



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

OLLSCÉALA

Nuachtlitir Foirne – Staff Newsletter – Nollaig 2007



HONORARY DOCTORATE FOR GABRIEL BYRNE

One of Ireland's best known actors and most appreciated sons was recently conferred with a Degree of Doctor of Arts (honoris causa). Gabriel Byrne is one of the best known actors in the world and was conferred as part of the winter conferring at the University along with over 800 students from across the faculties and schools.

Students graduated from the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences; College of Engineering and Informatics; Faculty of Law; Faculty of Commerce; College of Science; and College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies.

Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh said, "We in NUI Galway are delighted to honour Gabriel Byrne as an outstanding Irish actor, who is respected internationally as a master of his craft. We're especially pleased that on the day we graduate the first students from new and innovative programmes in film and digital media, that we are honoured by the presence of Gabriel Byrne, who receives a Doctor of Arts for his outstanding contribution to Irish and international film."

Some students at the conferring ceremony were the first to graduate from certain new courses, such as the MA in Advanced Learning Skills, MA in Philosophy: Ethics, Culture and Global Change, MA in Digital Media, MA Production and Direction, and MA Public Advocacy and Activism.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 3

Open Day features new programmes

Page 6/7

President's message

Page 9

Minister Martin announces major investments into academic R&D programmes at NUI Galway

...and more!

OLLSCÉALA

Focal ón Eagarthóir



Fáilte chuig eagrán na Nollag d'Ollscéala.

The recent conferring ceremonies saw almost 6000 students graduate from the University, including the honorary conferring of MAs in October and the conferring of an honorary doctorate on Gabriel Byrne last month which brought a little bit of Hollywood to the campus (cover story).

We have had some great successes in recent months with research awards and while these are highlighted in this issue (p.5, p.9 & p.12) a more in-depth look at our research success will feature in Research Matters in the New Year.

The University will have some exciting new programmes for incoming students in 2008, you can read all about it on page 3.

The President's column returns to our centre pages (p.6&7).

Finally, I would like to welcome Ruth Hynes to the Press & Information Office as Assistant Press Officer and hope you all continue to keep us informed of activities in your area.

Mo bhuíochas do chách a chur scéalta chugainn don eagrán seo - beidh mé ag súil le go leor scéalta eile uaibh san athbhliain.

Nollaig Shona díbh go léir.

Michelle Ní Chróinín
Eagarthóir

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Artist in residence at NUI Galway



Michael Mayhew was artist in residence at NUI Galway in November as part of the Tulca Season of Visual Arts, creating the project 'The Rituals of Being not Being'.

Michael will return on the 5th February, 2008 during the Múscailt Festival to present the documentation of 'The Rituals of Being not Being' in the Art Gallery.

Pictured left is Michael Mayhew performing.



Pictured at the launch of NUI Galway's Ninth Annual Gala Banquet, from left: Professor Ger Hurley, Vice-President for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs; Tom Flanagan, General Manager, Radisson SAS Galway; Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, President; and Tony Regan, Sports & Recreation Officer.

The winners of the eight alumni awards to be presented at Gala 2008:

Duais Hewlett Packard don Ghaeilge

Gráinne Seoige, Craoltóir

TBD Award for Engineering, IT & Mathematics

John Ryan, Chairman of the Board, Macrovision Corporation

Bank of Ireland Award for Business & Commerce

Brian Joyce, Chairman, Clancourt Holdings; Director, Kingspan

Seavite Award for Natural Science

Dr Peter Heffernan, CEO of the Marine Institute

AIB Award for Literature, Communication & the Arts

Julian Gough, Novelist and Musician

NUI Galway Award for Law, Public Service & Government

Seamus Brennan, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism

Medtronic Award for Healthcare & Medical Science

Dr Frank Giles, Chief of the Division of Haematology and Medical Oncology at the San Antonio Cancer Institute

Aer Arann Award for Sports Achievement and Leadership

Joe McDonagh, Former GAA President & All-Ireland Senior Hurler

Open Day features new programmes

Thousands of secondary school students from all over Ireland attended the annual Open Day in November, along with their parents and teachers. 17 new degree courses were showcased which will be on CAO forms for the first time in 2008.

