



‘Boost to the Economy’ as €130m Construction Plans Revealed in Strategic Plan 2009-2014

NUI Galway’s new Strategic Plan 2009-2014 has been officially launched by President Browne. Key elements of the plan include a major €130m construction plan, increased numbers of spin-out companies, and a rise in numbers of mature, international and PhD students.

“We are the biggest employer in Galway City, a fast growing and dynamic University, and increasingly recognised internationally for our research and scholarship”, President Browne said. “Our strategic plan enshrines not only our commitment to supporting the social, economic, industrial and cultural development of the region, but our national

role in supporting economic recovery. The strategic plan also cements our research ambitions which will bring further international recognition in our priority areas of expertise”.

NUI Galway will be a major contributor to the economy through its ambitious €130m in construction activity, which will ramp up throughout 2010. Five new buildings will be constructed, potentially creating hundreds of jobs in Galway City. Over one third of the funds for construction will come from philanthropic sources, due to intensive and very successful fundraising activity by Galway University Foundation.

President Browne said the plans are a significant short-term boost to the economy and also put in place the long-term infrastructure to produce the graduates who will fuel the economic recovery to a Smart Economy. “We will play our part in revitalising the economy and developing the Smart Economy. We will do this by taking advantage of the value now available in the building industry to address our capital deficit and put in place the infrastructure to grow our research effort and our graduate output”.

OLLSCÉALA



Focal ón Eagarthóir

Fáilte go eagrán na Nollag d'Ollscéala.

The cover story highlights the launch of the Strategic Plan 2009-2014. As one local newspaper pointed out this week "... it (Strategic Plan) signals a major commitment to expanding its role as a research centre of excellence at the core of the all important knowledge economy. This is a strategic plan that would be ambitious at the best of times, but it shows even more remarkable courage in the current climate. And yet this is exactly the time we need to see investment in our future ..."

I concur with these sentiments and am heartened that NUI Galway will be more that ready for a brighter future beyond current economic difficulties.

Other stories featuring in this edition include conferring ceremonies (p.5), student and staff awards (p.8), guest lectures (p.3) and the President's page (p.7).

A special Christmas message (p.12) from the University Chaplain, Fr Diarmuid Hogan, reflects on the sadness and tragedy that struck the campus community this year and asks that we embrace the Christmas season.

My sincere thanks to you all for the many contributions received throughout the year. While we endeavour to include all submissions space does not always allow therefore some entries are carried forward to the following edition.

Tá súil agam go mbeidh Nollaig Shona agus athbhliain faoi sheán agus faoi shíocháin díbh go léir.

Michelle Ní Chróinín
Eagarthóir

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VP for Innovation and Performance



Professor Chris Curtin (pictured) has taken up the new role as Vice-President for Innovation and Performance (Part-Time) where he will lead initiatives to help create a high-performing organisation that is aligned with best international practice and focus the University on strategies that will deliver high quality leadership, effective decision-making and an environment where innovation and collaboration flourish.

Chris is Head of the School of Political Science and Sociology. In addition to his work at

NUI Galway, he has taught at universities in the UK, the Netherlands, the United States and Mexico. He has participated in the EU's Third, Fourth and Fifth Framework Research Programmes and has been active in the European Union's Erasmus, Socrates and Tempus Higher Education Programmes. He is author/editor of nine books, over 90 articles/book chapters and more than 20 national and international reports, mainly on the theme of governance, rural development and natural resources management.

United Nations Voluntary Fund

Professor Bill Schabas has been elected as the chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights. He was appointed to the Board in 2006 by Kofi Annan, and last year named to a new term by the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon. The Fund has an annual budget of about \$20 million,

which is used to support activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in various parts of the world.

The five members of the Board of Trustees represent the main regions of the world. Professor Schabas is the representative of the 'Western European and Other Group'.

Slán le...

Tony Regan, Head of Sport & Recreation, has retired after 36 years of service to the University, having been here as a student in 1969. He has played a vital role in the development of sporting facilities on campus including most recently the development of the Sports Centre. In addition he has supported the development of the University clubs and encouraged and supported elite athletes and teams throughout the years. The University would like to acknowledge Tony's hard work and thank him for his dedication to the development of sport in the University.

Agnes O'Farrell, Accommodation Officer, is due to retire at the end of the year after 25 years service in the University. She began working in a temporary position in 1984. Eight years later, she joined the Examinations Office, and later the Disability Support Service. Agnes has been Accommodation Officer for the last six years. We would like to thank her for her dedication and for the care and concern she has shown to all students throughout her years here.

The Irish Times Editor Speaks at NUI Galway

Pictured is Editor of *The Irish Times*, Geraldine Kennedy, the lead participant at a Discourse on the 'Challenges to Press Freedom in the 21st Century' at NUI Galway on 26 November.

Also speaking was Professor Bill Schabas, Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights. The event was chaired by University President Browne. The event was hosted by the Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities and Social Studies where a presentation was made to Ms Kennedy prior to the event.

Professor Terry Eagleton also delivered a public lecture recently. Entitled, 'On Evil', the event was hosted by the Moore Institute, in which Professor Eagleton is Adjunct Professor of Cultural Theory. He also delivered two seminars for undergraduate and postgraduate students of the University.



