



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

OLLSCÉALA

Nuachtlitir Foirne – Staff Newsletter – Deireadh Fómhair 2008



New Sports Centre Opens

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...and more!

The new €22 million Sports Centre has opened to students, staff and the general public. The 6,500 sq.m. sports and leisure complex includes a 25 metre 6-lane swimming pool with moveable floor, squash and racquetball courts, a three-court basketball hall, multipurpose studios, a substantial gym and a high-tech climbing wall.

Funding for the new facility came partly from the student body, who voted in 2003 to increase their student levy to support the project. Student membership rates are significantly discounted for this state-of-the-art facility.

Greg Power, Planning and Projects Officer, pointed out the eco-friendly aspects of the structure: "The building incorporates significant 'green energy' initiatives giving it a relatively low carbon footprint. Technology used includes a Combined Heat and Power unit, generating electricity for the facility and recycling the heat for re-use in the building".

The team that worked on the building project included world-renowned architects Faulkner Browns, in conjunction with Holohan Design, and local builders Glenman Corporation. The facility is operated by Kingfisher Fitness Group.

Focal ón Eagarthóir



Fáilte chuig eagrán mí Dheireadh Fómhair.

Our cover story features the new Sports Centre. What a fantastic facility, so well done to all involved. If you have not yet popped in for a look, make sure you do as it is well worth the visit.

The University also applauds the tremendous talent its Olympians displayed during the Olympic Games held in Beijing this summer. Students and alumni competing on track and field were Paul Hession and Olive Loughnane, and from the heavyweight four team rowers Cormac Folan and Alan Martin.

The Open Day was held earlier than usual this year and proved to be a great success (p.4), as was the Volunteering Fair (p.12). The University is to extend the knowledge-economy into the West (p.3) and the President returns with his message (p.7).

The new staff Intranet was launched in August, so log on let us know what you think (p.12).

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

Michelle Ní Chróinín
Eagarthóir

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Slán le...

Professor Ger Hurley's four-year term of office as Vice-President for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs concluded in September. During his time in this role, Ger had a number of significant achievements including the establishment of a very successful International Affairs Office. Ger has also been an excellent ambassador for the University, both internationally and regionally, and has played a key role in the development of the Access Programme, which now boasts seven outreach centres across the country. During his time as Vice-President he has also overseen the restructure of the Alumni and Foundation Offices, and has more recently been responsible for the establishment of a Marketing and Communications function, including the development of the Press and Information Office.

After nearly 17 years of dedicated service as Librarian at the James Hardiman Library, **Marie Reddan** has retired. Marie's contribution to college life included not only the substantial physical developments in the library, which have most recently included a transformed library foyer, but perhaps more importantly in the area of collection development and in particular the extensive development of electronic resources which are now available to staff and students alike. Marie will be remembered for her leadership, vision and especially her focus on customer service. In addition to her local contribution Marie has made many significant contributions to various national and international bodies including HEAnet, SCOUNL and the IUA.

Also recently retired is **Jim Gosling**. After a long and distinguished career in Biochemistry, Jim Gosling was appointed, in 1999, as the Quality Officer. During his time as Quality Officer, Jim led the development of the quality assurance and improvement process in NUI Galway and was also instrumental in its development at a sectoral level. Jim's vision and leadership in this area has ensured a robust and effective quality assurance process. This has resulted in NUI Galway being among the most active of Irish universities with respect to reviews, satisfaction surveys and other activities designed to bring about substantial improvements in the quality of all aspects of the University including teaching, research, administration and services to students, staff and the wider community.

The University wishes to acknowledge the work of these individuals and to wish them health and happiness...

Head of Podiatry Appointed



NUI Galway is pleased to announce that Dr Caroline McIntosh has been appointed as Head of Podiatry. Dr McIntosh will manage the School of Podiatry, which offers the first undergraduate programme available in the State leading to a BSc (Hons) in Podiatry. Over 20 students have been accepted onto the popular new course and will qualify in four years as healthcare professionals specialising in the management of disease and disorders of the lower limb and foot.

Dr McIntosh, originally from Cramlington in Northumberland, UK, joins NUI Galway from the University of Huddersfield. Speaking about her appointment, Dr McIntosh said: "With an ageing population, increasing diabetes and obesity, there is a growing demand for podiatrists in Ireland. Podiatry plays a critical role in managing patient health and quality of life. This is an extremely exciting position for me personally and for this area of the healthcare profession in Ireland".

