



Four-year-old Sophie Foley, daughter of Dr Mark Foley from the School of Physics, was one of 24,000 visitors to campus for the Festival Exhibition. Photo Carmel Mazouk.

Huge Success for Galway Science and Technology Festival

The 2011 Galway Science and Technology Festival Exhibition, part of Discover Science's National Science Week, was held at NUI Galway on 27 November attracted 24,000 visitors. The event was officially opened by the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn.

The event ran extremely well with up to 100 volunteers, which included students from the Dominican College Secondary School, NUI Galway and members of the public, who provided information and directions to families attending the 80 interactive exhibition stands and the various shows and workshops throughout the University campus.

Families and children enjoyed an array of colourful stands including Medtronic who demonstrated how blood pumps around the body, Boston Scientific's amazing stand with a large stent for children to examine, SAP provided a First Lego League, Hewlett Packard with the help of sixth class students from Briarhill School explained Cloud Computing, while other fascinating stands were hosted by CISCO, Covidien, Avaya and Lake Region. The Galway Enterprise Board stand included local company Starlight and a new App "Ireland: Are we there Yet" by local developer, and NUI Galway graduate Ann Brehony. The stands allowed children and adults alike to participate in experiments, watch demonstrations and discuss ideas with researchers. Lots more interactive exhibitions took place from NUI Galway, GMIT, Marine Institute and many more.



Focal ón Eagarthóir

Fáilte go eagrán na Nollag d'Ollscéala.

This edition's cover story highlights the success of the Galway Science and Technology Festival which took place recently on campus and where over 24,000 visitors came to NUI Galway to experience some very exciting experiments, watch demonstrations and discuss ideas with researchers.

Unseen documents from secret negotiations between the British government and the IRA were unveiled at the November launch of the Brendan Duddy Archive and these papers will be available to researchers from January 2012 (p.3).

Students really did excel this semester with a record number of national awards, including an outstanding 34 awards at the annual NUI Awards (p.8).

Other stories featuring in this edition include winter conferrings (p.4 and p.16), appointments (p.2), amazing research (p.3 and 5) and the Galway University Foundation US Gala in New York City.

I would like to thank you all sincerely for the many contributions throughout the year. While we endeavour to include all submissions, space does not always allow and we will always try to include in a following edition.

On a personal note I would like to wish Sheila Gorham from the Marketing and Communication Office the very best of happiness as she weds over the holiday season!

Nollaig Shona díbh go léir agus athbhliain faoi sheán agus faoi shíocháin díbhse agus do bhur gclann.

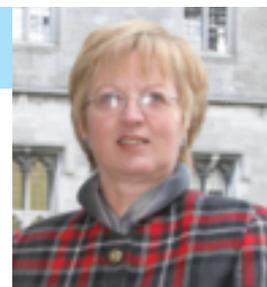
Michelle Ní Chróinín
Editor

Ollscéala is published by the
Marketing and Communications Office
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh.
Tel. 091 - 493361
E-mail: michelle.nichróinín@nuigalway.ie
Photographer: Aengus McMahon

Appointments

VP for Student Experience

Professor Pat Morgan has taken up the appointment as VP for Student Experience having served as Dean of Graduate Studies since 2008. Professor Morgan succeeds Ms Mary O'Riordan. Student services encompass the resources, information and opportunities which contribute to the students' living and learning experience; they serve to enhance the educational experience of students.



Dr Pat Morgan

Previous positions held by Dr Morgan include Preclinical Vice Dean of Medicine (2006-08); Senior Lecturer, Department of Biochemistry (2004); and Dean, Faculty of Science (1998-2004).

Dr Morgan is an elected member of NUI Galway's Governing Authority since 1998 and an elected member of the NUI Senate since 2002. In 2008 she was presented with a Presidential Award for Teaching Excellence.

Established Professor of Midwifery



Professor Declan Devane

NUI Galway has announced the appointment of the Republic of Ireland's first Professor of Midwifery. Professor Declan Devane, himself a midwife, is based at the School of Nursing and Midwifery. With approximately 700 students, the School is at the forefront of nursing and midwifery education and research in Ireland. Over his 22-year career in nursing and midwifery, Professor Devane has established an international reputation as a leading researcher and scholar in his areas of expertise, which include the implementation and evaluation of models of maternity care and on methods of assessment of fetal wellbeing.

Professor Graham Ellis has been appointed Established Professor of Mathematics in the School of Mathematics, Statistics & Applied Mathematics within the College of Science.

Professor Robert Lahue has been appointed Personal Professor in Biochemistry (Molecular Genetics) in the School of Natural Sciences within the College of Science.

Professor Deniz Tasdemir has been appointed Established Professor of Marine Biodiscovery in the School of Chemistry within the College of Science. This post is part-funded by the Beaufort Marine Research Awards scheme, an initiative of the Irish Government, which is co-ordinated by the Marine Institute. The Beaufort Marine Biodiscovery award includes teams based at the Marine Institute, Rinville, Co. Galway, NUI Galway, Queen's University, Belfast, and UCC.

Professor Charlotte Damm has been appointed Established Professor of Archaeology in the School of Geography & Archaeology, within the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies.

Professor Sanbing Shen has been appointed Personal Professor of Stem Cell Biology in the School of Medicine within the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences where he will play a leadership role in establishing fundamental stem cell biology research, supported by SFI, at REMEDI, NUI Galway.

Unseen Documents Unveiled during Launch of Duddy Archive

Documents highlighting the secrecy and tension involved in communication and negotiation between the British government and the IRA throughout 'the Troubles' were unveiled at the launch of the Brendan Duddy Archive in November following a symposium *Negotiating Peace*, which brought together prominent figures from the worlds of academia and diplomacy, to explore key questions surrounding the negotiated settlement of violent conflicts, drawing in particular on the experience of negotiation in the Irish peace process.



Pictured left to right: John Cox, Librarian; Dr Niall Ó Dochartaigh, Lecturer in Politics; Brendan Duddy; President Browne; and Kieran Hoare, NUI Galway Archivist.

The selected documents include Brendan Duddy's hand written records of negotiations during the hunger strike and a letter from the IRA to the British Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

Speaking at the launch and on behalf of the Duddy family, Larry Duddy, said: "The family are delighted that the private papers have been donated to NUI Galway. They hope that analysis of these papers will assist current and future generations to understand however complex and how ever long a conflict has gone on with the dedication and commitment shown by Brendan Duddy a resolution can always be found."

President of NUI Galway, Dr Jim Browne, said: "We all remember the horror of so much of the news emanating from Northern Ireland throughout the 1970s, '80s and '90s. All through that difficult period Brendan Duddy maintained a steadfast conviction that the conflict could only be ended through a negotiated settlement. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for that steadfast commitment to peace. I would especially like to thank him, on behalf of

NUI Galway, for making his Archive available to scholarship, so that others might be inspired and encouraged in the unrelenting work of peace-building, in similar situations internationally."

Deposited at NUI Galway in 2009, the archive contains over 700 descriptive items of paper and sound archives which have been catalogued by the Library's Special Collections staff and will be available to scholars and bona fide researchers from January 2012. For unseen documents and commentary by Dr Niall Ó Dochartaigh: <http://archives.library.nuigalway.ie/duddy>

The University was also recently presented with a rare edition of an historically significant newspaper to the James Hardiman Library, through the donation from a private collection of the original 1691 edition of the *London Gazette* which features an account of the Battle of Aghrim. The donation, from the personal collection of Councillor Norman Morgan, an East Galway collector, contains a copy of the *London Gazette*, 16-20 July 1691, issue 2680, which includes an account "From the Camp" of the Battle of Aghrim.