Monsignor de Brún Memorial Lecture



The 2009 Monsignor Pádraig de Brún Memorial Lecture, entitled 'Education for the Modern World: Science and Culture', was delivered by Professor Eugene Galanter (pictured above).

Formerly director of the Psychophysics Laboratory at Columbia University, New York, Professor Galanter is founder of Children's Progress Inc., one of the fastest growing companies in the US. The technology company specialises in developing computer programmes for young children that help educators pinpoint how to best challenge and support each child.

Considered a pioneer educator and scientist in the field of technology in education, Professor Galanter's influence on the wider discipline of psychology has been profound.

His book, co-authored and published in 1960, *Plans and the Structure of Behavior*, is generally held to have sparked the cognitive revolution in the psychological sciences with very significant influence upon the development of modern computerised technology. The book has been cited on over 2,500 occasions.

Threats Posed by Climate Change to Coastal Regions Targeted by New Project

The threats posed by climate change to coastal regions in Western Europe are to be investigated by NUI Galway experts together with teams from universities in France, Spain and Portugal. Along with local and regional authorities, the universities have founded the 'Atlantic Network for Coastal Risk Management' (ANCORIM).

This initiative has been granted €1.9 million by the EU for a three-year project to bridge the gap between the climate change scientists and coastal zone decision-makers. In Ireland, an assessment of the current planning practices in the Border-Midlands-West region has begun to ascertain how, if at all, considerations of climate change are being included in the planning process.

The ANCORIM team will look at managing and preventing the risks associated with climate change in regards to shoreline erosion, rural and urban coastal land planning, and economic activities such as fish farming. The work at NUI Galway is being led by geographers with the Environmental Change Institute (ECI) and will involve local communities in the western region through Mayo County Council and Údarás na Gaeltachta.

OLLSCÉALA

Major Study Highlights Community Needs in East Galway City Areas



Pictured at the launch were (l-r) NUI Galway's Seamus O'Grady, Bishop Martin Drennan, Mayor Declan McDonnell, report author Eilin Geraghty, city manager Joe McGrath and Dan Hurley of the DRA Strategy Committee.

A new study, launched recently by the Adult and Continuing Education Office, looks at the future of a part of Galway City which, in recent years, has seen the highest population growth of any district outside of Dublin. The study was commissioned by a local community group, the Doughiska, Roscam and Ardaun Planning and Strategy Committee.

This major report highlights a number of very distinct traits of the area and points to developments which are urgently required to pave the way for the future. According to the report, a combination of facilities and

development supports is crucial, given the area's youth, its multi-cultural mix, its high degree of transience and a perceptible rise in unemployment.

In the past decade, the Doughiska, Roscam and Ardaun area in the East of Galway City has witnessed phenomenal population growth. The population has grown from around 200 people in the year 2000, to its present day figure of 7,280.

The report was funded by NUI Galway, Galway City Council, the Galway Diocese and McInerney's Properties.

NAIRTL Award



Dr McCluskey pictured with Mary McAleese.

Dr Aisling McCluskey from the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Maths has been awarded a National Teaching Award by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese. The awards were presented at a special ceremony in Dublin Castle on behalf of the National Academy for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (NAIRTL).

The Award comprised a crystal vase, a certificate and €5,000, which can be used for further professional development and enhancement of teaching. President McAleese presented the awards highlighting the significant role of integrating research, teaching and learning in the recovery of a sustainable economy. She encouraged teachers to lead by example and to provide innovative and creative teaching and learning opportunities in our higher education institutions. She added that the National Awards were a significant and welcome development in Irish Higher Education.

Entrance Scholars

NUI Galway recently celebrated the success of a select group of first-year students who received a total €107,100 in recognition of the high points they achieved in the Leaving Certificate Examination. As part of the University's annual Entrance Scholarships, 63 students received €1,700 each, along with an NUI Galway scroll, at a special ceremony which included teachers and parents.



Conferrings at NUI Galway

Almost 5,000 students graduated during recent conferring ceremonies with degrees, higher diplomas, Masters and PhDs from the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences; College of Engineering and Informatics; College of Business, Public Policy and Law; College of Science; and the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies.

Also conferred were seven Honorary Masters Degrees on: Galway-born and internationally acclaimed traditional musician, Frankie Gavin; RTE's Northern Editor, Tommie Gorman; local soccer legend, Eamonn 'Chick' Deacy; Fr Raymond Browne for his contribution to community life; Christian Brother, voluntary worker and author, Br Séán MacConmara; John Lynch, musical director of the Kilfenora Ceilí Band; and regional development activist Mr Tony Barrett.

The Access Programme Award Ceremony also took place in November where over 60 participants received certificates for successfully completing the Access courses during the academic year 2008/2009.

A total of 285 graduates and 94 postgraduates have come through the University's Access Programme since 2001.



John Lynch, musical director of the Kilfenora Ceilí Band, who was conferred with Master of Music (honoris causa).



Frankie Gavin plays for the President.



Professor Michael O'Connell, Br Séán MacConmara and the President.



Professor Chris Curtin, Fr Raymond Browne and the President.



