



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

ALL S O

Beannachtaí na Féile Oraibh

As 2013 draws to a close, we look back at the stories that made the news this year... and we see how some staff will be unwinding over Christmas.

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... and more!

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OLLSCÉALA

Focal ón Uachtarán



A Chairde,

Agus muid ag breathnú siar ar 2013, is féidir linn machnamh a dhéanamh ar bhliain rathúil, in ainneoin na dúshláin leanúnacha ar fad atá os ár gcomhair sa seirbhís phoiblí.

As we look back over 2013 we can reflect on a year of success and achievement, despite the continuing challenges facing the public service.

Our International Reputation

The efforts of colleagues across the University were rewarded by our improvement in the three main ranking indices: *QS World University Rankings*, *Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings*, and *QS World University Subject Rankings*.

Taken together this is a great result – confirming that our position globally is on the rise. Thank you for your hard work and commitment – which is enhancing the international reputation of our University.

Our Campus

In the course of the past year a number of new buildings have come on stream. In March the new Hardiman Research Building and Arts Millennium Extension were completed. The Biosciences Research Building in Dangan is finished and staff are currently moving into the facility.

Construction is well underway on both the LifeCourse Institute building in Dangan and the Clinical/Translational Research Facility on the grounds of University Hospital Galway. Both of these major research buildings will be completed in 2014.

Since the Summer a programme of campus enhancement has been underway, with work to entrances, pathways, signage, planting and minor works all contributing to the overall beauty of the campus. Well done to all involved in capital projects and estates management for making such a tangible difference to the appearance of our campus.

Our Visitors

Throughout the year we welcomed many visitors to the campus. The Conference Office report a great

year for conferences, events and summer schools. More than **100 events were held on campus attracting over 15,000 visitors** and generating a turnover of **€1.4 m**.

There was a diverse range of events held here including international conferences hosted by NUI Galway staff and others; summer schools from over 20 US universities; an International Debating Forum attracting students from 50 countries; the 29th Coimbra Group Annual Conference; the return of the International Quilt Festival; and a Regional Roundtable as part of the Global Irish Economic Forum.

Sporting events too featured among these: a junior international soccer competition; a world snooker tournament which was broadcast live to over 100 million Asian viewers - making it the most viewed Irish sporting event of all time; and the Aer Lingus International Hurling Festival closing ceremony.

Other notable groups to visit the campus included the Law Reform Commission, Higher Education Authority, Legal Aid Board and the Irish Academy of Engineering, who held their regular meetings here as part of our programme of inviting national organisations to visit NUI Galway.

Familiar Faces



1. Former RTÉ newsreader, Michael Murphy, and Irish Times journalist, Lorna Siggins, received honorary Masters degrees at the autumn conferring ceremony. A native of Castlebar, Michael Murphy has built a reputation as a psychoanalyst and author, since leaving the RTÉ newsroom. In her position as Western and Marine correspondent with the Irish Times, Lorna Siggins is a regular visitor to the University, and has a particularly keen interest in the environmental research taking place here.

2. Bronnadh céimeanna Máistreachta oinigh ar an scríbhneoir, aistriitheoir agus staraí Mícheál Ó Conghaile, chomh maith leis an iriseoir agus foilsitheoir Liam Mac Con Iomaire le déanaí, de bharr a gcuid oibre ar son na litríochta agus na Gaeilge.

3. During his recent visit to campus to moderate the Convention on the Constitution, Morning Ireland presenter, Gavin Jennings, visited FlirtFM where his love for radio presenting first began. A graduate of Medicine from the University, he reminisced about the fun he had making student radio programmes, and marvelled at the station's new studio facilities. You can hear his interview on the station here: <http://i.mixcloud.com/CEBoUN>

In addition the West / North-West Hospitals Group held their inaugural conference here, while the Constitutional Convention group hosted a major engagement exercise in October, attended by over 200 members of the public.

I'd like to encourage staff to bring conferences and events to campus. Please contact colleagues in the Conference Office to see how we can help you to bring your event to NUI Galway.

Our Honorees

During the Autumn and Winter conferring ceremonies we awarded honorary degrees to the following notable individuals (pictured on pages 2 and 12):

- **Lorna Siggins**, MA, *honoris causa*: The Irish Times Western and Marine correspondent.
- **Michael Murphy**, MA, *honoris causa*: RTÉ newsreader, psychoanalyst, and writer.
- **Thomas Roche**, MEngSc, *honoris causa*: Inventor, industrialist, entrepreneur, farmer and community activist.
- **Mícheál Ó Conghaile**, MA, *honoris causa*: Creative writer, social historian and publisher.

- **Liam Mac Con Iomaire**, MA, *honoris causa*: Journalist, writer, translator, newsreader, former Director of the Modern Irish Language Laboratory, UCD.
- **Dr Marian Broderick**, MHealthSc, *honoris causa*: GP Aran Islands, community advocate.
- **Bernard Kirk**, MSc, *honoris causa*: Teacher, Director of the Galway Education Centre, Co-founder, Robotics Ireland, All-Ireland Primary Schools Debating Competition and Space Camps Ireland.

Our Future

Thanks to your tremendous efforts 2013 has been a productive and rewarding year. As you will know from recent emails and the Staff Address last month we now look forward to the next chapter of the University's development, as we begin the new phase of strategic planning to cover the period up to 2020. See <http://www.nuigalway.ie/celt/campuswebcast/index.html>.

All staff are encouraged to contribute to the development of the plan in the months ahead.

Details are available at <https://staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie/Pages/Creating-Strategic-Plan-2015-2020.aspx>

So, we can reflect on a year of achievement and success. 2014 will present its own challenges, but we are making great progress and well-placed to achieve even more. We cannot prosper without the continuing contribution of each staff member.

As 2013 draws to a close, I'd like to offer my renewed thanks for your efforts. May I wish every staff member a peaceful and happy Christmas and every good wish for 2014. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

Nollaig shona agus beannachtaí don bhliain nua atá romhainn.

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



Tá Focal ón Uachtarán le fáil ar líne agus go dátheangach: nuigalway.ie/president/reports.html

In the Headlines

Goodbye Madiba



The University, and the world, bid farewell to one of the most respected and loved statesmen in history, Nelson Mandela. In the words of President Jim Browne, "His capacity to endure political persecution and imprisonment and, most remarkably, to move beyond personal injustice to become the embodiment of reconciliation in post-apartheid South Africa has made him a lasting and powerful global symbol of goodness and integrity." As an honorary graduate of NUI Galway, Madiba has a special place in the affections of our staff, alumni and students. As a sign of respect for the man, and as a symbol of solidarity with the people of South Africa, two books of condolences were opened on campus following Mandela's death. He is pictured above on the occasion of his conferring in Galway, in June 2003.

