

Dear Geographers,

As we begin a new semester Storm Brendan has decided to join us. Storms and other *natural* hazards are always great reminders of what geographers do. Rather than simply accepting these as 'acts of God' we begin to question; looking at how *both* human and natural systems interact to create the risks these event pose. And how we may best act on this knowledge, to increase our resilience as climate change impacts visit our lives more frequently.

Enjoy the coming semester and if you need some help our doors are always open (or check out our Key Contacts webpage [here](#)).

## RESEARCH highlights

The initial focus group for the LifeGeo project [PI's Dr Audrey Morley and Dr Valerie Ledwith] was completed last week. The data gathered will provide valuable insights into what kinds of academic lifestyles are necessary to expand *female access to careers in the field of geoscience*. (see [Irish Association for Women in Geosciences](#)).

Dr Mark Rainey has just joined us in Geography. He will work with Pat Collins and Ulf Strohmayer on their project looking at the *development of the city-university interface*. The project is extremely timely as it coincides with the publication of the University's Strategic Plan (see Irish Times report [here](#)), a major element of which is foreseeing the role that the University might play in the active development of its city and region.

## TEACHING highlights

As promised last year we have developed a new MA in [Rural Futures Planning and Innovation](#) to start this September. The new programme will prepare students to identify future planning needs and challenges and respond to these challenges in a critical and reflexive way.

In case you missed it we have a 2<sup>nd</sup> year module on rural geography entirely through Irish, see link here - [TI2105 Tíreolaíocht Tuaithe](#).

## Of note around Geography this week

As part of a new "a day in the life of" series we hope to give you and the public a better idea of how diverse a discipline Geography is, with so many distinct career opportunities. Aaron Potito starts the ball rolling with a typical day in his life – read it [here](#).

## Upcoming talks

The School's public lecture series will be kicking off again next week: Town Hall Theatre, 1:10pm to 1:50pm, every Thursday (starting Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>). See a link to programme here: [Spring Lunchtime Lecture Series 2020](#).