



GALA 2013 Celebrates Alumni



(Back row l-r): Hugh O'Donnell, Seamus Kavanagh, Dr Jim Browne, Adrian Jones, Seán O'Rourke
(Front row l-r): Mary E. D'Alton MD, An Tánaiste, Eamon Gilmore TD, and Joyce McGreevy

OLLSCÉALA

A celebration of the achievements of NUI Galway's alumni took place in the Bailey Allen Hall on March 9th with special guest An Tánaiste, Eamon Gilmore TD. Over 450 people gathered for the 13th Annual Gala Banquet, a glamorous occasion hosted by MC on the night Gráinne Seoige. Among the guests were alumni, staff, students and friends of the University.

The feature of the night was the presentation of the Annual Alumni Awards to: Mary E. D'Alton, MD, Willard C. Rappleye Professor and Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons, who received the award for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences sponsored by Medtronic; Adrian Jones, Managing Director, Principal Investment Area, Merchant Banking Division, Goldman Sachs, who received the Award for Business, Public Policy and Law sponsored by Bank of Ireland; Seamus Kavanagh, Vice-President

Global Innovation and Technology Development, Hollister Incorporated, who received the award for Science sponsored by Aramark; Joyce McGreevy, Author and a Supervising Editor for the Academic Division of *National Geographic*, who received the award for Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies sponsored by AIB; and Hugh O'Donnell, Saipem S.p.A Deputy CEO and COO Drilling, who received the award for Engineering and Informatics sponsored by Bank of Ireland.

Speaking at the event, incoming Chair of the NUI Galway Alumni Association, RTÉ broadcaster Seán O'Rourke remarked: "Is there an institution in the world which surpasses NUI Galway for the affection it holds in the hearts of its alumni? All over the world you will find our graduates making a contribution in great ways and small."

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Focal ón Eagarthóir

Fáilte go heagrán an Earraigh d'Ollscéala.

Cuireann sé áthas orm, mar eagarthóir, an méid a bhain pobal na hOllscoile amach le trí mhí anuas a chur i gcló anseo.

The cover story highlights the recent Alumni Awards and Gala, which celebrated the accomplishments of some of our most distinguished alumni.

The University welcomed a major research funding announcement from SFI (p.3), which will see a significant portion of the €300 million investment being awarded to research centres involving NUI Galway researchers. This is a major endorsement of the University's research strategy and priorities.

Mary Robinson delivered a public interview with Fintan O'Toole and a panel of experts in the fields of Human Rights and Women's Studies (p.5). The event was attended by hundreds of staff and visitors who were enthralled by the former President's passion and conviction.

The MBA Programme celebrated 40 years of success (p.5), while the LL.M. in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy marked the graduation of its inaugural class (p.8).

The University showed further commitment to energy management by securing the ISO50001 standard (p. 11), while the new Student Information Desk was officially launched, a service that is as welcoming as it is colourful (this page).

It is my aim to make Ollscéala representative of the University as a whole. While it is not possible to include every submission, I hope that this issue gives you a flavour of the breadth of our achievements. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh sult as an eagrán seo, agus go bhfeicfidh sibh cé chomh gníomhach is atáimid nuair a thagaimid le chéile. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Slán go fóill,

John Caulfield
Eagarthóir/Editor

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New Vice-President for Research Lays Out His Vision



After two months as the new Vice-President for Research, Professor Lokesh Joshi is clear about his vision for the University. His goal is to firmly place NUI Galway among the top research-led universities in the world.

Our research activity is already drawing global attention, with annual research income in the region of €58 million, over 1500 academic and research staff, and 1,200 postgraduate research students. But Professor Joshi doesn't want us to rest on our laurels. "The next four or five years will be defining for NUI Galway's future trajectory," he argues, "We have the

infrastructure and researchers to perform even better, but we risk losing ground if we do not seriously improve our research performance and increase the number of active researchers in the University."

Professor Joshi joined NUI Galway in 2007 as a Science Foundation Ireland Stokes Professor of Glycoscience and is the Director of the Alimentary Glycoscience Research Cluster. During his time here he has experienced, first-hand, the demands of securing research funding. He is clear about the challenges ahead: "We have to be adaptive to the funding environment and stay relevant to the society and economy."

Despite the tough economic environment, Professor Joshi remains optimistic about NUI Galway's future: "We are moving in the right direction. Together we are building a stronger University." It is this determination to drive research growth in the University that lies at the heart of his vision.

New Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law



NUI Galway welcomes the appointment of Professor Ciarán O'Neill as Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law. Professor O'Neill joined the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics as Professor of Health Technology in 2008, having worked previously in Queen's University Belfast, University of Nottingham and University of Ulster.

He has held various visiting positions including at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica and the University of Michigan's Centre for Gerontology. He has chaired the Northern Ireland Health Economics Group, the Health Economics Association of Ireland and Action Cancer, a leading Northern Ireland-based charity.

Professor O'Neill brings a weight of academic experience to the post, having authored over 75 articles in peer reviewed journals, as well as various reports examining a range of economic issues around healthcare. His current funded research interests include the operation of healthcare systems as well as specific projects in disease areas including cancer, obesity/diabetes and respiratory medicine.

SID launches colourful 'one stop shop'



Máire Bríd Breathnach, Dr Pat Morgan, Dr Kieran Loftus, An tOllamh Nollaig Mac Congáil, Pat Kerr (Architect), Mary Ryan, Mary O'Riordan, and Ann Marie Forde cutting the ribbon in the new look Student Information Desk.

The official launch of the new look Student Information Desk took place recently in Áras Uí Chathail. The fantastic new location and bright interior has made SID more visible on campus and has enabled the SID team to deliver an enhanced service to our students and staff.

Since it opened in September the service has been expanded to cover queries on admissions, registration, exams, lost and found and, significantly, all queries on parking from staff, students and visitors. In total the Student Information Desk is expected to deal with approximately 25,000 queries during the year. SID Manager, Máire Bríd Breathnach, praised the SID team for their hard work during the transition period from the old Student Contact Centre to their new location.

Major SFI Funding Award for NUI Galway Research



Pictured at the SFI announcement were (l-r): Mike Turley, Stefan Decker, both of DERI; Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland; Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; President Browne; Seán Sherlock TD, Minister for Research and Innovation; Professor Pat Fottrell, SFI and former NUI Galway President; Dr Ann Ryan, Professor Michael Hartnett and Dr Conchúr Ó Brádaigh, all of NUI Galway.

In a massive boost to our research profile, NUI Galway featured prominently in a recent funding award led by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI). It is the biggest ever investment in science and technology research by the Irish Government, and includes €200 million from the exchequer with an additional €100 million coming from Irish industry. With NUI Galway participating in three of the seven new SFI Research Centres, it is a significant endorsement of the University's research priorities. Over the next six years the money will be invested in research facilities and staff in three specific areas of expertise.

