



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na bÉireann, Gaillimh

Ollscéala

Nuachtlitr Foirne - Staff Newsletter

Lúnasa 2004

Irish Studies Summer School celebrates 21st Birthday



Pictured, enjoying the barbecue at the conclusion of this year's Summer School are, Professor Murphy Fox with some of his students from Carroll College (left) and Professor Jim Murphy with students from Villanova University.

NUI Galway's Irish Studies Summer School comes of age this year with the largest attendance since its inception in 1983. Students, mostly from the U.S., but also from Canada, Japan and various European countries have attended the event over the years. They have benefited from a tightly structured academic programme and enjoyed the comprehensive cultural programme provided.

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Focal ón Eagarthóir

While most of our students are enjoying their summer break in far flung locations, other students have taken their place to attend the annual Irish Studies Summer School. Now in its 21st year, we congratulate the organizers and academic staff who have made this event such an outstanding success (page 5).

Throughout the summer, the University also plays host to a growing number of conferences. This issue of *Ollscéala* carries reports of the many conferences that have taken place recently including those on human rights, science, literature, health promotion and colonialism. The hard work of the organizers, improved conference facilities and the undoubted charm of the west of Ireland, ensure that delegates enjoy these events and look forward to returning at the earliest opportunity. Enjoy the summer!

Máire Mhic Uidhir,
Editor.

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Appointment of Vice-President for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs



Professor Gerard Hurley (left) has been appointed Vice-President for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs (SIEA).

Professor Hurley who has served as Dean of Research from 2001 to 2004, succeeds Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh in this position.

The Vice-President for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs has

responsibility for the implementation of University policy in the following areas: Strategic Initiatives, International Affairs & Strategic Partnerships, Liaison with National and Regional Public Bodies and Development Agencies, Industrial Liaison, Adult & Continuing Education, Alumnus affairs, External Contracts in Research and Development, Official University Publications, and Communications/Public Relations.

Responding to needs of ICT industry

Pictured from left are, Mr. Steven Berkshire, Associate Academic Dean for Graduate Programmes, Regis University; Dr. Don Archer, Head of Dept. of Information Technology, Regis University; and Professor Gerard Lyons, Dept. of Information Technology, NUI Galway.

In response to the rapid pace of change in the techniques and technologies employed within the Information Communication Technology (ICT) industry and the need for employee up-skilling, NUI Galway in partnership with Regis University, Denver (U.S.), has developed a new and innovative M.Sc. in Software and Information



Systems. This two-year, part-time programme is delivered entirely online and will commence this month. It is designed for people wishing to update their ICT skills with a specific emphasis on software development and/or databases, and who require the flexibility offered by online learning.

Links between India and Ireland explored



Scholars from all over the world attended the Fourth Galway Conference on Colonialism, which took place in June. The theme of this year's conference was 'India and Ireland' and the distinguished visitors included established and emerging scholars from India as well as some of the outstanding scholars in the world of cultural and colonial studies from Europe, Australia, the United Kingdom and North America.

Pictured are, His Excellency, Saurabh Kumar, Indian Ambassador to Ireland who opened the conference and his wife, Suleleha Kumar, with Professor Tadgh Foley, NUI Galway.

Denkbilder for Eoin Bourke

A special tribute or *Denkbilder* was paid to Professor Eoin Bourke in May to mark his retirement. Colleagues in the department presented him with a collection of writings by leading scholars in German literature. The collection

was edited by Dr. Hermann Rasche and Dr. Christiane Schönfeld.

Pictured are, Professor Eoin Bourke (right) with Professor John Marshall, Dean, Faculty of Arts.

The Great Book of Irish Genealogies

One of the pre-eminent works of traditional Gaelic scholarship was launched in June by Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh. *The Great Book of Irish Genealogies* was compiled in the seventeenth century by Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh, who has been described as 'the last and perhaps the greatest of Ireland's hereditary historians'. Mac Fhirbhisigh's family lived for centuries at Leckan, near Enniscrone, in Co. Sligo. Many hugely important

annalistic, genealogical, and legal works survive solely because of his endeavours. He began his Great Book of Genealogies in the College of St Nicholas in Galway about 1649, at the beginning of one of the most turbulent periods in Galway's and Ireland's history. The Great Book had lain unpublished for over three centuries. The 5-volume modern edition is the work of Dr Nollaig Ó Muraile of the University of Ulster.



Pictured are from left, Dr Nollaig Ó Muraile, editor; Éamonn de Búrca, publisher; and Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, Department of History, NUI Galway.

In brief...

