



National University of Ireland, Galway  
*Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh*

# OLLSCÉALA

*Nuachtlitir Foirne – Staff Newsletter – Earrach 2009*



## Archbishop Tutu and Sir Bob on Campus

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...and more!

One of South Africa's greatest champions of peaceful politics, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, has been presented with one of our University's highest accolades by Ireland's greatest champion of human rights around the globe, Sir Bob Geldof. Addressing a packed house of the Literary and Debating Society on 15 February, Nobel Laureate Tutu, called for a sense of "togetherness" from humanity to combat the twin global crises of climate change and economic meltdown.

Introducing the Archbishop, the former Boomtown Rats front man, on his first visit back since gigging in the college bar over thirty years ago, told the packed auditorium of over 1,000 people "how privileged we are to be in the same room as an historic giant." Archbishop Tutu paid a warm tribute to the spirit of volunteering at NUI Galway, describing it as "fantastic"; and Dan Colley, auditor of the Literary & Debating, Society said the Archbishop's humorous address was "lightening and enlightening". The highlight was Sir Bob's presentation of the President's Medal to the Archbishop. This is the highest honour the Literary & Debating Society can confer.

## Focal ón Eagarthóir



Anois teacht an Earraigh.....

Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu called for a sense of "togetherness" during his inspiring visit in February. A memorable night when Sir Bob Geldof presented Tutu with the Literary & Debating Society's President's Medal (p.1).

The first ever UNESCO Chair was launched by President of Ireland, Mary McAleese and again an inspiring event, hosted by Professor Pat Dolan and all in the Child and Family Research Centre, lifted spirits in these sombre times (p.3).

We are one of the first Universities to appoint a dedicated environmental manager and Sinéad Higgins gives us an insight to green developments on campus (p.9). The Buildings Office also keeps us up to date on campus works (p.12).

The Annual Alumni Awards ceremony again honoured some of our most excellent and outstanding graduates (p.4) and we also received substantial honours from SFI for our research institute DERI plus a new Strategic Research Cluster (p5).

New partnerships extended from Letterkenny (p.8) to Cork and Malaysia (p.10) which confirms the continuing creation of collaboration networks between NUI Galway and other institutions.

Mo bhuíochas do chách a chur scéalta chugainn don eagrán seo - beidh mé ag súil le go leor scéalta eile uaibh I rith na bliana.

Michelle Ní Chróinín  
Eagarthóir

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## Irish Olympian to Develop University's Elite Athletes



Gary Ryan

Gary Ryan, the former multiple sprint record holder who represented Ireland at the Atlanta and Sydney Olympics, has taken charge of the development of elite sports people at NUI Galway. With a brief to help our sporting high-flyers achieve their true potential, he will be putting in place performance development programmes, and providing supports like sports science, strength and conditioning, and nutrition.

Gary Ryan comes to this role with a track record of achievement. For the past three years, he has been Director of Coaching with the Athletics Association of Ireland, where he was in charge of the high performance junior and youth achievement programme that's preparing Irish athletes for London 2012 and beyond. Speaking about his new appointment, he said: "The University has invested heavily to develop a top-class sports infrastructure for all students. That's the minimum necessary to ensure our high-performers are competitive both nationally and internationally. The next step is to add the know-how to help them be all they can be".

Originally from Kilcommon, County Tipperary, Gary is a graduate of Waterford IT, and of the University of Limerick from which he holds an M.Sc. in Sports Biomechanics.

## Múscailt '09



Artsoc Vice-Auditor Tadhg Tynan posing with a painting of Michaelangelo's David by D.C. Jameson, one of the paintings in the Mise Era exhibition by Artsoc during Múscailt '09 which took place on campus from 9 – 13 February.

## ***President McAleese Officially Launches UNESCO Chair***



***President of Ireland, Mary McAleese***

President of Ireland, Mary McAleese has officially launched the UNESCO Chair for Children, Youth and Civic Engagement. The UNESCO Chair is the first awarded in the Republic of Ireland, and President McAleese described it as a “fitting endorsement by peers worldwide of the important work that is being done at NUI Galway to help solve the real problems experienced by young people and families in our communities”.

The Chair is hosted at the Child and Family Research Centre (CFRC) in the University's School of Political Science and Sociology. Professor Pat Dolan, Director of the CFRC, with over 20 years experience in family support, policy and research, is the Chairholder.

Referencing writer John McGahern at the launch, Professor Dolan told an audience of over 200 guests: “While many young people thrive during childhood, others sadly do not experience life as good or safe and some more tragically can say they rarely have a 'calm journey through the day”.

Professor Dolan said that supporting children who experience adversity and disadvantage through encouraging civic participation had crucial benefits in terms of improved self-esteem, self-efficacy and wellbeing. He said: “I have come to the conclusion, that civically engaging

children and youth produces benefits for all children. Particularly in the case of children who are experiencing severe difficulties, their civic engagement can lead to significant improvement and help rebuild key relationships in their lives”.