Eamonn 'Chick' Deacy, with his wife Mary O'Connor, son Jake, and the President.



The President, Tommie Gorman and Bernadette O'Sullivan.



Tony Barrett with the President.

OLLSCÉALA

Sports Scholars



At a special ceremony in the University on 2 November, 29 new recipients of NUI Galway student Sports Scholarships were presented by President Browne.

The recipients (pictured) joined the existing 19 scholarship holders where NUI Galway supports high performing athletes in a wide range of sports through its Sports Scholarship programme.

The Scholarship programme has been developed by the University to reward the students' ability and previous performances, and also to assist young athletes develop their sporting prowess hand-in-hand with their academic progress by putting in place the necessary supports.

Scholarship benefits include a subsistence grant, coaching, medical and physiotherapy support, performance nutrition and performance psychology, strength and conditioning as well as performance planning and mentoring. Each Scholarship is built around the individual's needs and their chosen sport.

Launch of New Ultrafast Laser Facility



Pictured at the new facility launch are Damian Kilgannon, Higher Education Authority and Dr Ger O'Connor, School of Physics.

A workshop to mark the official launch of the new Ultrafast Laser Processing Facility at the NCLA / LightHOUSE took place recently, where over 60 attendees from industry and academia learned about the unique capabilities for investigating short pulse laser material interactions and their application in future micro- and nano-technologies.

The new laser facility combines state-of-the-art laser research technology with advanced spectral and imaging diagnostics. The design and the integration of the facility has been undertaken over a two-year period by the NCLA, the School of Physics and the Buildings Office. The facility includes nano-second, pico-second, and femto-second laser systems integrated with advanced motion systems and precision spectral and imaging diagnostics. The development is part of the National Integrated Nanoscience Platform for Ireland (INSPIRE) supported under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL14).

The launch provided of a series of talks, presented by international experts on the systems and the potential opportunities for research and applications.

Cross-Border Research Alliance to Tackle Diabetes

NUI Galway and the University of Ulster have joined forces with HSE West and the Western Health and Social Care Trust to create a collaborative cross-border partnership on diabetes-related research.

The "Atlantic - Alliance for Cooperation on Research into Diabetes" (Atlantic - ACORD) initiative brings together clinicians and researchers from the health service, academia and industry, and patients to develop innovative solutions to problems related to the growing problem of diabetes.

Diabetes has been targeted because of its increasing prevalence and the associated health care costs. The prevalence of type 2 diabetes is 4-5%, and 1 in 10 pregnant women develop gestational diabetes.

Priority research areas for the partnership are health technologies, the use of geographical information systems in database analysis, diabetes in pregnancy, and beta cell engineering. These research themes represent some of the key needs for patients in the region and will form the initial focus of further collaborative research proposals.

Professor Fidelma Dunne, Head of the School of Medicine at NUI Galway, said: "Tackling diabetes has become an international healthcare priority in the western world. This new research alliance, Atlantic-ACORD, is all about joined-up thinking and pooling resources and expertise north and south of the border".



Focal ón Uachtarán

Deaths of Four Students

On 17 November the NUI Galway community was

shocked to learn of the deaths of four students who were killed tragically in a road traffic accident on the N17 near the Galway Mayo border. The four deceased students are:

Teresa Molloy (19), a third-year BA student in Gaeilge agus Léann an Aistriúcháin (Irish and Translation Studies) from Leitir Móir, Co. Galway;

Marie Stephanie Conneely (19), a third-year BA student in Gaeilge agus Léann an Aistriúcháin (Irish and Translation Studies) from Baile na hAbhann, Co. Galway;

Sorcha Rose McLoughlin (19), a second-year BA Geography & Applied Mathematical Science and Diplóma sa Ghaeilge (Diploma in Irish) student from Mulgannon, Co. Wexford; and

Sarah Byrne (20) a third-year BA student of Gaeilge and Geography from Cordarra, Headford, Co. Galway.

A fifth student **Michelle O'Donnell** (21), a third-year BA student in Gaeilge and Léann an Aistriúcháin (Irish and Translation Studies) from Cill Éinne, Inis Mór, Co. Galway was critically injured and is still in Beaumont Hospital with serious injuries. On behalf of the entire University community I extend our condolences to the families, friends and neighbours of the four young students. We continue to hope and pray for the recovery of Michelle O'Donnell.

In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy we were heartened by the many messages of sympathy received from other institutions, from our alumni and members of the public, and in particular those from President of Ireland, Mary McAleese; An Taoiseach Brian Cowen and Cardinal Sean Brady.

In very difficult circumstances, the University reacted as it should to such a terrible tragedy, with a co-ordinated response led by the Chaplaincy and the Office of the Vice-President for Student Experience. Ongoing support is available to students through the University's chaplaincy and counselling services, as well as through the support being provided by academic and other staff.

Strategic Plan 2009-2014

Following its publication in October 2009, the Strategic Plan has been issued to the Minister for Education & Science and the Higher Education Authority in compliance with the Universities Act 1997. You should by now have received your copy of the specially prepared summary of the Strategic Plan for staff, entitled *Vision 2014*. Launched on 16

December, the next phase is to develop a University-wide action plan to make the new strategic vision a reality. In a related development, our University Management Team will meet with the GMT Management Team this month, to share and discuss our Strategic Plans and to explore joint collaboration opportunities.

