Year in Review
2004 – 2005

19th November, 2005
Alumni Association
incorporating Cumann Céimithe na Gaillimhe
Following the completion of Gerry Hanley (BE 1977) and Cepta Broughams’s (BSc 79) terms as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, Dr Fidelma Dunne (MB,BCh,BAO 1984) was confirmed as the new Chair of the Alumni Association, incorporating Cumann Céimithe na Gaillimhe and Catherine Hickey-O’Maolain (BSc 80, HDip in Ed 81, MEd 99) as Board Vice Chair.

The Alumni Association Board met five times in the 2004-2005 period to set objectives and implement a range of activities aimed at cementing the very strong bonds that exist between the University and its graduates.

The Alumni Association continues to make significant progress in the administration and development of its range of programmes. Listed below is an overview of the work programme of the Alumni Association and Alumni Office for the period of June 2004 – September 2005:

**Database**

The Alumni Office currently holds a database of 53,721 graduate records through the class of 2004 with 42,429 having mailable addresses. 17,362 (41%) are confirmed as correct through a correspondence/personal contact and 4,000 records include an email address. The quality of the alumni database continues to improve. The main sources of updates are received through requests for information regarding Reunion, publication and mailing returns, and email.

**Alumni Fund**

As per the Terms of Reference 6.3 Fundraising and Support:

. . . The Board of the Alumni Association has discretion to direct unrestricted funds from graduates.

On 11 June 2005 the Board carried out this function with the allocation of unrestricted funds raised from graduates through the Annual Fund as of fiscal year end June 2004. As per the terms, the Galway University Foundation presented the Board with a list of priority projects along with a funding need.

The following programmes received funding through this procedure:

- Múscailt €6,000
- Multiple Sclerosis – A Short Term Project €5,500
- Student Clubs and Societies Special Projects €2,000

**Communications**

*Cois Coiribe* Magazine

The 2005 issue of *Cois Coiribe* magazine was circulated in July 2005. *Cois Coiribe*, a quality magazine on life at the University today, is a publication of the Alumni Office. This year’s 44 page publication included four feature articles: *Internationalism at NUI Galway, Edna O’Brien, Incineration: The chemistry of combustion* and *Alumni Awards,*
University News, Student News and Alumni News are the three other standard sections of the magazine. A *Letters* page is included as part of the Alumni News Section.

*Alumni Newsletter*
The *Alumni Newsletter*, circulated in July 2004 updated all graduates on the work programme of the Association, including the allocation of unrestricted gifts from graduates (fiscal Year end June 2003), Reunion, Gala Banquet, Alumni Awards, Regional Alumni Clubs, and University News.

*Cumann Caoga Bliain Newsletter*
The format of this year’s Newsletter was expanded from a 4-page to a six-page publication. It included the programme of events for the Reunion Weekend (June) and the Cumann Caoga Bliain luncheon (April) as well as photos from these events and of students in the 1940s/50s and articles contributed to the office from our 1950s graduates.

*Alumni Links*
The email Newsletter Alumni Links was introduced in October and is emailed to all graduates for whom we have an email address X . This publication informs alumni about both recent and up and coming events and University news. It has been enthusiastically received by our graduates and has also helped us in expanding the number of email addresses that we hold.

*Reunions*

*Annual Reunion Weekend*
The Alumni Reunion Weekend 2005 enjoyed its largest ever attendance to date, with over 450 graduates participating in the Reunion BBQ, representing the Classes of 1955, 1965, 1975, 1980 and 1995 as well as LLB graduates from 2000 and 1985. The success of the 2005 event was due to the help of class representatives who encouraged members of their class to attend Reunion. Representatives from each faculty in each class year were sought to serve as class leaders. This involved their agreeing to review class lists and identifying, and updating their former classmate's addresses. Class leaders also agree to have their name mentioned in the invitation, thus eliciting support for participation.

