Bank of Ireland is delighted to launch Bank at Work exclusively for alumni and employees of NUI Galway from September 2017.

Bank at Work brings Bank of Ireland directly to NUI Galway, to support your day-to-day and longer term banking needs and works around you and your schedule. Bank at Work also provides you with great preferential products and discounts.

To find out more about Bank at Work please visit your web portal. You can book appointments, apply for products and much more.

bankofireland.com/nuigalway
**The Year in Pictures**

**Teddy Bear Hospital**

Ava (5), Rose (7) and Aoibhin (6) from Monivea National School, Co. Galway, brought their teddies to be treated at the annual Teddy Bear Hospital. The Hospital is organised by Sláinte Society, the NUI Galway branch of the International Federation of Medical Students Associations.

**Jellyfish**

Researchers at NUI Galway and the University of Hawaii at Manoa have identified that the best way to treat a sting from the lion's mane jellyfish (Cyanea capillata) is with vinegar and heat.

*Photo: Nuala Moore*

**Open Day Connacht Rugby**

Attending NUI Galway’s Spring Open Day 2017 were Conan O’Donnell, Connacht Rugby, Emilie Meaney, John the Baptist Community School Limerick, Darragh Leader, Connacht Rugby, Anita Keogh, Laurel Hill Coláiste Limerick, and Rory Gafney, Connacht Rugby.

**Asteroid Day**

On World Asteroid Day on 30 June 2017, Eva McGuinness (11) from Educate Together National School, Newcastle, Galway, learnt all about asteroids from physicists at the Centre of Astronomy, NUI Galway.
Eugene O’Neill Society

Pictured at NUI Galway prior to his Eugene O’Neill Conference address in July 2017 was President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins with Barry Houlihan, Archivist NUI Galway (far left), and actors Gabriel Byrne (DAArts, 2007 h.c.) (far right) and Jessica Lange, both recipients of the Medallion Award from the Eugene O’Neill Society.

Raising the Flag

Pictured at the NUI Galway raising the pride flag ceremony were Cameron Keighron, NUI Galway Societies Office; Megan Reilly, Students Union VP for Welfare and Chris Noone, post-doc researcher in Health Psychology.

Soapbox Science

Research scientists Dr Jessamyn Fairfield and Dr Dara Stanley and colleagues took to the streets of Galway on 15 July to share their passion for all things science with the public as part of the international event ‘Soapbox Science’.

The Musical

Pictured are cast members of Galway University Musical Society’s (GUMS) show ‘Urinetown: The Musical’. From left, Eleanor O’Malley, Patrick Conneely and Roisin Egan.

Youth Academy

Grace O’Connor, fifth class student in Scoil Róis National School, Galway, receives her certificate of participation from NUI Galway’s Youth Academy.

Bio-Explorers

Young scientists construct a DNA model at the Bio-Explorers Science Camp.
A University that is critical for the West.

As the city has grown, so too has its links with the “College” as it’s universally known to those who come to visit or study in NUI Galway. Town and gown are closely interlinked in ways that are not always possible in larger cities.

In his ten years as President, Jim Browne has seen those cultural, social, economic and academic ties deepen even more. In an extended interview for Cois Coiribe with NUI Galway graduate, John Walshe (BA 1968, HDipEd 1969), the outgoing President reflects on the past decade.

He also outlines his views on the major challenges facing Irish universities, including Brexit, at a time of growing student numbers.
JW: What's so special about NUI Galway?
JB: A university is a place where people can dream big dreams and realise them. But what really makes us so different from other universities is our close connectedness to the city. That closeness has benefitted the city and the University in many ways.

If you go back 50 years there was no Druid Theatre, there was no Galway International Arts Festival, nobody could have predicted that eight of the world’s top ten med-tech companies would be based here and nobody could have foreseen the massive growth in student numbers.

It's hard to believe that in 1967 – the year free education was introduced – there were only 16,266 students in all of the Irish universities combined. At present we have more than that number in this university alone. At one stage our medical school was in danger of closing but now it's thriving. So UCG, as it was known for so long, has changed utterly and NUI Galway, to give it its current name, is constantly changing as the city and society and the economy move on.

JW: Are we educating too many students?
JB: Some futurologists argue that the development of robotics and artificial intelligence will destroy more jobs than it will create and that society will need far fewer graduates but I reject that view. History is very instructive. Similar views were expressed when cars and other technological innovations were introduced in the past and were proven to be mistaken.

Yes, many middle level jobs are being hollowed out at present with more jobs being created at the top, creative end and at the bottom services end. The ATM has replaced jobs once held by bank clerks, jobs regarded as secure and pensionable. But roll that forward 25 or 30 years and it’s very hard to know what will happen.

History has a way of proving predictions wrong. The big issues in the 1970s were the North-South divide and massive hunger in the Third World.

The Brandt report, named after the former German Chancellor Willy Brandt, talked about the affluent north and the poor south. But we did not envisage either India or China emerging as economic super powers. Nor did we foresee how globalisation, for all its faults, would lift millions of Africans out of absolute poverty. There are now more mobile phones than people in most African countries.

But it is true that the old days when graduates walked into a job are long gone. People have to take responsibility for their own future, even create their own future. Yes, many can get a good job in a multinational but that might not be there in ten years time so they are going to have to reinvent themselves and their careers. It’s important that at a formative stage of their lives they begin to realise that there are no permanent pensionable jobs in the private sector anymore. And it is the private sector that our economy and society rely on. Graduates have to be innovative, they have to be entrepreneurial, they have to begin to take on greater responsibility, to learn from each other. They can’t just wait for society, or the government or the banks to supply the jobs for them.

The universities have to prepare people to be self-sufficient. That’s why the university experience is so important – being in an environment where you can learn. Distance learning is okay for adults but not necessarily for young people. They need a university setting to develop what are sometimes called the “soft skills”, such as teamwork, collaboration, communications, problem solving, adaptability, creativity, critical observation, and getting on with other people.

Many of these skills are developed naturally through involvement in volunteer work. In NUI Galway we pride ourselves on our volunteer programme, which sees students involved in everything from reading stories to children in direct provision to doing a few hours in shops run by St Vincent De Paul to internet tuition for older people. It’s an acknowledgement by students that they are in a privileged position in university and a way of helping those less fortunate than themselves.

A university is not just about preparing people for jobs but also for life in society. We are conscious that many experience emotional and mental problems so their emotional wellbeing is important to us. Last year we took an initiative towards integrating mindfulness into the University culture. As an example, we hosted mindfulness classes with Tibetan Buddhist monk, Gelong Thubten. The classes focussed on dealing with obstacles, followed by a reflection practice on training the mind to deal creatively with life’s difficulties, and learning to transform our attitudes to stress and uncomfortable situations. Some people laughed at the idea but it was a huge success. Students and staff took it to in big numbers. They saw it as helping them with exams and other pressures in their lives. It’s another way for the University to fulfil its responsibility of preparing young people for life in a fast changing world.

JW: Where will graduates get jobs?
JB: There is no doubt that the jobs market is changing rapidly. But people will always need things. So the big questions are “what do people want?” and “how do you deliver it?”

It’s interesting if you look at what percentage of a family’s income used to go on food years ago compared with nowadays. There were lots of agricultural jobs in the past but now food production is automated, there are fewer jobs on the land and food is cheaper. This means that people generally speaking are spending a smaller percentage of their income on food. But they are spending a lot more than they used to on what might be called Edutainment – smartphones, games consoles, television, broadband, and so on. Students need to ask themselves where will the money be spent as that’s where the jobs will be.

So while the fourth industrial revolution may destroy a lot of jobs, others are being created all the time. We will need more graduates in the future, not fewer.
That situation is changing and we hope to become a leader in this space. We now have a vice president for equality and diversity, Professor Anne Scott. Her appointment was in response to the final report of the Gender Equality Task Force that we established and the report has been unanimously adopted by our Governing Authority. Professor Scott has developed a Gender Equality Action Plan to implement the recommendations of the Task Force.

In particular, we are providing training to guard against unconscious bias or stereotyping. We want to ensure that more women are promoted to senior posts and to ensure that equality of opportunity is afforded to all of our staff and students. We recognise that unconscious bias is widespread throughout academia - and indeed throughout society - and that its effect is to advantage men over women. We know that organisations with gender diversity in the senior ranks make better decisions and ultimately perform better.

The Task Force recommended that all senior management in the University as well as chairs of committees and interview boards undergo compulsory unconscious bias training. This training ensures participants recognise their own biases, and helps them to make better and more rational decisions.

We are also implementing recommendations made by the group chaired by former EU Commissioner Máire Geoghegan Quinn, whose report was commissioned and published by the Higher Education Authority. Great progress has been made even in a short time and we will have a much different university in a few years time in this regard.

There is no great disadvantage any more in terms of access in living in Galway. We are just over two hours from Dublin airport on the motorway. The price of housing is cheaper in Galway and we don't have the long commuting times many people endure in Dublin.

In Ireland we have a system of higher education that works. What's good about it is that all seven universities are doing reasonably well in the rankings. That's unlike the position in the UK, where you have Oxford and Cambridge at the top and many others outside the ranks of the top 1,000 universities. And look at the US which has some of the best and worst universities in the world.

Sometimes the argument is made that Ireland cannot afford to have seven world-ranked universities. The implication is that the State should invest in one or two and not bother too much about the rest. That's a great argument if you're living in Dublin but it overlooks the importance of the universities outside Dublin for the regions. If we fell apart and dropped out of the rankings what would that do for the west of Ireland, what would it do for foreign direct investment in the region, never mind what it would do for recruitment of students and staff?

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<tr>
<th>JW: Have you any regrets?</th>
<th>JB: My one regret is that we did not address the equality issue sooner. Equality is a general social problem and is systemic. We recognise that now. Unfortunately our focus was on academic promotions and seeking to achieve better outcomes for women in that domain. Now we appreciate that the issue is much broader than promotions. It requires a 'whole of institution' perspective and commitment.</th>
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<td>JW: How important are rankings?</td>
<td>JB: International rankings are iffy in all kinds of ways but they are also really important. NUI Galway has gone up in the rankings over the past few years and that does say something significant. This was brought home to me some years ago at the height of the recession when I was in New York at a gathering of about 50 or 60 graduates. They told us that when they were going for jobs in the States the fact that NUI Galway was in the rankings was really helpful. Many employers had never heard of Galway but when the graduates could say to an employer that their university was in the top one percent worldwide it did matter as it got them to the next stage of interviews.</td>
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<td>Rankings also matter to American students who are looking to Ireland for their Junior Year Abroad. And they are being looked at by Irish students and guidance counsellors as well. We notice that increasingly in recent years. They are also studied by academics who want to come here as they know that they will get good PhD candidates.</td>
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<td>JW: What about Brexit?</td>
<td>JB: Whether it's a hard or soft Brexit the implications for Ireland are the same. We are predominantly English-speaking and have a largely similar cultural background to our nearest neighbour – the UK. But post-Brexit, the EU will pivot more to the mainland of Europe and away from the English-speaking world. That's a problem for us as we rely so much on English. Ireland is a huge exporting country. We still export a big proportion of our goods and services to the UK. Everything will change if trade barriers go up. We will have to orient ourselves to sell more to mainland Europe. That's going to be a challenge for us.</td>
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| It means that languages such as German, Italian, Spanish, French and so on will become even more important. It's no use saying “can’t we use Google translations to do business” as that doesn't work when it comes to the serious stuff like contracts. So our graduates will have to learn those languages – in short we have to orient ourselves more to mainland Europe. And it's not just about learning the language; it's about a change of mindset so
that we think more about mainland Europe for exports and jobs. I would hope for an increase in the number of our students spending time in mainland Europe as part of their course. Language students obviously have to - but I would hope that engineering undergraduates, for example, would also spend some time in non-English speaking EU countries.

Brexit should force us to look at this issue of languages again. The EU is going to be a very different place 20 years from now if the UK is not part of it. Higher education needs to get students to realise that the world is not just the English-speaking countries of the UK, America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Whatever about the economic effects of Brexit it will also impact on higher education and research. One of the few areas where Britain gains financially from the EU is in research, with about a quarter of the Horizon 2020 research funding programme led by British partners. The UK will fight hard to remain in Horizon 2020 and in its successor.

The job was made possible for me by terrific colleagues at work, and at home by the support of my wife Maeve and our four sons - Lorcan, Shane, Ronan and Fergus. Incidentally, all four attended St Joseph's secondary school (known locally as “The Bish”) and all graduated as engineers during my time as president, which was wonderful for us as a family.

One really important development that's sometimes overlooked is that NUI Galway has now become a multi-campus University, with centres in Connemara where the Irish language is so important; medical academies in Castlebar, Sligo and Letterkenny; in Shannon where we took over the successful Shannon College of Hotel Management and in Sligo where St Angela’s College is allied to the University. All of these centres are bringing students and staff into those towns. The University has become critical to what happens not just in Galway but in the west generally.

Brexit is thus important to Ireland in so many ways and we have to do what we can to ensure that the Government gets the best deal possible for this country.

JW: What is it like running a major university?
JB: It has been a great privilege and honour to be president here. You deal with really talented and dedicated people who are passionate about their subjects and are doing tremendous work. It's great to see such ambition and energy in so many different areas of the university.

There is also the fact that many mainland EU students want to study in the UK where they can learn English – an estimated 200,000 Erasmus students are in the UK universities so it is possible that there may be a soft Brexit at least as far as higher education and research go. If there isn't and if the UK decides to treat EU students in the same way as non-EU students then tuition fees will become very expensive. This, in turn, will put pressure on Irish universities as many mainland EU students will want to come here while the estimated 11,000 students from Ireland currently in the UK will reduce considerably, with many of them looking for places at home.

Brexit is thus important to Ireland in so many ways and we have to do what we can to ensure that the Government gets the best deal possible for this country.

JW: It's clear that Jim Browne enjoyed his time as President.
It's also clear that the university and the west of Ireland generally have benefited from his leadership, especially through the difficult financial cutbacks. When I was special adviser to Minister Ruairi Quinn we found Jim to be a well informed, realistic and dependable individual to deal with. Histrionics or grandstanding were not part of his make-up. Yes, he should have tackled the equality issue sooner but he has acknowledged this and set in train reforms that will lead to systemic change. His tenure is defined by many fine achievements, such as transforming the campus with new buildings, boosting research income, increasing student numbers, deepening the links with the city and its environs and pushing his beloved University higher up the international rankings. He insists that this could not have been done without great colleagues. But it takes real leadership to bring people together so that they can reach for and achieve more.

NUI Galway is still a place where you can dream big. That's a legacy any president can be proud of.
NUI Galway rises to top 1% of Universities Worldwide

NUI Galway continues its rise in global rankings. The 2017 QS World University Rankings placed the University at number 243 in the world. With an estimated 26,000 universities worldwide, this positions our University in the top 1% globally, according to QS.

This is the fifth successive year the University has risen in the international rankings, consolidating its position among the world’s elite educational institutions. NUI Galway climbed six places, to reach 243 in the world. It is one of three Irish universities to improve its position in this year’s rankings.

That announcement also ranked NUI Galway as world leading for its teaching and research in 20 subjects, which is a marked increase over last year’s recognition in 12 subjects.

With 20 subject areas now featuring in the top tier globally, three are ranked in the top 200 (Medicine, Earth & Marine Sciences and Geography), English Language and Literature is ranked in the top 150 globally and Nursing is ranked in the top 100 in the world.

NUI Galway secures Sunday Times University of the Year

NUI Galway has been named ‘University of the Year 2018’ in the Sunday Times University Guide, securing the prestigious accolade for a third time, having won the inaugural title in 2002 and again in 2009.

Outperforming 21 other third-level institutions, NUI Galway’s strong reputation as a centre of excellence in relation to medical technology, its excellence across the arts and sciences, its impressive progression rates as well as having the best job prospects of any other Irish university were among the reasons for the award.

Alastair McCall, Editor of The Sunday Times Good University Guide, said: ‘In the eight years since NUI Galway last won our University of the Year award it has continued to grow its global reputation as one of the great seats of learning. Some of its academics are among the most cited in the world and its reputation spans the arts and the sciences. The university brought in more than €65m of research income last year, evidence of the cutting edge at which many of the academics operate.

“It is also pivotal to the regional economy, rooted in its community and playing an active role at all levels. Its students are encouraged to volunteer and be part of that community and not just come to Galway as educational tourists. When Galway is the European Capital of Culture in 2020, the university will be at its heart; the newly-opened O’Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance a bold statement of the importance of the arts to the university.

“Its triumph in this year’s University of the Year award is also a tribute to the leadership of University President, Dr Jim Browne, whose 10-year term of office ends early next year. He leaves NUI Galway in a position of great strength, ready to make further progress in world and national university rankings, and offering a distinctive third level education to future generations of students.”

A University that Stands for Sustainability

This is the year NUI Galway made its official commitment to move away from fossil fuel investments. The Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security Society of NUI Galway submitted a petition of over 1000 signatures, highlighting the case for divestment. This report was welcomed by NUI Galway President, Dr Jim Browne, who said the move would bring NUI Galway in line with global sustainability goals.
Reaching for the Stars at NUI Galway

NUI Galway, in partnership with Galway City Museum, Galway Arts Centre and Croí na Gaillimhe, secured a Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) award to mark the bicentenary celebration RAS 200: Sky & Earth. This is the only project in Ireland to have received such an award.

