



NUI Galway
OĒ Gaillimh

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WHERE ?

WE SHARE OUR
STAFF'S SUCCESSES



OLLSCÉALA

NUACHTLITIR FOIRNE | STAFF NEWSLETTER | FÓMHAR 2018

Fresh Faces on Campus

Pictured here are some of the 54 new staff who completed their staff induction in September. In *Ollscéala*, we love sharing stories of our staff's work and achievements. We are sure we will be featuring some of these new faces in the issues to come!

OLLSCÉALA

Focal ón Uachtarán



A Chairde,

Anois agus an bhliain acadúil faoi lán seoil againn, is fiú go mór breathnú siar ar an méid atá bainte amach ag pobal na hOllscoile le roinnt míonna anuas. Bhí sé do phribhléid agam freastal ar chuid mhaith de na himeachtaí atá le feiceáil sa nuachtiris seo agus léargas pearsanta a fháil ar obair agus éachtaí ár gcomhghleacaithe.

It was a remarkable summer for conferences, festivals and public events on campus. Tens of thousands of visitors participated in lectures, exhibitions, shows, and seminars on the latest research. I commend all of those colleagues who worked hard to organise and participate in these important events. Their work reinforces NUI Galway's reputation as a place of considerable international impact.

At the recent Open Days and the Research and Innovation Symposium, I saw first-hand the passion our colleagues bring to their teaching and research. Research is a hallmark of excellence in any university, an Ollscoil seo san áireamh. As the semester continues, I look forward to celebrating further successes and to engaging with colleagues across the campus about the opportunities and challenges ahead.

The recent Civic and Public Engagement Forum organised on campus by the Innovation Office and the Community Knowledge Initiative was a great opportunity to hear about the societal impact our staff is having through service learning, community research, volunteering and outreach. It is a vital aspect of the role of the University and something I look forward to building on with colleagues over the coming months and years.

In the meantime, I invite you to take the opportunity to read more about our colleagues' achievements in this edition of *Ollscéala*.

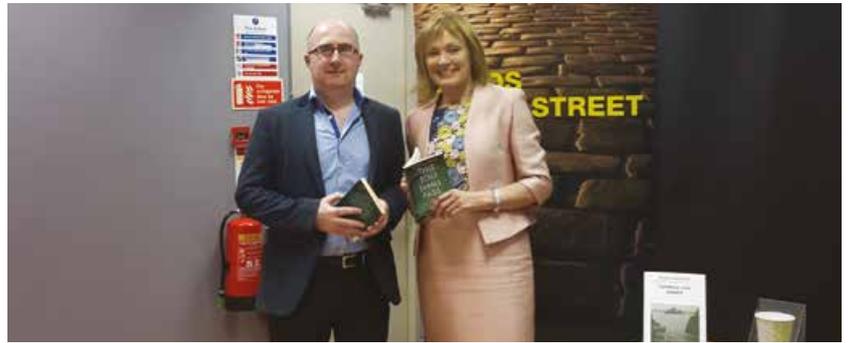
Le gach dea-ghuí,

Ciarán

An tOllamh Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh

Uachtarán | President

Familiar Faces



Words on the Street: Ghlac Séamus Ó Coileáin (Acadamh na Ollscolaíochta Gaeilge) páirt san fhéile litríochta 'Words on the Street' i mBaile Átha Cliath i mbliana. Léigh an láithreoir teilifíse, Mary Kennedy, sleachta den leabhar *También esto Pasaré* le Milena Busquets a bhí aistriithe go Gaeilge ag Séamus.



Fancy meeting you here: When Dr Yvonne Finn (Medicine) attended an official ceremony in the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences in Kaunas in June, it coincided with the state visit of President Michael D. Higgins. She's pictured here with the President in the city's historic town hall.



Cumar: Aodh Ó Coileáin has been meeting and filming Galway's creative artists, as part of his documentary commission by TG4. 'Cumar' will give a visual evaluation of the link between Galway-based artists and their environment and will parse some of the diverse cultural influences that have shaped Galway's artistic culture over time. Pictured are three of the film's participants: Tommy Tiernan, George Conboy and Mike McCormack (English).

Corrections

The Ollscéala team would like to make corrections to two items in the Spring issue.

Cancer Conference (page 11): The conference took place in Dublin, and the photo featured Dr James Brown (Medicine and Chair of the Irish Association for Cancer Research Junior Council).

Recognising Excellent Teaching (page 16): Dr Helen Dodson is in the School of Medicine (and not Physics).

Thanks to Dr Brown and Dr Dodson for bringing these to our attention.

Appointments

Internal Appointments

Director of Human Resources

Josephine Hynes has joined the University as our new Director of Human Resources. A graduate of NUI Galway, Josephine was awarded Honours Degrees in both Law and Commerce, and also a Masters Degree in Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management. Josephine joins us from the University Hospitals Group in Limerick where she was a key member of the Hospital Executive Management Team and also Group Director of Human Resources. Josephine brings high standards of professionalism, a wealth of HR and Organisational Leadership experience and a real sense of humanity to the post.



Director of Risk and Internal Audit

Pauline Cronin has joined the University as our Director of Risk and Internal Audit. Pauline is a qualified accountant and holds an MSC in Economics and Policy, with a particular focus on governance in the public sector. Prior to joining NUI Galway, Pauline led the internal audit function of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment. Pauline has also served in the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General and with the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion) in the Department of Education and Skills.



Health and Safety

Dr Michael Cairns has joined the University's Health and Safety team as Health and Safety Assistant/Biosafety Adviser. He has 35 years of research experience in laboratories in London, Cambridge, Belfast and Galway. Mike has worked in NUI Galway since 1998 when he started with the National Diagnostics Centre, and continued with research in the Martin Ryan Institute and the Glycoscience Group in the Biomedical Sciences Building. Mike will be working with NUI Galway's 52 Units on the range of occupational safety supports with particular emphasis on biological, genetically modified organism safety and laboratory safety.



Students' Union President

The University welcomed the appointment of Megan Reilly as the new SU President earlier this year. Drogheda native and Commerce student Megan Reilly was elected to the position by students. She has previously held the positions of Vice-President/Welfare Officer, Equality Officer and Convenor of the College of Business, Public Policy & Law with the SU. We look forward to working with her over the coming year.

Business and Economics Professor

Bill Schmarzo, Chief Technology Officer, Internet of Things and Analytics at Hitachi Vantara, has been appointed Honorary Professor at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics. Writing and speaking frequently on the business value of big data and data science, Bill is considered the 'Dean of Big Data'. He began teaching on the MSc in Business Analytics programme earlier this year. He also teaches at the University of San Francisco's School of Management, where he is their first Executive Fellow.



Amhránaí Cónaitheach

Is é **Tomás Ó Neachtain**, as an gCoileach sa Spidéal, atá ceaptha mar amhránaí cónaitheach ar an sean-nós i mbliana in Ionad an Léinn Éireannaigh. Tá Corn Uí Riada buaite ag Tomás faoi dhó agus beidh sraith ceardlann á múineadh aige san Ollscoil mar chuid dá chónaitheacht anseo.



External Appointments

Cathaoirleach na Taibhdheirce

Comhghairdeas lenár gcomhghleacáí Aodh Ó Coileáin (Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge) atá ceaptha ina chathaoirleach ar an Taibhdhearc, an amharclann náisiúnta Gaeilge. Déantóir scannán as an Daingean, Co Chiarraí, ó dhúchas is ea é agus tá sé ina bhall de bhord na hamharclainne ó 2016. Tá Aodh tar éis tús a chur le breis ball a cheapadh ar an mbord, agus tá sé mar sprioc aige deis a thabhairt do níos mó daoine a bheith páirteach san obair a bhíonn ar bun sa Taibhdhearc.

