



NUI Galway
OĒ Gaillimh



Inspiring the Nation

The campus community joined together in September to welcome home our Paralympic athletes, including staff members Dr Eoghan Clifford and Dr Pat O'Leary. Read more about their achievements inside.

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OLLSCÉALA

Focal ón Uachtarán



A Chairde,

As 2016 draws to a close, we can reflect on a historic year, which has brought success and recognition for the University right across the entire range of campus activity.

In September our rise in the two main **global rankings** reflects our growing ambition and output as a research-led university. And while rankings

are imperfect, they clearly highlight that NUI Galway is on an upward trajectory and is now ranked in the top 250 universities in the world. This puts us in the top 2% of universities in the world - and at the forefront of national life.

During the past semester this was evident in a number of ways. In September, our strong relationship with the 'medtech' sector - a vitally important element of the Irish economy - was highlighted when Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D. launched CÚRAM, Ireland's research centre for medical devices (see page 4). **CÚRAM** represents a €68 million investment in medtech research from the State, EU, industry and philanthropic sources and will ensure that our country can produce the best talent for scientific innovation in research, clinical and industrial settings.

Coinciding with the launch of CÚRAM, the University awarded honorary degrees to six leaders of Ireland's medtech sector to mark their defining contribution to the development of this sector.

The past few months have also seen the University make a significant contribution to Irish cultural life.

On Halloween night, 31 October, **TG4 celebrated**

its 20th anniversary with a major event broadcast live from The Quadrangle and featured the University strongly in the programme. This live concert event was attended by President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins and an audience of over 500 guests; with performances by some of Ireland's best known artists and traditional musicians, and live video links to Gaeltacht locations, in an event that celebrated the Irish language TV station's considerable contribution to national life and culture.

Hosting the event here at NUI Galway allowed us to showcase our own mission and heritage in relation to Irish language and culture; creative industries; and drama, theatre and performance.

The past year has marked a special milestone in Ireland's growth as a nation. In November, NUI Galway hosted one of the highlights of the national centenary programme to mark 1916 in a **major international academic conference** entitled, **Ireland 1916-2016: The Promise and Challenge of National Sovereignty**.

Leading artists, writers, academics and policy-makers came to NUI Galway to look at how Ireland has risen to the promise and challenge of 1916, taking time to reflect on what the year has meant

Familiar Faces



John Cox (Library); Professor Donncha O'Connell (Law); Chair of Údarás na hOllscoile, Ms Justice Catherine McGuinness; an tOllamh Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh; and NUI Galway President Jim Browne, were guests of President Michael D. Higgins at the launch of his new collection of speeches, entitled *When Ideas Matter*.



In September, Minister for Health, Simon Harris (centre), launched a new HRB Irish Clinical Academic Training Programme that will see six universities across Ireland collaborating to train the next generation of clinical research specialists. Representing NUI Galway at the launch was Dr Conall Denny from the School of Medicine (pictured left).



Oscar-nominated Director, Lenny Abrahamson, was the subject of a public interview by Dr Conn Holohan (Huston School of Film & Digital Media) at a special event organised by Galway UNESCO City of Film. The Irish director received his Oscar nomination for the much acclaimed film 'Room'.

Go Green

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in Ireland and to understanding how our sense of national identity has matured. All universities on the island of Ireland were represented along with institutes of technology, other colleges, independent scholars and cultural institutions.

Over 700 delegates attended the conference over 3 days (10 – 12 November) among them An Taoiseach; the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs; secretaries general of a number of Government departments; the Director-General of RTÉ; along with ambassadors, public representatives, alumni, students and members of the wider community.

The conference was both illuminating and encouraging – and many of the old certainties were challenged. It struck me that despite the upheavals of recent years, Ireland has its confidence back and displays a growing maturity in the face of an increasingly complex, globalised world.

And that confidence was visible on the sporting front too, as we celebrated the success of our colleagues and **Paralympic** athletes – Dr Eoghan Clifford and Dr Pat O’Leary – at a special homecoming event which took place on campus on 28 September, with Galway Bay FM broadcasting live from the event.

Eoghan took home gold and bronze medals in Cycling (in the Men’s C3 Time Trial and C3 3000m Individual Pursuit), while Pat put in an immense performance to make the KL3 Canoe Final and finish sixth in the world.

We also celebrated our former Students’ Union Manager, Rena McCarron Rooney, who reached the quarter-final in table tennis, as well as the wonderful achievements of alumna, Deirdre Mongan, who represented Ireland in the shot put, and Galway-native, Eric O’Flaherty, who lined out for Ireland in football.

In October, we also recognised the tremendous sporting achievement of Connacht Rugby over the past year by conferring an honorary degree on the province’s coach, **Pat Lam**. At the same conferring session we also awarded undergraduate degrees to five players from Connacht Rugby, underlining the close and highly successful association between NUI Galway and Connacht Rugby through the rugby academy.

So after a year of positive growth and development, we look forward to another year with renewed ambition. Early next year we will officially open two new buildings (Human Biology and Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance)

marking the completion of the 10-year programme of capital development which has transformed our campus; the Donegal Medical Academy will be opened in Letterkenny University Hospital in early December, completing the network of medical academies in the region; and we will mark the half-way point in our progress towards completion of the goals set out in Vision 2020 – the University’s Strategic Plan.

All across the University I see the commitment and dedication of colleagues, who collectively are building our success. Thank you for your efforts. Together we are leaving a legacy for the future – and ensuring NUI Galway can continue to lead the field.

As the year draws to a close, I wish you and yours a peaceful and Happy Christmas.

Nollaig shona agus beannachtaí don bhliain nua atá romhainn.

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

Appointments

Internal Appointments

New Deans

- **Professor Cathal O’Donoghue** has been appointed Dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies. He was previously Head of the Rural Economy and Development Programme at Teagasc.
- **Professor John McHale** has been appointed Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy, and Law.
- **Professor Peter McHugh** has been appointed Dean of the College of Engineering and Informatics.

Marketing and Communications

- **Lorna Farren** has been appointed Director of Marketing and Communications. She comes to the University from the Irish Medical Council, where she was Communications Manager.