Called ‘Making Space’, this is a multi-layered project that will begin this year and culminates in a year of creative events, collaborations and a celebration of astronomy and geophysics in 2020.
The Secret Peacemaker

A new Digital Archive collection was launched at the NUI Galway James Hardiman Library. The online resource contains digitised items from the archive of the late Brendan Duddy, the Derry businessman who maintained a secret channel of communication between the British government and the IRA Army Council for 20 years. Brendan Duddy was a key figure in the 1975 ceasefire negotiations, the 1981 republican hunger strikes, and the ceasefire talks between 1990 and 1994 and was the subject of Peter Taylor’s BBC documentary ‘The Secret Peacemaker’.

The archive contains over 700 documents, which cover three critical periods during the Troubles. It includes coded diaries documenting contact, as well as messages exchanged between the British government and the provisional republican leadership. The archive gives a rare insight into the dynamics and the role of secret negotiation in conflict resolution.

NUI Galway experts among world’s top scientific minds

Four NUI Galway experts have featured on the list of the world’s most Highly Cited Researchers. Published in November 2016, the list is a citation analysis identifying scientists – as determined by their fellow researchers – whose research had a significant global impact within their respective fields of study.

NUI Galway’s Professor Henry Curran, Professor Colin O’Dowd, Professor Donal O’Regan and Dr Ronan Sulpice, featured on the list. They rank among the world’s top 3,000 scientific minds according to Clarivate Analytics, formerly the Intellectual Property & Science business of Thomson Reuters.

1916 COMMEMORATION

Leading speakers from Ireland and around the globe gathered in Galway in November 2016 for The Centenary Conversations, a major initiative of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme. The centrepiece of the event was a major national conference, titled ‘Ireland 1916-2016 The Promise and Challenge of National Sovereignty’. Featuring a host of internationally-renowned academics, historians and special guests, the conference explored and debated some of the most important issues and challenges facing us today. International scholars spent three days reflecting on a century of national sovereignty and examining how the Irish state has delivered on the promise of Easter 1916. It was considered a landmark moment in a year of national reflection.
Author and lecturer wins top fiction prize

Mike McCormack, novelist and NUI Galway English lecturer, won the Goldsmiths Prize for Fiction for his third novel *Solar Bones* in November 2016, triumphing over a shortlist which also included Irish writer Eimear McBride and Irish-Canadian writer Anakana Schofield. McCormack was also named on the longlist for the Man Booker Prize 2017 along with NUI Galway honorary graduate Sebastian Barry for his novel *Days Without End*. Solar Bones, which was written in a single novel-length sentence, was published last May by Tramp Press. The story takes place on All Souls’ Day in Louisburgh, Co Mayo and is told largely through the recollections of Marcus Conway, a middle-aged engineer.

Mike’s previous work includes *Getting it in the Head, Crowe’s Requiem, Notes from a Coma*, which was shortlisted for the Irish Book of the Year Award, and *Forensic Songs*. In 1996 he was awarded the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature and in 2007 he was awarded a Civitella Ranieri Fellowship.
Grandparents Graduate with PhDs

It’s never too late to pursue knowledge. And that was proven in December 2016 when a Sligo couple, Richard and Betty Gray, both 71, were conferred with doctorates in Archaeology. After 40 years in the insurance business the two retired from work and hit the books instead. That was in 2005. After their undergraduate degrees, masters degrees seemed in order. The couple said it was never their goal to go all the way to PhD level but the learning was both challenging and energizing. So they just kept going.

Ireland’s Friendliest Business

Where can you find the friendliest business in Ireland? In Galway. Saol Café has found the right recipe for running a business and employing a traditionally marginalised community of people. It’s a win-win for the business, the employees who learn life skills, the community at large and the students who put it all together. In addition the menus are designed around local organic and fair trade food. After winning the title of the Friendliest Business in Galway Saol Café was propelled into the national finals. And of the 500 in that group it came out number one.

President Trump’s First 60 Days

The world seems fascinated with US President Donald Trump. No matter how you view his moves, they are a topic worldwide. In March, the Moore and Whitaker Institute and the School of Law at NUI Galway hosted an event entitled: ‘President Donald Trump: The First Sixty Days and Beyond.’ The panel of experts provided opinions from political, human rights, historical and economic points of view and included Galway native Mary Regan, Sunday Business Post; Professor Alan Ahearne, Director of the Whitaker Institute, NUI Galway, and former special adviser to the Minister for Finance; Professor Daniel Carey, Director of the Moore Institute, NUI Galway; Dr Kathleen Cavanaugh, Lecturer, Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway; Larry Donnelly, Lecturer, School of Law, NUI Galway, and political commentator; and Karlin Lillington, Journalist and Columnist, The Irish Times.

Larry Donnelly said: “In a year full of major news events, the 2016 US presidential election attracted a phenomenal amount of interest in Ireland.” He called the event a unique opportunity to delve behind the tweets and explore the policy implications of the Trump presidency.

Croatian State Visit

NUI Galway welcomed President of the Republic of Croatia, Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, as part of her official state visit to Ireland. Her visit to Galway was particularly apt as the city together with Rijeka, home town of Croatian President, was designated European Capital of Culture 2020. The visit was also an opportunity for the president to meet some of the Croatian community at the University.

During a meeting with NUI Galway students, there was a wide ranging discussion on everything from women’s rights in Croatia to the future of European trade.
World Asteroid Day

Scientists from the Centre of Astronomy at NUI Galway marked World Asteroid Day on 30 June 2017 with almost 100 students from Educate Together National School, Newcastle, Galway. NUI Galway’s Centre for Astronomy was the chosen designated centre in Ireland by global organisation Asteroid Day to celebrate the annual international event, which is a global awareness campaign to learn about asteroids, the impact hazard they may pose, and what we can do to protect our planet and future generations from future asteroid impacts.

EmployAbility has Viability at NUI Galway

NUI Galway’s Career Development Centre became an award-winner this year taking the Employability Award 2017 for their innovative programme ‘EmployAbility – Transition to Employment’. EmployAbility supports students with disabilities and mental health issues. The programme prepares students for the world of work and transitioning to fulfilling careers. The awards are presented for higher education careers services across the 27 universities and institutes of technology in Ireland.

SeaFest celebrates marine industry

As part of SeaFest 2017, NUI Galway hosted several events to celebrate and highlight the importance of business development and research in the marine industry. A two-day Marine Trade Show took place in June in a purpose-built marquee on the grounds of NUI Galway to coincide with the Marine Institute’s Digital Ocean Conference and Our Ocean Wealth Summit. Speakers included Tom Kelley of award-winning global design and development firm IDEO, inspiring business leaders to engage in creative thinking and challenge perspectives to encourage new ideas and approaches on how Ireland can continue to transform its marine industry. The Marine Trade Show showcased some of the highly innovative products and services emerging from companies across all sectors of the marine economy.

A unique exhibition on Roald Amundsen’s expedition to the South Pole, ‘Cold Recall – Roald Amundsen’s Reflections from the South Pole’ was held in the O’Donoghue Centre, in partnership with the Norwegian Embassy. Amundsen was the first person in the world to navigate the Northwest Passage and the first to reach the South Pole on 14 December 1911. Norwegian polar history is closely connected with the defining of Norway as an independent state in 1905 and to Norway’s position as a state associated with the oceans and the polar regions.
RESEARCH round-up
New Study Prompts Changes to Jellyfish Sting Advice

New research from NUI Galway and the University of Hawaii at Manoa has identified the best way to treat a sting from the lion’s mane jellyfish (Cyanea capillata). The lion’s mane jellyfish is one of the most problematic jellyfish in Ireland and the UK with hundreds of bathers being badly stung each year. With over a thousand tentacles that can stretch up to four or five metres in length, a bad sting from a lion’s mane jellyfish can cause severe local reactions and extreme pain.

The research, published in the international journal *Toxins*, shows that the best first aid for a lion’s mane sting is to rinse with vinegar (or the commercial product Sting No More® spray) to remove tentacles, and then immerse in 45°C (113°F) hot water (or apply a heat pack) for 40 minutes. The results mirror a recent NUI Galway and University of Hawaii study on stings by the Portuguese man o’ war and previous work on box jellyfish stings.

Dr Tom Doyle, lead author of the study and lecturer in zoology at the School of Natural Sciences, NUI Galway, said:

“What most people don’t understand is that these jellyfish - the lion’s mane, the Portuguese man o’ war and a box jellyfish are as different from each other as a dog and a snake.”

“Therefore when developing first aid treatment for a jellyfish sting it is very important to test different treatments on these very different types of jellyfish. Now that we have shown that vinegar and hot water work on these three jellyfish species, it will be much easier to standardise and simplify first aid for jellyfish stings where many different types of jellyfish occur.”

In Ireland and the UK, current best practice is to use sea water and cold packs, which is not the correct action for treating these jellyfish stings as it induces significant increases in venom delivery, while rinsing with vinegar or Sting No More® Spray does not. Dr Doyle now hopes to bring together members of the Jellyfish Advisory Group in Ireland to discuss his latest findings. However, it is important to remember that most jellyfish stings in Ireland and the UK are no worse than a nettle sting.

Robotic device helps beat the heart

**A new robotic device could aid failing hearts by mimicking healthy cardiac muscles**

An innovative soft robotic sleeve which can help a heart to beat has been developed by researchers that include Dr Ellen Roche of NUI Galway. The soft robotic sleeve wraps around the organ, twisting and compressing in synch with the beating heart, potentially opening new treatment options for people suffering from heart failure.

Dr Roche, a postdoctoral researcher in Biomedical Engineering said: “This research is really significant at the moment because more and more people are ending up with heart failure. It demonstrates that the growing field of soft robotics can be applied to clinical needs and potentially reduce the burden of heart disease and improve the quality of life for patients. The sleeve can be customized for each patient. If a patient has more weakness on the left side of the heart, for example, the actuators can be tuned to give more assistance on that side. The pressure of the actuators can also increase or decrease over time, as the patient’s condition evolves.”

Mathematical Formula measures Batman’s Expandable Cape

**NUI Galway publishes new mathematical formula on soft ‘dielectric’ membranes**

Applied mathematicians from NUI Galway have published a formula which will be of huge benefit to materials scientists and soft robotics engineers. The team has worked out how much voltage and deformation soft ‘dielectric’ membranes can take before they break.

Soft ‘dielectric’ membranes are used on the cutting edge of science to develop artificial muscles, soft robotics, energy harvesters and ‘smart clothes’. These lightweight soft materials deploy and stiffen when put under high voltage, but until now, there has been a big challenge in knowing what the breaking point of these membranes is.

Professor Michel Destrade, of the University’s School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Mathematics explains: “If you can remember the scene in Batman Begins where this huge bat cape emerges from a tiny folded piece of material, that’s the kind of technology which is being developed currently in some labs around the world, especially in Harvard University and in China. It’s the electric voltage that allows these special membranes to expand. Until now it was not fully understood how much voltage these membranes could sustain. Some are a millimetre thick, but if they thin out too much when they stretch with the voltage, it can lead to a short-circuit and a catastrophic breakdown. We hope our mathematical formula will help advance science in this area.”
Researchers underline pandemic prevention measures

The European Union-funded pandemic project, Pandemic Risk and Emergency Management (PANDEM), has completed its research phase and produced a final report identifying current needs and recommending innovative solutions to the European Commission. The 18-month project, coordinated by NUI Galway, was funded through the EU Horizon 2020 Secure Societies programme of research and innovation, to help improve pandemic preparedness across European Union member states and beyond.

The threat analysis conducted by the project concluded that the risk of emergence of a pandemic is greater now than ever before. Influenza viruses continue to circulate between birds, pigs and humans, greater numbers of laboratories engaging in bioengineering work on dangerous pathogens increases the risk of accidental release if biosafety measures are not strictly implemented, and bioterrorism poses a threat with the increased availability of technology and knowledge to build a bioweapon. Antibiotic resistance is also a major threat to human health and could bring the management of infectious diseases back to the pre-antibiotic era.

Pioneering research tracks sea bass movements

A collaboration between Irish researchers from NUI Galway, UCC and Cork Harbour Angling Hub has resulted in the detailed movements of individual sea bass in Europe being tracked. The authors found that sea bass in Cork Harbour were highly resident, remaining within one to three kilometres of where they were originally caught and tagged, a behaviour not known before this study. They also found that these localised fish returned to the same areas after their winter migration.

Sea bass is a large fish species only found in Irish and UK waters and south into the Mediterranean and along north Africa. It is a commercially important species as it fetches a high price in markets compared to other fish species. Sea bass is also an important fish for recreational anglers and is worth up to €70 million to the Irish economy.

Student Boldly Goes on Mars Simulation Mission

A PhD student of Biomedical Engineering at NUI Galway was recently selected as Commander of Crew 172, an international mission for the Mars Desert Research Station, which supports Earth-based research required for human space exploration.

The Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS), owned and operated by the Mars Society, is a full-scale analog facility in Utah in the United States that supports Earth-based research in pursuit of the technology, operations and science required for human exploration on Mars.

Ilaria Cinelli, a PhD student in the College of Engineering and Informatics at NUI Galway, was selected as Emerging Space Leader of the Mars Mission because of her extracurricular activities in this field. Ms Cinelli led an international crew of six people under the constraints of a simulated Mars mission over four weeks. The unique facility in Utah is surrounded by terrain that is a geologic Mars analog, which offered Commander Cinelli and her crew opportunities for rigorous field studies as they would be conducted during an actual space mission. This study will lead to new insights into the nature and evolution of Mars, Earth and possible life on Mars.
Blood Cancer Patients Take Part in Drug Trial

Irish cancer patients with multiple myeloma have become the first in the world to be treated with a new potentially life-saving drug combination.

Irish patients with the blood cancer ‘multiple myeloma’ are the first patients worldwide to take part in a new drug trial to develop a more effective treatment for the cancer. This innovative Phase 1 clinical trial is being led by researchers at NUI Galway.

Multiple myeloma is a blood cancer arising from a type of white blood cell called a plasma cell. Plasma cells normally produce antibodies which help fight infection. In multiple myeloma the plasma cells become cancerous and are called myeloma cells. These can produce an excess of a single antibody which is harmful and stops the blood from working properly. Each year in Ireland approximately 250 people are diagnosed with the cancer and 170 succumb to the disease.

First in Man Clinical Trial of Novel Cell Therapy for Diabetic Kidney Disease

NEPHSTROM, a large European Union Horizon 2020-funded research project coordinated by NUI Galway, has successfully completed a major step in the European clinical trial approval process.

NEPHSTROM, which includes 11 academic, clinical and commercial partners from Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and the UK, is carrying out a randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trial of a novel allogeneic stromal cell therapy to treat diabetic kidney disease. DKD is the single leading cause of end stage renal disease in the industrialised world, accounting for 40% of new cases of end stage renal disease in the US and EU.

NUI Galway Leads National S4 Cybersecurity Initiative

NUI Galway leads national research initiative to protect people in Ireland from digital threats and cybercrime by applying data analytics to cybersecurity.

NUI Galway is taking the lead on a new national research initiative in digital security that will apply data analytics to cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence (AI). The initiative will be led by the University’s discipline of Information Technology, the Insight Centre for Data Analytics and other national research centres across Ireland.

Digital security has many dimensions, ranging from protecting the privacy of individuals and their data to protecting physical and societal structures from disruption, everything from pacemakers to power plants to government agencies and electoral systems. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected and we continuously expand our digital presence, data management and data analytics are of fundamental importance to privacy and security.

Dr Michael Madden of the College of Engineering and Informatics at NUI Galway said: “Like all countries, Ireland faces significant digital security threats. More than half of Irish companies have reported a data breach in 2016. Cybercrime is estimated to have cost Irish companies €600 million in 2015, and this is projected to reach €1 billion by 2020, according to a PwC 216 Irish Economic Crime report in 2016. In addition, we have seen large scale data breaches experienced by multinational organisations internationally, such as Yahoo and JP Morgan, even before the recent disruption caused by this new ransomware.”

20-Year Health Behaviour Study of School-going children

The Health Promotion Research Centre in NUI Galway launched the ‘Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Ireland Trends Report 1998-2014’ (HBSC) in May 2017. Results from the study found that more children are reporting high life satisfaction and less children are smoking or drinking.

The HBSC is a cross-sectional study conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe. It runs every four years. In 2014 there were 42 participating countries and regions collecting data on the health behaviours, health outcomes and contexts of children’s lives.

In terms of risky behaviour, the survey reported that in 2014 8% of Irish children aged 10-17 said they were smoking compared to 23% in 1998. This is a further decrease since 2010 when the figure was 12%. 21% reported that they had never been drunk compared to 33% in 1998. 8% reported that they had used cannabis in the last year compared to 12% in 1998.

In terms of positive behaviour, seat-belt wearing rates have almost doubled to 81% amongst children since 1998 and 34% reported that their health was excellent compared to 28% in 1998. High rates of life satisfaction (76%) and reported happiness (89%) continue.
**Path Breaking Women**

*'Path Breaking Women of NUI Galway: 1912-1922 and Beyond' is one of a number of initiatives hosted this year as part of NUI Galway’s commitment to highlight and celebrate the contribution by women to the University.*

‘Path Breaking Women of NUI Galway: 1912-1922 and Beyond’ is a visual history exhibition which began as a small project to shine a light on some of the exceptional students and staff of NUI Galway in the last 100 years.

The exhibition features 12 women, each a former faculty member or student of NUI Galway, who have made exceptional contributions across a variety of disciplines including the arts, sciences and political life in the first decades of Irish independence and beyond.

Deciding to bring to attention some of the significant academics and students who have come through the doors over the years, Professor Niamh Reilly, School of Political Science and Sociology, secured a grant for the exhibition through the Irish Research Council New Foundations Scheme 2015 as part of the Decade of Centenaries, and with colleagues went about selecting a number of women to be included in the project.

