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OĒ Gaillimh

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SUCCESSSES

OLLSCÉALA

NUACHTLITIR FOIRNE | STAFF NEWSLETTER | EARRACH 2019

Focus on the Future

In recent months, staff, students and the public have been helping to shape our future by sharing their input on the development of Nuns' Island and on the University's new strategic plan. Look inside to find out more news from our campus community.



GO GREEN...

to swap your paper *Ollscéala* for an electronic version, simply email your Staff ID to info@nuigalway.ie

OLLSCÉALA

Focal ón Uachtarán



A Chairde,

Agus muid ag teacht le deireadh na bliana acadúla agus ag súil leis an samhradh, tugann an iris seo deis dúinn breathnú siar ar roinnt de na rudaí atá bainte amach ag pobal na hOllscoile le míonna anuas. Earrach gníomhach gnóthach a bhí ann agus bhí sé de phribhléid agam freastal ar chuid mhaith de na himeachtaí atá le feiceáil sna leathanaigh seo agus páirt a ghlacadh in éachtaí ár gcomhghleacaithe a cheiliúradh.

In recent months, we have been focusing on our University's future and how we can best serve our students, staff, city and region in the coming years. We launched a consultation process for the Nuns' Island Masterplan, which will see the transformation of University buildings and land in this formerly industrial area. I look forward to the people of Galway feeding into a shared vision for what will become an exciting new quarter for our city.

We also started a consultation process with staff, students and the public to inform our strategic plan for 2020-2025. In the University Values Survey, almost 1,500 helped identify the values that will be most important to the success of our University over the coming years. Based on that feedback, we are developing a strategy that is led by five strong values-led themes, to build a University that is a:

- Respectful NUI Galway
- Expert NUI Galway
- Accessible NUI Galway
- Distinctive NUI Galway
- Sustainable NUI Galway

In March, staff, students and the public helped identify some of the key issues and opportunities under these themes during a day-long online discussion called Imagine NUI Galway. Almost 900 people took part in the conversation, and with over 34,000 page views, I know that many more were actively engaged in the discussions taking place. I look forward to the results of this consultation informing the development of our strategy over the coming months.

As a University community, we must be ready to plan ahead and look out for opportunities for further development and innovation with ambition. In the meantime, though, I invite you to pause and reflect on our colleagues' many recent achievements in this edition of *Ollscéala*.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Cian

An tOllamh Cian Ó hÓgartaigh

Uachtarán | President

Familiar Faces



Advocating Human Rights: Former Irish President, Dr Mary Robinson, was keynote speaker at an event organised by the School of Law and the Irish Centre for Human Rights entitled 'The Necessity of Advocacy'.



Can you spot a future Hollywood star? This intriguing photo is from a new digital online exhibition from the James Hardiman Library, marking fifty years since the opening of the new Lyric Theatre in Belfast. The Lyric's archives are held in the University and are a rich resource for theatre scholars.



How (Not) to Do Public Policy: The Whitaker Institute hosted a number of high profile policy seminars in recent months, including this panel of speakers who responded to a report by economist Jim O'Leary on water charges and the local property tax. Pictured (l-r) are Professor Alan Ahearne (Whitaker Institute), Jill Rutter (Institute for Government, London), Robert Watt (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform), Joan Burton (TD, Labour Party), Dave O'Connell (Connacht Tribune), Kevin Cardiff (formerly, Department of Finance) and Richard Boyle (Institute of Public Administration).

Appointments

Internal Appointments

New Bursar

Sharon Bailey joined the University as Bursar in December. Sharon is a member of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants and the Irish Taxation Institute, and she has over 30 years' experience working in large and complex organisations, both public and private. Most recently, she was Director of Research Finance & Operations in UCD, leading contract negotiation, grant registration and internal funding schemes for UCD Research. We would like to welcome her to Galway and wish her well in this challenging role.



Dean of Students

In April, Dr Michelle Millar was appointed Dean of Students, a new role that was created following the retirement of the Vice-President for the Student Experience. Dr Millar has taught in the School of Political Science and Sociology since 1998



and she was appointed Head of School there last year. She is also Senior Research Fellow at the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre. Dr Millar will be a champion for our students and their diverse needs right across campus.

Executive Dean of the College of Science and Engineering

In April, the University announced Professor Walter Gear as Executive Dean of the newly merged College of Science and Engineering. Professor Gear studied Physics and Astrophysics at Queen Mary, University of London. Following his PhD in millimetre-wave studies of active galaxies, he worked at the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh. More recently, he served as Head of the School of Physics and Astronomy at Cardiff University, before taking up the role of Dean for Internationalisation and for Postgraduate Studies. He is also a member of the International Oversight Board for the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope in Hawaii. Professor Gear will lead the full merger of the College of Science and Engineering over the coming months.



External Appointments

Director of the Ryan Institute's Centre for Climate and Air Pollution Studies, Professor **Colin O'Dowd** has been elected to Academia Europaea, the pan-European Academy of Humanities and Sciences. He is only the second NUI Galway academic to be elected to the academy, and was elected to the Earth and Cosmic Science section.

Outgoing Dean of Engineering and Informatics, **Professor Peter McHugh** has been elected to the Fellowship of the Irish Academy of Engineering. The distinction has been bestowed on Professor McHugh in recognition of his exceptional career and contribution to the advancement of engineering, and economic and social progress in Ireland.

Fond Farewells

Dr Pat Morgan recently retired after 46 years' of connection to the University, her most recent role being Vice-President for the Student Experience. Dr Morgan graduated with a PhD from UCG and was later appointed as one of the first women lecturers in Biochemistry here in 1992. She directed the BSc Biotechnology programme until her appointment as Dean of Science in 1998. She served two terms as Dean, being the only female to hold that role since the foundation of the University. In 2008, she was appointed as the first Dean of Graduate Studies and, between 2011 and 2018, she served as Vice-President for the Student Experience. To mark her remarkable career and, in particular, the encouragement she gave to female leaders across the University, a portrait of Dr Morgan by artist Una Sealy was commissioned for the art collection.



In December, **Mary Dooley** retired as Bursar having served the University with great care and professionalism for 25 years. Mary worked at the most senior level, serving five presidencies and supporting substantive changes to the fabric and finances of our University. During that time she led the expansion of our Financial Accounting team, and oversaw the investment of hundreds of millions of euros in our infrastructure. She has been an inspiration to women leaders across the University. A keen music enthusiast, we look forward to seeing Mary back in the Quadrangle for classical concerts for many years to come!



Buildings and Estates would like to note the recent retirement of **Gerry Murphy**, who served the University as Fire Prevention Officer for over 41 years. Gerry played a key role in the risk prevention and training areas within Fire Safety throughout the campus and was well known to many staff and students alike. We would like to join with his colleagues in Buildings and Estates in wishing Gerry a long and happy retirement.

SHAPING OUR UNIVERSITY'S FUTURE

Two major consultation processes kicked off this spring, where staff, students and the public were invited to share their input on how our University should evolve over the coming years.