With a radical departure from traditional Arts degrees, the new CONNECT Programme from the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies is offering seven new four-year degrees. The CONNECT programmes are designed to increase the employability of graduates by developing distinctive skills and creating connections with life beyond the campus. During third-year, students will be immersed in their specialised field, this opportunity might include: project-based work, educational placement in the community, portfolio preparation, creative practice, study abroad, service learning, or placements within Non-Governmental Organisations.

The seven new CONNECT degrees are: BA with Children's Studies, BA with Creative Writing, BA with Film Studies, BA with Human Rights, BA with Irish Studies, BA with Theatre and Performance, and BA with Women's Studies.

Other new programmes from the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies are a BA in Mathematics and Education and two degrees offered entirely through Irish: BA Gaeilge agus Léann an Aistriúcháin and BA Riarachán Gnó.

The Faculty of Commerce is offering a new three-year BA Commerce Degree with Accounting, while the College of Engineering and Informatics has a new Bachelor of Science in Project and Construction Management. For those interested in the sciences there are four new degrees: Physics with Applied Physics, Physics with Medical Physics, Physics with Astrophysics, and Biopharmaceutical Chemistry.

The College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences will offer the first undergraduate podiatry programme available in the country, leading to a Bachelor of Science in Podiatry.



Pictured with Professor Kevin Barry, Dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies are the seven BA Degree/Connect Course Directors

(Back Row): Dr Lindsay Myers, Italian Department; Vincent O Connell, German Department

(Mid Row): Dr John Kenny, English Department; Dr Ray Murphy, Irish Centre for Human Rights

(Front Row): Méabh Ni Fhuartháin (in ionad Dr Louis de Paor), Centre for Irish Studies; Tony Tracy, Huston School of Film & Digital Media; and Dr Niamh Reilly, Women's Studies

Pictured at the recent presentation of service scrolls to staff members celebrating 25 years of service to the University are (l to r): Noelle Scully-Gannon (Dept of Maths Physics), Aodh Dalton (Dept of Electronic Engineering), Margaret Fletcher-Egan (retired from Student Counselling), Eamon Cannon (Dept of Civil Engineering), Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh (An tUachtarán), Martha Cotter (Buildings Office), Michael Rodgers (Dept of Civil Engineering), Clare Walsh (President's Office), and Pat Monaghan (CELT).



Tuarascáil na Gaeltachta

Foilsíodh an *Staidéar Cuimsitheach Teangeolaíoch ar Úsáid na Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht* a réitigh Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh, i gcomhar leis an Institiúid Náisiúnta um Anailís Réigiúnach agus Spásúil (NIRSA), Ollscoil na hÉireann, Má Nuad le déanaí. Is iad an Dr Conchúr Ó Giollagáin, Seosamh Mac Donnacha, Fiona Ní Chualáin agus Aoife Ní Shéaghdha ó Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge agus Mary O'Brien ón Institiúid Náisiúnta um Anailís Réigiúnach agus Spásúil (NIRSA) údair na tuarascála.

Cuireadh an tuarascáil seo le chéile don Roinn Gnóthaí



Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta i dtaca leis an gconradh taighde a thionscain an Roinn le hAcadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh, i gcomhar leis an Institiúid Náisiúnta um Anailís Réigiúnach agus Spásúil, Ollscoil na hÉireann, Má Nuad. Tugadh faoin tuarascáil seo a

chur i dtoll a chéile idir Aibreán 2004 agus Deireadh Fómhair 2006. Is é atá mar phríomhaidhm leis an tuarascáil chríochnaitheach seo anailís a dhéanamh agus faisnéis a chur ar fáil a thugann léargas chomh cruinn agus is féidir ar úsáid na Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht chomhaimseartha. Is é seo an píosa taighde is cuimsithí a rinneadh ar an nGaeltacht ó bunaíodh an stát.

