



*Pictured at the Honorary Conferring (l-r): Bernard Collins, John Killeen, President Browne, Anne Marie Dennison and Seán Ó hUiginn.*

## Honorary Doctorates 2010

### NUI Galway conferred Honorary Degrees on Friday, 25 June.

**Bernard Collins**, *Doctor of Laws*, Chairman VHI, Board member IDA Ireland and Cancer Care West, former senior executive Boston Scientific Corporation.

**Anne Maria Dennison**, *Doctor of Arts*, National President, Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA), the largest women's organisation in Ireland. The ICA celebrates its Centenary in 2010.

**John Killeen**, *Doctor of Laws*, CEO of the Colas Group (Cold Chon), Chairman of the Galway Docklands Redevelopment Committee, Chairman, Let's do it Ireland (Galway Volvo Ocean Race Stopover), former President of The Academy of Engineering and The Institution of Engineers of Ireland.

**Seán Ó hUiginn**, *Doctor of Laws*, Irish Diplomat, former Ambassador to United States and Germany.

Speaking at the conferring ceremony, President Browne said: "NUI Galway is fortunate to be associated with many outstanding honorary graduates throughout its history, and those being honoured this year form a very distinguished group. In different ways, they represent and exemplify the talents and achievements of modern Ireland in the fields of business, engineering, international relations and social and cultural development. We are delighted to honor them individually as well as the groups they represent."



## Focal ón Eagarthóir

### Samhradh, Samhradh

#### Thugamar féin an samhradh linn...

And with that we celebrate our annual Honorary Conferring (p.1) and the summer conferring (p.12).

Summer also brings to campus the many conferences (p.4) which bring life to halls vacated by students as they graduate to wonderful opportunities, volunteer in foreign lands or simply take up the summer job that will see them through another academic year.

Some recent events included a partnership announcement between the NUI Galway – UL Alliance with the Georgia Institute of Technology; a new €10 million 'Lifecycle Institute' (both p.3), and MOU signing with Ocean University China (p.5), and the new European Commissioner for Research making her first public address on campus (p.6).

The recent volcanic activity in Iceland highlighted the wonderful research being conducted at our University (p.6) and the many awards for our staff and students (p.8) highlight the continuous flow of accolades on campus.

We take a look at the role of support services (p.5) and should you feel the urge to escape to 'a place of zoological inspiration' read page 12.

Enjoy what the summer brings and as ever, mo bhuíochas do chách as ucht na scéalta ar fad.

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## Royal Irish Academy Honours Top Academics



Pictured (l-r): Professor Nicholas Canny, Professor Stefan Decker and Dr Sinisa Malesevic.

The Royal Irish Academy (RIA) has elected two of NUI Galway's academics. Dr Sinisa Malesevic, Senior Lecturer in the School of Political Science and Sociology and Professor Stefan Decker, Director of the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI), were among only 24 academics on the island of Ireland to achieve this highest distinction.

Professor Nicholas Canny, President of the RIA, and Director of the Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities and Social Studies, said that this group "is as accomplished and as academically diverse as any cohort elected since our founding members signed the roll in 1785".

## New Director for Irish Centre for Social Gerontology

NUI Galway is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Tom Scharf as the new director of the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG). Having previously directed a research centre with a strong international reputation for its work on ageing, at Keele University (UK), Professor Scharf is looking forward to the opportunity to contribute to debates about ageing policy in Ireland.

"Population ageing presents both opportunities and challenges for all nations. I am delighted to be taking up this post at a time when there is such an interest in issues arising from demographic change in Ireland. My aim is to ensure that NUI Galway continues to



play a leading part in ensuring that public debates on ageing are well informed by research evidence," commented Professor Scharf.

Professor Scharf takes over as ICSG director from Professor Eamon O'Shea, who was instrumental in establishing ICSG in 2006 as a multidisciplinary research centre on ageing with a focus on research, education and training in the field of social gerontology in Ireland and internationally.

## Stem Cell Expert Appointed Adjunct Professor

Dr Alan Colman, a Principal Investigator in the A\*STAR Institute of Medical Biology and Executive Director of the Singapore Stem Cell Consortium, has been appointed Adjunct Professor of Fundamental Stem Cell Biology with the Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI).

REMEDI researchers will be trained in Dr Colman's lab in Singapore where the technology is established. It is planned that researchers, once trained, will return to Ireland and, via national collaborations, will transfer the technology to Irish researchers.

## Launch of Joint Translational Research Institute with the Georgia Institute of Technology



*Pictured at the launch of the joint Translational Research Institute between NUI Galway, UL and the Georgia Institute of Technology at the Royal Irish Academy on Friday, 18 June (l-r): President Browne, An Taoiseach Brian Cowen TD, President of Georgia Institute of Technology, Dr G.P. "Bud" Peterson, and Professor Don Barry, UL President.*

The Translational Research Institute will focus on the application of core technologies and expertise within the partner institutions, to provide Irish industries with the capability to exploit synergies with their technologies and products. The Institute will apply technologies developed within its partner institutions in the Healthcare and Sustainable Energy market segments.