Big Data and Analytics - INSIGHT

The Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI), along with colleagues from the discipline of IT, will play a leading role in a new 'big data' and analytics centre called INSIGHT. For the last decade DERI has been at the vanguard of web science research and now has 140 researchers based in NUI Galway. With the explosion of internet based information, 'big data' represents a sector with current growth of up to 40% per annum. With 32 industry partners, including CISCO, Avaya and HP in

Galway, INSIGHT will lead the development of breakthrough data analytics technologies to make Ireland a global leader in this rapidly expanding field. As Professor Stefan Decker, Director of DERI explains: "This will have huge impact on the ICT sector in Ireland, in terms of supporting existing industry, attracting foreign direct investment and propelling Ireland onto the world stage in this area."

Marine Renewable Energy - MaREI

The Centre for Marine Renewable Energy Ireland (MaREI), will carry out world-leading research on all aspects of the marine renewable energy sector, while also training the next generation of engineers and scientists for industry. Ireland is one of the best locations in the world in terms of marine renewable energy resources, and this centre will look to generate energy technologies for industry from wave, tidal and floating wind devices. Professor Michael Hartnett, who will be Deputy Director of MaREI, and Dr Conchúr O'Brádaigh will lead teams of researchers investigating tidal energy and the development of novel materials for use in the marine renewable energy industry.

Synthesis and solid State Pharmaceutical Technologies Cluster (SSPC)

NUI Galway will also be part of the Synthesis and solid State Pharmaceutical Technologies Cluster along with its Alliance Partner, the University of Limerick.

Speaking at the funding announcement in Dublin, President Browne said: "The level of investment announced today by SFI in NUI Galway is very significant. We have an ambitious research agenda, which is having a direct effect on job creation, through industry partnerships, spin-outs and innovation. Today's investment is a welcome validation of our research agenda, past and future."

Professor Lokesh Joshi, Vice-President for Research in NUI Galway summed up the wider benefits of the investment: "Whether it's securing Ireland's energy independence through marine renewables or revolutionising the World Wide Web, our research shapes and influences all of our futures. It also has huge potential in terms of job creation and growth."

Eleven Research Projects in Separate €60 million SFI Investment

In an earlier SFI announcement, involving a total of €60 million of research funding, over €6 million was invested in eleven research projects in NUI Galway. The awards represent a significant investment in a wide range of research areas and disciplines in the University, including biomedicine, bioengineering, bioenergy production, chemistry, and commercially valuable seaweeds.

The projects include:

Cornea transplants: Dr Thomas Ritter and his team aim to improve the success of cornea transplantation through novel cell and gene therapeutic approaches.

Synthetic carbohydrate chemistry:

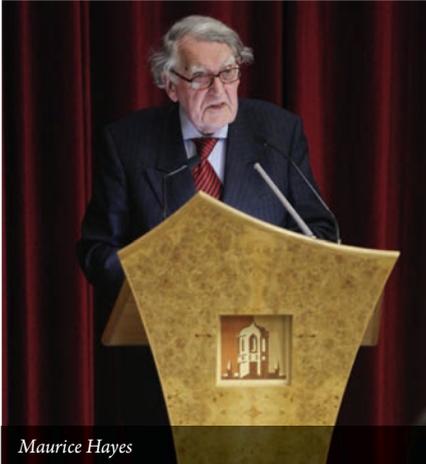
Professor Paul Murphy's team will work on a method to produce complex sugars related to those found in nature. The research is relevant

for development of vaccines, therapeutics or diagnostics for health, including cancer, and in crop protection.

Fighting cancer: Professor Kevin Sullivan will pursue new discoveries his team have made about the reproduction of centromeres, a fundamental part of chromosomes. This could help build anti-cancer drugs, and provide new insight into how healthy cells work.

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'To Hell or to Croker: Whither the Irish Public Service?'



Maurice Hayes

The 2013 Monsignor Pádraig de Brún Memorial Lecture, entitled "To Hell or to Croker: Whither the Irish Public Service?" was delivered recently by former public servant (north and south) and

former Senator and political analyst Maurice Hayes. A native of County Down, Maurice Hayes has spent most of his life working at a senior level in the public service in Northern Ireland, including as Northern Ireland Ombudsman.

He has acted as Electoral Boundary Commissioner, as Senior Advisor to the Chair of the Constitutional Convention, and chaired a review of acute hospital services in Northern Ireland. He served for ten years as a member of Seanad Éireann and has also advised and produced reports on management issues in An Garda Síochána, Tallaght Hospital and RTÉ. Speaking in advance of the lecture, Dr Maurice Hayes said: "The first and main challenge for the public service is to regain public respect, to recover the public trust which has been lost, and to restore the parallel loss of morale which has been shattered by mindless criticism on the one hand and blind self-interest on the other."

Global Mathematical Phenomenon

Professor Donal O'Regan of NUI Galway, who was honoured last year by being elected a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, has just written his 1,000th peer-reviewed mathematical article. He is now one of the most prolific authors in the history of Mathematics in the world. Professor O'Regan has been publishing an average of one paper per week and one book a year since he joined the University in 1990.

His colleagues have been praising his prolific output. "The quality of his research is as impressive as the quantity", says Professor Graham Ellis. "We are very privileged to have such a world-class academic on campus", adds Dr Ray Ryan, Head of the School of Mathematics. "He is a one-man powerhouse."

Neuroscience Gains International Excellence Status

The Galway Neuroscience Cluster, based within the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES), has gained the status of Centre of Excellence in Neurodegeneration (COEN). By gaining COEN status, the Galway Neuroscience Cluster joins a select group of international centres that are entitled to apply for research funding that is awarded through this international initiative.

Leader of the Neuroscience Cluster, Dr David Finn, said: "This is a very significant achievement by the Neuroscience Cluster and it represents international recognition and approval of the quantity and quality of our research over the past 5-10 years."

President Browne praised the designation as "a wonderful endorsement of the calibre of research underway at this University. It will enable the Galway Neuroscience Cluster to join an elite group of international centres working on advancing new therapies for a range of medical conditions."

EU Law students visit the European Parliament

The Annual Irish Universities' Trip to the European institutions took place in February. The trip was organised by Anna-Louise Hinds of the School of Law, and included 15 NUI Galway EU Law students and their tutor, Rosemary Keogan. The group visited the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, the European Commission in Brussels and the European Parliament in Strasbourg, who generously provided financial support for the trip. The group met with the Irish MEPs and attended a session of the European Parliament, which gave a valuable insight into its structure, operation and work.