You can read more about these appointments on Page 8.

Professorships

The following staff were appointed Professor in recent months:

- **Gerry Mac Ruairc** was appointed Established Professor of Education
- **Gary Duffy** was appointed Personal Professor/Senior Lecturer in Anatomy
- **Dietrich Rebolz-Schuhmann** was appointed Established Professor of Data Analytics

Dean at Mayo Medical Academy

As well as our new College Deans, **Dr Méabh Ní Bhuinneáin** was appointed Dean of Medical Education in our Medical Academy at Mayo University Hospital in Castlebar.

External Appointments

Professor Dan Carey, Director of the Moore Institute, has been appointed to the Board of the Irish Research Council. The IRC is an associated agency of the Department of Education and Skills, and the Board oversees its important role in supporting a vibrant research community that enriches Irish research, the economy and society.

Dr Tony Hall (Education) has been elected a Fellow of the International Society for Design and Development in Education (ISDDE). Dr Hall joins 150 other active educational designers and technologists from around the world who are connected as Fellows of the society, which aims to promote excellence in educational products and materials, particularly for science, mathematics, and technology.

Dr Gerard Flaherty (Medicine) has been awarded Fellowship of the International Society of Travel Medicine by its Special Recognitions Committee. ISTM has over 3400 members in over 100 countries worldwide and Gerard is the first Irish healthcare professional to achieve this honour. He has also recently been appointed as Associate Editor to the Journal of Travel Medicine.



Minister Mitchell O'Connor met researchers from across CÚRAM, including PhD researcher, Gillian Murphy.

FOCUS ON MEDTECH

Two major events on campus celebrated the University's commitment to the medtech industry in Ireland.

On 26 September, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mary Mitchell O'Connor, visited our Biosciences building to officially launch the CÚRAM Centre for Research in Medical Devices, following a €49 million investment by Science Foundation Ireland and industry. CÚRAM's Scientific Director, Professor Abhay Pandit, is leading a 280-strong team of researchers in their efforts to find treatments for some of the world's most common chronic illnesses. The investment has already been used to leverage a further €19 million from the EU's Horizon 2020 programme, making CÚRAM one of Ireland's biggest research success stories in recent years. Minister Mitchell O'Connor remarked on the key role NUI Galway is playing in ensuring that world class skills are available to companies in Ireland, to enhance our reputation as a global hub for medtech.



On the evening of the launch, six leading figures from Galway's medtech sector were conferred with honorary degrees in recognition of their contribution over 30 years to innovation, industry and employment in the West. The honorary graduates were introduced by Professor Laoise McNamara, who spoke about their pioneering work in growing the medtech industry here – an industry that employs 29,000 people in Ireland today. Professor McNamara is pictured here with (l-r) John O'Shaughnessy, Mednova and Neuravi; John O'Dea, Crospon; Helen Ryan, former CEO Creganna; Ian Quinn, Creganna founder; Paul Gilson, Mednova founder; and John Power, Aerogen.

Visit www.nuigalway.ie/medtechconferring for citations and videos of the graduates



Rugby Honours

At the autumn conferring, the University conferred an honorary degree upon Head Coach of Connacht rugby, Pat Lam, in the presence of his wife Stephanie; an Taoiseach, Enda Kenny; and five Connacht players who were also graduating on the day. At the special event, Pat's citation was given by Director of Sport and Physical Activity, Mike Heskin, who spoke about his Samoan heritage, his passion for rugby, and his lifelong emphasis on family, community and wellbeing. A hugely popular figure across the province, Pat Lam has achieved unprecedented success winning Connacht's first ever major trophy, the 2016 Guinness Pro12. He is joined in the photo by (l-r) Saba Meunargia (BA), Jack Dinneen (BComm), Eoghán Masterson (BA) and Conor Finn (BA).



Top 250 in the World!

In September, NUI Galway crossed a remarkable threshold. For the first time, the University has been named among the Top 250 universities in the world, according to both major ranking systems – QS and Times Higher Education. Ours is the only Irish university to rise consistently in the rankings in recent years, and the 2016 results propel us closer to our strategic goal of reaching the Top 200 by 2020. Reacting to the news, President Jim Browne, commended the collective efforts of our campus community: "Our continued rise in rankings reflects the ambition, hard work and creativity of our staff and students." These rankings are used around the world, and the President looked forward to even greater opportunities for international links in the future. "The high calibre of our research and teaching is facilitating collaboration with the likes of Mayo Clinic, Tsinghua University and an array of industry partners, while advancing the international reach of our university," he remarked.



Pictured at the athletes' reception in the President's Drawing Room are (l-r) Deputy Mayor Pearce Flannery; Rena McCarron Rooney; Dr Eoghan Clifford; Eric O'Flaherty (who competed in Soccer); Dr Pat O'Leary; Paralympics Ireland Chef de Mission, Denis Twoomey; and University President, Dr Jim Browne.

A HERO'S HOMECOMING

On a wet and windy Wednesday in September, hundreds of staff, students and visitors joined the Galway Bay FM roadcaster outside the Library to welcome our Paralympic athletes home. It was a fitting tribute to those competitors who so inspired the nation through their efforts in Rio. This year's games saw over 4,000 athletes competing in 25 sports, with competitions classified by the athletes' level of impairment. We were particularly proud to welcome home three members of Team Ireland with a strong connection to the University – two current lecturers and a former Students' Union staff member.

Civil Engineering lecturer, Dr Eoghan Clifford, competed in Cycling and took home a gold medal in the Men's C3 Time Trial, a bronze medal in the C3 3000 metres Individual Pursuit and finished fifth in the C1-3 Road Race. Chemistry lecturer, Dr Pat O'Leary, competed in Canoeing, making the final of the KL3 Canoe event where he finished in sixth place. Their achievements competing on a world stage – while also working full time – are an inspiration to us all. And we are delighted to have such sporting icons on our team.

Many staff will remember former Students' Union Manager, Rena McCarron Rooney, who made the quarter finals in the T2 Table Tennis competition, while NUI Galway graduate Deirdre Mongan finished fifth in the F53 shot putt.