The new Translational Research Institute will be a national centre of excellence in translational research, technology development and exploitation in key strategic areas of Science, Engineering, and Technology. It will create a unique translational facility in Ireland and will significantly enhance the capacity and expertise available to the broad higher education sector and Irish industry, providing a distinct competitive advantage for indigenous SMEs and Irish-based FDI industries, thus helping to establish Ireland as a global centre of excellence for technology development, innovation and commercialisation.

Welcoming the Initiative, An Taoiseach Brian Cowen, said: "I would like to commend all involved in establishing this Institute. It is exactly the type of development which the Government is trying to encourage. I believe it can help us achieve our goals for increasing collaboration between higher education institutions, establishing better linkages between higher education and industry, and delivering the economic growth and job creation we need in the years ahead".

## New €10 million 'Lifecycle Institute'

A new Lifecycle Institute, a €10 million initiative in the social sciences, was recently announced with the aim of impacting positively on future policies for children, families, people with disabilities and older people. Funded through philanthropic donations and in collaboration with The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Lifecycle Institute will advance an integrated approach to policy and services research.

Comprising a multidisciplinary facility in a state-of-the-art new building, the Lifecycle Institute will integrate and enhance the work of three existing centres - the Child and Family Research Centre, the Disability Law and Policy Centre, and the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology. Each of the three centres already makes an important contribution to its respective field in Ireland and internationally. The Lifecycle Institute will add value to this existing work through collaboration across research, teaching and training programmes - while retaining each centre's distinct identity.

Welcoming the announcement, President Browne said: "This is a major advance in the field of social sciences in Ireland. The development of the Lifecycle Institute reflects a shared commitment by researchers to work towards effective change in the lives of vulnerable populations. This will, we hope, lead to improved outcomes for children, families, older people and people with disabilities by influencing policy and decision making, whether emanating from the Irish Government, the EU or the UN".



*Pictured l-r: Professor Pat Dolan, Director of the Child and Family Research Centre, President Browne, Eilionóir Flynn, Centre for Disability Law and Policy, and Professor Eamon O'Shea, Irish Centre for Social Gerontology.*

## Conferences on Campus

### Social Marketing Conference

The second annual Social Marketing Conference, entitled 'Making it Happen - Changing Behaviours and Changing Policies', took place in the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics. This year's conference had a strong health focus. The leading world authority on Social Marketing, Professor Gerard Hastings, Director with the Institute for Social Marketing, delivered the keynote address.

### CELT Conference

CELT's 8th Galway Symposium on Higher Education, entitled 'Creative Thinking: Re-imagining the University', encompassed creative approaches to teaching, curricular design and the nurturing of students' creativity. As part of the Symposium the first-ever TEDx Galway event took place where speakers were given 18 minutes to present "ideas worth spreading". The talks were then posted on [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com) as part of the worldwide TED online community.

### Health Promotion focuses on Men's Health

The Health Promotion Research Centre has hosted its annual summer conference, focusing on multidisciplinary approaches to improving men's health. The aim of the event was to promote best practice in multidisciplinary approaches to improving men's health. The conference included keynote addresses from world leaders in the field of men's health including Professor Alan White of Leeds Metropolitan. Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, TD gave the closing remarks at the conference.



Minister Mary Harney, President Browne and Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn.

### Human Rights Summer Schools and International Conferences

ICHR hosted two summer schools and two International conferences recently. The first conference was entitled 'Minority Rights, Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Law'. Participants of this school were then invited as observers to part of the International Conference on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, with keynote speaker Anthony Taubman from the World Trade Organisation.

The International Criminal Court summer school, which also took place in June, offered a detailed working knowledge of the establishment of the Court, its applicable law, its structures and its operations.

In March, Professor Simon Chesterman, Global Professor and Director of the New York University School of Law Singapore Programme, opened a conference co-hosted by The Geneva Academy for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, entitled 'Corporations and Armed Conflict: The Role of International Humanitarian Law'.

### CKI Conference

CKI recently hosted the University's inaugural conference on Service Learning, entitled 'Creating Spaces for Civic Engagement - University and Community Perspectives'. Keynote speakers at the conference included Pádraig Ó Céidigh, Chairman of Aer Arann and Adjunct Professor with JE Cairnes School of Business and Economics.

CKI also hosted 40 educators from Jordan and Lebanon recently for a seven-day bespoke study tour. The tour is part of a new EU TEMPUS-funded project which aims to develop service learning and civic engagement partnerships in Jordan and Lebanon.

### Life Enhancement for Older People

The Irish Centre for Social Gerontology and COPE Galway Senior Support Services co-hosted a participatory conference on Life Enhancement for Older People across the areas of participation and civic engagement, empowerment and advocacy. The conference was one of the first of this type in Ireland, aimed specifically at older people.

### Postgraduate Committee of Law Students

The Postgraduate Committee of Law Students held the Second Irish Conference for Law Masters Students entitled 'Mastering Law: Conflicts, Challenges and Solutions in Today's Society'. Guest speakers included Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, President of the Law Reform Commission, and Michael Farrell, Irish Human Rights Commissioner.

### TERMIS EU Meeting

The Tissue Engineering Regenerative Medicine International Society (TERMIS) EU meeting is the premier tissue engineering conference in Europe where scientists from the fields of biomaterials, scaffolds, stem cells and cell biologists come together in a combined forum. The conference was hosted by the NFB and was attended by over 700 delegates.

