



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh



# STAFF NEWSLETTER

## New Beginnings

*Staff from the new Institute for Lifecourse and Society moved into their new home in the north campus at the end of last year. As we all look forward to a new year on campus, take a look inside at some of our successes from the end of 2014.*

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... and more!

# OLLSCÉALA

## Focal ón Uachtarán



A Chairde,

Agus muid ag breathnú siar ar 2014, is féidir linn machnamh a dhéanamh ar bhliain rathúil. As 2014 draws to a close, we can reflect on a year of some challenges and many achievements.

### Our International Reputation

The efforts of colleagues across the University were rewarded by our improvement in the main World University rankings – re-confirming that our position globally is on the rise.

This is great news for Galway. Despite significant cuts and increased student numbers, we have gone against the tide to secure a consistent improvement in what are very competitive rankings.

Jumping 53 places on last year's position, we're now ranked 261st in the world in this year's *Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings* and have risen to 280th place in the *QS World University Rankings*. This sustained upward trajectory is testament to the ambition and drive shared across our University.

Of course, you cannot measure the value and worth of a university in rankings alone, but taken together it is a great result. Thank you for your hard work and commitment – which is enhancing the international reputation of our University.

### Our Campus

In the course of the past year, three major new buildings have been officially opened. In February the **Biomedical Sciences Research Building** in Dangan was opened by An Taoiseach who described it as “mind blowing”. Both the **Hardiman Research Building** and the new **School of Psychology** building were opened by Ruairí Quinn, then Minister for Education in May.

During the year we completed the **LifeCourse Institute** building in Dangan and construction is almost finished on the **Clinical/Translational Research Facility** on the grounds of University Hospital Galway. Both of these major research buildings will be officially opened early in 2015.

Looking ahead, we will begin building the Human Biology building and the new Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance early in the New Year.

These achievements are all the more remarkable considering difficulties in recent years in the public finances and great credit for this must go to the Buildings Office and to Galway University Foundation for their hard work and support.

People regularly speak to me about the beauty of our campus which has undergone a range of landscaping and other enhancements this year. I thank all involved in capital projects and estates management for making such a tangible difference to the appearance of our campus.

### Our Visitors

Throughout the year we welcomed many visitors to the campus. The Conference Office report a great year for conferences, events and summer schools. More than 100 events were held on campus attracting 12,000 delegates while over 52,000 summer visitors stayed in our residences, generating a combined turnover on activities of €5.8 million.

There was a tremendous range of events held here including international conferences hosted by NUI Galway staff and others; summer schools

## Familiar Faces



1. Pictured at the launch of the archive of world-renowned human rights lawyer and scholar, Professor Kevin Boyle, were: Bernadette McAliskey, South Tyrone Empowerment Programme; Lelia Doolan, Picture Palace; Fionnuala Flanagan, actress and NUI Galway honorary graduate; and Margareta D'Arcy, Peace Activist.
2. Galway Senior Hurler, Fergal Moore, visited campus during Mental Health Week in October to launch a new series of cards promoting 'Art and Positive Mental Health'. While on campus, Fergal also announced a new online magazine for students called *Student Health 101*, which is edited by Health Promotion Co-ordinator, Cindy Dring.
3. If you haven't heard of *Threesis* – where have you been hiding? Each year, our most engaging researchers introduce us to their fascinating work – with three slides and in just three minutes. The ultimate winner this year was Edel Browne (pictured centre) for her presentation on an innovative treatment for Parkinson's Disease. Pictured at the awards are: Vice-President for the Student Experience, Dr Pat Morgan; Caroline Crawford (Irish Independent); Máire-Caitlín Casey (audience prize winner); Dr Marcus McHale (Plant and Agricultural Biosciences Centre); Killian O'Brien (3rd prize winner); Anne O'Connor (2nd prize winner); and celebrity MC for the evening and presenter of TV3's *The Lie* and RTE's *The Science Squad*, Jonathan McCrea.

from US universities; and a range of institutional events. Among the highlights were the **two major exhibitions held in the new Hardiman Building**, namely, Performing Ireland showcasing the Abbey Theatre Archive Digitisation Project and an exhibition to honour the achievements of Tim Robinson, Interpreting Landscape which runs until 31 January 2015.

I'd like to encourage staff to invite conferences, exhibitions and events to campus. Please contact colleagues in the Conference Office to see how we can help you to bring your event to NUI Galway.

### Global Presence

Another highlight of this past year was NUI Galway's participation in the very significant State Visit to China this month, led by President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins. On December 9, I had the privilege of being in Beijing's Great Hall of the People to sign a high-level agreement for student exchange with Tsinghua University – China's premier academic institution for science and engineering. The signing was witnessed by President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, and Chinese President, Xi Jinping, both of whom are alumni of the respective universities.

### Our Future

As you know, this year saw the completion of our Strategic Plan 2015-2020, which will be published in the New Year. This Plan looks to the future and we can all be encouraged by its strong sense of ambition and its drive towards further success.

You will all know that in recent weeks the issue of gender equality in this University and in the higher education sector has come under scrutiny. This is a deep-rooted challenge which we will address. At the last meeting of Údarás na hOllscoile, we agreed the first of a series of targeted actions. We undertook to review the Senior Lecturer promotion process; we established a Task Force to review our gender equality policies; and we requested the Irish University Association and Higher Education Authority to formally call on the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) to carry out an Equality Review of the entire Higher Education sector. These steps are just a start in dealing with a complex and systemic issue, which I am committed to addressing in a meaningful way.

So, we can reflect on a year of achievement and success. 2015 will present its own challenges, but we are making great progress and well-placed to achieve even more. We cannot prosper without the continuing contribution of each staff member. I'd like to offer my renewed thanks for your efforts. May I wish you and yours a peaceful and Happy New Year. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go leir.

