



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh

# NEWS LETTERS

## Onwards & Upwards

*The University jumped 53 places in the recent Times Higher Education World University Rankings, rising to 261st in the world, and third place nationally. Read more inside about how we are bucking the national trend.*

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... and more!

# OLLSCÉALA

## Focal ón Uachtarán



### A Chairde,

For the second year in a row I am delighted to begin the academic session with the really good news of NUI Galway's increased position in the global rankings... so the year is already off to an encouraging start!

### Rankings

NUI Galway has risen significantly in this year's Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings. Jumping 53 places on last year's position, we're now ranked 261st in the world – and third in Ireland.

For the second time this year, we are the only university in Ireland to improve our position in respected international rankings. Last month we bucked the national trend by rising to 280th place in the QS World University Rankings, and this sustained upward trajectory is testament to the ambition and drive shared across our University.

This is great news for Galway. Despite significant cuts and increased student numbers, we have gone against the tide to secure a consistent improvement in what are very competitive rankings.

Of course, you cannot measure the value and worth of a university in rankings alone, and many of the factors that make NUI Galway a unique and excellent place to study and work are not taken into account. That said, we can be confident that our sustained rise in these rankings is being noticed beyond our Galway campus – in Ireland and abroad, and there's no doubt that it will have a positive impact on our ability to attract international students, in particular.

### President's Awards

Of course, to build our reputation, real commitment is required from all staff. I am delighted to be able to acknowledge and recognise the many colleagues who deliver excellent performance in their daily work. It has been a priority for me to establish programmes which

showcase and reward such excellence. We now have Awards schemes for all of our staff across the range of University activity: teaching, research, technical and administrative support.

At the Autumn conferring ceremonies later this month, I will present eighteen of our colleagues with their Awards for Teaching Excellence:

- Vincent O'Connell - School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures
- Dr Brendan Mac Mahon – School of Education
- Anna-Louise Hinds - School of Law
- Dr Mark Lang - School of Physics
- Dr John Murray - School of Natural Sciences
- Team Award: Pharmacology - Dr Eilís Dowd (Lead), Brendan Beatty, Prof Larry Egan, Dr Howard Fearnhead, Prof David Finn, Dr Maura Grealy, Prof John Kelly, Dr Danny Kerr, Susan McAlinden, Dr Declan McKernan, Coralie Mureau, Ambrose O'Halloran, Una Ryan

Congratulations to these dedicated teachers whose work is supported by technical and administrative staff as particularly highlighted in the Team Award!

Earlier in the summer, I presented the inaugural **President's Awards for Research**, which recognise academic and research staff who have made outstanding contributions to research. The winners in each of the three categories were:

## Familiar Faces



1. Olympic sprinter Paul Hession from Athenry was one of 120 medical students conferred in June. He also received a Final Medical Medal for Outstanding Sporting Achievement from the University.
2. At the official launch of Galway city's Culture Night in the Orbsen Building in September were: actor and writer, Pádraic Breathnach; Mayor of Galway City, Cllr Dónal Lyons; and Galway City Arts Officer, James Harrold.
3. **Teaching Hero Awards:** At a special ceremony in Dublin Castle in September, Dr Deirdre Curran (Management) and Dr Mark Lang (Physics) were recognised as Teaching Heroes by their students. The national awards celebrate passion for teaching and dedication to students, and are organised by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and the Union of Students in Ireland. Dr Lang is pictured here with USI President Laura Harmon; Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan TD; the Patron of the National Forum, Professor Mary McAleese; and Chair of the Forum, Professor Sarah Moore.

## Early Stage Researcher Award (up to 8 years post PhD)

- Dr Shane Darcy – School of Law
- Dr Martin O'Halloran – School of Engineering & Informatics

## Established Researcher Award

- Dr Mary Louise Coolahan – School of Humanities
- Joint winners: Prof. Donal O'Regan - School of Mathematics, Statistics & Applied Maths and Prof. Henry Curran – School of Chemistry

## Research Supervisor Award

- Prof. Afshin Samali – School of Natural Sciences
- Dr Mark Healy - School of Engineering & Informatics

And finally, last month we launched a recognition scheme for support staff – **the President's Awards for Support Service Excellence**. Further details are available at [www.nuigalway.ie/passe](http://www.nuigalway.ie/passe) and I encourage all staff to nominate worthy colleagues for recognition. The winners will be announced in the coming months.

## Visitors to Campus

Already this year we've had a number of high-profile visitors to our campus. Last month, I welcomed the mayors of Boston and Seattle to the campus. You can read more about their visits on page 10.

Other notable visitors included the President and members of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) who held a meeting on campus to coincide with the launch of *Connemara and Elsewhere* by Tim Robinson, John Elder and Nicolas Fève. The book was edited by Professor Jane Conroy MRIA, and published by the RIA with support from Galway University Foundation. In the company of the authors, editor and colleagues from the RIA, the book was launched on 30 September by RTÉ's Vincent Woods. On the same day an international symposium was held on campus and a major exhibition was unveiled to honour the achievements of cartographer, writer, member of the RIA, and honorary graduate of NUI Galway, Tim Robinson. The exhibition, **Interpreting Landscape: Tim Robinson and the West of Ireland** will run until 31 January 2015 in the Foyer of the Hardiman Building.

## Strategic Plan

Work continues on the next chapter of the University's development, as our new Strategic Plan 2015-2020 nears completion. After extensive consultation over the past year, Údarás na hOllscoile will consider and, hopefully, approve the Plan before Christmas. The Plan promises to be bold and ambitious in outlook, and it builds upon the considerable successes we've achieved during the period of our current plan. Thanks to your tremendous efforts, we have created a platform of success and I look forward to sharing the new plan with colleagues in the near future.

Tá mé ag súil le bliain ghnóthach agus bliain thorthúil amach romhainn agus muid ag obair le chéile chun mórán tionscadail a thabhairt chun críche. I continue to be inspired by colleagues who consistently show their passion and commitment to enhancing NUI Galway's reputation and performance.