NAIRTL Award

In October 2008 I had the pleasure of presenting Dr Aisling McCluskey, School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Maths with a President's Award for Teaching Excellence. This year, on 18 November, she was presented with a National Teaching Award by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, in recognition of her talent as a teacher committed to creating an exciting learning environment for her students. The NAIRTL (National Academy for Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning) Awards recognise teaching of the highest calibre in Irish Higher Education and Aisling was one of only five Award Winners nationally this year. Congratulations Aisling!

Galway University Foundation

The US Board of Galway University Foundation held its 3rd Annual Gala Banquet in the US on 18 November as part of its mission to raise funds for NUI Galway's programmes and activities from a range of private individuals and institutions. This event, which honoured Irish singer-songwriter Paul Brady, was a tremendous success and raised close to \$100,000 for the University. It also provided an important opportunity to build alumni relations and to network with key national and international opinion formers, thereby raising awareness of NUI Galway and its activities and successes.

Conferrings and Awards

Since the last issue of *Ollscéala*, over 4,800 students were awarded with degrees, diplomas or certificates during the Autumn and Winter conferrings on campus. At the October conferrings honorary degrees were conferred on: Frankie Gavin, Tommie Gorman, Eamon 'Chick' Deacy, Br Seán MacConmara, and Fr Raymond Browne. At the conferrings on 25 November, honorary degrees were conferred on John Lynch, musical director of the Kilfenora Ceilí Band, and Tony Barrett, regional development activist. I also had the pleasure of visiting St Angela's College, Sligo to confer degrees at their ceremonies on 4 December. At these ceremonies, degrees of Master of Arts and Master of Music, *honoris causa*, were also conferred on Sr Pius O'Gara in recognition of her loyal service to St Angela's College, and on Peter Horan for his contribution to Irish Traditional Music in Sligo. In October, Entrance Scholarships were presented to 63 students in recognition of the high points they achieved in the Leaving Certificate Examination. This

year's recipients reflect a wide geographical spread: from 13 different counties and from 47 individual second-level schools. 29 students also received new Sports Scholarship Awards, joining the existing 19 scholarship holders in the High Performance support system.

Marketing Award

I'd like to congratulate NUI Galway's Marketing & Communications Team on their success in winning the Marketing Team of the Year Award and the Overall Marketing Award for 2009 at the Marketing Institute West's Annual Awards recently. The Team was chosen from 80 entrants to the Awards and saw off competition from 10 regional winners of each category, including Volvo Ocean Race organizers 'Let's Do It Galway', to win the Overall Marketing Award.

This year our Marketing Team led a major brand development project with the aim of repositioning the University and creating a strong visual identity to differentiate NUI Galway from its competitors. As a result of these marketing efforts, and the efforts of our staff in visiting schools and promoting our programmes, including new programmes, NUI Galway saw a substantial increase of 13.1% in CAO First Preference applications - a growth of more than double that of the university sector and the highest year-on-year increase of all the universities. Well done to Caroline Loughnane, Director of Marketing and Communications and her talented team!

As 2009 draws to a close, I'd like to thank all staff for their continuing hard work and commitment in what has been a very challenging year in many ways. Despite this, 2009 has been a highly successful year for this University. We are *The Sunday Times* University of the Year 2009/10; more and more of our academic staff are active in research as measured by the increasing numbers of staff supervising graduate students, winning research funding and publishing scholarly works; and all staff including support staff continue to provide excellent service to students and colleagues despite the growth in student numbers and the decline in staff numbers due to the restrictions on recruitment.

I offer my renewed thanks to all of you for your continuing efforts. May I wish each and every staff member a peaceful and happy Christmas and every good wish for 2010.

Beannachtá na Nollaig,

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

Student & Staff Awards

ESB Bursary

Margaret Hayes and Jeff McDonald, two final-year Environmental Science students based in the Applied Ecology Unit, were recipients of the recent ESB summer bursary to undertake ecological surveys of ESB Networks sites.

On the basis of these surveys, the NUI Galway students produced the first biodiversity management guidelines for ESB HV sub-stations, in addition to detailed habitat management guidelines for the ESB Networks Training School campus at Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

Hamilton Prize



Pictured at the presentation of the Hamilton Prize were (l-r): Professor Efim Zelmanov, University of California, San Diego; Jenny Young, Invest Northern Ireland; NUI Galway student and prize recipient Thomas Gilroy; and Professor Nicholas Canny, NUI Galway and President of the Royal Irish Academy.

NUI Galway Bachelor of Science student, Thomas Gilroy was recently presented with the Hamilton Prize at a ceremony at the Royal Irish Academy.

The Hamilton Prizes, of €1000 per student, are awarded annually to the best undergraduate mathematics students as nominated by their University in their penultimate year of study. Sponsored by Invest Northern Ireland, the prizes were presented by the 2009 Hamilton speaker, Professor Efim Zelmanov, University of California, San Diego.