Funded under the UNESCO University Education Twinning and Networking Scheme, the programme of work associated with the Chair, will focus on an exchange of learning among international University partners and affiliated centres for children, which work on civic engagement programmes in countries including Bulgaria, Lithuania and Zambia.

Professor Dolan's team will work with CKI and partner with Foróige, Ireland's leading voluntary youth organisation.



***Pictured at the launch of the UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement (front row from left): Mr Nicholas Burnett, Assistant Director-General for Education in UNESCO; Professor Pat Dolan, UNESCO Chair; President of Ireland, Mary McAleese; President Browne.***

***(Back row from left): Dr Martin McAleese; Professor Chris Curtin; Lorraine McIlrath, Community Knowledge Initiative; Seán Campbell, CEO, Foróige; and Professor Kevin Barry.***



***The Annual NUI Galway Graduate Studies Fair took place in February, showcasing over 400 of NUI Galway's postgraduate programmes. Pictured at the event (l-r) were student Gráinne Rooney, John Hannon, Head of NUI Galway's Career Development Centre, and the University's Registrar and Deputy-President, Professor Jim Ward.***

## Alumni Awards 2009

The Alumni Awards and Gala Banquet is a key event in the University's calendar and once again showcased the University's most outstanding and excellent graduates.

At the 2009 Gala Banquet, eight alumni awards were presented to:

- International Rugby Captain and Triple Crown Winner Ciaran FitzGerald (*Aer Arann Alumni Award for Sports Achievement and Leadership*);
- John Hegarty, Provost, Trinity College Dublin (*NUI Galway Alumni Award for Law, Public Service and Government*);
- Founder and Former CEO, Burren Energy, Mr Finian O Sullivan (*Alumni Award for Engineering, IT and Mathematics*);
- Dr Brendan O Connor, Founder, Cois Cladaigh Choir (*AIB Alumni Award for Literature, Communication and the Arts*);

- Mike Higgins, Managing Director, CIBC Real Estate Finance Group (*Bank of Ireland Alumni Award for Business and Commerce*);
- Pádraig Ó Ceithearnaigh, Leas-Ardstíúthóir Chomhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge (*Duais Hewlett-Packard don Ghaeilge*);
- Professor Michael O'Brien, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine; Chief, Department of Anatomic Pathology, Boston Medical Center (*Medtronic Alumni Award for Healthcare and Medical Science*); and
- Dr Catherine Caulfield, Chief Executive - Charles River Laboratories Preclinical Services Irl (*Seavite Alumni Award for Natural Science*).

Special guest and NUI Galway graduate Siún Nic Gearailt was compère for the evening.



MC for the night was NUI Galway Graduate and RTÉ broadcaster Siún Nic Gearailt pictured with her husband Ailbhe Ó Monacháin, TG4.



NUI Galway Graduate and tenor David O'Leary who performed at the Gala Banquet



Alumni Award Winners (back row from left): Pádraig Ó Ceithearnaigh, Dr Brendan O'Connor, Ciaran FitzGerald, Mike Higgins, and Finian O'Sullivan. (Front row from left): John Hegarty, President Browne, Dr Catherine Caulfield, and Professor Michael O'Brien.

## Minister Announces New Engineering Building for NUI Galway

NUI Galway has been given the go ahead to commence work on a new €50 million Engineering Building.

Speaking at the announcement, Minister O'Keefe said: "I am glad to be able to announce that the Government has sanctioned tendering for the development of a new Engineering School for NUI Galway. The new Engineering Building will be funded through a combination of exchequer funding under the National Development Plan 2007-2013, resources realised by NUI Galway, as well as donor funding".

This 14,200 square metre building will accommodate the College of Engineering and Informatics, which is currently spread across 13 separate locations, both on and off-campus. It will include 'green-building' initiatives, and will itself be utilised as a teaching tool for the students. The building will house 110 staff and approximately 1,100 students.

Dr James J. Browne, President of NUI Galway, welcomed the announcement: "This is fantastic news for the future of Engineering at NUI Galway. We have always had a strong reputation for the quality of our Engineering programmes and this new development will transform the facilities and the quality of experience on offer to our students. The new building will also bring benefits to Galway city and the surrounding region - not only will it create jobs in the short term, it will enable us to continue to produce top quality Engineering graduates for the future".



President Browne and Minister Batt O'Keefe at the announcement of the new Engineering Building

## DERI Secure SFI Funding

DERI has recently received CSET funding (2008 to 2013) of over €15 million from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and has attracted eight industrial partners to become part of the CSET. They are: CISCO, Nortel, Ericsson, Storm Technology, Cyntelix, OpenLink Software, Celtrak and Fidelity.

DERI is researching technologies that will underpin the next generation of the World Wide Web - the Semantic Web. Michael Turley, CEO, DERI said: "The receipt of this second term funding from SFI will enable DERI to execute on its strategies. These include world class research and the creation of fourth level human capital for Ireland's knowledge economy. This funding will give DERI the opportunity to exploit the commercialisation and job creation opportunities that will arise through DERI's industry partnerships and NUI Galway's technology transfer programmes. The University's education and outreach programme with schools and communities will also play a vital part in attracting third level students to the Engineering and Science disciplines".

