



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

# Ollscéala

Nuachtlitrí Foirne - Staff Newsletter

Nollaig 2006

## Campus of the Future



*Pictured at the launch of the €400 million development project, President of NUI Galway, Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh.*

The 'Campus of the Future' programme has been unveiled at NUI Galway, with details revealed of the major €400 million development project. The project will see approximately 20 large infrastructural projects undertaken, continuing the dramatic re-orientation of the campus to face the River Corrib.

Commenting on the plan, President of NUI Galway, Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh said: "This ambitious development plan will take every facet of the University to the highest class in terms of services, facilities and research, making us comparable to the best internationally. With the support of students, staff, alumni and the local community, we aim to retain all that is unique and wonderful about our campus and embrace the future with confidence."

The €400 million investment package will be financed by University resources and a combination of government and private philanthropic funding. Flagship projects will include a new Sports Centre; a Cultural Centre; a state-of-the-art Engineering building; a Human Biology building and an expansion of the Clinical Sciences Institute; and a Law School.

Development will harmonise the natural and built environments, preserving - and where possible adding to - existing walkways and open spaces. The aim is to create a riverside amenity which will be of enormous benefit not only to students and staff, but also to the broader community of the city and region.

Further information is available at  
<http://www.nuigalway.ie/campusofthefuture/>

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## Focal ón Eagarthóir

Fáilte chuig eagrán na Nollag agus chuig mo chéad eagrán *d'Ollscéala*.

The campus has been very busy this semester, and hopefully this edition of *Ollscéala* will give a flavour of activities during the autumnal season.

The Capital Development announcement took place recently where the 'Campus of the Future' exhibition was unveiled, as per our cover story. In another major development, the University was very successful in securing SIF funding to the tune of €7.3m, see page three for the full story.

We have also had the official openings of new centres and institutes such as the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, The Moore Institute and the refurbished Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge centre in An Cheathrú Rua. These and many other stories are detailed within this edition.

Due to a phenomenal response for this edition we have been unable to publish all materials submitted, however, we look forward to many more editions in 2007.

Táim ag súil go mór le bheith ag obair libh as seo amach agus mo bhúiochas do chách a chur scéalta chugainn don eagrán seo.

Nollag Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise!

**Michelle Ní Chróinín**  
Eagarthóir

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## Hollywood Preview at NUI Galway



*Presidents in the picture house!*

Martin Sheen, NUI Galway's most famous mature student, treated 360 University staff and students to a sneak preview of the yet-to-be released movie 'Bobby'. The film, based on the last day of Bobby

Kennedy's life, is written and directed by Martin's son, Emilio Estevez and stars a host of well-known actors. The screening was Martin Sheen's idea, as a gesture of thanks to the NUI Galway community.

## Thousands Attend Information Days



*Pictured at the Graduate Recruitment Fair were Hugh Hamrock, Bank of Ireland, NUI Galway; Tom Forde, Branch Manager, Bank of Ireland, NUI Galway; with representatives from the University's Careers Service, Deirdre Sheridan and John Hannon.*

Information and guidance for students was the theme of two recent fairs at NUI Galway, the Graduate Recruitment Fair and the Open Day.

Over 75 national and multinational companies featured at the Graduate Recruitment Fair, providing an ideal opportunity for current students, graduates and postgraduates to meet prospective employers and find out about the job market. The event was co-ordinated by the Careers Service at NUI Galway in association with the Bank of Ireland.

On the Open Day, another annual event in the University's calendar, thousands of secondary school students, parents and teachers from all over Ireland visited the campus. Introductory lectures were held throughout the day and over 70 exhibition stands gave an overview of course offerings, career options and campus life. The Open Day also incorporated campus tours and laboratory demonstrations as well as information on sport and recreational extracurricular activities.

## SIF Funding Success

€7.3 million awarded to NUI Galway through Strategic Innovation Fund

Following a competitive process administered by the Higher Education Authority, the Minister for Education and Science announced the award of 14 projects, across the third-level sector, to a total value of over €42 million. NUI Galway was awarded one of the largest individual amounts, a significant €7.3 million, and is an active partner in eight of the other successful projects. Minister Hanafin's announcement was part of the Government's new €300 million Strategic Innovation Fund aimed at supporting restructuring and reform in the Irish Third Level Sector in order to enhance the quality of higher education teaching and research.

