



# Conferring of Honorary Doctorates 2012



*Pictured at the Honorary Conferring (l-r): Irial Finan, Maureen Dowd, Minister Jim Flaherty MP, and Sebastian Barry.*

The conferring of honorary degrees took place on campus on Friday, 29 June. Those honoured were playwright and novelist, Sebastian Barry, who was conferred with a Degree of Doctor of Literature; The New York Times opinion columnist, Maureen Dowd, also conferred with a Degree of Doctor of Literature; Executive Vice President, The Coca-Cola Company, Irial Finan, conferred with a Degree of Doctor of Laws; and Canadian Finance Minister, Jim Flaherty MP, also conferred with a Degree of Doctor of Laws.

To coincide with the awarding of honorary degrees, two of the recipients were central to additional events associated with their visit to the University. Canadian Minister for Finance, Jim Flaherty MP joined Minister Michael Noonan TD in addressing a forum entitled 'Financial Crisis: International and National Perspectives'. An 'Evening of Conversation' between Maureen Dowd and Irish-American journalist Niall O'Dowd also took place in association with Mayo County Council where Ms Dowd was also honoured with a Civic Reception.

OLLSCÉALA



## Focal ón Eagarthóir

The Honorary Conferring this year, while damp, was simply a great occasion. The four recipients this year were outstanding individuals and truly worthy of this honour (p.1).

Galway is a great place to be at the best of times, but when it comes to festival season it certainly does it in style. So far this summer we have had the honour to partner with the best of them including the Volvo Ocean Race Finale festival where we had our own pavilion as part of the Global Village (p.3) and a huge congratulations should be given to those who made this happen and made it such a success.

Outside of festival fever, events and activities on campus are as plentiful as ever. Lots of research (p.9), student achievements (p.8), a very successful Open Day (p.10), and the Quad even turned blue for a day (p.16).

Conference season is ongoing and it's great to see so many being held on campus, and to see the effort invested by organisers to make this happen is a credit to this University (p.4 & 5). It does not come as any surprise then that this University was recently shortlisted for the Best Conference Events Venue in Ireland.

My sincere thanks for all the contributions and while we endeavour to include all submissions space does not always allow.

Mo bhúiochas do chách a chur scéalta chugainn don eagrán seo - beidh mé ag súil le go leor scéalta eile uaibh roimh an chéad eagrán eile.

Slán tamall

Michelle Ní Chróinín  
Editor

Ollscéala is published by the  
Marketing and Communications Office  
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh.  
Tel. 091 - 493361  
E-mail: michelle.nichróinín@nuigalway.ie

## President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins Addresses Summer School



*Pictured l-r: Professor Ger Quinn, President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, and President Browne.*

The fourth International Summer School at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy was recently launched by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins. The Summer School, was co-hosted by the Harvard Law School Project on Disability.

Speaking at the Summer School, the President commended the University for their active scholarship and the Centre of Disability Law and Policy for the vital contribution it makes to informed thinking on disability related policy and issues in this country: "I am delighted to be here with you today to launch the 4th International Summer School in partnership with the Harvard Law School Project on Disability, which this year deals with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

"This, as you know, is a convention that I strongly support and which, as a public representative,

I called upon successive Governments to ratify. This summer school and the other educational opportunities that you afford to students will educate them in the policies and reforms required to ensure that people with disabilities can be treated as Equal Citizens in Irish Society and that once ratified the requirements of the Convention will become the benchmark for all disability related policies."

The Summer School is designed to equip participants with the insights and skills necessary to translate the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into tangible reform for persons with disabilities. President Higgins has a great interest in disability issues and has been a tireless campaigner throughout his long political life for the rights and interests of persons with disabilities in Ireland and internationally.

## Royal Irish Academy Honours Top NUI Galway Scholars



*Professor Steven Ellis, Royal Irish Academy President, Professor Luke Drury, and Professor Adrian Frazier.*

Two NUI Galway academics were admitted as new members of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) at a special ceremony in Dublin recently. Professor Steven Ellis and Professor Adrian Frazier were among only 22 academics in Ireland to achieve this highest academic distinction.

**Steven Ellis** is Professor of History at NUI Galway. His publications over three decades have made a major contribution to our understanding of the political, religious and cultural history of late

medieval and early modern Ireland, and have established him as an internationally recognised authority on the history of frontier societies.

**Adrian Frazier** is Professor of English at NUI Galway. His work on modern Irish literature has opened up new fields of inquiry in territories often passed over: introducing new historicism to the study of Irish theatre; re-introducing George Moore to a world that had forgotten him; and bringing alive the story of Abbey actors working with John Ford in Hollywood.

Congratulating the awardees, NUI Galway President, Dr Jim Browne, said: "Research and academic excellence are the cornerstones of all that we do here at NUI Galway. I am very proud to see the work of my colleagues, Professors Adrian Frazier and Steven Ellis recognised by the Royal Irish Academy. Admission to the Academy is the highest academic honour in Ireland. It is a testament to the calibre of our staff and research to see the work of two of our finest humanities scholars honoured in this way."

## NUI Galway Pavilion attracts thousands of visitors at Volvo Ocean Race Finale Festival



*John Killen, Let's Do IT Global with An Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore outside the NUI Galway pavilion*



*An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD puts his thoughts of 'Economic Freedom' on wall of inspiration in the pavilion*

The relocation of NUI Galway's Quadrangle to the Global Village created somewhat of a stir locally when the University created a partial replica of its Quadrangle building, to front the Pavilion in the Global Village during the Volvo Ocean Race. NUI Galway graduate and now President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins paid a special visit to see for himself how his Alma Mater looked in South Park. Other high profile visitors included graduate Pat Rabbitte, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and An Taoiseach Enda Kenny.

Inside, the NUI Galway pavilion looked to the future, with interactive demonstrations and exhibitions showcasing the cutting-edge innovation and research for which the University has a world-wide reputation.

"This is the largest sporting event in Ireland this year, and a wonderful opportunity to promote all that is great about Galway", said President Browne. "The event had almost 100,000 visitors to the City last time round, over half of whom came from abroad, with significant international media reach also. Our whole-hearted involvement, in the volunteering aspects of this event and in the exhibitions, is a reflection of the importance of reaching such a world-wide audience."

The NUI Galway pavilion featured four zones based on themes of Exploration, Innovation, Creativity and Go Global as well as Ideas Lab. Activities also included an Alumni Family Day.

NUI Galway was also the official education partner of Volvo Ocean Race Galway's volunteering programme, bringing its considerable experience in the field of volunteering and community engagement to the event to recruit the 'small army' of volunteers needed to support the overall festival.

As well as the University having a presence in the Innovation and Marine Pillars at the Global Village, a separate Speaker Session pavilion in the Global Village also featured some of NUI Galway's experts.

In addition, the Inmarsat Film Lecture in association with NUI Galway's Huston School of Film & Digital Media took place during the week presenting a unique sense of what is required of an extreme sports reporter onboard a multi-million dollar round the world racing yacht.