### STEP Conference

International historians of science, medicine and technology in the European Periphery celebrated the 10th anniversary of the STEP organisation by bringing their biannual conference to Galway. The meeting featured 70 speakers from all over Europe, as well as the USA, Japan and Brazil.

Other events taking place after going to print included: the Sixth Galway Conference on Colonialism, entitled 'Education and Empire'; the Irish Conference of Medievalists; and the International Conference and Workshop of the Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH).

## Support Services - Changing with Challenging Times

*Dr Kieran Loftus in conversation with Julie O Leary, MA in Journalism*



*Dr Kieran Loftus*

*“Our work in NUI Galway is centred on teaching, learning and research, providing knowledge based leadership in our region and in our priority research themes. The success of this work is underpinned by the critical contribution of those who work to deliver our Support Services”.*

Leading the support services effort is Executive Director of Operations Dr Kieran Loftus. “There is no easy sound bite to describe what we do in our support services; it is a complex and wide area which encompasses everything except the academic activity. Every person has a part to play, from President to porter”.

Just a year into the job, his clear brief is to drive the development of high performing support services, making sure that the services are provided effectively, efficiently and economically. Critical to this work is the development of an Integrated Support Services Strategic Plan. This will provide us with a

roadmap linked directly to the University’s Strategic Plan 2009-2014. It emphasises the need to simplify what we do and to enable individual units to work better together.

The current economic climate has led to the Employment Control Framework (ECF), and managing our numbers has become one of the key areas of focus in the Integrated plan. Under the ECF we have seen 3% cuts in headcount in 2009 and again in 2010. We are expecting the same in 2011.

“The ECF means that we have to adjust the way that we work, we have to be smarter and more efficient in delivering the same outcomes even though we have fewer people and less money. I have been impressed by the way that managers and their teams have been rising to this challenge, and working to maintain committed levels of services. All our staff should be commended for these efforts. Our support services are an integral and essential part of our organisation, which is busy changing itself to adapt. We know that we can continue to succeed in this changing world”.

Changes across campus have led to some staff redeployment. However, Kieran emphasises that there are no plans for a programme of forced redundancies at NUI Galway. He recognises the danger that headcount and

financial cutbacks can have an impact on the student experience. There are reduced hours in key services such as the student contact centre, which have a direct impact on the student body. This is why it is so important that we constantly look for ways to work better together, ensuring that everybody does the best job they can within the available resources.

We discussed some positive developments that have come on stream recently. A scheme for maternity cover, allowing for 50% cover, will alleviate stress on departments experiencing loss of staff due to maternity leave. A telephone hotline for incoming students will be rolled out in August. All queries can be dealt with from one number, enabling staff to be more effective and giving students a better service.

When asked about treating the University as if it were a business Kieran tells me that that we can learn from the world of business in aiming to be more flexible and creative as an organisation. “The tools and techniques of the business world can be very useful in delivering on the Integrated Support Services Strategic Plan. In no way does this undermine our unique nature as a University, but it does further the aim of delivering high performing support services in an organisation whose primary purpose is Learning, Teaching and Research.

## MOU Signed with Ocean University of China



A formal memorandum of understanding has been signed between NUI Galway and Ocean University of China (OUC), Qingdao. The agreement paves the way for student and faculty exchange and research collaboration. OUC is a University renowned specifically in Oceanography and Fisheries and was the first University in China approved by the State as the base for fundamental scientific research and teaching staff training in Oceanography, Marine Chemistry and Life Science Technology. The University has over 20,000 registered students, including 4,000 Doctoral or Masters degree students.

*Pictured at the signing of the MOU between Ocean University of China and NUI Galway (l-r): Galway City Mayor Declan McDonnell, President Browne, Professor Li, Vice-President, Ocean University of China; and Mayor Xia of Qingdao.*

## Máire Geoghegan-Quinn On Campus



Máire Geoghegan-Quinn delivered her first public address in Ireland since becoming European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, at NUI Galway in March. The Commissioner spoke about the part that research, innovation and science policies are playing in supporting Irish and European economic recovery. An invited audience of over 250 guests attended which included University researchers, academics, students and alumni.

According to Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn: “The European Union is playing a central part in supporting Irish economic recovery in a variety of different ways. The portfolio of Research, Innovation and Science, which is my direct political responsibility within the European Commission, is implementing a number of initiatives which are positively developing the European and Irish economy”.

A native of Galway, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn is a former Member of the Governing authority of NUI Galway.

President Browne said: “Máire Geoghegan-Quinn’s work is central to the economic and social success of the José Manuel Barroso’s commission’s Strategy for Europe. From her native Carna, at the western edge of Europe, she is now operating at the very centre of Europe. I am certain that the pioneering spirit she has demonstrated throughout her political life will help chart the course ahead”.

## IRCHSS Awards

Fifteen NUI Galway applicants were among the recipients of the €8.5million recently awarded to some of Ireland’s top scholars and fellows by the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS).

Among the recipients were Justin Tonra and John Cunningham from the School of Humanities and the Moore Institute, who were awarded the prestigious Postdoctoral Fellowship 3 CARA, and Clionadh O’Keefe, from the Global Women’s Studies programme in the School of Political Science and Sociology, who received the Andrew Grene Scholarship in Conflict Resolution.

