



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

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NEWSLETTER

Inspiration from the Edge of Europe

The Coimbra Group conference brought delegates from 40 leading European universities to Galway to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing higher education today.

Read more inside.

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... and more!

OLLSCÉALA

Focal ón Uachtarán



A Chairde,

With summer bringing the campus to its full beauty, I am delighted to see increasing numbers of visitors to the University, attending the many conferences which are taking place over the next

few months. With almost 20 major conferences on our campus this summer, NUI Galway will play host to thousands of delegates from all over the world, whose interests range from autism to quilting, disability law to marine biology.

Coimbra Group Annual Conference

Already this year we have had the pleasure of hosting the **29th Coimbra Group Annual Conference** and General Assembly which brought almost 200 rectors, presidents and other delegates from the forty Coimbra Group member universities to our campus from 22nd to 25th of May. (See Page 5)

NUI Galway has been a member of the Coimbra Group for almost thirty years. The Group is a

network of forty of Europe's most respected universities, among them Oxford, Bologna and Salamanca. Members share a commitment to creating special academic and cultural ties in order to promote collaboration, excellence and service to society.

To coincide with the Irish Presidency of the European Union and the 25th anniversary of our last hosting the conference in 1988, this year's annual conference was held in NUI Galway and focused on the theme of *Creativity, Research and Innovation in Universities*. An interesting panel of speakers addressed the Symposium, including:

- Dr Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland
- Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science
- Professor Carol Becker, Dean of the Arts, Columbia University, New York
- Professor Joep Leerssen, Professor of Modern European Literature, University of Amsterdam and
- Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland

Their presentations are available to view on <http://www.nuigalway.ie/coimbravideos>

Teaching Awards

The winners of the **President's Awards for Teaching Excellence** have been announced. These awards recognise the efforts of academic staff to ensure our students receive the highest quality learning experience. The following outstanding teachers will be presented with their Awards at the Autumn Conferring ceremonies:

- Dr Rebecca Barr, School of Humanities
- Dr Mary Fleming, School of Education
- Dr Séamus McGuire, School of Medicine/Letterkenny Medical Academy
- Team Award: French: Final Year Team (Dr Sylvie Lannengrand, Dr Philip Dine, Eamon Ó Cofaigh)

Congratulations to each of the winners on the calibre of their teaching, which is at the very heart of this University's mission.

Familiar Faces



1. Professor Éamon O'Shea took time out to show RTÉ presenter (and NUI Galway graduate) Marty Morrissey how it's done in Tipp ahead of the Allianz National Hurling League Final. It was O'Shea's first title contest since his appointment as Tipperary Hurling Manager in 2012. More sports news on Page 15.

2. A crutch-carrying Neil Jordan addressed the recent EFACIS conference on Irish studies. For a look at the other conferences and symposia that were recently hosted on campus, turn to Pages 8 and 9.

3. Professor Patrick Lonergan, Enda Walsh and President Browne before the playwright's honorary conferring by the University for his contribution to the Arts. Read about all three conferees on Page 4.

Front cover photograph: Joe O'Shaughnessy

QS World University Rankings by Subject

The achievements of these and other staff across the University have contributed to our growing success. International recognition for this effort is evident in our continued improvement in the 2013 QS World University Rankings by Subject, released last month. NUI Galway is one of eight Irish institutions to have appeared on the list of the world's top 200 universities in 30 individual disciplines. Our performance was especially strong in:

- English Language & Literature (151 – 200)
- History (101 – 150)
- Computer Science & Info Systems (101 – 150)
- Pharmacy & Pharmacology (151 – 200)
- Law (151 – 200)

This recognition for the quality of our research and teaching from academics and employers around the world is very significant as we continue to compete for students and research support in a global market. I'd like to pay tribute to colleagues in these areas and to the 2013 Teaching Award

winners for their demonstrated commitment to the academic mission.

Higher Education Landscape

This commitment to high quality teaching and research augurs well for NUI Galway in view of the recent developments in the Irish higher education landscape. Last month, the Minister for Education and Skills set out a new configuration for the higher education system. This provides for a major programme of structural reform including institutional mergers and much greater levels of institutional collaboration, with the creation of a series of regional clusters of institutions. The Minister has also announced his approval for three groups of institutes of technology to proceed towards detailed planning for a formal application for designation as technological universities.

Colleagues may wish to read the main elements of the policy statement on the **New Landscape for**

Higher Education on the HEA website – www.heai.ie.

I believe that we, in NUI Galway, are well-poised to deliver on many of the main objectives which the Minister has set out. We have developed a number of alliances which underscore our willingness to build and leverage strategic partnerships. I am confident that with the help of all colleagues – administrators, academics, managers and researchers – we will deliver the system governance and performance framework envisaged by the new landscape.