*President Higgins visits the pavilion*

### Official Festival App

The official 'Volvo Ocean Race Festival Galway' App, specifically designed for the event, was the creation of a team of researchers based at the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI). The free app, billed as a must for all visitors to Galway during the festival, providing maps, a full festival programme and lots of visitor information about Galway City.

DERI's Brian Wall said: "We really embraced the whole concept of 'get onboard' for the festival, so developed this unique app which is a must for every visitor."

Find out more about the University's involvement at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/volvo-ocean-race-2012/>

## Conferences

### The Miracle of the Parish: Máire Mhac an tSaoi Symposium

The Centre for Irish Studies recently hosted a symposium on the work of Máire Mhac an tSaoi, one of the most significant Irish poets of the twentieth century, and the most important living poet in Irish. Invited speakers included Micheál Mac Craith, Margaret Mac Curtain, Máire Ní Annracháin, Máirín Nic Eoin, Caoimhín Mac Giolla Léith, Ríona Ní Fhrighil, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin and Patricia Coughlan. Proceedings were also recorded by RTÉ radio for broadcast later in the year.

### InterTradeIreland Innovation Conference



Dr James Cunningham, Director, Institute for Business, Social Sciences and Public Policy, Professor Donald Siegel, University at Albany, State University of New York and Bernadette McGahon, InterTradeIreland.

The 2012 Annual InterTradeIreland Innovation Conference took place on campus in June. The event's focus was on a theme highly pertinent in the currently economic climate 'Exploiting Industry and University Research, Development and Innovation: Why it Matters'. The Conference provided practical insights into how businesses, academics and policy makers on the island of Ireland can best exploit industry-university research, development and innovation to best effect in context of our economic recovery.

The Keynote Speaker was Professor Donald Siegel, Dean of the School of Business and Professor of Management at the University at Albany, State University of New York, USA.

### Symposium on Higher Education

The tenth Galway Symposium on Higher Education took place on campus in June entitled *The Written Word: Writing, Publishing and Communication in Higher Education*. The focus of the symposium was on nurturing the skills of writing amongst students and fine-tuning our own approaches and adapt to new media and new audiences.

### NUI Galway Brings World's Top Social Media Researchers to Ireland

The International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM) came to Ireland in June for the first time, bringing with it keynote speakers from Google, Twitter, University of Oxford and other top research groups from around the globe. 300 of the world's top social media researchers attended a series of workshops, tutorials, invited talks and top accepted research papers from an interdisciplinary mix of computer science and social science research. The event, which took place in Dublin, was organised by the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI), and was chaired by Dr John Breslin.

### Shaking the Foundations of Geo-engineering Education

The first international conference in the new Engineering Building, entitled *Shaking the Foundations of Geo-engineering Education (SFGE 2012)* took place recently. SFGE 2012 is Ireland's first major geo-engineering conference since the European Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering held in Dublin in 1987. Geo-engineering is the branch of civil engineering associated with the engineering behaviour of soil and rock and encompasses the design of building foundations, retaining walls, slopes, embankments, excavations and tunnels.

### Focus on Well-Being

A Well-Being in Ireland Conference took place in June and brought together scientists, community organizations and policy-makers to discuss the latest advances in well-being research and policy. Helen Johnston, author of *Well-being Matters: A Social Report for Ireland*, delivered a keynote address, *Why Well-being Matters*, based on the findings of the report published by the National Economic and Social Council.

The conference was hosted by the *Health and Well-Being* priority theme at the Institute for Business, Social Science and Public Policy. Dr Michael Hogan and Dr AnnMarie Groarke, School of Psychology, are co-leaders of a research cluster within this theme which brings together experienced academics currently engaged in *Health and Lifespan* research. According to Dr Hogan, "Internationally, there is increasing interest in, and analysis of, human well-being and the economic, social, environmental and psychological factors that contribute to it."

### Planning for Smart Cities and Regions of the Future

Over 100 delegates attended a one-day conference on Planning for Smart Cities and Regions of the Future in May. The conference focussed on describing advanced technologies and highlighting how they can be used to make informed decisions during planning and day-to-day living. Chaired by Professor Gerry Lyons, Dean College of Engineering and Informatics, the aim of the conference was to stimulate debate on the future of our region and how technology and infrastructure will help shape the future.

## Minister Addresses Forum on Children's Rights



Professor Pat Dolan, Minister Frances Fitzgerald TD, and Professor Alan Smith, University of Ulster.

The UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre hosted a forum on Children's Rights where the keynote address: *A New Era in Child Protection* was delivered by Frances Fitzgerald, TD and Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. The Forum was moderated by Carl O'Brien, Chief Reporter at *The Irish Times* and the Minister also launched a new book by Professor Pat Dolan and Bernardine Brady of the Child and Family Research Centre *A Guide to Youth Mentoring: Providing Effective Social Support*. The holding of a referendum in relation to the rights of children under the constitution is one of the key commitments made by the Government in relation to children and young people and is expected to be held in 2012.

## Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland (RAMI), Section of Biomedical Sciences, took place in on campus in June. This annual meeting is the premier Biomedical Science meeting in Ireland and provides a platform to showcase novel biomedical research. The meeting featured a high calibre scientific programme covering biomedical research currently ongoing around Ireland.

## Click & Connect

Last semester students participated in Click & Connect, a scheme to give basic computer training to 400 digitally disadvantaged citizens. Acting as volunteers they lead classes which covered introductory skills to small groups of learners, many of whom were elderly. Many students also supported the learners with one-to-one tutoring, guiding them through their first encounter with computers. Click & Connect is part of the BenfIT scheme, initiated by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and NUI Galway participated in collaboration with Age Action Ireland, Limerick Community Connect and DCU. This initiative was carried out through the discipline of Information Technology.

## Summer School on the International Criminal Court

The Irish Centre for Human Rights recently hosted a summer school on the International Criminal Court which is widely acknowledged to be the premier programme of its kind, attracting participants from around the world. During the five days of intensive lectures, delivered by leading specialist in the field, students are provided with a detailed working knowledge of the establishment of the Court, its applicable law, its structures and its operations. Lectures also speak to related issues in international criminal law, including universal jurisdiction, immunities and the role of the victims.

## Irish Human Computer Interaction Conference

The sixth Irish Human Computer Interaction (iHCI) Conference was held in June. The conference theme 'Poetics of Design, Narratives of Use' focus was on the role that different artefacts, perspectives, methods and tools play in the design of new technologies. 2012 marks the sixth year of the iHCI conference, and the first time it was ever hosted in the west of Ireland. The particular emphasis of this year's conference looked at the broad range of methods used to design, implement and evaluate technology, and to share stories of the design, deployment and evaluation of computing in context.

## Workforce Competencies Focus of Health Promotion Conference

The 16th annual Health Promotion conference took place at on campus recently. The conference entitled, Embracing New Agendas for Health Promotion Action: Developing workforce competencies for effective practice, comprised of plenary lectures, workshops, panel discussions and both poster and oral presentations.