Professor Stefan Decker, DERI's Scientific Director, said: "DERI's mission is to create the foundation for interlinking the world's knowledge. We are not only aiming for academic excellence, but together with our industry partners we want to change the way how people interact with the computers when using the Web or Desktop software. Starting from a basis of strength enabled by SFI's funding, we are confident that we are able to help shape Ireland's future".



*Pictured from left: Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr Jimmy Devins T.D.; Professor Stefan Decker, Director, DERI; Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mary Coughlan T.D.; and Professor Frank Gannon, Director General, SFI.*

To date DERI has attracted funding of over €48 million from sources such as SFI, EU Framework Programmes, Enterprise Ireland, IRCSET, HEA and direct funding from industry.

## Strategic Research Cluster

Also announced recently through Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) was funding for the Strategic Research Clusters (SRC). A relatively new element in SFI's portfolio of supports, the SRC programme was first introduced in 2007 to link scientists and engineers in partnerships across academia and industry to address crucial research questions, foster the development of new and existing Irish-based technology companies, and to grow partnerships with industry.

Among the Clusters announced was the Alimentary Glycoscience Research Cluster (AGRC) led by Professor Lokesh Joshi at the NCBES, who received €5.16 million.

Industry partners to work with AGRC include Agilent Technologies Ireland Ltd., Alimentary Health, Biomining Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Professor Joshi explained: "This research cluster will develop innovative methods and technologies to determine the structure of the sugars that microbes encounter and also how microbes influence their production. This cluster will also discover molecules and novel therapeutics that can be used to control microbial colonisation. The knowledge generated and technologies developed in this cluster will be highly applicable to other infectious diseases, as well as to cancer, immune system, inflammation and neuroscience research".



*Lokesh Joshi, Stokes Professor of Glycosciences and Associate Director, Centre for BioAnalytical Sciences, NCBES.*

## Student Prizes

### Digital Media Award



Student Stephen Stewart has won the Connect-World Student Digital Storytelling Award for his short film *Appeal to the People of Africa* at the Digital Media Awards 2009. The film gives an insight into some of the fortitude and dignity that Irish children could learn from their peers in Africa. This is the second year Stephen has won this award.

Andrea Breslin of the Huston School of Film & Digital Media said: "The Digital Media Awards are held in such high regard it's an honour for the school to have been represented this year, and to have the work of the students recognised in this way".

Students of the Huston School of Film & Digital Media accounted for two out of three nominations in the student category at the awards.

### Occupational Hygiene Research Prize

PhD student Patricia McDonnell has won the 2009 Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland (OHSI) student research prize.

Patricia is currently undertaking a PhD in Occupational Hygiene and her research is funded by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and is aimed at developing a modelling tool for predicting exposures of workers handling active pharmaceutical ingredients.

According to Dr Marie Coggins, Lecturer in Occupational Hygiene: "With the introduction of the REACH Regulations 2006 there is an increased onus on employers to control their workers exposures and the exposure model would be a useful tool in this assessment process".

### Donna Ferguson Memorial Award



Andrea Gilligan from Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, is the winner of this year's Donna Ferguson Memorial Award, having achieved the highest marks in the Broadcasting module of the MA in Journalism.

Donna Ferguson was posthumously conferred with an M.A. at NUI Galway, following her untimely death in a car accident in December 2006. The Donna Ferguson Memorial Award was initiated by her family and community in Beleek, Co. Fermanagh, and commemorates Donna's achievements while she was a student on the journalism programme in 2006. The address at this year's Award ceremony was made by the Editor of the Sunday Tribune, Nóirín Hegarty.

## Awards and Accolades

### Funding for Breast Cancer Research

Dr Adrienne Gorman has received more than €100,000 for a three year study into why a particular molecule, nerve growth factor (NGF), which is produced in 80 per cent of breast cancers, may prevent some people from responding well to chemotherapy.

Dr Gorman said: "I am one of the first scientists in Ireland to win funding from the Breast Cancer Campaign charity. It's very exciting. I hope my project will provide vital information on how breast cancer evades chemotherapy so that we are able to overcome this resistance, giving patients the best chance of survival".

### IRCHSS Funds

Dr Anne O'Connor of the Department of Italian, School of Languages is part of a team which has been awarded €109,602 by the IRCHSS for the project, 'The Correspondence of Cardinal Paul Cullen', under the Project Scheme in

Theology and Religious Studies. The venture is a collaboration between NUI Galway, St Patrick's College and Ave Maria University, Florida. The project seeks to gather and publish the correspondence of this colossus of Irish religious, social, and political life; a vast and largely untapped collection which provides a critical insight into the formation of the beliefs and values of modern Ireland. The work will bring together correspondence from sixty archives, in seven countries on four continents. The enterprise will involve the transcription, translation (when necessary) and editing of over two million words and their publication in five volumes by the Irish Manuscripts Commission.

