongside poems by school children and members of communities across Ireland.

SUBMITTED BY: Joshua Clark

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [poetryascommemoration@ucd.ie](mailto:poetryascommemoration@ucd.ie)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

UCD LIBRARY

DR. CATHERINE WILSDON

# Poetry as Commemoration & Community Engagement

Poetry as Commemoration is a UCD Library project, supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 programme, that works with poets and communities across the island of Ireland to deepen our collective understanding of the past.







UCD LIBRARY

KATHERINE MCSHARRY

# The National Folklore Collection

The National Folklore Collection is committed to documenting and preserving a record of the folklore and folklife of all communities in Ireland. In 2023 the team was actively engaging with the Irish community on a range of projects and initiatives.

UCD Library's National Folklore Collection (NFC), one of only two Irish assets on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register, is a national resource. As such, the team worked with the wider community on a large variety of projects and initiatives throughout the year.

The People's History of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) is a joint project between the National Folklore Collection (NFC) and DLR. It is capturing the oral histories of diverse groups and individuals often under-represented in histories of the district and reflects DLR County Council's decision to include this aspect of intangible cultural heritage as part of its County Development Plan 2022-2028. More than 200 interviews were recorded by 2023, and the full collection of audio and transcripts will be hosted by the NFC.

On 6 January 2023, Bailiúchán Béaloideas Árann (the Folklore of Árann Collection) was launched at <https://bba.duchas.ie>. This new cultural content website for the Aran Islands arose out of a collaboration between the people of Inis Mór (Árainn), the NFC, and Gaois (DCU), and all the content featured on the platform, recorded by islanders in the past 20 years, is archived in the NFC. Bailiúchán Béaloideas Árann is the only major collection of the island's folklore ever to have been collected by islanders themselves.

In May, RTÉ screened The Silent Civil War, a two-part documentary which was the culmination of the Civil War Memory Project. This was a collaboration led by

the National Folklore Collection (NFC) with Scratch Films and RTÉ, in which more than 80 separate video and audio interviews were recorded with a variety of people throughout Ireland, including relatives of Civil War participants and local historians and others. This content constitutes one of the largest repositories of Civil War material in Ireland, and the transcribed interviews are now available for consultation in the NFC.

A new version of the Dúchas.ie site featuring material from the NFC's audio archive was launched in June. Some of the earliest audio recordings made by the Irish Folklore Commission in the mid-1950s were made available online for the first time and are freely available to everyone. The recordings contain stories, songs and music, with a particular focus on Gaeltacht, including Breac-Gaeltacht areas where the Irish language was dying out.

 SUBMITTED BY: Joshua Clark  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: [bealoideas@ucd.ie](mailto:bealoideas@ucd.ie)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

 4 QUALITY EDUCATION  
 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



UCD LIBRARY

JOSH CLARK AND DR. NIAMH NESTOR

# Spotlight on LGBTQ+ History Month in UCD Library

UCD Library strives to create a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone in the UCD community. In February 2023 the Library teamed up with UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion to spotlight LGBTQ+ History Month.

In February 2023 UCD Library was proud to partner with the UCD Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) LGBTQ+ Sub-Group to highlight LGBTQ+ History Month with a Library Spotlight display in the James Joyce Library. UCD Library's Outreach and Collection Services teams liaised with Eimear O'Reilly of the Sub-Group to prepare the month-long campaign and produce a fantastic selection of LGBTQ+ books from the library's collection to display. The Spotlight area is set up at the beginning of the month, just inside the James Joyce Library entrance, where footfall is greatest, with panels containing posters and a table and shelves for displaying books. An online guide complements the display, with more information about the highlighted books, links to the library catalogue and other online resources.

To accompany the Spotlight, the UCD Special Collections team curated a nearby display comprised of related historical items written by LGBTQ+ authors and poets, including Roger Casement, Eva Gore-Booth, Oscar Wilde and trade unionist and suffragette Louise ("Louie") Bennett.

This was also an opportunity to promote important UCD Library-held online resources of which library users might not be aware. In particular we highlighted the LGBTQ History and Culture Since 1940 (Parts I and II) collection ([http://library.ucd.ie/iii/encore/record/C\\_\\_Rb2234574](http://library.ucd.ie/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2234574)), published by Gale, with social media posts and posters in the Library.

A related event took place in April, when Professor Katherine O'Donnell of the UCD School of Philosophy came to the James Joyce Library and read excerpts from her forthcoming (now published) novel 'Slant' (New Island Books, 2023).

This Spotlight display and Professor O'Donnell's reading and discussion was an opportunity to engage and collaborate with other UCD support units and academic staff and helped reflect UCD Library values and strategic objectives in creating an inclusive 'Library for All' here at UCD.



SUBMITTED BY: Joshua Clark  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: outreach@ucd.ie







## UCD PURL JAM

# UCD Purl Jam's Hearts for Hospitals Project

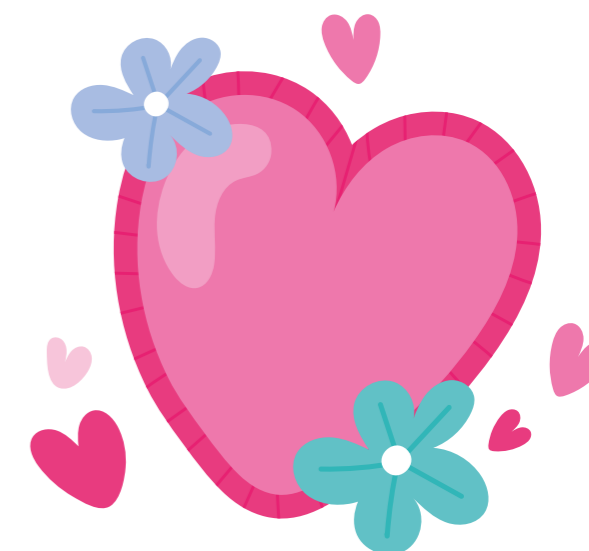
During the pandemic, hospital visitation restrictions were tough, prompting projects like 'Hearts for Hospitals' – knitted hearts for patients and families, offering hope and connection, and uniting through love despite physical separation. UCD Purl Jam has continued to collaborate on this with SVUH.

It sometimes feels like another world when we think back now on the things we had to do during the pandemic to protect the most vulnerable in our society. We had to adopt social distancing, cocooning and self-isolation. There were so many challenges and hard days, but despite these dark times, we witnessed endless examples of the goodness and decency of people, with people supporting each other in so many ways.

A noticeable change came about in our hospitals whereby it was no longer possible to visit the sick, which was particularly difficult for ICU patients and their families. ICU staff were wonderful, bringing comfort in person when family and friends could only do so through a screen. During this time, the NHS was running a project whereby patients in their hospitals received a knitted heart as a symbol of hope and togetherness. Carita Bramhill, previous UCD Student Adviser, brought this idea to UCD Purl Jam (based in UCD Veterinary Sciences) and suggested we work on something similar. Under the stewardship of Carita, we introduced the 'Hearts for Hospitals' project to some local hospitals in Dublin, including SVUH. Since the lockdowns have ended, UCD Purl Jam has continued to collaborate on this project with the SVUH ICU End-of-Life Care Coordinator and their nursing and medical teams. A knitted heart is given to the patient and a matching heart is given to their family. This is accompanied by a beautiful card that says:

As we sit right here and think of all the times gone by / Of the funny things that make us laugh and bring tears to our eyes / I love these happy moments when we laugh and sometimes cry / It's nice to sit and reminisce about happy times gone by / We each have this little keepsake, a pretty knitted heart / If we keep each one forever we won't really be apart / And should there come a time when alas we have to part / We will always be together whilst we have our knitted heart.

From the feedback we've received, the matching hearts are a symbol of hope, comfort and connection for patients and families. Families feel assured that their loved one is being cared for and know that they are with them. This small knitted heart is a powerful visible symbol of the bond of love that connects the patient and their family.



**"MY DAD PASSED AWAY RECENTLY IN SVUH ICU.**

**The hearts were just such a lovely gesture and the poem meant so much to us at that time and still now. I wanted to say thanks to the people who knit them and organise this beautiful little gesture."**  
**– from a family member who received a heart**



SUBMITTED BY: Dr Niamh Nestor



FOR MORE INFORMATION: [niamh.nestor@ucd.ie](mailto:niamh.nestor@ucd.ie)







UCD PURL JAM

# UCD Purl Jam Craftmas Fair in aid of Jigsaw and MQI

UCD Purl Jam’s Craftmas Fair, our first Fair post pandemic, raised over €1,000 for local charities, Jigsaw, Merchants Quay Ireland, and Beaumont Hospital Foundation.

UCD Purl Jam hosted their annual Craftmas Fair on November 29th, their first Fair since the pandemic. It was such a brilliant event, and we raised over €1,000 for charity. Proceeds will be split between Merchants Quay Ireland and Jigsaw, with €227 of the funds going to Beaumont Hospital Foundation who donated some of their own knitted items for sale at the fair.

