



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

So this is Christmas...

*... and here's what we've
done. Another year over.
And three new research
institutes, incorporation with
Shannon College, and a 1916
commemorative programme
just begun!*

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...and much more!

CHRISTMAS



OLLSCÉALA

Focal ón Uachtarán



A Chairde,

Agus muid ag breathnú siar ar 2015, is féidir linn ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar thréimhse ghnóthach, rathúil.

As 2015 draws to a close, we can reflect on an extraordinarily busy semester, with activity across the campus.

Commemorating 1916

In October Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D. launched the University's 1916 commemorative programme, 'A Nation Rising' (see page 5). This rich programme of events was drawn together

by Dr Mary Harris, along with colleagues in History and the School of Humanities, as well as researchers and archivists from across the University.

The Easter Rising was led by poets and scholars, visionaries and social innovators, who shared a passion for learning and a belief that, through sharing ideas, they could build a better Ireland. At NUI Galway, 100 years later, we share that same passion for knowledge and a belief in the power of education. I commend colleagues on their efforts in coordinating such an engaging and varied commemorative programme, which is a fitting tribute to the spirit of 1916.

In a related development, on 10 December An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D. announced that the major national academic conference of the 1916-2016 commemoration would be hosted by NUI Galway. Ireland 1916-2016: The Promise and Challenge of National Sovereignty will run on campus from 10-12 November 2016 and will include academic contributions from a broad range of universities and institutes of technology across the island of Ireland, as well as from leading international figures.

This conference will reflect on 100 years of Irish independence, examining how Ireland, a small independent state for 100 years, positions itself globally for the next period of its development.

A detailed programme will be available in early 2016 on www.ireland.ie highlighting public events associated with the conference.

Recent Launches

The past few months have seen a flurry of new launches across campus.

An Taoiseach opened the Lambe Institute for Translational Research and the HRB Clinical Research Facility on the grounds of University Hospital Galway in September (see page 4). This is a very exciting development for the University as it enables our researchers and clinicians to have a direct impact on the lives of sick people in Galway and - through our ground-breaking research - to improve the health outcomes of many patients far beyond.

In November, An Tánaiste, Joan Burton T.D. launched the Institute for Lifecourse and Society (see page 4). It was a fantastic opportunity for our research community in the applied social sciences to showcase the wide breadth of research being carried out across themes including child and family research, ageing, autism, disability law and health policy. Later in November, Uachtarán na hÉireann Michael D. Higgins returned to his alma mater to inaugurate the Institute for Lifecourse and Society Biennial Distinguished Lecture series. President Higgins gave a stimulating lecture which received a standing ovation from the capacity

Familiar Faces



Astronaut, author and Internet sensation, **Commander Chris Hadfield**, presented schoolchildren from Scoil Aonghusa, Tallaght and their teacher Jennie Smith with first prize in this year's ReelLIFE Science video competition. Their video explaining how rockets work will blow your mind! Congratulations Dr Enda O'Connell (NCBES) and all those who helped organise this year's competition. See the winning video at www.nuigalway.ie/rocketlaunch



Congratulations to the 30 outstanding athletes who were awarded Student Sports Scholarships in November. Rugby international and business student, **Robbie Henshaw**, was guest of honour at the presentation ceremony, where he shared his advice on balancing sport and study.



Stephen Rea was conferred with an honorary degree in October, in recognition of his lifetime contribution to Irish film and theatre. He was nominated by Dr Charlotte McIvor (Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance), pictured right.

audience. To view his lecture see: www.president.ie/en/media-library/video

Both of these new buildings offer state-of-the-art facilities to match the ambition of our research community, and I look forward to the continued success and impact which they will enable amongst our staff.

Later in November, Minister Damien English T.D., visited the University to launch Blood Cancer Network Ireland, a national network led by NUI Galway researchers (see page 4). The network is supported by Science Foundation Ireland and the Irish Cancer Society, and will have a real and meaningful impact in the fight against cancer.

New Strategy for Sport

We welcome Mike Heskin to the University in his capacity as Director of Sport and Physical Activity (see below). His appointment is a major step towards achieving our strategic aim of further supporting elite athletes and boosting participation in individual and team sports among our students.

Mike has decades of experience managing sporting organisations at a senior level, in particular in hockey and rowing. We are delighted to welcome him to our team, and wish him every success in this new and challenging role.

Shannon College

Minister Jan O'Sullivan T.D. visited the Shannon College of Hotel Management in November to mark its official incorporation into NUI Galway (see page 4). That day was a long time in the making – and I'd like to thank all the staff from across the University that pulled together to make sure that systems and services across both institutions were aligned in time for the incorporation.

Shannon College is now a constituent school of the College of Business, Public Policy & Law. Both institutions have collaborated closely together over many years, and I now look forward to us working together as one University to our mutual benefit into the future.

Údarás Elections

The term of the current Údarás na hOllscoile, the University's Governing Authority, has come to an end, and on January 21 staff will be invited to elect representatives to the new Údarás. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Údarás members for their commitment to the University over the past three years, in particular the Chair, Ms Justice Catherine McGuinness. They were extremely dedicated to the task throughout, and I thank them for their energetic and enthusiastic contributions.

Údarás na hOllscoile is the most senior authority in the University, and all senior University committees are chaired by, and comprised of, Údarás members. It is crucial, therefore, that the Governing authority is representative of our diverse community. I am pleased to see the large number of nominations for the next elections, and I would encourage you to use your vote on January 21.

As we break for Christmas, we can reflect on a year of achievement and success. The breadth of activity described in the following pages is indicative of a University community that is energetic and ambitious – one that is rooted in our local community, but always ready to reach out to the world. I'd like to offer my renewed thanks for your contribution to our University mission.

May I wish you and yours a peaceful and Happy Christmas. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go leir.

Nollaig shona agus beannachtaí don bhliain nua atá romhainn.

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

Appointments

Director of Sport

In November, Mike Heskin was appointed Director of Sport and Physical Activity, a new post aimed at developing sport performance, participation and infrastructure across the University. Mike Heskin has decades of experience managing sport at a senior level.