Irish Clinical Researchers Open New Study for Rare but Devastating Cancer

A new clinical study has opened in Ireland for a rare but devastating type of bone marrow cancer. Irish patients with advanced myelofibrosis will have access to a new study of combined oral medications for their disease.

Frank Giles, Professor of Cancer Therapeutics at NUI Galway and Trinity College Dublin, is leading the study with Eibhlin Conneally, Consultant Haematologist at St James's Hospital, Dublin. The Irish study is being run in conjunction with centers in France, Italy, and the UK and patients may be enrolled at either Galway University Hospitals or St James's Hospital.

The study involves a combination of Ruxolitinib, manufactured by Novartis, along with another pill that also targets the abnormal pathways that drive myelofibrosis. This news comes within weeks of Ruxolitinib becoming the first and only product approved for this disease by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Myelofibrosis is a life-threatening cancer of the bone marrow that results in bone marrow failure because the normal spaces in which blood cells are formed become progressively filled with fibrous tissue. In an attempt to maintain normal blood cell counts, the body then begins to make these cells in abnormal sites including the liver and spleen. In turn, these can then become enlarged and painful. Patients not alone are at risk from marrow failure, but in some patients, myelofibrosis changes into a particularly aggressive form of acute leukemia.

According to Professor Frank Giles, who is also Director of the HRB Clinical Research Facility Galway, a joint venture between Galway University Hospitals and NUI Galway: "We are delighted to finally have our first effective therapy for patients suffering from advanced myelofibrosis. This is a significant positive advance in treatment for these patients. We are very pleased to be able to offer this study to patients here in Ireland, especially as Ruxolitinib has just been approved in the US. We hope that approval in Europe will happen soon but in the interim we have an opportunity to build on this, our first broadly effective therapy for a very debilitating illness, and hopefully offer even better therapy with a combination of medications in the near future."

Winter Conferings



President Browne and Liam Ferrie

Over 1,600 students graduated from across the five colleges at the University's winter conferring ceremonies last month. Liam Ferrie was also conferred with an honorary Master of Commerce degree.

A native of Scotland, Liam is now living in Menlo, Co. Galway. In 1987 he founded the Irish Emigrant, a weekly online newsletter covering Irish news, and has been working as Editor and

writer of the publication since then. He is also Founder of Irish Emigrant Publications, Ireland's longest-established Internet publishing company, producing online publications such as Professional Ireland, BookView Ireland, Arts Ireland and Sports Ireland.

In addition, degrees, higher diplomas, Masters and PhDs were awarded to students graduating over the three days from the College of

Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences; College of Engineering and Informatics; College of Business, Public Policy and Law; College of Science; and the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies.

85 certificates for successful completion of the Access courses delivered by NUI Galway during the academic year 2010/2011 both on campus and in Outreach Centres in Clifden and Ballinasloe were presented at the recent Access Awards Ceremony.

Also receiving awards were 55 Access Students who graduated with degrees in Arts, Commerce, Law, Engineering and Nursing studies in 2011. A further 18 students who received post-graduate diplomas in Education, Health, Arts and Business Studies, and post-graduate degrees in Marketing, Social Work, Community Development and Law were acknowledged. In addition, 8 students whom received post graduate diplomas and degrees in 2010 were also acknowledged on the night. By the end of this year a total of 390 graduates and 133 post-graduates will have come through this University's Access Programme since 2001. That is a wonderful achievement.

Attorney General Launches Disability Legal Information Clinic

The Attorney General, Máire Whelan S.C., officially launched the NUI Galway Disability Legal Information Clinic in October. A graduate of NUI Galway, Attorney General, Máire Whelan, spoke about the importance of student engagement and community involvement in clinical legal education.

The Disability Legal Information Clinic provides a free, confidential, accessible, drop-in legal information service on issues related to disability. It also provides a resource that works on the basis that legal practitioners, social workers, disability service providers etc. can contact the clinic and that trained volunteers will provide practical legal research on the issues that they highlight. Trained student volunteers



are supervised by a legal practitioner and a staff member of the University's Centre staff the clinics for Disability Law and Policy. For more information see www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/dlic

Pictured are the Attorney General, Professor Ger Quinn and the Registrar, Professor Nollaig Mac Congáil with volunteers from the Clinic.

Study Calls Sodium Intake Guidelines into Question

For years, doctors have warned that too much salt is bad for your heart. Now a new study co-led by an NUI Galway clinical researcher suggests that both high and low levels of salt intake may put people with heart disease or diabetes at increased risk of cardiovascular complications.

The study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, found that moderate salt intake is associated with the lowest risk of cardiovascular events, whereas higher intake of sodium was associated with an increased risk of stroke, heart attack and other cardiovascular events while low intake was associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular death and hospitalisation for congestive heart failure.

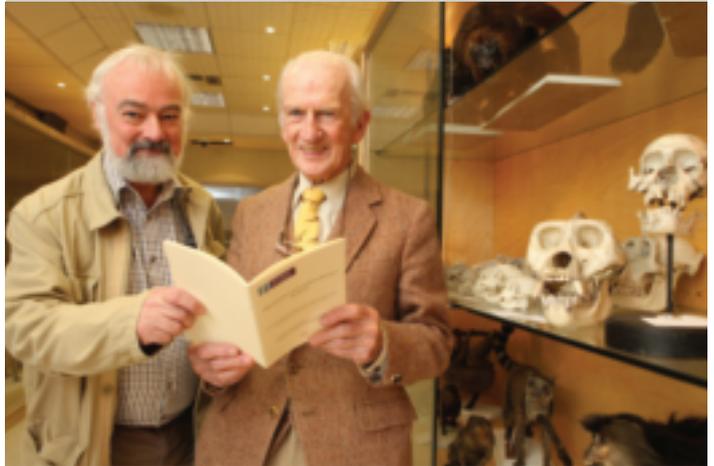
The research was co-led by Professor Martin O'Donnell, Professor of Translational Medicine, NUI Galway and Dr Salim Yusuf, Population Health Research Institute (PHRI) at McMaster University in Canada and Hamilton Health Sciences. Professor O'Donnell is also Associate Director of the HRB Clinical Research Facility at NUI Galway, and University Hospital Galway.

"This research addresses an important population health issue – the association between sodium (salt) intake and cardiovascular disease," said NUI Galway's Professor O'Donnell. "This area has become topical again, with the recent publication of another paper in *JAMA* reporting an association between low-sodium intake and cardiac death. In general, previous observational studies have either reported a positive association, no association or an inverse association between sodium intake and heart disease and stroke. This has resulted in a lot of controversy. Our study is the first to report a J-shaped association between sodium intake and cardiovascular disease, which may explain why previous studies have found different results."

Compared with moderate sodium excretion (between 4 to 5.99 grams per day), the researchers found that sodium excretion of greater than 6-7 grams per day was associated with an increased risk of all cardiovascular events, and sodium excretion of less than 3 grams per day was associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular death and hospitalisation for congestive heart failure.

The findings call into question current guidelines for salt intake, which recommend less than 2.3 grams (or 2,300 mg) per day. The guidelines are mostly based on previous clinical trials that found blood pressure is lowered modestly when sodium intake is reduced to these levels (which was also found in the present study), but there are no large studies looking at whether such low levels of sodium intake reduce the incidence of heart attacks and stroke. Clarifying the optimal daily intake of sodium is particularly important in patients with established heart disease, as they may be especially vulnerable to the cardiovascular effects of very high- and low-salt intake and are most likely to receive recommendations on restricting sodium in their diets, the authors concluded.