I thank colleagues for their continuing efforts and hard work and I wish you all an enjoyable summer. Beir bua agus beannacht,

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



Tá Focal ón Uachtarán le fáil ar líne agus go dátheangach: nuigalway.ie/president/reports.html

Appointments

New Heads of Schools

There have been a number of recent appointments to Head of School in four Colleges across the University. The new Heads of Schools are:

Dr William Carroll,
Head of School of Chemistry

Dr Adeline Cooney,
Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery

Dr Mary Fleming,
Head of School of Education

Dr Margaret Hodgins,
Head of School of Health Sciences

Professor Donncha O'Connell,
Head of School of Law

Professor Vincent O'Flaherty,
Head of School of Natural Sciences

Dr Andy Shearer,
Head of School of Physics

We wish them well in their important roles, leading and developing their Schools into the future.

Professorships

Two new Professorships were granted to academic staff in the past three months. They are:

Professor Patrick Lonergan,
Personal Professor of Drama and Theatre Studies

Professor Donncha O'Connell,
Established Professor of Law

External Appointments

Professor Margaret Barry, Head of the University's WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion Research has been appointed to an independent Expert Panel that will provide the European Commission with advice on effective ways of investing in health.

Professor Gerard Quinn, Director of the Centre for Disability Law, has been appointed to the Scientific Committee of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights in Vienna.

Professor Ray Murphy (Law) and **Frank Conaty** (Accountancy and Finance) have been appointed as two of the 14 new members of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC). Professor Murphy and Mr Conaty will sit on the panel for a period of five and three years respectively.



Newly appointed Head of Microbiology, Professor Jim O'Gara (pictured far right) at the presentation of the Annual Professor Anthony P. Moran Prize to PhD student Conor Feehily for his paper on pathogens and their acid tolerance. Also pictured are Dr Conor O'Byrne (Conor's supervisor) and Mary Moran, wife of the late Professor Moran.



OUR HONoured GUESTS

On June 14, three distinguished individuals were conferred with honorary degrees by the University: the eminent scientist and educator, Dr Rita Colwell; the multi-award winning playwright, Enda Walsh; and the biomedical entrepreneur and researcher, Leonard Moran. They join a long list of figures honoured by the University for their outstanding contributions to Science, Business and the Arts.

Dr Rita Colwell

Throughout a career dedicated to science and education, Dr Rita Colwell's research on the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases has helped millions of people around the world. In his citation at the conferring ceremony, Professor Lokesh Joshi compared her contribution in the field with those of Louis Pasteur and Alexander Fleming. According to Professor Joshi, "Dr Colwell became the first researcher to link the incidence of cholera to climate change and established the environmental basis of infectious disease risk." To illustrate her determination to fight the disease, he described her work in Bangladesh teaching villagers to filter drinking water through their saris. This simple method was shown to reduce the incidence of the disease by approximately 50%.

"Dr Colwell became the first researcher to link the incidence of cholera to climate change."

Dr Rita Colwell is currently Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland and at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her achievements and accolades are as numerous as the large volume of publications she has made over a life-long career. In the words of Professor Joshi, we are honoured to have Dr Colwell as the recipient of honorary doctorate in Science.

Enda Walsh

The Degree of Doctor of Literature conferred upon Enda Walsh marks his massive contribution to Irish stage and screen. His plays, many of which premiered in Galway, have been translated into over 20 languages and performed internationally, picking up awards along the way. In his introductory address at the conferring ceremony, Professor Patrick Lonergan summed up the value and importance of his writing: "His characters exist on the edges of society – and often on the edges of sanity. His plays are intense investigations of the theatrical and its place in everyday life."

"His plays are intense investigations of the theatrical and its place in everyday life."

Of Enda Walsh's wide repertoire of plays and films, perhaps his most celebrated have been the drama *Disco Pigs*, and the script he co-wrote for Steve McQueen's film *Hunger*. Last year he became only the third ever Irish writer to win a Tony Award for his script for *Once – the Musical*. Speaking on receipt of his honorary degree, he expressed his delight at being recognised by the University and the city of Galway, which he praised as being "a great place for an artist."

Leonard Moran

Born near Ballina, Co. Mayo, Leonard Moran's achievements in business and research have had

a global impact. He has played a leading role in developing an indigenous biotechnology industry in the west of Ireland. In 1976 he established the contract research organisation Biological Laboratories (BioLabs) on the family farm. This company would serve the needs of the burgeoning pharmaceutical industry in Ireland, expanding at such a rate that it was sold to an American multinational in 2002 for €28 million.

Today Leonard Moran heads a new company, Ovagen, a facility that produces germ-free eggs from chickens. This innovative process plays a vital role in the production of vaccinations for some of the world's deadliest diseases. It is predicted that the Ballina-based company will be the global leader in this technology.

"Ireland would be much better if there were more Leonard Morans, who took the less-travelled road of science, innovation and productive investment."

In describing his life's work at the conferring ceremony, Professor Frank Barry commended Leonard Moran's vision, ambition and technical sophistication, saying "Ireland would be much better if there were more Leonard Morans, who took the less-travelled road of science, innovation and productive investment." He receives the honorary degree from NUI Galway as a mark of recognition of his sustained, valuable and innovative contribution to Irish biomedical research.

View a video introducing our honoured graduands at:
nuigalway.ie/hon_conferring2013



The President writing that 'Good Company' inspires him on the University's 'inspiration board'.

