



Conferring of Honorary Degrees

Pictured at the ceremony were (left-right) Brian Joyce, Pádraic MacKernan, NUI Galway President, Dr James J. Browne, Anna Ó Coinne, Professor Philip O'Leary and Liam Connellan.

The conferring of Honorary Degrees took place on campus on Friday, 26 June. Those honoured were from the spheres of engineering Liam Connellan, business Brian Joyce, public service Pádraic MacKernan, philanthropy Anna Ó Coinne and education Professor Philip O'Leary.

President Browne, speaking at the conferring ceremony said: "NUI Galway is fortunate to be associated with many outstanding honorary graduates throughout its history, and those being honoured this year form a particularly distinguished group. Each has been outstanding in their own way, and NUI Galway is very pleased to be in a position to recognise these exceptional individuals".

OLLSCÉALA



Focal ón Eagarthóir

Welcome to the July edition of Ollscéala. As you can see the last few months have continued to see lots of activity on campus.

We recently learnt that a cold water coral reef exists off the west coast of Ireland (p.3) and how new technology can greatly assist quality assurance and assessment in medical education (p.6). The President's column also returns in this issue (p.7).

The Volvo Ocean Race stopover in Galway was undoubtedly one of the biggest sporting and social events ever to hit Galway and part of this success can be credited to this University and to the ALIVE volunteering programme as it partnered local organisers Let's Do It Galway in managing such a crucial element of the festival (p.3).

Yet again the summer brings the hectic conference season and you can read about some of these on pages 4 and 5. We also had the summer conferring (p.12) and the annual Honorary Conferring Ceremony took place on 26 June (p.1).

Mo bhuíochas do chách a chur scéalta chugainn don eagrán seo agus tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as bhur laethanta saoire.

Michelle Ní Chróinín
Eagarthóir

Ollscéala is published by the
Press and Information Office
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh.
Tel. 091-493361
E-mail: michelle.nichróinín@nuigalway.ie

Edward Herring Appointed Dean

Dr Edward Herring, Classics lecturer and archaeologist who has worked on many excavations and field surveys in the Western Mediterranean, has been appointed the new Dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies.

Educated at Queen Mary College, University of London, from which he received his B.A. and Ph.D., his primary research interest is Iron Age and Classical South Italy, and the relations between the Greek, Roman and Native populations.

Dr Herring is a Senior Research Fellow of the Accordia Research Institute and an editor of its



Dr Edward Herring

journal, the Accordia Research Papers. He is the University representative on the Council of the Classical Association of Ireland, and sits on the Committee for Greek and Latin Studies and the Committee for Biblical and Near Eastern Studies at the Royal Irish Academy. In 2006, he was elected to the fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries of London.



Dr Kieran Loftus

Director of Operations Appointed

Dr Kieran Loftus has taken up the new role of Executive Director of Operations, where he will lead in creating and delivering a complete plan for providing the essential business services that underpin the University's academic mission.

Dr Loftus joined the University in 2004 as Director of Computer Services, where he has headed the team delivering the information technology revolution across campus and bringing major service improvements for staff and students.

He holds a B.A. and D.Phil. in Physics from the University of Oxford, and an MBA from the Open University. He worked in the UK and elsewhere for many years in the public and private sectors, delivering complex technology projects in different types of organisations. He moved to Galway in 1999, spending four years as Senior Project Manager with the global telco giant ADC Software Systems.



Dr Nollaig Ó Muraíle

Dr Noel Dorr

RIA Appointments

Dr Nollaig Ó Muraíle, School of Irish, and Dr Noel Dorr, Chair of the NUI Galway Governing Authority, have both been admitted as Members of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA).

Dr Ó Muraíle has made a unique contribution to the study of Irish genealogies through his edition and translation of *Leabhar Mór na nGenealach* or 'The Great Book of Irish Genealogies', which is regarded as one of the most unique contributions to Irish history.

Dr Dorr is a former Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs, a post he held from 1987 to 1995.

Professor Nicholas Canny, President of the Royal Irish Academy and former Vice-President for Research at NUI Galway, said: "The Academy's new members are amongst a small group of academics in Ireland that set the international hallmark of excellence".

Coral Reef Discovered off West Coast of Ireland



NUI Galway researchers have confirmed the existence of a major new coral reef province off the west coast, on the southern end of the Porcupine Bank. Containing around 40 coral reef covered carbonate mounds that rise as high as 100m above the sea floor, the reef itself covers around 200 sq. km.

Led by Dr Anthony Grehan from Earth and Ocean Sciences, School of Natural Sciences, the joint Irish and French team of researchers used

the new remotely operated vehicle, Holland I, aboard the MV Celtic Explorer to survey the sea floor and capture unique video footage.

Describing the find as "by far the most pristine, thriving and spectacular examples of cold-water coral reefs that I've encountered in almost ten years of study in Irish waters", Dr Grehan said the rugged terrain, its unsuitability for trawling and its well defined boundaries, make it an ideal candidate to add to the four existing off-shore coral areas, which enjoy a special protected status under the European Union Habitat Directive.

Scientists have become increasingly alarmed about the level of bottom fishing related damage done to vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in the high seas i.e. areas beyond national jurisdiction. One of the key priorities in fisheries management is understanding what effect damaging or removing that habitat will have on fish stocks and communicating that knowledge to fishermen. Dr Grehan notes that VMEs like coral reefs may also be one of the last untapped reservoirs of potentially useful bio-compounds that might support the development of new anti-viral or anti-bacterial pharmaceuticals.

