

SPRING CONFERRINGS AT UCC



Dr Catherine Stanton and Professor Paul Ross, pictured here with Professor Michael Murphy, President, University College Cork and family members, including their children, Fiona (11) and Stephen (14) at the UCC Spring Conferring Ceremony, 2009.

Over 90 postgraduate and postdoctoral students were conferred today (Friday, March 27th 2009) at UCC's Spring Conferring Ceremony. The students graduated from the four colleges: Arts, Celtic Studies & Social Sciences; Business & Law; Medicine & Health; Science, Engineering & Food Science.

The Conferring Address was given by Mr Martin Cronin, Chief Executive of Forfás.

Among those to be conferred were Dr Catherine Stanton, and her husband Professor Paul Ross, who have the unique distinction of being the first ever couple to be conferred simultaneously with a Doctorate of Science (DSc) from the National University of Ireland (NUI). The DSc is the highest academic honour awarded by the NUI and is based on consistent excellence in scientific research in a specific area.

Professor Ross and Dr Stanton are based at the Teagasc Food Research Centre in Moorepark, Fermoy and they also have strong research ties with UCC. Both are Principal Investigators in the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre (APC), funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and industry, and in the Food for Health Research Centre (FHI), funded by Enterprise Ireland and four Irish food companies. The APC and FHI are major research centres dedicated to the exploration of gut bacteria and

novel functional food ingredients for the improvement of human health through food and pharma applications.

Dr Stanton, a UCC and Bournemouth University graduate, is currently Principal Research Officer at Teagasc and a Principal Investigator in the APC and in the Food Health Ireland research centre. She has previously worked with Johnson & Johnson UK, and in Wake Forest University Medical Center NC, USA. She has published over 100 papers on her research in the area of functional foods, with emphasis on the molecular analysis of food components that impact on human nutrition and health.

Professor Ross earned his B.Sc. and Ph.D in Microbiology from UCC and subsequently worked at Wake Forest University, NC,USA, before returning to Teagasc's Moorepark Food Research Centre to lead the Food Biotechnology programme. He is Head of the Biotechnology Department, Adjunct Professor at UCC, and is a Principal Investigator in the APC and the Food Health Ireland research centre. His research in microbiology ranges from gut flora to novel antimicrobials, including bacteriocins and bacteriophage. He received the William C. Haines Dairy Science in 2007 and the Enterprise Ireland Commercialization award in 2008.

Some 30 students were conferred with a PhD in Arts, Engineering, Food Science & Technology, Law and Science and 27 conferred with a Master's in Business Association (MBA). A further three students were conferred with an MPhil while 18 students were conferred with an MSc in Science, Commerce, Food Science & Technology and Medicine & Health. There were two Doctorates of Clinical Dentistry, four MD's and four MEngSc in Civil, Electrical and Microelectronic Engineering.