Beannachtaí don bhliain nua atá romhainn.  
**James J. Browne PhD, DSc, MRIA, C.Eng**  
*Uachtarán – President*



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

## Appointments



### Academic Secretary

Caroline Loughnane was recently appointed Academic Secretary, following the retirement of Mike Kavanagh. Caroline joined the University in 2008 as Director of Marketing and Communications, coming from the University of Birmingham where she was Head of Marketing. She led the rebranding of the University, including the new logo, and over the years she has greatly expanded the range of services offered by the Office in the areas of marketing, student recruitment, outreach, and press and public relations. On behalf of our colleagues in the Marketing and Communications Office, the Ollscéala team would like to wish Caroline every success in her new role.

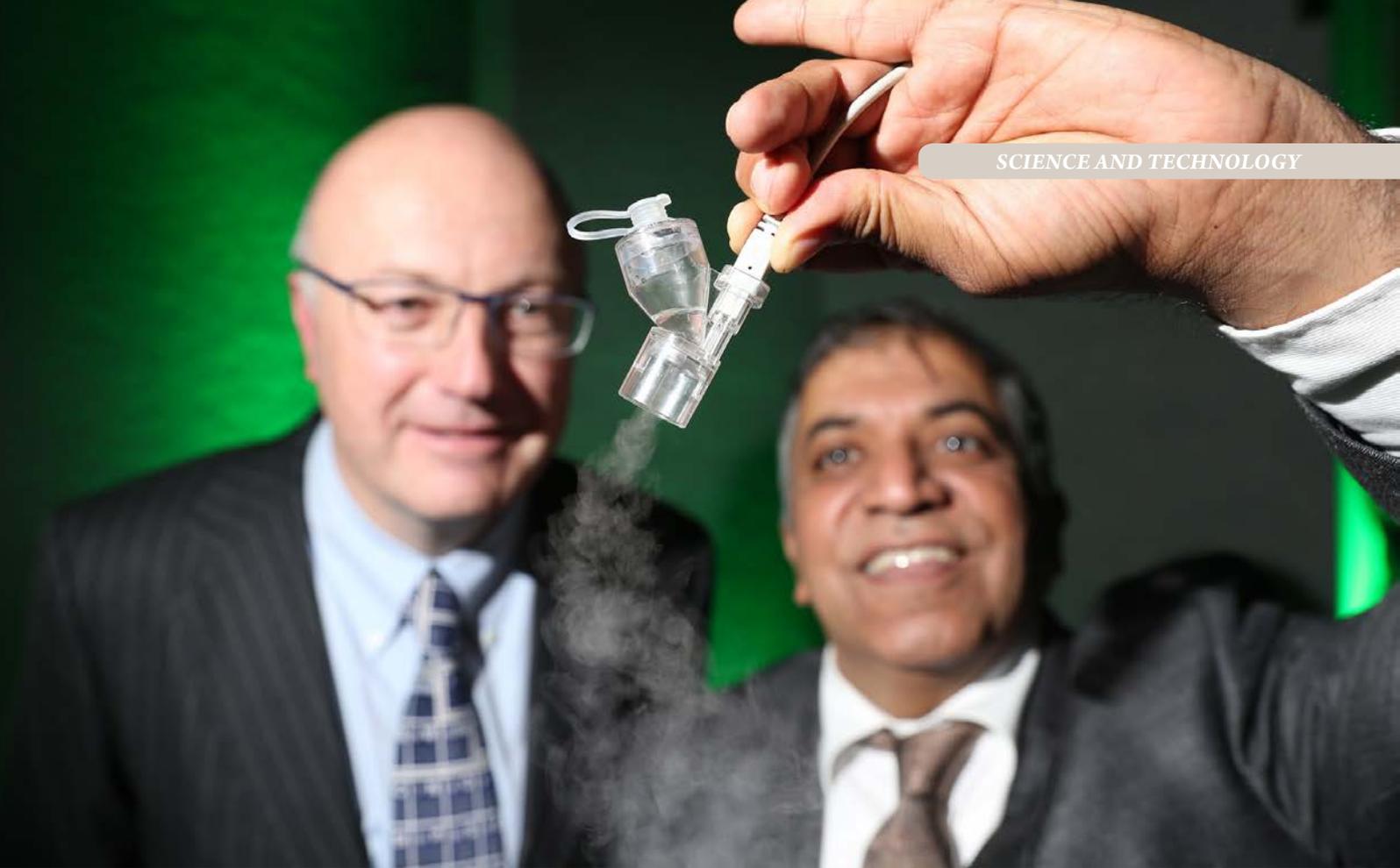


### Dean of Science

Professor Dónal Leech was recently appointed Dean of the College of Science, following the retirement of Professor Tom Sherry. Dónal has worked in the University for 17 years, and is Personal Professor in the School of Chemistry, as well as Director of the Biomolecular Electronics Research Laboratory on campus. We wish Dónal every success as he gives leadership to the College into the future.

### Alumni Relations

Galway University Foundation would like to announce the appointment of Catherine Conroy to her new role as Alumni Relations Manager. Catherine replaces Colm O'Dwyer, who is taking up a position in the Access Office. Catherine will play an important role in strengthening our network of alumni, which numbers over 90,000 internationally.



## SFI CENTRE SUCCESS

**NUI Galway researchers will be involved in three of the five new research centres announced by Science Foundation Ireland in October as part of a €245 million investment in science and technology.**

### Cúram Centre for Medical Devices

The University will lead a new world-class medical device research centre named Cúram, which will be based on campus in the Biomedical Sciences Research Building. Its aim is to radically improve health outcomes for patients by developing implantable medical devices to treat some of the world's most pressing illnesses. Cúram will receive almost €50 million in total, from a combination of SFI and industry investment. Congratulations to the new Cúram Director, Professor Abhay Pandit, who led the bid team and who is pictured here with SFI Director General, Professor Mark Ferguson, at the funding announcement.