While all from varied backgrounds, one thing the women did all have in common was a dedication to learning and excellence, says Professor Reilly. “They were all exceptional individuals in being driven, being ambitious, being very talented and being quite single-minded in one way or another. You do have to look at their extraordinary achievements, particularly for the times they lived in. They all were very exceptional, and surmounted all kinds of obstacles, but were also very passionate and very positively engaged.”

From the outset, it became very clear to Professor Reilly that she was barely scratching the surface of the wealth of exceptional, path breaking women that have passed through NUI Galway in the last century.

The exhibition was opened by Máire Geoghegan-Quinn (LLD 2014 h.c.), former TD for Galway West and the first female cabinet minister in the state, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science from 2010 to 2014 and, most recently, Chairperson of a national review of gender equality in higher education institutions.

Geoghegan-Quinn, herself a path breaking woman of the west, acknowledged the importance of the project. “This initiative focuses on the campaigns for social reform that animated Ireland in the early twentieth century – and how they led to women’s rights and a modern Ireland that would have been unimaginable when these women were starting out on their student days. The position of women has radically changed. But it hasn’t changed enough.

“This exhibition reminds us all – and I hope particularly younger women – of the power of passion and persistence, of the importance of education, and the equal importance of doing something with that education.”

Professor Reilly noted that the range of diversity of the women is also something that NUI Galway is particularly rich in. “We have a lovely range from all the disciplines, and the different walks of life - we have something special at NUI Galway, and this is just the tip of the iceberg. This is just a beginning - an invitation to find out more about these and other path breaking women who have contributed so much, not only to this University, but to wider society,” she added.

Undertaking this project has been a real pleasure,” continued Professor Reilly, “something like this really brings people together across literature, classics and history and the different disciplines that each of the featured women worked in. You also have the likes of Ada English, who, in addition to being involved in activities around 1916, was a medical doctor working in the area of psychiatric medicine, so you got an interesting conversation going across the different perspectives and disciplinary areas of the featured women.”

Connecting with the families was also very gratifying, with many of the relatives of these women enjoying seeing their family members and their contributions honoured. “It’s definitely inspiring and encouraging to see the value of even these small projects - you can do, and achieve, a lot with them.”

The Path Breaking Women project is supported by the School of Political Science and Sociology, the Centre for Global Women’s Studies and the Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities and Social Studies, NUI Galway, in association with the Gender ARC research network and University Women’s Network at NUI Galway. Contributing researchers are Mary Clancy and Dr Muireann O’Cinneide.
In February 2017, the University officially named the upper Aula Maxima as the Emily Anderson Concert Hall, honouring the UCG graduate renowned for her translation of the letters of Beethoven and Mozart.

Emily Anderson was born on 17 March 1891 in Galway and in 1911 graduated from Queen’s College Galway with a first class honours BA in Modern Languages. In 1917, following further studies and work abroad, Anderson was appointed the first professor of German in University College Galway. She joined the growing number of women holding academic positions, particularly in arts, though also in Science and Medicine.

In 1920 Anderson resigned her position in Galway and moved to London. By 1923, she was among the first women to be offered posts in the British Foreign office. During the Second World War, she was seconded to the War Office and was awarded an OBE.

A published writer since the early 1920s, Anderson earned an international reputation as an authority on Mozart and Beethoven, whose correspondence she edited and translated.


Later, following retirement, she published the three-volume edition *Letters of Beethoven (1961)*. Once more, Anderson won official recognition and she was awarded an order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Emily Anderson died in London in 1962 at the age of 71. She left her estate to support benevolent funds and the Royal Philharmonic Society awards the international Emily Anderson Prize to young violinists annually. NUI Galway and Music for Galway hold an annual concert in her memory.
Alice Perry

In March 2017, the Alice Perry Engineering Building was officially named for alumna Alice Perry the first woman to graduate in engineering in Britain or Ireland. This was the centrepiece of a day-long series of events focused on women in STEM. The official building naming ceremony involved a keynote address by Caroline Spillane, Director General, Engineers Ireland, and the launch of the Máire Brazil Scholarship to encourage talented female engineering students, enabled by distinguished engineering graduate Áine Brazil through Galway University Foundation.

These are important steps towards addressing a deficit in the institutional legacy in recognising women in the heritage and history of the University. They build on similar recognition over the years in a number of locations such as Áras Uí Eimhígh, named for the late Dean of Arts, Professor of Classics Margaret Heavey, the Máirín de Valéria Carron Research Station in the Burren named for the late Professor of Botany, and the Bailey Allen Hall endowed by the late Angela Allen. These events are all part of NUI Galway’s commitment to highlight and celebrate the contribution by women to the University.
The Path Breaking Women

Alice Jacqueline Perry (1885-1969) (BE, 1906)
Alice Perry was the first woman engineer in Ireland or Britain. While Queen's College, Galway, admitted female students in the 1880s, very few women completed degrees in engineering. Alice Perry was among a small number of women worldwide to achieve this path-breaking distinction.

Mary Donovan (1887-1966) (MA, 1909)
In 1914, Mary Donovan was appointed the first Professor of History at UCG, a position she held until the 1950s. She was active in the women’s suffrage movement, arguing for equality in wages, education and the professions, and acting as suffrage librarian.

Emily Anderson (1891-1962) (BA, 1911)
An accomplished linguist and scholar, Emily Anderson’s hugely important works The Letters of Mozart and his Family (1938) and The Letters of Beethoven (1961) received critical international acclaim.

Ada (Adeline) English (1875-1944) (MB, B.CH, BAO, 1903)
Ada English was one of the first women doctors in Ireland. In 1904, she was appointed assistant medical officer in Ballinasloe District Asylum, County Galway, where she worked for the next forty years.

Síle Ní Chinnéide (1900-1980)
Very active in the Irish language revival, Síle Ní Chinnéide became a lecturer in history (through Irish) at UCG in 1927, advancing to Associate Professor of History in 1965, and retiring in 1970.

Celia Lynch (nee Quinn) (1908-1989) (BA 1927; BCOMM 1928)
Celia Lynch was the first female Fianna Fáil chief whip and longest serving woman TD, returned for six terms before she retired in 1977.

Margaret Heavey (Mairead Ni Éimhigh) (1908-1980) (BA, 1927 and H. Dip Ed and MA, 1928)
A lecturer in Latin and Greek through Irish, her deep love of the classics and enthusiasm for her subject inspired generations of students. She was appointed Professor of Ancient Classics in 1958 and served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts from 1970 to 1976.

Maureen O’Carroll (nee McHugh) (1913-1984) (Enrolled in Arts,1932)
A trade union activist who co-founded the Lower Prices Council in 1947 and spearheaded a major campaign against the rising prices of basic household goods. In 1954 she became the Labour Party’s first female deputy (TD) and chief whip (1954-1957).

Máirín de Valera (1912-1984)
Máirín de Valera (daughter of Eamon de Valera) became a lecturer in Botany at UCG in 1947 and became the first Professor of Botany in 1962, a post she held until 1977. In 2006, NUI Galway’s field research station in the Burren was renamed the Máirín de Valera Research Station.

Nora Niland (1913-1988) (BA, 1943)
Nora Niland was an influential county librarian and curator, who believed in the power of books and art to help shape rural and national public life.

Caitlín Maude (1941-1982) (BA 1962)
An inspiring voice of Irish language arts and civil politics from the 1960s, Caitlín Maude was prominent in public protests of the 1960s and 1970s, particularly surrounding the Irish language and the social, economic and political place of the West of Ireland.

Lorna Reynolds (1911-2003) Professor of Modern English at UCG in 1966, Lorna Reynolds was a highly regarded editor, literary scholar and public speaker.

Mary Donovan O’Sullivan, circa 1940s, reproduced by kind permission of NUI Galway Archives
Ada English, circa 1910, reproduced with kind permission of Gill and Macmillan.
Síle Ní Chinnéide, circa 1950, reproduced by kind permission of the NUI Galway Archives.
Celia Lynch, circa 1930, reproduced by kind permission of the family of Celia Lynch.
Caitlín Maude, circa 1970s, reproduced by kind permission of the RTE Press Centre.
Lorna Reynolds, circa 1990, reproduced by kind permission of the family of Lorna Reynolds.

www.nuigalway.ie/pathbreakingwomen/
Arctic Circle Exploration

Dr Jessamyn Fairfield talks about her exciting expedition to the Arctic Circle as part of a Science Residency Programme bringing together artists and scientists to create new and pioneering work

Nanoscience physicist Dr Jessamyn Fairfield, from NUI Galway’s School of Physics, was chosen to embark on a fascinating two-week Science Residency Programme last June, travelling on board the ship Antigua with the aim of bringing together scientists and artists to explore how the Arctic and its exploration intersect with art, science, architecture, education and activism.

The artist and scientist-led organisation, The Arctic Circle, is an annual expeditionary residency programme that brings together international artists of all disciplines, scientists, architects and educators, who collectively explore remote and fascinating destinations aboard a specially outfitted sailing vessel. It provided a shared experience for its participants, including Jessamyn, to engage in a myriad of global issues relative to our time, such as climate change, marine law and colonialism and on this particular trip, to see a part of the natural world like the Arctic, which is so wild but also very affected by our actions as humans.

The expedition travelled around the islands of Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago between mainland Norway and the North Pole. It is one of the world’s northernmost inhabited areas, known for its rugged, remote terrain of glaciers and frozen tundra sheltering polar bears, Svalbard reindeer and Arctic foxes. The Northern Lights are visible during winter, and summer brings the “midnight sun” - sunlight 24 hours a day. Svalbard also contains the world’s northernmost scientific settlement of Ny-Ålesund, which has a year-round population of just 35 people.

Speaking about the programme and the opportunity to embark on such an exciting expedition, Dr Fairfield said: “I wrote to The Arctic Circle, and talked about my research on how light and electricity interact and bio-inspired circuit design, as well as my history of science communication and science/art collaborations. I was delighted to be selected for a 2017 expedition, which took place over the summer solstice during the season when the sun never sets. We saw many
beautiful landscapes, but it was also striking how things are changing - glaciers receding, the ice cap shrinking, the sea warming - as a result of our carbon emissions elsewhere on the planet. Even though governments around the world have long wanted to control the Arctic, few are willing to take responsibility for what we are doing to it.”

Dr Fairfield, added: “The Arctic has always held a special fascination for me. It’s such a stark environment: brutal and yet full of life and beauty too. The stories of the classic Arctic explorers, Scott, Amundsen, Nansen, and Shackleton, are inspiring and terrifying in equal measure. While I have no desire to freeze to death, I wanted to follow in their footsteps, see the edge of the world, listen to nature and search for humanity.

“The raw and beautiful environment of the Arctic Circle is the perfect place to bring together scientists, artists, and innovators. During the Summer Solstice 2017 expedition, where I worked on a Cerenkov detector made from Arctic ice to detect cosmic rays. I also trained the artists, creators and scientists on board on how they can use humour to talk about the work they are passionate about. I am excited about the projects, which are coming together as a result of this residency, and absolutely loved sharing the ship Antigua with so many amazing individuals during the midnight sun.”

Along with her nanoelectronics research on neuromorphic devices which emulate the brain at the School of Physics NUI Galway, Dr Fairfield is also a regular science communicator and will be producing articles and radio pieces about her Arctic expedition. She has written and narrated a short film about nanoscience, called Small World, and she also writes her own longstanding blog, Let’s Talk About Science, which is a top Google result for information about electronics.

Dr Fairfield was honoured with the prestigious Mary Somerville Medal from the Institute of Physics last June. They referred to “her stellar work as a public speaker and writer on physics for a popular audience, and for having organised and hosted many innovative events bringing physics to the Irish public”.

Dr Fairfield is the director of the Bright Club in Ireland, training academics to discuss their work through stand-up comedy and then bringing them to the public alongside comedians and musicians. Funded by Science Foundation Ireland, over 25 Bright Club events have run across Ireland, with short talks also available on YouTube. She also co-organised Soapbox Science Galway last July with her fellow scientist colleague, Dr Dara Stanley, which brought together female scientists to talk about their work with the public at the Spanish Arch in Galway. This autumn she will work with the Mawazo Institute to develop public engagement events for science and policy in Nairobi. Follow Jessamyn’s story on Twitter @ultrajessamyn.
Huntington’s disease is an inherited neurodegenerative disease that causes serious cognitive and movement defects. Sometimes called Huntington’s chorea, it is debilitating, untreatable and ultimately fatal. Huntington’s disease is particularly cruel because children are sometimes affected more severely than their parents.

Professor Robert Lahue and his team at the Centre for Chromosome Biology and the Galway Neuroscience Centre at NUI Galway collaborated with scientists at the University of Barcelona. The researchers targeted an enzyme called histone deacetylase 3 (HDAC3), which is thought to alter important biochemical mechanisms in the brain of Huntington’s disease patients and thereby accelerate disease progression.

The new study published in the journal Scientific Reports shows that blocking HDAC3 with an experimental compound in a pre-clinical model of Huntington’s disease slows cognitive decline and delays the onset of molecular signs of neurodegeneration.

Professor Lahue said: “While these results are preliminary, the data shows that the onset of Huntington’s disease is delayed when HDAC3 is blocked in this pre-clinical setting. This is an encouraging first step because currently there are no effective treatments that target the root cause of the disease.”

Professor Lahue also noted the key role of the Spanish collaborators and co-authors, Dr Silvia Ginés and Nuria Suelves, from the University of Barcelona: “Silvia and Nuria are Huntington’s disease experts, and the collaborative nature of this joint project allowed the research to progress into new areas.”

Newly-published research from NUI Galway shows encouraging early signs as a potential treatment for the debilitating neurodegenerative disease.
In May 2017, emergency services battled the blazing gorse fire in the Cloosh Valley, Connemara. Apart from the obvious devastating effect on wildlife and the damage to tree crops, the forest fires caused a major air pollution episode in the area, with potential health impacts to the local population. The wind diverted the pollution plume away from the most populated areas; however, a change in wind direction engulfed the city in smoke pollution for a few hours. Such high pollution events can have significant health impacts on sections of the population, including the elderly, the immunosuppressed and those with chronic conditions such as asthma.

The smoke pollution event was recorded on a newly deployed ‘Citizen Science Air Pollution’ monitoring network, which engages second-level school students as part of a national air-monitoring network. The Galway City air-monitoring node is located in Coláiste Iognáid at Sea Road, Galway. The measurement systems were built and deployed by the Centre for Climate and Air Pollution Studies at NUI Galway.

The data, which is webcast live every five minute, clearly showed the smoke pollution peak hitting at least 20 times the normal background level. The air quality monitor is comprised of a low-cost particulate matter (PM) detector that streams data live over the 4G network.

The Centre for Climate and Air Pollution Studies at NUI Galway is in a joint initiative with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Institute of Physics and selected secondary schools. Currently, the pilot network comprises nodes in secondary schools in Galway and Claremorris, and two in Dublin (Lucan and Sutton). The air pollution caused by the gorse fires was also detected as far west as Carna, at the Centre’s Air Pollution and Climate Monitoring station in Mace Head.

Professor Colin O’Dowd, Director of NUI Galway’s Centre for Climate and Air Pollution Studies and Professor of Physics, said: “Our urban and even rural air quality all across the country has been getting worse rather than better over the years, particularly with the increase in biomass domestic fuel consumption associated with the proliferation of wood and peat burning stoves. In contrast to this low-cost Citizen Science Air Pollution network, we also have deployed a highly sophisticated air pollution network nationally, the most sophisticated in the world, which has identified that the burning of domestic biomass fuels causes a disproportionate amount of air pollution for very little heat generation. We have found that it is not uncommon in winter for pollution levels to quite regularly rival the air pollution levels in the most polluted megacities around the world, such as Beijing.”

Studies undertaken by Professor Colin O’Dowd, Dr Liz Coleman and Dr Jurgita Odadnevaite at the Centre for Climate and Air Pollution have shown that air pollution events of a similar magnitude are frequently detected in Irish cities and towns in winter when domestic fuel heating systems contribute significantly to the air pollution burden. In times of high pressure, slack wind speeds and high relative humidities and air pollution can build up to cause a pollution event, as occurred in Dublin last winter. During this event, detected levels of small particles peaked 260 µg/m3 in late evening period, far exceeding the World Health Organisation guidelines of less than 25µg/m3per daily average.

Analysis of measurements showed that the majority (44.0%) of the pollution came from peat burning, despite peat accounting for only 3.6% of fuel burned during this time. Wood-burning accounts for 11.0% of total detected particles, despite accounting for only 0.2% of fuel consumed over the period, a level of pollution disproportionate to the energy produced from wood. Peat and wood burning are producing unacceptable levels of pollution which are only seen in developing countries. These domestic fuel pollution events are less obvious to the public because they occur in winter time when people are predominantly indoors and the pollution events are less visible in the dark winter evenings. Nevertheless, our measurements show that they are as harmful to the public and the environment as the pollution from extensive forest fires or massive bonfires.

The European Environment Agency recently updated its assessment for the health impacts of air pollution in the EU, and now estimates that in 2013 there were over 500,000 premature mortalities arising from air pollution in the EU overall, and that 1,500 occurred in Ireland.
CÚRAM is a Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre based at NUI Galway. Pictured at the launch were Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD with Professor Abhay Pandit, Scientific Director of CÚRAM.
A Global Hub of Medical Device Research

Ireland’s position as one of the top medtech clusters in the world was strengthened in September 2016 with the official launch of CÚRAM, the Centre for Research in Medical Devices. CÚRAM is a Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre based at NUI Galway, which is a unique symbiotic relationship of academia and industry partners that pushes the scientific frontiers in medical devices. CÚRAM’s research will develop medical devices to mimic the body’s biology, targeting chronic diseases that include diabetes, Parkinson’s and heart disease.