MaREI and Insight officially launched

Two multi-million euro research centres involving Galway researchers were given high profile launches in recent weeks. Both are collaborations between multiple universities in the country, funded by Science Foundation Ireland's recent €300m investment in research clusters.

MaREI

Marine Renewable Energy Ireland was launched in UCC in November, and involves researchers from our College of Engineering and Informatics. The aim of MaREI is to develop the materials, devices and skills needed to create renewable energy from wave, tide and offshore wind. NUI Galway researchers are particularly active in developing and testing materials for offshore turbines. A significant development in our research in this area came with the separate award of €2.4m EU funding to a research group led by Dr Conchúr Ó Brádaigh (Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering) to develop cost-effective carbon-fibre materials for the renewables industry.

Insight

Officially launched on December 12, Insight is Europe's largest data analytics research centre, bringing together over 200 researchers and 30 industry partners. Through our work in the Digital

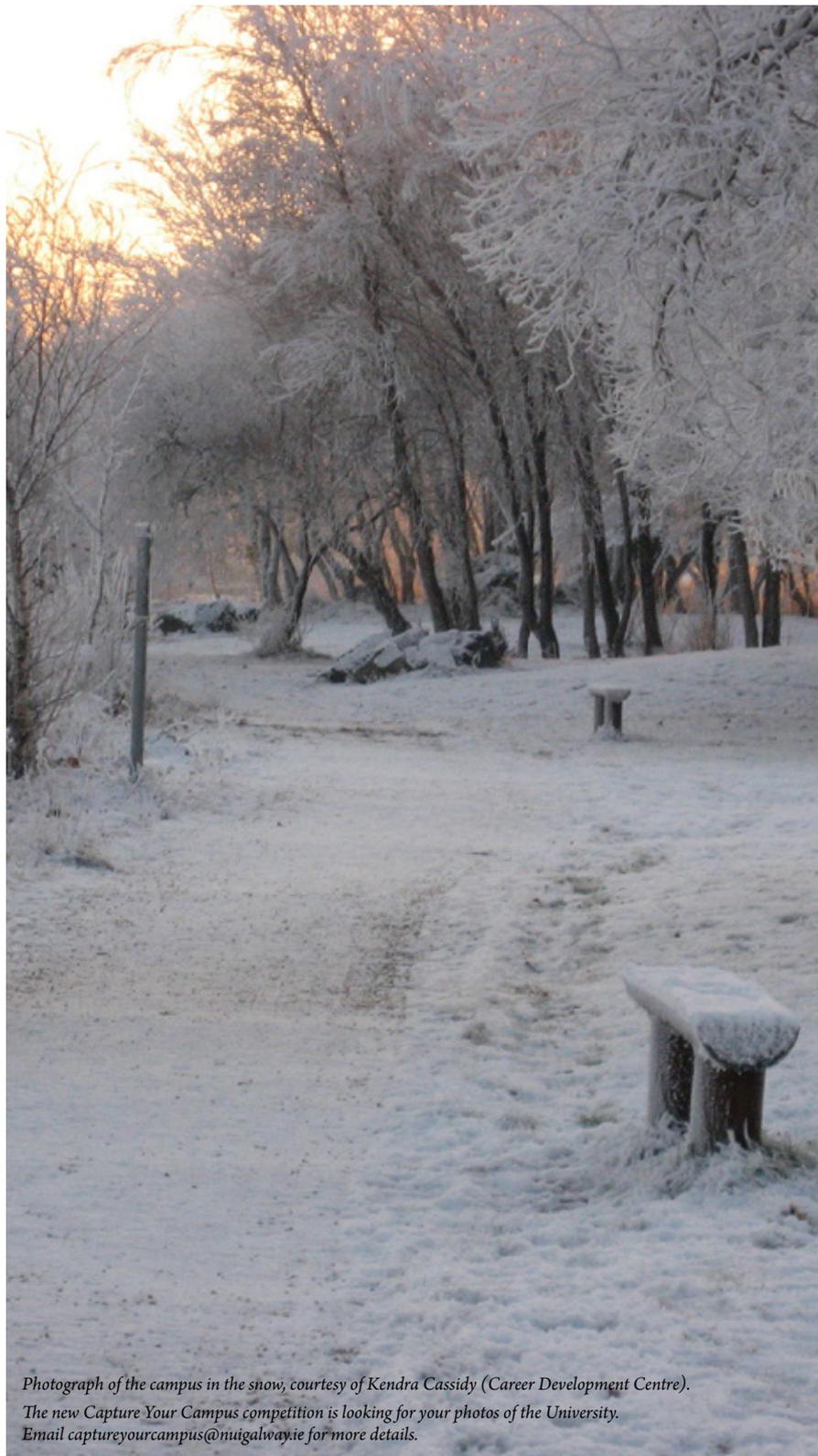
Enterprise Research Institute, NUI Galway has already developed expertise in this field, and we will play a leading part in the new centre. Collaborating with counterparts in DCU, UCC and UCD, our researchers will focus on new ways of capturing and understanding data from the world around us, making better decisions for people, communities and industry, and creating a more informed society in a healthier, more productive world.



Insight was officially launched by Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD, on Thursday, 12 December.

Season's Greetings

Everybody has their own way of marking the holiday season. Here, some of our staff share their special holiday traditions, from Italy to the Aran Islands.



Dr Alessandra Costanzo, Earth and Ocean Science: Italians mark the holiday season with some eating, more eating and on top of that eating a bit more! On the 24th we have a minimum of 13 dishes, all fish (no meat allowed that day). You need to prepare a dish including a taste of all of them to put close to the crib. Baby Jesus will be hungry when he is born and it is a way of welcoming him into our house.

Deirdre Ní Chonghaile, Institiúid de Móra: Maireann nósanna áirithe Nollag in Árann, agus is iad nósanna Oíche Nollag is deise liom féin. Na coinnle geala ar lasadh i ngach aon fhuinneog, iomhá a spreag Máirtín Ó Direáin chun dáin, agus na ballachai buí a ithimid don bhéile um thráthnóna, le fataí agus anlann geal. Maraítear na bric i rith an tsamhraidh de bharr aille, sailltear iad, agus ansin coinnítear ar an lotadh iad. Nítear go maith iad sula mbruitear iad. Is iad atá goirt ach blasta!

