



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

OLLSCÉALA

Nuachtlitir Foirne – Staff Newsletter – Deireadh Fómhair 2007

President McAleese launches Child and Family Research Centre

President Mary McAleese recently launched the Child and Family Research Centre (CFRC) at NUI Galway. The Centre aims to improve outcomes for children and their families, and advance practice and policy in Ireland and internationally, through research, evaluation and service development.

According to Dr Pat Dolan, Director of the Child and Family Research Centre, there is a need for more research that focuses on finding ways to support children and families in crises and prior to the escalation of problems. He said: "While social difficulties such as child poverty, youth suicide and violence within families are often brought to public attention, solutions to these problems are neither highlighted nor adequately shared among interested stakeholders, including families themselves".

This launch is timely as the Centre expands its capacity to work directly with policymakers and frontline child welfare professionals such as social workers, teachers, and community youth workers in response to the increasing demand for services that deliver the best outcomes for children and families.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 3

PRTL Cycle 4 success

Page 6/7

President's message

Page 9

McGahern Summer School

...and more!



Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh
National University of Ireland, Galway

OLLSCÉALA

Focal ón Eagarthóir



Fáilte chuig eagrán mí Dheireadh Fómhair. Welcome to the October edition of Ollscéala.

The University has been hugely successful in recent months in securing funding awards from PRTL Cycle 4, SFI (p.4) and the Beaufort Scheme for marine research (p.5) to name but a few. The University has also been named as the new home for the first School of Podiatry in Ireland (p.5).

Fitting tributes were paid this summer when the John McGahern International Seminar was held in Co. Leitrim and earlier this month when the eagerly awaited publication *McGahern at NUI Galway* was launched (p.9).

The University was host to the inaugural *Paddy Ryan Memorial Lecture* at the beginning of term which was given by one of our successful alumni (p.10) while many conferences were also hosted both on and off campus.

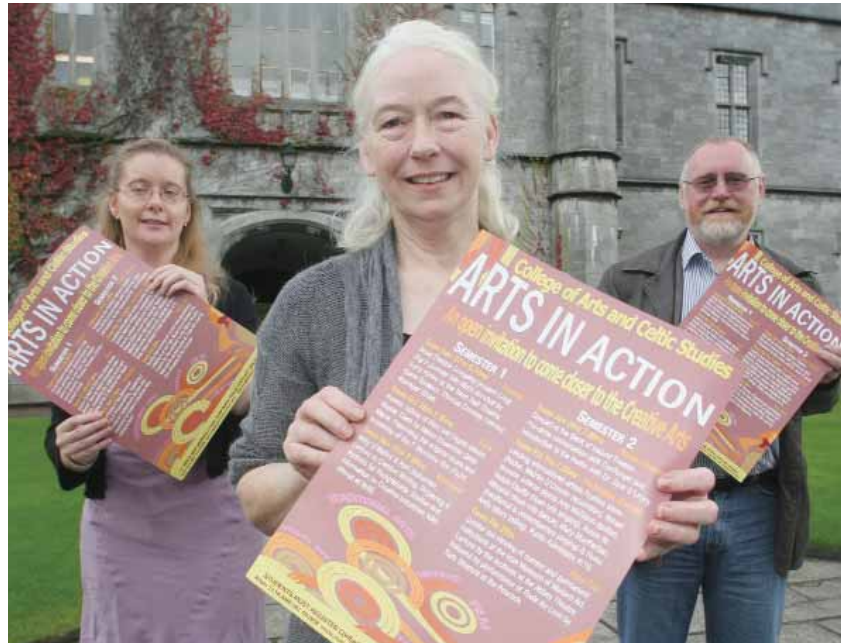
Our cover story features President McAleese, who visited the campus in August to launch the Child and Family Research Centre, and our own President's column returns to our centre pages (p. 6 & 7).

Finally, mo bhuíochas do chách a chur scéalta chugainn don eagrán seo - beidh mé ag súil le go leor scéalta eile uaibh roimh deireadh na bliana.