Nuns' Island Regeneration

In February, the University and Galway City Council invited the public to have their say on the regeneration of Nuns' Island – 15 acres of former industrial space in the heart of our city. Funding for the Nuns' Island Masterplan has already been approved through the Government's Urban Regeneration and Development Fund. The University owns land and buildings on the island, and there is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to develop the space in imaginative ways to serve the diverse needs of our growing city.

President Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh called on staff and students to give their input to the masterplan: "It is an exciting opportunity to generate a range of community, economic, social, environmental and educational benefits for Galway. As we collectively look to the future for Nuns' Island, I would like to make sure that our campus community is part of the conversation."

Get involved in this exciting new chapter in our city's history. For more information, visit: www.nuigalway.ie/nunsisland



Top of the World

The University is ranked 20th in the world for our impact on good health and wellbeing. The new Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings measure universities across the world for their success in delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. One of these goals aims to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing, and our University community's teaching, research and engagement in this area were judged to be excellent. Meanwhile, five NUI Galway academics feature in the top 1% of the World's Most Highly Cited Researchers, as compiled by Clarivate Analytics. Professor Henry Curran (Chemistry), Professor Colin O'Dowd (Physics), Professor Donal O'Regan (Mathematics), Professor William Wijns (CÚRAM) and Dr Derek Morris (Biochemistry) were all included on the list, which recognises the very top of world academic talent. Congratulations to our inspiring – and prolific – colleagues.



They Came, They Saw, They Imagined!

In March, hundreds of staff, students, alumni and members of the public took part in Imagine NUI Galway – a day-long online discussion forum where participants were invited to help shape the University's strategy. The day started at 11am with an introduction from President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh and special guest, Dr Máire Geoghegan Quinn, and it finished at midnight following a late night discussion chaired by the Students' Union. Throughout the day and night, participants actively engaged in discussions around five values-led themes that emerged through a survey of staff and students earlier in the year. They are: Respectful NUI Galway, Expert NUI Galway, Accessible NUI Galway, Distinctive NUI Galway and Sustainable NUI Galway.

Each of the 18 sessions on the day had a chair, special guests and moderators, most of whom took part from the Imagine NUI Galway hub in Block D. Others joined in on computers, tablets and phones across Galway and the globe. The online discussions drew 34,000 page views, 885 users, 4,300 comments and 6,000 likes. A thematic and sentiment analysis will now be carried out on all of the data to help inform the next steps in the development of our strategy for 2020-2025.



Our Honoured Guests

At the winter conferring ceremonies, our 1,800 new graduates were joined by four outstanding individuals who were conferred with honorary degrees. In a change of tradition, the honorary degrees were presented in the Bailey Allen Hall, and the awardees delivered inspiring speeches to the audience of graduates and their guests.

Consultant Gastroenterologist, Dr Clare Murphy (3), was recognised for her contribution to high altitude and expedition medicine. She is a keen adventurer and was the first Irish woman to summit Mount Everest and reach the South Pole. Phelim Murphy (1) and Bernie O'Connor (4) were recognised for their lifelong contribution to hurling in Galway. As players, coaches and administrators at club and county levels, they have contributed hugely to sport and fitness in Galway. Martin Hayes (2) is an internationally renowned fiddle player from Co. Clare, with a distinctive approach to interpreting and performing our traditional Irish repertoire. He was recognised for his immense contribution to promoting our unique traditional music worldwide.



Historic Supreme Court Sitting

In March, legal history was made when the Supreme Court sat on campus. It was the first time the court had sat outside a courthouse since its return to the Four Courts in 1932 and only the third time it had sat outside Dublin. The Quadrangle buzzed with interest, as the nine judges deliberated on two high profile cases – an appeal by Denis O’Brien against statements made in the Dáil about his banking affairs, and an appeal against the decision of An Bord Pleanála to approve an Apple data centre in Athenry.

The School of Law organised a number of events to engage students and the public in the historic visit. Chief Justice Frank Clarke delivered a speech to the legal community on ‘The Common Law Post-Brexit’ at an event hosted jointly with the Galway Solicitors’ Bar Association. To coincide with International Women’s Day, a public lecture on ‘Women on Supreme Courts’ took place with many high profile speakers including Údarás na hOllscoile Chair and former Supreme Court Judge, Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, and NUI Galway graduate and Chief Justice of the Seychelles, Mrs Justice Matilda Twomey. The School of Law delivered a series of student seminars in conjunction with members of the Supreme Court where students had a unique opportunity to interact with the judiciary and academic law staff. Pictured here are the Supreme Court judges with the School of Law staff in the Aula Maxima, where the temporary court was located.

Start-Up Success

Did you know that NUI Galway start-ups secured €35 million in 2018? This impressive figure represents a mix of private equity investment and research funding. The 36 companies based at our Business Innovation Centre now employ 173 people, representing an increase of 20% on the previous year. David Murphy (Director, Business Innovation Centre), commented: “There are significant benefits to society and the economy from the innovations that are seeded, researched, developed and implemented right here on campus. The number of start-ups and industry collaborations based on high-quality research is a very good indication of the level of entrepreneurship at the University and in the region.”

Plean Teanga do Ghailimh

Tá an Dr John Walsh (Gaeilge) agus an Dr Dorothy Ní Uigín (Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge) ag obair ar phlean teanga seacht mbliana a ullmhú do chathair na Gaillimhe, i gcomhpháirt le Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe agus Gaillimh le Gaeilge. Is é cuspóir an phlean cur le húsáid na Gaeilge diaidh ar ndiaidh mar theanga pobail i gcathair na Gaillimhe. Sheol an Dr Walsh agus an Dr Ní Uigín suirbhé i mí an Mhárta chun tuairimí an phobail a bhailiú maidir leis na seirbhísí Gaeilge a theastaigh uathu sa chathair.

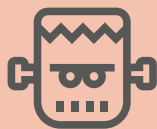
Ag labhairt dó ar an obair atá amach rompu, dúirt an Dr John Walsh: “Beidh dhá chéim i gceist leis an tionscadal pleanála: ar an gcéad dul síos, déanfar athbhreithniú ar thaighde cuí atá déanta cheana agus ar an dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta; agus ar an dara dul síos, reáchtálfar beart comhairliúcháin leis na páirtithe leasmhara cuí. Tá súil againn chomh maith tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar riachtanais agus ar mhianta na ngréasán Gaeilge atá ag feidhmiú sa chathair i láthair na huairé.”

Tá tuilleadh eolais ar fáil ar www.nuigalway.ie/gaeilgebheo



Active Consent

NUI Galway researchers who established and rolled out the national SMART Consent programme have announced a major new four-year programme of research and implementation. The Active Consent programme will target young people from 16-23 years of age to promote a positive approach to the important issue of sexual consent. The programme is led by the interdisciplinary SMART Consent team of Dr Pádraig MacNeela, Dr Siobhán O’Higgins and Kate Dawson (Psychology) and Dr Charlotte McIvor (Drama and Theatre Studies). Pictured at the launch of the Active Consent Programme are (l-r) Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O’Connor; Drama graduate, Megan O’Connor; Arts student, Rían McKeagney; incoming Students’ Union President, Clare Austick; and President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh.