The funds awarded to NUI Galway are earmarked to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in the University; to enhance the infrastructure underlying post-graduate education and research; to

support the restructuring of academic units underway in the University; to enhance the successful access programmes; and to further develop innovative service learning and

student volunteering activities.

Funding was allocated between project components as set out in the following table.

Project Component	€
<b>Restructuring &amp; Modernisation</b>	
1. Restructuring of Academic units	€2,200,000
2. Restructuring Infrastructure	€200,000
<b>Graduate Studies</b>	
1. Dean of Graduate Studies and Generic training for research students	€500,000
2. Building 4th Level capacity	€1,500,000
<b>Student Learning Experience</b>	
1. Learning Technologies from Pilot to Mainstream	€700,000
2. Civic Engagement, Student Volunteering and Active Citizenship	€700,000
<b>Access to Education</b>	
1. Outreach/Access Initiatives across BMW and Co Clare	€1,350,000
2. Feasibility Study to develop Irish language and Irish Medium Education	€150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€7,300,000</b>

## Ulster-Connacht Medical School Plans

Plans for a medical school shared between the University of Ulster's Magee campus and NUI Galway were recently unveiled at a conference in Sligo. Academics, politicians and medical experts from the north and west of the island of Ireland came together to back a proposal that would put the Ulster-Connacht region on Ireland's medical education map.

The proposal draws on the strengths of both institutions to create a compelling proposition that will open up new opportunities in cross-border healthcare service provision, medical research and economic development, as well as medical education itself. Hospitals and primary care centres involved will include, in the North - Derry, Omagh, Enniskillen, and Coleraine, and in the South - Ballinasloe, Mayo, Sligo, Letterkenny and Roscommon.

## Report on Impact of ECHR Act 2003



Pictured at the launch of the ECHR Act Report were authors Donncha O'Connell, Dean of Law, Paul O'Connell, Siobhan Cummiskey and Emer Meenaghan.

A team of researchers led by the Dean of Law at NUI Galway, Donncha O'Connell, has just published a major report assessing the impact of legislation introduced in 2003 to give further effect in Irish law to the

European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) on foot of a commitment in the Belfast Agreement 1998.

The full text can be downloaded from: [www.nuigalway.ie/law](http://www.nuigalway.ie/law)



## Entrepreneur Master Class

Pictured at the final master class of the Enterprise Development Programme (EDP) were Pat Timpson, Lionra; Mr. Diarmuid O'Donovan, Mr. Conor Daly, Mr. Finbar Rafferty, and Dr. Myles Sweeney, EDP Northwest Participants.

EDP is a collaborative programme between Enterprise Ireland, FÁS and the Lionra network (Regional Higher Education Network), and supports new entrepreneurs to bring their innovative ideas to business creation and development reality.

The EDP Team based at NUI Galway included Niamh Corcoran and Clodagh Barry, who managed and supported all of the other Lionra colleges and the participants throughout the duration of this first programme.

## Launch of Irish Centre for Social Gerontology



Professor Eamon O'Shea, Director of the ICSG with Mary Harney T.D, pictured at the opening.

Mary Harney T.D., Minister for Health and Children, has officially opened the new €3 million Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG) at the JE Cairnes Graduate School of Business and Public Policy at NUI Galway. The Centre, the first of its type in Ireland, will examine the economic and social aspects of Ireland's ageing population across multiple disciplines including social gerontology, economics, sociology, psychology, law, nursing and medicine.

Offering Ireland's first Diploma in Social Gerontology, the ICSG has had a

huge amount of interest in the course and quickly filled the first year's intake.

ICSG is funded through a combination of public and private funding, including important financial support from Atlantic Philanthropies. It will work closely with stakeholder groups including Age and Opportunity, Age Action Ireland, Senior Citizens Parliament and the Federation of Active Retirement Associations to promote a holistic and positive view of ageing in Ireland.

## Awards

### US Accolade

Professor W. G. Hurley, Vice-President for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs at NUI Galway, has been elected Fellow of the prestigious US-based Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). Professor Hurley is a member of the Electronics Department at NUI Galway.

This distinction is conferred only by invitation of the Board of Directors upon persons of outstanding qualifications and experience in IEEE-designated fields, and who have made important individual contributions to those fields.