Michelle Ní Chróinín
Eagarthóir

Ollscéala is published by the Press and Information Office Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh. Tel. 091-493361 Fax: 091-494521 E-mail: michelle.nichroinin@nuigalway.ie

Arts in Action



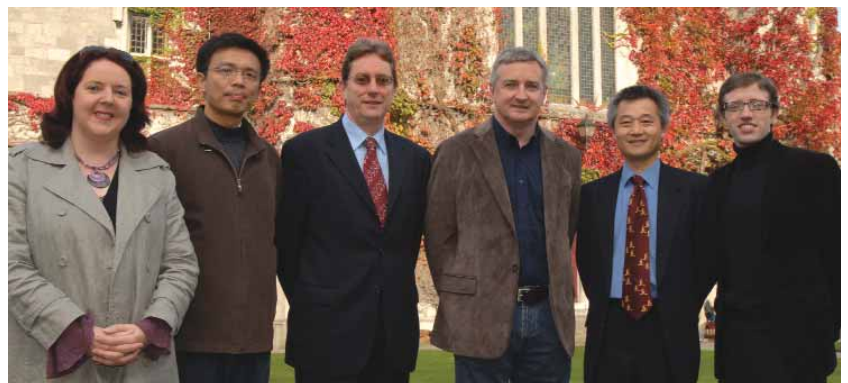
Pictured at the launch of the 'Arts in Action' programme by the College of Arts & Celtic Studies at NUI Galway is actress Marie Mullen with Karen Walsh, Arts Faculty and student Seán Higgins.

NUI Galway has launched a new Arts in Action Programme for 2007 - 2008.

The programme will seek to cultivate awareness of the creative arts, and each student will have the opportunity for increased engagement in the various creative arts forms.

This programme is specially designed for the 2nd and 3rd year undergraduate students in the College of Arts & Celtic Studies.

The programme started this month when Druid Theatre Company presented *Long Day's Journey into Night* directed by Garry Hynes and starring Marie Mullen.



Pictured at a recent meeting on the collaboration between NUI Galway and Tsinghua University, Beijing, P.R. China (l to r): Anna Cunningham, Director of International Affairs; Prof. Qiang Li; Prof Jim Browne, Registrar; Dr. David O'Sullivan, Industrial Engineering; Prof. Ming Yu; Dr David Mulligan, CIMRU, NUI Galway. The project is sponsored by Science Foundation of Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy.

PRTL I Cycle 4 secures € 23m research funding

NUI Galway has secured over € 23 million in research funding under PRTL I Cycle 4. Research areas to benefit from this funding include the Humanities; Social Science and Innovation; High End Computing; Biophotonics; Biomedical Sciences; and an Environment Graduate Programme. The funding brings to € 91 million the total sum awarded to the University under the PRTL I initiative.

Professor Nicholas Canny, Vice President for Research at NUI Galway, described the funding award as “extraordinary” and highlighted the collaborative nature of each of the proposals with other Universities within the State.



Research Office staff pictured at the recent PRTL I Reception (l to r): Martha Shaughnessy, Noreen Goggin, Padraic De Búrca, Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, Prof. Nicholas Canny, Maura Hiney, Eithne O’Connell, and Fiona Burns

Equality Conference



Pictured at the opening of the “Equality & the Constitution Conference” this semester as part of the conference series in the Law Faculty (l to r): Niall Crowley, CEO of Equality Authority; Donncha O’Connell, Dean of Law; and Brian Lenihan, T.D, Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform.

SFI Research Funding Awards

NUI Galway was successful in securing four substantial SFI research grants announced recently in Dublin by Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Micheál Martin, T.D.

Prof. Christopher Dainty, SFI Professor of Experimental Physics was awarded €4.5million for research in applied optical techniques. Optics is concerned with lighting; displays such as TVs and computers; CDs and DVDs; healthcare and manufacturing; and also human vision. This research will focus on improving diagnostic methods which would lead to early diagnosis of disease in the eye and prevention of blindness in old age.

Other NUI Galway recipients included Professor Matthew Dallas Griffin, based at the Mayo Clinic, USA; Dr Thomas Ritter from the Regenerative Medicine Institute; and Dr Stephen Rea, who received one of four President of Ireland Young Researcher Awards (PIYRA) 2007.

