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January 2007

Martin Sheen joins President Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh in the Quad. The actor, best known recently for his role in The West Wing, enrolled last semester to study English, Philosophy and Oceanography.
NEW ENGINEERING BUILDING EMBODIES UNIVERSITY CAMPUSS OF THE FUTURE

A first glimpse of the NUI Galway 'Campus of the Future', the 14,000 sqm Engineering Building is a testament to the University’s commitment to innovative concepts in building and design. The €50 million facility is scheduled to open in 2009 and will be the largest single capital project undertaken in the University’s history. Key principles in the design and planning have been the reintegration of the river with the building and surrounding walkways, interactive learning spaces, and environmentally friendly, energy efficient facilities. The result will be a riverside amenity of enormous benefit not only to students and staff, but also to the broader community of the city and region.

The building is part of a major €400 million development project announced in December 2006. The ‘Campus of the Future’ programme will put NUI Galway firmly on the international stage in terms of facilities and research. Capital investment financed by the government, philanthropic funding and University resources will see almost 20 large infrastructural projects undertaken on the 260-acre campus.

For further information see www.nuigalway.ie/campusofthefuture

FOSTERING INNOVATIVE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

NUI Galway has been extremely successful in recent years in developing high-quality research initiatives and securing record levels of research funding from the Higher Education Authority, Science Foundation Ireland and other sources. In its research policy, the University prioritises an interdisciplinary focus on specific areas of excellence towards the development of world-class research institutes and centres. These include:

National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES)
Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDy)
Martin Ryan Marine Science Institute (MRI)
Environmental Change Institute (ECI)
Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI)
Moore Institute for Research in Humanities and Social Studies
Irish Centre for Human Rights
Centre for Innovation & Structural Change (CISC)

Now firmly established in the top tier of research-intensive universities in Europe, NUI Galway attracts internationally-renowned academics, researchers and students of the highest calibre in all faculties. The University’s commitment to research and excellence is underpinned in its Academic Plan 2003-2008.

NUI Galway is the first university in Ireland to have established a Technology Transfer Office. It supports national and regional economic development by creating an environment that values intellectual property, promotes technology transfer and commercialisation activity among University researchers, and manages start-up activity.

GET LINKED TODAY

Keep up to date with news from the University community, old friends and Galway City by receiving the bi-monthly Alumni Links newsletter in your inbox. If you are not receiving Alumni Links already - just drop us a line with your email address and you will automatically be added to the distribution list. Recent Links newsletters can be viewed on nuigalway.ie/alumni

Send your email to alumni@nuigalway.ie to be entered into a draw for one of 10 NUI Galway golf umbrellas.
REUNIONS

RECORD NUMBERS AT REUNION WEEKEND 2006

As is the tradition, the second weekend in June this year saw NUI Galway classes celebrating milestone reunions on campus. This year it was the turn of the Class of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1981 and 1996 to return to their alma mater and catch-up with each other. Over 400 graduates from throughout Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States travelled to the special event. First to arrive on campus on Friday 9th was the Class of 1956 celebrating its 50th anniversary of leaving UCG and making a whole weekend of the affair. On Saturday evening all the reunion classes arrived en masse for the annual ‘Through the Years’ Reunion BBQ. The stories, celebrations and reuniting of old friends carried on well into the evening for many. On Sunday the Class of 1956 joined for a farewell lunch and remembrance service led by the Bishop of Galway, Dr Martin Drennan, in the University chapel.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The success of the 2006 event was largely due to the help of class representatives who encouraged members of their class to attend the Reunion. If you are a graduate of ’57, ’67, ’77, ’82, or ’97 and would like to ensure successful participation of your class, please contact Sheila Gorham in the Alumni Office (091) 493750 or email alumni@nuigalway.ie

75 YEARS SINCE GRADUATING NUI GALWAY

Professor Ger Hurley, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs, and Alumni Office representatives recently welcomed Una Ryan into Cumann Caoga Bliain (the 50 Year Club) to celebrate her 75th anniversary of graduating with a BComm from UCG in 1931. Una has just recently turned 98 and is the oldest graduate to have been welcomed to the Club. Her son Michael, also a NUI Galway graduate, BSc 1961, accepted the certificate on her behalf.

TEACHT LE CHÉILE - SAVE-THE-DATE

‘Through the Years’ Reunion BBQ 9 June 2007

Reunion is just the excuse you have been waiting for to see old friends and come back to campus to relive the days - mark your diaries now and get in touch with your friends to save the date. The Class of 1957 are commemorating 50 golden years since their graduation and will begin a whole weekend of celebrations lasting from Friday June 8 afternoon to Sunday June 10. The celebrations include a ceremonial welcome into the Cumann Caoga Bliain (50 Year Club) by President Inognáid Ó Muircheartaigh.