None of this would not have been possible without the generous donations and purchases from students and staff on the day. A special thank you to members of UCD Purl Jam and people from across the university and beyond who donated items for sale at the fair. There were so many exquisite items for sale, and we were reminded once again that UCD is full of so many talented crafters! We also supported two local female artists through our Fair: Jeanne Gravel Toft (Instagram: Tofty2023 & Facebook: @jeanne.s.creations.2023) and Karla Dragic (website: <https://behind-the-seams-ltd.myshopify.com/>), both of whom sold some absolutely beautiful art works.

We were hugely supported by our local UCD community for our raffle - sincere thanks to UCD Students’ Union, UCD University Club, UCD Cinema, KSG UCD, Gather & Gather UCD, and UCD Clubhouse. There were many happy winners of wonderful prizes as part of the raffle. All proceeds from the raffle also went to our two chosen charities - Jigsaw and MQI.

**“THIS WAS AMAZING. I love that the Fair always has at its heart support - of charity, crafters in our community, and local artists. Can’t wait for next year!”**

SUBMITTED BY: Dr Niamh Nestor  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: [niamh.nestor@ucd.ie](mailto:niamh.nestor@ucd.ie)





SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE

DR KAREN KEAVENEY, DOMINIC ROBINSON AND RUTH MCADAMS, SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE

# Sharing Community Experiences of Planning Coastal Village Futures

Co-designing storymaps and videos to capture and explore how participatory approaches empower communities to engage with change and community-led local development.

Communities across rural Ireland adopt innovative approaches to planning their locality's future. Driven by feeling left behind, or arising in response to challenges such as population decline, lack of opportunities for young people, the need for amenities and services, and the impacts of the climate crisis, these communities are risk-takers. They epitomise the principles of community-led local development by doing what they can for the sustainability of the place in which they live.

As part of the GeoWestCoast project (funded by the Irish Research Council New Foundations Award) we wanted to illustrate the experiences of three west coast communities who engaged community planning. The three communities, one in Mayo - Mulranny - and two in Kerry - Cromane and Asdee - co-designed StoryMaps and videos with us to capture and explore how participatory approaches helped them to be empowered to engage with change and community-led local development in their areas.

We gathered documentary evidence to capture the planning process, held individual interviews, and facilitated a peer-learning exchange with the three communities, and among the practitioners. Once all data was collected, we developed a collection of four 'StoryMaps' to illustrate how each community created their plan. Three films were commissioned and designed with each community so they could communicate their reflections on community-led planning. As a result, we have

created a free, accessible, web-based resource: for communities who need support to start their own community-led plan; for practitioners who wish to communicate the benefits of doing such plans; for funders to understand the process; for academics who wish to use the StoryMaps as a teaching tool; and for students of subjects including rural development, planning, and geography to learn from on the ground, bottom-up experiences.

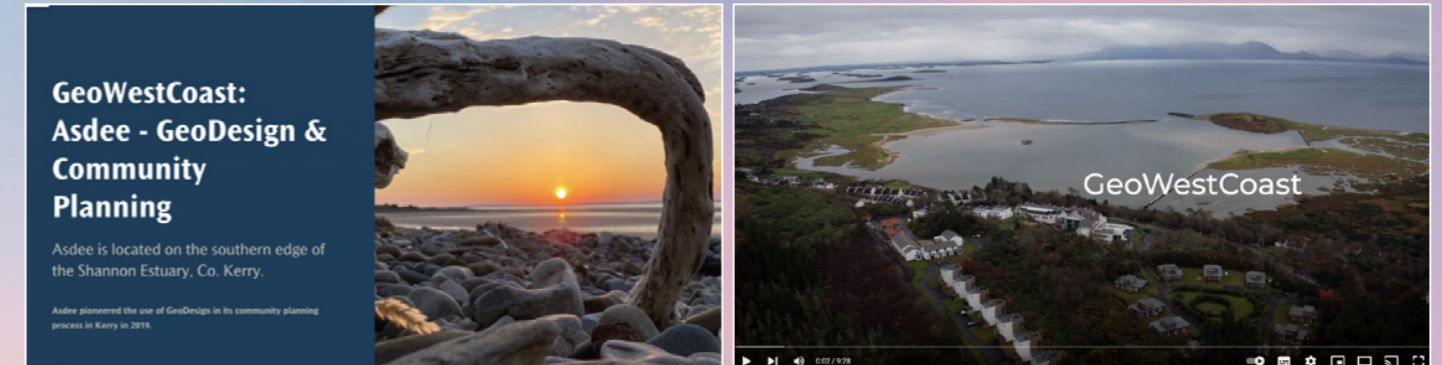
## Collaborators:

Breandán Ó Caoimh (O'Keeffe Social Research), Hrishi Ballal (Geodesignhub), Paul O'Raw (Social Researcher and Facilitator), Orla Murphy (UCD Centre for Irish Towns), Niall Foley (Videographer)

## Community Partners:

Cromane Community Council with South Kerry Development Partnership; Asdee Community Development with North East West Kerry Development Programme; and Mulranny Community Futures with Southwest Mayo Development Company.

The web-based resource produced in the GeoWestCoast project – the Storymaps: <https://bit.ly/geowestcoast>



*"BY DOING A COMMUNITY-LED PLAN, we are now taken seriously by the County Council, and have evidence to make informed submissions, and to apply for funding for projects in the village"*

– GEOWESTCOAST COMMUNITY MEMBER



SUBMITTED BY: Dr Karen Keaveney  
FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[karen.keaveney@ucd.ie](mailto:karen.keaveney@ucd.ie)



SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE

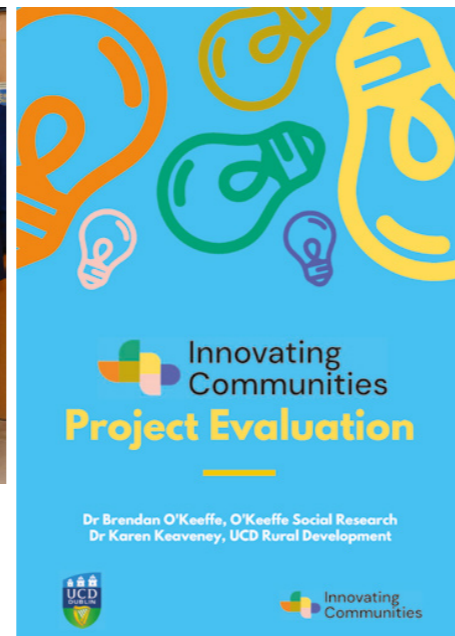
DR KAREN KEAVENEY, SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE

# Innovating Communities Evaluation

Evaluating Design Thinking for Rural Community Development



Innovating Communities Project Evaluation →



Together with Dr Breandán Ó Caoimh, an independent consultant based in Co. Kerry, we completed this independent external evaluation of the 'Innovating Communities' project which took place in the Southern Border Region. The resultant report presents an independent external evaluation of the 'Innovating Communities: Designing Our Future' LEADER inter-territorial project. The project was operational for over three years (from early 2020 to mid-2023), and it was promoted by the six local development companies in the Southern Border Region, with Monaghan Integrated Development CLG acting as the lead partner. The main aim of the project was to provide communities and local organisations with training in 'design-thinking' methodologies, in order to promote and support increased innovation, strategic developments and solutions to so-called 'wicked problems', such as the climate and biodiversity emergency.

The final report was completed at the end of the IC project (ex-post evaluation), and was informed by data that were collected in the final months of the project and after its delivery. In addition, we undertook a mid-term evaluation, and that played an oversight role in the project during its rollout. Thus, this report draws on both formative and summative data that have been gathered and collated between 2020 and 2023. We used a mixed-methods approach; surveyed course participants, convened focus groups with them; interviewed the project promoters, trainers, co-trainers; and reviewed project documentation. We also drew on data that had been collected via the project's dashboard and they participated in the project's learning showcase, which took place in County Monaghan in April 2023. At that event, we presented an outline of our findings, and elicited feedback from stakeholders. The Innovating Communities team were also invited to a Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union event, where the results from the study were presented.

