



NUI Galway
OĒ Gaillimh



SCÉAL O

End of an Era

Dr Jim Browne's presidency ended as it began, with NUI Galway named University of the Year by The Sunday Times. We look back at the past three months of activity on campus, and some of the achievements and activities that make our University so special, including the recent acquisition of the archive of Margaretta D'Arcy (pictured here).

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...and much more!

OLLSCÉALA

Focal ón Uachtarán



A Chairde,

Over the past ten years, it has been my great pleasure to reflect on our staff's achievements in the pages of *Ollscéala*. This magazine has always celebrated our colleagues' success, in all its variety, in an accessible and inclusive way.

At the end of my presidency, as I contribute my final 'Focal ón Uachtarán', I am pleased to see that this issue is no exception. In the following pages you will see the impact our staff are making here on campus, in our community, across our

region and country, and on a global stage. You can read about research breakthroughs, inspiring teaching, community partnerships, service innovations, cultural highlights and sporting success – and see the faces of the people who helped make them happen.

We can take pride in our shared success. During the past three months, we reaffirmed our position in the top 1% of global universities according to QS. Our achievements across the University's mission were further recognised by *The Sunday Times* when they named us University of the Year for 2018 (see page 4).

Recognising Excellence

One of my personal highlights over the past decade has been the opportunity to recognise our staff achievements through the President's Excellence Awards. Over the past ten years we have faced deep recession, budget cuts and a changing political and economic landscape. However, our staff's hard work and commitment has been steadfast.

I announced the winners of the **Teaching Excellence Awards** earlier in the year, and in this issue you can see the recipients of the **Research Excellence Awards** (on page 17). As we go to print, we still await the inaugural winners of the **Societal Impact Awards**. I can, however,

announce the winners of the **Support Services Excellence Awards**. Congratulations to our dedicated colleagues:

- Laura O'Connor, Gardener, Buildings & Estates
- Christina Mulgannon, formerly Federal Aid Administrator, International Affairs Office
- Ambrose O'Halloran, Senior Technical Officer, School of Medicine
- Anne O'Rorke, Senior Technical Officer, School of Natural Sciences (Biochemistry)
- Mark McGuinness, Team Leader on HR Recruitment, Human Resources
- Technical Officers Team, Discipline of Microbiology (Maurice Martyn, Ann Smyth, Michael Coughlan, Katrina Lace and Maria Barrett)

Archive Acquisitions

Our reputation for excellence in conserving and curating archives was further enhanced by a number of recent acquisitions. In November, we received the extensive archive of **Dr Mary Robinson**. This is a significant acquisition for the University, offering an important resource to scholars of human rights, gender equality and women's leadership. **Margaretta D'Arcy** entrusted the University with her personal papers and those of her late husband, John

Familiar Faces



John Carney, the award-winning director of *Once* and *Sing Street*, gave his inaugural lecture as Adjunct Professor at the Huston School of Film & Digital Media in November. He is pictured here (right) being interviewed by Film lecturer, Dr Tony Tracy.

Right: Architect and 'Home of the Year' judge, Declan O'Donnell, was guest speaker at the launch of a new photographic book celebrating the transformation of our campus. Commissioned by Galway University Foundation, *Making Space* features over 60 photos of the University's contemporary architecture, taken by Galway-based photographer, Colm Hogan. Declan is pictured here with Brian Saunders (Buildings and Estates), admiring some of the photos on exhibition in the O'Donoghue Centre.



In November, the Whitaker Institute hosted a public talk by former Tánaiste, Eamon Gilmore, on the role of the EU in the Northern Ireland and Colombian peace processes. He is pictured here with Chair and Whitaker Director, Professor Alan Ahearne, and respondents, Dr Anita Ferrara (Irish Centre for Human Rights) and Dr Niall Ó Dochartaigh (Political Science and Sociology).



Arden. You can read more about this fascinating archive on page 4. I mí Dheireadh Fómhair, d'fhógair **Conradh na Gaeilge** go bhfuil siad chun a gcartlann 125 bliain a chur i dtaisce sa Leabharlann s'againne (féach lch. 5). Gabhaim comhghairdeas leis an Dr John Walsh (Gaeilge) agus foireann na Leabharlainne as an gcéim iontach seo a bhaint amach.

Remembering Michael M. O'Shaughnessy

Another archive that has recently made its home in the University is that of iconic engineer and NUI Galway graduate, Michael M. O'Shaughnessy. Éamonn Cannon and Dr Jamie Goggins from the College of Engineering and Informatics worked closely with O'Shaughnessy's ancestors to ensure that the personal archive



from his time in North America will be accessible for future generations. They collaborated with Aisling Keane, Archivist in the James Hardiman Library, to create a visually arresting exhibition on O'Shaughnessy's life. If you haven't yet visited the exhibition in the Hardiman Building foyer, I urge you to do so in the coming weeks.

O'Shaughnessy is one of our most distinguished graduates. He led some of the world's most iconic engineering projects, including the Hetch Hetchy Dam that still provides water to the citizens of San Francisco. His ambition and excellence serve as inspiration to our campus community today.

Making Space

We have had no shortage of engineering feats of our own over the past decade. Over the course of semester one, students and staff of the pre-clinical Medical disciplines have moved into their new home in the stunning **Human Biology Building**. In December, it was my pleasure to help launch a new book celebrating the transformation of our campus. Commissioned by Galway University Foundation, **Making Space** features a series of images by Galway-based photographer, Colm Hogan, highlighting our University's contemporary architecture. It is an artful reminder of all that has been achieved through our capital development plan, as well

as the power of philanthropy to invest in our infrastructure and society. (See photo below).

As my term as President of NUI Galway draws to a close, I want to thank colleagues, past and present, and friends in the wider community, who have offered tremendous support to me personally, and more importantly to our University and its endeavours over the past ten years. It has been my great privilege to work with dedicated colleagues across all areas of the University and I thank them along with our students and alumni for their partnership and support.

I am confident that the University will continue to thrive and prosper under the leadership of my successor, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, and I wish Ciarán every success and fulfilment in the years ahead.

Guím rath ar an Ollscoil agus a hUachtarán nua. Agus guím gach rath oraibhse, a chairde. I look forward to reading about your future successes in this magazine as a retired member of staff!

Le gach dea-ghuí,

James J. Browne PhD, DSc, MRIA, C.Eng
Uachtarán – President

Appointments

Internal Appointments



Bernie McGee was appointed Disability Officer and will lead the Disability Support Service on campus. Bernie comes to Galway from the University of New South Wales, Australia, where she was responsible for leading and managing student support services, with particular focus on supporting students from non-traditional backgrounds. She is already involved in a number of new initiatives here to facilitate the full participation and success of students with disabilities.



Fr Declan Lohan has been appointed new Dean of Chaplaincy Services in the University to replace Fr Barry Horan. This is his first appointment after ordination to the priesthood in July this year. A native of Oranmore, he is a Law graduate of the University and has practised law on the Western Circuit. Declan hopes to continue the long tradition of Chaplaincy in the University as a place 'where all the birds of the air may come and make their nest'.

