



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

Ollscéala

Nuachtlítir Foirne - Staff Newsletter

Aibreán 2004

Teenagers and Older Adults celebrate five years of unique inter-generational programme



Pictured participating in the play "Are you right there, Michael?," are from left, Nicola Lacey, Transition-year student, Séamus Keating and Colm O'Byrne.

A pioneering intergenerational programme, established by NUI Galway's Adult and Continuing Education Office is celebrating its fifth birthday this year. The outreach programme called "Living Scenes", which is the only one of its kind in the country, has been piloted

with the Presentation Secondary School, Galway and Active Retirement Groups city-wide. A celebration of what the group has achieved took place in An Taibhdhearc Theatre, Galway in March. The aim of the project is to promote the sharing of culture, heritage, tradition

and experience between older and younger members of society in an educational setting. Participants are encouraged to discover common links between the generations, to foster mutual respect and to promote active and experiential learning.

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Focal ón Eagarthóir

Fáilte chuig eagrán Aibreáin de Ollscéala. Welcome to the April edition of Ollscéala.

With the cherry blossoms in bloom and the promise of long summer evenings, life on campus is ever changing. The ambitious capital development programme which promises to bring many new buildings on stream will greatly enhance facilities on campus. Such a major investment programme requires considerable resources and to support that endeavour, the People and Place Campaign was launched in March (Page 3). Contrary to the popular perception that students are only concerned with passing their exams and having a good time, NUI Galway students have enthusiastically embraced an innovative programme designed to encourage them to put something back into their communities. The Community Knowledge Initiative (page 5) is based on volunteering and experiential learning and encourages students to respond in a positive way to the needs of individuals and communities in our society.

Finally, we congratulate the Martin Ryan Institute on its tenth anniversary (page 7) and wish it every success in the future with its many research projects.

Máire Mhic Uidhir,
Editor.

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Success for CELT in development of new training courses

A collaborative proposal submitted under the European ELearning Initiative by the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT), and four other partner institutions has been granted funding of €400,000. The two-year pilot project aims to develop and evaluate training courses for academic staff in the use of elearning technologies in higher education, as well as to explore the

wider issues relating to credit transfer in professional development programmes. Twenty other universities will be involved in addition to the main coordinating institutions. This is CELT's first European research grant application and augurs well for future development plans and the overall strategy to put NUI Galway at the forefront of European elearning development.

Sharing the thrill of discovery



Pictured are Joe Fenwick (left) and Professor Jim Browne, Registrar, who launched the book.

Making archaeology accessible to the lay reader and sharing the excitement of discovering our rich cultural heritage is the aim of a new publication entitled *Lost and Found – discovering Ireland's past*, edited by Joe Fenwick of the Department

of Archaeology. The Department itself is strongly represented in the collection with contributions from Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Stefan Bergh, William O'Brien, Conor Newman, Etienne Rynne and Joe Fenwick.

Fáilte rompu! New Appointments



We extend a warm céad míle fáilte to two recently appointed Professors.

Professor Wallace Arthur is the new Professor of Zoology. He has come to NUI Galway from the University of Sunderland, U.K., where he was Professor of Evolutionary Biology. His research field is evolutionary developmental biology, with particular interests in animal body plans, arthropod segmentation, and the role of developmental bias in evolution.



Professor Keith Sullivan has been appointed as Professor of Education and comes to NUI Galway from New Zealand, where he has been teaching at Victoria University of Wellington. He holds a PhD in Social Anthropology/Ethnomusicology. The author of a number of books, his research interests include school bullying and the role of minority and ethnic groups in the educational system.

People & Place Campaign to raise €50 million

The People & Place Campaign, which aims to raise €50 million in private support for the continued development of the University, was launched in March by the President, Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh. Details of 24 projects, which will require a total investment of €250 million over five years, of which NUI Galway is committed to delivering one-fifth, were outlined. The development will include new buildings for engineering, business and law, as well as new research centres and student facilities.

