



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh

lifecourse



# OLLSCÉALA

NUACHTLITIR FOIRNE | STAFF NEWSLETTER | EARRACH 2018

## • New to the Campus

• As our new President settles into his role, we look back at the past three months of staff news, events, successes and special guests from across campus



A Chairde,

Agus an samhradh beagnach linn, is mór agam an t-eagrán seo den iris foirne *Ollscéala* a roinnt libh. Tá sé lán de scéalta, imeachtaí agus éachtaí ó fhoireann na hOllscoile le ceithre mhí anuas. Feicfidh tú réimse leathan oibre agus campas atá lán de bheocht.

It has been my pleasure over the past four months to witness first-hand the positive impact we together make in the world and for the world through our work in the University. I am delighted to see that enthusiasm and success reflected in the wide range of news, events and achievements shared by staff in this issue of *Ollscéala*, through our research, our teaching and our contribution to society.

I would like to thank those colleagues who have taken the time to meet with me since I took up the role as President in January. Your conversations have helped broaden my understanding of what makes NUI Galway unique, as well as some of the challenges we face as a university community. That listening tour continues, and I look forward to hearing more voices and perspectives over the coming months. (Meanwhile, you can read more of my experiences at NUI Galway on page 7.)

As Semester 2 draws to a close, we can look forward to a summer of conferences and of reflection and a new academic year in September, that will bring new courses, new students and more opportunities for impacting the world around us. In the meantime, I invite you to read through this magazine and see what you and your colleagues have achieved over the past few months.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

An tOllamh Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh

Uachtarán | President

## Inside this issue...

### Familiar Faces and Appointments | 3

CÚRAM | Education | Gaeilge | Law | Library | Music | Sport | UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre

### University News | 4, 5 & 6

Arts Office | Access Office | Centre for Irish Studies | College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies | CÚRAM | Global Women's Studies | LGBT+ Staff Network | Arts Office | University Women's Network

### Q&A with President Ó hÓgartaigh | 7

### Research in Action | 8 & 9

Chemistry | Biochemistry | Business Information Systems | CÚRAM | Electrical and Electronic Engineering | General Practice | Geography | Health Promotion Research Centre | LERO Research Centre | Physiology | Ryan Institute | Surgery | Whitaker Institute

### Inspiring Minds | 10 & 11

BioExel | Chemistry | College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies | College of Business, Public Policy and Law | Engineering | International Affairs | Irish Centre for Human Rights | Law | Medicine | Moore Institute | Psychology | Ryan Institute

### Global Connections | 12

CÚRAM | French | Health Promotion | Shannon College of Hotel Management

### Page, Stage and Screen | 13

Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy | College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies | English | Huston School of Film & Digital Media | Medicine | Political Science and Sociology | Psychology | UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre

### Spotlight on Campus Living | 14 & 15

### Awards | 16

Centre for Chromosome Biology | CÚRAM | French | Marketing and Communications | Medicine | Microbiology | Physics | Political Science and Sociology | Psychology | Zoology

### The Way We Work | 17

Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge | Health & Safety Office | ISS | Library

### Community and Campus | 18

Buildings and Estates | Education | Engineering | Kingfisher Club | Seas Suas Programme | Sport

### Your Photos | 19

Archives and Special Collections | Centre for Disability, Law and Policy | Earth and Ocean Sciences | Geography | Medicine | Sport

### Back Cover

Nursing and Midwifery

## Familiar Faces



Actor Cillian Murphy attended Youth Empathy Day in February at the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, which brought 200 Transition Year students to campus to take part in a new pilot education programme called Activating Social Empathy. He is pictured with NUI Galway Youth Researchers: Sarah O'Roarke, Aisling Dunphy and Ciara Beth Ní Ghríofa.

Right: Professor John Laffey (CÚRAM & Anaesthesia) was one of five recipients of Science Foundation Ireland's 'President of Ireland Future Research Leaders Awards' worth €1.54 million. He was presented with the award by President Michael D. Higgins in Áras Uí Uachtaráin in January. Professor Laffey is pictured (right) with his wife, Dr Anne Browne; President Higgins; and SFI Director General, Professor Mark Ferguson.



Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton, visited the University in March to take part in the Action Plan for Education Panel Discussion. The panel included: Mary-Liz Trant (SOLAS), Helen Ryan (Enterprise Ireland), Michael Hannon (GMIT), Anthony Kilcoyne (PDST) and David Leahy (GRETB).



## Appointments

### Internal Appointments

#### Ollamh le Nua-Ghaeilge / Professor of Modern Irish

Tá Tadhg Ó hIfeárnáin ceaptha ina Ollamh le Nua-Ghaeilge. Ba in Ollscoil Luimnigh a bhí sé ó 1996 go 2017 agus in Ollscoil Roazhon (Rennes) sa Fhrainc ar feadh roinnt blianta roimhe sin. Tá tréimhsí caite ag an Ollamh Ó hIfeárnáin mar iarchéimí agus léachtóir in Ollscoil Utrecht agus in Ollscoil Uladh, Cúil Raithin. Is ar an tsochtheangeolaíocht, mionteangacha, agus litríocht na Gaeilge is mó a bhfuil a chuid taighde dírithe.



#### Senior Lecturer in Music

Dr Aidan Thomson has been appointed Senior Lecturer in Music and will head the new Discipline of Music in the School of Humanities. Dr Thomson moves to Galway from Queen's



University Belfast where he has taught for the past 14 years. Before this he taught at the University of Oxford and the University of Leeds. Dr Thomson is a musicologist with a particular interest in British and Irish music of the early twentieth century. An experienced violinist and choir director, he has lectured primarily in music history, theory and analysis, as well as performance. He is currently planning the new BA Music degree, which will enrol its first students this September.

#### Adjunct Professor of Law

Dr Thomas Courtney was appointed Adjunct Professor of Law in January. Dr Courtney is a graduate of NUI Galway, and has served as Chairman of the Company Law Review Group, and Head of Compliance and Governance Practice at Arthur Cox Solicitors. He was a driving force behind the 2014 Companies Act, the largest piece of legislation to ever be enacted in the history of the State. Dr Courtney's appointment coincided with the launch of two new Masters Programmes in Law: the LLM (General) and LLM in International and Comparative Business Law.

#### Academic Skills Librarian

The University welcomes the appointment of Mike Smalle as Academic Skills Librarian in the James Hardiman Library. A native of Galway, Mike returns home after spending over two years as Librarian for Student Engagement

and Success at the Glucksman Library at the University of Limerick. Mike will be applying his expertise in student engagement as the Library continues to develop its Academic Skills offering, including the Academic Skills Hub.

### External Appointments

#### Design and Development in Education

Dr Eilís Flanagan (Education) has been elected as Fellow of the International Society for Design and Development in Education (ISDDE). Dr Flanagan joins 150 other active educational designers and technologists from around the world who are connected as Fellows of the society. ISDDE promotes excellence in the design of educational products and development of theoretical infrastructure of the field of science, mathematics and technology.