“ This research will focus on improving diagnostic methods which would lead to early diagnosis of disease in the eye and prevention of blindness in old age. ”

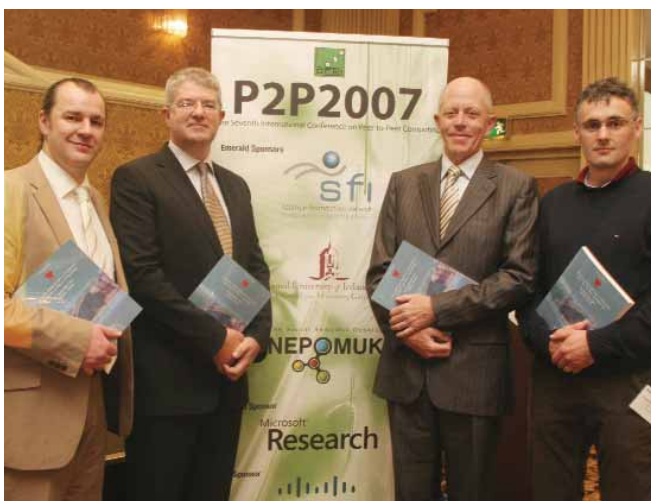
OLLSCÉALA

Annual Volunteering Fair



Pictured (l to r): Prof. Jim Browne, Registrar; Lorraine Tansey, Student Volunteer Coordinator; Mary O Riordan, VP for Student Services & Human Resources; John Hannon, Career Development Centre; and Cllr. Catherine Connolly as they launch the Annual NUI Galway Volunteering Fair 2007.

International Peer-to-Peer conference hosted by DERI Galway



Pictured at the International Peer-to-Peer conference hosted by DERI at Hotel Meyrick, Galway (l to r): Manfred Hauswirth, DERI; Mike Conroy, CISCO, Galway; Dr. Iognaid O'Muircheartaigh, President, NUI Galway; and Tony McCormack, Nortel, Galway.

Summer Programme at NCBES

During the summer months a group of highly talented international and Irish students conducted promising and exciting research in the laboratories of the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science. The group, which included students from Poland, Hungary, Germany, and the United States, spent the summer conducting research as part of the NCBES SURF BioNET UREKA programme.

UREKA is a Science Foundation Ireland funded initiative to encourage outstanding undergraduate students to undertake postgraduate research in Ireland. The programme supports undergraduate students (from Ireland and abroad) to carry out a challenging and meaningful research project during the summer months, allowing them to gain valuable hands-on experience in scientific research as well as insight into the demands of a future career in science.

School of Podiatry for NUI Galway

A School of Podiatry will be established for the first time at NUI Galway. The School will offer the first undergraduate podiatry programme available in the State and will lead to a BSc (Hons) in Podiatry. Students can apply for entry to the four year course from the academic year 2008-9 onwards and an annual intake of 25 students is planned.

A Podiatry Clinic will be developed by the Health Service Executive (HSE) located in the Merlin Park campus of Galway Regional Hospitals but will primarily provide services to community based patients. The Clinic will work in partnership with the School to provide for the clinical education and training components of the programme.

This bid was jointly prepared and presented, by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences NUI Galway, Galway Primary Community and Continuing Care (PCCC), and Galway Regional Hospitals.

Speaking following the announcement, Professor Jim Browne, Registrar and Deputy President, NUI Galway said: "We are delighted to have been chosen as the location for the first School of Podiatry in the Republic of Ireland. This welcome development for the West of Ireland reflects well on the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and the School of Therapies which already provide excellent accredited programmes in Occupational Therapy, and Speech and Language Therapy. The University acknowledges the

longstanding co-operation of HSE West and especially the active support of the professional podiatrists in Galway, without whom this would not have been possible."

The announcement follows a competition organised by the Higher Education Authority in which six bids were received for the establishment of the School and an international panel recommended awarding the contract to NUI Galway.

€9.2m for Marine Researchers



Pictured receiving the marine research awards in Dublin are (l to r): Dr Donal Leech, Vice-Dean for Research, Science Faculty; Mary Coughlan T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food; Eamon Ryan T.D., Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources; and Prof. Michael Guiry, Director, Martin Ryan Institute.