Sheol an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, Éamon Ó Cuív, an leagan leictreonach den tuarascáil le linn Oireachtas na Gaeilge i gCathair na Mart, Co. Mhaigh Eo. Tabharfaidh údair na tuarascála faoi chamchuart eolais le torthaí agus moltaí an taighde a phlé leis an bpobal san athbhliain.

Tá an leagan iomlán den tuarascáil an leagan achoimreach den taighde i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla agus aguisíní an taighde le fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na Roinne Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta www.pobail.ie/ie/anghaeltacht/anstaiderteangeolaioch/

Launch of First National Survey on Sex Trafficking of Women



Dr Eilis Ward of NUI Galway (on the right above) and Dr Gillian Wylie of the Irish School of Ecumenics, TCD, have called for prioritisation of the needs of trafficked women in the recently published bill by the government in relation to sex-trafficking, in a recently launched report supported by the SSRC, NUI Galway.

"We established through our survey and questionnaire a probable minimum number of 76," commented co-author, Dr Eilis Ward of NUI Galway, "But in fact we will never know the exact number being trafficked into Ireland because of the nature of the sex trade and the nature of the criminality involved in trafficking. We suggest that the research for statistics can now be sidelined in favour of the development of a coherent, human rights approach to this distressing problem. The government needs to act fast to ensure that the problem does not grow".

The research was carried on over a two year period and involved a survey of agencies and organisations working in areas of prostitution, violence against women and migration in Ireland. It is the first such research of its kind for Ireland.

Graduate Recruitment Fair



Pictured at the recent NUI Galway Recruitment Fair were Mary O'Riordan, Vice-President of Student Services; John Hannon, Head of Career Development Centre; and Deirdre Sheridan, Recruitment Co-ordinator, Career Development Centre.

Enterprise Ireland recognises academic entrepreneurship

NUI Galway claimed top awards at the Enterprise Ireland (Industrial Products Sector) annual conference this year. Of the 8 awards presented at this year's event, NUI Galway was awarded a total of 4. The awards presented were as follows:

- Dr Michael Rodgers, Department of Civil Engineering (Licence of a Waste Water Technology to Envirocare Ltd)
- Dr Jimmy McManus & Professor Des Cunningham (RIP) Department of Chemistry, (Licence of a Metal Oxide Technology to the start-up company Theta Chemicals Ltd)
- Dr Conchur O'Bradaigh, Department of Mechanical Engineering (Licence of a Wind Turbine Blade Technology to EireComposites Ltd)

Each year a special bursary is awarded to the Principal Investigator who through their research has made a substantial contribution to Irish society and industry. This year Dr Michael Rodgers received this prestigious award for his research on Waste Water Treatment systems.



Jim Lawler, Enterprise Ireland presents Dr Michael Rodgers with a €15,000 bursary in recognition of his academic entrepreneurship.

SFI awards €4.3 million funding for biomaterials research



Pictured at the announcement of Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Investment Awards were (l-r): Prof. Frank Gannon, Director General SFI; Professor Abhay Pandit, NUI Galway; Micheál Martin, TD, Minister for Trade & Employment; and Professor Pat Fottrell, Chairperson SFI.

The Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Micheál Martin T.D., announced Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) research investment awards amounting to €87 million across a number of groundbreaking industry-academic projects. Among the projects is the Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB), which was awarded just over €4.3 million from SFI with an additional €1.7 million to be provided by industrial partners. NFB is led by Professor Abhay Pandit of the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES).