### AI Conference Award

Dr Michael Madden received the award for 'Best Refereed Technical Paper', at AI-2008, the 28th SGAI International Conference on Artificial Intelligence, which was held in Cambridge University in December. Michael's paper was entitled 'On the Classification Performance of

TAN and General Bayesian Networks'. Michael was presented with a certificate, a trophy, and a cheque for STG £500. The journal version of his paper has been accepted for publication in 'Knowledge-Based Systems'.

### British Occupational Hygiene Society

The MSc Occupational Health Safety and Ergonomics and HDip Occupational Health Safety and Hygiene have recently been accredited by the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS). They are the first Occupational Health and Safety programmes in Ireland to be awarded this accreditation. BOHS professional qualifications are well regarded in the field since their introduction in 1969, and have become an essential qualification for any individual who wishes to work in Occupational Hygiene. NUI Galway graduates can now apply to the BOHS for an exemption to written examination required for full membership of the Society.



## Focal ón Uachtarán

### The shape of the future

Welcome to the first edition of Ollscéala for 2009. Just three months in and 2009 is already proving to be a highly significant year for the Higher Education sector. As I write, Higher Education is going through a period of unprecedented change and there is no doubt that it will emerge a radically different sector over the next couple of years.

### Higher Education Strategy Group

You will no doubt be aware that the Minister for Education and Science, Batt O'Keefe T.D., has established a Higher Education Strategy Group to develop a new national strategy for Higher Education. The Strategy Group will examine how Ireland can become more innovative in creating high-knowledge jobs that can help the country's economic renewal. The new strategy will set out the blueprint for the sector over the next two decades.

### A network of collaborating institutions

The Group, which is expected to have completed its work by the end of the year, will almost certainly recommend some form of rationalisation within the sector. In the current economic climate, this is only to be expected. Ireland cannot fund the creation of seven world-class Universities each of which seeks excellence in every discipline. It can, and in my view must, create a network of collaborating institutions each of which develops appropriate priority areas and spells out how it will develop and sustain excellence in them. These priority areas will also need to reflect the needs of stakeholders, including industrial partners, in each University's region.

Our Universities and Institutes of Technology will need to work together to stimulate the growth in innovation and enterprise necessary to create the Smart Economy which is critical to Ireland's long-term economic recovery. This ability to collaborate will be essential to the future development of the sector. In fact, NUI Galway is currently working closely with Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology and with the other Institutes of Technology in the

LÍONRA network, to establish a collaborative research and innovation partnership, with a particular focus on a coordinated approach to technology transfer and commercialisation, as part of our PRTL 5 submission.

### Radical partnerships

Indeed, collaboration is fast becoming part of the culture at third-level. The recent announcement of a new Innovation Alliance between TCD and UCD is a radical partnership which will undoubtedly become a blueprint for further, similar collaborations between institutions across the country.

At NUI Galway, we are no strangers to such collaborations, as many of our successfully funded research projects have been based on partnerships with other organisations and institutions. I am pleased to report we are currently putting together an extremely robust and competitive submission for the PRTL 5 round of funding and our proposals for this competition include partnerships with all of the Universities on the island of Ireland.

The aim must be to prioritise research and development areas to achieve concentration and critical mass across our campuses. One approach is to create a network of geographically dispersed collaborating institutions each of which aspires to excellence in particular and complementary areas of teaching and research, which respond to the social, cultural and economic needs of stakeholders.

### Excellence on a global scale

It is also important to bear in mind that a university cannot effectively meet the needs of its very many stakeholders unless it operates at a level of excellence on a global scale. Anything less is a disservice to our industrial partners who must compete in a global market.

Global companies will continue to locate their high-end research and development projects in Ireland only if the calibre of our R&D and our commitment to particular technologies can be

sustained. Smith & Nephew's establishment of an R&D collaboration for the development of groundbreaking treatments for bone and joint disease at the Regenerative Medical Institute at NUI Galway, is an example of this move toward high-end research by our multi-national partners.

### Selection and rationalisation

Of course, the selection of priority themes in line with the changing needs of Irish society presents its own challenges for each institution. Selection implies rationalisation and reduced resources for some disciplines in individual institutions: a willingness to recognise that another institution occupies the high ground in those areas and to encourage colleagues to collaborate and students to work across institutions. And, of course, one must take account of evolution, competition and change. Nobody and no organisation has a claim on resources. Resources are earned and sustained by focus and consistent achievement.

Only by working together as a sector will we fulfil our obligation to create the Smart Economy so essential to Ireland's economic recovery. I am confident that NUI Galway will come through the challenges of the next few years and emerge as a more flexible, energised institution, clearly focused on our strategic objectives and in a strong position to compete on a national and international stage.

Beir bua agus beannacht,

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

## Comhfhiontar idir OÉ Gaillimh agus LYIT

Tá meamram comhthuisceana ina bhfuil cur síos ar chomhfhiontar idir OÉ Gaillimh agus Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Leitir Ceanainn (LYIT) sínithe ag an dá institiúid.