NUI Galway Extends Knowledge-Economy in Gaeltacht

A new high speed telecommunications network, which will result in high speed broadband services, is being brought to the Galway Gaeltacht as a result of a joint initiative undertaken by NUI Galway, HEAnet and Údarás na Gaeltachta.

The new network, which will be operated by AirSpeed Telecom, will support in excess of 300Mb and will be made available at seven of NUI Galway's Gaeltacht centres and to business users within the Galway Gaeltacht region.

These services, launched by Minister Éamon Ó Cuív T.D. in Áras Uí Chadhain, An Cheathrú Rua will strengthen the University and its academic partners in delivering their core teaching and research mission.

Kieran Loftus, Director of Computer Services, said: "High Speed Networking has featured in NUI Galway campus life for several years, but our presence also extends along the Western seaboard. Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge has centres in locations throughout the Gaeltacht. The marine science research activities of the Martin Ryan Institute at its Carna location will benefit as will those of the Environmental Change Institute at Mace Head in Connemara and Carron in the Burren, Co. Clare. Our knowledge region partner GMIT will also benefit from provision at its sites in Castlebar and Letterfrack".



April Nic Eoin, a current student of the Ard Dioplóma Cumarsáid Fheidhmeach (Higher Diploma in Applied Communications) with Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge.

Kieran Loftus added: "It is not just the University that will benefit from these new services. Our academic partners, in both teaching and research, will be able to access our resources. We hope that our presence will stimulate new and advanced activities in these communities. HEAnet services are being provided in a way which will make it easier to provide services locally, perhaps acting as a catalyst and an enabler for the provision of good broadband services to these rural communities".

Second John McGahern International Seminar

The second John McGahern International Seminar took place during the month of July in Leitrim to commemorate the work and literary achievements of this distinguished author. The opening address, 'John McGahern's Irelands' was given by Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh of the Department of History.

Speaking at the opening address, Professor Tuathaigh said: "It is for his distinction as a writer, mainly of prose fiction, that John McGahern is honoured, and it is as a truly exceptional writer that he will be remembered. Even allowing for the austerity of this dedication to his primary vocation, the full corpus of McGahern's writing also offers a rich representation and a critique of key forces of continuity and change in Irish society (in particular the rural society of the West) in the decades between the 1940s and the early years of this century".

In addition to this year's Seminar, NUI Galway organised an intensive one week International Summer School on John McGahern's work and its contexts. The first volume of the *John McGahern Yearbook* was also launched at the Summer School. The annual hardback volume, compiled and edited by Dr John Kenny of the Department of English, includes contributions from Séamus Heaney, Declan Kiberd, Joseph O'Connor and Belinda McKeon.

To commemorate the 25th International Summer School in Irish Studies (1984-2008), NUI Galway presented each student of the 2008 Summer School with a US first edition of John McGahern's memoir, *All Will Be Well*.

OLLSCÉALA

Open Day Success

The annual Open Day took place recently on campus. Despite the bad weather, thousands of secondary school students from all over Ireland attended along with their parents and teachers.

Caroline Loughnane, Director of Marketing and Communications and one of the organisers of the Open Day, said: "The event was a huge success with record numbers attending. We estimate that in excess of 7,000 visitors attended the Open Day, coming from schools and colleges all over the country. Attendance from Career Guidance Counsellors was the highest ever recorded at our Open Days and feedback from this group indicated that the move from a December Open Day to the earlier October date was a good move.

Open Day is a key event in the recruitment calendar. It provides prospective students with an excellent opportunity to talk to staff and students, find out more about the courses they are interested in, explore the campus and generally get a taste of university".



Pictured at the Open Day were (left-right) Michelle McGee and Maura O'Donoghue, students from St Leo's in Carlow Town, with Dr Chris Williams, an NUI Galway Postdoctoral Fellow based at the Applied Ecology Unit and the Environmental Change Institute.

Wide Range of Conference Topics

NUI Galway hosted a series of conferences recently on a wide range of topics including Irish humour, tax, neuroscience, and the 'Dark Ages'.

Medieval Irish humour and fantasy was the subject of an international event on 12 September. The one-day colloquium, hosted by the University's Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, focused on the classic text *Aislinge Meic Conglinne* or, as it is known in English, *The Vision of Mac Conglinne*.

