



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



NEWS

A Summer Like No Other

From Skywhale to the Prince of Wales, through conferences and conferrings, we welcomed thousands of visitors to campus this summer. Look inside for a taste of University life over the past three months.

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...and much more!

OLLSCÉALA

Focal ón Uachtarán



A Chairde,

As we begin a new academic year, I'd like to look back at an eventful year, during which we've welcomed distinguished visitors to campus, led important research initiatives, and developed innovative national and international partnerships.

In reflecting on these achievements, I'm conscious that they would not be possible without the ambition and commitment of colleagues, students and supporters. I'd like to thank all those who have worked to ensure our University's success.

Welcoming Visitors

In May we welcomed Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall for a visit that drew the eyes of the world to our campus

(page 4). History came full circle, when the Royal Visitors planted an Irish Oak tree here at the heart of the University, founded 170 years ago by Queen Victoria. They planted a Sessile Oak (*Quercus Petraea*), which – very fittingly – is the national tree of Wales, Cornwall and Ireland, where it's known as Dair Ghaelach.

On 12 June we honoured four distinguished individuals, as part of the annual honorary conferring ceremony. Read more on page 4.

Later that month, we opened the Yeats & the West exhibition in the Hardiman Research Building. This exhibition has proved to be a great attraction to tourists and visitors to the city, especially during the Galway International Arts Festival. It will run until December.

In July, as part of a State Visit to Ireland, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Joachim Gauck, was conferred with an honorary degree and participated in a high-level roundtable on human rights at the Irish Centre for Human Rights. Among the participants were President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, Chair of Údarás na hOllscoile, Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, and several diplomats, academics and leaders of Irish NGOs.

As you'll see from the Conference Office report (page 8) the increase in numbers of visitors and

delegates to our campus continued throughout the summer, with a growing number of conferences and academic seminars held on campus.

Vision 2020: facing the future with ambition

Among the milestones of the past year was the development of Vision 2020, the Strategic Plan that will guide the University's growth and development over the next five years. I'm confident that Vision 2020 is deliverable, built as it is on a platform of success and a long tradition of facing the future with ambition.

Our challenge now is to implement our ambitious plan. Over the coming weeks, each School and administrative unit will finalise their plans for the 5-year period of the Strategic Plan, and will submit this, supported by an Operational Plan for Year 1. A robust Operational Planning process is vital and UMT will review these detailed plans in early October. I encourage all staff to become involved in the process and I look forward to sharing the outcome of this round of planning with colleagues at the next President's All Staff Meeting.

Rewarding Excellence

Recognising that our staff are our greatest resource, I'm very pleased to be able to acknowledge the talent and commitment of colleagues across all areas of University activity.

Familiar Faces



1. Charlotte May-Simera (PhD student at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy) welcomed Minister Brendan Howlin and Derek Nolan TD to 'Spending Socially', a unique event that brought a range of experts in the fields of public procurement and the social economy to campus.
2. Druid Theatre Director, Garry Hynes, is pictured at the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre's Biennial Galway Support Conference in June with Centre Director, Professor Pat Dolan. Hynes was one of the guest speakers at this year's conference, which was entitled 'Building Family Support Systems'.
3. Former Irish football international, Kevin Kilbane (right), was in the Quadrangle to launch this year's Macron Galway Cup, which attracts the best young footballers from across the country. He is joined by Irish U21 International and QPR player, Ryan Manning (left); acting Head of Sport, Kathy Hynes, and Maeve Egan from the Commercial Services Office (centre); and a group of young players from Galway.

President's Awards for Support Service Excellence

During the year we established the President's Awards for Support Service Excellence to reward the outstanding contribution of staff in the support services.

Almost 40 support staff and teams were nominated for these awards with winners chosen by a panel of internal and external reviewers. The Inaugural Awardees for Support Service Excellence were:

- Ann Marie Keelan, HR Office
- Lorraine McIlrath, CELT
- Administrative Team, School of Mathematics, Statistics & Applied Mathematics (Noelle Gannon, Mary Kelly, Collette McLoughlin)
- Karen Dooley, Buildings Office
- Declan Coogan, School of Psychology

Teaching

In recognition of the outstanding teachers among our academic community the following were winners of the 2014-15 **President's Awards for Teaching Excellence**:

- Dr Karen Doyle, School of Medicine
- Dr Michel Dugon, School of Natural Science
- Dr Frances McCormack, School of Humanities

- Dr Niall Ó Dochartaigh, School of Political Science and Sociology
- Dr Jerome Sheahan, School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Mathematics

They will be presented with their Awards in the forthcoming Autumn Conferring ceremonies.

Research

Research is at the heart of what we do and the following research leaders were presented with **President's Awards for Research Excellence** last July:

Early Stage Researcher:

- Dr Eilionóir Flynn, Centre for Disability Law and Policy
- Dr Elaine Dunleavy, Centre for Chromosome Biology
- Professor Declan Devane, School of Nursing and Midwifery

Established Researcher:

- Professor Steven Ellis, School of Humanities
- Dr Molly Byrne, School of Psychology
- Professor Afshin Samali, School of Natural Sciences

Research Supervisor:

- Dr Aaron Potito, School of Geography and Archaeology
- Dr Patrick McGarry, College of Engineering and Informatics
- Dr Laoise McNamara, College of Engineering and Informatics.

As we welcome a new generation of students to the NUI Galway family, I look forward to working together with colleagues, alumni and our partners, to realise the ambitious goals we have set ourselves, so that we can provide our students with the best education and further develop NUI Galway into a university of choice, relevance and renown in the eyes in the world.

I'm confident that we have another great year ahead.

Le gach dea-ghuí

James J. Browne PhD, DSc, MRIA, C.Eng
Uachtarán – President

Appointments

External Appointments

Law graduate, Mathilda Twomey, was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Seychelles in August. She holds an LL.M in Public Law from the University, and she recently completed her PhD research here, under the co-supervision of Marie McGonagle (Law) and Dr Seán Donlan of UL. Justice Twomey has also lectured on a part-time basis in the School of Law.