One Hundred Years Later, a New Museum Guide



Professor Wallace Arthur, Zoology and Éamon de Buitléar.

Only two tattered copies remain of the original Zoology Museum catalogue, published in 1911 by UCG. One hundred years later, Éamon de Buitléar officially launched a completely new version of the booklet at a special ceremony on campus.

The Zoology and Marine Biology Museum is housed in the Ryan Institute, and currently has over 500 specimens on display from a broad range of animal groups. Specimens include native animals as well as more exotic creatures, including stuffed monkeys, koalas, kiwis and the intriguing kangaroo rat.

The museum's origins go back to the formation of the University in 1849, with many of the specimens coming from the Zoological Society of London. By 1899 it was among the best working museums of its kind to be found in any university of the time. The previous information booklet, called 'A Catalogue of the Specimens' was produced by Professor R. J. Anderson in 1911.

Speaking at a special ceremony on campus, Éamon de Buitléar said: "To see this fine museum and launch this booklet is an absolute pleasure. For many of us, the way we lead our lives

today means we are getting further and further away from nature. This museum is a valuable resource and portal into our past, and an introduction into the wonders of nature."

"Our museum is a time capsule taking us back to the days of Darwin and other great adventurers who travelled the world collecting exotic species" said Wallace Arthur, Professor of Zoology. "This museum is part of the University, but also belongs very much to Galway and the public. We welcome visitors and encourage them to spend as much time as they wish studying the specimens in whatever way is appropriate for their needs – very different needs for different groups, for example biologists, artists and laypeople."

Free and open to the public daily, the museum attracts large numbers of visitors, ranging from the general public to school parties to visiting researchers and academics. The museum collection is used extensively in practical classes for Zoology students. The material allows the students to examine characteristic features of species and broader taxonomic groupings at first hand.

OLLSCÉALA

Presentation of €1 million from NBCRI

NBCRI have donated one million euro to the development of the Translational Research Facility through Galway University Foundation.

The Translational Research Facility at NUI Galway is being developed on the grounds of University Hospital Galway adjacent to the Clinical Sciences Institute. It will house ten principal investigators and one hundred and twenty researchers across a broad range of disciplines in cancer biology as well as other key research programmes in clinical disciplines.

The capacity for this space to be flexible and adaptable to different research needs means that there will be a continual flow of research programmes throughout its lifetime. This will be achieved by creating open-plan wet laboratory space, with an adjoining open plan write-up area, allowing research groups to



Pictured from left: Mary Bennett NBCRI; President Browne, Dr Anna O'Coinne, Chairperson NBCRI, Professor Michael Kerin, NBCRI and Head of Surgery, NUI Galway and Mrs Patricia Caffrey, NBCRI.

expand and contract as their requirements change. The ten offices for principal investigators together with support facilities such as tissue culture and microscopy will be situated around the open plan area.

The design of the building will, because of its open plan nature, help to facilitate the growth of multidisciplinary approaches to clinical problems.

NUI Galway New York Gala



Pictured from left: President Browne, Adrian Jones, BA 1986 & 2011 NY Gala Honoree, Ms Tina Jones and Mr Michael Higgins, BComm 1982, Chair, US Board, Galway University Foundation.

In November the US Board of the Galway University Foundation hosted its 5th Annual Gala at the Metropolitan Club in New York City. This year's event honoured Adrian Jones, BA 1986 and Managing Director, Merchant Banking Division of Goldman Sachs and featured a spectacular performance by Frankie Gavin and De Dannan.

The Gala attracted a capacity crowd of graduates and friends of NUI Galway from the United States and Ireland and raised in excess of \$200,000 for Autism Research at NUI Galway. In 2006, the School of Psychology at NUI Galway offered its first Masters program in Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA), designed to provide professional training to students seeking careers in the area of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

and other developmental disabilities. Since the introduction of this program, 55 students have graduated, and are working throughout Ireland as autism treatment specialists, family support workers, and consultants to schools and educational programs that serve children with autism diagnoses.

Because of the success of the Masters program, the University now offers a PhD in Applied Behavioural Analysis, training graduates to work as certified practitioners, researchers and educators. Through expansion and further development of The Irish Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopment Research, NUI Galway has the opportunity to become a leading centre for education, research and advocacy in the area of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). A video highlighting the activity of the Centre featuring Dr Geraldine Leader, Dr Olive Healy and Dr Jennifer Holloway from the School of Psychology was shown to guests attending the event. In January 2012, NUI Galway with the support of Galway University Foundation, the American Ireland Fund and Autism Speaks, will host an International Conference on Autism.

Further information on the conference is at: http://www.conference.ie/content/Autism_Centre_LoRes_NoCrop.pdf

New Website Watches Galway's Weather

Come rain or shine, a new website showing the current weather conditions in Galway is now available to the general public. The site uses real-time data collected by a weather station at NUI Galway to show temperature, humidity, pressure, wind, rain and sunshine.

Behind the project is the Informatics Research Unit for Sustainable Energy (IRUSE), under the leadership of Dr Marcus Keane. IRUSE focuses on achieving the goal of energy efficient buildings. In order to support ongoing and future research activity, an automated weather station was installed. Information from the weather station now appears in real-time on a website <http://weather.nuigalway.ie/> thanks to students of the HDip / MSc in Software Design and Development. Colin Divily from Corofin, Co Galway and Naomi Ono, originally from Japan, implemented the website through a collaboration with the Discipline of Information Technology. They were supported by Johann Ott, Magdalena Hajdukiewicz and other members of the IRUSE group.

Dr Marcus Keane explains: "The website displays the live weather data, as well as 12-hour and monthly trends and provides essential data for the research carried out at the University. With the weather being such a constant topic of conversation for everyone in this country, we thought it only right to share this data with the general public."

The weather station was installed in June 2010 on the roof of the Concourse building on campus. The data loads to the new website every minute from all of the sensors, except for rainfall which is reported hourly. As well as for IRUSE's research, the weather station is also used as part of teaching for the Energy Systems Engineering degree programme.



Staff members receiving Diploma awards at the recent Adult and Continuing Education conferring:

Front row - Louise Coyle (Spanish), Mary Dooley (French), Kathleen O'Connell (Spanish); Middle Row - Brendan Beatty (French), Maura Grealy (Italian), John Gaffney (Italian); Back row - Catherine Geraghty (Spanish), Suzanne Gilsenan (French).

Novel environmental courses target smart economy

Participants in three novel environmental courses at NUI Galway will learn from real life community initiatives and develop entrepreneurship skills through participating in 'Dragon's Den' style interviews, where the students pitch a well researched environmental project to an interview panel. Under the leadership of Dr Mike Gormally, and in conjunction with Galway County Council, two courses were designed to meet local authority needs. A Certificate Course in Biodiversity Conservation and Management, coordinated by Ms Elaine O'Riordan, the Galway County Biodiversity Project Manager, enables participants to consider biodiversity in the context of their

professional roles. The MSc in Biodiversity and Land Use Planning, coordinated by Dr Gesche Kindermann, is delivered as a distance-learning course to facilitate working professionals meet important environmental legal obligations. The MSc in Sustainable Resource Management: Policy and Practice, coordinated by Dr Caitriona Carlin, is the first new course since the strategic NUI Galway - UL alliance. Benefitting from expertise at both institutions, students engage with primary research, develop skills in applying knowledge to real world situations, and experience the reality of policy in practice.

Graduate Jobs Fair



Pictured at the recent Graduate Jobs Fair (l-r): John Hannon; Deirdre Sheridan, both Careers Development Centre; Willie Golden, Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law; and Professor Gerry Lyons, Dean of the College of Engineering and Informatics.

