



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh

ALLSÉALTA

## And the Winner is...

On March 1, NUI Galway graduate Gráinne Seoige hosted a special gala celebrating the achievements of some of our finest alumni. See who won what at this year's Alumni Awards. *Read more on page 4*

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... and more!

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Nuachtlitir Foirne | Staff Newsletter | Earrach 2014

# OLLSCÉALA

## Focal ón Uachtarán



A Chairde,

This Spring has seen some milestone events across the University. On 1 March we bade farewell to our colleague, **Professor Nollaig MacCongáil**, Registrar and Deputy President. As he retires, I want to pay tribute to Nollaig for his vision, his commitment and his leadership over the past few years. Ba mhaith liom gach suaimehneas agus sonas a ghúf ar Nollaig agus ar a chéile Marie sna blianta amach romhainn.

I'm delighted to welcome Nollaig's successor, Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh. Pól joins us from University of Ulster and is joined by his wife, Geraldine and their young family. I hope they will enjoy many years of fulfilment and happiness here in Galway.

In the area of biomedical science too, we have had an eventful few months on campus. On 27 January, the only stem-cell manufacturing facility in Ireland (and one of very few in Europe) was launched by Minister for Research & Innovation, Seán Sherlock, T.D.

The **Centre for Cell Manufacturing Ireland (CCMI)** is the first facility in Ireland to be licensed to manufacture stem cells for human use. This is a really significant development for the 'med-tech' sector in Ireland and a great boost for our research efforts here at NUI Galway.

When he visited for the official opening of our **Biomedical Science Building** on 3 February, An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny described the research here on campus as "mind-blowing"! This building brings together 300 scientists and researchers, from five major research groups in areas such as regenerative medicine and stem cell research,

cancer biology (particularly breast and prostate cancer), biomechanics and biomaterials. Private philanthropy led by Galway University Foundation, provided about one-third of funding for this project with additional funding under PRTLTI and the European Regional Development Fund.

Watch the opening of **Biomedical Science Building** on <http://ncbes.eurhost.net/>

These two major developments were featured in a **Special Irish Times Supplement** on Biomedical Science at NUI Galway which appeared on Friday, 7 February. The coverage for these developments continues to position NUI Galway at the heart of Ireland's vibrant medtech sector; this region being one of five global hubs for biomedical industry.

And as the days lengthen we look forward to more openings – with the launch later this year of the Hardiman Building - for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences research; and the extension to the Arts Millennium Building – new home to the School of Psychology.

I'm delighted to share this news of our progress, as we deliver the final elements of the University's Capital Programme. Next year we look forward

## Familiar Faces



1. Actor Cillian Murphy attended a special screening and discussion of the film *Broken*, hosted by Professor Pat Dolan of the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre. The actor, who is a patron of the Centre, called for more research that is led by young people in order to support them better.
2. An Taoiseach Enda Kenny officially opened the University's new €30 million Biomedical Science Building. Read more about the University's recent launches on page 5.
3. The Bailey Allen Hall was packed to capacity for a special Tribute to Seamus Heaney, held recently in aid of Cancer Care West. Family and friends of the great poet were joined by leading actors, writers and performers to celebrate his life and work. Pictured at the event were (l-r) John McNamara, Chairman Cancer Care West, actor Stephen Rea, Marie Heaney and actor Sean McGinley. Photo: Iain McDonald.

to the openings of the Clinical/Translational Research Facility and the Life Course Institute Building. Planning for the Human Biology Building is well-advanced and we expect to begin procuring this building in the coming months, bringing to completion a massive infrastructural investment in our University.

## Recognising Excellence in Research and Teaching

So as this chapter of building and development draws to a close, we are now re-focusing our energies on our strong research and teaching agenda. We continue to recognise excellence in both these areas highlighting achievement and performance in both fields.

Invitations for nominations for the 2014 **President's Awards for Teaching Excellence** scheme are now being sought from alumni, students and staff. To nominate an outstanding teacher, please see: [http://www.nuigalway.ie/celt/presidentsaward/presidents\\_award.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/celt/presidentsaward/presidents_award.html)

We've launched a new programme - the **President's Awards for Research Excellence** - to recognise academic and research staff who have made outstanding contributions to research, and who, in doing so, have raised the national and international research profile of the University. The winners will be presented with a scroll and award and will be invited to give a public presentation on their research to the NUI Galway community. Two Awards in each of three categories will be made (total of six awards):

- **Early Stage Researcher Award (up to 8 years post PhD)**
- **Established Researcher Award**
- **Research Supervisor Award**

These Awards will be managed by the Research Office who will administer the scheme independently. See <http://www.nuigalway.ie/research-office/newsevents/presidentsawardsforresearchexcellence/>

## Our Future

At our recent Alumni Awards and Gala Banquet (see cover story) we honoured five outstanding NUI Galway graduates. I know from speaking with those individuals and other alumni that a Galway education is a life-shaping experience, which enriches and stimulates.

As we continue to shape the lives and minds of our students, we are now writing the next chapter of our University's future. Over the last few months colleagues have engaged with the Strategic Plan 2015-2020 – see <https://staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie/Pages/YourVision.aspx>. We move into the consultation phase for the next three months and I encourage all staff to engage with this plan and to share their views and ideas on our mission and how best we can achieve it.

Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil don fhoireann uilig as ucht a gcuid tacaíochta i dtreo an mhísin sin. Go n-éirí libh.

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



Tá Focal ón Uachtarán le fáil ar líne agus go dátheangach: [nuigalway.ie/president/reports.html](http://nuigalway.ie/president/reports.html)

## Appointments... and Farewells



### New Registrar

In March, **Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh** took up his new role as Registrar and Deputy-President of NUI Galway, replacing an tOllamh Nollaig Mac Congáil. Professor Ó Dochartaigh comes to Galway from the University of Ulster, where he spearheaded the development of Humanities research in his role as Dean of the Faculty of Arts. A member of the Royal Irish Academy and Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Professor Ó Dochartaigh described his enthusiasm at commencing the post, saying: "NUI Galway is a university that has developed an international reputation for excellence in research and innovation while being firmly rooted in Ireland's communities and cultures, especially the West. I am delighted to be joining NUI Galway and to be bringing my family to Galway, and I look forward to the adventures and challenges ahead."