A range of new academic programmes will be funded, including fine arts, film, music and a new initiative to provide recognition for student voluntarism. One of the major aims is to develop the Irish language centres in Carna and An Cheathrú Rua, Galway and Gaoth Dobhair, Co. Donegal. The People & Place Campaign will be led by Galway University Foundation and will constitute an ongoing outreaching campaign to graduates, friends and supporters worldwide.



Pictured is John McNamara, Chairman of Galway University Foundation, speaking at the launch of the People & Place Campaign

What makes a national hero?



The Irish Hero conference, organised by the Centre for Irish Studies in April, sought to analyse those special figures in Irish society that are deemed heroic. It was not simply the heroes themselves, however, that were under discussion, but also the various ways in which they have been represented – through film, in literature and during public commemorations and spectacles. Many famous figures from Irish life and society were under discussion such as Eamon de Valera, St Patrick,

Christy Ring, Roy Keane, Veronica Guerin, Patrick Pearse and a host of others.

The conference attracted a range of speakers from throughout the country and overseas. Topics discussed included 'The Scientist as National Hero in 19th century Ireland,' 'Yesterday's Terrorist is Today's Statesman: Seán Mc Bride's Career of Conversion,' 'The Sporting Hero,' 'The Hero and Irish Folklore' and 'The Antiquarian as Irish Hero.'

Pictured are from left, Dr Mike Cronin, Visiting Leverhulme Fellow at the Centre for Irish Studies, NUI Galway and conference organiser; with Sighle Bhreathnach-Lynch, National Gallery of Ireland; and Professor Richard Holt, De Montfort University, Leicester.

Irish Political Economy of 19th century Ireland



A formal presentation of *Irish Political Economy*, edited by Professor Tom Boylan, Department of Economics and Professor Tadhg Foley, Department of English, was made to the University Library in February.

The anthology, in four volumes, is the first of its kind to reproduce some of the most significant writings on political economy in 19th century Ireland. It was accepted on behalf of the Library by Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, Department of History.

Pictured from left are, Marie Reddan (James Hardiman Library), An tOllamh Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, Professor Tom Boylan and Professor Tadhg Foley.

Addressing the role of Law in advancing Social Justice



Pictured are from left, Professor Gerard Quinn, Director of Law School, NUI Galway; Ms. Mary O'Riordan, Vice-President for Student Services and Human Resources; and Professor Chris McCrudden, Oxford University

The Annual Distinguished Lecture in Law at NUI Galway was delivered in March by Professor Chris McCrudden of Oxford University. His talk, entitled 'Buying Social Justice – the Role of Law', argued that a State should exploit its market power to achieve ends other than purely economic ones. Professor McCrudden is widely acknowledged as a leading thinker in the broad field of international trade law as well as non-discrimination law. His work has inspired the imposition of

a novel duty on public bodies in Northern Ireland: to take positive steps to promote equality. A formal response to his lecture was delivered by Dr Maurice Manning, President of the Human Rights Commission of Ireland. The event inaugurated a series of annual public lectures hosted by the Law Faculty and designed to highlight contemporary law reform issues of concern to the general public as well as the legal profession.

Genetics and Disability – the moral issues



Pictured with Dr Richard Hull (centre), Director of COBRA, NUI Galway and conference organiser, are conference speakers, Dr John Harris (left) and Dr Julian Savulescu.

A number of internationally acclaimed philosophers addressed a conference on Genetics and Disability in March. The three-day event was organised by the Centre of Bioethical Research and Analysis (COBRA) and the Department of Philosophy at NUI Galway, in association with the Irish Council of Bioethics.

Ethical questions addressed by conference speakers included how society should treat people with disabilities; how and to what effect genetic technologies should be employed in the future; and whether there is a moral obligation to eradicate disability where we can.

New book examines role of anti-Jesuitism in German politics



Pictured are Dr Róisín Healy (right), author and Dr Mary Harris, who launched the book.