William Brennan, NCBES: Modern music will be replaced with Lyric FM and some choir singing. I hope to watch (again) "It's a Wonderful Life", "Captains Courageous", "Madame X" and of course some version of "A Christmas Carol", with my feet up in front of a roaring fire and a glass in my hand!

Emer Toner, Academic Administration: On St Stephen's Day I'll be cheering on my husband, Joe, and my two brothers in the Athenry 10K. Another great event is the charity swim in Salthill for Cope. They do it every Christmas morning... in Santa hats!

David Gutierrez, Spanish: In Spain, the 24th of December is the most important day to be with your family, especially dinner time. It is called "Nochebuena" and usually consists of shellfish/paté as a starter and roast baby pig/lamb as a main. The 31st is called "Nochevieja" (old night) and at 12 at night we all eat 12 grapes to celebrate the arrival of the New Year.

Alison Herbert, Irish Centre for Social Gerontology: To celebrate Hogmanay on the last day of the year, no matter where I am it is imperative to toast the bells with a Scotch whisky at Midnight. And to sing 'Auld Lang Syne' accurately (with proper words)! Then you must make sure that the 'first foot' over the threshold of your house is dark-haired and tall, and carrying a piece of coal or an orange. Never let in anyone empty-handed or fair, or you'll have a year of bad luck!

Fionnuala Gallagher, Arts and Theatre Office: My partner Rafael is from Madrid and we celebrate the coming of *los Reyes Magos*, the Wise Kings, on 6 January, just as Rafa did when he was small. On the night before, everyone in our household with Spanish blood leaves a shoe under the Christmas tree. The Wise Men travel by camel from the desert and pass by with a present for each person leaving it in their shoe or beside their shoe. These presents are always wild and strange and wonderful as they have obviously travelled by camel and must be portable. Viva Gaspar, Melchior y Balthasar.

Photograph of the campus in the snow, courtesy of Kendra Cassidy (Career Development Centre).
The new Capture Your Campus competition is looking for your photos of the University.
Email captureyourcampus@nuigalway.ie for more details.

Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday

While Christmas is a time for having fun with family and friends, the festivities bring extra hazards to look out for. Health and Safety Officer, Alice Daly, shares some of her top tips for staying safe and well this Christmas.

Fire: If you have a real Christmas tree, make sure to keep it moist by securing it in a base with water that is topped up daily. Dried out trees can become a serious fire hazard. At this time of year we fill our houses with candles and festive lights. Make sure to keep them out of reach of little visitors.

Gifts: Ensure any gifts or toys you give this Christmas are safe and appropriate for the recipients. Look out for the CE mark, and if safety gear is needed, get it as part of the present.

Roads: Adverse weather, drinking and tiredness all make driving much more hazardous over the festive season. Don't take risks on the road – take breaks from driving, and make sure you're ready for the winter weather.

Wellbeing: Expectations at Christmastime can put extra stresses on your mind and body. It is the time of year when the Samaritans get the most calls. Take some simple steps to look after your mental health. Don't overspend. Factor in a walk or other exercise each day of the holidays. Be organised, but don't overstretch yourself – Christmas should be fun, not perfect.

Enjoy the break and recharge your batteries for your safe return in the New Year. From all in the Health and Safety Office.

2013: The Year in News

As 2013 draws to a close, we take a look back at some of the University's news over the past twelve months. Here's to an even more successful 2014.

January | Eanáir

Former president, Mary Robinson, visited campus to give a public lecture about her life and work. Fintan O'Toole asked the questions at an event that packed out the Bailey Allen Hall.

D'fhág muid slán leis an nádúraí, ceoltóir agus scannánóir, Éamon de Buítléar, a bhronn cartlann dá shaothar saoil ar an Ollscoil. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



February

The University secured a large chunk of the €300 million research investment announced by Science Foundation Ireland. Our researchers will be involved in three research clusters, investigating Big Data in Insight, developing new green energy devices in Marine Renewable Energy Ireland, and innovating new pharmaceutical processes in the Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre.

March

ALIVE celebrated ten years of student volunteering with a party on campus. Over the years, 6,000 students have given 240,000 hours of voluntary activity, with an estimated contribution to the local economy of €2 million.

Aibreán

Seoladh Scéim Teanga nua don Ollscoil, a chuireann le líon agus caighdeán na seirbhísí atá ar fáil do phobal na hOllscoile trí mheán na Gaeilge. Mar chuid den 'tairiscint ghníomhach' atá mar chnámh droma na scéime, cruthaíodh siombal nua G a chabhróidh le daoine na seirbhísí Gaeilge a aithint.



May

The University welcomed President Michael D. Higgins and European Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, as well as dignitaries from Europe's elite universities, to the Coimbra Conference hosted over one week in campus.

June

Honorary degrees were bestowed upon Irish playwright, Enda Walsh; distinguished US scientist, Dr Rita Colwell; and biomedical entrepreneur, Leonard Moran.

July

Six staff, students and graduates were awarded Fulbright Scholarships to study, lecture and research at top universities and institutions in the US.

Lúnasa

Bunaíodh pairtnéireacht nua idir an Ollscoil agus TG4, a thabharfaidh seans do mhic léinn sa Chumarsáid a gcuidear cláracha a chur os comhair lucht féachana náisiúnta mar chuid de scideal an chainéil teilifíse.

September

We welcomed over 100 new Brazilian students to the University, in a reception coinciding with Brazil's National Independence Day. The new recruits further cement our position as the most international student body in Ireland.



October

NUI Galway climbed 22 places in the Times Higher Education rankings, to 284th place internationally. This followed our earlier rise in the QS World University Rankings, and makes us the only Irish university to rise in both polls.

November

The University launched a new postgraduate scholarship scheme for top class students. Scholarships valued at €1,500 will be awarded to all students studying a postgraduate taught Masters programme next year who have a first class honours undergraduate degree.

December

The first phase of the Abbey Theatre Digital Archive has become available to users on designated computer terminals in the new Archives and Special Collections reading room in the Hardiman Research Building. When complete, the archive will contain over 1.8 million items, and will represent the largest theatre archive digitisation project in the world.