Mike Heskin

He has served as the CEO of Hockey Ireland for the past three years, and before that spent over twenty years involved in International Rowing, coaching and managing to Olympics level. Vice-President for the Student Experience, Dr Pat Morgan welcomed the appointment saying: "Mike brings a passion for sport, a breadth of achievements across various codes and a promise to invigorate our clubs, support our elite athletes and promote the health and wellbeing of all our students and staff." We welcome Mike to the University team, and wish him every success in his role.

External Appointments

Dr Mark Lang (Physics) has been appointed as Chairperson of the Institute of Physics in Ireland.

Professor Donncha O'Connell and Tom O'Malley (Law) have been reappointed to the Law Commission.

Professor Afshin Samali (Biochemistry & CÚRAM) was elected life-time member of the Academy of European Cell Death Organisation (ECDO).

Head of Career Development Centre

Josephine Walsh has been appointed Head of the Career Development Centre, following John Hannon's move to Director of Student Services. Josephine has worked in the Centre since 2008, prior to which she worked outside the University as a Training and Development Consultant for clients across a wide range of industry sectors.



Josephine Walsh

LAUNCHED INTO ORBIT



The end of 2015 saw a number of significant research centres and facilities launched on campus, proof positive of the sustained ambition of our research community to impact the world around us.



An Taoiseach toured the Lambe Institute, meeting researchers and patients who will benefit from the collaborations it facilitates between the University and hospital.

Lambe Institute

An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, launched the Lambe Institute for Translational Research and the HRB Clinical Research Facility on the grounds of University Hospital Galway in September. The two new facilities are located where the hospital and the University's Clinical Science Institute meet, and they are designed to enable research that moves 'from bench to bedside' to make an impact on patients here in Galway.

Some examples of the types of studies undertaken at the new facilities include predicting breast cancer risk, using stem cells to prevent amputation in diabetic patients and implanting medical devices for a range of conditions. Speaking at the launch, An Taoiseach remarked: "The advances made here by researchers and clinicians will undoubtedly lead to better frontline health outcomes and ultimately improve patients' lives".

Staff are encouraged to see the new building for themselves, and enjoy a cuppa in the Stem café located in the ground floor foyer.

Lifecourse Institute

An Tánaiste, Joan Burton, visited the University in November to launch the Institute for Lifecourse and Society in the north campus. The Institute is dedicated to supporting applied research to develop policies and practice that make a positive difference to the lives of the young, the old and the vulnerable in society. It represents a €9 million investment comprising philanthropic contributions from The Atlantic Philanthropies and Galway University Foundation.

The new building is home to some of the University's most active research groups dedicated to child and family research, disability law and policy, social gerontology, community partnerships, autism and neurodevelopmental research, and health economics and policy. An Tánaiste described the impact of the research, saying: "I look forward to reading the Institute's work in the coming year – and to that work helping to guide and shape national policy."

An Tánaiste met with researchers and social activists, and visited the Saol café – an innovative social enterprise café, and the first of its kind on a University campus.



Blood Cancer Network Ireland

A new €2.2 million research network was launched by Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation, Damien English, in November. Blood Cancer Network Ireland (BCNI) brings together researchers from across Ireland to collaborate in the fight against some of the most common blood cancers, including leukemia. The new network is funded by Science Foundation Ireland and the Irish Cancer Society, and it includes the creation of a national blood cancer bio-bank based at NUI Galway and run by Dr Eva Szegezdi (Biochemistry).

Professor Michael O'Dwyer (Medicine) is Director of BCNI. He summed up the impact of the investment: "It will make Ireland internationally competitive in blood cancer research, increases access to expensive medicines free of charge, and enhances research, creates jobs and most importantly, benefits patients."

The new Blood Cancer network was launched by SFI Director, Professor Mark Ferguson; Minister Damien English; BCNI Director, Professor Michael O'Dwyer; and Head of Research at the Irish Cancer Society, Dr Robert O'Connor.



Shannon College, NUI Galway

On a wet and windy day in November, Minister for Education and Skills Jan O'Sullivan received a warm welcome to Shannon to officially mark the incorporation of the Shannon College of Hotel Management into NUI Galway. Following months of preparation involving the integration of systems and services across the two institutions, the marquee was erected, ice sculptures were unveiled, and the students put on a party worthy of one of the most prestigious hotel management colleges in the world.

The College and University have collaborated for over 20 years on the delivery and accreditation of programmes, but now for the first time staff and students of Shannon are now members of the NUI Galway community. Shannon is now a constituent of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law, making NUI Galway the only Irish university to have a School devoted to the tourism sector.

President Browne welcomed Shannon staff and students to the University, saying "Our integration will deliver mutual benefits in education and research, and will deepen our relationship with the Shannon region."



A Nation Rising
Éire á Múscailt

1916



The 1916 Commemorative Programme was drawn together by Senior Lecturer in History, Dr Mary Harris.

1916: A Nation Rising

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys, helped launch the University's 1916 commemorative programme in October. Entitled 'A Nation Rising | Éire á Múscailt', the programme comprises 15 months of exhibitions, conferences and seminars, in English and Irish. It includes artistic, dramatic and musical performances with new and emerging artists, as well as festivals and workshops that reach out to the wider community. Galway saw the largest mobilisation outside Dublin during Easter

1916, so it is fitting that The University will host the main national conference on 1916 in November 2016, attracting leading experts – local, national and international.

Meanwhile the Moore Institute has appointed Dr Conor McNamara as 1916 Scholar in Residence to co-ordinate and curate many of the University's commemorative events.

At the launch, President Browne reserved special praise for Dr Mary Harris, Senior Lecturer in History, who drew together the

strands of the programme with input from colleagues from across the campus. "As a nation joins together to commemorate the vision of the men and women who shaped the events of 1916, so too does our diverse university community," he remarked.

You can view the full list of events by visiting: www.nuigalway.ie/anationrising

A Mindful Way to Work

The mindfulness movement has caught the imagination worldwide, with many people looking for a more calm and conscientious way of living and working. NUI Galway took the first steps to adopting a culture of mindfulness, when the Mindful Way conference was held on campus in October. Spearheaded by Vice-President for Research, Professor Lokesh Joshi, staff and students were invited to explore the potential for mindfulness through presentations from some of its leading advocates worldwide. The speakers included politicians, entrepreneurs and social innovators, with one of the most popular talks from former British MP Chris Ruane, who has worked to introduce mindful practice to the UK Houses of Parliament.