We would be delighted to hear of other graduates who have celebrated, or will soon celebrate, similar milestones. Please contact Emma Goode in the Alumni Office. Tel 091 497271, emma.goode@nuigalway.ie
The Irish Studies Online Programme from NUI Galway’s Centre for Irish Studies, is set to make its mark in Japan. At a recent function in Tokyo, His Excellency Brendan Scannell, Irish Ambassador to Japan, formally launched an exciting new development which will allow Japanese students the opportunity to be taught the online diploma in Irish Studies in their own language.

The programme, developed in partnership between NUI Galway and Regis University, Denver, Colorado, provides an introduction to Irish life and culture through the disciplines of Archaeology, History, English, Irish Political Science and Sociology. All of the seminars and group discussions will be in Japanese. NUI Galway’s Centre for Irish Studies, which has pioneered the development of online courses in Irish Studies, has appointed two highly qualified Japanese facilitators to teach the programme and provide tuition and guidance to students in Japanese.

The online diploma, the first of its kind in the world, provides an overview of Irish history from the pagan Celtic world and the coming of Christianity, through to the cataclysmic famines of the 1840s, the establishment of an independent state in 1922, and Ireland’s integration into the European community that has been ongoing since the 1970s. Students are introduced to Irish literature in both the Irish and English languages, from the Old-Irish sagas and early Irish lyrics through the emergence of Anglo-Irish literature in the eighteenth century, to the twentieth-century revival of writing in Irish.

For your wallet

Did you know you can become a donor to the University at no cost to yourself?

The NUI Galway Visa card is available exclusively to graduates of NUI Galway. By registering for the card, each graduate automatically becomes a donor to University development projects at no personal cost. For every card registered, AIB automatically donates €20 to the University. On top of this, 0.2% of each future transaction on your new card will be directed to the University’s development projects - again at no cost to you as cardholder.

To get an application form and apply for your card, contact AIB or download the form from http://www.nuigalway.ie/alumni/support.html

...As Gaeilge

Ioslódail an leagan Gaeilge de CAIRDE 6
www.nuigalway.ie/alumni/program_publications.html
Graduates celebrate arrival of DruidSinge


New York, New York

New York has seen a revival of NUI Galway activity with two events in the last six months and plans for more in the near future.

GALWAY UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION U.S. BOARD LAUNCH

Last November, the U.S. Board of Galway University Foundation was formally recognised by the Irish Consul General in New York, Mr. Tim O’Connor, at a reception in his residence. Following the inaugural meeting of the Board in the U.S., members were introduced to a gathering of 150 prominent New York Irish Americans together with University alumni and friends.

Members of the U.S. Board are:

Declan Kelly BA 1989, (Chairman), C.E.O. Financial Dynamics;
Mike Higgins BComm 1982, M.D. Real Estate Finance & CIBC World Bank;
Aedhmar Hynes-McGovern BA 1986, CEO, Text 100;
Frank Mooney, Partner, Dunnington, Bartholow & Miller;
Iris Finan BComm 1977, President - Bottling Investments, Coca-Cola Worldwide;
Dominick Battaly BComm 1988, Chairman & Managing Partner, Claret Capital;
Dr. Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, President, NUI Galway;
John MacNamara, Chairman, Galway University Foundation;
Tom Joyce, Executive Director, Galway University Foundation;

For more information on events in the tri-state area please contact the Alumni Office www.nuigalway.ie/alumni or
John Dolan BA 1993 203-938-4814, johndolan36@yahoo.com
Prof Irene Whelan BA 1973, 914-123-5145, whelanl@mville.edu

Irish Alumni London Cruise

140 alumni from NUI Galway and other Irish Universities took to the water in London for a charity champagne cruise on the Thames in July. The proceeds of over £1,200 were donated to the London Irish Centre which has provided a range of support services for generations of Irish people living and working in London. Graduates in London interested in hearing about future London and UK alumni events are invited to update their details on www.nuigalway.ie/alumni

Big in Boston

The Second Annual British and Irish Graduates (BIG) in America Ball was held on Friday 3 November, 2006 in the Plaza Ballroom at the Seaport Hotel, Boston. The Ball was attended by graduates, staff and friends of higher education institutes in the UK and Ireland. It was a great chance to network, reminisce, dine, dance and catch up with old friends. Distinguished guests included both the Consul General of Ireland and of the UK.

NUI Galway alumni were well represented at the celebrations and attended a drinks reception, hosted by Julie McCormack BA 1987, LLB 1989, prior to the Ball. Further NUI Galway alumni activity is planned for Boston in 2007. Log on to www.nuigalway.ie/alumni for more information.
Keith Barry BSc 1998

Keith Barry, following the success of his first U.S. network television special, embarked on an Irish Tour with his live show *Keith Barry – Mental, A Mind Altering Experience*. Keith could also be seen on a Christmas TV Special on RTÉ over Christmas.