Mathilda Twomey

Dr Chaosheng Zhang (Geography and Archaeology) was elected President of the Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health, in Bratislava in June. SEGHE is an international forum for scientists to work together in understanding the interaction between the geochemical environment and the health of plants, animals and people.



Dr Chasheng Zhang

Dr Gerard Flaherty (Medicine) was recently elected Counsellor for the International Society of Travel Medicine, and will serve on the Executive Board of the Society in a voluntary capacity for the next five years.

Professor Gerard Quinn (Centre for Disability Law and Policy) has been appointed Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of New South Wales Law School (Sydney) and Adjunct Chair at NALSAR Law University (Hyderabad, India).

J.B. Terrins has been appointed to the board of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties. J.B. is Head of Business and Strategic Development at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy.

Emeritus Professor of Geology, Paul Mohr, was elected Foreign Member of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences earlier this year. Professor Mohr's academic career has seen him teaching and researching from Galway Bay to the Red Sea.

Insight Appointments

There were two senior appointments in the Insight Centre for Data Analytics. Dietrich Rebbholz-Schuhmann, who comes to Galway from the University of Zurich, was appointed Personal Professor. Meanwhile, Peter Paul de Buitléar was appointed Senior Lecturer. They are both based at the Insight Centre in the IDA Business Park, Dangan.



EYES OF THE WORLD ON GALWAY

With a Fáilte, a Willkommen, and a How Do You Do, the University welcomed the world's press to campus for some high profile visitors this summer.

The Royal Visit

Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall called to the University in May to launch their visit to the West of Ireland. They were greeted in the Quadrangle by a showcase of Irish music, dance and craft, followed by an exhibition celebrating the University's heritage and research. There was also a meet and greet with students from Ireland and across the Commonwealth. The visit had a warm and friendly feel, with Prince Charles remarking on his great pleasure at visiting "this hallowed university, to which my Great Great Grandmother originally gave a Charter all those years ago in 1849". The Aula Maxima was the venue for speeches and gift-giving, before the visitors planted a sessile oak beside the Quadrangle. The sessile oak is the national tree of Ireland and Wales and is also known as the Cornish Oak – a fitting tribute to a memorable day in the life of the University.

The royal visitors met with staff and students while on campus. Pictured here, Dr Nessa Cronin introduced Prince Charles to some ongoing research in the Centre for Irish Studies, while Ruth Hynes (Marketing and Communications Office) welcomed the Duchess of Cornwall to Galway.



German State Visit

In July, President Joachim Gauck of Germany was conferred with an honorary degree by the University, as part of his three-day German State Visit to Ireland. Before the conferring, President Gauck joined with Irish President Michael D. Higgins, Chair of Údarás na hOllscoile, Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness heads of Irish NGOs (including Concern and Trócaire), and NUI Galway researchers at a special roundtable symposium on human rights and development at the Irish Centre for Human Rights. President Gauck is a vocal champion of democracy and human rights, and these were recurring themes in his conferring speech, which was broadcast around the world online. With one eye on the UN's September summit on Sustainable Development Goals, Professor Michael O'Flaherty, Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, praised President Gauck's commitment to human rights, saying "Our discussion will contribute to strengthening the policy of European states on this critical issue."



Honorary Doctorates



In June, the University celebrated the lives and work of four distinguished individuals in our annual honorary conferring. The four conferees are pictured in the Quadrangle with President Browne before their conferring in the Bailey Allen Hall.

Phillip Smyth (pictured left) is Director of the Shannon College of Hotel Management. A graduate of NUI Galway, Phillip served as an officer in the Irish Army for 17 years reaching the rank of Commandant and serving with the UN in Lebanon. Since taking over the directorship of Shannon College in 1989, Phillip has developed the college from a small private hotel school to a world-renowned Recognised College of the National University of Ireland. Under Phillip's leadership, the College was formally integrated into NUI Galway in August.

A native of Galway, **Billy Lawless** (pictured second from left) is a Chicago-based entrepreneur, running a number of pubs and restaurants in the city. He emigrated to the US in 1998 and, following early business successes, formed the Chicago Irish Pub/Restaurant Association in 2001. Billy is a campaigner for immigration reform and is Vice-President of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. He remains committed to developing strong links between

Chicago and Galway, and in May 2015 he became a Freeman of the City of Galway.

Áine Brazil (pictured centre) is Vice-Chairperson of Thornton Tomasetti, a New York-based Engineering company with a global span. Throughout her 30 year career with the company, Áine has been responsible for the design and construction of high-rise buildings, air-rights projects, and a mix of educational, institutional, healthcare and hospitality projects. A native of Galway City, and an Engineering graduate of the University, Áine was the first President of the Structural Engineers Association of New York.

Swedish biologist, **Svante Pääbo** (pictured here holding a skull), is Director at the Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany. Born in Stockholm, Svante is regarded as one of the founders of the field of paleogenetics. He has worked extensively on the Neanderthal genome and has developed techniques that allow DNA sequences from extinct creatures such as mammoths, ground sloths and Neanderthals to be determined. He has received numerous awards throughout his distinguished career, including: the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, which is the highest honour awarded in German research.

Yeats Expo



As the nation marks 150 years since the birth of W. B. Yeats, the University's Moore Institute and Hardiman Library opened a major exhibition in the poet's honour. 'Yeats & the West' is on show in the Hardiman Building foyer until December, with free admission to all. It brings together rare artworks, books, original documents and film clips to tell the story of Yeats' inspiration and impact. Pictured at the exhibition launch were: Professor Daniel Carey (Moore Institute); Galway historian and journalist, Ronnie O'Gorman; Senator Fidelma Healy Eames; Senator Susan O'Keefe, and Dr Adrian Paterson (English), who drew together text and sources for the impressive exhibition.