Beir bua agus beannacht,

**James J. Browne PhD, DSc, MRIA, C.Eng**  
*Uachtarán – President*



Tá Focal ón Uachtarán le fáil ar líne agus go dátheangach: [nuigalway.ie/president/reports.html](http://nuigalway.ie/president/reports.html)

## Appointments



### New CEO of Insight

The University is delighted to welcome Oliver Daniels as the new CEO of the Insight Centre for Data Analytics. He joins Insight from Avaya, where he has served as Leader of Research and Development for Contact Centre Applications for the last five years. During that time he was responsible for leading the software engineering teams as they developed innovative applications for both cloud and on-premises solutions. Oliver brings to the post a total of 27 years of expertise in industry and R&D in Ireland, the UK and France, experience that will be crucial in deepening the close co-operation between industry and the universities involved in Insight. Oliver takes up his new post on 31 October, and will be based at NUI Galway. Hear Oliver's reaction and vision for the post at: [www.nuigalway.ie/newinsightceo](http://www.nuigalway.ie/newinsightceo)

### IMF Appointment

Professor Alan Ahearne (Economics) was appointed as External Advisor to the Strategy, Practice and Review Department of the International Monetary Fund. He will advise IMF senior management on how the Fund could better support the efforts of countries at all levels of income to boost growth and create jobs.

### UN Appointment

The Irish Centre for Human Rights has welcomed the appointment of its Honorary Chairman, Professor William Schabas, to a new UN Commission of Inquiry set up to investigate purported violations of international human rights laws in the Gaza Strip earlier this year.



### New Chaplain

The University welcomed its new Chaplain to campus in July. Fr Ben Hughes, who replaces Fr Patrick O'Donohue, is looking forward to joining the Chaplaincy Team and "providing space for wellbeing, healing and transformation" for our students. He holds a PhD from Trinity College Dublin in the area of Social Work and Social Policy.



## GUESTS OF HONOUR

Summer saw a number of esteemed visitors coming to campus, as the University held two separate honorary conferring ceremonies. As well as the annual Summer Honorary Conferring Ceremony, a special event was held during Galway Races Week to celebrate the massive contribution that the horse racing industry makes to Galway city and region.

### Racing Royalty

On Galway Plate Day in July, two legends of the horse racing industry were made honorary graduates of the University in a ceremony that drew family, friends and fans of the sport from across the country.

**Jim Bolger** (pictured above left) received his honour in recognition of over five decades of exceptional horse breeding and training. A Wexford native, Bolger has developed one of the world's most acclaimed horse training centres in his Glebe House base in Coolcullen, in neighbouring Co. Kilkenny. At the conferring ceremony, Professor Michael Kerin (Medicine) described Bolger's status in the horse racing industry: "The elite realm of international flat racing is dominated by wealthy sheikhs, royalty and commercial conglomerates, but Jim Bolger has fashioned a unique empire based on his eye for a horse, intellect, enthusiasm, ambition and hard work."

**Dermot Weld** (pictured above right) is one of Ireland's most renowned racehorse trainers, at home and abroad, with a history of triumphing in Ballybrit. His successes speak for themselves: he has trained over 3,700 winners, including 22 European Classic race winners, regular wins at Cheltenham and Royal Ascot, and a leg of one of America's famous Triple Crown. He holds the record of 17 winners over seven days at the Galway Races. At the conferring ceremony, Dr John Newell (Mathematics) described how his attachment to Galway began at just nine years of age when he led his father's horse, Highfield Lad, into the winner's enclosure after victory in the Galway Plate. Six years later, Dermot would ride his first ever winner, steering Ticonderoga to victory in the Galway Amateur Handicap.

### A Lifetime of Excellence

In June, honorary degrees were conferred upon three individuals for their achievements in the worlds of politics, science, business and defence.

Outgoing EU Commissioner, **Máire Geoghegan-Quinn**, received her honorary degree in recognition of her massive contribution to Irish and European politics, science and research. A native of Carna, she has served the west of Ireland with distinction as a TD for Galway West and as the first female cabinet minister since the foundation of the State. Her role spear-heading the Research, Innovation and Science agenda in Europe has seen her visiting our campus and research facilities many times, and she has been a strong advocate for the Irish research community over the years in Brussels.

Recently retired Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces, **Lieutenant General Seán McCann** was among the first of the Cadet classes to attend what

was then UCG, and he graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1974. In a lifetime committed to the military, he has served overseas on six occasions and led the Defence Forces during the first deployment of Irish personnel to Mali and Syria in particularly challenging environments. He was honoured in recognition of the strong relationship between the Army and NUI Galway since 1969, a tradition that is valued as much today as ever.

**Finian O'Sullivan** was conferred with a Degree of Doctor of Science in recognition of his business success, in particular in the oil and gas industry. He has worked around the globe exploring, developing and distributing hydrocarbon resources in Asia, Africa and Europe. Entrepreneurial to the bone, Finian established his own company, Burren Energy Plc, which he sold in 2008 in a deal that valued the company at over €2 billion. A Science graduate of NUI Galway, he was also an Alumni Award Winner here in 2009.



Lt. Gen. Seán McCann, EU Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, President Jim Browne and entrepreneur Finian O'Sullivan, as the honorary graduates received their scrolls.

## Our Rising Reputation



NUI Galway was the only Irish university to rise in both the Times Higher Education and the QS World University Rankings in September. We jumped 53 places in the THE rankings, increasing our position to 261st in the world, and leapfrogging UCC to be rated third nationally. The QS rankings saw us rise to 280th position globally. President Browne put the rises in context: “As the only Irish university again to increase our position in both rankings, it is beyond doubt that our position globally is on the rise. Despite significant cuts in overall funding at third-level in Ireland and increased student numbers, our University has gone against the tide to secure a consistent improvement in these very competitive rankings.” These are the most respected university rankings in the world and have global reach. The Times Higher Education rankings are based on the world’s largest academic reputation survey, with more than 10,000 academics asked to rate the world’s best universities on 13 separate criteria covering teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. Of course no ranking system can measure the true worth of a university, but our upward trajectory points to a consistent rise in our international reputation.

## Campus open for business

Two recent news stories have highlighted the University’s success in driving business and innovation.

### Apica Sale

In July, Apica Cardiovascular – a medtech firm based in our Business Innovation Centre – sold for \$75 million. It was bought by the NASDAQ-listed company Thoratec, a world leader in mechanical circulatory support therapies for failing hearts. In a move that strongly endorses the facilities and supports for businesses on campus, the Apica team will be retained in full at the Business Innovation Centre and it is likely that Apica will increase employment there over time. Reacting to news of the sale, Daniel O’Mahony, a Partner with Seroba Kernel who helped set up Apica, said the sale reinforces Galway’s position as a world-class hub for medtech development.

