



## Comóradh & Ceiliúradh

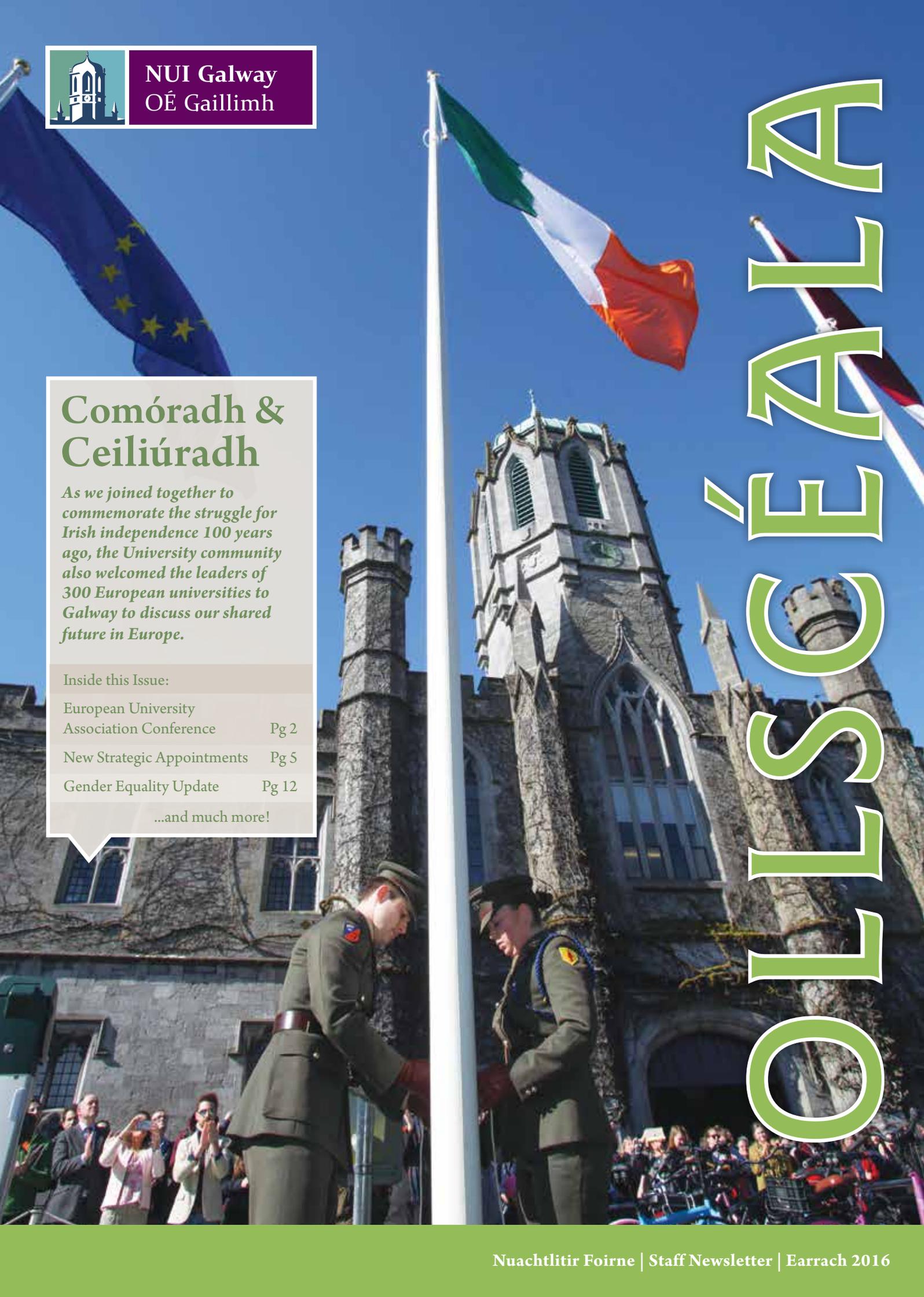
*As we joined together to commemorate the struggle for Irish independence 100 years ago, the University community also welcomed the leaders of 300 European universities to Galway to discuss our shared future in Europe.*

### Inside this Issue:

European University Association Conference	Pg 2
New Strategic Appointments	Pg 5
Gender Equality Update	Pg 12

...and much more!

# ALLÉLUIA



# OLLSCÉALA

## Focal ón Uachtarán



A Chairde,

As the academic term draws to a close and exams are on the horizon, we can reflect on a very busy and productive Spring at NUI Galway. Throughout this edition of Ollscéala you will read of the many new developments underway on campus.

We were proud to welcome over 300 university

leaders from all over Europe to campus for the **European University Association (EUA)** Annual Conference and General Assembly on 7 - 8 April.

This was the first time that the EUA conference has been held in Ireland. The conference theme, Bricks and clicks for Europe: building a successful digital campus, explored how Europe's universities are tackling the challenges involved in becoming more interactive and interconnected.

Of specific interest were sessions on *University mergers in Europe* and *Galway as a Digital University* which featured presentations from Nuala McGuinn, Director, Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development; John Cox, University Librarian; and Iain McLaren, Director, CELT.

The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, attended the conference, met with delegates and delivered an inspirational opening address which you can view at [www.nuigalway.ie/eua](http://www.nuigalway.ie/eua)

### New Developments

Students are at the heart of what we do – and this term we launched a number of new initiatives

which will enrich our students' university experience. In February, NUI Galway officially became the first global location outside the US for the **Blackstone LaunchPad initiative**, a programme designed to build entrepreneurship among our campus community.

Earlier that month **Sligo Medical Academy** was officially opened by Minister for Health, Leo Varadkar T.D. This development, along with medical academies in Mayo and Donegal, will ensure that our medical students have the very best experience of clinical education.

**1916** is a special year of national commemoration and colleagues, led by Dr Mary Harris in History, have made commendable efforts in developing a wonderful programme **A Nation Rising | Éire á Múscailt** see [www.nuigalway.ie/anationrising](http://www.nuigalway.ie/anationrising).

The centrepiece of **A Nation Rising** is the wonderful exhibition on display in the Hardiman Building entitled, **A University in War and Revolution 1913 – 1919: the Galway Experience**. The curators have put together a rich exhibition which communicates the complexity of the period: demonstrating the impact of the Irish cultural revival on staff and

## European University Leaders Converge on Campus



The leaders of Europe's top universities visited Galway in April for the European University Association (EUA) Annual Conference. The EUA has 850 member institutions from 47 countries, and collectively the conference delegates represented over 17 million students from across the continent. This was the first time the event was held in Ireland, and President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, delivered the opening address. His very personal speech on the importance of universities in encouraging free thinking gave a powerful start to proceedings.