NUI Galway and the Volvo Ocean Race



The Volvo Ocean Race brought together a very successful partnership between local organisers Let's Do It Galway and NUI Galway's ALIVE programme. Over fifty percent of the 1000 volunteers for the Volvo Ocean Race stopover in Galway were NUI Galway students. The University brought its considerable experience in the field of volunteering to help mobilise the small army of volunteers required for the two-week festival. As Ireland's leading University in the development of student volunteering initiatives, NUI Galway supports thousands of students who volunteer with community organisations every year. The volunteering drive for the Volvo Ocean Race stopover was a natural extension of this ethos of civic engagement.

Volunteers had a range of roles - working in the media centre, helping out backstage at the concerts, and demonstrating the wonders of Irish deep sea corals and the circulation systems at work in Galway Bay.

The University played an important part in the festival in other ways. An exhibition of photographs of Irish lighthouses was held at the James Hardiman Library. Cameramen on the cutting edge of sports filming, who sailed across the Atlantic with the race teams, took part in a symposium, organised by the Huston School of Film and Digital Media, which included a lecture on how high-definition television has changed international sailing events and introduced the media crewman, who relays the news from ship to shore every day of the nine-month, 37,000 mile race.

Ahead of the race, NUI Galway hosted the Irish University Sailing Association intervarsity competition, which brought over 200 students from 13 third-level colleges together to compete in the team race. A public lecture, 'The Making of Galway Bay', saw Professor Mike Williams tell a tale of earthquakes, tsunami, storms and climate change that have shaped the bay into what it is today. Students from Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge (Diplóma i gCóiriú agus Stáitsiú an Cheoil Thraidisiúnta) also performed during 'Lá na Gaeilge'.

Conferences at NUI Galway

Conferences that bring national and international experts together have become an increasingly important part of the University's calendar.

Campus Engage



Left to right: Professor Bob Bringle, Indiana University-Purdue University, USA; Dr Alison Farrell, NUI Maynooth; Lorraine McIlrath, NUI Galway; Pat Carey, Minister for State at the Department of An Taoiseach; Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy, Life President Focus Ireland and Social Innovator; Ann Lyons, Campus Engage and Professor Jim Ward, NUI Galway.

Campus Engage, a network for promoting civic engagement in higher education, held its inaugural conference in early June at the Croke Park Conference Centre in Dublin. Campus Engage is a SIF-funded project of five universities - NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, DCU, UCD and UL. NUI Galway is the lead partner in the project.

Podiatry Conference

The School of Health Sciences hosted Ireland's largest ever conference focussed on Podiatry, the healthcare profession specialising in diseases and disorders of the lower limb and foot. Podiatry is a popular new degree at NUI Galway, where the country's first cohort of undergraduate podiatry students is currently being trained.

The conference highlighted the skills and scope of practice for podiatrists, and discussed the latest developments in areas including diabetes, wound management, surgery and arthritis.

Developments in Cancer Care

The 2nd International Breast Cancer Conference took place in June. The main theme was multidisciplinary breast cancer care.

According to Professor Michael Kerin, Professor of Surgery, NUI Galway: "The management of breast cancer has changed so that we now treat patients in a multidisciplinary team environment, which raises many questions like the side effects of treatment and advances in surgery and radiotherapy".

The conference heard contributions from a national and international 'Who's Who' in the area breast cancer management, including from local specialists Professor Kerin, Dr Maccon Keane, Professor Frank Sullivan, Mr Ray McLoughlin, Mr Karl Sweeney and Professor Grace Callagy.

Supporting Families and Communities

Novelist Pat McCabe was the special guest at the Family Support Conference entitled 'Reflecting on Contemporary Challenges', which focused on the difference communities can make to children and families, and how work with families can support community regeneration.

According to Director of the University's Child and Family Research Centre, Professor Pat Dolan: "It's timely to reflect on the issues raised by the Ryan and Monageer Reports, and the Baby P case in the UK. Discussion is needed about how to protect children while recognising that in most cases, the best way to do that is through supporting parents and early years preventative services".

Tackling Health Inequalities

Health inequalities among children and adolescents was the focus of the 13th Annual Health Promotion Research Centre conference which opened on 11 June. Up to 200 academics, policymakers, practitioners and young people attended the conference entitled 'Closing the Gap in Child and Adolescent Health: the Settings Approach'.

Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn of the Health Promotion Research Centre, said: "Research has shown there are startling differences in health among young people in this country. Factors such as gender, socio-economic background, nationality and disability have dramatic effects". Delegates discussed how to promote health and well-being in families, communities, hospitals, schools and pre-schools. Themes included mental health services, public transport, intercultural integration and youth involvement in their communities.

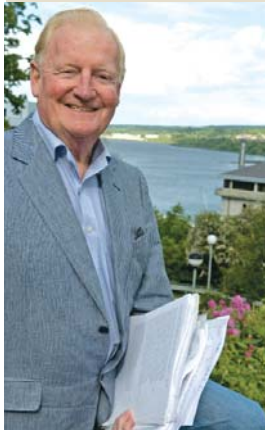
Innovation - The Smart Approach



Left to right: James Cunningham, Director, CISC; Professor Julian Birkinshaw; InterTradeIreland Strategy & Policy Director, Aidan Gough and President Browne

Firms need to innovate their current management models to survive and prosper, says management and strategy expert Julian Birkinshaw, Professor of Strategic and International Management at London Business School. Speaking at the InterTradeIreland Innovation conference hosted by the Centre of Innovation and Structural Change (CISC), he focused on how firms can better manage innovation, the role of the leader in stimulating innovation in a downturn, and the need for managers and organisations to change their management model to survive, prosper and innovate.

American Conference for Irish Studies



Pictured is Brendan Duddy, a former secret intermediary between the British Government and the Provisional Republican leadership from the 1970s to the 1990s, whose private papers were deposited in the James Hardiman Library archive during the American Conference for Irish Studies.

