



NUI Galway and UL Strategic Alliance to Drive Vital Research and Academic Excellence

NUI Galway and the University of Limerick have announced a Strategic Alliance to encourage indigenous enterprises and foreign direct investment, strengthen research and industry partnerships, and further a shared commitment to academic excellence. The Alliance will have an international dimension, through a partnership with Georgia Institute of Technology in the US, in the exploitation of research from both Irish universities. At a ceremony in Dublin involving An Taoiseach Brian Cowen TD, the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Mary Coughlan, and the Minister for Education and Science Batt O’Keeffe, the Alliance was announced to leaders from a wide range of community, public and political bodies as well as partners from academia and industry.

Welcoming the announcement, An Taoiseach Brian Cowen, TD, said: “NUI Galway and the University of Limerick are demonstrating how working together means working smarter. This Alliance is an exciting new departure

for two very progressive universities. It represents a key building block for our Smart Economy project. And it promises to make a major contribution to economic and social development in this country, at both regional and national levels”.

Commenting on the new partnership, President Browne, said: “The aim of this Alliance is to better support the social and economic development of our wider region by combining the strengths of the two universities to enhance the service we provide to our students, to industry and business partners, and to enhance the international standing of both universities. Together we can and will achieve more”.

Pictured at a ceremony in Dublin marking the announcement were, Dr James J. Browne, President of NUI Galway, An Taoiseach Brian Cowen TD, and Professor Don Barry, President of the University of Limerick.



Focal ón Eagarthóir

It's been a cold yet busy start to 2010.

The cover page highlights one of the larger events in recent times where the NUI Galway – UL Strategic Alliance was announced in the fine setting of the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin.

Other key announcements this semester include the €7.5 million funding for a new Clinical Research Facility and the establishment of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion Research (p.3).

Studies into the 'Silent Epidemic' of chronic pain are highlighted (p.4) and the annual Paddy Ryan Memorial Lecture saw the return of Dr Alan Ahearne (p.6). The outstanding generosity shown by our University community was highlighted through the Haiti Appeal (p.4) and also by a creative CD compiled by Acadamh na hOllscoláiochta to raise funds for Crumlin Children's Hospital (p.8).

The opening of the Bailey Allen Hall on a very cold Saturday night in January was an exceptional affair and the very recent Alumni Awards and Gala Banquet also took place in the University's new state-of-the-art venue (p.5).

Finally, as we go to press I would like to congratulate the NUI Galway hurlers following their dramatic victory of the much sought after Fitzgibbon Cup. Beating tough competition in the semi-final and final, they are now crowned worthy champions after 30 years.

Ádh Mór
Michelle Ní Chróinín
Eagarthóir

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New University Librarian

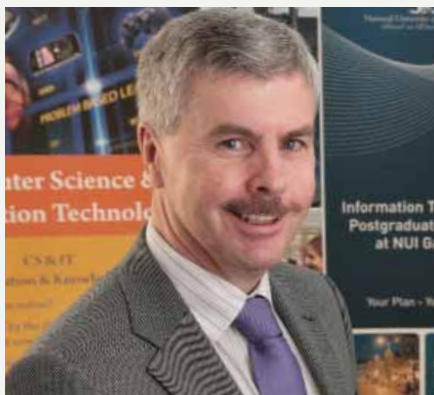


John Cox has been appointed University Librarian in succession to Marie Reddan, who retired in September 2008. John had been Deputy Librarian since November 1999 and was appointed Librarian following a spell as Acting Librarian. Prior to joining NUI Galway, he held library leadership positions at the Wellcome Trust and University College Cork.

As he embarks on his new role John notes: "This is both a challenging and an exciting time for the James Hardiman Library, with a tightening of

resources matched by opportunities to develop the digital library in new ways. These include taking on a publishing role through digitisation and enabling open access to university research publications. I envisage the Library increasingly advancing learning and research in a partnership capacity with the academic community and other service providers. Our driving force will be to contribute strongly to the delivery of the University's strategic plan with the goal of excellent customer service underpinning everything we do".

College of Engineering and Informatics Appoints New Dean



Professor Gerard Lyons has been appointed as the new Dean of Engineering & Informatics, taking over from Professor Padraic O'Donoghue, who was Dean for nine years. He brings a wealth of academic leadership experience, having been responsible for establishing and building the Information Technology discipline over the past 19 years.

Professor Lyons is a Chartered Engineer, Chartered IT Professional (UK), Fellow of Engineers Ireland and Fellow of the British Computer Society. He is also President of the Health Informatics Society of Ireland. In his time at NUI Galway, he has successfully developed a large portfolio of Information Technology academic programmes, in collaboration with colleagues from across the faculties of Engineering, Arts, Science and Commerce. He has also attracted significant research and capital funding, and built collaborative research groups in the areas of Enterprise Computing and Medical Informatics, leading to both academic and IP licensing outputs for the University. Professor Lyons' experience in multi-national industry and public sector management will be valuable for the College of Engineering & Informatics and the University in the challenging years ahead.