The theme of this year's conference was 'Bricks and clicks for Europe', with delegates debating the opportunities and challenges of building successful digital campuses. Among the speakers were our own University Librarian, John Cox; Director of CELT, Dr Iain Mac Labhrainn; and Director of the Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development, Nuala McGuinn.

*Pictured during the conference on campus are (l-r) Professor Martine Rahier, Vice-President, EUA; President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins; Dr Jim Browne, NUI Galway President; and Lesley Wilson, Secretary General, EUA.*

students; highlighting the response to the First World War and the rise of nationalist sentiment among students. I'd encourage all colleagues to visit this exhibition.

On 15 March we marked national **Proclamation Day** (see cover image) with a series of short talks by Dr John Cunningham and Dr Mary Harris (History), and Dr Conor Hanly (Law), introduced by Professor Dan Carey, Director of the Moore Institute. This programme was followed by a flag-raising ceremony at the Quadrangle Building where the proclamation was read by students and staff from the Centre for Theatre, Drama & Performance and the national flag was raised by student officers from the Defence Forces; with input from Students' Union, alumni and staff.

Later in March we hosted leading US academic, Professor Lucy McDiarmid who gave the **De Brún Lecture** on *Fairies, Rebels, Mothers: Lady Gregory and 1916*. Over the past few months many disciplines and centres have collaborated on subjects as diverse as Law, Film, Multilingualism, Theatre and Gaeilge to make a stimulating academic contribution to national discourse on 1916, with more wonderful events to come later in the year.

## Staff – our most important resource

We all know that staff are our most important resource. Without your commitment, ambition and performance we simply could not achieve the success of the last few years.

Late last year I had the pleasure of presenting the **Support Service Excellence Awards** to Imelda Byrne, Access Officer; Dr Siubhán Comer, School of Geography & Archaeology; Mary Greaney, J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics and to two staff teams: the Accommodation & Welfare Office and the Security Team. I'd like to congratulate the thirteen staff who received awards, which you can read about on page 12.

I'm also delighted that in this term we've welcomed a number of **new staff** appointed to new roles; you can read about these colleagues and their vision for NUI Galway on page 5.

We also plan to recruit staff who will drive our research agenda with the establishment of the Foundation Research Leadership Programme (see page 4). You can also read about the recognition for eight outstanding research colleagues at an event hosted by President of Ireland, Michael D.

Higgins, for Irish Women in Science at Áras an Uachtaráin (see page 12).

We recognise that we need to do better in certain areas and the recently published draft final report of the **Task Force on Gender Equality** led by Professor Jane Grimson has made many constructive proposals about how that can be achieved (see page 12). Staff have been encouraged to offer their feedback on this draft report before the final report is presented to the Údarás in May. The views of staff are vital in order to ensure that we develop as an organisation and enable all colleagues to reach their full potential.

So – as another academic year draws to a close we can be proud of the many energetic and ambitious contributions by staff to the University's shared mission.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

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

## Uncovering the University's Role in Revolution

An intriguing new exhibition about staff and student involvement in the First World War and Easter Rising opened in the Hardiman Building in April, just in time for the centenary commemorations. Entitled 'A University in War and Revolution 1913-1919', the exhibition offers a glimpse into the lives of many individuals from the University caught up in the historic events of the era.

The exhibition examines life in University College Galway during a period of great social, cultural and political change. Exhibition materials drawn from the NUI Galway archives help tell the story of the 140 UCG students, staff and graduates

who fought in World War I. Many others were involved in the independence struggle at home, and the social and cultural organisations that flourished at the time.

The exhibition is a fantastic showcase of the University's shared knowledge and it will remain open to the public throughout the summer.

Pictured in the Hardiman Research Building at the opening of the exhibition, were Dr Gearóid Barry, co-curator; Shane Spelman, Fiona O'Mahony and Jordan Markey, research interns on the project; Dara Folan, research advisor; and Dr John Cunningham, co-curator.

The organisers would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Dr Mary Harris (History), Professor Dan Carey (Moore Institute), and Barry Houlihan (Archives and Special Collections).



## Internal Appointment

**Dr Carol Coulter** was appointed Adjunct Professor in the School of Law in February. Formerly Legal Affairs Editor with *The Irish Times*, Professor Coulter is currently Director of the Child Care Law Reporting Project, which is examining the public child care law system.

## External Appointments

**Professor Éamon O'Shea** has been appointed Research Leader of Dementia Care as part of Ireland's first National Dementia Strategy. A new National Centre for Social Research on Dementia has been established as part of a €4.5 million investment from Health Research Board and the Atlantic Philanthropies.

**Lorraine Tansey** has been appointed to the adjudication panel for the Global Citizenship Award. The awards, which are funded by Irish Aid, recognise the work of returned overseas volunteers.



## Alumni Awards 2016

The Bailey Allen Hall was full of glitz and glamour in March for the annual Alumni Awards Gala Banquet. The awards recognise the success of our most distinguished graduates, and this year celebrated an eclectic mix of creative, business, legal, medical and sporting achievement. Pictured on the night are (standing, l-r): President Jim Browne; Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences Award winner, Professor Joe Murray; Contribution to Sport Award winner, Dr Paul Hession; Gala Host, Will Leahy; Engineering, Science and Technology Award winner, Gearóid Faherty; Alumni Association Chair, Dr Seán O'Rourke; and (seated, l-r) Business and Commerce Award winner, Ruth Curran; Arts, Literature and Celtic Studies Award winner, Siobhán Ní Ghadhra; and Law, Public Policy and Government Award winner, Dr Mathilda Twomey.

Watch a video profile of each of the winners at: [www.nuigalway.ie/alumniawards2016](http://www.nuigalway.ie/alumniawards2016)



## Recruiting the Next Research Stars

February saw the launch of the Foundation Research Leadership Programme, a new €7.5 million scheme to recruit 15 of the most promising early-career researchers. The three-year programme is a key element in our ambitious research strategy to develop internationally-recognised research excellence in priority areas. NUI Galway aims to be a Top 200 research-led university by 2020, and attracting the next generation of researchers, with a track record of delivering impact, is an important step in achieving this goal. The programme was launched in partnership with Galway University Foundation, and the new positions will start to be filled later this year.



## Medical Partnerships

The University has taken a big leap forward in the way we train our medical students with the establishment of three important partnerships with hospitals across the region. In December, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny opened the Mayo Medical Academy, a purpose-built teaching facility on the grounds of Mayo University Hospital; in January, the Galway Clinic became an affiliated teaching hospital of the University; and in February, Minister for Health, Dr Leo Varadkar officially launched the Sligo Medical Academy at Sligo University Hospital. These partnerships between the University, Galway Clinic, and the Saolta University Health Care Group will see our medical students receiving hands-on clinical training in modern teaching facilities and in a real-life hospital environment. The new partnerships are a further commitment to the north-west region, and a glowing example of the mutual benefits when universities and hospitals work together.