Natalie Walsh was appointed Executive Director of Blackstone LaunchPad, the campus-based entrepreneurship programme open to students, alumni and staff. Natalie has worked in senior roles in the University for over ten years, and was previously Blackstone LaunchPad Programme Manager. Double congratulations to Natalie for winning a Boots WMB Empowering Women Award in October in recognition of her passion for supporting female entrepreneurs.



External Appointments

Professor Gerard Flaherty (Medicine) was recently elected to the Executive Committee of the Association for Medical Education in Europe. AMEE is the leading body for medical education globally, with members in 92 countries. It recently hosted its annual conference, which drew nearly 4,000 delegates to Helsinki, Finland. Professor Flaherty is the first Irish person to be elected to this prestigious role.

Dr Frances Fahy (Geography) was appointed to the Board of the European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production at their General Assembly in Greece in October. Dr Fahy is the Lead Coordinator of the H2020 ENERGISE project and Chair of the Environment Development and Sustainability cluster in the Whitaker Institute. She will commence in the ERSCP role in January.

John Gaffney (Director of Management Accounting) was recently elected to the Galway Chamber of Commerce. John continues a long legacy of active involvement by the University in the Chamber, whose history dates back to the 18th century. John will follow many distinguished NUI Galway staff who have served on the Chamber, including most recently Michael Campion.



Look who's University of the Year!

NUI Galway has been named 'University of the Year 2018' in the annual University Guide published by *The Sunday Times*. It is the third time our University has earned this prestigious accolade, having won the inaugural title in 2002 and again in 2009. NUI Galway outperformed all other institutions based on an assessment of 22 criteria of the University's impact on a local, national and international level. Among the factors pushing us into top place were our strong reputation as a centre of excellence for medical technology, our success across the arts and sciences, and our impressive student progression rates. The judges also praised our University for having the best job prospects of any in Ireland.

Alastair McCall, Editor of *The Sunday Times* Good University Guide, said: "In the eight years since NUI Galway last won our University of the Year award it has continued to grow its global reputation as one of the great seats of learning." In his reaction to the news, President Jim Browne was keen to emphasise the collective efforts that contribute to our success: "Our students and staff are the vital ingredient that make this University truly special and this award acknowledges their creativity, innovation and hard work." As he approached the end of his presidency at the University, he looked ahead to even more success in the future, saying: "The ambition here knows no bounds and I am confident that we are on a path for even greater renown for this institution and the region."

Supporting your Career Path

December saw the launch of a new developmental programme for support staff, including Library and Technical staff. The Career Pathway to Development programme supports your career through interventions such as coaching, mentoring, job rotation and job shadowing. The programme offers staff the chance to work with professionals to create a personalised developmental plan, to expand their skillset and, ultimately, to develop their career in a way that is tailored to them.

The closing date for applications is 19 January 2018. Find out more about the programme and how to apply at www.nuigalway.ie/careerpathways



Arden & D'Arcy Archives

In November, Margareta D'Arcy donated her papers and those of her late husband and playwright, John Arden, to the University. The archive throws new light on two pivotal but under-researched figures of Irish and British theatre, and the extraordinary passion and creativity they brought to the theatre. It also features strongly the activism of both Arden and D'Arcy. The collection consists of 314 boxes of archival material, as well as 35 linear metres of books, and covers all aspects of their lives. Highlights include detailed drafts of *The Non-Stop Connolly Show* and the memoirs of Margareta, including her protests at Armagh Jail, Greenham Common and Shannon Airport. Pictured at the launch with Margareta D'Arcy and President Jim Browne, were (l-r) Sabina Higgins, Kieran Hoare (Library), and Mary Coughlan.



Cartlann an Chonartha le caomhnú anseo

I mí Dheireadh Fómhair, chuir an Ollscoil fáilte roimh an scéal go mbeidh an Leabharlann s'againne ag feidhmiú mar choimeádaí ar chartlanna fairsinge Chonradh na Gaeilge. Is é an Conradh an eagraíocht Ghaeilge is ársa in Éirinn agus beidh ábhar cartlainne a bhaineann le tréimhse os cionn céad bliain á chur i dtaisce go buan san Ollscoil. Tabharfaidh sé léargas dosháraithe ar ghnéithe teangeolaíocha, cultúrtha, sóisialta agus polaitiúla a bhaineann leis an am a caitheadh in Éirinn.

The announcement that the Conradh na Gaeilge archives will be preserved here is a major coup for our Library, as they beat off competition from other institutions. Pictured at the announcement of the acquisition in October were (l-r) President Jim Browne, Monica Crump (Head of Collections, James Hardiman Library), Dr Niall Comer (President of Conradh na Gaeilge) and Dr John Walsh (Gaeilge). Dr Walsh described the significance of the acquisition: "The Conradh na Gaeilge archive allows researchers unprecedented access to primary sources about the development of Irish language policy over the past century."

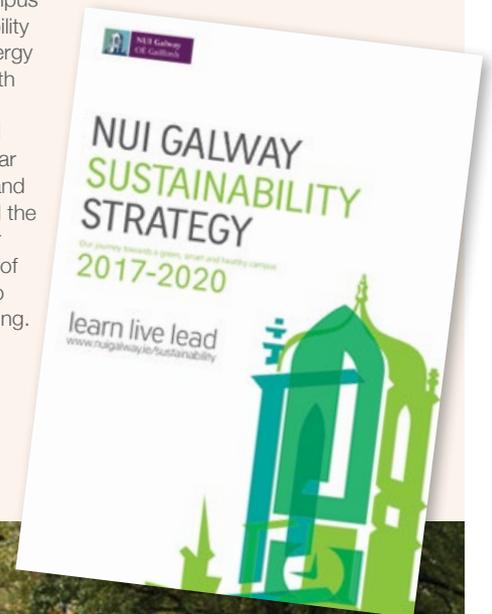
Tá ábhar agus comhfhreagras sa chartlann nach bhfacthas cheana a bhaineann le daoine mór le rá i stair na heagraíochta agus na hÉireann, cosúil le Dubhghlas de hÍde, Pádraig Mac Piarais agus Tomás Ághas. Tá post mar Chartlannaí fógartha agus beidh sé de chúram ar an duine a cheapfar dul tríd an ábhar luachmhar ar fad agus é a chlárú agus a chatalógú.



Tá tuilleadh eolais, chomh maith le físeáin ón seoladh, ar fáil ag: www.nuigalway.ie/gaeilgebheo

Sustainability in Action

Pictured at the launch of the University's Sustainability Strategy in November were (l-r) Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh, Registrar and Deputy President; Dr Frances Fahy (Geography); Senator Alice-Mary Higgins; and Professor Colin Brown (Ryan Institute). The strategy was pulled together by the Community and University Sustainability Project (or CUSP) following broad consultation with staff, students and the public. It sets out a vision to establish NUI Galway as a leading green, smart and healthy campus with specific sustainability goals in Research, Energy Use, Biodiversity, Health and Wellbeing, the Built Environment, and Governance. It is a clear call to action for staff and students to get behind the strategy and make our University an example of best practice in how to achieve sustainable living. Read the strategy and see how you can get involved at: www.nuigalway.ie/sustainability



Biodiversity Trail

A Biodiversity Trail around campus was launched in November, to coincide with the University's new Sustainability Strategy. This trail highlights nine natural habitats on campus, where you can explore the diverse flora and fauna on our doorstep. It was developed by Jamie Maxwell, Dr Cairiona Carlin and Dr Dara Stanley, (School of Natural Sciences), with support from colleagues across campus. Pick up a printed copy of the trail in the Archway reception in the Quadrangle, in the Zoology museum and at other points around campus. Or view the trail online at: www.nuigalway.ie/biodiversitytrail



Our Researcher of the Year

Congratulations to Dr Martin O'Halloran (NCBES and CÚRAM) who was named 'Irish Researcher of the Year' at the inaugural awards run by the Irish Research Council. Martin's work is focused on medical electronics, and he is Director of the Translational Medical Device Lab, the first medical device lab in Ireland embedded in a regional hospital and co-located with a clinical research facility. The award further bolsters the University's reputation for excellence in the field of medical technology. He is pictured here with Early-Career Researcher of the Year, Dr Paola Rivetti from DCU.