Co-Chair of IMGA (2018-2021)

Dr Chaosheng Zhang (Geography and Archaeology) was recently elected as co-Chair of International Medical Geology Association, for the term 2018-2021. Dr Zhang served as a councillor of IMGA for two terms prior to this. The purpose of IMGA is to facilitate and promote co-operation between geoscientists, biomedical researchers, decision-makers and professionals to address human and animal health problems caused by geologic materials or processes.



American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering

Professor Abhay Pandit, Scientific Director of CÚRAM, has been elected to the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering College of Fellows. The organisation brings together academia, industry, government, and scientific societies into a highly influential community in medical and biological engineering that includes Nobel Laureates. He is pictured here with AIMBE President Dr Gilda Barabionna (left) and AIMBE College of Fellows Chair, Professor Anthony Guiseppi-Elle (right).

Royal Irish Academy

Professor Patrick Lonergan (O'Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance) has been elected as a Member of the Royal Irish Academy for his contribution to Humanities and Social Sciences. Professor Lonergan was one of 28 newly appointed members, including the poet Eavan Boland, public servant Martin Mansergh, geologist Koen Verbruggen, and educationalist Aine Hyland.





Athena SWAN Award

In May, NUI Galway achieved an Athena SWAN Bronze award, as awarded by the UK-based organisation Advance Higher Education. Additionally, our School of Medicine was conferred with a departmental level award. The awards recognise that the University and the School of Medicine have demonstrated a solid foundation for eliminating gender bias and developing an inclusive culture that values all staff.

The Award follows months of hard work by colleagues on the Athena SWAN Self-Assessment Team, which is coordinated through the Office of the Vice-President for Gender and Equality. Their assessment reflected the ongoing work in the University to promote gender equality, including our progress on the action plan that was drawn up by the Gender Equality Task Force, chaired by Professor Jane Grimson. Other initiatives have evolved from the work of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee that reports to Údarás na hOllscoile.

Reacting to news of the award, Professor Anne Scott, Vice-President for Equality and Diversity, said: "The Athena SWAN Bronze award recognises the energetic and sustained work in recent years to address equality challenges in the University. However we recognise that we are still at an early stage in this important journey." While, securing a Bronze Award is a major achievement and one of the targets in our *Vision 2020* Strategic Plan, the next job is to push further and strive for Silver Award status!

Read more about Athena SWAN, including the University's Bronze Award-winning submission at: www.nuigalway.ie/genderequality/athenaswan



Want the University at your fingertips? There's an app for that

A project led by staff in our Information Services and Solutions (ISS) team has developed a new NUI Galway App for students, staff and the public. The app project was led by Seán Farrell, John Lavelle and Evan Ryder from ISS, in partnership with Marketing and Communications, and is available on Apple and Android devices. When you open the app, it asks you to identify as a student, staff member or the public, and then presents you with useful services tailored for you. The team will continue to update and adapt the app according to how staff and students use it. So download the app today, and get tapping!



MA nua le RTÉ

Tá páirtnéireacht nua curtha ar bun idir an Ollscoil agus RTÉ chun clár nua MA sna meáin a chur ar fáil. Cuirfidh Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge an MA (Cleachtas Gairmiúil sna Meáin) ar fáil ó Mheán Fómhair 2018. Cuirfidh an clár béim ar an bhfoghlaim phraiticbhunaithe trí mheán na Gaeilge san iriseoireacht, sa chraoltóireacht agus i gcruthú ábhair don raidió, don teilifís, agus d'ardáin éagsúla ar líne. Beidh na mic léinn ag foghlaim san Ollscoil i nGaillimh, in aonaid Ghaeilge de chuid RTÉ i nDomhnach Broc, agus i stiúideoanna réigiúnacha i gConamara agus i gceantair Ghaeltachta eile.

"Is sprioc ar leith í ag RTÉ an chéad ghlúin eile de chraoltóirí na Gaeilge a fhorbairt agus a thabhairt chun cinn, agus tá muid á dhéanamh sin i gcomhar le hOÉ Gaillimh ar bhealach nach bhfuil feicthe in aon institiúid tríú leibhéal in Éirinn go dtí seo," a dúirt Grúpcheannasaí Gaeilge RTÉ, Rónán Mac Con Iomaire.

Dúirt stiúrthóir an chlár, an Dr Uinsíonn Mac Dubhghaill, go mbeadh tionchar mór ag céimithe an chlár ar na meáin in Éirinn sna blianta atá romhainn. "Lena mheascán tomhaiste den staidéar teoriciúil ar na meáin chumarsáide agus den fhoghlaim phraiticbhunaithe, tá an clár léinn seo ag leanacht an chleachtais is fearr go hidirnáisiúnta in oideachas na meán," a dúirt sé.



RTÉ Director General, Dee Forbes, and President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh sign a partnership that will see the two institutions collaborating on a new MA (Cleachtas Gairmiúil sna Meáin).

TREASURING OUR HERITAGE

The James Hardiman Library welcomed the donation of two new archives in recent months, offering a wealth of insight into life and learning in Ireland.

Muintir na Tíre Archive

Muintir na Tíre (People of the Land) was founded in 1931 as a national voluntary organisation dedicated to promoting the process of community development. For the first time, over 80 years of material from their archive is now open to scholars through the work of the James Hardiman Library. The archive was donated to the University in 2016 and since then it has been catalogued, selectively digitised and made available for use.

The 400 boxes of archival material contain an abundance of material relating to social and economic conditions in rural Ireland, Irish rural civil society, the involvement of the Catholic clergy in local community organising, and relationships with the state. It is a major resource for understanding the development of rural Ireland in the last century. Pictured at the archive launch were: (back row) Dr Tony Varley (Political Science & Sociology), Kieran Hoare and Monica Crump (Library) and Dr Tomás Finn (History), and (front row) John Cox (Library), Dr Caitríona Clear (History), Michael Sweeney (President, Muintir na Tíre), President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, and Professor Maurice Manning (NUI Chancellor).



Library of the Dominican Convent

The Dominican Convent in Taylor's Hill, Galway, donated its extensive library to the University earlier this year. The collection spans five centuries and contains a selection of significant religious publications from the 17th Century onwards. It was almost lost due to a convent building demolition, and following its donation to the University it will be preserved in the Library and made available through our Special Collection Reading Room. President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh welcomed the donation: "The insights the library provides into the education of women are especially significant. We also get a great sense of what life was like in the convent over four centuries and how the Dominican community connected with Europe and the wider world." Pictured at the official presentation were Sister Alberta Lally and University Librarian, John Cox.

NEW HUBS FOR RESEARCH

Two new hubs were launched in the University in recent months bringing fresh impetus to our research in two important areas of expertise.

Sustainable Energy and Fuel Efficiency Hub

The MaREI centre for Marine and Renewable Energy has secured €4.4 million through the Sustainable Energy and Fuel Efficiency SFI Stokes Programme to create a research hub at NUI Galway. It will support Ireland's indigenous biomass and bioenergy industry. Finding new, clean and sustainable sources of fuel is a key challenge in the fight against climate change, and the new hub will support innovative research in the area between the University and industry. Speaking at the launch Minister of State, Seán Kyne, welcomed the hub: "Climate Action has never been more important to the continued growth and prosperity of our nation as it is now. I am delighted to see researchers from MaREI exploring new and innovative technologies to support Ireland's ambition of meeting our environmental, energy and climate targets." Pictured here are Dr Rory Monaghan (Engineering), Dr Maria Tuohy (Biochemistry) and Professor Henry Curran (Chemistry) who will carry out work at the hub. They are standing behind the laboratory's Rapid Compression Machine, which reproduces the conditions that exist in internal combustion engines and gas turbines.



Say HiHi to our new Health Innovation Hub

Pictured in their new home in the Orbsen Building are staff of the newly established Health Innovation Hub Ireland, or HiHi – a partnership between the University, the Saolta University Health Care Group, and the HSE. The team will work with the Irish health sector and Irish businesses to improve healthcare services here. Our hub is part of a national network with other teams in Cork and Dublin. They are working together to evaluate concepts for healthcare innovation provided by those on the frontline - from clinicians to nurses to porters, and businesses from the health sector. HiHi provides a support structure to healthcare staff to pursue a project from concept, to pilot, to implementation stage. Similarly, any company that has a product that can significantly enhance healthcare can work with the HiHi team, who will match individuals and companies with the relevant clinical teams.