Women in Engineering Award

First-year engineering student, Cliona Flood, was the recipient of a Science Foundation Ireland/DELL Scholarship - Young Women in Engineering 2009. The scholarship aims to attract and encourage more high-achieving young women into third-level education in engineering disciplines. The scheme focuses on young women entering designated engineering degree programmes.

Cliona will receive an annual award over four years of €2,000, and a DELL notebook computer.

Chicago Scholarships

Two NUI Galway students have been awarded Chicago Student Social Work Scholarships by the Chicago Immigrant Support Centre. First-year MA in Social Work Programme students Marie Hoban and Bridget O'Hara will each receive a scholarship of \$3,500. This is the second consecutive year that NUI Galway students from this programme have been awarded the scholarship.

Undergraduate Awards of Ireland

President Mary McAleese presented six inaugural Undergraduate Awards of Ireland to NUI Galway students in the Royal Irish Academy, where 41 of Ireland's most outstanding undergraduates received awards. Over 1,600 submissions were received and the winners were selected through an academic review process by 33 separate panels. The winners were: Philomena Ni Fhlatharta, Gaeilge; Russell Ó Riagáin, Archaeology; Kayla Reed, Gaeilge; Geraldine Galand, Nursing; Caroline Maritin, Earth & Ocean Sciences; and Linda O'Connor, Chemistry. The awards are open to undergraduates across the island of Ireland's nine Universities. Submissions are drawn from the outstanding papers, essays and dissertations produced as a normal part of coursework during each academic year. In addition to receiving a gold medal for their submissions, each student's winning essay will be published in an annual journal.

Medtronic Award

The annual Best Student Award for the MSc in Industrial Relations and Human Resources Management programme in the School of Business and Economics sponsored by Medtronic was recently awarded to Caroline Hyde at the annual Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development Western Region annual dinner.

Henry Hutchinson Stewart Medical Scholarships

In 2009 NUI Galway students continued to be highly ranked in the national Henry Hutchinson Stewart Awards. 1st Prize was awarded to Cliona Small (Anatomy), Nora Kavanagh (General Practice), Kelly Mieske (Medical Microbiology), Karina Forde (Paediatrics). 2nd Prize was awarded to Aoife Garraghy (Medicine) and Miray Morcos (Pathology). 3rd Prize was awarded to Jennifer Scott (Anatomy), Nita Chauhan (Biochemistry), Ciarán Ó Fearraigh (Obstetrics & Gynaecology), Laura Connolly (Medical Microbiology), Maeve Cahill (Pathology), and Tara McDonnell (Pharmacology).

IEEE Fellow

The IEEE Board of Directors has elevated Dr Peter Corcoran, Vice-Dean of Research in the College of Engineering & Informatics, to IEEE Fellow for contributions to digital camera technologies. The IEEE Grade of Fellow is conferred by the Board of Directors upon a person with an "extraordinary record of accomplishments" in any of the IEEE fields of interest. IEEE is the world's largest professional association advancing innovation and technological excellence for the benefit of humanity.

Employment Relations Study

Dr Tony Royle at CISC in the Cairnes Business School has been awarded over €180,000 by the German foundation, Hans Boeckler Stiftung, to undertake a two-year, six-country study on employment relations issues in Multinational Corporations in the European retail food sector. In addition to NUI Galway, the study will involve academics from five other European universities.

Irish Cancer Society Fellowship

Dr Eva Szegezdi of Biochemistry in the School of Natural Sciences and NCBES was one of three researchers to receive an Irish Cancer Society fellowship at a recent awards ceremony held in Dublin where President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, presented six of Ireland's most gifted young cancer researchers with inaugural Irish Cancer Society's Research Scholarship Awards & Research Fellowship Awards.

Basil Chubb Prize

Dr Oliver Feeney, School of Political Science & Sociology, has been awarded the Basil Chubb Prize for the best PhD thesis produced in an Irish university in any field of politics in 2008. Dr Feeney's thesis was supervised by Dr Pete Morriss.

US-Ireland Research Programme

Dr Brian Ward, School of Physics, has been awarded €463,058 under the US-Ireland Research & Development Partnership Programme at an event hosted by the US Ambassador to Ireland in Dublin. Dr Ward's award, the first under this initiative, was funded along with collaborators from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution from Massachusetts and Queens University Belfast. The partnership project is entitled *Development of a Greenhouse Gas Ocean-Atmosphere Flux Sensor with MEMS-based Photoacoustic Technology*. It will develop sensor technology to improve quantification of oceanic uptake of greenhouse gases, which is one of the biggest issues surrounding global climate change.

Survey Finds Irish Youth Happier and Healthier than those in the UK

An in-depth comparison of health and well-being between children in Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales recently revealed that childhood in Ireland is healthier and happier than in neighbouring countries. The survey, co-authored by the Health Promotion Research Centre, was conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, includes information from more than 20,000 children aged 11-15 years.

The 136-page report, 'Young People's Health in Great Britain and Ireland', looks at issues like health, symptoms, well-being, eating patterns, physical activity, substance use, family and peer relationships and school life.

Irish children are more likely than their UK counterparts to report high life satisfaction, and less likely to report feeling low or having poor body image. In this country, children are more likely to engage in physical activity and less likely to spend excessive time on computers or on games console use. They are also most likely to live with both parents and in bigger households, to report that they are able to talk to their fathers about things that bother them and to spend time with friends after school. The report also highlights the lack of data on sexual behaviour among Irish adolescents.