The Department of Surgery held the 33rd Sir Peter Freyer Memorial Lecture and Surgical Symposium on 5-6 September. Dr Ernest E. Moore, from Denver General Hospital, delivered the annual memorial lecture on the latest trauma surgery techniques.

Intel's senior executive responsible for all government negotiations associated with site selection addressed the 17th Annual Tax Research Network (TRN) Conference which ran from 4-5 September. Nanci Palmintere, Vice-President of Finance and Enterprise and Director of Global Tax and Trade for Intel Corporation, delivered the keynote address at the event which was organised by the Department of Accountancy and Finance.

The latest neuroscience research into diseases including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Multiple Sclerosis was discussed during the 2nd National Meeting of Neuroscience Ireland. The conference took place from 28-29 August, bringing together leading neuroscientists, post-doctoral researchers and graduate students.

The University was also host to the 47th summer conference of the Ecclesiastical History Society. The conference theme this year was *God's Bounty? The Churches and the Natural World*, and over 75 delegates attended the four-day conference.

An international conference on the significant role played by Ireland in the field of mathematics in the Early Middle Ages took place from 18-20 July. Finally, the 2nd International Conference on the Science of Computus attracted leading scholars of Early Medieval scientific knowledge during the period of the so-called 'Dark Ages'.



Pictured at the 17th Annual Tax Research Network (TRN) Conference were: Dr Emer Mulligan, Department of Accountancy and Finance; Dr James J. Browne, President of NUI Galway; Nanci Palmintere, Vice-President of Finance and Enterprise and Director of Global Tax and Trade for Intel Corporation; and Brendan Cannon, Head of Corporate Affairs, Intel Ireland.

Arts in Action

The 2008-2009 Arts in Action programme has been launched. Now in its third year, the programme is designed for undergraduate students by course director Mary McPartlan and includes events and performances in International Theatre, Film, Classical Music, Dance, Traditional Arts, Visual Arts and Irish Language Literature.

Professor Kevin Barry, Dean of Arts, says the programme adds to the student experience: "Creative arts are an important part of education at NUI Galway. The Arts in Action programme, through continued support from professionals within the arts world, enriches the curriculum for students. We are also opening up the possibilities of a future in the creative industries among our students".



Pictured at the Arts in Action Programme launch are musicians Frankie Gavin and Máirtín O'Connor with Professor Kevin Barry, Dean of Arts.

Mental Health Care will Benefit Economy

The Mental Health Commission has published a report - *The Economics of Mental Health Care in Ireland* - prepared by Professor Eamon O'Shea and Brendan Kennelly of the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology and J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, showing the economic benefits of investment in services to deal with mental health problems. Such problems cost the economy over €3 billion a year.

The report also contains economic survey results which show the public would be willing to pay more for community based mental health services. The authors of the report used a well-known technique in economics – a contingent valuation survey – to estimate how much people would be willing to pay in extra taxation for a particular improvement in mental health services. The results from the survey demonstrated that people would be willing to make significant tax contributions to new community-based services for people with mental health problems. However, the survey also found that people tend to value spending on cancer and ageing programmes more than they do mental health care. To download the report, please go to www.mhcirl.ie

Renewable Energy Breakthrough for NUI Galway Researchers

The Power Electronics Research Centre (PERC) at the Department of Electronic Engineering has made a breakthrough in renewable energy by developing emergency power supplies for North Sea Wind Turbines. The underlying basic physical and electrical principles for the development were presented recently at a lecture by Professor Werner Wölfle, Managing Director and head of the design group of Convertec Limited. Convertec develops high reliability power converters for industrial applications and renewable energy systems.

Pictured at the lecture from left: Professor Gearóid Ó Laighin, Head of the Department of Electronic Engineering; Professor Werner Wölfle, Speaker; and Professor Ger Hurley, Director of PERC at the Department of Electronic Engineering.



NUI Galway and Bank of Ireland Launch Affinity Credit Card



Pictured at the launch of the Affinity credit card from left: Tom Forde, Manager, Bank of Ireland University Branch; President of NUI Galway, Dr Jim Browne; and Donal Flynn, Regional Manager, Bank of Ireland.

NUI Galway and Bank of Ireland have launched their new Affinity Credit Card available exclusively to alumni, staff and students which coincides with the renewal of Bank of Ireland's on-campus banking franchise.

Bank of Ireland will make a donation for every credit card account opened as well as contributing a percentage of the annual spend to the Galway University Foundation at no cost to the cardholder, and without disclosing any confidential account details.