Students Scoop Top Prizes at Logistics and Transport Awards



At the recent Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Ireland Awards ceremony were (l-r): Mary Dempsey, College of Engineering and Informatics; Noel Brett, CEO, Road Safety Authority; Neil McDonnell, Eastern Section Chairperson, Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Ireland; and winning NUI Galway students Kerry Creehan, Seán Ó Muircheartaigh and Alex Hannon-Cross. The Engineering students scooped first, second and joint-third prize in the 'Student Idea of the Year' Awards at a special ceremony in Dublin. The awards are presented to the originators of the most innovative ideas which could make the most significant contribution to the logistics industry in Ireland.



Professor Bill Schabas, Dr Nata Duvvury, Fintan O'Toole, Mary Robinson, Dr Jim Browne and Dr Niamh Reilly.

Mary Robinson Public Lecture

It is a sign of the enduring regard for Mary Robinson that there was standing room only in the Bailey Allen Hall for her recent public interview. Over 700 staff and visitors assembled to hear Fintan O'Toole interview the former President of Ireland about her life and work.

She spoke with passion about the themes that have defined her lifetime's work: the human rights challenges facing the world, and the global need for a greater leadership role for women. These themes were later discussed by a panel of experts drawn from the University's Irish Centre for Human Rights and Global Women's Studies Programme. The audience was later invited to make their own contributions.

The event further cemented Mary Robinson's connection to NUI Galway. Last November marked the beginning of a new partnership with the University, as plans were unveiled to establish a Mary Robinson Centre in her home town of Ballina, Co. Mayo. This will include both a visitor centre and an academic research centre, focused on scholarly research and education in the fields of Human Rights and Women's Leadership. The University will also advise on the cataloguing and making available of the extensive archive which is valued at over €2.5 million.

ENVIRON2013 Conference hosted by NUI Galway

Over 300 researchers gathered in NUI Galway recently for a three-day conference called ENVIRON2013, the theme of which was 'Environment: From Ecosystem Functioning to Human Health'. The conference challenged delegates to consider how their research can contribute to providing a healthier planet and thereby a healthier society.

Speaking on the importance of the conference, Dr Martina Prendergast of the Ryan Institute and convener of ENVIRON2013 said: "Clean air, clean drinking water, safe food, good quality soils, and smart land use are essential elements in achieving good health and wellbeing". Participants included Duncan Stewart, presenter of the RTÉ programme Eco Eye, and Eamon Ryan, Leader of the Green Party. The Keynote Lecture was delivered by Tony Juniper who has recently published a new book entitled *What has Nature ever done for us?*



Dr Martina Prendergast, Strategic Development Manager of the Ryan Institute, speaking to Keynote Speaker, Tony Juniper.

40 Years of MBA



NUI Galway MBA Programme Directors 1972-2013: (l-r) Professor Jim Doolan, Dr Aidan Daly, Dr Leo Smyth, Dr James Cunningham, Michael Moroney, Dr Ann Torres and Dr Alma McCarthy.

The J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics recently organised a conference and gala dinner to mark the 40th anniversary of its Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme. Over 200 MBA alumni and guests returned to their Alma Mater to attend the event.

The conference, "40 Years A-Growing in Business & Management: Learning from the Past, Leading the Future," brought together a panel of 15 national and international contributors from business and academia. The vast majority of speakers were NUI Galway MBA alumni. Dr Alma McCarthy, MBA Programme Director and event organiser, remarked: "I was struck by the considerable success which our MBA alumni have achieved in challenging senior management positions nationally and globally."

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Trip to India



At a recent Enterprise Ireland education mission to India (l-r): H.E. Feilim McLaughlin, Ambassador of Ireland to India; Dr Rekha Bahadur, Vice-Principal, HR College of Commerce & Economics, Mumbai; Ciarán Cannon TD, Minister of State for Training and Skills; and from NUI Galway, Dr Brian Hughes, Dean of International Affairs, Professor Lokesh Joshi, Vice-President for Research, and Brian Hussey, International Affairs Office.

Erasmus Fair



NUI Galway celebrated 25 years of the Erasmus Programme recently with a special Erasmus Fair, bringing together over 200 students who have taken part in the programme. The winners of the Erasmus 25th Anniversary Photographic Competition were presented with their prizes: (l-r) Shauna Barrett (1st Prize), Petra Bateman (3rd Prize), Saraid McCarrick (2nd Prize), Mary Lyons and Gisele Farrell, International Affairs Office.

Papal Nuncio



H.E. Archbishop Charles Brown, Papal Nuncio to Ireland (centre) paid a pastoral visit to the students and staff of NUI Galway on Ash Wednesday. He is pictured here beside the Mayor of Galway, Ms. Terry O'Flaherty, along with the Chaplaincy team (l-r) Fr Diarmuid Hogan, Ms Dolores McAndrew and Fr Patrick O'Donohue. During his visit, the Papal Nuncio also met a large group of students.

Stanford Talk



Dr John Breslin, College of Engineering and Informatics, with Dr Doug Engelbart, on a recent visit to Stanford University

As part of Stanford University's European Entrepreneurship and Innovation Thought Leaders seminar series, Dr John Breslin of the College of Engineering and Informatics recently spoke about his experiences as a "professor entrepreneur" and the ecosystem surrounding Irish education and the technology sector in Ireland.

During his trip to California, Dr Breslin also met with Dr Doug Engelbart, the American inventor, engineer and computing pioneer who created the mouse while working at the Stanford Research Institute.

Dr Engelbart was delighted to hear that one of his original five finger-controlled keysets was a key exhibit in DERI's Computer and Communications Museum of Ireland.

Ireland and the Human Rights Council - where to from here?



H.E. Gerry Corr, Irish Ambassador to the UN

The Irish Centre for Human Rights and the Irish Council for Civil Liberties hosted a one-day seminar recently exploring the challenges and opportunities presented by Ireland's recent election to the UN's Human Rights Council. The event brought together a range of human rights experts. The seminar addressed the commitments made by Ireland during its election campaign, how Ireland can best contribute to the agenda of the Council, and the leadership role that Ireland can play in the promotion of human rights. The large conference turnout demonstrates the huge interest in this field.

Focal ón Uachtarán



A Chairde,

Anois teacht an Earraigh... As the Spring days lengthen it's a real pleasure to look a-fresh at the campus and the many new buildings which are now completed. The keys to the new Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Building have been handed over and Library staff are busy moving into their very attractive new home.

In April the Arts Millennium Building extension will be finished and become home to colleagues from the School of Psychology. Along with the new entrance on Newcastle Road, these buildings and developments are wonderful new additions to the south campus and really enhance the physical infrastructure of the University.

Following on from these works, I'm pleased to advise that the Biosciences Research Building remains on track for its planned two-phase completion in June and September of this year. We're making good progress on the procurement front with both the Clinical/Translational Research Facility and the Life Course Institute Building. Preliminary ground clearing for the construction of the Human Biology Building is well-advanced, and we expect to begin procuring this building in the coming months.

