



Artist's impression of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Building currently under construction adjacent to the James Hardiman Library.

€60m Award in PRTL I 5

NUI Galway named in top three universities to secure research funding.

NUI Galway was named in the top three big winners, securing over €60 million in research funding under PRTL I Cycle 5 - the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions - announced in July.

The NUI Galway projects funded include three new world-class research facilities, an Arts, Humanities & Social Science Research Building and two buildings dedicated to Biomedical Science Research, with a combined cost of €50m.

The Arts, Humanities & Social Science Research Building will provide a unique research environment to transform Galway's rich cultural resources into social and economic opportunity. The new facility will be a national and international resource that integrates research and training in the Humanities, Digital Cultures, Creative Industries, Business, Social Sciences, Rights, Advocacy, and Public Policy.

Funded under the theme of 'Advancing Medicine through Discovery', two new buildings for medical science research will enable NUI Galway to build on its existing strength in the biomedical sciences area, established through its National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES). The proposed infrastructure consists of two new facilities, a Biosciences Research Building on the main campus, and a Translational Research Facility that will house basic, translational and clinical research teams on the site of Galway University Hospital.

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OLLSCÉALA



Focal ón Eagarthóir

Fáilte go eagrán mí Dheireadh Fómhair d'Ollscéala

It was with great sadness we learnt of the passing of one of our graduates in August. Mick Lally (*BA 1969, HDip in Ed 1970, Honorary MA 1999*) was known and loved by those within and outside the world of Irish theatre and we will remember him fondly. Ar dhéis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Our cover story this autumn features the huge success NUI Galway had with the recent PRTLTI research funding awards. As a continuation to this story we have a feature on the overall development currently ongoing throughout the campus with Projects and Planning Officer Greg Power (p.5).

You can read about Melanie Hennessy (p.3), an NUI Galway student who has been named in the Top 10 'Outstanding Young Persons of the World', a huge endorsement of the volunteering activity on campus and we extend our hearty congratulations to her.

The President's message is in p.7, and the student and staff awards are on p.8.

The NUI Galway Boat Club defended their title at the National Rowing Championships (p.12) and you can also read about recent research activity on page 12.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Sinéad Ní Neachtain who will be Acting Press & Information Officer and *Ollscéala* Editor for the next few months while I am on maternity leave. Sinéad can be contacted via email sinead.nineachtain@nuigalway.ie or on Ext. 3542.

Slán tamall

Michelle Ní Chróinín
Eagarthóir

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Dean of Science

Professor Tom Sherry has been appointed Dean of Science in succession to Dr Gerry Morgan. Tom has been on the staff at NUI Galway since late 1979, initially in the Department of Mathematical Physics and latterly in the School of Mathematics, Statistics & Applied Mathematics. Tom served a term as Head of Mathematical Physics from September 2005 to August 2008. In addition, during the 2008-2009 academic year Tom served as Head of Applied Mathematics and as Deputy Head of School.

Tom has engaged in research in Theoretical High Energy Physics in collaboration with colleagues within Ireland, Canada, USA and Japan and has published over 60 articles in international scientific research journals.



Liverpool FC



Michael D Higgins, Galway United President; Steven Irwin, Reserve Team Captain, Liverpool FC; President Browne; Rhys Meynell, Galway United; and John McMahon, Reserve Team Head Coach, Liverpool FC at the NUI Galway reception for Liverpool FC, which used the University training facilities ahead of the Liverpool XI versus Galway United match at Terryland in August.

€60m Award in PRTLTI 5 *contd. From pg 1*

In a major boost to graduate education, the University also received funding to lead two new structured PhD programmes, with a combined cost of €7m. A new Biomedical Engineering and Regenerative Medicine graduate education programme, which includes international and Medical Devices industry partners, will train graduates to be R&D and product development leaders in industry.

A second PhD programme in clinical and translational biomedical research will focus on patient and disease-oriented research and aims to produce scientists trained to translate discoveries into clinical and commercial application.

NUI Galway is also a partner in several other funded projects including a Digital Arts and Humanities structured PhD programme, which is linked to the new Arts, Humanities & Social Science Research Building.

UNESCO Partnership



Pictured (l-r): Sean Campbell, CEO Foróige; President Browne; Alan Kerins, Alan Kerins Projects; Minister of State with special responsibility for Overseas Development, Peter Power T.D.; Professor Pat Dolan, UNESCO Chair in Children Youth and Civic Engagement at the Child and Family Research Centre.

A partnership between the UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement at the Child and Family Research Centre, Foróige, and Alan Kerins Projects, was launched this summer by the Minister of State with special responsibility for Overseas Development, Peter Power T.D.

Through the work of Professor Pat Dolan, the UNESCO Chair in Children Youth and Civic Engagement, the overarching aim of this

partnership is to further the long-standing commitment of UNESCO to address the challenges facing youth and to foster young people's participation in the development of their societies, with an initial focus on Zambia where each organization has well-established links. As a first step the partnership intends to initiate a pilot project in the Kaoma district in the Western Province of Zambia targeting youth affected by HIV/AIDS. The partnership will encompass activities across the core areas of the Chair's work which includes research, teaching, policy, advocacy and programme development.

Protein Identified which Helps Cancer Cells to Survive Stressful Conditions

Professor Afshin Samali, Head of the Department of Biochemistry, and his team have made a discovery that could lead to the development of more effective treatments for a number of diseases. They have shown that a protein produced when cells are stressed interacts with a stress sensor allowing cells to survive conditions of intense stress. Understanding this interaction may help scientists interfere with cancer cells so they can no longer survive exposure to stressful conditions. These findings were published this summer in the online, open access journal PLoS Biology.