Hope for Kidney Disease Sufferers

A new research project that will use stem cell therapy to treat diabetic kidney disease launched in June. Entitled NEPHSTROM, it was awarded €6 million of Horizon 2020 funding from the EU to evaluate the clinical safety and efficacy of a next-generation cell therapy discovered by Galway-based Orbsen Therapeutics. This is the company's fourth such funded clinical trial and confirms Galway's global standing in the biomedical industry. A collaboration between 11 European partners, NEPHSTROM is led by REMEDI Director, Professor Timothy O'Brien, who commented: "Diabetes is currently the most common cause of end stage kidney disease resulting in the need for dialysis or transplantation. We are confident that by harnessing the most modern approaches in stromal cell therapeutics there may well be a way to halt the progression of diabetic kidney disease using this therapy."

A LaunchPad for our Young Entrepreneurs



July saw the announcement that the Blackstone LaunchPad was coming to three Irish universities, including NUI Galway. The LaunchPad, which is funded by the US-based Blackstone Charitable Foundation, uses mentoring, networking and investment to support young entrepreneurs to bring their business ideas to life. This is the first time the programme will be available outside the US, and pictured at the national launch were: US Ambassador to Ireland, Kevin F. O'Malley; NUI Galway President Jim Browne; TCD Vice-Provost, Professor Linda Hogan; An Taoiseach Enda Kenny; Blackstone Chairman, Stephen A. Schwarzman; UCC President Michael Murphy; Executive Director of the Blackstone Charitable Foundation, Amy Stursberg; and Chairman of the Blackstone Group International Partners, Gerry Murphy.



RESEARCH IN ACTION

From Carna to Canada, our researchers are helping to understand and shape the world around us. Here is a taste of the research announcements made this summer.

A new research partnership between J.K. Rowling's international children's organisation, Lumos, and the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre hopes to **transform the lives of the eight million children in orphanages around the world**. With funding from The Atlantic Philanthropies, the research team aims to increase global understanding of why so many children are separated from families and placed in orphanages in different regions of the world. It will also evaluate methods of deinstitutionalisation, and investigate the best ways to support families to stay together.

A patient attending University Hospital Galway has become the first patient worldwide to start treatment in a clinical study designed to evaluate a **new drug for sufferers of acute myeloid leukemia (AML)**. Professor Michael O'Dwyer (Medicine) is Principle Investigator on the study and hopes that it can become an important new therapy for the condition. AML is a cancer of the blood and bone marrow, and is the most common type of acute leukemia in adults. The study in Galway is being developed by US-based company GlycoMimetics and is aimed at reducing the side effects of existing treatments via chemotherapy and stem cell transplantations.

Researchers at the Carna Research Station are gearing up to move over 100,000 lumpsuckers, *Cyclopterus lumpus*, to salmon cages along the west coast in the coming months where

they will act as **biological cleaners of sea lice**. The treatment of lice on farmed salmon stocks is an ongoing issue and the damage that the parasite inflicts is a major cost to the salmon industry globally. The use of "cleaner fish" like lumpsuckers provides a sustainable and environmentally friendly treatment and a ready alternative to chemicals. The team is led by Dr Majbritt Bolton-Warberg, and it is the first in Ireland to successfully rear lumpsuckers from eggs.

An international team of researchers, led by NUI Galway astronomy PhD graduate Dr Gregg Hallinan, has discovered that **brown dwarfs behave more like planets than stars**. Brown dwarfs are large celestial objects, and by observing one 20 light-years away using radio and optical telescopes, Dr Hallinan and his team found that they host powerful auroras near their magnetic poles. The findings were co-authored by scientists around the world, including Dr Ray Butler (Physics) and appeared in the journal *Nature* in July.

The results of a new study have shown that **people who use Twitter in a certain way tend to generate better ideas**. Dr Eoin Whelan (Business Information Systems) co-authored the research, which has just been published in the MIT Sloan Management Review. It suggests that employees with a diverse Twitter network — one that exposes them to people and ideas they don't

already know — tend to come up with better ideas. The paper drew on a five-year programme of research conducted in conjunction with researchers in Massachusetts.

Canada's Ambassador to Ireland, Kevin Vickers, officially launched the **Digital Irish Famine Archive** in June. The archive, which is designed to make eyewitness accounts of the Irish famine migration to Canada more accessible, is curated by Dr Jason King (Moore Institute). Among its many gems, the archive contains the digitised, transcribed, and translated French language annals of the Grey Nuns of Montreal, who first tended to Irish famine emigrants in the city's fever sheds in 1847 and 1848. It is a valuable addition to the University's historical archives, and a rich resource for those seeking to better understand the direct impact of the famine.

The Discipline of Surgery's Dr James Brown has been awarded the prestigious EACR Young Investigator Award 2015 for his ground-breaking research into breast cancer. Dr Brown lead a team of national and international collaborators that designed and produced a novel drug that specifically targets and kills breast cancer cells. This newly designed drug has the potential to one-day aid in the treatment of breast cancer in patients.



The setting is the tranquil Lough Inchiquin, Co. Clare – an area in which Archaeology PhD student Daisy Spencer is researching the human-environment interactions throughout the Neolithic and Bronze Age. With co-supervision by Dr Carleton Jones (Archaeology) and Dr Aaron Potito (Geography), along with the support of colleagues from the Palaeoenvironmental Research Unit and the School of Geography and Archaeology, Daisy has successfully extracted a 10.5m long core from beneath 30m of water in the lake. Pictured here, this sample will help her go back in time to study life thousands of years ago.



Researchers at the University's Socio Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMRU) have issued a report on Ireland's Ocean Economy. The report, which was authored by Dr Amaya Vega, Dr Stephen Hynes and Emma O'Toole, outlines the health of the economy across a number of measures, including aquaculture, seafood processing and marine tourism. Pictured at the launch of the report at Cork's Ocean Wealth Festival in July are: Professor Michael Cuddy and Dr Stephen Hynes (SEMRU), with Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine, Simon Coveney TD.