### Industry-Academia Partnerships

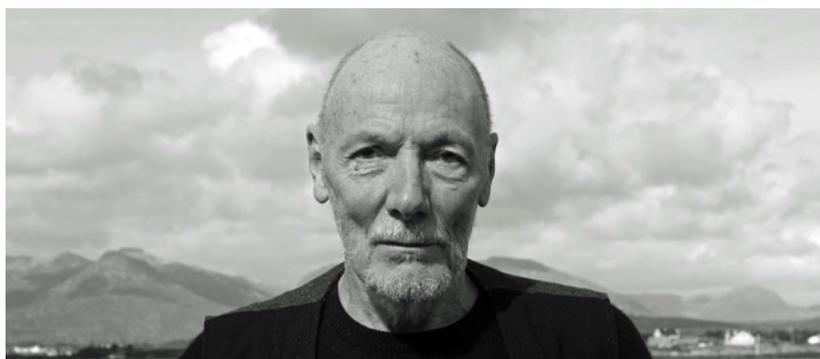
In June, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD, announced over €1.7 million to support twenty new SFI-funded partnerships between industry and academia, with three projects based here at NUI Galway. Professor Manfred Hauswirth (DERI) will work with Siemens AG Österreich on the ‘Internet of Things’ and smart city environments; Dr Thérèse Mahony (Microbiology) will partner with Westway Health to work on treatments for bovine Johne’s Disease; and Dr Daniel O’Toole (Anaesthesia) will work with Orbsen Therapeutics to develop cell products for Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome.

## Committed to Civic Engagement

In June, President Browne signed the 10-point Campus Engage Charter on Civic and Community Engagement on behalf of the University. The national charter underscores the commitment of every higher education institution to engage openly with their community and wider society. NUI Galway is already playing a leading role in promoting the values of civic engagement, through a range of volunteering and service learning initiatives organised through the Community Knowledge Initiative in the University.



## Celebrating Tim Robinson



September saw the launch of ‘Interpreting Landscape: Tim Robinson and the West of Ireland’ in the Hardiman Building foyer. The exhibition celebrates the maps, books and photos of Connemara-based cartographer and author Tim Robinson, and draws from his life-long archive of work which is now housed in the University. A special day of events was organised to coincide with the start of the exhibition, including the launch by Vincent Woods of *Connemara and Elsewhere*. The book, which was edited by Jane Conroy, features an introduction by John Elder, stunning photos by Nicolas Fève (including the photo featured here), and previously unpublished essays by Tim Robinson. The exhibition runs until the end of January.



## RESEARCH IN ACTION

**Our researchers work across disciplines and through partnerships to make discoveries that have impact on the world around us. Here's a taste of some of that research in action.**

Marine biologist, Dr Louise Allcock, has contributed to a new atlas of marine life, launched recently in New Zealand. The **largest ever audit of life in the Southern Ocean** took four years to compile, and includes information on over 9,000 species. Dr Allcock is author of two chapters in the atlas: the first focusing on octopuses, a subject on which she is one of the world's leading authorities; and the second explores bipolarity, the phenomenon where a species exists both in Antarctica and the Arctic.

Scientists from the Centre for Chromosome Biology have been involved in a new international study that explains **how blood production declines with age**. Published in Nature magazine in July, the research may provide ways of mitigating the effects of ageing on the blood, which can lead to diseases such as anaemia and bone marrow failure. Led by the University of California, San Francisco, the study was made

in collaboration between scientists in the USA and Europe, including Dr Pauline Conroy and Professor Ciarán Morrison in Galway.

In another breakthrough in our understanding of the body, a research team led by HRB Clinician Scientist, Professor Michael O'Dwyer, and Professor Lokesh Joshi of the University's Glycoscience Group has identified an enzyme that has a key role in **the spread and survival of blood cancer cells**. The discovery, which was published in the internationally acclaimed journal Blood, has the potential to improve treatments of multiple myeloma, a cancer of the blood that results from an overproduction of the white blood cells that produce antibodies. There are about 240 new cases of multiple myeloma diagnosed each year in Ireland.

The Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI) and Irish start-up Poly-Pico Technologies have

successfully executed an exciting new scientific proof-of-concept involving **the use of sound waves to dispense living stem cells**. Using the Poly-Pico micro-drop dispensing device, the researchers were able to isolate individual adult stem cells from a bone marrow sample. The device uses sound energy to accurately dispense a wide range of fluids and materials at very low volumes and has the potential to reduce the time and cost it takes to isolate individual stem cells.

New research led by Dr Thomas Ritter (REMEDI) is using adult stem cells in **the fight against cornea transplant rejection**. Corneal eye disease is the fourth most common cause of blindness in the world and 100,000 people worldwide undergo cornea transplant procedures each year. The new research is part of a pan-European project which aims to improve the 30% success rate of these transplants by opening up new avenues of treatment to prevent transplant rejection.



Scientists in the Apoptosis Research Centre (ARC) recently demonstrated a novel mechanism by which **cells can be rescued from inevitable death**. Dr Adrienne Gorman's research group, publishing in one of the leading cell death journals – Cell Death and Disease – showed how death-inducing caspase enzymes can be sent to the cellular trash can, allowing cells to recover function and survive. These findings have important implications for neurodegenerative diseases. Dr Gorman is pictured (right) with fellow biochemist Dr Katarzyna Mnich.



Researchers in the University's Animal Ecology and Conservation Group have asked the public to help in a **quest to find out more about the elusive Irish stoat**. One of Ireland's true native species, the Irish stoat has been present on the island since before the last Ice Age, yet relatively little is known about them. The project is being spearheaded by PhD student Laura O'Flynn and Dr Colin Lawton (Zoology) in collaboration with the Vincent Wildlife Trust, a charity that has been at the forefront of mammal conservation in Ireland and the UK for over 35 years.



Recently published research indicates that the current recommended maximum intake of sodium is too low, and may even be unsafe. In two reports, the research shows that a careful balance is needed between too much and too little salt intake. Lead author on one of the reports, Professor Martin O'Donnell (HRB Clinical Research Facility), explains that **low sodium intake can have negative effects** including elevations of certain hormones associated with cardiovascular disease. The study is the largest of its kind ever conducted, involving 18 countries and more than 100,000 people.