Searmanas Bronnta i nGaoth Dobhair



Ag seoladh BA i Riaracháin Gnó atá á dtairiscint ag OÉ Gaillimh i nGaoth Dobhair (ó chlé): Séamus Mac Mathúna, OÉ Gaillimh; Billy Bennett, LYIT; Éamonn Mac Niallais, Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, Gaoth Dobhair, OÉ Gaillimh; Seosamh Mac Donnacha, Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, OÉ Gaillimh; Paul Hannigan, LYIT; Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, Úachtarán, OÉ Gaillimh; Peadar Mac an Iomaire, Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, OÉ Gaillimh; Caitlín Mhig Fhloinn, Danny Brennan, John Andy Bonar ó LYIT.

Bronnadh Dioplómaí ar 102 mac léinn a chríochnaigh cláir léinn de chuid Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge ar champas de chuid OÉ Gaillimh i nGaoth Dobhair, Co. Dhún na nGall. Ag an bhronnadh dúirt Éamonn Mac Niallais, Riarthóir Ionad Ghaoth Dobhair, go bhfuil cúrsaí Diplóma á gcur ar fáil ag an Acadamh i nGaoth Dobhair agus in ionaid eile san Iarthuaisceart le ceithre bliana anuas agus go bhfuil sé in am anois an chéad chéim chun tosaigh a ghlacadh.

"An bhliain seo chugainn cuirfear tús leis an chéad chéim lánaimseartha ollscoile san ionad seo, an B.A. sa Riarachán Gnó. Is cúrsa ceithre bliana atá i gceist agus is é aidhm an chúrsa seo oiliúint a chur ar chéimithe a thabharfaidh na scileanna praiticiúla agus anailíse dóibh atá de dhíth chun dul ag obair i réimse an ghnó agus an riaracháin dhátheangaigh", a deir Éamonn.

Beidh an clár seo ar siúl in ionad Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge i nGaoth Dobhair i gcomhair le Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Leitir Ceanainn agus is í mí Mheán Fómhair 2008 a chuirfear tús leis.

Focal ón Uachtarán

Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi mhaise dhíbh go léir. Agus mé ag druidim le deireadh mo théarma mar Uachtarán na hOllscoile, ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas ó chroí a ghabháil le gach aon duine agaibh as ucht bhúr dtacaíocht agus bhur gcairdeas le linn dom bheith sa phost seo.

As I approach the end of my period of office (next March), I would like to thank each and every one of you, my colleagues, for your support and your friendship since my appointment. You have helped to make my tenure of the post a most enjoyable and productive phase in my life.

In these cúpla focal in Ollscéala, I usually try to give a flavour of what has been happening in the University since the last issue. If I had more time at the moment (which I don't!) I would like to give an overview of how far I believe we have come in the last seven plus years, but I would hope to do this in another communication before I leave in March.

In the meantime, I would just like to comment briefly on some recent activities and events. During seven days at the end of October, and again for a whole day at the end of November, we held graduation ceremonies at which a total of almost 6,000 graduands were conferred. For me, graduation days have always been very special, as, together with their families and friends, we celebrate the achievements of our students. I always take great pleasure in meeting with the parents and relations of the graduates, and I am very grateful to the many (although still more would be better) members of staff who come and attend the conferrings (and have to listen, yet again, to my "comhghairdeachas" joke!). A feature of a number of these ceremonies was the conferral of honorary masters and doctoral degrees on individuals of distinction. At the October ceremonies, we conferred honorary MAs on Tom Tuohy (long-time coach and mentor to NUI Galway Rowing), Tomás Ó Tuathail (fear go bhfuil an-chuid déanta aige ó thaobh forbairt pobail i measc a mhuintir féin), Eric Elwood (distinguished rugby player and coach), and Alasdair Mac Cana (former part-time staffer in Experimental Physics, and who was 99 years and 8 months old when being conferred). At the November ceremony, we conferred an honorary doctorate on Irish actor Gabriel Byrne, and his presence certainly added to the occasion.