Picture by Maurice Flynn.

RESEARCH IN ACTION

Throughout 2013 our researchers have made discoveries that have changed the world around us. Here are some of the research stories that broke over the past three months.

Researchers in the Ryan Institute's Mammal Ecology Group have discovered a **recovery in the numbers of Ireland's pine martens** – the country's most elusive mammal. The study, which included DNA testing of the creatures, was led by Dr Emma Sheehy and Dr Colin Lawton, in collaboration with researchers from WIT. It found that pine marten numbers in the midlands of Ireland were higher than in other parts of Europe. However, according to Dr Sheehy, they are still quite rare in the east and still absent altogether from some parts of the country.

A team of researchers has published new findings investigating **the influence of stress-sensitive genetic background on pain**. Working with Dr David Finn (Pharmacology and Therapeutics), first author on the research, Dr Kieran Rea, was able to show that a genetic background with higher sensitivity to stress and anxiety was associated with a higher pain response, as well as a blunted response of the individual's endocannabinoids – the marijuana-like chemicals in our brains that influence our sensitivity to pain.

The pioneering research of PhD student Yvonne Lang into **how microscopic algae called diatoms can be used to improve drug delivery** has been published in *Nature Communications*. Diatoms from Galway Bay were used in the study, which investigates how their chemical composition and architectural form could be altered to design advanced nanostructured materials. Yvonne's

research is being supervised by Professor Abhay Pandit (NFB).

A new website, created in collaboration between the University, HSE and the EU-wide Influenzanet project, is **tracking the spread of seasonal flu in Ireland**. Flusurvey.ie invites volunteers to upload instances of the illness in their area, and in turn helps monitor its spread across the country. Project leader, Dr Jim Duggan (Information Technology), looks forward to the approach being extended to surveillance of other diseases, especially those which are not being monitored regularly through traditional public health surveillance.

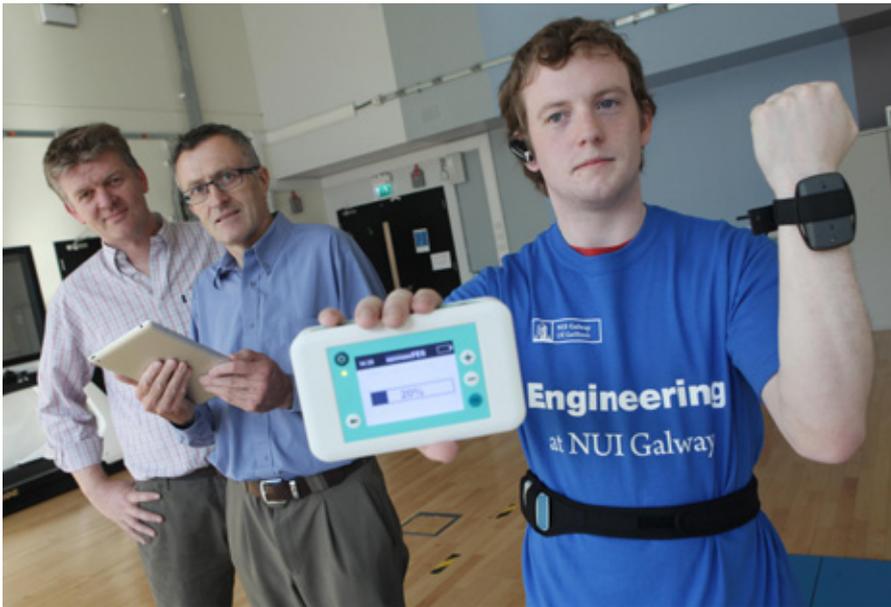
A research collaboration between Professor Michel Destrade (Mathematics), UCD researchers and the State Pathologist Professor Marie Cassidy is improving **how forensic scientists measure the force at which a victim has been stabbed**. Their 'stab metric' will contribute to a more scientific, and less subjective, way of assessing stabbing incidents. The metric combines experimental measurements with sophisticated computer technology, and comes after five years of collaborative research in forensic medicine and biomechanics.

Brain Care Ireland, a company based in the University's Research and Innovation Centre, is testing its **Telemedicine products aimed at better identifying central nervous system disorders**. The three-minute memory test

helps detect participants with mild cognitive impairment who might be at risk of disorders such as Alzheimer's, stroke or depression. After a trial run in Galway, it will be rolled out across Ireland and the UK.

Researchers in the Whitaker Institute have published the results of a study **measuring the size and economic impact of the creative economy** in Europe's peripheral regions. The Creative Edge project focused on northern Sweden and Finland, Northern Ireland and the west of Ireland. It found that the west of Ireland is home to 2,466 creative industries, and that the audio visual sector in Galway alone contributed over €72 million to the local economy last year. According to James Cunningham, Director of the Whitaker Institute, "The project has demonstrated the importance of the creative industries to the economic and social vibrancy of peripheral communities."

PhD student and Irish Cancer Society research scholar Patricia Cleary is investigating **how breast cancer cells survive and become resistant to treatment**. She is the first researcher in the world to test a new drug aimed at enhancing how chemotherapy works. The drug aims to decrease the 'survival factor' XBP1S that helps breast cancer cells become resistant to treatment. According to Ms Cleary, "While the research is only in its early stages, if we continue to see positive results with the drug it will eventually allow us to increase the likelihood of patient survival."



A team of researchers from Engineering, Physiology and Neurology are developing **a device to help improve the quality of life for people with Parkinson's disease.** Their Personal Health System will include a portable device capable of identifying the motor status of patients, guiding them to walk more easily. It will also deliver real-time data to the wearer's medical care team, which it is hoped will lead to real-time drug delivery. Pictured with a demo device are members of the *REMPARK* – Remote and Autonomous Management of Parkinson's Disease – project team: Dr Leo Quinlan (Physiology), Professor Gearóid Ó Laighin (Electronic Engineering) and PhD student Kevin O'Halloran.



The Centre for Climate Change and Air Pollution Studies have launched a pilot **forecasting service that will provide an air pollution prediction** for the following 2-3 days in Ireland and Europe. The Centre is part of the Ryan Institute, with researchers based in the Mace Head research facility in Carna (pictured). The forecasts include levels of ozone, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter, and can be viewed online at: www.macehead.org



The HRB Clinical Research Facility is testing an **app aimed at improving the care of patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease.** Patients use the app to record their symptoms daily, with the data being reviewed twice weekly by research nurse Áine Keogh. If a patient's symptoms deviate from a normal level, Áine then consults with their medical team to direct the patient's care appropriately. It is hoped this approach will help reduce patient flare-ups, and ultimately improve their health and wellbeing.

