

SMARTlab &

The Inclusive Design Research Centre of Ireland @ UCD

welcome guests to the first awards ceremony

for the Duais Eagnaí (Wisdom Awards)

in Memory of the Late Daniel O'Haire: 1981-2012

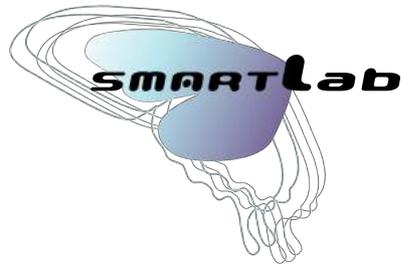
Wed. 12 February, 2014: 5-7:30pm, NCAD Gallery, Dublin

Award for Maternal Strength
and Wisdom to be
presented to [Liz O'Haire](#)

Award for Applied Creative Wisdom
to be presented to
[Stiofán Ó Cunaigh \(Steve Cooney\)](#)

Awards to be presented by
[Professor Lizbeth Goodman](#) &
[Clíodhna Cussen](#) on behalf of the
Duais Eagnaí founding partnership
(SMARTlab, IDRC@UCD, Craobh
Aimhirgin [The Gaelic League],
Motiv8, Kíla, Special Effect, Dunlop
Associates, & Macalla Teoranta)





National College
of Art & Design

Daniel O'Haire, 1981-2012



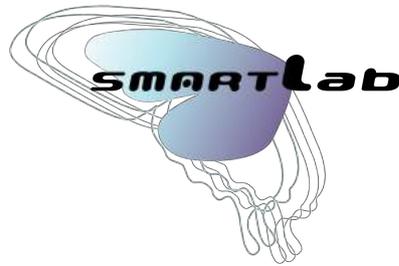
Programme for the Evening

5pm: Drinks reception in Gallery Foyer

5:10pm: Welcome by [Professor Declan McGonagle](#), Director of the National College of Art & Design

5:15: Lecture by [Professor Lizbeth Goodman](#): 'A Tribute to the late Daniel O'Haire: Motivation Overcoming Physical Disability', with Eyegaze interaction by [Dr Mick Donegan](#), and a special Eyegaze Music Duet featuring [Katy Gilligan & Stephen Olwill](#)

6pm: Award ceremony, followed by a musical tribute by [Tommy Sands](#), [Steve Cooney](#), [Rónán Ó Snodaigh](#), [Colm Ó Snodaigh](#) & [Eoin Dillon](#) of Kíla, and special guests [Cheryl L'Hirondelle](#) and [Blair Wing](#)



The Duais Eagnaí (Wisdom Awards) in Memory of the late Daniel O’Haire

These first Duais Eagnaí (Wisdom Awards) are made in memory of the late Daniel O’Haire: a smart, handsome, talented, brave, determined and funny young man who loved and honoured the strength and solidarity of his family, and contributed positively to his community as a good neighbour and newly qualified librarian. Despite having most of his physical mobility taken from him by a sudden and cruel act of violence at a very young age, and almost in a direct challenge to his subsequent quadriplegia and speech difficulties, Daniel as the eldest of the family, remained a guiding light and positive role model for his younger brother and sister Alan and Nicole, and for all their many cousins and friends. He died briefly during that stabbing, but he returned as a strong young man in a different form: a living tribute to his devoted mother Liz and to his father, the late Jimmy O’Haire (who sadly passed during Daniel’s illness), and later also of Dave Young, Liz’s partner. He was a model of determination and sheer human persistence in overcoming all obstacles. Anyone who knew Daniel, even briefly, could see that he was in no way ‘disabled’ but was rather ‘extra-abled’ or even ‘super-abled.’

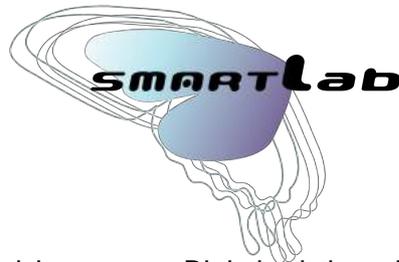
We honour his memory here this evening.

‘A Tribute to the late Daniel O’Haire: Motivation Overcoming Physical Disability’

Through a series of serendipitous meetings, crossing paths and accidental acquaintances caused by the unpredictability of public rail systems in countries with unpredictable weather (and perhaps also by some less earthly spirit of collaboration and justice), a smart, gorgeous, talented, brave, determined and funny young woman called Blair Wing



happened to meet Dave Young late one night, in the dark, waiting for the ferry to Dublin to join SMARTlab in an integrated dance performance. Blair Wing’s name suggests her power as a dancer whose gifts and mobility far exceed the apparent limits of her own wheelchair. Though she never had the



chance to meet Daniel in person, Blair had the wisdom to know that there was a connection to be made, and one that might transform more than one life.