I have just returned from leading a delegation from the University to China, where we met with colleagues from a wide range of universities, discussed exchanges of staff and students, and signed memoranda of understanding with a number of top-class Chinese universities. I am very grateful to all my colleagues who joined me on this journey – I have no doubt the foundations laid will lead to many exciting initiatives in the future. We held the first gathering of the Beijing Chapter of the NUI Galway Alumni Association at a well-attended reception in the residence of the Irish Ambassador to China, Declan Kelleher, who was a most genial host, as one might expect from a West of Ireland (Leitrim) man. Colleagues in the delegation included Jim Browne, (for whom this was his 35th visit to China!), Ger Hurley (who set up many of the meetings), Anna Cunningham (our Director of International Affairs who

very efficiently managed many of the administrative and organisational aspects of the visit), Louis de Paor, Alan Ahearne, Mike Guiry, Bill Schabas (who joined from New York, where he is currently on sabbatical), Owen Molloy (who spent a week in Beijing and gave a series of lectures at the Beijing Institute of Technology), JB Terrins (who managed the Alumni Event), and Kevin Barry. For me the highlight of the trip, apart from the excitement of visiting China for the first time ever (I am considering visiting it again next Summer when at least four of our students/alumni – Paul Hession, Alan Martin, Cormac Folan and Olive Loughnane – will be participating in the Olympic Games), was attending a lecture on the International Criminal Court given by Bill Schabas to the Institute of Law at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Bill spoke for two hours, without a note, displaying, not surprisingly, a complete mastery of his topic. It was particularly gratifying to behold the deep interest of our Chinese colleagues in the topic under discussion. Incidentally, I would like to congratulate Bill on just last week returning to Ireland to take out Irish citizenship. You are now truly one of our own, Bill!

Again, I wish each and every one of you a very happy Christmas, and a healthy and productive 2008. Guím gach rath oraibh go léir, agus ar bhúr gcomhlúadar, um Nollaig, agus san Ath-bhliain.



Tom Tuohy who was honoured with an Honorary MA in recognition of his contribution to the sport of rowing



Alasdair Mac Cana who was honoured for his contribution of over 20 years in the practical training of scientists in the Department of Physics and in the Education Department



Ó chlé, An tOllamh Nollaig Ó Congáil, Scoil na Gaeilge le Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh agus An tUas Tomás Ó Tuathail. Bhronn an Choláiste céim oinigh ar an tUas. Ó Tuathail mar aitheantas ar an méid oibre atá déanta aige ar mhaithe leis an leis an bpobal agus cur chun cinn na Gaeilge i dTuar Mhic Éadaigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo



President Ó Muircheartaigh with John Gaffney, Management Accounting (right) and Mr Eric Elwood who was honoured with an Honorary MA for his contribution to Rugby in Connacht.



Stephen Tully and Deirdre Lynch, both 2nd year BComm students from NUI Galway studying in China; Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, President; Paul Chu, President of HKUST; Prof. Ger Hurley, VP for External Affairs; Min Yan, Philip Yeung, Editor of Office of the University Development and Public Affairs.

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Over €100,000 Awarded to Student Athletes



Sports Scholarships amounting to over €100,000 have been presented to the recipients of this year's NUI Galway Sports Scholarships Scheme. Now in its tenth year, the scheme supports the University's student athletes who excel in their respective sporting fields and gives them the opportunity of developing their sporting prowess while studying at NUI Galway.

Pictured are camogie stars, Niamh Kilkeny, Ballinasloe, Co Galway; Susan Earner, Ballinasloe, Co Galway; and Natalie McCabe, Tullamore, Co Offaly.

Awards

● Medtronic Award

Tom Creedon, HR Manager Medtronic presented awards to two students for academic excellence at the end of first year of the part-time Bachelor of Commerce at NUI Galway. This award was given to the part-time Bachelor of Commerce students who received the highest average upon completion of the first year of studies following the summer 2007 exams. All non-degree holders were eligible. The award was divided between two students: Brian Guiry, from Concorde Travel in Ennis, Co. Clare and Michael Noone, from Bank of Ireland, Galway who both received the same overall mark.