## Synergy Project

The first Annual Synergy Project event was recently hosted on campus and provided a platform for the University's postgraduate research students to present their research in the form of a poster presentation to a wider audience. The event highlighted over 30 postgraduate research projects from across the five Colleges and was attended by over 80 students and staff members.

## Conflict and Peace

The Centre for the Study of Nationalism and Organised Violence (CSNOV) recently hosted seminars entitled 'Talking Peace: A seminar on communication, contact and dialogue aimed at reducing or ending violence in Northern Ireland' and 'Armed Conflict in Comparative Perspective'. The events brought together leading scholars working on aspects of armed conflict from a range of disciplinary perspectives and those on the politics of conflict and peace.

## Shortlist for Best Conference Venue

NUI Galway was one of eight venues shortlisted for the 2012 Best Conference Events Venue in Ireland and the first and only university to feature. Organised by Event Strategies Limited, this award recognises excellence within the event industry, rewarding conference centres that have been outstanding. Applicants are judged across a wide range of criteria including excellence in facilities, innovation, food standards and service, calibre of event management team and customer care.

## Fascinations of Plants Day



Botany and Plant Science, led by Dr Zoe Popper, hosted Ireland's involvement in the first ever international Fascination of Plants Day which was held in May. The Fascination of Plants Day was celebrated by 39 countries worldwide, with the common goal getting people enthused by the importance of plant science.

A photography and art exhibition celebrating 'Our Fascinating Flora' also featured and pictured is the winner of the photography competition category 18+, aliens/naturalised/non-natives taken by Martina Wernecke in Biochemistry.

## EU Project to Develop 'Bioartificial Organ' for the Repair of Spinal Cord Injuries

Scientists at NUI Galway hope to develop a 'bioartificial organ' for the repair of spinal cord injuries. The Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB) is leading an ambitious new €4.2 million European project, which someday may help people living with spinal cord injury. The aim is to create a polymer conduit infused with the stem cells and other supportive factors that will help heal patients with spinal cord injury.

There are approximately 350,000 people living with spinal cord injury (SCI) in Europe today, and current treatment is highly limited. Most clinical effort is concentrated on rehabilitation and vast resources are directed to improving quality of life for these patients.

Professor Abhay Pandit: "We are delighted with the success of this proposal. This funding allows technology developed at NFB to be further developed so that it reaches the patients that have currently no such available treatment. Over the years, we have established strong links with key industries and academic partners throughout Ireland, Europe and further afield that give us the capability to address tissue degenerative conditions or injuries through increasingly sophisticated biomaterial-based platforms, including those previously thought to be untreatable. This success is primarily due to the range of specialist expertise in biomaterials research that has been established under the Strategic Research Cluster programme funded by Science Foundation Ireland."

## Top US Medical Device Leaders in Galway

NUI Galway and Enterprise Ireland recently hosted a Business Symposium on Winning Business in the US Medical Device Market. Industry leaders in attendance included American medical devices giants such as Boston Scientific, Medtronic and Stryker who provided first-hand advice on 'Winning Business in the US Medical Device Market'. Over 80 individual buyer meetings were also organised between the US representatives and the Irish companies in attendance.

In Ireland, the medical technology sector employs over 25,000 people in over 250 companies, with exports of over €7.2 billion per annum which continues to grow year-on-year. With fifty percent of the Irish medical technology company base now

composed by indigenous firms, the importance of the US - the largest medical technology market in the world - is critical to their success.

Dr Emer Mulligan, Head of the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics: "In terms of innovation, research and development, Ireland has a proven pedigree in the med tech sector. However, there are many business aspects to cracking the US market - from procurement, to personnel, to legal issues, regulation and business culture - that must be appreciated. This unique event was organised to provide business insights that will ultimately open doors in the US and enhance the success of Irish companies."



## Selected with Galway Arts Festival

Galway Arts Festival in Partnership with NUI Galway recently launched the SELECTED Programme, a two-week initiative that will allow participants from NUI Galway's MA in Drama and Theatre Studies immerse themselves in all aspects of the Festival from the 16th - 29th July.

*Pictured L-R: Paul Fahy, Galway Arts Festival, Patrick Lonergan, NUI Galway, Kate Mulligan and Kate Costello, Selected participants, Emma Brannlund, Festival Volunteer, Genevieve Tarrico, Selected participant, Lorraine Tansey, Volunteer Coordinator, Neassa O' Callaghan, Selected participant and Shelly Troupe, Selected Facilitator.*

## Focal ón Uachtarán



### A Chairde,

Although the summer has not brought weather that would cheer us, recent weeks have seen some great news for the campus.

Our Engineering Building - officially opened exactly a year ago by An Taoiseach - has been voted Ireland's favorite new building having been voted the Public Choice in this year's Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) Irish Architecture Awards 2012. Designed by Taylor Architects/RMJM, the Engineering Building emerged as the winner from a shortlist of 34 projects. The RIAI received over 12,500 votes for Ireland's favorite new building, over 40 % of which went to NUI Galway's Engineering Building.

### Honorary Conferring



*President Browne, Maureen Dowd and Niall O'Dowd in Castlebar, Co. Mayo.*

Last week's Honorary Conferring too brought national focus on NUI Galway. As you will see from the cover of Ollsceála, this year's honorary graduates were an illustrious group and two of the honorees took part in public events associated with their visit to NUI Galway. On 25 June Maureen Dowd gave a Public Interview to Irish-American journalist, Niall O'Dowd at the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, followed by a civic reception hosted by Mayo County Council which over 100 alumni and friends attended.

On Thursday 28 June, the Canadian Finance Minister, The Honourable James Flaherty PC, MP joined Irish Finance Minister, Michael Noonan TD and economists Dr Alan Ahearne and Professor John McHale at a forum on the international financial

crisis. Their insights, on the days surrounding the major EU summit were significant and attracted national and international media.



*Minister Noonan, President Browne and Minister Flaherty.*

### Global Links

Since the last edition of Ollsceála I have had an opportunity to represent NUI Galway internationally on a number of occasions. From Silicon Valley to Chicago, Washington and New York to London, I have met graduates who express their pride in their alma mater and its continuing development.

In March I was especially pleased to visit China as part of the Taoiseach-led Enterprise Ireland Trade and Investment Mission to Shanghai and Beijing. As part of the mission, NUI Galway announced formal research collaborations between Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI) and Shanghai Jiao Tong University as well as with Fourth Medical Military University Hospital in Xi'an. The agreements will see REMEDI work closely with both Chinese partners in a number of research areas and will facilitate student and researcher exchange between Galway and China.



*Pictured in China where NUI Galway announced collaborations with both Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the Fourth Medical Military University Hospital in Xi'an as part of the Trade and Investment Mission to Shanghai and Beijing (back row, l-r): Professor Lin He, Director of Bio-X Institutes; An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD; Minister Richard Bruton TD; Professor Sanbing Shen, REMEDI; Frank Ryan, Enterprise Ireland. Front: President Browne and President Wei Cai, Shanghai Jiao Tong University.*

While there I also hosted a reception for China-based alumni many of whom also attended a reception with An Taoiseach in the Irish Embassy.