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENTS

As the last of our new research buildings was officially opened, the focus turns to campus accommodation and the future of Nun's Island.

Goldcrest Village student residences

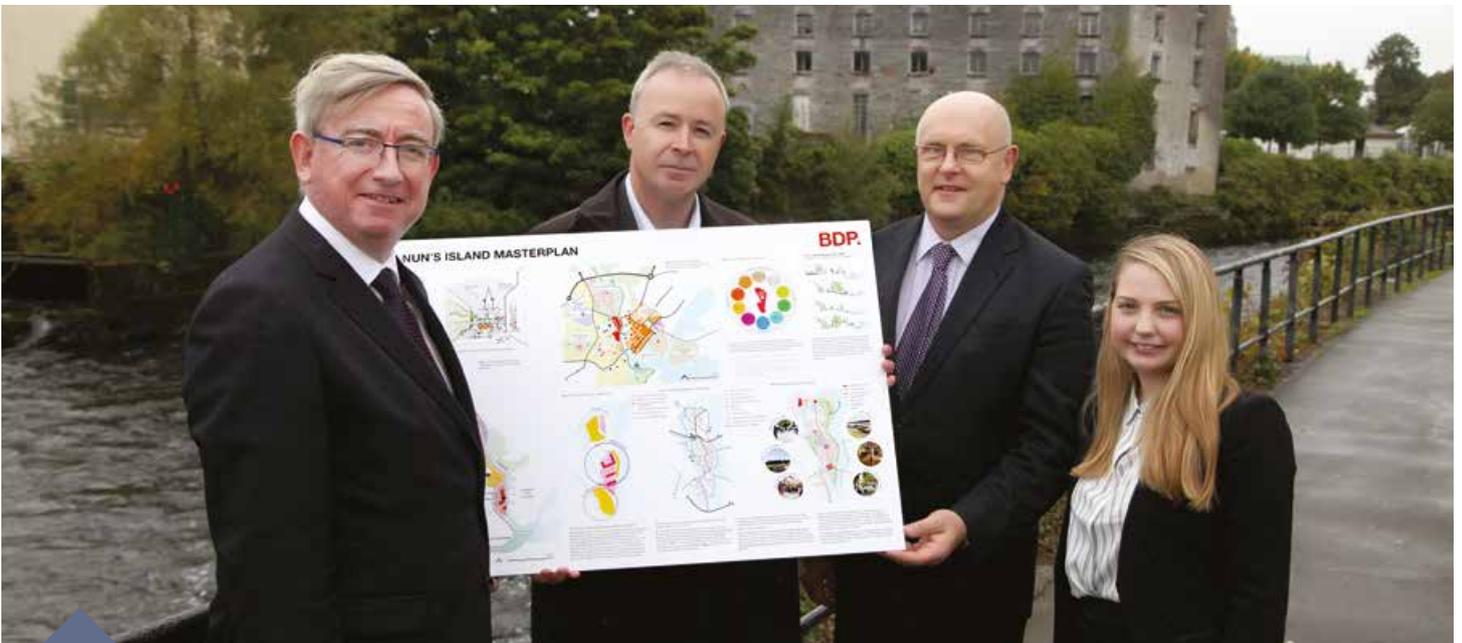
Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy, visited to the University at the start of the academic year just as the new 429-bed campus accommodation opened in the North Campus. Goldcrest Village is named after Ireland's smallest bird, which is one of the species identified on campus in recent years during the BioBlitz nature surveys. The beds are a very welcome addition to campus and will help alleviate pressures on student accommodation across the city. Minister Murphy is pictured with President Ó hÓgartaigh and students at the new residences.



Human Biology Building launch

While it has been open to students for over a year now, the Human Biology Building was officially launched by Minister for Health, Simon Harris, in July. The €34 million building brings together the disciplines of Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology and Therapeutics under one roof for the first time. Speaking at the launch, Minister for Health, Simon Harris, said: "NUI Galway researchers are tackling some of the most pressing issues of our times and the opening of this new building will, I hope, help to strengthen the University's deserved international reputation as being amongst the very best in the provision of research-led education."

The building itself is a beacon of modernity in the historic core of the University, surrounded by the old stone industrial buildings that once defined this part of Galway city. Its large foyer reaches up three storeys and has proven a popular spot for the public, especially during this year's Galway International Arts Festival when the Museum of the Moon installation drew young and old to the campus.



Nun's Island development

International planning consultants BDP have been appointed to support a development plan for Nun's Island. The plan is a joint venture between the University and Galway City Council, aimed at regenerating industrial buildings and spaces in the area into a new hub for the city. Some of the most iconic buildings in the area were used for decades by the University but lie vacant now. They have huge potential for residential, education, commercial, civic and cultural use in the future, and the first phase of the plan will involve a public consultation to inform the development of an integrated masterplan. President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh sees great opportunity for the area: "This piece of Galway City has the potential to generate a range of community, economic, social, environmental and educational benefits and we look forward to this master planning exercise delivering fresh perspectives on the development of University lands and properties." BDP come with decades of experience regenerating city cores. They were the master planners for the redevelopment of Liverpool's city centre and for the River Lagan area of Belfast.



Music Degree hits the right notes

At a special celebration on campus in September, the University's first ever Music degree was officially launched. The invited guests included staff, music teachers and organisations, and musicians from Galway's traditional, classical, choral and jazz scenes, who have supported and championed the development of a BA Music in the city. There has been talk of a Music degree here for decades and in speeches by Dr Jane O'Leary and Professor Cathal O'Donoghue, the audience heard of the journey to bring the degree to fruition. The new Head of Music, Dr Aidan Thomson, focused on the future, and the new talents and skills this degree will develop. "The core of the degree is a thorough grounding in musicianship – theory, harmony, keyboard harmony and critical listening – and training in the repertory and culture of western classical and Irish traditional music," he said. "I am confident that it will attract academically excellent students, for it has already done so: this year, the Leaving Certificate points for entry to the course were the highest for any Music degree in Ireland."

In fact, many of the 29 First Year students were seated in the audience! They will have the chance to work with top musical professionals, including ConTempo Quartet, Galway's Ensemble in Residence. The quartet joined with Galway uilleann piper, Pádraic Keane, and contemporary Irish composer, Amanda Feery, to stage a mesmerising selection of music from diverse genres. With the final notes of Beethoven's String Quartet No. 8, the Music degree was officially launched!



Spin-out Success

€2.75M for Loci Orthopaedics

NUI Galway-based medical device spin-out company, Loci Orthopaedics, has secured €2.75 million in seed funding to commercialise a new orthopaedic joint implant for a common but crippling arthritis. Their potentially life-changing device enables people with thumb base joint arthritis to perform simple everyday tasks like writing or using a mobile phone pain-free. Pictured are Loci Orthopaedics founders, Gerry Clarke (CTO) and Dr Brendan Boland (CEO).

€9.3 Million for Neurent Medical

Neurent Medical Limited, a Galway-based medical device company specialising in the treatment of rhinitis, an inflammatory disease of the nose, has raised €9.3 million in funding. The company was established by BioInnovate Ireland graduates, Brian Shields and David Townley. They will use the funding to develop their product further, creating 25 jobs in the process.

€2.5 Million AuriGen Medical

NUI Galway-based medical device company, AuriGen Medical has received €2.5 million in the latest round of Horizon 2020 SME Instrument funding, which ranked them number one out of 1,280 applications! The company was established by Tony O'Halloran and Dr John Thompson who met through our BioInnovate Ireland Programme. They will use the funding to commercialise their medical device, which is aimed at treating atrial fibrillation or irregular heartbeat.