Professor Joshi has seen at first-hand the benefits of mindfulness, and recognises the potential benefits of the approach across the work of the University. "We are keen to connect the well-being of our University community to mindfulness, to enhance performance and, ultimately, the University," he said.

The conference has been followed up with mindful meditation workshops on campus, and a lecture series on practical applications in a University setting.

You can find out more about the mindfulness movement and upcoming events on campus, at: www.nuigalway.ie/mindfulway



World's Most Influential Minds

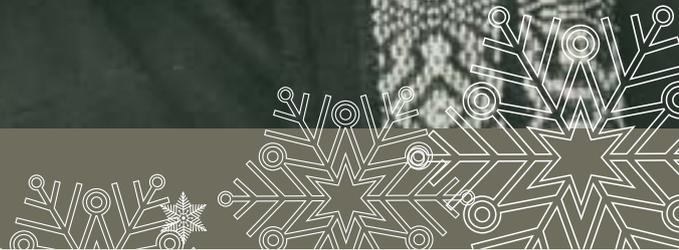
Four outstanding NUI Galway researchers have been named among the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds in 2015 according to multinational media body, Thomson Reuters. Professors Henry Curran (Chemistry), Colin O'Dowd (Physics and Ryan Institute) and Donal O'Regan (Mathematics), and Emeritus Professor John Simmie (Combustion Chemistry Centre) were included on the prestigious list, which is based on the number of articles ranked among those most frequently cited worldwide over the past decade. In total, 15 Irish researchers made the list, with more based in this University than any other. Congratulations to our four distinguished colleagues – as well as being influential worldwide, they are an inspiration to the research community here in Galway.

At the launch of the University's 1916 Commemorative Programme in October, Dr Seán Crosson (Huston School of Film & Digital Media) presented Minister Heather Humphreys with a copy of a major new collection on 1916, which he co-edited. *Towards 2016: 1916 in Irish Literature, Culture & Society* explores the continuing relevance of 1916 in Irish culture from multiple perspectives.

In a **unique collaboration between the Lyric Theatre and the Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies**, four students from north and south of the border are working together to present a new piece of writing based on the life and work of Mary O'Malley. The students will draw upon the Lyric Theatre archive, which is held at the James Hardiman Library, to tell the story of Mary O'Malley (pictured) and the inspiration she took from the work of W.B. Yeats. The project is part of the University's Arts in Action programme.



RESEARCH IN ACTION



CÚRAM – the Centre for Research in Medical Devices – is leading a research project investigating **novel treatments for Parkinson's disease**. With €4 million funding from Horizon 2020, the research consortium aims to develop the first therapy to slow down the progression of the disease. Drawn from institutes and research centres across Europe, the research consortium is led by Professor Abhay Pandit, Dr Eilís Dowd and Dr Úna Fitzgerald in Galway.

Professor Michel Destradé (Mathematics) is collaborating with a team of researchers in Tsinghua University in Beijing to **measure just how soft brain matter really is**. They have been able to determine that our brain is softer than common gelatine or, as Professor Destradé puts it, it is 'basically a wobbly liquid.' The findings could improve the results of neurosurgery by comparing the stiffness of healthy tissue to that of brain tumours.

Research led by Professor Afshin Samali (Apoptosis Research Centre and CÚRAM) is exploring the **causes of endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress**, a feature of the pathology of some of the world's most common diseases. With a commitment of €3.7 million from Horizon 2020, a team of 14 early stage researchers is being assembled to investigate the ER stress response and its effect on various cancers, neurodegenerative disorders and inflammatory diseases.

Climate change is without doubt one of the biggest challenges facing our planet. An international team of researchers led by Professor Colin O'Dowd (Physics) is exploring **the role of plankton in off-setting climate change**. As plankton produces organic matter in the ocean, it can act as a sink for carbon dioxide. Professor O'Dowd's study has found that phytoplankton blooms produce a sea-spray that can ultimately help counteract global warming.

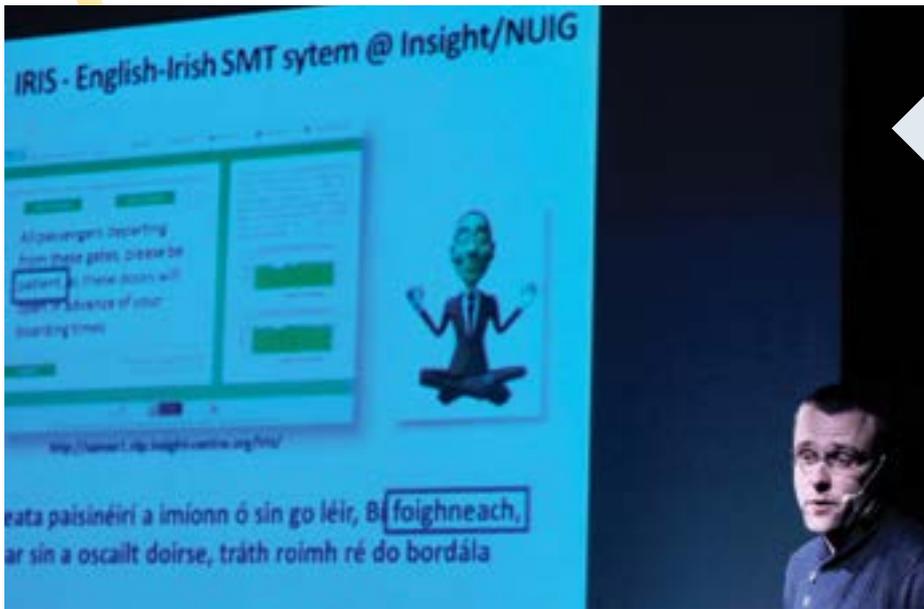
A collaboration between researchers in the Schools of Chemistry and Natural Sciences in Galway and the Warsaw University of Life Sciences is helping to develop **innovative new treatments for metastatic cancer**. Their study has shown the potential for new man-made compounds to help block tumour cell migration. According to Professor Paul Murphy (Chemistry), "The research shows the importance of chemists working together with cancer biologists to investigate the properties of newly generated products."