For further information and application forms, visit Bank of Ireland, NUI Galway branch or call 091 524555.

Japanese Collaborate with Applied Optics



The commencement of a Collaborative Research and Development Project between Shimadzu Corporation, Japan and the Applied Optics Group was celebrated recently by the visit from Japan of Dr Sumio Kumashiro, Director of Overseas R&D with Shimadzu. The research project team will be under the direction of Professor Chris Dainty. ***Pictured from left: Professor Chris Dainty, Applied Optics; Dr Sumio Kumashiro, Shimadzu; Una Murphy, Applied Optics; and Professor Terry Smith, Vice-President for Research.***

European Awards for Languages

Two NUI Galway projects have been awarded the European Award for Languages - the Language Label for innovative ways of teaching and learning languages. This year's winners were selected on the basis of excellence, innovation, intercultural dialogue and their ability to serve as a model for others.

L'Italia in Diretta was coordinated by Dr Laura Incalcaterra McLoughlin and Dott. Francesca Magnoni of the Department of Italian. This project is aimed at secondary school students and features an interactive website, www.italianliving.org. The website was created by students undertaking the Bachelor of Commerce International (Italian) Degree. Blogs and forums encourage secondary school students to embrace the Italian language and culture through participation in forum discussions and interactive games.

Paul Gormley and Michelle Tooher from CELT were Project Coordinators, for **The National Digital Learning Repository Modern Languages' Community of Practice Blog as a Community Building Medium.**

This blog is a one-stop-shop online space for anyone involved in teaching languages, including literature and culture, in the Irish higher education sector. The project aims to encourage a sense of community and peer support to facilitate the sharing of information and resources by providing an easy to use, dynamic and accessible web space which highlights a range of community news and activities.

The website can be found at www.ndlr.ie/modlang/blog

The awards were presented by Simon Coveney, T.D. at a special celebration to mark the European Day of Languages on 26 September.



Focal ón Uachtarán - Strategic Plan

Shaping our Future

Welcome to the first edition of Ollscéala for the new academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a number of important projects taking place in the University at the moment.

In the last edition in July, I indicated that we would shortly begin a new Strategic Planning process. The University has now entered its third phase of formal Strategic Planning with the development of a new Strategic Plan for the period 2009 – 2014.

The overarching objective of this strategic planning process is to ensure that our University takes its rightful place in the top tier of universities in Ireland and internationally. Over the summer months, I have led the University Management Team in drafting a document which outlines the proposed overall framework for the University's next five-year Strategic Plan. This document is now being released to the University community for input to the planning process.

The proposed timeline to develop the plan suggests that the Colleges, research and support units would produce a first draft of complimentary Strategic plans by the 10th December, 2008, and I will give a progress report to Údarás na hOllscoile at its meeting on the 12th of December. Hopefully, a second draft of plans will be finalised in January 2009. The task of co-ordinating all the data into a Strategic Planning document is expected to be completed during February/March 2009, with the Strategic Plan being presented to Údarás na hOllscoile for approval in April/May 2009.

I expect and encourage all staff to contribute to the development of this plan to the best of your ability.

Quality Review of the University Management Team

In the last edition I also indicated that, following a Quality Review of the University Management Team in November 2007, external consultants were engaged to assist the University in developing responses and an implementation

plan in the areas of, inter alia, the role and structure of the University Management Team, its relationship with Údarás na hOllscoile, particularly with its committees, and its relationship with the senior management of the University, both academic and support.

This analysis, which has been ongoing throughout the summer months, is assessing international best practice in the sector and, where gaps have been identified, clear proposals are being drawn up and an outline implementation plan will be proposed. The process involved inputs, both on a one-to-one and on a workshop basis, from a broad range of stakeholders in the University.

The consultants will make an interim presentation on the key findings and initial conclusions and recommendations to Údarás na hOllscoile at its meeting on the 12th December, 2008. The final written report will be presented to the new Údarás na hOllscoile in February, 2009. The outcome of this review is important for the implementation of the new Strategic Plan.

University Rankings

You may be aware that both the Sunday Times Good University Guide and the Times Higher World University Rankings have been published in recent weeks. I am pleased to report that NUI Galway has either secured or improved its position in these League Tables and that the time we invested in ensuring the accuracy of the data we submitted to these influential rankings was well spent.