#### Irish Basketball

Head Coach of the NUI Galway 'Mystics' Women's Basketball team, Mike Murray, has been appointed to the backroom team of the Irish national Senior Men's Basketball team. Mike will serve as team manager for the squad, who are currently preparing for the FIBA European Championship for Small Countries, which will take place in San Marino this June. He was previously Development Officer for Basketball Ireland in the West.



## Honorary Conferring

In April, the University conferred an honorary degree on Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago and former White House Chief of Staff in the Obama administration. Since his election in 2011, Mayor Emanuel has led major reforms in Chicago's budget and investment in its infrastructure. He has successfully enacted numerous changes to the city's education system, including lengthening the school day and year, creating universal full-day kindergarten and offering free community college to high-performing high school students.

Emanuel was introduced by Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, Professor Siobhán Mullally, who commended his moves to make Chicago a sanctuary city for migrants and refugees. His 'Welcoming City Ordinance' protects residents' rights to access city services regardless of immigration status. The conferring strengthens the bonds between Chicago and Galway, which have been sister cities since 1997. President Ó hÓgartaigh welcomed the opportunity to celebrate this connection, saying: "A strong and dynamic relationship has developed bringing social, cultural, educational and economic benefits and reflecting the many personal and professional links between our two great cities." The President is pictured here with (l-r) Rahm Emanuel, Professor Siobhán Mullally and NUI Chancellor, Dr Maurice Manning.

## International Women's Day

The University community held a week of stimulating events in March to celebrate International Women's Day. One of the highlights, was the keynote address on 'Excellence in higher education through gender equality' delivered by Dr Máire Geoghegan-Quinn and hosted by the University Women's Network. Dr Geoghegan-Quinn was the first Irish female Cabinet minister, and she chaired the HEA Expert Group who conducted the extensive National Review of Gender Equality in Irish Higher Education Institutions. Her address gave a personal and professional reflection on the evolving issues of gender equality in Irish education. She is pictured here with Vice-President of Equality and Diversity, Professor Anne Scott (centre), flanked by University Women's Network Co-Chairs: Dr Rachel Hilliard (Management) and Trina O'Neill (Financial Accounting).

During the week, the LGBT+ Staff Network hosted a talk on 'Same-sex relationships among Irish-revolutionary women' presented by Dr Mary McAuliffe, Professor in Gender Studies, UCD. The week coincided with the tenth anniversary of the MA in Gender, Globalisation and Rights and graduate, Elaine Mears, delivered a talk on Galway businesswoman and personality, Úna Taaffe.



## Daughters of Dagda

An exhibition by nine women artists from the West of Ireland was held in Áras na Mac Léinn in March to coincide with International Women's Day. Entitled 'Daughters of Dagda', the artworks explored the manner in which the female and the feminine have been portrayed in Irish mythology and iconography, from pre-Christian Ireland to the present day. It was held in association with the School of Medicine and with the support of the Arts Office. Pictured are seven of the 'Daughter of the Dagda' artists (l-r): Eleanor Duggan, Rachel Varden, Patricia Timmons, Fiona Cawley, Hilary Morley, Patsy Connolly and Noreen O'Sullivan.

## Fathach File faoin Spotsolas

I mí an Mháirta, seoladh morthaispeántas nua in Áras Uí Argadáin faoin bhfile Máirtín Ó Direáin, a bhásaigh 30 bliain ó shin. Ba as Gaillimh don Direánach agus chaith sé seal ag léachtóireacht san Ollscoil seo. Bhain coimeádaí an taispeántais – Síobhra Aiken (Ionad an Léinn Éireannaigh) – úsáid as cartlanna, foinsí agus bailiúcháin ealaíne laistigh den Ollscoil agus lasmuigh di chun léargas suntasach a thabhairt ar shaol agus shaothar an fhile. Tá cuid den ábhar seo le feiceáil go poiblí den chéad uair riamh.

Labhair an tUachtarán Ó hÓgartaigh agus an Dr Louis de Paor ag an seoladh agus mhol siad caighdeán agus téagar an taispeántais. Labhair iníon an fhile, Niamh Sheridan, freisin agus thug sí léargas pearsanta ar a hathair agus a inspioráid. Sa phictiúr seo ón seoladh, tá (ó chlé) an tOllamh Ó hÓgartaigh, Síobhra Aiken, Niamh Sheridan agus an Dr Louis de Paor.



'Máirtín Ó Direáin – Fathach File / Reluctant Modernist' is a bilingual exhibition about the Irish language poet, which runs in the Hardiman Building until June.



## Making University Access Easier

In January, the Access Centre launched a number of new places in the University that will be made available to students on QQI, FET and FETAC courses. In total, 170 full-time undergraduate places will be available to these students, thereby greatly increasing opportunities for disadvantaged and under-represented groups to access education. This alternative pathway to university and the courses available to applicants are outlined in a new QQI/FET/FETAC prospectus produced by the Access Centre team. Pictured at the prospectus launch are (l-r) Imelda Byrne (Head of Access Programmes), Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh (Registrar), Eithne Nic Dhonnchadha (Director of Further Education and Training, GRETB) and Dr Rosemary Crosse (UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre).

## Inviting Paris to 'Look West'

'Looking West' is the title of an exhibition of nine artworks from the NUI Galway art collection that have been sent for temporary display in the Irish Embassy in Paris. Initiated by University Secretary, Gearóid Ó Conluain, and curated and facilitated by the Arts Office, the artworks will hang for two years in the beautiful 19th century embassy building located close to the Arc de Triomphe. It is the first exhibition from the collection to travel overseas, and the artworks represent the variety and originality of the University's substantial art collection. They offer a unique glimpse into modern and traditional Irish art, from a mix of male and female artists, living and deceased. Prior to its departure in February, a preview of the collection took place in the University's newly refurbished art gallery.

Browse the full art collection online at: [www.nuigalway.ie/artcollection](http://www.nuigalway.ie/artcollection)



Pictured at the preview exhibition of 'Looking West' on campus were Honorary French Consul, Catherine Gagneux, and University Secretary, Gearóid Ó Conluain, along with one of the paintings by Gerard Dillon.



Celebrated artist, Brian Bourke, is pictured beside his portrait of John McGahern, which will hang as part of the 'Looking West' exhibition. He is joined by fellow artist, Jay Murphy.

## IRC Laureate Awards

Six of our researchers were awarded funding of almost €3 million in the inaugural Irish Research Council Laureate Awards in March. The successful projects are proof positive of the diverse range of research and researchers here in Galway. We would like to join our Vice-President for Research, Professor Lokesh Joshi, in congratulating: **Dr Jacopo Bisagni** (Classics) who will research intellectual exchanges between Ireland and Europe during the Carolingian Age; **Dr Álvaro Llorente-Berzal** (Pharmacology and Therapeutics) who will research chronic neuropathic pain; **Professor Laoise McNamara** (Biomedical Engineering) who will investigate therapies for bone metastasis; an **Dr Ríona Ní Fhrighil** (Gaeilge) who will research themes of human rights in modern Irish poetry; **Dr Ted Vaughan** (Biomedical Engineering) who will investigate bone fragility in diabetes; and **Dr Katarzyna Whysall** (Physiology) who will research therapies for muscle wastage.