*Dr Varadkar is pictured here with the Dean of Sligo Medical Academy, Dr Geraldine McCarthy, and medical students – Anna Healy and Henry Economis.*



## Turning Simple Ideas into Big Business

In February, NUI Galway became the first university outside the US to open a Blackstone LaunchPad on campus. Based in a striking new hub on the Concourse, the Blackstone LaunchPad is a multidisciplinary programme that encourages and supports students, staff and graduates to turn their business ideas into reality. The programme represents a €2 million investment by Blackstone, and it uses structures and models that have already seen dramatic results in universities across the US. With a dedicated team of student interns and enthusiastic staff mentors contributing from across Colleges and Disciplines, it is already fostering a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship on campus. Pictured at the opening of the Blackstone LaunchPad are (l-r) Mary Carty, Executive Director of Blackstone LaunchPad at NUI Galway, with student intern, Jason Walsh, and Alisha Slye, Global Director of the Blackstone Charitable Foundation.



# IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Meet some of the University's most recent appointments.



**Mike Heskin is the new Director of Sport and Physical Activity. He was previously CEO of Hockey Ireland.**

**A lot of people are excited about the new position.** People have ideas and enthusiasm to see it develop. I have been inundated with good will and cooperation and a multitude of ideas of what to do next.

**What's on offer in the University is very broad.** We have 44 clubs – everything from athletes aiming for Olympic selection to people who gather as a social occasion. The University has a strong tradition in many sports and there is a good emphasis on inclusiveness and fun. We are probably not where we were once in terms of high performance. So there is lots to do!

**My first priority is creating a sporting and physical activity strategy for the next four to five years.** This will contain a number of elements. We need a masterplan for the development of sports facilities. We must develop programmes that encourage mass participation and that also provide the majority of students and staff with physical activities that fits into their daily lives. We need to build a structure, culture and environment around Clubs so they blossom and achieve their goals. And finally, we need to develop a high performance sporting environment with a strong support service.

**There is lots of potential to grow sports.** The landscape of sport has changed dramatically around the world and we need to be more relevant to our students and fit into their schedules. New street games with smaller teams, more subs, and more flexibility – that is the growth area. There is also huge potential in the area of female sport.

**Mary Carty is Executive Director of the Blackstone LaunchPad. She brings to the role a decade of experience working in technology and startups.**

**The idea of the Blackstone LaunchPad is to help entrepreneurship grow.** Our biggest impact will be a change in mentality. To show students that they can choose entrepreneurship as a career path. The important thing is that students are supported through this process. It's hands-on learning, co-curricular and can be done along side their studies. All students, staff and alumni can avail of the services and gain skills and confidence so that we can develop the ecosystem even more.

**The Blackstone LaunchPad model really works.** It's student-first, with an emphasis on helping the student where that student is at. We help with early-stage idea generation, right through to the point where they're looking for funding post-launch. The other big benefit is the mentoring. Involving people who are dedicated to helping these ventures to succeed.

**Being successful in business is about being tenacious.** Being receptive to feedback. Not giving up until you find the person or the piece you are missing. Self-awareness is important, understanding your strengths.

**Are you interested in becoming a mentor?** We have surpassed our goals in terms of students signing up. They're incredible. We have fantastic mentors and fantastic students here on campus. Everyone's schedule is crazy, but if you have an hour or two to spare we'd appreciate your help.

**Professor Anne Scott will take up the role of Vice-President for Equality and Diversity this summer. She was previously Executive Dean of the Faculty of Education, Health and Community in Liverpool John Moores University, and former Deputy President and Registrar, DCU.**

**Gender equality is something I have been interested in for most of my academic career.** As I've progressed into more senior positions, the visibility of women has become less and less. The focus on equality in my new position is very attractive to me, particularly at this point in time in the Irish higher education sector. I believe that NUI Galway can provide leadership on the issue.

**I've worked in higher education in Scotland, Ireland and England.** In the UK as a whole, they've been more aware of gender equality issues over a significant period of time. The infrastructure is more developed there and they take a serious look at Equality and Diversity in terms of KPIs. This helps to keep it on the agenda on an ongoing basis.

**I think working in an academic environment is full of opportunities, but you have to develop enough resilience and self-confidence to keep pushing the boundaries.** My advice to young academics is not to be afraid to ask for help. You will need a support network to help you achieve. Identify role models, seek advice from them, and go for it!

**I am interested in engaging with people across the University, hearing what they have to say, and using their experience.** I'm looking forward to working together with the University community to make the role as effective as possible.

**Aengus Parsons was appointed Director of Research in March. He was previously Director of Marine Environment and Food Safety Services at the Marine Institute.**

**I am delighted to be given the opportunity to play a leading role in the development of high-performance research in the University.** Our ambition is to produce research that is recognised as excellent, transformative, and relevant to societal and economic needs. We will continue to focus on attracting and retaining the highest calibre of emerging researchers in the University's priority research areas.

**Research is a very exciting career.** It brings so many skills together. At the Marine Institute I led a team of scientific and support staff in the delivery of technical and advisory services to Government. Our work was backed up by multi-disciplinary research. It was rewarding to see the impact of our work.

**It is important to keep a close eye on the changing research policy and funding landscape.** I have worked for ten years as a marine consultant, and as Research Programme Manager at the Marine Institute, my focus was on implementing the national marine research strategy and managing the national marine research funding programme. Situations change, and you need to be flexible.

**The University's Strategic Plan is full of ambitious targets.** I am really looking forward to working with the University's research community to help realise these goals. And to play my part in enabling our researchers to produce research outcomes at the highest level.



As the Yeats 2015 celebrations drew to a close in December, the **Abbey Theatre Minute Books** were made available to the public for the first time on a new NUI Galway website. The collection amounts to nearly 1,000 pages, covering some of the theatre's most significant events from the period 1904-1939. They were published as part of the Abbey Theatre and NUI Galway Digital Archive Partnership, and pictured at the launch are: playwright Thomas Kilroy; Abbey Theatre archivist, Mairéad Delaney; and Dr Charlotte Mclvor and Professor Patrick Lonergan (Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance).