Faced with the rise in bacteria resistance to antibiotics in cattle, NUI Galway start-up company Westway Health is developing **new treatments for bovine mastitis**. They are commercialising a range of non-antibiotic technologies that kill the microorganisms that cause the condition. The treatment, which is a world first, will help prevent antibiotics from entering the human food chain through cow's milk, thereby reducing animal discomfort and improving the quality and safety of our food.

Dr Gerard Flaherty (Medicine) and Dr Mark Lang (Astronomy) have collaborated to examine **the biomedical challenges of space tourism**. Their study explores the history and current status of suborbital and orbital tourism, and discusses the physiologic effects of microgravity on the human body, and was published in the Journal of Travel Medicine. Astrotourism is becoming a reality and already multiple space tour operators and space travel agencies exist.

A study by NUI Galway and Oxford University researchers has published recommendations for **improving the prescription of antibiotics for urinary tract infections**. With input from 71 physicians and 30 GPs, the researchers examined the processes through which 3,500 patients in Galway and Roscommon were prescribed antibiotics. Co-author of the report, Dr Akke Vellinga (Medicine), hopes the findings will help combat increasing resistance to antibiotics, which is one of the biggest threats to world health.

A research team led by Professor Charles Spillane (Botany and Plant Science) has **sequenced the genome of the ancestor of modern day cattle**. In a report co-authored by Dr Mark Donoghue and PhD student Martin Braud, the researchers have shown that today's cattle can trace their lineage back to a now-extinct species of giant wild cattle known as the aurochs. The NUI Galway researchers contributed to the bioinformatic analysis of genome data, which led to the discovery.



Despite big **advances in machine translation** in recent years, mistakes and mix-ups are common. Because of the complexity of inflections, cases, gender and other grammatical properties, Irish language translations generated by computers can be littered with errors. As part of his PhD research in the Unit for Natural Language Processing at Insight, Mihael Arčan has developed IRIS – a system that outperforms commercial systems, such as Google Translate. Mihael collaborated with human translators from Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge to make IRIS as fool-proof as possible. A native of Slovenia, Mihael is pictured presenting his research at this year's Threesis final.



Archaeology student Ian Schmidt made the discovery of a lifetime on a recent **excavation at Caherconnell Cashel in the Burren**. During a dig at the stone fort organised by Dr Michelle Comber (Archaeology), Ian discovered a medieval silver ring with a carved diamond relief. The 800 year old design has been replicated by jeweller Paul Coyne, and rings are now on sale in the Caherconnell visitor centre. With profits contributing to the maintenance of the site, it is a perfect example of our research community contributing to global knowledge – and the local economy!



A new €2 million research project is measuring **the size and impact of the creative economy in the West of Ireland**. Ours is one of five peripheral regions in Europe included in 'A Creative Momentum Project', and the results will help identify supports for the growth of the creative and cultural sectors in Galway and its surrounding counties. The Irish research element is being led by Dr Pat Collins (Geography & Whitaker Institute), who believes the results will help complement Galway's bid for European Capital of Culture 2020.



In November, Ms Justice Mary-Ellen Ring (pictured here) made her first public appearance as Chair of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC), when she addressed a conference at the University. The 'Policing, Accountability and the State' conference was organised by the School of Law under the auspices of the LLM in Public Law. The other speakers at the event were Dr Vicky Conway (DCU) and Tom O'Malley (Law).

RESEARCH GATHERINGS



The Aula Maxima was the venue for a **regional session of the Global Irish Economic Forum** in November. Under the title 'Gaillimh Nua' and led by Professor Lokesh Joshi (VP for Research) and John O'Dea (CEO Crospon), the discussion focused on the city's MedTech sector and the challenges it faces. The Galway session was held as a forerunner to the national Dublin Castle events organised by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In September, Dr John Walsh (Gaeilge) hosted a meeting of COST Action, an **international network of 'new speakers' of various languages**. Over 50 specialists in bilingualism and minority languages from across Europe came to campus, where they shared their research and experiences of people who become 'new speakers' for various reasons, including migration, work or for reasons of identity and ideology.

The **Synapse Tech Carnival** was back with a bang in September. This energetic event has been growing year on year, and saw more tech companies than ever set up stall in the Bailey Allen Hall. Synapse is spearheaded by Computer Science student, David Renton, who is passionate about showcasing the West of Ireland as an

exciting and dynamic hub for technology. The networking arenas gave students the opportunity to mix with potential employers from global firms like Microsoft, and indigenous start-ups like Pocket Anatomy.

This year's **Sir Peter Freyer Memorial Lecture** was delivered by world-renowned surgeon, Dr Philip Schauer. The event, which is organised each year by staff in Surgery, is the largest surgical conference in Ireland. The focus of this year's event was interventions in the treatment of diabetes, and the latest surgical developments in addressing the condition.

Migration is one of the most pressing issues facing Europe today. **Literary and cultural responses to migration and displacement** were the focus of the Biennial Congress of the European Network for Comparative Literary Studies, which was jointly hosted by NUI Galway and DCU in August. Professors Hans Walter Schmidt-Hannisa, Paolo Bartolini and Bill Richardson from the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures organised the Galway leg, which included Spanish poetry, French and German literature, and Irish novels centred on emigration.

Over two days in August, the **Irish Transport Research Network** hosted their annual conference on campus, in an event organised by researchers from civil engineering, economics and sociology. With the N6 bypass and the Galway harbour extension making the headlines of late, the conference facilitated an interdisciplinary discussion on some major national and international transport challenges. The theme of the conference was green transport, and the challenges of mixing economic growth with sustainable transport.

As the UNESCO International Year of Light drew to a close, the School of Physics hosted a series of outreach events in this year's Galway Science and Technology Festival **showcasing the power of light**. PhotonicSplash introduced young and old to the field of photonics through playful apps, hands-on experiments and public talks, all of which revealed how engineers and scientists manipulate and harness light energy.





Dr Sheena Fennell (Earth and Ocean Sciences) received the best early-stage research award at the **Irish Earth Observation Symposium** in October. She is pictured with Dr Ronan Hennessy (Ryan Institute) who organised the symposium on campus, the first time it was held in Galway.