## Working Together to Reduce Plastic Waste

We all know that we're producing too much plastic waste, but sometimes it feels like we can do nothing about it. March marked the launch of Plastic Free Galway, when Galway's citizens, researchers and representatives joined together to combat plastic waste. Our University President and Students' Union President pledged to live plastic-free for the week, documenting their experiences online. Dr Eilís Flanagan and Dr Cornelia Connolly (Education) worked with their students to launch a 'Plastic Free' design competition for post-primary schools across Galway. The project asked students to combine creativity, design and environmental awareness to highlight 'Why making Galway plastic free matters'.



Supporting the Plastic Free Galway City initiative on campus were: Students' Union President, Lorcán Ó Maoileannaigh; Galway city Mayor, Pearce Flannery; with Michelle O'Dowd and Professor Colin Brown (Ryan Institute).



## Plastic-Free makes you Money!

Catering companies across campus are backing the plastic-free push by introducing discounts to encourage staff and students to reduce plastic waste. Each of the following on-campus cafés offers a 20c discount on beverages when you use a reusable cup: Cloud Café, CSI Café, Moffett's, Staff Club and Stem. The figures show that this new initiative is having an impact. Believe it or not, by purchasing hot drinks in reusable cups we collectively saved €765 between January and March. So, you're not just saving the planet – but saving lots of money too!



## MedTech Collaboration

In March, an Taoiseach Leo Varadkar announced a new research collaboration between researchers in CÚRAM and Boston Scientific to develop new life-saving technologies. The research will enhance medical devices that allow surgeons to support minimally invasive procedures when carrying out repairs to aortic valves and aneurysms. It is one of several new research projects emerging between the University and Boston Scientific. Speaking at a Science Foundation Ireland event in Washington DC to celebrate and build scientific collaboration between Ireland and the USA, CÚRAM Director, Professor Abhay Pandit, said "Our unique, multi-disciplinary, specialist environment is key to CÚRAM's success in developing strong programmes of work with our industry partners".

# In His Own Words



As Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh approaches the end of his first semester as President, we caught up with him to see how he's settling into the role.

## On his first few months in NUI Galway...

In talking to staff and students I see there is great positivity and enthusiasm around making NUI Galway an even greater place to work and to study. There's a great focus on our students and the learning experience. I've been particularly impressed that a lot of the issues raised by colleagues have not been for their own units but for supports for students, like Counselling and Accommodation. You expect people to raise issues about themselves but people were raising issues for others and that's noteworthy.

The listening tour has been very positive and supportive. It has been energising meeting colleagues inside and outside the University. Some issues have arisen, mainly around staffing and decision-making structures. People have been very welcoming of the idea of devolving more autonomy to Colleges. We are now working on how we articulate that.

We have a very strong research culture here, with excellent research going on across the University. I think we need to heighten and highlight the impact of more colleagues contributing to our research. And I've seen enthusiasm for that from the people I have met. Our research is important for the world and in the world. It's impactful research that is connected to and contributes to our communities.



Two student events I attended have been particular highlights for me. Lá na nGradam was a great occasion. I think that students who are award winners – high achievers – often find themselves in a lonely place. Excellent performance can be something that's quite individual. It's great for them to see others who have excelled and to see that celebrated. Likewise at our PhD conferrings, the atmosphere

was very warm and the recognition and turnout from colleagues was heartening. That shows the sense of our students and our research being central to our mission.

I've been meeting a lot of stakeholders off campus too. This includes government ministers, TDs, secretaries of government departments and CEOs of state agencies. I will be making those engagements more routine – seeing them as people we work with through coalitions of interest around our stakeholders. In particular, I am emphasising our contribution to society and citizenship and reinforcing the need for investment in education as an ongoing project and opportunity in that regard.



## On returning to his alma mater...

It's a very different place to when I was here 30 years ago. The scale of the place has changed significantly. The breadth and depth of research and research performance is also much greater. The campus now makes more of the river – when I was here you only saw the river from the tower blocks! But now it has expanded along the river northwards which is very impressive.

We're very much part of the culture of Galway, and that's unique in Ireland. I think the connection with our hinterland is really strong. That's partly related to geography. You can walk from campus to town – there are very few other settings that can do that. The connection is not just physical but conceptual, through events and partnerships, and through medtech, culture and the environment in general. We can draw on that and build on it as part of our strategy. Táimid buailte leis an nGaeltacht anseo freisin. Tugann sé sin deiseanna dúinn – agus cuireann sé dualgas orainn – a bheith chun cinn in Éirinn agus i gcóir maidir leis an nGaeilge agus an léann Gaelach.

## On our priorities for the future...

I think we should develop a more international perspective. That's not just about student numbers, but how we see ourselves in the world. Our students compete with the best in the world and so should we. Because of our location we're seen as being on the edge of things. That's a good thing. In research terms being on the edge means pushing the boundaries and looking over the horizon.

How we integrate is important. We work better together and we draw on our hinterland. What's NUI Galway known for? The beginning – but not the conclusion – of that conversation is medtech, the cultural space – Galway begin synonymous with culture – the area of the environment and the marine. Other areas too, like IT and human rights where we have strengths. We use our hinterland

and embrace it to enhance our international reach.

One thing that Galway is known for is diversity. It has a diverse population, and a sense of different voices and perspectives. Difference is encouraged: it's part of the DNA of the place. Similarly I think the University should embrace it. It's something that's not just necessary and nice. We should be known for embracing diverse voices – sometimes being noisy as a result. Most of the problems of the world are solved from more than one discipline. As Louis McNiece puts it in his poem 'Snow': 'world is crazier and more of it than we think, incorrigibly plural'. That will be an important element of how we develop our strategy beyond 2020.

My tour has talked a lot about devolving structures and autonomy. As we prepare for the next academic year in September 2018, I'm hoping we'll have some elements of that in place, so that people can see how our thinking evolves around devolution. We're broadening the UMT structure, bringing the Deans on board – and also devolving budgetary authority and responsibility to the Colleges. There's currently a working group chaired by the Registrar leading out on that. That will give it impetus over the coming months.

## On the role of President...

I'll be taking time over the summer to reflect on the listening tour. It will give me space to reflect on what people have been saying as we begin to come into September 2018, how the cycle of that academic year will go. How we address some of the issues that arose from the tour. How we might have those conversations, beginning from September 2018 – thinking about the articulation of the strategy beyond 2020.

What I like is that I'm meeting intellectually a much broader group on a wider canvastan I've come from. As an accidental accountant, I find that very stimulating. I'd like to engage more in the intellectual debates that are going on in the University, and participate in them. One thing that I'm particularly keen on, that in attending a seminar that I go not as the President. I'm delighted to be able to attend not necessarily as President but simply out of interest and a sense of curiosity in the intellectual life of the university. I don't want to change the mood by it being announced that I'm attending.