D'fhág pobal na hOllscoile slán le fear uasal dílis nuair a d'imigh an Meabhránaí, Nollaig Mac Congáil, ar scor. Tá dhá scór bliain caite aige ag obair inár dteannta, idir léachtóireacht agus riarachán, agus aireimid uainn a shárobair, a shaineolas, agus a ghreann searbhach! Cé gur duine faoi leith é Nollaig, tá cosúlachtaí idir an t-iar-Mheabhránaí agus ár Meabhránaí nua – Ultaigh an bheirt acu, Gaeilgeoirí, agus Ollúna sna teangacha (an Ghaeilge agus an Ghearmáinis faoi seach). Guímíd gach rath ar an Ollamh Mac Congáil tar éis tréimhse fhada seirbhíse san Ollscoil.

### New Dean

Dr Kieran Conboy was appointed Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law in February. We wish him all the best in his new appointment.



### School of Law retirements

Do you recognise these recent retirees? Des McSharry and Dr Oliver Mills recently bid farewell to the University after 40 and 20 years' service respectively. Both men were presented with caricatures from the School of Law by Galway artist, Allan Cavanagh, to mark the occasion. We wish them both a rewarding and relaxing retirement.

### New Head of School of Medicine

The School of Medicine is delighted to announce the recent appointment of Dr Seán Dinneen as new Head of School. We wish him every success in his new post.



President Jim Browne and RTÉ's Seán O'Rourke (centre) with the 2014 Alumni Award winners, (l-r) Professor Gerard Jennings, Helen Ryan, Norah Gibbons, Michael McNicholas and Professor Ray Dolan.

## ALUMNI AWARDS

**Over 400 invited guests attended the Alumni Awards Gala Ball to honour some of our finest graduates. This year five alumni were presented with awards in recognition of their achievements in diverse fields such as Medicine, Engineering, Business, Science and the Social Sciences. The Awards were hosted by TV presenter and NUI Galway graduate, Gráinne Seoige, while RTÉ broadcaster and graduate, Seán O'Rourke, was guest speaker on the night.**

### And the Winners are...

#### Norah Gibbons: Alumni Award for Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies

Norah graduated from the University in 1973 with a Higher Diploma in Education and since then has worked tirelessly for children's rights, justice and care. She has been involved with a number of high profile children's charities and inquiries over the years, and her new role as Chairperson of the new Child and Family Agency involves establishing one of the largest public sector reforms being undertaken by this Government. When completed, it will bring together 4,000 staff and a budget of over €550 million.

#### Michael McNicholas: Alumni Award for Engineering and Informatics

Originally from Swinford, Co. Mayo, Michael graduated in 1982 with a BE in Civil Engineering. Since then he was built up over 30 years' experience in energy, working with the ESB to deliver major infrastructure projects in Ireland and internationally. Last year, Michael was appointed CEO of Bord Gáis, where he is responsible for building it into a multi-utility company responsible for delivering gas and water infrastructure across the country. A central part of this challenge is the creation of Irish Water to transform the delivery of water services in Ireland.

#### Helen Ryan: Alumni Award for Business, Public Policy and Law

Helen Ryan graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor of Engineering, and since then has shot to the top ranks of Ireland's med-tech industry. In 2005 she was appointed CEO of Creganna, where she steered the company through continued year-on-year growth. During her reign, Creganna received numerous industry awards including being named in Europe's Top 500 in 2006 for significant job creation, and the Deloitte Fast 50 Award in 2007, 2008 and 2009 in recognition of the impressive growth in staff and revenue. Helen is currently a Non-Executive Director of the newly named Creganna-Tactx Medical.

#### Professor Gerard Jennings: Alumni Award for Science

Emeritus Professor Jennings graduated with a BSc in Experimental Physics in 1965, followed by an MSc in 1967. In 1980 he was appointed Statutory Lecturer in the Department of Experimental Physics, beginning a distinguished career here. During the 1980s, he set about developing sustained research programmes at the Mace Head Atmospheric Research Station, which led to it becoming one of the most important atmospheric stations in the world. To date, Mace Head is the highest-cited research facility of its kind with more than 2,500 citations each year.

#### Professor Ray Dolan: Alumni Award for Medicine, Nursing and Health Science

Professor Dolan obtained his primary medical degree from NUI Galway in 1977 and since then has built a distinguished career in the field of Neuropsychology. His principal research interests are in understanding human emotion and decision-making, and he is the author of over 440 peer-reviewed publications. Professor Dolan is currently Professor of Neuropsychology in University College London, as well as Head of the Wellcome Department of Imaging Neuroscience at the Institute of Neurology, London.



President Jim Browne with guests Stephanie Lam and Pat Lam, Head Coach of the Connacht rugby team.



Enjoying the Gala were Irish Times journalist and graduate, Harry McGee and Fiona Breslin.



## Ireland's First Human-Use Stem Cell Facility

In January, Minister Seán Sherlock officially opened the new Centre for Cell Manufacturing Ireland (CCMI) on campus. The facility is a game-changer for regenerative medicine in Ireland, as it is the first ever facility on the island to receive a licence from the Irish Medicines Board to manufacture culture-expanded stem cells for human use. The Centre will focus on developing innovative new treatments for some of the world's most widespread diseases, strengthening NUI Galway's position as a global player in regenerative medicine. Speaking at the launch, President Browne summed up the significance of the Centre for the University, saying: 'It captures NUI Galway's commitment to bring bold ideas to life.'