Read more on these stories by searching: nuigalway.ie/about-us/news-and-events/news-archive



RESEARCH GATHERINGS

From conferences to workshops, the University has been humming with research gatherings of all sizes. Here is a taste of what took place recently on campus.

Convention on the Constitution

In October, around 200 people attended a public meeting of the Convention of the Constitution hosted by the School of Law. The Convention was set up by the government last year to take soundings from the public on a range of issues of constitutional reform, and a lively discussion was moderated by RTÉ radio presenter, Gavin Jennings. Pictured above are Head of the School of Law, Professor Donncha O'Connell; Convention Chair, Tom Arnold; and Secretary of the Convention on the Constitution, Art O'Leary.

HR Seminar

To celebrate ten years of Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD) accreditation of the Masters of Industrial Relations and HR Management, a special seminar was held in November exploring the role of HR in supporting innovation. The Head of CIPD, Dr John McGurk, spoke about the important role HR can play in connecting people and encouraging them to share and combine their knowledge.

Medical Research Meeting

Undergraduates of the School of Medicine hosted a special research meeting in October where they made 42 oral presentations and 49 poster presentations of their work in the Clinical Science Institute building. Afterwards the James P Murray Memorial Gold Medal for the best paper was presented to final year medical student, Kevin Cronin, by Chairman of the Research Committee, Professor Peter McCarthy (Radiology)

Humanities Public Lecture Series

Throughout October and November a series of free public lectures on the Humanities were hosted in the Galway City Library. Professor Lionel Pilkington (English) explored the theme of theatre in a market economy; Professor Patrick Lonergan (Drama and Theatre Studies) discussed the relationship between theatre and social media; and Professor Máirín Ní Dhonnchadha (Humanities) challenged the audience to rethink how they read medieval Irish literature.

Virtual Institute of Bioinformatics and Evolution Conference

This conference was hosted by the School of Maths, and invited local and international speakers to share their insights into the origins of life, mechanisms of disease resistance, and DNA regulation. The keynote speaker, Professor John Gready from Yeshiva University, New York, discussed how institutions can improve researcher skills by integrating complementary biological datasets and research projects.

Employee Rights Research Symposium

A recent symposium marked the culmination of a three-year Irish Research Council project concerned with employment governance and rights for workers. Led by Professor Tony Dundon (Management), the project was a collaboration between NUI Galway and Queen's University Belfast. The symposium featured a roundtable discussion on the results and their impact on public policy, involving business and trade union leaders, government advisors and academics.



1. Participating in the Executive MBA Masterclass entitled 'Powerful Conversations' were: Gene Browne, The City Bin Co.; Dr Christine Domegan, Executive MBA Programme Director; Alan Mullholland, Mulholland Bookmakers; Suzanne Ryan, Chair of MBAAI Western Chapter; Barry Walsh, The People Development Co.; and Paul Glynn, Topform.

2. Demelza Lynn and Michelle May from the HR Office, participated in their recent IUA Human Resources Conference.

3. The School of Business and Economics recently invited Professor John Mullahy, from the University of Wisconsin, to give two seminars on health economics. In addition, Professor Mullahy spent time discussing research methods with PhD students and members of staff in the School. Here, he receives a presentation from members of the Health Economics and Policy Analysis group.

View our upcoming conferences at: www.conference.ie

World AIDS Day Conference

A conference hosted on the eve of World AIDS Day addressed how the current economic downturn is affecting poorer countries and reversing recent improvements in gender and health equality there. The noted AIDS activist, Fr Michael Kelly, spoke about his first-hand experience of the spread of HIV in Zambia. Olivia Mitchell TD was in attendance, and warned that: "Unless women's reproductive health is central to development policy, the poorest women in the most disadvantaged societies will continue to be trapped in cycles of poverty and ill health."

IUA HR Conference

The HR Office hosted the Irish Universities Alliance conference on Human Resources, inviting delegates from the seven Irish universities, institutes of technology and the business world. The conference provided HR professionals with the opportunity to share ideas and strategies in addressing the most pressing current challenges, including performance management, conflict at work, and leading in challenging times.

International Biomedical Workshop

The University recently hosted the first European meeting of the Biomedical Engineering Innovation Design and Entrepreneurship Alliance, in conjunction with US-based Stanford Biodesign. Galway was chosen to host the international workshop because of its strong medical device cluster and the University's close links with researchers in Stanford. The event was an opportunity for delegates from 15 biomedical university programmes from across Europe and the US to share their best practices in innovation, design, technology transfer and entrepreneurship.



Pictured at the BME-IDEA Europe meeting in NUI Galway were 30 delegates from 15 different BioInnovate/ Biodesign style university programmes from across Europe and the US.

Happy Diwali From Our Indian Community



For the first time, the University celebrated Diwali – the Hindu festival of lights – this November, with a special party organised by students and supported by the International Affairs Office and the International Students Society. Guests were treated to authentic Indian food, followed by a lesson in Bollywood dancing. With one-in-five Indian students in Ireland enrolled at NUI Galway, this is sure to be the first of many Diwali celebrations.

Unique Biomedical Link with Stanford

BioInnovate Ireland, a forum of biomedical researchers and companies led by NUI Galway, has been chosen as Stanford Biodesign's first 'Global Affiliate' Programme. The affiliation will lead to further collaboration and the development of shared training materials and exercises between both programmes. President Jim Browne welcomed the unique link, saying: "This affiliation is further recognition of our University's commitment to biomedical excellence."



Dr Mark Bruzzi, Director of BioInnovate Ireland; Professor John H. Linehan, Northwestern University, Stanford; President Browne; and Ian Quim, Founder of Creganna-Tactx Medical, welcoming the announcement of the new Stanford Biodesign partnership.

NEWS FROM THE FAR EAST

Breakthrough for Qpercom in Singapore



Qpercom, a spinout company from the School of Medicine, has won a significant tender from the University of Singapore to provide them with expertise and software for assessing clinical skills. Dr Thomas Kropmans, CEO of Qpercom, is looking forward to selling the innovative software to more universities in Asia and Australia over the coming months.