Some 240 delegates attended the **Annual Irish Academy of Management Conference** on campus in September. The theme of this year's conference was 'Socially Responsible Management', which was explored through over 150 research presentations.



Pictured at the **Conference of Local Authority Solicitors Association**, hosted by the School of Law are (l-r): Dr Pádraic Kenna (Law) with speakers Michael Clancy, Deirdre Halloran, Robert Meehan, Mikayla Sherlock, Joe Noonan, Terence O'Keeffe, Yvonne O'Kelly, John Shaw and Professor Donncha O'Connell (Law).

The **Executive MBA** hosted a **Masterclass** with Mike Hughes of Schneider Electric in November. Mike is pictured (centre) with Dr Tom Acton and Professor Willie Golden from the School of Business and Economics.



Staff in the Discipline of German hosted the **annual conference of the German Studies Association of Ireland** in November. Pictured are Professor Bernd Thum (Karlsruher Institute of Technology), Jeannine Jud, Dr Tina-Karen Pusse, Peter Adams (First Secretary of the German Embassy), Dr Deirdre Byrnes and Professor Hans-Walter Schmidt-Hannisa.

NEW BOOKS

The Age of Lincoln and Cavour: Comparative Perspectives on Nineteenth-Century American and Italian Nation-Building by Dr Enrico Dal Lago (History) is an innovative study of nation-building during the American Civil War and Italian National Unification.

Anchored is the title of a new collection of poems by Dr Lorna Shaughnessy (Spanish), who teaches Poetry on the MA in Writing. She was joined by colleagues and students in November to launch the collection, which confirms the importance of her voice in the wider field of contemporary Irish poetry.

Archaeology and Celtic Myth by John Waddell (Emeritus Professor of Archaeology) explores the mythology associated with well-known Irish archaeological sites and landscapes, and is now available in paper back for the first time.

Political Violence in Context, co-edited by Dr Niall Ó Dochartaigh (Political Science and Sociology), examines how time, space and supportive milieux decisively shape the pattern and pace of political violence.

Regarding Manneken Pis: Culture, Celebration and Conflict in Brussels by Dr Catherine Emerson (French) examines how the Belgian city's most famous fountain has come to embody different aspects of Brussels' identity.

Spatiality and Symbolic Expression: On the Links between Place and Culture, edited by Professor Bill Richardson (Spanish), features essays by six members of staff: Professor Paolo Bartolini (Italian), Dr Catherine Emerson (French), Dr Conn Holohan (Film Studies), An Dr Lillis Ó Laoire (Gaeilge), Dr Felix Ó Murchadha (Philosophy) and Professor Ulf Strohmayer (Geography). The book explores connections between place and cultural expression, including film, literature, place-names and iconic imagery.



Pictured at the launch of their cross-disciplinary collection of essays entitled *Engendering Ireland: New Reflections on Modern History and Literature* are (from left): co-editors Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley (History) and Dr Rebecca Barr (English), and contributor Dr Caitríona Clear (History). Fellow co-editor, Dr Laura Kelly (Strathclyde University), is pictured right.



Law Lecturer, Larry Donnelly, is pictured (second from right) at the launch of his book *Clinical Legal Education in Ireland: Progress and Potential* alongside Professor Donncha O'Connell (Law); Dr Bryan McMahon, retired Judge of the High Court and former part-time Professor of Law; and Eamonn Tansey of the Public Interest Law Alliance.



Climate Leaders

Nine Irish environmentalists met former US Vice-President Al Gore in October as part of his global movement to increase climate change awareness and action. Among the delegation was Elizabeth O'Reilly, a Research Assistant with the University's Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMRU). Al Gore's Climate Leader programme has trained over 9,000 people internationally, who in turn give climate talks to their local communities. Speaking of her experience, Elizabeth said: "It was a privilege to meet the former Vice-President and I hope I can do his message justice."

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

World Skills Competition

Aline Sile, a student at Shannon College of Hotel Management, is now a world champion in Restaurant Service. She took home a gold medal from the World Skills Competition held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. She is pictured (centre) with Food and Beverage Studies lecturer, Andrew Langford, and Deputy Head of Shannon College, Kate O'Connell.



International Youth Forum

Professor Pat Dolan represented the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre at the UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris in October. His presentation focused on young researchers, and how they can invoke empathy and activate other young people. Professor Dolan was joined in conversation by the Centre's Patron, actor Cillian Murphy, who remarked: "Research driven by youth can enable them to add their voice and influence change on issues that matter to them."

Holocaust Survivor visits Galway

There was standing room only in the seminar room of the Irish Centre for Human Rights (IHCR), when Tomi Reichental shared his experience of the Holocaust. Reichental was born in Slovakia and was deported at the age of nine to the Bergen Belsen concentration camp. In total, 35 members of his extended family were murdered during the Second World War. IHCR Acting Director, Professor Ray Murphy, described the significance of the visit: "The Holocaust reminds us of the dangers of racism and intolerance, providing lessons from the past that are relevant today."

Enactus World Cup

Students Billy Delaney, Orlagh Reynolds, Leanne Burke and Aaron Molloy travelled to South Africa in November to attend the Enactus World Cup. A total of 5,000 students attended the three-day event in Johannesburg, which provides a platform for third-level students to create community development projects and develop the skills to become socially responsible business leaders of the future.



The Home Project

The Huston School of Film and Digital Media recently launched 'The Home Project', a collaboration with local community groups to produce short documentaries on the theme of home. Co-ordinated by Film lecturer Dr Conn Holohan, the Galway-based groups worked with industry professionals to produce three ten-minute documentaries that were screened in the University. You can view the films and submit your own story at: www.thehomeproject.ie



FlirtFM Turns 20

FlirtFM staff and student volunteers gathered in Áras an Uachtaráin in September to mark the 20th anniversary of the Community Radio Forum of Ireland. The radio station was one of 11 granted a broadcast licence in 1995. Pictured with President Higgins are (l-r) FlirtFM staff member, Alan Meaney, and student contributors Gerry Treanor, Rebecca Fisher and John O'Connor.



Mental Health in the Frame

In November, Minister Kathleen Lynch launched a series of videos of NUI Galway students talking about their personal experience of mental health. The videos were organised by the Student Counselling Service and feature students talking directly about anxiety, depression, perfectionism and procrastination. Pictured here chatting with the minister, Chloe Lappin was one of the participants, and she spoke passionately about her personal journey at the launch. The videos are available to view on YouTube by searching for 'student counselling NUI Galway'.