Healthy cells are not usually under stress, but unhealthy cells, such as cancer cells, are often under considerable stress because they grow rapidly in places where they are not supposed to grow. When a cell is under these stressful conditions, the stress protein Hsp70 is activated to help the cell.

Professor Samali commented: "Our results have identified a novel protein-protein interaction that helps cancer cells to survive stressful growth conditions. By interfering with this interaction we hope to develop a new class of anticancer drugs. This work was funded by Science Foundation Ireland and will have a significant impact on cancer research and drug design".

Student Named in Top 10 'Outstanding Young Persons of the World'

NUI Galway student Melanie Hennessy has been selected by the Junior Chamber International as one of their 2010 JCI Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World. JCI honours 10 outstanding people under the age of 40 each year and Melanie will receive her award in the category of Humanitarian and/or Voluntary Leadership.



Melanie, a 21 year-old medical student, has helped set up a school in Nepal. She also established her own University society, Draíocht, to generate funds to build an orphanage for the children of Nepal where she is currently working on improving the lives of these children. She also set up another charity TEAM Nepal, which she runs with a friend. After her initial nomination by NUI Galway earlier this year, Melanie was named as one of Ireland's Outstanding Young People of the Year, before being selected as a 2010 JCI Outstanding Young Person of the World.

Speaking about Melanie's achievement, President Browne, said: "Through her activities as a dedicated humanitarian and an advocate for the welfare and

protection of orphans in Nepal, Melanie has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to volunteering activities. As a medical student at NUI Galway, her studies and her voluntary work show a real concern with improving human suffering. Melanie, in her fundraising work and in her efforts to improve the medical and social conditions of children in Nepal, has shown a commendable energy and talent for social action and I would like to congratulate her on this tremendous achievement".

Melanie and the nine other awardees will be recognised at a special ceremony at the JCI World Congress in Osaka, Japan this November.

Stress and Anxiety Conference

CROLS hosted the 31st World Conference of the Stress and Anxiety Research Society (STAR). Over 250 researchers explored applied and experimental research on stress and anxiety, focusing on social, political and policy related aspects of major world events such as terrorism, natural disasters, global warming and worldwide economic recession. The keynote speakers included Professor Michael Eysenck, UK, who is renowned for his research in memory and cognition, and Professor Charles D. Spielberger from Florida.

Geography and Archaeology Events

The School of Geography and Archaeology hosted a number of events. The First Annual Symposium on Environment, Society and Development, "Geographing the Future", gave an insight into alternatives to various geo-political, social, economic and environmental processes that shape the world we live in.

A conference entitled "People, Places and Memory", was supported by the Irish Post Medieval Archaeology Group (IPMAG). It was the first time that cutting-edge research by postgraduate students on early modern Ireland, c.1550-1800 was showcased here at NUI Galway.

An international conference on "Contemporary Labour Migration", explored the socio-economic and political context of recent labour migration due to the international recession, and the issues surrounding it. It was attended by geographers and demographers from Finland, Ireland, Latvia, the UK and the USA and was supported by the Royal Geography Society, the Institute of British Geographers and Population Commission of International Geography Union.

Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science

The Annual Irish Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science Conference (AICS) was addressed by Professor Scott Kelso, an Irish-born neuroscientist working in the USA, and Professor Ulrik Brandes of Germany, who are both very distinguished in the field.

Sir Peter Freyer Memorial Lecture and Surgical Symposium

Hosted by the discipline of Surgery, the Memorial Lecture was this year delivered by Dr Patrick Boland, a specialist in malignant and benign tumours of the bone. He is a senior member of the Orthopaedic Service Department of Surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre, New York. Other speakers included Mr Brendan Moran, Colorectal Director and Consultant Surgeon in North Hampshire, UK.

Inaugural School of Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy

ICHR, in conjunction with the Huston School of Digital Media, hosted a school for professionals in the film, documentary, Non-Governmental Organisations and the media sector. Participants had an opportunity to widen their horizons in relation to the use of film and video advocacy as an instrument for enhancing human rights awareness on critical social, political and environmental issues. The four-day course was well attended by human rights activists, filmmakers and interested students from Ireland and around the world.

John Mc Gahern International Seminar

This year's theme of the John McGahern International Seminar organised in conjunction with Leitrim County Council was "Literature and Education". The keynote speaker for the event was The Irish Times journalist, Fintan O' Toole. The seminar was designed for advanced level students and researchers who are interested in the writings of John McGahern and his life and times in 20th Century Ireland

Soccer Partnership Conference

Over 160 coaches, community personnel and students came together in an initiative in conjunction with Galway City Partnership, Galway District League, the FAI and NUI Galway. The aim was to forge links between sports clubs and the wider community and this pilot event was very successful.

NUI Galway's Ryan Institute

A merger was recently completed of the former Environmental Change Institute and Martin Ryan Marine Science Institute. Dr Colin Brown, formerly Senior Lecturer in Earth and Ocean Sciences, now Director of the Institute, took up the merger challenge in April 2009. His approach to the merger was structured around a study of the research funding environment and broad consultation with Institute stakeholders, including administrators, researchers and affiliates. Six priority research areas emerged which are aligned with current trends in environmental, marine, and energy (PRAs) research. Two deputy directors, Professors Mark Johnson and Vincent O'Flaherty, and a restructured suite of institute services, will support the Director's mission to establish vibrant research activity across the PRAs by 2013. Researchers from science, engineering, medicine and social science have all committed to drive a trans-college research agenda within the Ryan Institute, for economic and societal gain.