Research Agenda

So as this chapter of building and development closes, we are now re-focusing our energies on our strong research agenda led by newly appointed Vice-President for Research,

Professor Lokesh Joshi, (see p. 2). NUI Galway featured strongly in last week's Government announcement of plans for science and technology research through a six-year, €300 million State and industry investment programme announced by Science Foundation Ireland. Our researchers will play leading roles in three of the seven SFI Research Centres in a range of areas. (See article on p.3).

We continue to invest in Library Archives and in Humanities Research. We are working with academic staff to encourage and prioritise doctoral studies in the areas where our collections are particularly strong, for example, in theatre and drama, Irish literature and in human rights.

Éamon de Buitléar



In mentioning our archival holdings, I note with sadness the recent passing of the late, great Éamon de Buitléar. His visit here to present his wonderful multimedia archive to the University and Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge last November remains a treasured memory – an occasion, where academics, artists, friends and colleagues gathered here in the Aula to celebrate his remarkable achievements. We are proud to be the custodians of that national treasure. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal dílis.

Monsignor Pádraig De Brún Lecture

As we remember Éamon, we also commemorated another renowned communicator and a fíor-Ghael – Monsignor Pádraig De Brún at the biennial De Brún lecture on 25 February. This year's lecture was given by Dr Maurice Hayes, public servant, Senator and political analyst. His very timely talk focussed on the Irish public service, with a paper entitled 'To Hell or to Croker: Whither the Irish Public Service?' The text of this lecture is available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/whitakerinstitute/Videos/cisc_seminars.html

Higher Education Landscape

As the main players on the national Higher Education Landscape continue to find ways to strategically co-operate together, NUI Galway colleagues recently met with the HEA in relation to our continuing plans to contribute to the development of a regional education cluster. At that meeting we confirmed the amalgamation of St Angela's, Sligo and Shannon College of Hotel Management with NUI Galway. We will continue to work with Letterkenny IT, Sligo IT and GMIT to develop plans for higher education delivery in the context of the regional cluster envisaged.

President's Awards for Teaching Excellence

Invitations for nominations for the 2013 scheme are now being sought from alumni, students and staff. To nominate an outstanding teacher, please see: http://www.nuigalway.ie/celt/presidentsaward/presidents_award.html

Alumni Awards

At our recent Alumni Awards & Gala Banquet (see cover story) we honoured five outstanding NUI Galway graduates. To mark The Gathering 2013 we chose to honour alumni based overseas, each of whom has excelled in their field of endeavour. I know from speaking with those and other alumni that a Galway education is a life-shaping experience, which enriches and stimulates.

So as the academic year moves into the exam season with students busier than ever, I would like to thank staff for their continuing commitment to students and to their experience of university life. That is our core business, the student experience. In challenging times, it is more important than ever to ensure that our students' education and learning opportunities are at the very heart of our mission.

Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil leis an bhfoireann uile as ucht a cuid tacaíochta i dtreo an mhísin sin.
Go n-éirí libh.

James J. Browne PhD, DSc, MRIA, C.Eng

Uachtarán – President

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International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy



Pictured are members of the inaugural LLM class in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy who celebrated their graduation earlier this year. The programme, one of the first of its kind in the world, now enters its second year with an extraordinary ten international students amongst the total 14 registered.

Comhaltacht Albanach á bronnadh ar Chonchúr Ó Giollagáin

Beidh comhaltacht chuairte á bronnadh ar an Dr Conchúr Ó Giollagáin, Scoil na hEolaíochta Polaitiúla agus na Socheolaíochta, le tacú lena rannpháirtíocht i dtogra comhoibritheach taighde ar dhéimeagrafaíocht sochtheangeolaíochta na gceantar Gàidhlice in Albain. Beidh Conchúr i mbun saothair i Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Ollscoil na Gaeltachta agus na nOileán, ar Oileán Sgitheanach idir Aibreán agus Meitheamh le hurraíocht ó Fhondúireacht Taighde na hAlban agus ó Chumann Ríoga Dhún Éideann.

Major Award for Cancer Researcher

Dr Aideen Ryan, a postdoctoral researcher at REMEDI, has been awarded a Research Fellowship Award of €230,000 to develop new strategies to help improve treatments for patients with colon cancer.

Dr Ryan received the award from the Irish Cancer Society. Her team aims to discover the factors that control the immune systems interaction with colon cancer. Dr Ryan states: "Blocking these factors would enable us to develop new drugs that could, in turn, be used to make our immune response to cancer stronger."



Dr Aideen Ryan, Postdoctoral Researcher in the Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI)

NFB Researcher Awarded German Academic Exchange Service Scholarship

NFB postgraduate researcher Shane Browne has been awarded a prestigious scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to advance his research for the treatment of myocardial infarction (MI). Through a collaboration with Professor Katja Schenke-Layland, Shane will spend time at the Franhofer IGB Institute and the University of Tübingen in Stuttgart, Germany.

IT Award Winners Create Applications of the Future

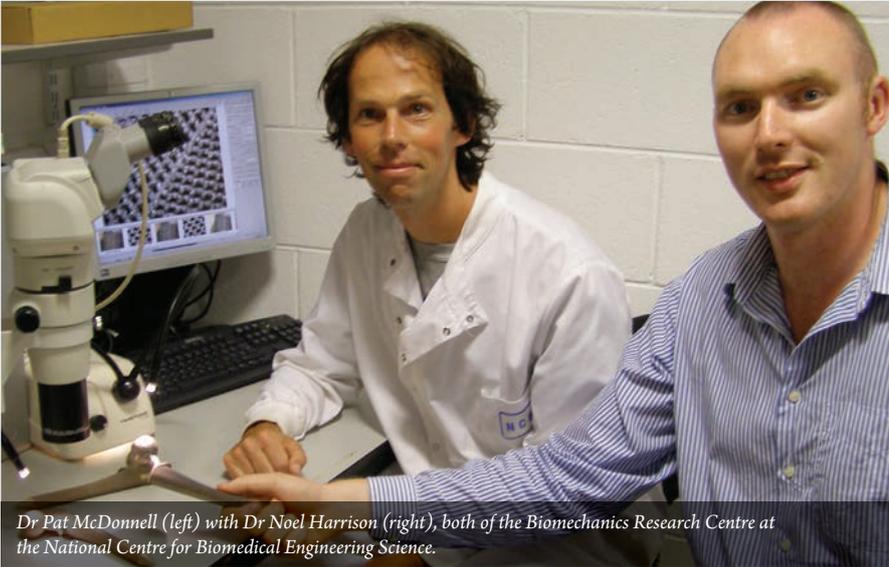


(l-r) Dr Marie Mahon, Vice-Dean, College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies; Seán Coleman; Roseanne Carroll; and Dr Michael Madden and Josephine Griffith, Information Technology.

An innovative musical score application and an online hotel booking system are just two of the new technologies for which NUI Galway graduates have won awards recently. The prizes are awarded each year to Information Technology graduates who show a flair for creative design and a strong entrepreneurial streak.