Researchers from the Ryan Institute have published the **first record of a spider feeding on a reptile in Ireland**. The Noble False Widow spider, which has colonised much of Ireland since first being recorded here twenty years ago, was observed feeding on Ireland's only native terrestrial reptile, the Viviparous lizard. The unusual scene was recorded in a private garden in Killiney, Co. Dublin, where the lizard was found entangled in the spider's web.

RESEARCH IN ACTION

From obesity to bank bailouts, our researchers have been busy shaking up and shedding light on the world around us.

A study carried out by Dr Michelle Queally (J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics) and colleagues from the Health Research Board funded project CHERISH (Choosing Heathy Eating for Infant Health), has reported that **mothers are unable to accurately identify their child's obesity status**. The study highlights the need for increased support in Ireland to help improve a mothers understanding of what defines a healthy body size in preschool aged children.

Scientists from the Apoptosis Research Centre have found that targeting a specific stress response pathway may improve the response to chemotherapy and reduce relapse for patients with **triple negative breast cancer**. This type of breast cancer accounts for around 15% of all breast cancers diagnosed and occurs more frequently in younger women. Unlike other forms of breast cancer, there are no targeted therapies available.

Plant biotechnologists from the Ryan Institute have identified genetic **breeding strategies to develop bigger and better sugar beet**. Sustainable intensification of agriculture to meet rapidly growing global demand for food will require higher yielding crop varieties that can produce more food using less resources and land area. For crops such as sugar beet, this means the development of varieties that produce more per hectare, while reducing inputs.

Marine scientists from the Ryan Institute returned home recently with yet **more stunning footage of Irish deep-sea waters**. Diving with the deep-water remotely operated vehicle, ROV Holland I, onboard the Marine Institute's RV Celtic Explorer research vessel, the scientists mapped the biodiversity of the sea floor and collected samples of sponges (simple sessile animals that grow upwards from the seafloor) and octocorals (which lack the stony skeleton of tropical reef-building corals), to study their chemistry back in the laboratory.

A group of **international female geoscientists** from universities all over the world, including NUI Galway, has taken a close look at their profession and discovered the barriers to success. They found that although women make up almost a third of the coastal geoscience and engineering community, they represent only about one in five of its prestige roles. Co-author of the study, Dr Siddhi Joshi (Geography and Archaeology), said: "Robust data on gender diversity is often scarce and studies like this are key building blocks for change."

Researchers from the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics and Queen's University Belfast have found that **people's attachment to particular religious beliefs influenced their attitudes to euthanasia**. The researchers collected information on a group of 160 individuals' religiosity and their attitudes to

euthanasia in Ireland, using data collected as part of the Irish EQ-5D-5L valuation study - a study which measures the relative value that Irish residents attach to five different domains of health.

The UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre has finalised a four-year study that has found **significant improvements in Tusla's Prevention, Early Intervention and Family Support services**. The reports were launched with Tusla – Child and Family Agency in September. It showed that in 2016, 47,399 child protection and welfare referrals were made to Tusla, and 6,267 children and young people were in its care. The report urges more and better prevention, as well as early intervention, to reduce these numbers.

Dr Ioanna Tourkochariti (Law) has been shaping the debate on the subject of **law and religion** at recent international events. She recently presented her paper criticising the decisions of the EU Court of Justice on Headscarves in the Workplace in Harvard University. In July, she organised a workshop on Antidiscrimination Law and Religion as part of the General Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law held in Fukuoka, Japan. Her research and public advocacy have been helping inform discussion on these delicate issues.



The Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMRU) released its latest update on Ireland's Ocean Economy as part of Seafest. Their data indicates that last year, **the direct economic value of Ireland's ocean economy was an estimated €1.97 billion** or approximately 1% of gross domestic product. It is an impressive 21% increase on their 2015 figures and suggests that our 'blue economy' continues to grow at a faster pace than the general economy. Pictured at the launch of the report were Danial Norton (SEMRU); Minister for Natural Resources, Community Affairs and Digital Development, Seán Kyne; Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Damien English; and Peter Heffernan (Marine Institute).



Pictured at the Spanish Arch in July is Cécile Robin (Insight Centre for Data Analytics) who enthralled passers-by with her presentation "How do computers read fairytales?" It was part of **Soapbox Science 2018**, a special event that invites female scientists to share their research directly with the public. This year, our staff joined forces with colleagues from GMIT and UCC to showcase the diversity of women in science across the western seaboard. Congratulations to all of the participants, and the event organisers Dr Jessamyn Fairfield (Physics) and Dr Dara Stanley (Botany and Plant Science).



Dr Brian Tobin (Law) was invited to Leinster House in June to provide an Oireachtas briefing on the parental rights of same-sex couples. Specifically, he discussed the legal effects that the non-commencement of Parts 2 and 3 of the Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 was having on **female same-sex couples raising donor-conceived children**. Dr Tobin's ongoing advocacy work on this issue was commended in the Seanad when the Children and Family Relationships (Amendment) Bill 2018 was passed by the Houses of the Oireachtas. He is pictured here with Senator David Norris following his Oireachtas briefing.



Remembering Sheila Tinney

The School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Mathematics celebrated an extraordinary Galway woman earlier this year, with the unveiling of a painting of Sheila Tinney in Áras de Brún, 100 years after her birth. Tinney, who studied for a time in our University, was a woman of firsts. She is recognised as the first Irish woman to achieve a doctorate in mathematics, the first female associate professor in mathematical physics in Ireland and one of the first four women admitted to the Royal Irish Academy in 1949. Pictured at the special event to mark her achievements are: Deirdre, Hugh and Eithne Tinney, Professor Michael Tuite (Mathematics), Professor Orla Feely (UCD), Professor Anne Scott (VP for Equality and Diversity), and Dr Aisling McCluskey (Mathematics).



First Thought Talks

Five current and former staff members delivered speeches and chaired discussions as part of this year's First Thought Talks series on campus as part of the Galway International Arts Festival. The theme of this year's series was 'home' and participants included Professor Mathieu d'Aquin (Insight Centre for Data Analytics), Dr Sarah Anne Buckley (History), Emeritus Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh (History) and Dr Adrian Paterson (English). President Michael D. Higgins delivered his address to an enthusiastic crowd in the Bailey Allen Hall. Thanks to Professor d'Aquin for sending in this action shot from the stage during the introduction of his session about artificial intelligence.



Pictured here are Dr Rory Monaghan (Engineering & Ryan Institute), Emeritus Professor John Simmie (Chemistry), and Trinity lecturer and Galway Chemistry graduate, Dr Stephen Dooley, who hosted the **International Symposium on Combustion** in August. The symposium was a joint effort between NUI Galway and Trinity College Dublin and was this year's largest and most important scientific gathering on alternative fuels and fuel efficiency, with over 1,800 delegates!

Funding for Educators? Just Google it!

NUI Galway is one of 25 European institutes awarded funding through Google's Educator Grants programme. The funding was awarded to our School of Education to enhance Professional Development in the area of computational thinking for pre-service and in-service teachers. By learning Computer Science in the University, the programme aims to prepare and support teachers with the knowledge and skills to teach with confidence and competence. "The University is also currently developing an undergraduate Computer Science teacher education degree," said Dr Cornelia Connolly (Education).

St Angela's College widens Access to Teaching

Earlier this year, St Angela's College, Sligo, launched a new initiative with the University to encourage more diversity in teacher training. They are developing a new entry route from Further Education into post-primary teacher education through a partnership with up to nine further education colleges. By addressing socio-economic disadvantage, the project coordinators want to help make our secondary teachers more representative of our diverse society. Speaking at the launch, Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell-O'Connor, praised the project: "Teachers play a critical role in shaping student expectations and by having more teachers in the community who come from that community is essential in terms of having more role models with whom young people can identify."

New Programme: Marine Science and Biology

The International Affairs team and College of Science have launched a new tailor-made programme in Marine Science and Biology for international students coming to Ireland. It builds on Galway's international reputation for its marine research and teaching. The practice-based programme focuses on marine life and environments, and the biological principles that underlie the science of the sea. J.B. Terrins (International Affairs), explained the appeal: "This programme recognises an increasing demand for science courses in specialisms for which we are known globally."