COIMBRA GROUP COMES TO TOWN

When the Coimbra Group delegates from Europe's leading universities assembled in Galway recently, they were treated to talks from some of Ireland and the world's most articulate speakers on research and higher education. None were more energetic than the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, a former student and lecturer at NUI Galway.

To an audience of over 200 delegates and invited guests in the Bailey Allen Hall, **President Higgins** asserted the need to embrace Europe's intellectual tradition. Never short of passion on the subject, he called for the creation of a new ethical framework that would be the EU's "defining contribution" to the world, prioritising the global challenges of poverty, food security and inequality. He described the current crisis in Europe as being rooted in the Union "not reflecting significantly the best interests of the people of Europe", singling out the 'virus' of financial greed for particular criticism.

"[The EU must acknowledge that it] is not reflecting significantly the best interests of the people of Europe" – President Higgins

President Higgins praised fellow veteran of Irish politics, **Máire Geoghegan-Quinn**, who spoke with authority on Europe's research agenda in her role as European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science. She outlined the need for greater investment across the EU in research that is creative and impactful. Informing the audience that by 2020 the EU will need an additional one million researchers, she called on Europe's universities to develop a generation of graduates with "critical and innovative mindsets".

She was joined in this call by the Director General of Science Foundation Ireland, **Professor Mark Ferguson**, who laid out Ireland's achievements in research and innovation. Citing figures from the Global Innovation Index, he described how Ireland is the only country to have obtained a Top 10 ranking in all indicators for assimilating and disseminating knowledge. However, he cautioned against complacency, arguing that universities

must collaborate with industry and each other to further our research output.

Professor Carol Becker of Columbia University in New York, called on universities to "cultivate the totality" of each student in order to promote their creative thinking. Meanwhile **Professor Joep Leerssen** of the University of Amsterdam, proclaimed that collegiality between academics and researchers in our universities was the best way of promoting the type of creativity and innovation that will serve Europe's research demands.

After four days of meetings, workshops and speeches, the 160 delegates returned to their respected universities in the UK and on the continent, having been inspired by their visit to the edge of Europe.

View the speeches in full at: nuigalway.ie/coimbravideos

Five Disciplines in Global Top 200



The new 2013 QS World University Rankings by Subject features five of our disciplines in the Top 200. The five disciplines the rankings were:

- History
- Computer Science and Info Systems
- English Language and Literature
- Pharmacy and Pharmacology
- Law

The Rankings take into account the opinion of academics and employers via a global survey, and confirm our position globally is on the rise. Speaking of the announcement, President Browne commended the University's position: "We operate in a global market, competing for students and research support on an international playing field and this international recognition of the quality of our research and teaching from academic and employer opinions around the world is very significant."



Image from StockFreeImages.com

RESEARCH IN ACTION

Across the campus and beyond, our researchers carry out work that has impact on the world around us. Here is just a flavour of some of their discoveries over the past three months.

New research led by Dr Manash Chatterjee, an Adjunct Faculty member of Botany and Plant Science, is developing a new technique for **the genetic improvement of sunflowers** using a non-GMO based approach. It is expected that the TILLING approach (Targeting Induced Lesions in the Genome) will help boost sunflower oilseed harvests, an important crop for food and industry.

New research carried out by Dr David Finn (Galway Neuroscience Centre) and his team has revealed **how the brain functions to suppress pain**. For the first time, it has been shown that suppression of pain during times of fear involves complex interplay between marijuana-like chemicals and other neurotransmitters in a brain region called the amygdala.

A Galway-based scientist has been studying the **genetic code of the giant squid**. Dr Louise Allcock of the Ryan Institute has been part of an international team tracking what is one of nature's largest and most elusive creatures. For a long time it has been unclear how many species of giant squid exist. "Our mitochondrial DNA data strongly point to the existence of a single species", Dr Allcock explains.

A new report finds that **intergenerational bonds are keeping families afloat** during the recession. The study, involving the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, demonstrates how family members are providing high levels of support to one another through periods of unemployment, emigration and financial difficulty. Professor Timothy Scharf argues that these bonds "provide a solid foundation for the future welfare state, which will increasingly depend on the give and take between the generations."

Professor Michael Kerin and Dr Nicola Miller (Surgery) have collaborated in a major Europe-wide study aimed at **identifying the genetic cause of breast cancer**. The research analysed 200,000 SNPs (single nucleotide polymorphisms) and showed that 41 of these are strongly associated with breast cancer susceptibility.

Trainee Clinical Psychologist, Róisín Finnegan, is carrying out research into **the causes of comfort eating**, under the supervision of Dr Jonathan Egan (Psychology). Róisín's study aims to examine the influence of emotional factors in childhood on comfort eating and weight.