See the collection for yourself at:  
[www.nuigalway.ie/abbeytheatreminutebooks](http://www.nuigalway.ie/abbeytheatreminutebooks)

## RESEARCH IN ACTION

A new joint research project between NUI Galway and Athlone Institute of Technology is **positioning Ireland as a leading innovator in aquaculture**. The MOREFISH team, which is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, is testing new technologies and processes to make aquaculture in Ireland more efficient and competitive. Led by Dr Eoghan Clifford (Civil Engineering) and Professor Neil Rowan (AIT), the project is exploring the potential and impact of next-generation aeration and disinfection technologies.

A new research project in the CÚRAM Centre for Medical Devices is testing **new therapies for emphysema and liver disease**. The researchers are based in the Apoptosis Research Centre led by Professor Afshin Samali. Their work is aimed at understanding a disorder known as Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (AATD) a rare genetic disorder that affects the lungs and the liver. CÚRAM post-doctoral researcher, Mila Ljubic, secured grant funding for the project through the global healthcare company Grifols.

A new study in the School of Medicine is highlighting the **serious health risks from bacteria in inadequately treated sewage**. Their research, which was carried out with colleagues in UCD, shows high levels of

bacteria resistant to all antibiotics in city and hospital sewage. Resistance to antibiotics is a major threat to global health, but the risk can be reduced greatly through effective wastewater treatment. The research is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency.

An international study co-authored by NUI Galway researchers has found that **stock market crashes can be compared to ecological disasters**. The researchers from Galway, India and France suggest that improved metrics can be developed for forecasting a market crash. Just like natural calamities, stock market crashes occur frequently and often have global repercussions. The key is to understand the tipping point at which a contained problem becomes a disaster. The study was published in the open access science journal, PLOS ONE.

Researchers at the Health Behaviour Change Research Group have produced **a series of training videos to help health professionals provide sexual counselling to patients**. The CHARMS study is focused in particular on improving sexual health among people living with cardiovascular disease in Ireland. Issues related to sexual health can negatively impact the quality of life and relationship satisfaction among patients. The CHARMS videos

show examples of best practice in providing counselling on what can be a very personal matter.

The School of Geography and Archaeology, led by Dr Maura Farrell, has been appointed as **lead researchers of a new consortium to run Ireland's National Rural Network**, as announced by the Department of Agriculture. The new consortium will work with stakeholders and interested groups to achieve better outcomes across all the measures under the national Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. One of the primary aims of the network is to foster innovation in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas across Ireland.

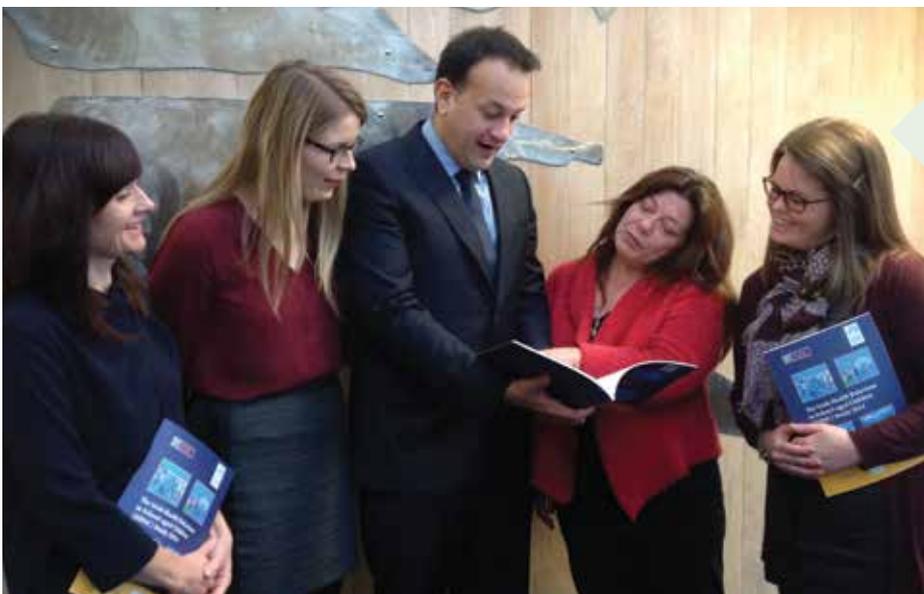
**Channel Mechanics has raised over €2 million in angel funding** to grow their cloud-based software business in Galway. The company, which is headquartered at NUI Galway, will use the investment to expand their channellIT service to customers in the USA. The funding will help drive employment and expertise in cloud-based software in Galway city and region, according to Kenneth Fox, CEO of Channel Mechanics.



Dr Mary Murphy, senior lecturer in Regenerative Medicine, is leading a **new €6 million research project that will transform the way stem cells are manufactured**. Funded by the EU Horizon 2020 programme, the AUTOSTEM project will use advanced robotic equipment to produce large batches of stem cell product in a closed and sterile environment. This innovative process will be much more efficient, and will lead to new therapies becoming available for a range of diseases, including cancers, diabetic complications and arthritis.



Geography PhD student Guillermo Castro Camba is pictured setting up a portable Automatic Weather Station on the sand dunes in Magharees (An Machaire), Co. Kerry. He is using the low-power device to collect high frequency meteorological measurements in order to examine how the weather impacts our coastline. The research is part of an OPW-funded project by Dr Eugene Farrell and Dr Kevin Lynch (Geography) that examines **long-term beach-dune response and recovery to storms**.



In December, outgoing Minister for Health Dr Leo Varadkar, launched the main findings of the Irish 2014 Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey, a unique contribution to **understanding the lives of young people in Ireland**. Pictured with the minister are some core members of the research team (left to right): Dr Colette Kelly, Dr Eimear Keane, Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn and Aoife Gavin, all of whom are based within the Health Promotion Research Centre. The HBSC study is an international alliance of researchers from 44 countries in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, and the international report was launched in March.



In March, 300 teenagers from 30 schools across Galway came to campus for **TeenTech** – an industry-led event that helps students understand how STEM subjects are the pathway to tomorrow's careers. This year TeenTech coincided with International Women's Day and the event encouraged young women in particular to explore and to imagine their careers in science. Pictured are Maggie Philbin, Cofounder of TeenTech, and Anne Casserly, Galway Science & Technology Forum, at the Aerogen stand with students from Dominican College, Galway.

# RESEARCH GATHERINGS

As part of the centenary commemoration, the Centre for Irish Studies presented a series of **public lectures on the 1916 Easter Rising** in March and April in Galway City Library. 'Lectures in the Library' explored the lives of individuals who were involved in the Irish revolution, including Peadar Kearney who wrote the 'Soldier's Song'; the anarchist Captain Jack White; signatory of the Proclamation, Éamonn Ceannt; and Fr Richard Henebry, who is best known for his pioneering work on Irish traditional music.