Team Geec celebrate in Rotterdam – and rightly so! Not only did they win this year's Ryan Award for Innovation, but they were the first ever team from Ireland to take part in the Shell Eco-marathon, competing against 196 vehicles from across Europe in May. The Eco-marathon is a race between the world's most energy-efficient cars, and the Geec attracted a lot of attention, finishing in the top half in their category. It can travel from Galway to Dublin for just 13 cents of electricity, and was designed and driven by a team of Engineering staff and students. We salute your eco-efforts, and look forward to seeing Geec 2.0.



CONFERENCE SEASON

2015 is a bumper year for conferences and symposia, with over 13,000 visitors expected on campus. Here is just a flavour of who came to the University over the summer season.

The **International Disability Law Summer School** in July is the biggest such summer school in the world, and this year focused on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Over five days of presentations, delegates explored the need to integrate a human rights-based approach to disability to reach an inclusive development for all persons, without discrimination. Pictured above, Minister for Research and Innovation, Seán Sherlock T.D., and researcher at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, Dr Eilionóir Flynn, listen in as UN Special Rapporteur on Disability, Catalina Devandas, gives her keynote speech.

'Performing the Archive' was an international conference staged on campus in July and featuring over 150 delegates from fifteen countries. The conference was a collaboration between the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance and the Hardiman Library Archives service, and was organised by Dr Charlotte McIvor, Barry Houlihan, Dr Ian Walsh and Ciara O'Dowd. The programme of international speakers addressed issues around the development of new performance work and research projects based on archival material, such as scripts, photos and costumes. It also featured staged readings of historic texts from the Hardiman Library Archives.

Thought leaders from the seemingly disparate worlds of human rights and the arts came together in July for the **Galway International Summer School on the Arts and Human Rights**. This landmark event, a world-first, was hosted by the Irish Centre for Human Rights and attracted speakers from across the world, including the UN

Special Rapporteur for Cultural Rights, Farida Shaheed. The Summer School was co-directed by Professor Michael O'Flaherty, ICHR Director, and Dr Dominique Bouchard, Curator at the Hunt Museum, with the aim of cross-fertilising ideas from the two disciplines of the arts and human rights.

Showcasing the work of the School of Geography and Archaeology, the **2nd Annual Natural and Human Heritages Spring Lecture Series** held in Galway City Museum attracted more than 200 attendees. Every Friday, the eight lunchtime talks focused on topics as diverse as social networking and rural tourism, the archaeology of the Famine, Irish household consumption, and new discoveries at Brú na Bóinne.

Staff from the School of Humanities took part in the **inaugural Inish festival** in May. The creation of NUI Galway graduate, Peadar King, the festival brought together artists, archaeologists, historians, critics, musicians, and writers from across the world to Inishbofin to discuss coastal communities. Dr Adrian Paterson and Dr Rebecca Barr (English) and Professor Dan Carey (Moore Institute) discussed the subject of 'Literary Islands' from Robinson Crusoe to Yeats, while Moore Institute post-docs Dr Deirdre Ní Chonghaile and Dr Jackie Uí Chionna presented on the challenges experienced by islanders.

The annual conference of the **European Cinema Research Forum** was held in July at the Huston School of Film & Digital Media. Now in its fifteenth year, the forum gathers together academics and practitioners from across the

continent and beyond to discuss and debate issues relating to the diverse range of films produced within Europe. A number of papers focussed on contemporary Irish cinema, which is a key area of research in the Huston School.

I mí an Mheithimh, reachtáil baill foirne de chuid Roinn na Gaeilge agus Institiúid de Móra comhdháil speisialta darbh ainm 'Dhá Leagan Déag', a thug deis do dhaoine plé a dhéanamh ar **ghnéithe éagsúla den amhránaíocht ar an sean-nós**. Tá Gaeltacht na Gaillimhe ar an gceantar is láidre sa tír ina maireann an stíl amhránaíochta seo agus chuir an plé agus an chaibidil a rinneadh ar an ábhar go mór lenár dtuiscint ar ghiniúint agus ar fhorbairt na stíle. Tháinig daoine ó chian is ó chongar ann, ina measc an tOllamh Rob Dunbar as Ollscoil Dhún Éideann agus Seumas Watson ó Oileán Cheap Breatainn, Ceanada.

CONSENSUS – a research group focused on **consumption, environment and sustainability** – held their second international conference on campus over two days in May. It is the only dedicated conference on the topic in Ireland and this year's programme focused on the implementation and impact of research on policy and action. The conference was co-ordinated by Dr Mary Jo Lavelle (Geography and Archaeology) and as part of the proceedings the CONSENSUS group's final research report was officially launched by Dr Jonathon Derham, EPA Programme Manager.



1. Sir Declan Morgan (left), the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, delivered this year's School of Law Annual Distinguished Lecture to a capacity crowd of students, staff and alumni of the School. The lecture was entitled 'The role of the judiciary in the vindication of human rights' and was chaired by Ms Justice Susan Denham (right), Chief Justice of Ireland.
2. The Discipline of Radiology welcomed 162 delegates to 'CT Scanning Study Day', a special event sponsored by Siemens Ireland. Visitors heard a series of high-level talks delivered by local and international speakers on recent advances in CT scanning. Pictured are Helen Calvey (Siemens Ireland); keynote speaker, Professor Elliot Fishman (Johns Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore, USA); Eileen Kelly (UCD School of Medicine), and symposium chair, Professor Peter McCarthy (Head of Radiology).
3. Three of the founding staff members of the MSc in Health Psychology – Anne Marie Keane, Professor Ruth Curtis and James McLoone – reunited during this year's Innovation in Health Psychology Conference in June, where they helped celebrate 21 years of the discipline at NUI Galway. This year's conference was chaired by Dr Molly Byrne (Psychology), who welcomed 120 delegates to a showcase of past and present research in health psychology, presented through a mix of invited speakers, panel discussions and poster presentations.
4. The Premier Green Energy plant in Thurles was the setting for an exhibition of the latest low-carbon technologies for refining waste and by-products. The expo was organised by the national Technology Centre for Biorefining and Bioenergy (TCBB) based at NUI Galway, which is exploring sustainable ways of refining waste products from farming and industry. Pictured are: Pádraic Ó hUiginn and Dr Anna Piterina (TCBB); Tom Comerford (CEO Premier Green Energy); Dirk Carrez (European Bio-based Industries Consortium); Alan Kelly TD (Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government); and Owenroe Lemass (TCBB).