### Festival Time

As Galway's Festival season continues, our recent partnerships with Druid Theatre, Galway Arts Festival and Volvo Ocean Race continue to position the University in innovative ways before new audiences globally.

Druid Theatre's presentation of *DruidMurphy* to national and international audiences (London, United States) over the coming months serves to highlight our academic strengths in the area of drama and theatre studies.

Our partnership with Galway Arts Festival centres on our contribution to the volunteering element of the Festival and the SELECTED programme. SELECTED is an internship programme which offers theatre and performance students a unique insight into festival production. This year we will provide double the number of internship places (from 5 in 2011 to 10 in 2012). The partnership will also support the development of the creative arts in this region.

As education partner of Volvo Ocean Race Galway (see page 3), the University brought considerable experience in the field of volunteering and community engagement to support the overall festival. Our pavilion at the Race Village showcased research and teaching programmes to thousands of visitors to the Festival.

I would like to thank all those from all areas of the University who have worked with the Volvo Ocean Race team to position NUI Galway in such a positive way.

This final edition of Ollsceála for the academic year highlights the tremendous range of activity at NUI Galway. Our University is at the heart of national life, we seek to continuously build on this reputation adding to the scholarship, creativity and innovation of our world. In these challenging times I continue to be impressed by the commitment and endeavour of our University community. I thank you for your contribution and wish you an enjoyable summer.

Beir bua agus beannacht,  
**James J. Browne PhD, DSc, MRIA, C.Eng**  
Uachtarán – President

## Student Awards

### Winners of 2012 Sports Awards

Brent Pope, rugby analyst with RTÉ, recently presented the 2012 Sports Awards at a special ceremony in the Aula Maxima. This event is the highpoint of the University sporting year, and celebrates the achievements of NUI Galway sporting heroes during the past year. The awards recognise sporting performance and participation as well as acknowledging students who have excelled in the leadership and co-ordination of their sports clubs.



*Pictured are the 2012 Sports Award Winners with Brent Pope (front row), Kathy Hynes, Development Officer, Clubs & Participation, and Vice President for Student Experience Pat Morgan.*

### American Students Selected as Ambassadors

Siobhan Allaeddini (Arts) and Siobhan Keenan (Commerce) have been selected as Student Ambassadors for NUI Galway. A new initiative by Education in Ireland, the Student Ambassador Programme is aimed at raising awareness of the quality of Irish degree and Study Abroad programmes, while also assisting and encouraging interested students as they embark on their applications.

### Students Selected for Washington Ireland Program 2012

Two NUI Galway students, Annita Brady (Postgraduate Diploma in Education) and John Campion (Medicine), are among a select group of 30 candidates chosen to participate in the 2012 Washington Ireland Program (WIP). Each

year, the successful candidates, who have shown a commitment to service and a track record of leadership, take part in an eight-week internship program in Washington DC. The programme aims to help the students to develop skills through work experience, educational opportunity, and hands-on citizenship both at home and in the US.

### Outstanding Young Persons of Ireland Award

NUI Galway student Eve-Marie Costello has been awarded The Outstanding Young Person of Ireland award from Junior Chamber International (JCI), and has been put forward as a candidate for the Outstanding Young Persons of the World title, which will be announced in Taiwan later this year. Originally from Ballyglunin, Athenry, Co. Galway, Eva Marie is a third-year Science student at the University and was nominated in recognition of her significant achievement in the area of contribution to children, world peace and human rights.

### 'CodeNinjas' Unmasked in App Competition for Galway Student Developers

The winners of CodeNinja, the app development competition for Galway students were announced recently. First prize in the individual category went to GMIT Cathal Mac Donnacha creator of 'iSpeak'. NUI Galway scooped first prize in the group category for 'What's the Score', created by students Mike Rockall and Con Crowley. The competition was designed by local businesses and academics to train and encourage students to be creative in the cultivation of their own tech ideas. Individuals and groups were encouraged to build web and mobile applications, and were given a number of tutorials and workshops along the way.

### Smart Conferencing Technology Wins at SU's Enterprise Awards

Niall O'Connor, an MSc student in Enterprise Systems scooped the top prize of €10,000 at the NUI Galway Student Enterprise Awards held

recently for his Smart conferencing technology package SonorPlex. The creator of SonorPlex was presented with his prize by Dragon's Den star Bobby Kerr, President Browne and Students' Union President, Emmet Connolly.

### 'Think Outside the Box' Awards

A team of first year engineering students has been named 'College Entrepreneur of the Year 2012'. The students won the prestigious top prize of €10,000 at this year's Enterprise Ireland Think Outside the Box Awards, with their project DRS.ie which stands for Drag Reduction Systems. The team has invented a drag reduction device which can reduce the drag between a truck and its container load so significantly that it will reduce fuel consumption of the truck by 8%. The team included students Justin Conboy, Dearbhaile Forde and Garrett Archbold.

### Journalism Awards



The Fifth Annual Donna Ferguson Memorial Award and the Connacht Tribune Medal were recently presented to the top achieving students in the MA Journalism class of 2011. Carla O'Brien received the Donna Ferguson Award for achieving the highest mark in the broadcasting module of the MA programme. The Connacht Tribune Medal was presented to Lisa Jackson who achieved the highest overall mark in the MA in Journalism. The awards were presented by RTÉ news broadcaster and NUI Galway graduate Seán O'Rourke.

## Research News

### Clinical Trial Targets Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome with Cholesterol Drug

NUI Galway and Queen's University Belfast are leading a clinical trial to investigate the possibility that statins, a drug commonly used to combat cholesterol, might help patients with acute severe respiratory failure. Some 150 patients have been recruited into the trial, which is being run in collaboration with the Irish Critical Care Trials Group, across multiple intensive care units on the island of Ireland, and in England and Scotland, with a target number of 540 patients. The trial involves both Professor Frank Giles and Professor John Laffey from the University.

### WHO Report Reveals Teenagers Do Not Get a Fair Deal on Health

Widespread inequalities mean that many young people in the WHO European Region and North America are not as healthy as they could be, according to a new report on the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study. The HBSC Ireland study is based in the Health Promotion Research Centre at NUI Galway. The HBSC report shows that addressing the social determinants of health inequalities in childhood and adolescence can enable young people to maximise their health and well-being, ensuring that these inequalities do not extend into adulthood, with all the potential negative consequences for individuals and society. See [www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc](http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc)

### Antarctic Octopus Points to New Evidence of Ice-Sheet Collapse

Scientists have found that genetic information on the Antarctic octopus supports studies indicating that the West Antarctic Ice Sheet could have collapsed during its history, possibly as recently as 200,000 years ago.