The Friday of the weekend is dedicated to those graduates celebrating their 50th Anniversary of their graduation. Once again, Reunion 2005 saw an increase of participants from the 50 Year Class with 39 members of the Class of 1955 being welcomed into the *Cumann Caoga Bliain* at a reception hosted by Prof Hurley, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives & External Affairs. That evening, Board Member Fintan Maher hosted a dinner for the Class of 1955 at the Galway Bay Hotel in Salthill. The ‘Through the Years’ Reunion BBQ took place on the Saturday night with approximately 450 graduates attending, up from 300 the previous year. The participation levels are increasing and we are confident that our new strategy is working. The cost of the BBQ is €30 per person, while the cost for the 50-Year Class celebrating events spanning the weekend is €80 or €40 for Friday’s activities. Reunion 2006 will take place 9th – 11th of June following last year’s format, and invitations will be mailed to graduates from years 1956, 1966, 1976, 1981 & 1996.
The Cumann Caoga Bliain Reunion Lunch
The third annual 50 Year Club/ Cumann Caoga Bliain Luncheon took place on Thursday 7th April. This event was open to all pre-1955 graduates who had not previously been entered into the Cumann Caoga Bliain. Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, University President welcomed all graduates back to NUI Galway and presented them with commemorative certificates.

Cumann de Barra Reunion
In conjunction with the University’s Cumann de Barra Society a reunion of past society members was held in the Great Southern Hotel, Eyre Square on 2004. The Society was awarded an allocation of Alumni Fund monies in 2004 for the purpose of conducting this event. Over 100 graduates and their guests returned to Galway for this Reunion, the guest of honour was An Taoiseach Mr Bertie Ahern.

Alumni Recognition Programmes
Alumni Awards Programme
The 2004 Alumni Awards Programme was yet again another success. The Fifth Annual Alumni Awards ceremony took place at the University’s Annual Gala Banquet held on Saturday 5th March 2005 at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Galway. Over 680 alumni, faculty, staff, and friends gathered to honour the achievements of the following seven distinguished graduates:
• TBD Award for Engineering, IT and Mathematics
  Ms Anne Butler, BE 1976 – Senior Consultant with TES Consulting Engineers
• Bank of Ireland Award for Business and Commerce
  Mr Declan Kelly, BA 1989 – President & CEO of Financial Dynamics - USA
• Medtronic Vascular Award for Health Care and Medical Science
  Professor Orla Conneely, BSc 1977, MSc 1981, PhD 1983 – Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Baylor College of Medicine
• Hewlett-Packard Award for Literature, Communication and the Arts
  Mr John Coll, BSc 1979 - Sculptor
• Duais Hewlett-Packard don Ghaeilge
  Daithí Mac Cárthaigh, BA 1989, MA 1995, LLB 1997 - Abhcóide i Leabharlann an Dlí
• NUI Galway Award for Law, Public Service and Government
  Cardinal Wilfrid Napier, BA 1964 – Archbishop of Durban, South Africa
• Seavite Award for Natural Science
  Professor Frank Imbusch, BSc 1956, MSc 1958 – Physicist and Educator

Graduate Sports Hall of Fame & Achievement Programme
In order to compliment the existing Awards programme, which focuses on the academic-side of the University experience, plans were initiated in May 2004 to establish a Graduate Sports Hall of Fame & Achievement Programme to celebrate the sporting accomplishments of UCG/NUI Galway graduates. The Alumni Board is keen to see these non-academic achievements celebrated to highlight:
• the contributions of graduates to student clubs;
the opportunities which college athletics provides students;
and the positive impact it has on a student’s personal development.
It is envisioned that the programme will develop in a two-phase process:
Phase 1 - Document and display the achievements of the University’s Sporting Clubs in
the Dangan Sports Pavilion.
Phase 2 - Formalise and build upon the Sports Office’s 21-year history of presenting a
Graduate Achievement Award to establish a Sports Hall of Fame, which would
be housed in the new University Centre.