Blair brought the story of Daniel to SMARTlab, and I shared it with Colm Ó Snodaigh and with a wonderful mild-mannered man called Dr Mick Donegan: known in our private circle as 'God' for his ability to introduce technological solutions in a '*deus ex machina*' fashion, transforming lives in a benevolent and seemingly effortless manner whilst circling the globe with a battered case containing eyegaze machines. If there is ever to be a Nobel Prize for Generosity of Spirit and Transformational Innovation, that would have to go to Mick Donegan. But that is for another time: hopefully soon. . .

So it came to pass that some six years ago, Mick and I travelled to Dublin, and with Colm we met Liz O'Haire and Dave Young. You only had to hear their story once to know that they would do anything to give Daniel the quality of life he so deserved. Since his attack, Daniel's main form of communication had been through engagement and deep eye contact with his mother, who was able to understand and interpret his wishes and thoughts despite the symptoms of his 'Locked in Syndrome.' Over time, the wider circle of family and friends also came to understand Daniel, so that communications increased once the social discomfort of seeing him in his new state began to fade away. And then, Daniel began to come into his own again in Cuan Eibhonn, the unit for younger people with disabilities attached to St Mary's Hospital Dublin. Under the expert and motherly care of Dr Frances Pigeon, Liz and the family worked together to create a new life and community for Daniel.



Not long after that first meeting with Liz and Dave and the SMARTlab team, Mick and Colm went to meet Daniel in hospital, where he used the eyegaze machine and gave his first clear signs of being able to communicate entirely independently of human interpretation, in the years since his accident. The first time Daniel said **NO** using the machine was a breakthrough moment for everyone.



From that moment on, the medical team who had been focusing on keeping him physically comfortable were able to engage directly with Daniel, and this new life took on a new shape, with Daniel empowered to live again, making his own choices by 'speaking' and 'voting' with his eyes.

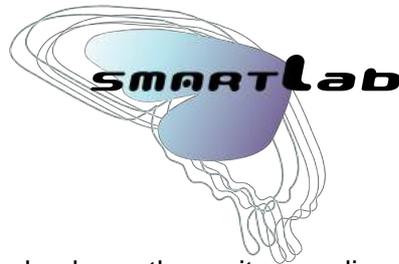
After some time, Daniel was able to use the eyegaze machine to demonstrate the quality and clarity of his cognitive thoughts, and to say that he wanted to take the risk of leaving hospital in order to be at home with his family. He was finally permitted to go home and then, over time, to travel. He made his 'Bucket List' and achieved all the main items on it: he travelled with his Liz and Dave and his extended family to Liverpool Football Club, where the players he idolised met and honoured him on the pitch and gave him a signed football in the clubroom; he then attended a *Kíla* concert and was paid tribute from the stage; he then began to travel more widely in a specially-designed mobile bus/hospital unit (which had been a former mobile library), designed for Daniel by Dave and built by his beloved Uncle Mixer (Mick) Gannon: Liz's brother, who- sadly- was also taken from the family suddenly on the 14th of November, 2013. In that mobile hospital, which came to be known as the 'Big Brother Bus', where only Daniel could not be evicted- he and his entourage of 11 family members and carers set out on a big expedition: they travelled to Poland, for what would be his last and best big trip. That ten day journey covered seven countries, with stops for more football with the Italian match in the European Championships in Poland and ending with a party atmosphere in Eindhoven.

He returned from that journey and went home to Finglas, Dublin on the 21st of June, 2012.

The next day, the man who had stabbed Daniel years previously was finally sentenced. The extradition from England and the two year trial happened to come to their conclusions just as Daniel returned. That man received twelve years, following on from a ten year reduced sentence for an armed robbery in England just after Daniel's stabbing. He and his family felt some sort of belated justice had been done.



Then, in late August and early September, Daniel became ill. One Sunday, Daniel and Dave went out for a Liverpool match, and while out, Daniel indicated that he didn't feel well. Daniel checked in at Blanchardstown



Hospital, and after a check up there, it was discovered that he had developed a trapped bowel. After a week of settling back into hospital, Daniel underwent an emergency surgery, and went into the Intensive Care Unit for three weeks. When during that time a second minor operation was suggested, Daniel refused. He was sure that he did not want any further operations. He chose his time.