University leads €1.24m Consortium with Japan

An NUI Galway-led consortium of Irish research bodies will partner with research institutes, companies and 21 universities in Japan in a €1.24m consortium funded by Science Foundation Ireland's International Strategic Cooperation Award. The consortium was announced by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, who described its priorities as: "creating innovative products, services and jobs to benefit Ireland and Japan, as well as tackling important social challenges such as caring for an ageing population and climate change." The six thematic areas that will be addressed by the consortium align with NUI Galway's key research areas, and include: environmental science, Big Data analytics, future healthcare, medical devices, and regenerative medicine.

Chinese Drug Partnership

Microbiology researchers in the University are collaborating with counterparts in the Dalian University Medical School, in China, in a four-year research programme co-funded by Science Foundation Ireland and the National Natural Science Foundation of China. They will combine their efforts to explore new innovations in sugar-coated antibody drugs. Dr Gerard Wall, based here in Microbiology and the Network for Excellence in Functional Biomaterials, welcomed the announcement, saying, "This support will enable us to develop improved, longer-lived biopharmaceuticals using cutting edge protein engineering approaches."



Some of our Malaysian alumni enjoying the recent reunion in Kuala Lumpur organised by the Galway University Foundation. The University has strong links with Malaysia, particularly in Medicine, which attracts many students from the country each year.



Minister for Research and Innovation, Seán Sherlock TD (left), launched the Education Matters Yearbook 2013, which was edited by Dr Tony Hall (right), from the School of Education.

University Learning Goes Online

The 'Online Learning at NUI Galway' website was officially launched in October, showcasing over sixty programmes in the University across eight disciplines. All the programmes featured are available in a part-time, blended learning or online mode. According to Nuala McGuinn, Director of Lifelong Learning, "Online learning systems make the University's reach far greater. Last year alone, over 1,300 students took our courses via flexible learning." View the online programmes at nuigalway.ie/onlinelearning

Bugs in the Classroom!



Zoology PhD graduate, Dr Michel Dugon, is collaborating with the University in bringing scorpions, tarantulas, stick insects, and other bugs to primary and secondary schools around the country. Dr Dugon, who presents the RTÉ children's television programme *Bug Hunters*, has launched his Eco EXPLORERS roadshow as part of the School of Natural Sciences outreach programme. You can see Michel's bugs by searching for 'Bug Hunters' on the RTÉ Player.

iBooks nua don Ardteist

Sheol Scoil an Oideachais áiseanna nua ilmhéain do dhaltaí na hArdteiste atá ag staidéar an Tíreolaíocht trí mheán na Gaeilge. Le tacaíocht ón scéim EXPLORE san Ollscoil, agus le breis maoinithe ón gComhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (COGG), foilsíodh na hábhair tharraingteacha le chéile mar *iBooks*. Maraon leis an téacs, na pictiúirí agus na graifíci ildaithe, tá fiseáin ar ard-chaighdeán ann, chomh maith le cluichí a chabhraíonn leis na daltaí an t-eolas a fhoghlaim. Tá siad ar fáil, saor in aisce, ón *iBook Store*.



Ag seoladh an *iBook*, bhí (ó chlé) Seán Ó Grádaigh, Dioplóma Gairmiúil san Oideachas; Muireann Ní Mhóráin, Príomhfhéidhmeannach COGG; Sinéad Ní Ghuidhir, DGO; agus Gearóid Ó Conluain, Rúnai na hOllscoile. Ba iad Seán agus Sinéad a stiúir an togra.

Editorships

Dr Carleton Jones (Archaeology) is the new editor of the *Journal of Irish Archaeology*, a peer-reviewed annual journal and the official academic publication of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.

Professor Michel Destrad (Mathematics) has been reappointed to the Editorial Board of the *Proceedings of the Royal Society A*. The journal publishes pioneering research across the entire range of the physical and mathematical sciences.

New Books | Leabhair Nua

Technology Entrepreneurship – Bringing Innovation to the Marketplace, by Dr Natasha Evers (Marketing), Dr James Cunningham (Director of the Whitaker Institute), and Dr Thomas Hoholm (BI School of Management, Oslo), provides students with the practical approaches needed to manage, commercialise and market technological innovation and new business development.

Probabilistic Group Theory, Combinatorics, and Computing, edited by Dr Alla Detinko and Dr Dane Flannery (Mathematics), and Professor Éamonn O'Brien (University of Auckland). This series of lectures from the Fifth de Brún Workshop explores computational and algorithmic aspects that have recently emerged at the interface of group theory and combinatorics.

Gon Uige Seo, bailithe agus eagraithe ag Pádraig Ó Ciobháin. Is díolaim de litríocht phobail í seo a bailíodh le linn sraith ceardlanna i Seanscoil Shailearna i gCois Fharraige sna blianta 2010/2011.

Global Anti-Unionism: Nature, Dynamics, Trajectories and Outcomes, co-edited by Professor Tony Dundon (Management), examines the nature and form of resistance to unions, and in doing so explains the means by which employers have successfully maintained their right to manage.

An Domhan Inniu, Leabhar 2 & 3, aistrithe ag Séamus Ó Coileáin agus Cáit Ní Bhriain (Léann an Aistriúcháin agus Gaeilge). Is leaganacha Gaeilge de théacsleabhair tíreolaíochta do dhaltaí na hArdteiste na leabhair seo a foilsíodh mar chuid den Tionscadal Aistrithe Téacsleabhar.

Celebrating Science



The 2013 Science and Technology Festival broke all records this year, attracting thousands of inquisitive schoolchildren to participate in two weeks of events crammed with activities. The festival culminated in an Exhibition that welcomed over 20,000 kids and parents to campus. Visitors could take part in a range of experiments, organised by staff from across the University, including lighting a house by pedal power; learning the science of bubbles; and handling snakes, scorpions and giant spiders. At a stand run by NFB researchers, children were introduced to DNA concepts by constructing models from jelly babies and marshmallows. During the two-week festival, Professor Michel Destrade brought the Anatomy Outreach Programme on tour to primary schools in Galway to show their pupils the wonders of the human body, while an NCBS roadshow introduced secondary school students in nine Galway schools to the exciting future of biomedicine.

Professor Tom Sherry (College of Science, NUI Galway), Dr Des Foley (Head of School of Science, GMIT) and John MacNamara (Director of R&D, Medtronic) go 'back to school' to judge the best primary school exhibits at this year's Science and Technology Festival. Photo courtesy of Hany Marzouk.