“These patterns uncovered illustrate how we compare with our nearest neighbours,” said Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn of the Health Promotion Research Centre. “This report goes into greater depth on these issues than we have ever had before, showing differences between boys and girls, age groups and children from different family backgrounds. It is important that we recognise the differences as well as the similarities between children in the UK and Ireland. This report suggests that it is important not just to borrow unquestioningly from UK policy and practice when we are trying to improve child health - but that we need to work out where we are similar and where we are not and be more selective in what we do”.

In the report, age, gender and inter-country differences are documented, as well as patterns in youth health and well-being by levels of family affluence. Copies of the document can be viewed at www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/

Marketing Award



Pictured receiving the Marketing Team of the Year Award and the Overall Marketing Award at a special award ceremony organised by the West Region of the Marketing Institute of Ireland from left, Mary Delaney (former DMP student), Lisa Guilfoyle (DMP student), Michelle Ní Chróinín, Sheila Gorham, Emma Dillon-Leetch (MII West region), Laura Lane (DMP student), Caroline Loughnane, Eilís Ní Loinsigh and Ruth Hynes.

SFI Image of the Year Award



Professor Kevin Sullivan pictured with Conor Lenihan T.D. Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation.

Professor Kevin Sullivan, Professor of Cell Biology, and Dr Lisa Prendergast, Postdoctoral Fellow, were recently crowned winners of the SFI Research Image Competition with their image - 'Troubled Cell Division'. This new competition offered Science Foundation Ireland-funded researchers the opportunity to submit digital images created during the course of their research.

The winning image shows a dividing cell whose spindle has been disturbed by removing a single protein from the chromosome. The image was taken during research into what might cause a cancer cell to fail in cell division and die instead of multiplying.

ITAG Award for DERI



Pictured at the ITAG Award Ceremony from left: Professor Decker, Liam Ó Móráin, DERI, and Mike Conroy, CISCO.

Professor Stefan Decker, Director of the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) at NUI Galway, was announced the award winner for 'Academic Contribution to the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Sector' at the recent Information Technology Association Galway (ITAG) Industry Awards.

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Spin-out Offers Molecular 'Fingerprinting'

A spin-out company from NUI Galway, Analyze IQ Limited, is providing solutions for the more accurate analysis of complex mixtures such as illegal drugs, pharmaceuticals and contaminants.

With technology licensed from NUI Galway, Analyze IQ offers an innovative software suite for the analysis of the composition of mixtures, based on molecular spectroscopy data. Molecular spectroscopic techniques can effectively 'fingerprint' materials. This is done by assessing the manner in which laser light is scattered by the molecular structure of the gas, liquid or solid being tested.

The company's products have applications in fields as diverse as manufacturing inspection, law enforcement, emergency services and the pharmaceutical industry.

Analyze IQ sells its software suite directly to end users and through partnerships with manufacturers of spectroscopy instruments. The company has recently signed a partnership deal with Florida-based Ocean Optics, which is now marketing and selling the Analyze IQ software suite. Ocean Optics is a diversified photonics technology firm and a global leader in optical sensing with locations in the US, Europe and Asia. Analyze IQ has further partnerships in the pipeline.

Analyze IQ was established in 2008 as a spin-out company from NUI Galway. The company's technology is the result of a five-year research collaboration between analytical chemists with expertise in spectroscopic techniques and software engineers with expertise in data mining and machine learning. The research phase received substantial support from Enterprise Ireland.

The founders of the Analyze IQ include Dr Michael Madden, who led the development of the technology within NUI Galway, while a lecturer in the College of Engineering and Informatics.

CISC Attracts Top Innovation Guru



Pictured at the recent lecture on 'Open Innovation - a new model for Research & Development' hosted by CISC as part of the InterTradeIreland All-island Innovation Programme (l-r): International expert and speaker Professor Henry Chesbrough, Executive Director of the Centre for Innovation at the Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley; Dr James Cunningham, Director, CISC; and Aidan Gough, Director, InterTradeIreland.

Also hosted recently by CISC was a two-day Irish Social Science Platform Annual Conference which focused on how and why social science and business research can better inform policy makers and the policy process. In association with the Western Development Commission (WDC), CISC hosted a special seminar on 'Creative Industries, Innovation & the Smart Economy' where both parties called for the development of an integrated national strategy to develop the creative sector and drive the future of the smart economy.

GAA Exhibition



The James Hardiman Library's recent exhibition to mark the 125th anniversary of the GAA focused on the University's involvement in GAA sports from the early 20th century to more modern times.

Those attending the November launch of *'The GAA: a people's history'* in the Bailey Allen Hall were able to see a display of photographs from the exhibition which can also be viewed online at <http://call.library.nuigalway.ie:8180/Pickow/index.jsp>

As well as photographs of University teams, the exhibition includes selections from the archive of Michael Cusack, founder of the GAA. Photographs of GAA games from the Ritchie-Pickow archive are also featured.

Current and ex-members of the University kindly donated for display, memorabilia from their days of playing GAA. These include a hurley used by Joe Connolly in the All-Ireland final of 1980.