Thirteen applicants were awarded Postgraduate Scholarships including: Ciara Staunton, Mary Healy, Aisling De Paor, and Darragh Murray from the School of Law; Carol Staunton and Anna King from the School of Political Science and Sociology; Anne Marie Creaven, Cormac O’Beaglaoich and Triona Tammemagi from the School of Psychology; Cathal Smith and Paul McNamara from the School of Humanities; Aoife Connolly from the School of Languages, Literature and Cultures; and Richard Clutterbuck from School of Geography and Archaeology.

With the support of the National Development Plan, the IRCHSS funds cutting-edge research in the humanities, social sciences, business and law with the objective of creating new knowledge and expertise beneficial to Ireland’s economic, social and cultural development.

## Forecasting Volcanic Ash

Researchers at NUI Galway have developed a new capability for forecasting and assessing the recent dispersal of volcanic ash from Iceland. A first for Ireland, and expected to be among the most sophisticated in Europe, the new system at Mace Head ([www.macehead.org](http://www.macehead.org)) provides an alternative to the London Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre for intending air passengers when volcanic ash plumes threaten travel chaos.

Professor Colin O’Dowd, Director of the Centre for Climate & Air Pollution Studies, which is behind this development, said: “The rapid development of the volcanic plume forecasting model to provide Ireland’s own capability of assessment and prediction is an not only an excellent example of national collaboration and solidarity amongst key scientific partners in times of national need but also of innovation and a capacity for rapid response in a crisis. The combined skill of this University in atmospheric physics and air pollution research, Met Éireann in weather and climate research, and the Irish Centre for High End Computing (ICHEC) in computational science, was the perfect recipe for the rapid success”.

While not intended to replace the London Advisory Centre, it does provide an important additional source of information for intending air passengers.



## Focal ón Uachtarán

As the summer continues our campus continues to be a hive of activity. While the

majority of our undergraduate students have finished their courses, academic and support staff continue to work with our almost 3,000 graduate students while also engaged in research and preparations for the year ahead. We are busy welcoming visitors to our campus for Summer Schools, Conferences and other meetings. 2010 is a very busy year for conferences on our campus, thanks to the activities of our academics; the promotional efforts of the Conference Office and the availability of the wonderful new Bailey Allen Hall as a venue. Predictions for this year show that over 6,000 delegates will attend 35 major conferences on our campus.

In addition the University continues to attract international groups such as US universities to host their Summer Study Abroad programmes. Over 17 such groups will visit for 2-6 weeks, bringing a total of over 440 students. The Office of Adult & Continuing Education's International Summer Schools will see another 300+ visiting students study on our accredited programmes. And approximately 1,500 language students, mainly from Italy & Spain, will visit to learn English.

This is a great opportunity for us to showcase the work of this University and I thank all involved in opening our activities to the wider world in this way.

### CAO numbers

Good news on our CAO numbers! This year has seen another very strong performance in terms of undergraduate student recruitment. We have secured a 7.1% increase in CAO first preference applications – this figure is well above the average for the University sector and is the strongest performance of the traditional universities. So far, this represents more than a 15% increase in first preference applications over the last two years and we anticipate a further increase by the July 1st deadline, as early figures indicate a strong performance in the CAO 'Change of Mind' process.

### Partnership with Georgia Institute of Technology

On Friday, 18 June, An Taoiseach Brian Cowen TD launched a unique partnership between NUI Galway, the University of Limerick and Georgia Institute of Technology, USA to develop

a joint Translational Research Institute. This development is one of the first initiatives to come out of the NUI Galway-UL Alliance launched earlier this year.

Georgia Institute of Technology has a very successful track record in bringing academic research to bear on problems facing industry and government. They have had considerable success in translating academic research into products, processes and services which serve industry and generate economic wealth. The NUI Galway - UL Alliance will bring this model to Irish Higher Education and the Translational Research Institute will have significant strategic importance nationally in building the 'smart economy'.

This initiative has met with enthusiastic support. At the launch the Presidents of Georgia Institute of Technology, NUI Galway and University of Limerick were joined by the CEO of IDA Ireland, Barry O' Leary and a significant number of policy makers, elected representatives, industry figures and academics from all 3 institutions.

I'd like to encourage all staff to engage with our partners in University of Limerick to further the development of this important Alliance.

### President's Awards for Teaching Excellence

The Awardees for Teaching Excellence were announced at recent All Staff event on 21 June. The winners are:

- Dr. Andrew Flaus (Biochemistry)
- Dr. Frances McCormack (English)
- Dr. Rachel Quinlan (Maths)
- Dr. Tony Dundon (Commerce)

The Review Panel commented that the standard was extremely high and seems to be going up year on year. Many submissions were highly regarded, including some from relatively new members of staff which augurs particularly well for the future. The external reviewer on the panel (Professor Aine Hyland) was very impressed by many of the candidates and pleased to note the increasing focus on a scholarly/research-oriented approach to teaching. The winners will be presented with their Awards at the Autumn Conferings in October. Congratulations to all nominees for their creativity and commitment!