Sharing in the Celebration: Eoghan was joined at the Paralympic homecoming by his wife Magda and their daughter Sofia. Magda is a research engineer in the College of Engineering and Informatics.

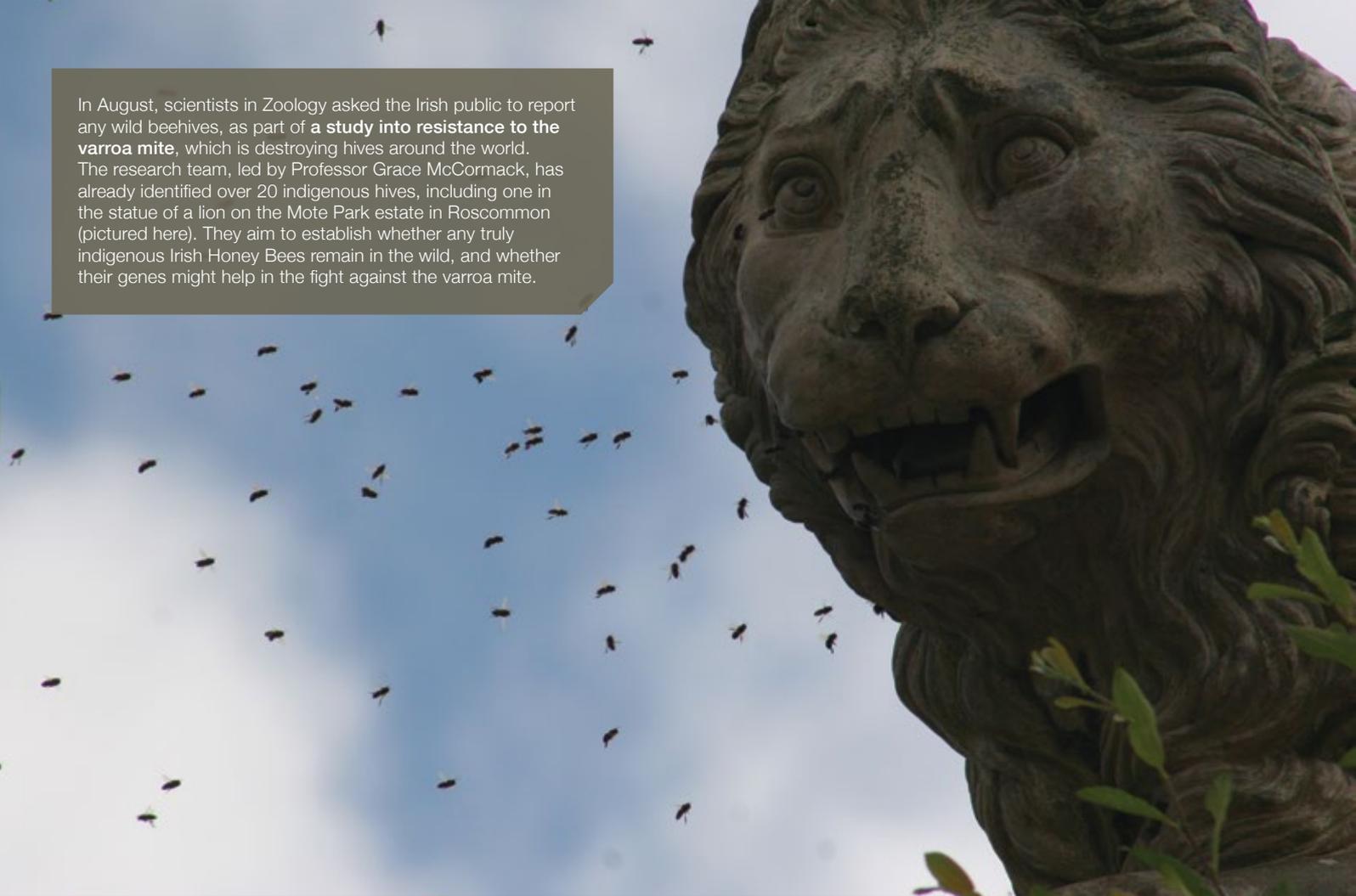


A NATION REMEMBERS

1916 Programme Draws to a Close

The University's 1916 commemorative programme ended on a high in November, when the campus hosted a national conference exploring the promise and challenge of national sovereignty. The conference marked the end of our centenary programme, entitled 'A Nation Rising', which saw staff organise over 30 events – including exhibitions, conferences and festivals – across Galway. The academic conference attracted expert speakers from home and abroad, including Oxford University Professors Roy Foster and Louise Richardson, while a fringe festival saw familiar faces, like Hector Ó hEochagáin and Fintan O'Toole hosting fun events across the campus and city. Congratulations to all the staff who came together to mark the centenary in such engaging and imaginative ways, with particular credit to Dr Mary Harris (History) who led the University's commemorative programme.

In August, scientists in Zoology asked the Irish public to report any wild beehives, as part of a **study into resistance to the varroa mite**, which is destroying hives around the world. The research team, led by Professor Grace McCormack, has already identified over 20 indigenous hives, including one in the statue of a lion on the Mote Park estate in Roscommon (pictured here). They aim to establish whether any truly indigenous Irish Honey Bees remain in the wild, and whether their genes might help in the fight against the varroa mite.



RESEARCH IN ACTION

Just some of the results, reports and discoveries that made headlines in recent months.

What makes the weather change? An international research team, including NUI Galway's Professor Colin O'Dowd and Dr Darius Ceburnis, believe that tiny particles in marine air have a significant impact. The research published in *Nature*, used samples taken from Mace Head research station near Carna to show how atmospheric aerosols impact the creation of haze and cloud. These tiny particles may play a significant role in understanding, and ultimately fighting, the negative effects of climate change.

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The power of local neighbourhoods, from the Liberties to Garryowen, has been highlighted in six new reports launched by Minister Katherine Zappone. The reports were authored by researchers in the Institute for Lifecourse and Society using data collected from six unique communities in Dublin, Limerick and Galway. The studies involved huge community participation from three distinct groups: children and youth, older people, and people with disabilities. As Dr Kieran Walsh explains, "Neighbourhood change, local service adequacy and feelings of belonging all influence the capacity of these groups to participate in full and meaningful ways."

NUI Galway and Teagasc have established a **Strategic Research and Training Alliance on Carbon-Neutral Agriculture**. The alliance builds on an existing collaboration between researchers in both institutions, and will support a range of new postgraduate courses and research projects aimed at transitioning Irish agriculture and food systems to a lower carbon footprint. Researchers in the Plant and AgriBiosciences Research Centre (PABC) in NUI Galway have collaborated with Teagasc for years, and PABC Head, Professor Charles Spillane, sees huge potential in the alliance for developing the next generation of innovations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions here.

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Compliance with **good hand hygiene practices in Irish hospitals** remains low – something that puts the lives of sick people further at risk. A new three-year project funded by the HRB aims to change that, by providing practical tools and methodologies to properly address the issue in Ireland's Intensive Care Units. Dr Paul O'Connor (General Practice) is leading the project, and his interest in the area is driven by the insight that hand hygiene procedures, despite being simple, are not readily understood, explained or changed.

Adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are the focus of new research at the School of Psychology, the results of which have been recently published. Led by Dr Pádraig Mac Neela, the study shows through the personal accounts of Irish adults living with the condition, that a diagnosis of ADHD can lead to a sense of disbelief quickly followed by relief. Dr Mac Neela explains, "Its only when they are diagnosed as adults that they realise they can now name something that has affected them since childhood."

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New insights into the function of a gene important in the suppression of cancer was published by members of the Centre for Chromosome Biology in September. The study, which was led by Professor Noel Lowndes, sheds light on **the role of the TP53 gene in suppressing tumours**. The gene was known to prevent cancer cells from multiplying, but Dr Lowndes' team has shown that it also directly regulates the repair of broken DNA. It is hoped that these insights will lead to TP53 being used in anti-cancer mechanisms in the future.



PhD researcher, Nina Wemken (left), under the supervision of Dr Marie Coggins in the School of Physics (right), is **measuring pollutants in Irish homes, schools, offices and cars**. The 'ELEVATE' study is testing samples of drinking water, indoor air and floor dust for levels of 'persistent organic pollutants', which evidence suggests may be harmful to health. These pollutants are present in common fabric and packaging, and can accumulate for long periods of time in the environment. The study, which is being carried out in collaboration with the University of Birmingham, is funded by the EPA.



Research by Dr Justin Tonra (English) is causing a stir among British and Irish literary enthusiasts, by using computer mapping to visualise the **hidden social networks in the ancient Ossianic poems**. Not only has Dr Tonra's analysis revealed the complexity of the connections between characters in the third century Scottish Gaelic texts, it also suggests that they bear remarkable similarities to Irish mythology, and not ancient Greek literature as previously thought. The interdisciplinary study was a collaboration with researchers in Oxford and Coventry, and it is a great example of how contemporary research in the digital humanities can uncover secrets from our literary past.



NUI Galway-led research projects have received **over €4 million in the latest round of funding from Science Foundation Ireland**. Pictured here are members of a joint deep-sea study between NUI Galway, the Marine Institute and UCC, including our own Dr Louise Allcock and Professor Mark Johnson. They are studying unique chemical compounds in marine sponges and corals to explore their potential pharmacological use. Other funded projects from the University include Professor Henry Curran's molecular study of how fuel burns in combustors, and Professor Tim O'Brien's research into stem cell therapies for diabetic blood vessel complications.

NEW DEANS



Professor John McHale
College of Business,
Public Policy and Law

In June, Professor John McHale was appointed Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law, replacing outgoing Dean, Professor Kieran Conboy. An Established Professor of Economics, Professor McHale previously served as Director of the Whitaker Institute for Innovation and Societal Change at NUI Galway.

On top of his work in the University, Professor McHale has been Chairman of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council since 2011. In the past, he has been a consultant to the World Bank on various migration and development projects, and has also served on the National Economic and Social Council, as well as the Pensions Board. He is currently President of the Irish Economic Association. He has previously held positions as Assistant Professor of Economics and Associate Professor of Economics at Harvard University, and as Associate Professor of Managerial Economics and Toller Family Research Fellow at the Queen's University, Ontario.



Professor Cathal O'Donoghue
College of Arts, Social
Science, and Celtic Studies

Professor Cathal O'Donoghue took up the role of Dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies in October, replacing outgoing Dean, Dr Edward Herring.

Professor O'Donoghue comes to NUI Galway from Teagasc – Ireland's Agriculture and Food Development Authority – where he was Head of the Rural Economy and Development Research Programme. He was also a member of the board of Teagasc's research directorate.

Among his many public roles, Professor O'Donoghue has served on the Fund Council of CGIAR, a \$1 billion a year International Agri-Food Research organisation. He was CEO of the Irish Government's Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas 2012-2014, and Chairman of the Irish Sport Horse Strategy Committee 2013-2015.

Professor O'Donoghue's personal research programme involves the development and use of policy simulation models, for which he holds a Chair at the University of Maastricht, as well as an adjunct position in UCD.



Professor Peter McHugh
was appointed Dean of the
College of Engineering and
Informatics in September

In October, I celebrated 25 years in the University. I have been what you might call a front-line teaching academic for all of that time. The role of Dean is an extremely important one, and I am looking forward to making a contribution to the University in my new post.

Greater interaction with other Colleges and Schools is the key to success. I want to make sure we reach out more into multi-disciplinary research. I want to develop greater possibilities for joint teaching programmes, while at the same time maintaining the integrity of an Engineering degree.

I will work to ensure that we continue to have world class research in the College. I am also keen to work to improve our student, staff ratio. I want to ensure that we can grow our academic and support staff to improve our performance and our student experience.

We offer Engineering degrees of the highest quality and standard. We work with industry to ensure the employability of our graduates. While we continue to develop and grow, we can't lose what we have.