I've said on the tour that if staff see me on campus I'm delighted to have a chat. Let me know how they're getting on. I'm planning to walk the land, I'm keen that if people have something to say, that they say it when they see me. If I'm doing something I shouldn't be doing – or not doing something I should – let me know. In roles like this, you can get into routines over time that sometimes mean you lose sight of life as it lived. Agus má tá Gaeilge agat, ná bíodh drogall ort labhairt liom sa teanga sin. Cuirim fáilte roimh an nGaeilge i gcónaí.

A smile costs nothing. With colleagues and students, greeting people with a smile makes a difference. Hopefully I'll greet people with a smile if I can, and likewise I hope I'll see plenty of smiles too!



In February, the Ryan Institute made news headlines around the world with a revelatory study into **microplastic pollution in the ocean**. The research, which was led by marine scientist Alina Wieczorek, found that 73% out of 233 deep-water fish from the Northwest Atlantic Ocean had ingested plastic particles. The study was carried out on board the Celtic Explorer and is a perfect example of how the right people, place and purpose can make a global impact. According to Wieczorek, it is likely that the fish ingest the microplastics when they come to the surface at nighttime to feed.

# RESEARCH IN ACTION

From flu to farmers, and from plastic to Parkinson's, our researchers have been setting the news agenda at home and abroad.

**Is Tamiflu cost effective and beneficial to patients** consulting their GP's with flu symptoms? That's the question at the heart of a research project led by Professor Andrew Murphy (General Practice). The ALIC<sup>4</sup>E trial is run by Primary Care Clinical Trials Network Ireland in partnership with researchers in Oxford University. Over 2,000 people have been recruited into the clinical trial, which is the world's largest. Professor Murphy said: "It is important that primary care patients and GPs in Ireland have the opportunity to contribute data to important international trials."

A team of researchers led by Dr Róisín Dwyer (Surgery) has identified **a novel approach that could be used to treat breast cancer** when it has spread to other organs, using tiny vesicles released by adult stem cells. The study focuses on a type of stem cell, called an adult Mesenchymal Stem Cell. It has a remarkable ability to identify the site of tumours and metastases, and they have the potential as delivery vehicles to bring drugs directly to cancer sites. The study involved a multidisciplinary partnership between colleagues in Galway and UCD.

A new study directed by Professor Ciaran Morrison (Biochemistry) has uncovered **a new function for a gene called centromin**. The research, which was carried out by a team from the Centre for Chromosome Biology in collaboration with the University of Ulm in

Germany, implicates the gene in human health, with potential roles in the developing heart, kidney and eye, as well as in cancer. The study was published in the prestigious 'Journal of Cell Biology' in February.

A study by Dr Shane Conway and Dr Maura Farrell (Geography) is helping to identify the **challenges faced by young farmers in Ireland**. Their 'Young Trained Farmer' case study was carried out as part of the National Rural Network consortium and publicised in local press. According to Dr Conway, one of the key objectives of the network is to promote innovative initiatives that can help people in the farming community to maximise the success of the objectives set out in the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

A blockchain is a continuously growing list of records, which are linked and secured using cryptography. **The emergence of blockchain as a trend in the IT sector** has attracted considerable attention from the academic and business worlds. New research by Dr Trevor Clohessy and Dr Thomas Acton (Business Information Systems) has investigated the organisational factors that influenced Irish companies in their decisions to adopt blockchain. Findings from the research, which was conducted in conjunction with the Blockchain Association of Ireland, were compiled into a report in April.

Researchers in the Whitaker Institute have kicked off two new research projects. The MOSES (Maritime, Ocean Sector & Ecosystem Sustainability) project will examine the 'blue' growth path for the **sustainable development of the major sectors operating in the Atlantic**, such as marine and coastal tourism, shipping and aquaculture. Meanwhile, the SHEER (Socio-economic, Health, Environmental Research) project is examining the **complex links between our environment and wellbeing**, and how it is impacted by our socio-economic status. We wish both research teams good luck in these important studies.

Researchers in CÚRAM are collaborating with five other European institutions to develop new advanced therapies and technologies in **skin regeneration for the treatment of burns and chronic wounds**. None of the current types of artificial skin covers have successfully reproduced the accurate structure and functions of the native human skin. The goal of the €4 million NanoGrowSkin project is to develop a bioengineered human skin substitute, improving the manufacturing process, shortening the production time, and enhancing its treatment effectiveness.





A research project led by the Health Promotion Research Centre has published the first-of-its-kind **Irish Workplace Behaviour Survey**. The study reveals that more than 40% of people have experienced a form of ill-treatment at work, while one in 12 have experienced or witnessed physical violence. Lead researcher, Dr Margaret Hodgins (Health Promotion Research Centre), said: "The Irish Workplace Behaviour Survey goes much further than previous studies, looking at the prevalence of unreasonable management, incivility or disrespect and violence and aggression." Dr Hodgins is pictured (left) with Martin O'Halloran, CEO Health and Safety Authority, and Louise Hosking, Vice-President of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health.



A team of researchers from Medicine and Engineering have collaborated to develop a novel **wearable electronic device to help people with Parkinson's**. The 'cueStim' device is designed to prevent or relieve 'Freezing of Gait', which is the common feeling that their feet are stuck or glued to the floor preventing them from moving forward. The first generation of the system resulted from the University's involvement in the €4.7 million European FP7 project, REMPARK, which had 11 partners across Europe. Pictured are the device developers Professor Gearóid Ó Laighin and Dean Sweeney (Electrical and Electronic Engineering) and Dr Leo Quinlan (Physiology).



Researchers from the Lero research centre have signed an autonomous vehicles R&D partnership with Valeo, a major automotive supplier headquartered in Paris, France. Funding for the programme comes from Science Foundation Ireland and Valeo. The research is focused on processing **technology to help vehicles see and adapt better** to complex environments. A team of up to 30 Lero and Valeo engineers based in Tuam will work on the project, and the University campus will serve as a testbed for the new technologies. Pictured here are Dr Martin Glavin and Dr Edward Jones (Electrical and Electronic Engineering) with Valeo's Dr Ciarán Hughes in the centre.



### Accelerating Medtech in Galway

In February, the BioExel Accelerator Medtech programme announced its latest intake. The six companies were shortlisted from over 50 applicants and will each use €95,000 in seed funding along with intensive training with mentors to develop their business ideas. The six companies are: Bioprobe Diagnostics - Ciaran Geoghegan; Bluedrop Medical - Chris Murphy; GiantLeap Biotechnology - Martin Codyre; Hidramed Solutions - Suzanne Moloney; Grey Matter Technologies - Rory Dunne; and Q-Pathway - Niamh Frehill.



### Reforming our Courts

The School of Law hosted a seminar on Court Reform in January, which featured a keynote address from Mr Justice Frank Clarke, Chief Justice of Ireland (pictured here). He suggested that judges in District Courts could specialise in particular areas, similar to the system of the High Court, by assigning particular judges to particular regions. Professor Siobhán Mullally (Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights) chaired the seminar and Tom O'Malley (Law) responded to the Chief Justice Clarke's proposals.