The team, which included scientists Dr Louise Allcock from the Ryan Institute, Liverpool University and La Trobe University in Australia, found that the octopuses from Ross and Weddell Seas, which are now separated by the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, are genetically almost identical.

This finding suggests that these two regions may have once been connected and may contribute to recent studies demonstrating the potential impact that increasing global temperatures could have on the changing Antarctica environment. The research has been published in the prestigious journal *Molecular Ecology*.

### Irish and Korean Web Science Experts Sign Collaboration Agreement

A collaborative research agreement has been signed between the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) and the Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information (KISTI). The agreement will generate close collaborations between researchers at both institutes and is expected to lead to a number of funded projects. Work is already underway on a joint project in the area of semantic data integration and application.

### Brain Freeze Find Might Help Solve Migraine Mysteries

Scientists have explained why eating ice cream too quickly can cause a painful headache, commonly known as brain freeze. It is hoped the discovery can be used to develop new treatments for migraine.

In experiments carried by researchers at Harvard Medical School and NUI Galway, a team of 13 healthy volunteers deliberately induced the brain freeze so the headache effects associated with it could be studied. It was found that the headache pain was brought on by a rapid increase in blood flow through a major blood vessel in the brain, the anterior cerebral artery. The ache subsided again once blood flow was restricted.

The experimental work, led by Professor Jorge Serrador and carried out at the Cardiovascular Electronics Laboratory in the School of Engineering & Informatics, enabled brain blood flow to be measured during the controlled onset and offset of a headache. The controlled 'production' of a headache was achieved by the volunteers drinking iced water. Using this technique, the researchers were able to study a headache from beginning to end, without the need for drugs that would mask the causes and symptoms of the pain.

### Lifestyle Survey Says Environmental Attitudes Hit Home

There has been a marked improvement in environmental awareness in Ireland over the past decade, reveals the ConsEnSus Lifestyle Survey published by NUI Galway and funded under the EPA's STRIVE Research programme. The same survey reported that approximately one fifth of all survey respondents had changed their energy supplier to a renewable energy supplier in the past five years and a large percentage (almost 70%) of respondents stated that the re-introduction of water charges would lead to a change in water usage. The ConsEnSus Lifestyle Survey was carried out by researchers in the School of Geography and Archaeology and can be viewed at: [www.nuigalway.ie/research/consensus/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/research/consensus/)

### Experts Gather to Plan for 'Gold Rush' to the Bottom of the Ocean

Researchers at the Ryan Institute are at the centre of conservation efforts in relation to mining for precious minerals at the depths of our oceans. In this new 'gold rush', the ecological assessment of the effects of mining operations will be key to sustainably exploiting resources at these very important habitats, according to organisers of a major workshop hosted in April by Patrick Collins and Dr Bob Kennedy. More information at [www.ventbase.org](http://www.ventbase.org)

### Rise in Sea Levels and Temperature Predicted for Irish Sea

The Irish Sea will experience a rise in sea levels of almost half a metre and significant changes in temperature according to new research published today by engineers at the Ryan Institute.

The research suggests that by the end of the century the Irish Sea will be warmer with sea surface temperature increases of around 1.9 C. Such temperature increases may have significant impact on physical and transport processes within the Irish Sea, as well as implications for ecosystems and fishing. Researchers used the latest three-dimensional hydrodynamic modelling technologies to compute future changes.

# OLLSCÉALA

## Family Focus at Spring Open Day



Lecturer in Medical Education and Clinical Methods, Dr Kieran Kennedy, demonstrating the Simulation Man to Anne Sheehan from Limerick.

Over 3,000 prospective students and their parents from across Ireland attended the Spring Open Day on Saturday, 28 April. Tailored towards Leaving Certificate and mature students interested in studying at NUI Galway, the Open Day gives the opportunity for students, along with their parents and families, to sample university life.

## Irish Cancer Society Researcher of the Year Award

NUI Galway breast cancer researcher in the Discipline of Surgery, Dr Róisín Dwyer, was announced the first 'Irish Cancer Society Researcher of the Year'. Dr Dwyer scooped the top prize out of three shortlisted candidates for her research that investigated the potential of adult stem cells as vehicles for targeted delivery of therapeutic agents to breast tumours, which aims to significantly reduce tumour growth.

Dr Dwyer, with the support of the National Breast Cancer Research Institute (NBCRI), was chosen as the winner for her outstanding research entitled, 'Adult Stem Cells: Have Tumour? Will Travel' which used Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSCs) or adult stem cells that play an important role in wound healing and tissue generation, to deliver anti-cancer drugs directly to tumours. The study which tracked the migration of the MSCs and used them to activate tumour-killing drugs, resulted in a significant reduction in tumour growth, with no negative side effects observed. The ability to track MSC migration non-invasively before therapy is a major advantage to this novel approach for breast cancer therapy.

## PhD Conferring Ceremony



Over 50 students were recognised by the University at a special ceremony in March when they were conferred with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). The Summer Conferring in June also conferred over 200 students, including 46 PhD students.

## RTÉ's Siún Nic Gearailt Launches New Media Course



Pictured is Dr Seathrún Ó Tuairg and Siún Nic Gearailt.

Is í an phearsa teilifíse agus léitheoir nuachta RTÉ, Siún Nic Gearailt, a sheol an cúrsa nua MA sa Chumarsáid ag ócáid san Ollscoil le déanaí. Cúrsa lánaimseartha bliana is ea an MA sa Chumarsáid ina leagtar béim ar obair phraiticiúil i réimse leathan ábhar a bhaineann leis an gcráoltóireacht raidió agus teilifíse, leis an iriseoireacht, agus leis an aisteoireacht don scáileán. Is é an chéad chúrsa MA dá chineál atá á thairiscint go hiomlán trí mheán na Gaeilge. Tá an cúrsa seo á thairiscint ag Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge agus beidh sé lonnaithe in Ionad an Acadaimh ar an gCeathrú Rua. Déannann na mic léinn speisialtóireacht le linn an chúrsa i gceann de na réimsí seo leanas: staidéar na físe, iriseoireacht fheidhmeach, na meáin dhigiteacha agus drámaíocht sna meáin.

Television broadcaster and RTÉ newsreader, Siún Nic Gearailt, recently launched a new MA in Communications (MA sa Chumarsáid). The one-year MA course, the first of its kind to be offered entirely through the medium of Irish, emphasises practical tuition from radio and television production to presenting, journalism, and acting. The course is offered by Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta in An Cheathrú Rua. Students specialise in one of four streams: visual studies, applied journalism, digital media or acting for the screen.

## In Brief

### Students Engage in Innovation, Creativity and Enterprise

For the third consecutive year the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics partnered with local businesses to provide students with the opportunity to learn real-life business through an 'Innovation, Creativity and Enterprise' (ICE) initiative. ICE is a module available to all final year students of Commerce and Business Information Systems programmes. As part of their final year of studies, over 400 students are given the opportunity to innovate in all aspects of business and community enterprise with the support of 30 mentors from local business and community leaders. The students engage in group-based projects requiring them to devise a unique enterprising idea. Each of the mentors are assigned a project group and in turn required to advise the students with the development of each idea.