The commitment of staff in the College is fantastic. NUI Galway has fantastic people at all levels, who are providing fantastic output – through the bad economic times – in terms of the quality of the teaching and the standing of the research on an international stage.



Lorna Farren
was appointed Director
of Marketing and
Communications
in August

I leapt at the opportunity to work in the University because of the range of exciting things that have been happening here. There have been so many achievements across research and teaching, and the University has a great reputation for Marketing and Communications.

The diversity of activity is very impressive. It has been really exciting to meet so many great people, and to see the range of research interests in particular. Getting to work on things as diverse as robots and bees is really fantastic.

My priority is to make sure we have the structures in place to shine a light on all of the great work that is happening. One of the things that has struck me since I started is that there is such a culture of excellence that people don't stop and realise that the world would be interested in what they're doing. They take it for granted! We'd like to help them to tell their story.

The greatest challenge facing Communications in general at the moment, is this concept of the post-truth society. Particularly for a University, we've never been more relevant. There has never been a greater need to inform people and to make sure they have the facts to make decisions that affect their lives.

We hear a lot about the Dublin-centric media. But there are ways to tackle that - through social media for example. We have great interest in Facebook and Twitter and we can use that to tell our story.



New BA in Children's Studies

Minister for Children, Katherine Zappone, visited the University in October to launch a new BA in Children's Studies, the first of its kind in Europe. Taking an inter-disciplinary approach, the programme investigates the life of children in Ireland and beyond, including their development, welfare and rights. At the launch, Minister Zappone acknowledged NUI Galway's leading role in the field of child and adolescent research and education. She is pictured here (centre) with Programme Director, Dr Michal Molcho and President Jim Browne.



iJuMP Mentoring

Our final-year medical students are benefiting from an innovative new mentoring programme that sees interns sharing advice and experiences with them. The aim of the iJuMP programme is to improve students' preparedness for clinical practice. It is funded through the HSE. Pictured here, Dr Ryan Sugrue received his award for 'iJuMP Best Clinical Teacher' from College Dean, Professor Tim O'Brien.



Collaborating for Better Health

In September, University staff organised an IRC-funded workshop on Interdisciplinary Research for Health, with partners from DCU and Queen's University Belfast. The event attracted delegates from across academia, research, industry, health services, and NGOs, with the key aim of creating new and long-term interdisciplinary networks for health-related research. Pictured are (l-r) Dr Molly Byrne (Psychology); John O'Dea, Crospon Medical Devices; Professor Sally Wyke, University of Glasgow; President Jim Browne; and Professor Catherine Woods, UL.



Babel Lectures

In October, the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures held their annual Babel lecture series in the Galway City Museum. Staff delivered talks on a maritime theme this year, including sea monsters, Saint Brendan, and the massacre of Basque whale hunters in Iceland. Dr Lillis Ó Laoire and Dr Catherine Emerson performed sea-themed songs and stories, and the event concluded with the docking of a flotilla of hookers built by Bádóirí an Chladaigh.

Conference Highlights

English Language and Literature: August saw over 800 delegates from around the world coming to Galway for the annual conference of the European Society for the Study of English, the first time it was held in Ireland. The event included over 80 seminars on topics ranging from Shakespeare to Harry Potter, and speakers included the much-loved Wexford author, Colm Tóibín. According to conference organiser, Professor Patrick Lonergan, it gave the opportunity to "showcase Galway's excellence in the areas of education, culture and hospitality."

Regional Development: In September, we hosted a major conference entitled 'Planning For Regional Development: The National Planning Framework as a Roadmap for Ireland's Future'. Organised by Dr Pat Collins (Geography), the conference discussed how Ireland can plan for the next 30 years, as the population is expected

to grow to 6.5 million. International speakers addressed such issues as congestion, housing provision, and international pressures, including the impending Brexit.

1916's Hidden Voices: A special conference entitled '1916: Home: 2016' was held in October as part of the national centenary commemorative programme. The event juxtaposed the 100th anniversary of 1916 with the 20th anniversary of the closing of the last Magdalene Laundry. Delegates explored the tension between the ideals of citizenship and inclusion underpinning the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, in the context of today.

World Bioethics Day: Staff took part in a one-day symposium on October 19 to coincide with World Bioethics Day. The event was organised by UNESCO Bioethics Ireland, which is chaired

by Dr Oliver Feeney in NUI Galway's Centre of Bioethical Research and Analysis (COBRA). Delegates explored a wide range of contentious topics, including embryonic stem cell research in Ireland, the assisted dying debate, and the wider cultural context of developing science policy..

Focus on Teaching: Nobel Prize winning educationist, Professor Carl Wieman from Stanford University, was one of many distinguished speakers at the Symposium on Higher Education, which attracted 200 academics to Galway. This year's theme was 'Theory and Practice: researching teaching and learning in higher education', and in the seminars and workshops delegates discussed their teaching methods and how best to promote scholarship. The symposium was hosted by CELT in Áras Moyola.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS



Chinese Culture Takes Centre Stage

The Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, Dr Yue Xiaoyong, was guest of honour at a special concert of Chinese culture in August to celebrate the strong links between NUI Galway and Tsinghua University. Guests gathered in the Quadrangle to watch students from the Beijing university dance and perform in traditional dress. The concert coincided with two conferences on campus, which attracted over 200 delegates from China. Professor Xinmin Zhan (Civil Engineering) hosted the International Conference on Pollution Control and Resource Recovery for the Livestock Sector, while Dr Chaosheng Zhang (Geography) hosted a joint international conference on environment, health and geographical information science.

UN Discusses Violence Against Women

Director of the Centre for Global Women's Studies, Dr Nata Duvvury, was an expert advisor at a High Level Discussion on the Economic Costs of Violence against Women held at the UN headquarters in New York in September. Dr Duvvury's groundbreaking research into the costs of violence against women has gained international recognition, and is cited by Hillary Clinton, Mary Robinson, the UN and World Bank, among others. At the discussion, she showed how: "Violence against women is a fundamental human rights violation, a priority public health issue and a development issue with significant implications for economic growth."