CÚRAM is a world-class research centre which will be very significant for Ireland’s society and economy. It will operate as a global hub of research expertise in medical device technology to strengthen the Irish medtech industry. CÚRAM represents investment of €49 million over six years from Science Foundation Ireland and industry. This support has already been used to leverage a further €20.1 million in funding from the EU’s Horizon 2020 programme, over €4.3 million of which has been awarded directly to indigenous Irish industry.

Some of the 29 indigenous Irish and multinational companies partnering with CÚRAM are Aerogen, Arch Therapeutics, Aquila Bioscience, Boston Scientific, Collagen Solutions, Cook Medical, Medical Energetics, Medtronic, Mylan, Neograft, Neosurgical, Neuravi, Ocean Harvest Technology, Spraybase, Stem Cell Technologies, Stryker Instruments and Viscus Biologics. CÚRAM will provide these companies with unparalleled scientific expertise and innovation to futureproof the medtech industry.

Global demographic shifts mean we are living longer, but with chronic illnesses such as diabetes, Parkinson’s and heart disease. The research approach at CÚRAM is collaborative, multidisciplinary and informed from all perspectives so that it translates from basic research to clinical application as efficiently and quickly as possible.

Professor Abhay Pandit is Scientific Director of CÚRAM and heads up the 280-strong team: “Chronic diseases are the particular focus of CÚRAM’s research. Working with industry partners and clinicians, we will better understand the ‘hostile environment’ of the body and advance medical devices to the next stage where they mimic the body’s biology. We want to launch devices which are more effective for the individual patient, but more affordable to lessen the burden on healthcare systems worldwide.”

“Bringing together expertise from various fields leads to tantalising possibilities,” continued Professor Pandit. “In the long-term we may have minimally invasive injections instead of operations for back pain, electrodes which degrade within the body over time, or 3D printed muscles and tendons. This will not happen overnight, but the unparalleled combination of scientific, industry and clinical and regulatory expertise which CÚRAM facilitates will get us there in the coming years.”

CÚRAM brings together strands of biomedical science which have come of age over the last decade, including glycoscience, biomaterials science, regenerative medicine and tissue engineering, drug delivery and medical device design. CÚRAM has over 250 researchers engaged in current projects, both in collaboration with industry and on blue-sky research.

“CÚRAM is already attracting new research talent into Ireland,” said Dr Jim Browne, President of NUI Galway, “A key part of its operation is to train the next generation of scientists, employees and entrepreneurs in this sector. The calibre of our graduates in this field is extremely high, and they are inspired by the exciting potential of the sector. One example of CÚRAM’s direct co-operation with industry is through MedTrain, a new industry–academic fellowship programme which will see 31 researchers enrol with CÚRAM’s Investigators as fellows in the next four years with support from EU’s Horizon 2020 programme.”

Speaking at the launch Minister O’Connor T.D. said: “The medtech sector is hugely important to the Irish economy with over 400 companies based here, it accounts for over 29,000 jobs and is responsible for €12.6 billion worth of exports. I am delighted to launch CÚRAM a world class research centre which will be very significant for our society and our economy. CÚRAM will also play a key role in ensuring that world class skills will be available to companies in Ireland as it is here to futureproof the medtech industry by providing access to unparalleled scientific expertise and innovation.”
UI Galway alumna Michaela O’Shaughnessy (BSc 2013), Social Media Producer at Teen Vogue, talks to Cois Coiribe about her career and her lifestyle and fashion blog, Life Of A Lady Bear.

So Life Of A Lady Bear is a Galway Girl?
Yes, I’m from Oranmore, Co. Galway and I graduated from Biomedical Science at NUI Galway in 2013.

What was your favourite haunt at Uni?
I think my favourite place on campus has to be the Quad. It’s such a beautiful building and I loved seeing how the ivy changed with each season. Even though it’s a part of campus that many students don’t visit very often, I got to spend a lot of time there when doing my final year project in the physiology building.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?
When I was growing up, the only career I wanted was to be a doctor. I was obsessed with Biology in secondary school and when I missed out on the points in the Leaving Cert, I chose Biomedical Science as an alternative route to getting into graduate medicine. However, as time went on, I realized my love for business and digital marketing and decided to try to make a career in that industry. It was definitely a big change to make but one that was definitely worth making!

How did you end up on this career path?
When I first moved to New York, I started applying for jobs in marketing and advertising thinking that would be the best option. Initially I didn’t even know that people were making a career out of working in social media for brands because it was never a career option back home in Ireland. Luckily a recruiter from MTV saw my LinkedIn account and reached out to me about a social media position at the brand and of course I jumped at the opportunity to even interview! Turns out they were impressed with my social media presence that I had built through my blog ‘Life of a Lady Bear’ and decided to hire me even though I didn’t have any ‘professional’ experience! It was a spot of luck but I’m so thankful they took the risk on me!

You moved to New York to pursue this career, was that a major decision and did you mind leaving Ireland?
It was definitely a major decision to move to New York especially because I’m a huge home bird and absolutely love Ireland. But I felt at the time when I finished college that there wasn’t a huge amount of opportunities for me there. During college I had spent three summers in NYC so I knew that it was a place I loved and with any bit of luck I would find a good job in the city.

Have you had any major obstacles so far in your career?
I think the biggest obstacle I’ve had to face was actually figuring out what career path I wanted to pursue. Coming from a Biomedical Science background, I certainly felt the pressure to stay in that industry and thought it was quite a risky move to shift paths completely to study Business, but on reflection it definitely was the best decision I ever made. And then of course, making the decision to move to New York to pursue was another big obstacle but thankfully it’s going well out here so it was worth overcoming.

What inspires you?
I’m inspired by so many women on a daily basis: firstly my mom who has worked so hard her whole life while raising kids. Secondly I admire any woman who has an entrepreneurial spirit. There are so many Irish female entrepreneurs

Any other plans for the future?
I’m definitely a huge believer in setting goals for yourself to achieve, but personally I don’t have a definite plan for the future. If you told me five years ago that one day I would be living in New York and that I would have worked with MTV and Teen Vogue, I would have never believed you! So instead of having a huge plan for the next five years, I take it year by year and ensure that I do everything in my power to achieve whatever goals I set for myself. That said, hopefully I’ll be back living in Galway within the next few years!

What did you want to be when you were growing up?
When I was growing up, the only career I wanted was to be a doctor. I was obsessed with Biology in secondary school and when I missed out on the points in the Leaving Cert, I chose Biomedical Science as an alternative route to getting into graduate medicine. However, as time went on, I realized my love for business and digital marketing and decided to try to make a career in that industry. It was definitely a big change to make but one that was definitely worth making!

Did you make friends for life at NUI Galway?
I definitely met so many wonderful people at NUI Galway and made great friends for life. The wonderful thing about social media nowadays is that it’s so much easier to keep in touch with old friends and nothing makes me happier than seeing everyone I went to college achieving great things, both at home and around the world.

What was the highlight of college life?
Definitely all of the fun occasions like Rag Week and the college balls! I remember my friends and I were always so excited to get tickets to the Commerce Ball in particular because it was such a great night out!

What was the biggest lesson learnt from campus?
I think the biggest lesson I learned from my time at NUIG was to not give up. I remember in my second year of Biomedical Science, I just about scraped a 40% in Pharmacology and was so devastated because I studied really hard, but for some reason I just couldn’t get my head around Pharmacology! After the bad grade, I was very tempted to try and get out of the subject and switch to something else but I remember telling myself to try and work even harder of the subject and switch to something else but I

How or why did you start blogging?
I started blogging during my first Summer in NYC as a way of documenting my adventures and sharing them with my family back home. It gave me a wonderful creative outlet that I was craving during my Biomedical studies.

What advice would you give to students and graduates thinking about pursuing a similar career path?
For anyone that wants to work in social media, I would say that having a social presence of your own is absolutely vital! It’s also very important to try and get as much experience as you can before you graduate! Even if it’s doing a little part time social management for a local business, it all helps and looks great on your resumé.

Any other plans for the future?
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The O’Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance provides an excellent example of one aspect of universities’ adaptiveness where the physical heritage has been changed to accommodate the expansion of NUI Galway’s activities in theatre and performance.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1838 shows Belmont House and grounds where the University’s Quadrangle and adjacent buildings are now located. To the east the map shows a small building, a Bleach Mill, occupying part of the site of the O’Donoghue Centre. Shortly after 1850 the mill was sold and a much larger building constructed, shown in a map from the 1890s as a bag factory.

The early twentieth century saw multiple uses for the building. A period as a bonded warehouse was followed by its use as a factory for cannon shells at the time of World War 1, after which it housed British army personnel during the War of Independence.

In 1935 it became Irish Metal Industries, where three factories made cartridges, copper tubing, and soda crystals. When IMI closed in 1987, the area was acquired by the University and used mainly for engineering activities, such as soils labs.

The design for the conversion of this nineteenth century industrial structure was by Taylor Architects (Castlebar) and Richard Murphy Architects (Edinburgh), with the work carried out by Purcell Construction.

In the centre is a 120-seat theatre space; the seats are in contracting tiers, allowing the available area to be broadened to allow more space for other activities. There are also rehearsal rooms, seminar rooms and the range of facilities necessary to support the Centre’s many activities.

The incorporation of the latest technology in the theatre space and elsewhere contrasts attractively with the solid stone walls, which remind us of the building’s origins.

The Building was voted Ireland’s favourite new building in June as the Public Choice in this year’s RIAI Irish Architecture Awards 2017.

Keith Warnock
Capital Projects Advisor and former Vice President for Capital Projects
The Story of Drama and Theatre at NUI Galway

Drama and theatre have always been part of the life of the University. There have been many student productions, successful alumni and, in more recent years, new academic courses – all culminating in the opening of the O’Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance in April 2017.

The earliest recorded student production was in 1904, when Molière’s *Les Femmes Savantes* was staged at the Aula Maxima alongside a partial production of *The Merchant of Venice*. In the years that followed, concerns were raised that “it spoke ill for the talent and capability of UCG that our students should have lagged behind the times” by not having a Drama Society of their own. That oversight was addressed shortly before the First World War, when the Dramatic Society emerged. Its first production, *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare, was considered very successful.

Improvements in facilities also helped the growth of the Society. In 1914, the floor of the Aula Maxima was boarded and so allowed for a much improved space for rehearsal and performance. Also a factor was that the society had a strong social element. By 1916, roughly one-quarter of the 227 students on campus were women. Students were confined to separate male and female reading rooms on campus, but were mixed within the Dramatic Society. The inclusivity was achieved despite opposition from some male students – and also from a minority of women students. Yet others were firmly supportive of it. For example, Minnie Tennant played a lead part in the suffrage movement, and was also a central member of the Dramatic Society, playing the role of Viola in *Twelfth Night*.

From the earliest years, the Society produced both European and Irish works. The impact of the war in Europe meant that its activities declined for a time, but in response some of the female students formed a new ‘Shakespearean Society’, set up “for the purpose of establishing good taste in reading.” The group met weekly in the ‘Ladies Rooms’ on campus and created a forum for the discussion of literature and drama.

As Ireland entered its independent period, student numbers in Arts increased, which in turn led to higher numbers in the Dramatic Society. The society also had an academic champion in the form of Professor of English Language and Literature Diarmuid Murphy, who produced and directed plays for the Society, such as *Milestones*, produced at the Corrib Theatre in 1935. Murphy was also a personal friend of author J.R.R. Tolkien and later hosted Tolkien at UCG when he was visiting examiner in English in the 1950s. That period of prosperity was matched by the emergence in the city of Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe, the national Irish-language theatre – an institution that would play host to numerous UCG graduates and students from the late 1920s onwards.

The 1940s would prove particularly important for drama at UCG. In 1945, a student called Sean McGlory developed the idea for a University Drama Association of Ireland (today the Irish Student Drama Association). This began as a national festival in March 1947, and continues to this day. In 1948, Siobhan McKenna and Seán Mac Réamoinn founded An Cumann Drámaíochta, a student society for drama in Irish that would ultimately grow over 600 members.

Another golden age for student drama on campus was the 1960s, when a prominent group of students came together within the Dramatic Society under the stewardship of Dr Donagh O’Donoghue. The group included Gearóid O Tuathaigh, Anne Gallagher, Christopher Murray, Kieran Muldoon and staff such as Librarian Christy Townley and Professors Murphy and Tobin. The Society had major successes at this time, including a production of Pinter’s *The Birthday Party*, produced by Gearóid O Tuathaigh, which was said to have “aroused the student body from its apathy.”

That period laid the foundation for the emergence from the 1970s of major companies, including Druid Theatre Company, the Galway Arts Festival, Macnas and other artistic success stories. Included were future Tony-award winners such as Marie Mullen, who made her debut as ‘Cass’ in Brian Friel’s *The Loves of Cass Maguire* in May 1972. Fellow future Tony-award winner Garry Hynes, co-founder with Mick Lally of Druid Theatre Company (1975), directed the play.
Drama had always featured on the curricula of many of the Arts subjects within the University, but its place became even stronger with the appointment in 1978 of Thomas Kilroy as professor of English. Then – as now – one of Ireland’s leading playwrights, Kilroy developed a wide-ranging curriculum across Irish, British and American theatre, as well as poetry and novels. His archived lecture notes (held at the Hardiman library) show his deep engagement with Synge, Yeats, O’Casey, Shaw, Wilde and Beckett as well as Arden, Osborne and Pinter. Another significant development at this time was the introduction of the “German play”, a staged work performed in the German language every year on campus.

In the 1980s, the purchase by the University of the IMI building – now the site of the O’Donoghue Centre – gave drama on campus a new lease of life. As actor Diarmuid de Faoite recalls: “the IMI building was almost perfect, tonnes of space, room for mask making and small prop building while rehearsing at the same time and cool enough on a hot day”. Students came together in the IMI space to form Na Fánaithe, a professional theatre company that produced Yerma in the 1992 Galway Arts Festival.

That potential in turn led to the opening of the Bank of Ireland Theatre in the late 1990s. With seating for 80, the theatre was equipped to a professional standard, offering students the chance to push their skills into new areas. The space was managed and programmed by the University’s Arts & Theatre Office between 2000-2016, during which time it played host to major professional productions by visiting Irish and international artists.

The availability of that space in turn made possible the introduction of theatre practice into the curriculum. In 2000, the English Department introduced an MA in Drama and Theatre Studies. That course was immediately successful and gave rise to the development of a new generation of independent theatre companies and practitioners in Galway, many of which have gone on to achieve national and international success.

An undergraduate “BA Connect” degree in Theatre followed in 2008, and the University began offering Drama as a degree subject for the first time in 2012, when it launched a BA in Drama, Theatre and Performance.

This period of growth for Drama has been enhanced by the development of major archival holdings in theatre within the Hardiman Library. These include the archives of Thomas Kilroy, Siobhan McKenna, John Arden and Margaretta D’Arcy, and the Abbey actor Arthur Shields. There are also the archives of Druid Theatre, the Lyric Players Theatre, Galway Arts Festival, and Macnas. More recently the University has engaged in the digitisation of the archives of the Abbey Theatre (Ireland’s national theatre) and Dublin’s Gate Theatre, resulting in the world’s largest digital theatre archive. These archival holdings make NUI Galway a world-leading centre for the study of Irish theatre history.
Drama at NUI Galway is thriving as never before. There are over 100 students taking the subject at undergraduate level, and more than 30 postgraduates, including several PhD students, who have won competitive research funding for their work.

Every year, several productions of Irish and international works are staged both on and off campus. Several funded projects, including work on Shakespeare and Ireland; theatre, interculturalism, and integration and Irish-language drama, are also produced.

The work is strongly underpinned by partnerships with leading arts organisations. Together with Druid Theatre, NUI Galway has formed the Druid Academy, a programme that allows students to take workshops with Druid company members among a variety of other activities. It also works with Galway International Arts Festival on a programme called SELECTED, which allows students to take part in an intensive internship that provides behind-the-scenes access to one of Europe’s most vibrant festivals.

At student level, drama continues to thrive. DramSoc remains one of the University’s largest and most vibrant societies. An Cumann Drámaíochta continues to stage new work in Irish, and there are also ongoing productions in German and other languages. A University musical society has also become particularly strong, staging a major piece of musical theatre every year.

The story of drama at NUI Galway is one that draws in staff, students, and our wider communities. The opening of the new centre means there is a new space on campus for all of those groups to come together to make and enjoy theatre, and to think and talk about theatre too. It remains to be seen what the next 100 years will bring, but drama can be sure of a secure future in its new home.

Professor Patrick Lonergan, Director, O’Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre & Performance

Barry Houlihan, Archivist, James Hardiman Library, NUI Galway
As a founder of one of the West of Ireland’s largest financial advisory firms, with a passion for community and a love for the arts, Hannah Kiely (BA ’90) is eminently suitable to be CEO of Galway 2020.

With a passion for Galway, its communities, its business and cultural life, Hannah Kiely is well placed to guide the city through one of its most exciting periods. A dedicated community leader throughout her career, Hannah has served on a number of boards in an advisory capacity for voluntary organisations, such as COPE Galway, where she was instrumental in the building of the domestic violence refuge in Forster Street. She has served as President of Galway Chamber of Commerce while having continued involvement with the community of Clarinbridge, where she lives. A graduate of GMIT, with a degree in Art & Design, Hannah indulges her artistic side by writing and painting.

“Interestingly, because while I’ve worked in business and governance for over 25 years, my heart has always been in arts, culture, and community. So when a job like this came up, it ticked all the boxes. Suddenly, I had this opportunity to connect everything that I’ve done, so I feel very lucky,” says Hannah.