Conference Season

It was another bumper summer for events – with delegates, visitors and festivalgoers coming to campus in their tens of thousands. Here is a taste of some of the conferences that stood out.

Pictured here is a small share of the 750 delegates who attended the **Annual Conference of the European Health Psychology Society** hosted by our School of Psychology in August. They came from all over the world to hear the latest research in the field, including a keynote address by Professor Molly Byrne on the topic of stakeholder involvement in health research. Professor Byrne coordinated the conference with the local organising committee and its chair, Dr Gerry Molloy.

The School of Law recently hosted a half-day conference focused on one of the biggest issues facing Irish society. Entitled **'Homelessness, the housing crisis and socio-economic rights'**, the conference brought together academic and civil society voices concerning legal and policy responses to the homelessness and housing crises. Speakers included Niamh Randall, Simon Communities; Dr Padraic Kenna (Law); Thomas Murray, An Cosán; and Martin O'Connor, COPE Galway.

A two-day conference in June brought 24 speakers from 15 countries to Galway to discuss their research into glossing. **Glossing** refers to the practice of writing notes between lines and in the margins of old manuscripts. It was frequently done by Irish monks, but the practice is common in countries and languages around the world. The conference was organised by Dr Pádraic Moran (Classics) who was pleased to see so many experts working in a variety of fields coming together to discuss aspects of glossing from a comparative perspective.



Pictured here are some of the participants in the **INTeRACT for Health Integrated Knowledge Translation Workshops** hosted by the Health Behaviour Change Research Group earlier this year. They are working to enhance the relevance of research by involving those who will use research knowledge from the beginning of the planning process. The workshop organisers worked with partners in the HSE's Health and Wellbeing unit and they plan to develop funding applications for further projects prioritised by the HSE.

Research Funding

European Research Council Grants

Two researchers have been awarded significant ERC Starting Grants for their research. **Dr Ted Vaughan** (Biomedical Engineering) has been awarded €1.5 million to conduct ground-breaking research into addressing bone fragility in type-2 diabetes. Meanwhile, Irish language scholar **Dr Ríona Nic Congáil** was awarded €1.27 million for her project, Youth Engagement in European Language Preservation, 1900–2020 with the support of our Research Office.

ERC Proof of Concept Grant

Dr Martin O'Halloran, Director of the Lambe Translational Medical Device laboratory, is the only Irish scientist among 50 in Europe awarded European Research Council top-up funding to develop a novel hydrogel to treat chronic pain. The €150,000 Proof of Concept grant, will allow him to develop the hydrogel concept and explore its commercial and societal potential.

SFI Career Development Award Programme

Three early-stage researchers have been awarded SFI funding to develop their careers. Congratulations to **Dr Sharon Glynn** (Lambe Institute) who is aiming to identify new ways of treating aggressive breast and prostate cancer, to **Dr Dara Stanley** (Botany and Plant Science) who is studying the effect of climate change and pesticide on, and to **Dr Gavin Collins** (Science) who will use the award to continue his research into the microorganisms that are used to convert wastes to biofuels.

SFI-HRB-Wellcome Investigator Award

Professor Uri Frank from the Centre for Chromosome Biology has been awarded funding to investigate a yet unknown mechanism that guides cells that contribute to tissue regeneration. It is hoped the research will lead to a greater understanding of stem cells and their application to patients with tissue loss.



Researchers in the Insight Centre for Data Analytics welcomed over 200 delegates from 45 countries to Galway for the **International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance**. It was successfully hosted by Insight's eGovernment Research Unit and led locally by Dr Adegboyega Ojo. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ciarán Cannon, was special guest at the conference.

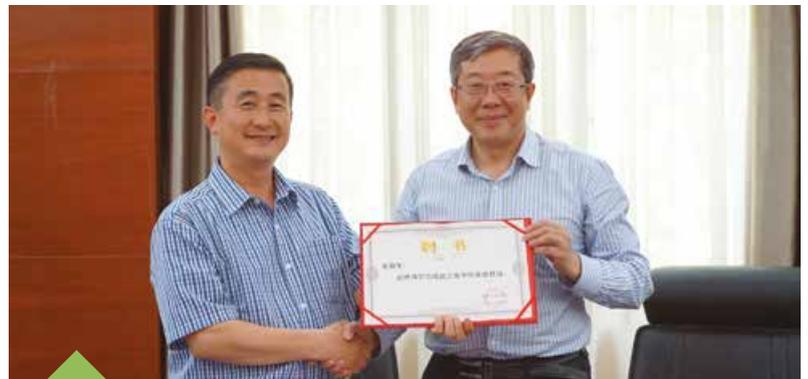
GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Ó Granada go Gaith Dobhair!

Cuireadh fáilte roimh an Dr José Javier Romero Díaz de la Guardia ó Universidad de Granada sa Spáinn in Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge (Gaoth Dobhair) ar na mallaibh. Is saineolaí ríomhfhoghlama é agus tháinig sé go dtí Dún na nGall ar turas taighde ar feadh trí seachtaine i mí Lúnasa. D'oibrigh sé i gcomhar le beirt Fheidhmeannach de chuid an Acadaimh: Conchúr Mac Giolla Éáin (Feidhmeannach Teanga) agus Ray Fallon (Feidhmeannach Cumarsáide), agus d'fhiosraigh an mheitheal na féidearthachtaí a bhaineann le húsáid na ríomhfhoghlama i gcomhthéacs na gcúrsaí Gaeilge a reáchtáil an tAcadamh d'ábhar oídi.



Double Doctorates: Congratulations to husband-and-wife team Shirin Moghaddam and Amir Jalali, who recently graduated with a PhD in Statistics. Amir and Shirin, who are originally from Teheran, were co-supervised in Galway by Professor John Newell, Professor John Hinde and Dr Alberto Alvarez-Iglesias.



New to Chengdu: Congratulations to Dr Chaosheng Zhang (Geography) who was appointed as an Adjunct Professor at the School of Architectural and Environmental Engineering, Chengdu Technological University (CDTU) in China. He was also named Honorary Director of the newly established Centre of Big Data for Smart Environmental Protection at the university. Dr Zhang is pictured (left) in Chengdu with Professor Yusong Yan of CDTU.

Great IDEAs Travel

Three Biomedical Engineering Masters students have been selected for a global innovation competition run by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It is the first time a team from Ireland has been selected for the six month IDEA² Global programme. Oisín McGrath, Belén Enguix Chiral and Syed Kumail Jaffry have been developing a wearable device that can detect heart arrhythmia symptoms more reliably than current approaches. The MIT programme will provide them with mentorship and expertise to develop their project further.

A Place of Sanctuary

Students and staff have joined together to launch a 'University of Sanctuary' Campaign for NUI Galway. This campaign seeks to highlight the importance of access to higher education for those living in direct provision and members of the Traveller community. The University of Sanctuary Steering Committee includes academic and administration staff, students and societies, community partners and individuals living in the direct provision centres in Galway. Collectively they will use this platform to advocate for the development of pre-existing fee waivers, bursaries, and scholarships for asylum seekers, while developing meaningful outreach programmes to address the dearth of Traveller participation in third-level education. If you'd like to get involved, email: sanctuarynuig@gmail.com.

A World of Partners

Staff of the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics have announced partnerships with a multitude of new universities worldwide as part of the new Bachelor of Commerce (Global Experience). There are now partnerships in place with over 60 universities across the globe across all of our Business programmes, which enable us to provide students with a global education. Some of the new partner universities include: Kobe University, Japan; Pusan National University, South Korea; Nanjing University of AA, China; Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada; University of Redlands, California; Karlstad University, Sweden; University of Antwerp, Belgium; and the University of Florence, Italy.