AN TEANGA BHEO



Cuairt Quinn

Thug an scannadóir agus grianghrafadóir iomráiteach Bob Quinn cuairt ar Ionad an Acadaimh, An Cheathrú Rua i mí na Samhna le taispeántas scannáin agus a chuid taithe a roinnt le mic léinn na cumarsáide. Tá Quinn le feiceáil anseo (sa lár) in éineacht le Feidhmeannach Cumarsáide de chuid an Acadaimh, Dan Dwyer, agus mic léinn na Ceathrún Rua.

Gaeilge Oileáin Árainn

October saw the launch of Dr Séamas Ó Direáin's *A Survey of Spoken Irish in the Aran Islands*, the most comprehensive study of any dialect of Irish. Created over 25 years, the survey represents the life's work of the Californian linguist, whose grandparents emigrated to America from Árainn 100 years ago. The entire study, which features a highly detailed description of spoken Irish on the islands, is available online for the first time at: aranirish.nuigalway.ie in a project supported by the Moore Institute and co-ordinated by Árainn native, Dr Deirdre Ní Chonghaile.

Roghanna Úra do Léann na Cumarsáide

Beidh dhá rogha úra ag mic léinn na hOllscoile céim trí Ghaeilge i Léann na Cumarsáide a bhaint amach in 2016. Cuirfear céim ainmnithe ceithre bliana BA (Cumarsáid agus Gaeilge) ar fáil, agus beidh Léann na Cumarsáide ina ábhar roghnach sa chéim ghinearálta trí bliana sna Dána chomh maith. Ciallaíonn na hathruithe seo go mbeidh mic léinn Cumarsáide lonnaithe ar an bpríomhchampas agus iad i mbun staidéir, cé go mbeidh deis acu seimeastar Gaeltachta a dhéanamh sa tríú bliain. Dar le Príomfheidhmeannach an Acadaimh, Dónall Ó Braonáin, "Clár acadúil téagartha é seo a chuirfidh sároiliúint ar mhic léinn i Léann na Cumarsáide agus sa Ghaeilge. Beidh scoth na ndeiseanna fostaíochta acu dá bharr."

Whistleblowing Policy

Údarás na hOllscoile, the University's Governing Authority, has approved a new policy on protected disclosures, to provide staff with a mechanism for reporting, investigating and remedying wrongdoing or malpractice in the University. The Whistleblowing Policy is available online in the Corporate Governance section of the Policies and Procedures Repository. It sets out a procedure for making a disclosure, in a way that provides protection and confidentiality to the whistleblower. Staff are invited to read the Whistleblowing Policy (Code: QA414) by following the link to the Policies and Procedures Repository on the staff homepage.



In Praise Of... the Web Development Team

As any of the 2.4 million visitors to the NUI Galway website in 2015 knows, our website is easier to use and more vibrant than ever before. This is thanks to our incredible Web Development Team, who have been working tirelessly to roll out the new web design and structure. Initiated by Caroline Loughnane (Academic Secretary) and Séan O'Farrell (ISS) back in 2014, the Web Development Team was tasked with creating a more user-focused website that was mobile-enabled, for the millions of visitors on phones and tablets. Since then Marketing and Communications staff Zara Sheerin and Eileen Kennedy, and ISS staff Pat Dempsey, Dorothy O'Regan and Evan Ryder, have been working with design agency RMG and colleagues across the University to make the new website happen. The roll out is such a success that it is shortlisted for an Irish eGovernment Award. Look out for even more improvements in the new year.

Retired Staff Association

The Retired Staff Association (RSA) is open to all retired staff of NUI Galway, and aims to help retired staff maintain contact with each other and with the University community. It runs an active programme of events, including monthly social gatherings, lunches, and travel at home and abroad (with a planned trip to Cuba next spring!) See more details and information on events at www.nuigalway.ie/rsa or contact any of the members of the committee: Rosaleen Carroll, Jane Conroy, Mary Cooke, Michael Cuddy, Gerard Jennings, Michael O'Connell and Dan O'Donovan.

CoreHR award

Congratulations to the CoreHR Upgrade team who won the Best Project Communication award at the recent CoreHR Customer Awards, beating off competition from across Ireland, the UK and America. The team was made up of members from HR, ISS and the Payroll Office.



How to Procure an iPod Shuffle...

Congratulations to Professor Ulf Strohmayer (Geography) and Ann Mitchell (Library) who won the prize draw for participating in the Procurement Office Staff Survey in July. They were presented with their shiny new iPod Shuffles by Procurement Office colleagues Ann Melia (left) and Máire Hornibrook (right).

Office 365 Migration

The migration of our email to the Office 365 platform is now complete, which means that all of our email is now in the cloud and can be easily accessed on a variety of devices. Office 365 gives us improved reliability and superior security, with further improvements in functionality promised in the future. ISS would like to thank all staff members for their assistance in making the transition project a success.



On the occasion of his 60th birthday, Professor Dáibhí Ó Cróinín (History) was presented with a copy of the newly launched *Early Medieval Ireland and Europe: Chronology, Contacts, Scholarship – A Festschrift for Dáibhí Ó Cróinín*. Professor Ó Cróinín is pictured (centre) with colleagues and friends who helped organise and launch the book: Dr Immo Warntjes (Queen's University Belfast), Dr Michael Ryan (former Director of the Chester Beatty Library); Professor Nicholas Canny (Moore Institute); and Dr Pádraic Moran (Classics).