The Jesuit Specter in Imperial Germany written by Dr Róisín Healy, Department of History, deals with attitudes towards the Catholic church's most controversial religious order, the Society of Jesus, in the Germany of Bismarck and Emperor William II. Deeply unpopular at the time of German unification, the Jesuits were expelled from the new empire in 1872 as part of the church-state struggle known as the *Kulturkampf*. Imagined as both having superhuman powers and slavishly following his superiors, the Jesuit had an uncanny quality, which many found unsettling. Their critics accused them of undermining loyalty to the new state, advocating a lax moral code and sacrificing objective scholarship to the political demands of the papacy. Only in 1917, when the government needed to boost the morale of Catholics at a time of setbacks in World War One, were the Jesuits allowed to return. Although the Jesuit, along with the Jew, constituted a figure of widespread hate in modern Germany, this is the first book to chart the role of anti-Jesuitism in German politics.

Students take time out to lend a hand in their communities



Pictured at the ALIVE poster exhibition of student projects are from left, Edyth Nwose, Anne Pigott and ALIVE volunteer, Regina Ni Riain

Third-year Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering students have participated in an initiative which encourages students to get involved in voluntary community-related activities. "Assignments that Inspire and Distinguish Engineers" (AIDE) is a unique programme, which is the first of its kind in engineering in any university in Ireland. Co-ordinated by Dr Abhay Pandit, fifty students have participated in the first year of the project.

AIDE is part of the academic programme for students and is supported by the University's Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI), which is co-ordinated by Jacinta Barrins. It is designed to encourage students to volunteer some time and energy to benefit local communities and individuals.

Students got involved in groups such as Lions Clubs, Alzheimers groups, Cancer Care West and local sport groups.

Thirty-five students from various faculties have also participated in a pilot project called 'ALIVE' (A Learning Initiative and the Volunteering Experience). According to Jacinta Barrins, these programmes develop university-community interaction, civic responsibility and self-development in students. "They enable students to bring their knowledge base to the benefit of a wide range of organisations and to take their learning from that experience back to the classroom, where the analysis becomes a significant part of their education," she says.

Conference marks retirement of Professor of German



Pictured from left are, Professor Eoin Bourke, Dr Christiane Schoenfeld, and Dr Hermann Rasche, Department of German.

An international conference to mark the retirement of Professor Eoin Bourke, Department of German, took place in April. The theme of the ninth Galway Colloquium was "Literature to Film - Film to Literature" and it explored areas relating to the boundary between the text and the moving image within German-speaking culture. A volume of selected essays, based on papers presented at the conference, will be published in 2005. A festive dinner in honour of Professor Bourke also took place in the Aula Maxima with poetry readings by Moya Cannon, John F. Deane and Rita Ann Higgins.

NUI Galway celebrates Irish Studies in the United States



Pictured in Boston College are from left, the President, Dr Ó Muircheartaigh; Dr Niall Ó Ciosáin; and Dr Thomas E. Hachey, Executive Director of the Center for Irish Programmes at Boston College.

The second annual lecture series in memory of Martha Fox, who has supported the Centre for Irish Studies at NUI Galway, took place in March in the United States. Dr Niall Ó Ciosáin, of the University's History Department, delivered a lecture on "Print and the Irish Language", in New York, Boston and Chicago. Upon her death in 1999, Martha Fox, a Wakefield, Massachusetts schoolteacher, generously endowed NUI Galway with funding for Martha Fox House as home to the Centre for Irish Studies and for scholarship programmes.

Latin-American Studies in Ireland



Dr Peadar Kirby of the Centre for International Studies, School of Law and Government, DCU and Prof John Kinsella, of the Department of Hispanic Studies, NUI Maynooth (above), were speakers at a one-day interdisciplinary conference on Latin-American Studies in March. The conference was hosted by the Department of Spanish and the Centre for the Study of Human Settlement and Historical Change.

Learning in the Europe of Knowledge



Pictured are from left, Professor Jim Ward, Vice-President for Physical Resources; Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for Education and Science; the President, Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh; and Ms. Mary O'Riordan, Vice-President for Student Services and Human Resources.

The Minister for Education and Science Noel Dempsey officially opened the *Learning in the Europe of Knowledge* conference at NUI Galway in February. The two-day conference was an official event of Ireland's Presidency of the European

Union and was addressed by education experts from the US, Australia, Britain and Spain. The conference focused on how effective teaching and learning can contribute to meeting the policy objectives of the knowledge society.