*Pictured at the launch of the CCMI were: Andrew Fimmerty, General Manager CCMI; REMEDI Director, Professor Tim O'Brien; Director REMEDI; Minister Seán Sherlock; and President Browne.*

## LAUNCH SEASON

### 2014 has already seen a number of new services and facilities launched on campus, changing how and where we do our business.

#### Your new Research Support Service

Being a researcher can sometimes be a lonely journey... but that's set to change with the launch of the new Research Support Services. The initiative, created in collaboration between the Research Office, Research Accounting Office, Technology Transfer Office and HR, is introducing a number of new supports for our research community. The first phase sees the creation of a new support desk for general research queries, new induction and training workshops, the launch of a Research Administrator Network, and a brand new website to help you manage your research project. According to VP for Research, Professor Lokesh Joshi, "The University will benefit from this more cohesive approach to research support and it is something we hope to build on in the coming months." For more information, visit: [nuigalway.ie/research-support-services](http://nuigalway.ie/research-support-services).



#### New €30 million Biomedical Science Building

"Welcome to the future", was the enthusiastic quip from an Taoiseach Enda Kenny when he opened the University's new Biomedical Science Building on the north campus. The new facility will bring together 300 scientists and researchers under one roof, encouraging a collaborative culture that aims to build on the University's role at the heart of Galway's vibrant med-tech sector. NUI Galway is already recognised globally as a leading centre for biomedical research and enterprise, and the new building will lead to further life-changing research. A particular focus will be the development of new medical technologies, a key driver of economic growth in Ireland, according to the Taoiseach.



#### New home, and name, for Adult Education

It has been a busy few months for the Adult Education team. Not only have they rebranded their service as the Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development, but they have also brought the entire team together for the first time under one roof. From their new location on Nuns' Island, the Centre will continue to provide the same services for students in accessing education irrespective of geographic location or educational background. However, the rebrand will create a renewed focus on continuing professional development for individuals and organisations. Director, Nuala McGuinn (centre of photo), explains: "It's a really pivotal time for developments in flexible learning and part-time education with an increased requirement for up-skilling for today's fast-changing marketplace." The Management team (pictured here) extend a warm welcome to staff to visit the Centre's newly renovated offices, and look forward to collaborating with colleagues across campus in the future.



Omit in Representation (descrip-  
 tions) "I wouldn't be fearing  
 the loose wharfe cut-throats"  
 or any other allusions derogatory to the Army.  
 The Examiner of Plays begs to draw  
 the particular attention of the  
 Management to the endorsement  
 on every licence for Representation  
 "nor anything calculated to  
 produce riot, or breach of the peace"  
 J. M. Bradford  
 Examiner of Plays

No offensive personalities or representations of living persons to be permitted  
 on the Stage, nor anything calculated to produce riot or breach of the peace.

*The Censor's Note*

## RESEARCH IN ACTION

Across all disciplines, our researchers aim to produce work that affects positive change on the world around us. Here are some examples of that impact over the past three months.

Microbiologist, Dr Mary Corcoran, has discovered **how Salmonella bacteria can become resistant to disinfectants**. Her research shows that once Salmonella biofilms are established on surfaces for seven days, it is not possible to kill them using three powerful disinfectants. The results are hugely significant for food processors in their attempts to keep the deadly bacteria from infecting food and causing the type of outbreak seen across Europe in 2012. That outbreak, which was traced to meat from a major food-processing facility, caused 160 cases of gastroenteritis in ten countries.

Puzzled by Policy, a new project led by Insight, is **helping European citizens to understand key EU policies and issues**. Developed over three years, Puzzled by Policy combines online tools and traditional face-to-face consultation to make EU policies more transparent and accessible, and already the web platform has had over 200,000 page views. The project, which is co-ordinated by Deirdre Lee in DERI, is a collaboration between IT companies, NGOs and universities across Europe. See more at: [www.puzzledbypolicy.eu](http://www.puzzledbypolicy.eu)

Researchers in the Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit have published a report on **the value of Ireland's ocean economy**. Their marine socio-economic data shows the ocean economy was worth €1.2 billion in 2010, or 0.8% of Ireland's GDP, with the sector employing around 16,300

people. According to Dr Amaya Vega, the report will allow us to monitor progress on meeting the Government's targets on harnessing our ocean wealth. In February, SEMRU's Dr Naomi Foley presented her research into Ireland's 'blue economy' to EU policy makers in Brussels, as part of the Marnet Project.

A study led by REMEDI's Professor Sanbing Shen has discovered a **new risk factor for schizophrenia**. The multi-institutional study has identified that changes in a little known gene called ULK4 were observed in individuals with the disorder. When levels of the gene are decreased, brain cells tend to function less well, which leads to changes that increase the risk of schizophrenia. Follow up studies already underway in the University will lead to better understanding of how drugs may be developed to help treat the mental illness.

A landmark **reform of the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations** adopted in February was based, in large part, on the research of Professor Michael O'Flaherty from the Irish Centre for Human Rights. The reform of the treaty body system, called the 'Dublin Process', will mean greater accountability and efficiency in protecting the rights of oppressed groups in societies across the world – such as victims of discrimination and others on the margins of our societies.

**The Abbey Theatre digital archive** has made its first tranche of digitised material available to staff, students and external scholars. Historic programmes, set designs, scripts and correspondences are included in the first release. The release marks the end of the first of three years of digitising. By the end of the project approximately 1.8 million items will have been digitised, making the Abbey Archive Digitisation Project the largest theatre digitisation project ever undertaken.

*Pictured above is the censor's note attached to J.M. Synge's The Playboy of the Western World in 1907.*

The School of Law's, Dr Pádraic McKenna, is leading a €1m EU-funded research project on **evictions across the 28 EU member states**. The research is investigating the national legal frameworks and extent of evictions across Europe, and will identify preventative measures and effective early intervention to help minimise the problem. According to Dr McKenna, "An eviction represents the collision of basic human rights with property rights, a contemporary fault line between market forces and people's right to housing."