Is ann don chomhfhiontar seo i ndiaidh do chomhaltaí foirne agus do lucht bainistíochta ón dá institiúid trí bliana a chaitheamh ag iarraidh bealaí a aimsiú le láidreachtaí an dá institiúid a úsáid chun tairbhe na Gaeilge agus phobal na Gaeltachta.

Clár ceithre bliana é an B.A. i Riarachán Gnó atá á theagasc trí mheán na Gaeilge ar champas seachtrach OÉ Gaillimh i nGaoth Dobhair, Co. Dhún na nGall. Beidh an clár seo á theagasc ag comhaltaí foirne ó LYIT agus ó OÉ Gaillimh araon agus tá aitheantas aige ón gComhairle Mhúinteoireachta a chuirfidh ar chumas na gcéimithe Gnó a theagasc ag leibhéal iarbhunoidreachais.

Dúirt an Dr Browne, Uachtarán na hOllscoile: "Is mian liom tréaslú leis an gComhghrúpa Oibre a d'oibrigh ar an tionscadal seo. Is eol dom nach mbíonn sé éasca i gcónaí constaic a shárú - constaic a eascraíonn as a bheith ag obair faoi réir beartais éagsúla agus struchtúir dhifriúla. D'éirigh leis an nGrúpa Oibre, áfach, an tionscadal a fhorbairt agus na dúshláin seo a shárú trí bheith ag obair i dteannta a chéile. Táim lánmhuíneach go bhfeidhmeoidh an tionscadal seo mar bhunús le tionscadail chomhoibritheacha eile bunaithe ar theagasc agus ar thaighde na Gaeilge idir LYIT agus OÉ Gaillimh".



(Cúl, ó chlé): Séamus Mac Mathúna, Rúnaí; John Andy Bonar, Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Leitir Ceanainn. Jim Ward, Meabhránaí, OÉ Gaillimh. (Chun tosaigh, ó chlé): an Dr Browne, Úachtarán OÉ Gaillimh agus Paul Hannigan, Úachtarán Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Leitir Ceanainn

## €5,000 for Honduras Housing



The classes of 1978/1979 Reunion have raised €2,000 to build houses in the central American country of Honduras. A further €3,000 has been sponsored by the Alumni Association. In June, a team of 22 students and two graduates will travel to Honduras with Galway Chaplain, Fr Iomar Daniels, to help build houses for those who do not have basic shelter. The work is being directed by the international organisation, Habitat for Humanity. Further funds were raised at a recent coffee morning organised by staff, as well as a donation on behalf of the President's office.

**Pictured receiving the cheque are: (back row, left to right) Brendan Smith, Education and Community Outreach Officer, DERI (organiser of the reunion); Fr Iomar Daniels, Chaplain; Dolores McAndrew, Chaplaincy; (front row, left to right) Students James Byrne, Declan Tempany, Eimear McInerney, Laura Feeny, Aine Pyne and Cathal McCague.**

## Staff Service Awards



**Pictured with President Browne are (l to r): Ms Mary Nohilly, Professor Angela Savage and Dr Raymond O'Toole. (Absent from the photo: Imelda Howley, Peter McDonagh, Kathleen O'Neill)**

The President recently presented Service Scrolls to staff members who celebrate the 25th anniversary of their employment in the University.

The 2008 recipients of Service Scrolls are: Ms Imelda Howley, School of Business and Economics; Mr Peter McDonagh, Dangan Sports Pavilion/Buildings Office; Ms Mary Nohilly, Accounts Office; Mrs Kathleen O'Neill, Buildings Office/Facilities Services; Dr Raymond O'Toole, College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences; and Professor Angela Savage, recently retired from the School of Chemistry.

## Green Developments on Campus

NUI Galway is one of the first universities in Ireland to appoint a dedicated environmental manager, indicating the commitment to improving its environmental performance. NUI Galway's recently appointed Environmental Manager, Sinéad Higgins tells us about some of the green developments on campus and how you can get involved.

### Energy Efficiency

Natural Gas is a much cleaner fuel than heavy fuel oil, so the main heating plant for the Arts/Science building, Hardiman Library and IT Building was converted to natural gas in 2007, helping to reduce our carbon footprint. The production of electricity from fossil fuels can be inefficient with major losses in its generation and distribution. In 2007, a Combined Heat and Power Plant (CHP) was installed on campus. This plant uses natural gas to generate electricity for consumption on site but also use the excess heat generated to produce hot water for space heating and domestic hot water, so its therefore more efficient. These measures have resulted in a whopping 450 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide per annum being saved. Emissions of other atmospheric pollutants have been reduced by over 70%. More recently, 3 additional CHP Plants have been installed and these will further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, through the GREENER production of electricity, heat and hot water.

Motion Sensors and Energy Efficient Lighting have been installed in new buildings and also retrofitted during refurbishment projects in older buildings. Motion sensors activate lights when there is movement and turn off lights after a period of inactivity, ensuring unoccupied spaces aren't lit.