→  
Minister Heather Humphreys at the Innovating Communities Showcase, April 2023



→ SUBMITTED BY: Dr Karen Keaveney  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: karen.keaveney@ucd.ie

**"I NOTE THE STRONG ACADEMIC RESEARCH rigour and focus on policy learning evident throughout the report ... I believe the evaluation of Innovating Communities builds on the much needed body of knowledge in Rural Development and in Rural Social Innovation in particular"** – Gabriel O'Connell, CEO, Monaghan Integrated Development CLG

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE

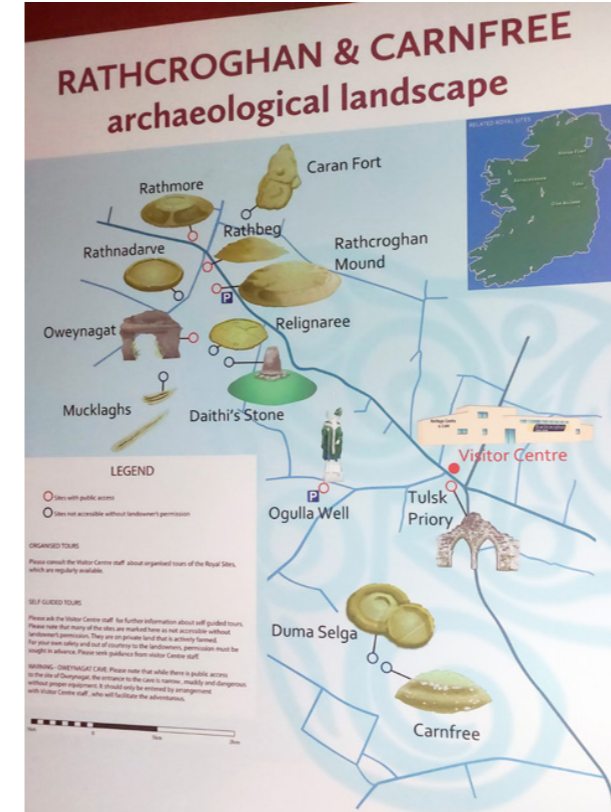
↑ MSARD students and staff visiting key rural development sites in Co. Roscommon

DR KAREN KEAVENEY, SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE

# Masters in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Study visit with Roscommon LEADER Partnership to understand Community-Led Local Development, March 2023

As part of their studies in the Masters of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, students spent two days visiting Co. Roscommon. This field visit is an integral part of the masters programme, as it brings theory into practice. Students had on-site meetings with LEADER Project Promoters. LEADER is the Rural Development programme for the EU, and project promoters are those who apply for and run projects that have benefitted from LEADER funding.



We visited the following projects and had the opportunity to learn about the challenges and opportunities for rural development in:

- Noble Tree Services Ltd – Business Expansion
- Moore Community Council – Hall Refurbishment
- Ballydangan Red Grouse Project
- Kiltoom Community Development CLG - Kiltoom Amenity and Car Park
- Development of Margaret's Kitchen, Cookery School
- Gilligans Farm Fresh Meats Ltd - Salting and Dry Aging of Beef
- Tusk Action Group Ltd. - Capacity Building and Rebranding at Rathcroghan Visitor Centre
- Foroige (The National Youth Development Organisation) - Refurbishment of Ballagherreen Phoenix Youth and Community Centre
- Bealach Nua CLG - An Bealach –training, meeting and event space
- Ballintubber Tidy Towns and Heritage Committee - Biodiversity Mapping using QR Codes

The LEADER approach was introduced in response to the failure of traditional, top-down policies to address problems faced by many rural areas in Europe. The acronym 'LEADER' derives from the French phrase "Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale" which means, 'Links between activities for the development of rural economy'. The idea was to engage the energy and resources of people and local organisations as development actors rather than beneficiaries, empowering them to contribute to the future development of their rural areas by forming area based Local Action Group (LAG) partnerships between the public, private and civil sectors. When first proposed in 1990 by a group of officials at the European Commission, this LEADER concept of connecting and involving local people was quite new.



SUBMITTED BY: Dr Karen Keaveney

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
karen.keaveney@ucd.ie

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





UCD SCHOOL OF BIOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE; UCD SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE; UCD EARTH INSTITUTE, UCD WOMEN AT STEM

# SoapBox Science Dublin

SoapBox Science Dublin is a public outreach platform for promoting women and non-binary scientists and the science they do. The event takes place annually in South King Street in Dublin city centre where twelve (12) female scientists share their research in areas of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM) with the public. The speakers represent a diversity of career stages, from PhD students to Professors and discuss a broad range of STEMM topics.



This project is spearheaded by UCD. The organising committee comprises two UCD researchers, one from SBES and another from SFAS, as well as one researcher from DAFM and another from the RCSI. The speakers include researchers from all universities and research institutes around Dublin. The twelve speakers are accompanied by 12 volunteers who help on the day with props etc. The speakers have a workshop training in public outreach given by a science communicator to help them tailor their presentation. Most of the people attending the event are passing by, and decide to stay and listen. The event outreach is in the order of hundreds of people. On the day of the event the feedback is extremely positive with 31 people filling in the Survey Form, and 100% finding the event welcoming and 84% rating the event as excellent.

**"AN EXCELLENT DAY with amazing support from the organisers and volunteers thanks for a great day, I would recommend this to others to spread the word on all things science" - UCD speaker**

SUBMITTED BY: Sonia Negrao  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[soapboxsciencedublin@gmail.com](mailto:soapboxsciencedublin@gmail.com)







↑ Volunteers, from left-to-right, Claire Murphy, Thanvi Ajith, Mohammad Aslam, Eddie Antonio Santos

This year, CS Sparks was part of the UCD ALL Summer School, taking place June 12–June 15, 2023. CS Sparks, led by Áine Murphy, Outreach Officer, UCD Access & Lifelong Learning and Drs Brett Becker and Catherine Mooney in the UCD School of Computer Science. CS Sparks brings students from DEIS schools, into the School of Computer Science in UCD to participate in coding in a fun and exciting way which highlights Computer Science as a career with diverse applications and a broad potential for positive societal impact. We aim for the participants to consider studying Computer Science at third level which we believe will provide exciting and rewarding career opportunities for them.

Participants were not only exposed to the fundamentals of Computer Science, but they also got the opportunity to be guided around the School and University, talk to University students and learn about their experiences, and meet participants from different schools and make friends. We want to support and encourage more of these students to continue their education after secondary school by de-mystifying the University experience. We invite students in the UCD School of Computer Science to volunteer in roles that involve planning, organising, and mentoring duties. Student volunteers are the core of CS Sparks and we are very grateful to our volunteers this year: Claire Murphy, Thanvi Ajith, Mohammad Aslam, and Eddie Antonio Santos. For their final project, students created robots that danced to music!



SUBMITTED BY: Catherine Mooney

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
catherine.mooney@ucd.ie

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

# CS Sparks

CS Sparks brings Transition Year students into the School of Computer Science to participate in coding in a fun and exciting way which highlights Computer Science as a career with diverse applications and a broad potential for positive societal impact.



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

# Power2Progress: Building Educational Resilience

Power2Progress is a programme running in 21 designated disadvantaged schools nationally. It comprises weekly after-school on-site tuition, career support and visits to the UCD campus. All 700 participating senior-cycle students are also provided with their own laptop.

Power2Progress is a dedicated programme for 700 senior cycle students which runs in 21 designated disadvantaged schools nationally. The programme comprises weekly after-school on-site tuition, mentoring, career support and visits to the UCD campus. The focus of the programme is to break the cycle of inter-generational disadvantage, de-mystify higher education and build educational resilience. The programme also provides each participating student with their own laptop.

These laptops will remain with the 21 participating schools in perpetuity which will significantly enhance their digital infrastructure and make a real difference to the teaching and learning experience of thousands more second-level students nationally. Findings from doctoral research aligned with the programme show that 87% of participating students indicate an ambition to proceed on to higher education, with the majority of career choices identified requiring a graduate qualification. The programme is funded by the Z Zurich Foundation and Rethink Ireland.



Professor Judith Harford pictured with Eithne Coyne, Principal St Mark's Community School, Tallaght and students



↑ Minister Simon Harris launches Power2Progress

**"THE PROGRAMME IS REALLY EXCITING...this kind of partnership is needed now more than ever... (I am) really grateful to Professor Judith Harford for her leadership on this" - An Taoiseach Simon Harris**



↑ Minister Simon Harris with Professor Judith Harford and students participating in Power2Progress at a symposium in the Royal Irish Academy

SUBMITTED BY: Judith Harford  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: [judith.harford@ucd.ie](mailto:judith.harford@ucd.ie)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY

# SYNERGI – Socially Inclusive Edible Urban Green Infrastructure, Mozambique

**SYNERGI is a 3-year project collaborating with urban communities in Mozambique to explore the potential for co-creating, socially inclusive 'edible urban green infrastructure' (UGI) to support food security and climate resilience in a country that is highly vulnerable to climate risks.**

Low income and vulnerable households, social groups, and communities living in rapidly growing cities across Africa face concurrent challenges of maintaining food security whilst coping with the impacts of climate change. Urban agriculture can help cities address these twin challenges. However, as social inequality is a key issue when it comes to access to quality food, SYNERGI is examining not only diverse, multifunctional systems for food provisioning with environmental sustainability and climate-adaptive dimensions, but also ones that enable inclusive participation and outcomes.

The joint research team from University College Dublin in Ireland and Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique have partnered with agroecology and sustainable agriculture civil society organisations (CSOs) Abiodes and Solidaridad, community groups, and the National Secretariat for Food and Nutritional Security to understand the necessary conditions to promote edible UGI in socio-economically disadvantaged urban communities in Mozambique, and how it can be designed and used to better meet the needs of these groups.