Don't forget your Diary!

NUI Galway pocket diaries for 2018 are now available to purchase from the Archway reception in the Quadrangle.



In a field of their own

In November, the University conferred honorary degrees on Galway International Arts Festival visionaries, Paul Fahy and John Crumlish, and on local charity founder, Jack McCann.

1. In the roles of Artistic Director and CEO respectively, Paul Fahy (left) and John Crumlish (right) have had a hugely significant impact on the development of the creative arts in Galway. Under their stewardship, the Galway International Arts Festival has grown to become an event of international significance and reach. It makes an exceptional contribution to the culture, economy and intellectual life of Galway and Ireland every summer.



2. In recognition of his public contribution and charity work, a Doctor of Laws degree was conferred on Jack McCann, co-founder of Irish Friends of Albania. A passionate advocate of volunteerism, since 2002 he has operated on hundreds of children and adults in Albania, who would otherwise not have access to surgery. His achievements were introduced at the conferring ceremony by Carmel Malone (Medicine), who is pictured here with Jack.



Introducing our next President

Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh will become the 13th President of NUI Galway, when he takes up the post in January. A native of Galway, he returns to his home town and *alma mater* from Dublin, where he was Principal and Dean of UCD College of Business since 2011. Professor Ó hÓgartaigh was appointed following a highly competitive recruitment process, which attracted interest from around the world.

Speaking about the appointment earlier this year, Ms Justice Catherine McGuinness, Chair of Údarás na hOllscoile, welcomed the incoming president to the University: "With a track record of leadership and achievement nationally and internationally, Professor hÓgartaigh brings both the necessary experience and vision to this role and I look forward to working with him as we chart the next stage in the University's journey."

Is cainteoir líofa Gaeilge é an tOllamh Ó hÓgartaigh agus tá suim láidir aige i gcultúr uathúil an Iarthair. Commenting on his appointment, he said: I look forward to coming home to the 'town and gown' which shaped me and to working together with my new colleagues in the best interests of our students and our society."

He commences his term as President on Monday 8 January, 2018.

Europe invests in our campus

For the first time, the University has entered into a loan facility with the European Investment Bank. The EIB's €60m loan facilitates a total spend of €120m on three significant projects on campus: the Human Biology Building and the O'Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance, which have been constructed in the South Campus, and Phases I and II of the new student residences currently being built in the North Campus. All credit must go to the EIB Project Team who worked diligently on this task over the last year. The project was managed by Nicola McNicholas (Bursar's Office), who is pictured here with Andrew McDowell, EIB Vice-President, on the site of the new student residences.



Tar éis a fheictear gach beart

Ten years might be half a lifetime for many of our first year students, but it is a short chapter in the 170 year story of our University. That said, it is clear that the past ten years has been an extraordinary period of change at NUI Galway, with achievements and advances that are remarkable in a national context and noticed on a global stage. Even students who started here in 2008 at the beginning of Dr Jim Browne's term of office, and graduated just five years ago, return to find a campus transformed. The impact our researchers are making, the success our students are having, and our significant rise in reputation are all testament to a decade of achievement.

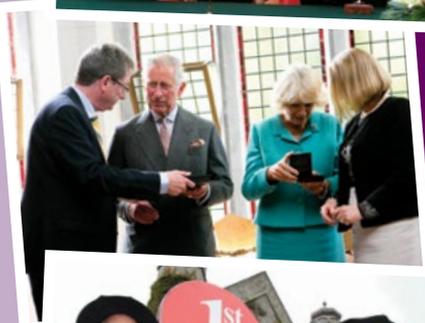
Our outgoing president remains modest in assessing his role in this transformation, however. He insists that the success we have shared in the past twenty years has been down to tremendous staff. At his all-staff address in November he summed it up as follows: "Ultimately senior management can offer direction, but somebody's got to travel the road. The University's success is your success. I have been, in a sense, a conductor. But without an orchestra there is no music."

"The University's success is your success"

At the end of every presidency, it is natural to reflect back on the strengths and weaknesses, the changes and challenges, during the president's term in office. We pore over the highs and lows of a decade, and begin to tot up each achievement and advancement, to define the trends that shaped our University. We do this in some vain effort to neatly sum up the legacy of the outgoing president.

This editor gets the sense that President Browne isn't interested in legacy, however. He is genuinely proud to have served his *alma mater* and seen it grow during his tenure, reach out more to the world, and be more ambitious. So without much fanfare, on behalf of the staff and students who have called NUI Galway home for the past ten years, we offer a simple thank you.

We will leave the final words to President Browne. "I have been in this University for over forty years – a student in the 1970s, and a staff member since the 1980s. It has been a pleasure to work here with great colleagues."



A Presidency in Numbers

226
UMT MEETINGS

49
TEACHING
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS

40,000+
GRADUATIONS

3
TAOISIGH

17
NEW BUILDINGS
OPENED

400%
INCREASE IN
CITATIONS

4
MEDICAL
ACADEMIES
LAUNCHED

5
MINISTERS FOR
EDUCATION

34
SPIN-OUT
COMPANIES

2
NAMED UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR BY
THE SUNDAY TIMES

100,000

CONFERENCE
DELEGATES
...FROM

190
COUNTRIES

52
ÚDARÁS
MEETINGS

1,000
LINEAR METRES
OF ARCHIVES
WELCOMED

118
PLACE RISE IN
THE *TIMES*
HIGHER EDUCATION
WORLD UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS

19
ALL-STAFF
ADDRESSES

61
ALUMNI
AWARDS

48
HONORARY
DEGREES

TOP 1%
IN THE QS WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS

A new online brain training programme has resulted in significant **improvements for patients with psychosis and schizophrenia**. A trial led by Professor Gary Donohoe (Psychology) found that when cognitive remediation training is provided, even with low support in a community setting, psychosis patients' scores improved on measures of memory, intelligence, and social and occupational functions. This study is the first of its kind in Ireland and was published in the international journal, *Psychological Medicine*.



RESEARCH IN ACTION

From Trump's tweets to sewer systems, our researchers have been busy examining and impacting the world around us.