New work led by NUI Galway researchers is helping farmers in Africa to grow more nutritious and higher yielding crops. The research is focused on staple crops like sweet potatoes and beans, and is a collaboration between the University's Plant and Agricultural Biosciences Centre, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture and Irish Aid. PhD student, Girum Azmach, is pictured here during field trials in Nigeria. Up to 500,000 children in developing countries go blind each year due to vitamin A deficiency, and his research is developing maize crops with higher levels of the vitamin.



A new agreement with Intel will see our researchers jointly conducting research into High Performance Computing. The research will be carried out at the University's Irish Centre for High End Computing (ICHEC), and has likely applications in materials science, meteorology and data analytics. The new collaboration will foster the uptake of current and next generation Intel 'many core' technology. The initiative was welcomed by Intel Vice-President, Martin Curley; President Jim Browne; and ICHEC Director, Professor JC Desplat, pictured here at the launch with a sample of the Intel Xeon Phi™ Coprocessors.



One important area of impact for our researchers is in shaping government policy. Dr Brian McGuire and Dr David Finn from the Centre for Pain Research recently presented at an Oireachtas 'Pain and Policy' briefing, organised to raise political awareness of the extent of the problem of chronic pain in Ireland. They presented the findings from the HRB-funded PRIME study, carried out at NUI Galway, on the prevalence, impact and economic cost of chronic pain in Ireland. As a result, they have been invited to present their research to the Oireachtas Health Committee.

Read more on these stories by searching:  
[nuigalway.ie/about-us/news-and-events/news-archive](http://nuigalway.ie/about-us/news-and-events/news-archive)



## RESEARCH GATHERINGS

**From one-off workshops to three-day conferences, the campus has played host to an abundance of research gatherings over the past three months. Here's a taste of what went on.**

### Galway Platform on Human Rights

The Irish Centre for Human Rights brought together 23 of Ireland's leading human rights groups to adopt a common vision for Ireland's foreign policy. The Galway Platform for Human Rights in Irish Foreign Policy set out the basic standards and practices by which Ireland should be held to account in its dealings with other countries. The delegates (some pictured above) drew up a list of 47 specific observations and proposals for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which is currently undergoing a consultation process on the issue.

### Long-haired Stars

A public talk by NUI Galway graduate and University of Hawai'i Assistant Astronomer, Dr Jacqueline Keane, explored the wonder of long-haired stars (i.e. comets, rather than Mick Jagger and his ilk). Dr Keane uses numerous 10-meter telescopes based on the summit of Mauna Kea to observe the comets. The talk was organised by the University's Astronomy Society and the Galway Astronomy Club.

### Obesity Conference

The Health Economics and Policy Analysis research group organised a conference on obesity in January. The keynote speaker was Professor John Cawley from Cornell University, who is

widely regarded as one of the leading economists studying this complex issue. The conference, which featured presentations by several researchers in the School of Medicine and the School of Business and Economics, closed with a discussion on possible interventions to reduce obesity.

### Traditional Irish Music Conference

The Centre for Irish Studies and Comhrá Ceoil hosted the International Council for Traditional Music Ireland Conference in February, the first time it has been held in the University. Running over three days, the conference opened with a concert in An Taibhdhearc showcasing the best of sean-nós dancing. More than forty speakers took part in presentations and discussions on the theme 'Music, Community and place', with the keynote address given by Professor Martin Stokes of King's College London.

### Peter Tyndall Lecture

The new Ombudsman and Information Commissioner Peter Tyndall delivered his first public lecture in the Aula Maxima in February, in an event hosted by the School of Law to mark the tenth anniversary of the LL.M in Public Law. The event was chaired by former Supreme Court judge and Chairperson of Údarás na hOllcoile, Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, who has been

associated with the LL.M in Public Law since its inception. The theme of Mr Tyndall's speech was 'Delivering Fairness and Transparency'.

### Art and Archives Workshop

A special workshop on art and archives in January generated creative discussion about researching the West of Ireland. Presentations on a wide spectrum of themes including oral history, dress and harp music, explored the research potential of history, folklore, art, poetry and music with critical imagination. The event was jointly funded by CKI and the Discipline of History, and was organised by Caitríona Clear and Mary Clancy.

### Dr Garret FitzGerald Memorial Lecture

Dr Peter Sutherland delivered the 2014 Dr Garret FitzGerald Memorial Lecture in January on the theme of 'European Integration and the Taming of Nationalism'. Dr Sutherland, who is currently Chairman of the London School of Economics and the UN Special Representative for Migration and Development, was appointed Attorney General by Dr FitzGerald in 1981. According to NUI Chancellor, Dr Maurice Manning, the topic of this year's lecture was one that "Garret would have found of great interest."



1. As part of the BioInnovate Ireland 'Meet the Entrepreneur' series, Robert 'Chip' Hance, CEO of Creganna-Tactx Medical, visited the University to give a talk entitled 'The Golden Age of Medical Device Innovation'. Mr Hance is pictured (right) with BioInnovate Director, Dr Mark Bruzzi, who hosted the talk in the new Engineering Building.

2. The Neuroscience Centre held its sixth Annual Research Day to showcase the very best of neuroscience research in the University. Undergraduate, postgraduate and post-doctoral researchers (some pictured) presented findings from their studies across a number of disciplines and research centres. The award for best oral presentation was won by Kat McDonnell-Dowling for her work on the impact of foetal development in pregnant mothers taking amphetamines.

3. The fourth annual Energy Night – the largest student-run energy event in Ireland – was held in the new Engineering Building in February. The CEO of Bord na Móna took part in the event, which looked at recent newsworthy issues, including wind farm developments and the expansion of the pylon network. Pictured at the event are Áine Healy and John Mulcahy, Glan Agha; Event Organiser, Aoife Weekes; and Kathleen O'Connell, Career Development Centre. Photo by Mark White of www.scoobyphoto.com



View our upcoming conferences at: [www.conference.ie](http://www.conference.ie)

## An bhfuil Gaeilge agat? Use your cúpla focal on campus



Did you know that 10% of our students study Irish or study through Irish? There are lots of staff who speak the language too. Here are some tips on how you can use your cúpla focal on campus.