Read more on these stories by searching:  
[nuigalway.ie/about-us/news-and-events/news-archive](https://nuigalway.ie/about-us/news-and-events/news-archive)



## RESEARCH GATHERINGS

It has been an exceptionally busy summer of conferences, seminars and workshops all across campus. Here's a sample of what went on.

At a recent symposium in the Aula Maxima, Professor Éamon O'Shea (pictured above) launched a report highlighting **the positive effect of reminiscence therapy for dementia sufferers**. The report by the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology shows the important role reminiscence can play in improving the quality of life of people with dementia in long-stay care. The results come from the largest trial of its kind internationally, carried out over three years and involving 300 dementia sufferers. Professor O'Shea explained that "everyone gains through a more person-centred approach to care in long-stay settings."

September saw Galway Harbour, and the Aula Maxima, taken over by robotic sailing fans, when Galway hosted the **World Robotic Sailing Championship and the International Robotic Sailing Conference**. The event saw teams from Galway, Wales, Finland, France, Portugal, the US and Russia racing their fully autonomous and unmanned sailing boats, up to 2.5m in length. The US Naval Academy were overall winners with their boat SeaQuester. Congratulations to Dr Fearghal Morgan (Electrical and Electronic Engineering) and Dermot Tynan of Hewlett-Packard for organising such an entertaining week.

A **symposium on youth development and sport** took place in August, organised by three UNESCO Chairs in the field of youth studies from NUI Galway (Professor Pat Dolan), University of Ulster and Penn State University. Held in Croke Park, delegates heard of the pressing need for innovative strategies to engage youth around the world. According to the

symposium organisers, with half of the world's population aged 25 or younger and with 85% of those living in less developed countries, active engagement of youth is essential to international security and stability.

A conference in June raised awareness of best practice in **responding to child to parent violence**. Declan Coogan (School of Political Science and Sociology) described the issue as "a hidden but growing social problem in Ireland and across Europe." The conference aimed to assist social workers, psychologists, psychotherapists, juvenile justice practitioners and others working with children and families to develop skills in addressing the problem. It was organised on campus as part of the EU-funded DAPHNE programme across five countries called the Responding to Child to Parent Violence project.

The 12th Galway **Symposium on Higher Education** took place in Áras Moyola in June. This year the focus was on fieldwork, practical and experiential learning, with presentations on different forms of active engagement and how they can enhance the student learning experience. Keynote speaker, Dr Helen Walkington, previous head of Geography, Earth and Environmental Studies at the UK's Higher Education Academy, discussed how students can participate in, and learn from, research, and this was followed by a series of workshops, practical demonstrations and exhibits.

History hosted an **international conference on World War I** to mark the 100th anniversary of its beginning. The theme of the conference was

'Small Nations and Colonial Peripheries' and it focused on how the war impacted peoples, such as the Irish, who found themselves on the edge of great powers and empires. Twelve speakers discussed how the war linked ordinary men and women from across the world to what began as a European conflict.

The 18th annual **Health Promotion Research Centre Summer Conference** took place in Áras Moyola in June, with a series of lectures, workshops and presentations that focused on 'Applying the Principles of Health Promotion to Population Health Improvement', particularly in Ireland. At the conference, keynote speaker, Professor Louise Potvin of the Université de Montréal, argued for interventions in public health to be based on clear good-quality research that includes the innovative practices used by practitioners and community organisations to improve wellbeing in their localities.

The Moore Institute hosted the annual **International Chartism Conference** in July, on the theme 'Ireland and British Democracy'. Delegates explored the positive and negative ways in which Irish nationalism and the British radical movement, Chartism, coalesced in the mid-nineteenth century. The conference was organised by Dr Laurence Marley (History) and launched by Professor David Lloyd of the University of California in the Mechanics' Institute on Middle Street, Galway city.

In September, the J. E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics hosted the **Irish Society of New Economists Conference**.

Over 70 economists presented their research from 33 universities and research organisations across Europe and the US. The conference was opened by Professor Alan Ahearne, Head of Economics at NUI Galway and External Advisor to the IMF, and keynote speeches were delivered by Professor Ciaran O'Neill (Economics) and Professor John Fitzgerald from the ESRI.

Distinguished political scientist and Visiting Fellow at the Moore Institute, Professor Brendan O'Leary of the University of Pennsylvania, delivered a public lecture on campus as part of the **President of Ireland's Ethics Initiative**. The speech focused on power-sharing in 'deeply divided places' with special reference to Iraq and Northern Ireland. Born in Cork, Professor

O'Leary is the author of numerous highly-regarded books and articles on conflict and peacemaking, and he has been directly involved in efforts to design new structures of government in Iraq and Northern Ireland.

A one-day technology fair entitled **'Synapse//a Tech Carnival'** brought ICT employers from around Galway and Ireland to the Bailey Allen Hall for a fun and informative exchange of ideas. Organised by students for students, the event featured keynote speakers from Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft and Avaya. Event organiser, David Renton, came up with the idea to showcase the west of Ireland as an exciting place to study and work in Information and Communications Technologies.

Ireland's largest surgical conference, the **Sir Peter Freyer Memorial Lecture and Surgical Symposium**, was held in September. Internationally renowned surgeon, Dr John Birkmeyer of the University of Michigan, delivered the Memorial Lecture entitled 'Strategies for Improving the Quality of Surgical Care'. The focus of Dr Birkmeyer's talk was on his research work aimed at understanding variation in hospital outcomes and cost-efficiency, and strategies for improvement.

View our upcoming conferences at: [www.conference.ie](http://www.conference.ie)



A special event was held in June to mark the bequest to the University of an extensive collection of books belonging to **circus owner Henry Ringling North** of the famous Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. The collection of 1,200 volumes from his personal collection will be available through the Library's Special Collections and Archives, and will contribute to current and future teaching and research programmes. Photographed with one volume from the collection are (left to right): John Cox, University Librarian; Maurizio de la Feld; Shirley North, Henry Ringling North's daughter-in-law; President Jim Browne; Ondine de la Feld, Henry Ringling North's niece; and Gearóid Ó Conluain, Rúnaí na hOllscoile.