Issues such as student diversity and learning, evaluating the effectiveness of teaching, and appropriate technology, to support teaching were among those explored.

TESCO Ireland recognises Student Management Skills



An innovative Management Skills module, which encourages students to communicate effectively and become active team members, is being offered by the Department of Management in the B.Comm degree. The Management Skills Initiative is geared towards bridging the gap between the

skills and abilities employers are looking for in young graduates and the traditional educational methods used by the University. The 'grand finale' is a team presentation at the end of the programme. Students design and deliver a presentation on a relevant business topic and the prize for the winning team is sponsored by TESCO Ireland.

Pictured is the winning team, from left: Michelle McGovern, James Barron, Miriam Scarry and Orla Feeney.

US Ambassador visits NUI Galway



American Ambassador, James C Kenny paid a courtesy visit to the President in March. While on campus, Ambassador Kenny toured the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES) and met some American students studying in the University.

Pictured from left are, Dr Pat Morgan, Dean of Science; Ambassador James C Kenny; and Professor Jim Browne, Registrar and Deputy President.

Bereavements

It is with deep sadness we learned of the deaths of members of staff in recent months.

The sudden death occurred in March of Professor Brendan Keegan, Department of Zoology and the Martin Ryan Institute. We extend sincere sympathy to his wife, family, friends and colleagues.

Fuair an Dr Máirtín Ó Briain, Scoil na Gaeilge, bás i Mí na Márta freisin. Ba mhaithe linn ár gcomhbhrón a chur in iúl dá chlann, dá chairde agus dá chomhghleacaithe uilig.

The death also occurred, after a long illness of an tOllamh Gearóid Mac Niocaill, Roinn na Staire/Department of History. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a nanamnacha uilig.

David Bellamy celebrates Marine Science research in NUI Galway

World-renowned broadcaster and marine biologist David Bellamy visited NUI Galway in March to deliver a public lecture, as part of celebrations to mark the 10th anniversary of the Martin Ryan Institute (MRI). Dr Bellamy paid tribute to the work undertaken at the MRI, which has carried out significant research into the marine environment from the shore to the deepest sea, from kelp beds to coral reefs and has also assisted the development of the shellfish and finfish industries in Ireland. Making an impassioned plea for the sustainable use of the marine environment, Dr Bellamy said: "We must move quickly to protect underwater ecosystems and to use our fisheries in a sustainable way. If we don't we will be despised by our



Dr David Bellamy with a Macnas performer at the Gala Banquet.

children to whom we will have passed a wasteland instead of a planet." Professor Bellamy was also a special guest at the University Gala Banquet in the Radisson Hotel the following evening. The event was attended by more than 600 alumni, friends and corporate partners of the University.

Alumni Awards were presented to seven graduates, in recognition of individual excellence. The recipients were Tom Costello, Dr Ronan Lambe, Professor Fred Given, Michael D Higgins, T.D., Dr Eamonn Hall, Pádraig Feirtéar and Professor Emer Colleran.

Fertility, Migration and Mortality changes in Ireland

A one-day symposium organised by the Department of Economics in March, addressed the social and economic factors underlying demographic change in Ireland. The main areas examined were fertility, migration and mortality. Interesting topics included "The Celtic cubs:

The impact of the Celtic Tiger on fertility in Ireland;" "The evolution of cohabitation in Ireland;" and "Modelling migration and the housing market in Ireland." The Economics & Social Policy Research Unit (ESPRU) was established in the Economics Department during the symposium.



Pictured from left are, Damien Courtney, Cork Institute of Technology; Brendan Kennelly and Professor Michael Keane, Department of Economics, NUI Galway

Presenting the Works of one of Ireland's outstanding Poets



James Clarence Mangan: Selected Writings, edited by Dr Séan Ryder of the Department of English, was launched by Professor J.C.C. Mays of University College Dublin in April. Mangan (1803-1849), author of 'Dark Rosaleen' and 'The Nameless One,' was one of the most innovative Irish poets

writing in English before W. B. Yeats, and both Yeats and James Joyce were admirers of his work. Dr Ryder's volume is the first to provide a substantial selection of both Mangan's poems and prose, including his autobiography, letters and critical writings.

