



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

Nuachtlitir Foirne | Staff Newsletter | Deireadh Fómhair 2011



NUI Galway's Michael D. Higgins is Ninth President of Ireland

Michael D. Higgins, Adjunct Professor with the Irish Centre for Human Rights, has been elected the ninth president of Ireland.

Michael D. has been associated with the University for almost 50 years, entering as a mature student in 1962; serving as President of the Student Council; and going on to become a highly regarded lecturer in Sociology & Politics for many years.

He has served as Adjunct Professor at the Irish Centre for Human Rights since 2006. His impressive record in defense of human rights made his role with the Irish Centre of Human Rights a natural enhancement of his long association with the University.

Speaking after the election results were announced, NUI Galway President, Dr Jim Browne said of Michael D.: "The Office of President has been increasingly to the fore in national life in recent years. Michael D.'s talent and

integrity, along with his commitment to service in public life, will ensure that he will be an inspirational and visionary President, following those who have held that office with great distinction and honour.

On behalf of the University, I congratulate him on the unique leadership role which he has played to date in shaping Ireland's future. I wish him every success and fulfilment in writing the next chapter of Ireland's history."

Amongst his many distinctions, Michael D. Higgins was honoured in 2003 by his alma mater with the NUI Galway AIB Award for Literature, Communication and the Arts. He graduated with a BA in 1965 and a BComm in 1966 from what was then UCG.

Ollsceala

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Focal ón Eagarthóir

Tá an-áthas orm a bheith ar ais agus an t-eagrán seo d' Ollsceala a chur ar fáil.

Is é Michael D. Higgins ó OÉ Gaillimh an Naoú Uachtarán ar Éirinn!

Tá baint ag Michael D. leis an Ollscoil le beagnach 50 bliain, ó tháinig sé chun na hOllscoile mar mhac léinn lánfhásta i 1962; bhí sé ina Uachtarán ar Chomhairle na Mac Léinn; agus ina dhiaidh sin bhí sé ina léachtóir le Socheolaíocht agus Polaitíocht ar feadh na mblianta.

Michael D. was most recently on campus during an impromptu visit on the eve of the election, when staff and student well-wishers turned out to lend their support. I'm sure this support will continue throughout his Presidency. Tá OÉ Gaillimh an-bhródúil as na héachtaí atá déanta ag alumni na hOllscoile agus guím gach rath ar chlann Uí hUigín.

The official opening of the new Engineering Building took place during the summer months and as the President remarked at the official opening by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD, 'It's a landmark day', and indeed it was. Congrats to all involved.

The conference season ensured activity during the summer months and this edition will again look at the awards and achievements of our staff and students. Research is highlighted in this edition by the recent participation of marine biologist Patrick Collins in a major scientific discovery on the mid-Atlantic ridge and with Sea2Sky where this University hosted the first ever European Researchers night.

Over 3,600 graduates were conferred at the autumn conferring and the same figure of new students started their journey at NUI Galway in September. We wish them all the very best in their careers and their adventures here on campus.

Mo bhuíochas do chách a chur scéalta chugainn don eagrán seo - beidh mé ag súil le go leor scéalta eile uaibh roimh deireadh na bliana.

Michelle Ní Chróinín
Editor

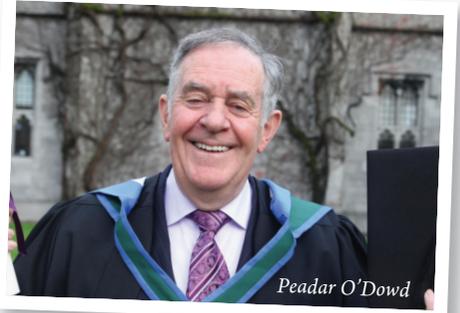
Ollsceala is published by the
Marketing and Communications Office
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh.
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Conferrings 2011

Over 3,600 students graduated during the Autumn Conferring Ceremonies which took place from 21-28 October. NUI Galway also conferred five Honorary Masters Degrees during the ceremonies on Peadar O'Dowd (Master of Arts, *honoris causa*), Stan Shields (Master of Arts, *honoris causa*), William Henry (Master of Arts, *honoris causa*), Kathleen Villiers Tuthill (Master of Arts, *honoris causa*), and Martin Ward (Master of Rural Development, *honoris causa*). The annual Autumn Conferring Ceremonies began with the Adult and Continuing Education ceremonies, where awards were conferred on over 1,000 students who completed their certificate, diploma and degree courses at many locations across the country.



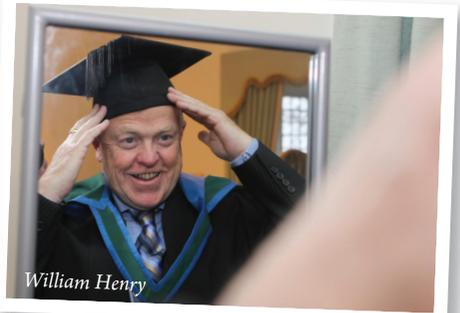
Stan Shields



Peadar O'Dowd



Martin Ward



William Henry



Kathleen Villiers Tuthill

Child Protection Officer Appointed

Whilst NUI Galway owes a duty of care to all its students, it also has a particular responsibility to safeguard the welfare of any individual under the age of eighteen, provide them with the highest possible standard of care in order to promote their well-being and safeguard them from harm. This responsibility applies whether that child is a student of the University or is otherwise under the care or supervision of University Members. In promoting best practice, NUI Galway has

drafted a Child Protection Policy and appointed Carmel Browne, Deputy Director of HR, as the Child Protection Officer. Mr Dermot Flaherty, HR Office, has been nominated as Deputy Child Protection Officer.



The Child Protection Policy can be found at www.nuigalway.ie/humanresources.