After extensive consultations with his full medical team and extended family, Daniel stood by his decision. He was then told that he would soon die. He was discharged on the 20th of September and over the next week he chose to return to Cuan Eibhonn, to go into a Palliative Care Programme under Dr Pidgeon's care. He chose this as the 'second home' he came to trust. Dr Pidgeon helped him to make his way in comfort and with all his friends and family around him.

Just before his passing, Daniel asked his mother to put up a Facebook Page to share his final journey. His sister Nicole helped to set up the webpage, and Daniel told his mother in his own words what he wanted to say:

23rd of September, 2012:

"Hi Everyone. This is Daniel's' Mom writing to you all to let you know Daniel is very sick. He's been in Blanch for the last month and he's going back to Cuan Eibhonn tomorrow to go on his final journey. So if anyone wishes to go and say their goodbyes, it's in St Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park.



ps - Daniel wants no one to be sad, and he's still smiling. Liz"

Daniel maintained a sense of humour to the end. In his mother's words, he insisted that even his death was a happy death, with all men wearing red ties and all girls and ladies wearing red hats to the funeral. He planned his passing with a playful spirit. And through it all, Liz and Alan and Nicole and his whole family and the Finglas community held a circle of trust safe and open for him so that he could continue to live as fully and creatively as possible.



And so, we come to the creation of these awards, and the reason behind them is Motivation.

Daniel's journeys through two very different lives had one thing in common: he refused to give up; He refused to lose the plumbline of deep connection to his family and community; he refused to let go of life and chose to live it to the full, twice.

It was with great sadness that we all heard of his death in the Autumn of 2012. Autumn is a time of transformation, from one open and vibrant state of being to a quieter state, but one that always bursts forth again with the colours of each new Spring.

As the leaves were turning to gold and then falling in late 2012, it was too soon and too raw to pay tribute, but time has now passed, and it feels right to mark the beginning of this new Spring by sharing two very special new awards named after Daniel.

The Creation of the Awards:

I have long spoken of the problem in society today of reliance on what I call 'almost too late technologies': tools that are hacked and made to work because people just need them. In contrast to the often-quoted concept of 'just in time technologies', in fact, the tools that we require to give voice to individuals at the moments when they really need them, are very rarely invented or made available by mainstream suppliers. It usually takes a Blair to introduce the person in need, and a Liz and Dave to show the absolute determination to make what is needed, and a Mick and a Colm and teams like SMARTlab and Special Effect to work together, often without funding, to just do it.

Mick Donegan and his charity Special Effect joined forces with SMARTlab and now with our new initiative, the Inclusive Design Research Centre of Ireland @ UCD, not in order to gain another academic title or to win funds for himself: he joined because



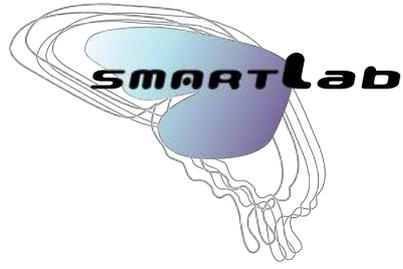
when he first encountered our work with some talented artists with Cerebral Palsy, I simply said that our ethos was to Make Change Happen, and to let the grants and awards follow. This basic and simple concept is based on the notion that 'first you build your castles in the air; then you put the foundations under them'. And so a growing and unstoppable band of merry women and men of all nationalities and disciplines keep on working together, often traversing globe, working to do what matters, with the people for whom it matters. And over time, despite all the waves of quizzical and sometimes dismissive response from funding bodies and institutions, the difference is made.

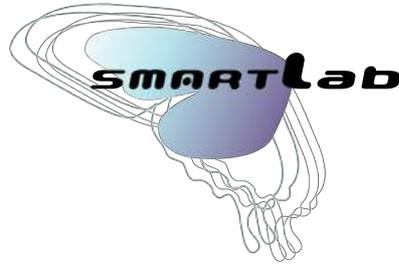
Even in the current climate where industry as a whole is finally embracing the open source movement and recognising the collective wisdom of the world's people in the faster and more efficient innovation of new technology tools, still, most of the time, the Daniels of the world require a team to make a safe and determined circle of trust around them. And often as not, it is the parents, the Liz and Daves (and the Tina and Des Gilligans, and the Ramnani families, and the Olwill families, and the Kelly families, and the Kathryn Brosnans, and all the other parents and the many many extraordinary families and also the talented and unsung carer of our 'extra-abled friends and colleagues) who work collaboratively to co-design and invent the tools that are needed, and who describe those needs clearly and persuasively to the technology and medical teams who can learn from those own home-made co-designed prototypes, and build them.