Dr Brown commented: "I recognise the environmental and energy challenges that we face in the next decade. The context of economic insecurity and increasing competition for natural resources requires solutions based on integrated scientific, technical and socio-economic research. We are lucky to have a team of internationally-recognised researchers and highly-motivated graduates, supported with excellent facilities, to interact in creative ways with the private sector, state agencies and the general public."

An official launch for the new institute is currently being planned and will be announced soon. For more information on the Ryan Institute visit <http://www.ryaninstitute.ie>.

Building for the Future - Capital Projects

Planning and Projects Officer Greg Power is part of the Buildings Office team that oversees the construction of new buildings in NUI Galway. There are many projects underway at the moment and Greg is very aware of how it impacts people on the ground. "Each person on campus has turned into a direct customer now. The current diversions for pedestrians throughout the University mean that the construction works are impacting on most individuals as they move around and it is a challenge to ensure that minimum inconvenience occurs. Most people are understanding when they know work is ongoing and they know how to get from A to B".

The diversions around campus have been fully signposted, but an unexpected challenge has occurred for Greg and his colleagues in this regard too. "We endeavour to make signage for diversions very clear from the outset, but bizarrely, the signs go missing. It has even been necessary for us to start producing signs in our office rather than outsourcing them, because they need to be replaced so often. Missing signs give a poor impression".

The capital projects underway at the moment are numerous and exciting. A "Research Bundle" of three buildings is underway, which includes a Biosciences Research Building on the North Campus, and an Arts, Humanities & Social Science Research Building next to the Hardiman library. A Translational Research Building and the Clinical Research Facility, combined into the one building



Greg Power, Planning and Projects Officer in conversation with Julie O'Leary.

at UHG, completes the trio. These purpose built research centres are due to be finished at various stages throughout 2011. There is also an extension being built onto the area of the Arts/Science Building occupied by the Bank of Ireland, and lots of important internal upgrades and utilities projects.

"The new Engineering Building is the single biggest project ever undertaken by NUI Galway. It is a 'mega-project' for us, and one that is very exciting to be involved in. It has a fantastic design and over 300 people involved in its construction", says Greg as he speaks about the new home for five engineering disciplines that will come together under the one roof in September 2011.

As well as these projects there are plans for further developments in the near future, including the Life Course Institute on North Campus which will bring together the Child and Family Research Centre, the Centre for Disability Law and Policy and the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology. Other projects in this category are a Human Biology

Building, a new underpass for the Quincentennial Bridge and an extension to the Arts Millennium Building.

Greg also has responsibility for parking on campus. "The issue of parking is a very emotive one, and we appreciate why. It is exceptionally difficult to satisfy the majority of people on this issue, and it always will be". Greg explains that the Park and Ride at Dangan is underutilised by staff and students, "We no longer have a capacity issue – it is about proximity of parking-space to work-place now. We have enough spaces and there are empty ones in that car park every day. We work in a busy city location; staff and students have the choice to use the facility and review their travel plan", he comments.

Greg feels this is an exciting time for the University. "Dirt, dust and noise will surround us for a while yet, but I relish seeing the progress as we continue to build a world-class campus that will continue to attract students, researchers and visitors to NUI Galway for generations to come".

First Year Student Hotline Launched

The hotline was set up for students, their parents and their advisers and was open for calls from mid-August to the end of September. The initiative, the first of its kind, was specially designed to help incoming first-year students make the transition to third-level education.

A team of specially-trained staff and students serviced the hotline which was available to coincide with the period of frantic activity and decision making that immediately follows the release of the Leaving Certificate Results.

A new designated website for first years was also created and updated on a daily basis detailing the information sought and fed through the new hotline aimed at demystifying the first few weeks of university life.

Pictured at the launch of the First Year Student Hotline are student advisers Emer Henderson and Rory Gavin.



MOU with Wake Forest Institute



Pictured at the signing of the MOU front row (l-r): Professor Jim Ward, Registrar and Professor David Williams, WFIRM. Back row (l-r): Professor Abhay Pandit, NFB; Professor Timothy O'Brien, REMEDI; and Colm O'Dowd, NFB.

The Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB) and the Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI) have formally signed an MOU with Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine (WFIRM), one of the leading institutes in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine in the USA.

The agreement facilitates the establishment of student and faculty exchanges, research collaborations and the co-development of any specific tissue engineering and regenerative medicine-related projects which may have academic, clinical and commercial implications.

Balfour Album On-line



Pictured is the Irish Field Club Union with English friends landing at Aranmore, July 1895. It was the first excursion arranged to take advantage of the new railway.

The Balfour Album, from the archival holdings of the James Hardiman Library, has recently received a new lease of life thanks to a collaboration between Library staff in Special Collections and the Digital Repository Librarian.

Information and digital copies of images from the album are available at <http://archives.library.nuigalway.ie:8080/balfour/>, and the new resource recently formed the centre-piece of an exhibition in the foyer of the Library to mark National Heritage Week.