Welcoming the World to Galway



If you have organised a conference on campus, chances are Patricia Walsh from the Commercial Services Office was involved. Here Patricia talks through some of the highlights of Conference Season 2015.

How big was Conference Season this year?

2015 was very strong. By the end of the year the University will have hosted over 100 events welcoming over 13,000 visitors to campus. May and June were particularly busy, with over 20,000 cups of tea and coffee served at conferences! In fact, there are still bookings coming through for 2015. Many are repeat bookings, which is fantastic.

Were there any personal highlights?

It's difficult to choose one specific event. Over 700 teenage elite soccer players stayed on campus for a week in August for the Macron Galway Cup. 25 US universities hosted summer programmes on campus including an Alumni group from Princeton University. We've held a wide variety of events including the County Fleadh, the Inaugural Arts and Human Rights Summer School, and lots of national and international conferences. We've had some very positive feedback about our campus... so I suppose this is a highlight in itself!

Conference Season seems to get bigger every year, what's behind this growth?

It's a combination of things. NUI Galway has ambitious staff with links to national and international associations. Staff are competing and bidding to host the associations' conferences – and we're winning these bids against stiff competition! We have fantastic conference facilities and we're always planning ahead – bookings have been confirmed up to 2019. Next year will be an exceptionally busy year for international conferences, which will also boost the local economy.

What advice would you have for a member of staff looking to organise a conference on campus?

Great – do it! While it is a lot of work, the benefits can be tremendous! A conference is a great platform to touch base with your peers and colleagues, build connections and network. Many staff have attended conferences, spoken at some perhaps, but haven't organised one. They have a good idea of what they want to achieve, but need support and advice on how to bring the conference to Galway, how to manage the financials and the details which will make a good conference great! That's where our office can assist. So get in touch, we'd love to speak to you!

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

A New Crop of Researchers



June saw the first PhD graduates from an Africa-Ireland collaborative programme focused on improving some of the world's most relied-upon crops. Dr Girum Azmach, Dr Mercy Kitavi and Dr Gezahegn Tessema carried out their research through a partnership between NUI Galway and the non-profit International Institute of Tropical Agriculture. The three researchers were co-supervised by Professor Charles Spillane (Botany and Plant Science). Dr Azmach and Dr Tessema, who both hail from Ethiopia, focused their research on maize and yams respectively, while Kenyan researcher, Dr Kitavi (pictured), studied disease resistance in banana crops.

Transforming Zambia's Water



Dr Gavin Collins and PhD student, Anna Trego, from the School of Natural Sciences spent a week in Zambia in July as part of international efforts to make drinking water safe for some of the country's poorest communities. The Transforming Waste Project is working with community leaders, government officials, NGOs and water companies to improve sanitation in slums outside the capital Lusaka. The project is coordinated by NUI Galway and six UK universities, with support from UNICEF and a €250 million investment from the World Bank.

Romanian Honours



Pictured here (centre) is Professor of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Sherif Sultan, on the occasion of his recent honorary conferring by the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu in Romania. He was honoured for his lifetime contribution to surgery, research and education. Originally from Egypt, Professor Sultan has been a regular visitor to Romania over the past 18 months, carrying out complex thoracoabdominal repairs on eight patients in the country.

Big Week in the Big Apple



Pictured at the Club are: Dr Alma McCarthy (Management); Adrian Jones, Goldman Sachs; Brian Ruane, Bank of NY Mellon; Aine Brazil, Thornton Tomasetti; Mike Higgins, World Markets Corp; Seán Lane, JP Morgan; and Margaret Wright (GUF).

In July, NUI Galway Executive MBA students took part in a week-long Global Gateway Programme at Fordham University in NYC as part of their international study experience. During the week, the MBA students heard from world-leading academics on a broad range of topics related to finance and management. During the week, the Galway University Foundation (GUF) hosted a roundtable discussion with special guests at the private NY Athletic Club.

Building Bridges with Brazil

A research delegation from the School of Natural Sciences completed a ten-day tour of collaborator institutions in Brazil this summer. Dr Fiona Brennan, Dr Sara Farrona and Dr Peter McKeown visited eight different institutions to meet with existing research partners, establish new research linkages, and explore the possibility of joint funding initiatives between NUI Galway researchers and Brazilian colleagues. They hope the visit will further grow our links with the country, including those established through the popular Science Without Borders scheme.

Visualising Galway's Economy

If you are interested in the future of Galway, then don't miss the Whitaker Institute's latest report. The New Economic Baseline Study reveals a wealth of data on the city and region across a broad spectrum of measures, including demographics, enterprise and the environment. The report identifies the sectors in which Galway has the greatest potential for growth, and it describes the assets that contribute most to the region flourishing. Explore the data yourself through user-friendly visualisations on their new website, where you'll find detailed information on housing, commuting and language use, among many other metrics: www.galwaydashboard.ie.

Reel Life on Screen

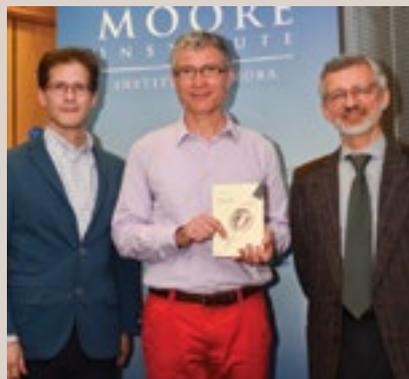


May saw the return of the Reel Lives Film Festival organised by The Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG). The festival invited staff, students and the public to campus for a series of free lunchtime screenings of international films and documentaries that celebrate ageing across the life course. Pictured are Festival Organiser, Alison Herbert (ICSG), and Marina Wild (Arts and Theatre Office), who designed the festival poster and promotional material.