### The Horrors of War

In February, Tomi Reichental, one of the last surviving witnesses of the Holocaust, gave a public lecture on campus hosted by the Irish Centre for Human Rights. Tomi was born in present day Slovakia and deported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1944 at the age of nine. When he was liberated a year later, he discovered that 35 members of his extended family had been murdered. Meanwhile, in March, the Centre hosted a public lecture by Jonas Nilsson, who was the Senior Legal Officer in the case against Mladić before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Both events served as stark reminders of the importance of fighting for human rights and dignity around the world today.



### A Carnival of Chemistry

March was a busy month for staff and students in the School of Chemistry, with four major events held across campus. It started with the annual **Eli Lilly Postgraduate Research Symposium** organised by the School's new lecturer in Medicinal Chemistry Dr Erica Burnell. The Eli Lilly judges, Colm O'Mahony and Gary Kirby, praised the continuing development in the quality of the students' research as well as their presenting skills. Dr Constantina Papatriantafyllopoulou organised a **Symposium on Inorganic Materials**, with renowned guest speaker Professor George Christou (University of Florida). The event brought together scientists in Ireland in the field of inorganic materials from across Ireland and opened new opportunities for future collaborations. Meanwhile, An Cumann Ceimice ran a full-day careers event, combining poster sessions and talks from academics and industry on their career paths. One area of particular focus was the perceived barriers in the career path for young female academics in STEM areas. Finally, the School welcomed a visit from **The Royal Society of Chemistry accreditation group**, as part of the process of accrediting new and existing programmes.

### New Courses in Law

The School of Law officially launched two new postgraduate programmes in February. The LLM (International & Comparative Business Law) provides an excellent grounding in business law, for those interested in pursuing a career in legal practice or in the commercial world. Meanwhile, the new LLM (General) is designed for students seeking an advanced postgraduate degree but who do not wish to specialise in a particular area of law. Both courses will begin enrolment this September.

### Hacking the Archives

The Moore Institute recently hosted a two-day hackathon under the theme of 'Collections as Data'. The event focused on the creative re-use of digital archives and collections, drawn from humanities-oriented research. Researchers from NUI Galway, UCC, DIT, GMIT and LIT worked together in groups to devise concepts for innovative digital projects that make creative use of digital archives and collections. The hackathon was funded by DARIAH, the pan-European Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities.



## Galway Energy Summit

February saw Ireland's first student-run energy summit, when students from the College of Engineering and Informatics hosted the 'Galway Energy Summit 2018' on campus. Themed 'The Future of Energy in Ireland', the aim of the summit was to take important steps towards energy efficiency here, a particularly pressing issue given Ireland's failure to meet our EU greenhouse gas emissions targets. The event was run by the University's Galway Energy Society, which is Ireland's largest and most active student-led group dedicated to energy. Founded by Engineering student, Conor Deane, the summit was supported by Blackstone LaunchPad, MaREI and the Ryan Institute. Among the guest speakers was Green Party leader, Eamon Ryan (photograph by Enda Johnston).



## Cancer Conference

Pictured at the Irish Association for Cancer Research conference on campus in February were (l-r) Science Foundation Ireland Director, Professor Mark Ferguson; IACR President, Professor Amanda McCann; Dr James Browne (Medicine); and Minister of State John Halligan.



## Arts Conference

Pictured at the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies Staff Conference held in January were (l-r) Dr Gerry Molloy; College Dean, Professor Cathal O'Donoghue; Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh (Registrar); Dr Kathy Reilly; and Dr Seán Crosson.

## Research Funding

### Fuelling a Cleaner Future

A collaboration between researchers from the Ryan Institute and Gas Networks Ireland secured €6.5 million in EU funding for the **Causeway project**. The project will see the development of a natural gas transport re-fuelling network in Ireland and support the nationwide roll-out of 70 compressed natural gas filling stations. In addition a renewable gas injection facility will be built in 2018, which will introduce renewable gas into the natural gas network for the first time. The University's research will be fed back to gas operators across Europe and will assist in the development of similar projects elsewhere. Meanwhile, the **SEAFUEL project** led by Dr Pau Farràs (Chemistry) launched in February. An international team of researchers will use €3.5 million of INTERREG Atlantic Area funding to demonstrate the viability of hydrogen as a fuel for local transport authorities.

### Funding Business Research

Congratulations to two colleagues in the College of Business, Public Policy and Law who received €1.1 million through Science Foundation Ireland's Science Research Programme. Dr Alma McCarthy (Management) is leading a research project entitled 'Achieving Scientific Excellence and Impact in Ireland: The Role of Talent and Human Capital Management'. It will develop a talent management model for SFI. Meanwhile, Professor John McHale's project, titled 'The Impact of International Star Scientists on Irish Science' will explore how the arrival of high profile researchers can inspire incumbent scientists and the quality of subsequent research recruits. Professor McHale pictured on left and Dr McCarthy pictured on right with other awardees from UL and UCD.



### Single Biggest EPA Award

The Environmental Protection Agency awarded €650,000 to Dr Dearbháile Morris (Medicine) for her four year 'AREST' project, which is exploring the environmental factors associated with antimicrobial resistance. It is the largest single award made by the EPA. The research will generate national level data on the key sources, hot spots and drivers of antimicrobial resistance in the environment from various sectors, including health, agriculture and industry.

### Mental Health Research

The Health Research Board awarded funding of €1.5 million to a consortium of researchers and health service providers, led by Professor Gary Donohoe (Psychology), for a new collaborative doctoral programme focused on understanding and responding to the mental health needs of young people under the age of 25.

## GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

### What's New in New Delhi?

The new MSC in Business and Hospitality was launched in New Delhi by the Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor, as part of her trade mission to India in February. The MSC was designed by staff of the Shannon College of Hotel Management to enable students to blend their existing talents with the advanced hospitality and business skills needed to manage a modern hospitality organisation. Pictured at the launch are (l-r) Giles O'Neill (Enterprise Ireland); Dermott Henry (International Affairs); Minister Mitchell O'Connor; Helena Doody (Shannon College of Hotel Management); Irish Ambassador to India, Brian McElduff; and Shannon College graduate, Vikram Singh Dahiya.



### Korean Collaboration

In January, CÚRAM formalised an agreement for academic collaboration with the Biomedical Manufacturing Technology Centre at the Korea Institute of Industrial Technology (KITECH). The agreement will see the two institutions jointly organise conferences and workshops on topics of mutual interest and to exchange faculty and students for the purpose of education and research. Commenting on the agreement, Professor Abhay Pandit (Director CÚRAM), said "I look forward to the benefits of sharing expertise and training opportunities for our researchers". The agreement was launched by (l-r) Sang Ho Lee (Trimaran Co), Dr Woo Jong Lee (KITECH), Carmel McGroarty-Mitchell, and Professor Abhay Pandit (CÚRAM), and Dr Seung Hwa Yoo and Dr Woo Jin Kim (KITECH).



### Advising WHO?

Dr Mary Jo Lavelle (Health Promotion) has been invited as a Technical Advisor to the World Health Organisation to advise on Health Promotion and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. The Technical Advisory Group met over two days in Berlin recently to advance the priorities and recommendations from the Global Conference on Health Promotion, held in Shanghai in 2016.