The awards are a tribute to all the parents and families, carers, makers and hackers who give of their time and talent to invent solutions to real world problems, without demanding high tech labs and big grants. For everybody who sees what is needed, and just does it. For the innovators who rebuild lives by working away in sheds and bedrooms: these awards are for all of you.

We hope in time to gather sufficient funds to keep the Wisdom Awards going on an annual basis, and to honour many more of the unsung heroes and heroines of this emergent domain of Open Responsible Innovation fuelled by Inclusive Design utilising Creative Technology Innovation tools.

But those are big words, and tonight is about one simple word of THANKS to a set of creative people who offered their own funds and resources to make this happen, and also to two people: Liz O'Haire and Steve Cooney.





The People Behind the Awards:

The Duais Eagnaí founding partnership (SMARTlab, IDRC@UCD, Craobh Aimhirgin [The Gaelic League], Motiv8, Kíla, Special Effect, Dunlop Associates, & Macalla Teoranta) all have representatives here this evening.

In order of appearance this evening:

Clíodhna Cussen, Sculptor & Member of the Craobh Aimhirgin [The Gaelic League]:

Clíodhna is known as a leading Irish sculptor and artist, whose work has taken pride of place across Ireland for the last fifty years. She has published children's stories and adult poetry, and has exhibited many collections of paintings and sculpture, including a recent show in Belfast in January 2014. She travelled to Tunis with SMARTlab in 2005 to represent the creativity of Irish women artists at the World Summit Showcase.

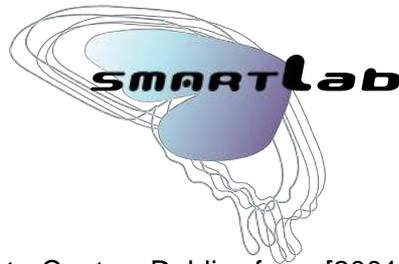


She created the two awards to be given tonight. She is also the mother of a family of six boys, now men: three of them members of the band, Kíla. The Cussen-Ó Snodaigh family made an early decision to speak only Irish at home, in an effort to keep the language alive in all its creative forms.

Professor Declan McGonagle, Director, NCAD:



Declan Mc Gonagle has been Director of the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, since 2008. Prior to that he directed the Interface Research Centre at University of Ulster [2004 – 2008], dealing with issues of art/design, context and contested space. He set up and directed the Civil



Arts Inquiry at City Arts Centre, Dublin, from [2001 – 2004], and was the founding Director of the Irish Museum of Modern Art, [1991 – 2001] following periods as Director of the Orchard Gallery in Derry and Director of Exhibitions at the ICA in London in the period 1978 – 1990. In 1987, McGonagle became one of only two curators to be shortlisted for the Turner Prize thanks to his work at the Orchard Gallery in Derry. He writes, lectures and publishes regularly on art, museum/gallery policy issues, and curates exhibitions with a focus on the relationship between art/artist and society. He is known for his inclusive understanding of the role of culture and community in situated art practices and projects, and for his vast but specific understandings of how best to inspire cross-sectoral engagement in art and design projects of real social merit.

Professor Lizbeth Goodman, Director, SMARTlab & the IDRC of Ireland @ UCD:

Lizbeth founded the first iteration of SMARTlab at the Open University BBC in 1992 and has since directed all its inclusive learning and interactive technology projects for the creation of tools for lifelong learning. In 2005 at the University of East London, she was given a personal chair, for which she invented the term CTI- Creative Technology Innovation - to replace the less mobile, less personalised and less artistically- and socially-committed field of ICT. She is currently Chair of CTI and also Professor of Inclusive Design for Education at UCD, and an Executive of the Innovation Academy, and was elected Chair of the Social Sciences Committee of the Royal Irish Academy in 2012. Her research and many publications span the fields of Performance, Media, Education, and Technologies for Lifelong Learning, with a specialism in creating tools and methods to enable all talented people to share their voices.