**Ranganna foirne:** Our lunchtime staff classes are aimed at improving your spoken Irish. Improvers on Tuesday, Meánrang ar an gCéadaoin, agus Ardrang ar an Déardaoin. Contact [peigi.nioibicin@oegaillimh.ie](mailto:peigi.nioibicin@oegaillimh.ie) to book your place.

**Desk sign:** If you can carry out your job bilingually, why not display one of our special G signs on your desk? The sign reads: Seirbhís trí Ghaeilge ar fáil anseo (see the picture above), and can be obtained by emailing: [lisa.nifhlatharta@oegaillimh.ie](mailto:lisa.nifhlatharta@oegaillimh.ie)

**Voicemail:** Is your voicemail message bilingual? Visit [nuigalway.ie/cuplafocal](http://nuigalway.ie/cuplafocal) for some simple sentences.

**Cupán tae uait?** Did you know that Áras na Gaeilge has an Irish language café? Why not pop in for tea and a chat as Gaeilge? Or catch the seisiún ceoil in the café every Wednesday.

**Email:** Need help making your email signature bilingual? Or would you like some simple Irish sentences for your next out of office reply? Visit [nuigalway.ie/cuplafocal](http://nuigalway.ie/cuplafocal) for some tips.

## Here to Help



Pictured are members of the Library and IT Service Desk team in the newly renovated foyer of the James Hardiman Library. The new service was officially launched in February by President Browne, who commended the Library and ISS for crossing traditional boundaries to deliver an integrated system for staff and students. The bright and cheerful surroundings, inspirational quotes, and bilingual signage all make the new location a warm and welcoming place to seek help with Library and IT-related queries. The Service Desk is open from Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 10pm, and Saturday: 9.30am to 1pm, and welcomes your queries.

# GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

## *Growing Europe's App Economy*



The Eurapp study, led by Insight's Dr John Breslin (pictured right), has measured the EU's app economy for the first time. The results, which were launched in Brussels by Vice-President of the European Commission, Neelie Kroes (pictured left), show that EU app developers generated €17.5 billion in revenue in 2013, creating 1.8 million jobs. According to Dr Breslin, the Eurapp team surveyed hundreds of companies that are producing apps, and identified a number of solutions to help remove bottlenecks currently preventing further growth. Revenue from the sector is expected to grow to €63 billion in five years.

## *Comparing Indian and Irish Law*



The first ever India and Ireland 'Policy Encounter' on disability law took place in January in the NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad, India's premier Law School. Pictured at the event, which focused on law reform bills on legal capacity going through both parliaments, are Professor Gerard Quinn (Centre for Disability Law and Policy) and Honourable Justices Mr Dipak Misra and Mr Rajiv Shukdhar. During the event, the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding between NALSAR and NUI Galway was agreed.

## *Medical Students without Borders*



Twelve fourth year medical students will have the opportunity to spend two months training overseas in developing countries. The initiative will be funded by medical charity the Hospital Saturday Fund, with support from the School of Medicine and Galway University Foundation. Pictured at the announcement were (left to right) Paul Jackson, CEO and Sharon Phelan of the Hospital Saturday Fund; Dr Diarmuid O'Donovan, Medicine; and medical students Esraa Hegazy, Susan Morrison and Suzanne Smyth.

## *\$20 million Selfie*



Mark Lang from the Centre for Astronomy in the School of Physics took a selfie in one of the giant VERITAS telescopes in Arizona on a recent visit. VERITAS is a very unusual array of four telescopes which detect high energy gamma radiation from extraordinary objects such as super-massive black holes. Mark was recently elected to the governing body of the VERITAS project.

## Fios Físe Fógartha – Fáilte roimh Phobal na Gaeilge Freastal ar Phainéal Féachana



Seoladh togra taighde nua darbh ainm ‘Fios Físe’ le déanaí chun painéal lucht féachana a bhunú do TG4. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an togra, atá faoi stiúir Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, nósanna féachana agus tuairimí phobal na Gaeilge i leith TG4 a fhiosrú. Baileofar eolas ó bhaill an phainéil go seachtainiúil trí dhialann féachana a bheidh le líonadh ar líne. Dar le Pól Ó Gallchóir, Ardstiúrthóir TG4, “Tabharfaidh Fios Físe léargas úr tábhachtach dúinn ar chroiphobal féachana TG4 – lucht na Gaeilge. Bhain dúshlán riamh le háireamh eolaíochtúil a dhéanamh ar phobal na teanga ach éascóidh an teicneolaíocht an obair sin go mór dúinn.”

Sa phictiúir, tá mic léinn na hOllscoile Seán Heffernan agus Treasa McGrath le láithreoir Nuacht TG4, Eimear Ní Chonaola.

## New books | Leabhair Nua



*The Cruelty Man: Child Welfare, the NSPCC and the State in Ireland, 1889-1956* by Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley (History) is the first account of the NSPCC in Ireland that addresses institutionalisation, cruelty to children and incest - a history that is integral to contemporary debates on childhood and the State.

*William Lloyd Garrison and Giuseppe Mazzini: Abolition, Democracy, and Radical Reform* by Dr Enrico Dal Lago, explores the strikingly parallel lives of American abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison and Italian democratic nationalist Giuseppe Mazzini, two foremost nineteenth-century radicals who supported slave emancipation and people's self-determination.

*Creating Ethnicities and Identities in the Roman World*, co-edited by Dr Edward Herring (Dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies), explores how ethnic categorisation formed part of Roman strategies of control, and how peoples conquered by Rome internalised and developed their own sense of belonging to an ethnic community in a post-conquest environment.

Photo: Dr Enrico Dal Lago and Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley (History) both recently launched new books.