In the Sunday Times League Table we were ranked fifth in Ireland and performed well across a range of measures. Interestingly, I feel that this table represents a more accurate picture of the Irish Universities. All seven of the Irish Universities scored highly across a range of five criteria and are separated from each other by very small margins in terms of overall scoring. However, the sixth criterion, research income per member of academic staff, proved to be a key differentiator and one in which NUI Galway performed relatively poorly, which ultimately resulted in our fifth place position.

In the Times Higher World University Ranking we made considerable gains, jumping 116 places from 484th to 368th in the world. Trinity was in 49th place followed by UCD (108th), UCC (226th) and DCU (302nd). This result represents a considerable step in the right direction and I was particularly pleased to see that we have improved our performance across all criteria including the Employer Review and the Peer Review. I would also like to congratulate colleagues in the Life Sciences and Biomedicine area who were ranked 260th in the world in the subject tables. This is a very good result and a fitting acknowledgement of the excellent research taking place in this field.

Overall, there remains considerable room for improvement, particularly in the area of research citations, and I am anxious to see us move further up this table next year.

We have identified serious issues in relation to both the staff/student ratio calculations and the mapping of citations for NUI Galway and are working to resolve these issues. In addition, I would encourage all research staff to ensure you are using the correct affiliation data when publishing.

Open Day

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who took part in the recent Undergraduate Open Day. The event was a huge success with record numbers attending and visitors provided with a very positive and engaging experience. Attendance from Career Guidance Counsellors was the highest ever recorded at our Open Days and feedback from Counsellors on the day indicated that the move from a December Open Day to the earlier October date was a good move.

With every good wish for the rest of the Semester.

Beir bua agus beannacht,

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

A dedicated email address has been set up to enable you to submit your thoughts on the new Strategic Plan: shapingourfuture@nuigalway.ie

Further information on the Strategic planning process can be found on the Intranet at: <http://intranet.nuigalway.ie/strategicplanning/>

Film Students Win Award



Students of the M.A. in Production and Direction at the Huston School of Film & Digital Media have won the Best Short Documentary prize at the Radharc Awards in Dublin. Producer Richard Walsh from Ballybunion, County Kerry, and Director Julian Ulrichs from Galway City, received the award for their short documentary 'F.G.M. - No Way Home'.

The documentary deals with the issue of female genital mutilation in relation to African refugees in Ireland. The documentary team travelled to Africa to film some of the footage and the resulting piece is a hard-hitting yet sensitive exploration of the cultural and legal aspects surrounding the issue of female genital mutilation, a subject which has hit the headlines in Ireland of late.

The short documentary was based on a brief proposed by students of the M.A. in Public Advocacy, who collaborate with Production and Direction students every year to deliver incisive films addressing societal issues.

Fellowship Awarded

Dr Gerard Flaherty, Lecturer in Medical Education and Clinical Skills, has recently been awarded Membership of the European College of Sports and Exercise Physicians and Fellowship of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Dr Flaherty lectures on the M.Sc. in Sports and Exercise Medicine, which is directed by Dr Aideen Henry, who is herself a Foundation Fellow of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine. Dr Flaherty is also an active Member of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine (UK). Gerard is the proud uncle of NUI Galway student and Olympic sprinter, Paul Hession, who is on a break from his medical studies to train full-time with his coach in Edinburgh.

Radiologist Elected Dean

Professor Peter McCarthy has been elected Dean of the Faculty of Radiologists at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The Faculty is the body responsible for the education and training of Radiologists, as well as professional issues concerning our discipline. This is only the fourth time the Dean has been from outside a Dublin Hospital and only the second time a Galway based radiologist has been the Dean (Dr Bill McHugh in 1967 was the last).

Funding Award for MS Research

Dr Una Fitzgerald, Principal Investigator Multiple Sclerosis and Stroke Research Group at the NCBES, has recently obtained €500,000 from a private donor and will fund a senior postdoctoral researcher (Dr Jill McMahon) for a period of five years, with the specific aim of developing a model of brain cell degeneration during MS.

This support is having a significant impact on the newly-developed MS and Stroke Research group in the NCBES and follows on from Aoife Ní Mháille's successful receipt of an Irish Institute of Clinical Neuroscience travel scholarship to the Mayo Clinic (taken up from September to November of 2007), where she worked on signaling pathways activated during MS. The funded research also complements that being carried out by Dr Paula Cunnea, a visiting scientist from QUB and SFI-funded PhD student Honorata Kraskiewicz, who is researching the death of brain cells following a stroke.

