



Announcement of Phase 2, 1996-2010, and Call for Contributions

We are pleased to announce that **we have begun a second phase of this project**, supported by the President, Professor David Burn. **We would like to invite you to contribute photographs and film to help build this record of the University's past.**

You may be aware that in 2022 the Retired Staff Association / Agallamh na Seanórach was awarded funding for its proposal for a Visual History Archive of the University, following an invitation from the then President to the University community for proposals for research work over a two-year period which would support the institutional history of the University, as part of the celebrations of the 175th anniversary of our foundation in 1845.

Our project, *A Visual History Archive for NUI Galway: the Retired Staff Collection*, completed over the period March 2022 – April 2024, led to the establishment, in operational partnership with the University of Galway Library, of a visual history photographic database, based on the collection of photographs and film from retired staff members.

The outcome is a fully searchable online collection of over 400 photographs, named the ***Visual History of the University of Galway, Retired Staff Collection***, and hosted by the Library among its Digital Collections, at <https://exhibitions.library.universityofgalway.ie/s/visual-history-retired-staff/page/welcome>. The photographs, supplemented with narrative recollections, background research and metadata, range from the late nineteenth century to the end of 1995. The majority of the images are from private collections, not previously available to the public, sourced from retired staff, their friends, relatives and other alumni. We are the first University to have created such a record by linking in a structured and systematic way visual, oral and textual material, going back for generations.

Mindful of the wealth of such social and historical material still in private collections, and of the urgency of preserving it for future generations, we recently approached the President, Professor David Burn, with a view to an extension of the Project into a second phase, to mark the **180th anniversary** of the foundation of the University (as Queen's College, Galway) on 30 December 1845.

We are delighted to announce that the President has now kindly approved the extension of the Project into a second phase, covering the years 1996-2010, and including material from the earlier period.

Our intention is to complete this second phase of the Project by 30 June 2027.

The material in this Visual History Archive will mirror the richness of the life of the University in all its formal and informal dimensions over the years, as individual photographs often reveal the life of the

University in different ways, complementing the official photography. An important element of the Collection is visual material relating to the University's remarkable and long-standing presence outside the main campus, e.g. through adult education, outreach, field trips etc. Examples of the University's engagement beyond the city include the Ionaid Ollscoile of Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge in An Cheathrú Rua, Carna and Gaoth Dobhair, the long-established research stations in Carna, Mace Head, Carron and Finavarra, and collaboration with Saint Angela's College in Sligo and the Shannon School of Management, as well as extra-mural lectures in other centres; their visual record needs to be preserved and made easily accessible for this and future generations.

The Retired Staff Association / Agallamh na Seanórach is now accordingly inviting members of retired staff to make available photographs and videos – either by donation or on short-term loan – that document the history of the University. This material can include activities of students, staff, alumni, and visitors, as well as the campus and its buildings, University events and the many places beyond the main campus where the University has been active. All items loaned will, of course, be returned following scanning and digital preservation. For the purposes of this Phase 2, please note that we are confining our request for visual material up to the end of 2010.

At this stage, as a first step, we are inviting any member of the retired staff who has such visual material and who would be prepared to make it available either by donation or short-term loan to contact any member of the Project Team below.

We will greatly appreciate any help you can give in bringing this unique project to fruition. We are convinced that, with the support now provided by the President, combined with the voluntary commitment and enthusiasm of our Retired Staff Association / Agallamh na Seanórach members, we will be able to make a significant and lasting contribution to the history of the institution and to the University's shared sense of itself for generations ahead. We would greatly appreciate your support in achieving that.

Bheimis fíorbhuíoch as ábhar oiriúnach ar bith dá shórt a fháil ónár mbaill. Táimid cinnte gur Cartlann an-luachmhar dos na glúinte romhainn amach, agus nach bhfuil a leithéid eile le fáil áit ar bith, a bheidh againn san Ollscoil de bharr an togra seo, agus go gcuirfear go mór leis an gCartlann nuair a bheidh Céim 2 curtha i gcrích againn.

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