A Landmark Day for Engineering

An Taoiseach's first official visit to NUI Galway was in mid-July to officially open the University's new Engineering Building, the largest of its kind in Ireland.



This world-class teaching and research facility ushers in a new era for Engineering for the University. The building has been designed to be a teaching tool in itself, with exposed construction techniques and an array of ecological building methods.

According to An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, who studied at the University in the mid-70s: "Engineering has a long and proud tradition at NUI Galway and this magnificent new building is a fine example of how the University is responding to the changing needs in today's world. This new building begins a new era for engineering students here in Galway and will have

far reaching impacts at local, national and international level."

The four-storey architectural gem and its 400 rooms will now accommodate some 1,100 students and 110 staff. The 14,250 sqm building will support an emerging generation of engineers, engaged in a new wave of technologies, embracing innovation and entrepreneurship.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, President Browne said: "This is a landmark day in the University's history. The opening of the Engineering Building brings to fruition the efforts of many individuals to bring the highest quality

facilities for engineering education and research to NUI Galway. This facility will be a national asset, providing the best resources for Ireland's engineers. Our engineering graduates and researchers will shape Ireland's future by building our national competitiveness, driving innovation and research and supporting indigenous and multinational industry."

To read more about the project team involved in the new building; its green credentials and some more interesting facts you can visit www.nuigalway.ie/new-engineering-building/

Sea2Sky Hailed a Success



Over 10,000 visitors descended on Salthill for Ireland's first participation in European Researchers Night in September. Billed as 'Sea2Sky', the celebration of science and research ran in parallel with events across 320 cities in Europe. The Galway event was visited by European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn.

This was the first time Ireland participated in European Researchers Night and NUI Galway collaborated with the Marine Institute and Galway Atlantaquaria to deliver a successful event. Hundreds of researchers displayed their work in the fields of Marine, Atmospheric and Astronomy.

Chief organiser, NUI Galway's Dr Andrew Shearer, said: "Around the world, Ireland's reputation is growing as a hub of science, discovery and innovation. It was great to see such a great turnout for the first Irish participation in European Researchers Night."

New DERI Spin-Out Reinvents Music Discovery

Seevl, a new spin-out company from DERI, is bringing a new experience to music lovers. Seevl provides new ways to explore the cultural and musical universe of users' favourite bands and artists, and lets them discover other connected ones, based on a rich set of connections that can exist. The service, free for its users, offers an online discovery user-experience, whether it is by browsing artists, labels or genres, or by combining these features together to find new ones. It also makes its data available to developers that want to build new applications on top of the platform.

Dr Alexandre Passant, CEO and founder of Seevl, said: "We want to recreate, online, the music discovery experience that people have when reading records sleeves, trying to know every fact about their favourite artists, or engaging in conversations about the bands they like."

To enable its platform, Seevl brings together several years of R&D in Semantic Web and Linked Data technologies that have been researched at DERI. Seevl also partners with OpenLink software to deliver its infrastructure <http://seevl.net/>.



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Conferences & Summer Schools

Celebrating its 25th anniversary year, the **Irish Conference of Medievalists** featured 43 speakers from 11 countries. The programme included lectures on medieval history, archaeology, literature and linguistics. The keynote lecture was delivered by Alfred P. Smyth, Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at the University of Kent.

A one-day Psychology workshop, entitled **'Mindfulness and Values in Acceptance Commitment Therapy'**, and hosted by the School of Psychology, focused on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), an approach to psychotherapy and sound living. The workshop was delivered by Dr Kelly Wilson, co-developer of ACT and Associate Professor of Psychology with the University of Mississippi.

The Discipline of Botany and Plant Science hosted the first Galway meeting of the **Botanical Society of the British Isles**. Aimed at academic and amateur botanists from throughout Britain and Ireland, the meeting included a series of lectures and excursions to Burren, Connemara and the Aran Islands. Keynote speakers included Dr Karen Molloy, NUI Galway Senior Researcher, Dr Sharon Parr, Burren Farming for Conservation Programme, John Conaghan, Ecological Consultant and Dr Matthew Jebb, Director of the National Botanic Gardens.

The School of Geography and Archaeology hosted the 19th Annual, and first Irish, Colloquium of the Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems (CSRS) of the International Geographical Union. 'The Sustainability of Rural Systems: Local and Global Challenges and Opportunities' conference saw delegates from 16 countries to present over 40 papers on the themes of Agriculture; Tourism; Population; Local Governance and Rural Development; Innovative forms of Employment; Rural Society and Alternative Energy.

The Minister for Children, Frances Fitzgerald, T.D., officially opened the fifth biennial conference of the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre. The two-day conference, entitled **'Protecting Children Through Family**

Support', addressed the challenges and opportunities in effectively realising children and young people's right to be cared for safely within their families.

Internationally renowned surgeon, Professor R.J. Heald, OBE, delivered the 36th **Sir Peter Freyer Memorial Lecture**, the largest surgical symposium in Ireland. Professor of Surgery at the North Hampshire Hospital and Surgical Director of the Pelican Cancer Centre, Basingstoke, Professor Heald's lecture focused on Colorectal Cancer Surgery. Other speakers included Professor Eilis McGovern, President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at St. James's Hospital.

Three Summer Schools for second-level students, across the disciplines of Computing, Engineering and Science, took place on campus this summer. Students participating in the **Engineering Summer School** were the first students ever to use the University's new Engineering Building and took part in activities such as remotely controlling a wastewater treatment plant, building an eco-house and designing a go-kart. The **Science Experience Summer workshops** featured activities from all disciplines of the College of Science including Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics. While the **Computing Summer Camp** introduced computing in a novel, fun and interactive way using leading-edge technologies, from constructing and controlling robots that can interact with their environment, to directing a virtual 'mini-movie'.