Dementia Study

The Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG) has been awarded a grant of €300,000 from the Health Research Board to undertake a study on "The impact of a Dementia Education Reminiscence Programme for Staff on the agitated behaviours of residents with dementia, their quality of life and on staff attitudes towards residents with dementia and perceived care burden". The project will be led by Professor Eamon O'Shea, Director of the ICSG and Professor Kathy Murphy from the School of Nursing and Midwifery. The award continues the successful collaboration between ICSG and the School of Nursing and Midwifery that has resulted in a number of successful grants and publications on ageing in recent years.

Widespread Health Inequality among School Children in Ireland

The extent of health inequalities among children in Ireland has been revealed by a report released by the Health Promotion Research Centre. This is the second national report from the Irish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Study "Inequalities in Health among School-aged Children in Ireland".

Focusing on children from 5th class to 5th year, this is the first time, patterns in health, health behaviour and wellbeing among - children from the Travelling Community, immigrant children, children with disabilities and chronic illnesses, and children in disadvantaged schools - have been studied in comparison to other children.

Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn of the Health Promotion Research Centre, said: "This is a landmark report which challenges our assumptions in relation to inequality and diversity in Ireland. We knew there were inequalities in health among adults but it was thought that children were more equal - this is simply not the case. Some groups of children are having a more difficult time than others, and this is an issue for all of us".

The HBSC Ireland study has been based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, NUI Galway since 1994 and all reports and articles are available for download from www.nuigalway.ie/hbcs

Amnesty Head Visits Campus



Dr Kathleen Cavanaugh and Irene Zubaida Khan

The head of Amnesty International, Irene Zubaida Khan, delivered a public lecture recently entitled 'At sixty, is it time for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to retire?' Irene Khan was appointed Secretary General of Amnesty International in 2001, becoming the first woman, Asian and Muslim to lead the human rights organisation.

The event was hosted by the Irish Centre for Human Rights. Dr Kathleen Cavanaugh, a lecturer with the Centre, says Irene Khan is an inspiring individual: "She brings with her a wealth of experience, both personal and professional, which has helped to shape and direct the movement. There are huge challenges facing the human rights regime in the wake of the so-called 'war on terror'. Despite early criticisms, Irene was steadfast in her arguments that international civil society must not be consumed by the politics of fear, and she has led Amnesty's efforts to recapture this human rights versus security debate".

Raindrop Research to Inform Climate Change Predictions

Dr Colin O'Dowd and a team of leading international experts have made a major breakthrough in understanding the effect of air pollution and climate change on precipitation and propose a new theory explaining why atmospheric aerosol pollution plays a dichotomous role in increasing and suppressing rainfall under different levels of pollution. Their results are essential to providing an improved understanding of how air pollution and climate change will influence flood and drought patterns in the future.

The high-profile article '*Flood or Drought: How do Aerosols Affect Precipitation?*' was recently published in the international journal, *Science*. The article explains how, in order for clouds to form, there must be sufficient water vapour in the atmosphere to produce supersaturated vapour fields, and there must be nuclei for the vapour to condense on in order to form cloud droplets.

According to Dr O'Dowd, Director of the Centre for Climate and Air Pollution Studies at the Environmental Change Institute, and Senior Lecturer with the School of Physics: "What this research shows, in very simple terms, is that air pollution not only dramatically effects the type of rain that falls but ultimately how much and where. The smaller type of raindrop being formed when pollution is a factor effectively 'heats up' the cloud system leading to changing weather patterns. This research will lead to a better understanding of and predictions regarding climate change".

Lecture by Knighted Historian



Pictured from left Professor Jim Ward, Registrar; Lorraine McIlrath, CKI; and Professor Sir David Watson

Professor Sir David Watson, historian and Professor of Higher Education Management at the University of London recently delivered a lecture entitled "The Pearl of Learning: Historical Perspectives on University-Community Engagement" as part of the CKI lecture series.

An accomplished author, Watson's most recent books are *Managing Civic and Community Engagement (2007)*, and *The Dearing Report: ten years on (2007)*. His current project is a book on 'morale' in universities. Having contributed widely to developments in UK Higher Education, he was knighted in 1998 for services to higher education.

Award for Global Health Book

Dr Diarmuid O'Donovan, Senior Lecturer in Social and Preventive Medicine and Director of Public Health with HSE West, has been awarded two prizes by the British Medical Association for his book *The Atlas of Health: Mapping the Challenges and Causes of Disease*. The book charts recent and emerging trends to show how health, poverty and human rights are inextricably linked - and how inequalities are both avoidable and unsustainable.