Dr Niall O'Dochartaigh of the School of Political Science of Sociology, said: "This is an extraordinary collection, one of the most important sources we have for understanding the Irish peace process. The papers will be an essential resource for any researcher trying to understand how peace was made in Ireland and a focus for historical research for years to come".

The Centre for Irish Studies hosted an international four-day conference on the humanities in June. Speakers from a dozen countries, representing over 100 universities, presented up to 250 papers on themes like the dynamics of immigration and settlement in modern Ireland, and the concept of the 'everyday' in Irish life and culture. One of Ireland's leading historians, Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh examined the dynamics of the Irish experience of emigration.

A highlight was the interviews with three figures who have made a major contribution to public life over the past half-century: TK Whitaker, whose vision for economic development in the 1950s marked a major shift in Ireland's self-fashioning; Bernadette McAliskey, a central figure in the Civil Rights movement in Northern Ireland and a trenchant critic of the Good Friday Agreement; and Cardinal Cahal Daly, Archbishop Emeritus of Armagh, one of the most influential figures in recent history of the Catholic Church.

Maintaining Global Leadership

Over 150 delegates from Ireland, Europe and the US attended the 2nd annual GlycoScience Ireland Conference in late-April to discuss a wide range of issues with that are important in translating discoveries being made in the rapidly emerging field of glycosciences into clinical and commercial realities.

Ireland is rapidly becoming a centre of excellence in glycosciences (the study of complex sugars in the body), said Lokesh Joshi, SFI Stokes Professor of Glycosciences: "Glycoscience is attracting keen interest as well as research funding from biotechnology, biopharmaceutical and high-end instrument development firms, which see its commercialisation potential. But with global competition shifting, Ireland needs to consolidate and strengthen the developing skill base to remain in a leading competitive position".

Forensic Science and Human Rights

State Pathologist, Professor Marie Cassidy, opened Ireland's first conference on the link between forensic science and human rights, where experts on war crimes, sexual violence, human identification and forensic investigations drew on examples from Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Burma.



Professor Marie Cassidy and Dr Ray Murphy

Commenting, Dr Ray Murphy, Irish Centre for Human Rights, said: "The investigation of war crimes and large scale violations of human rights is quite unlike an ordinary criminal investigation. Linking remote perpetrators to specific crimes and crime scenes requires a multidisciplinary approach involving forensic science, anthropology and law. The conference highlighted the unique part each area of expertise plays in investigating atrocities".

Human Rights & International Law

The 10th International Criminal Court Summer School at the Irish Centre for Human Rights began on 21 June. The keynote address was given by Judge Sang-Hyun Song, President of the International Criminal Court, the independent, international court that tries those accused of the most heinous of crimes i.e. genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The Centre's second summer school, on 'Minority Rights, Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Law' drew over 50 participants, who got an overview of the legal, political and philosophical issues around international human rights law and its relationship to minority rights and the rights of indigenous peoples.

Nursing Conference

The 2nd International Nursing and Midwifery Conference in April focused on the promotion of excellence in practice and addressed five key themes: Maternity Care and Women's Health; Community and Population Health; Teaching and Learning Practice; Chronic Illness; and Older People.

Economists Convene at NUI Galway

The J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics recently hosted over 330 economists at the 10th Annual Conference of the Association for Public Economic Theory (APET). Discussion topics covered not only standard topics in public economics such as pensions, education and taxation but also more esoteric issues from international stem cell donation to whether the good and the selfish should be taxed differently. Public Economic Theory is concerned with all aspects of the public sector and with the interaction between the public sector and the private sector. Economists working in this broad area are able to pose fundamental questions about how societies want to organise themselves in ways that are efficient and fair.

New Centre for Disability Law and Policy

Former President of Ireland, Dr Mary Robinson, launched a new Centre for Disability Law and Policy in April. The Centre is one of the first of its type in Europe and is timely given the recent adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which Ireland has signed.



Professor Gerard Quinn, President Browne and Dr Mary Robinson

The Centre will carry out research on best international practice to assist in the ongoing process of reform taking place in Ireland and throughout the world. Dr Robinson praised the intention of the new Centre to benchmark Ireland against international best practice as well as for its wide international links, especially with the University of Syracuse and the Harvard Project on Disability.

Professor Gerard Quinn, Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, said: "This Centre joins a handful around the world. Our aim is to

generate research that marks a constructive contribution to the process of change. Ireland was a pioneer in the field of disability discrimination law and its National Disability Strategy shows great promise. Our hope is to make a constructive contribution to the implementation of that strategy to identify policy solutions to current challenges by drawing on a rich vein of comparative experience throughout the world. We will work collaboratively with stakeholders in Ireland and build our international links to ensure access to legislative and policy solutions that offer promise in Ireland".

Software Company Spins Out

A new software and services spin-off company, Qpercom Ltd. has been announced and will be based in the University's business incubation facilities. The company's initial target market is medical schools across Europe, of which there are almost 140, with well over one million students. Qpercom Ltd. has already secured as customers the Medical School at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, and NUI Galway's School of Medicine and its School of Nursing and Midwifery.

NUI Galway's Dr Thomas Kropmans is one of the founders of the company and developed the technology with his colleagues at the University's Medical Informatics and Education group in the School of Medicine. He comments: "Quality assurance in medical education and assessment is an absolute necessity.

This innovative web platform allows electronic data capturing and real-time data analysis. Therefore, improved quality assurance and appropriate educational decision making can be achieved. The financial benefits are also very compelling, as our customers are realising savings of up to 70% in administrative costs, not to mention savings on paper and printing".