Pictured are speakers and organisers at June's **conference on the Great Famine** held in Ballinasloe. The conference was a collaboration between the School of Geography and Archaeology at NUI Galway, the Department of Heritage and Tourism at GMIT, the Heritage Office of Galway County Council, Galway County Heritage Forum and Quinnipiac University in the US. The conference committee consisted of Maggie Ronayne (Archaeology); Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer of Galway County Council; Dr Mark McCarthy, Heritage Studies at GMIT; and Dr Christy Cunniffe, Galway County Council. Photo: Gerry Stronge.



Over 130 delegates from 24 countries attended an **international conference on Power Electronics for Distributed Generation Systems (PEDG 2014)** held in the Engineering Building in June. Delegates included (pictured left to right): Patrick Kirby, ESB ecars; Professor Gerard Hurley (Electrical and Electronic Engineering); Ger Buckley, Electro-Technical Council of Ireland; Patrick Foley, ESB ecars; and Dr Maeve Duffy (Electrical and Electronic Engineering).



Pictured left, REDDSTAR team members, Grace Davey and Cynthia Coleman, register attendees at the **'Diabetes – it's complicated'** public information event held in Áras Moyola in September. Over 100 people turned up to find out more about Type-2 Diabetes, with staff and students of the School of Nursing and Midwifery offering free foot examinations on the day.



Pictured at June's **seminar on Integrated Reporting** organised by the Whitaker Institute were: Maeve Carton, CRH plc; Rafaeella Bordogna, ENI; Cristiano Busco (Whitaker Institute); Ronan Nolan, President of Chartered Accountants Ireland; Ian Ball, IIRC; and Emer Curtis (Whitaker Institute).

# GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

## A Tale Of Two Cities



### The University welcomed two US Mayors to campus in September, both celebrating the strong links between Galway and their cities.

**Boston** Mayor, Marty Walsh, visited as part of a ten-day trip to Ireland, focussed on Galway and the West. He shares a particularly strong connection to the region as his parents grew up in the Connemara Gaeltacht, before leaving for America. While at the University, Mayor Walsh met with IDA and Irish-American business leaders from the city, discussing opportunities for further business partnerships across the Atlantic. In a poignant reference to his parents' emigration, he talked about the new opportunities for young people in the Galway region: "They have countless models of local business ownership and they have access to third-level education – at costs lower than many American families would believe – that could take them into any career they choose." Later, in a Quadrangle glowing red with Boston ivy, Mayor Walsh chatted with students from Boston University who are on exchange at NUI Galway.

B'as Rosmuc agus Carna i gContae na Gaillimhe iad tuismitheoirí Marty, agus d'fhág siad Éire sna 1950idí le dul go Bostún. Chas John agus Mary Walsh ar a chéile i halla damhsa agus phós siad i bParóiste St. Margaret, Dorchester, áit ar rugadh agus ar tógadh Marty agus a dheartháir Johnny. Tá a mháthair Mary fós ina cónaí ann.

Days later **Seattle** Mayor, Ed Murray, visited Galway with an eighty-strong delegation from our Sister City. Mayor Murray, who has campaigned vigorously for LGBT rights in the US, addressed the School of Law while visiting the University. He went on to be Guest of Honour at the city's Oyster Festival, joining the Seattle Police Department Pipe Band in the festival parade.

## Boston Legal Links

Heads of the Schools of Law at NUI Galway and Suffolk University in Boston, Professors Donncha O'Connell and Camille Nelson, have launched a formal exchange between their Schools. Through this unique link, students have already undertaken a two-month placement, gaining vital practical experience on opposite sides of the Atlantic. For Professor O'Connell the benefits to our students are obvious: "Practical, 'real world' experience is an important component of legal education, especially as the practice of law is increasingly global in nature." He thanked his colleagues Boston native, Larry Donnelly, and Dr Conor Hanly for their work in establishing the new exchange.

## War through a lens

To celebrate 75 years of Irish-Swiss diplomatic relations and the 150th anniversary of the First Geneva Convention, the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the Embassy of Switzerland in Ireland, hosted an exhibition of war photography in the University's Art Gallery – An Dánlann – in June. Entitled 'War from the Victims Perspective', the exhibition displayed 40 photographs from Swiss photographer, Jean Mohr. The images showed victims of conflicts, refugees and communities under threat, illustrating the universal problems faced by people in some of the world's most war-ravaged regions.

## Radio Gold



PhD student and member of the ISS Service Desk team, Thérèse McIntyre, won Gold Medal for Best Radio Programme in the 'Educational' category at this year's New York Festival Awards Gala. Known as the 'Oscars of Radio', Thérèse won the award for 'HerSongs', a series of radio programmes she made as part of her PhD at the Centre for Irish Studies. The programmes, which aired on RTÉ Radio 1, trace the journey of ballads from the 16th century to today and explore how they shape or distort our understanding of history, real events and real people like Henry Joy McCracken in 1798 or Jim Larkin in 1913.

## Soilse, Ceamara, Aicsean!



Don chéad uair i mbliana, beidh cúrsa ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge mar chuid d'Acadamh na hÓige – the Youth Academy. Cuirfear an cúrsa ar fáil do pháistí ardchumasacha sa cheathrú, sa chúigiú agus sa séú rang. Díreofar sa chúrsa seo ar an scéalaíocht don scáileán, agus foghlaiméidh na scoláirí beaga faoin scríbhneoireacht scrípte, faoi chúrsaí eagarthóireachta agus faoin scannánaíocht. Sa phictiúr tá Eilís Ní Dhúill, teagascóir an chúrsa (ar chlé) agus an Dr Ríona Ní Fhrighil (Roinn na Gaeilge) comhordaitheoir acadúil an chúrsa.

## The iBooks Revolution Réabhlóid Sa Rang



Increasingly teachers are introducing iBooks to their classrooms to make learning more flexible and engaging for their students. Funded by COGG (An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta) and Apple, Seán Ó Grádaigh (Education) hosted a three-day course on iBooks Author for second level teachers in June.