The Irish Centre for Human Rights continued its annual summer schools this year hosting two events. The first, Minority Rights and Indigenous Peoples, gave an overview of the legal, political and philosophical issues pertaining to international human rights law and its relationship to minority rights and the rights of indigenous peoples. Delivered by leading specialists, the second summer school, International Criminal Court, consisted of intensive lectures on issues in international criminal law, including universal jurisdiction, immunities and the role of the victim.

An international group of 50 postgraduate students attended the **Web Science Doctoral Summer School**. Organised by DERI, attendees learned analytical techniques to study the complex social and economic forces driving the evolution of the Web.

Speakers from Ireland, France and the UK described their experiences in the creation, management and use of shared skills and infrastructures in the life sciences sector at a one-day conference focused on European Marine biotechnology and organized by SEMRU and Marine Biotechnology Ireland. **Networks as Knowledge – Biotechnology Networks in the Atlantic Area Conference** saw discussion on Ireland's position in the wider Atlantic area. The results of a recent survey which examined the needs and barriers in the biotechnology R&D sector in Ireland were also presented.

Judge Catherine McGuinness chaired an Equality Seminar examining key gender equality issues from birth to old age. The 'Equality Through the Ages' seminar was part of the NUI Galway – University of Limerick Strategic Alliance, and was convened by Dr Lucy-Ann Buckley, School of Law, and Dr Patricia Conlan, UL, and stressed the continuing significance of gender equality issues for women, young and old, and also for men.

Over 70 delegates attended the ninth annual **RECOMB** (Research in Computational Molecular Biology) Satellite Workshop on Comparative Genomics. Bringing mathematicians and computer scientists together with biologists to share ideas and approaches for the comparison of genomes, this was the first time that the meeting took place in Galway. Keynote speakers included Professor Ed Green, UC Santa Cruz, USA, Professor Kateryna Makova, Penn State University, USA, Professor Julian Parkhill, Sanger Institute, UK, Professor Nicolaus Rajewsky, Max-Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Germany and Dr Chris Greenman, Sanger Institute, UK.





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Marine Biologist Part of Major Scientific Discovery



NUI Galway's Patrick Collins, of the Ryan Institute, was part of the Irish-led VENTuRE scientific expedition aboard the national research vessel RV Celtic Explorer who discovered a previously uncharted field of hydrothermal vents along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge – the first to be explored north of the Azores. The mission, which took place this summer, investigated 3,000 metres below the surface of the sea using the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Holland 1.

Hydrothermal vents, which spew mineral-rich seawater heated to boiling point by volcanic rock in the Earth's crust, are home to a rich variety of marine life that thrives in complete darkness on bacteria fed by chemicals. The investigation was supported by the Marine Institute under the 2011 Ship-Time Programme of the National Development Plan and by the National Geographic Society, who filmed the work for inclusion in an upcoming National Geographic Channel series, 'Alien Deep,' premiering globally in 2012.

Patrick Collins, who led the marine biological team investigating this unique ecosystem, worked in collaboration with Jon Copley of the University of Southampton to catalogue and characterise the species found at the vents.

"Everyone on board is proud of this Irish discovery, which we have called the 'Moytirra Vent Field,' said Collins. "Moytirra is the name of a battlefield in Irish mythology, and appropriately means 'Plain of the Pillars.' The largest chimney we have found is huge – more than ten metres tall – and we have named it 'Balor' after a legendary giant. In comparison with other vent fields, Moytirra contains some monstrous chimneys and is in an unusual setting at the bottom of a cliff – a real beauty."

Biomedical Training Begins, Stanford University Style



Back Row (L-R): Marie Travers, Wayne Allen, Colin Forde, Dr Waqar Aziz, Dr James McGarry, Kevin Moore, Dr Liam Mullins, Vicky McGrath, Bioinnovate Fellows with Mr Ian Quinn, Creganna Tactx; BioInnovate Advisory Board Chair.

BioInnovate Ireland, a specialist training programme in medical device innovation, modeled on Stanford University's prestigious Biodesign Programme, was officially launched in August. The BioInnovate Ireland Fellowship Programme has been jointly developed and delivered by a consortium of five higher education institutions which include NUI Galway, UL, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, DCU and UCC.

The impetus for the development of this specialist training programme emerged from the 2010 Innovation Taskforce Report. The new programme aims to hot-house, in the space of 10 months, talented individuals with multidisciplinary

backgrounds to explore and develop in teams, opportunities for innovative medical devices.

Speaking about the programme, the newly appointed Fellowship Director, NUI Galway's Dr Mark Bruzzi, said: "Our mission is to educate the next generation of leaders in innovation and to support the future of the medical device technologies sector in Ireland. The academic partners driving the development of the BioInnovate Fellowship Programme are committed to support innovation and entrepreneurship and to evolve the academic component of the Irish Medical Technologies ecosystem to ensure that the needs of the industry are met."

€3 million Award to Lead EU Research Project

Dr Anne MacFarlane, lecturer in Primary Care in the Discipline of General Practice, School of Medicine, has been awarded an EU-FP7 grant worth €3 million to lead a large collaborative research project known as RESTORE (REsearch into implementation STRategies to support patients of different ORIGins and language background in a variety of European primary care settings).

Researchers Lead €2.7 million Project for Hernia Treatment

Dr Dimitrios Zeugolis and Professor Abhay Pandit of NFB are to lead a European project to develop a new product for use in hernia operations. The NFB-led consortium has been awarded an EU-FP7 grant worth €2.7 million for a proposal entitled Targeting Hernia Operation Using Sustainable Resources and Green Nanotechnologies. The overall objective of the research project is to develop a novel mesh for use in hernia operations.