### Capital Programme Update

We continue to work to advance building projects to ensure that we can take advantage of current

construction costs. Progress continues on the construction of the Engineering Building and on the extension to Áras Moyola. Construction began earlier this month on the Biosciences Research Building on the North Campus. Positive discussions continue with the Health Research Board on arrangements for the financing of the joint Clinical Research Facility/Translational Research Facility and for the subsequent monitoring of the building programme; we are planning for construction to begin in autumn of this year.

### Recognition for Civic Engagement at NUI Galway

Service learning has become a hallmark of the student experience at NUI Galway. It brings theory to life while improving the lives of those living in often challenging situations. Last April, the Talloires Network and the MacJannet Foundation announced that this University was a winner of the MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship. This is the first time that an Irish education institution has been recognised for its work in the area of civic engagement.

CAIRDE (Community Awareness Initiatives Responsibility-Directed by Engineers) was established in 2003 by Professor Abhay Pandit. Co-directed by Dr Dimitrios Zeugolis, the programme is an embedded part of the undergraduate Mechanical, Biomedical, and Electrical Engineering programmes. This international recognition for our commitment to civic engagement and service learning is a great tribute to all those involved - well done!

This has been a very busy and productive year. We have set out our institutional goals in the Strategic Plan 2009-14. We have forged innovative alliances which will help bring new energy and creativity to our mission. Now we are actively engaged with developing operational plans at School, College and support services levels which will give effect to our strategy. I encourage all staff to become involved with the operational planning process and I sincerely thank all those who are engaging with it at present. This planning will ensure that we take control of our own future and plan it in an open and transparent way.

Colleagues, I thank you all for your hard work this year. I wish you an enjoyable summer and I look forward to working with you in the coming academic year.

Beir bua agus beannacht,

**James J. Browne Ph.D., D.Sc., MRIA, C.Eng**  
Uachtarán - President

## Student & Staff Awards

### Students Gobble Gaming Glory with Pac-Man

Finn Krewer and Padraig Meaney, second-year Electronic and Computer Engineering students, have won the annual XNA Ireland Challenges College Cup, with their updated version of Pac-Man, the thirty-year old classic video game. XNA is a games development platform from Microsoft, who were co-sponsors of the competition.

### Donna Ferguson Memorial Award 2010

Eoin Ryan, who achieved the highest mark in the broadcasting module of the MA Journalism, was the winner of the third annual Donna Ferguson Memorial Award. The presentation was made by journalist, author and sportsman, Christy O'Connor.

### Student Volunteers Awarded Presidential Certificate

A record breaking 880 Student volunteers were recently awarded the ALIVE Certificate for Volunteering. President Browne and Galway City Mayor, Declan McDonnell attended the event, as did community members, students and staff.

### Basketball Title won in Last Seconds of Dramatic Final

NUI Galway men's basketball team recently won their first intervarsity in 23 years with a dramatic last minute win over University of Ulster Jordanstown (UUJ) in front of a packed house in the Kingfisher gym at the University.

### Gaisce Gold Award

Four students were among a special group of young people presented with the Gaisce Gold Award by President Mary McAleese, Patron of Gaisce - the President's Award, at a special ceremony in Dublin Castle recently. The awardees were Anne Browne a fourth-year Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy student, PhD student Fiona Gillespie, Jennifer Jones a Medical student and Arts student Aideen Óg MacInerney.

### National Student Media Award

Danny MacEachmharcaigh, a student of Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, recently scooped an oxygen.ie National Student Media Award for Television Production through Irish/Léiriúcháin Teilifíse i nGaeilge - Faisnéis & Drámaíocht for the production "Beans".

### Psychology Student Award

Psychology student Rachel Carey recently received the highest undergraduate award for research at the annual Congress of Psychology Students of Ireland. The congress is supported by the Psychological Society of Ireland and the Northern Irish branch of the British Psychological Society. Rachel will now present her research, which is supervised by Dr Kiran Sarma, to both professional bodies.

### Researchers Awarded

Three researchers were among the recipients of the €8.5 million for 47 cutting-edge research projects announced in May by Batt O'Keeffe TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation. Dr Patrick McGarry and Dr Mark Bruzzi from Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering, and Dr Peter Crowley from the School of Chemistry were awarded €539,500 for research projects which will create new jobs for the smart economy.

### Human Rights Expert Receives Medal for International Criminal Justice

Professor William Schabas has been awarded the Vaspasian V. Pella Medal for International Criminal Justice by the Association internationale de droit penal. The award, which is named after the Romanian jurist who drafted the first statute of an international criminal court, is given by the Association to a single individual once every ten years.

The medal has been awarded three times, the first two laureates being Benjamin Ferencz, who was one of the prosecutors at Nuremberg, and Professor M. Cherif Bassiouni, who is now that honorary president of the Association. The recipient of the medal is designated by the previous laureate. Professor Bassiouni recently

presented the medal to Professor Schabas at a ceremony in Siracusa, Italy. The Association Internationale de Droit Pénal is the leading learned society in the field of international criminal law, tracing its origins to the nineteenth century.

### Primary Care Research Award

Anne MacFarlane was recently awarded an FP7 Health 2010 grant for €2.9 million for her study RESTORE - Research into implementation Strategies to support patients of different Origins and language background in a variety of European primary care settings. The project is in collaboration with partners in Scotland, England, the Netherlands, Austria and Greece, with Ireland as co-ordinator.