### Renewable Energies

The Solar Panels on the library roof harness the sun to produce almost half the hot water demand for An Bialann, saving almost 6 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide. A Biomass Boiler (using woodchip) will be installed



*Sinéad Higgins*

later this year and will heat the quadrangle, which is further good news for the planet. A feasibility study has also been completed to investigate the potential to harness wind power on campus and at the Mace Head Research Station in Carna. The possibility of installing a water turbine at the back of the college bar is also being explored. Since January our electricity suppliers are obliged to provide a minimum of 15% of our supply from renewable sources.

In mid 2007, NUI Galway switched from regular diesel to a blend of 5% biodiesel (manufactured by a local company from used cooking oils) in its vehicles, reducing CO2 emissions by about 3% each year. An electric golf buggy is also in use by the grounds staff, further improving our environmental performance.

### Energy Team

The newly formed NUI Galway Energy Team held its first meeting in February, with staff and student representation from each college. This team will be instrumental in helping to reduce energy consumption and promote awareness on campus. Ideas or comments can be emailed to: [greenecampus@nuigalway.ie](mailto:greenecampus@nuigalway.ie).



## Minister for Science, Technology & Innovation on Campus

*Minister Jimmy Devins T.D. pictured with Professor Vincent O'Flaherty, Director of the newly established Energy Research Centre.*

*Minister Devins recently visited the University and saw at first hand numerous examples of the cutting edge research being undertaken at SFI funded research institutes, REMEDI and DERI. The Minister also visited the Ignite Technology Transfer Office.*

## **Telescope Challenge for Schools**

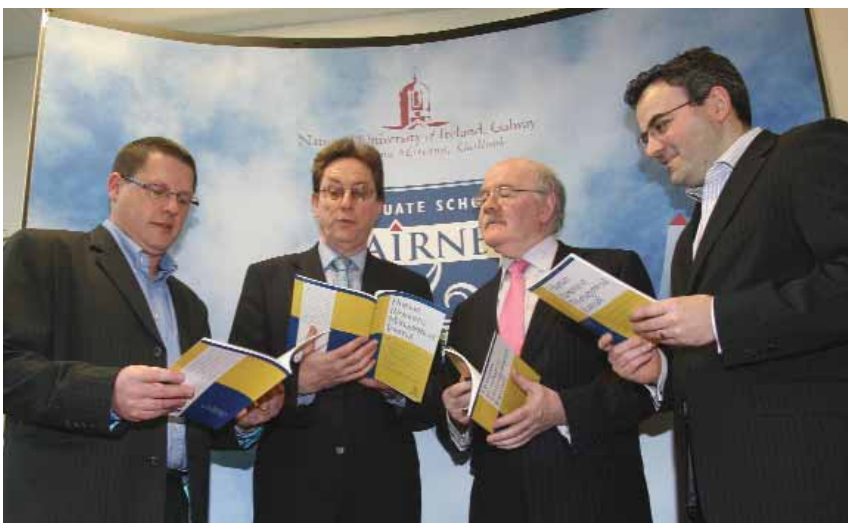
The Faulkes Telescopes Universe Challenge was launched at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition in the RDS, as part of the Irish celebrations of the International Year of Astronomy 2009. Transition Year students, and their equivalents in Northern Ireland, were asked to take part in scientific research projects involving the Faulkes Telescopes. The state-of-the-art, 2m diameter telescopes are situated on mountain-top sites in Australia and Hawaii, and can be remotely operated by school groups.

The International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) is a global celebration of astronomy and its contribution to society and culture. 2009 is the 400th anniversary of the first use of an astronomical telescope by Galileo, in reality the beginning of the modern age in astronomy. The aim of IYA2009 is to stimulate a worldwide interest and encourage participation in astronomy and in science amongst students at all levels, and among the general public. In Ireland, a programme of events is being organised by the Irish Node of IYA2009, headed by Professor Michael Redfern, Centre for Astronomy, NUI Galway.

Professor Redfern said: "The Faulkes Telescopes Universe Challenge is a fantastic opportunity for school students to experience original scientific research, and for them to meet and work with real scientists. The research these students will undertake is original, no one can tell them in advance what the results are supposed to be - I think that this is a very exciting opportunity".

The Faulkes Telescopes Universe Challenge is sponsored by Discover Science & Engineering, NUI Galway, Northern Ireland Space Office and Armagh Observatory. Further information can be found at [www.astronomy2009.ie](http://www.astronomy2009.ie).

## **Editorial Office of Human Resource Management Journal launched**



*Pictured at the launch of the editorial office of the 'Human Resource Management Journal' at the Centre of Innovation and Structural Change, were (l to r): Dr Tony Dundon, Department of Management, J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics; President Browne; Michael McDonnell, Director, CIPD Ireland; and Dr David Collings, Department of Management, J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics.*

## **New Medical Training Programme Twins Ireland and Malaysia**

A new medical twinning programme has been agreed between NUI Galway, UCC and the Allianze College of Medical Sciences, Kapala Batas, in northern Malaysia. Some 120 Malaysian and other south-east Asian students will study medicine in Galway and Cork for the first two and a half years, before completing their five-year degree in Malaysia.