Objects of Italy

A new book by Professor Paolo Bartoloni (Italian) explores the hidden relationship between objects and individuals in Italian culture. Entitled *Objects in Italian Life and Culture: Fiction, Migration, and Artificiality*, the book was launched in October by Professor Derek Duncan, University of St Andrews. Pictured at the launch are (l-r) Registrar and Deputy President, Pól Ó Dochartaigh; Professors Bartoloni and Duncan; and Head of the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Dr Kate Quinn.



Cuairt ón gCoimisiún Eorpach

Is linne an t-aon chúrsa traenála d'ateangairí in Éirinn agus an t-aon chúrsa d'ateangairí le Gaeilge ar domhan! I mí na Samhna thug Florkia Fink-Hooijer, Ard-Stiúrthóir na hAteangaireachta sa Choimisiún Eorpach, cuairt ar Ghailimh chun casadh le chomhaltáí foirne agus mic léinn an chúrsa sin. Labhair an tArd-Stiúrthóir leis na mic léinn faoi pholasáí ilteangachais an AE agus na deiseanna fostaíochta atá san earnáil dóibh siúd le cáilíocht aitheanta sa ghairm. Le linn na cuairte, chas an grúpa le hionadaithe ó Rialtas na hÉireann freisin agus phléigh siad toadhcháil na Gaeilge mar theanga oifigiúil agus oibre den AE.



TG4XX

Bhí súil an phobail ar an Ollscoil Oíche Shamhna agus muid ag ceiliúradh bhunú TG4 cothrom an lae sin 20 bliain ó shin. D'fhreastal 500 duine ar cheolchoirm speisialta a craoladh beo ar an teilifís agus ar líne ó phuball mór sa Chearnóg. I measc na n-aíonna bhí an tUachtarán Micheál D. Ó hUiginn, a labhair go paiseanta faoin éacht atá bainte amach ag an gcaineál le scór blianta anuas. Tá go leor dár gcuid céimithe tar éis seal a chaitheamh le TG4 thar na blianta, ina measc Gráinne Seoige, Ailbhe Ó Monacháin agus Eimear Ní Chonaola a ghlac páirt sa seó. Ba í Sinéad Ní Ghuidhir (Scoil an Oideachais) an chéad duine a labhair beo ar TnaG siar in 1996, agus labhair sí faoi sheoladh an chainéil fiche bliain ó shin.

Remembering 1916 – on Wikipedia

Staff in the Library and CELT have been collaborating to ensure that the memory of 1916 lives on in our digital memory. They hosted a Wikipedia Editing Workshop in September to engage participants in creating and editing articles relating to the Easter Rising, including Ceannt Station in Galway. Representatives from the Wikimedia Community Ireland were on hand to share advice on editing information.

Tráchtas ar Líne

Tá bunachar sonraí curtha ar líne ag Cumann Léann na Litríochta de na tráchtas iarchéime a scríobhadh le blianta anuas in Éirinn agus thar lear i réimsí éagsúla de Léann na Gaeilge. Is í an Dr Ríona Ní Fhrighil (Gaeilge) comheagarthóir an Chumainn, agus tá sí ag súil go mbeidh an bunachar ina áis luachmhar do thaighdeoirí agus do lucht léinn na Gaeilge. Is féidir an bunachar a chuardach ag: www.leanniris.com

Archive of a Secret Peacemaker

In October, the Library launched the new online digital archive of Brendan Duddy, a Derry businessman who maintained a secret channel of communication between the British government and the IRA Army Council for 20 years. Brendan Duddy was a key figure in ceasefire negotiations in the 1970s and 1990s, as well as the 1981 Republican Hunger Strikes, and he was dubbed 'The Secret Peacemaker'. The archive contains over 700 documents from the Troubles, including coded diaries and messages, and several hours of filmed interviews between Duddy and Dr Niall Ó Dochartaigh (Political Science and Sociology). Librarian John Cox welcomed the launch of the collection: "Making a significant proportion of this important archive available online will enable new insights into some of the major episodes in the Troubles."



Looking after your Mind, Body & Soul

University staff and the Connacht Rugby support team came together in October to launch the Library's revamped Mind, Body & Soul Collection. This collection consists of clinically approved books, e-books and other resources that support the physical and mental well-being of students and staff. The collection was created in consultation with Student Counselling and the Students' Union. Simply search for 'Mind Body Soul' on the Library's online catalogue.



Culture Night on Campus

September's Culture Night saw a unique collaboration on campus between Archives, the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance, and The Galway Music Residency. Some of the West's most iconic cultural figures were celebrated through music, performance and art, including legendary Galway actress, Siobhán McKenna. Pictured with the original nightdress Siobhán wore in her role as Mag in The Beauty Queen of Leenane are Marianne Ní Chinnéide (Drama, Theatre and Performance), Barry Houlihan (Library), actor Catherine Denning, and Maeve Bryan (Galway Music Residency).

Irish Blogging Awards

An entrepreneurial e-zine launched last year by Dr Trevor Clohessy (Business Information Systems) was shortlisted for Best Innovative Blog in the Littlewoods Ireland Blog Awards 2016. The aim of the Noisey Gen blog (www.noiseygen.xyz) is to show how extraordinary people with extraordinary ideas are shaping the future entrepreneurial landscape. Recent features include interviews with Dr John Breslin (Engineering) and Mary Carty (Blackstone LaunchPad).

Equality & Diversity Update

New Office for Equality and Diversity

Professor Anne Scott is now joined in the Office of the Vice-President for Equality and Diversity by Aoife Cooke, the new Head of Equal Opportunities. You can contact the Office directly at:

VPEqualityandDiversity@nuigalway.ie 

New Leave Policies

The Vice-President for Equality and Diversity has now finalised the Gender Equality Action Plan which is aimed at ensuring the Task Force recommendations are implemented. Since September three important elements of the action plan have already been put in place, addressing some of the most commonly raised issues among staff.

Enhanced Maternity/Adoptive Cover: From now on, the University will fund the full replacement of the teaching, administration and technical input of staff who go on maternity and adoptive leave.