### Fixing Hearts in San Francisco

Dr Shane Browne, a postdoctoral fellow at CÚRAM, has been awarded a prestigious American Heart Association fellowship to continue his postdoctoral research at the University of California at Berkeley. Dr Browne's research focuses on the use of biomaterial and stem cell-based therapies to restore blood flow to parts of the body. He will collaborate on the research with Professor Kevin Healy at the Healy Laboratory in UC Berkeley

### A Most Eloquent Student

Félicitations to Final Year French student, John Finn, who won the Prix Européen de l'Éloquence 2018 – an annual contest of public speaking in French – at the Council of Europe in February. John, who is a Member of European Youth Parliament - Ireland, was competing with other speakers from across Europe. Remarking on the award, Professor Philip Dine (Languages) said, "This is clearly a very prestigious award, which reflects extremely well on John and on his language teachers".

## New Books

*Family Histories of the Irish Revolution*, a new book edited by Dr Ciara Boylan (Political Science and Sociology), Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley (History) and Professor Pat Dolan (UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre) was officially launched by actor and UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre patron Cillian Murphy in February. The book featured contributions from current and retired University staff who discussed their families' involvement in the Irish revolution, how family history and memory was imparted, and the legacy of this on succeeding generations. Cillian Murphy is pictured here with the book's editors and contributors.



*China and Global Value Chains*, a new book by Emeritus Professor Seamus Grimes and Yutao Sun explores the core of the Chinese economy from the perspective of the Global Value Chain, combining analysis of inward investment, international trade, Science and Technology and Innovation, and economic development.

*Child to Parent Violence & Abuse – Family Interventions with Non Violent Resistance*, by Declan Coogan (Psychology), explores the available and adaptable intervention programmes designed to help parents living with child-to-parent violence and abuse, and the practitioners who work with them in children and family services.

*Your EU Consumer and Human Rights: A Guide for People in Mortgage Distress in Ireland* is a user-friendly guide published by the Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy. It is aimed at helping thousands of Irish families in mortgage distress, and facing unfair evictions to understand and advocate for their rights, using vital EU consumer and human rights law.

## Flower Press

MA in Writing graduate, Alice Kinsella, launched her debut collection of poetry in March. A native of Claremorris, Co. Mayo, Alice is currently studying poetry and fiction in the MA in Writing. Dr John Kenny (English) is impressed by her achievements: "It is a rare occurrence indeed that a student still only halfway through the MA stage would have a range of poetic work of sufficient accomplishment as to be so eminently worthy of a first collection". *Flower Press* is published by Onslaught Press.



## 100 Years of Votes for Women

In February, Mary Clancy (Political Science and Sociology) delivered a lecture in Leinster House at the request of the Vótáil 100 commemorative committee, and in March she attended Áras an Uachtaráin for celebrations of the event. The events commemorated a century of women's suffrage in Ireland. Mary is pictured (right) in Leinster House, along with Ursula Ní Choill, Senator Ivana Bacik and Professor Louise Ryan (Sheffield).

## Famine on Film

To coincide with the launch of an exhibition of the world's largest collection of Famine-related art at Dublin Castle in March, Dr Tony Tracy (Huston School of Film & Digital Media) co-curated a month-long 'Famine on Film' programme at the Irish Film Institute. Dr Tracy introduced an omnibus screening, outlining the history of representations of the Great Famine as well as considering challenges and issues around such constructions. He also commissioned and executive produced 'The Hunger Times' on behalf of Ireland's Great Hunger Museum (Quinnipiac University), which had its premiere at the IFI in March.



## Back on Stage

In March, Mary McPartlan (College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies) returned to stage to sing at the Arts in Action finale concert. The concert featured an ensemble of 20 musicians from the NUI Galway Medical Orchestra, along with traditional musicians, Máirtín O'Connor and Garry O'Briain, and special guests. Mary was instrumental in establishing and nurturing the Medical Orchestra since its inception in 2010, and the musicians and audience were delighted to see – and hear her – back in action!

## SPOTLIGHT ON CAMPUS LIVING



### Meet the 'Campus Living' Team

Our team manages commercial services on the University campus, including conferences, events, English language courses, faculty-led study abroad programmes, summer schools, residences, catering and retail services.

#### Conferences and events

Are you interested in hosting an international conference at the University? Our experienced events team can support you every step of the way, from bidding stage right through to the management of your event. Some benefits of hosting a high-profile conference include: the strengthening of international links and the promotion of research. To find out about hosting a conference or event on campus and to book facilities, contact us today.



#### English language courses

In 2016, NUI Galway's English Language Centre became a full-time operation to support the strategic objectives of the University's internationalisation strategy. The Pre-Masters English Language Pathway Programme was introduced with the aim of offering a pre-sessional preparatory course to international students who were below the language threshold for postgraduate study. From January 2019, we will be offering a Higher Diploma in English for Academic English (Level 8) as a pre-sessional course with the aim of developing proficiency in the core linguistic areas (reading, writing, listening, speaking) and to prepare students in the essential academic skills for postgraduate study including research methodologies, academic writing, critical reading and presentation skills. For more information on courses and supports available, please contact us.



#### Faculty-led study abroad programmes and summer groups

Each summer, we welcome over 30 faculty-led study abroad groups, mostly from North America, to our campus. Visiting students, accompanied by their faculty, stay in our residences and use our teaching and catering facilities to run their own programmes. We also host music groups, sports groups and a variety of summer schools during the summer months.

If you have links with American or European universities or are involved in any groups that may be interested in staying on campus, please get in touch.



#### Residences

Our campus residences consist of Corrib Village, our existing 764-bed residence, and the new, 429-bed residence which is currently under construction and due to open in September 2018. We are delighted to announce that the new residence will be named 'Goldcrest Village' after the smallest bird in Ireland, the Goldcrest, which can be spotted flitting around our beautiful, parkland campus! The village will be comprised of 76 apartments, each containing 4, 5 or 6 en suite bedrooms and a kitchen/living area.



#### Did you know?

Although our campus residences act as student accommodation during the Academic Year, both Corrib Village and Goldcrest Village are available to book for visiting groups during the summer months. In summer 2017 alone, we welcomed over 11,000 guests to Corrib Village! Are you interested in booking summer accommodation? Get in touch today!

**Catering**



The University's 16 restaurants/café's are operated by five catering companies: Sodexo, Apleona, Masterchefs, Students' Union Commercial Services and SCUUL. All are committed to providing nutritional and tasty dishes, with local, seasonal produce featuring across menus daily. Our caterers are also focused on sustainability. In support of the initiative 'Make Galway a Plastic-Free City' and NUI Galway's Sustainability Strategy, for example, a discount is offered to customers who use their own re-usable cup for tea/coffee (rather than a takeaway cup) in an effort to reduce waste.

**Did you know?**

Recently, NUI Galway signed the Charter for the Galway and West of Ireland Region of Gastronomy, which commits the University to a range of initiatives to support food culture in the region as part of its designation as European Region of Gastronomy 2018. These initiatives include: featuring local produce in campus food outlets, and hosting high-profile, food-related conferences such as The Good Food Ireland Conference and Food on the Edge, and a series of public lectures on themes related to gastronomy and food culture.