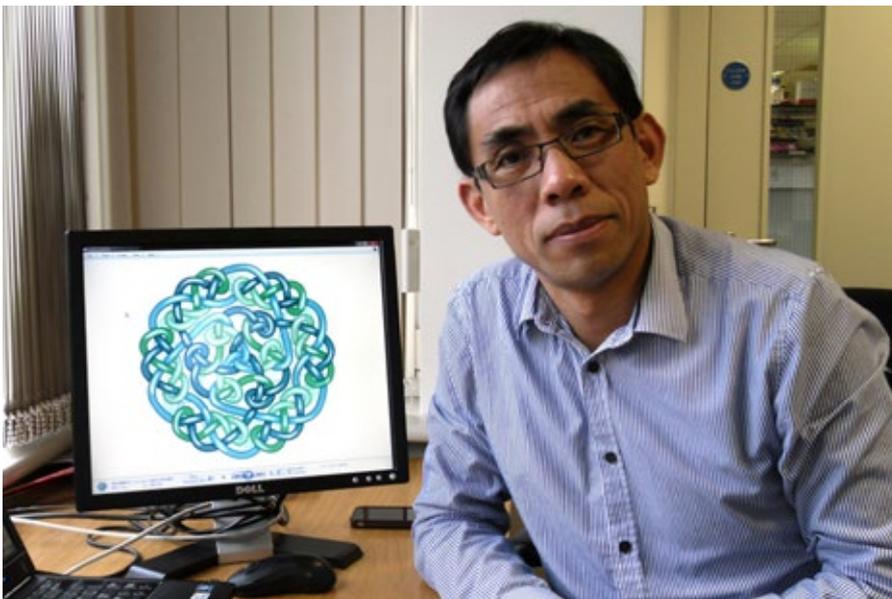
The number of **deaths caused by smoking in the home** could be comparable to the number of fatalities from road traffic collisions, according to a new study by NUI Galway in collaboration with UK universities. Dr Marie Coggins (Centre for Occupational Health and Safety Studies – COHSS) explains that smoking at home causes levels of particulate pollution up to 17 times higher than those found outdoors, and urges a national campaign to highlight the issue.

Dr Nata Duvvury and Ms Patricia Carney (Global Women's Studies) have recently published a study that shows the **high economic cost of violence against women** in the developing world. The study among women in Vietnam showed a direct link between intimate partner violence and reductions in economic productivity.

Pre-clinical research has generated some very promising findings **using adult stem cells for the treatment of diabetic wounds**. The work by Dr Aonghus O'Loughlin and Professor Timothy O'Brien (REMEDI) has shown that a particular type of stem cell, known as the mesenchymal stem cell (MSC), could increase wound healing when applied together with a biomaterial made from collagen.



As part of our alliance with Swim Ireland, a research team led by Professor Gearóid Ó Laighin (Electrical and Electronic Engineering) is developing a new **high performance analysis system for competitive swimming**. The technology is the brainchild of PhD student Robert Mooney who is a former Swim Ireland employee (pictured with Sports Scholarship athlete Kevin McGlade). The new technology will use kinematic sensing technology that will deliver performance information in real time to both the swimmer and their coach. Tests on swimmers will take place in the Swim Ireland Connacht Performance Centre, recently established in the Kingfisher facility on campus.



Scientists at the Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB) have just published a **breakthrough method of polymerisation** that opens up new possibilities in the production of medical devices, drug delivery, elastics and adhesives. The breakthrough was inspired by the intricate patterns in Celtic knots and the branches of trees. The expectation is that woven and branched polymers will be cheap to produce and high in quality, as the technique is fully scalable. Dr Wenxin Wang (pictured) is focused on developing therapies for diseases such as diabetic ulcers and chronic skin conditions using the new method, but the potential for the polymer breakthrough is much wider.



An international research team including Dr Brian Ward (AirSea Laboratory) and two PhD students from the University has been **measuring the salt concentration of the upper ocean**. Basing their fieldwork in the Sub-Tropical North Atlantic aboard the Spanish research vessel Sarmiento de Gamboa, the research explores the essential role of the ocean in the global water cycle. The project is a perfect example of the value of international collaboration, sharing resources and expertise between research groups based in Ireland, Spain and the US.

Read more on these stories by searching:
nuigalway.ie/about-us/news-and-events/news-archive



CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIA

Over the past three months our research community has played host to a wide range of research gatherings. From week-long conferences, to one-day symposia, here is a taste of what went on.

April

The fourth international **Nursing and Midwifery conference** focused on 'Building and Promoting Excellence in Practice'. Over 200 delegates (some pictured above) enjoyed around 100 presentations from national and international speakers on topics relevant to the fields of chronic illness, mental health, older people, maternity care and women's health, and teaching and learning in practice.

Experts gathered to discuss the emerging epidemic of **head and neck cancers** related to the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) in a special symposium organised jointly by the Department of Otorhinolaryngology and the School of Economics. Keynote speakers from the Johns Hopkins Medical Institution briefed delegates on the challenges of clinical management and the broader public health ramifications.

Minister of State for Training and Skills, Mr Ciarán Cannon TD, opened the **MAREN**

Conference on tidal, wave and offshore wind energy. Findings from the €3 million EU-funded MAREN project were presented to an audience of scientists and engineers from Ireland and Europe who had collaborated in the research.