The Best Project in the BSc in Computer Science and Information Technology was awarded to graduate Elise Karlsson. Best Project in the HDip/MSc in Software Design and Development was presented to Gearóid Joyce, Colm Kavanagh and Darren Tighe. Seán Coleman and Roseanne Carroll won Best Project in the BA in Information Technology. This year the special Entrepreneurship prize was awarded to Elise Karlsson and Niall Dolan who produced an application to help source, buy, and promote local produce.

Interest Grows in New Hip Implant Technology



Dr Pat McDonnell (left) with Dr Noel Harrison (right), both of the Biomechanics Research Centre at the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science.

A new type of orthopaedic implant developed at NUI Galway, which could improve the lifespan of hip and knee replacements, is generating growing interest from the biomedical industry. OsteoAnchor aims to overcome the problem of implants coming loose over time by using a revolutionary surface of hundreds of tiny gripping claws. A recent successful pre-clinical study showed the technology immediately grips the bone effectively, leading to a quicker recovery after surgery. "We are keen to engage with potential investors and business partners interested in commercialising this high potential technology", explains Dr Pat McDonnell who has been developing OsteoAnchor with Dr Noel Harrison.

New Books

At the launch of *Tuairim: intellectual debate and policy formulation: Rethinking Ireland, 1954-75* were: Professor Jim Doolan, a former member of Tuairim and Professor of Management; Dr Mary Harris, lecturer in History; Dr Tomás Finn, lecturer in modern Irish History, and author of the book; and Emeritus Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, all of NUI Galway. The book examines the history of the think tank, established in the mid 1950s, to challenge the ways Ireland was governed.



Chaucer's Poetry: words, authority and ethics, edited by Dr Clíodhna Carney and Dr Frances McCormack

This collection of essays casts new light on Chaucer's poetry and shows us paradoxically how he is being re-conceived in the 21st century. With contributions from Ireland and abroad, the book also contains a new essay by Professor Richard Pearson of NUI Galway.

Servants of the empire: the Irish in Punjab 1881-1921, by Patrick O'Leary

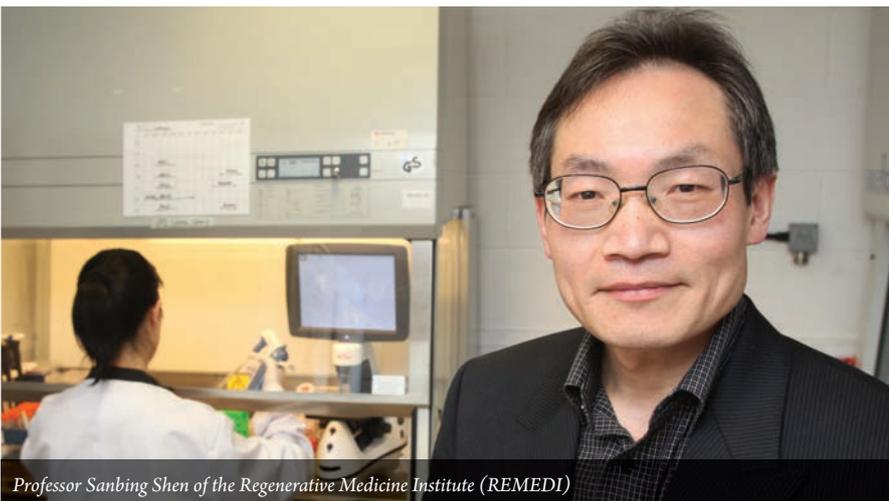
This book deals with those Irish civil servants, doctors and engineers, including Galway graduates who served the British Raj in India, and establishes a connection between land reform legislation in India and Ireland.

Social Work and Social Theory, Making Connections, by Dr Paul Michael Garrett

In this unique book, Paul Michael Garrett seeks to bring social work into the orbit of the anti-capitalist movement and encourages a new engagement with theorists, such as Antonio Gramsci, Pierre Bourdieu and Nancy Fraser.

Abandoned Darlings, edited by Moya Cannon

This is an anthology of short stories and poetry from the Abandoned Darlings writing collective that emerged from NUI Galway's MA in Writing 2011-2012.



Professor Sanbing Shen of the Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI)

Treating Autism, Can Stem Cells Help?

Researchers from NUI Galway and Trinity College Dublin recently held a public forum on the emerging breakthroughs in autism genetics. Scientists at REMEDI have teamed up with the TCD autism research group to apply stem cell technology to further our understanding of autism. It is hoped their work will lead to the identification of better treatments.

Professor Sanbing Shen explains the science: "We are in the very early stages of research, but by reprogramming skin cells, we may provide a way to study neuronal cells in autism and to test new therapies. This is exciting news for people who are affected by conditions that have no treatment."

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Putting Business in ‘Full Health’



An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny with John O'Sullivan, MD Biomnis Ireland; Dr Ann Shortt and Paul McCarthy, Full Health Medical; and Mark McKeever, Biomnis Ireland.

A major personal health initiative developed by a company based in the NUI Galway Business Innovation Centre was unveiled by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny recently. The new initiative, ‘Full Health’, is being introduced into Biomnis Ireland’s workplace health screening programme and has the potential to significantly enhance preventative health planning for employees. The Taoiseach praised ‘Full Health’ for putting “employees in the driving seat on preventative health”.

As Dr Ann Shortt of Full Health Medical explained: “When the largest cost to business is wages and salaries, it makes sound business sense to invest in understanding employee health.”

Fiona Neary of NUI Galway’s Technology Transfer Office and Business Innovation Centre, said: “The NUI Galway Business Innovation Centre is buzzing with so much technology expertise. NUI Galway is a great place to do business, because of the workspace suitability for start-ups, the technical infrastructure, the atmosphere of innovation, as well as having research and industry located together. It’s definitely a winning combination.”

NFB and Microbiology Researcher to lead €1.2 million EU Project on Stent Development

Scientists at NUI Galway are to lead a €1.2 million EU project that will develop a new type of cardiovascular stent, coated in antibodies to improve biocompatibility and effectiveness. The University’s Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB) and the University’s microbiology department will head the four year project, which will be based in Ireland and Poland.

This is the fifth successful European grant that NFB has secured in the last two years. “This project brings together researchers from important medical device clusters in Ireland and Poland, involved at all stages of stent design, to develop a novel product to reduce restenosis, which is one of the major current limitations of stent performance,” explains NUI Galway microbiologist Dr Gerard Wall, who is leading the project.

Call for Students to ‘Think Outside the Box’



Mr Paul Kenny, Dr Jim Browne, Minister for Small Business John Perry TD, Ms Dearbhaile Forde and Mr Justin Conboy.