University earns HR Excellence in Research Logo



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

October saw the University awarded the HR Excellence in Research Logo by the European Commission, recognising our implementation of the European Charter and Code for Researchers. This includes 40 principles and requirements which specify the roles, responsibilities and entitlements of researchers as well as of their employers and funders.

What does the award mean?

The logo will support our staff in their applications to attract EU and international funding. It is also hoped the award will increase our international profile, and attract researchers to come to Galway. Staff may use the logo, available from HR, when advertising for students or employees, and in publicity material.

Graduation News

The School of Engineering and Informatics has seen its first graduates from the **Higher Diploma in Software Design and Development (Industry Stream)** programme. A range of top ICT employers are actively involved in developing the course content and providing internships for the graduates. This close collaboration with industry is of huge benefit to the graduates entering the workplace, according to Course Director, Dr Enda Howley.

The first cohort of students recently graduated from the **MSc in Biodiversity and Land Use Planning**, a unique course run by the School of Natural Sciences. The MSc is specifically designed in conjunction with Galway County Council to meet local authority and private sector training needs for environmental conservation management.

The taught **MSc in Regenerative Medicine** celebrated its 100th graduate recently. The one-of-its-kind course focuses on applying stem cell, gene therapy and tissue engineering to develop new therapeutics, and many graduates go on to work in the pharmaceutical and biomedical industries in Ireland and abroad.

Honorary Conferring

At the winter conferring ceremony, Thomas Roche, Dr Marion Broderick and Bernard Kirk were awarded honorary Masters degrees by the University.



A native of East Galway, the inventor and industrialist, Thomas Roche (pictured above), was recognised for his contribution to the electricity and telecom industries around the world.

General Practitioner for the Aran Islands, Dr Marion Broderick (pictured above right), received a Master of Health Sciences degree in recognition of her services to community medicine.



Brendan Kirk (pictured below), the Director of the Galway Education Centre, co-founder of Robotics Ireland, the All Ireland Primary Schools Debating Competition and Space Camps Ireland, was awarded an honorary Masters of Science degree for his contribution to Irish education and to the country's robotics industry.



Online Italian Diploma wins EU Label



Just one year after its launch, the University's Diploma in Italian Online, co-ordinated by Dr Laura Incalcaterra McLoughlin (pictured), has been awarded the European Language Label, which recognises innovation in the field of language learning and teaching. It is the first fully accredited online diploma in the language in Ireland, and makes studying Italian possible anywhere and at any time, through participation in virtual class activities with peers and e-tutors.

InterTrade Ireland Award



Westway Health Ltd., one of the University's start-up companies, has won the InterTrade Ireland All-Island Seedcorn Investor Readiness Competition, the largest competition in Ireland for early-stage companies. The healthcare company, which is developing a range of non-antibiotic anti-microbial technologies, beat off competition from 300 other entrants to take the €100,000 prize. Westway Health was founded as a spinout from the laboratory of Professor Vincent O'Flaherty (left), who is pictured receiving the prize from Thomas Hunter McGowan of Intertrade Ireland.

Making a Splash



In November, the University was presented with Irish Water Safety's 'Community and Social Responsibility Award' in recognition of the work of nine of our students who were partnered with the organisation as part of the Skills for Worklife Community Partner Programme. Irish Water Safety is one of 50 community partners who took part in the programme, which encourages students to apply the skills they learn in the classroom out in the real world. The organisation's Deputy CEO, Roger Sweeney, was particularly impressed with the students' motivation and teamwork, and was happy to highly recommend the programme on the back of their work.

€1.3m from Wellcome Trust

Dr Elaine Dunleavy (Biochemistry), has been awarded €1.3m by Science Foundation Ireland, the Health Research Board, and the UK-based global charity, the Wellcome Trust. The award will fund Dr Dunleavy's research into cell meiosis and genetics for five years – work that could lead to advancements in human reproduction and fertility treatments. The Wellcome Trust award programme "aims to provide the brightest biomedical scientists with the best possible start to their independent research careers," according to the charity's Director of Science Funding, Dr Kevin Moses, who wished Dr Dunleavy every success with her potentially life-enhancing research.

Google Scholarship

Computer science PhD student, Arjumand Younus, has won the Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship, funded by Google to encourage women to excel in computing and technology. A native of Pakistan, Arjumand is the first Galway student to receive the scholarship.

Marie Curie Prize

NFB researcher, Dr Manus Biggs, is one of six Irish researchers who have received a prestigious Career Integration Grant from the Marie Curie Research Fellowship Programme. The award will support Dr Biggs in his innovative research investigating new methods of bone tissue engineering using advanced biomaterials that mimic human tissue.

Appy in the bag

NUI Galway became the first third-level institution to win an Appy Award, the prize given to the year's best apps in Ireland. The University's iPoints app, designed by former IT student, Paul Heron, took home a Bronze Appy in the Best Educational App category. The chart-topping app helps students tot up their Leaving Cert points, and has been downloaded over 6,000 times in less than six months!

Medical prize

Medical physics PhD student, Ronan Havelin, recently won the Newport Research Excellence Award for the paper he presented at a symposium hosted in San Diego by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics. Ronan's paper explored innovations in SPECT imaging, a method of visualising the inside of the human body in 3D.

UN Conference Award

There has been another international win for researchers at Insight at NUI Galway, with Lukasz Porwol, Dr Adegboyega Ojo and Dr John Breslin winning the 'Best Paper Award for Completed Research' at the UN's recent conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance in South Korea. The paper explored the design of 'social software'.

Pain Society prizes

Researchers at the Centre for Pain Research have won Research Medals presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Irish Pain Society.

Post-doctoral researcher, Dr Sara Hayes, won first prize in the clinical category for her study of children who suffer from chronic pain; while PhD student Dara Bree won first prize in the non-clinical category for his study on the development of a rat model for acute postoperative pain.

Scholarships for 26 Sporting Students

26 outstanding athletes were added to the list of students supported by the University's Sports Scholarships, bringing the total number on the scheme to 60. The new recruits, who hail from eleven different counties, come from diverse sporting backgrounds, including athletics, GAA, boxing and rowing.

NUI Awards

A total of 39 representatives from the University won NUI Scholarships this year, worth a total of €800,000. NUI Awards for Senior Scholars were bestowed upon Dr Colmán Ó Cláibh, who picked up the Irish Historical Research Prize for his book on the friars in Ireland; and Dr John Cunningham, who won the Publication Prize in Irish History for his account of the transplantation to Connacht during the 17th century.