### iCrag and Lero

NUI Galway will play a key role in two other research centres announced in October. Professor Peter Croot (Earth and Ocean Science) is a co-PI in the new iCrag Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences based in UCD. This centre will carry out research to find and harness new raw materials, water and energy resources in environmentally-friendly ways. Meanwhile, Dr Kieran Conboy, Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law, will lead a team of 14 researchers on a project as part of the new Lero Software Engineering Research Centre, which is aimed at making advances in the design and development of new computer software.

## Campus Start-Up Secures €3 Million Investment



Embo Medical a medtech start-up based in the Business Innovation Centre on campus has secured €3 million in seed funding. The investment will be used to develop new devices that help shut down blood flow in blood vessels when treating a range of diseases, including cancers, internal haemorrhage and aneurysms. The company aims to create ten jobs over the next two years as a result of the investment. Pictured (left-right) are Embo Medical co-founders Liam Mullins, Wayne Allen and Colin Forde, who were all part of the inaugural BioInnovate Ireland Fellowship, a specialist medical device innovation programme.

## Galway-Tsinghua Agreement



In the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, witnessed by both the Presidents of China and Ireland, President Jim Browne signed a special agreement between NUI Galway and Tsinghua University, Beijing. The agreement to collaborate on education and research activities was co-signed by Ms Chen Xu, Chairperson of Tsinghua University Council, as part of President Higgins State Visit to China. The occasion was particularly fitting as President Higgins and Chinese President Xi Jinping are graduates of NUI Galway and

Tsinghua University respectively. The new agreement will create opportunities for greater collaboration – including joint research programmes, shared seminars, and opportunities for faculty, researcher and student exchange – and it promises to build on a history of successful partnership between the two universities. In research, a three-year EU project on cancer biomarkers led by NUI Galway, with Tsinghua University as a partner, has just come to completion. Furthermore, 27 Tsinghua graduates

have come to NUI Galway over the past twenty years to pursue postgraduate degrees, and several senior academic positions at Tsinghua University are held by NUI Galway graduates. President Browne, who has supervised many Tsinghua graduates, welcomed the new agreement: “With this signing we look forward to deepening our collaboration, resulting in greater student mobility between the two universities, as well as building new partnerships on a range of research fronts.”

Watch a clip from Chinese State TV’s coverage of the event at [www.nuigalway.ie/tsinghua](http://www.nuigalway.ie/tsinghua)

## Kevin Boyle: A Life Dedicated to Human Rights

The legacy of world-renowned human rights lawyer and scholar, the late Professor Kevin Boyle, was celebrated in November with the launch of his personal archive in the University. The collection of over one hundred boxes of manuscripts and printed books will now be held at the James Hardiman Library, and will be a major resource for the study and teaching of human rights. Professor Boyle, who came originally from Newry, joined NUI Galway in the 1970s where he co-founded the Irish Centre for Human Rights with Denny Driscoll in 1980. In addition to his enormous academic contribution, Professor Boyle was active with important international NGOs such as Amnesty International and Article 19, of which he was the founding director. He served as a special advisor to Mary Robinson when she was UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 2001, and appeared frequently before the European Court for Human Rights. Pictured at the launch of the archive is Joan Boyle, wife of the late Professor Boyle, with President Jim Browne. You can read more about the symposium that accompanied the launch on Page 8.





## RESEARCH IN ACTION

### 2014 was filled with exciting advances and announcements from our research community. The last three months were no exception...

Engineering students, including Mary Rose McCloone (pictured above), have been busy designing and building **Ireland's most fuel-efficient car** – nicknamed the 'Geec' (Galway energy-efficient car). The Geec, which can drive from Galway to Dublin on less than €1 worth of electricity, will compete against 200 other teams at Shell Eco-marathon Europe in Rotterdam next year. The team of students are studying a mixture of Mechanical, Electrical, and Electronic and Energy Systems Engineering, and they will be the first team ever to represent Ireland in the event. They are currently testing and tuning the car in time for the competition in May.

An international study led by the Irish Critical Care Trials group, and involving staff in our HRB Clinical Research Facility, recently published the results of a trial aimed at **improving the treatment of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)**. The four-year study focused on the use of statins to treat the condition, in particular the efficacy of the drug simvastatin. 540 patients were involved in the study, with the results published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. It concluded that while statin therapy demonstrated considerable promise in early phase clinical studies, simvastatin does not result in better outcomes for patients with the syndrome.

The Irish Centre for Human Rights (ICHR), in close collaboration with the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL), has won a major contract for **Irish Law and Social Data Research**, and will become Ireland's new focal point for the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency. This means that a team of human rights and social science experts from the ICHR/ICCL will be entrusted to provide data from Ireland, which will go on to inform EU policy and initiatives across member states. The research will focus on a wide range of pressing issues, including immigration, asylum, and the rights of the child.

**Healthy diets are good for the kidneys**, and not just the heart. This is according to a study involving samples from over 500,000 Americans aged 50-71, undertaken by Dr Andrew Smyth (Medicine). The results showed that using three systems for scoring diets, people with the highest scores for diet quality had the lowest risk of kidney problems. 'Quality' in this case was defined as eating plenty of healthy foods, like fruits and vegetables, and eating low amounts of unhealthy foods, like fried or sugary foods.

Insight, the national Centre for Data Analytics, recently announced an investment of over €1 million in joint research and innovation projects with the European Commission. Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of the Digital Agenda, announced the funding, which is aimed at exploring the new technology-driven **opportunities for social and economic progress that come with Big Data**. Insight's Dr Edward Curry welcomed the announcement, saying it had "the potential to be the game changer to scale a data-driven economy in Europe."

