



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

LET'S TALK

Here comes Summer...

As the campus begins to quieten down for the summer, we take stock of some of the University's achievements over the past three months.

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... and more!

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OLLSCÉALA

Focal ón Uachtarán



A Chairde,

The last semester has been a positive and eventful one, with many openings and events taking place on our campus.

On May 1 we welcomed Minister for Education, Ruairí Quinn to campus to officially open two major new buildings – the Hardiman Research Building for research in the humanities and social sciences, and a new home for the University's School of Psychology. These two new buildings

are wonderful additions to the campus and I'm delighted to see them completed. With a combined investment of €23 million, they offer world-class teaching, learning and research facilities for staff, students and the public.

The new home for the **School of Psychology** brings students and staff under one roof for the first time in the School's 40-year history. During the Minister's visit he met with staff from the School's two thematic research areas: Health & Wellbeing and Brain & Behavior, visiting the new electro-physiological laboratory as well as meeting children involved with the School through the University's Youth Academy.

Recently named the 2014 Irish Building & Design Architectural Project of the Year, the **Hardiman Research Building** is home to almost 200 researchers from the Moore and Whitaker Institutes. It also houses NUI Galway's unique collection of more than 350 literary, theatrical, political and historical archives, as well as the digitised Abbey Theatre Archive, the world's largest digital theatre archive, in development since 2012.

The Hardiman Research Building also features a dedicated exhibition area which is set to become a major campus attraction. To mark the launch of the Hardiman Research Building, a major exhibition of the digital Abbey Theatre Archive has been mounted. The **Performing Ireland Exhibition** features a taste of the more than one million items that comprise the Abbey Theatre Archive, dating from 1894. It will run until the Autumn and I'd encourage all staff to visit this engaging and attractive exhibition.

Other public events which drew considerable attention included an Interview with **Irish Rugby Coach, Joe Schmidt** on 6 May which attracted over 200 guests. At this event, held in association with Snap Galway, Joe Schmidt spoke about Ireland's recent Six Nations success and the challenge for leaders in maintaining improvements made both on and off the pitch. He praised the opportunity afforded to professional rugby players and other elite athletes by NUI Galway's structured educational scholarships to allow them to continue to both compete and study at the highest level.

Familiar Faces



1. Mícheál Ó Muirheartaigh, pictured here with members of Monivea Active Age, at the launch of the Galway Age Friendly Strategy, which sets out a plan to make Galway a great place to grow up and grow old. While here, Mícheál launched the Reel Lives Film Festival, organised by Alison Herbert (Irish Centre for Social Gerontology).
2. Irish Rugby Head Coach Joe Schmidt (pictured centre, holding the Six Nations Trophy) is joined by NUI Galway students and rugby players Eoin Griffin, Robbie Henshaw and Kieran Marmion, and Connacht Head Coach Pat Lam (pictured here demonstrating his ball-handling skills).
3. Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairí Quinn TD, presented a 'Student of the Year' award to Masters of Applied Science student Kelley Rickard at a special ceremony in Dublin organised by the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Ireland. Kelley won the award and €500 cash prize for her paper outlining 'The Ultimate Traffic Management System'. They are joined by Mary Dempsey (Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering).

On 24 May, President Michael D. Higgins and Mrs Sabina Higgins were guests of honour at a public lecture to mark the 150th anniversary of the naming of Neanderthal man by **William King**, Professor of Geology at the then Queen's College Galway. He remains the first scientist ever to name a new species of human. The lecture by Professor Svante Pääbo, of the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig, was attended by a capacity audience of 300. Before presenting the William King Medal to Professor Pääbo, President Higgins had a chance to meet some of the descendants of William King and see extracts from the University archives relating to his research in the late 19th century.

Later in the month Enterprise Ireland hosted the **Inaugural West Region SME Leaders Innovation Forum** to look at how higher education can support innovation in SMEs. Over 70 participants from industry, agencies and higher education institutions gathered to discuss how indigenous enterprises can benefit from the human capital and research expertise available in universities and IoTs. Following this Forum over 30 company representatives visited a range of NUI Galway research facilities. This engagement

between industry and the University will form part of the strategic planning currently underway by both Enterprise Ireland and NUI Galway.

The summer is set to continue to attract many visitors to campus for conferences, events and exhibitions with more than 90 events set to attract over 10,000 visitors – international and domestic – to our campus.

Other snippets of good news from around the campus include the recent announcement that Professor Daniel Carey has been admitted as a new member of the **Royal Irish Academy (RIA)** - one of only 15 academics to receive Ireland's highest academic distinction.

For the second year running NUI Galway was awarded the 'Best Business Postgraduate Course of the Year Award' at the national **gradireland Graduate Recruitment Awards 2014** which took place in Dublin recently. This year the prize

was awarded for our MSc in Marketing Practice programme. Congratulations to all the team involved, led by Programme Director, Ann Walsh.

Finally, well done to the NUI Galway Singers who hit the high note recently - winning the top prize in the 2014 Galway **Choir Factor Competition** on 12th April! Directed by Peter Mannion and made up of staff and students, the choir saw off stiff competition from a range of local choral groups to claim the Choir Factor trophy.

I thank colleagues for your 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

Meitheamh 2014



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

Appointments | Ceapacháin

New Dean

The College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences is delighted to announce the recent appointment of Professor Timothy O'Brien as Dean. Professor O'Brien will also continue in his role as Director of REMEDI in the University.