In brief...

French Honour

Professor Padraig Ó Gormaille, Department of French, has been made a *Chevalier dans l'Ordre National des Palmes Académiques*, for services to French culture and language.

Appointed to Irish Research Council

Professor Roy Green, Dean, Faculty of Commerce, has been appointed as a member of the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, by Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for Education and Science.

Research awards

Two researchers from the Department of Anaesthesia have won awards at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Dr Martine Ni Chonghaile won the Abbott Scholarship for anaesthetic research while Dr Chrisen Maharaj won the Delaney Medal. Both are members of Dr John Laffey's research group.

Faculty awards

Dr Seán Hynes, a second-year medical student has won the Research Gold Medal in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr Hynes who holds a PhD in Microbiology, commenced medical studies this year. His paper entitled 'Adenovirus of recombinant DNA in the rabbit carotid artery', was one of eighteen presented during the Medical Faculty Research Meeting 2004.

Annual Sports awards



Athlete Paul Hession receives his award from Professor Jim Ward, Vice-President for Physical Resources.

Sixteen of the University's top sports stars were rewarded for their success at the annual sports awards function at the Ardilaun House Hotel in March. The distinguished graduate award winner was Professor Martin Newell, a member of Galway Football's three-in-a-row All-Ireland winning side of the sixties. The awards were presented by Professor Jim Ward, Vice-President for Physical Resources.

Among the other recipients were sprint athlete Paul Hession, who is currently training for this year's Athens Olympics; footballer Michael Meehan who subsequently won an All-Ireland club medal with Caltra on St Patrick's Day; Galway senior hurler Tony Óg Regan; and basketballer Neasa O'Keeffe, who represented the University at the World Student Games last summer.

On-line programme in Irish Studies



Six students recently completed the first on-line Certificate programme in Irish Studies being offered jointly by Regis University and NUI Galway. On the occasion of the presentation of certificates in Denver by Dr Mike Sheeran S.J., President of Regis University, Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, President of NUI Galway presented a commemorative plaque to each student.

Pictured from left are, Don Sullivan, Annette Piltz, Steve Fletcher, Dr Mike Sheeran and Dr Ó Muircheartaigh.

Léacht Bhord na Gaeilge



Chuir iarPhríomh-Stiúrthóir RTÉ, Bob Collins léacht bhliantúil Bhord na Gaeilge i láthair i Mí Feabhra. Ba é 'Cumarsáid agus Cultúr' teideal na léachta.

Sa phictiúr tá ó chlé, Bob Collins, aoi-chainteoir; Peadar Mac an Iomaire, Príomhfheidhmeannach, Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge; agus Tomás Mac an Iomaire, Ceannaire, Raidió na Gaeltachta.

Intercultural soccer

More than ninety staff and students from many countries participated in a World Cup Soccer Tournament with a difference, to mark Anti-Racism in the Workplace Week. The tournament was organised by Overseas Student Officer, Ann Monahan, and reflected the multi-cultural nature of life on campus. Countries represented in the tournament included Ireland, the US, Algeria, Albania, Botswana, Malaysia, Spain, Germany, China, Kuwait and Pakistan.

An exciting final between an Irish/US team and a Kuwaiti/ Pakistani team was decided by a penalty shoot-out with the Irish/US side winning with the final score of 3-2.

Fulbright Scholar



Eugenie Regan, a PhD student in the Department of Botany and the Environmental Change Institute, has been awarded the annual Fulbright Scholarship for the current academic year. Eugenie's scholarship is the Fulbright/ Environmental Protection Agency Scholarship in Science and Technology.

The Fulbright Programme is an educational exchange programme between the US and other countries and the awards are made through open competition to outstanding post-graduate students and post-doctoral scholars.

Eugenie is currently completing a PhD on the ecology of turloughs (temporary wetlands found in the west of Ireland) under the supervision of Dr Micheline Sheehy Skeffington, Department of Botany and Dr Mike Gormally, Applied Ecology Unit, Centre for Environmental Science. She will use the Fulbright Scholarship to study wetlands in Louisiana.