New Books



The prodigious career of historian and retired professor, Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, was celebrated in July with the launch of *Culture and Society in Ireland since 1750*, a collection of essays published in his honour. Professor Ó Tuathaigh, who began teaching in the University in 1971, is pictured at the book launch with President of Ireland (and former colleague), Michael D. Higgins, and President Jim Browne.



Professor Paolo Bartoloni (Italian) is pictured holding a copy of his new book *Sapere Scrivere*, which was recently launched by Dr Giuseppe Stellardi from Oxford University (pictured right). They are joined by Professor Dan Carey (Moore Institute).

Ageing Through Austerity: Critical Perspectives from Ireland, edited by Dr Kieran Walsh, Dr Gemma Carney and Áine Ní Léime (Irish Centre for Social Gerontology), analyses the global challenge of ageing populations through the prism of Ireland's recession.

The Tudor Discovery of Ireland, co-authored by Professor Steven G. Ellis (School of Humanities), describes how the Tudors came to be acquainted with Ireland's history, people and politics before their conquest of the country.

Defending English Ground: War & Peace in Meath & Northumberland, 1460-1542, authored by Professor Steven G. Ellis, explores how the English defended two contrasting areas under Crown control.

Volume 5 of the European Yearbook of Disability Law, co-edited by Professor Gerard Quinn and Dr Eilíonóir Flynn (Centre for Disability Law and Policy), was published in collaboration with researchers from the Centre for Human Rights in Maastricht University.

Is Eolaí Mé



Bhí ceamaraí TG4 ar champas i mí an Mheithimh agus sraith nua eolaíochta á taifeadh sna saotharlanna. 'Is Eolaí Mé' is ainm don chlár atá dírithe ar ghasúir óga a mhealladh chun na heolaíochta. Ghlac an fhoireann Cell EXPLORERS páirt sa chlár le taispeántais agus turgnaimh maidir le DNA. Tá Cahal Ó Seanáin (mac léinn Eolaíochtaí Bithleighis) le feiceáil anseo taobh thiar den cheamara.

Reiviú agus Roghanna



D'fhill an Coimisinéir Teanga, Rónán Ó Domhnaill, ar Áras na Gaeilge i mí Bealtaine le dhá fhoilseachán a sheoladh. Seoladh an tríú heagrán den iris phiarmheasúnaithe Léann Teanga: An Reiviú, a cuireadh i gcló mar chuid den chúrsa MA sa Léann Teanga. Seoladh an leagan leictreonach den leabhar Roghanna: Lámhleabhar Eolais ag an ócáid chéanna, leabhar a chuireann tacaíocht ar fáil maidir le forbairt na pleanála teanga 'ar an talamh'. Tá údár an leabhair, an Dr Laoise Ní Dhúda, le feiceáil anseo in éineacht leis an gCoimisinéir (ar chlé) agus an Dr John Walsh (Gaeilge).

Smoke-Free Zones



Back in 2013 a majority of staff and students voted to make NUI Galway a partially smoke-free campus, and this semester will see the roll out of two smoke-free zones. The zones will centre around two new designated smoking shelters outside the Hardiman Building and the Engineering Building. The zones will cover some of the worst smoking blackspots on campus, including entrances to the Library, Arts Millennium Building, Engineering Building, Áras Moyola and Cairnes Building. Our communication campaign will be launching soon – so look out for shelters, posters and a little robot on campus!

What does this mean for me as a smoker?

If you work in the Hardiman Building and Library, Arts Millennium Building, Engineering Building, Áras Moyola or Cairnes Building, and you need a smoke, please go to the nearby designated smoking shelter to do so. Remember, a majority of staff and students support this move.

What does this mean for me as a campus user?

The move towards smoke-free zones is official University policy. If you see someone smoking inside the smoke-free zone, please politely point them in the direction of the nearest shelter. We all share this campus, and a majority of staff and students support the introduction of smoke-free zones.

In Praise Of... the CoreHR Upgrade Team



Most of us remained blissfully unaware of the CoreHR upgrade until August, when we logged in to discover the new interface for the first time. However, behind the scenes a team of people drawn from Payroll, Human Resources, and Information Solutions and Services, had been busily putting in the groundwork to make sure the changeover went as smoothly as possible. The CoreHR upgrade means we can now all check

our payslips, log our timesheets and view job vacancies in a seamless user-friendly way. The new portal gives quicker access to more functions than ever before. Congratulations to the upgrade team, many of whom are pictured here, left to right: Paula Nugent (Payroll), Deirdre King (HR), Marie Clifford (Payroll), Dermot Flaherty (HR), Ann Cormican (Payroll) and Regina Doyle (ISS).

Staff Update

Office 365

Over the past two months, all staff email accounts have been migrating to the new Office 365 system. The move will improve the effectiveness and reliability of our email system. For more info, or if you need support, search for "Office 365" in your inbox.

Parking

The Parking Office has moved from the Student Information Desk (SID) in Áras Uí Chathail to Room 124 in the Arts Millennium Building. If you need to collect a parking permit, please go to the new location.

Buildings Office Satisfaction

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Buildings Office Customer Satisfaction Survey 2015. The answers will help improve this vital service across the University. Congratulations to Professor Ulf Strohmayer (Geography) and Dr Jamie Goggins (Civil Engineering) who won €50 One for All vouchers in the participant draw.

Orientation Week

Thanks to everyone who got involved in making our new First Years feel welcome during Orientation Week. Congratulations to everyone in Student Services who made the week such a success.