The School of Law hosted a conference entitled **'Surrogacy – forging a legal and policy framework for Ireland'** in March. Professor Susan Golombok of the Family Research Centre, University of Cambridge, presented the findings of a major longitudinal study funded by the Wellcome Trust on families and children affected by surrogacy. The conference, which was organised by Dr Brian Tobin (Law), also heard papers from leading specialists in the field of family and child law, and explored how international best practice could be applied to the Irish legal system.

The University hosted an array of international speakers for a **four-day Health Economics Masterclass** in March, the first time an event of this type was held in Ireland. Participants came from the UK, USA and across Europe and offered a rare opportunity for early career researchers in Ireland to gain access to pre-eminent researchers in the field. It is more important than ever that there exists in Ireland people with the skills to critically assess the challenges that face our healthcare system, and the Masterclass lectures, laboratories and informal discussion sessions helped share best practice from around the world.

The Centre for Disability Law and Policy hosted the opening conference of the VOICES project in February. VOICES represents **'The Voices**

**of Individuals: Collectively Exploring Self-determination'**, and the conference explored the experiences of people with disabilities in exercising their right to make decisions about their lives. Speakers addressed issues such as consent to sex, consent to medical treatment, contracts and the criminal justice system. The keynote address was delivered by world-renowned independent disability rights defender, Professor Gábor Gombos, from the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre in Budapest.

The School of Natural Sciences hosted two intriguing public lectures in February **exploring the origins of humans, as well as life on Mars!** Dr Tracy Kivell of the University of Kent delivered the William King Annual Lecture, and described the discovery of the fossils of a new human species called homo naledi in a South African cave. The following day Professor Sanjeev Gupta of Imperial College London, who collaborated in NASA's Curiosity rover mission to Mars, spoke about the discovery of a long-vanished lake at Gale Crater on the red planet. The exciting discovery implies the presence of wet climatic conditions on Mars in the distant past.

The Whitaker Institute and the student Finance Society co-hosted a **panel discussion on the Banking Inquiry** in March. Senator Seán Barrett, Independent Senator in Seanad Éireann and member of the Oireachtas Banking Inquiry, delivered a talk on the topic and this was followed by a panel discussion on the lessons learnt during the process of the Inquiry. Staff contributions came from Professor Alan Ahearne (Economics), who gave evidence to the Inquiry, and Professor John McHale (Whitaker Institute), who made a witness statement in his capacity as Chair of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council.



## Teangacha chun Tosaigh

Tháinig Uachtarán na hÉireann, Mícheál D. Ó hUiginn, agus an Coimisinéir Teanga, Rónán Ó Domhnaill – beirt iarchéimithe de chuid na hOllscoile – le chéile san Aula Maxima i mí an Mhárta chun Comhdháil Idirnáisiúnta na gCoimisinéirí Teanga a sheoladh. Ba iad príomhthéamaí na Comhdhála cearta, stádas agus úsáid teangacha sa saol poiblí, agus bhí Coimisinéirí Teanga i láthair ó Ceanada, An Bhreatain Bheag, An Chosaiv, An Chatalóin, Tír na mBascach agus An Bheilg. Bhí neart caint, ceisteanna agus comhrá ag an gcomhdháil thar tréimhse dhá lá. Tús brónach a bhí leis an ócáid, áfach, óir cailleadh an tOnórach an Breitheamh Adrian Hardiman – a bhí in ainm is a bheith ag tabhairt Léacht na Comhdhála – an lá roimhe. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



## Five Years of Hardiman Scholars

The Graduate Studies Office marked a milestone in March, when they celebrated five years of the Hardiman PhD Scholarships scheme. Over 100 students have been awarded funding through the scheme, and current students, graduates and their supervisors gathered in the Aula Maxima to hear about some of the scholars' achievements. Speakers at the event included (l-r) Sally McHugh, 2014 Hardiman scholar, who showcased the CampusCreate project; and Mary McGill, 2015 Hardiman scholar, fresh from her recent Galway TEDx talk. They are joined by Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr Lucy Byrnes, and Professor Michel Destrade (Mathematics) who entertained the audience with the story of recent Hardiman graduate, Artur Gower, and his research achievements in Mathematics.



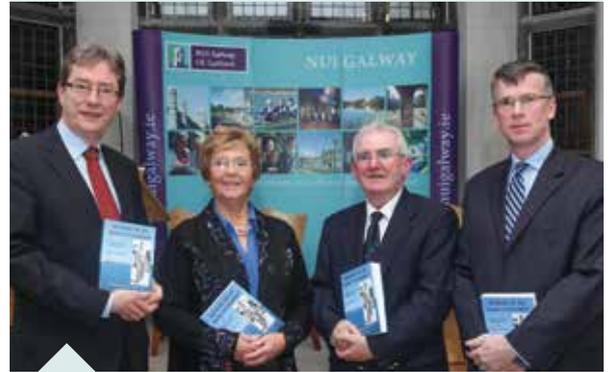
Over 60 speakers from Ireland and abroad presented at the annual conference of the Irish Association of Law Teachers hosted by the School of Law. Pictured on campus is the newly-elected IALT Committee: Dr Deirdre McGowan, DIT; Dr Mark Coen, UCD; Dr Charles O'Mahony, NUI Galway; Professor John Stannard, Queen's University Belfast; Dr Connie Healy, NUI Galway; and Dr Fergus Ryan, Maynooth University.



In December, a group of PhD students from the Applied Ecology Unit organised the PG-CAPER conference to encourage communication, collaboration and synergy in the field of animal and plant ecology here within the University.

## NEW BOOKS

*Global Human Resource Development: Regional and Country Perspectives*, co-edited by Dr Alma McCarthy (Management), analyses human resource development from institutional and cross-cultural perspectives, making it possible for the first time to analyse trends across countries and regions.



Pictured at the launch of the late Labhrás Ó Nualláin's autobiography, *Memoir of an Irish Economist – Working Class Manchester to Irish Academia*, were University President, Dr Jim Browne; the book's editor, Niamh Ó Dochartaigh; Emeritus Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh; and Professor of Economics, Alan Ahearne. Labhrás Ó Nualláin (1912–2000) was Professor of Economics at UCG and the book contains a mixture of memories of sporting, social, political and academic happenings in Ireland and England spanning over 70 years.