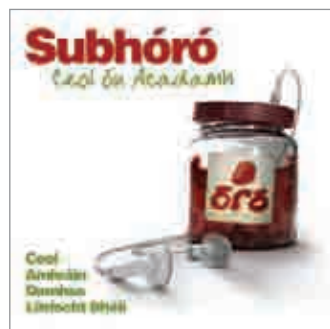
In Brief

Graduate Recruitment Fair

Despite the current downturn in the global economy, over 50 major organisations from business, industry and the voluntary sector, as well as 1,700 students attended the recent Graduate Recruitment Fair organised by the Career Development Centre. The popular annual event showcased employment opportunities for graduates from all disciplines, with a diverse number of fields such as finance, law, retail, teaching, consultancy and many other sectors represented.

The Centre works with University staff and employers to maximise the employability of graduates. Over 1,600 students have attended career seminars, CV and interview preparation sessions already this semester. Figures from the recent NUI Galway 2008 Graduate Destinations Survey revealed that the proportion of graduates seeking employment, at only 4%, remained one of the best in Ireland. Details are available on www.nuigalway.ie/careers

Subhóro – Ceol ón Acadamh



Subhóro – Ceol ón Acadamh, dlúthdhiosca nua dúbailte ó chuid de na healaíontóirí is fearr sa tír, le ceannach anois in ionaid Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge ar an gCeathrú Rua, i gCarna, i nGaillimh agus Gaoth Dobhair chomh maith le siopaí áitiúla i gceantar Chonamara ar luach €20. Tá sé ar fáil freisin ó Chló Iar-Chonnachta ag www.cic.ie. Tá chuile eolas faoi na healaíontóirí ar fad maille le focail na n-amhrán agus cúlra thogra Shubhóro ar fáil ar shuíomh idirlín Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge: www.acadamh.ie

Dhéanfadh an dlúthdhiosca seo an-bhronntanas go deo agus thabharfadh sé an-tacaíocht don obair iontach atá ar bun ag Ospidéal Mhuire na Leanai do pháistí Iarthar na hÉireann.

Staff Social Club Christmas Party

The Staff Social Club will hold their annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, 22 December at 5.30pm in the College Bar.

Entertainment on the night will feature Christmas karaoke and spot prizes with hot finger food being served including freshly baked mince pies and mulled wine. This is a free event and is open to all NUI Galway staff. For further information please contact Brid Ryan, Eric Mortimer, or Gráinne Morahan.

e-Knowledge Launch



e-Knowledge was formally launched by the University's President in November. President Browne noted that he had been impressed by the way it was possible to search the Library catalogue, and then transfer seamlessly to a search for journal articles and NUI Galway research publications in ARAN, the University's institutional repository. The President also commented on the fact that the James Hardiman Library was the first in Ireland to adopt this state-of-the-art software, joining an elite group of libraries in the UK and the US, including the British Library, Oxford University and Boston College.

e-Knowledge streamlines the search process for staff and students, from discovery to delivery. The Library has adopted the latest technology so that users are able to quickly locate and obtain accurate, high-quality information.

Paddy Ryan Memorial Lecture

The Paddy Ryan Memorial Lecture, a joint initiative by Galway Chamber, NUI Galway and GMIT to honour the memory of the late Paddy Ryan, will take place on Monday, 18 January, 2010 at 8pm. The guest speaker on the night will be economist Dr Alan Ahearne.

Alumni Awards and Gala Banquet

The 2010 Alumni Awards and Gala Banquet will take place in the Bailey Allen Hall, NUI Galway on Saturday, 6 March, 2010 and ticket bookings can now be placed with Catherine Conroy in the Galway University Foundation.

For online bookings go to www.nuigalway.ie/foundation/events

Information Evenings

NUI Galway is currently hosting a series of Information Evenings around the region. These evenings give prospective students and their parents an opportunity to find out more about NUI Galway.

Representatives from the five colleges as well as current students are on hand to talk to potential students about the wide range of courses available at the University, along with CAO points and possible career paths. Student services are there to talk about fees, accommodation and access programmes.

Already the events have proved popular in Castlebar and Athlone with 150-200 attending both events. A huge crowd also attended the information evening held at Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta in Gaoth Dobhair. Towards the end of January there will be two further Information Evenings in Ennis and Sligo.

Tríocha Bliain ag Fás

Comhghairdeas do Pheadar Nugent ón Leabharlann James Hardiman, atá tar eis an 30ú rith den Maratón Átha Cliath á rith.

Thosaigh Peadar ag rith an rás cáiliúil seo i 1980, agus tá sé de cheann de ocht bhfear is fiche agus bean amháin atá an cáil seo bainte amach acu. Ar an lá roimh an 30ú rás bhí ceiliúradh speisialta dóibh siúd a chríochnaigh na 29 maratón ar ardán Adidas san RDS, agus bronnadh píosa cuimhneacháin de Chríostal Átha Cliath orthu. Chríochnaigh Pheadar an rás ar am, 5 uair 19 nóiméid.