Research Excellence Awards



July saw the announcement of this year's winners of both the Ryan Award for Innovation and the President's Awards for Research Excellence. The awards are made each year by President Browne to members of our research community in recognition of their outstanding and innovative research. The Ryan Award for Innovation went to the team behind the 'Galway energy-efficient car' (the Geec), consisting of Engineering lecturers Dr Nathan Quinlan, Dr Rory Monaghan and Dr Maeve Duffy. Meanwhile, the President's Awards for Research Excellence were awarded under three

categories. Early Stage Researcher Awards went to Dr Eilionóir Flynn (Centre for Disability Law and Policy) and Professor Declan Devane (Nursing and Midwifery); Established Researcher Awards went to Professor Steven Ellis (History), Dr Molly Byrne (Psychology) and Professor Afshin Samali (Apoptosis Research Centre). Winners of the Research Supervisor Awards were Dr Aaron Potito (Geography and Archaeology), Dr Patrick McGarry (Biomedical Engineering) and Dr Laoise McNamara (Biomedical Engineering).

Postgraduate Course of the Year



The University's Higher Diploma in Software Design and Development (Industry Stream) won the Postgraduate Course of the Year in IT Award at this year's national gradireland Graduate Recruitment Awards held in Dublin. This year, the prize was awarded for the University's Higher Diploma in Software Design and Development (Industry Stream). Judges commented on the strong links the programme has with leading ICT companies, who are actively involved in the recruitment, course design and delivery. Congratulations to Programme Director, Dr Enda Howley (Information Technology) who is pictured (centre) with: Gavin O'Brien, gradireland; Tina Earls (Information Technology); Dr Michael Madden, Head of Information Technology; and Joan Mulvihill, CEO of the Irish Internet Association.

Four for Fulbright



Dr Gerard Wall, a Senior Lecturer in Microbiology and the CÚRAM Centre for Research in Medical Devices, has been awarded a Fulbright-Marine Institute Scholar Award to carry out research at the University of Wyoming. His research involves cloning and exploiting antibodies, derived from the human immune system, for medical devices and drug delivery. Dr Wall is pictured (right) with fellow Fulbright recipients and NUI Galway graduates, Séamus O'Sullivan, Méabh Ní Choileáin and Emma Lowry.

Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship



Dr Aleisha Clarke from the Health Promotion Research Centre has secured a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship to carry out research at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. The focus of her research is the development of an online evidence-based resource for primary schools to support parental engagement in school mental health promotion.

Awards Round-up

We are always inundated with news of our staff and students picking up awards. While we can't feature everyone, here is a flavour of some recent accolades for our campus community.

Staff Sporting Success

Following his international breakthrough last year, Dr Eoghan Clifford (Civil Engineering) took the 2015 Para-Cycling Track World Championships in Apeldoorn by storm, winning gold in the Men's C1-2-3 Scratch Race. He remains the world champion in road and time trials in the sport. Meanwhile, Dr Patrick O'Leary (Chemistry) represented Ireland in the World Cup regatta in Canoe/Kayak sprint in Hungary in May, coming fifth in the Paralympic event over 200m.

Shower of Praise

Sean McGarry, a 3rd year Physics student, won the top prize of €10,000 in this year's Students' Union Enterprise Awards with his company The TidyShower Co. He has designed a range of contemporary bathroom accessories that focus on minimising clutter and maximising experience, helping to breathe joy back into your shower time!

Military Heritage Award

Recent History and English graduate, Caitlin White, won the Military Heritage of Ireland Prize for her essay on 'Kit' Kavanagh/Davies a female soldier during the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1714) She was presented with her prize by Brigadier General Paul Pakenham at the AGM of the Military Heritage of Ireland Trust in Collins Barracks Dublin. Caitlin hopes to go on to study a PhD in the University.

Seas Suas, Wear Green and Please Talk!



Staff and students across the University are standing together to promote mental health and wellbeing. The Seas Suas initiative is a partnership between Student Services and the Students' Union designed to encourage students to be proactive in helping their peers. Seas Suas volunteers (pictured here with Chaplain, Fr Ben Hughes) helped promote the annual Green Ribbon campaign in May raising awareness of mental health issues across campus. Meanwhile, the Please Talk campaign is encouraging students to talk about mental health. Please Talk is led by Fiona Kennedy (HR), Shauna Prenga (SID) and a team of students. Look out for initiatives throughout the year – and get talking!

Georgia on our Minds



The campus was home to 60 students and eight faculty from Georgia Tech this summer for the Summer Study Abroad programme. A collaboration with the Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, Georgia Tech, the programme ran over ten weeks with students staying in Corrib Village and studying in the Engineering Building. Speaking about his time here, Professor Paul Benkeser from Georgia Tech said "NUI Galway's location provides our students with convenient access to many companies that may be their future employers, as well as to cultural and entertainment activities to complement their studies. Our faculty and students have especially appreciated the welcoming environment at NUI Galway."

Fleadh na Gaillimhe



Pierce Lalor from Anatomy (left) and Dr Fearghal Morgan from Electrical and Electronic Engineering (right) are pictured with students Monica Loughnane, Luke Coughlan and Kate Zenkevica welcoming the 2015 Galway County Fleadh to campus. This year's Fleadh Cheoil was a partnership between the University and the Moycullen and Knocknacarra branches of Comhaltas, and over 4,000 people visited campus to hear the cream of Galway's traditional musicians. Special praise for Anna Cunningham (International Affairs) and Patricia Walsh (Commercial Services Office) who helped organise the two-day event. Bhí an-tóir i mblíana ar na comórtais Ghaeilge a bhí ar siúl in Árás na Gaeilge. Bhí an teagascóir Gaeilge, Pádraig Ó Cíobháin, agus mac léinn PhD, Colm Ó Cuaig, an-ghnóthach i rith an deireadh seachtaine agus iad i mbun moltóireachta ann.

Students Give Back



In June, the Students' Union announced that in the past academic year a total of €12,500 was collected for its nominated charities: Console and BeLonG To. Student fundraisers were as innovative as ever – from aquathons to Croagh Patrick climbs – with every cent going to charity.

Time to EXPLORE?