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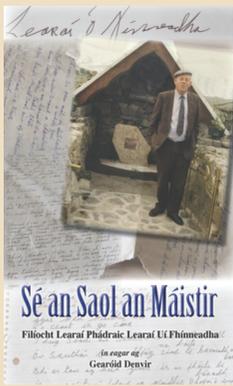
CELT training NUI Galway Staff by Dr Iain Mac Labhraínn

This university was one of the first in the country to have a set of professional, postgraduate qualifications in teaching and learning for lecturing staff. To date, over 120 academic staff have completed the Postgraduate Certificate course, which is based in CELT, and others have progressed to years two and three to conclude with a PgDip or MA in Academic Practice. Participants engage in workshops augmented with online resources and must undertake a series of evaluations of their own teaching, a redesign of their modules and the compilation of a Teaching Portfolio.

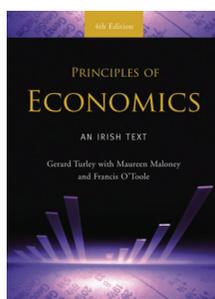
Feedback from participants is highly positive and most comment on the value of having the opportunity to engage with colleagues from across the whole spectrum of academic disciplines. The cohorts are also mixed in terms of levels of experience, ranging from new-start lecturers finding their feet, to seasoned veterans with much practical wisdom to contribute as well as a willingness to refresh their approaches.

For those of us who teach on the course it is an incredibly rewarding experience and reveals the extent to which there is genuine commitment amongst staff to support student learning and develop academic programmes of which we can be proud. Further information available at www.nuigalway.ie/celt

Filíocht Uí Fhínneadha ar ghearrliosta Ghradam Leabhar na Bliana



Fograíodh le déanaí go bhfuil leabhar An tOllamh Gearóid Denvir ar an ngearrliosta do Ghradam Uí Shuilleabháin. Tá *Sé an Saol an Máistir: Filíocht Learaí Phádraic Learaí Uí Fhínneadha*, atá in eagar ag An tOllamh Denvir, san iomaíocht le ceithre leabhar eile don teideal Leabhar na Bliana. Bhain an leabhar seo an duais amach i gComórtais an Oireachtais (Saothar Próis) sa bhliain 2010.



New Edition of Economics Textbook

Dr Gerard Turley and Maureen Maloney of the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, have just completed the fourth edition of the successful textbook *Principles of Economics: An Irish Text*, with co-author Dr Francis O'Toole of Trinity College Dublin.

Principles of Economics: An Irish Text introduces the theory and practice of economics within an Irish and European context. There is reference to both recent and current economic conditions, including reflections on the post Celtic Tiger years, the economic downturn caused by the international recession, the banking crisis and the property crash, and the latest on the eurozone and sovereign debt crisis.

NUI Galway Unemployment Figures Lowest in Higher Education Sector



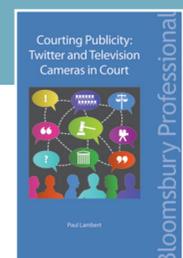
Positive findings have been released on the jobs front for NUI Galway graduates with some 96.8% of graduates currently are not seeking employment, the best figure in the higher education sector in Ireland. With national unemployment figures at 14.5%, only 3.2% of the NUI Galway class of 2009/2010 are actively seeking employment.

The number of NUI Galway graduates going directly into employment during this period was 47.5%, up 4% on the previous year, with a significant percentage going on to further studies. The data comes from an annual survey of almost 4,000 graduates on full-time programmes, conducted nine months after graduation. John Hannon, Head of the Careers Development Centre said: "This survey gives an invaluable insight into employment opportunities. The Standardised Unemployment Rate is more than four times that of NUI Galway. We are delighted to have such positive news and to see that NUI Galway graduates are valued and sought after by employers. Graduates are our future leaders and their 'get-up-and-go' attitude, skills and knowledge can generate the enterprise and innovation required to boost Ireland's economic recovery."

The challenging economic climate in recent years has led to increased numbers embarking on postgraduate study. Again the statistics for NUI Galway are positive, with just over 3% of graduates from postgraduate programmes seeking employment.

New publication on Social Media and the Court

Adjunct Lecturer in Law Paul Lambert is soon to publish *Courting Publicity: Twitter and Television Cameras in Court* with Bloomsbury UK. The book is scheduled for publication in early November and will deal with the impact of new technology on the conduct of legal trials.





Focal ón Uachtarán

A Chairde,

Agus tús a chur againn le bliain acadúil nua, tá áthas orm a fhógairt go bhfuil éileamh leanúnach ar na cúrsaí san Ollscoil. CAO figures show NUI Galway

consolidating its growth of recent years - broadly in line with trends across the sector. Science and Engineering courses have jumped in popularity with NUI Galway out-performing the national trend in both, especially in Engineering where the opening of the new Engineering Building in July was a big draw for applicants.

Our success is also due to the University's focused and effective marketing strategies. Open Days of recent months are central to this activity. Those held recently were very successful with high levels of attendance from all over Ireland, and representation from 30 of the 32 counties. Given the University's increased efforts to recruit from outside the traditional catchment area, it was encouraging to see 13.5% of visitors came from the East; 17% from the South; 43% from Galway city and county; 19% from the rest of Connacht; and the remaining 7.5% from the North. I would like to thank colleagues for their efforts in making the Autumn Open Days so successful and I look forward to your support for the next Open Day on April 28, 2012.