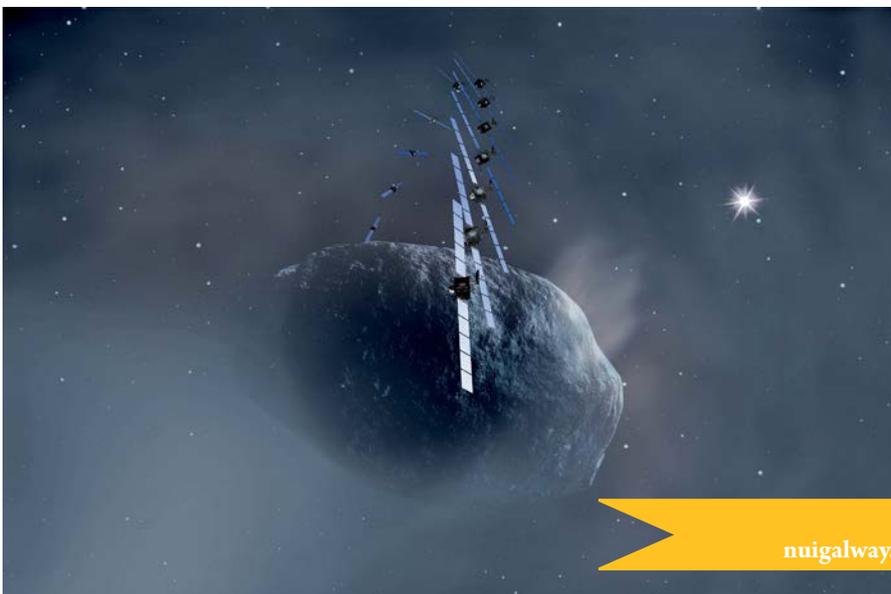
Did you hear that TOMI has a partner? Professor Martin Leahy, Director of the University's **Tissue Optics and Microcirculation Imaging (TOMI)** Laboratory, recently announced an extension to their research collaboration with American company Compact Imaging, Inc. The partnership will focus on developing new applications using optical coherence tomography, or OCT: an imaging technique similar to ultrasound, but employing light rather than sound. The applications will be used in innovative ways, including in mobile health monitoring devices and identity verification.



Arachnophobes look away now! Undergraduate Zoology student, Aileen Wruck, has been **collecting spiders around Galway city** as part of her final year research project. Since October she has trapped spiders in a variety of locations, including stone walls, attics and public staircases, and her collection currently consists of over 100 specimens from 30 different species. Aileen's most prized catch is her two false black widows – a non-native species with a nasty bite. She is supervised by Dr Michel Dugon, who presents *Bug Hunters* on RTÉ television and who is no stranger to large arachnids.



Scientists in the Apoptosis Research Centre have recently described a **novel pathway that triggers cell death**. The research team – (from left) Dr Svetlana Saveljeva, Karolina Pakos-Zebrucka, and Dr Susan Logue – is led by Professor Afshin Samali (pictured right), and worked with colleagues at VIB Ghent on the discovery. It highlights a new pathway that can be exploited for the treatment of tumour cells resistant to common chemotherapy. The results were published recently in *Autophagy*, one of the world's leading biochemistry journals.



Did you know a comet was spotted in the Kirwan Theatre in November? Professor Andy Shearer from the School of Physics held a special lecture to mark **the successful landing of the Philae space probe** onto the surface of a comet. It was the first time such a landing was attempted, and the lecture responded to the great public interest in the mission. During the lecture Professor Shearer made a comet, using its normal raw ingredients: water, organic tar and gravel, mixed at very cold conditions (the homemade comet was cooled to -170 degrees celsius).

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



## RESEARCH GATHERINGS

The campus played host to a number of conferences and seminars over the past three months, the highlight of which was the launch of the Professor Kevin Boyle archive.

At a symposium to mark the **launch of the Professor Kevin Boyle archive** in November, the Chair of the UN Human Rights Committee, Professor Sir Nigel Rodley (pictured above) gave a keynote address, praising the activism and advocacy of the late human rights scholar. Sir Rodley was not the only distinguished contributor to the symposium – via a video address, former President Mary Robinson expressed her pleasure that Boyle’s archive would “enrich scholarship and activism from Galway for the betterment of the world.” The archive of over 100 books and manuscripts has now been catalogued by the James Hardiman Library, and was formally launched at the event by the Attorney General – and NUI Galway graduate – Máire Whelan, SC.

The Insight Centre for Data Analytics hosted a major international workshop in October on the subject of **Controlled Natural Language**. CNL is a simplified language with restricted vocabulary and grammar, which can be used to improve technical communication among humans, especially for non-native speakers. There was particularly strong European involvement in the workshop, with expert speakers from the Netherlands and Switzerland.

In October, the staff of Philosophy hosted a public lecture by Professor Jonathan Wolff,

as part of the **President of Ireland’s Ethics Initiative**. Wolff, who is Professor of Psychology in University College London, addressed a packed Aula Maxima on the theme of social equality and poverty. The Ethics Initiative seeks to explore the challenge of living ethically in today’s world.

Ebola continues to make the news headlines, and in November the School of Nursing and Midwifery hosted a public lecture on the virus. Dr Diarmuid O’Donovan recently returned from working with the World Health Organisation on **the Ebola response**, and he spoke of how the virus spreads and, most importantly, how the outbreak can be contained. He was joined by Evelyn Byrne who explained why hand-washing is so important in preventing Ebola from spreading further.

It has taken only seven years for smartphones to become the dominant mobile device. A public talk in December investigated what the next seven years might hold for **smartphone technology**. The event was hosted by the College of Engineering and Informatics and included a talk by Dr Peter Corcoran (Electrical and Electronic Engineering) on aspects of ‘Security, Privacy and Biometric technology in Smartphones’. Dr Corcoran recently became the first-ever awardee under SFI’s Strategic

Partnership Programme fund. He received over €700,000 from SFI to fund his research into next generation smartphone imaging, a sum that will be matched by industry.