● Connacht Tribune Gold Medal

This year's winner of the Connacht Tribune Gold Medal for Journalism is Rachael Finucane from Limerick. Finucane achieved first class honours on the MA in Journalism at NUI Galway. The Medal was presented by David Hickey, MD of Connacht Tribune Newspapers. Rachel, who is currently

working as a Staff Reporter with the Limerick Independent, is a graduate of UL where she also achieved First Class honours in her BA. During her postgraduate studies in journalism at NUI Galway, Finucane was a regional winner (Third Level) in this year's *Hotpress* 'All Write Now' competition.

● Deloitte Prizes

Recipients of recent Deloitte prizes in the Commerce Faculty were: Nicola Butler (recipient of the final year BComm Tax and Accounting award); Stephanie Noone (recipient of the second place award for her overall BComm performance in 2nd year); Nora Cosgrove (recipient of the third place award for her overall BComm performance in 2nd year); and Aodán O Cuimín (recipient of first place for best overall BComm performance in 2nd year).

● Arts Council Bursary

Dolores Stewart from the Education Department has been awarded an Arts Council bursary for a three year period in the area of English literature. A bilingual

poet, Stewart's most recent collection is *Presence of Mind*, published by the Dedalus Press in 2005, and she is the featured poet in *New Hibernia Review* (Summer, 2007) with poetry in Gaelic together with English translations.

● Society Awards

Top prize at the recent annual AIB Societies Event of Excellence went to GUMS, the University Musical Society, for their innovative Secondary School Programme. Second prize on the evening went to the Law and Literary and Debating Societies for their National Law Debates. Other winners were: the International Students ARRRRR-land city wide Pirate Treasure Hunt; the Literary and Debating Society Macs style Secondary Schools Debating Competition 'Talk it Up'; the Quiz Society 'Test the University Challenge'; the Drama Society Improvisation Intervarsity; the Chess Society; 'Another Perspective', the Film Society film short competition culminating in a night of 'Cinematic Celebration'; and the Marine Society 'National Schools Marine Life Presentation'.

Major investments into academic R&D programmes at NUI Galway



Pictured at the R&D announcement between Smith & Nephew and REMEDI by Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Micheál Martin T.D. (l to r): Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, President; Minister Martin T.D.; (back row); Dr Peter Arnold, Group Director of Technology, Smith & Nephew; Prof. Frank Barry, Scientific Director, REMEDI; and Enda Connolly, Divisional Manager, Research, Skills & Manufacturing Division, IDA.

Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Micheál Martin T.D. announced that Smith & Nephew, the global medical technology company, and REMEDI, the Regenerative Medicine Institute at NUI Galway, are to establish a four year R&D collaborative programme for the development of groundbreaking new treatments for bone and joint diseases, such as osteoarthritis. The investment, in excess of €6 million, is supported by IDA Ireland.

The Minister also announced that GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), with the support of IDA Ireland, is investing up to €14.6m in a collaboration with the Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN) and NUI Galway, on a major R&D programme for the discovery of new therapies to treat Alzheimer's Disease. Collaboration with such a world-leading pharmaceutical company will raise Ireland's international profile in new medical discoveries.

Law and Mental Health Conference at NUI Galway



The Law and Mental Health conference in November brought together a number of national and international experts to debate issues of relevance to those who work in the field of mental health and those who suffer from mental illness.

Pictured at the opening of the Law and Mental Health Conference (l-r): Ms Shivaun Quinlivan, Law Faculty; Dr Jimmy Devins, T.D., Minister of State with special responsibility for Disability and Mental Health; and Ms Ursula Connolly, Law Faculty.