### Law School

Lawrence Donnelly, Lecturer and Director of Clinical Legal Education, and Dr Laurent Pech, Jean Monnet Lecturer in EU Public Law, School of Law, were recently invited to join the EU-funded "Menu for Justice," an ambitious research network which creates a broad partnership among 50 institutions in 30 European countries. The aim of the project is to review legal education in the EU 27 Member States and develop a common legal curriculum for lawyers and judges in Europe.

### From the Access Course to Oxford!

Fiona Stephenson BA, (2009) successfully completed the Access Course for School Leavers in 2006 and graduated in 2009 with a first class honours BA. She has just completed her LLB and based on her results to date and a written application, Fiona was accepted to both Oxford and Cambridge University. Fiona will progress to study for an MSc in Law and Finance in Oxford in September.

Owen Ward, who completed the Access Course for Mature Students in April, has been selected to participate in the 2010 European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) summer school which will be held in Budapest this summer. Owen was nominated by the Irish Traveller Movement (ITM) and he was adjudicated on his written application for the summer school.

## Rise in Demand for Places for Second Consecutive Year

Figures released by the CAO have shown another dramatic rise in demand for places at NUI Galway. First preference applications for undergraduate degrees are up over 7% on last year, reflecting a substantial rise of more than 15% since 2008.

With demand for places so high, a Spring Open Day took place in April, for the second year in a row to facilitate prospective students and their parents with over 3,000 people attending.

Caroline Loughnane, Director of Marketing and Communications, commented on the rising demand to study at the University: "We are seeing a phenomenal demand for places. This is driven in part by the 20 new undergraduate courses which we have brought on stream over the last three years. There are also a range of new sports, arts and academic facilities on our state-of-the-art campus. Another critical factor in attracting applicants is the University's commitment to providing our students with a learning experience that has relevance for the real world".

## Research on Youth Cafés and Young Carers

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Barry Andrews TD recently launched research on Youth Cafés in Ireland conducted by the Child and Family Research Centre. The aim of the research and publications is to contribute to the formation of a solid policy foundation for the support and development of the youth café model of intervention with children and young people in Ireland.

Speaking at the launch Cormac Forkan of the Child and Family Research Centre said: "The purpose of the work was to contribute to the formation of solid policy foundation for the support and development of youth cafés and to provide practical assistance to those who are running existing facilities or about to set up new ones".

In May, the Minister also launched a report on the lives of young carers in Ireland at the National Conference of the Carers Association in Croke Park. Dr Allyn Fives, a co-author of the report, from the Child and Family Research Centre, presented the study's key findings. Dr Fives explained that young carers who took part in this study performed such tasks as helping with domestic chores, general care including help with feeding, medication and mobility.

## Shannon Region to become Major Green Energy Hub

NUI Galway and UL, Shannon Development, and Silicon Valley's Irish Technology Leadership Group (ITLG) recently announced the launch of the Shannon Energy Valley, a major renewable energy hub in Ireland's Shannon Region.

The Shannon Energy Valley initiative will create a national hub for energy research and development, industry and commerce with a view to attracting international investment and generating high-end employment in the region. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the four partners that commits them to delivering a hub of excellence and innovation that will harness the natural resources of the region, as well as its highly skilled workforce and access to top-class research and development expertise at UL and NUI Galway.

Speaking at the launch of Shannon Energy Valley, which took place at the ITLG conference in Silicon Valley, Vice-President for Research, Professor Terry Smith, said: "The Shannon Energy Valley concept seeks to provide a big-picture coherent ecosystem relating to energy. The main research partners, NUI Galway and UL, will combine their research efforts in a coherent way from the outset and will provide a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes right up to PhD level to provide the necessary human capital for the project".

## Jacinta O'Brien Collection



*Pictured (l-r) John Cox, President Browne, Professor Kathleen Martin Ginis and Professor Gearóid Ó Laighin*

Jacinta O'Brien was a lecturer in Social Psychology of Sport & Exercise at the University of Limerick and was pursuing a PhD in body image and physical activity when she died suddenly in 2004. This book collection, has been donated by her family to NUI Galway in her memory and in testament to her work in this area. Jacinta's wish was to impart awareness among educators of the importance of body image to the general health and wellbeing of women and girls and to promote participation in physical education, physical activity and sport as a means of improving health and wellness. The focus of the collection is the Social Psychology of Sport and Exercise with a particular reference to female participation in sport and exercise. While new titles will be added each year, Jacinta's own books will form the core of this collection.

# OLLSCÉALA

## Colman Doyle Launch



May saw the launch by John Quinn in the James Hardiman Library of an exhibition of more than 60 photographs by Colman Doyle, who is acknowledged as one of the most important Irish photographers of the twentieth century. He was probably Ireland's first documentary style photographer.

The exhibition includes fascinating vignettes of Irish life. It also features Northern Ireland in the 1970s and 1980s, portraits of famous people, including politicians and visiting dignitaries such as Charles de Gaulle, and sporting events.

The exhibition, which is on loan from the National Library of Ireland, runs until the end of June on the ground floor of the Library.