### Medicine Medal

Gerard Flaherty recently received the Donald Macleod Medal, which is awarded annually to the most distinguished candidate to take UK examinations in the Diploma in Sports and Exercise Medicine.

Gerard lectures at NUI Galway on the Masters in Sports and Exercise Medicine course which is a part-time course in its second year.

### Law Expert Re-appointed

Professor Gerard Quinn, of NUI Galway's Law Faculty, has been re-appointed by the Government to serve another five year term on the Irish Human Rights Commission.

An expert in Disability Law, Professor Quinn is the only person based in the West of Ireland on the Commission.

## NUI Galway Pioneers Third-Level Education in Connemara



Pictured at the opening were Peadar Mac an Iomaire, Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, with Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D. and Dr. Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, President of NUI Galway.

Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, officially opened NUI Galway's newly refurbished Acadamh centre in An Cheathrú Rua. He commended NUI Galway's commitment to addressing the demand for highly-skilled, Irish

speaking professionals through its educational programmes.

The University has developed a network of Gaeltacht-based centres which are run by Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, NUI Galway's

national institute pioneering third-level education through the Irish language. NUI Galway's commitment to the development and provision of third level courses in Gaeltacht areas will contribute in a positive manner to the social, economic, cultural and linguistic life of these regions.

The University's centres provide undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in disciplines such as; applied language skills, translation studies, information technology, communication studies, teaching methodology, drama studies and language planning. In addition, NUI Galway now offers Ireland's first B.A. in Communications, as Gaeilge.

These innovative and flexible programmes help nurture enterprise initiatives as well as promoting businesses involved in knowledge intensive fields such as cultural tourism, music, arts, education and multimedia.

## President's Column

A Cháirde,

Fáilte go dtí **Focal ón Uachtarán**. This column provides me with an opportunity to share with you some recent events celebrating the work and success of our University. I welcome its addition to the staff newsletter, and would hope to expand significantly on its contents in future editions of Ollscéala.



In September, our University became home to over 15,000 students who enrolled in academic programmes for 2006/2007. Among the first to register was actor Martin Sheen, whose arrival on campus brought with it a flurry of worldwide publicity for the University, which continued following the recent preview on campus of Martin's latest film, 'Bobby'. The staff and students who filled the O'Flaherty Theatre to capacity were given the unique opportunity to a question and answer session with Martin following the screening. It has been a wonderful experience having Martin on campus, and I am happy to report he has equally enjoyed his undergraduate experience.

Each year, I look forward to our Conferring events with great anticipation. It is a wonderful occasion as we witness students who have successfully achieved their academic goals being honoured with such high accolades. The largest-ever conferring ceremonies took place at the end of October, with over 4,770 graduates awarded degrees, diplomas and certificates from the Faculties of Arts, Commerce, Science, Engineering and Law. An additional 650 students from these Faculties, and from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, were conferred during the Winter Conferring sessions in November. I am delighted to note that during these ceremonies many members of staff were conferred with Postgraduate and other awards – comhghairdeachas libh go léir!

As part of our two conferring sessions, three outstanding individuals from Galway were awarded honorary Master of Arts degrees: John Cunningham, editor of the Connacht Tribune; Dónall Ó Luanaigh, former Keeper of Collections at the National Library of Ireland; and Lorna McMahon, well-known Galway horticulturist and community activist.

The past few months have seen exciting announcements with regard to the development and funding of campus facilities and programmes. The €400 million 'Campus of the Future' development project (Page 1) outlines our vision for the development of our 260 acre campus and I would encourage each of you to visit the 'Campus of the Future' website at [www.nuigalway.ie/campusofthefuture](http://www.nuigalway.ie/campusofthefuture) to view our initial plans for this exciting programme. Creidim nach bhfuil aon rogha ag an Ollscoil ach an plean cuimsitheach seo a chur i gcrích, and although the entire funding for this package is not yet in place, I firmly believe that we must have the confidence to embark on the project, and I am firm in the belief that it can, and it will be done.

The October announcement of our successful funding award through the Government's new €300 million Strategic Innovation Fund (Page 3) is a testament to the tremendous work being carried out across this campus and to our shared vision and commitment to ensuring the highest quality of teaching and research.