Exploring the Burren and the Aran Islands

Dr Carleton Jones, a part-time lecturer in archaeology at NUI Galway has just published *The Burren and the Aran Islands: Exploring the Archaeology*. Renowned for its geology, flora and archaeology, possibly the greatest interest in the region is in its archaeology. The ancient monuments are often perceived as shrouded in mystery and beyond explanation, but recent studies have shed considerable light on the functions of these monuments and the people who built them. This book presents these archaeological interpretations in an attractive and engaging manner. Dr Jones' writing transforms the dry academic material of excavation reports and archaeological inventories into an engaging and understandable story.

Honorary Professorship

Dr. Colin Brown of the Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences has been appointed as the first Honorary Professor in the School of Cosmic Physics at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS). The Senior Professor of Geophysics in the School, Alan Jones, was recently appointed as the first Adjunct Professor in the new Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences. The two research groups are currently in discussion with colleagues from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (USA) concerning two projects about the establishment of seabed observatories off the west coast of Ireland, and the acquisition of electromagnetic data to map and monitor pollution in Galway Bay.

Bursary awarded

Jackie Ui Chionna MA, Manager of Galway Civic Trust and currently studying for a PhD in history on the Galway Fisheries 1850-1922 under the supervision of Dr Caitriona Clear, has been awarded the bursary of the Irish Legal History Society for 2004-2005.

Director of the Office for International Affairs appointed



Anna Cunningham (left) has been appointed Director of the Office for International Affairs. Anna was formerly Head of Marketing and Admissions at the Shannon College of Hotel Management.

Prior to that she lectured in Marketing at the University of Limerick. This new post involves advising university management on strategic, policy and operational aspects of international affairs. Anna will have responsibility for

implementing university policies and procedures in international affairs and will have specific responsibility for international student recruitment.

This role will involve working closely with the Faculties, academic departments and relevant administrative departments of the University. Over the coming months, she will continue to meet with faculty and relevant administrative personnel.

NUI Galway has almost 1,000 international students from over 40 different countries. The University's Strategic Plan 2003 -2008 commits the University to attracting increased numbers of international students. This new appointment augments the staffing provision in the area of International Affairs.

Accountability for Atrocity



The Irish Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations University, Tokyo jointly hosted a two-day conference in July on International Accountability and Justice. The event brought together international specialists in this field and addressed topics such as prosecutorial strategy of International Criminal Tribunals and Courts;

obstacles to accountability: amnesties and immunities; and alternatives to prosecution. Several of the past and present international prosecutors participated in the conference. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights chaired one of the panels. Mrs. Robinson is currently based in New York, where she heads the Ethical Globalization Initiative.

Pictured are from left, Professor William Schabas, Director, Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway; Ramesh Thakur, Senior Vice-Rector, United Nations University, Tokyo; and Mrs. Mary Robinson, Ethical Globalization Initiative, New York.

An Taoiseach turns sod for new Business School



Pictured are from left, Professor Roy Green, Dean, Faculty of Commerce; An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, T.D.; and Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, President of NUI Galway.

Plans to develop a new €16 million School of Business on campus were announced in April when An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, TD officially turned the sod for the 4000 square metre facility, which is due for completion by September 2005. The development of a new business school at NUI Galway has been made possible through a combination of PRTL, EU and private funding, led by a

€4.5 million donation by Atlantic Philanthropies. The new facility will be part of the Faculty of Commerce, which has grown rapidly in recent years. The centre for Innovation & Structural Change (CISC), which will be located at the business school, is responsible for examining science, technology and innovation processes that are central to the development of our knowledge-based economy.

European perspectives on promoting health and well-being



Pictured from left are, Dr. Concha Colomer, Valencia, Spain; Dr. Mary Issitt, Manchester Metropolitan University; Dr. Margaret Barry, Department of Health Promotion, NUI Galway; and Dr. Elisabeth Fosse, University of Bergen, Norway.

The eighth annual conference hosted in July by the Department of Health Promotion, had as its theme 'European Perspectives on Promoting Health and Well-being'. Topics discussed included the growing power and influence of European Union institutions on health promotion, public health and higher

education, especially following recent enlargement. Health promotion experts from the UK, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Spain and Ireland addressed the conference, which followed the European Summer School on 'Strategies for Health in Europe,' also hosted by the Department of Health Promotion.

Promoting interest in Science



Ita Murphy

The National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES) and the Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI), have recently appointed Ita Murphy as Communications and Outreach Manager. Ita's role is to promote the work of the centres and to inform and interest schools and the general public of their research programmes.