Colm Ó Snodaigh: Manager, Kíla



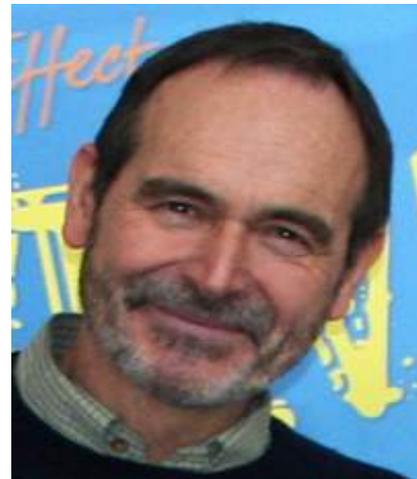
Colm is a musician and author who has been a member of the Irish world music band Kíla for the past twenty-five years. He plays flute, saxophone, guitar, and 'whatever else is needed', and sings original songs, including the title track of his latest solo album, *Giving*. He is near to completing a history of the



closure of the Gaeltacht School at Dún Chaoin (Dun Quinn), and has also published a selection of essays and a novella, *Pat the Pipe*. Colm has given of his time to SMARTlab for the past twelve years, including his musical direction of the recent SMARTlab/Kíla collaboration with Igloo Productions and TG4: the animated TV series, *BB Agus Bella*. He was one of the team who brought Daniel into our circle of trust.

Dr Mick Donegan of Special Effect:

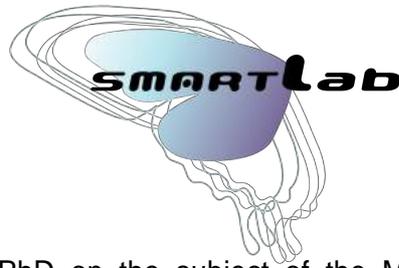
Mick is the Founder and CEO of the SpecialEffect charity in the UK, which enhances the lives of people with disabilities by using leading edge technology for communication, leisure, creativity and play. Mick is one of the world leaders in the area of gaze control, and has is also playing an influential role in the emergent field of brain control technologies, currently as an Adviser to The Horizon 2020 'Brain and Neural Computer Interfaces' Project. Mick is also Adjunct Senior Researcher with SMARTlab at the School of Education, UCD, and is Honorary Visiting Professor at the IDRC of OCADU, Toronto.



Blair Wing:

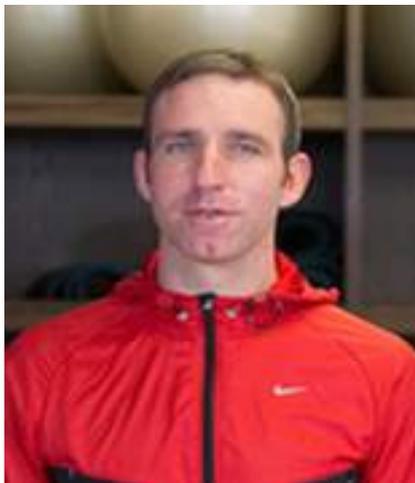


Blair is a Native New Yorker: a professional actor and dancer trained at the Ohio State University (BA, MFA), where the SMARTlab and Kíla teams first met her during an integrated motion capture dance project in 2004. She teaches performance skills to both 'abled-' and 'differently-abled' students in New York, and has completed the



first few years of a PhD on the subject of the Media (Under) Representation of Women with Disabilities. She travelled from New York to London, Dublin and Tunis with our World Summit Award performances, and also travelled on her own to Pakistan in 2007 for our SafetyNET Project, where she worked with local women injured in the earthquake, helping to source wheelchairs in the rubble. She will be returning to work with SMARTlab on the new MA in Creative Technology Innovation this year, before rekindling her studies for the PhD, building further upon her on-going action research into the Inclusion Worldwide Project.

Enda McNulty of Motiv8:



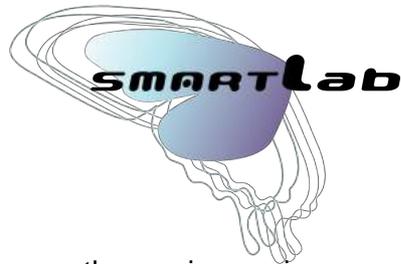
Enda McNulty has recently completed his fourth year as performance coach to the Leinster Rugby Team. He is fortunate to have shared in a third Heineken cup success in four years and enjoys the endorsement and privilege of working alongside Brian O'Driscoll and his great team. In 2005, Enda established the company, Motiv8. Its mission is: 'to inspire, coach and guide individuals and teams to make most of their potential in the sports, business and educational sectors.' In 2002, Enda won the Sam Maguire Cup in Gaelic football. This was the achievement that was to shape his career. Enda

now brings the same winning attitude and meticulous preparation he displayed as part of that team to his role as CEO of MOTIV8, where he and his colleagues have carved out a niche as a company specialising in performance excellence. Motiv8 place Emotional Intelligence alongside Mental Toughness and general Wellness as critical tools in the development of the Corporate Athlete, seeking to instill an attitude of energy multiplied by enthusiasm, to the daily routines of life. Enda is preparing to begin a PhD with SMARTlab and was so inspired by the story of Daniel O'Haire that he offered to become the first match funder for this important set of awards.