Having originally studied business in Waterford, Hannah spent some time in London working in the financial sector, before deciding to return to Galway to study archaeology and geography as a mature student at NUI Galway.

“I really think an arts degree is almost essential for a lot of people. Studying at NUI Galway was a fabulous experience - a really magic time. I’m still friends with a lot of people I was in college with. We stayed friends for 30 years, which is great.”

As Hannah has continued to do throughout her career, she got very involved in community life within the university, becoming auditor of the Archaeological Society. After completing her degree, Hannah worked as a freelance archaeologist with the city for some years, working on projects such as the Spanish Arch and Kirwan’s Lane, before setting up what would become one of the largest financial firms outside of Dublin - HC Financial Advisers.

A successful business to date, HC Financial Advisers has been a mainstay in Hannah’s career, but it was her diverse interests, skills and passions that inevitably led her to the role of Galway 2020 CEO. Undoubtedly it is role that will leave an indelible economic and cultural mark on the landscape of Galway forever. Hannah believes that it is the less tangible impacts that will make the greatest changes to the city and county.

“We know there will be economic benefits from Galway 2020, but I think it’s much more than that. I want to make sure that people feel differently about Galway, both the city and county, that it’s something they experience it in their heart, something amazing. Overall, for me, it’s about people realising the impact of culture. Culture is everywhere, it’s everything, but sometimes it’s not named as that. Sometimes, we don’t see it as a part of our lives.”

Hannah believes that the real, lasting change that the city and county will see from Galway’s designation as European Capital of Culture in 2020 is a difference in how people approach how they live. ‘A lot of people have not experienced art or are reluctant to experience it. What I would like to see is that everyone has that opportunity, that they’re not afraid of culture, that they’re not afraid of art, they’re not afraid of creativity, they’re not afraid of taking a chance in participating in an audience or going outside their comfort zone a little bit.”

As CEO of Galway 2020, Hannah will lead the delivery of this ambitious S4 event-strong programme. From January, the public are going to start to see the fruits of the work that has been going on behind the scenes, with aspects of the programme being trialled. With just 28 months to go to 2020 and with Hannah Kiely at the helm, Galway is set to see some very exciting changes.
An Ghaeilge Sa Ré DhiGiteach

Le blianta beaga anuas tá cúrsaí riomhaireachta agus teicneolaíochta ag athrú agus ag éabhlóidí anuas do tháirge nua-chumhacht. De réir mar a thagann uirlisí, teicneolaíochtaí agus bogearraí nua chun cinn cuirtear lenár gcumas rudai nua agus nualacha a dhéanamh le hábhar agus le faisnéis dhigiteach. Tá tionchar ag an ré nua dhigiteach seo ar gach gné den saol agus den tsochaí, agus tá fáil againn anois ar chuile cineál faisnéise agus eolais, ar sheirbhísí agus ar shiamsaíocht ar líne.

Go díthí seo, cuireadh abhar ar fáil ar líne do pobal na mórtheangacha cuid mhóir. Ach tá pobal mór ar líne ann atá ag iarraidh agus ag éileamh an eispéiris seo éifeachta fein. Anois, tá meitheal, a bhfuil teangeolaíochtaí agus riomhchláraithe a bhfuil suim acu i gcúrsaí Gaeilge ina measc, i mbun na hoibre seo, go minic ar bhonn deochána. Tá torthaí na hoibre seo le feiceáil sna máthairiúchánanna Gaeilge atá ar fáil – An Vicipéid (Eolas agus Faisnéis), T earma.ie (T eanga agus Gramadach); RTÉ agus T uairisc.ie (cúrsaí na Meán).

Tá taighdeoirí in Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh gníomhach sa réimse seo freisin. Tá siad ag cur ábhair agus seirbhísí ar líne, trí Ghaeilge, a bhaineann le cúrsaí oideachais, cultúrtha agus siamsaíochta. Tá sé mar sprioc againn go mbeidh fáil ag an bpobal Gaeilge ar an eispéireas céanna agus atá ag pobal na mórtheangacha.

Cartlann Mhic Giollarnáth

Seoladh leagan digiteach de chartlann luachmhar Gaeilge in Ionaíonn an Acadáimh, Carna in earrach na bliana seo, cartlann ina bhfuil $4 lámhscríbhinn ón tréimhse 1925-1950 ar fáil go poiblí den chéad uair. Ba é Seán Mac Giollarnáth a scriobh na cáipéisí le linn dó a bhéith ag freastal ar phobal Chonamara mar bhreithreachú círte dúcgha. Rinne foireann an Acadáimh agus na Leabharlainne iad a dhíghitíú chun cur lenár dtuiscint ar phobal na Gaeilteacha ag an am.
Glórtha Ghaiscígh na Réabhlóide

Mar chuid de chlár comórtá Eirí Amach 1916, bhreathnaigh taighdeoirí ó Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge siar ar an gcartlann 40 bliain de chuid Raidió na Gaeltachta chun sainléargas a tháil ar an am corraiteach seo. Rinneadh an chartlann a cheartadh chun na mireanna fuaim a feidhmiú do an ábhar a bhí faoi chaibidil a athint, idir léachtaí, agallaimh agus chlár fásnaíse, agus anois tá an bailiúchán ‘Glórtha na Réabhlóide’ ar fáil ag an bpobal ar an suíomh idirlín www.reabhloid.ie. I measc na n-ábhar an tseachtain is feidhmiúcaí do an ábhar a bhí faoi chaibidil a thabhairt, idir léachtaí, agallaimh agus chlár fásnaíse, agus anois tá an bailiúchán ‘Glórtha na Réabhlóide’ ar fáil ar an suíomh idirlín www.reabhloid.ie. I measc na n-ábhar a bhí faoi chaibidil a thabhairt, idir léachtaí, agallaimh agus chlár fásnaíse, agus anois tá an bailiúchán ‘Glórtha na Réabhlóide’ ar fáil ar an suíomh idirlín www.reabhloid.ie.

Réiviú na Bliana

Ba é iar-Cheannasaí TG4 agus Cathaoirleach Bhord Fhoras na Gaeilge, Pól Ó Gallchóir, a sheol eagrán 2017 de An Réiviú, an ríomharis bhliantúil a chuireann mic léinn an MA sa Léann T eanga in eagar. Tá deich n-alt in eagrán na bliana seo ar iiomad 3bhitheach an t-áiríonaíocht amhail. Is í an reiviú, an ríomharis bhliantúil a chuireann mic léinn an MA sa Léann T eanga in eagar, a thugadh ar an iompair Ollscoil na hÉireann go príomh, agus le linn an iompair Ollscoil na hÉireann go príomh.

Amach anseo...

I measc na dtograí eile atá á bhforbairt faoi láthair, tá suíomh idirlín ar séasadh a d'fhoghlaim siadh an tsaothar a bhí ann. Is í an suíomh idirlín ar a mbeidh clú le linn an t-áiríonaíocht amhail. Tá séasadh an tsaothar a bhí ann ar fáil ag an bpobal ar an suíomh idirlín www.reabhloid.ie. I measc na n-ábhar a bhí faoi chaibidil a thabhairt, idir léachtaí, agallaimh agus chlár fásnaíse, agus anois tá an bailiúchán ‘Glórtha na Réabhlóide’ ar fáil ar an suíomh idirlín www.reabhloid.ie.

TG4 Foghlaim

Is acmhainn nua ar líne é TG4 Foghlaim atá curtha í measc na n-ábhar a bhí faoi chaibidil a thabhairt, idir léachtaí, agallaimh agus chlár fásnaíse, agus anois tá an bailiúchán ‘Glórtha na Réabhlóide’ ar fáil ar an suíomh idirlín www.reabhloid.ie. I measc na n-ábhar a bhí faoi chaibidil a thabhairt, idir léachtaí, agallaimh agus chlár fásnaíse, agus anois tá an bailiúchán ‘Glórtha na Réabhlóide’ ar fáil ar an suíomh idirlín www.reabhloid.ie.

Fios Físe

Oibríonn Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge i gcomhar le TG4 sa bhliain 2016 le déanamh foilsítanna ar an t-áiríonaíocht amhail. Tá an t-áiríonaíocht amhail a thabhairt ar an tseachtain is feidhmiúcaí do an ábhar a bhí faoi chaibidil a thabhairt, idir léachtaí, agallaimh agus chlár fásnaíse, agus anois tá an bailiúchán ‘Glórtha na Réabhlóide’ ar fáil ar an suíomh idirlín www.reabhloid.ie.
In November 2016, Richie Commins, a final year Business Information Systems student, created a new service called “DASH”

Dash will allow students to get taxis even when they have no cash, bank card or phone, while ensuring the drivers get paid.

Richie came up with the idea after being left in situations many times without the physical means to get taxis. Research carried out with the NUI Galway Students’ Union verified that students often do not have the means to get a taxi at the end of a night, leading to their safety being put in jeopardy.

Societies Sweep the Boards

“BICS - Best Cultural, Academic & Social Society”

In April 2017, the Societies were presented with seven awards at the recent Board of Irish College Societies (BICS) National Awards.

BICS is a national organisation dedicated to providing a national forum for the societies in Ireland’s universities, colleges and institutes of education. The event sees student college societies, from all over the country compete against each other for 20 awards in 13 different categories.

Student Volunteering

In May 2017, St Angela’s College, Sligo, together with NUI Galway, presented the 2017 President’s Award for Student Volunteering.

The 2017 recipients volunteered in a range of local community projects and have fundraised for a variety of causes and also participated in the campus mentoring programmes.

Thesis in 3 minutes

In March 2017, Giada Lagana, a final year PhD candidate in the School of Political Science and Sociology, was awarded the Elocution prize at the PhD contest ‘My Thesis in 3 Minutes … in French!’

The contest tasks PhD candidates of all nationalities and all disciplines to present their research project in three minutes in French.
**Car Exceeds 10,000 miles per gallon efficiency**

In June 2017, the Geec 3.0 (Galway energy-efficient car), designed and built by NUI Galway’s Engineering students, jumped up the international rankings in the premiere global competition for extreme fuel-efficiency in cars in London. The Geec achieved a fuel efficiency rate of 354 kw/kWh, about 10,500 miles per gallon.

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**Global Citizen Award**

In May 2017, three students were awarded the Global Citizen Award for their volunteering with Nurture Africa and the Experiment Intercultural Learning (EIL) initiative.

The Global Citizen Award aims to mobilise returned international volunteers to inspire members of the Irish public and to foster active global citizens by increasing their understanding of global issues.

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**Students awarded Volunteering Scholarships**

In May 2017, five students were selected to take part in an eight-week international volunteering and cultural immersion programme this summer.

The students were prepared and supported for volunteering in local community projects in Africa, Asia and South America.

The programme is funded by Experiment Intercultural Learning (EIL) and Irish Aid. This year EIL Intercultural Learning allocated a budget of over €120,000 to fund these overseas learning opportunities.

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**Entrepreneurs of the Year 2017**

**NUI Galway Students ‘Coachbook’ online platform wins €10,000 prize**

In June 2017, Paddy MacDonagh and Chris Bogues, both final year Bachelor of Commerce students, won the overall Enterprise Ireland Student Entrepreneurs of the Year Award and have been named “College Entrepreneurs of the Year 2017”

The Student Entrepreneur Awards are part of a major drive aimed at encouraging students to start their own business as a career option.

The project started in January 2017 as part of the Innovation Creativity and Enterprise module at NUI Galway (available to all final year students of Commerce, Business Information Systems, Information Technology and Engineering programmes) and has resulted in multiple awards being made within the University throughout the semester.

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**40 NUI Galway Recipients Receive National NUI Awards**

Graduates and students of NUI Galway featured prominently at the annual National University of Ireland (NUI) Awards ceremony, taking home an impressive 40 awards. Included in this number is one recipient from St. Angela’s College in Sligo, which is a partner college of NUI Galway.

A total of 25 Dr Henry Hutchinson Stewart Medical Scholarships and Prizes were awarded to NUI Galway’s College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, including 12 first prizes. NUI Galway students and twins Rachel and Rebecca O’Malley from Loughrea, Co. Galway, were among the first prize winners, receiving scholarships in Nursing and Speech and Language Therapy respectively.
When I chose NUI Galway to study journalism back in 2012, I made the decision based on my gut instinct – little did I know it would also be one of the best decisions of my life.

That gut instinct that all journalists get while working on a job and a feeling that I have learned to judge many of my life decisions upon.

While other friends jetted off to far off places like Dubai, Australia and Canada to start new lives, I made my way to the west of Ireland. Having studied New Media and English as part of my undergraduate studies and having been involved in student media, I probably could have embarked on an unpaid internship in Dublin. However, I decided this wasn’t the right thing for me, I had always had a fascination with the written word and the news on television and I knew this is the life I wanted.

I wanted to work in the media and in the mainstream at that. The whole world of news and politics excited me. I wanted to learn more about being a journalist and the ethics behind being a reporter.

From the get go, Bernadette O’Sullivan, Programme Director became a mentor to me and somebody that I have always very much looked up to since graduating and often touch base with if I needed career advice. Her guidance in the area of media ethics is something which I rely upon every single day I sit down to write a news story.

My year at NUI Galway passed by too quickly and I was dispatched into the big bad world of journalism. I was lucky that through the MA course we were placed in a media outlet for eight weeks. I secured mine with RTÉ and was placed on the News at One with fellow NUI Galway alumnus Sean O’Rourke at the helm.

I spent a few months freelancing in radio with RTÉ and Newstalk as well as writing for The Irish Independent and The Sunday Independent newspapers. While I had always imagined I’d become a radio reporter/presenter, I found myself drawn to the printed word more and more.

After a spell in New York working for The Irish Voice Newspaper, I returned to Ireland to take up a post at UTV Ireland as an online and video journalist. While enjoyable at the time, I wanted to get back to the traditions of journalism and be out and about reporting. I was lucky enough to get a chance to work with The Daily Mail in Dublin and later The Irish Mail on Sunday. It was the turning point for me in my young career. I had finally found what I was good at and loved it.

I spent over two years covering some of the biggest and at times harrowing stories across the country.

Last year, I was named the 2016 National Irish Young Journalist of the Year for my work with The Daily Mail.

An opportunity arose for me again earlier this year to work at The Irish Times newspaper. It was a very tough decision to make and to leave my life at The Mail behind but as a journalist I wanted to push myself into the unknown and learn more.

It’s been a very rewarding experience thus far and one I hope to enjoy for many years to come. I’m soon to embark on another course in Dublin but NUI Galway will always be home.

Choosing NUI Galway was honestly one of the best decisions I have ever made.

As one very wise lecturer told me on my first day: “It’s a blank page when you come to NUI Galway, it’s a chance for you to write your own story.”
Hurling

NUI Galway was extremely proud this September to have nine players, both students and graduates, on the 2017 Galway hurling panel that beat Waterford in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final: brothers Cathal and Padraic Mannion, Aidan Harte, Daithí Burke, Niall Burke, Joseph Cooney, John Hanbury, Conor Whelan, and Sean Loftus. Their coach Francis Forde was a former Fitzgibbon player for NUI Galway, as was Jeff Lynskey who was manager of Galway minors, which also took the All-Ireland title. They join notable alumni of what was then UCG in lifting the Liam MacCarthy Cup. They have truly inspired our campus community.

Earlier in the year, the finals of the Independent.ie Higher Education Fitzgibbon Cup senior hurling championship were hosted by NUI Galway. The final of the Cup, which has been sponsored by Independent.ie for a third year, was also broadcast live on TG4. The annual Independent.ie Fitzgibbon Cup dinner took place in the Westwood Hotel, where the late Joe McDonagh’s (BA ’75) association with Gaelic Games at the University was celebrated on a night I gCuimhne ar Joe. While in college, Joe played for the UCG football and hurling teams, winning a Freshers hurling medal in 1972 and featuring in several Sigerson and Fitzgibbon campaigns. As a postgraduate student in 1977 he finally collected his Fitzgibbon Cup medal, having beaten Maynooth in the final, 1-14, 1-12.

Rowing

NUI Galway Boat Club had their most successful championships to date this year, winning a total of nine championships and claiming five national records in the process. It was also the most competitive championships for the club with all 15 crews finishing top 3 in their respective events. Standout performances included the men’s intermediate four, winning the event for the fourth successive year; the women’s club eight, who had to reclaim a length deficit at the half way mark and win by open water at the finish and the women’s novice eight, who won by a staggering margin of 26 seconds.

Head coach Dave Mannion said that the results are the product of an extremely difficult training regimen that saw the athletes training, on average, 12 times a week. He also thanked all those who supported the club and contributed to the club’s success over the season.

Other sporting highlights

- Five NUI Galway students were selected to play soccer for Ireland at the World Student games, comprising Shauna Fox, Lisa Casserly, Maurice Nugent, Gary Kineen and Conor Barry.
- NUI Galway Cricket team won the indoor intervarsity.
- For the third year in a row, NUI Galway women’s rugby won the intervarsity and Irish colleges titles.
- Grainne Walsh claimed the Irish Women’s Elite Welterweight (69kg) title.
- NUI Galway’s Aengus Meldon took gold for the university, winning the 800m, followed by NUI Galway’s Roland Surlis, who took the silver position at the IUAA Championships in May 2017.
- Ryan Dervan and Grainne Walsh boxed for the Irish third-level team.
- Eoin Rakall was selected on the Irish Under 20s Basketball team.
- Mark Walsh, Aidan Farren and Josh Coughlan won bronze for the NUI Galway Archery Club at the Irish Team Championships in Belfast in July 2017.
- NUI Galway Ladies Soccer were the intervarsity League Cup Winners 2017.
Galway’s condom wars of the late 1980s illustrate how much the college at heart of the city has changed since I cycled through its gates on my first day as a student a terrifying 30 years ago.