Medical students at NUI Galway were recently examined using Qpercom's technology. Dr Barry O'Donovan, General Practice Lecturer said: "This is a really exciting development. The innovative software was a complete success and the laborious tick boxing is now all gone. Even more importantly, we can now analyse station and examiner performance. We can now ensure that the only variable in the exam is the student. This software is going to be of great interest to medical schools in Ireland and internationally".

Innovation in Education in teaching Mathematics



Pictured announcing the winners of the 2009 HP Innovation in Education Grants Initiative which rewards Universities across the world for their innovative teaching and learning projects are Martin Murphy, Managing Director HP Ireland; Dr Kevin Jennings and Dr James Cruickshank, Lecturers in Mathematics; and President Browne.

A prizewinning NUI Galway project plans to implement a SecondLife Maths Support space to deliver a course in the Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Education degree programme. The award from HP includes a mobile technology solution, such as tablet PCs, laptops, printers, access points, and a significant cash donation valued at approximately 75,000 Euro.

The winners will also be invited to join a network of educators around the world who are working to design the future of high-tech education through which they can share ideas and best practices in areas such as online learning, virtual worlds and simulations.

One to Watch Award

The inventor of a tiny device containing micro-blades and a balloon that can cut through blockages in human arteries has won Enterprise Ireland's One to Watch Award 2009. The device was invented by Dr Bruce Murphy during research carried out at the NCBS. Called a 'flexi-cutting sheath', it is safer and more effective than existing medical devices. Dr Murphy is now based at TCD.



Focal ón Uachtarán

Shaping Our Future

As the academic year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a successful year for NUI Galway. The University

has enjoyed a number of very significant achievements in the administrative, support and academic areas. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of all staff in contributing to these successes.

Highest increase in CAO first choice applications
We have enjoyed a tremendous increase of 13.1% in first preference undergraduate applications through the CAO this year, the highest increase of all of the Irish universities and more than double the average increase for the University sector nationally (6.2%).

These increases were seen across almost all subject areas and in particular in Engineering, where a new Energy Systems Engineering programme proved particularly popular, in Information Technology, Science, Arts and Business.

Applications to our taught postgraduate programmes have also increased by 22% this year, while adult education programmes have seen an increase of 10 to 15% in applications.

Teaching Awards

I recently had the privilege of notifying the winners of the President's Awards for Teaching Excellence for 2009. The high standard of applications for these Awards never fails to impress me, and demonstrates real commitment to teaching excellence on the part of our lecturing staff. Congratulations to this year's winners:

- Ms. Adeline Cooney, Nursing
- Dr Martin Glavin, Electrical & Electronic Engineering
- Dr Brian Hughes, Psychology
- Dr Fearghall Morgan, Electrical & Electronic Engineering
- Dr Dagmar Stengel, Botany

Research successes

We have also had a very successful year in research and are now positioned firmly in the top tier of Irish Universities, in terms of research. A measure of our success this year has been the level of research funding received from Science Foundation Ireland, relative to that of other institutions.

NUI Galway has been awarded €47.8 million in

the last year - this places us second only to Trinity College Dublin (€49.3m) in terms of SFI commitments, and well ahead of UCD, UCC, and all others. This is a real affirmation of the strength of our research as awards of this scale are only made where institutions are engaged in internationally significant research.

Research in the news

The results of our research have been hitting the headlines too. From the discovery of a coral reef off the west coast of Ireland to the fact that the Obama administration is using internet technology developed by DERI, research at NUI Galway has been truly global in scale and significance this year. The opening of two new research centres – in Energy and in Disability Law, together with the launch by President McAleese of the Republic of Ireland's first UNESCO Chair, a Chair in Children, Youth & Civic Engagement held by Professor Pat Dolan, are just some of the many important research developments that have taken place in the last year.

Growth in Research Students

We have also seen strong growth in PhD numbers recently. In the last year we registered 264 new PhD students and 74 new Research Masters students, bringing the numbers of registered PhD students to 815, and Research Masters students to 206. Crucially, we are also getting better at bringing these research students through their programmes in the required time frame. HEA data from 2007, the most recent data available, shows that we had 106 PhD graduations in that year; compared to just 50 in 1999.

Our performance in the recent award of fellowships from both the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences and the equivalent Council for Science, Engineering and Technology was also very strong, with 24 IRCHSS and 19 IRCSET scholarships, placing us third and fourth respectively, in these competitions.

Applying our knowledge

NUI Galway is now the leading Irish University in the area of innovation and technology transfer. Recent Enterprise Ireland statistics reveal that we are out-performing all of our competitors in this field:

- Since 2006, ten spin out companies have been formed, including six of these in 2009
- Between 2007 and 2008, we filed over 100 patents, representing 28% of the total number filed in the third-level sector
- We signed 34 licensing agreements with partner companies, which represents 30% of licenses filed in the sector

This ability to commercialise our research is essential in delivering the innovation and enterprise necessary to realise the Smart Economy.

NUI Galway reaches out

NUI Galway continues to reach out to the local community through a wide range of initiatives. In May, the University became the lead partner in the Volunteering Programme for the Volvo Ocean Race. As Ireland's leading University in the development of student volunteering initiatives, we brought our considerable experience in this field to bear in helping to mobilise the 1,000 volunteers required to organise the Galway stopover of the world's premier yacht race.

Living Scenes, a groundbreaking educational programme co-ordinated by the Adult and Continuing Education Office, which brings teenagers and retirees together in the classroom, celebrated 10 years of success this year with a truly impressive entertainment event. This pioneering intergenerational programme of learning involves Transition Year students and local retired adults who learn together, share experiences and develop mutual respect and understanding.