Researchers from the School of Geography and Archaeology conducted the first study to investigate **microplastic pollution** of marine sediments on the Irish continental shelf. Published in the international journal *Scientific Reports*, the results showed that microplastic contamination is present along the western Irish continental shelf regardless of proximity to densely populated areas. Dr Audrey Morley, senior author of the study said: "The pervasive presence of microplastics on the Irish Sea floor bears significant risks for economically important Irish fisheries, for example the Galway Bay Prawn."

Dr Trevor Clohessy (J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics) has led a new study exploring the **'realities' contained within the tweets** of Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton and Jill Stein, the nominees for last year's American presidential election. The study covers the months leading up to Election Day 2016 and shows the differing approach and focus of each candidate in their social media output. Dr Clohessy explained its significance: "Political actors are now eager to catch Twitter users' attention, because they not only produce word-of-mouth effects but influence other online users' informational choices."

New research from CÚRAM will allow for **improved treatment options for patients with nerve damage**. The study, which was recently published in the prestigious *Advanced Functional Materials* journal, explored the potential for using

biomaterial conduits (i.e. artificial nerve grafts) in peripheral nerve repair. The team, which was led by Professor Abhay Pandit, compared the results of this approach with those of other types of conduit-materials, including collagen, in an effort to understand fundamental differences in their repair mechanisms at the molecular level.

1,000 patients and 1,000 healthy controls from the West of Ireland have been included in a **landmark study of breast cancer**, published recently in *Nature* and *Nature Genetics*. The subjects were recruited through the laboratory of Professor Michael Kerin and Dr Nicola Miller (Surgery), who have contributed for well over a decade to the Breast Cancer Association Consortium led by the University of Cambridge. This extensive genome study (GWAS) of over 100,000 breast cancer cases has identified 65 new gene loci associated with breast cancer risk.

A research team led by Dr Sean Mulligan and Dr Eoghan Clifford (Civil Engineering) has completed a technology development project with Irish company Butler Manufacturing Services to **remove floating debris from storm water sewer systems**. The team tested a full-scale model of the company's Stormbreaker Defender device in the Hydraulic and Aerodynamics Laboratory based in the Alice Perry Engineering Building. The tests resulted in substantial data sets showing the complex flow processes in the device, and these were used to validate performance and develop new design tools.

The aim of the collaboration is to bring the Stormbreaker Defender to international water treatment markets.

A team of researchers led by Dr Mark Foley (Physics) found that **radon gas levels in houses and buildings** in certain parts of Ireland are in excess of levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Recent measurements in homes in the West of Ireland found radon levels equivalent to receiving in excess of 20 chest x-rays per day. The research project is investigating the knowledge gaps identified in the National Radon Control Strategy for Ireland. The work is helping to inform the optimum specifications for passive soil depressurisation systems that take account of Irish building practices.

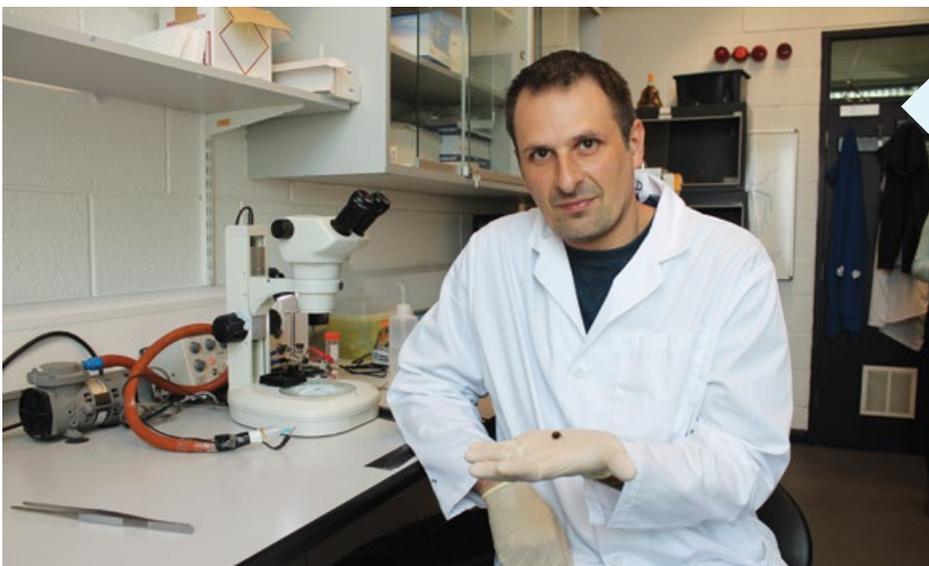
Researchers from the Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI) and Advanced Glycoscience Research Cluster (AGRC) have been working together to examine how **sugar (carbohydrate) molecules attached to the surfaces of immune cells** participate in the normal protective functions of those cells. The researchers have published two new studies in the leading open access journal *Frontiers of Immunology*, which demonstrate that chains of sugar molecules attached to the cell surface, play an essential role in the function of two very important cells of the immune system.



A study led by Dr Sharon Glynn (Pathology) has identified that a protein in the body called inducible nitric oxide synthase or iNOS is a key cause for the **aggressive spread of triple negative breast cancer**. Dr Glynn's laboratory has had two landmark papers published in the international journals, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and *Oncotarget*. According to Dr Glynn: "The results from both studies will be used to develop screening methods to identify which patients are at increased risk of developing the lethal disease". It is hoped these steps will help decrease rates of early death from the disease.



Families benefit most when there is a trusting relationship with the practitioners who support them, according to latest research published by the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre. The findings are based on the experiences of children, young people and their families involved in Meitheal, the early intervention national practice model led by Tusla. The research was carried out by Dr Carmel Devaney and postdoctoral researchers, Dr Leonor Rodriguez and Dr Anne Cassidy, who are pictured at the launch of the **'Interim Report on the Meitheal Process and Outcomes Study'** with Dr John Canavan.



Research led by Dr Michel Dugon (Zoology) has shown that the **False Widow spider** is taking over Ireland. The research team based at the Venom Systems and Proteomics laboratory made the discovery while investigating the potential for spider venom as a source of novel therapeutics to develop medication to treat a range of illnesses. It is the only laboratory in the world currently working on extracting venom from the False Widow spider. The team has developed the world's first verified identification guide and symptoms checklist for General Practitioners and the public on how to treat bites from the spider.



Exciting New BA Degrees

In September, the University launched seven new Arts degrees for enrolment in 2018. These innovative new programmes respond to demands in the creative economy, and appeal directly to the passions of our prospective students. Students will be able to choose new programmes in Arts with Data Science; Digital Arts and Technology; English and Media Studies; Film and Digital Media; Global Languages; Arts and Technology; a new BA with International experience; and a new Music degree. According to Professor Cathal O'Donoghue (Dean of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies): "With this comes tremendous opportunities for careers in the creative industries ranging from careers in drama, film and theatre, and emerging areas such as creative production and arts entrepreneurship." The new programmes are already creating excitement at open days and information evenings, and we encourage staff to spread the word over the coming months. Pictured here marking the launch of the new BA Music are Orchestra Society members, Gilles Dupuoy (PhD in Molecular Science) and Niamh O'Connor (Medicine student).



eJournal for Undergrads

NovoVerse is a new eJournal for business and information management research aimed at undergraduate students. Devised by Dr Trevor Clohessy (Business Information Systems), it encourages students to craft rigorous academic research writing for publication. Pictured at the *NovoVerse* launch were (l-r) Dr Thomas Acton (Head of J.E Cairnes School of Business and Economics), Joanne Duffy (student contributor), Dr Trevor Clohessy, and Tomás Ó Síocháin (Oifig an Rúnaí).

Innovation at Play

Staff, students and businesspeople were encouraged to let their imaginations run wild at a recent symposium focused on how play can stimulate innovation. The inaugural **Innovation at Play Symposium** featured a series of talks, workshops and performances, to explore how the spirit of innovation can be nurtured through playful methodologies. Hosted by the Blackstone LaunchPad on campus, the symposium was the brainchild of Mary Dempsey (Mechanical Engineering) and brought together a multidisciplinary team of engineers. We hope this playful event will become a regular feature in the campus calendar!



Deloitte Partnership

A new partnership between the University and Deloitte will sponsor the study abroad and work placements as part of the BComm Global Experience. The multinational financial services provider will support up to 500 of our students during the third year of their degree. Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law, Professor John McHale, warmly welcomed the news: "We are very proud for our BComm Global Experience students to have the title 'Deloitte Global Scholars'". He is pictured here (left) at the launch of the partnership with students, Niamh Ni Chuinn and Barry Walsh, and Managing Partner at Deloitte, Brendan Jennings.

Prosecuting War Criminals

In October, the Irish Centre for Human Rights hosted a public lecture by Peter McCloskey, a senior trial attorney at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in the Hague. He spoke of his experience in prosecuting genocide, including the trials of former Serbian President Slobodan Milošević and Radovan Karadžić for crimes committed in Srebrenica. In November, the Tribunal sentenced Ratko Mladić to life in prison for crimes against humanity.

Reforming our Laws

In November, members of the national Law Reform Commission hosted a public meeting in the Aula Maxima as part a countrywide consultation on the new programme of law reform. Two NUI Galway Law lecturers, Professor Donncha O'Connell and Tom O'Malley, are on the Commission and they were joined by fellow members, legal professionals and members of the public to discuss areas of law that may need updating or improvement. Professor O'Connell explained the importance of these outreach events: "It allows the Commission to know what law reform issues are of most pressing concern to people and this can be critically important information in setting priorities for the Commission."

Conferences

In August, the 21st **McGill International Entrepreneurship Conference** was jointly hosted by the Marketing Discipline and The Whitaker Institute, the first time the conference was hosted in Ireland. The conference brought together state-of-the-art International Entrepreneurship research from academic scholars in over 20 countries across Europe and the world. Pictured at the conference opening in the Cairnes Building were (l-r) Professor Alistair Andersson (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen), Dr Natasha Evers (Marketing), President Jim Browne, Professor Antonella Zucchella (University of Anglia Ruskin, Cambridge), and Professor Hamid Etemad (McGill University, Montreal).



September saw the Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI) host the 17th **International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement Annual Conference**. This was the first time the conference was held outside of the US and it attracted over 350 international delegates to Galway. Keynote speeches were offered by a range of international experts, including Professor Imanol Ordorika (University of Mexico) who presented a new paradigm for universities for approaching social activism and politics.

Staff in Psychology recently hosted the 32nd **Annual Conference of the European Health Psychology Society**. It is the largest professional organisation of health psychologists in Europe and the conference attracted over 800 delegates to Galway. Pictured at the launch were Dr Elaine Toomey and Professor Molly Byrne (Psychology), Professor John Weinman (King's College London), Dr Jenny McSharry and Dr Gerry Molloy (Psychology), Dr AnnMarie Groarke (College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies), Professor James Pennebaker (University of Texas), Professor Rob Horne (University College London), Professor Keith Petrie (University of Auckland) and Dr Jane Walsh (Psychology).



Research Funding

Science Foundation Ireland awarded funding of €2.6m to two NUI Galway research projects. Professor Paul Murphy (Chemistry) is leading a research programme focused on enhancing glycomimetic research through synthetic carbohydrate chemistry. Meanwhile, Professor Corrado Santocanale (NCBES) has been funded to uncover the fundamental roles of the CDC7 kinase through innovative genome editing technology.

An **Interreg North-West Europe** funding bid for €9.39m has been approved for an energy sustainability project in which the University is a key partner. The GENCOMM project aims to answer the energy sustainability challenges facing remote communities across North-West Europe through production and storage of renewable hydrogen. NUI Galway involvement is led by Dr Rory Monaghan (Mechanical Engineering), with Dr Pdraig Molloy (Mechanical Engineering) and Dr Ed Curry (Computer Science and Information Technology) in co-leading roles.

The **European Commission** awarded a €6 million grant to a consortium led by Professor Martin Leahy of the Tissue Optics and Microcirculation Imaging group to develop a novel imaging platform for regenerative medicine. This STARSTEM project will allow researchers, to detect and measure the healing effects of novel stem cell therapies, even where they occur under the skin.



The 30% Club, a global group of company Chairs and CEOs committed to achieving better gender balance in business, held its first event in Galway on campus in September. The event focused on the theme of 'Growth through Diversity' and attracted over 140 business leaders, academics and MBA students from the West of Ireland. Pictured above at the launch of the 30% Club were (l-r): Professor Anne Scott (Vice-President for Equality and Diversity), President Jim Browne, Brid Horan (30% Club Steering Committee), and Patricia Orme (KPMG Audit Director).

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

China-Clare Connections

Meet the new Chinese Student and Scholars Association (CSSA) at Shannon College of Hotel Management. The group was formed to enrich Chinese students' leisure time and they already have great activities planned for the academic year. In September, many students including Nancy Zhao (CSSA Chairperson) visited the Chinese Embassy in Dublin for a reception to mark the 68th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.



Fieldwork in a Nuclear Zone

In October, Dr Alexandre de Menezes (Microbiology) travelled to the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone on a field trip, to sample soils for microbial analyses. Dr Menezes lectures in Soil Microbiology and the objective of the study was to understand the effect of 31 years of radiation on the soil microbial communities, as well as the impact of a forest fire which took place there in July 2016.



State Council of China Appointments

August saw three of our staff appointed to a new Advisory Committee set up by the Overseas Chinese Affairs of the State Council of China to encourage further development in the areas of culture, policy, and science and technology in China. Dr Chaosheng Zhang (Geography), Professor Xinmin Zhan (Civil Engineering) and Professor Sanbing Shen (Regenerative Medicine Institute) are pictured here with other appointees from DIT and UCD.

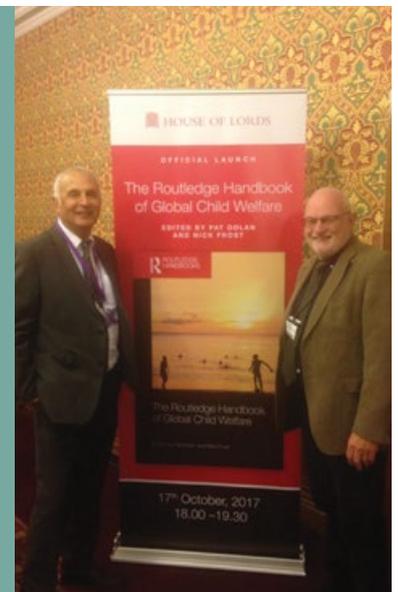


Bill and Melinda Gates Grant

In November, the University was awarded a Grand Challenges Explorations grant, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The award will enable Dr Jim Duggan (Engineering and Informatics) to pursue an innovative global health and development research project, titled HealthSIM. The project explores the potential for computer science and analytics to strengthen health systems globally, and ensure that the right medication arrives for the right patient at the right time. In welcoming the funding, Dr Jim Duggan said: "We are delighted to receive this generous funding to work on a project with such high impact potential".