New Books | Leabhair Nua

Enfranchising Ireland? Identity, citizenship and state, edited by Emeritus Professor Steven G. Ellis (History), explores the evolution of the concepts of citizenship and identity in Ireland from classical times, through the medieval period and partition in Ireland, to the present difficulties surrounding Brexit and the refugee crisis.

Critical Thinking: Conceptual Perspectives and Practical Guidelines, by Dr Christopher Dwyer (Psychology), offers a new way of looking at critical thinking in the 21st century, and gives a unique and distinctive insight into how to improve our decision-making.

Ag Caint leis an Sinné? Dúshlán an Traidisiúin agus Nualitricht na Gaeilge, leis an Dr Louis de Paor (Ionad an Léinn Éireannaigh): sa chnuasach aistí seo, déanann an t-údar gnéithe éagsúla de litricht na Gaeilge a scrúdú chun an gaol idir an scríbhneoir aonair agus an traidisiún teanga a chíoradh.

Staging Trauma: Bodies in Shadow by Dr Miriam Haughton (O'Donoghue Centre from Drama, Theatre and Performance), investigates contemporary British and Irish performances that stage traumatic narratives, acts and encounters, with a focus on figures who have previously been marginalised by dominant patriarchal theatrical and historical canons.

Civil War and Agrarian Unrest: The Confederate South and Southern Italy, by Dr Enrico del Lago (History), analyses the American Civil War and the effects of slave emancipation in comparative perspective with another, little-known, civil war fought by southern Italian peasants against the Italian government at the same time.



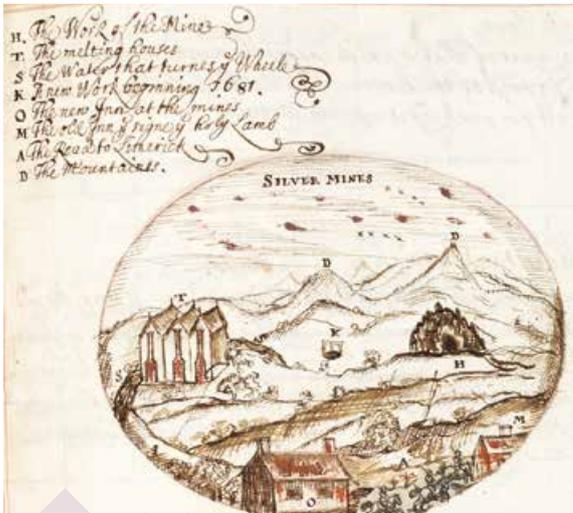
Tackling Obesity Online

Five students from the MSc in Information Systems Management have developed a website to help communities tackle child obesity in Ireland. They created 'PrimaryFit' under the guidance of their lecturer, Dr Trevor Clohessy, as part of their course module. Working with the local community they developed meal and exercise plans, and some handy online tools like a weight tracker and calorie counter. There is also a section where people can connect with local nutrition and exercise experts. See for yourself at www.primaryfit.ie



Cartlannaí ceaptha ar Chartlann CnaG

Chuir an Ollscoil fáilte roimh Niamh Ni Charra atá ceaptha sa Leabharlann mar chartlannaí le gairid. Déanfaidh Niamh cartlann Chonradh na Gaeilge a chatalógú agus a dhigiú, ionas go mbeidh na cáipéisí ar fáil ag an bpobal den chéad uair. Tá an Conradh 125 bliain ar an bhfód i mbliana, agus tugann an chartlann seo léargas ar fhorbairt pholaitiúcháin, shóisialta agus teanga sa tír.



Illustrating Ireland

A new online database showing historical illustrations of Ireland was recently launched online. The database makes over 500 images from 1680-1860 available to the public for the first time, and includes rare woodcuts, water colours and engravings. The project is based on years of research by a group led by Emeritus Professor Jane Conroy (French), and gives a unique insight into how travellers experienced and depicted Ireland over the course of two centuries. Search the database online at: tce.nuigalway.ie

'Foscadh' á fhorbairt

Tá Seán Breathnach – léachtóir sa scriptscríbhneoireacht agus físléiriúchán in Acadamh na hOllscoilaíochta Gaeilge – roghnaithe le bheith ina stiúrthóir ar scannán nua do TG4. Caithfear €1.2 milliún ar an scannán 'Foscadh' tríd an scéim mhaoinithe Cine4. Scríobh Seán an script don scannán freisin, atá lonnaithe i gConamara agus a insíonn scéal faoi fhear soineanta tuaithe a chailleann a threo sa saol tar éis bás a mhuintire. Is é a chéad uair i ról an stiúrthóra ar fhadsannán.

Reimagining Researchers through Art

CÚRAM launched a new Community Art-Science exhibition in the Westside Resource Centre in Galway city, which makes us look at researchers in a new light. The 'AFTERIMAGE' exhibition by art duo, Anne Cleary and Denis Connolly, shows portraits of 19 people who live or work in Westside, and reveals the remarkable diversity of contemporary Irish society. Each image is composed of a black-and-white portrait accompanied by a colour negative mapping. They depict real-life CÚRAM researchers, as well as community members who have been asked to imagine themselves as researchers.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE INNOVATION OFFICE



Innovation with impact!

Pictured, at a recent brainstorming session, are some members of the Innovation Office team (l-r): Jenny Mullery, Dr Kieran Ryan, Ruth Hynes, David Murphy, Dr Jacinta Thornton, John McSweeney, Caroline O'Farrell and Fiona Neary.

The Innovation Office has a crucial role in the entrepreneurial activities at NUI Galway and is the technology-transfer hub for the University.

The Innovation Office team helps to maximise the entrepreneurial impact at NUI Galway by:

1. Supporting collaboration with industry
2. Driving commercialisation of research
3. Encouraging staff and students to develop innovative ideas and projects
4. Providing expertise and infrastructure to start-ups

NUI Galway is an important part of the West of Ireland's dynamic innovation ecosystem. We support over 40 start-ups which are based on campus and license high quality technology to an average of three spin-outs annually.

“ There are currently over 40 start-ups based on campus ”

“Since the early days as the Industrial Liaison Office, then as Technology Transfer Office, and now as the Innovation Office, our team has always put a strong focus on knowledge transfer, innovation and enterprise. We help our university stay deeply knitted into the innovation ecosystem in the West of Ireland and beyond. We have a particular focus on sectors which have high regional impact including med-tech, IT, marine, engineering, energy, and the creative arts.

“There are huge benefits to society to be had from the innovations being developed right now on campus. What is unique about our campus is that everyone – students and staff – can get involved, there is an avenue through our office for everyone with an innovative approach.

“We believe innovation and entrepreneurship will be critical in the coming years to attract and retain research funding, regional and international

students, staff, and faculty. Revenue generated from these activities if reinvested in entrepreneurship activities can have a profound impact in catalysing economic development in the communities around us,” explains David Murphy, Director of Knowledge Transfer and Innovation.

For the Research Community

The Innovation Office sits alongside the Research Office within the Office of the Vice-President for Research.

The Innovation Office works closely with NUI Galway's research community to maximise the impact of their research – for the economy and for society.

From the earliest days, when scientists are commencing their projects, through to when they complete invention disclosures, to the day a technology is licensed, the team is there every step of the way.

Once a technology is protected, as necessary, it is licensed to industry or sometimes an NUI Galway ‘spin-out’ company is created to bring the technology to market.

The University's IP Policy (see the Innovation Office website) is generous to inventor and contributors. In effect, researchers are allocated a portion of IP income, alongside the inventor's School and the University.

“ Researchers are allocated a portion of IP income, alongside the inventor's School and the University ”

For all staff and students



Throughout the academic year, the office provides training on topics including intellectual property, business canvases and funding opportunities.