The Atlas of Health was awarded the British Medical Association (BMA) Medical Book award for Public Health. It was also chosen from the winners of all the short-listed books in all award categories for the BMA Board of Science Award for the Public Understanding of Science.

Channel 4's Jon Snow, who reviewed the book, said: "Brilliant and original, this vividly informative book gives an incredibly holistic account of how our planet is divided by health and wealth, and generates another route into understanding the nature of our supposedly globalised world."

Nuacht ó Scoil na Gaeilge

Bhuaigh foireann agus mic léinn Scoil na Gaeilge duaiseanna i gcomórtais liteartha Oireachtas na Gaeilge a fógraíodh mí Dheireadh Fómhair. Bronnadh duais €1,000 ar an leabhar *TG4@10: Deich mBliana de TG4/Ten Years of TG4* (Cló Iar-Chonnachta) sa chomórtas 'Cur chun cinn na Gaeilge'. B'iad an Dr John Walsh agus an tOllamh Gearóid Denvir, Scoil na Gaeilge, a chuir an leabhar in eagar i gcomhar leis an Dr Eithne O'Connell ó Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath. Bailiúchán aistí ar TG4 atá sa leabhar, a bunaíodh ar chomhdháil ar an gceist a réachtáladh in Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh, dhá bhliain ó shin.



ó chlé An tOllamh Gearóid Denvir, an Dr John Walsh, an Dr Eithne O'Connell le Donnchadh Ó hAodha, Uachtarán an Oireachtais 2008

Chomh maith leis sin, bhuaigh an Dr John Walsh, Scoil na Gaeilge duais €1,000 i gcomórtas na pleanála teanga dá aiste 'Fál ar an nGort tar éis na Foghla? Reachtaíocht Teanga agus Athneartú Teanga in Éirinn'.

Bhuaigh Meadhbh Ní Eadhra, atá sa dara bliain den chéim BA sa Ghaeilge €3,000 dá húrscéal *Bláth Fiáin* sa chomórtas 'Ficsean do Dhaoine Óga'. Bhuaigh Niamh Seoighe, atá sa chéad bhliain, duais €200 i gcomórtas filíochta Sheáin Uí Ríordáin dá dán *Ainbheithíoch*.

Chomh maith leis na duaiseanna seo le déanaí bhronn Foras na Gaeilge €70,000 ar thionscadal áiseanna teagaisc Gaeilge a bhunaigh an Dr John Walsh.

Bronnadh an t-airgead sin ar an Meitheal um Theagasc na Gaeilge ar an Tríú Leibhéal. Tá ionadaithe ó ollscoileanna agus institiúidí tríú leibhéal páirteach sa Mheitheal seo.

In Brief

● Observatory Open Nights

Staff open nights at the Imbusch Observatory in Dangan began on 1 October and will continue on 5 November and 3 December at 7pm. An informative hour-long lecture will be followed by a hands-on viewing of the sky by night, weather permitting.

The observatory is equipped with a modern computer controlled 16" telescope and camera, and a radio telescope with a hydrogen line spectrometer, able to map out and measure the velocity of the sun, the Milky Way, and a number of bright sources. There is also a 10" portable telescope - also computer controlled - for visual observations of planets, star clusters, nebulae, and other bright objects.

Numbers are limited and admission is strictly by ticket only, on a first come first served basis. All bookings are by email and those interested should send requests to info@nuigalway.ie

● The Given Note

A major study on the relationship of traditional Irish music and song to modern Irish poetry was recently launched in NUI Galway. Written by Seán Crosson, a PhD graduate of the Centre for Irish Studies in NUI Galway, *"The Given Note": Traditional Music and Modern Irish Poetry* combines an innovative analysis of theoretical work in music and literary studies with an informative overview of the historical relationship between poetry and music (including the related song tradition) in Ireland.

The book is available from Charlie Byrne's bookshop, Middle Street, Galway; the University bookshop, through the publishers at www.c-s-p.org and from www.amazon.co.uk

● Talks on Civic Space

Writer in Residence at the Department of English, Mary O'Malley will offer a series of four public talks on the topic of Civic Space. Artist Aideen Barry started the programme with a talk on public art while Miles Kennedy will give a presentation on the Poetics of Space. Valerie Ledwith, a human geographer with special interest in the geography of social and demographic change, will discuss the link between housing and social stratification and the implications of such planning. The well known film maker and mountaineer Dermot Somers will discuss wilderness and the city, and after a short presentation the issues arising will be open to the floor.