Also celebrating its 10th Anniversary is the University's highly successful Access Programme, which encourages and facilitates students from non-traditional backgrounds to participate in higher education.

This has also been a very busy year for Conferencing, with a number of high profile national and international conferences organised by NUI Galway staff, and with many of them held here on campus.

Strategic Plan 2009-2014

As you will be aware, the University has recently completed a period of strategic planning, resulting in the presentation of a draft Strategic Plan to Údarás na hOllscoile at the end of June. I am pleased to report that the Plan was approved in principle and will be finalised over the summer, and I look forward to presenting it to you in September.

In the meantime, I would like to thank you for your hard work and commitment to the success of our University over the past year. I look forward to working with you to further that success in the coming academic year.

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

Student & Staff Awards

Swine Flu

The Center for Disease Control in the United States has announced that a paper on Swine Flu, co-authored by NUI Galway's Professor Anthony Moran, has been nominated for the prestigious Charles C. Shepard Science Awards.

Three in Chemistry Admitted as Fellows of the RSC

Dr Fawaz Aldabbagh, Dr Henry Curran and Professor Robert Woods of the School of Chemistry have been admitted as Fellows of the Royal Society of Chemistry in the UK. This prestigious Fellowship recognises scholarly, teaching and research leadership.

Accenture Award

Kevin Burke, an Electronic and Computer Engineering student, has won the Accenture Academic Innovation in Computing Award for the use of 3G mobile phone technology for detecting when and where drivers exceed the speed limit and if they make a dangerous manoeuvre. Kevin receives €2000 and a commemorative trophy from Accenture.

Outstanding Young Person

Dr David Finn, Lecturer in Pharmacology and Therapeutics, has been named as one of Ireland's Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the Year by Junior Chamber International Ireland, for his academic and scientific achievements and community service/civic engagement in his research. Dr Finn represented Ireland in this category in the World JCI TOYP competition.

Green Technology Winner

The winner of this year's Enterprise Ireland's Inter-college Technology Development Competition is Eoghan Clifford, Research Engineer from the College of Engineering and Informatics. Eoghan has developed a novel integrated process technology to convert organic carbon, solids, nitrogen, phosphorus, odours and greenhouse gases (present in municipal, industrial and agricultural biosolids) to high-value useful products in a market worth about €3.5 billion per annum in Europe alone.

Clean Sweep

Four NUI Galway Engineering students have achieved the distinction of securing all of this year's Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport national awards. The national awards are presented to the originators of the most innovative ideas which could make the most significant contribution to some aspect of the transport industry in Ireland. The category winners are Natasha O'Farrell (Safety & Environment), Lt David Kiely (Logistics & Transport), Lauren Paul (Air) and Tristin Hatch (Road).

Manufacturing Innovator

Dr Conchúr Ó Brádaigh, lecturer in Mechanical Engineering, has been awarded the first annual Crossland Medal for Engineering Innovation by Engineers Ireland in recognition of his outstanding and innovative contribution to manufacturing processes in the aerospace and energy generation industries.

Irish Canadian Scholarship

Heather Lally, Ph.D. student based at the ECI, has been awarded an Irish Canadian University Foundation Scholarship to evaluate contrasting restoration approaches to cutaway peatlands in Canada and Ireland, focusing on Sphagnum transfer method, the preferred approach in Canada. Heather will be an invited international speaker at the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, where she will highlight the success stories of cutaway raised bog restoration in Ireland and address the future of raised bogs in a country where turf cutting still persists.

Thomas Glynn Honoured

SPIE, the international optics and photonics society, this year honours Thomas Glynn of the School of Physics as Fellow of the Society, for his achievements in laser materials processing and optics education. He has also made a major contribution to dissemination of the principles and applications of photonics.

Theatre Book Prize

Dr Patrick Lonergan, School of Humanities, recently won the STR Theatre Book Prize for *Theatre and Globalisation - Irish Drama in the Celtic Tiger Era* published by Palgrave Macmillan. Speaking at the announcement, Kate Newey, a member of the judging panel, said: "Patrick discusses the ways in which Irish theatre is a textbook example of an apparently unique national culture, marketed internationally. He introduces sophisticated ideas, with clarity and humour, and identifies the ways in which all of us think about the global and the local at the same time".

Women in Medicine

Laura Kelly, Ph.D. student in the School of Humanities, has been awarded the inaugural History of Medicine in Ireland Prize, for her essay 'Separate spheres? Women's experience of Irish medical education, c.1880s-1920s'. The prize is awarded by the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland and the Ulster Society for the History of Medicine.

Travel Medicine Research

Dr Gerard Flaherty, Lecturer in Medical Education and Clinical Skills, is the new President-elect of the Irish Society of Travel Medicine. He will take a lead on establishing a joint research partnership with the British Travel Health Association to maximise the research output in this field from the British Isles. His own research output includes high-altitude medicine, travelling with diabetes, awareness of rabies risk, malaria in the African immigrant population in Ireland, tropical medicine education among hospital-based doctors, and traveller risk assessment.

Dr Iain Mac Labhrainn Recognition

The Higher Education Academy in the UK has announced Dr Iain Mac Labhrainn has become a Senior Fellow in recognition of his work as a champion of teaching and learning in higher education. Dr Mac Labhrainn, who holds a B.Sc. and Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the Universities of Edinburgh and Durham is the founding Director of the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT).



Powering the Smart Economy

Pictured at a special Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) seminar, 'Powering the Smart Economy', left to right- Professor Stefan Decker, DERI, NUI Galway; Dr Martin McAleese; Mrs Mary McAleese, President of Ireland; Oliver Daniels, Global R&D Leader, Nortel; Karl Flannery, Managing Director, Storm Technology; and Professor Frank Gannon, Director General, SFI.