### Summer Schools for Second Level Students

NUI Galway is offering secondary school students the choice of four separate Summer Schools in May and June, across the disciplines of Nursing, Computing, Engineering and Science. Aimed at students in transition, fifth and sixth year, the summer schools are specially designed to give interested students a real taste of University life through a wide range of hands-on practical and interactive activities.

### German Summer School for Children

NUI Galway is offering free German courses for children this summer. This new initiative combines learning and pleasure, giving children the opportunity to encounter German language and culture while having fun.

### EXPLORE

The EXPLORE Innovation initiative has gone from strength to strength with 95 students and staff now collaborating on 18 projects. EXPLORE is re-opening for applications in August 2012 – please consider applying and do spread the word to colleagues and students! To apply for funding of up to €1,000, and find out more about current projects visit [www.su.nuigalway.ie/explore](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie/explore) or email [amber.walsholesen@nuigalway.ie](mailto:amber.walsholesen@nuigalway.ie)

### Gradam Náisiúnta Buaithe ag Ionad an Acadaimh i gCarna

Bronnadh Gradam Náisiúnta na Gaeilge ar an gCainéal iTunes U-GOGG (An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta) ag searmanas i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath le gairid. Is ar champas Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge i gCarna a rinneadh an obair fhorbartha agus is í COGG a rinne maoiniú ar an tionscadal. Toradh é ar chomhpháirtíocht idir COGG agus Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, OÉ Gaillimh.

### NUI Galway Academic Leads International Travel Medicine Conference

Dr Gerard Flaherty, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Medicine and Medical Education has been elected as President of the Travel Medicine Society of Ireland during the 4th Northern European Conference on Travel Medicine (NECTM). Dr Flaherty has served on the Executive Council of the Society since 2007. During that time he was appointed as a Fellow of the Faculty of Travel Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow where he serves on the Faculty Board. He is also a member of the editorial board of the journal Travel Medicine and Infectious Diseases in the UK.

### Visit to Chilean Embassy

A group of students and staff were delighted to accept an invitation to visit the Chilean Embassy recently to meet the Consul, Cristian Oschilewski. Among the group who travelled to the Embassy were students of the BA with Latin American Studies who are preparing to spend a period studying in Chile as part of a new exchange programme with the Catholic Universities of Santiago and Valparaiso. They were accompanied by the programme director, Dr Kate Quinn, and by Professor Bill Richardson. Also present in the group were two PhD students who are researching on Chilean literature. Consul Oschilewski expressed his delight at this new bilateral exchange agreement and chatted with each of the students about their study and research plans.

### PhD Guide

The University recently launched a PhD Viva Guide - A Springboard for your PhD Viva Preparation. This guide was written by Dr Ann Torres in consultation with CELT and the former Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr Pat Morgan. This guide aims to support PhD students in preparing for their oral examination, taking into consideration best practice internationally and the University Guidelines for Research Degree Programmes. The motivation for developing such a resource is the recognition that PhD candidates need to understand what is involved in the Viva process and to “demystify the process” by compiling useful advice for PhD candidates.

### Student Awards *continued*

#### Societies Excel at National Awards

NUI Galway's societies were awarded four national awards at the at this years' Board of Irish College Societies (BICS) National Society Awards. Over 300 students from 17 third-level colleges from across Ireland came together to celebrate the achievements of students. NUI Galway was awarded more prizes than any other college in attendance. The Feminist Society was awarded the best Civic Contribution; Best Society Individual was won by Lily McGarry as conductor of the Choral society; Best Society Fresher in Ireland went to Christopher Moran for his contribution to Dramsoc, Musical Society and the Writers Society; Best Poster was presented to Dramsoc for their poster for the Hamlet production.

#### Engineers Sweep the Board

First-year engineering students, under the lead of lecturer Mary Dempsey, have also won the top three prizes in the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport Ireland Student Idea of the Year Awards recently. The awards are presented to the originators of the most innovative ideas which could make the most significant contribution to some aspect of the transport industry in Ireland.

# OLLSCÉALA

## A University Experience for 10-year-olds



Kara Mc Kenna, (11), Ruth Mc Nulty, (11) and Emily Naughton, (11) from Scoil Íde, Salthill receiving certificates on completion of the Youth Academy.

62 primary school children from across Galway City and County successfully completed the Youth Academy on campus in June. A number of courses were on offer to the students: Italian language and culture; Philosophical discovery; Psychology- Who we are, how we think and what we do; and Engineering- Structural, environmental and climate studies.

The Youth Academy aims to work with high ability primary school children in the local community to support their learning and academic development. The programme aims to inspire entry into University by introducing children and their families to University life

and by creating positive perceptions of the University and its' academic programmes.

The Youth Academy is a collaboration between Mary Dempsey, School of Engineering & Informatics, Dr Caroline Heary, School of Psychology, and Lorraine McIlrath, Community Knowledge Initiative, along with Dr Colm O' Reilly, Centre for Talented Youth Ireland, DCU.

The pilot project was successful in receiving funding from the Bright Ideas Initiative and was launched by the Vice-President for Performance and Innovation, Professor Chris Curtin.

## Interactive eLearning Programme Designed to Promote Equality in the University Sector



Pictured is Chris McNairney, Director HR & Organisational Behaviour, Aoife Cooke, HR Manager, Renee Dempsey, CEO Equality Authority.

A new interactive Equality and Diversity eLearning programme (LEAD) will allow staff in the university sector to consider their role in building an inclusive environment. The LEAD programme was launched by Minister Fergus O'Dowd recently at a joint Irish Universities Association (IUA) Equality Network and Equality Authority event supported by the Workplace Diversity Initiative led by the Department of Justice and Equality.

Developed by six of the Irish Universities Equality Network member institutions, TCD, DCU, NUI Galway, UCC, UCD and UL, in conjunction with Aurion Learning, the aim of the LEAD project is to introduce a tailored eLearning programme covering all nine grounds of discrimination under Irish Equality Legislation as part of a blended approach to generating mainstream staff engagement with equality and diversity issues in the workplace.

Delivered online, one of the key elements of the LEAD programme is the development of tailored content that addresses issues unique to the third level sector. The LEAD programme was part funded by the Equality Authority Equality Mainstreaming Unit and by each of the six participating Universities. Recently LEAD was awarded Outstanding Achievement in the category of Most Innovative Use of Technology at the IITD National Training Awards.

## 25 Years Service



Pictured at a special reception to honour 25 years service to the University from left: Dr Gerry Morgan, Mr Michael Shields, Ms Ann Smyth, Dr Peter Corcoran, Ms Laura Moran, President Browne, Ms Debbie Monroe, Mr Gerry Reilly and Mr PJ Walsh.