## CONSENSUS goes online

A new web portal was launched by the CONSENSUS research project to help promote sustainable consumption. A series of short video animations provide an overview of CONSENSUS's key findings and innovative research processes. The five year collaboration between NUI Galway and Trinity College Dublin, represents the first comprehensive analysis of sustainable consumption in Irish households. The new website includes information and advice on sustainable transport, food, energy and water consumption. See how we can help achieve sustainable living, by visiting: [www.consensue.ie](http://www.consensue.ie)

## THE WAY WE WORK: A look at some recent changes to work practices

### Changes to Sick Pay Rules

The Government is changing its rules on public sector sick pay. If the current proposals come into force as planned in September 2014, public sector workers on sick leave will be entitled to just 13 weeks' full pay, followed by 13 weeks' half pay, in a rolling four year period. In order to protect our staff, the University has introduced a new policy of automatically opting staff into a new Income Protection Plan.

### New Income Protection Plan

From April 1 onwards, all NUI Galway staff actively working on that day will be automatically opted into a new Income Protection Plan provided by Irish Life and brokered by Cornmarket. This Plan will cover staff on long-term sick leave for up to 75% of their salary. The big advantages of the Plan are the new low rate of just 0.86% of gross salary, and the automatic opt-in of all staff without the need for medical underwriting. Staff have the option to opt out of the Plan, but if they decide afterwards to opt back in, they will need to undergo a medical. For more information, please read the All Staff email sent by Pensions Officer, Triona Lydon.

### Share your Vision

Ten working groups are in the process of drawing together Strategic Plan 2015-2020. This Plan will set out the University's goals for the next five years, and we need your input to make sure it has scope and ambition. Here's how you can get involved? To familiarise yourself with the different working groups, and to explore the themes of the next Strategic Plan, visit the Intranet page: [staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie/Pages/YourVision.aspx](http://staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie/Pages/YourVision.aspx). You are invited to submit your thoughts at any point by emailing: [myvision@nuigalway.ie](mailto:myvision@nuigalway.ie). Your email will be forwarded to the appropriate group. The working groups will be consulting with staff over the coming months. So, look out for workshops around campus to make sure your voice is heard.

### Competency Framework for Academic Positions

Did you know that the University has introduced a new competency framework for academic positions within NUI Galway? The new framework will be used in the recruitment of all academic roles going forward. For further information on the framework, please contact the HR Office.

### Paperless Payslips

From May 1 onwards, all non-casual staff who are paid monthly will stop receiving paper payslips and will need to go online to check their pay. There are many advantages to this new initiative, including a reduction in printing costs and waste, and the provision of a more secure and flexible way of checking your payslip. Did you know you can check your past payslips online now? See how, by visiting: [staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie/Pages/Paperless-Payslips.aspx](http://staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie/Pages/Paperless-Payslips.aspx)



### In memory of Patrick Scott

February saw the passing of a legend in Irish art, when Patrick Scott died at the age of 93. A Cork native, Scott's work can be seen in prominent places around campus, including the large tapestries on the Concourse and the colourful banners in the Bailey Allen Hall. These pieces illustrate perfectly the architectural qualities at the heart of his work, and his focus on line, colour and form. A retrospective of Scott's 70 years' of work is running concurrently in the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, and Visual in Carlow.



### First graduates of UL/NUI Galway alliance

January saw the first cohort of students from the MSc in Sustainable Resource Management Policy and Practice graduate in UL. This is the first course set up as part of the UL/NUI Galway strategic alliance and is a multidisciplinary course that shares expertise from both institutions in conservation and sustainability.

### Correction

In the last edition of Ollscéala, we misattributed the Anatomy Outreach Programme on page 12. The project which visits schools around Galway is, of course, run by staff in the Discipline of Anatomy.

For more staff news as it happens, visit:  
[staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie](http://staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie)



## €2m ERC Grant for Researching Women's Writing



Dr Marie-Louise Coolahan became the first Irish researcher to receive ERC funding in any field of literature, when she was awarded €2m for her 'RECIRC' project. RECIRC will study the reception and circulation of early women's writing between 1550 and 1700, providing a comprehensive view of how texts were used and re-used and how gender shaped ideas about authorship. The grant will enable Dr

Coolahan to build and fund a team of five postdoctoral researchers over five years. President Jim Browne congratulated her achievement, saying: "This is only the second time ever that a researcher in humanities in an Irish university has secured an ERC award. It is a remarkable achievement, not only for Dr Marie-Louise Coolahan, but for the University as a whole."

## RIA Gold Medal for Professor O'Dowd



An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, presented the Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal to Professor of Physics, Colin O'Dowd in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Environmental and Geosciences. He was presented with the award at a special ceremony in Dublin in February. Through his pioneering work in the field of atmospheric physics, Professor O'Dowd has become internationally renowned as one of the leading scientists in the field of climate change.

He is credited with driving the development of the Mace Head Atmospheric Research Station in west Galway, one of the most advanced Global Atmosphere Watch stations in the world.

## Microbiologists win two Lab Awards



The Microbiology research lab led by Professor Bob Lahue has won two prizes at the Irish Laboratory Awards. The team won both 'Medical Laboratory of the Year' and 'Pharmaceutical Laboratory of the Year' at the event held in December in Dublin. Professor Lahue (left) is pictured with his team back at the lab: (from left to right) Katherine Turner, Norma Keogh, Dr Yanfang Ye, Lucy Kirkham-McCarthy and Dr Elaine Lahue.

## International Human Rights Award

The School of Law's Dr Ciara Smyth was presented recently with a prestigious Max van der Stoep Human Rights Award in Tilburg, Netherlands. Dr Smyth received the award for her PhD research into the European asylum system and the rights of the child. Head of the School of Law, Professor Donncha O'Connell, praised her work, which he described as "cutting edge and engaged, with international impact."