Some people will point to the gleaming glass cathedrals of learning that now run along the banks of the river and the canals as the biggest and best signposts towards progressive change. Others will highlight the multiculturalism of the 21st century student and staff body and compare it to the homogeneity of college life in the 1980s.

But for me it’s the condoms. Mounting fears about AIDS and HIV in the late 1980s prompted the Student’s Union to buy condom machines for both the men’s and women’s toilets just under the library. It was – obviously – a responsible move but a cohort of college-goers, the type who thought staging a protest against the on-campus screening of Martin Scorsese’s The Last Temptation of Christ – and not just because it was a really terrible film – was a fine idea, got wind of the move and were, predictably, outraged.

They dusted down their ‘Down With This Sort of Thing’ placards and created a holy fuss. As a result of their rage against the machines, a compromise of sorts was reached and a condom machine was installed, not in the toilets, where people could buy them in relative privacy, but at the end of a long and very public corridor close to the canteen. It’s hard to imagine such a kerfuffle breaking out today, but concerns about pre-marital fornication among some is not the only thing that is very different about Galway now and then.

Today the city is cool and buzzy year round. It has become the kind of place people wish they were from. In 1987, it was the kind of place people wished they could leave. Galway was in an incredibly depressed state. Unemployment was rife and emigration a depressing reality for most.

Tourism was largely confined to July and August when - not always welcome - hoards from Dublin descended on Salthill’s caravan parks and spent their days on slot machines in the Big Arc and the Silver Dollar and their nights slow dancing to T’Pau in one of the more than ten nightclubs lining the main street of the resort on the city’s fringe.

How times change. There are no slow sets anymore. And where are T’Pau?

I found myself on campus twice within two weeks earlier this year – once at a ball and once in a lecture hall. On both occasions I got lost – actually and metaphorically.

My first visit was prompted by an invitation to give a talk to a bunch of would-be journalists in a building that did not exist when I was a student – it took me 20 minutes and Google maps to find it. After the talk finished I wandered back towards the campus, lost in time.

I was delighted to see the shack where I studied journalism in 1994 and 1995 battered and bruised but still standing proud, thumbing its nose at the progress happening around it.

I wandered up the steps towards the library, past that odd old yellow sculpture which was once the epitome of modern art in the city and stood on the spot where “my” band had played our very first gig.

The Hunting Toadstools – as we mortifyingly called ourselves – were given the “honour” of opening Rag Week in 1987. We played a 30 minute set of original songs and were given £20. Sadly Galway wasn’t ready for the indie meanderings of a shambolic shoe-gazing student band and no-one showed up.

We blamed the terrible billing rather than the terrible music and reckoned the only way to get higher up the bill in proper
venues around the college – and to be allowed to put up posters on the concourse – was if we played under the auspices of a college society. But no established society would let us near their events so we decided to set up our own society. To do that we needed a staff sponsor and were pointed in the direction of a stern man with a wood-panelled office in the Aula with an interest in bridge. We knew enough about the game to convince him we were serious card players and he agreed to back us, entirely unaware that all we wanted was to use the newly formed Bridge Society as a vehicle to allow my band play in the Aula.

The ruse worked, which is why a terminally uncool sounding society ended up being involved in organising Techno nights in Salthill nightclubs and all sorts of cool concerts featuring, amongst others Toasted Heretic and, bizarrely, Primal Scream. Yes, Primal Scream played for the Bridge Soc in the basement of the International Hotel in Salthill. It was literally weeks before their breakthrough hit Loaded was released and no-one had heard of them and only 70 people showed up. It’s mad how a hunk of old yellow metal can take you right back, isn’t it?

After I passed the sculpture, I walked the full length of the concourse, past half-remembered lecture halls and Smokey Joes, where I spent years making sandwiches listening to Gerry Ryan on the radio. I doubled back and went down the steps, through a suddenly-fancy looking canteen into the basement where I had spent endless hours dodging lectures and trying to impress girls in baggy jumpers with my smoking skills. Everything had changed utterly.

From there my Throwback Tour took me to the Aula where the College Bar once was and my band had often played. Nothing was happening there so I wandered towards the new College Bar and was delighted to see a pleasing number of young people playing pool and drinking pints of cider at 4pm on a Monday afternoon.

As I walked up the tree-lined road that leads to University Road, I saw a poster advertising student elections. It sent me spinning back in time again to what is perhaps my darkest secret. I am responsible for the political career of Ronan Mullen. It was the spring of 1991 and the now-NUI senator was trying to become Student’s Union president. He was either running unopposed or was running against a candidate with a campaign so low-profile that I can remember absolutely nothing about it.

I am responsible for the political career of Ronan Mullen. It was the spring of 1991 and the now-NUI senator was trying to become Student’s Union president. He was either running unopposed or was running against a candidate with a campaign so low-profile that I can remember absolutely nothing about it.

Me and my friends decided to put someone up against him. Specifically, we decided to put me up against him. We spent the day the nominations closed carefully drafting my manifesto. The plan was to run a not-entirely serious campaign far, far to the right of anything Mullen could conceive.

Among my key proposals were the mandatory ringing of the angelus bells throughout the campus every day at midday and 6pm and strict measures aimed at stamping out moral turpitude among the student body. Rag week was to be banned, the college bar closed with the introduction of prohibition on-campus.

On this platform, I reckon I would have been a shoo-in. But it wasn’t to be. I spent too long readying my application, missed the filing deadline and he was elected. I can’t say my procrastination that day gave him the platform needed for a decades long career in politics but it can’t have done any harm. You’re welcome.

As I left the college grounds I saw another poster, one that made me smile. Sellotaped to a lamppost was an A-4 piece of paper advertising an on-campus poster sale due to take place later in the week.

It took me right back to my first week as an undergraduate when I spent all the money I had on posters of the Velvet Underground, Bob Dylan and the Clash to decorate my bedroom. And then I was cast slightly less far back, to my first week as a post-grad when, again, I spent all my money on Pulp Fiction, REM and Nirvana posters.

I marvelled at the ad and at the fact that despite the passage of 30 years and despite the radical transformation of a place which will always have a hold on me, students don’t change all that much. They still drink cider in the afternoon, they still skip lectures to hang out in the canteen and they all still buy Pulp Fiction and Kurt Cobain posters as a sign of rebellious independence.

They might even be able to buy condoms without anyone caring too.

Conor Pope is a journalist, author and broadcaster who works for The Irish Times as well as regularly appearing on radio and television. He graduated with a BA in English and Philosophy in 1991 and a Higher Diploma in Applied Communication in 1995.
Gradam don Scannán Faisnéise is Fearr

Bronnadh an Gradam don Scannán Faisnéise is Fearr ag Féile Scannán na hÉireann i Londain ar ‘Fís na Fuiseoige’ le hAodh Ó Coileáin ag ócáid in Ambasáid na hÉireann sa Bhreatain i Londain i mí na Samhna. Teagascóir iriseoireachta le hAcadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, in OÉ Gaillimh is ea Aodh. Bionn sé ag teagasc ar an gcéim BA Cumarsáid agus Gaeilge agus ar an ábhar nua Léann na Cumarsáide sa chéim ghinearálta sna dána BA (Comhonóracha) atá ar fáil ar champas na hOllscoile i nGaillimh.

NUI Galway researcher identified as ‘Rising Star’

An award-winning NUI Galway researcher, Dr Emily Porter, was selected to attend the 2016 Rising Stars Workshop for her work on understanding human soft tissue. The workshop was hosted by Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

The annual academic career event brings together over 60 of the brightest female PhD students, postdocs and engineers/scientists in the fields of electrical and computer engineering and computer science. Over the two-day workshop, the select group presented their work and focused on scientific interactions and career-oriented discussions.

Dr Porter’s research focuses on the dielectric properties of human tissues and their use in the design and development of cutting-edge medical devices.
Professor Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, from the Discipline of History and the Moore Institute, was awarded the prestigious Parnell Fellowship in Irish Studies at Cambridge University for the year 2017-2018.

Dr Jim Browne, Professor JC Desplat and Sylvie Lannegrand received the title of Chevalier de l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques from the French Ambassador in Ireland, H.E. Jean-Pierre Thébault.

Professor Donncha O’Connell of the School of Law was appointed by the Government to the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland.

Brendan Smith, Education and Community Outreach Officer of the Insight Centre for Data Analytics, was announced as the Galway City Council Volunteer of the Year.

NUI Galway Procurement & Contracts Team led by Ann Melia won the Innovation Award at The 2016 National Procurement & Supply Chain Awards.

Professor Henry Curran, Director of the Combustion Chemistry Centre, was awarded the prestigious 2017 Boyle Higgins Gold Medal Award.

Dr Rónán Kennedy, School of Law and a researcher in the Ryan Institute, has been appointed to the Advisory Committee of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Post-doctoral researcher Dr Elaine Toomey, Health Behaviour Change Research Group, was awarded a prestigious Leamer-Rosenthal Prize.

The Institute of Physics (IOP) awarded the Mary Somerville Medal to Dr Jessamyn Fairfield of the School of Physics for “stellar work as a speaker and writer on physics for a popular audience, and for having organised and hosted many innovative events bringing physics to the Irish public.” The prize is awarded annually to an early career researcher with exceptional contributions to public engagement with physics.

Dr Jerome Sheahan, School of Mathematics, was recognised as the 2016 Teaching Hero by his students in the recent National Teaching Hero Awards.

Professor Fidelma Dunne, Personal Professor in Medicine, won the overall award at the Irish Healthcare Awards 2016 on ‘Pre-pregnancy care for women with diabetes’.

Dr Martin O’Halloran, lecturer in Medical Technologies, was awarded the Science Foundation Ireland Early Career Researcher award.

Dr Tony Hall, lecturer in Educational Technology, was elected as Fellow of the International Society for Design and Development in Education (ISDDE).

Caroline Loughnane, Academic Secretary, was appointed as a Director on the Board of Galway 2020. The Galway 2020 team welcomed the strategic development, marketing and partnership building skills she will bring to the role.

Professor Michael Kane, Emeritus Professor of Physiology, is the 2016 winner of the Society for Reproduction and Fertility’s premier research award, the Marshall Medal.

Natalie Walsh, Executive Director of Blackstone Launchpad was awarded the Boots WMB (Women Mean Business) Award 2017.
1. Cousins Drs Michelle Kyne from Bushypark, Galway, and Ciara Kyne from Corcullen, Co. Galway, were conferred with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in March, 2017.

2. Drs Helena Coughlan from Galway City and Iain O’Connor from Barna, Co. Galway, who were both conferred with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in March, 2017.

3. Orla Hennessy from Kilmaley, Co. Clare, Aaron Liston from Monaleen, Co. Limerick, and Sarah Gaffney, Salthill, Galway, pictured with their seven out of 14 final medical medals, were conferred with an Honours Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and Bachelor of Obstetrics (MB, BCh, BAO) degree at NUI Galway.

4. Conor Daly from Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath, Orla O’Halloran from Ransboro, Co. Sligo, Aoife O’Leary from Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, and Colm O’Neill from Kildimo, Co. Limerick, were all conferred with an Honours Bachelor of Science degree in 2016.

5. Rhona O’Malley from Crossmolina, Co. Mayo, who was conferred with an Honours Bachelor of Midwifery Science degree in November 2016.

6. (l-r) Iarla Duignan, Aoife Gavin, Oisin Molloy and Lisa Walsh, all from Galway, who were conferred with a Master of Science (International Management) in November 2016.

7. Irene Gillen and Vanessa O’Malley, both from Westport, Co. Mayo, who were conferred with a Master of Science (Occupational Health and Safety) in November 2016.
8. Ailbhe Dempsey from Athenry, Co. Galway, who was conferred with an honours Bachelor of Commerce
9. Fiachra Sherry from Tydavnet, Co. Monaghan was conferred with an Honours Bachelor of Engineering degree in 2016.
10. (l-r) Martha Finnerty from Tubber, Co. Offaly, and Jade Daniels from Loughrea, Co. Galway, who were conferred with an Higher Diploma in Arts in 2016.
11. Leigh Michael Keeney from Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, and Shannon Fahy from Ardrahan, Co. Galway, were conferred with an Honours Bachelor of Arts with Creative Writing in 2016.
12. Kate O’Grady from Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal was conferred with an Honours Bachelor of Commerce in 2016.
13. Stephen Dooley from Galway City was conferred with an Honours Bachelor of Engineering degree.
14. Áine O’Connor from Killarney, Co. Kerry, and Ciaran Keane from Clarinbridge, Co. Galway, who were conferred with an Honours Bachelor of Engineering degree.
Pat Lam, head coach of Connacht Rugby and former rugby international, was recognised at NUI Galway in October 2016 with an honorary degree for his achievements which have significantly enriched both Connacht rugby and the wider community.
Honorary Conferrings

Renowned individuals became NUI Galway honorary graduates during the last academic year. Their names join those of previous honorees, including the late Nelson Mandela, Hilary Clinton, Margaret Atwood, Anjelica Huston and Enya.

NUI Galway conferred honorary degrees on Irish med-tech leaders at a special honorary conferring to mark the official opening of CURAM in September 2016. Pictured are Professor Laoise McNamara with (back row l-r) Drs John O’Shaughnessy, Mednova and Neuravi; John O’Dea, Crospon; Helen Ryan, former CEO Creganna; Ian Quinn, Creganna founder; Paul Gilson, Mednova founder; and John Power, Aerogen.
It is a characteristically rainy day during the Galway Races when Finian O’Sullivan – UCG Science alumnus, entrepreneur and philanthropist – cheerfully makes his way into the Gate Lodge on University Road, home to the Galway University Foundation (GUF), of which he is a Board member.

London-born but educated in Ireland from the age of seven, O’Sullivan is probably best known for the spectacular success of his company, Burren Energy, which he established in 1994. Beginning life as an oil transportation company, under the guidance of O’Sullivan it quickly grew into an operation that developed and discovered hydrocarbon resources in Central Asia, India and West Africa, in addition to becoming a shipping and trading venture around the Caspian Sea.

According to O’Sullivan, he never set out to own his own oil business or even study geology, thinking medicine might be the field for him. “On a dark November evening after completing first year, I remember picking up my mail and saw that I had been offered medicine. I was living in a caravan on Distillery Road during college and my address was The Archway, UCG, Galway. Imagine!”

“It was not quite a Damascene moment, but a moment of serious reflection as to what I was going to do with my life. I could have gone down the road of being a doctor, knowing exactly what I would be doing for the next forty years or continue with science and wonder what would happen next.” He chose the latter and laughs when he says: “turning down medicine in those days was considered only secondary to not going in to the priesthood.” It was a ‘what if’ moment for O’Sullivan: the gamble paid off, he excelled at geology and graduated in 1976.

Most graduates at the time had to leave Ireland and the majority headed west in search of employment. A chance trip to Canada in 1977 saw O’Sullivan end up in the oil town of Calgary, where he thought “that can’t be bad.” Working through the Yellow Pages – “A for Amoco, B for BP and so on” – he struck black gold at ‘C’.

He made the call to Chevron, emphasising his full Irish moniker by introducing himself as Finian Rory O’Sullivan in an Irish brogue and got the job. It was there, at what he calls the University of Chevron, that he learned the nuts and bolts of the oil industry, working as part of their frontier exploration and development team. In 1980, he joined United Geophysical in California and moved to Australia two years later, where he led Geophysical Systems Corporation’s expansion through the region into India, China and Thailand.

His success in Australia led to another ‘what if’ moment. The business he was working for was not for sale and his wife Diana, a doctor specialising in genetics, was also ready to move on. They decided to relocate to the UK where Diana resumed her medical career but O’Sullivan was now unemployed. Using his international contacts, he started looking for new opportunities. “I knew my geology, I knew how to deal, I knew how to manage projects and make money from them. Then the Soviet Union collapsed and I realised half the world was now open to me.”

“I was in Moscow in 1993 and it became apparent that, like galaxies forming, there was a mass beginning to develop in Turkmenistan where they had just formed a republic. They knew they had a lot of oil but didn’t know how to manage it. And I thought, let’s go to Turkmenistan.”

O’Sullivan was faced with a stark choice, however, when his translator wasn’t allowed board the plane. “It was a wonderful ‘what if’ moment which is my personality to a tee. I made the decision to get on the plane and all my translator said to me was before I left was “there will be a blue car.” I didn’t speak the language, I had hardly any money and there was no sign of anyone when the plane landed. I thought, I’ve done it now!”

Philanthropy at Work

Orla Higgins talks to UCG graduate Finian O’Sullivan on his philanthropy and advancing health for child and family
What happened next has all the makings of a great spy novel. A blue Lada with Hotel California playing on the radio arrived at sunset and drove O’Sullivan to a town in the middle of the desert. He was met by a stranger in a suit who didn’t have any English so, resourceful as ever, O’Sullivan found an English teacher to be his translator. The oasis town to which he had unceremoniously been delivered ended up being the centre of O’Sullivan’s operations for the next ten years. “We employed 1400 people there. The man in the suit became the oil minister, the teacher became an international business manager for an Argentinian oil company and I went on to start Burren Energy.”

It was here too that the seeds were sown for O’Sullivan’s philanthropic work when he realised there was a complete lack of maternity services in the town. Circumventing presidential disapproval, he set up a clinic where local women got access to much needed medical facilities. O’Sullivan is of the belief that “You need to look after the people who work with you. You need to make sure they are not suffering from your intrusion into their lives.”