The Discipline of Archaeology launched a total of six books published by some of its recently graduated PhD students – a remarkable achievement by any account and a source of great pride to the School of Geography and Archaeology. Pictured are four of the authors with their books: (l-r) Dr Fiona Beglane (*Anglo-Norman Parks in Medieval Ireland*), Dr Mags Mannion (*Glass Beads from Early Medieval Ireland: Classification, Dating, Social Performance*), Dr Phyllis Mercer (*Irish Portal Tombs: A Ritual Perspective*) and Dr Robert Hensey (*First Light: The Origins of Newgrange*), surrounded by Archaeology staff (L-R) Conor Newman, Dr Kieran O'Connor, Dr Stefan Bergh, Dr Carleton Jones, Professor John Waddell and Professor Elizabeth FitzPatrick. Those authors absent from the photograph are: Dr Eve Campbell (*The Field Names of County Louth*) and Dr Katherine Leonard (*Ritual in Late Bronze Age Ireland: Material Culture, Practices, Landscape Setting and Social Context*). Congratulations to one and all!



## Honouring Jean Ritchie

February saw the launch of a new scholarship – and album – in tribute of legendary Appalachian singer and folklorist, Jean Ritchie, whose archive is held in the James Hardiman Library. The new scholarship was set up through the International Affairs Office and will enable students of Berea College in Kentucky to pursue an MA programme in Galway. In 2013, Mary McPartlan (Arts in Action) researched the musical links between Ireland and Appalachia as part of her Fulbright Scholarship in Berea, and the results are celebrated in her new album 'From Mountain to Mountain'. Mary is pictured (centre) launching the album in the US Embassy with Dena O'Malley, President Michael D. Higgins, Sabina Higgins, and Ambassador Kevin F. O'Malley.

# GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Pictured at the meeting of the recent visit by the Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA) to Brussels were Professor Seán Ryder (English), Martha Shaughnessy (Moore Institute), Mairéad McGuinness (Vice-President of the European Parliament), Professor Marie-Louise Coolahan (English), and Professor Dan Carey (Moore Institute, and IHA Chair).



## Business Goes Global

January saw the launch of a new Bachelor of Commerce (Global Experience) at the J.E. School of Business and Economics. The new programme will give students the opportunity to study abroad in exciting new destinations in China, Australia and the US, as well as existing partner countries across the EU. Continuing on the international theme, the Discipline of Marketing recently signed a partnership with University of California, Riverside, with Galway chosen as their sole Marketing masters partner. It is expected that the first cohort of Riverside students will arrive in September.

## Preparing for a Global Pandemic

Professor Máire Connolly (Medicine) led a meeting of global experts on pandemics and emergency management in Brussels in February. The high-level meeting sought to strengthen pandemic surveillance, communications and governance across the EU: a timely focus given the recent Zika and Ebola outbreaks. As Professor Connolly explains: "We don't know when the next pandemic will occur, but there is vital work which can be done to prepare for such an event."

## Our Link with Lithuania

Dr Darius Ceburnis (Physics) was honoured by the Lithuanian Government in January with an award for 'World Class Research Excellence and Collaborative Efforts'. The national award was presented by Minister for Education and Science, Audronė Pitrėnienė, who praised Dr Ceburnis for achieving research excellence in Ireland, while maintaining connections with his homeland.

## Empowering International Networks

In February, the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre hosted 25 visiting students from Arizona, who travelled to Galway on a Social Work Fellowship. The trip was coordinated by an organisation called Empower International, which aims to build international links by bringing students together from around the world. The benefits can be huge, in particular in creating placements and international funding opportunities.

If you have links to US and EU universities that may consider hosting a summer programme here in Galway, please contact the Commercial Office. Patricia and the team will gladly show you how they can help you reach out to the world.

Biochemistry Professor Bob Lahue (left) was a special guest at the recent presentation of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry to Professor Paul Modrich of Duke University, North Carolina (right). Professor Lahue carried out his postdoctoral research in Professor Modrich's lab, and the two have maintained their professional and personal relationship ever since. Indeed, in introducing the award, the Nobel Committee cited one of the Lahue-Modrich publications on DNA as groundbreaking.





## RECIRC goes online

Meet the RECIRC team – a group of ten researchers led by Professor Marie-Louise Coolahan (English), that is producing a large-scale, quantitative analysis of the reception and circulation of women's writing from 1550 to 1700. Professor Coolahan caused a stir in 2013 when her proposal for RECIRC was awarded €2 million in European Research Council funding, the first such award ever made to an Irish researcher in any field of literature. Now the RECIRC website has gone live, and includes information about the project and the team, including video cameos, as well as weekly blog posts and information on the upcoming RECIRC conference.

See for yourself at: [www.recirc.nuigalway.ie](http://www.recirc.nuigalway.ie)

## The West's Awake

Inspired by the recent #WakingTheFeminists movement, the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance recently hosted #wakingthefeministswest, a season of student-led theatre over two months. The programme's mission was to stage the work of Irish women playwrights and theatre-makers, and to provide strong roles for female performers. The initiative drew on key resources unique to the University, including our specialised archives such as the Abbey Digital Archive, links with the Druid Theatre, the expertise of teaching and research staff, and local connections to the Irish language.



## Science on Screen

President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, was guest of honour at the launch of the 'Science on Screen' project, a partnership between CÚRAM Centre for Research in Medical Devices and the Galway Film Centre. Supported by SFI, the project aims to promote science and technology through Irish film and TV production, initially funding two short films with a budget of €35,000 each. President Higgins is joined in the photo by CÚRAM Science Engagement Associate, Claire Riordan; Professor Rhodri Ceredig; and Galway Film Centre Manager, Declan Gibbons.

## Our Tribal Vision

As Galwegians unite to bid for European Capital of Culture, creative people across the city and county have been sharing their inspirations and ideas on 'A Tribal Vision' – a website co-created by David Kelly, Research Technologist with the Moore and Whitaker Institutes. A Tribal Vision is a collection of interviews with some of the most inspiring people in Galway, who talk about their work, inspirations and their cultural vision for the city. Recent interviews include Dr Pat Collins (Geography), Dr Lillis Ó Laoire (Gaeilge) and Professor Patrick Lonergan (Drama, Theatre and Performance).

See their visions for yourself at: [atribalvision.com](http://atribalvision.com)

## AN TEANGA BHEO



## Bíonn dhá insint ar gach scéal

Is minic a bhíonn deacrachtaí ag tuismitheoirí agus múinteoirí scéalta a aimsiú do dhaoine óga a bhfuil ard-chaighdeán Gaeilge iontu. Tá tionscadal de chuid Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge ag cabhrú leis an éileamh seo a shásamh. Tá mic léinn an Aistriúcháin ag cur leaganacha Gaeilge de na fabhalscéalta is cáiliúla ar domhan ar fáil saor in aisce ar leathanach nua Facebook. Is é Séamus Ó Coileáin atá i gceannas ar an tionscadal seo, agus tá sé le feiceáil anseo (ar dheis) in éineacht le mic léinn ón Ard-Diplóma i Léann an Aistriúcháin.