### Gaisce Glory

President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, recently presented five NUI Galway students and graduates with Gaisce Gold Awards in recognition of their outstanding community work and personal achievements. Sarah Kilduff, Christina Quinn, Lorraine Farrell, David McGurrin and Oisín O'Connell were presented with the awards in a special ceremony in Dublin Castle in February. University President, Jim Browne, praised the spirit of civic engagement and volunteerism shared by the five inspirational young people.

### Three HRB Research Leaders

Three of six Irish Research Leaders recently chosen by the Health Research Board are based in NUI Galway. Professor Ciaran O'Neill, Dr Molly Byrne and Dr Brian Maguire will share in the new €9m initiative aimed at addressing strategic gaps and leadership capacity in health research in Ireland. The initiative will create 22 new research jobs across the country working on a range of projects including preventing and treating some of Ireland's most chronic illnesses.

### Orbsen Therapeutics shortlisted for Innovation Awards

Irish biomedical company, Orbsen Therapeutics, has been shortlisted as a finalist in the prestigious

Irish Times InterTradeIreland Innovation Awards 2014. The all-island award winners will be announced in April. Orbsen Therapeutics is a spin out company from REMEDI, the University's regenerative medicine research institute, and its work focuses on commercialising innovative new therapies for a range of diseases using proprietary adult stem cells.

### Industry Excellence Award for NFB

The Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials has won a Medical Technology Industry Excellence Award. The Silver Award for Academic/Emerging Medical Technology Company was presented to NFB in recognition of their collaboration with the medical technology sector, researching and developing innovative new medical devices using biomaterials. According to NFB Team Leader, Professor Abhay Pandit, "NFB has engaged with nearly forty companies, licenced one of our extracellular matrix technologies and created a spin out company.

### Travel Grants

NFB researcher, Dr Manus Biggs, has been awarded two prestigious travel grants to collaborate with European colleagues. Dr Biggs' research is focused on treating neurodegenerative disorders by

improving the design of implanted microelectrodes, and the Ireland-France Ulysses grant and the Royal Irish Academy Mobility grant will enable him to work with other researchers in the field, in the Universities of Paris and Glasgow respectively.

### Marie Curie Fellowship

Dr Áine Ní Léime, Research Fellow with Project Lifecourse, has been awarded a Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowship. Starting in early 2015, Dr Ni Léime will spend two years at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, where she will work with internationally renowned experts in lifecourse studies. The main focus of the fellowship is developing a research project around the themes of gender, older workers and lifecourse.

### Fulbright Scholarship for Whitaker student

Lena Connolly, a Business Information Systems PhD student within the Whitaker Institute, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to the US in 2014/2015. She will be based in the University of California Berkeley, which she previously visited on an international exchange programme in 2012. Lena, who is originally from Belarus, is currently completing her PhD in the area of information systems security.

## It has been an incredibly busy few months for the University's sporty students, with big results in some familiar, and some not-so-familiar, sports



### Rugby

The University's rugby teams scored an historic hat trick in recent months. For the first time, both men's and women's teams won their intervarsity competitions, while the Rugby Academy won its first trophy for the University at underage level with the success of the U13 team. Pictured with the IURU Kay Bowen Cup is Ladies' Rugby Captain Hannah Smith, while Men's Captain Darragh O'Loughlin holds the IURU Maughan-Scally Cup.

### Archery

The Archery Club celebrated a record-breaking haul of trophies at the Irish National Student Indoor Championships. In total, the club came first in eight competitions, the largest number ever won by one university at the event. They are the first University team to win all individual team categories, and all individual men's categories.

### Soccer

After a long successful streak, the Men's Football team were beaten 2-1 by NUI Maynooth in the Collingwood Cup final broadcast live on Setanta Ireland in late February. Though the competition ended in disappointment, the team's progress to the final points to the huge strides being made in soccer in the University.

### Judo

The University's Judo Club hosted and won the NUI Galway Judo Open in February. The sport is going from strength to strength on campus.

### Kayaking

In total, nine current students and graduates qualified for the Irish team at the recent National Freestyle Kayaking Championships in Tuam. Alan Kilroy, Barry Loughmane and Andrew Regan made the Men's team; Niamh Cleary, Aisling Griffin and Muireann Lynch made the Women's team; and Ross Graham, Calvin O'Brien and Seán Cahill made the Men's Junior Team that will represent Ireland in the European Championships in Bratislava in September.

### Making an Impact

Three of our students are among five finalists in the 2014 Making an Impact Competition, to highlight the difference students are making through their research. The finalists are Linda O'Connor for her project 'Improving Honey Bee Health', Robert Mooney for his project aimed at improving performance in elite swimming, and Killian O'Brien for his research into the role of blood in understanding cancer.

### Hogwarts Hits Galway



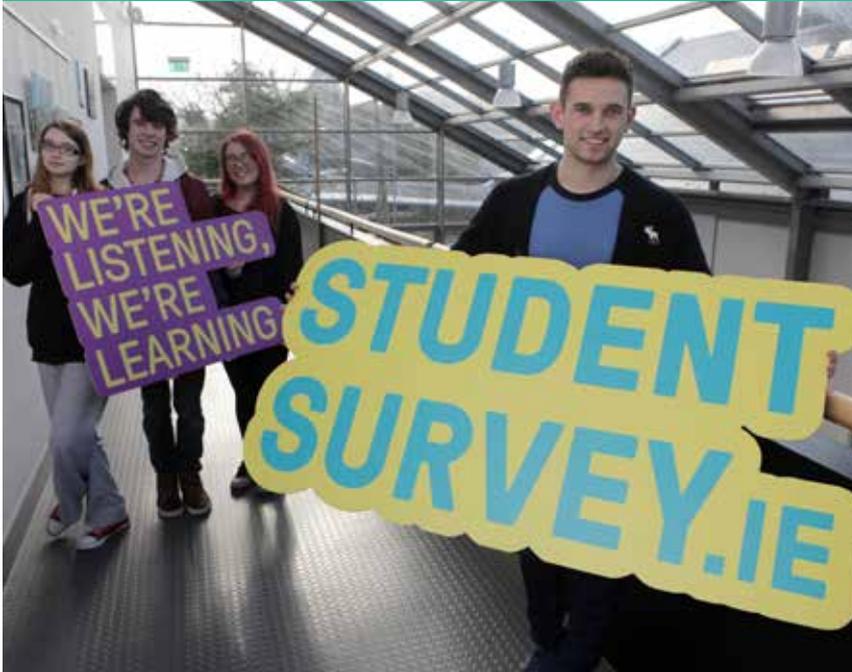
The Harry Potter Society held a three-day conference dedicated to Harry Potter fans in late January, bringing magic and colour to campus. Potterfest included classes in potions, astrology and defence against the dark arts, a trader's hall of artwork and merchandise, and a Quidditch tournament for the more flighty fans. The NUI Galway event is Ireland's only Harry Potter convention, and all proceeds from the three days were donated to charity.