John Perry TD, Minister for Small Business, recently launched the Enterprise Ireland ‘Think Outside the Box’ Awards as part of a major drive aimed at tapping into young entrepreneurs’ business potential. With an overall cash prize fund of €30,000, full time third level students on the island of Ireland are invited to submit their ideas for successful companies. Last year’s winning team from NUI Galway are a great example of the commercial potential for student entrepreneurs.

Their project DRS.ie, a drag reduction device for trucks that helps significantly reduce fuel consumption, has already attracted significant commercial interest.

Speaking at the launch, Paul Kenny, CEO and Founder of Cobone and Entrepreneurial Ambassador for the Awards, said: “Setting up your own company is the most challenging and rewarding thing anybody can do. If you have the ambition and drive to succeed, the Think Outside the Box Awards is definitely for you!”

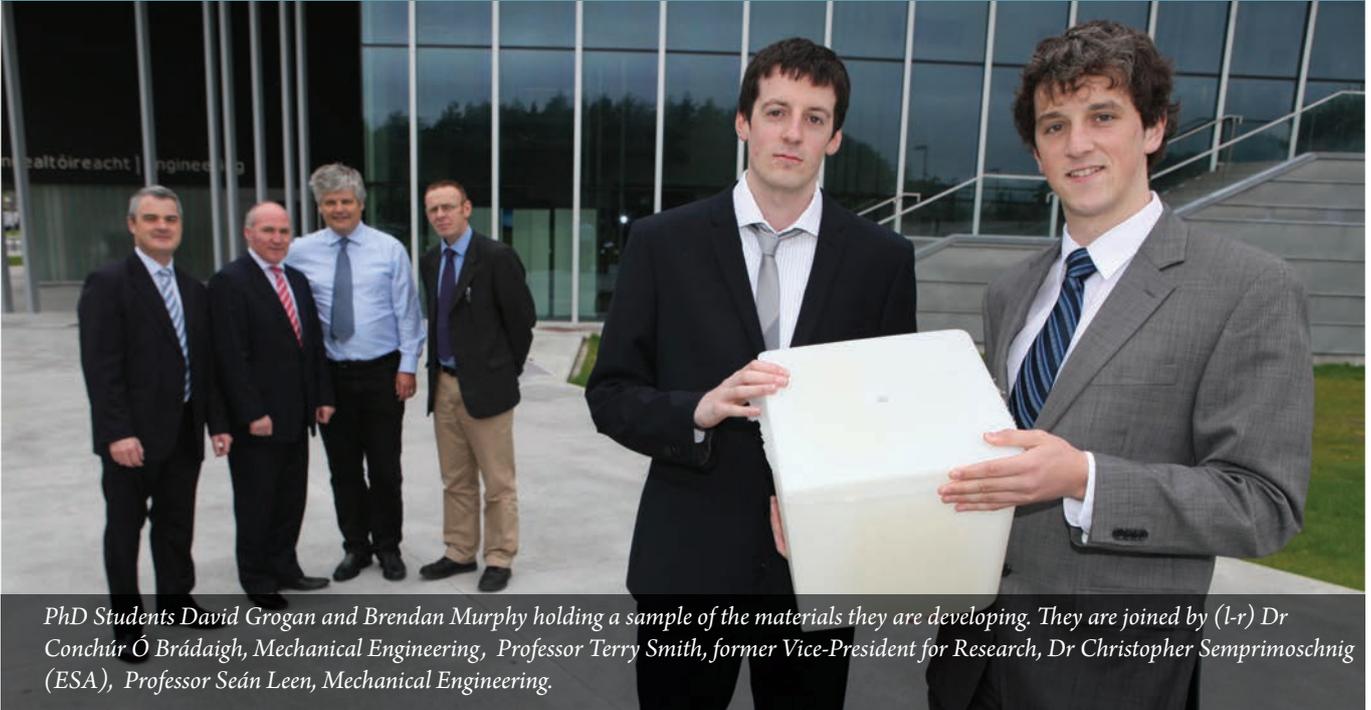
Research Commercialisation Workshop at the Whitaker Institute

Dr James Cunningham, Director of the Whitaker Institute for Innovation and Societal Change recently co-hosted a workshop focused on Research Commercialisation and New Venture Formation supported by the InterTradeIreland All-Island Innovation Programme - Community of Researchers. The workshop was designed for entrepreneurs, principal investigators, professionals involved in supporting start-up, commercialisation specialists and policy makers with an interest in innovation, entrepreneurship and research commercialisation.

Networking Event for ICE researchers

The School of Medicine recently hosted the first ICE networking event at NUI Galway, which gathered all of the researchers involved in ICE-funded projects in the University. The event had a number of guest speakers, including Professor Trevor Sheldon from the University of York, and Dr James Cunningham from the Whitaker Institute. ICE stands for Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement awards and is aimed at projects in population health and health services research.

Rocket Engineers on Campus



PhD Students David Grogan and Brendan Murphy holding a sample of the materials they are developing. They are joined by (l-r) Dr Conchúr Ó Brádaigh, Mechanical Engineering, Professor Terry Smith, former Vice-President for Research, Dr Christopher Semprimoschnig (ESA), Professor Seán Leen, Mechanical Engineering.

Two PhD students in Mechanical Engineering will research innovative methods of using thermoplastic composite materials to reduce the weight of fuel tanks for space launchers. David Grogan and Brendan Murray will work with Dr Conchúr Ó Brádaigh and Professor Seán Leen on the project, which it is hoped will help reduce the cost of launching rockets into space.

The European Space Agency (ESA) is cooperating with the Irish Research Council and Irish and European companies to fund the research.

Dr Christopher Semprimoschnig of the ESA said the Agency was delighted to support the students' work, claiming that their research might "even help enable manned-missions to Mars and further parts of the Universe."

'What's for Pudding?'



NUI Galway's first ever staff drama group made their debut appearance recently with the play "What's for Pudding?" The one-act play by David Tristram starred (l-r) Jim Early, Vincent O'Connell, Lorraine Tansey, Kathleen Keane and Trish Hoare.

International Energy Standard

NUI Galway is delighted to announce that its Energy Management System (EnMS) has been awarded the International Energy Management Standard ISO 50001. NUI Galway is only the second university in Ireland to achieve this standard.

Energy is one of the biggest recurring costs the University faces annually, and the energy management system will make savings that can help fund other energy reduction programs and new energy efficient technologies.

Buildings Services Engineering Manager, Noel O' Connor said: "We achieved the ISO 50001 standard within three months and this success was built on the skills and dedication of a small team of staff, and on investments by the Buildings Office in technical systems and energy metering."

OLLSCÉALA

Gathering for Climate



Speaking about attitudes to climate change at NUI Galway recently were: Dr Henrike Rau, leader of the Ryan Institute's Socio-Economics and Policy priority research area; Professor Daniel Schrag, Director of Harvard Centre for the Environment and member of President Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and

Technology; and Professor Colin Brown, Director of the Ryan Institute. The event took place ahead of the Climate Gathering, which saw over 50 participants from more than ten countries gather in The Burren to discuss climate change over one weekend.