Sandy Dunlop of Alexander Dunlop Associates:

A graduate of Trinity College, Sandy founded his own firm to help global brands develop their own identities and stories, using archetype and myth. He has worked with some of the largest international





corporations, and is currently running major campaigns for Unilever. He was co-convenor of the Climate Gathering Dublin in 2013, and one of the major forces behind the Terenure Community Project. He has written and validated a new concept in Master Education in Global Branding with industry clients, and is currently working on a PhD in the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore & Linguistics, in collaboration with support from faculty at SMARTlab.

Marcus MacConghail of Macalla Teoranta:

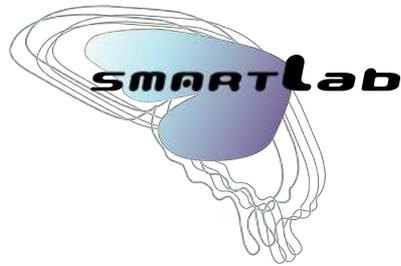
Marcus has run the Irish language TV production company Macalla Teoranta for the past fifteen years. Also a talented musician and author with his first collection of poetry and songs - Ceol Baile (Home Music) - to be launched next week (Feb. 2014).



Tommy Sands:



A legendary figure in the folk music scene, Tommy is widely regarded as a leading light of the movement for peace in Ireland (North and South). His music, and that of the Sands Family band, has warmed and inspired many generations of good people to good work in the name of peaceful creative expression. The only Irishman to be invited to the late Pete Seeger's 90th birthday celebrations in America, Tommy is an ambassador for Ireland, all of Ireland. As a writer, performer and mentor to so many, he carries the very wisdom that these awards seek to honour.



Cheryl L'Hirondelle:

Cheryl is a mixed blood (Cree/Metis & German/Polish), community-engaged singer / songwriter, interdisciplinary artist and curator whose creative practice is an investigation of the junction of a Cree worldview in contemporary time-space. Describing herself as 'from the land now known as Canada', Cheryl brings the words and stories and sounds of the Cree



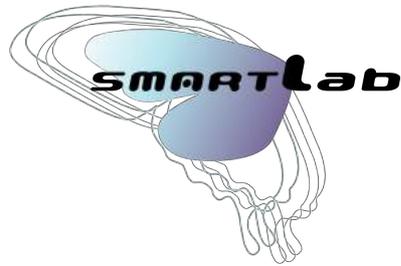
tradition to life in music. She joined SMARTlab in 2005 and has performed with us in London, Tunis and Dublin. She honours her European father's inventiveness by conceiving of CREE++, the first Indigenous computer programming language. She has also created several award-winning online net.art sites including treatycard.ca, a site that attempts to remind everyone to honour the treaties. Her inaugural 2008/09 sonic mapping project vancouversonglines.ca received an Honourable Mention from the 13th Annual Webby Awards. She is currently enrolled in the Masters in Inclusive Design Program at OCAD University in Toronto with an international supervisory/mentorship team including Steve Cooney and Lizbeth Goodman.

Tonight she sings an Honour Song from the Cree tradition gifted to her from the Naytowhow family.

Rónan Ó Snodaigh:



Known as the Jimi Hendrix of the bodhrán, Rónán is a globally recognised musician and poet. He has been a core member of Kíla since near to the start, and has also released several solo albums and books of verse in Irish and English. His 2013 album, *Sos*, marks a new departure in his style.



Eoin Dillon:

Eoin is a carrier of the Irish tradition of the Uilleann pipers, and a composer. He is a founding member of Kíla (since 1987), and also a solo artist who has released two critically acclaimed albums: *The Third Twin*, and *The Golden Mean*. At the recent Earth Institute's opening at UCD, Eoin wowed the representative of the American Government by composing a live tribute to her on stage.



Katy Gilligan:

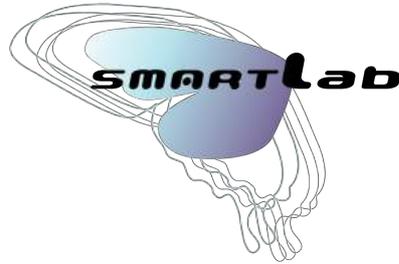


Schooled at CRC, Katy first joined the SMARTlab team and our founding SpiritLevel collaborative consortium when she was one of 16 young people with disabilities to perform live with us in an integrated music-dance-technology showcase for the opening of the Special Olympics in UCD's O'Reilly Hall, Dublin in 2003. She has since danced with us in Ireland and the UK, and had her own song 'Katy's Tune' recorded by Kíla in 2009 (on the *Soisín* album).