The Biomedical Sciences Research Building played host to the **first annual meeting of Matrix Biology Ireland** in November. MBI is a recently established society that aims to promote and consolidate expertise in the Extracellular Matrix – a network located outside our body’s cells that provides cells with the necessary environment to carry out their vital functions. This is a hugely important area of research in the University, and the event attracted experts from around the world to Galway. MBI was founded by two of our researchers – Dr Fabio Quondamatteo (Anatomy) and Dr Dimitrios Zeugolis (Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering) – with support from colleagues across a number of our bioscience research groups.

A conference organised by the School of Education in December, and chaired by Senator Fidelma Healy Eames, focused on how **reforming our education system** could drive further success. Finnish Educator, Professor Pasi Sahlburg, delivered a keynote address that looked at the top education systems around the world and sought to learn lessons from how

they worked. Other high profile contributors included former Minister for Education, Ruairi Quinn, former Governor of Mountjoy Prison, John Lonergan, Emer Smyth from ESRI, and Helen Mortimer from the National Parents Council. Head of the School of Education, Dr Mary Fleming, welcomed the constructive dialogue that the panel discussions inspired.

The Evolving Open Software Systems research group in the Whitaker Institute brought experts and industry together on campus in October to discuss **the future of cloud computing**. Over 60 delegates attended the event, where they heard of the latest research into the field by NUI Galway researchers, as well as case studies from industry on how cloud computing has been successfully leveraged. Participating companies included Avaya, IBM, HP and Cisco, as well as a number of smaller start-ups involved in the industry.

The first ever **Galway Start-up Weekend** was held in November, and was hailed as a huge success by organisers and visitors alike. The three-day event brought developers, designers and entrepreneurs together to pitch their ideas for new start-ups. Congratulations to Gofran Shukair (Fujitsu Ireland) and Emir Munoz (PhD student with Insight) who won €2,500 of office space in the Galway Technology Centre for their winning pitch called 'Friendship It'. Gofran and Emir's new start-up would enable friends to share the cost of shipping goods between them. The success of Galway Start-up Weekend caused some people to christen Galway as "the San Francisco of Ireland". Now if only we could get the weather!

Professor Mick Moloney (New York University), one of the leading commentators on Irish traditional music and an accomplished performer in his own right, gave an illustrated lecture on **'The Evolution of Old Time American, Country, and Blue Grass Music'** on campus in November. Co-sponsored by the Moore Institute and Arts in Action, the event attracted an audience of 250, who enjoyed Moloney's illustrated talk with audio and video demonstrating the Irish origins of singing styles in Appalachia and other forms of country music. He also showed the interplay between Irish dance styles and tap traditions, in the often fraught context of racial interaction in America.

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



Professor Ninetta Santoro (Strathclyde University, Glasgow), with Dr Manuela Heinz and Dr Elaine Keane (Education), at the research seminar on **Initial Teacher Education and Teaching** in October. Drs Heinz and Keane are Principal Investigators of the IRC-funded research project Diversity in Initial Teacher Education in Ireland.



A **conference on Pricing Healthcare** attracted health researchers, policy makers, business and industry to campus in November. Pictured at the conference are: Conference Chair, Brendan Kennelly, and Dr Paddy Gillespie (Economics); Maureen Cronin (HSE); President Jim Browne; Loretto Callaghan (Novartis Ireland); Ian Addie (VHI); Dr John Carey (Medicine); and Dr Sara Burke (TCD).



The Beaufort Visiting Professor of Marine Biodiscovery, and renowned Antarctic Explorer, Professor Bill Baker, hosted a public lecture in November that was focused on **the challenges and rewards of working in extreme environments**. An audience of over 200 heard of his adventures searching for various chemicals found in marine organisms



December saw the Annual Meeting of the **Network of European Central Nervous System Transplantation and Restoration (NECTAR)** held in Ireland for the first time. The meeting was marked with a major conference on neurodegenerative diseases, which discussed the latest developments in cell and gene therapies for conditions such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases. Pictured at the conference are: Dr Mary Baker, MBE, Immediate Past President of the European Brain Council; Mrs Sheila Roy who spoke about her battle with Parkinson's disease, and Conference Chair, Dr Eilís Dowd (Pharmacology and Therapeutics).

# GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

## African State Visit



There were two NUI Galway connections to the recent State Visit to Africa by President Michael D Higgins. On his visit to South Africa, the President delivered an address on human rights at the University of Witwatersrand, where he was hosted by Professor Vinodh Jaichand (pictured), Head of the School of Law there. Professor Jaichand is a former staff member in our own Irish Centre for Human Rights. Meanwhile, on his visit to Malawi the President met with Jelisati Chabwera, who recently finished an MSc in Health Economics in Galway. Jelisati received an Irish Aid Fellowship to fund his studies in Ireland, and while here he carried out a pioneering study of health insurance take-up in Malawi.

## External Honours & Appointments

**Professor Ruth Curtis** was recently appointed Fellow of the European Health Psychology Society for her contribution to the advancement of health psychology through research, education and public service. Although retired, Professor Curtis is still actively involved in the Health and Wellbeing Research Cluster in the School of Psychology.

**Professor Tony Dundon** (Management) has been conferred as Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. Professor Dundon is one of 34 leading social scientists to receive the award at a recent ceremony.

**Dr Charles O'Mahony** (Law) has been elected as President of the Irish Association of Law Teachers (IALT). Dr O'Mahony is Co-programme Director of our LLM in Public Law.

At a recent ceremony in Washington, **Professor Gerard Quinn** (Centre for Disability Law and Policy) was honoured alongside Senator Tom Harkin by the US International Council on Disabilities. The honour was made in recognition of his work in the field of disability law and policy.

Law lecturer, **Dr Ciara Smyth**, has been appointed to the government's Working Group on Asylum. The Working Group, which is chaired by retired High Court judge, Mr Justice Bryan McMahon, is to recommend to Government what improvements should be made to the State's direct provision and protection processes for asylum seekers.