"At a time when numbers taking science subjects are falling in Irish secondary schools, there is a pressing need for innovation in science education," says Ita. This is being addressed nationally in public awareness programmes and events such as the highly successful Galway Science and Technology Festival. NCBES and REMEDI recognise this need and through an outreach programme, plan to access schools with an education and awareness initiative. Ita explains that the outreach programme will also give the public "an opportunity to find out more about the research being undertaken and possible future applications through discussion groups, seminars and lectures."

21st Irish Studies Summer School



Pictured from left, are founder members of the Irish Studies Summer School: Séamus O'Grady, Professor Chris Curtin and Dr. Riana O'Dwyer.

This year, 2004, saw the successful completion of the University's 21st Irish Studies Summer School. The new Irish Studies programme was commenced in 1984 as a major international education initiative of the University. Its launch coincided with the celebrations in Galway City to mark the Quincentennial of the City Charter.

The development of this Summer School project at the University began in 1983 when four members of the Faculty of Arts – Tom Bartlett (History), now at UCD, Chris Curtin (Sociology), Nollaig Mac Congáil (Gaeilge) and Riana O'Dwyer (English) – came together under its first Academic Director, Professor Thomas Kilroy, to plan an appropriate response to the growing interest in Summer Study in the academic field of Irish Studies. The first School had two integrated Irish Studies modules, accredited by Faculty of Arts. Twenty-four students attended the summer school in 1984 and their evaluations of the programme gave an enthusiastic endorsement of the project which has grown to an enrolment of 135 students this year.

The Irish Studies School has been modified and adapted through the years to respond to broader interests in Irish Studies; the programme now incorporates six modules, each carrying 6 ECTS credits, and is under the academic direction of Dr. Louis de

Paor, Director of Irish Studies. Almost 1,500 students, mainly from the U.S.A., but some also from Canada, Japan, Norway, Hungary, Poland and various E.U. countries have taken this course over 21 years. This year's students include individuals and groups from countries including Canada, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and U.S.A. For several years, student groups, led by their faculty members, from Butler University, Carroll College, Lehigh University, University of Missouri-St. Louis, University of Illinois-Champaign, University of North Carolina and Villanova University, have attended the Irish Studies programme at NUI Galway.

Professor Chris Curtin continues to deliver his course on Irish Society each year. Other Faculty members who have been Course Directors since the School commenced in 1984, include Nicholas Canny, Gearóid Denvir, Michéal Mac Craith, Máirín Ní Dhonnchadha, Pádraig Ó Héalaí, Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh (and the late Dr. Tom Fanning). These Faculty members continue to contribute to the Summer School and to other courses for visiting students.

While each module of the Irish Studies Summer School has a very intensive academic core, the Summer School also incorporates a well-planned integrated programme of tours, cultural events and interdisciplinary seminars. Highlights

of these events throughout its 21-year history have included visits to Gaoth Dobhair, Derry, Belfast, Dun Chaoin, Aran Islands, Céide Fields, Yeats Country, Connemara and the Burren. Each year the students also attend relevant theatre and cultural programmes in Galway. The literary highlight of every Summer School since 1984 has been a reading by internationally renowned author, John McGahern, whose archive has recently been acquired by NUI Galway.

This year's Irish Studies team consists of Louis de Paor, Chris Curtin (Irish Society), Seán Ryder (Literature & Film), Donncha Ó hAodha and Ríona Ní Fhrighil (Gaelic Culture), Méabh Ní Fhuartháin (Music & Dance), Nicholas Canny and John Cronin (Irish History) and John Waddell and Fiona White (Archaeology). The Irish Studies Summer School continues to be administered by Maeve Cuffe, Carmel Flanagan and Seamus O'Grady at the Office of Adult & Continuing Education.

In addition to pride in Ireland's most prestigious International Summer School, Faculty members down the years should also feel pleased that this programme has been the forerunner of many other highly successful international education programmes at NUI Galway and, indeed, across the country.

University's Art Collection catalogued

A new book featuring selected works from NUI Galway's art collection was launched in June by Patrick T. Murphy, Director of the Royal Hibernian Academy. *Imaging Ireland* contains fifty colour plates, including works by Mainie Jellett, Gerard Dillon, Grace Henry, Seamus Murphy, Charles Lamb, George Russell, Walter Osbourne, Norah McGuinness and many others. The University's art collection is a result of

bequests, donations, commissions and acquisitions over the last hundred years. During the last three years, the collection has been re-appraised, restored, cleaned, photographed and documented and the results reveal a collection of national significance. *Imaging Ireland* is on sale in selected bookshops, galleries and from the Press and Information Office, Áras Failte, NUI Galway (Price: €20).