OLLSCÉALA

NUI Awards Ceremony



Graduates and students of NUI Galway featured prominently at the annual NUI Awards ceremony which took place in November in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham taking home an impressive 34 awards.

Five NUI Travelling Studentships in the Humanities and the Social Sciences and in the Sciences were awarded to NUI Galway graduates: Bríd Ní Ghráinne, Law; Fiona Morrissey, Law; Ciara Kyne, Chemistry; Eimear Dolan, Engineering; and Niamh Fahy, Orthobiology/Regenerative Medicine. Other scholarships and awards include the Dr Mary L Thornton NUI Scholarship in Education

which was awarded to NUI Galway's Hannah McGinley. The Dr Henry Hutchinson Stewart Literary scholarships and prizes were awarded to: Niall Culligan, English; Sile Dolan, Gaelige; John Mooney, German; Shaun Murphy, Latin; and Rebecca, Spanish. The French Government Medal and NUI Prize for Proficiency in French was awarded to Philip Morrow.

The scoláireacht agus Duais Chiste Theach an Ardmhéara/Mansion House Fund Scholarship and prizes went to Dara Folan, for a Scoláireacht Gaelige and an Irish History prize and to Colm Ó Cuaig for a Gaelige prize.

A total of nineteen Dr Henry Hutchinson Stewart Medical Scholarships and Prizes were awarded to NUI Galway's School of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. The award recipients were Cillian McNamara and Karen McNamara, Biochemistry; Danielle Anstett and Julianne O'Shea, General Practice; Larissa Higgins and Teresa O'Dowd, Gynaecology and Obstetrics; Cliona Small, Medical Microbiology; Siobhan Eccles, Midwifery; Ester Afolalu and Laura M Coyne, Nursing; Orla Ní Ghríofa and Mairead Crowley, Occupational Therapy; Larissa Higgins, Paediatrics; Mirosława Gorecka, Pathology; Elaine Fallon, Public Health; Laura Tobin, Speech and Language Therapy; Yasir Loai, Pharmacology; Matthew Smyth, Physiology; and Gerard Healy MB BCH BAO Hons, Surgery.

Speaking on the success of NUI Galway students and graduates, President Jim Browne, said: "This clearly highlights the high calibre of students studying on NUI Galway programmes and follows previous successes in these annual awards. I congratulate each of the Award recipients on their achievement, which will add to their academic reputation. I commend the Award recipients and I pay tribute to their teachers for their work in supporting students and helping them to achieve such high

Gold Medal Award for Catering



Ann Duggan Conference/Catering Manager photographed with ARAMARK Ireland's Grainne Kelliher, Acting VP Food Services, Donal O'Brien, CEO, Sanjay Patel, Client Account Manager Education and Joan O'Shaughnessy, Vice Chairperson and Special Advisor to CEO.

An Bhialann won a Gold Medal Award at the recent Hotel and Catering Review Gold Medal Awards. Organised by Hotel and Catering Review, the Gold Medal Awards recognise excellence within the hospitality industry, rewarding food service operations that have been

outstanding. Applicants are judged across a wide range of criteria including excellence in food standards, customer service, culinary creativity and innovation. This is the second national award for An Bhialann, last November, the Catering Manager in An Bhialann won the Irish Hospitality

Institute Catering Manager of the year Award for brilliance in food standards and service delivery. Winning two prestigious national hospitality awards, against stiff competition, is an industry recognition of the excellent standards of catering now available in NUI Galway.

Catering in An Bhialann is provided by ARAMARK Ireland's Food Services division who have provided catering services there since 1992. In 2010, a €3.5m investment resulted in a complete redesign of this 800 seat restaurant which now boasts a modern interior, new entrances and extended seating. An Bhialann also houses a brand new kitchen which incorporates the latest in equipment and services, all designed to deliver a wide choice of top quality and value for money dishes. Global coffee house Starbucks and the popular sandwich chain Subway are also located in An Bhialann which caters for over 16,000 customers on a weekly basis.

Moffetts was also nominated, for the second year in a row, by Hotel and Catering Review for a Gold Medal Award.



Focal ón Uachtarán

A Chairde,

Agus 2011 ag teacht chun críche, ba mhaith liom súil a chaitheamh siar ar bhliain a bhí dúshlánach ar chéad bhealach.

I have been heartened this year by the efforts of academic and support staff to meet the challenges which the current economic difficulties continue to present. I want colleagues to know that your flexibility and support in responding to the challenges which faces us as a university and as a sector are very much appreciated.

Some successes of 2011

Despite these challenges we have enjoyed many successes this year. Some of these highlights are detailed below:

Research: We continue to do well in research terms. This year has seen the establishment of new research centres in Prostate Cancer, Lifecourse issues and Autism and Neuro-Developmental Research. We have added considerably to our research assets with the Library's acquisition of important archival collections including those of Thomas Kilroy, John Huston and Brendan Duddy. Having conferred almost 200 doctoral degrees this year, we are well-placed to reach the five-year target we set ourselves in the Strategic Plan for 2014. Our challenge is now to maintain our PhD output. Initiatives such as the Hardiman Research Scholarships programme, launched this year, highlight our commitment to sustain doctoral numbers.

Teaching: Last month I was invited to give the keynote address at an international conference of German universities on the social mission of universities. I was impressed by the international regard shown by colleagues from Europe, the US and beyond, for our work in this field. Colleagues from all areas of the University have built this solid reputation for Service Learning and Volunteering. It was clear to me that we are leaders in this area. This CELT-led programme, along with CELT's work in supporting teaching and learning is significantly enhancing the student learning experience. Other highlights this year in teaching

include the recent EPAS accreditation for the Business School; our appointment of Ireland's first Professor of Midwifery; the new BioInnovate programme; the continuing development of the Arts in Action programme.

Campus Developments: The official opening of the Engineering Building in July by An Taoiseach was a highlight of the year. Despite some setbacks during the year the building programme continues and we look forward to the commencement of construction on four key projects early in the new year:

- the **Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences Building** to house our archives and related research activities;
- the new **Biosciences building** to drive research and graduate education in the biomedical area
- a **Translational Research Facility** which will allow us to bring our research from bench to bedside
- and a new **Lifecourse Institute** with a focus on research in Child & Family, Ageing and Gerontology, and Disability Law and Policy

Awards and Accolades: Among the many individual and institutional successes of recent months, are a NAIRTL Award for Dr Frances McCormack; successes for our students including a Rhodes Scholarship, Undergraduate Awards and the Royal Irish Academy's Hamilton Award in Mathematics. During the year colleagues have been appointed to important academic and external positions including the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council (Professor John McHale) the Royal Irish Academy (Professors Peter McHugh, Colin O'Dowd and Donal O'Regan) and European Research Council (Professor Nicholas Canny). These representative examples serve to highlight the commitment of staff and students to the highest standards of research and teaching excellence. Congratulations to all involved.

Our alumni too continue to distinguish themselves in national life with the recent appointments of graduates and former students to the positions of President of Ireland, Taoiseach, Tánaiste, Attorney General, head of the Defence Forces and the Irish Naval Service.

Galway University Foundation

The US Board of Galway University Foundation held its 5th Annual Gala Banquet on 16 November as part of its mission to raise funds for NUI Galway's programmes and activities. This event recognised the business and philanthropic achievements of NUI Galway graduate, Adrian Jones, Goldman Sachs, who is a member of the International Advisory Board of the J.E. Cairnes Business School. Proceeds raised by this event are being used to support Autism research work underway in the School of Psychology.