**Did you know?**



Delicious honey is being produced on the NUI Galway campus! The 100% natural honey is produced by colonies of Irish *Apis mellifera mellifera*, a honeybee subspecies under threat of extinction in Europe.

**Retail**



Our team oversees retail services on campus. These include the pharmacy, the bookstore, the printing shop and convenience stores. Do you have suggestions on what retail services you would like to see at the University? Email your ideas to [info@campusliving.ie](mailto:info@campusliving.ie)



**Follow Us**

@NUIGalwayEvents



@NUIGalwayAccom

@NUIGalwayELC



**Contact Us**

- Email: [info@campusliving.ie](mailto:info@campusliving.ie)
- Phone: 091 49 2264
- Website: [www.campusliving.ie](http://www.campusliving.ie)

**Goldcrest Village**

Retail

Summer schools

Corrib Village

Catering Cafés

Fine Residences

Dining Conferences

Events Group stays

English language courses

Restaurants

**How can we help you?**

We would love to hear from you! Contact our team today if...

- You would like to host a conference or event on campus
- You would like to enquire about our English language courses
- You are interested in booking campus meeting, accommodation, catering or sports facilities for a visiting group
- You have feedback or ideas that you would like to share with us or you have a general question

### Recognising Excellent Teaching

In the first such event of his presidency, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, presented the President's Awards for Teaching Excellence to six esteemed colleagues at the recent Spring Doctoral ceremony. They were nominated by staff and students in recognition of the passion and distinction they bring to their teaching. The President is pictured here (centre) with awardees (l-r) Dr Helen Dodson (Physics), Ruadhán Cooke (French), Dr Louise Campbell (Medicine), Dr Michelle Millar (Political Science and Sociology), Dr Ger Fleming (Microbiology) and Dr Louise Allcock (Zoology).



### Double Psychology Honours

Dr David Mothersill and Dr Elaine Toomey (Psychology) both received prestigious awards for their research recently. Dr Toomey received the James M Flaherty Early Career Researcher Award from the Irish Canadian University Foundation to conduct further research on the adaptation of 'Football Fans in Training', an effective health behaviour change intervention. Meanwhile, Dr Mothersill received a Charlemont Grant from the Royal Irish Academy for his research in Cognitive Neuroscience



### FameLab Galway

Congratulations to Eoin Murphy (left) and Christopher Lally (right), PhD researchers in the Centre for Chromosome Biology and CÚRAM respectively, who came out on top in the Galway heat of FameLab 2018. The event was hosted by Professor Brian Hughes (Psychology) and included on the judging panel was Dr Gavin Collins (Microbiology). FameLab is a worldwide science engagement competition, which challenges researchers to explain their work in a passionate way and in a limited amount of time.

### Education Awards 2018

Congratulations to the Marketing and Communications Office who were shortlisted 'Best Marketing Team' at the Education Awards 2018 held in April.

### Alumni Awards 2018

The Alumni Awards Gala which was to take place on 3 March has been moved to May as we were "snowed under"! Hopefully the sun will be shining by then. This year's awards recognise the achievements of Tramp Press co-founder, Lisa Coen; Text100 CEO, Aedhmar Hynes; former leader of the Labour Party, Pat Rabbitte; Vice-President of Flavour Supply, Bernard McGuinness; cardiologist, Professor Declan Sugrue; iconic Galway hurler, Joe Connolly; and award-winning poet, Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh. This snow photo was captured by Geography lecturer, Dr Chaosheng Zhang.





## Health and Safety Heroes

In April, the Health and Safety Office hosted a special lunch to thank those staff who have taken on health and safety responsibilities across the University. The team are pictured here with recipients of this year's Health and Safety Awards, which recognise staff who have gone beyond the call of duty in ensuring our workplace continues to be a safe environment. We join Alice, Berni and Cathy in thanking all of the Health and Safety Co-ordinators across campus for their dedication to this important role.



## The Marketplace is changing how we purchase Lab Supplies

Do you purchase lab equipment from Fisher Scientific and Sigma-Aldrich? If so, you need to know about the Marketplace in Agresso. This new system enables staff to search through their products and select them directly in Agresso, without having to seek quotes from the supplier. The Marketplace will be rolled out to other common suppliers over the coming years, so make sure you're familiar with how it works by visiting: [www.nuigalway.ie/marketplace](http://www.nuigalway.ie/marketplace) from the survey.



**Fisher Scientific**

**SIGMA-ALDRICH®**

## Futureproofing our Internet Connection

Good news for anyone who uses the web (i.e. everyone!) Our colleagues in ISS have recently installed new firewall appliances that will greatly increase the speed of the University's connection to the internet. The additional bandwidth enables an increase from 2 Gbps of data (Gigabits per second) to 10 Gbps. Simply put, a firewall is a device that protects the University's internal network from the outside world by screening the data traffic which flows into and out of the University. In addition to the increased bandwidth, the new firewalls also come with additional security features to help better protect us against existing and emerging threats. With our data usage growing at a rate of 27% each year these new firewalls should meet our needs through to the end of their operational life.



## Another ARAN milestone

It has been a little over a year since the Library's Digital Publishing team celebrated the 4000th item uploaded to ARAN, the University's open access repository for research. It was with excitement that the team reported in March that the 5000th item had been uploaded. It is great to see the strength of engagement with ARAN on the part of campus researchers, and all of the impactful research being shared with the world online.

## Comhrá, ceol – agus coirn – le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge

I measc na n-aíonna speisialta a d'fhreastal ar mhaidin chaifé Ghaelach i mí Márta, bhí Corn Sam Mhic Uidhir. Chuir foireann Acadamh na hOllscoláíochta Gaeilge an ócáid speisialta seo ar siúl i gcuimhne ar a gcomhghleacaí agus cara, Mícheál Ó Loideáin. Bailíodh breis is €1,000 ar son Bone Marrow for Leukaemia Trust.





## Be Bright on Your Bike

On a dark and dreary morning in January, Buildings and Estates held a Cycle Safe Awareness event as part of the University's travel planning process. Safety accessories were handed out to cyclists at entrances to campus to promote visibility. With ever-increasing traffic in the city and more awareness of the risks of a sedentary lifestyle, cycling is becoming a more popular way of getting to and from campus. Buildings and Estates have responded with extra bike racks, particularly in sheltered and secure compounds. Just make sure that when you hop on the saddle, that you're safe and seen!



## Encouraging Eager Engineers

Staff of the College of Engineering and Informatics held a family-friendly event in February to inspire young engineers. 'Engineering Our Future: Family Fun Day' was held on campus as part of Engineers Week 2018, which celebrates engineering across Ireland. With movies, robots, Lego and science displays, it showed how engineering is for everyone. Speaking about the event, College Dean, Professor Peter McHugh, said: "Engineering is in every aspect of our lives. Engineers dream of, invent, design and build things that change the reality and future of all human beings."