The Balfour Album of photographs was originally created in 1893-1895 by the Belfast

photographer, Robert John Welch. It was a gift to the former Chief Secretary for Ireland, Arthur J. Balfour, in recognition of his support for the building of the Galway-Clifden Railway. The album was presented to Arthur Balfour in the summer of 1896, a year after the railway had opened. It remained in the property of the Balfour family until 1987, when the then Earl of Balfour offered to sell it to the National Library of Ireland. Staff at the National Library felt that it more properly belonged in Galway, and it was accordingly offered to the Librarian of the James Hardiman Library, who purchased it for the collection.

Arts in Action

The 2010/2011 'Arts in Action' Programme, which invites students to engage with the creative arts during their studies has been launched. Aimed at students across the campus, 'Arts in Action' offers access to a variety of international-standard arts events throughout the academic year.

New additions and highlights this year include an exhibition from the Architectural Association of Ireland, an NUI Galway/Telegael digital media exhibition and a contemporary opera from the Italian ensemble Gatto Marte.

Mary McPartlan, Director of the 'Arts in Action' Programme, explains: 'Arts in Action' is an original and unique programme which has now become part of the University's academic schedule. Its core commitment is to make creative arts of international standards of excellence available through embedding the arts into the academic life of the student".

Eleven Summer Student Scholarships for Health Research

Eleven research students were recently awarded Summer Student Scholarships by the Health Research Board (HRB). The aim of the HRB Summer Student Scholarships is to encourage an interest in health research and to give students an opportunity to become familiar with the research process, research techniques and methodologies through conducting a summer project.

Nine of the NUI Galway awardees are from the College of Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery: Catherine O'Connor, Maria Costello, Blathnaid Murphy, Caitriona Fahy, Brid Reale, Kate Fitzpatrick, Ruairi Irwin, Nicola Kavanagh, and Andrew Carroll.

Also included in the scholarships were John Birrane and Noreen Lenihan from the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies.

The Scholarship scheme is open to undergraduate students who are studying in a health-related discipline in a university in Ireland and who are not in the final year of their degree course. The research project must be in one of the following research areas: applied biomedical research, clinical research, health services research and population health sciences research. The Scholarship support the students' participation in research over the summer and they receive €250 per week for a maximum of eight weeks.



Focal ón Uachtarán

Beatha agus Sláinte!

Agus tús curtha againn le bliain acadúil nua, guím gach rath ar an obair mhaith atá ar siúl againh don Ollscoil.

As Autumn adds colour to our campus, I am delighted to report some good news since the last issue of Ollscéala. Earlier this month we raised our position to 232nd in the QS World University Ranking and we have held our position in The Sunday Times University Guide. This validation of the work and reputation of NUI Galway is further substantiated by our recent funding success in the Government's Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLTI) and by the significant increases in demand for our courses, as shown in our CAO figures.

PRTLTI Success

In July, NUI Galway secured almost €60 million for capital and research programmes. Details of the projects funded are given on pages 1 and 2. Our success was the result of comprehensive planning and preparation engaged in over two years by support and academic staff right across the University. Having a well-defined research strategy, with clearly articulated projects and a firm implementation plan meant we were well poised for PRTLTI success.

This funding is a strong endorsement of our activities and our approach to inter-institutional and industry collaboration. It is also recognition of the work of Galway University Foundation and its donors, who have provided very significant matching funds. It is gratifying to note the broad spread of the funding from the Medical Sciences and Engineering to the Humanities and Social Sciences. I'd like to pay tribute to all those involved in the PRTLTI bid, from all areas of the University, for their teamwork and commitment - our success is your success!

Campus Development

Now, as we embark on the work of delivering these major world-class research facilities, the campus community faces a challenge. Work has commenced on the Arts, Humanities & Social Science Research Building on the south campus and the Biosciences Building on the North Campus, while major construction continues on the Engineering Building. In the coming months we

expect to begin work on the Clinical Research Facility and a range of other projects.

I would ask colleagues for their patience and support as the Buildings Office deals with the significant logistical challenge of keeping the campus operating normally during this wave of construction activity, which will position us exceptionally well for the future. I think it's worth remembering that already - within 12 months of the publication of the University's Strategic Plan 2009-2014 - we have begun work on 70% of the large-scale capital projects we planned to undertake, and we expect completion of these buildings by the end of 2011. I commend the Buildings Office staff for their hard work in this regard.

We are fortunate that despite the pressures on budgets, we can move ahead with important capital developments at a time when construction costs are at their lowest level for many years. So please, bear with us!

Our Student Numbers

In the last edition, I reported good news on our CAO numbers, with a substantial increase in initial CAO first preference applications. I am pleased to report that this trend continued through the Change of Mind process. NUI Galway ended the year with a strong performance, with a record 18% increase in undergraduate applications in the last two years. Our share of the undergraduate market, currently at 14.3%, is now increasing at a faster rate than that of all of the other Irish universities.

In welcoming these new students we're working to improve the first-year experience. This year the Office of the Executive Director of Operations established a First Year Student Hotline, in conjunction with student administration offices, handling many calls from parents and students over a six-week period. Satisfaction with this service was high, and in addition to assisting prospective students, the hotline relieved considerable administrative pressure on offices dealing with student entry. The hotline was staffed by students, with additional voluntary support from staff members, who deserve praise for giving their time in this way. Well done!

The University continues to attract international students, which today account for 13% of our student population or 2,235 full- and part-time

students. At orientation on 2 September, we welcomed over 250 Erasmus and 300 visiting US students. Our growing international reputation, as evidenced in the recent rankings, will only serve to increase these numbers.