The seminar was held at the MIT-affiliated Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Boston. President McAleese highlighted the role of SFI and its innovative researchers in cementing Ireland's reputation in the international scientific sphere.



Pictured are Dr Gavin Collins, Department of Microbiology and Emma Dodrill from Killoolgan, Co. Galway.

Spring Open Day

Almost 3,000 prospective students and their parents visited NUI Galway on 25 April for the first-ever and hugely successful Spring Open Day.

A massive marquee housed a range of stands, where lecturers and students provided information and fielded questions about programmes and subjects.

A programme of taster sessions on university life ran throughout the day and tours of the campus gave an insight to the facilities on offer, including the new €22m Sports Complex, with its international standard swimming pool, national league basketball arena, cardiovascular and elite training gyms, and climbing wall.

Caroline Loughnane, Director of Marketing & Communications, said: "NUI Galway has had an increase of almost double the national average for first preferences in CAO applications, which demonstrates many more prospective students want to come here. The Spring Open Day provided all the information they needed, first hand".

Ábhar Luachmhar ar an Bhfonnadóir Clúiteach Joe Éinniú bronnta ar OÉ Gaillimh



Joe Éinniú

Bhronn Máire Nic Fhinn ábhar a bhaineann leis an bhfonnadóir clúiteach Joe Éinniú ar chartlann

OÉ Gaillimh in Áras Shorcha Ní Ghuairim, Carna ar an 1 Bealtaine. Meastar gurbh é Joe Éinniú, a rugadh san Aird Thoir i gCarna i 1919, sár-fhonnadóir sean-nóis a linne féin.

Bhí aithne mhaith ag Máire Nic Fhinn ar Joe le linn di a bheith ag obair le Gael Linn, a d'fhoilsigh amhráin dá chuid, agus trí bheith ag eagrú imeachtaí cultúrtha a mbíodh Joe páirteach iontu. Dá bharr sin tá cnuasach luachmhar, á áiríonn ábhar fuaimne agus físe, taifeadtaí fuaimne, pictiúir agus doiciméid, bailithe ag Máire a thugann léargas tábhachtach agus spéisiúil ar shaothar agus ar shaol Joe Éinniú.

"Is cúis mhór áthais domsa go mbeidh an t-ábhar seo lonnaithe i gCartlann Áras Shorcha Ní Ghuairim i gCarna, baile dúchais Joe féin, agus

go mbeidh sé ar fáil do phobal na dúiche gar go bhaile," a deir Máire.

Cuirfear an t-ábhar úr seo i dtaisce le cnuasach cuimsitheach ábhair ar Joe Éinniú atá i seilbh an Árais i gCarna cheana. Áirítear ar an ábhar atá sa chartlann i gCarna cheana féin cartlann cheoil agus amhrán a cuireadh i dtoll a chéile in Ollscoil Washington i Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá, áit ar chaith Joe tréimhse mar léachtóir ar chultúr agus ar cheol dúchais na hÉireann. Bhásaigh Joe i Seattle i 1984. Bhronn Coiste Reachtála Fhéile Joe Éinniú, faoi stiúir Mhíchíl Uí Chuaig, an chartlann seo ar Áras Shorcha Ní Ghuairim, OÉ Gaillimh ar mhaithe leis an ábhar a bheith ar fáil do phobal na háite agus do scoláirí Éireannacha.

"Is cúis mhór áthais dúinn an t-ábhar luachmhar seo a bheith á bhronnadh orainn agus tá muid go mór faoi chomaoín ag Máire as an mbeart fíorfhlaithiúil seo," a deir Riarthóir an Árais Séamas Ó Concheanainn. "Beidh an bailiúchán uile a bheas idir lámha ag an Áras ar Joe Éinniú á dhigitiú agus á chur ar fáil i mbealaí a bheas áisiúil do phobal na háite agus do spriocphobail Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge agus Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh".

Postgraduate Diploma in Education

The School of Education recently acknowledged the achievements of student teachers engaged in a Service Learning unit within the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). The event also celebrated the collaborative partnership between the School and two community organisations; the Galway Traveller Movement (GTM) and the Galway Refugee Support Group (GRSG).

Service learning is a teaching strategy designed to actively engage students in the learning process in a reflective and critical way, by responding to a need identified by community. This year, 15 student teachers worked as tutors in the GTM 'Pavee Study' Homework Club. The project – jointly led by Elaine Keane and Josephine Boland (School of Education) and members of GTM – aims to enhance the educational achievement of minority ethnic and other marginalised post-primary school pupils, while simultaneously supporting student teachers in the context of their development as educators committed to a social justice ethos.

OLLSCÉALA

Living Scenes



Pictured at the ten year celebration of the NUI Galway intergenerational learning programme 'Living Scenes' from left: Michael McCann, former Principal, Presentation Secondary School Galway; President of NUI Galway, Dr James J. Browne; Dr Mary Surlis, Living Scenes Programme Director; and Séamus O Grady, Director of Adult and Continuing Education, NUI Galway.

This groundbreaking educational programme, Living Scenes, which brings teenagers and retirees together in the classroom, celebrated 10 years of success in May. Originating from NUI Galway's Adult and Continuing Education Office, 'Living Scenes' is an intergenerational programme, designed by Mary Surlis, of learning involving Transition Year students and local retired adults. It is the pioneering programme of its kind in Ireland and Europe, possibly even worldwide.