This newsletter details the news and achievements of the staff of this University and I hope you share my sense of pride in these accomplishments. Tá mé thar a bheith buíoch díbh go léir as ucht bhur dtacaíocht, agus guím gach rath oraibh fhéin agus ar bhur gclann um Nollag agus san Athbhliain.

*Spáid G. Murchantaigh*



*John Cunningham,  
editor of the Connacht Tribune.*



*Dónall Ó Luanaigh, former Keeper of  
Collections at the National Library of Ireland.*



*Lorna McMahon, well-known Galway  
horticulturist and community activist.*

## Dr. FitzGerald Begins Keynote Seminar Series



*Dr. Garret FitzGerald at NUI Galway's Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI) seminar. In the background are Lorraine McIlrath, CKI Project Coordinator; Professor Jim Browne, Registrar and Deputy President; and Professor Margaret Barry, Health Promotion.*

Dr. Garret FitzGerald, former Taoiseach and current Chancellor of the National University of Ireland, recently delivered a speech at NUI Galway on 'Civic Republicanism and Public Morality'.

The presentation was the first in a Keynote Seminar Series focusing on themes related to civic engagement and active citizenship, organised by the University's Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI).

Further lectures are scheduled in the first three months of 2007, including talks by Alan Kerins of the Alan Kerins African Projects; Mary Davis, Chair of the Taskforce on Active Citizenship; and Alan Rusbridger, Editor of the Guardian.

The keynote series is being offered as a response to the increased alienation and declining social commitment that is common in today's communities.

CKI has also organised 'Conversations with Community', a discussion forum designed to foster communication and partnership with community organisations. The first 'conversation' discussed the experience of asylum seekers in Galway and many similar events are in the pipeline.

To support student volunteering, CKI this year launched a website to facilitate the posting of volunteers required and to enlist students who want to volunteer as part of ALIVE (A Learning Initiative and the Volunteering Experience). For more information visit <http://www.nuigalwaycki.ie/>

## Safety Management Strategic Plan



*Pictured at the launch of the Safety Management Strategic Plan 2006-2008, were Pat O'Sullivan, Computer Services (Safety Representative); Aodh Dalton, Department of Electronic Engineering (Safety Representative); Don Tallon, Health and Safety Office; and Robyn Reilly, Buildings Office (Safety Representative).*

The Safety Management Strategic Plan 2006-2008, which has been approved by the University Management Team and Údarás na hOllscoile, is a landmark document containing the Safety Vision for NUI Galway. It has been developed following extensive consultation with many sectors of the University community under the aegis of the University Safety Committee.

## Online Studies in Japan



*At the launch in Japan, Professor Gerard Hurley, Vice-President for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs, NUI Galway; His Excellency Brendan Scannell, Irish Ambassador to Japan; Chinatsu Hakamada, PhD student at Scoil na Gaeilge, NUI Galway; and Anna Cunningham, Director of International Affairs at NUI Galway.*

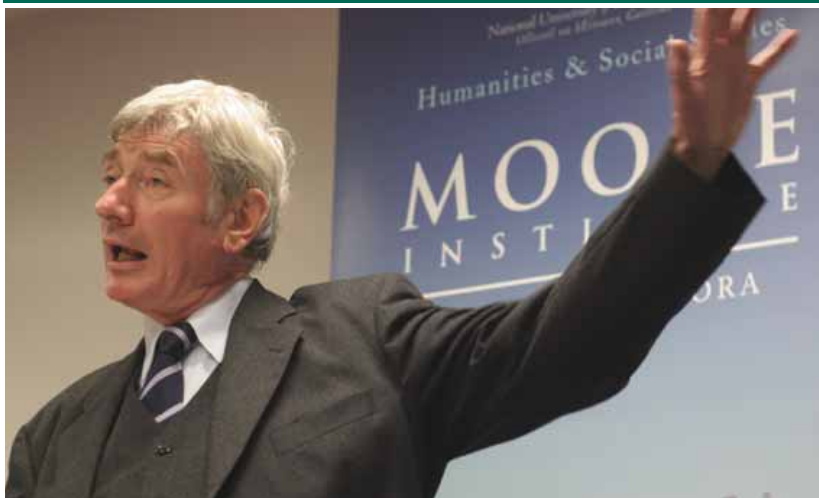
At a function in Tokyo, His Excellency Brendan Scannell, Irish Ambassador to Japan, formally launched an exciting new development which will allow Japanese students the opportunity to be taught the online diploma in Irish Studies in their own language. The Irish Studies Online Programme from NUI Galway's Centre for Irish Studies, provides an introduction to Irish life and culture through the disciplines of

Archaeology, History, English, Irish Political Science and Sociology.