### 'Laugh, Nourish, Love' with Múscailt



The annual Múscailt Arts Festival brought a cacophony of culture to campus in February with a line-up of arts events to rival any festival in the country. Highlights included the musical 'The Drowsy Chaperone' produced and performed by the musical society GUMS, a live exhibition by portrait artist Joe McCaul (pictured) throughout the week, and a travelling clown show by Croatia's Triko Cirkus Teatar featuring our own Arts Officer, Fionnuala Gallagher. Staff and students took part in monologues, music and mayhem throughout the week, with special praise going to the new Victorian Society and their colourful fayre.

## Giving students a Voice



Students were asked to voice their opinion in the national StudentSurvey.ie in March. The survey is aimed at improving higher education in Ireland by asking students about their experiences of studying in universities and colleges across the country. Business student and singer, Jay Boland (pictured holding the yellow sign), helped promote the survey on campus, with fellow students Emily Flanagan, Dean Reidy and Marie Hegarty. Jay will be singing for your votes in the Voice of Ireland live shows from March 16.

## Our Newest (and Youngest) Graduates



In February, 208 primary school children from across Galway city and county 'graduated' from the Youth Academy, a special academy aimed at inspiring and developing our highest-achieving children. Over a thousand friends and family packed the Bailey Allen Hall to see the graduates receiving their certificates. The Youth Academy runs for a six week period and works with high ability fourth and fifth class pupils to support their learning in a range of subjects, including Psychology, Engineering and Literature.

## Dramatic News



Drama and theatre has been going from strength to strength in the University, with more and more opportunities for our students to see, and be seen, in theatre productions.

### Theatre Week

The annual Theatre Week took off in March with a series of student-led productions on campus. Highlights included the annual Jerome Hynes One-Act Play Series and competition that featured six original plays. The Centre for Drama presented Frank McGuinness's adaptation of Sophocles' tragedy Electra, with the playwright himself attending the opening performance. The week also featured a schools outreach programme with Shakespeare Workshops from ThereisBear! Theatre Company.

### Theatre Season

The first Theatre Season was launched on campus to bring University and City actors on stage together. The Season sees Drama students working with Galway's leading theatre companies and artists to stage both classic and brand new plays. The exciting line-up of events kicked off with an adaptation of the Spanish classic Yerma by Federico Lorca in February, produced in association with Core Theatre College, and performed in the Mick Lally Theatre, Druid Lane. Pictured are students Aoife Corry and Jonathan Ryan during rehearsals for the play.

### Druid Academy

January saw the launch of the Druid Academy, a special ten-year partnership between the University and the Druid Theatre aimed at giving students hands-on experience of working in theatre. As part of the initiative, Dr Garry Hynes took up the role of Adjunct Professor in the University, while Thomas Conway became the new Druid Director-in-Residence. Our drama students will benefit from regular workshops and master classes in theatre production with some of the best national and international talent. Speaking at the launch, Dr Garry Hynes described the partnership as a very significant relationship for Druid and for Irish theatre generally. "I am really looking forward to working with my colleagues both in Druid and NUI Galway in seeing this relationship flourish," she remarked.



Dr Alessandra Costanzo and Monika Meszaros (Earth and Ocean Sciences) examine the newly set gemstone collection cabinets in the renovated James Mitchell Museum of Geology, upstairs in the Quadrangle. This hidden gem has been refurbished, with new attractions including an extensive collection of gemstones donated by enthusiast and graduate, Adrian Ryder. The museum is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm. To book a tour, contact [lorna.larkin@nuigalway.ie](mailto:lorna.larkin@nuigalway.ie)

# EVENTS

## Desktop Diary

March 2014							April 2014							May 2014						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30											
31													26	27	28	29	30	31		

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

**March, 21 – May, 9:** Every Friday a series of lunchtime lectures will take place in the Galway City Museum to mark 90 years of Archaeology in NUI Galway. For event details, i.e. see the Archaeology website.

**March, 26-29:** The Monster in the Hall by David Greig. This play will be performed in the Nun’s Island Theatre as part of the University’s Theatre Season. Tickets €12/€10, available from Galway Arts Centre.

**March, 29:** NUI Galway Students’ Union Enterprise Awards Ceremony will take place in the College Bar. Six finalists will battle it out for a €20,000 investment fund to turn their ideas into reality.

**April, 2:** Look out for a new street-theatre performance on the streets of Galway, staged by students in association with Macnas as part of the University’s Theatre Season.

**April, 5:** Spring Open Day takes place on campus, 10am - 3pm.

**April, 10-12:** International Conference on Cultural Gerontology. The theme of this year’s event is ‘Meaning and Culture(s): Exploring the Life Course’.

**April, 12:** The Staff Choir will compete alongside student singers, the Sing ‘n’ Tonics, in this year’s Choir Factor competition for charity. The choir recently won three silver medals in the Kiltimagh Choral Festival.

**April, 16:** 6th National Social Marketing Conference. Citizen and Community Change is the theme of this year’s conference, organised by the Social Innovation and Policy cluster in the Whitaker Institute.