## From Russia with Literature

Anton Chekhov was the subject of a novel collaboration between the Russian State Art Library and our own James Hardiman Library in October, when an archive of material relating to his seminal play 'The Seagull' went on display in the University. The co-exhibition featured material from both libraries telling the story of the production and stage history of the Chekhovian classic. The University's Thomas Kilroy archive contains many unique sources relating to Kilroy's translation and adaptation of the play. Kilroy was Professor of English in Galway in the 1980s. The exhibition highlighted how across cultures, languages and centuries, theatre and its impact can remain unchanged.

## Celebrating German Culture



There was a *Doppelpack* of German culture on campus recently, when the Discipline of German organised events to celebrate two creative figures from Germany. In October, the University's art gallery – An Dialann – was home to an exhibition of works by the Bavarian artist Caspar Walter Rauh. It included over 40 of Rauh's surreal etchings, displaying outlandish creatures and fantasy worlds in black and white. The exhibition curators, Michael Shields and Professor Hans-Walter Schmidt-Hannisa (German), invited cultural attaché to the German embassy, Peter Adams (pictured), to launch the three-week exhibition. In November, the Berlin-based writer Katja Lange-Müller paid a visit to the University, where she took part in a research seminar during which she discussed her 2007 novel *Böse Shafe*. Lange-Müller, who won the Kleist Prize for German literature in 2013, also gave a reading of her work to undergraduate students.

## Dioplóma nua sa Chultúr Dúchais



A new Diploma in Traditional Culture was launched by Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge in Carna in October. The programme will be delivered through blended learning, using a combination of web resources and workshops in the University's Gaeltacht centres. I measc na n-ábhar a chuirfeadh an Dioplóma nua, beidh: Gnéithe den Bhéaloideas, na hEalaíona Dúchais, Cultúr Ábhartha, Nómshaireacht Thraidisiúnta agus an Amhránaíocht. Dar le Príomhfheidhmeannach Údarás na Gaeltachta, Steve Ó Cualáin: "Leis an modh seachadadh nuálaíoch seo cruthaítear deis cultúr uathúil na Gaeltachta a chur i láthair pobal níos leithne ná riamh agus deiseanna oibre a chothú bunaithe ar na hacmhainní dúchasacha." Ag seoladh an Dioplóma i gCarna, bhí (ó chlé): Dónall Ó Braonáin, Príomhfheidhmeannach Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge; Dónal Ó Droighneáin, Stiúrthóir an Chláir; Séamas Ó Concheanainn, Riarthóir Ionad an Acadaimh, Carna; agus Steve Ó Cúláin, Príomhfheidhmeannach Údarás na Gaeltachta.

## Na Dánta is Ansa Linn



Did you nominate your favourite poem as part of RTÉ's initiative 'A Poem for Ireland'? All of the entries were considered by a panel of judges including our own Dr Ríona Ní Fhrighil from Roinn na Gaeilge. Cuirfeadh deich gcinn de dhánta ar an ngearrliosta agus pléifeadh na dánta sin ar chláir raidió agus ar chláir theilifíse RTÉ i gcaitheamh mhí Feabhra 2015. Tá tuilleadh eolais faoin tionscnamh ar fáil ag [apoemforireland.rte.ie](http://apoemforireland.rte.ie)

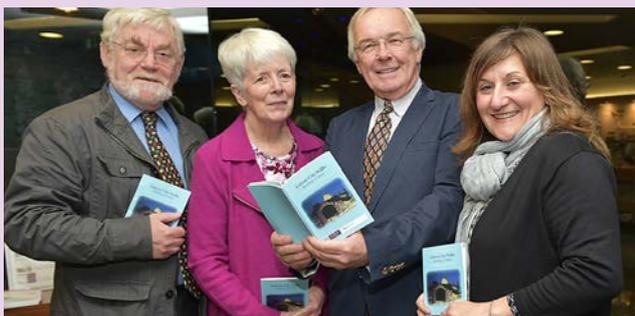
## Wikipedia na Gaeilge

Eagraíodh Aonach Eagarthóireachta don Vicipéid (Wikipedia na Gaeilge) i mí na Samhna leis an aidhm mic léinn agus baill foirne a spreagadh le dul i mbun eagarthóireachta le gnéithe den Vicipéid a fheabhsú. Ba iad Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge agus CELT a d'eagraigh an ócáid, agus ba iad baill de Chomhphobal Wikimedia na hÉireann a stiúir na rannpháirtithe agus iad i mbun eagarthóireachta ar leathanaigh faoi Shéadchomharthaí Náisiúnta na hÉireann.

## New Books



Registrar and Deputy President, Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh, joined Dr Aisling McCluskey (Mathematics) and Dr Brian McMaster (Queen's University Belfast) at the launch of their book 'Undergraduate Topology: a working textbook' in the Aula Maxima. The book represents a modern take on a classical discipline and is tailored for use in undergraduate syllabuses.



At the launch of the new guidebook 'Galway City Walks: Buildings in Stone' were: local historian, Tom Kenny; Delo Collier, Galway Civic Trust; and co-authors Professor Martin Feely and Dr Alessandra Costanzo (Earth and Ocean Sciences).

**Evolving Animals: The Story of our Kingdom**, by Wallace Arthur (Emeritus Professor of Zoology), addresses diverse evolutionary themes, including: natural selection, animal consciousness, human evolution, and even the possibility of animal life existing beyond Earth.

**Key Concepts in Historical Geography**, co-written by Dr John Morrissey and Professor Ulf Strohmayer (Geography), brings alive the human geographies of the past, and demonstrates their relevancy for understanding key aspects of the contemporary world.

**Nation/Nazione: Irish Nationalism and the Italian Risorgimento**, co-edited by Dr Anne O'Connor (Italian), was recently launched on campus by His Excellency Giovanni Adorni Braccési, Italian Ambassador to Ireland. The book examines the impacts and influences that flowed between Italian and Irish nationalists in the 19th century.