May

The **largest ever conference of geographers** in Ireland drew approximately 300 delegates to the campus. Sessions were dedicated to the key research areas within Geography at NUI Galway and some of the most pressing challenges globally – Environmental Change, Geopolitics and Justice, Planning and Sustainability, and Rural Studies. The highlight was the keynote speech delivered by Professor David Harvey (City University of New York), an international expert on urban studies.

A conference organised by the Centre for Disability Law and Policy welcomed a broad spectrum of European interest groups and policy makers together to explore the future role of

EU structural funds. The conference, entitled '**Community Living for All**', explored how European funding can be spent more effectively in promoting inclusion and independent living for the elderly and people with disabilities, and to help prevent their institutionalisation.

The **Irish Ergonomics Society Annual Conference** and a **Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Healthcare and Patient Safety** were both hosted in parallel sessions by Mechanical Engineering. The events attracted speakers and specialists in ergonomics from Ireland, the UK and beyond.

Mediation in cases of **international family conflict and child abduction** was the theme of a recent conference hosted by the School of Law and the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre. The one-day event saw legal and mediation practitioners, academics and members of the judiciary debate this complex issue.

The School of Law hosted the **Annual Conference of the Irish Society of Comparative Law** over two days. The conference brought together over 50 legal academics and practitioners from Ireland, Europe and beyond. Topics covered included: money laundering, cyberbullying and equality in healthcare provision.

Up to 100 Irish plant scientists converged on campus for a **conference hosted by Botany and Plant Science**. They met to discuss their research and its importance for future sustainable development in Ireland and internationally. In addition to the conference, the winners of the **'Fascination of Plants' Photo Competition** organised by Dr Zoe Popper, were put on display. One of the winning photographs can be seen on the back cover of this newsletter.

June
'Thinking Differently' was the theme of this year's **Galway Symposium on Higher Education**. The papers, presentations and workshops explored the design of new curricula for new skills in higher education. Speakers included international experts

from the Netherlands and the UK. A two-day **International Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders** focused on the state of autism research in Ireland and internationally. During the conference plans were presented to parents and professionals for the new Irish Autism Database and Repository (IADR) Project. The project, led by the Irish Centre for Autism based in REMEDI, is seen as a vital resource to inform service planning and delivery to support the Irish autism community.

The UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre hosted its **Biennial Family Support Conference** entitled 'Engagement and Participation in Family Support'. Ireland's most decorated amateur boxer, Kenneth Egan, was a special guest at the conference and spoke on how the support he received from family, friends and others helped him to deal with the challenges and difficulties he encountered in life.

A special **Occupational Health and Safety Conference** celebrated over 20 years of the discipline in the University. The aim of the

conference was to showcase the achievements of some notable graduates and to provide a forum to discuss the current status and future challenges for the discipline.

The **European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies (EFACIS)** conference was hosted on campus over four days, the first time it was held in Ireland. This year's conference considered the theme 'Towards 2016: Old and New Irelands'. At the conference, Dr Seán Crosson (Huston School of Film and Digital Media) was elected President of EFACIS, which represents almost 500 members in over 20 countries.

A symposium on **'Innovative Clinical Study Design for Medical Devices'** was organised by the Biostatistics Unit at the HRB Clinical Research Facility, Ignite Technology Transfer Office and Metric Ireland. The keynote speaker, Dr Gregory Campbell from the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), addressed the audience of industry, clinicians and the biomedical research community.

To view details of upcoming conferences hosted by the University, visit: www.conference.ie



1. Enjoying the Conference of Irish Geographers: keynote speaker Professor Doug Sherman (University of Alabama), Conference Chair Dr Frances Fahy, Dr Kathy Reilly and Dr Eugene Farrell (Geography).

2. Professor Ivan Keogh (Otolaryngology) addresses the HPV and Head and Neck Cancer Symposium in the Aula Maxima.

3. Professor Michael Hartnett (Civil Engineering), President Jim Browne and Minister for State for Training and Skills, Mr Ciarán Cannon TD, chat during the MAREN Research Conference.

Printing the Farm Tools of the Future



The Plant and AgriBiosciences Research Centre (PABC) has won Grand Challenges Explorations funding, an initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It will help fund a research programme in collaboration with Concern Worldwide that will explore the 3D rapid-prototyping of agricultural tools. The aim is to reduce labour demands on women smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

It is expected that farmworkers like Malicha Halkhe (pictured hoeing her land in northern Kenya) will benefit directly from the opportunity to design and develop their own labour-saving tools.

TEDMED Live Link-Up



Students and staff of the School of Medicine recently collaborated in hosting the annual TEDMED conference taking place at the Kennedy Centre in Washington DC, using a live satellite link-up. The Galway event, organised by third-year medical student Tariq Esmail from Canada (pictured on far right), attracted over 250 delegates, who contributed to the pre-conference discussions via social media. Dr Gerard Flaherty (on far left) commended the innovative collaboration saying: "We are proud to have been the first Irish institution to host a TEDMED Live satellite conference."