€7.5million Funding for New Clinical Research Facility



NUI Galway's Professor Larry Egan, Interim Director of the Health Research Board (HRB) Clinical Research Facility (left), with Keith Warnock, Vice-President for Capital Projects, and Minister Mary Harney.

The Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney TD, has announced that €7.5m in capital funding is being provided for the construction of a new Clinical Research Facility on the grounds of University Hospital Galway. The HRB Clinical Research Facility Galway is a joint venture between Galway University Hospitals and NUI Galway. The facility is supported by funding from the Health Research Board and has been operating since March of 2008.

Professor Larry Egan, Interim Director of the HRB Clinical Research Facility, Galway said, "The benefits of this facility include the ability to provide access to cutting-edge clinical trials and access to novel therapies for patients in the West of Ireland. Clinical care provided in a research-intensive environment has been proven internationally to result in the best patient outcomes. With the development of the Clinical Research Facility in Galway, our ability to provide this level of service to our patients will be significantly enhanced. Moreover, the capabilities for investigation at this facility will provide an important and highly valuable opportunity for Irish companies operating in the biomedical research area, such as pharmaceuticals and biomedical device companies, to add value to their products through high quality clinical research".

Professor Timothy O'Brien, Consultant Endocrinologist at GUH, Professor of Medicine at NUI Galway and Director of REMEDI, said: "This will form part of an Irish Network of Clinical Research Facilities which will allow Irish patients access to state-of-the-art clinical research. The Galway facility will also serve as the translational arm of REMEDI and will allow findings from basic research in stem cells, gene therapy, biomaterials and immunology to be brought to the clinic. The facility will have space specially designed for clinical research in regenerative medicine."

Minister Brady Launches WHO Centre

Ms Aine Brady, Minister of State for Older People and Health Promotion, recently launched the establishment of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion at NUI Galway.

The work of the World Health Organisation (WHO) is supported by a global network of collaborating centres, with the centre at NUI Galway one of only three in Ireland, and one of only 26 centres around the world dedicated to Health Promotion.

The designation comes as a result of the important role the University's Health Promotion Research Centre has played over the past 20 years in health promotion education and research to support national policies and development. The Centre is the only one of its kind in Ireland and has an active multidisciplinary research programme of work supported by an experienced team of some 30 staff.

The Health Promotion Research Centre will now collaborate with the WHO on the effective production, dissemination and translation of health promotion research. This will support the development of effective practice and policy at national, European and global levels. The Centre will focus on supporting evidence-based practice and policy in a number of areas, including research on promoting youth



health in schools, the health of staff in the workplace, and advancing the implementation and evaluation of health promotion interventions, including those that target improved mental health and social wellbeing.

OLLSCÉALA

Official Opening of Water Research Facility



Pictured at the opening of the new NUI Galway Water Research Facility in Tuam were Minister Michael Finneran, Laura Burke of the EPA and Professor Terry Smith, VP for Research.

The new EPA NUI Galway Water Research Facility has been opened at Tuam, Co. Galway. Core funding to establish the facility was provided by the EPA through its STRIVE Research Programme, and by NUI Galway.

Located on the site of Tuam Waste Water Treatment Plant, the facility is a full-scale test bed for novel waste water and water treatment technologies. There are already a range of NUI Galway research projects on new green technologies underway at the Water Research Facility. Commenting on the work carried out to date,

Professor Terry Smith, Vice-President of Research at NUI Galway, noted: "The Tuam Water Research Facility provides a world-class facility for carrying out collaborative cutting-edge research for research institutions and industry on full-scale, smart green technologies that purify water and wastewater. The Water Research Facility has great potential to give Irish companies an innovative advantage in increasing its share of the international environmental technologies market, worth €227 billion per year in the EU alone".

Haiti Appeal Raises €155,000



Pictured are NUI Galway Haiti Fund Co-ordinators: Olive Mills, School of Science; Fr Iomar Daniels, Dean of Chaplaincy Services; Mairead Molloy, Anatomy; Fr Diarmuid Hogan, Dean of Chaplaincy Services; and Dolores McAndrew, Chaplaincy Office.

The NUI Galway Haiti Fund now stands at over €155,000, much of which has been contributed by students and staff. This entire sum has been forwarded to Kieran Rigney, from Banagher, and his colleague Gena Heraty, from Westport, both of whom have worked in impoverished Haiti with their organisation, NPH HAITI, for almost 20 years.

In the months ahead, the NUI Galway Haiti Fund contribution will be used to rebuild badly damaged buildings and facilities and to expand the range of educational, medical and social services.

Further details of this organisation's work are available on www.nphhaiti.org

'Silent Epidemic' of Chronic Pain affects One in Three

NUI Galway researchers have deemed chronic pain a 'silent epidemic' in Ireland, having found that one in three people suffer from the condition. The finding is part of the preliminary results of the PRIME Study (Prevalence, Impact and Cost of Chronic Pain in Ireland), which is the first large-scale project to examine the problem of chronic pain in the country.

To date, only one study on chronic pain (using market research methods) has been available, and that data suggested that chronic pain affected 13% of the Irish population. The PRIME team found that among 1,200 randomly selected adults, a significant 35.5% were suffering from chronic pain.