President's Awards for Teaching Excellence

The Awardees for Teaching Excellence were announced recently. The winners are:

- Dr Jamie Goggins, School of Engineering & Informatics
- Dr Vinodh Jaichand, School of Law
- Dr John Kelly, School of Medicine
- Dr John Morrissey, School of Geography & Archaeology
- Ms Siobhán Smyth, School of Nursing & Midwifery

The Review Panel commented that the standard was extremely high and improving year on year. The external reviewer (Professor Aine Hyland, UCC) was impressed by many of the candidates and pleased to see the increasing focus on a scholarly/research-oriented approach to teaching. The winners will be presented with their Awards at the conferring ceremonies in October and November. In a related development, one of last year's winners, Dr Frances McCormack of the School of Humanities, will receive her NAIRTL award in early November in Dublin. Congratulations to Frances on national recognition for the quality of her teaching and to the 2010-11 Award winners for their creativity and commitment!

Accreditation for the Business School

I would also like to congratulate Dr Emer Mulligan and her team in the Business School on receiving full external accreditation of their Business Information Systems programme. External accreditation represents an important hallmark of quality for Business Schools and this achievement is a significant step on the road to achieving full accreditation for the whole School.

Schools Meetings

Over the month of September, Professor Chris Curtin (Vice-President for Innovation and Performance) and I met with colleagues in all Schools across the five Colleges. At these meetings we discussed each School's operational planning and performance at the collective and individual level and how this will contribute to delivering the University's Strategic Plan. Each School was asked to benchmark itself against best practice models and to identify performance targets and requirements to achieve these. In the coming months, we plan to meet with the support units to encourage a similar engagement with best practice. This is vital. If we are to continue to develop and improve we need to look at our activities, and compare these with others in the sector to get a sense of how we are measuring up and where we can improve. I hope to share a sense of these discussions at the next All Staff Address on 8 November next.

Rankings

The QS World University Rankings ranked NUI Galway 298th in the world, a drop of 66 places on last year's ranking. The Time Higher Education (THES) World University Ranking scored NUI Galway in the 350-400 bracket - a fall on our position on last year. While these results are disappointing, it is important to be aware of the criteria which make up the various rankings and the impact they can have on a University's overall performance. The heavy reliance of both rankings on opinion-based analysis, gathered through academic surveys, has had a negative impact on all of the Irish universities. The increasing globalisation of both surveys has also resulted in a loss of prominence for Ireland's universities.

Both of these results point to some clear actions to be taken to enhance our performance:

- I have appointed a project group to review our **relationships with employers** with a view to enhancing those relationships by developing more frequent and targeted communications with this important group.
- I have also initiated a major, national survey of employers to gain a better understanding of how our graduates are viewed, relative to graduates of other universities.

- I have asked the Registrar's Office to work with the Colleges to ensure learning outcomes are communicated clearly to students, so that they have a better understanding of the broader transferable skills they acquire in the course of their studies.
- I will also bring together a group of the University's prominent researchers to explore ways of growing our research output and enhancing our **research profile** on an international stage.
- We also need to ensure we continue to develop flagship programmes, particularly in our areas of expertise, so that we can continue to improve the **quality of the students we attract** to the University.

For more on my views on rankings see link to reports below.

Our Alliances

Recent years have seen the University forge important new alliances with higher education institutions nationally, internationally and locally; as well as with artistic bodies. Some recent new initiatives emerging from these alliances include:

- **SELECTED**, a new artist development strand of the Galway Arts Festival partnership which saw five students and graduates join five other artists in a unique initiative which allowed them full access to every aspect of the festival. This 'two-week academy' offered students the opportunity to see how a festival of this magnitude is put together while also attending shows, post-show talks and getting a hands-on experience from performers and organisers.
- The NUI Galway - University of Limerick Alliance saw the establishment two new joint MSc programmes: **MSc Finance and Information Systems** and **MSc Sustainable Resource Management: Policy and Practice**. These are the first joint programmes to emerge from an Irish university alliance.

I look forward to further tangible outcomes of these alliances, which I believe will signal a trend for the future of Irish higher education. For more on my views on how strategic collaboration is central to Irish education see my opinion piece in The Irish Times at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/president/reports.html>

Tá mé ag súil le bliain ghnóthach agus bliain thorthúil amach romhainn agus muid ag obair le chéile chun mórán tionscail a thabhairt chun críche. I continue to be inspired by colleagues who consistently show their passion and commitment to enhancing NUI Galway's reputation and performance.

Beir bua agus beannacht,
James J. Browne Ph.D., D.Sc., MRIA, C.Eng.
Uachtarán - President

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Student & Staff Awards

Outstanding Brazilian Student



A Brazilian student is the first recipient of a new NUI Galway scholarship for students from a non-EU country to study at the University. Heictor Gonzaga, now living in Gort, Co. Galway, has taken up a place in the Bachelor of Engineering degree course.

Heictor Gonzaga and his family came to Ireland three years ago where, after a couple of months with the English Language Support system, he entered the Leaving Certificate class in Gort Community School. The scholarship, funded by Galway University Foundation, is for a student from a non-EU country who has completed at least the final two years of their secondary school studies in Ireland, but who are not eligible for fees at EU rates.

Award at Major US Bioengineering Conference

William Ronan, PhD student in Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering, under the supervision of Dr Patrick McGarry has won first prize in the PhD Student Paper Competition at the American Society of Mechanical Engineering Biomedical Engineering Conference, a leading US conference in the field of biomedical engineering and biomechanics. William was shortlisted as one of six finalists in the category of cell mechanics from over 150 international applicants and based on his submitted paper and podium presentation he was awarded first prize.

Air Quality and Climate Award

James McGrath, a PhD student in the School of Physics, won a best student paper award for his presentation entitled 'Simulation Of Solid Fuel Burning Events In Irish Fireplaces Under Varying Air Exchange Rates' while attending Indoor Air 2011, the International Conference on Indoor Air Quality and Climate, held in Austin, Texas in June 2011. The conference was attended by over 1000 delegates, and for his efforts, James received a flag from the State of

Texas that had been flown over the Capitol Building. James' research is supervised by Dr Miriam Byrne, is funded by the EPA STRIVE programme, and involves the development of a computational model for estimating exposure to air pollution while residing indoors.