Ronnie Delaney Presents Sport Awards



Pictured are the individual winners of the Annual Sports Awards (Back row, left to right): Stephen Bailey (Boxing Award); Garreth Bradshaw (Men's Gaelic Football Award); Oliver McCarthy (Tae Kwon Do Award); Cian Nihill (Basketball Award); Stephen Molumphy (Hurling Award); and Michael Creane (Men's Soccer Award). (Middle row, left to right): Tony Regan, Head of Sports, NUI Galway; Pearse McGuigan, representing Swimming Award recipient Dairne Ryan; Iain O'Connor, (Archery Team Captain); Caitriona Casey (Handball Award); Joan Mulloy (Mountaineering Award); James Wall (Rowing Award); Lorraine Ryan (Camogie Award); Una Carroll (Ladies Gaelic Football Award); Gary Ryan, Elite Sports Development Officer, NUI Galway; and Kathy Hynes, Development Officer for Clubs and Participation, NUI Galway. (Front row, left to right): Aileen Ruane (Athletics Award); Michelle Glynn (Ladies Soccer Award); Dr James J. Browne, NUI Galway President; Dr Ronnie Delaney; Carol Staunton (Women's Rugby Award); and Elisha Hickey (Surfing Award).

Líonra Agreement



Pictured seated (l-r): Dr James J. Browne, President, NUI Galway; Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin, President, AIT; Denis Cummins, President, DkIT. Standing (l-r) : Professor Terry Smith, Vice-President for Research, NUI Galway; Paul Hannigan, President, LyIT; Dr Patrick Delassus, Head of Research, GMT.

A major agreement to boost research and innovation in the Border Midland and Western (BMW) region has been signed by the heads of seven higher education colleges. The institutes of technology in Athlone, Dundalk, Galway-Mayo, Letterkenny and Sligo, together with NUI Galway and St Angela's College, Sligo will combine their strengths under Líonra, the regional higher education network.

Collaboration will be prioritised in biomedical science and engineering; environment, marine and energy; software development and applications; health services research; social entrepreneurship; socioeconomic sciences and humanities; and food and agriculture. A commercialisation strategy will enable the innovation and research ideas developed in Líonra to reach the marketplace.

Líonra was established in 2001 to develop effective collaborative responses by the third level sector to the developmental needs of the BMW region.

Ramping Up Stem Cell Research

PurStem, a €3.5m Europe-wide collaborative research project, has been launched by REMEDI to revolutionise large scale processing of high quality adult stem cells. These have tremendous potential for repairing and regenerating a large range of tissues and organs but the step-up to clinical therapies requires large numbers of stem cells. PurStem aims to develop methods for producing adult stem cells safely and effectively, on an industrial scale, for clinical applications.

Testing Technologies for Shellfish

Marine scientists at NUI Galway have secured €1.6m in EU funding to advance testing technologies in the shellfish industry. The Martin Ryan Institute will collaborate with European colleagues to advance rapid testing methods for remote fisheries in countries such as Scotland, Norway and the Faroe Islands. The hope is that new technologies will allow the shellfish industries to test their produce for toxins locally, rather than sending samples to laboratories elsewhere.

News Briefs

Podiatry Team Participating in Control Trial

The Podiatry team led by Dr Caroline McIntosh is participating in a randomised control trial funded by the UK Department of Health which aims to demonstrate which of two particular treatments for verrucae is most effective. People aged 12-24 with a verruca may be able to take part and receive free treatment. Contact Fiona Lowry in Podiatry at 091 495814.

The Irish Network for Studies in Buddhism

A new all-Ireland group, The Irish Network for Studies in Buddhism, has been co-founded by Dr Eilís Ward of the School of Political Science and Sociology, for academics teaching and researching in Buddhist thought and practice.

60 Years, 30 Perspectives: Ireland and the UDHR

The former Dean of Law, Donncha O'Connell, has edited a book marking the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Entitled *60 Years, 30 Perspectives: Ireland and the UDHR*, the book includes contributions from Archbishop of Dublin Dr Diarmuid Martin, Ombudsman Emily O'Reilly, homelessness activist Fr Peter McVerry, and NUI Galway academics Dr Kathleen Cavanaugh and Dr Vinodh Jaichand of the Irish Centre of Human Rights.

Mr Eamon Ryan T.D. visits NUI Galway

The Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Mr Eamon Ryan T.D., made his first visit to NUI Galway on 16 April. Researchers from the Environmental Change Institute (ECI) briefed him about fourth-level research projects in the areas of energy, environmental technology and environmental informatics.

Centre for Astronomy

Researchers from the Centre for Astronomy are installing a detector called the Galway Ultra Fast Imager (GUFU) in the so-called 'Pope's Scope' at the Mount Graham International Observatory in Arizona. GUFU's goal is to detect variations in infra-red light from brown dwarfs near the Sun to determine if they are a consequence of star spots or weather or both, and if variations follow 'seasons'. The findings are important for understanding the relationship between stars and planets.

Career Development Centre

The Career Development Centre has been taking steps to assist students and past graduates navigate the jobs market through the downturn. A CV Clinic and series of career-focused talks were organised in May and a Graduate Support Day for Alumni, which included CV and interview tips, was held in June.

Delivering Interdisciplinary Learning Events

In response to the problems health and education professionals experience in getting time off work to attend courses, the Discipline of Speech and Language Therapy has started a research project to explore different models for delivering interdisciplinary learning events, namely event attendance, video-link attendance, and attendance at a facilitated event using a DVD recording.

The Quiet Man... and Beyond

A new book co-edited by NUI Galway academics Seán Crosson and Rod Stoneman, has been published. *The Quiet Man... and Beyond*, deals with the complexity of the film's relationship to Ireland, to Irish literature and to John Ford's other films; its perceived place in indigenous Irish cinema and its representation of women; and the phenomenon of its circulation and reception as a cult film.