O’Sullivan’s intrepid entrepreneurial spirit is matched by his belief in the importance of what he calls “giving back”. “Whether you’re buying the Big Issue or donating money to the lifeboats during the summer, all of us recognise the importance of giving. However, some people can give more than others and it’s a case of getting these people to realise they can benefit those coming behind them.”

It is this belief that led him to set up the O’Sullivan Family Charitable Trust in 2008, which aids the advancement of health particularly in relation to children and young adults as well as the advancement of education and genetic research. For O’Sullivan, it was a logical next step to give back to the university of which he says: “the Galway world to me was a great backdrop to the theatre that became my employment and my life.”

The Trust is currently funding two doctoral students as part of an important initiative at NUI Galway’s UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre. The Centre is working closely with Tusla (Ireland’s Child and Family Agency) to transform child and family services in Ireland. According to John Canavan, Associate Director of the Centre, “this research is contributing to the development of policy and practice that will assist areas such as keeping children out of care and protecting children’s rights.”

O’Sullivan is pleased that the support has worked its way in to the area of research fellowships: “It was great that there was scope to fund this through the Galway University Foundation in a way that ties in with the focus of the Trust.” John Canavan concurs and says that such funding “gives researchers a valuable opportunity to develop their own expertise, be recognised as experts in their field and contribute to the much-needed development of policy and practice.”

O’Sullivan now lives in Hampshire with Diana, their three daughters having flown the coop to work in fashion, sports media and law. Burren Energy was floated on the Stock Exchange in 2003 and sold five years later for a reported €1.74bn. When asked if he has any regrets in selling a business he started from scratch, O’Sullivan sold five years later for a reported £1.74bn. When asked if he has any advice for students, he pauses a moment and says: “don’t rush, make the most of the ‘what if’ moments and you’re off to the races.” And with this very apt Galway analogy, O’Sullivan heads out in to the rain in search of another adventure.

Orla Higgins (BComm 1990, MBS 1992, MA in Writing 2009) is a writer, lecturer and documentary maker.

Founded in 2007, the UNESCO Child & Family Research Centre (UCFRC) undertakes research, education and training in the areas of Family Support and Youth Development. As part of the Institute for Lifecourse and Society at NUI Galway, the organisation’s ground-breaking work is focused on making a practical difference to how policy is developed and services are delivered with the ultimate aim of benefiting the lives of children and their families.

Its research is centred around three main themes namely, Family Support, Policy and Practice and Youth Development, and it also offers a range of under-graduate, post-graduate and doctoral programmes.

The UCFRC uses its unique expertise and integrated approach to high quality, evidence-based evaluation and research for a wide variety of projects, including:

- transforming child and family services in Ireland by embedding prevention and early intervention into the culture and operations of Tusla.
- establishing key global partnerships such as that with the Lumos Foundation (founded by JK Rowling) to track its ambitious work in assisting governments and communities to transition from institutional to family-based care for children and young people.
- advocating for young people on issues around youth citizenship, civic engagement and leadership by involving them in research and policy development, an initiative supported by the Centre’s patron, actor Cillian Murphy.

The UNESCO Chair, awarded to Professor Pat Dolan in 2008, was the first of its kind in Ireland and provides an innovative platform for facilitating collaboration between high-level, internationally recognised researchers and institutions, which enables the UCFRC to influence and inform policy for families and youth at both a national and global level.

Website: www.childandfamilyresearch.ie
Alumni Awards 2017

Singer songwriter Paul Brady (pictured below) gave a unique performance at the 2017 Alumni Awards in the Bailey Allen Hall on Saturday, 4 March 2017. Host for the ceremony was TG4 news anchor and NUI Galway graduate Eimear Ni Chonaola (BA ’97 Ard-Dioplóma i gCumarsáid Fheidhmeach ’98)

The winners of the six alumni awards at Gala 2017 were:

Award for Arts, Literature and Celtic Studies - sponsored by Galway University Foundation – went to Mike McCormack, Irish novelist and short story writer.

Alumni Award for Business and Commerce – sponsored by Bank of Ireland – went to Tara McCarthy, CEO of Bord Bia.

Alumni Award for Law, Public Policy and Government – sponsored by Ronan Daly Jermyn – was awarded to Dr Tom Courtney, Corporate Partner in Arthur Cox.


Alumni Award for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences – sponsored by Medtronic – was given to Dr Eileen Naughten, Retired Consultant Paediatrician.

Joint Alumni Award for Contribution to Sport – sponsored by Bank of Ireland – went to Dr Eoghan Clifford, Paralympic gold medal winner and NUI Galway lecturer and to Deirdre Mongan, Paralympic Athlete.

1: Eimear Ni Chonaola, Nuacht TG4 and host of the NUI Galway Alumni Awards Gala Banquet 2017.
2: Phil and Margaret Farrell, Frances Fitzgerald TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise and Innovation, and Michael Fitzgerald. Michael Fitzgerald accepted the Alumni Award for Engineering, Science and Technology on behalf of his niece, Anne-Marie Farrell, Global SMB Marketing, Google, California.
3: Mags and Dave Barry, Bank of Ireland.
4: Conor Pope, The Irish Times, and Sonia Harris.
5: John and Mary Concannon.
6: Fergus, Shane, Lorcan and Ronan Browne pictured with parents Maeve and Dr Jim Browne, President of NUI Galway.
7: (back row, l-r): Dr Eileen Naughten, Alumni Award for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences; Mike McCormack, Alumni Award for Arts, Literature and Celtic Studies; Dr Eoghan Clifford, Joint Alumni Award for Contribution to Sport; Dr Jim Browne, NUI Galway President; Michael Fitzgerald, who accepted the Alumni Award for Engineering, Science and Technology on behalf of Anne-Marie Farrell; and Dr Tom Courtney, Alumni Award for Law, Public Policy and Government. Front row, l-r: Eimear Ni Chonaola, TG4 News Anchor and MC for the ceremony; Dr Deirdre Mongan, Joint Alumni Award for Contribution to Sport; and Tara McCarthy, Alumni Award for Business and Commerce.
8: Minister of State Sean Kyne TD and Avril Kyne.
9: Lorraine Tansey, Iognáid Ó Muicheartaigh and Caroline Loughnane.
10: Eilish O’ Sullivan and Catherine Mahon.
11: Darren Cunningham and Ruth Curran.
12: Dr Eoghan Clifford and Magdalena Hajdukiewicz. NUI Galway lecturer and Rio 2016 Paralympics gold and bronze medal winner, Eoghan Clifford won the Joint Alumni Award for Contribution to Sport.
13: Caroline Murphy and Sean O’Rourke RTE Radio 1.
14: Eileen Whelan and Larry Donnelly.
15: Orla and Pearse Flannery.
16: Dr. Carmel Malone and Gareth Phillips.
17: Professor Michael Kerin and Dr. Annette Kerin.
Alumni Relations has held 26 events since the last edition of *Cois Coiribe*, comprising 17 national events and nine international events, including ones in Singapore, New York, LA, Chicago, Boston, St. Louis, San Francisco and Vancouver. You can see a snapshot of some of these events here. Update your details at alumni@nuigalway.ie to be kept up to date with events in your area.
ALUMNI EVENTS
2016/17

Alumni and friends of NUI Galway at an alumni reception in the Olympic Club, San Francisco, in May 2017

Dr Jim Browne and Maeve Browne with NUI Galway law graduate and Honorary Consul General to British Columbia John Cheevers and his wife in Vancouver, Canada, May 2017

Graduates at the reception in the Arbutus Club, Vancouver, in May 2017

Alumni and friends of NUI Galway at the reception in the Arbutus Club, Vancouver, May 2017

Alumni and friends attending an alumni reception and staging of Druid’s Beauty Queen of Leenane in Los Angeles, November 2016

President of NUI Galway Dr Jim Browne with Ambassador Geoffrey Keating, Embassy of Ireland, Singapore, in October 2016

Claire Canning (BSc 1996), Mike Jones and Tom Joyce, Galway University Foundation, at a reception at the Irish Embassy in Singapore, October 2016

Feargal Hynes, Druid Theatre, Patricia Danaher and Catherine Conroy, Alumni Relations Manager, at Druid’s Beauty Queen of Leenane in Los Angeles, November 2016
ALUMNI EVENTS

Liz McConnell, Catherine Conroy and Margaret Wright at the NUI Galway New York Gala, November 2016

Maeve Lydon, Katherine Divine and Donal Lydon (BA 1966) at the Alumni Christmas Gathering in Dublin, December 2016

Former Alumni Association Board Chair and RTÉ journalist Sean O’Rourke (BA 1977, LLD (hc) 2011) with Tom Joyce at the Alumni Christmas Gathering in Dublin, December 2016

Senator Catherine Noone, NUI Galway President Dr Jim Browne, Mike Brewster, panellist Eoin ‘Bomber’ Liston, former Taoiseach and NUI Galway student Enda Kenny, Galway University Foundation CEO Tom Joyce and Michael Higgins at the Gresham Hotel for the NUI Galway Alumni breakfast, September 2016

Aisling Nolan, Alumni Relations Officer with Sean Mannion (BSc 2013), Martina Carroll (BSc 2013) and Mary Hunt (BSc 2013) at the Alumni Christmas Gathering in the Stephen’s Green Hibernian Club, Dublin, in December 2016

Bredagh Breslin (BSc 2015) and Ciara Horgan at the Alumni Reception for Druid’s Beauty Queen of Leenane in Brooklyn, New York, in January 2017
ALUMNI EVENTS

Adrian Jones (BA 1986), Barbara Jones, Consul General of Ireland, New York, Garry Hynes (BA 1974, LLD (hc) 1997) and Tina Jones

Pictured at the launch of the 17th Alumni Awards at NUI Galway (front row from left): Adrienne Turley, AIB; Dr Jim Browne, President of NUI Galway; Tom Joyce, Galway University Foundation; and Allish Gorman, Bank of Ireland. Back row from left: Dave Barry, Bank of Ireland; Eilish O’Sullivan, Medtronic; Evan Cusack, AIB; and Padraic Brennan, Ronan Daly Jermyn.

James Kindregan and Siofra O’Neill (BSc 2005, MSc 2013) at the Alumni Reception for Druid’s Beauty Queen of Leenane in Brooklyn, New York, in January 2017


Pat Downes (BA 1987, DMP 1988) and Judge John O’Connor (LLB 1984) at the Alumni Law Gathering in the Hibernian Club, Dublin, October 2016

Graduates from the BA Class of 1967 celebrating their 50-year Reunion this year
1930s

Anne Byrne (Nee Gannon), BComm 1936
A very happy birthday to Anne who in July celebrated her 102nd birthday. Anne joined us on campus last November to celebrate her life and her love of music. She is photographed here displaying her presidential medal, received from fellow graduate and President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins. Comhghairdeas Anne.

Gerard T. Rooney, BComm 1956
Born in Galway and the eldest of the Rooney family. He worked in Dublin with the AC Nielsen Company, then Procter & Gamble in Geneva, Jefferson Smurfit Group in Dublin, with the United Nations designing and delivering training programs in International Marketing. Finally, recruited by the World Bank in Washington DC as an Internal manager. Retired since 1995 and now lives in Sun Lakes, a retirement community in Chandler, 20 miles south-east of Phoenix.

1950s

Robert Mc Donnell, BE 1953
Robert worked in England with Holst & Co. and went to Canada in 1957, working with Nova Scotia Department of Highways and subsequently as a member of Faculty of Engineering at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

1960s

Anne Tobin, BA 1964, MA 1966
Anne was recently awarded the Royal Order of Isabel La catolica by the King of Spain for her 17 years’ service to Spanish citizens in her role as the honorary vice-consul of Spain to the West of Ireland. Ann is the daughter of well know UCG figure Ma’ Mary O’ Driscoll, Dean of Residence.

Eoin Ó Dechertaigh, MB, BCh BA0 1966
Eoin published a translation of the Liam Ó Brian’s ‘Cuimhní Cinn’ under the title ‘Inscriptions Memories 1916’. The book was launched by Ms Justice Catherine McGuinness in Charlie Byrnes book shop. Ronnie O’Gorman represented the O’Gormans who were the original publishers of the Liam Ó Brian book.

Marion M Vujevich, MB, BCh, BA0, MD 1966
It was at UCG that Marion has most his fond memories. Even more memorable was to re-experience the friendships and camaraderie at the 50th class reunion in Galway in 2016. His professional career started as a medical officer in the US army and a tour of Vietnam where he was awarded a Bronze Star. After discharge from the army and his dermatological residency at the University of Cincinnati, he started his practice in 1974. Recently he retired after working for 42 years.

Frank and Patricia Hassett, MB, BCh BA0 1968
Frank and Patricia have been involved in hospice and palliative care as volunteer doctors for the past 11 years. Hospice Jinja in Uganda, a NGO charity, was founded in 1994, she was awarded the JCL and MCL degrees in Canon Law by Saint Paul University and the University of Ottawa. Mary was appointed Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Tuam in January 2011.

1970s

Tom Curtin, BSc 1973
Tom runs a successful public relations company in London as well as being an author and visiting professor on reputation management at some of the world’s leading businesses. His novel, Melting Pot. An American Odyssey, tells the story of three lads from UCG who, in 1969, head to hedonistic New York in search of the freedom that is denied them in Catholic Ireland.

Mike Jennings, BA 1976, HDip, Ed. 1977
Mike retired as General Secretary of the Irish Federation of University Teachers after ten years. He had previously worked for SIPTU (and previously ITGWU) for 27 years.

Mary Reilly, MSc, Statistics, 1977
Marie is now working in the Dept of Medical Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm as Professor of Biostatistics.

Paul Holland, BSc 1974, H.D.E. 1975
Most of Paul’s professional life was spent teaching Maths, Computers and Science subjects at Presentation College, Galway, from which he retired in 2012, having taught there for 35 years. His two most inspiring lecturers were Frank Imbusch and Gerry Beggan.

Oliver Connelly, BA 1971
Oliver lives in Cottonwood, Arizona, USA. His passion is sales force development and he coaches and mentors sales managers and vice presidents of sales. He’d love to hear from old classmates. oliver@pacifier.com

Breda O’Connor (Nee Gorman), BA 1976, M. Ed
Having taught in Portumna CS for over 35 years, Breeda has been a mainstay of his since the late 1960s.

Martin A. Timoney, BA 1969
Martin is Assistant Editor of the Sligo Field Club Journal - a mix of archaeology, local history, nature and engineering history - following the education he received from Etienne Rynne, then Lecturer in Archaeology, which has been a mainstay of his since the late 1960s.

Loretta Small Cantwell, BA 1966
Living in Galway now, Loretta attends lectures and music concerts. Reading is her lifelong passion.

John Ye, MB, BCh BA0 1967
After graduation in 1967, John moved to Belfast and obtained a MRCP in 1972. He did residency in Belfast Sick Children Hospital until 1974. John emigrated to Canada in 1975 and started his practice in family and general medicine in Windsor, Ontario, and has been there since. John writes: ‘Bouchra and I attended the 50th year’s reunion in May 2017. We had the most wonderful and memorable time’.

1980s

Breda Ó Céidigh, BComm 1978
Founder of Aer Arann and Aer Lingus Regional, in 2003 Pádraig was nominated for World Entrepreneur of the Year. He is Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship and Business in NUIGalway and Chair of the Business School Advisory Board.

John O’Sullivan, BComm 1978
John went to South Africa in 1982 with Cooper’s & Lybrand on a two-year contract. He has lived there since. In 1994, John started his own company, Bargain Books’, which has grown to over 80 bookshops across South Africa, with the head office in Cape Town. He employs over 500 staff and visits Ireland at least twice a year.

Gerry Morgan, BSc 1976, MSc 1978
Gerry Morgan recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with friends at lunch in Knockrahey House Hotel in Westport. Included in the photograph are guests who are graduates or members of staff from NUIGalway. Rumour has it that Gerry and Pat met in Chemistry Lab in First Science, but those in the know attribute their introduction to Catherine Caulfield and College Week in second year. Pat (B.Sc. 1976, PhD 1982) is Vice-President, Student Experience. Gerry (B.Sc. 1976, M.Sc. 1978) is retired and was a lecturer in Physics and also Dean of Science.

Michael J. Needham, BA 1972, LLB 1974, LLM 1983
Michael spent 37 years in An Garda Siochana and served at the rank of superintendent for the last nine years of service. He joined the Law Library in 1996 and practised as a barrister on the western and Dublin circuits until the end of 2013. Most of his work as a barrister related to refugee law. He enjoyed seminars on Immigration Law in the Human Rights Dept at NUIGalway and enjoyed his working and college life immensely. Michael is married to Patricia and has two children, Michelle and Mark.

John Bourke, BSc Applied Physics & Electronics, 1989
After graduation John went to work in Japan. He has since worked in over ten countries and eight industries mostly in large multinationals but he has also started four companies, the first in 1994 in Tokyo. John now lives in Dublin and is President of The Business Excellence Institute, a membership body with members on five continents.

Tim O’Connor, BA 1980
Tim works in the mental health area - facilitating groups, designing and delivering training around recovery and sometimes giving talks to third level students and professionals.

Mark John Costello, BSc 1982
Mark has lectured in marine and biodiversity sciences at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, since 2004. He is married to Katherine and they have two children.

Maria Ni Mhurchu, BA 1983
Maria’s third book, Caitear le Chéile, is a book of three plays. One of these plays, Smíthe le Gaeilge, won Gradam na hAimhriachtaí from the Comhlachas Náisiúnta Drámaíochta and was performed at three Dublin Fringe Festival in Bewley’s Theatre, receiving 4 stars by The Irish Times. 