Principal Investigator of the study, Co-Director of the Centre for Pain Research and Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Dr Brian McGuire, said: "Chronic pain is pain that lasts for at least three months. One in three people in our study reported having chronic pain for an average of seven years - many of these people reported significant suffering, disability and reduced quality of life. In some ways, it could be regarded as a 'silent epidemic'".

The research, funded by the Health Research Board and the HSE, found that there was no significant difference among men and women in rates of pain. However, pain did increase with age, with 28.2% reporting pain in the 18-34 age group, increasing to 50% of those aged 65 and over. As to the source of pain, the lower back (47.2%) was the most commonly cited. This was followed by the knee (30.4%), neck (29.7%) and shoulder (27.3%). However, many respondents had pain in multiple areas.

The PRIME research team includes NUI Galway's Miriam Raftery, Researcher at the Centre for Pain and Research and School of Psychology; Andrew Murphy, Professor of General Practice; Professor Charles Normand, Health Economist, TCD; Dr Davida de la Harpe, Population Health, HSE; and Dr Kiran Sarma, School of Psychology.

Opening of the Bailey Allen Hall

NUI Galway officially opened its new arts wing and cultural centre with a spectacular launch in January, where performances by Druid Theatre, Macnas, David O'Leary and Frankie Gavin introduced the new Bailey Allen Wing to a full house of University guests.

Sciathán Bailey Allen is named after the late Frank J. Bailey, born in Galway in 1938, and the

son of Desmond and Angela (later Allen), both well-known city-centre hotel proprietors. He graduated from NUI Galway in 1962 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Through a generous bequest from his mother, the late Angela Allen, the spirit of Frank Bailey will be memorialised at NUI Galway, while continuing to foster and support the artistic development of Galway city.



Pictured at the opening from left: President Browne, Dorothy Pilkington, niece of the late Angela Allen and Tom Joyce, Galway University Foundation



Druid's Marie Mullen and Diarmuid Conway performing at the official opening



Frankie Gavin performing at the official opening of the Bailey Allen Hall

Alumni Awards 2010

The 2010 Gala Banquet and Alumni Awards, which recognise individual excellence and achievements among the University's more than 70,000 graduates worldwide, recently took place in the Bailey Allen Hall.

The winners of the 2010 Alumni Awards included: Novelist **Gerard Donovan** (AIB Award for Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies); Chief Executive of Postbank, **Margaret Sweeney** (Bank of Ireland



President Browne and Sean O'Rourke, RTE



Pictured at the Alumni Awards and Gala Banquet (back row from left): Gerard Donovan, Professor Brian Moran, Dr Paul Duffy, Pádraig Ó hAoláin, Sean O'Rourke (MC), Sandra Butler, Chair of the Alumni Board. (Front row from left): Professor Rose Anne Kenny, President Browne, and Margaret Sweeney.

Award for Business, Public Policy and Law); **Professor Brian Moran**, Acting Provost and Professor of Mechanical Engineering at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia (Bank of Ireland Award for Engineering and Informatics); **Pádraig Ó hAoláin** (Duais Hewlett-Packard don

Ghaeilge); **Professor Rose Anne Kenny**, Head of Department of Clinical Gerontology at Trinity College Dublin and Consultant Physician in Medicine at St James' Hospital, (Medtronic Award for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences); and **Dr Paul Duffy**, Vice President Operations, Primary Care/Oncology Operating Unit for Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals (Seavite Award for Science).

OLLSCÉALA

Teddy Bear Hospital



Pictured at the 5th annual Teddy Bear Hospital was Máirtín Ó Maoláin, second-year medical student, holding a teddy bear consultation with a pupil from Scoil Íde in Salthill.

The event, which is organised by the University's Sláinte Society, was visited by some 30 schools and over 1000 children. Up to 200 students volunteered to diagnose and treat the teddy bears in the hope of helping the children feel more comfortable around doctors and hospitals.

Graduate Studies Fair



Pictured at the fair: Valerie Leahy, Postgraduate Admissions Officer; President Browne; and John Hannon, Head of the Career Development Centre.

An estimated 2,000 students attended the annual Graduate Studies Fair which took place recently on campus. The event focused on the benefits of postgraduate opportunities and showcased over 400 of NUI Galway's full-time and part-time programmes. Academic staff and current students were on hand to answer questions about specific courses.

Aer Arann Chairman Appointed Adjunct Professor

Pádraig Ó Céidigh, chairman of Aer Arann, was recently appointed to the position of Adjunct Professor with the JE Cairnes School of Business and Economics.

His first task as Adjunct Professor, which is an honorary three-year position, involves the preparation, introduction and delivery of a new final-year undergraduate module to business students, entitled 'Innovation, Creativity and Enterprise'.

A graduate of NUI Galway, Ó Céidigh was the 2002 recipient of the Bank of Ireland Alumni Award for Business and Commerce and has been a stalwart supporter of student mentoring and education through his position as Chief Executive in Residence with the JE Cairnes School of Business and Economics.