## 2010 Sports Awards



Pictured are the 2010 Sport Award Winners, back row (l-r): Ollie Flaherty, Colin Whitla, José Ramirez, Louis Molloy, Fintan Keown, Nuala Marshall, Charles Doyle and Finian Coone. Middle row (l-r): Gary Ryan, Elite Sports Development Officer, Seamus Hennessy, David Fitzgerald, Alex Fleming, David O'Reilly-Healy, Martin Conneely, Eilish Fitzpatrick and Carol Staunton. Back row (l-r): Sarah Conneely, Attracta McPeake, Joe Gill, Mary O'Riordan, Vice-President for the Student Experience, Guest of Honour, Tony Regan, Katie McAnena and Kathy Hynes, Development Officer for Clubs & Participation.

## MBA Report



Pictured at the presentation of the pro bono strategic study of the Alan Kerins Projects charity by the NUI Galway Executive MBA class were (l-r): Mike Moroney, Lecturer at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics; Alan Kerins, Alan Kerins Projects; Professor William Golden, Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law; Brian Molloy, NUI Galway Executive MBA student; and Jacqui O'Grady, Chairperson of Alan Kerins Projects.

## Mic léinn i nGaoth Dobhair ag éisteacht le léacht i gConamara fríd an chóras úr físchomhdhála.

Tá na mic léinn ar an chúrsa BA i Riarachán Gnó, atá ar siúl in Ionad Gaoth Dobhair de chuid Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, ábalta 'freastal' ar léachtaí i nGaillimh anois a bhfuil leis an teicneolaíocht.

Tugadh córas físchomhdhála den chéad scoth isteach le gaird, rud a chiallaíonn gur féidir le léachtóirí i nGaillimh léachtaí a thabhairt do mhic léinn i nGaoth Dobhair. Sula raibh an trealamh ar fáil bhí ar leithéidí an Dr Conchúr Ó Giollagáin, Ceannasaí Aonad na Pleanála Teanga, níos mó ná ceithre huairte taistil a dhéanamh le léacht a thabhairt i nGaoth Dobhair. Labhair sé faoin difear atá an trealamh úr ag déanamh dá shaol: "Laghdaíonn an trealamh físchomhdhála seo an méid taistil a bhíonn le déanamh agam. Tá mé breá sásta fá sin agus fán dóigh a bhfuil mé ag cuidiú le lorg carbóin na tíre a laghdú!"

Sa dóigh chéanna, is féidir leis na léachtóirí atá lonnaithe i nGaoth Dobhair léachtaí a thabhairt do mhic léinn ar phríomhchamras na hOllscoile nó dóibh siúd atá ag staidéar leis an Acadamh ar an Cheathrú Rua. Tá Carmel Ní Bhriain, Feidhmeannach Cumarsáide, lonnaithe i nGaoth Dobhair agus tá sí ag teagasc ar an BA sa Chumarsáid ar an Cheathrú Rua: "Ligeann an trealamh seo dom cumarsáid a dhéanamh le mic léinn thíos an tír láithreach. Tá féidearthachtaí móra ag baint leis an teicneolaíocht seo ó thaobh soláthar cúrsaí de."

Chuir an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Comhionannais agus Gaeltachta maoiniú ar fáil don trealamh úr agus d'uasghrádaigh an tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas na naisc chuí Idirlín anuraidh.

## In Brief

### NUI Galway to host Competence Centre for Bioenergy and Biorefinery

The Government recently announced that the Competence Centre for Bioenergy & Biorefining will be based in NUI Galway, and co-hosted by UL and UCD. Bioenergy is energy that is latent in plants and the Competence Centre for Bioenergy & Biorefining researchers will focus on ways to convert that energy into heat, energy and fuels for transport.

There will be 180 SMEs and multinational companies involved in nine centres, five of which are now established. Those established cover Bioenergy & Biorefining, IT Innovation, Applied Nanotechnology, Composite Materials and Microelectronics. Four more - Manufacturing Productivity, Energy Efficiency, Financial Services and E-learning - are at different stages of completion. Each centre will be based in a University with support from partner Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) to deliver on the research needs of the companies.

### Economic Firefight

Nearly 200 guests assembled in May at a Dublin Alumni Club event to hear NUI Galway economist and special adviser to the Minister of Finance, Dr Alan Ahearne, offer insights into the rationale behind the Government's strategy to deal with the financial crisis. The event, 'Economic Firefight - an Inside View', was chaired by NUI Galway alumna, author and former finance correspondent with *The Irish Times*, Siobhan Creaton BA 1989.



President Browne, Siobhan Creaton BA 1989, Dr Alan Ahearne, Sean O'Rourke BA 1977.

### Research Day at School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

The School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures held a Research Day in May. Organised by the recently-established School Research Committee, the event provided staff of the School with the opportunity to present and discuss their current

projects and research interests. All of the disciplines within the School were represented. Strong affinities emerged between the research interests of colleagues; these included ancient, medieval and modern textual transmission, issues of language learning and policy, literary texts and their contexts, and linguistics. The event concluded with a fruitful discussion of current research strengths and future directions.