Comhdháil: Litríocht agus Cultúr na Gaeilge

Reáchtáladh comhdháil bhliantúil Roinn na Gaeilge, Comhdháil: Litríocht agus Cultúr na Gaeilge le déanaí. D'oscail an tOllamh Bill Richardson, Ceann Scoil na dTeangacha, na Litríochta agus na gCultúr, an chomhdháil agus chuaigh an t-aitheasc bríomhar a thug sé i bhfeidhm go mór ar an lucht éisteachta. Ba iad William Mahon (Aberystwyth), Meidhbhín Ní Úrdail (UCD) agus Alan Tittle (UCC) na haochainteoirí agus i dteannta na bpríomhléachtaí léadh seacht bpáipéar eile is fiche i gcaitheamh an deireadh seachtaine.

Seoladh Diasa Díograise aistí i gcuimhne ar Mháirtín Ó Briain (Cló Iar-Chonnachta) le linn na comhdhála. Bhí Máirtín ina léachtóir le Nua-Ghailge ó 1979 go dtí gur rug an bás uainn in antráth é sa bhliain 2004. Thug an tOllamh Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh an t-aitheasc seolta leis an bhfuinneamh is dual dó agus is iad Mícheál Mac Craith agus Pádraig Ó Héalaí na heagarthóirí. Thiomsaigh na heagarthóirí sé haiste is fiche ó chomhghleacaithe agus iarscoláirí de chuid Mháirtín don díolaim seo a chuimsíonn gnéithe éagsúla d'oidhreacht Gaeilge, go háirithe sna réimsí sin ab ansa le Máirtín. Ba mhór an chomaoin ar an ócáid go raibh Máirín Ní Bhriain agus a mac Éinne i latháir ag an seoladh.

NTP Time Server Launch

We all understand the need for global time standards but we generally do not appreciate the degree to which clocks in certain domains need to agree or be synchronised. In fact, key infrastructural services such as power, telecommunications and ICT are highly dependent on very precise time keeping, often right down to microseconds (millionths of a second!).

The Discipline of Information Technology at NUI Galway has been providing precise time services to the world since 2002 and have recently launched a new NTP time server. Recent analysis of the old server's traffic load reveals a client base of almost 25,000 spread across the globe with an average of 62,000 requests handled per hour.

For more please see www.it.nuigalway.ie

Chaplain's Christmas Message

The tragic loss of four young women in a single car accident brought to nine the number of students who have died since last January. Their loss, together with the deaths of both active and retired staff, has been a heavy burden for family, colleagues and friends. Many of our staff and students have also had to cope with personal illness or have tended to ailing loved ones. Coupled with the floods and bad weather, the recession and associated economic uncertainty and the recent painful litany of revelations and disclosures, all has made for a sombre December. There may not be much appetite for joy and good cheer this Christmas.

Yet it is not coincidence that Christmas is celebrated around the time of the winter solstice. Long before Christianity, liturgies were created and rituals were enacted in deep mid-winter to counteract and reject the gloom of the short grey days and long black nights which dampen our energy and deaden us. Witness the annual miracle of Newgrange. For five millennia now, as day dawns on 21 December, a pencil-thin but spectacular shaft of glorious dawn sunshine briefly fills the dark inner chamber of the great prehistoric tomb. Light suffuses the place of death.

New Programmes

Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív T.D., recently launched two PhD programmes dealing with minority language issues within the Irish-speaking community. The research programme, run by Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge in conjunction with the School of Health Sciences, is funded through research bursaries from An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (COGG). Students Sarah Anne Muckley and Ciarán Lenoach were awarded the COGG bursaries.

Also recently launched was a PhD programme in Child and Youth Research. The programme, in association with TCD, responds directly to society's need to better understand the lives of children and young people, including those facing significant adversity, and the widely recognised need for evidence-informed policies and practices. As well as developing a whole new cohort of researchers with strong expertise in a wide range of research methods, the programme will produce cutting-edge research tailored to the needs of policy makers and service providers.

The School of Geography also launched a new MA in Environment, Society and Development. In welcoming students to the MA, Programme Director Dr John Morrissey spoke of the pressing global issues of environmental security, geopolitics, neoliberalism and development that are vitally important in our contemporary world. He outlined the MA's central goal to engage these challenges by first critiquing environment-society relations in a variety of contexts before working to develop critical, informed and applied programmes of action that involve bringing knowledge initiatives into the field.

When Christianity came to celebrate the coming of the long-heralded Messiah to a broken world, it did so at this darkest hour of winter, just before the dawn of spring. The light of Christ proclaims justice, truth, integrity and forgiveness for all the world. Celebrating His birth has, ever since, served as an occasion and an opportunity for renewal, for hope, for potential, for promise, for reconciliation, for harmony, for peace.

It has been a hard year for many. But our NUI Galway has not been found wanting. The friendship, generosity, openness, adaptability, compassion and kindness that marks the interaction between all members of our community, student and staff, has been a source of comfort and strength to many within and beyond campus. For that we give thanks. And because of it we can approach the Christmas celebrations with open and giving hearts and with some confidence for 2010. We are told that Christmas is only for the children. This year, we adults might also need to savour it, celebrate it and allow ourselves to be touched by it. The Chaplains wish you and yours a light-filled Christmas.