Travelling Scholarship

Ciara Kyne has been awarded a prestigious NUI Travelling Studentship which will enable her to perform part of her PhD studies in Professor Gary Pielak's lab at Chapel Hill. Ciara who is a student in Dr Peter Crowley's lab in the School of Chemistry also holds a Hardiman Research Scholarship awarded by NUI Galway.

The Aerosol Society

Dr Miriam Byrne, in the School of Physics and the Ryan Institute, has become President of the Aerosol Society of the UK and Ireland for a two-year term. The Aerosol Society aims to support the science of airborne particles, and is 25 years in existence. Its 270 members are drawn from industry and academia, covering a wide range of disciplines from environmental health and climatology, to pharmaceutical devices and nanotechnology. The Society supports graduate research in the UK and Ireland through provision of student research grants and travel awards.

IRCHSS Award

Professor Daniel Carey has been awarded a Government of Ireland Senior Research Fellowship by the IRCHSS for a project to prepare an edition of Richard Hakluyt's landmark collection of early modern travel: *The Principal Navigations...of the English Nation (1598-1600)*. Professor Carey is the co-general editor for the edition. The edition is under contract with Oxford University Press in 14 volumes and the fellowship will enable him to coordinate editing of the first four volumes in the series and to edit key documents in it.

Future Leaders Programme Award

Ann Mitchell, Head of Staff Development and Service Environment in the James Hardiman Library, has won an award of €2000 from the Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL) in support of her participation in the Future Leaders Programme. This programme has been created by the UK Leadership Foundation for Higher Education in order to develop the leadership potential of professional information services staff and Ann is the third member of the Library senior management team to undertake it.

EU LLP funding for language learning project

NUI Galway is part of a consortium of 10 European third level institutions that has been awarded a total of €399,433 from the EU Lifelong Learning Programme – Languages (KA2). Dr Laura McLoughlin (School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures), Dr Dorothy Ni Uigin and Ms Rose Ni Dhubhda (Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge) participate in this new project entitled: ClipFlair. Foreign Language Learning through interactive voicing and captioning of clips. The project proposes an advanced social networking platform for Foreign Language Learning through captioning and voicing. The consortium will develop innovative activities for 15 languages, including lesser used and taught ones as well as third country languages.

CISC Researcher wins Best Paper Award at Management Conference

Dr Paul O'Connor recently won the best track paper award at the Annual Irish Academy of Management Conference. The paper was entitled 'Identifying and addressing the limitations of safety climate surveys: Lessons for organisational researchers'. The authors were Dr Paul O'Connor (CISC), Sam Buttrey (Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, USA), Angela O'Dea, and Quinn Kennedy (Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, USA). Dr O'Connor is a Senior Research Fellow at CISC and his research is funded under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL I 4) as part of the Irish Social Sciences Platform.

Best Session Paper Award at the Transport Research Conference

Dr Amaya Vega, a postdoctoral research fellow in the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, received the Best Session Paper Award at the recent Irish Transport Research Network Annual Conference for her paper 'A Multimodal Approach to Sustainable Accessibility: A case study for the city of Galway, Ireland'. This paper suggests a methodological framework to determine the basis for local-level transport prioritisation in small urban areas. Dr Vega's research is funded under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL I 4) as part of the Irish Social Sciences Platform.



OLLSCÉALA



University Partners with Galway Arts Festival

This summer Galway Arts Festival and NUI Galway announced details of a new partnership where the 34th Galway Arts Festival was supported by the University through development of the Festival's Volunteer Programme and SELECTED, a new artist development strand of the Festival for emerging artists and producers.

Culture Night

This September, the James Hardiman Library joined with hundreds of other venues around the country in celebrating Culture Night 2011. The Archives and Special Collections service participated in Culture Night for the first time and in doing so staged a series of special events to highlight the richness of their literary, local history and theatre archives. Special Collections Librarian Marie Boran and Archivist Brigid Clesham opened the night with a talk on the Irish Landed Estates database, a resource launched this year in partnership between the Moore Institute and the James Hardiman Library. Following this, Fergus Fahey, Institutional Repository and Digitisation Librarian, presented an introduction and overview of the personal and literary archive of celebrated writer John McGahern.

The final event of the night included screenings from the Druid Theatre Archive. These works were *Riders to the Sea* and *The Shadow of the Glen*, part of the 2005 *DruidSynge* series.

Volunteering Fair



At the tenth annual NUI Galway Volunteering Fair, officially opened by Mayor of Galway Hildegard Naughton, were members of the Galway Community Circus. Also pictured (front row, l-r) NUI Galway student volunteers Enda

Clarke, Sinead Jordan and Sean McHugh with NUI Galway staff (back row, l-r): Mary O'Riordan, Vice-President for the Student Experience; Lorraine Tansey, Student Volunteer Coordinator; Lorraine McIlrath, Academic Staff Developer with the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching; and Nollaig Mac Congail, Registrar and Deputy President.

Super-sized Heart Valve Provides Clues to Blood Flow



Pictured is Dr Nathan Quinlan.

NUI Galway researchers have developed a super-sized model of a heart valve which may lead to a new generation of cardiovascular devices.

Every year, mechanical valves are inserted into approximately 125,000 patients with heart valve disease around the world. However, the valves can lead to unnatural blood flows, which can trigger a clotting reaction. Because of this, patients with prosthetic heart valves must take medication daily, which can lead to side effects.