An extensive scoping exercise of different types of urban agriculture and community gardens in the national capital Maputo and medium-sized city Xai-Xai identified local schools in low-income areas as highly promising settings for the project, especially concerning future sustainability, potential for scaling-up, and community engagement through the involvement of students, teachers, family members and the wider community.

Partner schools have been identified and the next phase is community visioning on the design of edible UGI that is socially inclusive, sustainable, and can contribute to climate resilience and improved access to a larger diversity of quality foods, with a focus on recovering and revaluing traditional foods. These community gardens will then be implemented by the schools with the support of the CSOs, agricultural extensionists and research team. During later phases, citizen science activities will be carried out by students, teachers and the wider community to evaluate the impact and contributions of the edible UGI projects. Knowledge dissemination workshops and toolkits will be developed to share learnings and resources developed with all schools who

are interested. SYNERGI's approach aims to facilitate comparative research across different urban contexts, mutual learning and the co-design and co-implementation of community-based solutions.

This project is funded by the Irish Research Council COALESCE programme, in partnership with Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs.



SUBMITTED BY: Dr Rogers Hansine & Dr Christine Bonnin



FOR MORE INFORMATION: [christine.bonnin@ucd.ie](mailto:christine.bonnin@ucd.ie)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







UCD SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

# Outreach activities in Mathematics

Outreach event "Mathematical Experiments in UCD" for Maths Week 2022

To celebrate Maths Week 2022, the UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics organised the outreach event "Mathematical Experiments in UCD", which took place on 20 and 21 October 2022 at the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science. The main goal of our event was to introduce secondary school students from 4th, 5th and 6th year to the beautiful world of Mathematics via hands-on experimentation. The event, which was also open to all UCD students and staff members, consisted of two parts:

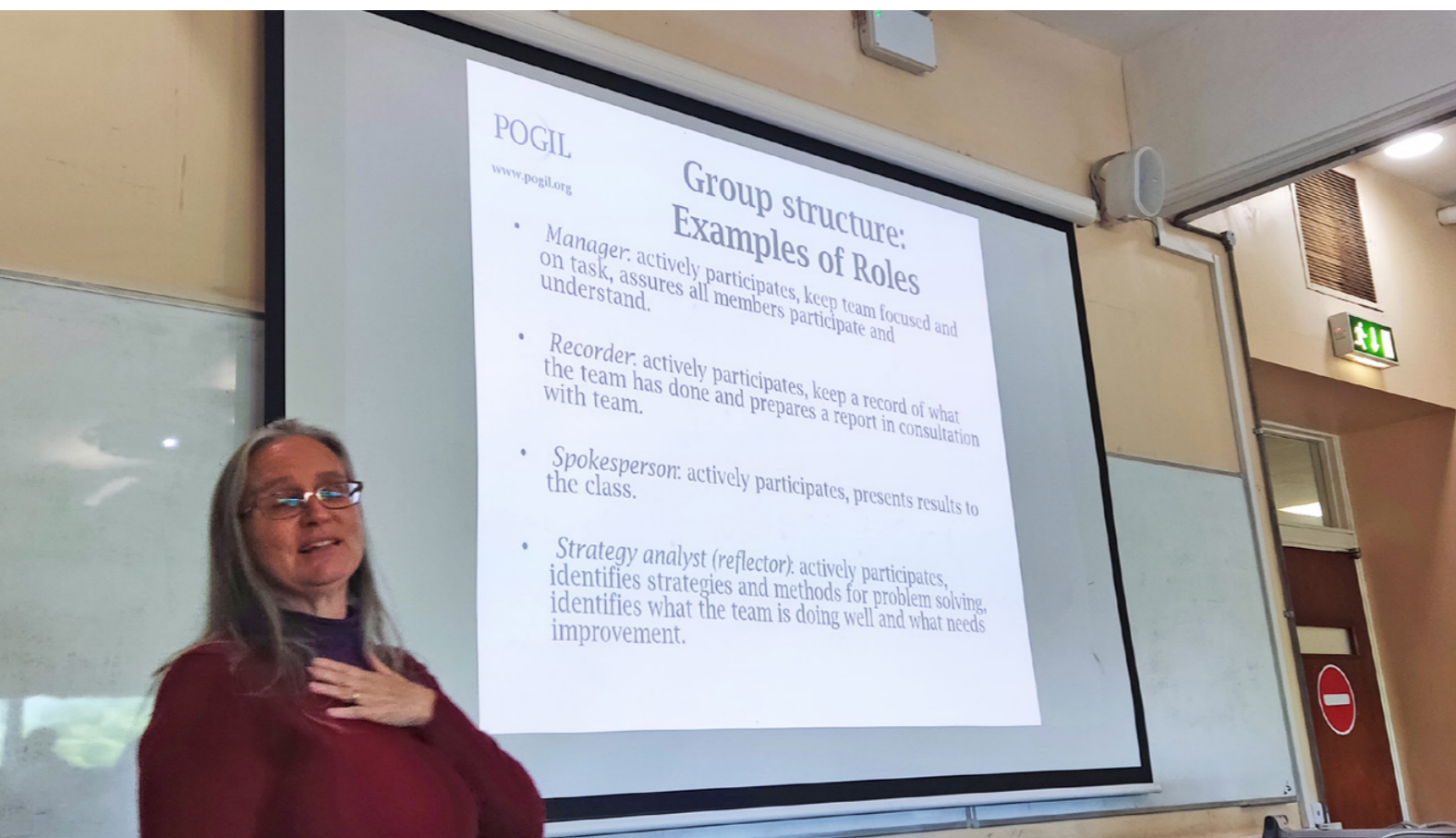
- 1) an engaging talk by Dr Fernando Blasco, a lecturer at the Polytechnic University of Madrid and one of Spain's best known mathematics promoters. He used magical tricks to introduce the students to various topics such as prime numbers, knot theory, topology, number systems, mind games, calendars and quick calculations.
- 2) an interactive mathematical exhibition with fun puzzles and riddles from the Museum of Mathematics of Catalonia in collaboration with the group Divermates from Madrid.

"Mathematical Experiments in UCD" was the first Maths week event which was held in person at UCD after the Covid era, and the outcome was quite satisfying: in total, we received 213 registrations from 5 secondary schools. The success of this event would not have been possible without the generous support from Maths week Ireland, which we kindly acknowledge.

 SUBMITTED BY: Myrto Manolaki  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: [myrto.manolaki@ucd.ie](mailto:myrto.manolaki@ucd.ie)







UCD SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

# Junior Mathematical Enrichment

We provide a programme of Mathematics classes offering a fun and social way for younger secondary school students to develop their mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics, in conjunction with the Irish Mathematical Trust, runs a Junior Mathematics Enrichment Programme for students in the first four years of secondary school. There is a separate Senior Enrichment Programme. Our classes each Saturday are free of charge, run by talented tutors and are designed to develop a sound understanding of mathematics and to improve problem-solving skills. We hope that students will develop friendships through mathematics.

In 2022/23, we made a welcome return to on campus after a year and a half of pandemic-enforced online classes. Having the ALE room full of smart and enthusiastic students again is inspirational. The ALE rooms have circular tables sitting up to ten students each. We could have fifty or sixty students attending a given class. Interactions happen primarily table level, based around worksheets with students talking to each other and discussing with tutors. The social element is highly valued by students and parents.

The programme is currently funded by SIG International Group.

SUBMITTED BY: Neil Dobbs

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [mneil.dobbs@ucd.ie](mailto:mneil.dobbs@ucd.ie)

UCD SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

# International Day of Women in Mathematics 2023

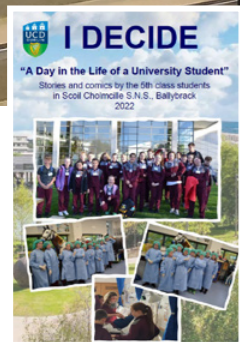
On Friday 12 May 2023, the UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics celebrated the International Day of Women in Mathematics with a series of events to highlight the achievements of our female students and staff, as well as provide an opportunity to get together and network.

The events were the following:

- 1) Poster reception:**  
42 posters with testimonials from female students, staff and alumni, were displayed at the O'Brien Centre of Science, followed by an informal lunch near the poster exhibition.
- 2) Maths Education talk by Professor Catherine Bénétiau:**  
Catherine Bénétiau from the University of South Florida (US) gave an invited talk titled "Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL) in the Mathematics Classroom". The talk, which was part of the Maths Ed Seminar, was well-attended by (undergraduate and postgraduate) students and academic staff members from diverse areas in Mathematics. During and after the talk there was an engaging atmosphere and interesting discussions about the similarities and differences of the American and the Irish educational system in Mathematics.
- 3) Boardgames:**  
The day ended with a relaxing and engaging atmosphere in the common room with boardgames, tea, coffee and biscuits, where students and staff members had the opportunity to interact with each other, chat with the speaker and meet new members from our community.







SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

# I DECIDE

**I DECIDE is a unique outreach initiative to empower 5th class pupils of a DEIS school to envisage themselves as a student at a third level institution. Pupils visited the UCD campus, interacted with university students and drew/wrote about “A day in the life of a University Student”. We collated the pupils drawings/assays in the I DECIDE booklet which was then given to the pupils. (The booklet can be viewed [here](#))**

This project was designed by Melinda Halasz (School of Medicine), Antonella Puggioni (School of Veterinary Medicine) and Nicola Dervan (School of Physiotherapy, Sports Science and Public Health). UCD has only 5% of its students from a disadvantaged background (Health Education Authority, 2020). Therefore, our overall goal was to promote a sense of agency in primary school children from a lower socioeconomic status, so that they could see themselves studying at a higher education institution.

We recruited university students from our programmes to serve as role models to the pupils. They shared information and experiences on attending and completing university education in small group discussion with the pupils. We believe this experience also helped the university students to develop understanding and empathy for diverse individuals, improving their compassion and empathy skills as students, health care professionals and individuals.

We run our pilot project with pupils from a 5th class in a DEIS school in Dublin. First, pupils were brought to UCD to visit the campus, a lecture theatre, and engage in fun activities; they visited the clinical skills labs in Health Sciences and in the Veterinary School where they could play being a doctor or a vet.

Then we visited the school with volunteer university students twice, when pupils and university students interacted in small groups for an hour. The pupils worked on their drawings/stories about being a university student. We visited the school for a 3rd time when the students received a booklet containing their artworks, and had a mini-graduation.

In addition, we surveyed the pupils about university before and after I DECIDE. The pupils named “fear of the unknown”, and “lack of self-confidence” as stopping them from going to university. Thankfully, I DECIDE changed this and the project helped them with self-confidence.



*“I loved having a personal interaction with the children we visited as part of this project. Having a face to face interaction with the kids and listening to their stories and hopes for the future was eye-opening. I hope to think that I had an impact on the kids we visited, but in reality, I think they had a bigger impact on me. It’s very easy to get caught up in everyday life, and this project was a wonderful opportunity to put everything into perspective.”*

*“I think taking part in the I DECIDE project was a really great way to reignite some desire to learn in me. It was great to see all the kids so eager to see stuff that I was maybe taking for granted in my leaning. It also was such a great break from the mundane studying to get a fresh perspective and a great way to rejuvenate some of my mental health by being surrounded by bright, young minds.”*

*“I think this experience benefited my future career immensely. Beyond learning about interaction with a younger population, I learned about general understanding of people who have different experiences and backgrounds. I learned about keeping an open mind to other people’s plans even though it may be unfamiliar to me.”*



SUBMITTED BY: Melinda Halasz  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: melinda.halasz@ucd.ie

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







Launch of the School of Medicine Staff and Student Survey 2023

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

# School of Medicine EDI Student and Staff Survey 2023

## School of Medicine Staff and Student Survey 2023

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) of students and staff is a key focus of the School of Medicine now and going forward. We need to hear from our staff and students about their experiences of equality in the School of Medicine and the impact of the School's equality, diversity & inclusion initiatives to enhance their experience and to identify and prioritise steps we can take to address or further enhance your experiences.

We are currently renewing our Athena Swan Bronze Award, which recognises our dedication to gender equality and inclusion, and together with that and our ongoing commitment to all areas of EDI, we really need to hear what your experience and thoughts are.

SUBMITTED BY: Marie-Louise Ryan

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [edi.medicine@ucd.ie](mailto:edi.medicine@ucd.ie)



# EDI School of Medicine Christmas Lunch 2022

EDI School of Medicine Christmas lunch to celebrate our staff and a successful year

The anticipation of the festive season fills the air as colleagues gather for the much-awaited staff Christmas lunch. The twinkling lights, tinsel, and Christmas jumpers along with the festive tunes sets the atmosphere. Lots of laughter and banter as colleagues catch up, exchange anecdotes and well-wishes creating a wonderful sense of unity and inclusion.





SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY & HEALTH SYSTEMS/IRIS CENTRE/PPI IGNITE

# Photovoice and Co-Design methods to develop mental health support for young homeless people

Young People Experiencing Homelessness (YPEH) face many challenges that can impact their mental well-being. This collaborative study with Dublin Simon aimed to understand the specific experiences and psychosocial challenges of YPEH using PhotoVoice and co-design to improve mental health support (MHSP).

The project was developed with the Dublin Simon community and funded by the King Baudouin Foundation (2021 - J5200810 -E047. UCD lead researchers were Associate Prof Dr Kate Frazer and Prof Thilo Kroll. Michelle Connolly at Dublin Simon was the project lead. Additional team members included Rachael McDonnell Murray, Eilis Conroy, Derek Dempsey, Patricia Walshe, and Sinead Casey at Dublin Simon. Further, we recruited four young people experiencing homelessness (YPEH) (aged 18-24).

Ethical approval was obtained from UCD (UREC LS-22-20 March 2022) and Dublin Simon. We hosted five workshops between May and June 2022. The first two workshops focused on PhotoVoice.

PhotoVoice is a participatory action research method that uses photographs as a way of engaging people to tell their stories and share their experiences (Sutton-Brown 2014; Wang and Burris 1997). We discussed the experience of being homeless and mental health and well-being support needs using this visual method with our client co-researchers.

These fed into a design-thinking approach with the clients based on the Stanford D model (empathy, define, ideate, prototype, test) in the following three workshops. A counsellor was present at all co-design stages. Photos and group discussions highlighted the importance of nature as a source of relaxation, a sense of personal agency and belonging and connection. The Co-Design



*“It [the counseling support created] helped me talk about my issues that have been bothering me my whole life and gave me a safe space to feel comfortable and at ease.”*

Process generated a low-threshold, informal, development-focused, trauma-informed, and youth-centred MHSP prototype underpinned by trust and commitment. Photos were exhibited as part of a Dublin Simon symposia on Health and Wellbeing in March 2023 and the UCD PPI Festival in October 2023. Since, the prototype has been integrated into Dublin Simon’s Sure Steps programme. The co-design of a MHSP by YPEH demonstrates how YPEH can be meaningfully involved in developing person-centred MHSPs.

SUBMITTED BY: Thilo Kroll  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: [thilo.kroll@ucd.ie](mailto:thilo.kroll@ucd.ie)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING  
 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES  
 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PHYSIOTHERAPY & SPORTS SCIENCE

# Athletic Development Kilmacud Crokes Juvenile Football partnership with UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science

Under the supervision of James Timmons & Brian Spring each juvenile football team has been assigned a Health & Performance Science student for 3 months to help oversee Athletic Development

In early November, almost 300 U13, U14 & U15 Kilmacud Crokes Juvenile footballers descended on the UCD High Performance Gym to kick off a novel partnership with the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science.

Under the supervision of James Timmons & Brian Spring each juvenile football team has been assigned a Health & Performance Science student for 3 months to help oversee Athletic Development. This is a great opportunity for the UCD Health & Performance Science 2nd & 3rd students to acquire valuable work experience and develop their practical skill set. This allows them to involve themselves in a real world setting and apply their theoretical knowledge to practice – Putting research into practice!

The programme started with a series of baseline tests in the High Performance Gym, including 10m/20m linear speed, CMJ and Upper-body strength. The Kilmacud Crokes juvenile players will be reassessed after the 12 week programme to determine progress. The Juvenile Committee in Kilmacud Crokes have no doubt that this novel partnership will bring huge benefits and a fun element to all juvenile panels over the 3 month period. Special thanks to Dr. Paddy Duggan and his Kilmacud Crokes juvenile committee for bringing the programme to fruition along with Ryan Stewart & Craig Dowling for assisting us with the usage of the UCD High Performance Gym.

*"The Juvenile Committee have no doubt that this novel partnership will bring huge benefits and a fun element to all juvenile panels over the winter months. Special thanks to Dr. James Timmons and his UCD team for bringing the programme to fruition"*

SUBMITTED BY: James Timmons  
FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
james.timmons1@ucd.ie

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







← Our class of 2022 graduating in style in UCD.

The UCD Gender Studies Community University Outreach Programme, with our partners in Clondalkin Dublin 22 and Crumlin Dublin 12, is a recognised leader in the women's community education sector and is based on principles of collaboration and reciprocity. The programme formally resumed in January 2023 (2022-23 academic year) following a two-and-a-half-year period of inaction as a direct consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Working closely with two long-term community partners, The Loreto Centre in Crumlin and the Women's Collective Ireland Ronanstown Clondalkin, and following a lengthy student recruitment campaign, the Level 7 University Certificate in Women, Gender and Social Justice Programme resumed in a redesigned format. Building on the significant online learning experiences developed and the strong tradition of programme design innovation that has characterised the outreach programme from its inception twenty-five years ago the new programme is based on a model of blended delivery spanning interactive weekly zoom lectures and group work; in person tutorials delivered in the community; and intensive weekend interactive classes on Belfield campus. Feminist empowerment and critical adult education pedagogies sit at the heart of the Gender Studies Outreach project reflecting the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice's commitment to collaborative, dialogical pedagogy.