Pictured at the launch of "Imaging Ireland" are from left, Patrick T. Murphy, Director of the Royal Hibernian Academy; Fionnuala Gallagher, Arts Officer; Professor Jim Ward; Vice-President for Physical Resources; and Eamonn Cannon, NUI Galway Theatre and Arts Subcommittee.

Evaluating Research



A one-day conference organized by the Irish Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (ICSTI) and Forfás, in collaboration with the Centre for Innovation and Structural Change (CISC), NUI Galway, took place in May. Entitled "Research and the Knowledge-based Society: Measuring the Link" the event brought together policy makers,

researchers, technologists, industrialists, fund managers and professional evaluators. The aim was to engage the research community in debate about evaluation of research; to inform the research community about international practice amongst evaluators; and to increase the awareness of policy makers about research evaluation and indicators.

Pictured: Dr. Aidan Kane, Director, CISC and conference organizer, with An Tánaiste, Mary Harney.

NUI Galway hosts international Chemistry conference



Pictured are Dr Donal Leech, conference organizer with Professor Malcolm Smyth, Chair of the European Society of Electroanalytical Chemistry

More than 250 delegates attended ESEAC 2004, the 10th International Conference on Electroanalysis. A sub-discipline of analytical science, electroanalytical chemistry deals with the development, understanding and applications of chemical measurements reliant on an electrochemical or electrical signal. NUI Galway was selected as the host venue by the international scientific committee because of strong research activity in the area of electroanalytical chemistry at the University.

All-Island Research Portal launched



Pictured are from left, Margaret Walsh, RSS Project Coordinator; the President, Dr. Ó Muirheartaigh; Dr. Maura Hiney, Research Administrative Officer; and Professor Gerard Hurley, Dean of Research.

The Atlantic University Alliance (NUI Galway, UCC and UL) recently launched the Expertise Ireland Portal initiative in the region. The development of the portal is funded by InterTradelreland, the cross-border trade and business development body and managed jointly with the Conference of Heads of Irish Universities. The portal is

intended to link industry with academic researchers, as well as provide a single entry point to the rich research expertise residing within Irish universities north and south. This on-line portal also provides funding information and technology transfer and collaborative opportunities for the island of Ireland (www.expertiseireland.com).

Outstanding achievements recognised

Honorary degrees were conferred in June on four individuals who have each made significant input to society either in the area of human rights or through their scholarly contribution to the area of humanities.

Judge Philippe Kirsch is the first president of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which was established in 2003. He directed the complex negotiations around the creation of the Rome Statute, which provides that the ICC will have initial jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

John Mannion of St. John's Memorial University, Newfoundland, has made it his life's work to document and study all aspects of the Irish migration to Newfoundland. His

book, *Irish Settlements in Eastern Canada: A Study of Cultural Transfer and Adaptation*, is recognised as the principal scholarly monograph on the cultural heritage of the Irish in Newfoundland.

Roy Foster is Carroll Professor of Irish history at Oxford University and author of the best-selling book *Modern Ireland, 1600-1972*.

Lex Friedan, Chairperson of US National Disability Council and senior Vice-President at the Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIIR) at Houston, Texas, has been at the forefront of encouraging Governments across the world to become engaged in the drafting of the new United Nations treaty on the rights of persons with disabilities.



Pictured from left are, President Ó Muircheartaigh, Prof. Roy Foster, Judge Philippe Kirsch, Dr. John Mannion, Dr. Garrett FitzGerald, Chancellor, NUI. In front: Prof. Lex Friedan.

Go NUIGe seo

Sheol an Dr. Gearóid Denvir, Ceann Scoil na Gaeilge, *Go NUIGe seo* i Mí Bealtaine. Ba é Pádraig Ó Ciobháin, Scríbhneoir Chónaitheach Gaeilge na hOllscoile, a chuir an leabhar in eagar. Cnuasach atá anseo d'obair dhá dhosaen scríbhneoirí - idir lucht foirne, mhic léinn agus iarscoláirí - as campas

na hOllscoile féin agus a habhantracht, a léigh ag na léamha agus a fhreastail ar na ceardlanna a reachtáil Pádraig Ó Ciobháin le linn a chéad bhliain cónaitheachta. Tá idir aistí, fhilíocht, phrós, aistriúcháin, dhrámaíocht agus amhráin nuachumtha cnuasaithe le chéile sa leabhar.



Sa phictiúr tá ó chlÉ, Pádraig Ó Ciobháin, Scríbhneoir Chónaitheach agus na scríbhneoirí, Máire Ní Chatháin agus Beartla Breathnach.