€2 Million Project to Harness Marine Resources for the Biomedical Industry

Two NUI Galway research groups have received funding to investigate the potential use of marine materials from the Atlantic for applications in the biomedical industry. The University's Irish Seaweed Research Group (ISRG) and the Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB) will work on the two-year project which has a total of ten partners from across Europe.

The primary focus of the project is to research and develop new products and applications with particular emphasis on the development of biomaterials for human tissue engineering, drug delivery applications, dental and bone fillers, and wound dressings.

The project has received over €2 million in EU funding. Professor Abhay Pandit, Director of NFB explained the significance of the project: "Marine materials have only barely been explored and their use in a biomedical context is quite an innovative approach."

€1.1m in new funding for CDLP

The Centre for Disability Law and Policy and its international partners have been successful in five new EU funding awards. €840,000 of this EU funding will be directly awarded to the CDLP (inclusive of co-funding) with the projects all beginning early this year. The Centre has also enjoyed another €250,000 in recent funding wins from other non-EU sources at home and abroad.

Law Student wins 'Bold Ideas' Award

The School of Law is delighted to announce that their Corporate Law student Mahmoud Abukhadir was the overall winner of the A&L Goodbody Bold Ideas Award 2012 – Law Student Competition. His submission on the topic "The business of law in a connected world" impressed a judging panel made up of Michael McDowell, Senior Counsel and former Attorney General; Clíodhna O'Sullivan, Head of Legal in Telefónica Ireland; and John Whelan, A&L Goodbody Partner. This prestigious award includes an internship in one of A&L Goodbody's international offices and a cash prize of €3,000.

Love Study



Kate Burke, a doctoral student of Psychology in NUI Galway, hit the news recently for her kiss-and-tell study among the over 60s. She is looking for research participants to examine the importance of romantic relationships in later life.

Irish students debate science and ethics in DSI competition

Forty secondary school students from Ireland debated thorny topics around embryonic stem cell research and organ transplantation in the Debating Science Issues (DSI) competition. The eventual winners were Banbridge Academy, Co. Down. The All-Ireland project was coordinated by Danielle Nicholson, Outreach Officer at REMEDI at NUI Galway in conjunction with eight science research and discovery centres throughout Ireland. The project was funded by Discover Science & Engineering, Abbott Ireland, Boston Scientific, and Pfizer.

Did You Know?

The School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Mathematics provides the problems and marking keys for the Problem Solving for Irish Second level Mathematicians (PRISM) initiative. This annual contest has been taken by 2,500 secondary school students around the country so far this year.

PRISM tests the students' maths skills with a range of challenging questions, including geometry, algebra and fractions. The PRISM website then collates all of the scores and shows the top-performing schools and students.

Investing in Local Youth, in the classroom...



Pupils of the Engineering Class were among the 133 primary school children who graduated recently from NUI Galway's Youth Academy. The happy graduates were joined by supporters and facilitators of the Academy: (l-r) President Browne; Dr Caroline Heary, School of Psychology; Lorraine McIlrath, Coordinator of the Community Knowledge Initiative; Mary Dempsey, College of Engineering and Informatics; Geraldine Marley, Coordinator of the Youth Academy; Professor Chris Curtin, VP For Innovation and Performance; Dr Mark Healy, College of Engineering and Informatics and Youth Academy Instructor; Nollaig Mac Congáil, Registrar and Deputy President.

...and on the field - Rugby Academy



Members of NUI Galway's underage Rugby Academy pictured at a recent game. The team competes in the Connacht Youth league and cup competitions at both under 13 and under 14 age groups.

EXPLORE continues to grow



Dr Muriel Grenon (front row, third from right) with members of the Cell Explorers Show. The group have brought their outreach sessions and workshops to over 500 local schoolchildren around the region, introducing them to molecular and cellular biology.

Over 50 staff have taken part in over 36 EXPLORE Innovation projects since the scheme kicked off in January of last year. The initiative provides seed funding for staff and students to collaborate on innovative new projects to benefit NUI Galway and the wider community. "EXPLORE is part of a wider initiative at NUI Galway to foster an innovative, ideas culture where staff and students are encouraged to come up with ideas and run with them. It's about building a network of campus innovators," says Professor Chris Curtin, Vice-President for Innovation and Performance.

Dr Patrick Commins Rural Research Award



Professor Gerry Boyle, Director of Teagasc and Máirín Uí Chomáin, wife of the late Dr Patrick Commins, (centre) with Co-Directors of the MA in Rural Sustainability, (l-r) Dr Marie Mahon, Dr John McDonagh, and Dr Maura Farrell at the launch of the Dr Patrick Commins Rural Research Award. Dr Commins was a leading academic and researcher in rural issues.

Junior Certificate Awards

260 Junior Certificate students from across Connacht who received an A in Honours Business Studies were presented with Certificates of Achievement from the College of Business, Public Policy and Law. This is the third year NUI Galway has made these awards. The presentations, in association with the Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland (BSTAI), were made at a special ceremony at the University which included teachers and parents.



Presenting the certificates to each individual winner, Dr Gerard Turley and the Registrar and Vice-President, an tOllamh Nollaig Mac Congáil

OLLSCÉALA

Slán leis an iar-Údarás



D'éirigh an Dr Noel Dorr as a phost mar Chathaoirleach ar an Údarás le déanaí tar éis dó seirbhís sé bliana a thabhairt don Ollscoil. Tá an Dr Dorr le feiceáil anseo ar dheis ón Uachtarán, an Dr Jim Browne, in éineacht le baill eile d'iar-Údarás na hOllscoile (2009 –2013) ar lá a gcrúinthe dheireanaigh.

Dr Noel Dorr (right of President Browne) with members of the former Údarás na hOllscoile (2009-2013) on the day of their final meeting. Dr Dorr had dedicated six years to his role as Chairman of the Governing Authority.

New Medical Academy



Mark Stasaitis, medical student in NUI Galway, and Noreen Maloney, medical student in UL, with Dean of the Medical Academy Maeve Durkan.

Alliance partners, NUI Galway and the University of Limerick, recently announced the opening of a Joint Medical Academy at Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe. The Academy is unique in Ireland in that two medical schools will share the academy premises and academic staff, and allow for greater efficiencies in maintenance of infrastructure and recruitment of academic and administrative staff.

Speaking at the announcement, Professor Fidelma Dunne, Head of Medical School at NUI Galway, said: "Recent investments in staffing and new infrastructure in NUI Galway, including three new buildings for medical research, as well as ground-breaking developments in our research activities, have positioned the Medical School as one of the top Schools in the country and we are delighted to offer this unique approach to medical education with University of Limerick to our students."