Developed along a learning continuum, or series of learning blocks, the programme is aimed at facilitating students' understanding and critical analysis through interactive and dynamic teaching methodologies. We have 24 wonderful students currently completing the programme and are actively planning their progression plans into employment and higher education.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

# Community/University Partnership Accredited Certificate

The UCD Gender Studies Community University Outreach Programme, with our partners in Clondalkin Dublin 22 and Crumlin Dublin 12, is a recognised leader in the women's community education sector and is based on principles of collaboration and reciprocity.

SUBMITTED BY: Aileen Quilty  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: [aileen.quilty@ucd.ie](mailto:aileen.quilty@ucd.ie)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

# Contribution to a brand new module at Seijo University, Tokyo (Introduction to Irish Studies)

Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate (UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice) gave an invited, online lecture 'Social Policy in Ireland' to 100 undergraduate students at Seijo University, Tokyo, Japan (23 November 2022).

Seijo University (established in 1917) has been a hub of the Irish Studies in Japan for many years. Prof. Itaru Ueno (Prof. Emeritus, Seijo University, Economic History) lay the foundation. There is another strong link between Seijo and Ireland through Prof. Bon Koizumi, great-grandson of Patrick Lafcadio Hearn and Director of the Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Museum (Matsue, Japan), who is a graduate of the university.

Assoc. Prof. Kodate visited Seijo University in Setagaya, Tokyo in December 2019. He met the then President of the University, Prof. Junichi Tobe, Prof. Hitoshi Ebishima (Prof. in Sociology of Sport, Seijo University), and a few other key academics who are

interested in connecting Ireland and Japan through knowledge transfer and global community engagement. Since then, there have been discussions, exploring possible collaborations. As a result, our Discovery Module, Gateways to Japan (created by Dr Kodate and Prof. Emma Sokell, with the members of the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies in 2018) became the inspiration for their new elective module at Seijo, and 100 students registered in 2022/23. The Irish Ambassador, H.E. Mr Damien Cole, whom Dr Kodate introduced to Prof. Ebishima, also contributed to the module. In addition, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice & UCD Centre for Japanese Studies gave a UCD welcome to Prof. Ebishima on 7 November 2022.



*"I have never had the opportunity to learn about Ireland or have never been interested in it until today's lecture. However a lot of topics (e.g. Gaelic sports, the country's economic success) caught my attention and interested me."*

SUBMITTED BY: Naonori Kodate  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: naonori.kodate@ucd.ie





UCD SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, UCD CENTRE FOR JAPANESE STUDIES (UCD-JAST) & UCD CENTRE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND INNOVATION IN HEALTH SYSTEMS (UCD-IRIS)

# Research Seminar & Book Launch 'Systems Thinking for Global Health' at Museum of Literature Ireland

UCD & TCD academics working in the area of global health came together and hosted the event at the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) on Tuesday 11 April 2023, inviting the late Dr Fiona Larkan's family.

Adjunct Professor of Public Health in UCD, Dr Tony Holohan was the keynote speaker at the event to mark the publication of the book "Systems Thinking for Global Health: How can systems-thinking contribute to solving key challenges in Global Health?" (Oxford University Press), edited by Associate Professor Hasheem Mannan (School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, UCD-IRIS & UCD-JaSt), Associate Professor Naonori Kodate (School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, UCD-JaSt & UCD-IRIS), Associate Professor Frédérique Vallière (Director, Trinity Centre for Global Health) and the late Dr Fiona Larkan (TCD).

Dr Larkan sadly passed away in 2017 amidst the book project. The audience (90 people) filled the beautiful Old Physics Theatre at MoLI, and it was not only the occasion to launch the book but also that to celebrate Dr Larkan's lifetime contributions to global health research, together with her family.

The details of the book can be found here. <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/systems-thinking-for-global-health-9780198799498?cc=us&lang=en&>



*"The seminar and the book, focused on systems thinking in global health, was very timely and significant, given that AI-aided medicine in an increasingly diverse and globalised world will require the applications of the concept, particularly in the areas of public health, healthcare services research, policymaking and medical education."*

↑ From left to right: Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate, Prof. Tony Holohan, Mr Tony Murphy, Mrs Beattie Murphy, Assoc. Prof. Frédérique Vallière, Mr Bradley Larkan, Assoc. Prof. Hasheem Mannan (Photo: Hugo O'Donnell/UCD Centre for Japanese Studies).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SUBMITTED BY: Naonori Kodate  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: [naonori.kodate@ucd.ie](mailto:naonori.kodate@ucd.ie)





SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

# IDecide

**IDecide aimed at promoting interest in third level education. A 5th class from a DEIS school visited UCD campus, had the opportunity to have hands-on experiences and designed the comic booklet "A day in the life of a college student".**



This Action Learning project was created by Antonella Puggioni (School of Veterinary Medicine), Melinda Halasz (School of Medicine) and Nicola Dervan (School of Physiotherapy, Sports Science and Public Health) and based on the fact Students from lower socioeconomic areas are underrepresented in 3rd level education. Our primary desired outcome was to promote a sense of agency in children from a DEIS school so that they could see themselves as active creators of their futures. To do that we "used" as role models volunteering students from our university programmes who shared their experiences on completing university education, while hopefully developing awareness and empathy towards disadvantaged communities. As a long term outcome, we hoped to increase inclusion and diversity in third level education.

**PROJECT PLAN:**

- Pre-project questionnaire
- UCD visit
- DEIS School visits
- Children presentation and distribution of booklet
- Post-project questionnaire



As a pilot we chose a 5th class from a DEIS school in South County Dublin.

The first phase of the project children were brought on a tour of the main facilities of UCD campus. On the same day, they attended "hands on" sessions in the clinical skill labs in the School of veterinary Medicine (where they pretended to perform clinical tasks on model/fake animals) and in the School of nursing (where they took their blood pressure, measured their heights etc).

The second phase saw us lecturers and students volunteers from our schools, visiting the DEIS school twice and spending one hour with the children answering their questions while admiring the work in progress on their comic drawings about "life as a student in UCD".

Once the drawings were finished they were collected in a booklet titled "A Day in The Life of A University Student" which was published and distributed to the children in a final session at their school, where they also discussed with us what they had learned from the experience.

The level of engagement of the children and their teacher was incredible as well as that from our volunteering students.

The pre and post project questionnaires were done to collect data on the children's perception of how university life was like; to assess if they knew what choices of third level education were available to them, what the costs were as well as gathering their ideas on their future.



SUBMITTED BY: Antonella Puggioni  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: antonella.puggioni@ucd.ie

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



*"This project has been hugely beneficial for the children in extending their ambitions and vision for themselves.... I would personally recommend this project to any upper primary class. 10/10"*



UCD SPORT

# UCD Sport Clubs In The Community



**UCD sports clubs actively engage with the community, contributing both locally and nationally. Their involvement encompasses diverse initiatives, benefitting various groups and causes. From collaborating with local schools to supporting national campaigns, UCD sports clubs demonstrate a commitment to making a positive impact.**

Throughout the 2022-23 academic year, the UCD Athletic Union Council and its affiliated sports clubs made significant contributions to the local community through various innovative initiatives. In alignment with the AUC's strategic priority of Volunteerism and Support Services, the UCD AUC offers training and development opportunities to equip and support its sports club members in actively engaging and leading community projects.

Over 250 dedicated UCD sports club volunteers generously contribute their time each week to coach within UCD sports clubs. Many of these volunteers also extend their commitment to the local community, fostering strong connections through their efforts, including UCD TaeKwon-Do, UCD Football, UCD Volleyball, UCD GAA, and UCD Men's Basketball. Examples of their impactful work include designing GAA coaching programs for Uganda GAA through regular Zoom sessions (UCD GAA), assisting in organising and running regattas (UCD Ladies Boat), umpiring competitions (UCD TaeKwon-Do),

providing safety at Liffey Descent races (UCD Canoe), providing coaches for the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown After School Through Sports programme (UCD Soccer), assisting in judging and timekeeping at intercollegiate and intervarsity events (UCD Karate), contributing to planning the Leinster Orienteering Championships (UCD Orienteering) and volunteering at Parkrun Irish Mountain Running Association events (UCD Mountaineering).

