



Calling all Chemical Brothers, and sisters

Mexican honour for **Cork** professor

PROFESSOR Nuala Finnegan, Head, Department of Hispanic Studies/Director, Centre for Mexican Studies, **UCC** has been conferred with the prestigious Ohtli award by His Excellency Carlos García de Alba on behalf of the Mexican Government.



With more than 500 guests present at the ceremony, Professor Finnegan was honoured for her work as Director of Ireland's only Centre for Mexican Studies. The word Ohtli is a Náhuatl word meaning 'pathway' and the Ohtli award is the highest recognition granted by Mexico to individuals who through their work have fostered an opening of cultural and intellectual pathways towards Mexico. Professor Finnegan was singled out for her work in leading research teams of doctoral and post-doctoral students as well as her

commitment to the promotion of Mexican culture. Professor Finnegan is only the fourth European recipient of the award and says, "it is a privilege to be able to contribute towards cultural understanding of the richness and diversity of Mexican culture. Through the many activities — art exhibitions, conferences, readings, seminars as well as the books and articles published, we hope that we can participate in a small way to enriching an understanding of Mexico."

Trinity teams up with **Cork** Millipore

CRANN, the Science Foundation Ireland funded nanoscience research institute, based at Trinity College Dublin, has announced a new commercial partnership worth more than €130k with Merck Millipore, a biotech and pharmaceutical company based in Cork. As part of the research programmes, CRANN will assist Merck Millipore to further develop the nanostructures of their products' artificial membranes, that are widely used for medical and

diagnostic devices, and to deliver new products. Artificial membranes are used in a wide array of products such as lab filtration devices, antibody screening kits and blood-typing products. Funded by Enterprise Ireland, the research partnership reflects CRANN's reputation as a leading nanoscience centre, with the infrastructure and expertise to attract partnerships with multinational companies based in Ireland.

WHAT is chemistry? If you've got chemistry and rhythm and rhyme, why not rant and rap about 'The Chemistry of Life' in this year's Science Raps competition.

Science Raps, a Science Week competition organised by the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre (APC) (<http://apc.ucc.ie>), challenges second and third-level students to compose, perform and video a rap on "The Chemistry of Life".

The competition is open to junior and senior-cycle secondary school students and third-level students with prizes awarded to categories 16 years and under plus 17 years and

over. All you have to do is compose, perform and video your rap on the 'Chemistry of Life' taking inspiration from your everyday life — from lifesaving medication to microchips in our mobile phones, from the beauty products we use to the food and water we consume.

You will be in with a chance to win a fantastic prize of an iPad or iPod and your uploaded videos will be viewed across the globe. You might even get famous!!!

To enter video your own Science Rap, upload on YouTube and send the link with a completed application form to apc@ucc.ie.

The closing date for receipt of

entries is Tuesday, November 8th 2011.

Winning entries from the 2009 and 2010 Science Raps Competitions can be viewed on the PharmabioticYouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/Pharmabiotic>

This year the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre is delighted to team up with Discover Science and Engineering (DSE) and Stream Solutions who are sponsors of the competition.

DSE, organisers of Science Week www.scienceweek.ie, aim to promote the relevance of science, engineering and technology in our everyday lives. Stream Solutions — The Mac Experts — www.stream.ie,

provide Mac and AV solutions to the education sector and are pioneering the iPad movement in schools.

The Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre is a health research centre funded by Science Foundation Ireland and is a partnership between **UCC**, **Trinity College Cork**, Teagasc and **Cork** Institute of Technology. The independent international ratings agency Thomson Reuters Science Watch global analysis, recently ranked **UCC**, **Trinity College Cork** at number two in the world for probiotics research, due to publications from researchers in the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre (<http://sciencewatch.com/analysis/probiotics/institution/>)



Professor Caroline Fennell, Head of College of the Arts Celtic Studies and Social Sciences; Dr Tomás Ó Carragáin, Research Achievement Award 2010/2011; Dr Niamh Hourigan, Special Research Achievement Award 2010/2011 and Prof. Graham Allen, Vice Head Research, CACSSS, launch Research Month. Picture: Tomas Tyrner, **UCC**

Edna O'Brien to attend Research Month

UCC College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences (CACSSS) launched a new initiative in September with the launch of its first Research Month.

The showcase displayed a wide range of research activities, conferences, workshops, and the launch of a number of new ventures including a new postgraduate journal called *Aigine*, a new Frank O'Connor website, a new Irish Institute of Japanese Studies, and the publication of Dr Colin Sage's new book

Environment and Food. Also included in the month were PhD slams, literary performances, and the visit of distinguished authors and writers such as Edna O'Brien and Eoghan Harris.

The Research Showcase Month also saw a new Research website for CACSSS and the award of this year's Research Achievement Award which was presented to Dr Tomás Ó Carragáin for his work in *Churches in Medieval Ireland*. A Special Commendation

Award was also given to Dr Niamh Hourigan from the School of Sociology and Philosophy for her much lauded book *Understanding Limerick*.

The Head of the College, Professor Caroline Fennell welcoming the Showcase said: "The launch of Research Showcase Month marks a new and innovative approach to showcasing the diverse range of research in the Humanities and Social Sciences currently being undertaken in **UCC**."

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