The Innovation Office team also engages with all staff and students through innovation programmes including:

- **One-on-One and Group IP Awareness Training and Supports** from the Commercialisation Team in the office. The Commercialisation Team supports researchers and research from all sectors of the University by providing advice and support regarding intellectual property, confidentiality protection, material transfer, invention disclosure, IP protection, recording your lab notebook, IP Policy awareness, industry collaboration, licensing, startup generation and seeking funding for your commercial opportunities.
- **LaunchPad** (on the University's Concourse) is an initiative nurturing and empowering future innovators to anticipate, serve or solve societal and economic needs through interdisciplinary experiential entrepreneurship. Since 2015 the programme has built a campus community of over 5,000 innovators. The programme delivers training, mentorship, events and competitions for staff, students and alumni.
- **EXPLORE** allows staff and students to come together to pursue great ideas. Over 120 projects have been supported to date. Cell EXPLORERS, ReelLIFE SCIENCE and DigiChamps are just three of the fantastic projects that went onto national success. Current projects focus on a variety of topics including Frankenstein, bat boxes, modernist studies and 'fake news' surrounding cancer and its risk factors.
- **The 'EXPLORE Awards for Innovation powered by LaunchPad'** were inaugurated this year, to uncover some of the most promising and innovative activity on campus. In the staff category, first prize was awarded to Dr Orla Richardson from the Philosophy Discipline for 'P4C'. The project is introducing children to philosophy, and works with schools, community groups and other organisations.

For start-ups



The Innovation Office team and affiliated groups and initiatives across campus provide advice and practical help to develop the funding, capabilities, and facilities a new company needs to be successful.

Specific initiatives run by the Innovation Office include:

- Dedicated **Commercialisation Team** expertise to support your startup company ambitions that arise from research activity within NUI Galway. You will be linked in with a dedicated Commercialisation Executive from your sectoral area/discipline that will assist you in identifying new IP, IP protection, accessing funding and networks to assist you get your idea off the ground. Our team of experts are here to help you turn your research idea into a commercial reality.
- **The Business Innovation Centre (BIC)** is in the centre of the campus, between the Sports Centre and Áras Moyola. There are 35 start-up companies, including university spin-outs, based there. Companies include Westway Health, Orreco, Pocket Anatomy, Loci Orthopedics, Animated Language Learning and RealSim. The BIC provides business supports and facilities including labs and co-working spaces. This community of entrepreneurs is creating jobs and attracting investment.
- **BioExel** is Ireland's first med-tech accelerator, offering an intensive six-month programme to nascent companies. The first cohort of six companies each receive €95,000 in funding and a raft of support to achieve investor-ready stage. The next cohort of companies are being recruited now through an international campaign. www.bioxel.ie

For industry



The Innovation Office is one of the University's main interfaces with industry. The team run numerous meetings, workshops, networking events and conferences each year to grow the University's reputation with industry.

Technologies developed on campus are actively marketed to industry, resulting in licensing deals with financial benefits to the inventors and the University.

During negotiations with industry, the legal experts within the team work diligently to protect the interests of researcher and of the University.

The Innovation Office is also an active member of industry groups and organisations.



€16.25m - funding raised by NUI Galway spin-outs in 2018



17 - spin-outs in the last 5 years



40+ - start-ups based on campus



5,000 - staff, students and alumni engaged by LaunchPad



242 - R&D collaborations with industry in the last 5 years



Follow Us

- @NUIInnovation
- @BioExel
- @LaunchPadNUIG
- @EXPLOREnuig



www.linkedin.com/company/nui-galway-innovation/

Contact Us

So, if you have an innovative idea which may have economic or societal impact, or if your research has commercial potential – get in touch with us today!

- T: 091 493 694
- E: innovation@nuigalway.ie
- www.nuigalway.ie/innovation

Outstanding Alumni

Storm Ophelia may have postponed this year's gala, but she didn't spoil the party as the Bailey Allen Hall filled out in May to honour some of our most distinguished alumni. This year, the awards recognised six graduates who have achieved excellence in the fields of publishing, marketing, business, politics, surgery, sport and poetry, including some of Galway's most recognisable faces! Pictured at the gala banquet are (back row, l-r): consultant cardiologist, Professor Declan Sugrue; former Labour leader, Pat Rabbitte; TV presenter and Gala host, Gráinne McElwain; Coca-Cola VP of Science, Bernard McGuinness; Tramp Press co-founder, Lisa Coen; and Galway hurling legend, Joe Connolly; (front row, l-r): CEO Text100, Aedhmar Hynes; President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh; and poet and literary scholar, Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh.



Communication Queens

Our Marketing and Communications Office was named Best Small Communications Team at the recent US-based Ragan and PR Daily's Ace Awards. It recognised the success of the media campaign surrounding the visit of The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall to the University in 2015. Other winners on the night included some major international brands, including Microsoft and Cisco. Press and Information Officer, Michelle Ní Chróinín, is pictured here holding the award, with colleagues Neasa O'Shea and Sheila Gorham. The *Ollscéala* team always knew these ladies were special – but now we have the proof!

Employability Awards

The University's inaugural Employability Awards Ceremony acknowledged 56 students and their outstanding efforts in developing skills for the workplace. The students were presented with award certificates by President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, and were introduced by Josephine Walsh who has spearheaded the development of the employability programme as Head of the Career Development Centre. Employer partners have indicated that students' confidence and their ability to articulate skills developed through the award will make recruitment of our graduates more attractive.



Three Fulbright Awards

Three colleagues were presented with Fulbright Irish Awards at a recent ceremony in the US Ambassador's Residence in the Phoenix Park. Rita Donnellan (left) will teach the Irish language and take courses at Davidson College, North Carolina; Sally McHugh (centre) will conduct a place-based learning project at The Museum of Science, Art and Human Perception in San Francisco; and Jasmine Headlam (right) will research the stinging capabilities of jellyfish at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. We wish our colleagues the best of luck as they embark on these exciting journeys of discovery.

Cambridge Fellowship for Galway Historian

Dr Jackie Uí Chionna (Moore Institute) has been awarded a prestigious fellowship at Cambridge University to pursue her research into University icon Emily Anderson. The Archives By-Fellowship at Churchill College Cambridge will enable her to focus on Anderson's time in the UK, where she worked on intelligence for the British Secret Service during World War I, ultimately becoming the foremost female code breaker of her generation. It is a fascinating aspect of a truly remarkable life, which saw Anderson becoming Galway's first Professor of German and publishing the first English language translations of Beethoven and Mozart's letters.

Our Excellent Researchers

Congratulations to the seven inspiring staff who were presented with the President's Awards for Research Excellence at this year's Research and Innovation Symposium. The winners were each nominated by colleagues for the high standards and dedication they give each day to their work. This year's winners in the Early Career Researcher category were: Dr Aideen Ryan (Medicine), Dr Ted Vaughan (Engineering), and Dr Gerry Molloy (Psychology). The Established Career category was won by Dr Alison Forrestal (History) and Professor Colin O'Dowd (Physics). This year two staff were awarded in the Research Supervisor category: Dr Caroline Heary (Psychology) and Professor Michel Destrade (Mathematics). We join with colleagues across the University in congratulating them and thanking them for their continued commitment to excellence.



Celebrating Societal Impact

Congratulations to the three individuals and one team who were successful in winning the inaugural President's Award for Societal Impact. These awards were created to recognise those staff who go that extra step to make a positive impact in the world around us, through their teaching, research, volunteering and activism. Individual awards were presented to Dr Edward Curry (Engineering and Informatics) for his contributions to the European Big Data Value Association; Dr Frances Fahy (Geography) for her efforts in influencing environmental priorities; and Dr Muriel Grenon (School of Natural Sciences) who has been tirelessly promoting science to young people, in particular through the successful Cell EXPLORERS Programme. The Team Award went to the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children team of Professor Saoirse Nic Gabhainn, Dr Colette Kelly and Dr Michal Molcho, whose surveys of children's health, habits and environment have been hugely influential in improving public policy in the area.

Encouraging Women Leaders

In collaboration with the 30% Club, the University is offering two scholarships to encourage women in leadership. The scholarships are targeted at high potential women in two part-time Masters courses, the Executive MBA and the MSc in Technology Management. Irish businesses compare badly when it comes to female representation at board level, with an average of only 12.5% women compared to 23% in the US. The 30% Club is a collaborative business-led effort that aims to have 30% female representation in senior management and on boards by 2020.