NUI Galway marine researchers were recently awarded € 9.2m from the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, Eamon Ryan T.D., and Mary Coughlan T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

A consortium of research groups from NUI Galway, UCC and Queens University Belfast, led by the Martin Ryan Marine Science Institute secured a substantial €7.2 million for research in Marine Biodiscovery. The Centre for Rural Transformation and Sustainability secured €2m for Marine Socio-Economic Research.

Minister launches Health Behaviour Study in School Children



Pictured at the launch of the 'Irish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study 2006' in August are Minister for Health Promotion and Food Safety at the Department of Health and Children, Pat the Cope Gallagher T.D., and Dr. Saoirse Nic Gabhainn, Health Promotion Research Centre.

Minister for Health Promotion and Food Safety at the Department of Health and Children, Pat the Cope Gallagher T.D., recently launched the Irish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study, conducted in 2006 by Principal Investigator Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn, and colleagues Dr Colette Kelly and Dr Michal Molcho of the Health Promotion Research Centre, NUI Galway.

The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children study (HBSC) is the Irish part of a cross-national study of children's health behaviours, attitudes, and perceptions, and the contexts of children's health: family life, school, relationships with peers, and the local community.

Dr Nic Gabhainn has been Principal Investigator for HBSC Ireland since 1994, and this is the third and largest survey of Irish children's health. Previous HBSC surveys were conducted in the Health Promotion Research Centre in 1998 and 2002. Findings have been widely used to inform both policy and practice developments in relation to child and adolescent health, nationally, regionally and internationally.

Focal ón Uachtarán

Fáilte romhaibh arís go dtí eagrán eile de Ollscéala. Ag tús na bliana acadúla (an bhliain deiridh dom fhéin mar Uachtarán), guím gach rath oraibh go léir. Welcome to the latest edition of Ollscéala, I trust you all enjoyed our Summer (notwithstanding the weather!).

I took my own break in August, but within a few days of reaching Kerry for a traditional family get-together, I received an email from Tony Griffin, son of the late Merv Griffin, informing me of the death of his father and inviting me to come and offer a prayer as Gaeilge and in English at the funeral. I had got to know Merv quite well in recent years, and was very sorry to hear of his death. And so I headed for Beverly Hills (it's a long way, in every sense, from Ballyferriter to Beverly Hills) and recited a prayer as requested at the invitation-only funeral. The only speakers at the funeral were Tony, myself and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California! Virtually all the attendees were celebrities, although as one of my daughters pointed out I probably wouldn't have known half of them (on the other hand, 99% of them wouldn't have known me!). One way or another it was a unique experience to speak in Irish at such an event.

We had some very good news during the Summer, namely the outstanding success of our proposals under PRTL 4, and Vice-President Nicholas Canny, and all those involved in putting together our proposal are very much to be congratulated for the outcome. We received some €23m under this programme, and one aspect that was particularly pleasing to me was the fact that the successful proposal included activities in a wide range of disciplines in the University – social science, business, environment and, of course, science and engineering. We continue to punch above our weight in these competitive arenas, and well done to all involved.

President Mary McAleese visited us on September 7th to open the Child and Family Research Centre, a major new initiative made possible in part by significant philanthropic support from Atlantic Philanthropies. As always, it was a pleasure to have President McAleese on campus, and, as she never fails to do, she gave an inspiring address. Congratulations to Professor Chris Curtin, Pat Dolan and everyone else involved in this exciting venture (and we can expect more good news and exciting developments in this area in the near future).

Also in early September, we had the first Paddy Ryan Memorial Lecture, delivered this time by one of our most outstanding young alumni, Declan Kelly, President and CEO of Financial Dynamics, a major international company. Declan's lecture was excellent, and we were delighted to

welcome many members of the Ryan family to the University for the event. We are very fortunate indeed that Declan has agreed to Chair the US Board of Galway University Foundation. The first US-based fundraising event organised by that Board is a gala banquet which will take place in New York on Wednesday November 7th, and at which the guest of honour will be actor Gabriel Byrne. Incidentally, Gabriel will also be honoured by the conferral on him of an honorary doctorate at the regular conferring here at the University on November 27th next.