## BioInnovate Ireland Announce New Fellows



*Pictured are BioInnovate Fellows 2012/13: (L-R) Kiel McCool, Ashwin Kher, Caroline Gaynor, David Brody, Sarah Loughrey, Michael Morrissey, Christopher McBrearty, Conor Harkin.*

Launched last year, BioInnovate Ireland is a specialist training and collaboration programme in medical device innovation. It is modelled on Stanford University's prestigious Biodesign Programme.

At the recent BioInnovate Ireland Symposium the 2012/13 Fellows were announced. The symposium also heard a keynote address by Stanford University's Professor Jack Linehan, a leading expert in the US on innovation and the

biomedical sector. In his address Professor Linehan said: "BioInnovate is already serving as an effective connector between universities (faculty and students) and indigenous and global medical device companies in Ireland. Universities are neutral grounds for business, clinical and academic players to meet and share ideas. I fully expect these connections to grow and flourish following in the steps of the successful Stanford Biodesign programme."

## Italian Ambassador Launches First Online Diploma in Italian in Ireland



*From left to right: The Honorary Consul of Italy, Dr Fabio Bartolozzi; President Browne; His Excellency, the Ambassador of Italy, Dr Maurizio Zanini; and Professor Paolo Bartoloni, Head of Italian.*

His Excellency, the Ambassador of Italy, Dr Maurizio Zanini, recently launched a new online Diploma in Italian at NUI Galway, the first university in Ireland to launch such a programme. Run by the Discipline of Italian Studies, the new course will commence in September and is open to students all over the world.

Speaking at the launch, Ambassador Zanini, highlighted the importance of thinking of Europe as the coming together of multiple cultures and languages, "Studying Italian will enhance the

knowledge and understanding of Europe as a whole, and will make individuals more competent European citizens."

The online course has been designed and developed by Dr Laura McLoughlin and recently graduated PhD student Dr Silvia Bernabei. Dr McLoughlin is the winner of prestigious European Awards for innovation in the teaching of languages, and has a particular expertise in the area of technology enhanced pedagogical approaches.

## New Course for Teachers of Maths

Minister of State for Research and Innovation, Seán Sherlock, TD, recently launched the Professional Diploma in Mathematics for Teaching, which is aimed at 'out-of-field' teachers of maths.

The programme is aimed at improving the skills of maths teachers at post-primary level. It covers mathematical content and knowledge, and teaching and learning strategies/approaches relevant to the Project Maths syllabi, which are being rolled out in schools.

Under the NUI Galway-UL Strategic Alliance, a team from the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Mathematics and School of Education, NUI Galway has worked closely with the National Centre for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and Learning (NCE-MSTL, UL) to develop the new professional mathematics education programme.

Speaking of the announcement, Dr Tony Hall, School of Education, said: "This new programme constitutes a significant and historic development in the enhancement of post-primary mathematics in Irish education. The principal focus of this unique new course is to enhance teachers' mathematical content knowledge and their understanding of the subject of mathematics."

Jointly accredited and designed by NUI Galway and UL, the programme will be delivered nationwide, free of charge through a national consortium of higher education institutions and the Association of Teacher Education Centres in Ireland.

## Excellence Scholarships

A new scholarship scheme for Leaving Certificate students has been launched by NUI Galway. All students who achieve at least 560 points in their Leaving Certificate, and go onto study at the University this autumn, will benefit from an automatic €2,000 scholarship. The only exception being Medical students, for whom the qualification criteria differ slightly.

The 'Excellence Scholarships' are designed to recognise and reward Leaving Cert success for the highest-achieving students, and encourage their ongoing commitment to academic excellence during their time at the University. There is no need to apply for the scholarships, as the new undergraduate students who have met the Leaving Cert points criteria for the Excellence Scholarships will be automatically contacted once they enrol at the University.

## Young Scientific Researchers Part of Government's €12.3 million announcement

In a further drive to progress Ireland's science research agenda, Minister for Research and Innovation, Mr Séan Sherlock TD, recently announced Government funding of €12.3 million for early-career scientific researchers to carry out pioneering work in Ireland.

Administered through the Government's science agency, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), the 'Starting Investigator Research Grant' (SIRG) programme will support a total of 22 researchers, with three of those based at NUI Galway. Each SIRG award also encompasses funding for a postgraduate student who will provide an additional layer of support and facilitation towards excellence. The three award winners from NUI Galway are:

*Dr Manus Biggs* works with Network for Functional Biomaterials, and his research focuses on engineering neuroelectrodes for deep brain stimulation through biomimetic conducting polymers.

*Dr Cindy Smith* works with the Ryan Institute and her research focuses on the molecular microbial ecology of ammonia oxidation in coastal bay sediments.

*Dr Martin O'Halloran* is a postdoctoral researcher and adjunct lecturer with Electrical and Electronic Engineering and his research work involves microwave imaging for the detection and classification of early-stage breast cancer.

## Award-Winning Technology Could Help Enhance Road Safety for Pedestrians

New technology being developed in NUI Galway could help enhance pedestrian safety by allowing them to be 'seen' by cars – thus avoiding collisions and saving lives.

Anthony Winterlich has been awarded a Gold Medal at the Young European Arena of Research 2012 competition by the EU Commission for his work on systems for pedestrian identification, a key challenge to enhance road safety. The award was presented at the Transport Research Arena (TRA) conference which is taking place this week in Athens.

The competition, supported by the European Union, provides visibility to promising young researchers specialising in surface transport (road, rail, waterborne). Anthony carries out his work with the Connaught Automotive Research (CAR) Group ([www.car.nuigalway.ie](http://www.car.nuigalway.ie)) in the College of Engineering and Informatics, which is focused on pursuing research in several areas of driver assistance and communications in the automotive environment. This research builds on several years of existing research within the CAR Group in the area of automotive vision systems development, much of it sponsored by Valeo Vision Systems in Tuam, Co. Galway, a world leader in this area.

## US Government Joins the Dots with Irish 'Linked Data' Technologies

Agencies in the US Government have adopted a set of web tools and standards developed in Ireland by researchers at Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI).

DERI's technologies are being utilised by Data.gov, a portal developed to bring an unprecedented level of transparency to the US Government. DERI's research, which is funded by Science Foundation Ireland, focuses on

enabling networked knowledge, using the latest Semantic Web and Linked Data technologies. Its technologies allow related data that was not previously linked to be connected together, so that a person or computer can see the bigger picture through interlinked datasets. Data.gov allows the linking of open government data from agency publishers to contributions from other public and private organisations.

## National Win for MBA Team



Winning team Mike Parkinson, Myles McHugh, Suzanne Ryan, Ashwin Kher, Roger Sweetman.

The NUI Galway Executive MBA team is the proud winner of the MBA Association of Ireland National Strategy Competition 2012 held in Dublin recently. The win follows NUI Galway's success in 2010, when it last entered the competition.

"This excellent achievement is testament to the quality of teaching on the programme and I would like to congratulate all involved in teaching the 2010-2012 MBA class" said Dr Emer Mulligan, Head of School.