House of Lords Book Launch

Professor Pat Dolan (UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre) is pictured with Professor Nick Frost (Leeds Beckett University) in the House of Lords, London, for a special launch of their book, the *Routledge Handbook of Global Child Welfare*. The book offers a comprehensive overview of the policies, systems and practices that can deliver the best outcomes for children globally.



BioBase Shines in Brussels

Pictured are members of the international Bio Base NWE team, who recently won a RegioStars 2017 award for their work on clean-tech initiatives and supports for the bio-economy. The project had a lot of involvement from colleagues in the Ryan Institute, including Professor Vincent O'Flaherty, Dr Maria Tuohy, Caroline Murphy and Pádraic Ó hUiginn, who is pictured flying the Irish flag at the awards ceremony in Brussels! Their work focused on policy research in Ireland to develop a market for renewable biogas for heat and transport.



New Books

Vincent de Paul, the Lazarist Mission, and French Catholic Reform, a new book by Dr Alison Forrestal (History), explores the thought and activities of the most famous figure of the seventeenth-century French Catholic Reformation. Professor Daniel Carey (Moore Institute), said: "This book is a major new contribution, bringing fresh perspectives on a figure of huge significance in the history of the Catholic faith".

Life through Time and Space by Wallace Arthur, Emeritus Professor of Zoology, was launched in October. The book brings together the latest discoveries in biology and astronomy to examine our deepest questions about where we came from, where we are going, and whether we are alone in the cosmos. Through accessible language, Arthur takes the reader on a journey through the body and space, and considers whether intelligent aliens are out there.

The Long War by Dr John Morrissey (Geography and Archaeology), critically tells the story of repeated US military interventions in the Middle East and Central Asia over the last 30 years. The book focuses on the archives of US Central Command, and engages a wide range of scholarship on imperialism, geopolitics and neoliberalism, in critiquing the US military's role and the profound human consequences of military violence.



Pictured at the recent launch of *Economic Insights on Higher Education Policy in Ireland: Evidence from a Public System*, are Dr Graham Love (CEO, HEA), Dr John Cullinan (Economics), Dr Darragh Flannery (UL), and President Jim Browne. Edited by Drs Cullinan and Flannery, the book analyses the 'state of the art' in the area of the economics of higher education in Ireland and brings together contributions from a number of leading national and international researchers.



Science on the Big Screen

The Science on Screen initiative is having continued success. In October, *Feats of Modest Valour* won the prestigious Scientist Award at the Imagine Science Film Festival in New York. The film tells the story of three individuals living with the physical challenges of Parkinson's disease. Both it and *Mending Legends* highlight the work of our researchers in CÚRAM and the films have achieved great success in reaching numerous audiences in Ireland and internationally. They have been broadcast on TG4 and RTÉ, screened at film festivals in Europe and the US, and are being used extensively as part of CÚRAM's public engagement programme. A third film *Bittersweet - the Rise of Diabetes*, premiered in November as part of the Galway Science and Technology Festival. The film captures the health system's fight to treat the rising number of diabetic patients.



Hallowe'en in the Huston

The Huston School of Film and Digital Media had a packed house Hallowe'en week for a screening of the 1922 horror classic *Nosferatu*, with a live score by the Galway ConTempo Quartet. The four musicians played an angst-ridden soundtrack live as the scary movie streamed overhead. Acting Head of School, Dr Seán Crosson, is looking forward to further collaborations with the Galway Music Residency: "The response to this screening was fantastic with one of the largest audiences present ever to attend a Huston hosted event."

Photo Credit: W J Barry Photography.

Fintan Judges Bernard

To mark the publication of a new book entitled *Judging Shaw*, Fintan O'Toole gave a public lecture on 'Bernard Shaw and the Uses of Celebrity' on campus in November. The event was followed by a panel discussion on the playwright, moderated by Professor Patrick Lonergan (Drama) and with input from University archivist, Barry Houlihan. Barry collaborated with the Royal Irish Academy to launch a new exhibition on campus to coincide with the publication of the book. It illustrates colourfully a wealth of archival images and stories from Shaw's remarkable public and private life. The exhibition will go on tour nationally and internationally in 2018.

SPOTLIGHT ON EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



Introducing the Team

The Office of the Vice-President for Equality and Diversity was established in September 2016 and is responsible for leading and promoting all aspects of equality and diversity throughout the University.

The team is pictured here (l-r): Professor Anne Scott, Vice-President for Equality and Diversity; Tonya Watts, Equality Manager; and Aoife Cooke, Head of Equal Opportunities.

We launched a new website in September. See for yourself at www.nuigalway.ie/equalityanddiversity

More about the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Campus Committee (EDICC)

The EDICC is a cross-campus committee that leads the operational development of equality and diversity initiatives. The formation of this senior-level committee is important to ensure buy-in across our university community, and progress on priority issues. The committee helps ensure that we work continuously to improve our campus and environment for both students and staff, and that we comply with Public Sector Duty legislation.

EDICC also works to ensure that we implement the recommendations of the NUI Galway Gender Equality Task Force and the HEA Review of Gender Equality in Irish Higher Education Institutions. The HEA Review calls specifically for each institution to establish “an independent, academically-led gender equality forum, chaired by the Vice-President for Equality and comprising staff members drawn from across the institution with sufficient influence and motivation to effect change.” We believe the EDICC is well placed to respond to that call.

The Athena SWAN Institutional Self-Assessment Team (SAT) reports into the EDICC.

More information on all EDI committees is available on our website.

PRIORITY AREAS for 2017/18

The EDICC is focused on the following work streams:

1) GENDER EQUALITY

The Gender Equality Action Plan incorporates the recommendations from both the NUI Galway Gender Equality Task Force and the HEA National Review. It sets out actions to improve gender equality, the lead responsibilities and timelines. Progress updates are posted to our website every two months, so that all colleagues have the opportunity to monitor progress.

The University remains fully committed to embedding the principles of the Athena SWAN Charter. The institutional self-assessment team is working with detailed feedback received from the Equality Challenge Unit on our unsuccessful application earlier this year. At the same time, we are implementing the action plan. To this end, our Office launched the ‘Women in Leadership Seminar Series’ on campus with the inaugural seminar given by Professor Kristín Ingólfssdóttir, the first female Rector of the University of Iceland. She spoke passionately on the theme of ‘Leading a university through times of significant change’.

The External Advisory Group on Gender Equality, established this year, is due to visit the University for a second time in March 2018.

2) LGBT+

We are happy to announce that an LGBT+ staff network is now in place, a development that our Office gladly supported. Staff can contact the network at lgbt@nuigalway.ie

3) DISABILITY AND 4) CULTURAL DIVERSITY

This year, we completed scoping exercises for working programmes in the area of Disability and Cultural Diversity. We look forward to working with colleagues over the coming months on a set of priorities in these important areas.

5) TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

A variety of training initiatives are supported by our Office, including the roll-out of Unconscious Bias training, Ramp-Up and Managing Inclusively workshops, as well as the Aurora and LEAD (Living Equality and Diversity) programmes.

Further information on the above work is available on our website, or by emailing VPequalityanddiversity@nuigalway.ie



Equality Structures

The Equality and Diversity structures within the University have developed significantly this year with the formation of the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (EDIC) of Údarás na hOllscoile, in addition to the progression of the work of the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Campus Committee (EDICC).

FOCUS ON FAMILIES



A number of social events, new policies, training sessions and grants have been introduced to help support staff with families. We want to highlight some of the important (and fun) things that we have been working on. We look forward to working further with our colleagues across the University over the coming year!

Family Gatherings

In July, College Park was filled with circus fun, and families enjoyed the 'lovely' weather with ice-cream. As usual the face-painting was a big hit!

Re-introduced in December 2016, the 2017 Family Christmas Gathering was another success with Woolly Ward's farm animals, doughnuts, carols from the Staff Choir, as well as the famous Mrs Claus.

These events are always popular with staff. So keep your eyes peeled on the weekly An Dialann events listing during the year, and promptly book a place for you and your family!



Ramp-Up and Managing Inclusively

Our Office supports two new family-focused training initiatives for staff:

The **Ramp-Up Workshop** supports mothers returning from maternity leave, while the **Managing Inclusively Workshop** provides line managers with a toolkit that outlines best practice and practical supports that managers can provide to working parents.

Workshops are offered each semester, and are promoted as part of the Staff Development training calendar.



University Breastfeeding Support Group

Anne Fallon (Nursing & Midwifery) and Dr Rachel Hilliard (University Women's Network), with the help of La Leche League and other colleagues, are facilitating a monthly support group to provide peer-to-peer support for breastfeeding mothers on campus. This initiative is in response to the Parent's Forum listening events, which identified an interest from parents in more support for breastfeeding.



Meetings take place 12pm-2pm on Wednesdays in the River Room, AS203 in the Arts/Science Building. All mothers, babies and toddlers, expectant women, grandmothers and female supporters are most welcome. The group is open to students, staff, spouses/partners and other women.

Drop in for mother-to-mother support, information on breastfeeding, a cuppa, biscuits and chat.

Grants for Carers

Did you know that two new grants were introduced this year to support research-active academic staff who return after periods of leave connected with caring?



1. **Research Grant for Returning Academic Carers** provides up to €10,000 for staff members returning from leave to re-engage and support independent research.
2. **Athena SWAN Mid-Career Lecturer Research Capacity Building Grant** provides up to €5,000 for staff members who availed of caring leave in the past 10 years to focus on their independent research.

Family-Friendly Policies

A suite of policies are in place to support parents' work/life balance.



In particular, we would like to highlight the recently introduced Meetings During Core Hours Policy. The policy outlines that all committee meetings should be held during the core hours of 10am-4pm. This is intended to ensure that the maximum number of people can attend staff meetings, particularly those with parental responsibilities.

New Dads

Are you aware of fathers' entitlement to Paternity Leave?



Statutory paternity leave of two weeks came into effect in Ireland in September 2016. NUI Galway pays a 'top-up' to the statutory paternity benefit to maintain full pay for fathers and to encourage the uptake of paternity leave.

For more information on all equality-related leave schemes, visit the Policies and Procedures section of our website.

Please feel free to contact us if you would like a presentation for your Unit/School on the available leave schemes.



Contact Us

- Email: VPEqualityandDiversity@nuigalway.ie
- Phone: 091 49 3764
- Website: www.nuigalway.ie/equalityanddiversity



Allergan Innovation Award

In September, the inaugural Allergan Award for Innovation was awarded to Niamh O'Halloran, a PhD researcher from the Lambe Institute for Translational Research. This is a new initiative between Allergan and the University that supports postgraduate researchers to advance innovative research in the field of Life Sciences. Niamh was granted the Allergan Award based on her research into the use of hydrogels to improve outcomes for post-mastectomy patients who need breast reconstruction. She is pictured here with Paul McGuire, Executive Director of Zeltiq, and Alan Flannery, Finance Director of Allergan.

PhD student makes History

History PhD student, David Kilgannon, became the first NUI Galway winner of the prestigious Kirkpatrick History of Medicine Award. The award is granted by the Irish Royal College of Physicians each year in recognition of the outstanding contribution of an early-stage researcher to the History of Medicine in Ireland.

European Honours

Professor William Wijns, Professor in Interventional Cardiology at the Lambe Institute was awarded a Gold Medal from the European Society of Cardiology in Barcelona in September. The award recognises Professor Wijns' outstanding achievements and international reputation as a leading cardiologist.

Lifetime Contribution to Geography

Congratulations to Professor Mary Cawley, Adjunct Professor in the Whitaker Institute and Emeritus Senior Lecturer in Geography, who was recently awarded a Lifetime Contribution Award by the Geographical Society of Ireland.



Microbiology Medal

Microbiology has unveiled a new award in recognition of Professor Peter Smith's 50 years of unbroken service to the Discipline since it began in 1967. In acknowledgment of his lifelong passion for encouraging and nurturing students, the silver medal will be awarded each year to a 4th year Microbiology undergraduate who has demonstrated outstanding performance. Peter is pictured (centre) with Dr Gerard Wall (Microbiology) and Joanne Duffy, the inaugural winner of the medal at her BSc graduation in October.

Improving Weather Predictions

Dr Paul Nolan (Irish Centre for High-End Computing) received the Best Contribution to Data Science Award at this year's DataSci Awards for the Centre's work in producing high-resolution Numerical Weather Prediction simulations. As Dr Nolan says: "The weather touches upon nearly every aspect of our daily lives, from food supply to recreational activities to energy resources." Using Ireland's national supercomputer 'Fionn' and ICHEC's expertise, the data from these simulations has the potential to inform public policy, the Irish energy sector and a wide range of research.

Remembering an Extraordinary Engineering Grad

A new award for Best Student in Electronic and Computer Engineering has been set up in David Gilmore's name to honour the memory of this extraordinary graduate. David, who passed away in 2011, had battled Cystic Fibrosis throughout his time at the University. But he persevered with his studies, and was awarded an Honours Engineering Degree in 2007. Pictured at the launch of the David Gilmore Award were (l-r) his parents Tommy and Mary Gilmore; Programme Director, Dr Martin Glavin; Paul Killoran, MD of Ex-Ordo, which David helped set up, and Mary Lane Heneghan, Cystic Fibrosis Galway. The 2017 winner of the award is Paul Newell.





Recognising Research Excellence

Research excellence was celebrated in September with the announcement of the winners of this year's President's Awards for Research Excellence, in three different categories: The Early Stage Researcher awards went to Dr John Cullinan (Economics), Dr Anne O'Connor (Italian) and Dr Derek Morris (Biochemistry). The Established Researcher category was won by Professor Brian McGuire (Psychology), Dr Frances Fahy (Geography) and Dr Paul Buitelaar (Insight). Meanwhile, the Research Supervisor award was presented to Professor Kieran Conboy (Business Information Systems) and Dr Conor O'Byrne (Microbiology). This year's Ryan Award for Innovation went to a team led by Dr Michel Dugon (Zoology). The €20,000 prize will support their research into the potential for the venom of Irish spiders as a source of antimicrobial compounds.



Accounting on the Clock!

Pictured are members of the Finance team who were tasked with implementing the new accounting standard FRS 102. It significantly improve timelines for receipt of annual audit certification from the Comptroller and Auditor General, and reduces the time allowed for presentation of completed Financial Statements to Governing Authority.



Safety First

The QQI Safety Representatives Award was presented to six staff by Chief Operating Officer, John Gill, in September following the completion of their training. Congratulations to Dr Muriel Voisin, Pauline Stack, Jim Lenaghan, Ray Conlon and Oilibhéar Ó Niaidh for their commitment to the safety, health and welfare of their workplace and colleagues.



Academic Skills Launch

Pictured at the launch of the Academic Skills Hub Desk in the Library are (l-r): John Hannon (Student Services), Dr Pat Morgan (Vice-President for the Student Experience), Megan Reilly (Students' Union), Jane Ennis (Access Centre), John Cox (University Librarian), Dr Kathy Reilly (College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies), and Niall McSweeney (Library). The new Hub Desk is based in the Library foyer, where the Academic Skills team offers students personalised, one-to-one assistance with academic and information skills. A complementary Academic Skills Hub website was developed in a collaborative effort involving staff and students from across campus. It is packed with advice and tips for students.

Postgrads have their Say

The Graduate Studies team welcomed the results of the PRES Survey 2017, which seeks feedback from postgraduate research students in the University. It is the first ever benchmarked study of this cohort, and the results are used to enhance the engagement and experience of postgrads here. The team are particularly pleased to share one of the highlight figures from the survey with our *Ollscéala* readers: 88% of our research students agree that our supervisors have the skills and subject knowledge to support their research needs. Keep up the good work! Contact Anna Marie Leonard for more detailed feedback from the survey.



Collectively Combatting Climate Change

Galway Climathon brought activists, scientists and students together on campus in October to generate pioneering ideas that could lead Galway towards a zero-carbon economy. The climate change 'hackathon' was won by a team called MarineClean, who proposed a solution for the challenge of petroleum-based plastics polluting our oceans. Professor Charles Spillane (Ryan Institute) is pictured holding the winners' cheque with Aideen O'Hora, Director of SustainableNation Ireland. Ongoing support to develop the innovations will be provided to the top three teams by NUI Galway's Technovate programme.



WEEE Recycled!

Minister of State Rural Affairs and Natural Resources, Seán Kyne, rolled up his sleeves to join staff from Buildings and Estates and volunteers for a very successful WEEE Recycling Day on campus. 19 tonnes of recyclable waste was collected from staff, students and the public. It is part of an ongoing drive towards environmental sustainability across the University.



Cell EXPLORERS Up for a Challenge

The Cell EXPLORERS programme has become a Gaisce Challenge Partner, which means that student volunteers can now use their experience on the programme towards achieving a Gaisce Award. Pictured at the launch of the partnership in the Phoenix Park are Cell EXPLORERS National Coordinator, Dr Claudia Frachhiolla; CEO of Gaisce, Yvonne McKenna; and Cell EXPLORERS Programme Director, Dr Muriel Grenon (Biochemistry).



NUI Galway Newbies...

Beginning any new job is a big deal, particularly in a place as big and varied as our University. So we would like to warmly welcome the new staff pictured here at the autumn induction organised by Human Resources.



...and Not-so-Newbies!

What do all of these staff have in common? Believe it or not, they have all worked in the University for the past 25 years, starting in 1992. We think they all look very well on it! We would like to thank these loyal colleagues for their continued service, and wish them every success in the coming years.

The View from Around Campus



Ciara Beth Ní Ghríofa, Youth Researcher at the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, presented her work on empathy education at the UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris in October.



Fr Barry Horan left the Chaplaincy in October to take up his new role as parish priest in Clarinbridge. Friends and colleagues met to mark his farewell, and to make sure he doesn't forget his time at NUI Galway!



Mairéad McKeon (J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics) sent in this snap of the 'lively' Executive MBA class, during their residential block in the Connemara Coast Hotel in September.



Catherina McLoughlin and Anne Cahill (Examinations Office) were joined by these young film fans to watch 'The Sound of Music' as part of the NUIght at the Movies event organised by the Staff Social Club.



Still Fit at Forty! In October, staff celebrated 40 years of their Soccer team with a challenge match in the Kingfisher Club followed by a gathering of past and present players in the College Bar. 'Some great stories were shared, many embellished with the passing of time'.



The victorious Staff Golf Team - Dr Michael Moroney, Professor Chris Curtin, Dr John Morrissey and Dr Tony Hall - who beat their UL rivals in October. Not pictured: Team Captain, Peter Crampton.



Psychology PhD student, Marita Hennessy, and Dr Michelle Share (TCD) are pictured at the launch of their recent report 'Food Access and Nutritional Health among Families in Emergency Homeless Accommodation' commissioned by Focus Ireland.



Pictured are Sarah Geraghty (Student Recruitment and Outreach Manager) and Valerie Leahy (Postgraduate Recruitment Officer) who picked up the award for 'Best Prospectus' at the 2017 GradIreland Higher Education Awards. In total, four postgraduate courses were shortlisted at the awards.



Macnas performer, Victoria Mc Cormack, struck a pose outside the Quadrangle as their spectacular Hallowe'en parade started out from South Campus.

HALLS

Desktop Diary

January 2018							February 2018							March 2018						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30	31									

New Year – New Passion

If you have time during lunch, why not try something new in 2018? There is a vibrant lunchtime community on campus, which is welcoming to all newcomers.

Craft & Culture

The Arts in Action programme offers you a culture fix on Wednesdays, and you can explore your own creativity with art classes run by Marina Wild in Áras na Mac Léinn on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Try lace-making classes in the Lifecourse building, or the weekly crochet classes run by Anne O'Hara Quinn. Can you sing? Maybe you would like to join the Staff choir to explore your vocal range and sing in harmony with others. The choir meets in the South Campus Mondays and Thursdays.

Health & Wellbeing

Mindfulness on Wednesdays is a quiet untapped haven in the centre of our campus. The drop-in session creates

a moment of calm and a cherished breath to get away from it all. The Lotus Society offers popular yoga classes at lunchtime too.

Keep Fit

There are many informal soccer, squash, swimming and jog groups that meet up at lunchtime. If you prefer the structure of a class, the Kingfisher Club have lots of interesting options. The Exercise4Health programme in conjunction with Croí comes recommended. There are beautiful walks through our campus, along the Corrib pathway. Call a friend and ask them to join you in the fresh air.

Why bother with a lunchtime activity? You might acquire a new skill, make a new connection, be inspired by creativity, get fit, meet a new friend, and take in the beauty of our campus. Make your lunchtime count. Look out for special lunchtime events throughout the year in the staff calendar.