Alliances with University of Limerick and Georgia Tech



Our alliance with the University of Limerick continues to thrive. On 16 September we held a joint meeting of management at both universities in Galway (pictured above). Our University Management Team and Deans met the Executive Board of the University of Limerick in a one-day facilitated workshop. During this meeting we learnt about each other's operational structures; examined the nature of collaboration and other existing higher education alliances in Ireland and abroad; and we reviewed our considerable progress to date. From that meeting it is clear that our alliance is working well and we identified a range of actions and future opportunities as part of the medium to longer term vision for our partnership. In the coming weeks both Presidents will issue a joint communication updating staff in some detail about the progress of our alliance.

Our more recent alliance with the Georgia Institute of Technology has been given impetus by the appointment of Prof. Padraic O'Donoghue as Programme Manager. In this role he will co-ordinate and manage interactions between NUI Galway, Georgia Tech and Georgia Tech Ireland (GTI) based in Athlone.

I would like to thank all staff for their efforts in bringing many of the projects above to fruition. In challenging times, I continue to be inspired by the many staff whose commitment as administrators, teachers, researchers and civic leaders serves to enhance NUI Galway's reputation.

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

Student & Staff Awards

Travel Medicine

Dr Gerard Flaherty, Lecturer in the School of Medicine, has been admitted as a Fellow of the Faculty of Travel Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. This is the first time such an honour has been conferred on an Irish academic. Dr Flaherty is also an examiner and executive board member of the Faculty.

Women's Studies

Mary Clancy, co-ordinator of the European Women's Studies programme, has been awarded a Lifelong Learning Programme Certificate of Recognition by the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth through her work with ATHENA – Advanced Thematic network of Women's Studies in Europe.

Book of the Year

Professor William Schabas has received the 'Book of the Year Award for Scholarly Contribution to the Field' from the International Association of Penal Law American National Section. The award, for his book *The International Criminal Court: A Commentary on the Rome Statute* (Oxford University Press, 2010), was presented at the School of Law of Case Western University in Cleveland in September.



Professor Schabas and Professor Leila Sadat (left) who received the award for best academic article in the field, with Professor Michael J. Kelly (centre) from Creighton University School of Law, who is president of the American National Section.

Fellow of Physics

Mark Lang, Head of the School of Physics, has recently been elected as a Fellow of the Institute of Physics. The Institute is the professional body for physicists in the UK and Ireland and has an all-island Irish Branch. Last year the School was successful in obtaining accreditation for its suite of undergraduate physics degree programmes from the Institute.

Anatomy Grad

Fionn Clarke, a graduand of Biomedical Science from the Discipline of Anatomy, was awarded the prize for Best Oral Presentation earlier this summer at the joint conference of The Microscopical Society of Ireland and The Northern Ireland Biomedical Engineering Society held at The University of Ulster, Jordanstown.

Cool Stars

Leon Harding, a third-year PhD physics student working at the Centre for Astronomy, won best poster in the Brown Dwarf category at the recently concluded Cool Stars 16 conference, which took place at the University of Washington in Seattle. This biannual meeting brings together scientists from all over the world in a forum where the latest research on these stars, which span the divide between planets and stars like our Sun, are presented. Leon's poster, entitled 'A survey investigating the optical variability of radio detected ultracool dwarfs' highlighted the results obtained by the Galway Ultra Fast Imager (GUFU), built on the NUI Galway campus and currently installed on the Vatican Observatory's 3.5m telescope on Mount Graham, Arizona.

Book Award

Dr Patrick Lonergan, Lecturer in English, has been given another award for his publication *Theatre and Globalization* from the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE). The award is for a first book in the area of Cultural Studies, published in Europe between 2008 and 2009. ESSE is one of the biggest scholarly organisations in the humanities internationally, with over 7,500 members throughout Europe.

Web Challenge Prize

Alexandre Passant, Postdoctoral Researcher and unit leader at DERI, has won the first prize at the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Mashup Challenge, which seeks technologies that combine existing web resources into a new and useful service. Dr Passant developed and built an innovative web-based music recommendation system called *dbrec*.

The AI mashup prize was awarded at the closing ceremony of the Extended Semantic Web Conference 2010 by Elsevier, a leading publisher in science and health information, following a demonstration during a public session at the conference, and this first prize is the result of the votes from the attendees.

DERI's impact on Semantic Web and Linked Data was demonstrated further at the conference when Dr Passant picked up a second award in the Semantic Web Scripting Challenge for *sparqlPuSH*, awarded by Talis, which was collaborative work between Dr Passant and members of the Kno.e.sis Center at Wright State University, Ohio. *sparqlPuSH* provides an infrastructure for real-time information monitoring on the Semantic Web, and can consequently be used in scenarios such as emergency management.

Graduate Appointment

Hillary Reilly nee O'Brien, originally from Tullamore Co. Offaly, has recently been appointed Deputy Ambassador for Ireland to Canada. Hillary is an Arts graduate of NUI Galway.

Scoláire Fulbright ag múineadh cúrsaí sa cheol traidisiúnta

Beidh an t-ádh ar mhic léinn OÉG an seimeastar seo mar go bhfuil saineolaí mór le rá ar an eitneacheoleolaíocht ó UCLA ag múineadh dhá chúrsa ar an gcampas. Is saineolaí é an tOllamh Roger Savage ó UCLA ar an gcritic chultúrtha chomh maith agus pléifidh sé le ceol na hÉireann agus modhanna nua-aimseartha sa chritic chultúrtha á gcur i bhfeidhm aige. Beidh an tOllamh Savage lonnaithe in Ionad Léann na hÉireann agus is faoi choimirce OÉ Gaillimh agus Fulbright Ireland atá a chuairt á mhaoiniú. Is é Lillis Ó Laoire, Roinn na Gaeilge an té atá ag feidhmiú mar áisitheoir dó le linn a chuairte.