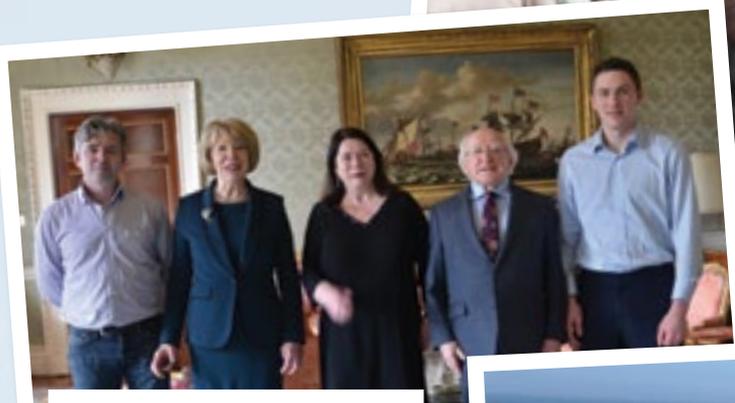
They represent the best of campus spirit – those staff-student partnerships that use EXPLORE funding each year to bring their passions and interests to life. From websites revealing the nation's bog heritage to a team of podiatrists offering free footcare to the homeless, last year's 80 EXPLORE projects truly embodied the University's commitments to community involvement and 'real-life learning'. Check out all of last year's projects and find out how to get involved in the next round of EXPLORE at: www.su.nuigalway.ie/explore-home

The View from Around Campus

Summer didn't bring much sun, but there were plenty of snaps. Here is a small selection.



Nuala McGuinn from Adult Learning sent us this photo of Susan Gallagher (Natural Sciences), Colm Flannery (HR) and Martha Shaughnessy (Moore Institute) enjoying an all-too-early taste of summer - in April.



Mary McPartlan (College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies) sent in this photo from a special musical performance in Aras an Uachtaráin to mark International Women's Day. She was joined by musicians Aiden Brennan and Pádraic Keane.

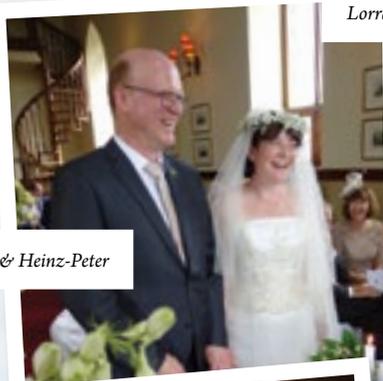


Smile for the Birdie! The Staff Golf Team did us proud at a recent Intersvarsity Competition against eight universities and ITs. In a tough field, they won the Best in Galway title!



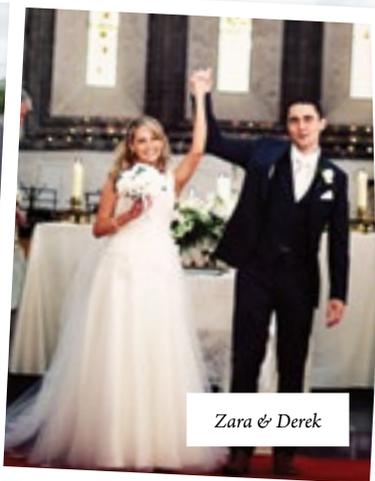
Nearly 200 walkers turned out to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Maamturks Challenge organised by the NUI Galway Mountaineering Club in June.

Wedding Bells



Lorraine & Ronan

Zoe & Heinz-Peter



Zara & Derek



Orla & Patrick



Dorothy & Alexander

This summer saw a spate of staff weddings, with news of no fewer than five marriages reaching Ollscéala. Love was in the air in May when **Dr Zoe Popper** (Botany and Plant Science) and **Professor Heinz-Peter Nasheuer** (Biochemistry) tied the knot in Glenlo Abbey. In June, **Lorraine Tansey** (CELT) and her partner Ronan O'Malley celebrated their big day on campus. Lorraine and Ronan met in their first week of First Year in the University, and celebrated their wedding day in the College Chapel with a fun-filled reception in the College Bar. Galway natives, **Zara Sheerin** (Marketing and Communications) and her partner Derek Kelly crossed the border to Mayo for their wedding in Ballintubber Abbey and the Lodge at Ashford Castle. Congratulations to **Orla Badger** (Human Resources) and hubbie Patrick O'Donovan who were married in Lackagh parish in July. Finally, **Dorothy O'Regan** (ISS) and her husband, Alexander Corcoran, celebrated their wedding in Dorothy's home town of Tuam in August. Congratulations from the Ollscéala team – and thanks for sharing your beautiful wedding photos!

Centre for Adult Learning & Professional Development

adultlearning



Former EU Commissioner, Mairé Geoghegan-Quinn, officially launched the Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development in May. She is pictured (middle) with one of the Centre's Academic Coordinators, Dr Anne Walsh (left), and Centre Director, Nuala McGuinn (right). The launch also kicked off the University's first ever Adult Learning Week, which invited the public to explore how they could use further study to fulfil their potential.

ALLSCEALS

Desktop Diary

September 2015							October 2015							November 2015						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		29	30					

Just some events to look out for over the next three months.

- Flirt FM 20th Anniversary, September 26**
Save this date, because Flirt FM have got big plans. Radio and dinner and cake and dancing plans.
- Arts in Action, October 1**
The new season of Arts in Action kicks off with traditional music by Ceol Ó Mealláin. This semester's series focuses on performers from Northern Ireland.
- University Open Days, October 2 & 3**
We welcome thousands of secondary school pupils to campus for a taste of University life. Speakers this year include sporting legends Pat Lam and Professor Eamon O'Shea.
- Mindful Way Conference, October 9 & 10**
Discover the benefits of mindfulness for life and work. An amazing line-up of world-class speakers is coming to campus. Book your place today at www.conference.ie

- NUI Galway 8k, October 10**
Ask any of the participants from last year – this event is not to be missed. Take in our beautiful campus at running (or walking) speed with hundreds of others. All proceeds go to Jigsaw.
- Nominations for President's Awards for Support Services Excellence, October 16**
Would you like to acknowledge a person or team that makes a particularly outstanding contribution to the Support Services? Closing date for nominations is Friday 16 October.
- Thesis Final, October 29**
Thesis returns with lots of researchers showing off their work. But who can win over the judges with three slides and just three minutes?