Report Highlights Economic Hardship of Older People



Dr Kieran Walsh, Dr John Cullinan, Ms Caroline Finn and Professor Tom Scharf

The Irish Centre for Social Gerontology recently released a research report entitled 'Deprivation and its Measurement in Later Life', which suggests that many older people are experiencing real hardship during Ireland's recession, largely hidden from public view. Led by Professor Thomas Scharf, Director of the Centre, the research explores how older people respond to the 11-item basic deprivation index used in official poverty statistics, and reveals that some indicators are less relevant to older people than others.

Did you know?

NUI Galway's Engineering Building has picked up another award, this time for Best Educational Building at the recent Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Awards.

Féile na Staire – History Month

NUI Galway's Cumann Staire recently held a series of historical events across campus as part of a new dedicated Féile na Staire – History Month. The new initiative ran from 14 Jan to 14 Feb.

Organised in conjunction with other NUI Galway societies, History Month included an array of events to suit all audiences from lectures and debates, to radio shows, tours and table quizzes.

Stepping out

Staff from the Health Promotion Research Centre took part in the 2012 'Pedometer Challenge'. Team Legs & Go (Larri Walker, Michal Molcho, Aoife Gavin and Mary Callaghan) clocked up an impressive average of over 600,000 steps, finishing in 16th place out of approximately 760 teams in Ireland.

Did you know?

The new Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Building is clad in polished beige limestone, which appears brighter when wet, and also contains a great deal of fossils. Construction of the AHSSRB was completed on 1st March.

Amhránaí Cónaitheach Nua ag OÉ Gaillimh



Joe John Mac an Iomaire i mbun amhránaíochta.

Is cúis mhór áthais é d'Ionad an Léinn Éireannaigh OÉ Gaillimh go bhfuil Joe John Mac an Iomaire ceaptha mar Amhránaí Cónaitheach Sean-nóis i mbliana. Tá guth glan binn ag Joe John is tá a stíl amhránaíochta préamhaithe i dtraidisiún a cheantair féin, Cill Chiaráin.

Tá Corn Uí Riada buaite faoi dhó ag Joe (1975, 1977), agus Comórtas na bhFear ag an Oireachtas (1968, 1978) agus is minic ó shin é ag canadh ag féilte in Éirinn agus thar lear. Beidh sraith ceardlann á reachtáil ag Joe John san Ollscoil agus in áiteanna eile san Earrach agus arís sa bhFómhar agus beidh a chuid amhrán á dtaifeadh aige don gcartlann sean-nóis atá á cur le chéile le blianta beaga anuas ag Ionad an Léinn Éireannaigh.

THREESIS 2012 Winners Announced



Mac Léinn PhD Eilís Ní Dhúill, ceann de na hiontrálacha THREESIS ba dhathannaí.

The first annual THREESIS competition came to a close in December when the 15 finalists presented their three slides in three minutes to judges Professor Terry Smith (former Vice-President for Research), Lorraine McLraith of the CKI, and Frances Shanahan, journalist with RTÉ Radio.

The packed house was treated to a diverse range of talks, which were judged on how well they communicated the subject of their thesis to a general audience. In the end, first prize was awarded to Dr Ronán Hennessy of the Ryan Institute, with two runners up: Michelle Queally of the School of Business and Economics, and Paul Korir of the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Mathematics.

THREESIS was organised by DERI, College of Engineering and Informatics, Ryan Institute, CKI, Whitaker Institute, and School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Mathematics with support from the Research and Press Offices.

Sports Scholarships



NUI Galway recently presented new Sports Scholarships to 25 students, bringing the total such scholarships to 60. As well as financial support, scholarship holders get access to the University's facilities as well as physio and medical care, coaching and academic support. Gary Ryan, the Elite Sports Development Officer, said: "The aim of our scholarships is to provide the right supports to young athletes that will not only help them to become world class athletes but great doctors, engineers and teachers as well." This year's recipients reflect the wide variety of talent that NUI Galway attracts, and include promising young athletes in swimming, rowing, hurling, soccer and basketball.

Free Computer Training Returns

NUI Galway has recently announced the re-opening of the computer training initiative, 'Click and Connect', aimed at people categorised as digitally excluded. In partnership with Limerick Community Connect, DCU and Age Action Ireland, tutors from Information Technology at NUI Galway will deliver basic computer training to 40 more people this year. Professor Gerry Lyons, Dean of the College of Engineering and Informatics, said: "There are thousands of people living in Ireland today who have been left behind when it comes to the internet. Older people will particularly benefit, as will unemployed people and disadvantaged groups in the Galway region."

Did you know?

Over 30 staff and students have been singing during their lunch breaks in rehearsal for the 2013 Choir Factor competition. The choir will sing an eclectic mix of Bach, Lady Gaga and sean-nós at the charity event in April, in competition with other institutions and companies in the Galway region. The choir is led by NUI Galway PhD student Peter Mannion.

Postgraduate Open Day

The Spring Postgraduate Open Day was held recently in the Bailey Allen Hall. "Feedback from the popular event has been very positive and resulted in an immediate spike in online applications", according to Valerie Leahy, Postgraduate Recruitment Officer.

OLLSCÉALA

Teddy Bears go to Hospital



Over 1,500 schoolchildren brought their sick teddies to the 8th annual Teddy Bear Hospital at NUI Galway. The ever popular event is organised by the Sláinte Society, the NUI Galway branch of the International Federation of Medical Students Associations, and up to 200 medical and science students from the University.



Some of the students who took part in the musical 'RENT', one of the highlights of this year's Múscailt festival.

February saw a feast of art, music, performance, dance, literature and film hit NUI Galway during the 13th annual Múscailt Festival. Highlights from the week-long festival included Galway University Musical Society's version of the musical 'RENT', a number of exclusive theatre performances, an award-winning clown show, and exhibitions of photography and art around the campus.

Fionnuala Gallagher, NUI Galway Arts Officer explained: "Our theme this year, 'Merriment and What Not', came courtesy of Eyeore in Winnie-the-Pooh, and encouraged the creative act that bursts forth with unexpected results."

Engineers Week

NUI Galway recently played host to a week of events and activities as part of National Engineers Week. The organisers held hands-on experiments, workshops, and demonstrations for all ages. Highlights included a K'Nex Bridge Building Contest, an Eco-House Design Challenge, a Renewable Energy Demonstration Station, Water Treatment experiments, Robotics and much more.

Theatre Festival

The 4th annual Theatre week offered a feast of drama, in theatre literature and film, showcasing the many talents of our students, societies and alumni. Organised by the University's Societies Office, one of the main highlights this year was the return of the Jerome Hynes One Act play Series, which featured eight new works written by students.

The festival also included performances of the acclaimed 'Blooming Ulysses The Show', as well as the Everyman Theatre's popular 'Shakespeare Sessions'.