The Foundation continues to support a range of key academic programmes and activities on campus. NUI Galway is fortunate to have one of the most dynamic fundraising operations within the Irish university sector, operating successfully in Ireland and the US. We are grateful for the continuing support and resources which result from the Foundation's activities.

Challenges ahead...

2012 will present its challenges. Increasing competition for students and resources; our position in the international rankings; and the uncertainty of the economic climate all pose considerable questions for us. The morale and enthusiasm of colleagues in meeting these challenges will be critical. We cannot prosper without the continuing contribution of each staff member.

As 2011 draws to a close, I'd like to thank all staff for their hard work and commitment in what has been a positive year for this University. I offer my sincere and renewed thanks to all of you for your continuing efforts. May I wish each and every staff member a peaceful and happy Christmas and every good wish for 2012.

Guím gach dea-ghuí don Nollaig agus don Bhliain Nua.

Beir bua agus beannacht,
James J. Browne Ph.D., D.Sc., MRIA, C.Eng.
Uachtarán - President

Pain Research

New findings about how the brain functions to suppress pain have been published in the leading journal *Pain*, by NUI Galway researchers. For the first time, it has been shown that the hippocampus of the brain, which is usually associated with memory, has an active role to play in suppressing pain during times of stress. The work was carried out by researchers in Pharmacology and Therapeutics and the Centre for Pain Research at the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science.

In times of immense stress or fear, pain transmission and perception can be suppressed potently in humans and other animals. This important survival response can help us cope with, or escape from, potentially life-threatening situations. An increased understanding of the biological mechanisms involved in this so-called fear-induced analgesia is important from a fundamental physiological perspective and may also advance the search for new therapeutic approaches to the treatment of pain.

Dr David Finn, Co-Director of the Centre for Pain Research and study leader said: "The body can suppress pain when under extreme stress, in part through the action of marijuana-like substances produced in the brain. What we have now identified for the first time, is that the brain's hippocampus is an important site of action of these endocannabinoids during the potent suppression of pain by fear. This research, which was funded by a grant from Science Foundation Ireland, advances our fundamental understanding of the neurobiology of pain and may facilitate the identification of new therapeutic targets for the treatment of pain and anxiety disorders."

Dr Brian McGuire, Co-Director of Centre for Pain Research and Senior Lecturer in Clinical Psychology was also awarded a grant of over €700,000 under the Health Research Board Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement programme, which aims to develop leading Irish health researchers. The research programme focuses on chronic pain (pain that lasts more than 3 months) and will fund three post-doctoral researchers from psychology, health promotion and health economics for a period of three years. The research programme will look at a number of important aspects of chronic pain including the problem of chronic pain in young children aged

5-12 years; pain management using cognitive behavioural therapy which is to be delivered over the internet; and how GPs make clinical judgments about treating people with chronic low back pain.

Widening Participation in Higher Education

The School of Education, in conjunction with the Access Office hosted a seminar in November entitled Widening Access and Participation and the Student Experience in Higher Education: Evidence from Research and Practice at NUI Galway. Imelda Byrne, Access Officer spoke on the design and delivery of access courses at NUI Galway and the successes and challenges encountered over the period of the initiative. Dr Elaine Keane, Lecturer in the School of Education presented findings from a three-year study exploring the post-entry academic and socio-cultural experiences of 45 school-leaver-aged access and traditional-entry students at an Irish university. Finally, there was a presentation from Ms Ciara Togher, a former access student and graduate who outlined her experiences as a participant of this programme.

Gender ARC

Gender ARC (Advanced Research Consortium on Gender, Culture and the Knowledge Society) was established in January 2011 following the launch of the NUI Galway - UL strategic research alliance and is affiliated with the Institute for Business, Social Science and Public Policy and the Moore Institute for Humanities and Social Studies at NUI Galway and with the Institute for the Study of Knowledge in Society at UL. Gender ARC is a research network linking more than fifty academics at both institutions who are engaged in gender-focused research across diverse disciplines. Gender ARC recently hosted two public lectures. Dr Mia Gray from University of Cambridge spoke in September on 'Inclusive Regional Development? Gendered Social Networks in an Age of Austerity'. Professor Ann Gray of the University of Lincoln gave a lecture entitled 'No-one wants to be lectured at by a woman': The gendered presentation of history on television' at UL in November. Membership of the Gender ARC is open to all researchers in NUI Galway and UL, whose current work is gender focused. Details of members' research activities and future events can be viewed on www.genderarc.org

Employment Law and Mental Health

The School of Law, sponsored by the Research Office's Millennium Fund, recently hosted a conference on Employment Law and Mental Health in Ireland. Practitioners and academics from a number of different disciplines addressed the conference. Mental Health can cover numerous issues from work related stress, post-traumatic stress disorder, or mental health problems including, for example, depression. Employers have legal obligations and requirements in respect of these employees, and it is important to understand the various issues, both legal and medical that arise in this context. The conference was organised by the School of Law's Centre for Disability Law and Policy, and the School of Law's Clinical Legal Education Programme in association with the Employment Law Association of Ireland.

NUI Galway and Tulca Festival of Visual Arts

Co-ordinated by the Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI) and the Arts Office and with the participation of the James Hardiman Library, the Huston School of Film & Digital Media and Marketing in the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, this year's Tulca Festival of Visual Arts ran a number of events in association with NUI Galway. Entitled 'After the Fall' and curated by Megs Morley, the festival presented artists' responses to the contemporary economic collapse and included exhibitions by both local and international artists.

Students in the BComm Marketing Research degree class conducted market research for Tulca, through profiling arts festival marketing in Ireland and designing and implementing a visitor survey for Tulca. The collaboration between Tulca and the Marketing Research class has brought benefits to both parties. The students got the opportunity to do marketing research in the real world and Tulca had 'extra hands' to do research work that ordinarily would not get done in a non-profit organisation.

We Volunteer!

As the European Year of Volunteering 2011 draws to a close the "We Volunteer!" exhibition, featuring students from twenty higher education institutions, celebrates its journey across college campuses and international locations including Brussels with a final reception hosted by the European Commission Representation in Ireland at European Union House.

"We Volunteer!" has sought to celebrate and acknowledge the contribution of student volunteers to their communities. The exhibition has recognised the work, time and commitment given by student volunteers who have helped lead the way in demonstrating just how much we can give back to charitable causes and community groups with our free-time.

Pictured: Nicola Brassil, 2nd year BA at NUI Galway, a volunteer with the GSPCA as part of the national exhibition "We Volunteer!" celebrating student volunteering across Irish Higher Education for the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

www.wevolunteer.ie

CIPD Symposium

The Discipline of Management presented a Symposium on Employee Voice and Engagement in November which was hosted by the Chartered Institute for Personnel Development (CIPD) and attended by over 70 HR professionals and students. Dr Tony Dundon, Dr Deirdre Curran and Eugene Hickland discussed research and practice. The discussant from industry was Tom Creedon, Medtronic's Senior Human Resources Manager. Joe Cunningham, the National Organiser from SIPTU was the trade union discussant. The event was chaired by Maureen Maloney and Dr David Collings acted as moderator.

Sports Scholarships

The University presented 32 new recipients with student Sports Scholarships at a recent ceremony in the Bailey Allen Hall. This brings the total number of students receiving sports scholarships at NUI Galway to 60.

NUI Galway Elite Sports Development Officer, former Olympic Sprinter and former Director of Coaching for Athletics Ireland, Gary Ryan, said: "The NUI Galway Sports Scholarship scheme has a broad range of extremely talented young athletes and over the past number of years we have put in place excellent supports that have helped many of our students improve their performance

significantly and to attain enormous success both in their sporting career and at the same time receiving an excellent education. Receiving this scholarship is a fantastic opportunity for these students as they will have access to some of the best people working in sport in Ireland."