John McGowan BE 1970

John McGowan, winner of the TBD Alumni Award for Engineering, IT & Maths in 2002 and currently President of the Engineers Ireland, has been appointed Managing Director of one of the largest privately-owned companies in the country, Michael McNamara & Co Ltd.

Garry Hynes BA 1974, LLD 1997 (Honorary Degree)

Garry Hynes received the Freedom of Galway City, becoming the first Irish woman to receive this prestigious award. Garry is an internationally award-winning theatre director and a founding member of Druid Theatre Company.

Grainne Seoige BA 1995, HDipA 1996

Grainne Seoige moved from Sky News to begin presenting a new magazine/lifestyle programme, *Seoige and O’Shao*, on weekday Afternoons with RTÉ.

Declan Kelly BA 1989

Declan Kelly, Chairman of Financial Dynamics, a leading international specialist communications consultancy, has overseen the sale of the company for $260 million to FTI Consulting. Declan is the 2004 recipient of the Bank of Ireland Alumni Award for Business and Commerce.

Finian O’Sullivan BSc 1976

Finian O’Sullivan was appointed as President of Burren Energy Plc, the independent oil and gas exploration and production company.

Pádraig Ó Céidigh BComm 1978

Pádraig Ó Céidigh, Chairman of Aer Arann, and 2002 Bank of Ireland Alumni Award Winner for Business and Commerce, received on behalf of the airline the prestigious Palmes d’Or, awarded by the European Regions Airline Association.

**ARTS COUNCIL CHAIR UNVEILS AWARD HONOURING THE LATE JEROME HYNES**

Leading lights from the world of Irish arts joined alumni recently on campus as Olive Braiden, Chairperson of the Arts Council, publicly unveiled the Jerome Hynes Award for Best One Act Play. The gathering, including Jerome’s close family, were treated to a dramatic tribute from *Playboy of the Western World* by theatre legend Marie Mullen (BA 1974, MA Honorary Degree 1999), partnering up-and-coming DramSoc actors Emma O’Grady and Bernard Higgins.

The award, a sculpture by John Coll (BSc 1979, 2004 AIB Alumni Award Winner for Literature, Communication and the Arts), was commissioned by the Alumni Association and will be housed permanently in the Bank of Ireland theatre on campus to honour Jerome’s memory and his outstanding contribution to the arts in Ireland.

At the time of his death in September 2005, Jerome (BA 1980, HDip in Ed 1981 and LLB 1988) was Director of the Wexford Opera, Deputy Chairman to the Irish Arts Council and member of the Board of the National Concert Hall.
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD RETREAT TO CLIFDEN

The first Alumni Association Board retreat took place in Clifden in September. Board members and Alumni Office staff participated in two days of group sessions designed to strategically assess the Terms of Reference for the Board and develop an Association Workplan for the year. Each of these documents will be available online in the near future. Dr Fidelma Dunne, Alumni Association Board Chairperson, commented on the retreat. “This was a great opportunity to harness the enthusiasm of the Board and set real objectives for the future. I am very proud to be part of this group and look forward to focusing on the tasks ahead.” Another retreat is planned for next year to discuss strategic initiatives for the Association and its Board. For further information about Alumni Association Board activities please visit www.nuigalway.ie/alumni

CORRIB MEDICAL ALUMNI NETWORK

It’s well known that the NUI Galway medical graduates are a collegiate bunch so it will be no surprise to hear of the recently established Corrib Medical Alumni Network. The club is open to all friends and alumni of the Galway medical fraternity who will support the Network’s mission to promote the future development of medical education and research at NUI Galway.

Spearheaded by Prof of Surgery Michael Kerin (MB, BCh, BAO 1984, MCh 1989) the Network has already launched its fundraising drive at the Galway Races and hosted the inaugural annual Christmas Dinner in the O’Callaghan Alexander Hotel in Dublin in December. For further information about the Network please contact Dr Fidelma Dunne, 091 492972 catherine.leenane@nuigalway.ie

For a list of upcoming Medical Reunions please see nuigalway.ie/alumni/reunions.html Corrib Medical Alumni Network representatives are available to make presentations about the Network’s activities at reunions. Please contact the Alumni Office for further information.