Club Development
Prof Ger Hurley, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs traveled to
Beijing and Tokyo in February and March respectively where he hosted a dinner for
graduates in these localities. In May an Alumni Brunch was hosted in LA for graduates
in California. The Sligo Alumni group held their second annual Graduate Golf Outing at
Strandhill Golf Club in Sligo in May 2005. The event was a success with 30 graduates
participating in the day’s events. University President Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartiagh
attended as a special guest.

Web Site www.nuigalway.ie/alumni
The format of the website was improved in May 2005 and is continuously updated and
developed to offer our graduates improved methods of interaction. The Alumni Address
Update form is a popular feature of the site with an average receipt of 10 updates a
month. Discussions are underway to grow the website into an Alumni Network based
upon the use of semantic web technology. This development will continue over the
coming year.

Student Send-offs
Another successful Student Send-off Programme was held this August/September. In
2004 it was decided to expand the Student Send-off Programme beyond the four
locations of the previous years (Donegal, Sligo, Castlebar and Ennis) to six locations,
now including Athlone and Galway. These locations were chosen after conducting
searches on our alumni database which indicated that substantial numbers of our
graduates originate from these areas. Through consultation with the Guidance
Counsellors of Ireland, schools were identified to contact. Guidance Counsellors from the
chosen schools were initially contacted by letter of the event in April and were requested
to circulate the information to their students. The Alumni Association spokesperson
introduced the event and spoke briefly on who and what the Alumni Association
represented. Student Services representatives in the form of the Student Mentor
Programme Manager and the President of The Students’ Union discussed the following:
Accommodation, Counseling Services, Health Unit, Alcohol & Drugs Stay Safe
Programme, Student Mentor Programme, Campus and Library Tours, Clubs & Societies,
Admissions, and Freshers Week. Participation was consistent in all areas with attendance
averaging between 50 – 60 people (students and parents). All events were advertised
locally in the media.
**VISA Affinity Card**
The Affinity Programme is not only a great service in itself but is a valuable way to support NUI Galway. For every new account opened and every time the cards are used, AIB Bank will make a contribution to the University’s development fund on behalf of the cardholder. Currently over 2,500 University graduates and staff hold NUI Galway visa cards and the programme has raised over €100,000 to support University priority projects since 1997. A welcome pack is mailed to all new graduates in November informing them of the benefits and services provided by the Alumni Office. They are encouraged in this mailing to take up the NUI Galway Affinity Card and support their Alumni Mater in this manner.

**Staff**
Professor Ger Hurley was appointed Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs for a four-year term effective June 2004. Emma Goode was appointed Alumni Project Manager in June 2005 to ensure the continuous development of the Alumni Association, incorporating Cumann Céimithe na Gaillimhe and its Programmes. Sheila Gorham, Alumni Assistant, supported the implementation and administration of Alumni Association Programmes and the Alumni Office.

**Board Members 2005-2006**

*Chair*
Dr Fidelma Dunne MB, BCh, BAO 1984

*Vice Chair*
Ms Catherine Hickey-O’Maolain BSc 80, HDipEd 81, Med 99

Mr David Cliffe BComm 1992, LLB 1994
Mr Tony Collins BA 69
Mr Mike Gaffney BE 1985
Ms Anne Kavanagh BA 1977
Mr Fintan Maher BA 87
Mr Patrick May BE 51
Mr Seamus McGrath BSc 1986
Mr Don O'Donovan BA 86
Dr John O’Dwyer MB, BCh, BAO 1993
Mr Paddy Reilly, Students’ Union President
Mr Thomas Rosengrave BCorpLaw 1998, LLB 1999
Mr Geoffrey Shannon BA 1989, LLB 1992, LLM 1996
Ms Fiona Watson BE 92

**Alumni Office Staff**

Emma Goode BA 98, MA 99
*Alumni Project Manager*
alumni@nuigalway.ie
091 492 721

Sheila Gorham
*Alumni Information Assistant*
Sheila.gorham@nuigalway.ie
091 493 750