Hurling Films Screened for First Time in Eighty Years

Recently discovered short films by Dr Seán Crosson, Director of the MA in Film Studies Programme at the Huston School of Film and Digital Media, were screened for the first time in over 80 years at this summer's Kilkenny Arts Festival. The series of short films featuring hurling was made for American cinema audiences by the Hollywood majors Warner Bros., MGM and Paramount pictures between the 1930s and the 1950s and copies have recently been acquired by the Irish Film Archive.

While researching Hollywood's treatment of the GAA, Dr Crosson discovered the films in an archive at the University of Madison in Wisconsin.

During the 1920s, '30s and '40s the GAA organised annual tours to the United States for the All-Ireland winners in both hurling and gaelic football to promote the games stateside. These visits inspired some American producers to consider hurling in particular as a subject for their work. While both Pathé and Fox Movietone newsreels covered several of the games, hurling would also appear in a number of short films released in cinemas in the 1930s including two segments of sports series narrated by seminal American broadcaster Ted Husing of Ted Husing's Sports Slants and Sports Thrills. These films were made by the Vitaphone Corporation for Warner Bros, in 1931 and 1932 respectively. The MGM-produced Pete Smith Specialty Hurling (David Miller, 1936) film resulted in a deputation from the GAA visiting the Irish Film

director to demand that objectionable images be removed from the film.

These two films are complemented by the Oscar-nominated Paramount Pictures short film, Three Kisses (Justin Herman, 1955), which featured the legendary Cork hurling team of the 1950s.

Dr Crosson noted: "These films have important historical value, representing some of the very few examples of moving image footage of Gaelic games we have from this period, including the 1930 All-Ireland champions Tipperary on tour in the United States. However, they also provide a fascinating insight into an evolving Irish-American identity on screen in this crucial transitional period for this community in the United States".

Ambasadóir Ceanada ag bronnadh scoláireachtaí Gaeilge

Bhronn Ambasadóir Ceanada chun na hÉireann, A Shoilse Patrick George Binns, sé cinn de scoláireachtaí ar mhic léinn ó Ceanada atá ar chúrsa Gaeilge in Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge le déanaí.

Tá na dámhachtainí seo dírithe ar mhic léinn atá cláraithe in ollscoileanna áirithe i gCeanada, le rannpháirtíocht i gcúrsa faofa Gaeilge i dtimpeallacht Ghaeltachta a mhaoiniú an samhradh seo. Sí Fondúireacht Ollscoil Éireann Ceanada a chuireann na scoláireachtaí ar fáil.

Tá 64 mac léinn eachtrannach ar fad i mbun cúrsa Gaeilge míosa ar an gCeathrú Rua. Is buntáiste mór an cúrsa seo d'eacnamaíocht Dheisceart Chonamara óir is i dtithe áitiúla atá na mic léinn ag cur fúthu. Dúirt Príomhfeidhmeannach Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, An tUas. Peadar Mac An Iomaire: "Is onóir mhór dúinn Ambasadóir Ceanada chun na hÉireann a bheith linn ar an gCeathrú Rua ar an 33 bliain de chúrsa na nEachtrannach a bheith á theagasc san Áras seo. Is mór againn an tacaíocht a thugann Rialtas na hÉireann don cheangal idir OÉ Gaillimh agus iad siúd gur suim leo cur lena n-eolas ar an nGaeilge i gCeanada agus in ollscoileanna ar fud an domhain."

€1.1m Contribution to the Enterprise Agility Research Cluster in CISC



Dr Kieran Conboy, Enterprise Agility Cluster Leader; Graham O'Sullivan, Information Mosaic; Declan Costello, Information Mosaic; Dr Tom Acton, Head of BIS Group; Dr Meghann Drury, Project Postdoctoral Researcher; John Costello, Information Mosaic; and Phil Mallon, Information Mosaic.

Information Mosaic, the Dublin-based market leader for corporate actions and custody solutions to the global investment services industry, have announced that they will contribute in excess of €1m over a five-year period to research at NUI Galway on the management of agile and lean systems development in the Enterprise Agility cluster at CISC.

A primary objective of the Enterprise Agility cluster is to build and maintain an international network of excellence around the management of agile and lean development.

According to Dr Kieran Conboy, leader of the Enterprise Agility cluster: "It is significant, close-knit engagement and collaboration with industry partners such as IM that can make this goal a

reality". The partnership will involve a very close working relationship between IM and the Enterprise Agility cluster, including hosting of researchers, joint delivery of seminars, co-authoring of papers, and placement of NUI Galway students to work with the 8 IM staff dedicated to the project.

The Enterprise Agility cluster includes a team of 20 academic staff in NUI Galway, along with five postdoctoral researchers and 12 existing doctoral students across the School of Business & Economics (Business Information Systems, Accountancy & Finance, Management and Marketing), the School of Law, the School of Psychology, CROLS, and DERI, and is supported by existing funding of over €2m.

OLLSCÉALA

Siollabais don Ghaeilge ar an Triú Léibhéal Seolta



Aire Pat Carey T.D. leis An tOllamh Máirín Nic Eoin Colaiste Phádraig agus an Dr John Walsh, Scoil na Gaeilge.

Sheol an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Comhionannais agus Gaeltachta, Pat Carey T.D., an dara céim de thionscadal náisiúnta siollabais don Ghaeilge ar an triú leibhéal ag ócáid i mBaile Átha Cliath le déanaí.

An Mheitheal um Theagasc na Gaeilge ar an Triú Leibhéal, grúpa atá comhdhéanta d'ionadaithe ó na Ranna Gaeilge in ollscoileanna agus in institiúidí eile triú leibhéal thuaidh agus theas, atá i mbun an tionscadail seo, le tacaíocht ó Fhoras na Gaeilge. Tá fiche coláiste ar fad rannpháirteach

sa Mheitheal, a bunaíodh i 2008. Is é an Dr John Walsh, Roinn na Gaeilge, atá ina Chomhstiúrthóir ar an Meitheal, i gcomhar leis an Ollamh Máirín Nic Eoin, Coláiste Phádraig.

Le tacaíocht an Fhorais, athfhostaíodh Bainisteoir Tionscadail chun siollabas agus acmhainní teagaisc agus foghlama a dhearadh do mhic léinn sa dara bliain den chéim BA nó B Oid. Foilsíodh siollabas agus acmhainní na chéad bhliana cheana i Meán Fómhair 2009. Tá an t-ábhar go léir ar fáil ag an suíomh gréasáin www.teagascnaaeilge.ie.

Minister Launches Energy Programme



Pictured at the launch of the Energy Systems Engineering Programme is Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Eamon Ryan T.D., Professor Ger Hurley, Course Director; and President Browne.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Ryan said: "The Government has set out ambitious plans for energy, and particularly renewable energy over the next ten years. In order for these plans to come to fruition, we must seek to build on our technical expertise, and continue to add to the highly-skilled energy workforce in this country.

It is in developing a strong academic platform, with practical, on-site experience that our future successes will be guaranteed. I must commend NUI Galway and its industry partners for their foresight in developing this course, which I'm sure, will be in great demand".

Pocket Anatomy Launches Full Body App on the App Store

Pocket Anatomy has launched Pocket Body - the latest application for medical students and other health care professionals on Apple's App Store. Pocket Body was developed in conjunction with the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at NUI Galway. This medical software, featuring comprehensive human musculoskeletal anatomy content by means of a multi-layered sequence of high-definition photo-realistic illustrations of the human body, is a breakthrough in human anatomy education.

Dr Brendan Wilkins, Anatomy lecturer based in the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, worked on the development of Pocket Body with a team of third- and fourth-year medical students and together they specified and wrote all of the content within the app.

Pocket Body will assist medical and other health care students gain a deep understanding of human musculoskeletal anatomy and assist in examination preparation. By making comprehensive human musculoskeletal anatomy content available on demand it will also act as a continuing anatomy resource throughout their degree programme, and as a reference on into the professional workplace.

Combined with the software design expertise of Pocket Anatomy, a GMIT campus-based company, the result is an innovative and exciting app which will serve as a supplement to the lectures, classes and complementary texts used by the medical and health care student and provide a detailed source of human anatomical content, on demand, through the student's own portable device.

Pocket Body is now available for the iPad, iPhone and iTouch. To purchase and download Pocket Body visit:

<http://www.PocketAnatomy.com/iTunes.php>.

In Brief

OPEN YOUR MIND is back!

In November, the 'Open Your Mind' seminar series will again be coming to a theatre near you. Launched in November 2009, the very successful series ran for five consecutive lunchtimes on topics such as 'Perfect Vision' and 'Energy in the 21st century'. Presented by leading researchers from Applied Optics, DERI, ECI, NCBES and REMEDI, the subjects of the talks were selected by you, the staff of NUI Galway, through an on-line survey. We will again be seeking your input for the topics and speakers for this year's 'Open Your Mind' series so watch this space, and set aside a few lunchtimes in November and December to join us. For more information you can contact any one of the organisers or sarah.knight@nuigalway.ie.

Students excel at Computing Summer Camp

Forty two second level students attended the inaugural NUI Galway Computing Summer Camp. The aim of the camp was to encourage students to explore and experiment with digital age technologies. Designed and delivered by staff and post-graduate researchers in Information Technology, it introduced computing in a novel, fun and interactive way.

Students worked in teams and discovered how to build a mini-robot, and design programmes to instruct it to cleverly move around and sense its environment. They produced virtual mini-movies, where characters moved and interacted in different landscapes. The students also captured digital content, and combined music, motion and sound to great effect. As part of this experience, students gained a valuable insight into how technology works, and also discovered the exciting and varied possibilities for careers in computing and information technology.

Publication

A book by Dr Noam Lubell of the Irish Centre for Human Rights has been published by Oxford University Press. *Extraterritorial Use of Force Against Non-State Actors* is the first book to bring together all the different areas of law applicable to the extraterritorial use of force against non-state actors, including law of armed conflict, human rights law, UN law and the use of force. It includes analysis of anticipatory self-defence, the classification of the 'war on terror' as an armed conflict, the extraterritorial application of human rights law, and the targeted killing of individuals, such as the strikes carried out by the US in Pakistan.