Monsignor Pádraig de Brún Memorial Lecture 2007



Pictured at the event (l to r): Professor Ger Jennings, ECI; Professor Nicholas Canny, VP for Research; Professor Joanna Haigh, Imperial College London; and Professor Michael Redfern, Experimental Physics.

The 2007 Monsignor Pádraig de Brún Memorial Lecture entitled 'Solar Variability and Climate Change', was recently delivered by Professor Joanna Haigh, Professor of Atmospheric Physics, Imperial College London. Professor Haigh has been Vice-President of the Royal Meteorological Society, Editor of *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society*, a lead author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2001 report, and has acted on many UK and international panels.

Women's History Conference

'Women's history and the everyday' was the theme of a conference, organized jointly by the Women's Studies Centre and the History department held recently in the Moore Institute.

Women's history has always focussed on everyday working life and has depended for much of its input and energy on activists, archivists, broadcasters and writers, both male and female, outside the academy. This was the theme of the address given by Dr Anna Davin of Birkbeck College, a co-founder of *History Workshop Journal* and pioneer of the modern wave of women's history, in her keynote address to the 19th annual conference. Other speakers included: Maura Cronin (Mary Immaculate College); Mary Muldowney (ICTU and TCD); Brenda Ní Shúilleabháin, (broadcaster); Ciara Breathnach, UL; Lillis Ó Laoire, Mary Clancy, Jackie Uí Chionna, Mary Hawkins, Marie Boran and Brigid Clesham from NUI Galway.

NUI Galway Hosts Irish Aid Development Conference



NUI Galway recently hosted Irish Aid's Third Level Conference 'Development's Futures'. Pictured at the event, from left, are Registrar and Deputy-President, Professor James Browne; Michael Edwards, Director of the Governance and Civil Society Program at the Ford Foundation, one of the world's leading philanthropic foundations; conference convenor Dr Su-ming Khoo, Department of Sociology and Political Science; and Deputy Minister of State for Overseas Development, Michael Kitt T.D.

Community Engagement Gains Award for Italian Course

One of the most recent service learning programmes to come on stream at NUI Galway has been awarded a prestigious European Award for Languages. The award-winning module 'Service Learning in Italian' sees third and fourth year Arts students teach Italian in local primary schools as part of their course.

The European Award for Languages (also known as the Language Label) recognises creativity and innovation in improving the quality of language learning and teaching. Through the 'Service Learning in Italian' module, primary schools gain access to supported language classes without requiring them to find extra funding or resources. Meanwhile, third-level students have an opportunity to practice their language and teaching skills, supporting wider links between the University and the community. The University, with the support of the Community Knowledge Initiative, now has over 12 service learning courses with this specific civic dimension.

Ethnic Minority Report Launch



Pictured at the launch of the report of the second national HSE conference on ethnic minority health, Participation of Ethnic Minority Communities in Primary Care Service Design, Planning and Delivery: Back row (l to r): Claire Robinson, Primary Care Department, HSE West; Dr Fiona Hardy, Regional Co-ordinator for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, HSE North West; Dr Hans-Olaf Pieper, Fellow in Asylum Seeker and Refugee Healthcare, Department of General Practice. Front row (l to r): Triona Nic Giolla Choille, Galway Refugee Support Group; Diane Nurse, National Planning Specialist, Social Inclusion, HSE; Catherine Duffy, National Specialist in Primary Care, Office of the CEO, HSE; Dr Anne MacFarlane, Lecturer, Department of General Practice.

Comhdháil bhliantúil Scoil na Gaeilge



Tá na cainteoirí ina seasamh taobh thiar den chás ina bhfuil Leabhar Uí Chonchobhair Dhoinn agus Duanaire Finn, dhá lámhscríbhinn shárлуachmhara a tiomsáíodh don Chaptaen Somharle Mac Domhnaill san Ísiltír Spáinneach (1626-31).