Hamilton Maths Award

Mathematics undergraduate student, Saorla Molloy, was recently awarded the Hamilton Award in Mathematics by the Royal Irish Academy, in recognition of the outstanding quality of her studies.

On the Buses

The University's Park and Ride shuttle buses are now equipped with mobile defibrillators, the first private bus route in Ireland with the devices. Cardiovascular disease is the biggest killer in Ireland, and by installing the devices on their buses, City Direct is hoping to improve the health and safety of their passengers, as well as campus users.

Glenn Ward, City Direct; Greg Power, Buildings Office; and Gerard Bartley, City Direct, show off two of the new mobile defibrillators.



From Hard Hats to French Horns



Civil engineering graduate and Bursary winner, Sinéad Hayes, made her debut conducting the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra in October, when they played Mozart's 'Paris' Symphony at the National Concert Hall, Dublin. After leaving NUI Galway, Sinéad spent time working as a structural engineer in London before returning to her first love, music. A native of Corofin, Co. Galway, she began conducting just ten years ago, and recalls performing the 'Paris' Symphony at Morley College, London, early in her career. "If someone had said that ten years later I would be conducting it with the RTÉ NSO, I just would not have believed them!" she said.

An Bhfuil tú Gafa le Mata?

Seoladh aip nua dhátheangach le déanaí a chuireann turas timpeall an champais ar fáil trí mheán na Matamaitice. Iarrann an aip ar úsáideoirí puzail éagsúla a réiteach agus iad ag siúl timpeall na hOllscoile. Is féidir an aip, atá maoinithe ag EXPLORE, a íoslódáil saor in aisce ón siopa Apple nó Android.

Running for Good



The University's inaugural 8k Fun Run raised €5,000k for the charity Jigsaw, which provides services for young people in Galway to support their mental health and wellbeing. Organised by the Kingfisher Club, the event saw 450 staff, students and visitors run from the Quadrangle to the far end of the Dangan playing fields, and back, one cold October morning.

Rachel Craig Prize



Engineering student, Ben Hogan, was this year's recipient of the Rachel Craig Prize, an award in memory of former Biomedical Engineering student Rachel Craig who died in tragic circumstances in 2009. Ben (pictured above with his parents) received the prize in recognition of his outstanding contribution during his Professional Experience Programme in Germany this year. He is currently employed with KERRY Ingredients GmbH, in Heiligengrabe in the northeast of the country.

Winter Concert for Africa



Photo: Daniel O'Loughlin

It was cold outside, but snug in St Nicholas's Collegiate Church recently when the Orchestra, Choral and Trad Societies organised and performed a concert in aid of Self Help Africa. The highlight of the night came when the orchestra, conducted by Hugh Kelly, joined the choir and Trad Soc to perform 'Bán-Chnoic Éireann Ó'. The concert raised around €1,300 for the charity, which helps tackle hunger and poverty in Africa through local enterprise.

75 Years of Experience



President Browne presented Service Scrolls to three staff recently to mark a milestone in their contribution to the University. Dr Anne Byrne (School of Political Science and Sociology), Martina Thornton (Buildings Office) and Chris Barry (Business Information Systems) have each worked full-time in the University for 25 years. The event was marked with a reception and lunch where the three reminisced about the University during their early careers, describing the 'terrapins' (or portacabins) that hosted many of the classrooms and services back in the 1980s. Dr Byrne described her big break coming in 1988 when she filled the lectureship vacated by Michael D. Higgins on his election to Dáil Éireann. We wish them all the best for the next 25 years!

Stop and Take Note

December 20th will see the end of the 'Taking Note or the Curious Eye' exhibition in the University art gallery in the basement of the Quadrangle. The collection, organised by Robin Jones and supported by the Arts and Theatre Office, offers a fascinating glimpse into the creative processes of over 50 artists, designers, engineers and researchers, including John Rocha, Jack B. Yeats, John Huston and Will Self. Visitors are invited to flick through the participants' notebooks and sketchpads, and immerse themselves in the day-to-day designs, daydreams and doodles of the assembled artists.

Worldwide Stop Pressure Ulcer Day

It might not have the catchiest of titles, but this important promotion was supported by staff and students of the School of Nursing and Midwifery in November. Professor Caroline McIntosh and Dr Georgina Gethin ran a series of information sessions and workshops in Áras Moyola about pressure ulcers, and a group of students in the School have secured EXPLORE funding to develop information leaflets to raise awareness among the public on how to prevent the condition.

Bicycle Workshops



An Mheitheal Rothar have teamed up with the Community Knowledge Initiative, Foróige and a team of Engineering students to run a ten-week series of bicycle workshops with youths from Ballybane. Pictured are the first cohort of bike enthusiasts in An Mheitheal Rothar's workshed on campus.

Members of the University's Knit and Crochet group in front of the *Flower Power* collage that was recently exhibited in Áras na Mac Léinn on its tour around the country. The group contributed crocheted flowers to the collage, which was created as part of a fund-raising campaign for the charity Heart Children Ireland.



CALENDAR

Desktop Diary

January 2014							February 2014							March 2014						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
																				31

Christmas Break: The administrative offices of the University will close on Friday evening, 20 December 2013, and re-open on Thursday morning, 2 January 2014.

Saoire na Nollag: Beidh oifigí riaracháin na hOllscoile ag dúnadh ar an Aoine, 20 Nollaig 2013, agus ag ath-oscailt Déardaoin, 2 Eanáir 2014.

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

December, 19: Staff Social Club Christmas Party. Pop along to the College Bar at 5pm for some mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas cheer. Yule be glad you went.

December, 21: Monster Raffle in aid of four Galway animal charities. Tickets €5, available most lunchtimes outside Moffett's restaurant. Or email: muttsnmoggs@gmail.com

January, 2: The University opens again for 2014. Wishing you a happy and healthy new year.

January, 22: Launch of Múscailt festival programme. Come to the CUBE at 1pm for a taste of music, song and drama from the 2014 arts festival.

January, 23: Mature Students Open Evening in the Aula Maxima, followed by a Mature Students Advisory Session on January 24.

February, 11: Postgraduate Open Day, hosted in the Bailey Allen Hall, 12-4pm. For event details and registration, visit: nuigalway.ie/postgraduate-open-day