Pauline Roche, BA 1982
Pauline Roche was awarded the West Midlands Women of the Year award in November 2016.

James Kehoe, BComm 1983
James Kehoe is a Board Director and the Chief Financial Officer at Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited in Tokyo, Japan.

Dr. Bernadette Earley, PhD 1984
Dr. Bernadette Earley is a Principal Research Scientist in the Animal and Bioscience Research Department, Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Teagasc, Co. Meath.
Grainne Curran, BA 1987
Grainne is working in Boston for a Water and Engineering company managing their Business Technology Incidents along with doing knowledge and problem management in the IT Department. Most of the direct support is placed in India but she works in assisting and managing that group.

Kevin Kelly, BComm 1987

Conchúr Ó Brádaigh, BE 1985, MEngSc 1987
Conchúr Ó Brádaigh is now Professor of Materials Engineering and Director of the Mechanical Engineering Discipline at the University of Edinburgh.

Martin Fleming, BE 1989
We had a great reunion of the Class of 1989 Mechanical and Electronic Engineers on 9 July 2017 in Galway. See photo.

Brian Ó Broin, BA 1989
Brian was promoted to Full Professor at William Paterson University, New Jersey, where he teaches linguistics and medieval literature. He is currently completing his two year term as president of ASIIMS - the American Society of Irish Medieval Studies.

Tommy Kearns, BA 1981
Tommy wishes to say hello to any of his classmates who returned to Galway and meeting friends to service since emigrating in the late eighties. In 2011 Tommy wishes to say hello to any of his classmates who	Kearns, BA 1981

Anthony Fay, BA 1993, LLB 1995
Anthony Fay, solicitor, was the winner of the Irish Sole Practitioner of the Year 2017 at the AIB Law Awards hosted by Miriam Ó Calághain earlier this summer. The solicitor has been a strong advocate of mental health issues and has been involved in a number of landmark cases before the High Court and Supreme Court.

Joseph A Walsh, BE 1990
Joe entered the world of aviation on joining BAA in Gatwick in 1990 on their graduate programme. He was one of two Civil Engineering Irish graduates in a 30- strong graduate programme. He was Managing Director at Galway Airport for five years but moved to Australia in 2011 to join Beca, an employee owned multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy based in Melbourne.

Darren Cunningham, BComm 1993
Darren Cunningham was recently appointed Adjunct Professor at UCD and is Director at Kora Healthcare. He still retains an interest in Infection Biosciences, a cancer focused drug development company, which identifies and develops innovative treatments for cancer.

Derek McGlinchey, BSc. 1992, HDip 1998
Derek is currently a Change Control Specialist and prior to that he worked as a Diagnostic Technologist having worked in Letterkenny IT. He is currently with Abbott Ireland Diagnostics Division, Sligo. He lives in Litrим with his wife and two children.

Robert O’Shea, BA 1993, LLB 1995
Robert is a partner at the Irish law firm, Matheson, and was recently appointed head of the firm’s Corporate and Commercial Department. Matheson concentrates on serving the Irish legal needs of internationally focused companies and financial institutions, doing business in and from Ireland.

Rónán Gallagher, BComm 1994
Rónán is currently Chief Product Officer with Alpha Payments Cloud. Alpha are active on projects with organisations in markets as diverse as Mexico, Spain, Thailand and Australia.

Laura Cathy, MPhil Irish Studies 1995
Laura has been teaching full time in the Santa Fe Public Schools where she is currently teaching Advanced Placement Literature at Capital High School as well as ESL (English as a Second Language) Language Arts. She is married to Bruce Kearns and is the proud mother of a fifteen-year-old son, Michael.

Brian McGowan, BE 1996, MSc 1998
Since departing NUI Galway, Brian has lived in Spain and Germany and spent a lot of time in China and India working for Raychem and TE Connectivity. He was recently appointed Global Portfolio Manager for a $40M wildlife and asset protection business based in Shannon. He is married with 3 boys and in his spare time he is involved in CODERDUJO Ennis and Community Games in Clooney/ Quin.

Ronan Moore, BA 1999
Ronan published his first book, ‘Irisology’, with Gill & MacMillan in October 2016 and his second book ‘Irisography’ in January 2017. As a graduate of NUI Galway, Ronan has ensured the West is well represented in his new book, with entries dedicated to the streets of Galway, Connemara, the Turoe Stone and Dun Aengus.

Dr. Eucharia Meehan, MRIA, PhD 1993
Dr. Eucharia Meehan was appointed as Registrar and CEO of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS), the International renowned institute for world-leading basic research and scholarship at the end of May 2017. Dr. Meehan previously held the position of Director of the Irish Research Council, having been appointed as the inaugural leader of the organisation when it was established in 2012.

2000s
Abhigyan Satyam, PhD (Biomedical Engineering) 2015
Abhigyan writes: ‘My five years in the NUI Galway were among the best years of my life. When I reflect on my Ph.D. work, I conclude that the experience not only made me a better researcher, but also prepared me in unpredictable ways for my career.’

Chee Peng Hor, MB. BCh. BAO 2009
Since his return to Malaysia, Chee Peng has completed a two-year internship training in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre in Kuala Lumpur. He returned to Penang and served in a district hospital, Kepala Batas Hospital. He now works as senior medical officer in the administration since January 2017.

Michael Mungoma, MSc Toxicology 2014
After his studies at NUI Galway, Michael went back to Kenya and has been working at a local university. Last year he got a job promotion based on his recent qualifications and now trains undergraduate medical laboratory students.

Clare Muireann Murphy, BA International 2006
As a storyteller, Clare has performed in the Bazaar and the National Theatre in London. She has worked with BBC Radio 4 and the Royal Shakespeare Company. One of her greatest honours was performing a story for former president Mary Robinson in an honorary dinner in the US.

Eilise Cosgrove, BA 2007
Eilise Cosgrove publishes her debut poetry collection 'Transmissions' in 2017. Her work was selected for the 2017 Best New British & Irish Poets’ Anthology (Eyewear Publishing) and long-listed last year in the London Poetry Prize.

Paddy J McMenamin, 2005
Paddy’s journey through academia was ‘slightly’ different from the majority of the 15,000 undergrads & postgrads who went through the Aula Maxima in 2005. He graduated as a secondary school teacher 40 years after he left school at 15 without any qualifications. It was an incredible journey and one which he embraced with open arms.

Dr David McGuinness, PhD 2016
was recently appointed Assistant Inspector of Mental Health Services with the Mental Health Commission. Overall, he has spent ten years studying (including two degrees) at NUIG and is due get married this October.

Deirdre Sullivan, BA 2005, MA 2006
Deirdre Sullivan has published four novels for young adults, the most recent of which, Needlewok, won the CBI Honour Award for Fiction earlier this year. Her new collection of fairy-tale retellings, ‘Tangleweed and Brine’ will be released in September 2017. Deirdre spent many happy hours in the James Hardiman library, and will always remember the support of NUI Galway staff, including Philip Dine, Tony Treacy and Riona Hughes.

Paul Naessens, BA, PhD 2009
In 2013, after buying and testing drones from DJI, the world’s biggest supplier of drone technology. Paul took his surveying business airborne. He has a contract for the largest onshore windfarm in Ireland, Galway Wind Park, which comprises 69 wind turbines and provides enough renewable energy to power 90% of the homes in Co. Galway.

Banda Hanumantha Rao Bhargava, 2010
Banda achieved his masters in Software Design & Development (2008 – 2010). He would like to thank Ms. Josephine Griffith & Dr. Michael Schukat, who always supported him throughout the course by providing detailed responses to his queries.
In 2012 NUI Galway supported Joan in the Round Ireland Yacht Race, which was a brilliant experience and the NUI Galway team was the winning team. She is now preparing to race the Vendée Globe race in 2020.

**Patrice Tuohey, BSc Environmental Science, 2007**
In 2012, Patrice moved to London with Atkins and spent four years working on large framework contracts for Thames Water and Southern Water. In January, she began working for Arcadis as a Senior Water Engineer.

**Kate Ennals, MA in writing, 2013**
Kate’s first collection of poetry is ‘AT The Edge’. Kate runs poetry and creative writing workshops in and around Cavan and is co-ordinator of a Cavan Literary Evening held three times a year.

**Quentin Wright, BSc 2001**
Quentin graduated from Harvard University with an ALM in Biotechnology and completed a research thesis entitled “Role of Microbiota in Strengthening Ocular Mucosal Barrier Function Through Secretory IgA” at Harvard Medical School under Dr. Mihaela Gadjeva in May 2017.

**Ciara Conway, BA 2002**
Ciara would like to thank her wonderful course coordinator, Dr. Michelle Millar, for helping and supporting her students over the duration of her studies at NUI Galway.

**Declan Lohan, BA 2003, LLB 2004**
Declan was ordained as a priest on Sunday, July 23rd 2017 in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Granmore. Declan studied law at King’s Inns, Dublin and qualified as a barrister in 2008, going on to practise in both criminal and civil law at the Four Courts in Dublin, and on the Western Circuit. Declan began his training for the priesthood in Toulon, France, returning to complete his studies at St Patrick’s College, Maynooth.

**Kathleen O’Donnell, MA in English Literature 2006**
Last year, Kathleen presented a paper at an international conference on ‘Myth and Memory’ at the University of Shkodra in Albania, which has been submitted for publication. She has translated several books on Greek mythology for children into English.

**Patrick Rea, BA International 2011**
Patrick’s company ‘Body Transformation Academy’ won the Innovative Training Programme of the Year at the Active Training Awards. This is a national honour in the UK for our innovative training programme based on behavioural change.

**Claire E. Lyons, PhD 2012**
Claire has just returned to Galway after three years in Dublin, where she collected, edited and published a book called ‘Scéalta agus Filíocht ñ na Maidineacha Caife’. The Maidineacha Caife is a pro-Irish language movement that began in 2012 in Dublin city and county.

**Triona McGrath, BSc 2007, PhD Chemical Oceanography 2012**
Triona started her first post doctorate project with NUI Galway to further develop ocean acidification research in Ireland. Her PhD was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholarship, which allowed her to work at the world’s leading carbonate chemistry laboratory at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. In 2016, she presented at a Fulbright Dublin TEDx event to discuss ocean acidification.

**Maurice Sheehan, BA 2009, MA in Culture and Colonialism 2012**
Maurice started teaching as a resource teacher in Kerry in 2009. Since March 2010, he has been teaching English and History in Prague and is moving to Switzerland in September. He became a father in November 2015.

**Tommy Lanigan, BA 2013**
Tommy has completed a postgraduate degree and a certificate with Harvard Law. He is also in the process of self-publishing a series of novels based on Irish folklore, called Otherworld. His pseudonym is Balor O’Brien.

**Anne Marie Kennedy, BA 2013, MA in Writing 2014**
Anne Marie has won several awards: a non-fiction piece was selected by Jonathan Franzen for Best American 2015, winner of Molly Keane Creative Writing Award 2014 and P.J. O’Connor Radio Drama award 2016. Her play took two gold medals at the New York Festival’s International Radio Awards. Anne Marie writes personal essays for broadcast on RTE, is a freelance music journalist and teaches creative writing across the genres.

**Karen J McDonnell, BA 2013**
Last autumn, Doire Press accepted the manuscript of Karen’s debut poetry collection. In June, This Little World was launched in Galway by writer and NUI Galway lecturer Celeste Augé. Reading events for 2017 included the West Cork Literary Festival, Clifden Arts Festival, and the Limerick International Literature Festival. Karen’s poetry has also been shortlisted for the Hennessy/Irish Times New Irish Writing.

**Márise O’Súllivan, BA 2013**
Márise became a sub-editor at The Guardian Newspaper and worked for the Ireland Live News television programme as an online journalist and forward planner. She moved to TV3 News as a digital content producer, leading digital and social media engagement and voicing news reports for broadcast. She is currently living in Sydney, Australia.

**Patrick Rieley, MA in Irish Studies, 2014**
After leaving NUI Galway, Patrick has become active in community development in Helena, Montana. This includes being appointed to the Helena Lewis and Clark Historical Preservation Board and developing strategic plans for building new schools in the community. He was also admitted into Montana State University and will receive a Masters in Educational Administration Leadership.

**Zara Bermingham, BA 2014**
Zara is currently living in Dubai and working for Emirates Airlines. Before joining Emirates, she was based in Althone for some time working for one of Ireland’s leading radio stations - iRadio. She has since visited over 40 countries.

**Mary Durkan, Dip in Psychology of Counselling 2015**
Since graduating with a First Class Honours Diploma in Psychology of Counselling, Mary has gone on to become a Personal Development Coach. To date, she has run over 40 workshops with groups like Cancer Support, Active Retirement and Bank of Ireland.

**Miiró Michael, MA 2015**
Miiró has organised and facilitated advocacy, lobbying and leadership trainings since returning to Uganda in 2016. These were training sessions for leaders of persons with disabilities in Masaka, Kalungu, Mukono, Kayunga and Buikwe District, sessions for youths with disabilities in Mpigi and Lira Districts, sessions for leaders of older persons in Masaka District and sessions for leaders of women with disabilities in Kampala.

**Maria Gillen, PDipA Arts Policy & Practice 2009**
Maria began researching the life of Emily M. Weddall, women with disabilities in Kampala. These were training sessions for leaders of persons with disabilities in Masaka, Kalungu, Mukono, Kayunga and Buikwe District.

**Caroline Siggins, BA 2013, Marion Siggins (nee Egan), BA 1978 and Eamonn Siggins, BA 1979.**
Caroline Siggins has been awarded the Liam Donnelly Medal of Excellence by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Ireland (CPA Ireland). The award marks her coming first place worldwide in the final CPA Ireland examinations.

**Christopher Cosgrove, BA 2011**
Christopher Cosgrove married Orla in May 2017 in Donegal, with a reception following in the Sligo Park Hotel surrounded by family and friends.

**Mark Roche, BE 2015**
Based in Chicago, Mark completed a Masters of Science in Technology Entrepreneurship at the University of Notre Dame. “I am now working as a cyber-risk consultant for Deloitte in Chicago, helping clients to secure their digital assets, monitor for threats, and rapidly respond to and recover from cyber-attacks.”

**Maria Alejandra Gonzalez-Perez, MBS 2003, PhD 2008**
“I graduated from the PhD in Commerce and from the MBS in Industrial Relations and Human Resources Management. I also did post-doctoral research in CGI. I’m currently Full Professor at Universidad EAFIT in Colombia. In 2015 I was elected as Vice-President of the Academy of International Business (AIB), a world organization with over 3300 members in 87 countries.”

**Dr. Jennifer Byrne MB, BCh BAO 2016**
Jennifer, an Offaly native, became the first rose from the Faithful County to take the title in the event’s long history at the 2017 Rose of Tralee Festival. A sports scholarship student, she was a key member of the NUI Galway Ladies soccer and GAA teams and also represented Ireland in the World University Games in 2015. She now plays with Galway WFC in the Women’s National League. As a medical student, Dr Byrne volunteered at Barretstown, a charity set up to help children living with a serious illness and their families. Jennifer is currently working in emergency medicine in University College Hospital Galway.
Following an extensive international recruitment process, Údarás na hOllscoile has ratified the appointment of Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh (BComm 1988) as NUI Galway’s next President. Professor Ó hÓgartaigh will be the University’s 13th President and will succeed Dr Jim Browne at the conclusion of his ten-year term. Professor Ó hÓgartaigh will take up the post in January 2018.

Professor Ó hÓgartaigh has served as Principal and Dean of UCD College of Business since 2011, leading its internationally-ranked, triple crown-accredited schools in Dublin (UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School and UCD Smurfit Executive Development) and overseas programmes in Hong Kong, Singapore and Sri Lanka. Prior to that, he worked in academic leadership roles in Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and in Dublin City University. He trained as a Chartered Accountant with Arthur Andersen and holds a PhD in Accounting from the University of Leeds. Ciarán and his wife, Fiona, are looking forward to coming to Galway in January.

Speaking on the appointment, the Chair of NUI Galway’s Governing Authority, Ms Justice Catherine McGuinness, said: “At the outset, we sought a leader who can inspire NUI Galway’s staff and students and take this remarkable University to new heights. With a track record of leadership and achievement nationally and internationally, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh brings both the necessary experience and vision to this role and I look forward to working with him as we chart the next stage in the University’s journey.”

Commenting on his appointment, Professor Ó hÓgartaigh said: “Is mór an onóir dom a bheith ceaptha mar Uachtarán ar OÉ Gaillimh, mo alma mater féin. Given its unique heritage and hinterland, the quality of its people, and the strength and depth of its research and student experience, NUI Galway is exceptionally well-placed to further enhance its reputation and reach both nationally and internationally. I look forward to coming home to the ‘town and gown’ which shaped me and to working together with my new colleagues in the best interests of our students and our society. Le chéile, tapóimid an deis.”
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The achievements and successes of our alumni as leaders, decision makers, innovators, entrepreneurs, teachers and volunteers are some of the reasons why our graduates make us proud. Your story will inspire our students. Get in touch. We’re only 11 digits away.

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At NUI Galway, we take the greatest pride in YOU, our alumni, and your achievements. We know that while we can’t take all the credit, your time here certainly helped put you on the right path. Now we are asking for your help to give someone else that same start. The Alumni Fund at NUI Galway has been supporting Student Scholarships since its inception, giving disadvantaged but deserving talented young people the chance to reach their full potential... please consider giving something back and change a life forever.

“ONLY A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS IS A LIFE WORTHWHILE”

Albert Einstein

To support the Alumni Fund at NUI Galway, please complete and return the donation form accompanying the magazine. To make an online donation, visit www.guf.ie or call +353 91 493536