Cancer charities remain a popular choice for fundraising in our sports clubs. UCD Men's and Women's Rugby clubs, along with Tag Rugby and students from the BSc in Sports and Exercise Management, collaborated to raise over €18,000 for the Irish Cancer Society during the annual Daffodil Day. UCD Surf and UCD Tennis participated in the Irish Cancer Society Relay For Life, a global initiative that honours cancer survivors, remembers loved ones, and raises awareness about the Irish Cancer Society's services. UCD Karate Club members participated in the Great Pink Run and UCD Ladies Hockey through their Pink Week both

raised funds for Breast Cancer Ireland. UCD Fencing donated the proceeds from their Colours event to the Irish Cancer Society.

UCD Men's Hockey, UCD Sailing, and UCD Trampoline actively participated in the Movember campaign, a month-long initiative that supports men's health issues including mental health, prostate cancer, and testicular cancer. Their involvement helped raise both funds and awareness for these important causes.

To honour and support women in sport at UCD, the UCD AUC launched the Women In Sport Campaign, offering branding templates and a participation guide to its affiliated clubs. Over twenty UCD sports clubs enthusiastically participated in the week-long campaign, making it a resounding success. As part of the initiative and in celebration of International Women's Day, UCD Karate organised a complimentary karate and self-defence class.

UCD Table Tennis loaned and arranged equipment for Special Olympics Ireland's training and development program on a monthly basis. UCD Sailing actively participated in the Darkness into Light campaign. UCD Mountaineering generously donated the profits from their t-shirt sales to support Mountain Rescue. Members of UCD Sub Aqua participated in the Santa Dive event and provided a boat for assistance, all in support of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

UCD Archery and UCD Fencing clubs joined forces to raise funds



for the Turkey Syria Earthquake appeal. In addition, UCD Fencing organised an in-house competition to support the Irish Heart Foundation. UCD Trampoline held a Dragons Den event to raise funds for Aware, an organisation that offers free support and information for individuals experiencing depression or bipolar disorder, as well as their loved ones. UCD Karate organised a range of activities including Laughter Yoga, a hike, pub quizzes, and self-defence classes, all with the goal of raising funds for the Huntington's Disease Association of Ireland.

SUBMITTED BY: Paula Cashman

FOR MORE INFORMATION: paula.cashman@ucd.ie





UCD VOLUNTEERS OVERSEAS

# UCDVO Volunteer Programme

In 2023 UCDVO was delighted to return to in-person volunteering with our partners in India, Tanzania and Uganda with volunteers from across UCD. The Volunteer Programme that took place over the year, included workshops on global citizenship education (GCE), project planning, health and safety, security, and child safeguarding and much more!

After months of preparation and training, our volunteer groups were ready to go and embarked on 4 weeks working with our overseas partners during the summer - with great achievements and learning for everyone. In Tanzania over 100 children with disabilities and their guardians participated in the Matumaini Centre summer rehab camp; in Uganda, with our partner Nurture Africa, volunteers provided IT training to Ugandan youth in the vocational training centre; guardians in the centre received training and advice in planning small business enterprises. Also in Uganda, children and their guardians attended a rehabilitation camp run as part of Nurture Africa's rehab programme.

The UCDVO health projects were run in collaboration with the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science enabling stage 3 and professional master's students to complete

elective placements overseas with UCDVO, supervised by a clinical tutor. This successful partnership has been running for 10 years, contributing to both significant learning outcomes for the physiotherapy students and meaningful support to community rehabilitation and physiotherapy programmes for families and children with disabilities across India, Tanzania and Uganda.

In addition to our Volunteer Programme, UCDVO engaged with over 580 members of the UCD community across a range of global citizenship education events and programmes, including evening courses Be the Change and Skills in Development Education, the UCDVO Film Series, and the inaugural Global Experience Summit run in collaboration with UCD Global.

As part of our 20th anniversary, UCDVO also explored the longer

term, transformative impact of volunteering through its Stories of Change project which profiled eight UCDVO alumni from over the 20 years of UCDVO. The Stories of Change exhibition was launched at the Global Experience Summit.

UCDVO's 2024 Programme begins in January and includes a new education project in Cambodia and will also pilot an international south-north volunteer project in collaboration with the UCD Earth Institute. This pilot will involve youth from a partner in east Africa volunteering on an ecosystem restoration project in Ireland with UCD BSc in Sustainability students.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



*"This experience has been so positive and rewarding in every sense, and I feel like I've changed as a person for the better. It's helped me realise what's important in life, how I want to live my life and has given me the opportunity to meet people of shared values. This experience will continue to teach me things."*

- UCDVO Volunteer 2023

SUBMITTED BY: Zoe Liston  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: [info.ucdvo@ucd.ie](mailto:info.ucdvo@ucd.ie)





WATERLANDS PROJECT (UCD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY)

# WaterLANDS, a EU Horizon Green Deal Project

The WaterLANDS project led by UCD will contribute to the restoration of wetland sites across Europe which have been damaged by human activity and is laying the foundations for large-scale restoration. The project has 32 partners from 14 countries.

WaterLANDS carried out citizen science projects in 2023 at three of the project's restoration sites, in Estonia, Italy and the UK. Citizen science brings nature and people together, explores the "re-seeing" of landscapes to reinforce community ties with wetlands and helps build community support for wetland restoration.

local community in the Summer of 2023. The events were a combination of engaging and informative presentations with practical hands-on peat scoring activities that aimed to expand participants' understanding and appreciation of peatlands' long and changing histories. Samples were taken from different depths in the peatland showing the contrasts between peat accumulated in pre- and post-industrial revolution times and the potential drivers behind the changes. Everyone showed great interest in what can be learned about the dynamic nature of peatlands and their close connection to thousands of years of human history.

In the early Spring of 2023 in Venice, over 100 primary school students aged 11 and 12 from the local community embarked on excursions by boat to the Lagoon and learned about the importance of the salt marsh for Venice and the Mediterranean region. Subsequently, in May 2023 the students held a public event, "Giants of the Lagoon" at the Venice Natural History Museum, in collaboration with our artist-in-resident for this restoration site. Students gave presentations of their work which included games and puzzles they had designed about the Lagoon. A special logbook was designed by WaterLANDS in conjunction with the Venice Natural History Museum that schools and the public can download for free to guide independent learning and exploration of the Lagoon.

At the Kõrsa wetlands in Estonia, more than 100 students from local schools took part in the citizen science event. Students followed a nature trail designed by the project and measured the water level of the wetland, investigated plants, and looked for signs of reptiles and frogs in the area. The students learned about the importance of restoring the wetland and the associated benefits for biodiversity and water quality. The new nature trail will be further developed by the project and promoted to schools in the region, while also providing scientific data to local universities.

In the Yorkshire Moors, WaterLANDS ran several community engagement events for the



SUBMITTED BY: Pauline Power  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: shane.mcguinness@ucd.ie



INDIVIDUAL IMPACT STORIES:  
UCD HORTICULTURE

# Nature knows no boundaries - using church grounds for wildlife

Based on my horticultural expertise, I was approached in 2010 to redesign part of a protected church grounds at Holy Trinity Killiney (HTK) church in Killiney, Co. Dublin, built in 1858, and thereafter I became involved on an ongoing voluntary basis providing advice to and gardening with the volunteer gardening group. HTK is set within the curtilage of Killiney Hill public park, a proposed National Heritage Area. We have recently won two awards for our horticultural and environmental work.

**H**oly Trinity Killiney (HTK) volunteer gardening group are part of the multi-denominational Eco-Congregation Ireland (ECI), a project-based all-Ireland group whose mission is to encourage churches of every denomination to take an ecological and environmental approach to all aspects of life, including their properties. One of their goals is to make the grounds of every property owned by a church, such as schools, community halls, graveyards and churches, more ecologically and environmentally friendly. In August 2023 HTK was awarded the ECI ECO Award for our work.

We follow the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, have added a wide range of native plants, bird and bat boxes, log piles, a bird bath,

bicycle stands to encourage cycling, benches for passing visitors, undertaken three bat surveys, and compost all plant waste, with further plans afoot. We currently mentor two parishes of different denominations who are beginning their ecological and environmental journey. Church properties cover Ireland, providing multiple opportunities for creating wildlife habitats.

In September 2023, HTK was awarded a Green Cities Europe-Ireland 'Special Recognition Award' to mark excellence in green-focused landscaping in the built environment for our gardening and environmental work, which included constructing a universally accessible entrance gate in the wall between the church grounds and Killiney Hill park behind. For the first

time since 1858, people can enter Killiney Hill directly through the church grounds, providing HTK with renewed impetus to further develop the grounds into a space that respects both the contemplative nature of a church and the biodiverse woodland setting in which it sits.

Ultimately, our aims are to create habitats for wildlife through climate resilient, biodiverse planting, and to raise awareness of the benefits of greenspace for human wellbeing.