The competition required the team to prepare a strategic analysis and presentation on a Harvard Business Case (eBay, Inc and Amazon.com) over four hours and then present to a panel of judges.

Commenting on the win Dr Alma McCarthy, MBA Programme Director said: "The NUI Galway Executive MBA curriculum has a very strong focus on strategy and prepares students to excel as business and strategy analysts. Winning the MBA National Strategy Forum Competition 2012 reinforces the excellent teaching and learning standards provided to students on our programme."

## 'NUIG Weather'

Local Galway City weather data (current and archived) is now available on your smartphone via an android app. The app arose from a collaboration between the Disciplines of Information Technology and Civil Engineering. The weather data is provided by the IRUSE research group led by Dr Marcus Keane. The app development was carried out by Ronal Everiss, a former BSc(IT) graduate under supervision of Dr Hugh Melvin. The app is free and can be found by searching 'NUIG Weather' on Android app store. The weather data is also available via web browser from <http://weather.nuigalway.ie>

## NUI Galway Crew First in their Class in 2012 Round Ireland Yacht Race



A crew of ten NUI Galway students and graduates finished sixth place in the overall standings, and first in their class, in the 2012 Round Ireland Yacht Race. The team, one of the youngest to compete in the competition, was the second Irish boat to cross the finishing line in their 38-ft racing yacht which they chartered especially for the race. The Round Ireland Yacht Race is a 1400km non-stop circumnavigation of Ireland by sea and is held every two years. The NUI Galway crew completed the race in 5 days, 2 hours and 6 minutes.

NUI Galway crew skipper and current MA student in Earth and Ocean Sciences, Cathal Clarke said: "I am delighted that we have come away with a result that reflects the effort put in by the whole crew in training, preparation and during the race. On behalf of the crew I would

express gratitude both to the University and the wider community for the enthusiasm and strong support we have received; it has made the whole campaign possible."

Pat Morgan, Vice-President for the Student Experience at NUI Galway, said: "We are hugely proud of the NUI Galway crew. The determination and drive of this crew is to be admired, especially given that they are one of the youngest crews to participate in the race. They have worked very hard and displayed incredible determination and dedication over recent months in their preparation for the race. The University actively promotes leadership and team building skills and is delighted to support this crew to further develop these attributes as they compete in the Round Ireland Race. We congratulate them on this great success."

## NUI Galway Medical Student brings Heart Health to fingertips with New App!

A unique collaboration between the heart and stroke charity Croí and a fourth year medical student has resulted in the novel use of mobile phone technology and medicine to bring heart health education literally to our fingertips. Mike McNamara, a fourth year medical student has developed two new Apps which have just been launched on the App Store.

**Croí FoodWise** is a user friendly app which uses a novel traffic light system to inform people on their food shopping choices. Users simply compare the information on the food label with the values assigned to the colours red (unhealthy choice), amber and green (healthy choice).

**Croí HeartWise** empowers individuals as they attempt to make healthy lifestyle choices. The user can calculate their "Heart Age" by inputting simple information about themselves. They can track their dietary and alcohol consumption patterns and monitor their smoking habits, including how much money they would save if they quit. A detailed physical activity tracker ensures that the user meets the recommended weekly levels of exercise and they can also monitor their goals by observing their progress around a virtual running track.

The Apps are free to download from the App store onto the iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch devices and they will be updated regularly. Since their release, the Apps have been downloaded by users in over 25 countries and Croí HeartWise has already achieved a five star rating in the App store.

## Words and their Meaning



'Pith' by Nerina Burke



'Pulse' by Marina Wild

Words and their Meanings, an exhibition which is an EXPLORE staff-student collaboration project, took place Library Foyer in June.

Exploring the role of language in an increasingly visual culture, the exhibition draws attention to the importance of words and to the fact that their meanings are historically and culturally conditioned. Working with the Academic Writing Centre, university artists represented in this exhibition (staff, students, and alumni) created a visual commentary on the etymological origins and the changing meanings of various words. The exhibition returns to the Library in September.

## European Research Project to Restore Blood Vessels

A consortium led by the NFB has secured €3.7 million to fund research into a medical condition called ischemia. The condition occurs when blood supply to a tissue is limited, an example being ischemic heart disease, the most common cause of death in the western world, from which 16 million European adults currently suffer. The funding award has been made through the EU-FP7 grant programme under the Marie Curie Initial Training Network, the official project title is 'Development of Biomaterial-based Delivery Systems for Ischemic Conditions - An Integrated Pan-European Approach'.

## NUI Galway Lights up Blue for World Autism Awareness Day



The Quadrangle recently turned blue for 24 hours to mark World Autism Awareness Day on Monday, 2 April. Lights were turned on as part of the Autism Speaks campaign 'Light it Up Blue' which works with a range of partners to light up major global landmarks in order to draw attention to the issue of autism.

The Irish Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Research (ICAN) at NUI Galway was officially opened by President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins in February. Through scientific research, education and services to the community, ICAN is dedicated to ensuring improvements for individuals with autism and their families.

## NUI Galway Fulbright Recipients 2012-2013



A record number of 37 Irish Fulbright Awards were officially announced recently at an event at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin. The awards are jointly funded by the Irish and US governments under the Ireland-United States (Fulbright) Commission for Educational Exchange. Fulbright scholarships have provided Irish students, scholars and professionals with the opportunity to study, lecture and research at top universities and institutions in the U.S. since 1957. The next Fulbright Awards Competition 2013-2014 will open to applicants on 27 August 2012. For more information visit [www.fulbright.ie](http://www.fulbright.ie).

*Pictured l-r: Gearóid Ó Duinn and Dr Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, School of Geography and Archaeology; Ms Colleen Dube, Executive Director, Fulbright Commission (NUI Galway Alum); Mary McPartlan, Academic coordinator and Director of Arts in Action at the College of Arts Social Sciences and Celtic Studies; and Dr Stephen Hynes, a Fulbright-Schuman Awardee, J.E Cairnes School of Business & Economics and head of the Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMRU).*

## Adult Education Reunion at Áras an Uachtaráin



NUI Galway has been actively involved in Adult Education across its region since 1969. Its first three Diploma courses in the area of Social Action were held at Carrick-on-Shannon, Roscommon and Sligo in October 1969. Key subjects for study on the Diploma were Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Public Administration, Business

Organisation and Management. In the Roscommon course where Michael D. Higgins had particular course responsibilities, 33 students received their diplomas at a graduation ceremony in the University in September 1971.

Terry Leydon, now a member of Seanad Éireann, was one of the graduates of that Roscommon

Diploma class. To mark 40 years since completion of the course, he recently arranged a Reunion of class members and their representatives, hosted by President Michael D. and Mrs. Sabina Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin.

President Higgins addressed the assembly and recalled many of his experiences and memories of travelling to outreach classes throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

The picture shows President Higgins with graduates of the 1971 class along with recently retired Director of Adult Education, Seamus O'Grady and Acting, Director of Adult Education, Nuala McGuinn at the Reunion in Áras an Uachtaráin.