Other speakers to feature throughout the programme include: Irish playwright Marina Carr; poets Sinéad Morrissey and Maurice Riordan; and writer Peter Sirr. The sessions will be chaired by Mary O'Malley and Dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies, Professor Kevin Barry.

All readings, discussions and workshops are free and open to the public, particularly those with an interest in community work, planning and the future shape of Galway city. For further information please call 091-495610.

● Work-life Balance

Minister for Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív T.D. recently launched the publication *Work-Life Balance: Policies & Initiatives in Irish Organisations* by researchers at the Centre for Innovation and Structural Change (CISC). The new publication from Oak Tree Press is written by Dr Alma McCarthy and Geraldine Grady, CISC; Dr Colette Darcy at the National College of Ireland; and Dr Melrona

Kirrane at Dublin City University. The book is one of the outputs from a two-year Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) grant-funded project at the Centre for Innovation and Structural Change.



From left Dr Willie Golden, Director of CISC; Dr Alma McCarthy, CISC; Éamon Ó Cuív, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs; Geraldine Grady, CISC; and Dr Colette Darcy, National College of Ireland.

● DERI Competition

The Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) is running a unique competition in conjunction with boards.ie, Ireland's largest discussion forum site. The competition is an open contest in which entrants can win over €4000 in prizes by submitting an interesting creation based on a data set of discussion posts from boards.ie. The data reflects ten years of Irish online life, collected from between 1998 and 2008. To enter the competition, go to <http://data.sioc-project.org> to access the data sets and guidelines. There will be three prizes for the top entries: first prize is an Amazon voucher for €2500; second prize is a voucher for €1250; and third prize is a voucher for €625. One person may make multiple entry submissions. The closing date for entry is 31 October, 2008.

Volunteering Fair a Roaring Success



Pictured from left: Mary O'Riordan, Vice-President for Student Services and Human Resources; Mayor of Galway City, Pádraig Conneely; Lorraine Tansey, ALIVE Coordinator; John Hannon, Head of Career Development Centre; and Engineering student Padraic Harley, who volunteered as Town Crier for the day.

Over 2,000 NUI Galway staff and students attended the largest ever Volunteering Fair and Community Showcase. Sixty-five local, national and international organisations were on campus to share their work, recruit volunteers and highlight the third sector. Stands included: Renmore Scouts, Garda Reserve, Positive Mental Health, Simon Community, Civil Defence, Ballinfoile Youth Development Project and Voluntary Services International.

A first-year Engineering student Padraic Harley, volunteered as Town Crier and really drew the crowds down to the Fair from all over campus. One organisation Children in Hospital Ireland, which enables volunteers to play with young people in UCHG, had 85 students sign-up on the day.

Lorraine Tansey, Student Volunteer Coordinator, said after the event: "We were thrilled with the response from the community and the energy of the students. There is a real eagerness to connect from both sides. Students benefit enormously from volunteering locally, with career and life experience, skills and confidence development and the opportunity to make a difference while having fun and making friends. Likewise, the community benefit from their energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn".

Notes from the Press and Information Office

Intranet

To tune in to the University's newest communications channel visit <http://intranet.nuigalway.ie> and log in using your standard login credentials. For Computer Services users this is "acdomain\your userid". MIS users can log in using "misdomain\your username". If you have any difficulty logging in, please contact the helpdesks for Computer Services or MIS.

Dialann

All information for Dialann should now be submitted via the Intranet (see access instructions above). To add an item, click on <http://intranet.nuigalway.ie/Lists/Events/calendar.aspx>

Logo

Guidelines on the use of the NUI Galway Corporate Logo are available at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/vp/siea/corp.html>

Image Library

The online image library, which contains photographs that have been approved for use in University promotional and marketing material, http://www.nuigalway.ie/vp/siea/internal/online_imagelib.html

University name

Please note that the University title is '**National University of Ireland, Galway**'.

The only official abbreviation of that title is '**NUI Galway**'.

Is é teideal na hOllscoile ná 'Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh'.

Is é an t-aon ghiorrú oifigiúil den teideal sin ná 'OÉ Gaillimh'.

Please forward any comments and feedback to: michelle.níchróinín@nuigalway.ie