**Spatial Justice and the Irish Crisis**, co-edited by Dr John Morrissey (Geography), addresses the key political, economic and social shifts that have defined contemporary Ireland as it responds to the collapse of the property market and the banking system.

**Staging Intercultural Ireland: Plays and Practitioner Perspectives**, co-edited by Dr Charlotte McIvor (Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance), uses interviews and plays to document the transformative impact of inward migration on Irish theatre.

**The Economics of Disability – Insights from Irish Research**, co-edited by Dr John Cullinan (Economics), explores the economic challenges for people with disabilities, considering topics such as social inclusion, poverty, the labour market, living standards and public policy.

## New Year... New Commute?

There are a number of new ways to travel to campus next year. Is it time to reconsider your commute? In October, the **Leap Card** integrated ticketing system became available in Galway, meaning you can pay-as-you-go on Bus Éireann and City Direct services. Leap Card makes it cheaper and more convenient to travel around the city by bus. Speaking of which, did you know that there is a new **City Direct service from Moycullen** to Eyre Square, via the University? Route 415 began service in October, with a return ticket costing €7.50 on your Leap Card. City dwellers can use the new **Coca-Cola Zero Bike Scheme** launched in November. There is a bike station located across from the Cathedral, with 17 other bike stations across the city centre. Finally, there's always shank's mare! Congratulations to the 'Scrambled Legs' team from the Health Promotion Research Centre who came second in the national **Pedometer Challenge 2014**.

## The New Way to Pay



2015 sees the roll-out of P2P or "Purchase-to-Pay" for some frequent suppliers across the University. This means that we will be able to make some of the most common purchases at the click of a button, without the need for printing and mailing invoices.

In January, P2P is being introduced for all Club Travel invoices, with other suppliers added later in the year. Once P2P is launched, all Club Travel invoices will be approved by the booker and the budget holder online and sent electronically to the supplier.

Don't worry, information on the new system will be sent to all staff, and there will be training available for Agresso users. In the meantime, you can find more info at: [staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie/Pages/P2P.aspx](http://staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie/Pages/P2P.aspx)

## In Praise Of... Our Conferees



1. After two years of hard graft, Ann Duggan (Commercial Services Office), Tomás Ó Síocháin (Oifig an Rúnaí), Kevin Hynes (CELT) and Regina Doyle (ISS) graduated from the MBA.
2. Congratulations to Eleanor Walsh (CELT), who graduated with an MSc in Information Systems Management.
3. Rebecca O'Reilly was conferred with a Master of Science in International Management. Rebecca is pictured with her mother Robyn Cunningham (Buildings Office), her grandmother, Kathyryn Reilly, and President Jim Browne. Rebecca is holding a picture of her great grandmother Kathleen Lydon who was conferred with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1933 and a Higher Diploma in Education in 1934. Kathleen was the first woman to join the Galway Chamber of Commerce and was actively involved in the Galway Golf Club.
4. Finally, congratulations to the class and programme team of the MSc Sustainable Resource Management: Policy and Practice, who were the only joint UL/NUI Galway programme that had conferrals this year.

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



## International Undergraduate Award



Arts student Louisa Brophy Browne was awarded the George Berkeley Gold Medal in November at The Undergraduate Awards, the world's only pan-discipline academic awards programme. Louisa fought off international competition in the Classical Studies and Archaeology Competition with her paper on the ethics of carrying out archaeological work in war zones. The Undergraduate Awards are growing in prestige, and attracted almost 4,800 applicants this year. Louisa is pictured receiving the medal from Patricia O'Brien, former Legal Counsel and Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs at the United Nations.

## Inaugural Tony Ryan Award



The first Ryan Award for Innovation was presented to Dr Margaret Rae and her team in the University's Ryan Institute in October. The €25,000 award, which is supported by the Tony Ryan Trust, will fund advances in their ground-breaking work on a new marine-inspired treatment for cancer. The award was set up to drive innovation and entrepreneurship in the areas of environment, marine and energy, and was judged by a team drawn from related industries. Pictured at the announcement of the award are: Barry Egan, Enterprise Ireland; Patricia McLoughlin, Galway University Foundation; JP Prendergast, CEO BioMedPharma-West; Dr Grace McCormack, Head of Zoology; Dr Denisio Togashi, co-inventor of the winning treatment; Dr Margaret Rae; Michael McNicholas CEO Ervia; and Registrar and Deputy President, Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh.

## Contribution to HR



Maureen Maloney (pictured centre) was presented with the CIPD Western Region Contribution to HR award in November in recognition of her outstanding dedication as Programme Director of the MSc in Human Resource Management. Maureen's pioneering work on creating a mentoring programme for students and regional HR practitioners was particularly praised in recommending her for the award. She is pictured with Brendan Long, Careerwise Recruitment, and Gail Quinn, Chairperson of CIPD Western Region.

## Blog of the Year



As we all know, Christmas and the New Year can be a particularly stressful time. However, for those living with mental illness, life can be a struggle throughout the year. One member of our HR team has been attracting lots of readers to her blog, which documents life with depression and borderline personality disorder. Full of insights and honest anecdotes, Fiona Kennedy's blog was named Best Health and Well-Being Blog at The Blog Awards Ireland 2014 and was named top depression blog by Psych Central. Fiona's philosophy is that by openly acknowledging and discussing mental health, we can have a positive impact on managing it. See her award-winning blog for yourself at [sunnyspellandscatteredshowers.blogspot.ie](http://sunnyspellandscatteredshowers.blogspot.ie)

## Supporting Excellence



The recipients of the first ever President's Awards for Support Service Excellence were announced in December. The awards scheme was launched to reward the outstanding contribution and excellent performance of staff in the support services and to acknowledge the contribution of support staff to the University's success, and it received just under 40 nominations from across the campus. The winners are pictured above with President Jim Browne (left) and the Executive Director of Operations, Dr Kieran Loftus (right). Congratulations to (standing) Ann-Marie Keelan, Human Resources; Karen Dooley, Buildings Office; Declan Coogan, School of Psychology; and Lorraine McIlrath, CELT; as well as the Administrative Team of the School of Mathematics (seated left to right) Collette McLoughlin, Noelle Gannon and Mary Kelly.