The programme has been developed in partnership with Regis University, Denver, Colorado.

All of the seminars and group discussions will be in Japanese, as will all interaction between the students and their online tutor, and among the students themselves.

## Moore Institute Opens



Professor Nicholas Canny, Academic Director of the Moore Institute, at the official opening.

The official opening of the Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities and Social Studies at NUI Galway has taken place and was marked by a series of lectures and seminars. The institute provides scholars an opportunity to engage in research and innovative thinking to promote the better appreciation of human cultural and

social achievements in past centuries, and the enrichment and improvement of our world today. It is named after the Moore family of Moore Hall in County Mayo whose members, in successive generations, sponsored such change in the west of Ireland over the course of four centuries.

## International Scholarship Students

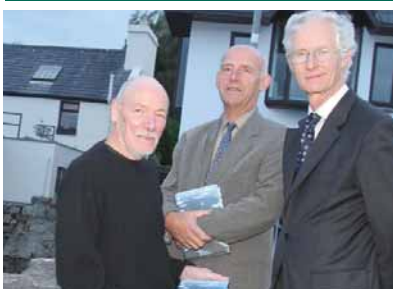
The University was delighted to welcome the second cohort of international scholarship students to campus this semester. Six students from Ethiopia, Sri Lanka and South Africa commenced their postgraduate studies in a variety of disciplines including, Corporate Strategy, Business Studies, Biotechnology, Neuropharmacology and International Human Rights Law.

The Scholarship Programme is aimed at enhancing the capacity of outstanding individuals who can assume leadership roles in their fields of study, ultimately benefiting their own community.



Pictured in the front row, (l-r) are students Shewit Kalayou (Ethiopia), Dinali Wijeratne (Sri Lanka), Aletta Raju (South Africa) and Anteneh Mekonnen (Ethiopia). In the back row, are Cameron Fredericks (South Africa), Dr. Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh and Tewabe Assaye (Ethiopia).

## Robinson's House in Roundstone



Pictured outside Folding Landscapes in Roundstone are Tim Robinson; Professor Kevin Barry, Dean of Arts; and Keith Warnock, Vice-President Physical Resources.

Cartographers and publishers, Tim and Máiréad Robinson, have bequeathed their house on the sea wall at Roundstone, Co. Galway, to NUI Galway. The Robinsons will continue to reside in the house, Folding Landscapes, but it will become a venue for the University to engage with the local community and to share the resources and knowledge of the institution's many visitors, academics and practitioners.

NUI Galway is running a Colloquium Series in Roundstone, under the title 'Unfolding Ideas'. The series provides a forum for scholars, educators, and artists to engage in a series of public talks, group discussion and workshops.

## In brief...

### Free Draw for Gala Tickets

Staff members are invited to enter a draw to win tickets to the Eighth Annual NUI Galway Gala Banquet and Alumni Awards Ceremony which will be held on 3 March, 2007, in the Radisson SAS Hotel. To enter please send your full name, department, email and extension to [gala@nuigalway.ie](mailto:gala@nuigalway.ie). The deadline for receipt of entries is 11 January 2007.

### Host Family Programme

The very successful Host Family Programme for international students is now underway for this academic year. Individual staff and families, who are interested in inviting an international student to their home on an occasional basis, can take part in the programme by emailing [ann.monahan@nuigalway.ie](mailto:ann.monahan@nuigalway.ie). It is envisaged that both students and staff members will enjoy an enriching experience and benefit from learning about each others culture, customs and way of life.

### Litríocht agus Cultúr na Gaeilge

Reachtáladh Comhdháil: Litríocht agus Cultúr na Gaeilge in Áras na Gaeilge, OÉ, Gaillimh, 13-14 Deireadh Fómhair. Bhí comhdháil na bliana seo tiomanta do Mháirtín Ó Cadhain agus bhí na haoichainteoirí ag díriú ar ghnéithe éagsúla dá shaol agus dá shaothar: Alan Titley (iriseoireacht an Chadhnaigh), Brian Ó Conchubhair (úrscéalta an Chadhnaigh) agus Joe Steve Ó Neachtain (rútaí an Chadhnaigh). Ina theannta sin bhí cúigear den 19 cainteoir eile ag plé leis an gCadhach, msh, Nollaig Ó Gadhra ag trácht ar an gCadhach agus Óglaigh na hÉireann, agus Pádraigín Ní Cheallaigh ag caint ar an gCadhach mar ollamh ollscoile.