The work carried out by Dr Nathan Quinlan and Dr Alessandro Bellofiore of the Biofluid Dynamics group at the NCBES is trying to better understand how blood flows through prosthetic valves and in particular through the valve hinges, so that the clotting reaction can be ameliorated. Researchers have developed a working model valve which is six times the size of a normal valve and runs 100 times slower. They use laser light and digital imaging to measure flow accurately and calculate the stresses experienced by blood cells as they move through the valve.

Connemara Symposium

NUI Galway recently hosted the Connemara Symposium, a two-day series of events in celebration of the work of Tim Robinson, the internationally acclaimed writer, map-maker and thinker based in Roundstone, Co. Galway.

Highlights included a 'full house' screening of Pat Collins's film 'Tim Robinson: Connemara' in Roundstone Community Hall; lectures and talks in the Galway City Museum by an international assembly of writers including John Elder, Eamonn Wall, Briona Nic Dhiarmidha and Kelly Sullivan; and readings in the Druid Theatre by Andrew McNeillie, Manchán Mangan, Moya Cannon, Eamon Grennan and Tim Robinson.

The Symposium was hosted by the Atlantic Archipelagos Research Project, a collaboration between the Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities and Social Studies, Folding Landscapes and the University of Exeter, with funding from the British Academy.



OLLSCÉALA



Biomaterials Conference

Over 950 delegates attended the 24th European Conference on Biomaterials in Dublin. The conference was hosted by the Network for Excellence in Functional Biomaterials (NFB) and the University of Ulster, Jordanstown, and focused on how biomaterials may prove key to healing chronic wounds in Diabetic patients.

Discussions at the conference included how researchers at NFB hope that technology being developed may reduce the rate of limb amputation and morbidity in diabetic patients and how delivering therapeutic genes using a new biomaterial-based delivery system to the site of chronic wounds in diabetes patients may enhance wound healing. In advance of the conference NFB also hosted an Industry Day focusing on 'Translating Biomaterials and Combination Products'. The event was specifically designed to bring together the leading organisations in the medical device sector, multi-national corporations, small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurial academics who will share their experiences in taking innovative biomaterials concepts to both the clinic and to market.

Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)

The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. HEAR has been set up by a number of colleges and universities as evidence shows that socio-economic disadvantage can have a negative effect on how well a student does at school and whether they go on to college. There are currently 16 higher education institutes collaborating on the scheme. HEAR Applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support. The NUI Galway Access Programme hosted a residential Orientation for 170 first year HEAR students this August where over 400 students and parents attended the welcome session. Students participated in introductory lectures, workshops and a number of social activities throughout the Orientation. This is the third year that NUI Galway has been involved in the scheme and there are currently 400 HEAR entrants studying at undergraduate level in all colleges and programmes. www.accesscollege.ie

Bailiúchán Béaloideas Ghaeltacht Thír Chonaill

Rinne an tAire Stáit Donnchadh Mac Fhionnghaile TD suíomh Gréasáin nua ar bhéaloideas Ghaeltacht Thír Chonaill a sheoladh go hoifigiúil in Ionad an Acadaimh, Gaoth Dobhair ar na mallaibh. Le roinnt blianta anuas, bhí taighdeoirí faoi scáth Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge i nGaoth Dobhair i mbun oibre ar thionscadal béaloideas a raibh baint aige leis na hagallaimh a cuireadh ar fhaisnéiseoirí éagsúla as beagnach gach ceantar Gaeltachta i dTír Chonaill.

Tugann na hagallaimh seo an-léiriú ar shaol na ndaoine le corradh agus céad bliain anuas. Faightear spléachadh iontu ar beagnach gach gné de shaol an duine – ar shaol na feirme agus na farraige, ar chúrsaí fostaíochta agus imirce, ar sheanleigheasanna agus piseoga, ar chúrsaí spóirt agus caitheamh aimsire. Lena chois sin, tugtar léirtean maith dúinn ar chaint bheo na ndaoine, faoi mar a mhaireann sí san am i láthair agus an saibhreas canúna atá le sonrú fud fad na Gaeltachta.

Mar pháirt den tionscadal, ní hamháin gur bailíodh tuairim is 380 uair an chloig de thaifeadtaí ó 230 faisnéiseoir ach rinneadh digitíú, mionscagadh agus rangú ar an ábhar go léir. Mar thoradh ar an obair seo uile, bhíothas in ann suíomh gréasáin a dhearadh ionas go mbeadh deis ag an phobal teacht go héasca ar an ábhar ar fad. Is féidir teacht ar an bhailiúchán iomlán seo anois ag www.bealoideas.com.



Pictured are Ger Fleming and Cyril Carroll, Microbiology, Deirdre Sheridan, Career Development Centre, Elaine Hennessy, Abbott Ireland and PgDip Applied Microbiology students.

Organised by the Career Development Centre and the discipline of Microbiology, students from the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Microbiology recently received expert CV Advice and Interview Preparation from Abbott Ireland – the double award winner at the recent Gradireland Graduate Recruiter Awards for Best Graduate Training and Development Programme for the second year running and Graduate Employer of the Year, 2011.

In Brief

RTÉ News2day



Carla O'Brien, a graduate of the MA in Journalism has taken up the role as presenter of RTÉ news2day, which is the RTÉ News service designed specifically for children. The programme is aimed at young people between the ages of seven and 12 and contains Irish and international news of interest to a young audience.

Grad Award

NUI Galway graduate Conall Ó Fátharta (BA in History & Sociology and Politics in 2004 and MA Journalism in 2007) and journalist with *The Irish Examiner* recently won the Justice Media Award for 2011.