Dírítear ar Ghaelcholáistí, d'fhreastal 36 múinteoir ar an gceardlann, agus d'fhoghlaim siad na scileanna atá ag teastáil leis na leabhair leictreonacha seo a scríobh agus a fhoilsiú. Tá taibléid á n-úsáid i bhformhór na nGaelcholáistí anois, agus mar gheall ar easpa acmhainní scoile sa Ghaeilge, bíonn ar mhúinteoirí a n-ábhair féin a chumadh go minic. Sa phictiúr tá (ó chlé) an Dr Mary Fleming, an Dr Brendan Mac Mahon agus Sinéad Ní Ghuidhir (Oideachas), an tOllamh Pól Ó Dochartaigh, Meabhránaí na hOllscoile, agus Seán Ó Grádaigh (Oideachas).

## New Books Leabhair Nua

**The Last Cavalier: Richard Talbot (1631-91)**, by Dr Pádraig Lenihan (History), is the first full-scale biography of Talbot, who attempted to reconcile his fellow Irishmen's allegiance to London and Rome under King James II by, among other things, plotting to assassinate Oliver Cromwell.

**Educating Film-Makers: Past, Present and Future**, co-authored by Rod Stoneman (Huston School of Film and Digital Media), is the first book to examine the history, impact and significance of film education in Britain, Europe and the US.

**Handbook of Research on Employee Voice**, co-edited by Professor Tony Dundon (Management), combines a variety of approaches and research into the means of expressing the views of employees in the workplace.

**Loughrea, That Den of Infamy: The Land War in County Galway, 1879-82**, by Professor Emeritus Pat Finnegan, tells the story of this troublesome time in Irish history, using primary sources, newspapers and official records.

**Undergraduate Topology - A Working Textbook**, co-authored by Dr Aisling McCluskey (Mathematics), offers an accessible and modern introduction at undergraduate level to an area known variously as general topology, point-set topology or analytic topology.

**European Asylum Law and the Rights of the Child**, by Dr Ciara Smyth (Law), addresses the question of whether the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) complies with the rights of the child.

**Judges, Law and War: The Judicial Development of International Humanitarian Law**, by Dr Shane Darcy (Irish Centre for Human Rights), examines how judicial bodies have influenced the substantive rules and principles of the law of armed conflict.

**Challenging Consumption: Pathways towards a more sustainable future**, co-edited by Dr Frances Fahy (Geography) and Dr Henrike Rau (Political Science and Sociology), explores four key themes in sustainable consumption research: Living, Moving, Dwelling and Futures.

## President's Award for Support Service Excellence



Nominations are now being sought for the inaugural Support Service Excellence Awards. The aims of the scheme are to reward the outstanding contribution and excellent performance of staff in the support services and to acknowledge the contribution of support staff to the University's success. The awards can be made to anyone working in a support role anywhere in the University, both individuals and teams. For more information on the awards, please visit: [www.nuigalway.ie/passe](http://www.nuigalway.ie/passe). The closing date for nominations is Friday, 31 October.

So visit the Awards website now, and get nominating!

## Senior Lectureship Promotions

In September, the Registrar announced the successful candidates in the University's recent Senior Lectureship Promotions Scheme. In total, 28 academic staff were promoted in this round, representing 11 Schools and all five Colleges. They are: Dr Thomas Acton and Dr Michael Lang (J. E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics); Dr Fawaz Aldabbagh (School of Chemistry); Dr Aoife Boyd, Dr Gavin Collins, Dr Conor O'Byrne and Dr Dagmar Stengel (School of Natural Sciences); Dr John Breslin, Dr Mark Bruzzi, Dr Jamie Goggins, Dr Mark Healy and Dr Eddie Jones (School of Engineering and Informatics); Dr Molly Byrne and Dr Michael Hogan (School of Psychology); Dr John Canavan, Dr Nata Duvvury and Dr Niall Ó Dochartaigh (School of Political Science and Sociology); Dr Marie-Louise Coolahan (School of Humanities); Dr Eilis Dowd and Dr Maura Grealy (School of Medicine); Dr Aisling McCluskey and Dr Rachel Quinlan (School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Mathematics); Dr John McDonagh, Dr John Morrissey, Dr Kieran O'Connor and Dr Chaosheng Zhang (School of Geography and Archaeology); and Dr Lillis Ó Laoire and Dr John Walsh (School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures). We wish them every success in their new roles. In acknowledgement of the high number of applicants to the Scheme, a review group has been set up to review the application and interview processes in anticipation of the launch of the next round of Senior Lectureship Promotions in autumn 2015.

## How-to-Buy

The Procurement and Contracts Office have launched a brand new website to make staff purchases quicker and easier. The site is broken down into clear step-by-step guides to help users understand the procurement process better. It offers the information and advice needed at each stage, to make sure staff are confident that they are using University contracts properly. Check out the new website now at: [www.nuigalway.ie/how-to-buy](http://www.nuigalway.ie/how-to-buy)

## New easy-to-read Health and Safety Policy

The University's Health and Safety Officer, Alice Daly, invites you to read the updated NUI Galway Safety Statement for 2014. The new Policy is available in a full-colour, pdf format that is more user-friendly and easy to navigate. You can download the Policy at the Health and Safety Office website: [www.nuigalway.ie/health\\_safety](http://www.nuigalway.ie/health_safety)

## In Praise Of... Our Golden Boy



Almost as soon as Civil Engineering lecturer, Dr Eoghan Clifford, had crossed the finish line at the Para-Cycling Road World Championships in South Carolina, the Ollscéala inbox filled up with emails drawing attention to his gold medal win. Two days later he had won his second world title at the Championships, the first cyclist ever to win two golds. All the more remarkable, this was the first time Eoghan had competed at a major championships, and he was called up to the Irish team just two days before they departed for the US. The next week Eoghan was back to the day job, preparing for the new intake of first year students to Engineering. We would like to join with Eoghan's colleagues, supporters and fellow members of the Galway Bay Cycling Club in praising his outstanding achievements. It's an inspiration to have the only current Irish World Champion in any cycling discipline working on our team!

**Have you admired the work of a team or individual in the University? Submit an article for the next Ollscéala. For more details, visit: [www.nuigalway.ie/inpraiseof](http://www.nuigalway.ie/inpraiseof)**

For more staff news as it happens, visit: [staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie](http://staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie)



## Showcasing the Best in Research



President Jim Browne (left) and Vice-President for Research, Lokesh Joshi (right), are pictured with the winners of the inaugural President's Awards for Research Excellence. The awards, which recognised both early stage and established researchers, were presented at July's Research Showcase, a three-day event that celebrated the best of research from across our campus. The winners were (l-r): Dr Shane Darcy (Law), Professor Donal O'Regan (Mathematics), Dr Marie-Louise Coolahan (Humanities), Professor Afshin Samali (Biochemistry), Professor Henry Curran (Chemistry), and Dr Martin O'Halloran (Engineering).