In mid-September, I travelled with Professor Frank Barry to meet with the President of the Georgia Institute of Technology, Wayne Clough, and other senior personnel, to discuss collaboration between REMEDI here at NUI Galway and Georgia Tech. There was great enthusiasm on all sides for this collaboration, and before we left we signed a memorandum of understanding between the two institutions, which I have no doubt will lead to many positive developments in the future. Incidentally, while in Atlanta, I met up with Irial Finan, a Roscommon-born graduate of this University who is now in the top echelons of senior management of the Coca Cola Company, and also a member of the US Board of Galway University Foundation.

In early October, NUI Galway hosted a meeting of the Irish-American Higher Education Research Organisation (IA HERO). This is a high level grouping, led on the Irish side by the HEA, and on the American side by Richard Riley, who was Secretary of Education under President Clinton. The topic of the meeting was Research, and Vice-President Nicholas Canny played a major part in the preparation for and the running of the meeting.

Mar a fheiceann sibh, tá an-chuid ag tarlú anseo san Ollscoil. Níl thuas ach stracfhéachaint ar chorr-cheann de imeachtaí na míosa seo chaite. Guím gach rath oraibh sa bhliain atá romhainn. I wish each and every one of you a happy, successful and productive year.



Mr. Merv Griffin pictured alongside Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh at the Honorary Conferring in LA in 2005.



Pictured at the Official launch of the Child and Family Research Centre (l to r): Dr Pat Dolan; Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh; and President of Ireland, Mary McAleese.



Pictured (l to r) Frank Barry, Professor of Cellular Therapy, NUI Galway and Scientific Director, REMEDI; Jilda Garton, Georgia Tech Associate Vice Provost for Research and General Manager of The Georgia Tech Research Corporation; Wayne Clough, President of the Georgia Institute of Technology; Robert Nerem, Director, GTEC and Parker H. Petit Distinguished Chair for Engineering in Medicine; and President Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh.

Awards

● Young Investigator Award

Aoife Brennan, a Ph.D. student in Microbiology under the supervision of Professor Anthony Moran, recently received an international award in recognition of her studies on emerging bacterial pathogens. The Young Investigator Award was presented at the recent 14th Campylobacter, Helicobacter and Related Organisms (CHRO) conference held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Ms Brennan's studies concern Helicobacter bacterial species that are emerging as important human and veterinary pathogens infecting the stomachs and intestines of a range of humans and animals. Her studies are yielding important information for developing new diagnostic methods to detect human and veterinary pathogens. Ms Brennan's studies are supported by an EMBARK Fellowship from the Irish Council for Science, Engineering and Technology.

● New Award Sponsors

Delta Index are new sponsors of the prize for the top-performing student in economics in the final year of the BSc. in Financial Mathematics & Economics. The prize was awarded recently to its first recipient Noel Lawless. Noel is now a trainee actuary with the VHI.



Pictured (l to r): Michael O'Shea, Joint Managing Director, Delta Index; Cian Twomey, Lecturer, Department of Economics; Noel Lawless, prize winner.

● Teaching Award

Pilar Alderete Diez has been awarded for Innovation in the Teaching of Spanish as a Foreign Language given by University of Valladolid, Spain and Fundacion Jorge Guillen. The award was given for the project: CR-ROM and Teacher's Manual 'Negociando el Significado', produced by Pilar Alderete-Diez for the Spanish Department & CELT in 2006.

● Postgraduate Research Award

Two NCBES researchers have been awarded prizes at the European Society for Biomaterials conference held in Brighton, UK. Postgraduate researcher Garrett Ryan was awarded the prize for best podium presentation for his work on "Apatite formation on a bioactive porous titanium scaffold". Dr. Jeff Chan, who has taken two years out of his surgical training to work as a research fellow in tissue engineering at the NCBES, brought home the prize for best poster presentation.

Appointments

● Tá an Dr. Seathrún Ó Tuairisg ceaptha mar riarthóir ar Aonad Teicneolaíochta Faisnéise ag Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge. Bronnadh B.Sc. i bhFisic ar Sheathrún Ó Tuairisg ó Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh i 1997. Tar éis dó bliain a chaitheamh sa Phoirtingéil agus san Isiltír i mbun taighde sa réalteolaíocht, thug sé faoi Ph.D. sa réimse sin i Roinn na Fisice i nGaillimh. Chaith sé trí bliana ag obair mar thaighdeoir iardhochtúireachta i Roinn na Teicneolaíochta Faisnéise, i dtaighde dírithe ar thábhacht an ríomhaireacht ardfheidhmíochta agus na nuatheicneolaíochta, le béim faoi leith ar chúrsaí cartlainne. Beidh an Dr. Seathrún Ó Tuairisg ag comhordú agus ag forbairt an chlár cúrsaí agus taighde a bheas á thairiscint ag an Acadamh i réimse na Teicneolaíochta Faisnéise. Tá Seathrún le bheith lonnaithe in Ionad an Acadaimh i gCarna, Co. na Gaillimhe.