Tina Gilligan:

. . . Much more than Katy's devoted Mom, Tina has travelled with the SMARTlab team to ensure that Katy's beautiful dance work could be shared widely. She understands Liz O'Haire's ways of interpreting for a much-loved child, as another experienced practitioner of maternal wisdom, empathy and insight.





Stephen O'llwill:



New to the team, Stephen came into our orbit when the Science Squad feature on RTE brought renewed attention to our InterFACES project here in Dublin. Stephen made contact with Dr Mick, and the rest is history in the making. Stephen currently lives at the Cara Cheshire Home in Phoenix Park, where he is where he is working with Mick to develop an interface to enable him to speak using gaze control, to

supplement his unique way of communicating through facial expression corresponding to the letters of the alphabet: see - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Dc7A4cOfM0>

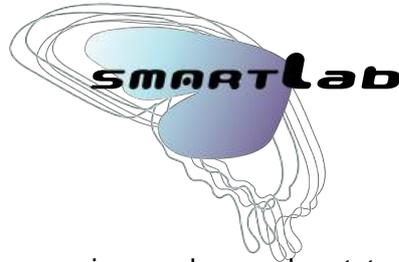
The Choosing of the First Award Recipients:

In keeping with the SMARTlab's ethos of active engagement, and our policy of not waiting for funding but rather doing what is needed when it can make a difference, we decided to create these awards simply and because it was right to do so, and because it was time.

The Awards were created in 2010 when we decided to mark the life of Daniel in particular, and to extra-abled people and their families around the world. We wanted to give thanks for the great strength and intergenerational wisdom of many cultures, and the moments of serendipity that bring us all together to work within a circle of trust, determined to give life and voice to the next generation, and to the birth of a more inclusive world.

We have selected two recipients for the first Duais Eagnaí (Wisdom Awards).

It was not hard to make the choice.



Tonight we honour two amazing, and normal, outstanding, and humble people: a mother who gave life to her son not once but twice; and a man who helped to give a voice in music to that son, and to the sons and daughters of us all: Liz O'Haire, and Steve Cooney.

In choosing the design of each award, we looked to the model of the Wizard of Oz, wherein the heroes and heroines were granted as awards a set of external tokens of the very qualities they most exhibited in their actions and personalities. Both of our recipients tonight will receive symbols of Wisdom.

The Awards go to:

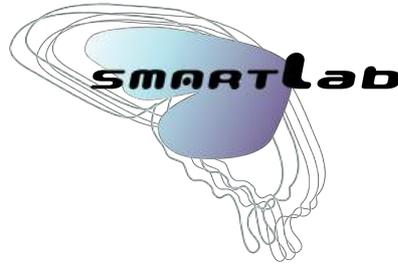
Liz O'Haire, for Maternal Strength and Wisdom.



This award is made to Liz O'Haire, for her maternal love and steadfast determination that others would come to understand what she always knew: that her son Daniel could understand and make his own choices about his 'second real life', and that he had the right to do so with his loving family and circle of friends.

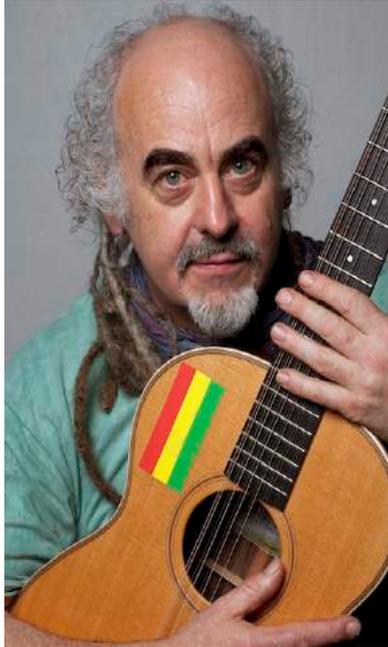
In the last seven years of his life, Daniel was surrounded not only by Liz and Alan and Nicole, but also by Dave Young and his two sons and daughter: Sean, Ryan, and Shannon. This is for all of that extended family, and for the tight community of Finglas who have named Daniel their Legend!