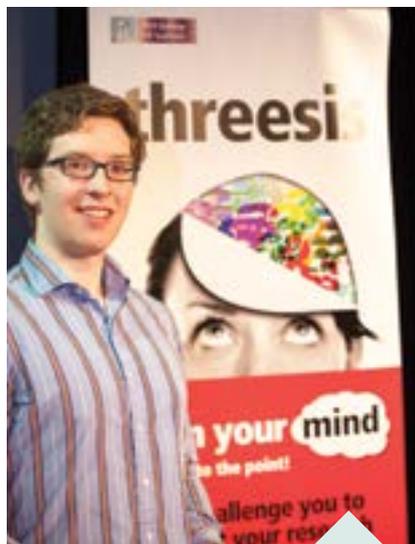
Celebrating Excellent Teaching

Recent winners of the 2015 President's Awards for Teaching Excellence were celebrated at a special ceremony in November. The awards, which are organised by CELT each year, recognise the energy, passion and commitment our staff bring every day to their teaching. Photographed are some of the 2015 winners: Dr Niall Ó Dochartaigh (Political Science and Sociology) and Dr Jerome Sheahan (Mathematics) are pictured left, and Dr Karen Doyle (Physiology) is pictured right. They are joined in the centre by President Browne, CELT Director Dr Iain Mac Labhrainn, and CELT Assistant Director Dr Sharon Flynn. Fellow winners Dr Michel Dugon (Zoology) and Dr Frances McCormack (English) are missing from the photo. German lecturer, Doris Devilly, was the winner of this year's Students' Choice Award, as chosen by the Students' Union.



Undergraduate Awards

Nicknamed the 'Junior Nobel Prize', The Undergraduate Awards is the world's largest academic awards programme recognising excellent research in undergraduate students. In December, Arts student Jonathan O'Rourke won the Classical Studies and Archaeology category for his paper on the construction of Barbarian identity in antiquity. The Waterford native is pictured here with fellow NUI Galway student, Julie Adams, who was highly commended in the Nursing and Midwifery category.



Threesis Triumph

This year's Threesis champion is postgraduate student Paul Mannion, who presented on the Geec, the super-efficient car designed and raced by staff and students of Engineering. Paul had just three minutes and three slides in which to excite the judges at the Threesis final in An Taibhdhearc. He beat off competition from across NUI Galway and St Angela's College, Sligo, to wrap up a hugely successful year for the Geec team.

AWARDS ROUND-UP

Peace History Prize

Congratulations to Dr Gearóid Barry (History), who was awarded the Scott Bills Memorial Prize in October. This biennial prize is awarded by the Peace History Society for an outstanding book in the field of Peace History. Dr Barry became the first non-American recipient and the first on a topic outside US history, when he was presented with the prize by Professor Michael Clinton of Gwynedd Mercy University, Pennsylvania. The award recognises the excellence of his book *The Disarmament of Hatred*, written about French World War veteran Marc Sangnier.

Mansion House Scholarship

History student, Siobhán Peters, won the 2015 Mansion House Fund Scholarship in Irish History, which was presented by Chancellor of the National University of Ireland, Dr Maurice Manning. Siobhán's supervisor was Dr Niall Ó Ciosáin (History).

Pain Prizes

In October, two NUI Galway PhD students were awarded first place medals at the Irish Pain Society Annual Scientific Meeting in Dublin. The prestigious pain prizes were presented to Marie Fitzgibbon and Hannah Durand for their poster presentations on treatments for pain disorders and chronic childhood pain respectively.

Biomaterials Award

CÚRAM Phd Student Juhi Samal won the Best Podium Presentation Award at the European Biomaterials Conference in September. She beat off competition from 300 entries to claim first prize for her presentation on a new system for delivering treatments to the brain for neurodegenerative disease.

Rory Kavanagh Bursary

This year's Rory Kavanagh Bursary was awarded to Arts student, Lily Lundon. The award is made through a generous endowment by Des and Mary Kavanagh as a testimony to their son's passion for the Italian language.

4,000 Jobs Up for Grabs

Career Development Staff celebrated a record-breaking number of job vacancies at this year's Graduate Jobs Fair in October. Over 4,000 graduate jobs were promoted to students from a range of local, national and international companies across a broad range of sectors. The demand for graduates with strong language and IT skills was especially evident this year, as was the growing need for Business, Engineering and Science graduates. The Fair is just one of dozens of career events and workshops run by the Career Development Service each year to help our students find employment.



NUI Galway 8k

The third NUI Galway 8k attracted over 700 runners and walkers to campus in October. The event was a collaboration between the University, Kingfisher and Aerogen, and raised much-needed funds for local charity JigSaw, which promotes mental health and wellbeing among young people in Galway.



Help for the Homeless

Hats off to the Rover Society, who collected over a thousand sleeping bags at Electric Picnic in September to donate to Cope Galway. These students are a source of huge pride to the Societies Office and the wider campus community, and their work had an immediate impact on the lives of homeless people around Galway.



Support Services Coffee Morning

Staff from Gardening, Grounds Maintenance and Crafts pulled together in September to host a coffee morning in aid of the Galway Hospice. Hospice representative, Joanne Tierney (pictured right) was presented with a cheque for over €1,500 from: (l-r) Mike Sullivan, Martin Burke, Dave Kelly, Laura O'Connor, Denis Heffernan, Tony Griffin, Tony Richardson, Liam McCumiskey, Padraig Killilea, John Grealley, Dermot Cummins, and Joanne Tierney Galway Hospice. (Absent: Savio Costello, Kevin O'Donoghue).



14th Annual Volunteering Fair

80 community and voluntary groups were represented at the annual Volunteering Fair in September. Among them were Yvonne Curran, from Galway 2020; Galway City Mayor, Councillor Frank Fahy; Biotechnology student, Stephanie Ward; Student Volunteer Coordinator, Lorraine Tansey; and Corporal Lisa O'Halloran, from the Irish Defence Forces.



Gotcha!

This otter was one of 628 species recorded by volunteers on campus over 24 hours as part of the Intersarsity BioBlitz in September. The shy creature was photographed using a camera triggered by movement. NUI Galway was named the most biodiverse campus in Ireland for the second year in a row. The event was coordinated by staff of the School of Natural Sciences, the Buildings Office and the Green Campus team.

The View from Around Campus



Pictured at the Autumn Postgraduate Open day on Wednesday 11th November are Dr Martina Prendergast (Ryan Institute), Dr Marie Coggins (Physics) and Dr Caitriona Carlin (Microbiology).



Annette Dolan (Career Development Centre) submitted this photo of friend and former colleague, Kathleen O'Connell, who retired from the University in November after over 40 years working here.



James Fleming (Arts and Theatre Office) is pictured with the black swan sculpture he constructed to mark the festival of Samhain, along with two of its biggest fans: Christian and Kelly.