Returning to Research Grant: A grant of up to €10,000 will be made available to research active academic staff returning from maternity or adoptive leave, and all research staff returning from extended unpaid carers' leave. The grant will be awarded on the basis of a short business case supported by the Head of School and showing specific research outputs.

Parental Leave support: The pay savings accruing from parental leave will be returned to the staff member's School or Unit, on the basis of a short business case from the Head of that School or Unit. This measure is intended to encourage and support parents in caring for their children, and to avoid unreasonably increased work burden on colleagues.



In Praise Of... Buildings Office Events Team

Undergraduate Open Days are a key event in the recruitment calendar and their success is due to a collective team effort from staff from all corners of the University. The Buildings Office staff play a pivotal backstage role in ensuring the smooth running of the event, from logistics to set-up, from room bookings to cleaning. For these reasons and more we would like to recognise (back row, l-r) Kevin O'Donohoe, Dave Kelly, Savio Costello and (front row l-r) Greg Molloy, Bernie Lambe, Hilary Murphy and Paul Moloney for their hard work and professionalism.

Teaching Excellence Awards

Congratulations to the winners of the 2016 President's Awards for Teaching Excellence. A group photo of the awardees will appear in the next issue of Ollscéala in the new year.

- Dr John Cullinan (Economics)
- Dr Catherine Houghton (Nursing & Midwifery)
- Dr Angela Kearns (Mayo Medical Academy)
- Conor McBrierty (Physics)
- Dr Muireann O'Cinnéide (English)
- **Students' Choice Award:** Adrian Sylver (Shannon College of Hotel Management)

Science Clicker Initiative

Have you heard of 'clickers'? These personal response systems are used by students to engage more with their lectures and encourage peer learning. Since September, the College of Science has moved from the use of physical clicker devices to a new app-based solution offered by Turning Technologies. Questions posed by the lecturer can be answered in class by students using an app on their mobile devices or laptops, allowing real-time feedback for both student and lecturer. All first year Science and Foundation Medicine students have now been issued with a license for the system, supporting student interaction during lectures.



Library Strategy for 2020

October saw the launch of *The Journey to 2020*, which outlines the strategy for developing our Library over the coming years. At the launch, staff from inside and outside the Library gave their perspectives on the value of the Library's services, and how they would like to see them develop. Speakers included (l-r): Professor Lucy Byrnes, Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh, John Cox, Barry Houlihan, Niamh Walsh, and Dr Iain Mac Laren.

Parking Permit update

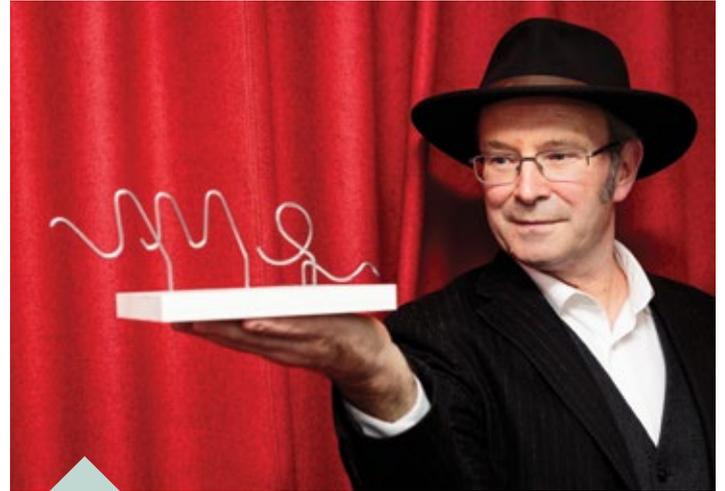
Did you know that since the Staff Parking Permit system was upgraded in September, you no longer need to display your hang tag in the car to verify your permit? Just one small change that might make a big difference to your windscreen!

Don't forget, if you're driving a different car to work, make sure that the car registration is listed on the online Parking Payment system and that you make it the default vehicle on your account for the day.



Teen Business Queen

Nineteen-year-old Biotechnology student, Edel Browne, is turning heads in the business world for her new company, called Free Feet Medical. With the help of the Blackstone LaunchPad on campus, her company is developing a device that helps people with Parkinson's diseases overcome gait freezing, which affects their ability to walk. She showcased the device at the recent Forbes conference for young entrepreneurs in Boston in October. Her success has also been recognised by the Sunday Business Post, which named her one of their '30 Under 30' Award winners for Technology.



Goldsmiths Literature Prize

Congratulations to English lecturer, Mike McCormack, who has won the 2016 Goldsmiths Prize for his novel Solar Bones. The award recognises the best experimental fiction in the English language. In one long sentence spanning over 200 pages, the book tells the story in stream-of-consciousness style of a West of Ireland engineer who comes back from the dead on All Soul's Day. Mike's innovative approach to writing has garnered praise at home and abroad for breaking the mould of novel writing. Published by Tramp Press, it is available in good bookshops and online.



Our Teaching Hero

Dr Jerome Sheahan (Mathematics) has been recognised as a Teaching Hero by his students, and was presented with the award in Dublin Castle in November at this year's National Teaching Hero Awards. The prize is jointly run by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and the Union of Students in Ireland, and it acknowledges those educators who go the extra mile to engage and empower their students through impactful teaching. President Jim Browne echoed the praise for Dr Sheahan, saying: "Jerome is an exceptionally committed teacher, whose dedication to his students over many decades is renowned."



Ireland's Friendliest Business

Did you know that Ireland's Friendliest Business is located here on campus? Congratulations to the staff of Saol Café, who won the distinction at the JCI Ireland Friendly Business Awards in November. The café, which is located in the Institute for Lifecourse and Society, is a unique social enterprise that focuses on employing people from the community who would be traditionally marginalised. Why not pay them a visit? As well as fresh food, you are guaranteed a warm welcome!

Marshall Medal

In September, Emeritus Professor of Physiology, Michael Kane, was presented with the Society for Reproduction and Fertility's premier research award, the Marshall Medal. He received the award in recognition of his major contribution to understanding the factors that influence ovarian follicular growth and embryo development. Professor Kane spent 11 years as Head of Physiology before his retirement in 2006.