↑ Eco-Congregation Ireland ECO Award for Holy Trinity Killiney. The award is made in Edinburgh from recycled church pews.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Caroline Elliott-Kingston  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [caroline.elliottkingston@ucd.ie](mailto:caroline.elliottkingston@ucd.ie)





INDIVIDUAL IMPACT STORIES:

# Anamcara Support Podcast 'Loss of Your Only Child'

This was a 25-minute podcast recording produced by Anamcara, the Irish Parental Bereavement Association, available on their website at <https://anamcara.ie/podcasts/>. It describes the experience of coping with the loss of my only daughter Emily, who passed away in 2013.

This podcast was one of a set of Anamcara podcasts titled 'Conversations In Grief'. These podcasts were nominated for Best Interview Award with the Irish Podcasts Awards in 2022.

SUBMITTED BY: Catriona Clutterbuck



INDIVIDUAL IMPACT STORIES:

# Disability Action Collective

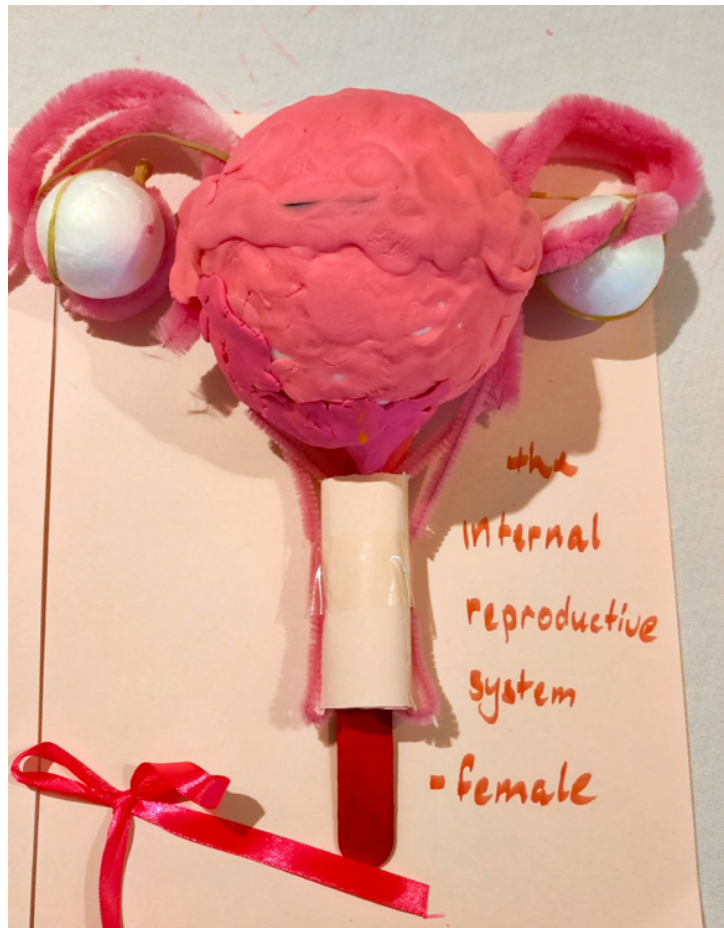
Disability Action Collective is a grass-roots, disabled person-led disability rights group in Ballyfermot/Chapelizod.

In the Disability Action Collective, we engage with local disabled people in ways that allow them to participate in their local community, claim their rights and express themselves. Our flagship project is 'Smashing Barriers', a theatrical group composed of a diverse group of disabled people who mount plays and talent shows. It has appeared in a variety of venues. We also are compiling a shadow report, based on the experiences of disabled people and their carers in Ballyfermot/Chapelizod, to be submitted to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ahead of Ireland's review by the committee. I act as a non-voting advisor and Member of the Board and have drafted the report through extensive consultation with disabled people from the community.

SUBMITTED BY: Graham Finlay  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: [graham.finlay@ucd.ie](mailto:graham.finlay@ucd.ie)







INDIVIDUAL IMPACT STORIES:

# Would you look at that?

Using Non-Traditional Re/Presentation Methods to communicate and understand complex ideas.

As part of the SCI:COM conference held in Dublin in December 2022, UCD academic staff from the Smurfit Graduate Business School (Jacob Eisenberg) and the School of Medicine (Mark Pickering and Tom Flanagan) ran a workshop which brought educational innovations developed through their own practice to the wider community. Designed for a broad audience working in science communication and science policy, this workshop challenged participants to work in a team and, using simple materials such as Lego bricks and arts and crafts supplies, communicate a complex topic of their choice. This approach encouraged a creative approach to communication, and by focusing on primarily visual media reduced the dependency on jargon, making information more accessible to a broader audience. Participating teams worked to create visual representations across a wide range of topics, from the genetics of inherited diseases, through the complexities of the female reproductive system and immune system, to representations of memory loss in dementia. Participants gave positive feedback on the experience, with some reporting that they would take forward what they learned in the workshop into their own practice into the future.

SUBMITTED BY: Mark Pickering  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: mark.pickering@ucd.ie







INDIVIDUAL IMPACT STORIES:

# Science by the Sea

Empowering community engagement with the global marine microplastic pollution problem through community co-creation.

 SUBMITTED BY: Mark Pickering  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[mark.pickering@ucd.ie](mailto:mark.pickering@ucd.ie)



Science by the sea is a video series which brings together research scientists with community groups with a shared interest in the problem of marine plastic pollution. Created with support from the Marine Institute, this series guides anyone with an interest in measuring and monitoring microplastics in their own local environment through the process of collecting and observing their own samples. Each episode takes the viewer through a step in the scientific process, from finding a question, designing an experiment, and making measurements and observations, through to working out what it all means. Over the course of this project, researchers from UCD worked with Flossie and The Beach Cleaners to co-create simple, accessible methods to document microplastic pollution from the marine environment, a process that is also detailed in this video series. Along the way, viewers will learn everything they need to ask and answer questions about their own local environment, including how to make simple but effective tools to explore the world around them, from microscopes made from webcams to microplastic samplers made from cardboard tubes and teabags!



INDIVIDUAL IMPACT STORIES:

# H2020 ERC Grant - MISFIRES - Innovating together for better markets

MISFIRES started in August 2018 and focuses on market failures in healthcare. The aim is to make healthcare markets more participatory. It is funded through an EU H2020 European Research Council - Consolidator Award of €2m over six years.



Our research focused on HIV Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and access issues in Kenya. The project is entitled "The Role of Health Advocates in Access to Medicines: A Comparative Study of Essential Medicines Last Mile Issues in Low- and High-Income Settings", and it was conducted by a Kenyan doctoral research student, Fernandos Ongolly and led by Prof Susi Geiger, UCD.

Given the potential power and resource differentials between the Irish and the Kenyan setting, the implementation of a benefit sharing approach in this research was of utmost importance to the researchers. Benefit sharing took the form of capacity building, data sharing, co-authorship and dissemination of findings. This was done through several varied community engagements. For instance, we worked closely with Kenyan research assistants to assist with the fieldwork and organisation on a local level in Kenya.

The research assistants were paid for their work from the project and the experience also provided mentorship avenues for the research assistants in qualitative research. Also, through co-organization with the Department of Anthropology, Gender & African Studies and the Anthropological Association of Kenya - University of Nairobi, a PhD symposium took place in Nairobi, and Prof Susi Geiger gave a public lecture on the research and findings to over 200 Kenyan academics and PhD students.

Two workshops with Kenyan community members were organised to present key findings from the research back to the community and to share knowledge gained from the research on best practice and tactics in HIV prevention advocacy and access issues. These sessions facilitated a forum to openly and collaboratively brainstorm on other possible strategies on these issues with the local communities.

Country officials and national councils were also invited to attend these workshops to ensure wide community engagement. Prof Susi Geiger and Fernandos Ongolly also visited hospitals, care clinics and survivor centres in Kenya to share their findings through informal meetings. All these community engagements ensured an inclusive and "giving back to the community" approach of the research and findings.

Future research areas and more community engagements were identified, and we will be collaborating and building on these important relationships with key stakeholders and communities in the coming months and years.

For more information about our research, our benefit sharing approach, or our community engagements please visit <https://misfires.ucd.ie/> or follow us on @MISFIRES\_ERC

SUBMITTED BY: Gemma Watts  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: [gemma.watts@ucd.ie](mailto:gemma.watts@ucd.ie)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING  
 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES  
 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

*"It was inspiring to see how much our benefit sharing approach to research enabled us to bring our findings back to the local communities and that our visit validated their continued efforts in this area"*

- Prof Susi Geiger, Full Professor of Market Studies, UCD



# Contact Information



University College Dublin  
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath  
Ireland's Global University

**This report was compiled by:**

**UCD in the Community**

UCD's community engagement initiative

**Connect with us:**

Email: [ucdic@ucd.ie](mailto:ucdic@ucd.ie)

Website: [ucd.ie/ucdinthecommunity](http://ucd.ie/ucdinthecommunity)

Instagram: [@UCDCommunity](https://www.instagram.com/UCDCommunity)

X: [@UCDCommunity](https://twitter.com/UCDCommunity)



Report designed by: Ed Moynihan – EMCreative.ie