Congratulations to Dr Gerry Morgan, Imelda Byrne (Access Office), John Hannon (Student Services) and Éamonn Ó Dochartaigh (Student Counselling) who were named 'biggest brains on campus' at the Second Big Fat NUI Galway Table Quiz.



Enjoying the Irish Fulbright Alumni Association (IFAA) Thanksgiving Dinner on campus were Dr Frances Fahy (Geography), Jimmy O'Brien Moran (IFAA President), and Lauren Lovelace (from the American Embassy).

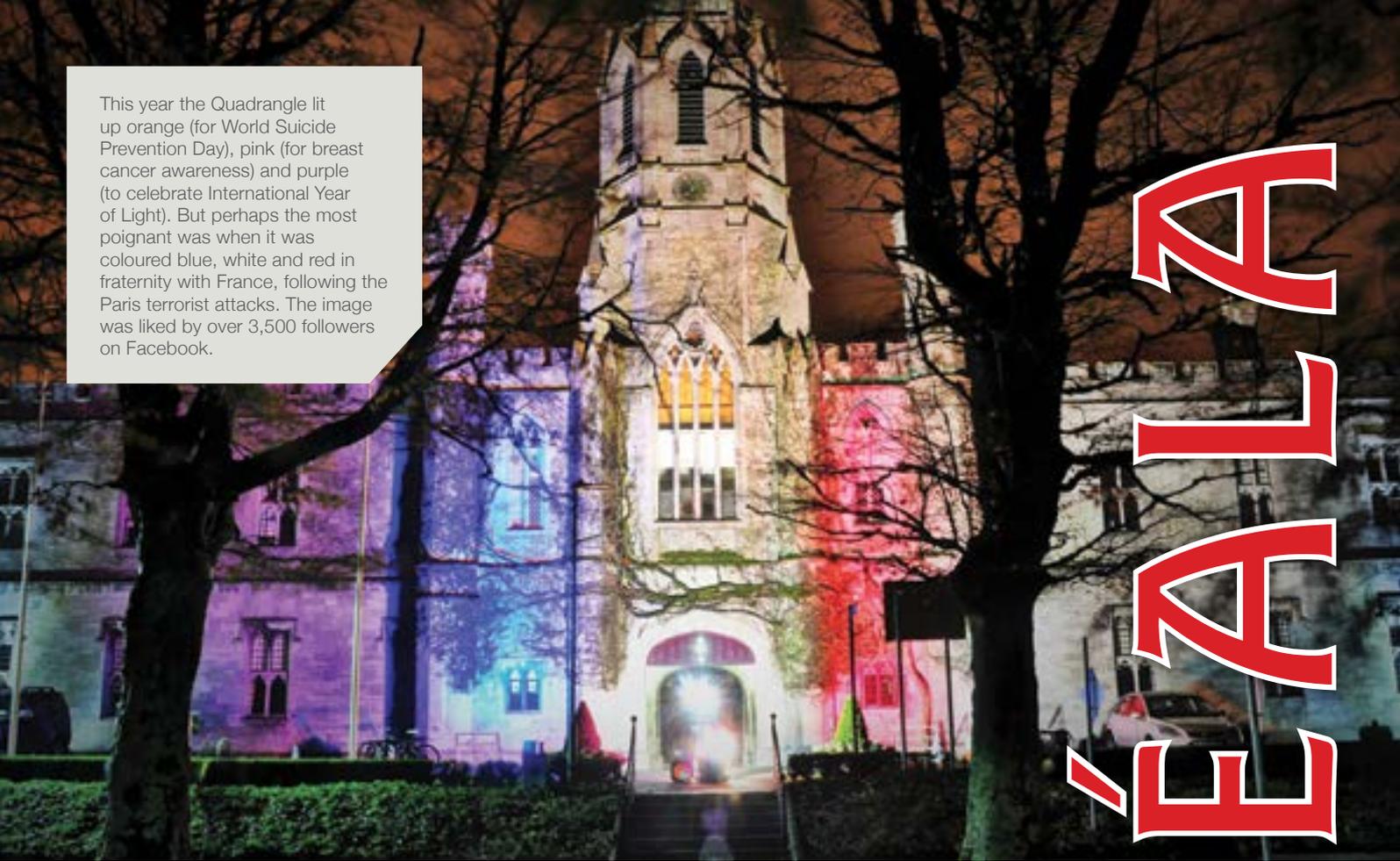


Dr Richard Pearson (English) was joined by Professor Nicholas Daly (UCD) to celebrate the recent launch of his book *Victorian Writers and the Stage*.



Congratulations to the Alumni Choir and the Staff/Student Male Choir who took home trophies from this year's Sligo Choral Festival. Pictured are the Unitunes Staff Choir who were highly commended in their category against tough international competition.

This year the Quadrangle lit up orange (for World Suicide Prevention Day), pink (for breast cancer awareness) and purple (to celebrate International Year of Light). But perhaps the most poignant was when it was coloured blue, white and red in fraternity with France, following the Paris terrorist attacks. The image was liked by over 3,500 followers on Facebook.



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Desktop Diary

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

Just some events to look out for in early 2016

Smoke-Free Zones, starting January 4

The beginning of 2016 sees the creation of two Smoke-Free Zones on campus. The zones are centred around two smoking shelters located outside the Hardiman Building and the Engineering Building. A majority of staff and students voted for the creation of smoke-free zones, so please help support their decision. Look out for signage directing you to your nearest smoking shelter.



A Nation Rising, from January onwards

The University's 1916 Commemorative Programme features conferences, exhibitions, festivals, workshops and performances throughout the year. Events are in Irish and English, on campus and beyond. See the full line-up at www.nuigalway.ie/anationrising

CAO Parents' Evening, January 19

All are welcome to attend the Parents' Evening in Áras Moyola, where you can meet with representatives from Colleges in advance of the closing date for CAO applications.

Global War / Irish Revolution / University Town, 1914-1918, opens February

An exhibition of Galway city during the Second World War will run in the Hardiman Building foyer from February to June.

March Holidays

Just one week separates St Patrick's Day and Easter in 2016. Is it time to book your Easter leave now? Good Friday will fall on March 25, with Easter Monday on March 28.

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