Professorship

A Professorship was recently granted to: Professor Stewart Walsh
Professor of Vascular Surgery/
Consultant General Surgeon



Ar Son na Teanga

Tháinig an Coimisinéir Nua Teanga, agus iarmhac léinn de chuid na hOllscoile, Rónán Ó Domhnaill, ar cuairt chugainn i mí an Mhárta chun agallamh a dhéanamh le mic léinn Cumarsáide an Acadaimh. Ceapadh an Coimisinéir nua i mí Feabhra i ndiaidh do Sheán Ó Cuirreáin éirí as an bpost. Chuir an tUasal Ó Domhnaill síos ar na dúshláin a bhaineann lena ról nua le linn a agallaimh 20 nóiméad ar an gclár An Ghaeltacht Bheo, a chraolaítear gach seachtain ó stiúideo Flirt FM ar an bpríomhchampas. Is iad na mic léinn atá ag plé leis an gcráoltóireacht raidió i mbliain a ceathair a chuireann an clár i láthair.



External Appointments

Professor Daniel Carey (English and the Moore Institute) was admitted as a Member of the Royal Irish Academy in May in recognition of his academic achievement. He is pictured here (front right) with other recent appointees.

Dr Gerard Flaherty (Medicine) has received an Adjunct Professorship from the International Medical University in Kuala Lumpur, a university with which NUI Galway enjoys a long history of partnership.

Dr Fabio Quondamatteo (Anatomy) was recently elected as a Fellow of the Anatomical Society, and has been chosen as the Representative of the Anatomical Society at the European Federation of Experimental Morphologists.



Students admire costumes from the Abbey Theatre archive, put on display outside the new Hardiman Building to mark the launch of the 'Performing Ireland' exhibition.

Abbey Theatre Exhibit marks Building Launches



Librarian John Cox shows Minister Ruairí Quinn some photographs of 19th century Connemara from the Arthur J. Balfour Album, a volume in the James Hardiman Library's special collections, housed in the new Hardiman Research Building.

For the next five months, the foyer of the new Hardiman Building is home to a unique exhibition from the Abbey Theatre Digital Archive. The 'Performing Ireland' exhibition celebrates 110 years of history in the theatre, and its opening coincided with the official launch of the Hardiman Research Building by Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairí Quinn TD.

Hardiman Research Building

The Hardiman Research Building is home to NUI Galway's unique collection of over 350 literary, theatrical, political and historical archives. It brings together the Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities and Social Studies and the Whitaker Institute for Innovation and Societal Change, and its location adjacent to the James Hardiman Library ensures that it is always buzzing with research activity. The building was recently named the 2014 Building and Design Architectural Project of the Year.

New Psychology Building

The new Psychology Building is adjacent to the Arts Millennium Building, at the heart of the campus. It brings students and staff under one roof for the first time in the School of Psychology's 40 year history. Built at a cost of €8m, the building contains state-of-the-art research facilities, including a new electro-physiological laboratory that will further enhance the School's standing as a centre of excellence for Health Psychology.

What's in a name?

The James Hardiman Library and the Hardiman Research Building are located adjacent to each other at the heart of the campus. Both buildings share one main entrance, and when referred to collectively they are called the Hardiman Building. Is iad na hainmneacha Gaeilge ar na foirgnimh seo ná: Leabharlann Shéamais Uí Argadáin, Áras Taighde Uí Argadáin, agus Áras Uí Argadáin faoi seach.

New University Ranking System



NUI Galway has been given the highest ranking in a number of areas in U-Multirank, a new EU initiative to measure excellence in higher education. The University scored top marks for Arts graduate employment and internships, while our focus on internationalisation was rewarded with a high score for student mobility. Our continued success in technology transfer scored top marks for innovation, bringing new products to market, patents awarded and patents filed. The University's track record in creating a sustainable funding base for research and development was also commended with a top ranking for sourcing external research income and income from private sources. President Browne welcomed the University's high scores, saying: "I'm particularly pleased to note the strong performance in securing regional employment for our humanities graduates and internships for current students, confirming our role as a vital economic driver of employment, learning and research."



Perfectly Balanced: This shot of the Quadrangle in the evening sunlight by student Feidhlim Lally-Croke won the overall first prize in the EXPLORE-funded Capture Your Campus photo competition in April. The competition attracted over 170 entries from staff, students and alumni. See more of the photos at: www.nuigalway.ie/captureyourcampus

28 NEW PARTNERSHIPS TO EXPLORE

May saw the official launch of this year's EXPLORE projects – 28 staff-student partnerships funded and supported through a unique collaboration between the University's Bright Ideas initiative and the Students' Union. Over 180 staff and students got involved, with each partnership given €1,000 to turn their innovative ideas into reality. Here we take a look at the different projects, and what they achieved.

Apps

Phone-based projects were particularly popular this year. The **START** project created tools to help students teach University staff how to make apps. The **MyCollegeCal** team are developing an app that will list all the various events on campus, as well as student-focused offers and promotions from Galway businesses. Meanwhile, staff and students from the **Zoology and Marine Biology Museum** created QR codes to help guide visitors around their collection.

Publications

Students in the School of Medicine have published the first issue of the **Journal of Medical Students Galway**, a peer-reviewed journal aimed at encouraging undergraduate students to publish their research. The **Scary Noisy Things** team published an illustrated book to help parents develop their toddlers' emotional vocabulary.

Social and Environmental

The **I Like Beaches** group of Geography staff and students are creating tools to help educate people about the importance of our coast and beaches; while students of the Swimming, Water Polo and Lifesaving Club are giving lessons through their **Learn to Swim** programme. The **Staff-Student Exercise Initiative** is encouraging campus users to become more active by creating walking and cycling routes around the University. The **Come Abroad** group are creating a web community for international students studying here and Galway students studying abroad to exchange advice and information. **ShoutOut Galway** is educating secondary school students about homophobia

and other LGBT issues through a student-led interactive campaign; while members of the **Uni-food** group are developing a food sustainability assessment tool for campus-based restaurants.

Workshops and Awareness

Tá grúpa múinteoirí faoi oiliúint ón Diplóma Gairmiúil san Oideachas ag spreagadh **Daltaí le Cumais Eisceachtúla** trí shraith ceardlanna a chur ar fáil dóibh. Medical students are organising a series of **Undergraduate Surgical Training Workshops** for their fellow students; and in the School of Law, staff and students are **Preparing Law Students for Professional Exams**. The **RISE** group are building a public awareness campaign to help people avoid pressure ulcers; while **GEL**, the NUI Galway English Lab, has created a website to help first year English students with their academic writing.

Arts and Culture

CÓR is a collaboration between the staff and student choirs to upload arrangements and recordings of traditional Irish songs for choirs online. **The Big Yellow Thing**, led by student Michelle Campion, has created designs for NUI Galway merchandising. Staff and students of Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge and the Huston School of Film and Digital Media are producing short videos showing **NUI Galway Behind the Scenes**; while the **NUI Galway Animates History** group is creating animated videos telling key events in Irish history in fun ways.

See elsewhere in this magazine for the following EXPLORE projects: **Galway Neuroscience Centre Workshops** on page 7; **Undergraduate Science Fair** on page 9; **Accounting Nuggets** on page 11; and **Disability Awareness Week** on page 14.



Students Fionn Delahunty and Darren Kelly invited guests to try out their new App for NUI Galway Students, which will be launched in September.



Drama students from the Shakespeare Workshops project demonstrate some of their innovative ways of helping students get to grips with the Bard.



The Promoting Pollinators group is raising awareness of the vital role bees play in our ecosystem.

For more information on EXPLORE, as well as details and contacts for each project, visit: www.su.nuigalway.ie/explore



RESEARCH IN ACTION

From the ocean floor to the edges of our galaxy, NUI Galway researchers interrogate the world around us so that we might better understand it. Here's a taste of some of that research over the past three months.

Scientists in the Plant and AgriBiosciences Research Centre (PABC) have been **developing new higher-yielding varieties of an oilseed crop called Camelina**, for Irish growing conditions and new markets. The research team, led by Professor Charles Spillane, has been collaborating with scientists in Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to sequence the crop's genome. Camelina sativa (pictured above) was cultivated in Europe for many centuries before being displaced by higher-yielding crops such as oilseed rape. However, its low environmental footprint is driving a resurgence of interest in the crop as a source of sustainable protein and oils for both nutritional and industrial applications.

Researchers in REMEDI are part of an exciting EU-funded project looking at **how stem cells from adult fat tissue could be used to activate the regeneration of cartilage**. If successful, their work could lead to effective new treatments for millions of sufferers of osteoarthritis. According to Professor Frank Barry, Scientific Director of REMEDI, "The results so far are extremely positive such that the use of stem cell therapy for osteoarthritis could become a reality for patients within the next five years." The ADIPOA project is a partnership between researchers in seven countries.

A new study led by Professor Gary Donohoe (Psychology) shows that **risks for schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders could be identified** through tell-tale signs in IQ, memory or social intelligence tests. Schizophrenia or bipolar disorder affects about one in 50 Irish adults. According to Professor Donohoe, recognising how genetic variants contribute to these conditions is an important step towards understanding the underlying biology and developing better and more personalised treatments. The study's findings were recently published in the leading international peer-reviewed journal JAMA Psychiatry.

A cell therapy from campus-based company Orbsen Therapeutics will be tested as a **treatment for diabetic ulcers** as part of ongoing research at REMEDI. The therapy, which is called Cyndacel-M™, will be tested as part of REMEDI's €6 million REDDSTAR project, and could lead to life-changing improvements for the 50 million European citizens who suffer with diabetes. CEO of Orbsen Therapeutics, Brian Molloy, hopes that the research partnership forged with the University "can position Ireland and NUI Galway in particular as a European hub for cell therapy development."

Another €6 million partnership led by REMEDI and Orbsen Therapeutics is developing new tests and cell therapies for **the prevention of complications in people receiving corneal transplants**. The VISICORT project aims to improve the success of corneal transplantation, the most common transplant carried out worldwide with over 100,000 procedures each year. According to Minister of State for Training and Skills, Ciarán Cannon TD, "This is an excellent win for Galway and for Ireland and it underlines the benefits of combining university research excellence with commercialisation expertise in a single site."

Researchers at the Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB) have made a **major breakthrough in the treatment of damaged spinal discs**, the main cause of severe back pain. The DISC REGENERATION project has developed two injectable gels that help spinal cells to repair and regenerate themselves. According to NFB Director, Professor Abhay Pandit, "What is novel about our research is that it is the biomaterials we are using together with the stem cells that allow them to act in a particular way to regenerate specific damaged cells."



In March, the Galway Neuroscience Centre held a public information exhibit in the Aula Maxima as part of **Brain Awareness Week**. The interactive event was aimed at educating young people in particular about how the brain and nervous system work. Over two days, researchers in the Centre were given the opportunity to share their knowledge of brain activity and disorders with a non-academic audience. In the picture, Aisling McGrath takes Rebecca Dubber of Tuairíní National School through the mirror task, in which you must draw a shape while viewing it in a mirror. The task tests people's visual perception, hand-eye coordination and learning.



The Centre for Astronomy hosted an international gathering on **the future of super-telescopes** to coincide with the design of the €1 billion European Southern Observatory super-telescope. Discussions about the role Ireland could play in this ambitious project are taking place with the Government, but Professor Andy Shearer is in no doubt of its significance. He says, "As members, Irish scientists and Irish industry would be able to take part in, and bid for, some of the most technologically challenging projects in the world." Pictured is a member of the University's Astronomy Society enjoying the view through one of the Centre for Astronomy's telescopes. The photo is courtesy of Dr Ray Butler who won Best Societies Photo in the recent Capture Your Campus photo competition.



Geologists from the School of Natural Sciences have discovered a **large network of underground rivers off Galway Bay** (pictured) and the Aran Islands. The rivers of fresh water, which stretch up to 30 miles long, run underneath the seabed and were formed by karstification, the slow process of water dissolving the limestone that underlies the region. The discovery was made following conversations with residents of Inis Meáin, who said their well of fresh water never ran out, and from fishermen who refer to freshwater risings along the south coast of Galway.

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



RESEARCH GATHERINGS

Summer is a traditional time for conferences on campus. Here are some examples of our recent research gatherings of all shapes and sizes.

May saw the 150th anniversary of the coining of the term 'homo neanderthalensis' by Queen's College Galway Professor of Geology, William King. King was the first scientist ever to name a new species of human, and to mark the anniversary a special **symposium on Neanderthal man** was organised on campus. The event was attended by President Michael D. Higgins, who is pictured above with his wife, Sabina, and lecturer in Paleontology, Dr John Murray, examining a skull from the University's collection. The main keynote address was delivered by Professor Svante Pääbo, Director of the Department of Evolutionary Genetics at the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig, who was the first person to sequence the DNA of Neanderthal man.

As part of the **Sociological Association of Ireland's Postgraduate Conference** a roundtable discussion on the role of universities in the contemporary development of citizens took place in Galway recently, supported by the School of Political Science and Sociology, the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, and the Community Knowledge Initiative. A number of representatives from across NUI Galway, including Dr Jennifer Dagg, Dr Su-Ming Khoo, Dr Brendan Smith and Lorraine McIlrath, contributed to the discussion on various aspects of the University's civic engagement.

In February, the Centre for Irish Studies and the Comhrá Ceoil research network hosted the **International Council for Traditional Music Ireland Conference**, the first time it was held in Galway. Over 40 speakers took part in the three-day event, including NUI Galway researchers in Irish music and dance studies. In March, a special public

interview with singer and harpist, Mary O'Hara, was organised as part of the Martin Reilly Lecture Series and hosted on campus in St Anthony's.

The School of Law marked the end of the academic year with their **Annual Distinguished Lecture**, delivered this year by Mr Justice Nial Fennelly of the Supreme Court. The theme of the lecture was 'The National Judge and the European Union', and it attracted an audience of law students and graduates, including the Attorney General, Máire Whelan SC.

The all-Ireland final of the now annual **Debating Science Issues** competition was held in the Royal College of Surgeons in March, co-ordinated by the REDDSTAR project at NUI Galway. The competition invites secondary school children to debate the cultural, societal and ethical implications of advances in biomedical science, and judges at this year's competition included our own Dr Jill McMahon (Galway Neuroscience Centre) and CEO of Orbsen Therapeutics, Brian Molloy. St Joseph's Secondary CBS in Fairview, Dublin, took first prize in the hotly contested event.

In April, an **international conference on ageing and the life course** was organised on campus by the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology and the School of Political Science and Sociology. The International Conference on Cultural Gerontology explored the different ways in which older people interpret their own life courses, and the contrasting ways we age in different cultural environments. Over three days, 200 papers were presented on the theme by more than 250 delegates.

The School of Law hosted a Franco-Irish **discussion on marriage equality** in April, with keynote speaker Erwann Binet, deputy of the French National Assembly. The event, which was chaired by Dr Eoin Daly, provided an insight into the shared experience of the two countries in undertaking legislative and constitutional reform in controversial areas of family law.

Open innovation fails because companies are not prepared to open up. That's according to Professor Wim Vanhaverbeke, Professor of Strategy and Innovation in the University of Hasselt, Belgium, who held three **master classes on innovation** organised by the Whitaker Institute. In a public lecture on the topic, Professor Vanhaverbeke explained how firms that can harness outside ideas to advance their own businesses are likely to thrive in this new era of open innovation.

In May, the HRB Clinical Research Facility held a public information evening to highlight some of the **clinical research studies** taking place there. Visitors were shown how the research may lead to significant medical breakthroughs and treatments. Clinical research frequently involves patients and volunteers, so according to Professor Martin O'Donnell, Acting Director of the Facility, public engagement is essential to the work they carry out.

June saw **Medical Devices Week** launched on campus. The event was organised by staff in the Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB), and gave the public an opportunity to explore medical device research in unique ways. Devices from local companies including Boston Scientific, Vornia and Aerogen were on display, as well as artworks inspired by the devices by staff in the Biosciences Building and students of GMT.



1. Pictured at the School of Natural Sciences' **guest lecture on climate change** were Dr Mike Gormally, Centre for Environmental Science; Professor John Sweeney, NUI Maynooth; Dr Micheline Sheehy Skeffington, Plant Ecology Research Unit; and Professor Vincent O'Flaherty, Head of School. In his talk, Professor Sweeney, who is Ireland's leading expert in the field, warned of the increasingly powerful effect of coastal storms, resulting from incontrovertible and accelerating rises in sea levels.



2. Mike Feerick, CEO of online education company ALISON (pictured centre), presented a **masterclass on disruptive innovation** to over 70 MBA students in April. Also attending the event were (left to right) Dr Emer Mulligan and Dr Rachel Hilliard, J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics; Suzanne Ryan, Chair MBAAI Western Chapter; and Dr Alma McCarthy, MBA Programme Director.



3. Thug an tOllamh Ben Hudson, Ollamh le Stair agus Léann na Meánaoise in Penn State University, **Léacht Chuimhneacháin Uí Bhriain** i mbliana. In éineacht leis an Ollamh Hudson (ar chlé anseo), tá Máirín Uí Bhriain agus iar-Mheabhránaí na hOllscoile, an tOllamh Nollaig Mac Congáil.

View our upcoming conferences at: www.conference.ie

Six Fulbright Scholarships



Six of this year's Fulbright Scholarships have been awarded to staff and students from NUI Galway. The awardees will carry out research in universities in the United States. They are: (standing) Dr Emer Mulligan, Head of the School of Business and Economics, who will be based at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government; Professor Fidelma Dunne, School of Medicine, who will carry out research in Columbia University in New York; (seated) Dr Gavin Collins, Microbiology, who will be based at the University of California Berkeley; Ms Alena Yurya Connolly, PhD student of Information Systems Security, who will study in the University of California Berkeley; Ms Julianne Murphy, graduate of the Professional Diploma in Education, who will be based in the Catholic University of America in Washington DC; and Colm Mac Fhionnghaile, MA student of Modern Irish, who will teach in the University of Connecticut.

Sharing a Passion for Science



The first Undergraduate Science Fair was held on campus in March in Áras na Mac Léinn. The Fair, which was funded through the EXPLORE initiative, encouraged staff, students and school groups to explore the science behind everything from the brain to Breaking Bad. The event was the brainchild of Science student Joanne Duffy (pictured here with her hands full), who wanted to share the wonder of science with others: "I wanted to put on an event that would give non-science students and members of the public and opportunity to be inspired by science too!" Joanne was supported along the way by staff members Dr Louise Allcock and Dr Sarah Knight of the Ryan Institute.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

NUI Galway and Mayo Clinic in €11m Partnership

An Taoiseach Enda Kenny was present at the recent signing of an €11.7 million collaboration between the Mayo Clinic and Enterprise Ireland, which will see NUI Galway developing and commercialising a medical device with the famous Minnesota-based clinic. The device is for the treatment of acute pancreatitis, and a team led by Dr Mark Bruzzi aims to design a prototype for human clinical use. This is the first project in a partnership that will see the commercialisation of up to 20 new medical technologies in Ireland over the next five years with the aim of creating several high value medical technology spin-out companies.

Hispano-Galway Gathering



In April, over a hundred experts in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American topics gathered in Galway for a three-day conference of the Association of Hispanists of Great Britain and Ireland, the first time it was held in the city. The gathering was attended by Mexican Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Carlos García de Alba (pictured centre). Irish connections included a discussion of the influence of Samuel Beckett on contemporary theatre in Catalonia and a poster presentation on the archive of the old Irish Colleges in Spain. The conference was organised by the Discipline of Spanish, where some 400 students study Spanish to degree and diploma level.

Cell EXPLORERS Goes International

Cell EXPLORERS was the only Irish science outreach representative at the National Student Travel Foundation's Malta Science Expo, which took place in the capital Valletta in April. The initiative, which is run by the School of Natural Sciences, introduces school children to the wonders of DNA in new and interactive ways. At the expo, over 400 Maltese children performed banana DNA extractions with the Cell EXPLORERS team. Expo organiser, Karl Agius, was particularly impressed with the team's enthusiasm and communication skills, saying: "They excited and motivated the kids to the wonders and realities of science and imbued in them the wish to know more."

Farmleigh Fiesta for International Students

Johanna Walsh and Louise Kelly (International Office), along with President Jim Browne and An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, attended a special event for international students held in Farmleigh House in April. On the day, awards were presented to three Indian students (Swarna Raman, Ameya Jagtap and Sravanthi Bandla) who were awarded a full Government of Ireland Scholarship to study at NUI Galway, and two other international students (Lucas Reibnitz and Tarek Nigim) who had acted as student ambassadors for the year. NUI Galway remains the most popular university for international students coming to Ireland.

Celebrating the Martyn Tribe of Hungary



Marina Wild (Arts and Theatre Office) represented the University at a special event in the Hungarian Embassy in Dublin to celebrate the work of Hungarian artist Ferenc Martyn, a descendant of the Martyn tribe of Galway. A painting by Ferenc Martyn, whose great-grandfather left Galway in the 1800s to fight in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, hangs in the James Hardiman Library. You can view it by searching the University's online Art Database: www.nuigalway.ie/arts_office/art_database. Marina, who runs art classes for staff on campus, is pictured (left) with NUI Galway graduate, June Favre, and H.E. Dr Tamás Magyarics, Hungarian Ambassador to Ireland.

Seoladh an Reiviú



Sheol an Meabhránaí, an tOllamh Pól Ó Dochartaigh, an dara heagrán den iris phiarmheasúnaíthe Léann Teanga: An Reiviú sa Taibhdhearc ag tús mhí na Bealtaine. In éineacht le Pól anseo tá beirt mhac léinn den chúrsa MA sa Léann Teanga a chuir an iris in eagar, Siobhán Ní Chualáin (ball foirne d'Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge) agus Bríd Ní Chualáin. Is féidir teacht ar An Reiviú ar an suíomh gréasáin: leannteangaanreiviu.oegaillimh.ie

Online Tips for Aspiring Accountants



An EXPLORE-funded partnership between staff and students of Accounting and Finance has created a series of online tutorials for Leaving Cert students. 'Accounting Nuggets' helps the students by giving them bite-sized chunks of the syllabus in interactive step-by-step guides. Pictured at the launch of the tutorials were Accounting student, Patric Evason; Programme Director for the Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) Mary Barrett; and Declan McGoldrick, fourth year student at Summerhill College, Sligo.

New Books | Leabhair Nua



Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Jan O'Sullivan TD, is pictured with the School of Law's Dr Pádraic Kenna and President Jim Browne at the presentation of Dr Kenna's new book *Contemporary Housing Issues in a Globalized World*. The book examines key contemporary issues in accessing housing in today's globalised financial system.

Plant Epigenetics and Epigenomics: Methods and Protocols edited by Professor Charles Spillane and Dr Peter McKeown (Botany and Plant Science) is a volume of articles published as part of the Humana Press/Springer Protocols 'Methods in Molecular Biology'. It features contributions by authors from ten countries, including detailed descriptions of cutting-edge experimental techniques for use by plant biologists.

Self-Guided Fieldtrip for the Galway Area by Professor Martin Feely and Alina Wiczorek (Earth and Ocean Sciences) was published as part of NUI Galway's EXPLORE initiative and features a self-guided tour of the Galway region to encourage people to explore the natural history of Galway city and its surrounds.

Biofuel Books: In the past year, researchers in the School of Natural Sciences and Ireland's national Technology Centre for Biorefining and Bioenergy have been behind a remarkable output of six books in the field of biofuels. Dr Maria G Tuohy, Dr Vijai K Gupta and Dr Anthonia O'Donovan have authored and co-edited the following titles, which were officially presented to the Registrar, Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh, in May: *Bioenergy Research: Advances and Applications*; *Biotechnology and Biology of Trichoderma*; *Applications of Microbial Engineering*; *Applications of Microbial Genes in Enzyme Technology*; *Biofuel Technologies: Recent Developments*; and *Laboratory Protocols in Fungal Biology: Current Methods in Fungal Biology Series*.

THE WAY WE WORK

Further Education Policy

Are you interested in taking part-time study to enhance your professional and personal development? NUI Galway is committed to supporting and funding staff to study as part of the University's FEP scheme (Further Education Policy). To be considered under the FEP scheme for the academic year 2014/15, you should submit an application marked 'FEP Application' to the Organisation and Staff Development Office, by Friday June 20th 2014. For details on the FEP scheme policy and to download the application form, please visit: www.nuigalway.ie/staff-development/fundingsupports/fep/

Parental Leave

Did you know that the qualifying child's age limit for parents wishing to avail of Parental Leave has increased from 8 years old to 13 years old? For further details on the scheme, please contact our Equality Manager, Aoife Cooke.

Maternity Leave Policy

The University Maternity Leave Policy was updated in March to provide further information to staff. For details of the latest policy, please visit the 'Policies and Procedures' section of the Human Resources website: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/hr>

Christmas closure

Approaching the summer solstice, we are sure that Christmas is the last thing on your mind. But just in case you're planning ahead, the University will close for Christmas holidays on Tuesday 23 December 2014 and will re-open on Monday 5 January 2015.

Support Services Excellence Awards

The President and the UMT have recently agreed to set up the President's Awards for Support Services Excellence. This is an award scheme designed to recognise and celebrate the contribution of support staff across the University. The scheme is expected to come into operation during the 2014/2015 academic year and complements existing schemes for teaching and research staff. Under the scheme, it will be possible to nominate individuals or teams for their contribution. A panel will look at evidence of excellence that supports each nomination, taking account of five criteria, namely: Innovation and Imagination, Teamwork, Customer Service, Flexibility, and Effectiveness. There will be an annual awards ceremony and a financial contribution to support the professional development of award winners. So start thinking about who deserves your nomination, and look out for the call for applications.

In praise of... Our Grounds Team



As summer takes hold on campus, we can all agree that the University grounds are a pleasure to take in. From the new pedestrian entrance on University Road to the furthest playing field in Dangan, our gardens and grounds team have excelled this year in bringing colour, shape and life to our surroundings. Have you spotted the fruit beds beside Áras na Gaeilge and the Cairnes Building? There you'll find strawberries, gooseberries, raspberries and rhubarb, and lots of busy bees. Look out for apple and pear trees near the Engineering Building too, on your way to the riverside walk to Dangan, an area receiving closer attention in recent years. Hats off to David Gavin who manages the service under Facilities Manager Dean Pearce, along with his team: Anthony Griffin, Laura O'Connor, William Jordan, Tony Richardson, John Greally, Martin Burke, Séamus Acton, Liam McCumiskey, with Diarmaid, Anthony and the Radharc team, whose work adds so much to our working environment.

Have you admired the work of one of our teams from a distance? Submit an article for the next Ollscéala. For more details, visit: www.nuigalway.ie/inpraiseof

Paddle Power



Dr Patrick O'Leary (Chemistry) competed in the World Cup regatta in Canoe/Kayak sprint in Szeged Hungary in May. Patrick competed in the Paralympic event over 200m, finishing fifth overall. Later this summer, he will take part in the European Championships in Brandenburg and the World Championships in Moscow.

Corrections

There were two errors in the Spring edition of Ollscéala. Page 13 referred to Professor Bob Lahue's 'Microbiology' lab winning two Irish Laboratory Awards. In fact, Professor Lahue and his team are Biochemists and not Microbiologists. Meanwhile, an item on page 6 should have referred to Dr Pádraic Kenna, rather than McKenna.

For more staff news as it happens, visit: staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie



€15,000 in his Pocket



A start-up company based in NUI Galway's incubation centre was chosen as the best start-up from nearly a hundred international entrants at the recent The Next Web Conference in Amsterdam. Pocket Anatomy creates 3D virtual simulations of the human body to help in medical training and promoting patient well-being. CEO Mark Campbell was in Amsterdam to present their innovative technology, which has been described as the Google Maps of the body, and to pick up the winning prize worth €15,000.

Molecular Medicine Medal



REMEDI PhD student Éanna Connaughton was awarded the Molecular Medicine Ireland Medal for his work at the recent MMI Education and Training Annual Scientific Meeting. Pictured presenting the award to Éanna are Professor Laurence Egan (Pharmacology and Therapeutics) and Dr Mark Watson, Programme Manager with the Clinical and Translational Research Scholars Programme.

Postgraduate Programme of the Year



For the second year running, the University has won the Postgraduate Course of the Year in Business at the national gradireland Awards, on this occasion for the MSc in Marketing Practice programme. Pictured receiving the award were (l-r): Gavin O'Brien, Commercial Manager gradireland; Ann Walsh, Programme Director, MSc in Marketing Practice; Dr Kieran Conboy, Dean of NUI Galway's College of Business, Public Policy and Law; and Paul Martin, Head of HR with Lidl Ireland, who sponsored the award.

BBC #newsHACK II Prize

The Digital Humanities and Journalism group at Insight beat teams from Sky News and the Financial Times to win the 'Connecting the News' category at this year's #newsHACK event organised by the BBC. Led by Dr Bahareh Heravi, the Insight team used their expertise with extracting data from Twitter streams to find the news articles most relevant for any given hashtag. They plan to finalise their 'Hash2News' extension and make it freely available online to help Twitter users find 'the news behind the noise'.

Analysing Ryanair

Five Masters in International Finance students won the Chartered Financial Analysts Ireland 2014 Research Challenge for their analysis of Ryanair plc. The prestigious competition pits business students from across the country against each other to produce the most professional analysis of a quoted Irish company. The winning team were Sam Ryan, Shane O'Brien, Anthony Patrick Saoud, Oisín Kelly, and Conor Hanniffy; who were mentored along the way by Cian Twomey, Lecturer in Financial Economics, and John Stokes, from NAMA and the Department of Finance.

Human Rights Award

Two teams from the Irish Centre for Human Rights faced each other in the final of an international humanitarian law competition organised by the Irish Red Cross in the Criminal Courts of Justice in March. The Corn Adomnáin finalists were: Dianne Keur, Andrea Wescott-Lacoursiere, Luke Hamilton, Sinead Coakley, Rick O'Connor, Nora Kennelly. The teams beat off competition from other Irish universities throughout the day, with Rick, Luke and Andrea the eventual winners.

Volleyball

Two NUI Galway volleyball players have won Volleyball Association of Ireland All-Star Awards. Katerina Axaopoulou won an all-star in her Wing Hitter position, while Amanda Mallard was awarded the best Defence Specialist in the 2013/2014 awards.

International Carla Vlaskamp Award

Congratulations to Magdi Birtha, a PhD student in the Centre for Disability Law and Practice, who became the first ever recipient of the international Carla Vlaskamp early career award. The award will enable Magdi to present at the World Conference of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental

Disabilities. It is named after Professor Carla Vlaskamp (University of Groningen), researcher and campaigner for the rights of people with profound disabilities.

Royal Academy of Medicine Ireland Award

A paper published by the PRINCE research team in the School of Nursing and Midwifery won the General Practice category at the recent Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland 'Doctor Awards'. The winning paper examined the effectiveness of an education programme for improving the health of people with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in primary care. The paper, which was co-authored by 12 researchers in the University, can be read here: www.nuigalway.ie/papersjune2014

Chemistry Medal

Professor Peter Croot, Established Professor of Earth and Ocean Sciences, was awarded the Institution of Chemical Engineers 'Hutchinson Medal' at a recent meeting in Cork. IChemE has been awarding medals since 1928 to celebrate the outstanding contribution made by chemical engineers worldwide, and Professor Croot received it for his work on a paper examining the potential for the ocean surface to be used to increase the uptake of carbon dioxide. Read his article here: www.nuigalway.ie/papersjune2014

Sir William Rowan Hamilton, I presume



Dr Aisling McCluskey of the School of Mathematics admires the new bust of Irish mathematician and physicist, Sir William Rowan Hamilton, unveiled recently in Áras de Brún. Hamilton's work on algebraic questions, especially what he called 'quaternions', is still hugely influential today, with all researchers in Classical Mechanics and Quantum Mechanics familiar with Hamiltonian Dynamics and the Hamiltonian function. The bronze bust was cast by renowned Irish sculptor John Coll and can be seen on the building's ground floor.

Highlighting Disability across Campus



Staff and students from the Centre for Disability Law and Policy hosted five days of events on campus in April to mark Disability Awareness Week. The theme of the EXPLORE-funded event was 'Access All Areas' and it aimed to combat stereotypes around disability. The week showcased a range of creative projects, educational and employment initiatives, and research, all of which are helping people with disabilities to express themselves and contribute more to the University and city. Pictured are organisers and students of the LLM in International Disability Law and Policy, with President Browne and Yaz the guide dog.



Aifric Keogh from na Forbacha received the Tom Tuohy Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Rowing from Tom's daughter Deirdre Tuohy and President Jim Browne at the University's annual Sports Awards.

Did you wear a Green Ribbon?



Human Resources, Student Services, the Disability Office and the Students' Union joined forces in May to promote mental health awareness on campus by wearing a green ribbon. The free ribbons were available in cafés across the University, and were aimed at getting people thinking and talking about mental health. For more information, contact Fiona Kennedy in HR who is our ambassador for See Change, the voluntary organisation that coordinated the campaign nationally.

Marchathon

Students were challenged to use shank's mare, as the University launched its first Marchathon. Organised by Smarter Travel Campus, teams of students committed to walking 30 minutes or more each day and to submit details online on their walking habits. The Marchathon is aimed at encouraging students to use more environmentally-friendly forms of transport.

€10k Enterprise Award

Phd student of Psychology, Brian Slattery, won the top prize of €10,000 at this year's Students' Union Enterprise Awards. His winning project Student Talks is an online knowledge platform for students to communicate their ideas, connect with other students and find out about courses and careers. Local entrepreneur and Apprentice finalist, Joanne Sweeney-Burke, presented the awards on the night and was hugely impressed with the students' enterprising spirit. "The drive, determination and enthusiasm of the students is fantastic," she said.

Inspired by Malala

To mark International Women's Day 2014, the University Women's Network held a book and bake sale in aid of the 'Malala Fund'. Named after Malala Yousafzai, the inspirational Pakistani girl who was shot by the Taliban, the fund aims to create a world where every girl can access education. The sale raised over €850, with all money going towards this worthy cause.

Two More Awards for Societies



Our student societies picked up two prizes at this year's BICS Awards, adding to the University's record haul at the national awards. The Astronomy Society won the very competitive Best New Society category – you can see a photo from one of their events on page 7 of this magazine. Pictured here is the image that won the Best Photo award for the Rover Soc. In one posed picture, it shows the wide range of activities that its members get up to during the year.

A Campus Bursting with Life



We always knew that the University was a haven for wildlife, but now the numbers prove it – our campus is the most biodiverse in Ireland! During the 24-hour 'BioBlitz' in May, 43 volunteers recorded a total of 581 species on campus, including 333 plant and tree species, 55 birds and 75 insects. Some of the more exciting finds were native orchids such as twayblade, an emperor moth, eels and a Nathusius' pipistrelle bat. The family-friendly event was spear-headed by Caitriona Carlin and Karen Dooley, and supported by their colleagues in the School of Natural Sciences, the Buildings Office, the College of Engineering and Informatics, and the Green Campus team. This photo shows a drinker moth caterpillar discovered by one of the teams while exploring the grasslands in Dangan.

'Performance Points' for Excelling Students

The University has introduced two pioneering schemes to reward a limited number of students who have excelled in sports and the arts with extra CAO points. Welcoming the move, President Jim Browne says: "These schemes recognise and support the ambition and dedication of our prospective students."

Sports

Fifteen elite athletes will be awarded 40 CAO Performance Points for undergraduate courses each year, in recognition of their skill, time and dedication in reaching the highest level of their chosen sport. On top of this, the students will receive similar benefits to those in the existing Elite Athlete Scholarship Scheme, including a subsistence grant, performance supports, gym membership and medical support.

Creative Arts

A limited number of students with exceptional achievements in selected disciplines of the creative arts will be awarded 40 CAO towards their undergraduate courses. The scheme will focus on those areas where the University already has an acknowledged international standing, and includes: creative writing; digital arts and media; drama and theatre; film; and non-fiction writing.

Badminton Abú!



We don't often hear of the important role minority sports clubs play in the life of the University – those smaller clubs and lesser-played sports that are so vital for boosting participation in sport among our students. Introducing the NUI Galway Badminton Club, who recently won Badminton Ireland's Grade G Interleague All Ireland Final in Baldoyle, Co. Dublin. By all accounts, their cliffhanger final against the Nomads of Bray will live long in the Club's memory.



STAFF

Members of 'UniTunes' the University's staff and student choir, celebrating their win in this year's Choir Factor competition in the Radisson Blu hotel. The event saw seven workplace choirs competing for the title, including Galway University Hospital, Boston Scientific and Avaya. The choir includes staff from all corners of the campus, and is led by choirmaster and former SU President, Peter Mannion, who is seen here holding the (very heavy) winner's sculpture. See the choir's crowd-pleasing performances at: nuigalway.ie/choirfactor2014

Desktop Diary

June 2014							July 2014							August 2014						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30																				

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

June, 11: Health Promotion Conference: The theme of this year's conference is 'Applying the Principles of Health Promotion to Population Health Improvement'.

June, 16-20: The International Disability Law Summer School (the largest in the world) takes place on campus. The theme of this year's event is 'Access to Justice and Political Participation'.

June, 19: 'Remembering UCG': An evening of food, fun and music organised by the Social Club kicks off at 5.30pm in the Staff Club.

July 14-27: Galway International Arts Festival: The University is delighted to partner with the (newly named) Festival again this year. Did you know that NUI Galway staff can avail of a 10% discount on tickets by presenting their Staff ID card at the Festival Box Office?

June, 27: Honorary Conferring takes place on campus. This year's conferees are: EU Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn; former Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces, Lt Gen. Seán McCann; and businessman and innovator, Finian O'Sullivan.

July, 10: To mark 50 years of Biochemistry at the University, a special symposium will be held on campus, which will include presentations from past graduates based in Ireland and overseas.

July, 25: Staff Summer BBQ will be held in The College Bar from 5.30pm. Don't miss out on a great evening of food and fun in the sun (hopefully).