Fujitsu-DERI Partnership



Fujitsu announced the first output from its pioneering research collaboration with DERI. The Fujitsu-DERI research team (pictured above) has developed a single access point that enables Linked Open Data to be stored and sorted up to ten times faster than was previously possible. The research could provide the key to unlocking billions of items of data from publicly available datasets.



NUI Galway and Jiangnan University have signed a formal agreement to jointly offer a bachelor's degree programme in Civil Engineering. The partnership between the universities was marked in the Chinese city by Professor Jian

Chen, President of Jiangnan University, Anna Cunningham (International Office) and Cian Twomey (Civil Engineering) who are pictured in the centre of the photo above. According to Dr Piaras Ó hEachteirn, Head of Civil Engineering,

"The arrangement will greatly benefit our students in long-term international collaborations with Chinese institutes since Jiangnan University is among the very top universities in China."



The third volume of the *European Yearbook of Disability Law* co-edited by Professor Gerard Quinn and Dr Eilionóir Flynn (Centre for Disability Law and Policy) was officially launched in the European Parliament in Brussels recently. Pictured are students of the LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law who travelled to the book launch and research colloquium, for a series of meetings with officials representing the voice of Europeans with disabilities.

Ríomh-iris Acadúil Nua



Seoladh an chéad eagrán den iris phiarmheasúnaithe nua *Léann Teanga: An Réiviú* le déanaí. Eascraíonn *An Réiviú* as togra acadúil a bhí mar chuid den chúrsa MA sa Léann Teanga in Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge. Tá na mic léinn a bhí páirteach sa togra le feiceáil thuas: Áine Uí Fhoghlua, Anna Lee, Conor Walsh, Niamh McCann agus Tara Ní Mhóráin. Is féidir an iris a léamh ag: leannteangaanreiviu.oegailimh.ie.

Blazing the Trail: The O'Kalems in Ireland



A documentary about the earliest images of Ireland in fiction films and the pioneering American filmmakers who made them was aired on RTÉ 1 in April. The documentary was produced by Tony Tracy (Huston School of Film and Digital Media).

RTÉ Archives Partner with INSIGHT



Professor Mark Ferguson (Science Foundation Ireland), Brid Dooley (Head of RTÉ Archives), Professor Stefan Decker (DERI), Dr Sandra Collins (Digital Repository of Ireland) and Minister Alan Shatter, TD, at the European Data Forum where the RTÉ-INSIGHT collaboration was announced.

RTÉ Archives announced an ambitious collaboration with the new SFI 'Big Data' Research Centre called INSIGHT and the Digital Repository of Ireland. The project, which will be carried out in DERI at INSIGHT, will develop an innovative semantic content discovery platform to open up the treasures of the archives to the public. Speaking at the announcement, Minister Alan Shatter summed up the importance of the partnership, saying the project will "open up avenues to investigate our cultural, historical, sporting and linguistic heritage and provide us with deep insights into what it means to be Irish."

Reel Lives

The 'Reel Lives' film festival, organised by Alison Herbert (PhD student with the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology) brought a week of free lunchtime film screenings to campus. The line-up of films celebrating ageing included Mike Leigh's film *Another Year* and Irish documentary *His and Hers*.

New Books

Methods of Sustainability Research for the Social Sciences, edited by Dr Frances Fahy and Dr Henrike Rau (Ryan Institute), offers fresh insights into how to understand local conflicts over natural resources and their connections with sustainable development.

Transformers and Inductors for Power Electronics, co-authored by Professor Ger Hurley (Electrical and Electronic Engineering), is a new comprehensive reference for students and professional engineers working with power supplies and energy conversion systems who want to update their knowledge in the field.

Sport and Film, by Seán Crosson (Huston School of Film and Digital Media), explores how the sports film genre has played a critical role in affirming American society and culture, from its beginnings in the 1890s onwards.

Handbook of the Economics and Political Economy of Transition, co-edited by Dr Gerard Turley (Economics and ESPRU), examines how over 30 countries have made the transition from socialism to capitalism.

Diversifying Food and Diets, co-edited by Professor Danny Hunter (Adjunct Lecturer in Botany and Plant Science), explores the concept of agricultural biodiversity, in the context of the challenges of under-nutrition in many parts of the developing world and obesity in developed countries.

Fungal Diagnostics: Methods and Protocols, edited by Dr Louise O'Connor and Dr Barry Glynn (Molecular Diagnostics Research Group), details innovative methods for rapid and accurate detection of potentially life-threatening fungal infections.



Landscape and Imagination: towards a new baseline for education in a changing world, conference proceedings co-edited by Conor Newman (Geography and Archaeology). Conor Newman and PhD student Sarah Higgins are pictured above presenting the document to President Jim Browne.



1. Dr Diarmuid O'Donovan (Health Promotion) and Seán Ó Grádaigh (Education) at the launch of 38 new EXPLORE staff-student projects. Both were involved in EXPLORE projects of their own, collaborating with students on a Public Health Education Video and a Geography Field Resources project respectively

2. Volunteers at the 2012 Galway Science and Technology Festival recently received awards recognising their contribution. They are joined by Tom Hyland, Chairperson of the Galway Science and Technology Forum, and Professor Tom Sherry, Dean of the College of Science.