● Mark Campbell has been appointed to the new post of Drug & Alcohol Counsellor. A graduate of NUI Galway, Mark has lived in Ennis for the last five years and during this time he worked as an outreach worker and counsellor in the drug and alcohol services of the HSE mid west. Prior to this he worked in the UK in a number of organisations involved in drugs and alcohol treatment, and housing and homelessness. He is based at the Student Counselling Service, 5 Distillery Road and can be contacted on Ext. 2484.

● Mr Declan Ashe has recently taken up his appointment as the new Director of Strategic Development at the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. The appointment comes at a very important time for the new College as it faces into a period of rapid growth in undergraduate and postgraduate entry to medical training, continuing

growth of its programmes in Nursing and Midwifery, and the introduction of a new B.Sc. Degree in Podiatry. This growth, which is complemented by unprecedented expansion of clinically-focussed research programmes and collaborations across the College, entails a significant building programme, and the development of sustainable partnerships with affiliated hospitals across the hinterland of the University, with the HSE and with various Government and private sources of funding and investment.

Declan moves from the Dean's Office at the Faculty of Arts, where, over a ten-year period, he has managed services in the largest academic unit in the University through a sustained expansion of student numbers, growth in academic programmes, planning of programme innovation, and the alignment of Faculty services to staff and students.

Professional Appointments

- Chris Dainty has recently been elected a fellow of the European Optical Society. A candidate for Fellowship must be a member of the EOS and successful nominees will have one or more of the following qualities: have made outstanding research contributions to optics and photonics, through published papers, books, conference presentations, patents or other published material; have served the optics and photonics community by teaching or training; industrial leadership; service as an editor, conference organiser or other professional service; have made a special contribution to the EOS.

The citation in Chris's case referred to his "highly influential contribution to optics teaching and research and his committed leadership of the optics community in general and the European Optical Society in particular".

- Dr Tony Dundon, lecturer in management at the J.E. Cairnes Graduate School of Business and Public Policy has recently been appointed as 'Chief Examiner: Employee Relations', for the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD), the professional body for human resource management practitioners in Ireland and the UK. This is the first time the prestigious Chief Examiner role has been made to an academic at an Irish university.

Dr Dundon is co-author of two recent employment and management books: *Employment Relations in Non-Union Firms* (2004, Routledge) and *Understanding Employment Relations* (2007, McGraw Hill). He has published widely on systems of employee voice, trade union representation, non-union employment systems and human resource management in small to medium-sized firms, having attracted research funding from a variety of public and private sector bodies.

McGahern Summer School



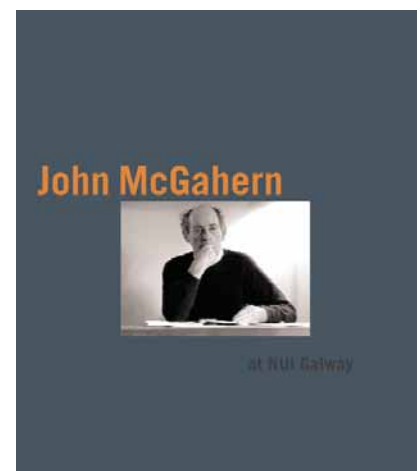
Pictured at the John McGahern International Seminar at Lough Rynn Castle Hotel, Mohill, Co. Leitrim in July (l to r): Dr John Kenny, Seminar Co-ordinator, English Department; Professor Ger Hurley, Vice-President for Strategic Initiatives & External Affairs; Olive Braiden, Chairperson, The Arts Council; Séamus O Grady, Director of Adult Education; and Séamus MacMathúna, Academic Secretary.

NUI Galway, in partnership with Leitrim County Council, confirmed details of the future of the John McGahern International Seminar, following a hugely successful inaugural event held in Co. Leitrim in July.

From 2008, the Seminar will extend to include an International Summer School, aimed at advanced undergraduate and graduate students, as well as researchers. The school, which will carry academic credits from NUI Galway, commemorates the life and work of John McGahern.

Meanwhile, a special book celebrating the longstanding relationship between John McGahern and the University has been launched recently.

John McGahern at NUI Galway contains contributions from a range of University staff including Séamus O'Grady, Director of Adult & Continuing Education; Marie Reddan, Librarian; Fergus Fahey, Archivist; Keith Warnock, Vice-President for Physical Resources; Dr Riana O'Dwyer,



Senior Lecturer, English Department; Dr John Kenny, English Department; Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, History Department; and has an Introduction by President Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh.

The volume is illustrated with eight colour portraits of John McGahern by Brian Bourke RHA, which were commissioned by NUI Galway, following the deposition of his literary archive in the James Hardiman Library in 2003.

OLLSCÉALA

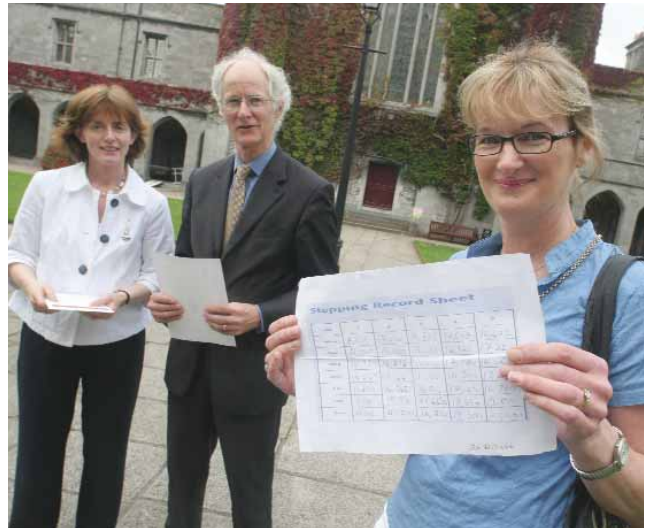
Paddy Ryan Memorial Lecture



Declan Kelly, international businessman and President and CEO of Financial Dynamics in the United States, was guest speaker at the inaugural Paddy Ryan Memorial Lecture – an initiative set up between Galway Chamber, NUI Galway and GMIT to honour the late Paddy Ryan.

The event will alternate between NUI Galway and GMIT on an annual basis with a presentation of a specially commissioned medal sponsored by APC and designed by the artist and sculptor, Padraic Reaney.

Health & Safety



Pictured is Imelda Howley, Department of Economics who participated in the Irish Heart Foundation's Pedometer challenge, organised by the Safety Office.

ISD Conference



Pictured are Chris Barry, Kieran Conboy and Michael Lang from the Faculty of Commerce with Stefan Decker from DERI.

The Sixteenth International Conference on Information Systems Development (ISD2007) was hosted by the Cairnes Graduate School of Business & Public Policy in August. The theme of the conference was "Challenges in Practice, Theory and Education". The Programme Chairs were Chris Barry and Michael Lang and the Organising Chair was Kieran Conboy, all members of the Business Information Systems Group within the Faculty of Commerce. Over the course of three days, 120 delegates from 27 different countries attended the conference to hear over 80 academic papers presented on topics ranging from the management of information systems development to legal and ethical aspects of information systems. Keynote addresses were delivered by Mike Roche of IBM's Dublin Software Laboratory and Professor Stefan Decker of DERI.

See: <http://www.isd2007.nuigalway.ie/>

In Brief

- The 2nd annual Corrib Medical Alumni Network Banquet will take place on Saturday, November 10th 2007 in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin 2.

Hosted by President Iognáid O Muircheartaigh and Professor Michael Kerin, Professor of Surgery, the evening promises to be a wonderful occasion with a champagne reception, four-course dinner, music and guest speaker. The event is open to alumni, staff and friends of NUI Galway.