Giving Voice to Patients

With increased interest in public and patient involvement (PPI) in health and social care research, the recent launch of the PPI Ignite @ NUI Galway programme, funded by the HRB, is timely. PPI means that the people about whom research is being conducted are directly involved in and shape decisions about all aspects of the research. Led by Professor Seán Dinneen, PPI Ignite @ NUI Galway aims to build PPI capacity in the University, providing training, advice and support to researchers on how to include the voice and perspective of the public in planning and conducting research. Pictured at the programme launch were: Professor Seán Dinneen and Edel Murphy (Medicine) with Dr Oonagh Ward (Health Research Board).





Cell EXPLORERS spreads nationwide

Since beginning as a pilot project back in 2012 as part of the EXPLORE initiative, Cell EXPLORERS has continued to grow from strength to strength and now has a network of partner institutions nationwide. Cell EXPLORERS brings fun and inspiring experiments to schools and public events across Ireland to increase the public's engagement with STEM. The new network will help grow the project's impact. Congratulations to Dr Muriel Grenon (Biochemistry) and the Cell EXPLORERS crew for their continued success.

WEEE came, WEEE saw, WEEE recycled!

Buildings and Estates collected 23 tonnes of electrical waste during a very successful WEEE Recycling Event in campus. The event was attended by Mayor of Galway, Niall Mc Nelis, who is pictured here with organisers and recycling champions, Lorraine Rushe and Noel O'Connor (Buildings and Estates). For Lorraine, it was one of the highlights of the year: "I was delighted with the turnout. Holding free recycling events like this on campus gives people the opportunity to get rid of any electrical and battery waste in a safe and environmentally friendly manner."



Student Sustainability Leaders

Three students were awarded Student Sustainability Leadership Awards as part of the University's drive to advance student participation in sustainability efforts on campus. The students will share the €10,000 prize and undertake summer internships with the NUI Galway Community and University Sustainability Project team (CUSP) to gain experience in sustainability related research application, networking, and communication with experts in the field. The winning students – Seán Harkin, Enda Gilgarriff and Róisín Doherty – are pictured here with Michelle O'Dowd Lohan (front), who is Sustainability Engagement Associate with the Ryan Institute.



LGBT+ STEM Day

Members of the University's LGBT+ Network joined together to celebrate the first ever International LGBT+ STEM Day in July. The event included a coffee morning, an LGBT+ STEMinar and a late night Table Quiz in aid of Galway Pride. Speaking about the significance of the event, Chris Noone, Psychology lecturer and co-chair of LGBT+ Staff Network, said: "It is well documented that staff and students within the STEM disciplines face added difficulty in being out compared to those in other disciplines."

Earth Calling Jupiter

Eight rural schools in Galway, Roscommon and Mayo will have the opportunity to observe the planet Jupiter as part of a €9.95 million project funded by the European Commission under Horizon 2020. The Europlanet Consortium will install planetary radio telescopes on the school grounds with the aim of inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers. Project leader, Dr Aaron Golden (Mathematics) is very excited about the opportunities it offers children: "Radio astronomy offers a very cost effective alternative for teachers and students to participate in the wider astronomical community's study of this most fascinating of the solar system's planets."

Let's Talk Cancer

A new EXPLORE project led by PhD student Eimear O'Reilly, and Dr Eva Szegezdi and Professor Afshin Samali (Apoptosis Research Centre) aims to tackle 'fake news' about cancer and its risk factors. The Let's Talk Cancer project will ask the public to decide which topics they would like to see explained through short, snappy animations, using knowledge garnered from experts in the field. Eimear hopes to dispel the numerous cancer myths, and replace fake news and estimates, with facts and expertise!

The View from Around Campus



Military Honour: Brigadier-General Paul Pakenham presented the Military Heritage of Ireland Trust annual essay prize to Mark Scannell at Collins Barracks Dublin. Mark is completing a PhD in History on Irish Catholic officers in the British army 1840-1912 under the supervision of Dr Pádraig Lenihan



Making the most of our landscape: This year over forty Botany and Plant Science students completed the second year field course at the University's Carron Research Station in the Burren. The field courses are led by Dr Dara Stanley who sent in this sunny snap



The things we expect from our external examiners! Dr Margaret Hodgkins (Health Promotion) sent in this photo from Lough Cultra where she and Professor Rachel Dixey went for a mile swim this summer. Professor Dixey was visiting Galway from Leeds Beckett University to act as external examiner on the MA in Health Promotion.



BOC Awards: Dr Luca Ronconi (Chemistry) sent in this photo from this year's BOC Gases awards to two outstanding PhD students. The winners – Naghmeh Kamali and Yannick Casamayou-Boucau – are pictured in the middle with James Welch (BOC Gases) on the left, and Luca on the right.



BioPharma star: Professor Alan Ryder (Chemistry) sent in this photo of PhD student, Marina Steiner-Browne, who won best poster at the BioPharma Ambition conference. Parabéns, Marina!



Connacht Champions: Thanks to Dr Jim Lenaghan (Education) for this photo of the NUI Galway U20s who triumphed at the Connacht Rugby Summer 10s Series Tournament in September.



Farewell Mary: In September, we bid farewell to Mary Concar who spent the last 34 years working for the Buildings and Estates team in the Quadrangle. We join with her friends in Earth and Ocean Sciences, in the Staff Club and across the University in wishing Mary a rewarding retirement.



Galway Pride: Dr Chris Noone, Professor Anne Scott, Dr David McNamara and President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh joined students and colleagues to mark Galway Pride by raising the rainbow flag outside the Quadrangle in August.



Gold for the Geec: This happy team of Engineering students and their Geec car were awarded first place for technical innovation at Europe's premier competition for ultra-efficient vehicles, Shell Eco-marathon Europe.

KELLIE'S TALKS



This adorable photo was submitted by Kellie Heney, a graduate of our MSc in Marine and Coastal Environments. It was taken at Bearna Pier this summer during a rescue effort by students of the Masters programme who came across the stranded common seal pup. The orphaned pup was left stranded, starving and alone but the quick-witted students came to the rescue before the tide could sweep her away. Together, they transported her back to Galway City so she could begin her journey to Seal Rescue Ireland and rehabilitation. Well done Kellie and co!

Desktop Diary

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

Christmas Holidays

While some of us try not to think too much about Christmas, it's always good to plan ahead! Here are some dates for your diary... This Christmas, the University will:

- **Close at 5pm on Friday, 21 December 2018**
- **Re-open at 9am on Wednesday, 2 January 2019**

This will require four days' leave from your 2018 allocation to cover the Christmas break. Staff who log their time on CoreTime have already had these days deducted from their allocation.

First impressions last

The Student Recruitment and Outreach team would like to thank all of those staff who took part in the Open Days in October. Measuring effectiveness of recruitment events is a critical

component of the planning and review process and after each event the team surveys attendees about their experience. The findings show that our Undergraduate Open Days are a key driver of university choice.

A recent survey found the proportion of Open Day students who are 'very likely' to choose to study at NUI Galway increases from 21% to 61% after attending Open Day (March, 2018). While 21% of students surveyed were unsure of what subjects they wanted to study before attending Open Day, it drops to 11% afterwards. Student feedback highlighted the warm welcome and atmosphere, as well as the enjoyable experience and environment during their campus visit.

Over 8,500 students register for Undergraduate Open Days each year, making up 74% of the prospective students that engage with the University at events on or off campus. They have access to more material



than ever before to inform their university decision. Open Days encourage a deeper consideration of their course of interest, giving them a taste of campus and city life and helping them find their 'fit' with the University. Their final decision is often emotionally driven, and the welcome and experience that we provide on Open Day is the single greatest opportunity in the recruitment cycle to connect with and build a relationship with our future students.

If you have any comments or queries in relation to Open Days email: niamh.connolly@nuigalway.ie