Léigh na scéalta ar: [www.facebook.com/fabhalscealta](https://www.facebook.com/fabhalscealta)



## Scileanna Scannánóireachta

Thug an scannánóir Gael-Astrálach, Paula Kehoe, cuairt ar an gCeathrú Rua le gairid chun ceardlann a dhéanamh le mic léinn na Cumarsáide. Taispeánadh an scannán *An Dubh ina Gheal*, a rinne sí leis an bhfile Louis de Paor i 2012 faoin gcaidreamh idir Éireannaigh agus Bundúchasaigh na hAstráile. Craoladh a scannán nua *Deargdhúil: Anatomy of Passion* faoin bhfile Máire Mhac an tSaoi ar TG4 i mí an Mhárta. Tá Paula le feiceáil sa phictiúr (an tríú duine ar chlé) in éineacht le foireann an Acadaimh.

## Gender Equality Task Force Report

In April, the Gender Equality Task Force published their Draft Final Report, with 23 evidence-based recommendations aimed at eliminating gender inequality in the University. The Task Force was established by Údarás na hOllscoile in February 2015, and since then its 17 members have been working together to review gender equality policies in the University, under the Chair of Professor Jane Grimson. The Draft Final Report was emailed to all staff and retired staff with an open invitation for comments, before the Report is finalised for submission to Údarás na hOllscoile in May 2016. To find out more about the Gender Equality Task Force and their Draft Final Report, visit: [www.nuigalway.ie/genderequality](http://www.nuigalway.ie/genderequality)



## Vice-President for Equality and Diversity

In February, Professor Anne Scott was announced as Vice-President for Equality and Diversity, the first appointment of its kind in an Irish University. The creation of the post came in response to an early recommendation by the Gender Equality Task Force. Professor Scott has worked in higher education across Ireland and the UK, and she comes to Galway from Liverpool John Moores University, where she was Executive Dean of the Faculty of Education, Health and Community. She will take up the role this summer, but in the meantime you can read more about Professor Scott on page 5.



## In Praise Of... Our Excellent Support Staff

We all know them – those staff in Offices, Services and Administrative Units across the campus who go the extra mile to help support students and colleagues. Now in its second year, the President's Awards for Support Service Excellence recognise the professionalism and dedication of our non-academic staff. Pictured at this year's awards ceremony are... Standing (l-r): University President, Dr Jim Browne; Security Team – Peter Tuck, Michael McAndrew, Keith Flynn, Billy Clery, Thomas Creaven, Gerry Nolan, Paul Hornibrook – and former Executive Director of Operations, Kieran Loftus. Seated (l-r): Dr Siubhán Comer (Geography), Imelda Byrne (Access Office), Mary Greaney (Marketing), and Teresa Kelly and Angela Walsh (Accommodation and Welfare). Missing: Stephen Costello from the Security team.

Read the citation for each winner at: [www.nuigalway.ie/passe2015](http://www.nuigalway.ie/passe2015)



## Celebrating Women in Science

Eight NUI Galway scientists were guests of the President of Ireland at a special event entitled 'Women in Science' in February. The event celebrated the leading role that women play in scientific research and industry. They are pictured here in Áras na Yachtaráin with President Michael D. Higgins and Sabina Higgins: (l-r) Dr Róisín Dwyer, Dr Michelle Kilcoyne, Dr Adrienne Gorman, Dr Sharon Glynn, Dr Laoise McNamara, Dr Elaine Dunleavy, Professor Grace McCormack, and Dr Eva Szegezdi.



## TTO @ 10

The Transfer Technology Office (TTO) marked a major milestone recently, when they celebrated the Office's tenth birthday. In the past decade, the TTO has supported companies to achieve over €53 million in investor funding, with those companies going on to create over 750 jobs. The figures are astounding – the TTO team has helped identify over 450 new technologies leading to 130 patents, 120 licences to industry, and 33 spin-out companies. We wish them every success as they continue to grow and mature into their teens!



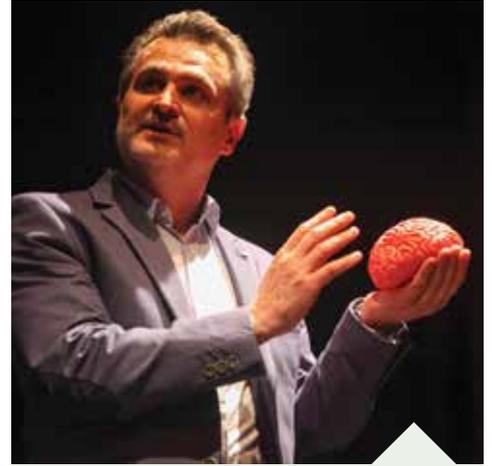
## International Women's Day

To coincide with International Women's Day in March, the Athena SWAN Self-Assessment Team organised a lunchtime event entitled 'Planning for Success: Insights from Women at NUI Galway'. Female staff from across the University described their own career paths and their personal experience of balancing life and work. They included Professor Kathy Murphy (Nursing and Midwifery); Equality Manager, Aoife Cooke; Professor Grace McCormack (Zoology); Academic Secretary, Caroline Loughnane; Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr Lucy Byrnes; and Vice-President for the Student Experience, Dr Pat Morgan.



## National Teaching Awards

Congratulations to Dr Michel Dugon (Zoology) and Dr Karen Doyle (Physiology) who were presented with national Teaching Awards in December from the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. Karen and Michel were nominated by their students and judged by a panel of international scholars. The awards are presented each year to 16 outstanding teachers and supporters of learning, and we are proud to have them on our team!



## FameLab 2016

Professor of Applied Mathematics, Michel Destrade, won FameLab Galway in February, for his presentation 'How soft in the head are we?' FameLab is the largest science communication competition in the world, and contestants must bring science to the general public with three-minute, slide-free talks on their chosen topic. Professor Destrade represented Galway at the national final in Dublin in April.



## Wound Care Award

Andrea Mahon, a PhD student in the Discipline of Podiatric Medicine, was awarded Best Laboratory/Pre-Clinical Study by the Journal of Wound Care. Andrea received the award at a special ceremony in London, in recognition of her Masters research into modelling stem cell therapies for diabetic wounds. Andrea was supervised by Professor Caroline McIntosh and Dr Claire MacGilchrist (Podiatry), as well as Professor Timothy O'Brien (Medicine).

## Silverware for Shannon

A team of Shannon College students, entitled Team 'Millennial 5', travelled to the Netherlands to represent the University at the European Mise en Place Cup in February. The event sees the best European Hotel Management Schools competing for the prestigious cup. The Shannon ladies came in Second place overall, winning the Best Case Study competition. Congratulations to Hazel, Orla, Clare, Aisling and Nora!