Alumni Events

Over 150 alumni from the classes of 1999 and 2004 returned to campus to celebrate their 5 and 10 year reunion in June while over 120 graduates and friends attended the annual Cumann Caoga Bliain event in April. This year's event was attended by alumni whose graduation years ranged from 1936 to 1962.

A "tour de force" is how Dublin Alumni Chair Sean O'Rourke summed up the lecture given by NUI Galway's Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh in Dublin this May. Professor Ó Tuathaigh, the celebrated academic and GAA enthusiast, was giving the lecture, 'The GAA at 125 ... The Challenges of Change', as part of a popular series of events held by the Dublin Alumni group.

In May, a maximum capacity gathering of 70 graduates gathered for the launch of the NUI Galway Alumni Club. The launch was hosted by Lieutenant Commander Roberta O'Brien, a science graduate from 2000, and took place aboard her ship, the L.E. Aisling, on Galway Harbour Docks. Lieutenant Commander O'Brien has made Irish maritime history by being the first ever female commander of an Irish naval ship.

RTÉ's Nationwide

NUI Galway's national profile received a significant boost in April when the University was featured on RTÉ's Nationwide, presented by Mary Kennedy. For those of you who may not have seen the live broadcast, the programme can be viewed on http://www.nuigalway.ie/press_office/nationwide.html



University Fun Run

Gearóid O'Broin won the overall prize, Silver Plate, for the most improved time over the three fun runs during the academic year.

Left to Right: Tony Regan, Head of Sports; Mary O'Riordan, Vice-President, Student Experience; Gearoid O'Broin, Financial Accounting and Kathy Hynes, Development Officer for Clubs & Participation.

Summer Conferring



Dr Dagmar Stengel, Dr Timothy Higgins and Dr Frances McCormack, pictured with President Browne, were conferred with a Masters in Art in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (Academic Practice) at the recent summer conferring ceremony. They were the first academic staff members of NUI Galway to be granted these awards which they undertook part-time through Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT). The summer conferring saw almost 200 students graduate in total, the largest group were 97 graduates in medicine. 53 Ph.D. students from across all disciplines also graduated, as did students from Kuwait and Malaysia.

Campus Opens for Public Sessions

The Environmental Change Institute (ECI) recently opened its doors for its third annual 'ECI Research OPEN Day' where a series of short talks were given addressing subjects of local, national, and global significance such as: sea level change in Galway Bay, biological contamination of Irish drinking water supplies, renewable energy, and sustainable development. Poster presentations took place throughout the afternoon from over 50 ECI researchers, highlighting the work currently underway in areas such as Climate Change, Energy, Biodiversity, Environment and Health, Environmental Technologies, Environmental Informatics, and the Social and Economic Impacts of Environmental Change.

A Science Research Day also took place recently involving academics and researchers from the School of Science. The event showcased some of the cutting edge research being carried out by scientists across several diverse disciplines from chemical, mathematical and physical sciences to the biological sciences.

An information evening on Adult and Continuing Education courses also took place, where information was available on a new initiative which will allow a 50% fees reduction for people who have recently become unemployed and wish to study certain programmes which address the future skills of the 'smart economy'. Over 40 part-time courses were showcased at the event.

Pedestrian Bridge

The University's longstanding commitment to connecting the campus with the city and River Corrib is about to take a big step forward. Work will soon begin with City Council on a new publicly-funded, €1.5m project to develop a green way from the Salmon Weir Bridge and around Fisheries Field.

A new pedestrian bridge over the Eglinton Canal will allow easy access to the main campus and extensive walkways along the river, from existing city centre green ways. Work on the new bridge should begin in Autumn and finish in 2010.

The walkway will be an exciting new link between the main campus, Earl's Island and the city, and open up the University's attractive river walks to the public.

Comóradh Ollscoil na hÉireann

Le comóradh a dhéanamh ar bhunú Ollscoil na hÉireann (1908) chuir an eagraíocht úd neart imeachtaí ar bun anuraidh agus d'fhoilsigh sí dhá leabhar.

Sa leabhar dar teideal *A Century of Scholarship* déantar cur síos ar na céimithe de chuid na hOllscoile a ghnóthaigh Dámhachtainí Taistil, Gradaim agus Sparánachtaí (san Innealtóireacht, mar shampla). Ina aitheasc ar sheoladh an leabhair sin dó i mBaile Átha Cliath i mí na Samhna, rinne an Seansailéir, an Dr G. Fitzgerald, tagairt ar leith don bheirt ba shinsearaí a bhí i láthair a raibh Dámhachtainí Taistil gnóthaithe acu. Ba iad sin Seán de Búrca (B.A. 1940, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Gaillimh) agus Máire Nic Suibhne (B.A. 1939, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh), iníon Ard-Mhéara Chorcaí, Traolach Mac Suibhne. Ghnóthaigh an Dr de Búrca Dámhachtain Taistil sa ghrúpa ábhar Béarla agus Gaeilge sa bhliain 1941. Chaith sé na blianta fada ina Léachtóir Le Teangacha Ceilteacha ar an gcampas seo go dtí gur imigh sé ar scor i 1983. Tá cónaí air i mBóthar na Trá.

The National University of Ireland, 1908-2008, Centenary Essays is teideal don dara leabhar. I measc na n-aistí spéisúla ann tá "The Position of the Irish Language" le Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh ina ndéantar cur síos ar an nGaeilge mar ábhar riachtanach do Mháithreánach na hOllscoile agus "National University of Ireland, Galway" le Séamus Mac Mathúna, ina ríomhtar cúlra Acht Choláiste Phríomhscoile na Gaillimhe 1929 agus scaoileadh na nasc feidearálach i dtaca le campas na Gaillimhe i measc ábhar eile.