Liz's bravery and strength are marked tonight with the award of a sea-blue globe, engraved in memory of Daniel, to mark the many circles of the earth that Liz's generous gift of Daniel's eye control machine is now giving to other families: her maternal wisdom and strength of spirit in the sharing of the tools to give back life, are marked tonight in a sculpture to take pride of place in the O'Haire family home, where memories of Daniel will always be safely placed.



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Stiofán Ó Cunaigh (Steve Cooney) for Applied Creative Wisdom:

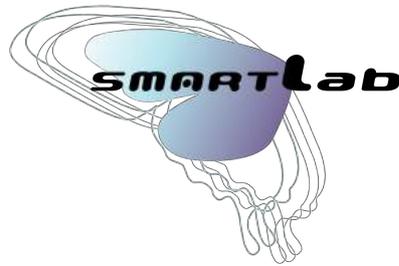


This award is made in recognition not only of the musical engagement with Daniel O’Haire and others, but also for the enormous contribution made to the world of music education. One of Steve’s major contributions to both Creative Culture and Music Education Scholarship is his invention of an entirely new and innovative Geometric Visualisation System for Music Notation, informed by the wisdom of the Elders and their knowledge of the naturally occurring patterns that impact on all our learning patterns.

Known worldwide as a musical maestro from his early work in Stockton’s Wing through his impressive career as a solo musician and accompanist to talents as diverse as Dolly Parton and Sinéad O’Connor, Steve’s musical gifts and production credits are too numerous to mention.

Steve completed a *tour de force* MLitt in Education at UCD in 20011, and was the first student of the College of Human Sciences at UCD to receive a commendation in the Images of Research Competition. He has returned to his on-going PhD, with a recent transfer to NCAD for the last year of his practice-based studies. We anticipate his successful completion of a PhD that will transform the world of Music Education for generations to come.

Last year this award funded a year of his PhD studies at UCD. Now that Steve is working productively here in this Art & Design institution which recognises the practical part of his scholarly contribution, we award this medal of Wisdom, to make visible the hidden scholar who has lived within him for so long.



Additional Thanks go to:

- The hard working and honest staff of the Central Remedial Clinic, with a special thanks to Rachel Glennane.
- Dr Frances Pidgeon and all the hard working medical teams who give so much more than physical care.
- Tina and Des Gilligan: co-creators of the bright and beautiful Katy.
- Stephe Olwill and the Cheshire Home.
- Blair Wing: who gave us all wings to fly.
- Dr Chris Hales, Dr Deveril, Dr Sher Doruff, and Dr Susan Kozel: co-supervisors (wth Lizbeth & Mick) from the start of Steve Cooney's journey to academic wisdom.
- Dr Marie Clarke, Dr Deirdre Raftery, Dr John Fahy, Mr Bernard McGettrick , Dr Joyce Senior, Dr Conor Galvin and Dr William Kinsella and Ms Lorraine Heffernan of the UCD School of Education.
- Ms Aine Gibbons and the UCD Foundation.
- Dr Aobheann Gibbons, Professor Desmond Fitzgerald and the UCD Images of Research Competition Team.
- Professor Gary Granville of NCAD, and all the NCAD team.
- All the Kila clan + Tara Baoth Mooney, Robbie Perry, Martin Brunsten, and Eoin O'Brien, for musical gifts along the way.
- Marcello Biglia and Tom Meskell: artists in residence and spirit.
- Mark Gavin, for sound and technical assistance beyond the call of duty.
- Steve Benton, a gift to the teaching profession.
- Colleen Dollard, caterer and Irish Language Goddess extraordinaire.
- Ricki Schoen, Anita McKeown, Anna Sophia Schenk, Celine Llewellyn-Jones, Clilly Castiglia, Stany Mislanova, Jana Reidel, Taey Kim, Rachel Lashebikan, Jo Gell, Zhang Bo, Marisa Ronan, Emile Bandera: "Great work Angels!"
- Antony Fernandes, for documentation on the fly.
- Cathy O'Kennedy, Bobby Byrne, Jen Fleenor, Lucy Dundon and all of the Fluxus and Counterbalance Dancers.
- Prof Jutta Treviranus, Jan Derbyshire, Bert Shire & the team at the IDRC 'mother ship' at OCADU, Toronto.
- Marta Dabek and all the team of Special Effect.
- Nuala Cunningham, Ciaran O'Connor & Jen Dunbar of New Decade TV Productions & the Science Squad Team of RTE.
- Cheryl L'Hirondelle and Tommy Sands: for bringing into our presence the wisdoms of such rich, other ways of being;
- All the founding partners of the Duais Eagnaí (Wisdom Awards)

& to:

All of YOU for sharing this evening with us. May we meet again. . .