Acadamh na Lianna

Dr Nicola De Faoite and Dr Siobhán De Barra from Acadamh na Lianna, an academic society which represents Irish-speaking medical practitioners, have announced that the Academy is to establish an annual award scheme to support undergraduate medical education through the medium of Irish. Dr Dorothy Ní Uigín from Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge has developed a novel special study module entitled "Teanga an Leighis" which was delivered for the first time to second year medical students this year. The course was developed in cooperation with Dr Gerard Flaherty, Lecturer in the School of Medicine, and third-year medical student, Máirtín Ó Maoláin, as a response to research they conducted on the views of medical students as well as healthcare professionals and Irish-speaking patients at Galway University Hospitals.

New Legal Book Focuses on the Criminal Process

A new book entitled *The Criminal Process* by Tom O'Malley, Senior Lecturer in Law provides a detailed analysis of all the key elements of the criminal process. Among the topics covered are the essential ingredients of a fair trial, the allocation of criminal jurisdiction, arrest and detention, investigation and search powers, prosecution and indictment, bail, the trial process,

summary procedure, prejudicial publicity, delay, disclosure and preservation of evidence, confessions and the right to silence, the jury, sentencing principles, judicial review and other post-conviction remedies.

This text, published by the leading international publishers Thomson Reuters, runs to 1,200 pages and is the only comprehensive legal text to deal with recently enacted legislation including the Criminal Justice Acts 2006 and 2007, the Criminal Justice (Amendment) Act 2009, the Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009.

New EMBA Programme



Pictured at the launch of the new Executive MBA programme in the Cairnes School of Business and Public Policy are: Dr Emer Mulligan, Head of School of Business & Economics; Prof Willie Golden, Dean College of Business, Law and Public Policy, Dr Alma McCarthy, Executive MBA Programme Director; President Browne.



Pictured at the launch of the new four-year structured PhD in New Media and Film, one of the initiatives to come out of the NUI Galway-UL Alliance (l-r): Dr Lionel Pilkington, Head of the School of Humanities; Dr Edward Herring, Dean of Arts; and Rod Stoneman, Director of the Huston School of Film & Digital Media. Also announced at the launch was a Fellowship initiative to support the joint PhD through the award of a Doctoral Scholarship to a student of the programme at each institution.

Win at Irish National Rowing Championships



Pictured are the winning crew (l-r) Eddie Mullarkey, Jason Wall, Dave Mannion, Paul Giblin, Evin Donnelly, Alan Martin, Cormac Folan, James Wall and Ruadhán Cooke. The crew was coached by Tom Tuohy.

NUI Galway's Boat Club successfully defended its senior title and status as kingpins at the recent Irish National Rowing Championships.

The NUI Galway rowers snatched victory in the main event, the Men's Senior Eights, claiming the 'Big Pot' by just 3 feet (0.19 seconds) from Queens University, Belfast who were hotly tipped to topple the reigning champions after a very successful season both at home and abroad.

10 Risk Factors are Associated with 90% of Risk of Stroke

The international INTERSTROKE study, recently presented by Dr Martin O'Donnell of NUI Galway (and formerly McMaster University) at The World Congress of Cardiology, Beijing and published in the medical journal, The Lancet, shows that a total of 10 risk factors (including high blood pressure, smoking, and waist-to-hip ratio) are associated with 90% of the risk of stroke.

The contribution of various risk factors to the burden of stroke worldwide has been unknown up to now, particularly in countries of low and middle income where the largest burden of stroke occurs. In the first phase of the INTERSTROKE study, the authors aimed to establish the association of known and emerging risk factors with stroke and its primary subtypes, assess the contribution of these risk factors to the burden of stroke, and explore the differences between risk factors for stroke and heart attack.

The authors found the following 10 risk factors to be significantly associated with stroke: high blood pressure, smoking, waist-to-hip ratio (abdominal obesity), diet, physical activity, lipids (fats), diabetes mellitus, alcohol intake, stress and depression, and heart disorders. The investigators are currently undertaking Phase 2 of INTERSTROKE, which will include Ireland and aims to include 20,000 participants.

European Radiation Research

NUI Galway is one of the partners in a new European multi-million euro research project, investigating methods of screening radiation exposure. The project, known as BOOSTER (Bio Dosimetric Tools for Triage and Responders), is an EU initiative to increase the security of citizens in the event of the malevolent use of radiation. It focuses on speeding up the triaging process, which is the prioritisation of victims for treatment immediately following exposure to radiation.

The €3.5 million project will have a duration of three years, (2010-2013). The new tools for screening radiation will be developed and integrated into a toolkit for the first responders in EU member states to use. The authorities responsible for responding to emergency situations vary. The task may fall to fire services, civil defence or occasionally the military.

Dr Ciaran Morrison, senior lecturer in the Centre for Chromosome Biology, who is leading the project at NUI Galway, explains: "There is urgency in triaging people exposed to radiation because it is necessary to quickly identify those who need no further intervention, those who will require close follow up, and those who will require hospitalisation. Serious exposure to large amounts of radiation can cause death in a short space of time, so rapid triaging is critical".

Professor Raises Profile of Research on Ageing

Research on ageing led by Professor Tom Scharf, Director of the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, has been featured in a new brochure that seeks to raise the profile of social science research in the UK.

Published jointly by the Academy of Social Sciences, the British Society of Gerontology, and Age UK, the brochure was recently launched in the House of Commons, London and is part of the 'Making the Case for the Social Sciences' series. The brochure highlights projects undertaken by researchers on ageing that have had a significant impact on public policy or social behaviour, and helped society to address some of the challenges that are associated with demographic change.