### John Huston Centenary Conference

To mark 100 years since the birth of John Huston, the Huston School of Film and Digital Media at NUI Galway hosted a unique two day conference in November, to celebrate the life and work of the legendary director.

Huston had strong connections with the west of Ireland, having made Craughwell, Co. Galway, his home for 18 years, where his fine Georgian manor house St Clerans still stands.

### Research Day at DERI

A select audience of IT academics and industry experts convened recently at NUI Galway to talk about the future of IT in Ireland – with a focus on semantics and the web. The event was hosted by the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI), which is tasked with 'creating the future of the web'.

## Back-to-the-Floor

Nine senior managers went 'Back-to-the-Floor' for an initiative aimed at increasing mutual understanding between staff at all levels. Each of the nine members of management assumed the role of a front-line administrative or service worker, taking on the full range of their tasks for the day and working alongside their colleagues to gain an insight into the issues facing them on a daily basis.

Having sorted post in the mailroom and answered student queries at the Students Union front desk, Dr. Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh was very enthusiastic about the initiative, "This was a great opportunity for me to really appreciate the fantastic work carried out at ground level in this University. It allowed me to have a real feel for the issues confronting staff and students on the front line."

As part of the day, Dr. Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh rolled up his sleeves in the University Mail Centre and the Students Union; Professor Jim Browne joined the Admissions Office Reception Desk; Mary Dooley worked in the Accounts Payable Office; Dr Séamus Mac Mathúna helped out in the Exams Office; Mary O'Riordan assisted at the Students Services Information Desk; Marie Reddan helps out the library stewards; John Gibney mowed the lawns with the Gardening and Grounds team; Dr. Kieran Loftus joined User Support; while Chris McNairney took over the HR Reception Desk.

The 'Back-to-the-Floor' initiative was originally the brainchild of a staff member at NUI Galway, submitted through the University's staff suggestion scheme, Úrsmainte.

The main purpose of Úrsmainte, the staff suggestion scheme, is to encourage and reward innovation among NUI Galway staff. The scheme welcomes ideas which will have a positive impact on the University community as a whole.

For further information on submissions visit <http://www.nuigalway.ie/vp/sshr/ursmaointe.html> or email [ursmaointe@nuigalway.ie](mailto:ursmaointe@nuigalway.ie).



*Joseph Devany and the President get sorted!*

## Úrsmainte Winner



*Jim Duggan, winner of Úrsmainte with Mary O'Riordan, Vice-President for Student Services & Human Resources.*

Jim Duggan, a lecturer with the IT Department, was the winner of the 2006 Úrsmainte award, for which he received a €1000 cheque. Jim came up with the idea of the 'Buy-a-Book Day' which was a resounding success earlier this year. Almost €3,000 was raised by the event, 50% of which was donated to charities and 50% of which went towards the purchase of Special Collections in the Library.

Plans are underway for another 'Buy-a-Book Day' which will be held in March 2007.

## NUI Galway Goes 4th!

The Postgraduate Admissions Office launched its new website, [www.go4th.ie](http://www.go4th.ie), in October of this year. The site showcases postgraduate opportunities and online postgraduate prospectus, while also linking to research centres and graduate schools. According to Valerie Leahy, Postgraduate Admissions Officer, "We urge staff to link to and promote [go4th.ie](http://www.go4th.ie) from their own Departmental web sites. We hope to use [go4th™](http://www.go4th.ie) in our postgraduate advertising campaigns in the future".

The new [go4th™](http://www.go4th.ie) web site complements the Postgraduate Admissions Office web site ([www.nuigalway.ie/postgrad](http://www.nuigalway.ie/postgrad)). It offers comprehensive information on applications, lists postgraduate exhibitions that NUI Galway attend, and details the Postgraduate Studies Fair which takes place on 5 February 2007.

**go4th™**  
graduate education at nui galway