8k Dash around Campus

It took graduate Gary Thornton just over 25 minutes to complete this year's NUI Galway 8k event. Hundreds of staff, students and alumni joined in the event on a rainy Saturday morning in September, running and walking a traffic-free route around the campus. The 8k was organised with the support of the Kingfisher Club and Aerogen, and raised thousands for local mental health charity Jigsaw.



New Staff

Believe it or not, since September 2015 the University has recruited over 450 staff, including approximately 250 research posts. Pictured here are the 26 new staff who were welcomed to campus as part of the September induction organised by the HR Office. We would like to warmly welcome them to the team!

New Website makes Volunteering Easy

A new website is aiming to better connect students from across Ireland's universities with community groups and charities across the country. The StudentVolunteer.ie website makes advertising and finding volunteering opportunities easier from anywhere in Ireland. It builds on a decade of work in NUI Galway, where our Student Volunteer Coordinator, Lorraine Tansey, has piloted volunteer programmes through the ALIVE initiative. She hopes that the new website will help embed some of our best practices in institutions nationally. Launching the website at NUI Galway's Volunteering Fair was Galway City Deputy Mayor, Councillor Pearce Flannery, along with student volunteers and some of the 80 community partners who showcased their work at the event. The website has been shortlisted for the Social Innovation Fund Ireland awards, and the €250k prize-winner will be announced in December.



4,500 Jobs up for Grabs

More than 90 companies set up stall at this year's Graduate Jobs Fair organised by the Career Development Centre on campus in October. Collectively they had a potential 4,500 graduate jobs to showcase to students. It was the biggest year yet, according to Employment Officer, Emma Goode: "It was an ideal opportunity to find out who the key NUI Galway employers are, what types of jobs are available, and what kind of skills employers are looking for."



Good News for Galway Bikers

Did you know that the Coke Zero Bike Share scheme is being extended in Galway? The new year will see nine new bike stations in the city, including three here on campus. One bike station will be located between Biosciences and ILAS in the north campus, a second will be installed close to the Sports Centre at the centre of our campus, and the third station will be close to the O'Shaughnessy Bridge in south campus. When completed the stations will connect cyclists to a network of 26 bike rental stations across the city.

The View from Around Campus

Dr Josephine Igoe (Management) shared this photo of the MSc International Management class on their recent study trip to Macau. They are pictured with Consul General to Hong Kong, Peter Ryan, outside the ruins of the first university in China.



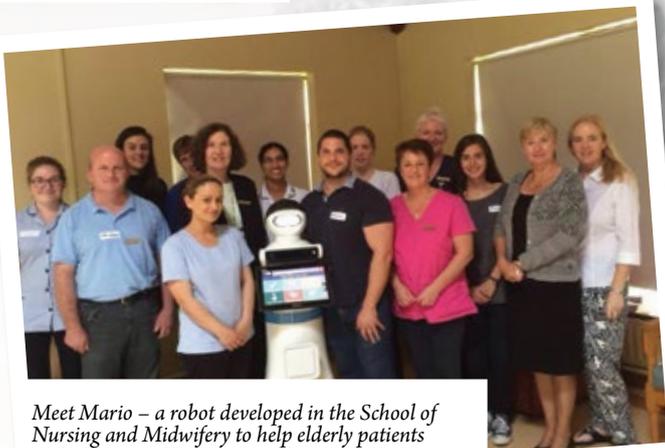
Peter Crampton (ISS) sent in this photo from the recent University Alumni Golf competition in Salthill. Tom Cunningham, Carmel Brown, Peter and Professor Chris Curtin beat off competition from 26 other teams to win first prize, which was presented by former President, Iggy Ó Muircheartaigh.



Pictured on a recent trip by Occupational Therapy students to Sweden are (l-r) Juliette Truman (University of Southampton), Dr Kristina Orban (Lund University), Jackie Fox and Dr Sinéad Hynes (NUI Galway), and flag-holder, Dr Lisa Ekstam (Lund University).



Pictured at the launch of a new book on Maud Gonne, entitled *The Adulterous Muse*, were Dr Nessa Cronin (Moore Institute); the book's author, Professor Emeritus Adrian Frazier; playwright and special guest, Thomas Kilroy; and Antony Farrell of Lilliput Press.



Meet Mario – a robot developed in the School of Nursing and Midwifery to help elderly patients with their care. He is pictured here with University and hospital staff on his trial at the Sacred Heart Hospital and Care Home in Roscommon, where he will assist people with dementia.



At the launch of his translation of the 1951 book *'Insurrection Memories 1916'* by Liam Ó Briain in September, Dr Eoin Ó Dochartaigh was joined in the Quadrangle by his family, including Dr Niall Ó Dochartaigh (Political Science and Sociology).



Daring to Care

Six blushing brides wore their wedding dresses to work in September in a national fundraising campaign for the Irish Cancer Society. Ann Marie Gilchrist, Deirdre Lydon-Acton, Aishling Hanrahan, Trish Bourke, Joanna Brophy and Zara Sheerin dressed up as part of Today FM's Dare to Care campaign. They were joined by dozens more in fancy dress, who collectively raised over €1,500 for the charity.

Ollsceala

Desktop Diary

December 2016							January 2017							February 2017						
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							1			1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28					
							30	31												

Editor's Top Tip

Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till it's gone? If you are someone who saves their work to your hard drive, assuming it is safe there, please take this editor's advice and start using the University's cloud-based OneDrive service. Computers can crash, and despite the best efforts of ISS staff they sometimes don't come back to life! The OneDrive is easy to set up on your work PC, as well as your home computer, laptop and mobile devices. It enables you to safely store your data on the Cloud and access it from anywhere in the world. Ask ISS about OneDrive today, and make cloud-based storage your New Year's resolution!



Nollaig Shona Daoibh!

This year, the University will close on the evening of Thursday, 22 December and reopen on the morning of Tuesday, 3 January 2017. This means we will not open from the 23 December to the 2 January. We wish all of our Ollsceala readers a happy and relaxing Christmas break. Bíodh saoire sona suaimhneach agaibh go léir!