Ba é seo an chéad uair a raibh an dá lámhscríbhinn le chéile le beagnach ceithre chéad bliain.

Tionóladh comhdháil bhliantúil Scoil na Gaeilge, Comhdháil Litríocht agus Cultúr na Gaeilge, i mí Dheireadh Fómhair chun comóradh a dhéanamh ar Choláiste Proinsiasach San Antaine, Loháin a bunaíodh 400 bliain ó shin.

Ó chl: Fearghus Ó Fearghail, Mater Dei agus aoichainteoir faoin Tomna Nua i nGaeilge (1602); Dr Nollaig Ó Muraile, Scoil na Gaeilge; Dr Gearóid Denvir, Ceann Scoil na Gaeilge; An tOllamh Martin Stone, Ollscoil Chaitliceach Leuven agus aoichainteoir faoin gcomaoin a chuir Proinsiasíagh Éireannacha Loháin ar an bhfelasúnacht san Eoraip; agus An tOllamh Mícheál Mac Craith, Scoil na Gaeilge.

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Office would like to announce that Bernadette Tinney is to become the office's Safety Training Co-Ordinator. Bernadette Tinney has been a member of the Health and Safety Office since February 2002 and has been involved in a variety of health and safety matters in the University. The Safety,

Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005 outlines the importance of training and supervision so a dedicated role is now required. Bernadette will work directly with departments and sections on their training needs and participation. She was recently awarded a Diploma in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work from UCD.

Science & Technology Festival



A young scientist wonders where Ireland gets its energy

The College of Science recently hosted a competition titled 'Science Speak at NUI Galway – What am I doing in Science?' as part of the Galway Science & Technology Festival. The event provided an opportunity for postgraduate students to communicate with the public about the nature and importance of their research work.

Rory McKeown (from the School of Natural Sciences), whose presentation was titled "From Biohazards to Biofuel - using bugs to clean up toxic wastestreams", was placed first. He will now go on to represent NUI Galway at the national 'Science Speak' event in the RDS, Dublin in the spring.

NUI Galway's involvement in Science Week included the Departments of Chemistry, Microbiology, Physics, and Botany, as well

as DERI, REMEDI, the NCBES, and the ECI.

The Chemistry Department's stand allowed young chemists to try out simple experiments, with the effect of liquid nitrogen on filled balloons a firm favourite. The Botany Department covered their stand with seaweeds, holly, lichens, mosses, microscopes, posters, lots of give-a-way goodies, and even a few carnivorous plants, and was one of the largest and most colourful of the day. The Microbiology Department wowed their visitors with a very factual and visual stand on the presence of microbes in our everyday lives (and on our everyday bodies!). The Physics stand presented a variety of gadgets to get people thinking and involved - from simple optical illusions to challenge people's

preconceptions and misconceptions of the physical world to more involved instruments demonstrating physics in action.

The REMEDI and NCBES stands had a robotic arm which handed out lollipops, and postgraduate researchers discovered the strength of kids' hair on a tensile tester and displayed the ability of liquid nitrogen to instantly freeze fresh flowers. Nine Galway schools that currently working with DERI displayed the results of their digital projects. The ECI stand presented a visual display on the subject of energy, highlighting Ireland's dependence on oil. A second stand coordinated by the ECI was operated by 6th class students of Galway Educate Together N.S., whose participation in the Digital Hedge School Project won them an award for 'Best Ecology Project'.

Researchers Focus on Mobile Healthcare



Researchers from NUI Galway are part of a national group awarded just under €4m by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) for the development of mobile healthcare technology. The group will develop technology to assist clinicians with more effective remote monitoring of out-patients in their own homes.

Pictured at the funding announcement were (l to r): Prof. Frank Gannon, Director-General of SFI; Dr Edward Jones, Lecturer in Electronic Engineering and leader of the NUI Galway EEDSP team; and Micheál Martin T.D., Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.