FLIRT FM REUNION

FLIRT (Fully Licensed Independent Radio Transmission) FM, the University radio station, celebrated a decade of broadcasting in July. This milestone was marked by a reunion dinner on campus in Aras Moyola, an extended programme of broadcasting and a series of workshops for former and current volunteers. The reunion was organised by founding station manager Andrew O’ Baoill BSc 1998, Chontelie Kenny BE 1998 and Pat O’ Flaherty, current BA student. The event combined the contributions and experience of former volunteers with the enthusiasm of current volunteers for the continued growth and development of the station.

Tune in to FLIRT on 105.6FM

FRIENDS RALLY FOR ELAINE

Friends of Elaine Cullen (BA 1988, HDip Ed 1989) will be delighted to hear that she is progressing well following an accident in which she suffered a brain injury in September 2005. Elaine has shown extraordinary courage and determination in coping with the challenges her injuries will present in the future. A small group of family, her fellow UCG graduates and friends have banded together to arrange a function in Galway in 2007 to demonstrate their support for Elaine. They are looking for any support that Elaine’s wide circle of friends, acquaintances and fellow graduates might be willing to provide. If readers would like to learn more please send an e-mail to friendsofelaine@hotmail.com or contact the Alumni Office.

CHRISTMAS GATHERING

The second annual Alumni Christmas Gathering took place on Thursday 21 December in the Aula Maxima, NUI Galway. Alumni joined together to celebrate the start of the festive season with mince pies, mulled wine and carols and to catch up with each other and campus developments.

CALLING ALL FORMER CHORAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

A 40th Reunion is being planned for former Choral Society members. This reunion will take place over the weekend of 28 - 30 September 2007 on campus. If you are interested in taking part please contact Dr Brendan O’Connor (BSc 1971, PhD 1981) on boc@aquafact.ie or phone 091 756812.

WITH THANKS

The University, Alumni Office, and Alumni Association, extend their thanks to each of the following retiring board members for their contributions during their time on the Alumni Association Board.

Tony Collins BA 1969
Fintan Maher BA 1967
Pat May BE 1952
Don O’Donovan BA 1986
Paddy Reilly BE 2002
Fiona Watson BE 1992
AND FINALLY...

**GALA BANQUET 2007**

The formal launch of the Eighth Annual NUI Galway Gala Banquet took place in December on campus. This year the Gala banquet will celebrate ALIVE (A Learning Initiative & Volunteering Experience) - a programme established at NUI Galway in 2003 to harness, acknowledge and support student volunteering.

The Eighth NUI Galway Gala Banquet featuring the Alumni Awards will take place on Saturday 3rd March 2007 at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Galway.

Ticket bookings: contact Emma Goode on 091 495266 / gala@nuigalway.ie.

**160 YEARS OF THE LITERARY & DEBATING SOCIETY**

The Literary & Debating Society is currently celebrating its 160th session. For this landmark year, the society is organising entertaining and controversial debates, compiling a history of the Society and hosting a reunion dinner in 2007.

Across three centuries, this Society has provided a valuable forum for free speech for all students and staff of the University. In recent years, there has been considerable competitive debating success at the prestigious World and European Debating Championships, as well as intervarsity competitions in Ireland and the UK. So far this semester, the Society has hosted guest speakers such as the voice of Bart Simpson, Nancy Cartwright, Micháel Ó Muircheartaigh as Chair of a lively GAA Professionalism debate and Kevin Myers who shared his views on Traveller’s Rights. To celebrate the landmark anniversary, former Auditor Mark Hanniffy (a final year Chemistry PhD student) is compiling a history of the Society.

“We invite people to help by supplying their recollections of what went on when they were in college, as well as photos and other memorabilia. We are particularly interested in locating the record books of the 1960’s.”

Along with the history project, a reunion dinner next spring will allow former members to reminisce over past times at Lit & Deb and life at UCG / NUI Galway.

If you would like to find out more about what the Society is currently doing, the website address is http://litndeb.nuigalway.ie. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved with the history project and/or the reunion dinner by emailing Promotions Officer Caitríona Callanan at litndeb160@gmail.com.

**ELECTIONS TO NUI PANEL OF SEANAD ÉIREANN**

As you are probably aware, there will be a General Election early in 2007. Subsequent to this will be the elections to Seanad Éireann, including elections to the NUI panel of the Seanad. Although anyone can run as a candidate for the NUI panel, the electorate is restricted to graduates of the NUI. That is, NUI Galway / UCG, UCD, UCC and NUI Maynooth.

In order to exercise your vote, please ensure your details are up to date with the NUI Office, either by completing the short form via the link below, or by contacting the NUI and requesting a form to be posted to you. You can email the NUI at records@nui.ie if your details may not have been updated since you graduated.

Download your registration form at http://www.nui.ie/elections/default.asp#sel_reg

Postal Address:
National University of Ireland, 49 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Ireland Telephone: (01) 439 2424

Thank you,
Elected member of NUI Galway Governing Authority

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