3. At the recent networking breakfast organised by the College of Engineering and Informatics and the Career Development Centre: Pádraig Murphy (Medtronic), Kathleen O'Connell (Career Development Centre), Gearóid Lohan (Atlantic Bitumen) and Professor Gerry Lyons (Dean of the College of Engineering and Informatics). The event attracted over 100 representatives from a range of companies and industries.



The 2012 winners of the **President's Award for Teaching Excellence** received their medals recently, at a special presentation organised by the President. Pictured is award winner Dr Michael Lang (Business Information Systems).



Staff at the **Open Learning Centre** (Adult and Continuing Education) celebrated the Centre's recent accreditation by the Teaching Council of Ireland for its Professional Diploma in Education (Further Education). NUI Galway is the first third level institution in Ireland to be granted such accreditation for the Further Education sector.

Researchers from the School of Psychology, the Complex Systems Research Centre and DERI have teamed up to design an interactive experiment for the RISK LAB exhibition at the Science Gallery in Trinity College Dublin. The experiment called '**Price your Vice**' tests how far participants will go when asked to choose between money and some of their vices, like drinking, smoking and fatty foods.

The annual **Applied Maths Team Table Quiz** attracted 30 teams to campus from as far away as Belmullet. The winners, St Gerald's, Castlebar, went on to represent the western region at the national final. The event is organised each year by the Irish Applied Mathematics Teachers Association.



1. Sir Paul Judge, President of the Association of MBAs; Dr Emer Mulligan, Head of School of Business and Economics; Dr Alma McCarthy MBA Programme Director; and Chris Russell, Chairman of the Association of MBAs Board of Trustees at the official award of AMBA accreditation to the University's MBA programme. This prestigious accreditation is internationally recognised as the global standard, and positions our MBA programme among the best worldwide.

2. Ba í Mairéad Ní Chróinín (mac léinn PhD sna Daonnachtaí Digiteacha) a bhuaigh Gradam Stewart Parker do Dhrámaíocht Ghaeilge 2013 ar son a compantáis amharclainne Moonfish dá ndráma 'Tromluí Phinocchio'. Bhronn an tUachtarán Michael D. Higgins an gradam BBC Tuaisceart Éireann uirthi.

3. Josephine Walsh (centre) from the Career Development Centre received an award for her contribution to Network Galway – the Organisation for Women in Business, Professions and the Arts. She is pictured here with Ciara O'Callaghan, President of Network Galway, and Barry O'Sullivan Senior Vice-President of Cisco Systems and one of RTÉ's 'Dragons'. Photo courtesy of Martina Regan.

A Cut Above the Rest



Joseph Fleury, a final year Electronic and Computer Engineering student, has been awarded the Avaya Prize for the best final year project in the subject. Joseph developed an autonomous robot system capable of navigating itself around areas using its own computer vision system. The robot is part of a research study on the feasibility of using intelligent robot systems for cutting out weeds from commercial crops.

Trí Phríomhdhuais ag na Gradaim Smedia

D'éirigh le mic léinn Aonad na Cumarsáide in Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta trí dhuais a bhaint amach ag na gradaim Smedia. Bhuaigh an clár Y.O.L.O. Dara Seans gradam don Léiriúcháin Teilifíse is Fearr (in aon teanga), clár faisnéise faoi na dúshláin atá le sárú ag fear óg as Conamara, Micilín Ó Féinne, tar éis thimpiste bhóthair a d'fhág gan lúth na ngéag é. Bhuaigh an clár An Galar Dubhach le Kirsty an Chnoic an duais Iriséoireacht Raidió, agus d'éirigh le Daithí Ó Cinnéide gradam don Léiriúcháin Teilifíse is Fearr i nGaeilge (Faisnéis agus Drámaíocht) a bhaint amach dá ghearrscannán Scáth Daoine.

Reachtáiltear na gradaim Smedia, atá dírithe ar mhic léinn sna hinstiúidí tríú leibhéal ar fud na tíre, faoi choimirce www.oxygen.ie.



Destination NUI Galway

Every day hundreds of staff travel to work in the University from around Galway city and its hinterland. For some, the daily commute might be a short walk or cycle – for others, a much longer drive. Here we take three commuters with different journeys, and ask them what their commute is like.

Maureen Maloney lectures in Management and commutes 77km from Clifden to Galway every day using the CityLink bus.

Best thing about the commute: I love my bus drivers! They pick me up in the morning and leave me off in the evening just outside the door of my house.

Worst thing: Waiting for the bus on Newcastle Road in the wind and the rain.

Best way to pass the time: I generally work on the bus. I read textbooks, journal articles and occasionally the newspaper, Research Matters or Ollscéala! If I have to drive, I miss the two hours of work time.

Best place to stop for coffee: Friars of course! It is my first stop when I arrive at the Cairnes Building.

Travel tips: Consider public transportation. The roads are certainly safer when I travel by bus.