## Dobbin Award



Former Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn TD, presented the Ireland Canada University Foundation (ICUF) Dobbin Award to Dr Eugene Farrell (Geography), which will fund one month of coastal research in Vancouver. Dr Farrell took the opportunity to discuss the new MSc in Coastal and Marine Environments with the former minister.

## ESAI Postgraduate Researcher of the Year



PhD student in the Ryan Institute, Richard Manton, won the inaugural Postgraduate Researcher of the Year Competition organised by the Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland. Richard's research studies in detail the route selection and design of 'greenways', the cycle networks springing up around Ireland after the success of Mayo's Western Greenway. As a keen cyclist, he is particularly interested in the new greenway planned from Galway city to Clifden along the old railway line, which will incorporate a riverside route through our campus. Richard is supervised by Dr Eoghan Clifford (Civil Engineering), who's cycling expertise is clear from the opposite page!

## Young NFB Researchers Making Waves Worldwide

Success is in the air at the Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials as three researchers have won prizes for their presentation skills at three international conferences. At the Gordon Research Conference in Massachusetts, final year Phd student, Dilip Thomas, won the best poster prize for his work on new treatments for limbs that have lost their blood supply. Postdoctoral researcher, Abhigyan Satyam, was awarded the Young Investigator Award for Best Oral Presentation at the TERMIS-EU 2014 conference in Genoa, with his winning lecture on using 'macromolecular crowding' to increase cell activity. Meanwhile, Dr Manus Biggs won the Larry Hench Young Investigator Award at the European Society for Biomaterials conference in Liverpool, for his research into how electrically-active polymers can be applied to our skeleton, muscles and nerves.

## Faber and Faber scholarship

BA with Creative Writing student, Helen Hughes, has been awarded the University College London, Faber and Faber/David Tebbutt Scholarship. The award is presented annually to fully fund a place on the prestigious UCL MA in Publishing programme. This is the second year running that a student from the Creative Writing programme has been awarded the scholarship.

## Lindau Nobel Laureate award

Dr Aideen Ryan (REMEDI) was recently presented with an award in recognition of her selection and participation in the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings aimed at bringing together outstanding young scientists from all over the world. Dr Ryan was one of four young Irish researchers who took part, and she discussed her innovative research into how cancer cells interact with the immune system.

## Have EIL Award, Will Travel

Zoology graduate Niamh Kinnarney has received a Mature Student Travel Award from EIL Intercultural Learning. Niamh is passionately involved in various conservation projects and has a particular interest in conserving the Irish honey bee. The EIL award will fund eight weeks on a volunteer project in Dalaman in Turkey, where she will volunteer on a sea turtle conservation project.

## Capture Your Campus Calendar



Mr November and Mr August – Dr Ray Butler (Physics) and Dr Iain Mac Labhrainn (CELT) – show off their winning photos in the Capture Your Campus 2015 Calendar. The calendar is for sale in the Reception in the Quadrangle for just €5; with all proceeds going to Students' Union charities. According to Postgraduate Recruitment Officer, Valerie Leahy, who partnered with students from Photo Soc to choose the best photos for the calendar, it would make a great Christmas or corporate gift.

## Tracing the Bligh Line



Archivist Aisling Keane and members of the extended Bligh family inspect the University's 1856 Roll Book in the Library's Special Collections Reading Room. The Bligh family were on a visit to discover more about their ancestor Dr John Bligh who was the first student to graduate with a Degree of Master in Surgery from the Queen's Colleges in Ireland. Dr John Bligh and his brother, Alexander Murray Bligh, went on to have distinguished medical careers in Liverpool.

## Sister Act



After 40 years each working in the University, siblings Mary Sweeney (left) and Bríd Carr (right) retired this summer. Popular figures in ISS and Academic Administration respectively, friends and colleagues joined together to bid the sisters a fond farewell at their retirement dos. Both reminisced about changes to the University over the years, with Mary remembering the excitement at the arrival of the first computer to campus! They are pictured here with John Sweeney, who will shortly leave his post in the President's Office. John is putting the finishing touches to the University's new Strategic Plan before joining his wife Mary in retirement. We thank them for their dedication and commitment, and wish them all a relaxing and rewarding retirement.

## The eCar has Landed



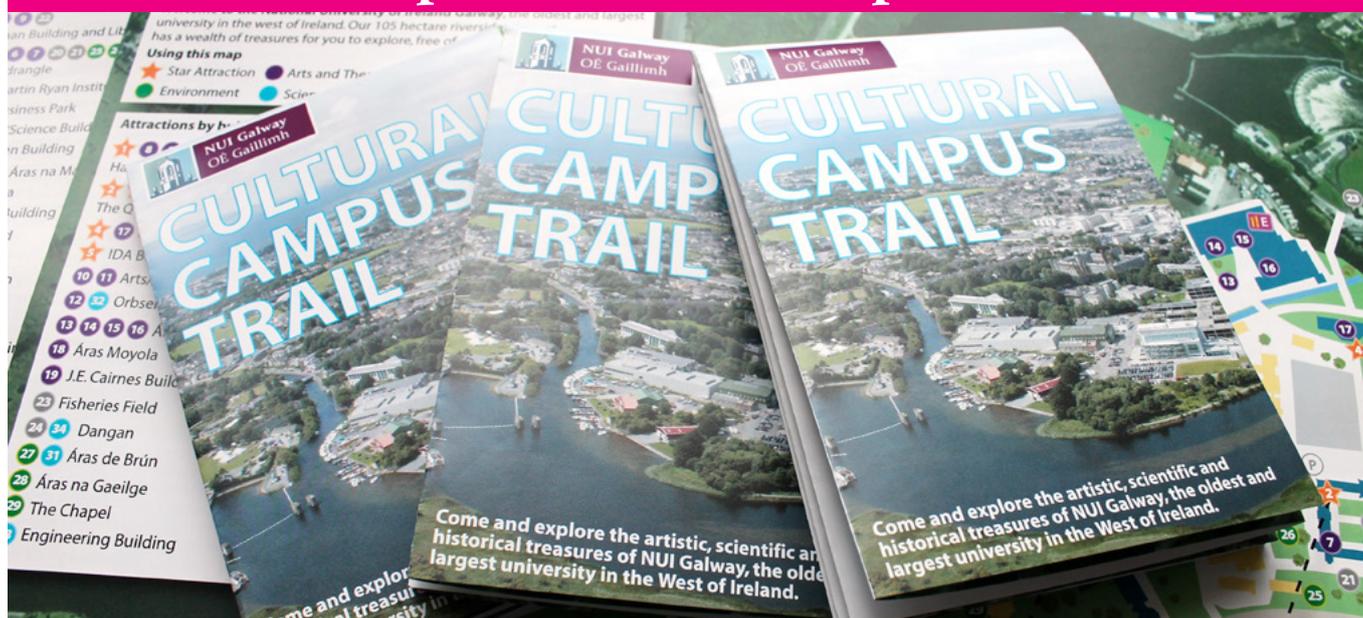
Dr John Breslin (Electrical and Electronic Engineering) has been raising heads, and eyebrows, around campus with his new BMW i3 electric car. John has use of the completely noise-free vehicle in his new role as ESB eCar Ambassador. The futuristic car can be spotted most days at the ecar recharging station outside the Quadrangle, although a new recharging spot is currently being installed at the Engineering Building. What it lacks in fuel consumption, it certainly does not suffer in power, and can accelerate noiselessly from 0 to 100 km/h in 7.2 seconds. So when you walk around campus, make sure to look left and right when crossing the road! To find your nearest ecar recharging point, bicycle park or recycling station, see the Green Campus Map at: [www.nuigalway.ie/environment/green\\_map.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/environment/green_map.html)