International Scholars of Irish Literatures convene in NUI Galway



Pictured are from left, Professor Hubert McDermott, Department of English; John McGahern, author; and Dr Riana O'Dwyer, Department of English and conference organizer.

Authors and poets including John McGahern, John Montague, Patricia Burke Brogan, Eilís Ní Dhuibhne and Mike McCormack addressed the annual conference of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures (IASIL), which took place in NUI Galway in July. This major international association of scholars and enthusiasts of Irish writing has over 1,000 members worldwide, and numbers among its membership

many prominent academics and writers. More than 250 delegates attended this year's conference, which was hosted by the Department of English in NUI Galway. As this is a year of literary centenaries and commemorations, themes addressed at the conference included the work of Patrick Kavanagh, James Joyce and the Abbey Theatre. There was also a strong emphasis on work from writers associated with Galway.

Top Cancer Researchers meet in Galway



Pictured are from left, Professor Noel Lowndes, Genome Stability Laboratory, NUI Galway; Professor Thomas Lindhaal, Cancer Research UK; and Dr Maria Pia Longhese, University of Milan.

An international scientific workshop on 'Mechanisms of Genomic Integrity', hosted by the Genome Stability Cluster, NUI Galway, took place in June. Genetic instability underlies numerous human diseases, most significantly cancer, as the alteration of the genome carries with it the possibility of generating proteins with the abnormal or uncontrolled functions characteristic of tumours. A particular theme of the workshop was how cells deal with the DNA damage that results from sunlight, ionising radiation or cancer causing chemicals. The event was supported by the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI).

Big turnout at Adult Education Information Evening



Exhibition stands at the Information Evening.

The Adult and Continuing Education Office recently hosted an information evening for adults interested in returning to education. The large number of prospective students attending had an opportunity to meet individually with course co-ordinators. A number

of new courses will commence in September 2004 including a Diploma in Gemmology, Diploma in Philosophy, a new part-time BA in English, History and Economics and a new on-line M.Sc. in Software and Information Systems.

The M.Sc. in Technology Management (via distance education) will be on offer again this academic year as is the BA in Training and Education and a range of classroom-based diploma courses in Irish Studies, French, Archaeology, Women's Studies, Community Development, Italian and many others.

Sharing knowledge and expertise



Dr Jim O'Donnell, Department of Pharmacology (left) pictured with Egyptian teaching group

A group of third-level teachers from Egypt visited NUI Galway in June as part of the TEMPUS programme. This EU programme is a higher education cooperation scheme between EU member states and partner countries. The programme facilitates multinational activities in the scientific, cultural, artistic, economic and social spheres. While in NUI Galway, the Egyptian group visited the Department of Pharmacology where they learned about research and academic programmes carried out in the department.

Statisticians meet in Galway



Pictured from left are, Dr Adrian Dunne, UCD; Dr Nick Longford, SNTL, UK; the President, Dr Iognáid Ó'Muircheartaigh; and Professor John Hinde, Department of Mathematics, NUI Galway.

For the first time in over twenty years Galway hosted CASI – the annual Conference on Applied Statistics in Ireland of the Irish Statistical Association. The meeting, organised by Professor John Hinde and Dr John Newell from the Mathematics Department, took place in May. The President, Dr Iognáid Ó'Muircheartaigh, opened the meeting and welcomed over 80 delegates from Europe, the USA, and Brazil. During the conference Professor Hinde was elected as the Vice-President of the Irish Statistical Association.

Irish Script on Screen



Pictured are, from left, An tOllamh Pádraig Ó Macháin, Scoil an Léinn Cheiltigh, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. An tOllamh Máirín Nic Dhonnchadha, Scoil na Gaeilge; Marie Reddan, Librarian, James Hardiman Library; and An tOllamh Breandán Ó Madagáin, Cathaoirleach, Scoil an Léinn Cheiltigh, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies

The School of Celtic Studies, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies recently completed the digitisation of some of the most important manuscripts in the Irish language, making them available on the Internet under the title of Irish Script on Screen (ISOS).

To date approximately 20,000 images of Irish manuscripts have been made available for viewing, free of charge, on the ISOS website. This comprises a total of eighty manuscripts, mostly of medieval provenance. The project has proved enormously popular, both with the holding libraries who view

digitisation as an important element in the conservation of their materials, and with scholars and general users world-wide to whom these vital research sources are available in this format for the first time.

A reception took place in the James Hardiman Library in June to celebrate the completion of the Irish Script on Screen Project.