## RIA Charlemont Awards

Pictured at the presentation of the Royal Irish Academy Charlemont Grants were (l-r): RIA President, Mary Daly, and RIA member, Professor Colm Lennon, alongside this year's NUI Galway recipients: Dr Bronagh McShane (Moore Institute), Dr Emily Porter (Lambe Institute) and Dr Lindsay Reid (English). The grants will enable these early career researchers to make short visits to any country to support primary research in their subject area.



## Supporting our Clubs & Socs

In March, Bank of Ireland announced a programme of support for the development of Sports Clubs and Societies in the University. The investment will help fund the development of Clubs and Societies and further improve the quality of the student experience here. 2016 has already been a bumper year for our sports teams, with big wins in a variety of codes (see below). Meanwhile, our Societies picked up four awards at the national BICS awards, including two Best Society Awards for the Medical and Draíocht Societies.

## Sporting Success

By any measure, 2016 has already been a bumper year for our Clubs. Name a sport – from Archery to Water Polo – and there’s a story of team success or personal achievement. The winning teams are too many to list here, but some of the highlights included: **Basketball** – The ‘Mystics’ Ladies’ Team won the National Cup, while the Men’s team won Gold at Intervarsities; **Soccer** – Our Ladies’ Team won the Irish Premier Division; **Women’s Rugby** – continued its winning streak in the All Ireland Colleges; **Rowing** – the Men’s Team won at Intervarsities. Meanwhile, many of our elite individual sports stars continued to shine, including: **Hockey** – Naomi Carroll won her 72nd cap for Ireland and scored 21 goals; **Archery** – Darren Wallace (pictured) won Gold at the National Indoor Championships; **Kayak** – Barry Loughnane took Overall Gold at Intervarsities.



## Múscailt Arts Festival

Pop-up performances, floating fish, cranes, choirs and creative chaos - a lively Múscailt festival hit campus in March. Organised each year by the Arts Office, Múscailt brings colour and culture to the University, this year under the theme ‘Stand Your Ground / Seas an Fód’. One of the highlights was Donnacha Cahill’s giant gramophone sculpture, which travelled around campus delighting staff and students with music, both live and recorded.



## Smoke-Free Campus

In January, NUI Galway became the first partially smoke-free university in Ireland with the creation of two smoke-free zones in the south and north campus. Smokers are encouraged to move away from buildings in the smoke-free zones and into the new smoking shelters – located outside the Hardiman and Engineering Buildings. This simple step will help make our campus cleaner and healthier for everyone. You can’t change culture and behaviour overnight. So, on behalf of the Student Cancer Society, Students’ Union, and the Smoke-Free Campus Working Group, we would like to thank the staff who are already using the smoking shelters. And we encourage others to spread the word to their smoking colleagues!



## Getting Creative on Campus

For the past two months, staff and students have been engaging in open daily creative challenges, as part of an EXPLORE project called CampusCreate. This innovative project is a collaboration between PhD student Sally McHugh (pictured), Dr Fiona Concannon (CELT) and Dr Tony Hall (Education). Inspired by DS106 – an open Digital Storytelling module at the University of Mary Washington – participants are invited to respond to a weekly creative theme through poetry, pictures and prose.

See the results at: [campuscreate.eu](http://campuscreate.eu)



The View from Around Campus



The Galway ConTempo Quartet had staff, students and the public on the edge of their seats in the Institute for Lifecourse and Society, as part of the Space & Sound lunchtime concert series.

The Shakespeare in Galway 2016 team from the Discipline of English have been celebrating 400 years since the bard's death with, among other things, a 'Juliet's Wall' of anonymous musings on love and Shakespeare!



Thug mic léinn ón MA Ateangaireacht Chomhdhála cuairt ar an mBruiséil le gairid chun taithí a fháil ar ghnáthlá oibre na n-ateangairí i bParlaimint agus Coimisiúin na hEorpa.



To mark the start of the Year of the Monkey in February, Dongxia Zhang, from the School of Languages, Cultures and Literatures, presented the President with the name of the University in Chinese calligraphy.



Love him or Hate him, actor Lar Kinlan (aka Elmo) helped with the official opening of the Grafton Barber on campus in February.



Dr Anne O'Connor (Italian) sent in this photo of some of the 380 primary school children who participated in the Community-Based Learning Course in Italian in March, where they got a taste of Italian language, culture – and pizza!



Recent retiree, Mary O'Riordan, returned to the Quadrangle in December to help bid farewell to colleague, and former Executive Director of Operations, Kieran Loftus. We wish them both a rewarding and relaxing retirement!



Congratulations to Savio Costello (Buildings Office) who received an ALIVE certificate in April for volunteering with Our Lady's Boys Club for over 30 years!

## Older than Ireland

We were honoured to welcome one of our oldest living graduates back to the Quadrangle in March – 100 year old, Anne Byrne (née Gannon) – pictured here with her daughter and fellow graduate, Úna. Anne studied Arts and Commerce on a scholarship from Longford County Council, graduating in 1936! She remembers her lecturers fondly: Professor Margaret Heavey (Latin), an tOllamh Tomás Ó Máille (Gaeilge), Professor Liam Ó Buachalla (Commerce), and Professor Eoghan McKenna (Maths).



# ALLSLOTS

## Desktop Diary

May 2016							June 2016							July 2016						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31																			

## Just some events to look out for this summer



### European Capital of Culture, decision in July

In early July, the European Capital of Culture judges will visit the city to assess the Galway 2020 bid. The visit will play an important role in deciding the winner, which will be announced later in July. Are you backing the bid? There are lots of ways to show your support. Visit [www.galway2020.ie](http://www.galway2020.ie) to see how.

### Summer Schools, June/July

Do you know a senior cycle secondary school student interested in IT, Business, Engineering, Law,

Nursing or Science? The University's Summer Schools are back, and taking bookings. Visit [www.nuigalway.ie/summer-schools](http://www.nuigalway.ie/summer-schools) to find out more.

### Wetlands Conference, June 20-22

The Inaugural International Conference on Natural and Constructed Wetlands comes to campus in June, and will bring together experts from all over the world to exchange ideas, information and the most up to date findings in the field.

### Diabetes Conference, June 23

A special one-day conference entitled 'Strength in Numbers' will bring together health service providers, researchers, and policy-makers to develop strategies to improve the health of young adults with type 1 diabetes.



### Commemorating 1916

Easter may have passed, but the University's year-long commemoration of the Rising continues. There are still lots of conferences, talks, performances and festivals planned on campus and across the city and county. Visit [www.nuigalway.ie/anationrising](http://www.nuigalway.ie/anationrising) to see what's happening.