



Director of REMEDI Professor Tim O'Brien, President James J. Browne and Minister Batt O'Keeffe at the launch of the second phase of REMEDI.

## Research To Human Trials REMEDY enters next phase

The Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDY) at NUI Galway has entered the second phase of its development, shifting its focus into translating stem cell biology to regenerative therapeutics. Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, Mr Batt O'Keeffe T.D. recently announced funding of almost €10 million for the Institute, allowing REMEDI to take research findings from the first phase of its operation and move towards clinical trials for new therapies and treatments for degenerative diseases.

In a partnership involving scientists, engineers, clinicians, and industry partners, researchers at REMEDI aim to develop novel therapies to achieve organ and tissue repair and regeneration. The Regenerative Medicine Institute is particularly focused on developing new therapies and treatments for conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus and osteoarthritis.

Announcing the funding, Minister O'Keeffe said the €9.69 million Government investment would help scientists to develop practical medical

applications for their research. "For six years, leading scientists, engineers, clinicians and industry partners in REMEDI have worked towards new therapies to help organ and tissue repair and regeneration. The emphasis in recent years has been on commercialising groundbreaking work undertaken in the REMEDI laboratories. The support of the Government through an award of over €9 million from Science Foundation Ireland will help REMEDI to move their research to the next stage of clinical trials which could produce new therapies for human health."

*continued on page 3*



## Focal ón Eagarthóir

Fáilte go eagrán na Nollag d'Ollscéala.

Tá an-áthas orm an t-eagrán seo de Ollscéala, iris ina dtugaimid cuntas ar a bhfuil bainte amach ag an ollscoil le trí mhí anuas, a chur faoi bhur mbráid. Is iomaí éacht atá déanta ag mic léinn, ag an lucht acadúil agus ag taighdeoirí le cúpla seachtain anuas, agus is féidir libh gach eolas a fháil faoi na héachtaí sin sa nuachtlitr seo.

This issue's cover story features the next exciting phase of development at REMEDI. The second stage sees the Institute moving from research to human trials and is focused on developing new therapies and treatments for conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus and osteoarthritis.

There was also great excitement at the arrival of the Huston Archive to the James Hardiman Library. The University was presented with a rare collection of director, writer and actor John Huston's papers and recordings at a special ceremony in November. The Archive was launched in the presence of John's son, Tony and daughter, Allegra.

Last month was also a very important month for the Irish Centre for Human Rights as the Centre celebrated its tenth anniversary. Director of the Centre Professor William A Schabas looks back at the success of the Centre since its inception in 2000 on page 3.

Ollscéala visits The Chapel at NUI Galway this issue and sees the work undertaken by the University Chaplains. The presence of the Chaplaincy can be felt all over the campus, most particularly in the small memorial garden which remembers students and staff who passed away. Read all about it on page 4.

The University Community have been extremely busy over the past few months winning numerous awards including Dr Dagmar Stengel who received the NAIRTL Award, and 28 graduates and students winning NUI Awards. You can catch up with all our winners on page 8.

Tá súil agam go mbeidh Nollaig Shona agus athbhliain faoi sheán agus faoi shíocháin díbh go léir.

Slán tamall

Sinead Ní Neachtain, Eagarthóir

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## Adjunct Professor Charles Barr

Charles Barr is a survivor of the first generation of film academics in Britain: like Rod Stoneman a few years later, he did postgraduate research at the pioneering Slade School Film Department in London, and then worked in secondary education and teacher training before helping to set up undergraduate and graduate film programmes at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. Since leaving UEA in 2006 after 30 years, he has operated internationally serving for two years as Director of the Film and Media Programme at the University of Washington in St Louis, and then moving to Ireland, his father's country: as Visiting Professor at University College Dublin, and now also as Adjunct Professor in Galway. Many of his publications engage with British cinema (Ealing Studios, first edition 1977) and with the work of Alfred Hitchcock (Vertigo, 2002), or span the two (English Hitchcock, 1999). Since moving to Ireland he has focused much of his research on Irish topics, exploring the Irish dimension of the work of John Ford of Ealing Studios, and of Hitchcock himself, who went to such lengths to conceal his own Irish roots on his mother's side. Charles is especially proud of his grandfather's involvement in Irish Rugby, as a player on either side of 1900 and then as a selector and as IRFU President.



## Treasa Ní Mhiolláin

### Amhránaí Sean-Nóis Cónaitheach Nua

Tá sé fógartha ag Ionad an Léinn Éireannaigh, Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh, go bhfuil Treasa Ní Mhiolláin, ceaptha mar Amhránaí Sean-Nóis Cónaitheach as seo go ceann bliana. Is as an Sruthán, Árainn do Threasa, amhránaí a bhfuil a cáil imithe i bhfad agus i ngearr le blianta fada. Amhráin mhóra Ghaeilge Chonnacht na hamhráin is mó a bhfuil tóir ag Treasa orthu ach tá saibhreas d'amhráin áitiúla aici chomh maith agus bailéadaí Béarla mar bhreis air sin.

## Appointment

Donncha O'Connell of the School of Law, has been appointed Ireland Correspondent for the International Survey section of the peer-reviewed journal, Public Law, published by Sweet & Maxwell. Since its creation in 1956, Public Law has been, and continues to be, the leading forum for information and debate in the evolving area of law and government.

## Elected

John Hinde, Professor of Statistics in the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Mathematics has been elected as President of the British and Irish Region of the International Biometric Society for a two-year period. The Society is devoted to the development and application of statistical and mathematical theory and methods in the biosciences. Professor Hinde was instrumental in bringing the Society's biennial conference to Ireland in 2008 with over 900 participants from 49 countries. In 2011, Galway will host the summer meeting.

## Irish Centre for Human Rights Celebrates Tenth Anniversary



President James J. Browne, Dr Michael D. Higgins TD and Professor William A Schabas at the Centre's Anniversary Gala dinner.

NUI Galway's Irish Centre for Human Rights recently celebrated ten years of teaching, research and advocacy activities. A number of events were held to mark the momentous occasion, including a Gala dinner hosted by Senator David Norris.

Professor William A Schabas, Director of the Centre looks back at the last ten years and the development of the Centre since its establishment in 2000.

"The Irish Centre for Human Rights was a 'greenfield' site in 2000, when we began the revival in the 'Old Men's Club' of an institution that had been started by Kevin Boyle and Mary Robinson in the early 1980s, and that was kept alive by Denny Driscoll in more recent times. Atlantic Philanthropies provided a generous start-up grant that funded the first few years of operations. Early on, the Centre emphasised development of

teaching programmes, building what quickly became a world-class LLM in human rights. Our best students didn't want to leave, and that led to a Doctoral Programme that now comprises more than 50 full-time students, probably the largest Doctoral cohort in human rights in the world. Of the 25 completed dissertations, more than half have now been published by the major international houses, including Oxford and Cambridge University Presses. Recently, the Centre launched the BA Connect in Human Rights, now in its third year. The Centre has been the hub for bi-annual meetings between European and Chinese scholars, funded by the EU. Recently, the Minister for Foreign Affairs launched the Centre's report on human rights violations in Burma, a scholarly initiative funded by Irish Aid. A study of racism in the Galway taxi business was also issued in early December. Within Ireland, the



Gala dinner host Senator David Norris, Ms. Anne Kenny and Mr. Des Kenny.

Centre engages with the Irish Human Rights Commission and the major human rights NGOs, such as Amnesty International and the Irish Council for Civil Liberties. As an institution, the Centre has developed a warm and collegial culture. It was this infectious spirit of attachment and loyalty that brought so many graduates back, on 19 November 2010, for the tenth anniversary celebrations. Our graduates can be found working in human rights throughout Ireland and the world, in NGOs, the United Nations and the international criminal tribunals."



Official Opening of the Centre in 2000 (l-r) Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights Professor William A. Schabas, former NUI Galway President Pat Fottrell, former Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform John O'Donoghue TD and former Mayor of Galway Councillor Declan McDonnell.

## Research To Human Trials - REMEDI enters next phase continued from page 1

The funding announcement comes on the back of additional support for regenerative medicine research at NUI Galway with a recent Higher Education Authority award of PRTL funding to the value of €37 million for a Biosciences Research building and a Translational Research Facility. These two new buildings for medical science research will enable NUI Galway to build on its existing strength in the biomedical sciences area, established through its National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES). In a third development in the biomedical sciences area, a new Clinical Research Facility on the grounds of University Hospital Galway will open in 2012. The HRB Clinical Research Facility Galway is a joint venture between Galway

University Hospitals and NUI Galway, with funding from the Health Research Board and Health Service Executive.

NUI Galway President, Dr James J. Browne added: "As REMEDI moves into the next exciting phase of development, it will bring new therapies and treatments for degenerative diseases to clinical trial here in Galway. This is ground-breaking work and will support Ireland's position at the forefront of the medical technology sector globally."

The Institute's successful collaborative relationship with Medtronic, a global leader in medical device technologies, will continue to

grow, while new partnerships have been established with indigenous SME companies including Creganna-Tactyx Medical, Procure, Ovagen, Proxy Biomedical, Ziel Biopharma and EnBIO.

Speaking about his vision for the Regenerative Medicine Institute, Director of REMEDI, Professor Tim O'Brien said: "REMEDI's vision is to develop a new and realisable paradigm for medicine in the future utilising minimally invasive therapeutic approaches to promote organ and tissue repair and regeneration. Our goal is to undertake basic research in stem cell biology and to translate the outputs into new regenerative therapies."

## NUI Galway Chaplaincy - A Place for Everyone

By Julie O'Leary

The Chapel of St Columbanus is an inviting place. A sense of quiet descends on entering and one can reflect, ponder and pray in comfort and silence. There are a variety of facilities surrounding the Chapel such as the Common Room and the Chapel Library open to staff and students alike.

The individual stools in the Chapel enable visitors to have their own space, to be separate from those around them, but also to be part of the communal spirit of the place whether it is at a wedding, a remembrance service or sitting in silent solitude. Many stools have small brass plaques with engraved dedications to alumni and staff, living and dead.

The Chapel has a very tangible sense of memory about it. There is a real feeling that the thoughts and prayers linger in the place. The Book of Intentions which sits unassuming in the top corner is filled with honest pleas for guidance, help and a chance to remember those gone before us, as well as messages of thanks and inspiration.

The presence of the Chaplaincy can be felt all over the campus, most particularly in the small memorial garden which remembers students and staff of the University who passed away.

"We try to be what students and staff need us to be. We minister and respond to the joys and sorrows of human life. It is all about forging links and building community and it is the best job in the

West" says Fr Diarmuid, one of two University Chaplains.

In addition to the quiet reflective nature of the Chapel there is also a proactive positive community of staff and students who come together to talk, support each other and raise money and awareness for charity. During the 2009/2010 academic year over €300,000 was raised for Haiti and Bangladesh alone.

"The Chaplaincy and the Chapel is for everybody. Coming up to Christmas, we want the entire University Community to experience it for themselves and make it their own." says Fr Diarmuid.

## Conferrings at NUI Galway

Over 5,400 students graduated from NUI Galway during the Autumn and Winter Conferring Ceremonies recently. NUI Galway also conferred three Honorary Masters Degrees during the ceremonies on musician Máirtín

O'Connor, local politician Norman Morgan and Rural Development Pioneer Canon Mícheál Ó Flannabhra.

The ceremonies began with the Adult and Continuing Education ceremonies and the 990

students who completed a range of certificates, diploma and degree courses locally at the University and at many outreach locations across the country.



Musician Máirtín O'Connor, who was conferred with Master of Music (*honoris causa*) for his lifetime contribution to Irish traditional music, with President James J. Browne.



Councillor Norman Morgan, who was conferred with Master of Arts (*honoris causa*) is a renowned historian, archivist, book collector, community activist and Loughrea Town Councillor with his granddaughter Tara Morgan, who graduated the same day.



Canon Mícheál Ó Flannabhra, who was conferred with Master of Rural Development (*honoris causa*) in recognition of his enormous contribution over the past five decades to the rural development of the Connemara area with President James J. Browne and Príomh-fheidhmeannach an Acadaimh, Peadar Mac an Iomaire.

## Rare Archive of John Huston Material Presented to NUI Galway

NUI Galway was presented with a rare collection of director, writer and actor John Huston's papers and recordings at a special ceremony in the University in November. The Huston Archive was launched in the presence of John's son Tony (who was nominated for an Academy Award for his screenplay of *The Dead*) and daughter Allegra. The Archive contains extensive material relating to a number of his films and centres on the making of *The Dead*, as well as draft scripts, recordings, publicity materials, interviews and legal documentation.

The Huston Archive offers a unique view of the prolific intersection of Irish literature and American cinema. The multiple draft scripts offer insights not just about the film, but also about the director's wide-ranging oeuvre, as nearly all of his 37 features are, similarly, literary adaptations. The material will contribute to the rich vein of debate already developed by scholars including NUI Galway Professor Kevin Barry in his book, *The Dead*, published in the 'Ireland into Film' series; and a new book from the Centenary Conference held at the Huston School of Film & Digital Media in 2006, edited by Tony Tracy from the Huston School and Roddy Flynn, entitled *John Huston: Essays on a Restless Director*.

The Archive includes an early version of a script written by Jean-Paul Sartre for the film *Freud: the Secret Passion*. Sartre visited Huston in St Clerans, his home near Craughwell, in 1958. It is rich in ancillary documentation which supplements that held by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and

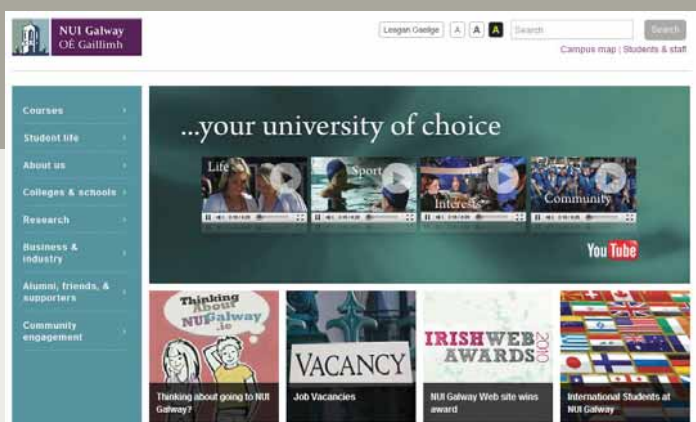


Allegra Huston, Rod Stoneman, Tony Huston and President James J. Browne at the presentation of the Huston Archive to NUI Galway.

Sciences in Los Angeles; and it includes Huston's personal copies of various books that he adapted and their screenplays. There are also recordings of music used in his films, publicity materials, photos and magazines, press cuttings and legal documentation. Other rare material includes a Scottish television interview with Huston conducted by film scholar, Charles Barr, at the Edinburgh Film Festival in 1975. The Archive has been enriched by significant items donated by Teresa Grimes, Paul Balbirnie and Joe Dillon.

The establishment of the Archive has been made possible by the University Foundation and Tony

Huston. The Huston Archive will be held in the James Hardiman Library at NUI Galway, home to a range of theatre, literary, historical and political archives. Collections include the archives of the Druid and Lyric Theatres and of Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe; the literary papers of John McGahern and Tom Kilroy; and original documents relating to the foundation of the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Northern Ireland 'Troubles'. An exhibition of materials from the Huston Archive is on display in the foyer of the James Hardiman Library and University staff and friends are very welcome to view it.



## NUI Galway Wins Best University Website

NUI Galway's Website, [www.nuigalway.ie](http://www.nuigalway.ie) was named 'Best Education and Third Level Website' at the 2010 Irish Web Awards. NUI Galway was triumphant over four other finalists at the ceremony held in Dublin's Mansion House.

The Irish Web Awards are held annually to recognise people who do great things on the Web and are open to anyone in Ireland.

# OLLSCÉALA

## NUI Galway Hub for Galway Science and Technology Festival



EU Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn meets some of the exhibitors at the Festival.

For the first time, NUI Galway hosted the Galway Science and Technology Festival Exhibition in November. The 13th Annual Exhibition saw more than 20,000 people pass through the Bailey Allen Hall. Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, officially launched the Exhibition on the day and was very impressed with both the interactive exhibits on display and the numbers of visitors in attendance.

Visitors were treated to a huge range of interactive activities and workshops on topics ranging from bubbles to bugs. NUI Galway made a tremendous contribution at the Exhibition, with highlights including the Ryan Institute's Sea Creatures Touch Tank, Chemistry's volcanic eruptions, and Applied Optics' interactive Laser Graffiti tool. The Zoology and Marine Biology Museum, the James Mitchell Museum of Geology, and DERI's Computer and Communications Museum were also all open for tours on the day.

The Exhibition was the culminating event of two weeks of talks, shows, school visits, and workshops held around the county as part of the Galway Science and Technology Festival. NUI Galway was closely involved throughout the planning and delivery of many aspects of the Festival, which was launched on campus in October by Mr. William Hawkins, Chairman and CEO of Medtronic Inc.

This year more than ever before, Festival organisers were keen for participants to see that science and technology are about more than the laboratory. With an emphasis on the business of technology, NUI Galway's J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics contributed strongly throughout the Festival; while the Centre for Innovation and Structural Change (CISC) invited young people to let their creativity flow, running a popular competition on 'Innovations for the Future'.

## Pharmaceutical Companies to Invest in NUI Galway Research Team

A research team at NUI Galway is embarking on a research project with the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies. Johnson & Johnson and The National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT) are jointly investing in a Bioanalytical Research Project at the Nanoscale Biophotonics Laboratory (NBL) in NUI Galway. The investment is part of the Government initiative to attract strategically important research and development to Ireland.

## Covidien Announces R&D Investment with NUI Galway



Covidien, a leading global supplier of healthcare products, announced an investment of €900,000 in medical technologies research and development projects with NUI Galway, during the next two years. The project involves a number of research groups based in the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES) at NUI Galway including the Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB) and the Centre for Pain Research (CPR). Speaking at the event, Vice-President for Research at NUI Galway Professor Terry Smith said; "NUI Galway is delighted to be part of this investment by Covidien for research to be led by Professor Abhay Pandit, Director of the Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials, and Dr David Finn, Lecturer in Pharmacology and Co-Director of the Centre for Pain Research. It is yet another tangible benefit arising from the Government investment in R&D and acknowledges the part which Irish research plays in translating research from the bench to the clinic."

## NUI Galway wins 28 National University Awards



NUI Galway graduates and students who won 28 of the 101 NUI Awards 2010. Front Row includes: Professor Fidelma Dunne, NUI Galway; Professor Josephine Hegarty, UCC; Dr Attracta Halpin, Registrar, NUI; Dr Maurice Manning, Chancellor of NUI; Dr Martin Butler, UCD; Dr Pat Morgan, NUI Galway.



## Focal ón Uachtarán

Agus 2010 ag teacht chun críche, ba

mhaith liom súil a chaitheamh siar ar bhliain a bhí dúshlánach ar chéad bhealach. Tá deacrachtaí eacnamaíochta na hÉireann ag luí go trom ar an gciste poiblí, agus tá tionchar aige sin orainne, lucht an ardoideachais, amhail gach earnáil eile.

I have been heartened this year by the efforts of academic and support staff to cope with the impact of budget and staff cuts, the recruitment moratorium and the ban on promotions. I appreciate your flexibility and initiative in responding positively to the current situation.

### Successes of 2010

Despite these challenges we have enjoyed many successes this year. Some detailed below:

**PRTLTI:** In July, NUI Galway secured almost €60 million for capital and research programmes in a strong endorsement of our activities and our approach to inter-institutional and industry collaboration. I'd like to pay tribute to all those involved in the PRTLTI bid, from all areas right across the University - well done!

**Capital Developments:** Construction commenced on a number of new projects notable the Arts Humanities & Social Sciences Research Building; and the Biosciences Building. Work on these buildings has been temporarily disrupted, but we are optimistic that construction will resume shortly. Work continues on the Engineering Building, which will be completed and ready for the next academic year.

**Student Numbers:** This year saw a record 18% increase in undergraduate applications. Our share of the undergraduate market, currently at 14.3%, is now increasing at a faster rate than that of all of the other Irish universities. The University continues to attract international students, and our growing international reputation, as evidenced in the recent rankings, will only serve to increase these numbers.

**Strategic Alliances:** Our alliances with the University of Limerick and Georgia Tech continue to develop. Colleagues are working with UL on

concrete actions in four areas of collaboration: Academic Offerings & the Student Experience; Research & Knowledge Transfer; Regional & International Engagement; and Profession Services & Resource Optimisation.

In mid-November, the University of Limerick and NUI Galway hosted the Irish Technology Leadership Group's annual 'Silicon Valley Comes to Ireland' event. As part of this series of events, we welcomed EU Commissioner Maire Geoghegan-Quinn to campus and hosted a lecture by Dr Craig Barrett, former Intel CEO and Chairman, who addressed a capacity audience at NUI Galway on 16 November. Craig Barrett called for increased public investment in research saying that 3% investment of Ireland's GDP into research was not enough. The event was followed by a discussion panel led by Dr James Cunningham, CISC, with contributions from John Ryan, Macrovision; Professor Patrick Cunningham, Ireland's Chief Scientific Advisor; Tom McDermott, Georgia Tech Research Institute; Dr Martina Newell-McGloughlin, University of California; and Professor Terry Smith, Vice President of Research, NUI Galway.

**Awards and Accolades:** Among the many individual and institutional successes of recent months, are a NAIRTL Award for Dr Dagmar Stengel; ISS success in winning an Irish Web Award for the Best Education & Third Level website for NUI Galway; a Humboldt Research Fellowship for Dr Róisín Healy (History); successes for our students in the Undergraduate Awards of Ireland and Royal Irish Academy's Hamilton Award in Mathematics. These representative examples highlight the commitment of staff and students to the highest standards of research and teaching excellence. Congratulations to all involved.

### Galway University Foundation

The US Board of Galway University Foundation held its 4th Annual Gala Banquet on 17th November as part of its mission to raise funds for NUI Galway's programmes and activities. This event honoured Galway graduate, Irial Finan, Executive Vice-President, The Coca-Cola Company. Proceeds from the Gala Dinner will support the expansion of NUI Galway's archives through the acquisition of new collections and the

development of humanities programmes for the Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Building.

### Conferrings and Awards

Since the last issue of Ollsceala, over 5,400 students were awarded with degrees, diplomas or certificates during the Autumn and Winter conferrings. At the October conferrings honorary degrees were conferred on Norman Morgan, historian, archivist, book collector, and community activist and on Máirtín Ó Connor, renowned traditional musician. Ar an 26 Samhain, bronnadh Céim Oinigh Máistir Forbairt Tuaithe ar an Canónach Mícheál Ó Flannabhra mar aitheantas ar na héachtaí atá déanta aige le caoga bliain i bhforbairt tuaithe i gConamara, agus, san áireamh go háirithe, an obair a rinne sé leis an ollscolaíochta Ghaeilge a thabhairt chun na Gaeltachta.

I also had the pleasure of visiting St Angela's College, Sligo to confer degrees at their ceremonies on 12th November and to award an honorary MA to writer, Leland Bardwell, in recognition of her contribution to the arts and creative writing in Sligo.

As 2010 draws to a close, I'd like to thank all staff for their continuing hard work and commitment in what has been a highly successful year for this University. Our staff continue to provide excellent service to students and colleagues, despite growth in student numbers and a decline in staff numbers. I offer my renewed thanks to all of you for your continuing efforts.

May I wish each and every staff member a peaceful and happy Christmas and every good wish for 2011. Guím gach dea-ghuí don Nollaig agus don Bhliain Nua.

Beir bua agus beannacht,  
James J. Browne PhD, DSc, MRIA, C.Eng.  
Uachtarán - President

# Student & Staff Awards

## Historian Awarded Humboldt Fellowship

NUI Galway lecturer in History, Dr Róisín Healy, has been awarded a prestigious Research Fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, Bonn. The Fellowship, which is for experienced researchers, is funded by the German government. Dr Healy, who lectures on nineteenth- and twentieth-century German and European history in NUIG, has been granted sabbatical leave to enable her to fully avail of the research opportunities of the Fellowship.

## Manager Named Catering Manager of the Year

General Manager of ARAMARK Ireland Catering at NUI Galway, Brian Bates, has been named Catering Manager of the Year 2010 at the prestigious Irish Hospitality Institute Founders' Banquet and Hospitality Awards at the Convention Centre Dublin. The Awards recognise excellence in management within the catering and hospitality sector.

## Engineering PhD Student Wins Prize

William Ronan, Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering, was awarded third prize in the cell and tissue engineering Ph.D. student competition at the American Society of Mechanical Engineering Summer Bioengineering Conference. William has just completed the second year of his Ph.D. under the supervision of Dr Patrick McGarry.

## Lecturer Wins Crampton Prize

Dr. Bryan McCabe, a Lecturer in Civil Engineering, was recently awarded the Crampton Prize at the Institution of Civil Engineers Annual Awards Ceremony in London for a journal paper published in ICE Geotechnical Engineering in 2009. The paper, co-authored with Gordon Nimmons and Derek Egan of Keller Foundations, reviews case history field performance data for vibro-replacement stone columns in soft clayey soils.

## Sports Centre Manager Wins Award

General Manager of the Sports Centre at NUI Galway's Barry Phelan has scooped the title of 'Irish Leisure Manager of the Year' at this year's Institute of Leisure & Amenity Management (ILAM) Awards. The club also won the prestigious ILAM White Flag Award for a second year in a row.

## Award for Web Researcher

An NUI Galway Web researcher has been honoured with the 'Best Paper Award' at a Web conference in Italy. Dr Axel Polleres of the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) at

NUI Galway, won the award at the Web Rules and Reasoning Conference in Bressanone, Italy. Dr Polleres' work surrounds a standard query language for the Web entitled SPARQL1.1.

## Award for Postgraduate Researcher

A first-year postgraduate researcher at the Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials, (NFB) at NUI Galway, was awarded the best podium presentation at the 23rd European Conference on Biomaterials. Bill Daly received the award at the Annual Conference of the European Society for Biomaterials (ESB) which was held in Tampere, Finland.

## Student Thesis to be Published By European Institute

A student at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway, Sarah Bassiouni, was one of five students whose thesis was selected for publication by the European Inter-University Institute for Human Rights and Democratisation recently.

## Research Scholar Awarded Irish Cancer Society Prize

NUI Galway Research Scholar, Lisa Vincenz, has been awarded a Research Scholarship and Fellowship Programme by the Irish Cancer Society. Lisa is starting her PhD studies in biochemistry in the University's Apoptosis Research Centre and the School of Natural Sciences. Her studies will be focused on how some cancer cells can be protected from chemotherapy drugs.

## Academic Receives National Excellence in Teaching Award

NUI Galway Academic Dr Dagmar Stengel recently received a 2010 National Academy for Integration of Research Teaching and Learning (NAIRTL) Annual Award for Excellence in Teaching. This is the third year in a row that an NUI Galway academic took an award, something that no other Higher Education institution has achieved. Dr Dagmar Stengel, Lecturer in Botany and Plant Science in the School of Natural Sciences NUI Galway and a researcher in the Ryan Institute for Environment, Marine and Energy at the University received specific praise for her approachable and empathetic manner with students, which encourages them to strive for high standards of excellence.

## Graduate Wins RTÉ's Reality Volunteering Show

NUI Galway graduate, Carol Leonard from Cloghan, Co Offaly, was announced the co-winner of RTÉ's reality show Do the Right Thing. Carol, who graduated from NUI Galway

with a Bachelor of Arts in 2006, was awarded a unique fully paid one-year package volunteering in Ghana, India and Thailand.

## National and International Awards for Student Outreach Projects

Melanie Hennessy of Draíocht Society and two members of the Best Buddies Society Séan Kearns and Siún O'Rourke were honoured for their outstanding work in their respective societies. Séan Kearns won Young Person of the Year in Galway and Ireland. Siún O'Rourke, Vice-Auditor of the Best Buddies Society, won an award in the category of Education and Training in the Ireland Involved Awards.

Melanie, the founding member of the Draíocht Society has been awarded with the JCI Most Outstanding Young Person in the World in the category of Humanitarian Aid.

## Undergraduate Receives Hamilton Award

NUI Galway undergraduate student in Financial Mathematics and Economics, Gerard Moran was awarded a 2010 Hamilton Award in Mathematics by the Royal Irish Academy (RIA). Gerard, from Castlebar in Co Mayo, is currently in his final year of study for the BSc in Financial Mathematics and Economics.

## Two Undergraduate Awards for NUI Galway

Two NUI Galway students have won prizes at this year's Undergraduate Awards of Ireland and Northern Ireland Awards at the Royal Irish Academy. Rachel Carey from Headford, Co Galway and Anne Molloy from Ballynacally, Co Clare were presented with prizes in the Life Sciences and Language and Linguistics categories.

## Award Winners Create Technologies of the Future

Directions at your fingertips and genetic algorithms-generated Sudoku puzzles are just some of the exciting new technologies that graduates of the Information Technology discipline at NUI Galway have won awards for recently. Stephen Lenihan from Cong, Co Mayo, was awarded the Best Project in the B.Sc. in Information Technology, sponsored by Cisco System. Steven Connolly from Achill, Co Mayo, Thomas Mitchell and Andrew Sweeney both from Ballinamore, Co Leitrim, all students in the M.Sc. in Software Design and Development were awarded the Best Project in the H.Dip / M.Sc. in Software Design & Development, sponsored by Cisco Systems. James Tomkins from Galway City and Jonathan Lynch from Tullamore, Co Offaly, both graduates of the B.A. in Information Technology created a MIDI based music tutor.

*Staff & Student Awards continued on page 11.*

## Entrance Scholars

NUI Galway celebrated the success of a select group of first-year students who received a total of €83,300 in recognition of the high points they achieved in the Leaving Certificate examination. As part of the University's annual Entrance Scholarships, 49 students were each presented with a cheque for € 1,700 and a specially designed scroll to mark their achievement.



## First Ever NUI Galway Community and Family Studies Degree Students Graduate



A new degree programme in Community and Family Studies at NUI Galway is the first of its kind in Ireland where adult learners are given the opportunity to study community and family work policy and practice through the medium of distance learning. The first graduates of the four-year, part-time degree programme were awarded their Bachelor of Arts degrees during the Adult Education Graduation ceremony held at the University.

## Debating the Sakharov Prize

Together with the European Parliament Office in Ireland, the Irish Centre for Human Rights held a very successful event on the evening on the 7 October to publicise the 2010 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, and to promote debate on the individual human rights issues to which the prize relates. As part of the event, each of the initial list of nine nominees who had been submitted to the Parliament was represented by BA, LL.M, and PhD students from the Irish Centre for Human Rights.

## Sports Scholars



Twenty four new recipients of NUI Galway Student Sports Scholarships were presented recently by Chairman of the NUI Galway Sport & Recreation Union Committee, Ruadhán Cooke. The recipients joined the thirty existing scholarship holders of NUI Galway Sports Scholarships.

## Outreach Education in Sri Lanka



The University conferred Diplomas on 59 adult students in Sri Lanka who completed two courses, Psychology of Counselling and Peacebuilding and Community Development. The outreach project, under the direction of Mr Séamus O'Grady, Director of Adult and Continuing Education, was designed to meet the major counselling needs of the Jaffna region, resulting from the long war and the tsunami. Courses were organised by the Ahavoli Institute of Counselling, Jaffna, through financial support from Irish Aid. Academic Directors for the two courses were Professor Ruth Curtis, Psychology of Counselling, and Professor Chris Curtin, Peacebuilding and Community Development. Since the project commenced in 2005, 153 students in the Jaffna region have been awarded Adult Education Diplomas by NUI Galway.

## Making Peace in Secret

NUI Galway's Centre for Irish Studies hosted a public lecture, delivered by Dr Niall Ó Dochartaigh entitled: *Making Peace in Secret: Evidence from the Brendan Duddy Papers* at NUI Galway recently. The lecture focused on the role Brendan Duddy played as a secret intermediary between the British Government and the IRA during the height of the conflict in Northern Ireland.

# OLLSCÉALA

## Open Days a Hit with Prospective Students



October's NUI Galway Open Days were a hit with high levels of attendance and visitors. In excess of 8,000 prospective students, Guidance Counsellors and parents came to the event.

## New Programming Support Facility for Students

Computer DISC, the new Computer Programming Drop In Support Centre, has opened at NUI Galway. Its purpose is to provide students with extra support in computer programming and software development courses. It is designed to complement the lectures, labs, tutorials and other supports currently available to students. This innovative facility is located in Room 205 of the IT Building.

## NCLA begin work on FP7 Marie Curie project

NUI Galway and industry partners in UK and China have commenced working on a FP7 Marie Curie Industry-Academic Partnership Project (IAPP) which is set to develop short pulse laser ablative processes for next generation photonic / electronic devices. Researchers from the National Centre for Laser Applications (NCLA), located in the School of Physics, have recently completed the first secondments at M-Solv UK Ltd as part of the four-year interaction.

## School of Physics signs up to Juno

Project Juno is an initiative of the Institute of Physics which seeks to address the under-representation of women in all levels in University physics. The School will establish a Juno committee which will promote discussion of gender and other equality issues and work towards developing an equitable working culture in which students and staff, men and women, can all achieve their full potential. NUI Galway Physics is the first Irish School to become a Juno supporter. The Juno contact person for the School is Dr Miriam Byrne.

## Globalisation, Empire and Culture Lectures at NUI Galway

The NUI Galway School of Arts and Humanities, in co-operation with the Mellon Foundation and the Moore Institute, hosted two public lectures on Globalisation, Empire and Culture recently. The lectures were hosted in conjunction with the Text Contexts and Culture Research Programme in the University.

## New Economics Book Published by NUI Galway Lecturer

A new book entitled *Transition Economics: Two Decades On* has been co-authored by NUI Galway lecturer, Dr Gerard Turley. Dr Turley, along with his co-author Dr. Peter Luke designed the book to be the core textbook for undergraduate courses in transition economics and comparative economic systems.

## Suíomh Nua Idirlín D'Amhráin Joe Einniú

Sheol an tUasal Liam Mac Con Iomaire suíomh nua Idirlín d'amhráin Joe Einniú in chartlann OÉ Gaillimh i gCarna, Áras Shorcha Ní Ghuairim, le gairid.

## NUI Galway Team Enabling the Future of the Web

A new project which aims to make it easier for government agencies and Web developers to access information from other organisations across the globe is being co-ordinated by the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) at NUI Galway. LOD Around-the-Clock (LATC) project is an EU co-funded project comprised of leading Linked Open Data researchers and practitioners.

## Maoiniú Faighte

Tá maoiniú faighte ag an Meitheal um Theagasc na Gaeilge ar an Tríú Leibhéal don chéim dheiridh de thionscadal siollabais don Ghaeilge in ollscoileanna ar fud na tíre. Bhronn Foras na Gaeilge €65,000 ar an Meitheal chun siollabas agus acmhainní foghlama agus teagaisc a dhearadh agus a fhorbairt don tríú bliain den chúrsa BA nó BED sa Ghaeilge. Tá ionadaithe ó fhormhór d'ollscoileanna agus d'institiúidí tríú leibhéal na tíre páirteach sa Mheitheal atá faoi stiúir an Dr. John Walsh, Roinn na Gaeilge, OÉ Gaillimh agus an Oll. Máirín Nic Eoin, Roinn na Gaeilge, Coláiste Phádraig.

## The Babel Public Lecture Series

Registrar and Vice President, Professor Jim Ward, recently launched the Babel Public Lecture Series 'Exploring the Book', at the Galway Public Library.

The Babel Lectures is an initiative of the School of Languages, Literature, and Cultures, which intends to reinforce the connection with Galway through an annual series of lectures especially designed to promote creative exchange and dialogues between academics and the community.

## NUI Galway Based Company Wins at the Irish Web Awards



An NUI Galway Business Innovation Centre client company OnePageCRM.com recently received a prestigious Irish Web Award for Best New Web Application or Service. The website won the award for their online sales/customer relationship management (CRM) application.

## Michael D Higgins launches Books on Irish Studies

Michael D Higgins T.D., recently launched two books written by NUI Galway's Professor Emeritus of Classics, Brian Arkins: *Irish Appropriation of Greek Tragedy* and *The Thought of W.B. Yeats*.

## NUI Galway Celebrates Volunteering with Ninth Annual Fair



The ninth annual NUI Galway Volunteering Fair took place in September, in the Bailey Allen Hall where over 2,000 students, staff and members of the general public attended. Over 70 charities and community organisations showcased the wide range of volunteering opportunities.

## Top Irish Entrepreneurs Talk Business at NUI Galway



The economic downturn should not deter people from starting their own business, according to three of the top entrepreneurs in the country. Dylan Collins, Jolt Online Gaming, Philip Reynolds, C&D Foods Ltd. and Terence Monaghan, Managing Director TCRS Ltd. (formerly of BetaTHERM) gave their views, advice and guidance on entrepreneurship at NUI Galway recently. Chaired by Pádraig Ó Céidigh, the panel discussion focused on the characteristics of entrepreneurs, the importance of leadership and strategy, and how overcoming challenges and learning from mistakes is critical in the entrepreneur's journey. The event was organised by the NUI Galway Executive Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the Cairnes School of Business and Economics in conjunction with the MBA Association of Ireland Western Chapter.

## Moffetts Restaurant in Top Five Institutional Catering

Moffetts Restaurant at NUI Galway has been listed in the top five restaurants in Ireland in Institutional Catering by the Hotel & Catering Review Gold Medal Awards. Moffetts is operated by Masterchefs Hospitality, a brand leader in Fine Dining which also operate three other outlets on Campus.

## NUI Galway Honoured by Music for Galway

NUI Galway was honoured at Music for Galway's 30th Anniversary Fundraising Gala Reception and Concert at the Town Hall Theatre in October. The event celebrated all that is best in music in Ireland West and beyond, and marked three decades of international concert seasons in Galway. Honours were conferred on NUI Galway for its 30 years of generous support, and on Erika Casey, founder member of Music for Galway.

## Boston-Ireland Medical Technology Conference

The Centre for Innovation and Structural Change (CISC) at NUI Galway hosted a one-day conference on the Medical Technology Clusters in Ireland and Massachusetts at the University in October. The purpose of the conference was to learn about the cluster of medical technology companies in Massachusetts and in particular the industry-specific organisations that drive the cluster's development.

## New Car Sharing Website Launched



A new website which affords staff and students of NUI Galway the opportunity to arrange car sharing, was recently launched by the University. The website, [www.carsharing.ie/nuigalway](http://www.carsharing.ie/nuigalway) lets staff and students arrange car sharing on an informal basis with colleagues who have similar commutes by registering their details online.

## Top Galway Employers Attend NUI Galway Graduate Jobs Fair

Major organisations from business, industry and the voluntary sector attended the NUI Galway Graduate Jobs Fair in the Bailey Allen Hall, in October. The popular annual event showcases graduate employment opportunities for graduates from all disciplines, with a diverse number of fields such as accountancy, IT, law, science, retail, consultancy and many other sectors represented.

## Student wins Graham Greene Award 2010

Cathy Hogan, a third-year student on the BA with Creative Writing Programme, has won the prestigious Award for Best Fiction, an annual prize adjudicated by the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust.

## Gold Gaisce Awards for Four Students

Four NUI Galway students were awarded Gold Gaisce Awards in recognition for their outstanding contribution to community and personal

development. President Mary McAleese presented the students with their awards. They were third year BA Geography and Archaeology student, Mary Gavaghan, from Charlestown Co. Mayo. Alumni, Lisa Carney (LLB 2007, BA 2006) from Kiltamagh, Co. Mayo. Second year BS Marine Biology student, Lauren Martin, from Athy Co. Kildare and third year BA Sociology and Political studies and Psychological studies student, Máiread Felle, Portumna, Co. Galway.

## Researchers awarded ERC Grants



Two NUI Galway based researchers were awarded grants worth up to €2m each under the prestigious 'Starting Grants' competition run by the European Research Council (ERC). Gavin Collins and Laoise Maria McNamara were both awarded grants. The grants will enable them to carry out their pioneering research.

## Researchers Win at Irish Pain Society Meeting

Researchers from Centre for Pain Research at NUI Galway won three prizes at the Irish Pain Society's Annual Scientific Meeting in Royal College of Physicians, Dublin in September. Dr. Gemma Ford, a post-doctoral researcher in pharmacology was awarded joint first place with Gerard Healy, a final year medical student. Gemma and Gerard received the Pain Research Medal for their research. In addition, research from the Centre for Pain Research and Galway Neuroscience Cluster was also recognized with awards at the recent meeting of Neuroscience Ireland. Orla Moriarty won first prize for her oral communication and Nikita Burke won a prize for her poster presentation.

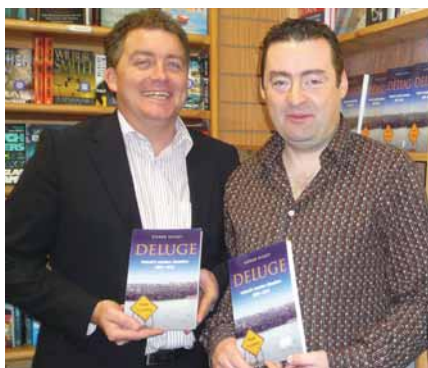
## Medtronic Student of the Year

NUI Galway student Lisa Ferrick is this year's winner of the Medtronic Student of the Year Award. Lisa received this award for her outstanding academic performance that placed her top of her class. The announcement was made at the CIPD Western Region Gala Dinner Dance sponsored by QUINN-Healthcare.

## High Altitude Medicine Website Launched

NUI Galway launched a new website which aims to educate travellers to high altitude and their healthcare professionals about the effects of altitude on the human body. The website was developed by Dr Gerard Flaherty, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Medicine and Medical Education at NUI Galway, in collaboration with medical students completing the special study module in High Altitude Medicine. The website [www.highaltitudemedicine.ie](http://www.highaltitudemedicine.ie) provides useful information on the physiological effects of altitude and acclimatisation to high altitude environments.

## New Book on Ireland's Weather Disasters Launched



A hugely successful launch for *Deluge: Ireland's Weathers Disasters, 2009-2010* the latest publication from Dr Kieran Hickey, a lecturer in the department of Geography at NUI Galway, took place in October in Charlie Byrne's Bookshop, Galway. A big crowd braved the wet weather on the night to see Dr John Cunningham of the department of History at NUI Galway officially launch the book. (l-r) Councillor Ollie Crowe and Dr Hickey.

## Successful Maths Week at NUI Galway

The School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Mathematics at NUI Galway hosted a number of very successful events as part of the 5th Maths Week Ireland. Several workshops were held during Maths Week with the key aim of promoting awareness, appreciation and understanding of maths amongst the general public as well as school audiences.

## LLM Visit Limerick

The LLM in Public Law students who are undertaking the Law and Local Government module visited Limerick Regeneration Project in

November. The field trip involved visits to the Moyross, Southill, and other estates being regenerated. The group then discussed the Regeneration Masterplan and its implications for local government law, with Mr Brendan Kenny CEO of Limerick Regeneration Project.

## Rose of Tralee Launches Mental Health Week at NUI Galway



This year's Rose of Tralee and NUI Galway Psychology graduate Clare Kambemettu launched Mental Health Week, 10 to 17 October at the University. Along with launching a comprehensive programme of events surrounding 'Building Resilience - to protect mental health and wellbeing', the Rose also launched a MyStudentBody website dealing with mental health and wellbeing issues for students and parents and a Bobby Baker Art Exhibition.

## NUI Galway Participate in 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender Violence

The 16 Days Campaign of Activism against Violence against Women is an international campaign with participants in over 164 countries and involving more than 3400 organisations. The campaign links 25 November International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, International Human Rights Day in order to symbolically connect violence against women and human rights and to emphasise that such violence is a human rights violation. The Global Women's Studies Programme in the School of Political Science and Sociology at NUI Galway hosted a series of events in recognition of the 16 Days Campaign.

## Flirt FM launches Alumni Hour

NUI Galway's student radio station, Flirt FM 101.3, launched a new programme in which well-known alumni tell stories of their student days in Galway. The programme, Alumni Hour, promises

to be a big hit with fellow alumni and Galwegians who will recognise the times, places, people and sounds of their own college days.

## Applied Maths Teachers' Conference at NUI Galway

NUI Galway hosted the 2010 Applied Maths Teachers' Association (IAMTA) Conference and Annual General Meeting in November. The conference was particularly timely considering the significant changes underway in school mathematics due to the introduction of the new project Maths curriculum. The conference consisted of a series of panel discussions and keynote addresses.

## Globe Forum Dublin



Pictured at the recent Globe Forum Dublin event are (l-r) Dr Sarah Knight of NUI Galway's Ryan Institute, Dr Monaghan of the Combustion Chemistry Centre, and Jakob Rutkvist, Director of the environmental programme Fores, in Sweden. The event, which focused on sustainability and innovation, gathered more than 600 entrepreneurs, business leaders, city planners, policy makers, community workers, and researchers from across Ireland and the EU.

## Professor Malini Olivo wins SFI Research Image Competition

Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Mr Conor Lenihan T.D., announced Professor Malini Olivo, NUI Galway, as the winner of the SFI Research Image Competition for her entry 'The Art of Cancer'. Minister Lenihan made the announcement in a keynote address to the SFI Science Summit, a two-day conference in Athlone attended by over 300 people including Ireland's leading scientific researchers, EU Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, and leading industry figures.