Up to now, NUI Galway and UCC have only accepted Malaysian students into the Irish five-year medical programme. This initiative shifts the clinical training of the students to their home country. However they will still obtain an Irish medical qualification that will be approved and accredited by the professional accrediting authorities of Ireland and Malaysia.

Commenting on the agreement, Professor B.G. Loftus, Dean of NUI Galway's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, said: "Hospital based clinical education will take place in Malaysia, which will be of huge benefit to the graduates. The students will develop their clinical skills and knowledge in the context of their own culture, traditions and health needs. We believe the new twinning project has real advantages for the Irish and Malaysian parties, the students themselves, and the people of Malaysia".

According to President Browne: "We welcome this opportunity to work together as a single team to deliver a programme of which both universities can be proud. In recent years, Irish universities have developed strategic partnerships in many areas of graduate education and research. We realise the importance to both governments and to the students and people of both countries that Irish education in Malaysia is seen as operating consistently and to the highest international standards and that any elements of competition are managed within the overall national interest".

## In Brief

### ● AEDs on Campus

A further four Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been ordered for the NUI Galway campus, so that the University will be better prepared to respond to cardiac and other related critical emergencies. This brings to six the number of AEDs on campus. Staff will have an opportunity to 'See an AED in action' at the AED launch due to take place on 29 April. For further information and updates on the AEDs, log onto the Safety Office web-site: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/healthsaf/index.php?menu=6&page=53>

### ● Teicneolaíochtaí Nua agus Teagasc na Gaeilge

Eagraíodh seimineár dhá lá ar an téama "Comhtháthú na dTeicneolaíochtaí Nua i dTeagasc na Gaeilge" le déanaí. Is iad Peadar Mac Muiris, Rose Ní Dhubhda agus Niall Mac Uidhílin ó Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge le cabhair ó fhoireann CELT, a d'eagraigh an Seimineár a bhí ina chomhfhiontar idir an Acadamh, Ollscoil Luimnigh, Ardscoil Naomh Pól, Ard Mhacha agus Ollscoil León, an Spáinn. Ceithre cheardlann phraiticiúla 'lámha ar' a bhí sa dhá lá: seisiún ar úsáid 'blaganna' sa seomra ranga teanga a chuir an Dr Marie-Thérèse Batardière agus Catherine Jeanneau, Roinn na dTeangacha agus Léinn an Chultúir, Ollscoil Luimnigh i láthair na rannpháirtithe. Cén dóigh ar féidir 'podchraoladh' a úsáid le teagasc na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn taobh istigh agus taobh amuigh den seomra ranga an téama a bhí ag Dáithí Ó Muirí, Ardscoil Naomh Pól, Co. Ard Mhacha. Sa seisiún deireanach rinne an Dr Robert O'Dowd, Ollscoil León na Spáinne, nasc idirlín linn sa Seimineár agus é ag léiriú dúinn conas is féidir Tascanna Telechomhoibriúchá & Malartú Idirchultúrtha Ar Líne a chur le chéile idir grúpaí foghlaimoírí teanga in ionaid difriúla ar fud na tíre nó, ar ndóigh, ar fud an domhain.

### ● Geology Museum Visitor Book

The James Hardiman Library recently received from Dr Rolf Loeber, Distinguished

Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh, the visitor book for our Geology Museum, 1852-1865. Dr Loeber and his wife Magda have a keen interest in Irish studies, including joint authorship of *A Guide to Irish Fiction, 1650-1900*, a major two-volume work published in 2005. This interest led Dr Loeber to make a chance discovery in a Dublin bookstore of the visitor book which he very generously wanted to return to NUI Galway. Professor Tadhg Foley, chair of the Archives Working Group, gratefully accepted this volume on behalf of the University, noting its value for a range of scholars, including social historians. The visitor book is now in the Library's Special Collections, and publication of a digitised version is being investigated.



*From left: Professor Tadhg Foley, Dr Rolf Loeber, Dr Magda Stouthamer-Loeber, John Cox and Kieran Hoare.*

### ● NAIRTL

NAIRTL has launched its new Grants Initiative for 2009 with small grants of up to €5,000 and larger grants of up to €20,000. It is envisaged that up to thirty small-scale projects and eight large scale projects can be funded nationally over the period 2009/2010.

The National Academy is a multi-strand initiative designed to promote excellence in undergraduate and graduate education. One strand of its activities is the provision of grants for researchers and academic staff. Applications for funding should reflect the fundamental linkages of research and teaching and learning upon which the National Academy is built. Full details regarding the 2009 Grants Initiative are available at [www.nairtl.ie/funding](http://www.nairtl.ie/funding)

### ● Scéala Éireann ar Raidió na Gaeltachta

Cuirfidh staraíthe ó OÉ Gaillimh sraith nua clár dar teideal 'Scéala Éireann' i láthair ar Raidió na Gaeltachta ón 7 Feabhra ar aghaidh. 26 clár ar fad atá sa tsraith a bhfuil sé mar aidhm léi léargas a thabhairt don lucht éisteachta ar stair na hÉireann.