Scholarship benefits include a subsistence grant, coaching, medical and physiotherapy support, performance nutrition and performance psychology, strength and conditioning as well as performance planning and mentoring. Each Scholarship is built around the individuals needs and their chosen sport.



Pictured are the 2011 NUI Galway Sports Scholarship recipients. Back row (l-r): Richard Bennett, Jason Doherty, Sean O'Connor, Éinne Ó hEochaidh, Cian Fadden, James Brophy, Kenneth Hansberry, and Gerard Hanley. Third row (l-r): Billy Lane, Dean Higgins, Gerard O'Donoghue, Colm Galvin, Kevin McGlade, Sean Moran and Brian Gaffney. Second row (l-r): Eabhnaít Scanlon, Enda Cradock, Richard Bennett, Gerard Cheevers, Ruairí McGeever, David Byrne, Freddie Timmins and Gary Sweeney. Front row (l-r): Cliona Hurst, Darren Wallace, Desmond Leonard, Joe Woods, Heather Cary, Jennifer Byrne, Chloe Morey and Eilish Ward.

Múscailt

Múscailt Arts Festival runs from 6-10 February 2012. This year the theme is Let the Light Come in and artists are already busy creating new works for campus in all media and materials.

Pop up sculptures, Lighting Shows, Protest Art, Street Art, Rubbish Art, Lighting FX, Video Art and Sculptural Crochet will all feature. Video works from Sea2sky can be seen in the University Art Gallery. New shows from Branor Theatre Company, Moonfish and Colours Theatre Company plus new writings and performances from students and staff can be seen in the Student Theatre. Múscailt guarantees to showcase original ideas for large artworks on campus and let the University community decide which ideas should bear fruit. All welcome.

For further information contact fionnuala.gallagher@nuigalway.ie and see www.muscailt.nuigalway.ie

School & Educational Building Project of the year



The New Engineering Building recently won the award for Best School/Educational Building at the Commercial Media Group's Building and Design Awards 2011.

Pictured (l-r): David McKeown, Kilsaran, Eamon McCarney, Taylor Architects, Pdraig Fahey, NUI Galway, Aidan O'Connell, BAM Building, Ivan Yates, MC.

Student & Staff Awards

National Undergraduate Award

Law student Trevor Glavey was named as one of the 23 winners of the Undergraduate Awards, an awards programme open to undergraduate students on the island of Ireland and the USA. He was awarded the Oscar Wilde Gold Medal for academic excellence in the Law category by President Mary McAleese, at the Undergraduate Awards Ceremony that was held at Dublin Castle in October.



Having graduated top in his class from Corporate Law at NUI Galway, Trevor credited his lecturer, Dr Laurent Pech, for his Undergraduate Award win and cited the University as “a fantastic place to study, full of great people doing tremendous work.” There were 2,381 submissions to the 2011 Undergraduate Awards programme, of which 237 were shortlisted. Of these 237, 23 winners were selected. NUI Galway had 11 students in the shortlist.

Hamilton Award

Applied Mathematics student Fionnuala Connolly, was recently awarded a 2011 Hamilton Award in Mathematics by the Royal Irish Academy (RIA). Awards were presented to students of Mathematics in nine of the higher education institutions in Ireland.

Fionnuala is currently in her final year of study for the Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics and was assessed along with all third-year students in all mathematical degrees taught in NUI Galway. She was judged to be the most outstanding candidate, based on her examination results in her mathematics courses.

Congratulating Fionnuala on the award, Professor Michel Destrade, Head of Applied Mathematics said: “We are delighted that Fionnuala won the Award this year. It was well deserved because she was indeed an exceptional student, not only in Applied Maths but also in Pure Maths.”



Pictured is Fionnuala Connolly with Dr Michael Tuite, Dr Ray Ryan and Professor Ted Hurley from the School of Mathematics, Statics and Applied Mathematics.

NAIRTL Award



Award winners from NAIRTL's 2011 National Awards for Excellence in Teaching (l-r): Thomas Farrell, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland; Jennifer Schweppe, University of Limerick; Aine Hyland, Chair of the NAIRTL Awards Selection Committee; Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn; Marion Palmer, Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dun Laoghaire; Frances McCormack, NUI Galway, and Kathleen Horgan, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

Lecturer in English and Vice-Dean (Learning and Assessment), Dr Frances McCormack, was among five third-level teachers recognised as exemplifying excellence in teaching at the annual National Academy for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (NAIRTL) awards ceremony in Dublin recently.

Minister Ruairi Quinn presented the awards and noted that the awardees were “Teachers who never cease in their own learning, cultivating the potential in their students, making each and every student feel recognised and valued.”

The NAIRTL Awards recognise higher education teachers who demonstrate outstanding dedication to their teaching and have made an exceptional impact on student learning.

Doctoral Award in Biomaterials

Dr Michael Keeney, a PhD graduate of NUI Galway (2010), has been awarded the prestigious European Doctoral Award for his PhD studies.

The award is made annually by the European Society for Biomaterials and confers added value to the Doctoral Degree already gained by Dr Keeney. The award is complementary to the PhD degree, and recognises the European or international dimension of work. The award also acknowledges the PhD supervisor, Professor Abhay Pandit of the Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB), proving the integration of their research at an international level. This is the first European Doctoral Award in the field of Biomaterials won by an Irish student or University.

Rhodes Award for Economics Student

Economics student Mohit Agrawal has been awarded one of the most prestigious scholarships in the world, a Rhodes Scholarship to study economics at Oxford University. Mohit is currently studying for an MA in Economic Policy Evaluation and Planning and plans to begin his studies in Oxford in September 2012.

Born and raised in West Lafayette, Indiana, in the US, Mohit enrolled in NUI Galway during September 2011, after being awarded a George J. Mitchell Scholarship, allowing him to do a postgraduate degree at any university on the island of Ireland. Mohit chose this University because he said it enabled him to further his major career goal, to combine a background in mathematics and politics to help craft economic policy. Mohit completed his undergraduate degree in mathematics and computer science at Princeton University in the United States.

Exchange with world leading Internet research centre

Siobhán McGinty, a Hardiman Scholar, has been awarded a PhD student exchange at the University of California, Riverside. A PhD student of Dr Elaine Wallace in the marketing discipline, Siobhán will work with Donna Hoffman, Chancellor's Chair and Professor of Marketing at the UCR Sloan Center for Internet Retailing.

The UCR Sloan Center is the world's leading university research center dedicated to improving the effectiveness of Internet marketing through the study of online consumer behaviour. Professor Hoffman is also the cofounder of eLab, an award winning research lab, which the Wall Street Journal has described as the ‘electronics commerce pioneer among business schools’.

Cleveland Clinic visits BioInnovate



Pictured is of the Director of BioInnovate Ireland, Dr Mark Bruzzi and Professor Terry Smith with some of the 2011-12 BioInnovate Research Fellows and delegates from the Cleveland Clinic.

NUI Galway and BioInnovate Ireland recently hosted representatives from the Cleveland Clinic and Senior Executives from the US Medical Devices Sector.