## First Hardiman Scholar to Graduate



The University marked a milestone in November when Claire Glynn became the first Hardiman scholarship-funded PhD student to graduate. Claire was awarded a PhD in Surgery for her research into breast cancer cells, supervised by Dr Róisín Dwyer and Professor Michael Kerin (Surgery). Claire is now an Assistant Professor in the University of New Haven, Connecticut.

## First Aid Honours



To mark their 21 year commitment to maintaining their First Aid Training, Health and Safety Officer, Alice Daly (pictured left), made a presentation to (left to right): Aodh Dalton (Engineering), Patricia Ffrench (Library), Myles Meehan (Engineering), Dermot McGrath (Chemistry) and James Cotter (Chemistry).

## Outreach Round-Up



From Maths Week to ReelLIFE SCIENCE, our staff have been busy the last few months organising festivals, visiting schools, and opening their labs and lecture rooms to the public. Here's a taste of the outreach activities that took place on and off campus.

There was a party atmosphere on campus for the final weekend of the **2014 Galway Science and Technology Festival**, with over 20,000 kids and their parents getting hands-on with science. Staff and students from across the University got stuck in, with over 100 interactive exhibits, workshops and experiments. Volunteers from the **Brain EXPLORERS** team introduced visitors to the power of the brain through interactive activities like puzzles, matching games and model building races. This year the festival was preceded by two weeks of events, including around 180 school visits across Galway. Researchers from the NFB took their workshop 'How to Mend a Broken Heart' to various primary schools in the county, to introduce their pupils to how the heart pumps blood.

The **ReelLIFE SCIENCE** video competition for school children went from strength to strength this year, attracting over 250 entries in both English and Irish. Each three-minute video introduces a different scientific theme as explained by the school children in their own words. You can view the winning videos at [www.reellifescience.com](http://www.reellifescience.com).

October saw **Maths Week** celebrated in Galway, with lecturers and postgraduate students from the School of Mathematics dispatched to schools around the county to give workshops on various themes. In a further celebration of all things mathematical, a nationwide maths competition called **PRISM** was launched for school children, and a series of public talks demonstrated the many links between arts and maths.

School children were invited to become **Scientists for a Day** in October as **Cell EXPLORERS**, **Eco EXPLORERS** and **Kitchen Chemistry** teamed up together to put on interactive workshops on campus. The budding scientists were treated to DNA extractions, colourful chemical reactions and live exotic animals as part of a fun-filled day of activities.

## Goodbye to Gerry



The School of Physics bid farewell to Dr Gerry Morgan, following his recent retirement. Gerry started out in the School in 1987, and served as Dean of the College of Science from 2004-2010. He is pictured here with his wife (and Vice-President for the Student Experience) Dr Pat Morgan.

## Connecting our Alumni Globally



The new NUI Galway Global Alumni Network was launched in December at a special event held by Galway University Foundation in New York City. The network allows our 90,000 graduates to tag themselves in an online network that records where they now live and work. We are the first University in the world to tap into Linked In's API in this way, and hundreds of graduates have already tagged their locations. The platform also gives current students and graduates the ability to connect to potential employers through the network. See it for yourself at [www.nuigalway.ie/network](http://www.nuigalway.ie/network)

## Galway History on Canvas



John Coyle (Hygeia) and President Jim Browne admire the latest edition to the University's art collection. 'Galway Fish-Market', an oil painting by Thomas Rose Miles from circa 1900, was presented to the University by Hygeia in recognition of its long-standing relationship with the University. You can see the painting for yourself, and read more about the artist, by visiting the Staff Club in the Quadrangle in the coming weeks, before the painting moves to its new home in the Alexander Anderson boardroom next door.



# STILLS

Make sure to visit SeaScience, the newest addition to Galway City Museum. A collaboration between the museum and the Ryan Institute, SeaScience introduces young visitors to marine energy, ocean ecology and underwater mapping in fun and interactive ways. Pictured at the launch of the submarine-shaped exhibit were Dr Sarah Knight, Outreach Officer for the Ryan Institute, and Mayor of Galway, Councillor Dónal Lyons.

## Desktop Diary

January 2015							February 2015							March 2015						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4							1							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30	31					

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

#### Chill out in 2015

There are a range of programmes and pastimes available to staff on campus to help get the new year off to a stress-free start.

Dr Sue Redmond (UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre) invites you to join her in the Monday morning **Mindfulness and Meditation** sessions. Discover how to reduce your stress and anxiety and enhance your wellbeing at these half-hour sessions, starting at 8.15am each Monday in the NCBES Seminar Room.

**Yoga classes** continue in 2015, with sessions held in Áras na Mac Léinn at lunchtime on Thursday. Contact the SocsBox for more details.

Or you could **Sing Away Your Stress** with the Staff Choir! Look out for rehearsals and performances throughout the year.

#### Pharmacy Coming to Campus

Next time you're passing the Hardiman Building look out for the latest addition to campus. As a direct result of a staff/student survey conducted last year, the Commercial Services Office is delighted to announce the opening of a new pharmacy in January. It will stock a wide range of pharmaceutical and cosmetic products.

#### Arts in Action

There are lots more Arts in Action performances to look forward to in 2015. Highlights include the Choral Scholars in January, Corn Uí Riada winner Nell Ní Chróinín in February, and the Medical Orchestra in March. More details at [www.nuigalway.ie/arts/artsinaction.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/arts/artsinaction.html)