### MBA Award

The NUI Galway Executive Master of Business Administration (MBA) team was announced All-Ireland Champions after a historic win for the University at the recent MBA Association of Ireland's Inter-Business School MBA Strategy Challenge. Organised by the MBA Association of Ireland, the business strategy competition is open to all MBA programmes across Ireland. The team was announced champions after competing against teams from DCU, UCD, University of Ulster and Waterford IT. The winning team included Niall Cunningham, Brian Molloy, Devin Mettler, Brid Seoige and Declan Staunton from the Executive MBA programme.

### New Book on International Criminal Court

Oxford University Press has published *The International Criminal Court: a Commentary on the Rome Statute*, written by Professor William Schabas, OC MRJA, Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights.

The book consists of an article-by-article review of the Rome Statute, taking into account the case law of the Court up to 1 July 2009, including academic writing on the subject in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian. Professor Schabas is one of the world's leading experts on the International Criminal Court and has been studying the Court since the early 1990s. He has participated in several of the Preparatory Committee sessions, as well as the Rome Conference in 1998.

### New Annual Law Review

The Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly recently launched a new scholarly review, *Irish Human Rights Law Review (IHRLR)*, to be published on an annual basis by Clarus Press. The IHRLR is edited by Donncha O'Connell of the School of Law, who is currently a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, London School of Economics.

The inaugural edition of the Review contains articles and case notes by, among others, NUI Galway academics Professor Pat Dolan, UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement, as well as Marie McGonagle, Ciara Smyth, Dr Padraic Kenna, Dr Laurent Pech and Emer Meeneghan of the School of Law.

The Review will focus on the domestic application of international human rights law and the critical analysis of human rights standards and processes. The Review can be ordered on [www.claruspress.ie](http://www.claruspress.ie).

### CISC Report



Pictured at the launch of the *Lucerna Project Report on Capability Transformation and Competitiveness* (l-r) Dr Paul Ryan, Principal Investigator; Frank Ryan, CEO of Enterprise Ireland; and Professor Michael Best, University of Cambridge and University of Massachusetts. The report is based on a new industry database developed over three years at CISC.

### Smart Shopper in Finals

Stephen Lenihan, Christopher Divilly and Eamonn Connolly are in the final of this year's Enterprise Ireland Student Enterprise Awards with their 'Smarter Shopper' project. They were one of 15 teams selected as finalists from an original application list of 250 students. The winners will be selected at the national final, which takes place this month. The students' mentor is Dr Hugh Melvin from the Discipline of Information Technology.

### Erasmus Prize

The Athena European Network in Women's Studies has been awarded the prestigious Erasmus Prize for its contribution to Social Inclusion. Athena brings together university and civil society scholars and practitioners from over 112 institutes, including NUI Galway. The network was nominated as a successful model of best practice in the context of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme.

## A Place of Zoological Inspiration *by Julie O'Leary*



*Professor Wallace Arthur and Eoin MacLoughlin, Senior Technical Officer, Zoology discussing some of the mammal specimens, including a koala, in the recently-opened Zoology and Marine Biology Museum in the MRI.*

Nestled on the ground floor of the MRI is one of NUI Galway's treasures. Since it officially opened in September 2009, the zoology museum has been home to many fine exhibits from glass models of marine invertebrates to a stuffed capybara, the favourite food of the anaconda!

The museum is bright and welcoming, and it almost feels like the animals and skeletons move position if you don't pay close attention. During the opening hours of 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday, visitors can wander around the room exploring the different exhibits, being drawn in by

the beady eyes, scaly crocodiles, the skull of a minke whale, or the tooth of an elephant that is much bigger than you would expect.

The exhibits are rotated regularly and a project is underway to label them all and to provide more information and interaction for visitors. Many of the specimens are routinely used for teaching second and third-year zoology students. It's hoped to open the museum to children during this year's Heritage Week, which runs from 21st to 29th August.

"Our zoology museum is a great asset to Galway, the nearest thing to it is the National History Museum in Dublin. It is interesting to young and old alike. It offers inspiration for Art students and a place to explore for children. Although modern science is full of fancy new equipment, it is the aura that a place like this has that makes it special, says Senior Technical Officer in Zoology, Eoin Mac Loughlin.

One of the special collections that the museum has is a large sample of the work from the Blaschka father and son team Leopold and Rudolf. They fashioned extremely intricate models of marine life in the 1800s. The renowned glasswork is in a select group of natural history museums around the world. The pieces are often coloured and show great skill and craftsmanship. The detail in the models is fascinating and gives a true reflection of sea creatures, including sea-slugs, jellyfish, octopus, squid and sea anemones.

The Department of Zoology has in its possession a genuine Charles Darwin specimen of a grison that was donated by the London Zoological Society. The specimen will be added to the collection at the museum once it is restored to its former glory.

The museum brings a place of learning to life with a mixture of skeletal and full-bodied exhibits, it opens up NUI Galway to the wider community and shows the great history and character the University has within its environs.

## Summer Conferring

Over 170 students from across the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Engineering and Informatics, Business, Public Policy and Law, Science, and Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies were conferred in June. The largest cohort of students to graduate were 98 Honours Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, and Bachelor of Obstetrics (MB, BCh, BAO) students. Also graduating were 50 PhD students from across all disciplines. International students were also well represented, with the University welcoming graduates from, among other countries, Malaysia and Kuwait, who along with students from across Ireland received Diplomas, Degrees, Masters, and PhDs.