Galway University Foundation launch new website

Galway University Foundation has launched its new website www.guf.ie. The website is a useful resource which allows the Foundation to share the impact which philanthropy has had on the campus of NUI Galway. The website explains how the generosity of donors and friends of the University has helped develop capital projects, fund new research, endow scholarships and create a world-class campus for the next generation of NUI Galway students and researchers. The website also invites users to engage with the University and become part of a network of donors and

philanthropists who have made a major impact on our campus. Graduates, staff and friends can also apply for the NUI Galway Affinity Card via the new website.

Director of Galway University Foundation, Tom Joyce, said: "We hope that University staff will visit the website to learn more about Galway University Foundation and promote it to students, graduates and research partners."

Galway Hospice

A coffee morning in aid of Galway Hospice was held recently in the College Bar. The event organised by Dr Karen Duffy of the Regenerative Medicine Institute raised over €530. Dr Duffy would like to extend thanks to everyone who came along to help or support the event as well as the event sponsors College Bar, Debenhams, Boots, Eason's bookstore, The River Inn, Spudhouse, The G Hotel, ACD systems Ireland Ltd., The Galway Arms, Dunnes Stores, Centra Newcastle Rd., and Tesco Express.

Accreditation for Psychology Programme

The MSc in Health Psychology Programme has received professional accreditation from the Psychological Society of Ireland. This is significant as it is the first accredited programme in the Republic of Ireland. Accreditation is important as it acknowledges the high quality of the programme and also paves the way for establishing a professional pathway for Health Psychologists practicing in Ireland. There are currently around 20 MSc in Health Psychology programmes in the United Kingdom accredited by the British Psychological Society, however, this is the first programme to be accredited in Ireland. The School of Psychology currently provides a hub for Health Psychology training and research in the Republic of Ireland and has recently developed a Structured PhD Programme in Psychology and Health.

Chemistry Outreach

This summer over 100 school children from the County Galway area descended on the School of Chemistry to showcase their Capturing Chemistry art entries. All winners in each class were awarded prizes and every entrant received a certificate. As

well as the prize giving the children were shown some fun and simple Chemistry experiments through the Kitchen Chemistry initiative.

Léacht ar Iar-Uachtarán

Thug Séamus Ó Flaithimhín, Ollamh Emeritus le Fisic Mhatamaiticiúil, léacht ar iar-uachtarán Monsignor Pádraig de Brún (1945-1959) dár gcuid, in áras Chonradh na Gaeilge, An tAonach, Co. Thiobraid Árann, i mí Meán Fómhair. Ba é teideal na léachta ná "An Monsignor Pádraig de Brún: Scoláire Ildánach, Gael agus Eorpach".

NUI Galway Alumni Association Launch European Alumni Club

European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn officially launched NUI Galway's European Alumni Club in Brussels this summer.

This is the first NUI Galway Alumni Club established in Europe by the University's Alumni Association and NUI Galway alumni based in Brussels and throughout Europe will be given an opportunity to reconnect with fellow graduates and their alma mater. Future alumni events are planned for other cities across Europe.

The launch reception was hosted by Irish Ambassador Tom Hanney at The Embassy of Ireland in Brussels, who said: "I'm delighted to host the launch of the Belgium Chapter of NUI Galway. Ireland's graduates are known as innovators in their fields and leaders in their communities. Alumni Associations provide the opportunity not merely to revisit fond memories with fellow graduates, but importantly, are sources of support and exchange of knowledge and experience, forums for engagement with one another to build and strengthen professional and social futures while showcasing Ireland and NUI Galway in particular as a leader in education."

HAVE YOUR SAY?

If you are interested in future editions of Ollscéala featuring a social and personal column please email ollsceala@nuigalway.ie

OLLSCÉALA

Rugby Academy Launched

NUI Galway has announced the establishment of a Rugby Youth Academy to cater for teenagers in Galway. The Youth Academy is an integral part of the existing University Rugby club which was formed in 1874 and is a founder member of the IRFU.

Notable rugby graduates of NUI Galway Rugby Club include Ciaran Fitzgerald who captained both Ireland and the British and Irish Lions. The development of the Youth Academy, coupled with the University's Sports Scholarship, is aimed primarily at strengthening the University's AIL U20 squad in the medium-term.



Pictured at the launch with U13s from Na Bairneachaí club are Connacht Rugby's Eric Elwood and Johnny O'Connor.

NUI Galway Receives Three Fulbright Awards

An NUI Galway student, scholar and lecturer were announced as recipients of the Fulbright Awards 2011. The Fulbright Awards are presented on an annual basis to Irish students, scholars and professionals to undertake postgraduate study and research at higher education, cultural and related institutions in the United States.

Máire Ní Chuaig, a native Irish speaker graduated with a BA in Irish and Translation at NUI Galway. She plans on returning to College to complete a Higher Diploma in Education in 2012. Máire will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at the University of Montana. Dr Noam Lubell is a Lecturer at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law. Dr Lubell will undertake his research into the area of future challenges in the law of armed conflict, at New York University. Daniel Regan is a PhD candidate in Psychology at NUI Galway. Daniel will pursue his research at the University of California, Berkeley, specialising in the area of health psychology with a specific focus on alcohol research. His sister Nell Regan was also awarded a scholarship.

Open Days



Pictured at NUI Galway's Open Days, which were held on 30 September and 1 October and attended by an amazing 8,000 visitors, were Katie Dunleavy, Rebecca Lenehan and Abaigeal Doherty from Saint Joseph's Secondary School, Charlestown, Co. Mayo.



Dr James Reilly, Minister for Health, opened the 15th Annual Health Promotion conference on 'Mainstreaming Health Promotion: Promoting Health Across Sectors at NUI Galway'. This year's conference addressed strategies for placing health promotion at the centre of public health policy and strengthening work across sectors to promote the health and wellbeing of all population groups in society. Minister Reilly is pictured with Professor Margaret Barry of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion Research Centre at NUI Galway, and President Browne.