Mairfidh gach clár 12 nóiméad agus is éard a bheidh iontu aiste ghairid raidió ó dhuine de phainéal staraíthe ó OÉ Gaillimh – an tOllamh Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, an tOllamh Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, an Dr Nollaig Ó Muraíle, an Dr Niall Ó Cíosáin agus an Dr Mary Harris. Is é an tOllamh Ó Tuathaigh comhairleoir scrípte na sraithe.

I measc na n-ábhar a bheidh á bplé sa tsraith seo tá teacht na Críostaíochta go hÉirinn, na Lochlannaigh, Ó Conaill agus fuascailt na gCaitliceach, An Gorta, Éirí Amach 1916, mar aon le himeachtaí a thit amach le déanaí, an foréigean i dTuaisceart Éireann agus geilleagar an Tíogair Cheiltigh, mar shampla. Craolfar Scéala Éireann ar Raidió na Gaeltachta ag 9.45am gach maidin Sathairn.

### ● SUMS - Support for Undergraduate Maths Students

SUMS is a new drop-in centre for students studying maths and an initiative of the Students' Union and the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Mathematics. SUMS is aimed at easing the transition from secondary to tertiary mathematics and where students can direct their own mathematical learning, alone or in groups, with expert tutors on hand for free consultations. This is a supplementary service to lectures and tutorials; students are not taught at the centre, but rather aided in their learning. The centre is staffed by supervisor, Maura Clancy, and a team of expert Maths tutors whom students can call on for help if required. SUMS is located on the ground floor of Áras de Brún in Room C116 and online at <http://www.maths.nuigalway.ie/sums/>. The opening hours are Monday to Thursday 2pm to 5pm, but this will be reviewed subject to student demand.

## Medical Students Extend Teddy Bear Hospital



Pictured is medical student and 'Teddy Doctor' volunteer, Conor Kelly from Athenry at the annual Teddy Bear Hospital.

Owing to popular demand, a second day was added to the annual Teddy Bear Hospital organised by the University's medical and health sciences students. A record 950 children visited this year from 24 primary schools in Galway city and county.

## New Arts Degree Programme

In September 2009 a new degree programme with two specialist pathways, one in Environment and Society and one in Youth and Family Studies will be offered by NUI Galway in partnership with St. Angela's College, Sligo. In this three-year degree, the first two years will be taught at St. Angela's and the final year at NUI Galway.

According to Professor Chris Curtin, School of Political Science and Sociology: "The past 20 years have seen an increasing concern for the natural environment. Issues such as pollution, acid rain, damage to the ozone layer, deforestation and climate change have attracted attention in our media. Students choosing the environmental pathway will learn how economic, social and political decision making can be used to deal with such environmental issues. On the youth and family pathway, students will examine the role and functions of family; childhood attachment and adolescent development as well as key issues and policy solutions to contemporary family issues".

Further information available from: [www.stacs.edu.ie](http://www.stacs.edu.ie)

## Building Office Notice on Upcoming Major Campus Works

- The Nursing Library (extension to the James Hardiman Library) is currently under construction and is due for occupation in September 2009.
- Áras na Mac Léinn closed in February for a major refurbishment. Diversion notices for the Student Health Unit, The Hub and Students' Union, which will remain operational, will be in place. Construction work will conclude in September 2009.
- An Bord Pleanála recently gave permission for a 500-space park and ride facility in the north campus. Work commenced in February and the facility will be ready in September 2009.
- The new engineering building will be constructed on the site opposite Áras Moyola. Construction will commence in April 2009 and will run for two years.

Design work is progressing on a new human biology building (to accommodate the departments of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology) and a fast-tracked bundle of research projects (including an extension to the west of the James Hardiman Library, a new building in the north campus, and an extension to the CSI building on the hospital campus). We will report on progress with these buildings later in the semester.

These are all vitally important projects for the University and will inevitably cause a level of disruption, diversion, noise and dust. The Buildings Office will control the factors causing disturbance, to ensure it is kept to a minimum at all times and does not endanger people or property. Our Clerk of Works will maintain a full-time presence on these projects to monitor and control these issues in conjunction with contractors, Buildings Office staff and the University community.

## New Book Looks to Changing How Ireland Does Business



Pictured at the book launch were co-editors (left) Dr James Cunningham and (centre) Dr Denis Harrington. The book was officially launched by (right) Pádraig Ó Céidigh, founder of Aer Arann.

Innovative management, personal creativity and a global mindset are key to Ireland's economic recovery, according to a new book launched at NUI Galway. *Irish Management 2.0* combines articles, case studies and management reflections into a compelling commentary on the future of management practice and business education in Ireland.