For ticket sales & information on the Corrib Medical Alumni Network, which raises funds for the development of teaching and research facilities at the Clinical Science Institute, contact Catherine Leenane, Galway University Foundation at (091) 492972 or email catherine.leenane@nuigalway.ie

- Margeurita McGovern and Catherine Sherlock of the Department of Political and Social Science have designed a new eight week course on 'Discussions on Contemporary Social Issues' for the Adult Education Dept. to be run over eight weeks during the winter months. It will cover topics such as Women and Trafficking, Men and Families, Youth and Probation, and Children and Advocacy, to mention a few.

- Galway Theatre Collective, Dragonfly, returned from New York in high spirits after the successful U.S Premiere of their new play *Married to the Sea*. The Galway-based company were selected to participate in this year's New York International Fringe Festival, the largest multi-arts festival in North America. Apart from receiving rave reviews from the U.S media, the company also managed to scoop the coveted Outstanding Actor's Award, which was awarded to Siobhan Donnellan. Fiachra O'Dubhghaill, Shona McCarthy and Siobhan Donnellan, the three founding members of Dragonfly met while undertaking the MA Degree in Drama and Theatre Studies at NUI Galway.

- The University Rugby club has appointed Wendy Hickey as the new rugby development officer. Wendy will run the player development programmes with the college and will also take charge of all affairs regarding scholarships. Those interested in joining the club should talk to the university development officer Wendy Hickey on 0872764810 or by email at: wendyhickey64@hotmail.com

- The Ciste Carthanachta committee distributed the following monies to local charities at the end of 2006: St. Vincent de Paul €5,000; Galway Simon Community €1,000; Galway Rape Crisis Centre €400; Galway Hospice €538.32; Samaritans (Galway Branch) €450; Aids Help West €450;

Cura €450; Galway Travelling Community €400; Galway Carer's Association €450; Cope €500; Young Mothers in Education €600; and Console €500 (distributed in July 2007)

An Ciste Carthanachta, which was established in 1984 is run by a University-wide representative committee. It distributes monies to local charities each year, normally just prior to Christmas. University staff have made generous contributions to the Ciste over the years and it raises up to about €11,000 annually.

- A meeting will take place on Friday, 26 October at 8pm in the large lecture theatre in the Clinical Science Institute. A lecture, "Breaking through the Pain Barrier; Physiology and Pharmacology in Sports Medicine" will be delivered by Dr David Finn, Dept of Pharmacology, to be followed by presentations by MSc students on the 'MSc in Sports and Exercise Medicine and Physiotherapy' on the medications commonly used in sports medicine. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Aer Arann Sports Alumni Award

Aer Arann recently announced their sponsorship of the newly launched Alumni Award for Sports Achievement and Leadership. The award will acknowledge alumni who have made an outstanding contribution in the area of local and national sports achievement, sports coaching, sports health, sports promotion and/or development.



Pictured at the launch of the Aer Arann Sports Alumni Award are Aer Arann Chairman, Pádraig Ó Céidigh; Prof Ger Hurley and Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh.

Climate Change Conference

Leading global experts in air quality and climate change gathered at NUI Galway for the International Conference on Nucleation and Atmospheric Aerosols (ICNAA) in August. The University's Centre for Climate and Air Pollution Studies, based at the Environmental Change Institute, and the Department of Physics hosted the prestigious event which was last held in Kyoto, Japan, in 2004.

The conference examined the latest developments in nucleation, which is a phase-transition process that produces aerosols or haze particles. While atmospheric aerosols help to reduce the rate of global warming induced by greenhouse gases, they also contribute to poor air quality. The ICNAA event also heard of the current state of the art technologies being developed globally to combat the effects of climate change.

The conference was co-chaired by Dr Colin O'Dowd, Director of the Centre for Climate and Air Pollution Studies and lecturer at the Department of Physics, and by Professor Paul Wagner from the University of Vienna.

€10m Deal in Biofuel Technology Sector



Pictured (l to r): Dr Daniel O Mahony, Director, Technology Transfer Office; Donald Causton, President of Micromill Systems Inc.; Frank Ryan, CEO Enterprise Ireland; and Maura Glennon, Commercialisation Specialist, Enterprise Ireland.

A deal worth €10m was agreed in August between Micromills and NUI Galway creating a joint spin-out company called Eirzyme to produce high yields of low-cost biofuels.