Frankenstein @ 200

The 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* was celebrated by staff and students in the discipline of English with a series of free events on the campus and in the city. With the support of an EXPLORE award, they hosted a movie night, staged readings and a public lecture. It was part of the worldwide *Frankenreads* celebration.

Nollaig na mBan

The University Women's Network marked Nollaig na mBan with a celebration of remarkable women from the University's history. Dr Jackie Uí Chionna (History and Moore Institute) spoke passionately about the extraordinary life of Emily Anderson, graduate and former Professor of German, who became the foremost female code breaker of her generation.

Spark on Screen

CÚRAM and Galway Film Centre's 'Science on Screen' documentary, *A Tiny Spark* had its world premiere at the Pálás Cinema in Galway. The film examines the effect of cerebrovascular illness and stroke on people's lives and specifically looks at research into the blood clots that cause stroke.

Foclóir i do Phóca

An mbíonn tú ag streachait le litriú agus gramadach na Gaeilge? Tá foireann Foclóir.ie ag cur le líon na bhfocal agus acmhainní teanga ar líne i gcónaí. Tá ceangal láidir ag Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge le tograí foclóireachta Fhoras na Gaeilge agus chuidigh Tomás Ó Maolalaidh agus Róisín Ní Mhianáin leo seisiún eolais a réachtáil ar an gcampas.



Merry Mulchers

Tony Richardson (Buildings and Estates) would like to thank all of those who availed of the Christmas tree mulching service provided on campus by Seán Cosgrove. The event raised over €1,400 for Galway Hospice.

Galway Chamber Business Awards

Congratulations to Dr Lorraine McIlrath and the team in the Community Knowledge Initiative, who received the Commerce Social Responsibility Award from Galway Chamber at their recent Business Awards. CKI develops and supports civic engagement activities across the University, including the Saol Café social enterprise.

Distinguished Alumni Award

In January, Mary McPartlan (College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies) was honoured with an Ireland United States Association (IUSA) Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of her commitment to Irish-US relations and her outstanding contribution to culture and education.

Disability Rights on Show

A recent exhibition in the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission marked the completion of VOICES, a research project run by the Centre for Disability Law and Policy project. VOICES paired participants from eleven countries to share and publish their perspectives of disability rights around the world. The project was led by Professor Eilionóir Flynn.

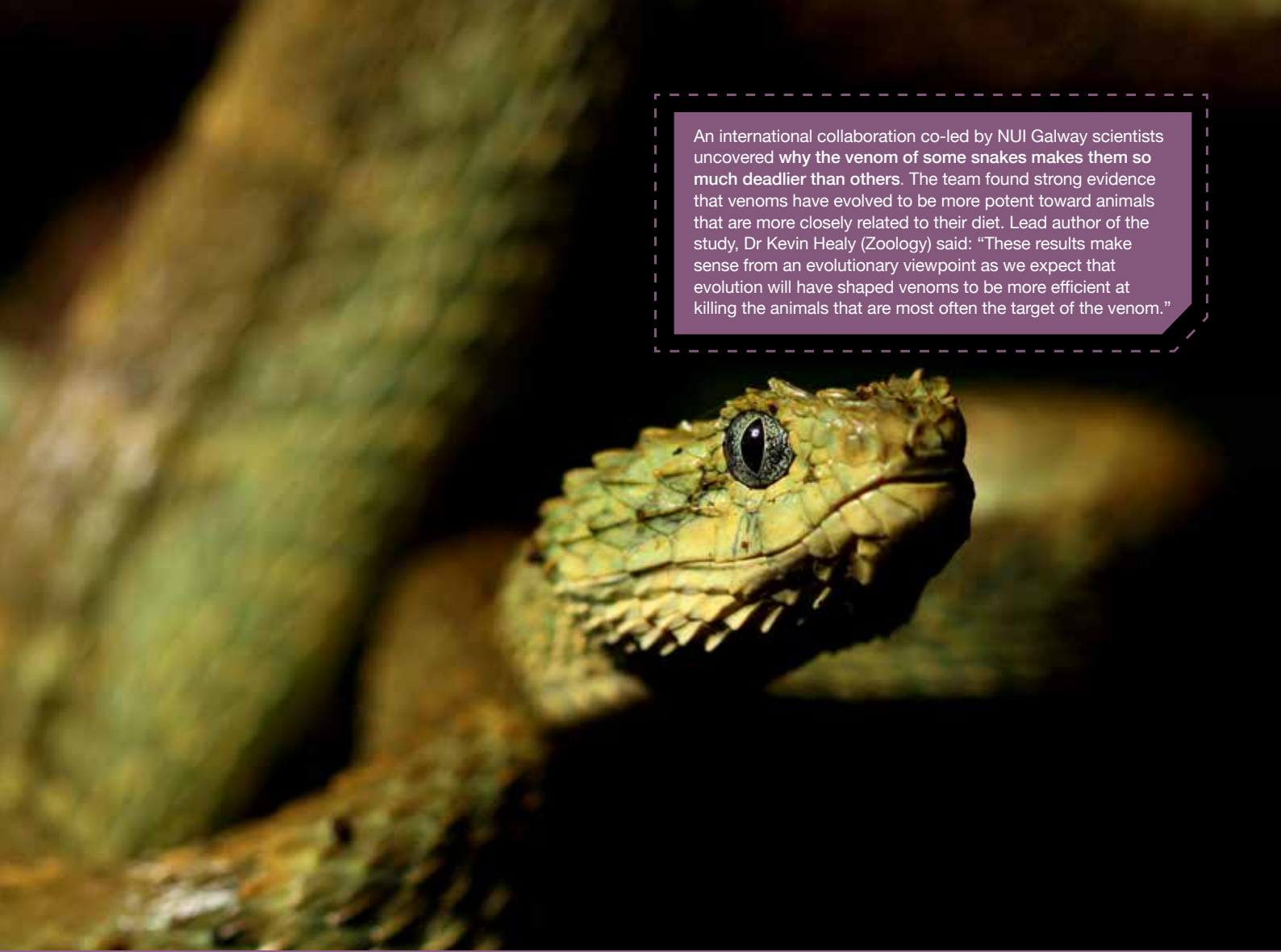
Film Studies Icon

World-renowned film scholar, Sir Christopher Frayling, delivered two public lectures at the Huston School of Film and Digital Media. Sir Frayling – who coined the term 'spaghetti western' – focused one lecture on 'Once Upon a Time in the West: Shooting a Masterpiece', and marked the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* with a lecture on the monstrous film of the same name.



Jennifer Dennis Research Award

Podiatric PhD researcher, Amanda Walsh, was recently awarded the Jennifer Dennis Research Award from the Down Syndrome Medical Interest Group in recognition of her ongoing research into *pes planus* (flat feet) in paediatric Down syndrome.



An international collaboration co-led by NUI Galway scientists uncovered **why the venom of some snakes makes them so much deadlier than others**. The team found strong evidence that venoms have evolved to be more potent toward animals that are more closely related to their diet. Lead author of the study, Dr Kevin Healy (Zoology) said: “These results make sense from an evolutionary viewpoint as we expect that evolution will have shaped venoms to be more efficient at killing the animals that are most often the target of the venom.”

RESEARCH IN ACTION

A research team, led by Dr Miriam Byrne and Dr James McGrath (Physics and Ryan Institute), has commenced an **assessment of ventilation effectiveness in 'A' rated Irish dwellings**. The 'VALIDate' project is sponsored by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. A key objective of this study is to evaluate the air quality in 100 "A-rated" energy efficient homes in Ireland for a period of 18 months using low cost sensor technology. The analysis will help the researchers to better understand the key factors that influence indoor air quality, thus enabling better control measures.

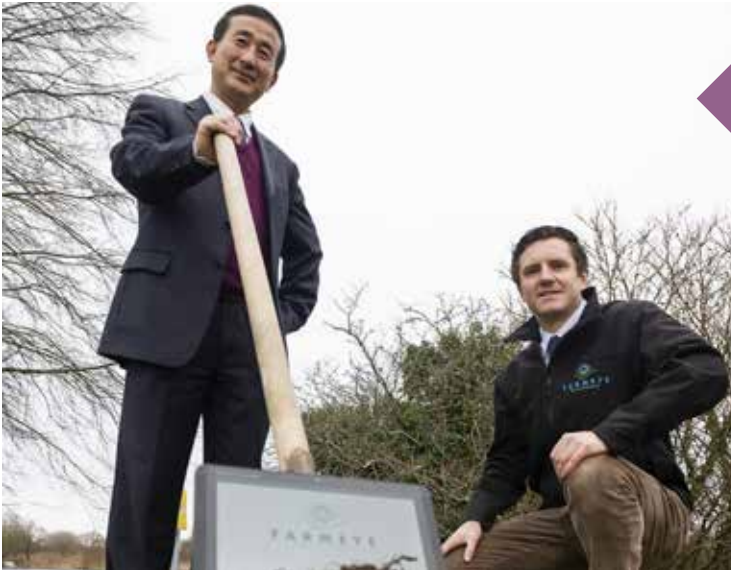
Dr Manuela Heinz and Dr Elaine Keane (Education) carried out the first nationwide study to explore the **socio-demographic backgrounds of entrants to primary teacher education programmes in Ireland**. The research was published in the peer-reviewed academic journal, Irish Educational Studies, and looked at future primary teachers' sex, nationalities, ethnicity, first language, social class, disability and religious affiliations.

A new report launched by **safe food** has found that **parents view weaning as an exciting but challenging time** as they deal with lots of information and advice when starting their babies on solid foods. Dr Colette Kelly, lead author of the study and Director of the Health Promotion Research Centre, said: "Weaning an infant to solid foods is an exciting time for parents but they can feel anxious about what, when and how to feed their baby. Parents want practical and clear information at the time they are starting to feed solids to their baby."

Dr Bronagh Ann McShane (Moore Institute) has used new research methodologies and digital tools to analyse data extracted from **letters written by and about English Benedictine nuns living in Brussels during the seventeenth century**. The project has produced a large-scale quantitative analysis of the ways in which women's writing was received and circulated in the early modern English-speaking world. Its database will be open-access when the project closes later this year.

A research team led by Professor Gearóid Ó Laighin (Engineering) and involving researchers from the Human Movement Laboratory in CÚRAM have carried out a clinical study that has produced **promising results for people with Parkinson's disease who have mobility issues**. The research found that 'fixed' rhythmic sensory electrical stimulation significantly reduced the time taken for a person with Parkinson's disease to complete a walking task. The stimulation reduced the number of 'Freezing of Gait' episodes which occurred, helping them to walk more effectively.

Animals may have existed on earth for hundreds of millions of years before they first appear in the fossil records. This is according to new research led by scientists from the School of Natural Sciences and supervised by Dr John Murray (Earth and Ocean Sciences), published in the journal, 'Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology'. The international study has shed light on a significant question that perplexed Charles Darwin over a century and a half ago.



Agri-Tech company, Farmeye has launched their new Nutrient Management System, the NMP Portal. The online, map-based system for **sustainable soil nutrient management** is a tool for Agri-consultants and Agronomists to manage and monitor sustainable fertiliser usage on farms. Farmeye aims to create ten new jobs and additional spin-out business with their growth over the next three years. Pictured (l-r) Dr Chaozheng Zhang (Plant and AgriBiosciences) and Dr Eoghan Finneran (Farmeye).



An air pollution study, led by researchers at the School of Physics and Ryan Institute's Centre for Climate and Air Pollution Studies found that **Dublin's air pollution surpasses the World Health Organisation's recommended 24-hour Air Quality Guideline**. The research team, led by Dr Jurgita Ovadnevaite (School of Physics) and Professor Colin O'Dowd (Ryan Institute's Centre for Climate and Air Pollution Studies) deployed a pilot air pollution network (AEROSOURCE), comprising highly-sophisticated, next-generation air pollution fingerprinting technology, with the capability of identifying specific sources of even the smallest amounts of air pollution.



Dr Marie Coggins (Physics and the Centre for Occupational Health and Safety Studies) and Alison Connolly, a PhD researcher in Exposure Science, have investigated **pesticide exposures among professional gardeners and amenity horticultural workers**. The study results, which analysed 200 urine samples from horticultural workers, suggests that they had low glyphosate exposure levels. Glyphosate is the highest volume herbicide used globally and is extensively used in horticulture to control the growth of weeds and invasive species of plants. It has recently received much public attention following its classification as 'Group 2A – probably carcinogenic to humans' from the International Agency for Research on Cancer.



Ten Years after the Crash

In conjunction with the Moore Institute, the Whitaker Institute hosted '10 Years On: How Ireland Has Changed since the Financial Crisis', a conference that reflected on the last decade since the banking crisis. The event featured a high profile group of participants, including keynote speakers Patrick Honohan, former Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland, and playwright and author, Colin Murphy. They asked what has really changed over the last ten years? And they assessed how the developments in the financial and political system have taken place, as well as the cultural effect of the crisis. Listen to their speeches at: www.soundcloud.com/nuigalway



Three-minute Wonders

James Blackwell, a PhD student split between the School of Physics and School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Mathematics, was the overall winner of Threes – an engaging competition where researchers have three slides and three minutes to tell their story. His research is using ultrasound to create stiffness maps of the brain which can help surgeons identify brain tumours and other diseases. In second place was Katie Gilligan, a PhD student in the School of Medicine, with her talk 'A novel therapy for breast cancer patients'. Securing third place from the judges as well as being chosen as the Audience Winner, was Siobhán Morrissey, PhD student in the School of Humanities with her talk on 'Enid Blyton: War and Nationalism'. Pictured (l-r) Siobhán Morrissey; judge, Dr Sylvia Maretto, (Research Office); James Blackwell; judge, Lorna Farren (Marketing and Communications Office); Katie Gilligan; and judge, John Crumlish (Galway International Arts Festival).



Dragon's Den-ish

The discipline of Information Technology recently hosted its second ever Dragon's Den-ish event based on the hit TV show, as the final part of the Advanced Professional Skills module in the BSc in Computer Science and Information Technology. 55 fourth year students assumed the role of entrepreneurs and presented their varying business ideas and products to a panel of dragons. Pictured is one of the participating teams presenting their product "GAA Scores Now".

Bringing the Global to Galway

The Irish Centre for Human Rights has formed a new collaboration with GLAN (Global Legal Action Network), which has led to the creation of a placement scheme linking the Centre's students to GLAN's high profile international legal actions. The collaboration is the first of its kind in Ireland and involves GLAN relocating some of its operations from London to Galway. GLAN's collaboration with the Irish Centre for Human Rights will develop a legal education exchange where the Centre's students can gain valuable experience working directly on legal actions tackling issues such as climate change, war crimes, torture and modern-day slavery.



Speed Interviewing

The Career Development Centre recently partnered with the Business School on a 'Speed Interview' event as part of the Second Commerce Skills for Business Module. 350 Commerce and Business and Information Systems students were given a mock interview by 37 employers over the course of a morning. This energetic initiative was organised by Michael Campion in the Business School and Pamela Devins in the Career Development Centre.

Conferences

A major international conference on the topic of **Extended Working Life** featured over 50 presentations on the gender and health implications of policies designed to extend our working lives. The conference was based on the work of COST Action IS1409, an international network involving over 100 researchers from 34 countries, which is chaired by Dr Áine Ní Léime (Irish Centre for Social Gerontology).

The annual 'History of Women Religious of Britain and Ireland' conference saw 37 speakers from across the world debating the concepts of space and place as they pertained to the lives of religious women from antiquity to the modern day. The conference was organised by Professor Marie-Louise Coolahan (English) and Dr Bronagh Ann McShane (Moore Institute), and featured contributions by members of local Galway religious communities, among them Sister Faustina Grealy from the Poor Clare Monastery and Sister Alberta Ní Mhaolalaidh from the Dominican convent in Taylor's Hill.

The School of Law hosted a one-day conference on **Medical Negligence Litigation** with the keynote address delivered by Mr Justice Nicholas Kearns. The conference, aimed at medical and legal practitioners, addressed key issues in medical negligence, including how to defend medical negligence claims, informed consent, statutory developments on candour and open disclosure and important issues in providing expert evidence.

In January, 170 ecologists were hosted by our School of Natural Sciences and GMT as part of the second 'Ecology and Evolution' conference of the Irish Ecological Association (IEA). Delegates included both academic and professional ecologists and students, as well as non-governmental organisations, ecological consultancies and other professionals in ecology. It featured keynote talks on microplastics in the oceans, the evolution of ageing in bats, conservation of biodiversity on farmland, and tagging and tracking birds and fish.

Research Funding

Starting Investigator Research Grant

Dr Joseph Byrne (Chemistry and CÚRAM) has been awarded €420,000 in funding to develop new technology for faster clinical detection and diagnosis of bacterial infections such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, a key cause of mortality in Cystic Fibrosis patients.

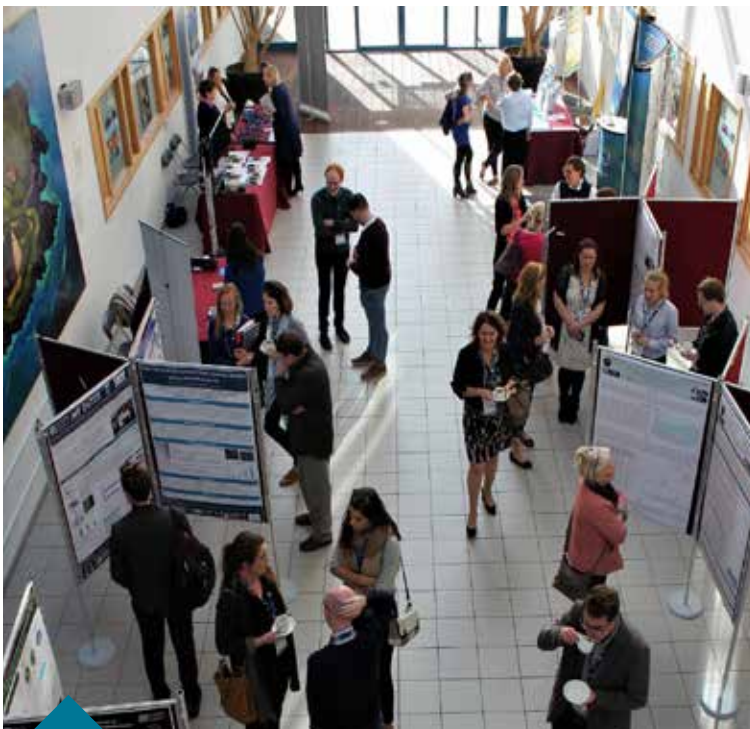
European Innovation Partnership

The Rathcroghan Resource Community has been awarded a grant of almost €1 million under the EIP-Agri scheme to implement its project, 'Farming Rathcroghan: Sustainable Farming in the Rathcroghan Archaeological Landscape'. Mr Joe Fenwick and Dr Kieran O'Conor (Archaeology), as well as PhD candidate Daniel Curley, will use the funding over the course of the next five years.



Getting Girls into Geoscience

The second ever 'Girls into Geoscience Ireland' event was held in the Ryan Institute. This free event was led by Dr Aoife Blowick, post-doctoral researcher in Earth and Ocean Sciences. It introduced female secondary school and early stage university students to Earth Sciences and demonstrated the breadth of careers available to geoscience graduates.



The Centre for Health from Environment at the Ryan Institute held the "Our Environment, Our Health, One Health" conference with support from the Environmental Protection Agency. Top researchers in the field presented their research in the One Health domain, including our own Professor Kevin Leyden, Dr Marie Coggins, Dr Caitriona Carlin, Dr Gesche Kindermann and Dr Easkey Britton. Topics ranged from antimicrobial resistance and the environment, to the built environment and foodborne pathogens.



Inclusive Centenaries Scholarship

Pictured are the first graduates of the Access Programme to receive the Inclusive Centenaries Scholarship, Romeo Sibanda and Riham Alsabbagh, with Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh (Registrar) and Dr Pat Morgan, former Vice-President for the Student Experience. The scholarship programme was set up to support high-achieving, second-level school leavers from Ireland's newest communities.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Female Engineers of the Future

The College of Engineering and Informatics offers two scholarships to female engineering students to attend a unique and challenging engineering academy at the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria. The academy is open to only 30 female students from 15 different countries. Engineering students Karolina Sedyte and Marissa Britton were selected this year and flew the flag for Ireland.



Sharing Excellence in HR

The Research Office was delighted to welcome members of the Czech National Institute of Mental Health to Galway in the spirit of knowledge sharing. The delegation came to campus to learn about the HR Excellence in Research Award, a much sought-after designation that the University has held since 2013. Pictured (l-r) are Research Office colleagues Aine Ní Dhomhnaill, Sinéad Beacom and Dr Gary Lupton; Natalie Walsh from the Blackstone LaunchPad; and Kveta Tröberová, Barbora Veselá and Běla Mojžíšová from the National Institute of Mental Health, Czechia.



Championing Children's Rights

A recent event on campus celebrated our collaboration with Lumos, a non-governmental organisation founded by J. K. Rowling to protect children's rights around the world. The event showcased the research collaboration between Lumos and the UNESCO Chairs in Children and Youth in Pennsylvania State University and here in Galway. Participants heard how over 14,000 child care and protection practitioners have been trained through the initiative, including youth researchers who play a significant role in championing children's rights. Pictured are (l-r) Alex Christopoulos, (Lumos); NUI Galway youth researchers, Ella Anderson and Jack Gaffey; and Aileen Shaw and Professor Pat Dolan (UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre).



Benvenuto

The Italian Ambassador to Ireland, Paolo Serpi, visited the University to support cultural exchanges between Galway and Italy. He is pictured here (second from left) with Professor Paolo Bartoloni (Italian); Registrar and Deputy President, Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh; and Dr Fabio Bartolozzi, Honorary Consul of Italy.

Welcoming Wellcome Trust

The Research Office welcomed the Wellcome Trust to the University late last year to gain valuable insights into their funding programmes and strategic direction. Wellcome Trust is a global charitable foundation that supports scientists and researchers to take on big problems, and it currently funds over 14,000 people in more than 70 countries. 120 staff from across the campus turned out to hear their presentation. We look forward to seeing the impact in future funding news!

New Books | Leabhair Nua

Bellies, Bowels and Entrails in the Eighteenth Century, co-edited by Dr Rebecca Anne Barr (English), explores the body's murky and impolite regions and their representation in medicine, art, and literature.

Octopus, Squid & Cuttlefish: A Visual Scientific Guide, co-authored by Professor Louise Allcock (Ryan Institute), is a comprehensive guide to the biology and behaviour of cephalopods, a small group of highly advanced and organised marine animals.

Shakespeare's Ovid and the Spectre of the Medieval, by Dr Lindsay Ann Reid (English), offers a fresh account of Shakespeare's relationship with the ancient Roman poet Ovid and argues that Shakespeare's works are often haunted by medieval intertexts and traditions.

In a Glass Darkly by J. Sheridan le Fanu has been newly edited by Dr Elizabeth Tilley (English), with an introduction and a superb selection of critical and contextual material that take the reader closer to Le Fanu's collection than ever before.



Space for Culture

The University once again celebrated Culture Night with an afternoon feast of music, song, drama and sculpture on the theme of 'Space'. Pictured are students from the O'Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance, admiring a newly commissioned sculpture by James Fleming, entitled *Skelescope*. Photo courtesy of Joe Shaughnessy.



Transforming Language Teaching and Learning, by Dr Patrick Farren (Education), calls for a radical shift in how we understand and approach language teaching, learning, and assessment in schools, following Dr Faren's research across multiple schools in Ireland and abroad. The author is pictured here (centre) with Professor Gerry Mac Ruairc (Education) and President Ó hÓgartaigh.

Patterns in the Production of Apulian Red-Figure Pottery by Dr Edward Herring (Classics) uses a database of over 13,500 vessels and fragments to identify patterns in the production and decoration of Apulian red-figure vases.



The Art of Italian Publishing

The Hardiman Research Building recently hosted an exhibition that celebrates contemporary Italian illustrators and their collaboration with the publishing industry. Pictured at the launch of 'Cover Revolution! Illustrators and the New Face of Italian Publishing' are (l-r) Professor Paolo Bartoloni (Italian); Professor Brian Hughes (International Affairs); and Dr Renata Sperandio (Director, Italian Institute of Culture, Dublin).



Dr Herring (right) is pictured here with Professor Michael Edwards.

Papers in Italian Archaeology VII. The Archaeology of Death, a new book co-edited by Dr Edward Herring (Classics), considers recent developments in Italian archaeology from the Neolithic to the modern period through more than 60 papers by contributors from around the world.

Illustrating the Effects of Climate Change

The Moore Institute and Galway University Foundation hosted a climate-themed exhibition, *Art on the Edge*, on campus featuring original artwork by physical geographer, Dr Gordon Bromley. The exhibition included a mix of drawings and paintings captured from his international field research in some of the world's most extreme environments, including Antarctica.



SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT SERVICES



Student Services is made up of a number of distinct supports and services, including the Access Centre (Access, Disability, Mature Students), the Accommodation and Welfare Office, the Chaplaincy, the Career Development Centre, Student Counselling, the Student Health Unit and the Societies Office.

Together, they work with partners in the University and the external community to support the recruitment, success, retention and

progression of our students. The mission of Student Services is to promote student engagement and to provide our students with high quality services that are integrated and prioritised, and that are appropriate to their developmental and support needs.

Over the last year Student Services had key roles in first year undergraduate Orientation, student retention, the HEA 'Compact' and the Community and University Sustainability Project (CUSP). The Student Project Fund enabled ground-breaking wellbeing initiatives, as well as supporting the development of the online Academic Skills Hub in partnership with the James Hardiman Library.

STUDENT SERVICES IN NUMBERS



21,000 student consultations in the Student Health Unit



200 Access places on full-time undergraduate programmes



400 non-traditional students supported by the Access Centre graduated with undergraduate degrees this year



130 non-traditional students supported by the Access Centre graduated with postgraduate degrees and diplomas this year



1,000 + one-to-one appointments with the Chaplains



550 students developed the skills to respond safely to other students on the Seas Suas programme coordinated by the Chaplaincy



6,700 counselling sessions in the Student Counselling Service, meeting 1,425 students



1,600 students attended Smart Study Smart Life workshops coordinated by the Student Counselling Service



1,100 students registered with the Disability Support Service – numbers have doubled in the last five years



17,000 student attendances at career events



200% increase in student placements managed by the Career Development Centre since 2016



1,000 jobs advertised by the Career Development Centre



420 employer engagement events with the Career Development Centre in Semester 1 – including employer-led skills workshops, company presentations, job fairs, placement interviews and job advertisements



5,000 students actively involved in 126 societies and supported by the Societies Office



400 committee members trained by the Societies Office, including leadership and event management skills



1,000 events coordinated by the Societies Office for students and staff on campus



€600,000 + distributed to 1,600 students through the Financial Aid Fund managed by the Accommodation and Welfare Office



75% of students were able to find their preferred type of accommodation, according to the Accommodation and Welfare Survey



€300,000 support allocated to projects across campus by the Student Project Fund, managed by Student Services

- In November 2018, our **Access Programmes** in association with Grant Thornton, launched a Professional Engagement Module: a new and exciting experiential module of learning for 16 Access students who will be mentored by Grant Thornton staff.
- Led by the **Societies Office**, significant facilities for students were developed in Áras na Mac Léinn, including renovation of the acoustic rooms into a suite of rooms for music, events, relaxation and parenting. Developments in the Hub included the opening of a new kitchen where students can cook and take part in health and wellbeing initiatives.
- The **Career Development Centre** has launched an Employability Award, drawing together many skills offerings under one award. It brings together CÉIM, the Academic Skills Hub and SUMS, along with employers, to deliver skills workshops. The award is included on the Diploma Supplement. The Career Development Centre also contributes careers education to accredited modules in Science, Nursing, Business, and Arts and are committed to developing this further in 2019. Additionally, the Centre has developed policies and procedures to guide placement processes across the institution.
- The **Student Resilience Project**, focusing on positive mental health and interpersonal effectiveness, was led by James McCormack (Student Counselling) and Dr Pádraig MacNeela (Psychology) and was piloted this year with 341 first year Commerce students in partnership with Dr Johanna Clancy and Michael Campion (Business and Economics). The project involves a unique network of collaboration, including many Student Services staff, postgraduate students and 30 PAL leaders (2nd year B Comm students) who acted as facilitators in this pilot phase. Feedback was very positive – the impact ranged from minimising student's feeling of isolation or distress to those who felt it helped maximise their positive potential.
- The **Counselling Service** has produced a Directory of Wellbeing Supports and Services for Students and Staff, which features campus and community supports.
- The **Disability Support Service** has increased the number of disability-related fields on Quercus. Student exam accommodations are now visible, supporting the provision of accommodations for in-house exams.
- The **Disability Support Service** and the **Career Development Centre** work together to support students registered with the DSS who are going on placement. The support includes a placement planning meeting, support on disclosure to employers and the development of accommodations required in the workplace to facilitate a successful work experience.
- Occupational Therapists, Emma Frawley and Treasa Farragher, in the **Disability Support Service** were nominated for the Ann Beckett Award, one of the most prestigious awards in Occupational Therapy in Ireland. The nomination recognised the practical intervention they developed to support the mental health needs of students.
- The **Student Health Unit** offers a Sexual Health Clinic, funded by the Student Project Fund, which runs twice weekly over 12 weeks and was fully subscribed. Additionally, they have seen an increase in mental health consultations averaging 32 patients with acute mental health difficulties per week, each taking up to three consultation appointments.
- The **Accommodation and Welfare Office** provides a one-to-one financial counselling service in addition to managing the distribution of the Financial Aid Fund. Peer support for almost 2,000 students is also provided via the Student Connect mentoring programme.

Did you know?

- The **Chaplaincy** coordinates an Exam Support team of 20 people offering practical and emotional support. The Chaplaincy's Seas Suas programme covers topics such as Developing Positive Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Awareness, Suicide Prevention, Cyberbullying and Developing Digital Skills. Participants go on to contribute to events such as Mental Health Week, the Green Ribbon Campaign, the Exam Support Team and Student Orientation.
- The **Access Centre** will celebrate 20 years of Access programmes in May 2019. It was awarded €300,000 by the HEA to deliver Attract-Transition-Succeed: an innovative, collaborative project with the School of Education and the James Hardiman Library to support the most under-represented in our region to access and succeed in higher education. The Access Centre will also manage the Breaking the SEAL & Innovate21 engagement model along with project partners in the West and North West region in 2019.



Explore Innovation Awards

The inaugural 'Explore Innovation Awards' uncovered some of the most promising and innovative activity on campus. Pictured is first prize winner in the student section, Bronwyn Reid McDermott, who developed 'Sutureself' – an artificial, life-like skin for surgeons to train with. Bronwyn developed this innovative product while studying the MSc in Healthcare Simulation and Patient Safety.



Postgraduate Course of the Year

Congratulations to our colleagues in the MSc in International Management who were awarded 'Postgraduate Course of the Year in Business, Finance and Management' at the recent *gradireland* Higher Education Awards 2019. Pictured (l-r) Kiah Townsend (*gradireland*), Dr Majella Giblin (Management) and Paul McClatchie (Engage People).

SU Shop Excels

The Students' Union XL Shop beat off competition from hundreds of local convenience stores across Ireland to be presented with the Best Impulse Offering of the Year Award at the annual ShelfLife C-Store Awards in Dublin. Pictured (l-r) Val O'Meara (BWG Foods); Gabi Astanei and Liam Buckley (XL SU Shop); Gareth Williams (CEO Students' Union Commercial Services); Brendan Mc Brien (BWG Foods).



Conference Champions

We all love introducing new people to Galway. These eight colleagues were honoured at the Fáilte Ireland Inaugural National Conference Ambassador Recognition Awards for their role in attracting thousands of visitors to our city and campus. Together their conferences brought 4,500 international delegates to Galway, injecting over €7.2 million into the economy. Congratulations to (l-r) Professor Patrick Lonergan (Drama); Professor Agnes Shiel (Health Sciences); Professor Peter Dockery (Medicine); Dr Lorraine McIlrath (ILAS/CKI); Dr Chaosheng Zhang (Geography); Ann Duggan (Commercial Services) and former President, Professor Jim Browne. Missing from the photo are Professor Grace McCormack (Zoology) and Professor John Carey (Medicine).



Michel Déon Prize

Pictured is Moore Institute researcher, Dr Breandán Mac Suibhne (centre) who won the Royal Irish Academy's inaugural Michel Déon Prize for non-fiction. Dr Mac Suibhne was awarded €10,000 for his book *The End of Outrage: Post-Famine Adjustment in Rural Ireland*. He is pictured with Minister of State for European Affairs, Helen McEntee, and President of the RIA, Professor Peter Kennedy.



Encouraging Equality

Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor, came to campus to launch an annual report on our equality, diversity and inclusivity activities. The report outlines many key achievements from the academic year 2017/18, including the University's Athena SWAN Bronze Award, the establishment of our LGBT+ staff network, the launch of our University of Sanctuary campaign, and the reform of University governance structures to ensure a minimum 40% male and 40% female membership. The Minister also helped launch our Gender Identity Policy, as well as a new LGBT+ Ally Programme to show our support for LGBT+ staff and students. She is pictured (centre) with Vice-President for Equality and Diversity, Professor Anne Scott, and President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh.



Mentorship Scheme

An equality and diversity initiative in the College of Engineering and Informatics has seen the launch of a special senior mentorship scheme for female students during their professional experience placement in the third year of their studies. Pictured (left) is Computer Science student, Sinead Joyce, with her senior mentor Mary O'Connor who is IT Service Delivery Manager at the ESB.

Get Charged Up

Did you know that Buildings and Estates has increased the number of electric vehicle charging points across campus to help encourage greener commuting. There are currently 14 electric vehicle charge points located at the Quadrangle (2), Orbsen Building (4), Mail Centre (2), Cairnes Building (4) and Park and Ride (2).



50 Years of Adult Ed

2019 marks the 50th anniversary of Adult Education. The University started its first 'Extra-Mural Adult Education' courses in 1969 to promote community and regional education. These courses covered topics like local development and empowering people to provide leadership in their communities. Many of these courses were the predecessors to some of the part-time courses still offered at the Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development today.

Sustainable Events

A new Sustainable Event Checklist has been rolled out to encourage sustainable conferences and events across campus. The one-page checklist was developed by the Research and Learning team of the Sustainability Strategy led by Dr Frances Fahy (Geography). It has been incorporated into our Event Management and Event Safety Policy Guidelines and is intended as a simplified tool to help organise sustainable events. As thousands of delegates attend conferences and events at the University every year, the Community and University Sustainability Project (CUSP) are striving to ensure that events are organised in a sustainable way.



Putting Patients in the Picture

An information and education day about Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) in healthcare welcomed members of the public onto campus to find out more about how patients are key to shaping our healthcare research. The PPI Ignite programme involves staff from across the University who are helping patients develop the skills required to partner with researchers to guide and influence their work.



Food Glorious Food

The University supported the Food on the Edge symposium, which explored exciting developments in the food sector. The symposium is the brainchild of Galway-based Michelin star chef JP McMahon, and it attracted top international chefs to the Bailey Allen Hall over two days. Pictured are some of the 40 staff and students from Shannon College of Hotel Management who were involved in running the event.

MindOut goes Countrywide

The MindOut programme for Irish adolescents is being implemented nationally in post-primary schools and youth sector settings across Ireland. The programme, which was developed by IRC PhD Scholar, Katherine Dowling, and Professor Margaret Barry (Health Promotion Research Centre), is an interactive evidence-based programme that supports the social and emotional skills development and mental wellbeing of older adolescents (15-18 years). MindOut is funded by the HSE and developed in collaboration with the National Youth Council of Ireland, and it was recently launched by Minister of State for Health Promotion, Catherine Byrne.

ReeLIFE SCIENCE

Powerscourt National School in Co Wicklow won the top prize in the ReeLIFE Science video competition for schools. There were over 175 entries, which were judged by a star-studded panel, including comedian Dara Ó Briain, aeronautical engineer Norah Patten and BT Young Scientist and Technologist of the Year, Simon Meehan. Pictured (left) is ReeLIFE Science Director Dr Enda O'Connell (NCBES) with primary school runners-up, Gaelscoil Riabhach, from Loughrea.



Social Entrepreneurs Go West

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland brought their five-month Academy to the West of Ireland for the first time. Ten entrepreneurs were mentored by staff on campus, including Natalie Walsh and Dr Neil Ferguson (LaunchPad), Dr Rachel Hilliard and Dr Johanna Clancy (Business & Economics) and Edel Browne (TechInnovate). The programme was supported by Dr Paul Flynn (TechInnovate) and Michael Campion (Business & Economics).

Science for Schools

A new science toolkit designed to teach children about environmental science is to be distributed to 300 classrooms throughout Ireland. 'Spikey's Journey: an Exploration Box' is the result of a two-year European project developed in Ireland by Cell EXPLORERS, ProActivate Ireland and Toodlelout Creativity Lab. Using the hedgehog as the principal character, the toolkit takes schoolchildren on an explorative journey using storytelling, hands-on activities and games to learn about four environmental topics. Pictured with the kit are Niamh Cormican and her second year class in Scoil Iosaif Naofa, Oranmore.



€250,000 Boost for Youth Academy

The Youth Academy recently received a gift of €250,000 from Merit Medical to support its mission to provide primary school children with a taste of university life. For the past five years, the Youth Academy has been giving children the opportunity to study a fun but high-level course in a college subject area. Youth Academy coordinator, Geraldine Marley, welcomed the funding and looks forward to rolling out even more stimulating courses for our avid young learners!

The View from Around Campus



Rory Kavanagh Bursary: Italian student, Eilís Gillespie (centre), was awarded a bursary in memory of the late Rory Kavanagh at a presentation attended by Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh, Professor Paolo Bartolini (Italian), and Rory's parents Des and Mary.



Medtronic Diploma: Pictured here are some of the first graduates from our new Diploma in Operations Engineering! This part-time course was co-created with Medtronic to develop employees' expertise in large-scale operations and to support internal promotion.



Cuairt ar Pharlaimint na hEorpa
Thug mic léinn ón MA Cleachtas Gairmiúil sna Meáin in Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge cuairt ar an mBruiséal chun obair na Parlaiminte a fheiceáil dóibh féin. Sa phictiúr, tá Ciara O'Connor agus Zara Kenny, le stiúrthóir an MA, an Dr Uinsionn Mac Dubhghaill.



Chasing Rainbows: This striking shot is of Dr Eugene Farrell (Geography) conducting a drone survey at Knocknagoneen Drumlin near Silverstrand.



Hitting the right note: We love this group shot of the recent Bachelor of Arts (Music) Class 2018-2019.



Infheistiocht san Acadamh: Chuir foireann Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge fáilte mhór roimh an deontas €2.7m a d'fhógair an TD Seán Kyne le gairid. Tá sé le feiceáil anseo in aice le Treasa Uí Lorcáin agus an Dr Dorothy Ní Uigín (an tAcadamh), chomh maith leis an Dr Aodhán Mac Cormaic agus Seán Mac Eoin, ón Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta.



Welcoming T-REX! Thanks to Dr Tony Hall (Education) for sending in this smiling group from the launch of The Teachers' Research Exchange, or T-REX.ie, an online social network for Irish teachers and other educational researchers.



Celebrating 25 years' service: President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh hosted a special celebratory lunch for 15 colleagues who reached an extraordinary milestone recently – a quarter century of working in the University!

O L L S C É A L A



We are proud of all of the sportspeople who pull on an NUI Galway jersey to compete in their favourite sports. That's why we love this group photograph of female leaders from across our Clubs – from rugby to hockey, and soccer to camogie. Thanks to Clubs Captain, Ryan Guilfoyle, for sending it in.

Watch a video of our sportswomen - search for 'Here is where we push the limits' in YouTube.

Desktop Diary

May 2019

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

June 2019

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

July 2019

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

Summer on Campus

Summer is a busy time in the University with major conferences and festivals popping up across campus. Here are some big events to look out for...

Access - Celebrating 20 Years of Access Programmes 1999-2019

15-22 May
In May, the Access Programme will celebrate its twentieth anniversary. The primary focus for the celebrations is to acknowledge the impact of the programme on individuals, families and community, including the University community, and will involve past students, graduates, staff and tutors.

MoJo Fest 6-8 June

June sees the return of MoJo Fest to campus with a three-day conference that invites visitors to get hands-on with the latest mobile technologies.

Health Promotion Annual Conference 13 June

The focus of this conference is on 'Building a Healthy Ireland: Promoting Health and Wellbeing in Educational Settings'. In collaboration with the Department of Health, Health Service Executive, Association of Health Promotion Ireland and the Department of Education and Skills, the conference organisers look forward to welcoming practitioners, researchers and policymakers to meet in Galway to discuss current and future directions for health and wellbeing in education.

9th Biennial International Conference 13-14 June

Hosted by the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre the aim of this conference is to reflect on the nature of family and family change and its implications for policy and practice.

As well as focusing on current issues, its aim is to anticipate future challenges and possibilities for families, and frame future responses.

Irish Ancestry Summer School 30 June-5 July

This five-day summer school includes lectures, workshops and fieldtrips to various sites of archaeological, historical and genealogical importance in the West of Ireland. It will explore the origins of people in Ireland from earliest times and then trace the development of society on this island through time down to the present day. Participants will also be taught how to research their own family history and will be offered the opportunity of giving a DNA sample to find out about their origins.