BioInnovate Ireland is a specialist training programme modelled on the Biodesign programme offered at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California. The programme operates on two levels – a Fellowship programme and a graduate education training programme (BioInnovate Class). The Fellowship programme, which commenced last August, has recruited two elite multi-disciplinary teams, each of four high-calibre Fellows, which includes experienced medical, engineering, business, technology and law graduates. BioInnovate Ireland seeks to bring

together the medical device industry, the clinical community and the academic community to underpin medical device innovation training in Ireland. The programme is subdivided into three phases: Identify, Invent and Implement. BioInnovate Ireland is being offered by: NUI Galway, DCU, UCC, UL and RCSI. BioInnovate Ireland has the support of the IMDA, SFI, Enterprise Ireland, IDA, Medtronic, Creganna, Steripak, Lake Region Medical and a team of clinicians nationally. BioInnovate Ireland is now seeking Expressions of Interest for its medical device innovation Fellowship programme with an expression of interest form available for download from www.bioinnovate.ie

PRINCE Study Research Team wins Best Poster Prize

Staff from the School of Nursing and Midwifery recently won best poster prize at the prestigious Irish Thoracic Society Scientific Meeting which was held in Dublin. The Poster and an oral presentation given by the principal investigators Professor Kathy Murphy and Dr Dympna Casey, described the findings from the HRB funded PRINCE Study which evaluated the effectiveness of a structured education pulmonary rehabilitation programme for improving the health status of people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease within primary care. The study found

that people who attended the programme were significantly better able to manage their breathing difficulties than those who did not attend.

The comprehensive findings from the PRINCE Study will be presented together with presentations from key respiratory care experts at a Respiratory Symposium focusing on respiratory management which will be held in NUI Galway in Áras Moyola on the 21 January 2012. For further details please contact dympna.casey@nuigalway.ie

European Award for BIS Programme



Pictured at the ITAG Awards from left: Mr Alan Walsh (Student, BIS), Mr Padraic De Burca, Dr Ann Torres, Ms Ann Marie Curran, Ms Kathleen Garity (Graduate, BIS), Dr James Cunningham and Dr Tom Acton. Sitting: Mr Martin Hughes and Dr Emer Mulligan

NUI Galway has been awarded EPAS accreditation for its Business and Information Systems Programme. Awarded by the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD), this accreditation confirms that the BSc in Business Information Systems (BIS) meets the highest international standards for business and management education. Achieving the accreditation is a major feat for the course, being only one of eight European undergraduate programmes to receive the five-year award.

Speaking at the formal launch of the EPAS accreditation in the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, President Browne, said: "This is a tremendous endorsement of the activities of our Business School. As one of only eight European universities to receive this quality mark, we in NUI Galway are proud of this acknowledgement of the quality of our business education programmes, and in particular the BIS degree programme."

Martin Hughes, Programme Director of the BSc BIS highlighted: "The BSc. BIS degree provides students with the ideal platform for a successful career in business - over 70% of the 2011 class were in career employment by graduation."

The BSc BIS was also recently recognised by the IT Industry in Galway by winning the "Outstanding Academic Contribution Award" at the 2011 ITAG Awards.

OLLSCÉALA

Damhsóir Conaitheach Nua

Is cúis áthais d'Ionad an Léinn Éireannaigh a fhógairt go mbeidh Róisín Ní Mhainín as Ros Muc ina Damhsóir Cónaitheach Sean-nóis san Ionad sa bhliain 2012.

Bhí Róisín ar an gcéad ghlúin damhsóirí ban a bhí i mbéal an phobail. Tá a stíl damhsa féin aici agus deir damhsóirí eile gur ceannródaí damhsa sean-nóis í sa mhílaois nua seo. Is léiriú a fheabhas a d'éirigh léi ag an Oireachtas ar an ról ceannródaíoch atá aici i measc damhsóirí sean-nóis agus i measc phobal na nealaíon dúchasach i gcoitinne.

Bhí teaghlach, cairde agus lucht leanúna Róisín faoi dhraíocht ag an damhsa a rinne sí ag an ócáid a eagraíodh le ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar a post nua. Ag fógairt an cheapacháin dó, dúirt an tOllamh Gearóid Denvir gur as tobar an dúchais i gConamara a thóg Róisín a cuid céimeanna. Léiríonn an ceapachán seo dúthracht agus díograis na hOllscoile i leith an dúchais sin.

Fad a mhairfidh an tréimhse chónaitheach, beidh Róisín ar stáitse ag imeachtaí éagsúla agus tabharfaidh sí sraith de cheardlanna damhsa ar an sean-nós in OÉ Gaillimh. Beidh an pobal in ann freastal ar na ceardlanna. Cuirfear tús leo i mí Eanáir 2012.

Major New Book Examines Celtic Tiger Cinema

Irish cinema has enjoyed unprecedented commercial and critical success over the past ten years, including Oscar nominated and winning films and box office hits internationally. A new book, *Contemporary Irish Film: New Perspectives on a National Cinema*, co-edited by Seán Crosson of the Huston School of Film & Digital Media, NUI Galway with Werner Huber of the University of Austria, brings together scholars from Ireland and abroad to provide insiders' as well as outsiders' perspectives on the situation of Irish film in a period of a socio-economic sea change: the years of the so-called Celtic Tiger.

According to Seán Crosson: "The unprecedented economic growth and immigration that Ireland experienced between 1995 and 2007 did not only challenge national but also ethnic, social and gender identities. The contributions to this volume explore how films tackle these challenges and help to make sense of Ireland's altered position in a globalised world."



New Book on Sentencing Policy

Sentencing: Towards a Coherent System by Tom O'Malley, Senior Lecturer in Law has just been published by leading law publishers, Thomson Reuters. As prison populations in Ireland and elsewhere reach record levels, governments are being forced to rethink many of the policies which held sway in recent decades, especially in regard to the use of mandatory sentences and rigid sentencing guidelines. This book provides a detailed analysis of the nature of judicial discretion and claims that a just and effective sentencing system can be devised by retaining this discretion provided it is accompanied by various judicial support systems. It includes a survey of measures adopted internationally since the early 1980s to structure judicial sentencing discretion and argues that, in small jurisdictions in particular, a reasonable balance between flexibility and consistency can be achieved without resort to some of the more drastic measures introduced in the United States and elsewhere.



New Book Tracks the Wolf – Ireland's Last Great Predator

Two decades of gathering information on wolves by Geography lecturer Kieran Hickey has resulted in a fascinating new book, *Wolves in Ireland*.

In this book, Kieran examines a vast array of sources relating to wolves in Ireland. He considers archaeological remains, name evidence (place and person, both in Irish and in English) and folklore. He also provides a fascinating account of wolf attacks on livestock, and more rarely people, and describes how the extermination of wolves took place. The last wolf was killed, most likely in 1786.



NUI Galway Ranked in the Top 10 Study Abroad Destinations in the World

NUI Galway was recently named one of the world's top study abroad destinations by the influential student website studyabroad101.com. The IFSA Butler programme at NUI Galway was ranked number 4 in the world overall out of total of international 10,000 programmes.

Speaking of the announcement, Anna Cunningham, Director of International Affairs said: "We see this as a great endorsement of the long established programme for visiting students here at NUI Galway. It reflects the commitment shown by the University's academic and support staff and our partner organisations including IFSA Butler in providing a welcoming and

academically stimulating experience for international students. In recent years we have significantly expanded our course offering for visiting students and also introduced a number of bespoke courses in the areas of service learning and Irish indigenous arts to augment the overall experience of international students at NUI Galway.

Studyabroad101.com is a study abroad review website similar to sites such as TripAdvisor.com which compiles study abroad programme evaluations from students themselves based on academics, housing, safety and cultural activities.

In Brief

RTÉ Broadcaster Reaches Out to Fellow Galway Grads

RTÉ Broadcaster Seán O'Rourke and NUI Galway have joined forces for a new University initiative to re-establish contact with its graduates. Using a novel combination of web video and text messaging to reach out to its alumni and highlight the benefits of keeping in touch.

O'Rourke has recorded a short web video appeal which will feature on www.nuigalway.ie/alumni-friends/get-in-touch explaining how easy it is to get back in touch with the University, and asking those who see it to pass on the message.

Graduates, he explains, are simply being asked to text the word GRAD, followed by a space, and the year of their graduation, to 51000. "The Alumni office in NUI Galway", says O'Rourke, "will then get in touch and re-establish contact."

Music Week

Campus was alive with music during the Societies Office dedicated music week which ran from 14 to 18 November. Music Week was a showcase of all the musical talent on the University campus, along with special guests. There were a variety of concerts and sessions throughout the week as well as many music based events. Highlights included the final of NUI Galway's Got Talent with €1,000 prize for the winner and an Arts in Action concert featuring Frankie Gavin, Máirtín Ó Connor and Carl Hession.

New Travel App, Ireland: Are We There Yet?

NUI Galway graduate (MA in Publishing) Ann Brehony has just launched the essential family holiday helper through her first digital mobile app in the App Store. The app Ireland: Are We There Yet? was released through a publishing deal with an American digital travel publisher Sutro Media. Featuring over 130 places to visit in Ireland with kids, this app provides families with an invaluable tool that will keep everyone happy on daytrips or holidays.

Publishers Sutro Media say "This app is like the local cousin you never knew you had! It has sussed the best ways to visit Ireland with kids so you don't have to do the legwork. This app is written with genuine insight, humour and charm and is packed with places to go and things to do with kids on holiday in Ireland." http://sutromedia.com/apps/Ireland_Are_We_There_Yet

Executive MBA Inaugural International Study Trip to US

The Executive MBA class 2010-2012 recently participated in the inaugural international study trip to Fordham University in the New York City. Twenty seven students and four academic staff members participated in the prestigious Fordham Global Gateway programme at Fordham University's Graduate School of Business. The week-long programme incorporated unique workshops, lectures and corporate visits exposing students to cutting-edge thinking from the business world in the US. Students went on field trips to Bloomberg headquarters and Tiffany. During the programme, lectures were given by leading US business experts and academics on contemporary business issues including international finance, global sustainability, leadership and change management, international markets, and corporate social responsibility. One of the highlights of the event was an honorary reception for the MBA class hosted by a former NUI Galway alumnus, Adrian Jones, at Goldman Sachs in conjunction with Galway University Foundation.

School of Chemistry Postgraduate Reunion

The contribution of research graduates of the School of Chemistry to Ireland and beyond was marked at a special reunion celebration in Galway in October. The majority of the research graduates, including more than 300 PhD graduates, from the School have made major contributions to Ireland's highly successful Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Biopharmaceutical and Medical Device Industry. The event, attended by over 125 graduates, was organised jointly by the Alumni Office and School of Chemistry. Sponsorship of the event was generously provided by Pfizer Ireland, Roche Ireland and NUI Galway.

International Gerontology Network

The Irish Centre for Social Gerontology has been accepted as a member of the IAGG's Global Ageing Research Network (GARN). The International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics is creating a network of more than 500 international centres of excellence on ageing to foster the scientific development of gerontology and geriatrics around the world. GARN will develop international research capacity in ageing research and provide a valuable means of exchanging information. ICSG is proud to have been selected to join this prestigious network and

looks forward to helping the IAGG to meet its objectives. Read about GARN here (<http://www.iagg.info/iagg-who/research-network>)

Legal Matters

On 19 October NUI Galway celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the Italian Unification by hosting an historical quiz for students in the Orbsen Building. Images relating to Italian history from antiquity to the present adorned the atrium of the Orbsen Building, making it our very little Italy for one day. The celebration culminated with the award of a series of prizes, comprising books Cds and DVDs, to students. The awards were presented by the Registrar, Professor Nollaig MacCongáil, the Honorary Consul of Italy, Dr Fabio Bartolozzi, and the Professor of Italian, Paolo Bartoloni. Oisín Mc Donagh, a first Year student of Italian, was awarded the first prize.

Visiting Professor in Social Gerontology

The Irish Centre for Social Gerontology welcomes Professor Vanessa Burholt, Swansea University, as a visiting fellow to its Rural Ageing Observatory. Professor Burholt, a distinguished social gerontologist with a background in sociology and psychology, will be at ICSG until February 2012. Professor Burholt has published widely on such topics as rural ageing; attachment to place in later life; housing and migration of older people (including ethnic minority elders); intergenerational relationships; and support and social relationships of ageing adults. She is particularly interested in participatory research with older people. During her time at the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, Professor Burholt will work with the Centre's research team to develop its rural ageing research agenda.

A GEM!

Dr Alessandra Costanzo, a Postdoctoral researcher at the Earth and Ocean Sciences, School of Natural Sciences, currently teaching at Diploma in Scientific studies (Gemmology) recently attended an event in London at the Goldsmiths' Hall where she was awarded with the prestigious Diploma in Gemmology and became Fellow of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain. Dr Costanzo is currently carrying out the GEM Diamond Diploma, which, on completion, will give the additional title of Diamond Members of The Gemmological Association.

On a Mature Note!

The Mature Students Office held an Information Evening in November for members of the public thinking of returning to formal education where over 70 attendees found out more about degrees offered by NUI Galway and the criteria to enter and apply as a mature applicant. The main programmes that were of interest were Law, the new Bachelor of Arts in Drama and Performance and Health Science degrees.

Each year NUI Galway takes in approximately 350 mature students that make up at least 10% of

the student population. Currently the Access Office in association with the Mature Students Office and collaboration with GMT have 100 part-time mature students enrolled in the Springboard Funded Diploma in Engineering, Science and Technology, who upon completion will go into full-time/part-time degrees in these areas in 2012. There are 43 enrolled in the part-time Commerce Foundation Course who are looking forward to studying full-time or part-time degrees in Business upon completion.

These foundation courses are beneficial to the mature person considering degrees in these areas who may not have had the opportunity of even completing a Leaving Certificate in the past or who may have started third level in the past but could not complete due to personal reasons. NUI Galway welcomes and supports non-traditional mature learners and offers advice on how they can achieve their academic goals throughout their time with the University.



Pictured is Frances O' Malley with her girls Ciara (pink dress) and Aisling (navy dress), a recent Mature Graduate in Sociology and Psychology.

Mr Peter Faherty retired from the University in July of this year after 38 years service. Peter worked in the Buildings Office primarily as Head Porter and in latter years as Facilities Services Supervisor but his association with the University spans 50 years, back to the time he and his family resided in the Archway of the Quadrangle. Peter's father was Head Porter before him and he grew up with the University expanding around him. Peter is and always will be an enormously popular

personality on campus and his family, friends and colleagues gathered at the Students Union Bar on Wednesday 30 November to celebrate his wonderful contribution to the University. Peter shared many warm and humorous memories of University life with all who attended and a fantastic evening was had by all.

Peter is pictured (centre) with John Gibney, Director of Physical Resources and President Browne.

Nobel Laureate Donation of Books

The Nobel laureate poet Seamus Heaney has made a generous donation of books in Italian about the history of ancient civilisations and Christianity, contemporary Italian poetry, and a selection of his own texts translated into Italian and signed by the author, to the Discipline of Italian Studies. The donation was made in recognition of the mutual friendship with the Kavanagh family, and in memory of Rory Kavanagh, former student of Italian.

The books have been placed in the office of Italian, Room 310, Arts Millennium Building. While they will not be available for borrowing, the texts can be viewed and consulted on the premises by appointment. For more information please contact Margaret.logan@nuigalway.ie.

Italian Studies would like to express its gratitude to Seamus Heaney and the Kavanagh family for their ongoing support and friendship.