## Jogging for Jigsaw

The University teamed up with the Kingfisher Club and Aerogen in March for its fifth annual charity 8k Run/Walk in aid of mental health charity, Jigsaw. The 8k attracted hundreds of staff, students, graduates and visitors who enjoyed a mixed terrain and traffic-free route that started at the Sports Centre, went northwards through the Dangan playing fields and returned by the riverside path to the Quadrangle. Dr Pat Morgan (Vice-President for the Student Experience) said: "We were delighted to see so many people take part in what we think is the flattest and friendliest course in the country!" She is pictured here with other members of the 8k team.



## Oval Ball at Open Day

Members of Connacht Rugby, along with players from the University women's and men's rugby teams delivered an informal rugby skills session at the Open Day in March. It was one of a number of interactive events to show incoming students how they can develop sporting, cultural and academic skills in University. Pictured are Raichéal Walsh and Ella Gavin from Salerno Secondary School, Galway with Darragh Leader of Connacht Rugby.

## Seas Suas Awards

In February, civic and religious leaders from Galway's diverse communities attended the Seas Suas Awards Ceremony to recognise the 250 students who had successfully completed the programme. Seas Suas is an innovative student-to-student mentoring programme, which is facilitated by the Chaplaincy team, and supported by the University's Student Services and Students' Union. Students complete training on topics such as developing positive mental health, alcohol, online wellbeing and suicide prevention. Pictured at the ceremony were: (sitting l-r) Fr Brendan Kelly, Bishop of Galway; Dr Pat Morgan (Vice-President for the Student Experience); Deputy Mayor, Mike Cubbard; Archdeacon Gary Hastings; Imam Ibrahim Noonan; and (standing l-r) Fr Ben Hughes (Head Chaplain); Students' Union President, Lorcán Ó Maoileannaigh; John Hannon (Director of Student Services), Lorraine Tansey (Community Knowledge Initiative); Dolores McAndrew (Chaplaincy); Pastor Peter Burrows; Fr Tudor Ghita; and Fr Declan Lohan (Chaplain).



## The View from Around Campus



A case study by Dr Tiernan Henry and Dr John Murray (Earth and Ocean Sciences) reflecting on their experiences of student film-making as a tool for enhanced learning featured in the Media and Learning News in March. Their students' 'History of Life' video series on YouTube was developed as part of CELT training on new teaching methods.



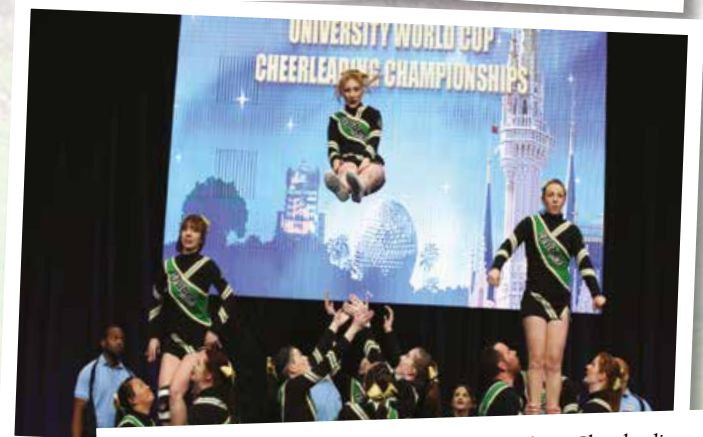
Dr Audrey Morley (Geography) supported three Coláiste Iognáid students for this year's BT Young Scientist and Technology Awards. Aoibhe, Ellie and Kate's project focused on combatting microplastic waste.



Dr Sinéad Keogh (Centre for Disability Law and Policy) is pictured with Senator John Dolan at the recent launch of the 'Independent Living: An Evaluation of the Áiseanna Tacaíochta model of Direct Payments' report, which she co-authored.



Fixing Fluffy: This picture was captured at the recent Teddy Bear Hospital on campus.



Go Pandas! Pictured are members of the NUI Galway Cheerleading Society who came an unbelievable Third-in-the-World at the international University World Championships in Florida in January.



President Ó hÓgartaigh joined with members and supporters of the University of Sanctuary steering committee at the launch of their efforts to create an inclusive and welcoming campus for asylum seekers, refugees and members of the Traveller community



Pictured at the launch in February of a report on last year's Archives and Special Collections activities were: Dr John Cunningham (History), Marie Boran (Special Collections Librarian), Professor Dan Carey (Director, Moore Institute), Ronnie O'Gorman (donor and special guest) and John Cox (University Librarian).



Tough bunch: Members of the NUI Galway Academy rugby club youth teams struck a pose in Salthill before departing on their annual rugby tour to Bristol.



**When MARIO met Mary:** At a care home in east Galway, Mary Gannon is helping to test the MARIO robot, which has been developed by staff in the School of Nursing and Midwifery. MARIO is designed to help combat loneliness in old age by enabling elderly people to express themselves creatively and to connect with friends and family. The project, which is coordinated by Professor Dympna Casey, has been named by the European Commission as one of the Top 25 most influential ICT projects for active and healthy ageing.

# ALL ABOUT

## Desktop Diary

May 2018							June 2018							July 2018						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30	31					

## Summer Conference Season

And there was you thinking the University would quieten down after exams! There is a busy line-up of conferences coming to campus over the next three months, and we thought we'd pick out some highlights to look out for.

### The Rights of Migrants & Refugees 17-18 May

The Irish Centre for Human Rights will host a conference in May exploring the role of courts and tribunals in securing the rights of migrants and refugees. It will bring together judges, practitioners, academics, students and policy makers working in the field of migration and asylum law and policy.

### MoJoFest 29-31 May

Following on from last year's MoJoCon, this three day conference invites visitors to get hands-on with the latest mobile technologies. Global experts and delegates will meet on campus to debate and test these technologies

and explore how they are changing how we make films, do marketing and tell stories.

### International Squirrel Colloquium 4-8 June

We couldn't help but highlight this conference, which brings together squirrel researchers from around the world to discuss all aspects of squirrel biology including ecology, evolution, morphology, genetics and conservation. Originally focussing on tree squirrels, the colloquium was expanded to include flying squirrels in 2006, and this year will include ground squirrel research for the first time!

### 125 Bliain ag Fás? An Athbheochan agus Conradh na Gaeilge 15 Meitheamh

Breathnóidh an chomhdháil seo ar an tionchar a bhí ag Conradh na Gaeilge ar athbheochan na teanga ó bunaíodh an eagraíocht in 1893. Tá cartiann an chonartha á caomhnú san Ollscoil seo agus tabharfaidh an chomhdháil

léargas ar an bpróiseas caomhnaithe sin.

### Glossing Conference 21-22 June

Glossing, the practice of annotating manuscripts between the lines and in the margins, was a widespread cultural practice wherever books were being read, studied and taught. Delegates working in countries and languages across the world will converge on Galway in June to compare notes.

### Irish Ancestry Summer School 1-6 July

This five-day summer school includes lectures, workshops and fieldtrips exploring the origins of people in Ireland from earliest times and the development of society here through to the present day. Participants will also be taught how to research their own family history and will be offered the opportunity of giving a DNA sample to find out about their origins.