Economist Dr Alan Ahearne Predicts Growth in 2010



Galway Chamber and NUI Galway recently hosted the third Paddy Ryan Memorial Lecture. This event, which alternates between the University and GMIT, honours the memory of the late Paddy Ryan.

Dr Alan Ahearne, Special Advisor to Brian Lenihan TD, Minister for Finance, was guest speaker at the event, which was held on campus and attended by some 500 people. Currently on leave of absence from positions at NUI Galway and Brugel (the influential Brussels-based economics think tank), Dr Ahearne gave his view on the country's current economic situation in a lecture entitled 'Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Policy Making in a Time of Economic Crisis.'

Dr Ahearne's presentation can be viewed at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/about-us/video/paddy-ryan-memorial-lecture.html>



Focal ón Uachtarán

Anois teacht an Earraigh...

Fáilte chuig an chéad Ollscéala 2010. I would like to

begin by acknowledging the difficulties which colleagues throughout the University are working with every day. In these challenging times, where individuals face financial hardships as well as pressures in the workplace as a result of limited resources, I would like to personally pay tribute to colleagues who are working hard to deliver quality services in these less than ideal circumstances. Thank you sincerely for your efforts. I am confident that with your help we will overcome the present difficulties. There is much in our recent achievements, detailed below, to inspire this confidence.

NUI Galway - University of Limerick Alliance

Recently we announced a major institution-wide Strategic Alliance between NUI Galway and University of Limerick. Launched at the Royal Irish Academy by An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, TD, in the company of An Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan TD and Minister for Education & Science, Batt O'Keefe TD, the objective of the Alliance is to better support the social and economic development of our region by combining the strengths of the two universities.

This partnership across all of the key areas of activity will positively impact on teaching, research, technology transfer, lifelong learning and the provision of services. Building on our strong record of partnership with St Angela's College, Sligo; Burren College of Art; Shannon College of Hotel Management; and the Lónra network, it will lead to an increase in the quantity and quality of our collaborative research and teaching; will further develop industrial, business and other partnerships; help to ensure the most effective use of our combined resources; and serve to enhance the international standing of both our universities.

The Alliance has an exciting international dimension, through a partnership with Georgia Institute of Technology in the US. This element will focus on the exploitation of research from both Irish universities. For further details on the Alliance see <http://www.nuigalway.ie/ul-alliance/>

Following her participation in the launch of the NUI Galway - University of Limerick Strategic Alliance, An Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan, TD visited the University on 19 February for a Roundtable Briefing on the work of the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science, meeting with clinicians, scientists and engineers engaged in research at NCBES.

International Research Successes

In recent weeks we have enjoyed international endorsement of the quality research underway at NUI Galway through three new developments. In Health Promotion Research, the University has been

designated as a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion Research at an event in the University on 29 January 2010 by Áine Brady, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Health & Children.

In further good news, Minister for Health & Children, Mary Harney, TD, announced last month that €7.5m in capital funding is being provided for the construction of a new Clinical Research Facility on the grounds of University Hospital Galway. This will further add to the considerable strength of NUI Galway in biomedical science, complementing the research achievements of the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES) and Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDII).

We have just announced the establishment of The Lifecycle Institute, a major new €10 million initiative in the social sciences at NUI Galway. Funded through philanthropic donations and in collaboration with The Atlantic Philanthropies, this will advance an integrated approach to policy and services for older people, children and people with disabilities. The multidisciplinary Institute will build on the work of the Child and Family Research Centre; the Centre for Disability Law and Policy; and the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, and will be housed in a new building. Each of the three centres is making an important contribution to its respective field in Ireland and internationally as they undertake research, enhance knowledge and influence policy in relation to these population cohorts.

These three exciting developments highlight the excellence of research activity at NUI Galway across the humanities, social sciences and the biomedical sciences. Congratulations to all involved!

Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014

Our Strategic Plan was formally launched on 16 December 2009 at a reception in the Aula Maxima. This launch generated significant public interest with an emphasis in media coverage on the economic value of the University to the region. The next phase of the strategic planning process is the development of an institutional operational plan; this work is well underway. It includes a planning process at School and College level, and the development of a single support services strategy in support of the University's academic mission.

In a related development, the University Management Team met with the GMIT Management Team in December 2009 to discuss each others' Strategic Plans and to explore collaboration opportunities. It was agreed that the partnership which currently exists between the two institutions should be further built upon, in particular in the areas of Teaching Programmes; Research and Innovation; and Student Engagement.

Galway University Foundation

On 8 January, Galway University Foundation hosted the launch of the Bailey Allen Wing in the recently refurbished Áras na Mac Léinn. Over 200 invited guests attended an evening of celebration of the University's cultural and creative heritage with performances by Macnas, Druid Theatre Company, the University Orchestra and Frankie Gavin among others. The event recognised the philanthropy of the late Angela Allen, whose benefaction was made in memory of her late son and alumnus, Frank Bailey.

Dissolution of the NUI

On 20 January 2010, the Minister for Education & Science, Mr Batt O'Keefe TD moved to dissolve the National University of Ireland. Following this, the four Presidents of the NUI universities met with Minister O'Keefe to express their concerns. I want to reassure colleagues that NUI Galway continues as before: there will be no change to the University's name; the nature or quality of our degrees will not be affected; and there will be no impact on jobs at this campus by the dissolution of the NUI.

We must now work within Government's decision to abolish the NUI. My approach is to:

- maintain NUI Galway's good name and standing nationally and internationally;
- work with the other Presidents, the Minister and his officials to implement the Government decision in a manner that does not damage the good name of our University, our alumni or our students and which maintains the well-established NUI brand name; and
- work with our partner institutions, St Angela's College, Sligo; Shannon College of Hotel Management and the Burren College of Art to ensure that the standing of their qualifications (NUI Degrees) is maintained.

President's Awards for Teaching Excellence

Invitations for nominations have been sought from alumni, students and staff for this scheme. Please see http://www.nuigalway.ie/celt/teaching_and_learning/presidents_award.html to nominate an outstanding teacher.

Many of the news items above highlight the talent, commitment and dedication of colleagues throughout the University. This inspires great confidence. Despite the challenges, we will continue to achieve and prosper - with your help. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Beir bua agus beannacht,
James J. Browne Ph.D., D.Sc., MRIA, C.Eng
Uachtarán - President

NFB Researcher Awarded Best Podium Presentation

Mohammad Abu Rub, a post-graduate researcher at the Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB), was awarded the Best Podium Presentation at the recent Neuroscience Research Day Meeting.

Mohammad is a second-year postgraduate researcher with the NFB. His presentation, 'Directed Axonal Growth to Promote Nerve Regeneration', focused on developing an aligned functionalised scaffold structure to stimulate the growth of axonal fibres in a controlled manner. This research addresses a long-standing problem associated with axonal regeneration in spinal cord injuries.

Irish Journal of Medical Science Research Awards 2009



For the third year in a row, the Irish Journal of Medical Science has awarded the Best General Practice Paper 2009 Award to NUI Galway. Pictured receiving the award from Gerry O'Connor of *Krebensis*, Sponsor of General Practice Research Award, was Andrew Murphy, Professor of General Practice.

Maoiniú Breise do Thionscadal Siollabais

Tá tionscadal nua forbartha siollabais don Ghaeilge ar an tríú leibhéal á chomhstíúradh ag OÉ Gaillimh faoi láthair. Bhronn Foras na Gaeilge €64,700 ar an Meitheal um Theagasc na Gaeilge ar an Tríú Leibhéal don bhliain acadúil reatha chun Céim a Dó dá Tionscadal Siollabais a fhorbairt. Is é an Dr John Walsh, Roinn na Gaeilge a bhunaigh an Mheitheal i gcomhar leis an Dr Máirín Nic Eoin, Roinn na Gaeilge, Coláiste Phádraig. Tá sé d'aidhm ag an Tionscadal siollabas agus acmhainní teagaisc a fhorbairt don Ghaeilge ar an tríú leibhéal. Foilsíodh Céim a hAon den Tionscadal agus tá sé ar fáil ar <http://www.teagascnagaeilge.ie/>

Lecturer joins Students with CILT Awards



Pictured receiving the Lecturer of the Year award from Minister O Keeffe is Mary Dempsey. Also pictured are CILT's Paul Mallee and Monica Murphy.

Six students from the Energy Systems Engineering programme have won first and second prize in the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport Ireland Student Idea of the Year Awards. The winners were announced at a special ceremony in Dublin and presented by the Minister for Education and Science, Batt O'Keeffe TD.

Mary Dempsey, School of Engineering and Informatics, received the inaugural 'Lecturer of the Year' Award, which recognises the work of a lecturer who aims to promote innovation and creativity in the areas of Logistics, Transport and Commerce.

Students Kane O'Shea, John Mitchell, and Eoin Leonard were announced as the overall winners. Their innovative project was 'Electronic warnings on dangerous bends'. The runner-up prize was awarded to students Joseph Martyn, Richie Walsh, and Edward Tynan, for their project entitled 'Inter-vehicle communication system'.

Surf Club Triumph at Irish Intervarsities

The 2010 Irish Surfing Association Student Intervarsities were hosted by NUI Galway Surf Club recently in Strandhill, Co. Sligo. For the fifth consecutive year the University's Surf Club retained their position as title holders of this competition.

NUI Galway dominated in the contest's two main events, the Men's Open & Women's Open, with Ollie O'Flaherty clinching the Men's Open title. Hugh Galloway and Rob Cahill took third and fourth place respectively. Rebecca Piggott took third place in the Women's Open with Elisha Hickey coming in fourth. The University also had a successful run in the Longboard category, where Stephen Kelleher came in first and Baron Tomlinson second.

Lá na nGradam

NUI Galway recently presented prizes to a select group of students for coming top of their class at NUI Galway. A total of 61 students across the colleges received awards at a special ceremony, which included sponsors and parents.

As part of the Lá na nGradam, 71 students were also conferred with degrees, diplomas and certificates followed by the awarding of a wide range of prizes to students for top-class performance in individual subjects. University Scholarships were also presented to 520 students who performed outstandingly well in their University pre-degree examinations in 2008-09. The title of University Scholar (and a cheque for €250) is awarded to every student who reaches First-class Honours standard in the pre-degree examinations of the respective College.

President Browne, who presented the prizes to each individual winner, said the purpose of the awards is to encourage each student to develop their academic potential to the fullest.

Subhóro CD Raises €10,000



Coiste Subhóro ag bronnadh seic ar Gerry Cully ó Ospidéal Mhuire na Leanaí ó chlé go deas: Aodh Ó Coileáin, Gerry Cully (Ospidéal Mhuire na Leanaí), Marianne Ní Chinnéide, Treasa Uí Lorcáin, Máire Ní Chualáin, Odi Ní Chéilleachair, Colm Welby (bailitheoir áitiúil).

Bhronn an cumann ealaíon, Subhóro, atá lonnaithe in Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, seic de luach €10,000 ar Gerry Cully ó Fhondúireacht Taighde agus Leighis na Leanaí in Ospidéal Mhuire na Leanaí, Cromghlinn.

Bailíodh an t-airgead de thoradh dlúthdhiosca dúbailte a táirgeadh go speisialta agus ar a bhfuil blaiseadh breá de chanúintí an cheoil agus na Gaeilge ó chósta go cósta in Éirinn. Tá líon áirithe den dlúthdhiosca Subhóro – Ceol ón Acadamh ar fáil i gcónaí. Tá cóipeanna ar díol in ionaid Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge ar an gCeathrú Rua, i gCarna, i nGaoth Dobhair agus ar an bpríomhchampas ar luach €20.

RTÉ Environment Correspondent Launches Green Week



Pictured with some 'Eco Power Rangers' at the launch of NUI Galway's Green Week were President Browne and RTÉ's Environment Correspondent, Paul Cunningham.

NUI Galway's Green Week was launched at a talk by RTÉ's Environment Correspondent, Paul Cunningham, on 'Copenhagen and Beyond'. The Green Week programme featured many environmental themed events such as Ecolympics, Leave your Car at Home Day, Sustainable Transport Fair and Wear Green Day.

DERI and Cisco announce "Enterprise of the Future" Project

The Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) has announced a three-year "Enterprise of the Future" technology project, supported by Cisco.

The €400,000 project will develop new ways for the "Enterprise of the Future" to integrate information and make it easily accessible for employees. Today, a typical company has information stored across a variety of often unconnected formats including documents, emails, instant messaging and wiki pages. DERI's semantic search and integration technology will seek to more cleverly and usefully link information and make it accessible across the company.

Professor Stefan Decker, Director of DERI, said: "This joint project shows that the leadership of Irish based research is recognised and valued by companies such as Cisco. The results originating from research projects like these could help to secure existing employment and create new jobs in Ireland by providing us with a competitive edge".

Cisco's decision to support the project follows a recent visit by Cisco's Vice President of Research, Dave Rossetti, to Galway. DERI and Cisco proposed that new semantic web technologies could help companies make better use of the torrent of information - from email to documents - which employees have to process every day.

New Nursing and Midwifery Library



Pictured at the opening of the Nursing and Midwifery Library were (l-r): John Cox, Librarian; Professor Kathy Murphy, Head of Nursing and Midwifery; President Browne; Mary McHugh, Director of Nursing, GUH; and Keith Warnock, Vice-President for Capital Projects.

The new Nursing and Midwifery Library, which adjoins the James Hardiman Library on the main campus, has been officially opened. The library provides a modern learning environment for over 700 nursing and midwifery students with group study rooms, computer suites, laptop-enabled study spaces, and wireless access to the University's networked services.

The need for a new, purpose-built library was driven by changes in nursing education and the increase in student numbers, which resulted in greater pressure on space as well as a need for new types of learning resources. The new library has over 100 study places, and has been heavily used and much appreciated by students and staff since it opened.

Marketing Masterclass



Pictured (l-r) are: Professor Leslie de Chernatony; Dr Elaine Wallace; Professor Willie Golden, Dean; Dr Emer Mulligan, Head of School; Dr Declan Fleming, Head of Marketing Discipline; and Dr James Cunningham, Director, CISC.

The Centre for Innovation and Structural Change (CISC) at the JE Cairnes School of Business & Economics recently hosted 'Growing Brands through a Recession'. Targeted at business professionals, the Masterclass was co-presented by Professor Leslie de Chernatony of Aston University, UK and the University of Lugano, Switzerland, and Dr Elaine Wallace from the Marketing Discipline. The event was attended by delegates from a broad spectrum of industries, and included SMEs, design agencies, manufacturing firms and services.

Chief Inspector of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate Visits NUI Galway



Kathleen O'Toole, Chief Inspector of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate, was the keynote speaker at the recent eighth bi-annual Child and Family Welfare Network Event. Pictured are Professor Pat Dolan, Director of the Child and Family Research Centre; Carmel Devaney, Child and Family Research Centre; Kathleen O'Toole, Chief Inspector of the Garda Inspectorate; and President Browne.

Minister Lenihan Announces Winner of School Science Essay Competition



Minister Conor Lenihan TD, with the first-prize winner Lisa Duffy of Castleblayney College, Co. Monaghan.

Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Conor Lenihan TD, announced the winner of the All-Ireland Science Essay Competition, organised by the Science Foundation Ireland-funded Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI).

First prize in the essay competition went to Lisa Duffy of Castleblayney College, Co. Monaghan. Lisa, a fifth-year student, received a trophy, high-spec laptop and a €500 science bursary for her

school. This is the second consecutive year that a student from Castleblayney College has taken first prize in the competition.

In making the presentation, Minister Lenihan said: "For the past five years, the REMEDI Science Essay Competition has invited young people to express their views on modern-day scientific challenges, and has sought to encourage students to consider pursuing science and engineering-related studies at third-level".

New Methods of Teaching Irish

A recent education conference focused on an emerging method of teaching languages which is gaining popularity across Europe. The one-day conference was organised by the School of Education and Gaelscoileanna Teo.

The conference focused on Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), a method for teaching subjects and language together. In recent years, CLIL has become the umbrella term for learning another subject, such as geography, through a language which is not the mother tongue of the learners.

According to conference organiser, Sinéad Ní Ghuidhir of the School of Education: "This method can have students speaking the language without them even being aware of it. CLIL is being used to great effect all over the EU, and it has huge potential for Irish language, Irish teaching and for Irish schools. The challenges around teaching Irish which we face in Ireland every day are not something that should be seen as particular to this country alone. Our colleagues around Europe have much experience to share".

Researchers Find Disinfectants May Promote Growth of Superbugs

Using disinfectants could cause bacteria to become resistant to antibiotics as well as the disinfectant itself, according to NUI Galway research published in the January issue of Microbiology. The findings could have important implications for how the spread of infection is managed in hospital settings.

Research carried out by a team affiliated with the Immunity and Infectious Disease Research Cluster and the Discipline of Microbiology in the School of Natural Sciences, found that by adding increasing amounts of disinfectant to laboratory cultures of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, the bacteria could adapt to survive not only the disinfectant but also ciprofloxacin - a commonly-prescribed antibiotic - even without being exposed to it. The researchers showed that the bacteria had adapted to more efficiently pump out antimicrobial agents (disinfectant and antibiotic) from the bacterial cell. The adapted bacteria also had a mutation in their DNA that allowed them to resist ciprofloxacin-type antibiotics specifically.

The investigation was directed by Dr Gerard Fleming and also involved Dr Paul McCay and Dr Alain Ocampo Soso. Dr McCay was funded by Science Foundation Ireland under a Research Frontiers Programme, and supported by an IRCSET Postgraduate Research Fellowship, and Dr Alain Ocampo Soso was until recently, a researcher with the EU Marie Curie Transfer of Knowledge Programme (GAMIDI).

In Brief

Medicine and the Arts

An innovative programme connecting medical education and the arts has been launched by NUI Galway. The new Medicine in the Arts Programme is the first of its kind in Irish Universities, and has been introduced into the undergraduate curriculum of the University's School of Medicine.

The initiative is available to current First Year medical students, introducing a semester-long syllabus of structured engagement with literature, performance and visual arts. The programme will highlight the therapeutic clinical benefits for patients which the Arts can provide and focus on the personal development of students as future medical practitioners.

Medicine and the Arts will consist of a series of events incorporating music, mime, and dance, which are offered in the wider Arts in Action programme provided to all students at NUI Galway. There will also be a rich range of bespoke events which focus on the Arts in therapeutic clinical settings for the particular needs of the medical student.

Launch of NAIRTL's 2010 Grants Initiative

Academic staff and researchers within the 38 Higher Education Institutions aligned with NAIRTL are invited to submit their applications NAIRTL's 2010 Grants Initiative. This initiative aims to enhance the third- and fourth-level experience by supporting innovative research activities relating to the integration of research, teaching and learning. Application forms and further details are available on www.nairtl.ie/funding. The closing date for receipt of applications by the National Academy is 10 May.

Students Host Optical Society Meeting

The NUI Galway Optical Society of America (OSA) Student Chapter presented the latest International OSA Network of Students (IONS) Europe meeting on campus.

The NUI Galway OSA Student Chapter was established in January 2008, and is one of 187

student chapters in Universities and Research Institutes across the world. The first IONS meeting was held in January 2007 and since then more than ten meetings have been held internationally, this being the seventh in the European series.

Information Solutions and Services Launches New Service Desk

Information Solutions and Services (ISS) was created in October 2009 following the merger of Computer Services and Management Information Services. The objective of the new department is to provide Information and Communication Technology services to support the academic mission of the University.

A key component of the new department is an integrated Service Desk which supports the computing activities of all staff and students, and incorporates the activities of the former User Support Centre and MIS Operations Team (MISOPs).

All issues and queries which require support from ISS should be raised by phone at ext: 5777, email at servicedesk@nuigalway.ie or logging a ticket at <https://servicedesk.nuigalway.ie>.

NUI Galway AED/Defibrillator Programme



An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has been placed in the Archway of the Quadrangle, bringing the number of AEDs on campus to thirteen. NUI Galway has had AEDs in place since 2007 and particular progress was made in 2009 by the Health and Safety Office to ensure that they are strategically located across campus and that staff are trained in their prompt use.

AEDs are used to treat victims of sudden cardiac arrest. Currently the survival rate for sudden cardiac conditions is very poor, typically 1%, but if an AED is used promptly, the victims chances of survival can increase significantly. For a full list of AED locations see

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/healthsaf/>

Traditional Arts take to a New Stage

Arts in Action presents a night of Traditional Arts, in the new Bailey Allen Hall on 25 March at 8pm. The line up includes; Frankie Gavin, Máirtín O'Connor, Róisín Elsafty, Lillis O'Laoire, Louis de Paor, Ronan Browne, Seosamh Ó Neachtain, Garry O'Briain and Mary McPartlan.

The Arts in Action programme runs throughout the college year with a series of seminars, concerts and workshops inviting students to come closer to the creative arts. The production of this event is being handled by the MA students in Arts Policy and Practice at the Huston School of Film and Digital Media. Tickets are €10/€5 student concession and are available on the door on the night. For further information contact the Society Box Office.

Open Your Mind

The 'Open Your Mind' seminar series is a knowledge-sharing initiative developed to enable university staff to learn more about the diversity of innovative science and engineering research going on around the campus. A series of friendly and informal talks was held over lunch hour. Topics were selected by staff in an online survey and the whole process was designed to allow University staff to feel more a part of the wider university research effort.

Developed by GRO (Galway Region Outreach) - a team comprised of communications and outreach officers from Applied Optics, DERI, ECI, NCBES and REMEDI - it is hoped that 'Open Your Mind' will occur annually and spread its focus to include other areas of research. If you want to get involved, contact any one of the organisers or sarah.knight@nuigalway.ie.

Múscailt



Pictured is student Gillian Keady and performers from the Galway University Musical Society's musical The WIZ.

Múscailt, NUI Galway's Spring Arts Festival, recently celebrated its 10th year by transforming the campus with its vast programme of music, theatre, art exhibitions, film and live performances thought the medium of English and Irish.

Highlights of the Festival featured Galway University Musical Society's performance of the musical, The WIZ, a Gaelige night of rap and comedy in An Cheathrú Rua, and selection of new performing art shows, visual art exhibitions and musical and film performances.

Book Launches

The Social Semantic Web

The solution to problems associated with social websites, such as information integration, dissemination and searchability are the subject of a new book by NUI Galway internet experts. The Social Semantic Web investigates how emerging Semantic Web technology has produced a variety of approaches to overcome existing information boundaries.

The book is authored by John Breslin, School of Engineering and Informatics, and Alexandre Passant and Stefan Decker of DERI. The content is intended for computer science professionals, researchers, and graduates interested in understanding the technologies and research issues involved in applying Semantic Web technologies to social software.

European Yearbook of Disability Law

European Yearbook of Disability Law (Volume 1), launched recently by the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, is a collaborative project between NUI Galway and the University of Maastricht, and the first journal of its type in Europe. It reviews significant developments in disability law and policy at a European level and also contains a series of commissioned articles on current challenges and developments in the field from analysts and academics.

First Comprehensive Book in Emerging Field of Microbial Glycobiology

The first comprehensive book to be published in the emerging field of microbial glycobiology has been launched. Professor Anthony Moran, School of Natural Sciences, Editor-in-Chief of Microbial Glycobiology - Structures, Relevance and Applications, which presents information on sugars (carbohydrates) influencing the biology of microorganisms, what is termed microbial glycobiology.

The new book runs to over 1,000 pages, with 50 chapters by 100 contributors from Europe, North America, Japan and Australia. The volume also boasts a panel of international editors from the field including: Professor Otto Holst, Leibniz Centre for Medicine and Biosciences, Germany; Professor Patrick Brennan, Colorado State University, USA; and Professor Mark von Itzstein, Griffith University, Australia.

Health and Migration Journal Launch

A special issue of the Journal of Health and Migration, edited by Dr Anne MacFarlane, Discipline of General Practice, was launched recently by the University. The issue is published by Translocations: Migration and Social Change, an Irish inter-university, open access e-journal. The journal includes papers from academics, practitioners and activists working in the community about their experiences and observations of important policy and practice related issues.

ASTI Book

A new book by Dr John Cunningham, School of Humanities, entitled 'Unlikely Radicals: Irish Post-Primary Teachers and the ASTI, 1909-2009', was recently launched in Dublin.

Speaking at the launch, ASTI General Secretary, John White, commented: "This book shows that the ASTI has had a noble and an occasionally turbulent history leavened with some victories, the occasional setback, and robust engagement both internally and externally. It establishes that the ASTI's history is interwoven with the major movements in Ireland's broader social history, including the struggle for improvement in the terms and conditions of employment for trade union members, in the contestation between Church and state for control of education, in the move for economic expansion assisted by the introduction of free second-level education in 1968, in the debate on cultural identity and the Irish language, and in the development of Ireland as a modern European state".