## Don't Worry, Be Happy

$$\text{Happiness (t)} = w_0 + w_1 \sum_{j=1}^t \gamma^{t-j} CR_j + w_2 \sum_{j=1}^t \gamma^{t-j} EV_j + w_3 \sum_{j=1}^t \gamma^{t-j} RPE_j,$$

World-renowned neuroscientist and Monivea native, Professor Ray Dolan returned to his alma mater in September with the formula for happiness. The equation, which he devised in his role as Professor of Neuropsychiatry at University College London, describes the elements needed for humans to feel happy. In a talk hosted by our School of Psychology entitled 'Value Encoding in the Human Brain', Professor Dolan explained how he and his team of researchers believe that happiness is governed primarily by expectation and surprise. They used a combination of behavioral neuroscience, computational modelling and neuroimaging approaches to come up with the formula.

## A Wealth of Campus Treasures to Explore



As part of Culture Night 2014, the University launched a new Cultural Campus Trail. The trail highlights the cultural, historical and scientific attractions and curiosities open to the public throughout the year free-of-charge. Pick up your copy at Reception, under the Archway in the Quadrangle.

## Autumn in the Garden

University gardener, Laura O'Connor, offers her top tips for this season in the garden.

It is time to give a **general garden tidy up** leaving a clear structure for the coming months. **Prune hedges** and give the **last cut of the season** to lawns with the blades set higher. **Plant winter bedding** to give a splash of colour during shorter, darker days. **Plant a wide selection of bulbs**. It is a monotonous task, but think of the pleasure snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, tulips and bluebells will give in the spring. **Prune fruit trees and bushes**, plant out spring cabbage and bring tender herbs indoors for a fresh supply through the winter. Finally, make sure to appreciate the **autumn colour on campus** - the vibrant leaves of Boston ivy at the Quadrangle, the Liquidambar trees at the Martin Ryan Institute and the stunning white bark of Himalayan birch trees at the Arts Millennium extension. If you would like to see more gardening tips, let us know by emailing: [ollsceala@nuigalway.ie](mailto:ollsceala@nuigalway.ie)

## Medical Device Week



The Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB) recently celebrated Medical Device Week. As part of the celebration, an art exhibition "Chimera: Art of Exploration" was held in the new Biosciences building. Pictured at the event were NFB researchers Grazia Marsico, Gesmi Milcovich and Paolo Contessotto with their winning submission "Perspectives" for the Biosciences Art Competition.

## Record Year for Rowing



It was a bumper year for the University's rowers, who won eight disciplines at this year's National Rowing Championships in July. The Women's Rowing team were particularly successful, taking the Women's Club coxed fours, Women's Club eight, Women's senior eight, and Women's senior pair titles. Pictured left to right are champions: Zoe Mannion, Stephanie Creed, Chloe O'Flynn, Denise McCarthy, Sarah Sheridan (cox), Eliska Smidlova, Charlotte May-Simera, Aoife Willis and Ailbhe Griffin.



ALWAYS

Gary Thornton sprints past the Engineering Building on his way to winning the second NUI Galway 8k. The event attracted over 700 runners, joggers, walkers and buggy-pushers to campus on a sunny Saturday morning in October. The event was organised in partnership between the University and the Kingfisher Club, with proceeds going to mental health charity, Jigsaw Galway.

## Desktop Diary

October 2014							November 2014							December 2014						
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						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

### Just some of the events to look out for on campus over the next three months.

**October, 21:** How would you respond to a student in distress? Get effective training and advice from the Student Counselling Service, CA110 in Áras Cairnes at 2pm.

**October, 24:** National Slow Down Day to promote safer driving. Look out for extra Garda speed checks around Galway city and county.

**October, 31:** Closing date for applications to the inaugural President's Awards for Support Service Excellence. Get nominating, by visiting: [www.nuigalway.ie/passe](http://www.nuigalway.ie/passe)

**November, 6-7:** Irish Geomorphology Workshop. This two-day workshop will bring together geomorphologists in Ireland with a view to sharing research and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration.

**November, 20:** Arts in Action: Seán Ó Riada. This special tribute will include an illustrated lecture on his life and music by his son Peadar Ó Riada. The Cube in Áras na Mac Léinn at 1pm.

**December, 11:** Pre-Christmas Coffee Morning for the spouses and partners of members of current and retired staff. Meet in the President's Drawing Room from 11am to 12.30pm.

**December, 23:** Ho, ho, ho – it's the last work day of 2014. The University will close for the Christmas holidays at 5pm on Tuesday 23 December and reopen Monday 5 January.

OSLTO