Vonnie Nally works in the HRB Clinical Research Facility and commutes 130km by car and bus from near Mullingar, staying in Galway two nights a week.

Best thing about the commute: Sleeping my head off on the bus!

Worst thing: When the bus takes ages to come and it's a cold morning.

Best way to pass the time: I can't read as I'll feel sick,

which is a pity because it would be a great use of time.

Travel tips: Enjoy the scenery and relax. DON'T fill your head with Facebook and Googling – use the time for You time not Media time.

Margaret Forde works in the Institutional Research Office and walks a grand total of 165 metres from Newcastle Road to the Arts Millennium Building.

Best thing about the commute: It's shorter than a par 3 in golf. Bed to desk in five minutes.

Worst thing: Doing the housework at lunchtime!
Best stop for coffee: Starbucks, but I have almost a longer commute to get from the office to there!

Brain Awareness

For the European Month of the Brain, the Neuroscience Centre organised a public information exhibit on the ground floor of the Eyre Square Shopping Centre over one day in May. Staff and postgraduate students from the Centre were on hand to inform the public about a range of brain disorders. The event followed March's Brain Awareness Week events on campus, which were aimed primarily at teaching local schoolchildren about how the brain and nervous system works.



Professor Michael O'Dwyer (Pathology) receiving a cheque from sisters Michelle Bell, Martina Kennedy and Sharon Kerr from Co. Sligo. The trio had helped raise €12,500 through a variety of charity events, including the Westport Sea2Summit Challenge. The money was donated to Galway University Foundation to support leukaemia and myeloma research in the University and Hospital.



Mary Ryan, Deirdre Lydon (Arts and Theatre Office) and artist Thomas Ryan at the entrance to a special exhibition of his paintings in the University's Mechanical Soils Lab. The exhibition ran for four weeks and included two of his large historical paintings on loan from Dublin Castle and Leinster House.

View the University's entire Art Collection online: nuigalway.ie/arts_office/art_database



NUI Galway Rugby hosted and won the Irish Universities Rugby Union junior intervarsity competition, beating UCC 24-0 in the final.

Tag Rugby

A mixed team of staff and students from the Health Promotion Research Centre and around the University took part in the recent IRFU Tag Rugby Spring league on campus. The team, called 'The Variables', was made up of Áine O'Brien, Kathy Ann Fox, Lorraine Burke, Ursula Kenny, Jakub Gajewski, Paul Kavanagh, Martin Feeney, Claire Feeney and Mary Callaghan. The league runs for six weeks in March and April and is open to all staff and students.

On Your Bike

The Galway Bike Festival ran throughout June to encourage Galwegians to get out cycling. As part of the festivities, the University and Hospital hosted a guided 'Cycle to Work' for staff and students along the new Séamus Quirke cycle lane. Other events included a Family Fun Day to celebrate the opening of An Mheitheal Rothar bike workshop and a Cycle Skills Lunchtime Session.

Ag Comóradh Joe Éinniú

Reachtáladh Féile Chomórtha Joe Éinniú le déanaí in Áras na hOllscoile, Carna. Bhí ealaíontóirí ó Éirinn agus ó thar lear páirteach sa cheolchoirm mhór, sna ceardlanna amhránaíochta agus damhsa ar an sean-nós, sna comórtais agus sna seisiúin ceoil a bhí ar siúl i gcaitheamh an deiridh seachtaine. Bhí blaiseadh de Chartlann Joe Éinniú a cuireadh i dtoll a chéile in Ollscoil Washington, Seattle, tar éis a bháis, ar taispeáint freisin. Tá an chartlann, a cuireadh in eagar faoi scáth OÉ Gaillimh, ar fáil ar www.joeheaney.org.





OllsCEALA

'Inishbofin Daisy' by Marie Coyne, one of the winning photographs in the 2013 Fascination of Plants photo competition organised by Dr Zoe Popper, Botany and Plant Science.

Desktop Diary

July 2013							August 2013							September 2013						
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
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
																				30

Just some of the events to look out for on campus over the next three months.

July 1-8: Colours Fringe Festival. Flamenco, theatre, art exhibitions, short films, and drama and drumming workshops, hosted in the Bank of Ireland Theatre and The Cube.

July 8-12: Summer School of Human Rights, Migration and Globalisation. This inaugural event will include five days of sessions focused on the contemporary challenges of migration and human rights protection.

July 19: Staff Social Club Summer BBQ. The staff barbeque will be held in the College Bar from 5.15pm. Entertainment at the event will include songs from the NUI Galway Staff Choir.

August 12-28: Whizzkids Summer Camps. Designed for children of all ages, these are high-tech camps hosted on campus that cover web-design, video game programming and animation.

September 7-8: Sir Peter Freyer Surgical Symposium. The 37th symposium will include a memorial lecture by Dr John Monson, University of Rochester Medical Centre, New York.

September 23-24: Environment Gathering hosted by the Ryan Institute. Come along and listen to talks by national and international experts in the fields of environmental, marine and energy research.

View day-to-day events online: staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie