



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh

# COIS COIRIBE

The Magazine for NUI Galway Alumni & Friends

AUTUMN 2018

## Plastic pollution

We need to talk about  
microplastics

Why NUI Galway  
is leading the way  
on consent

Conradh na Gaeilge  
lena Chartlann a chur i  
dTaisce in OÉ Gaillimh

## COMING HOME

Meet NUI Galway's  
new President



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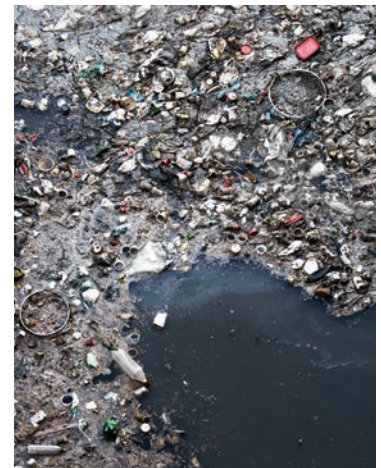
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**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Aengus McMahon, Andrew Downes, NUI Galway Archive, Martina Regan  
**PUBLISHER:** Ashville Media **PRINT:** iSupply

**DISCLAIMER:** Cois Coiribe is an annual magazine published by the Marketing & Communications Office for alumni and friends of NUI Galway. While every care is taken in compiling the magazine, NUI Galway accepts no responsibility for the effects arising thereof. The views expressed are not necessarily those of NUI Galway. All material is copyright. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited.

**ON THE COVER:** President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh at NUI Galway. Photo by Martina Regan



This publication is available online at: [www.nuigalway.ie/coisclairibe](http://www.nuigalway.ie/coisclairibe)





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A YEAR IN PICTURES



Thomas Ritter, Professor of Medicine, NUI Galway and CÚRAM Investigator works in immunology and is engaged in developing novel gene and cell therapies to modulate inflammatory diseases of the eye. The image was part of a new Community Art-Science exhibition in the Westside community in Galway City, organised by CÚRAM, the Science Foundation Ireland Centre for Research in Medical Devices based at NUI Galway and the Galway City Arts Office. The exhibit, now permanently housed in the Westside Resource Centre, consists of 19 portraits, each composed of a black and white portrait accompanied by a colour negative mapping. Each portrait is set against a background of highly aesthetic images drawn from science and research that warrant a second look to decipher their content.

## PUBLIC INVITED TO EXPLORE BIODIVERSITY TRAIL

To celebrate nature on campus, NUI Galway recently launched a Biodiversity Trail, a free trail available to both the campus community and wider public that explores the variety of wildlife on campus. The trail guides visitors through NUI Galway's natural habitats and takes visitors from the oldest building in the university, the Quadrangle, up along the River Corrib to the northern part of campus. The Biodiversity Trail is available in leaflet form from locations around campus and an audio trail is also available in both podcast and downloadable form (go to [www.nuigalway.ie/biodiversitytrail](http://www.nuigalway.ie/biodiversitytrail)). Funding for the trail was provided by the NUI Galway Community and University Sustainability Project (CUSP), the Ryan Institute and the Climate Change and Environment Section of Galway City Council. The trail was produced by Jamie Maxwell, Dara Stanley and Caitriona Carlin, while the audio trail was recorded at Flirt FM by Padraig McMahon. *See page 72.*



# CAMPUS UPDATE

## Minister For Health Opens Human Biology Building

NUI Galway's €34 million Human Biology Building was officially opened by Minister for Health Simon Harris in July 2018, bringing together the existing disciplines of anatomy, physiology, pharmacology and therapeutics at the University. Funded by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and also by NUI Galway, the Human Biology Building will build on the output of NUI Galway's cluster of world-leading biomedical research in areas such as regenerative medicine and stem cell research, cancer biology, biomechanics and biomaterials. NUI Galway President, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, said: "Investment in education is vital for our regional development and continued funding is imperative so that our new buildings can be great places to learn, teach and research in. Our students compete with the best of the world and so must we."





A YEAR IN PICTURES



A red squirrel on Killiney Hill, Dublin. The University hosted the 8th International Colloquium on Squirrels in June 2018, a global event that takes place every three years. The colloquium brought together squirrel researchers from around the world to discuss all aspects of squirrel biology including ecology, evolution, morphology, genetics, pathology and conservation.

### Athena SWAN Award for Gender Equality at NUI Galway

In May 2018, Advance Higher Education announced that NUI Galway had achieved an Athena SWAN award while the School of Medicine was conferred with a departmental level award. The awards at Bronze level recognise that the University and the School of Medicine have demonstrated a solid foundation for eliminating gender bias and developing an inclusive culture that values all staff. Through the implementation of an action plan containing a range of specific, measurable activities, NUI Galway has introduced a range of initiatives focused on gender equality in recent years. Work on implementing these actions and other gender equality initiatives is already underway and will continue to be fully supported by the University's senior management team. These initiatives include the introduction of gender quotas for University promotion schemes where applicable and inclusivity and unconscious bias training programmes and workshops for managers and staff. Specific leadership development programmes for female University staff are also included under the initiative along with targeted supports for parents returning from leave, return to work programmes and breastfeeding support workshops.



### NUI Galway receives archive of Margareta d'Arce and John Arden

Margareta d'Arce has donated her papers and those of her late husband and playwright John Arden to NUI Galway. The archive throws new light on two pivotal figures of 20th and 21st century Irish and British theatre. John Arden was one of the major dramatists of the 20th century, with early plays such as *Sergeant Musgrave's Dance* (1960) helping to inaugurate a new era of politically engaged theatre in Britain. Margareta D'Arce is a major writer and cultural activist who has long campaigned on issues related to global peace, civil liberties and equality. Comprising 314 boxes of archival material, as well as 35 linear metres of books, the collection is valuable not only from the perspective of theatre and literary studies, but in terms of Irish and British social, political and cultural history. The international dimension of their work further establishes NUI Galway as an international centre for the advancement of the study of theatre and drama.



For more on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at NUI Galway, visit [www.nuigalway.ie/equality](http://www.nuigalway.ie/equality)





### FEMALE SCIENTISTS TAKE TO STREETS FOR SOAPBOX SCIENCE GALWAY 2018

Twelve female scientists took to their soap boxes to bring science to the streets of Galway as part of NUI Galway's second annual Soapbox Science Galway. The event, which aims to challenge perceptions of what a scientist is by celebrating the diversity of women in science, took place at the Spanish Arch and was open to the public. The scientists shared their work in technology, science, medicine and engineering with the public and this year NUI Galway joined forces with colleagues from GMIT and UCC to showcase research talent across the western seaboard. Talks covered a diverse range of topics ranging from microbial brains, how computers read fairy tales, octopuses and their ancient relatives, what kelp does for its community and microplastics in the oceans. Soapbox Science Galway is organised by Dr Jessamyn Fairfield and Dr Dara Stanley from NUI Galway. Jessamyn is a nanoscientist and lecturer in the School of Physics and CÚRAM while Dara a lecturer in Botany and Plant Science in the Ryan Institute.



Hear more about what our Soapbox Science Galway scientists talked about here: [tinyurl.com/ybm8dl2e](https://tinyurl.com/ybm8dl2e), [tinyurl.com/y7zskaua](https://tinyurl.com/y7zskaua), [tinyurl.com/ybc8k5v4](https://tinyurl.com/ybc8k5v4)



The robots are coming. Artificial intelligence was the topic of the AtlanTec Conference 2018 in May, co-hosted by IT Association Galway and NUI Galway and part of the AtlanTec Festival.

### NUI GALWAY RUNS AND WALKS FOR JIGSAW

In association with the Kingfisher Club and Aerogen, NUI Galway hosted its fifth annual charity 8km Run/Walk in March 2018. The popular event consists of a traffic-free, mixed terrain route around the University's campus and along the banks of the river Corrib. With over 700 people taking part, all proceeds from the event went to official charity partner Jigsaw Galway, a confidential support service that promotes the mental health and well-being of young people living in Galway city and county.



Pictured is Dr Pat Morgan, VP for the Student Experience at NUI Galway, with staff, students and event organisers from the Kingfisher Club, Aerogen, Jigsaw Galway and the NUI Galway Students' Union



Listen in to Jim O'Leary of the Whitaker Institute, NUI Galway - **How (Not) To Do Public Policy** by clicking the link: [tinyurl.com/y8jsjq6h](https://tinyurl.com/y8jsjq6h)



## A YEAR IN PICTURES

Niamh O'Connor a third year student with NUI Galway's School of Medicine, and a member of the University Orchestra, at the launch of seven new Arts degrees for enrolment in 2018. The new offerings respond to feedback from students, industry and employers and further expands the specialised Arts study options at NUI Galway. The new offerings include Music, Film & Digital Studies, Arts & Technology, International and Global Languages.



### Partnership between Galway International Arts Festival & NUI Galway

Galway International Arts Festival and NUI Galway have signed a new multi-year partnership. This collaboration will see Ireland's leading cultural organisation and the University of the Year 2018 working together across a number of initiatives designed to provide inspiring cultural and creative opportunities for students.

Galway International Arts Festival will work with the University on the development of a number of education initiatives that complement the existing suite of culture-related courses provided by the University. In addition, the University's ALIVE programme will work to further develop the festival's expanding volunteer programme as a best practice experience.

A formal arrangement will be put in place with the library to archive the Arts Festival's activities. Likewise, the Festival will work with the University on the promotion of its new BA in Music programme. The new partnership will also see greater ties between the Festival's First Thought Talks programme and the University, with the campus becoming much more closely associated with the popular discussion platform.

### NUI Galway Introduces Music Into Bachelor Of Arts Degree

September 2018 marked the first intake of students to the new Bachelor of Arts honours degree in Music. An exciting development for music making and music education in the west of Ireland, the move also builds on the University's established reputation for excellence in creative arts subjects. The University also announced the appointment of new Head of Music, Dr Aidan Thomson. Dr Thomson has taught at the University of Oxford, the University of Leeds and for the last 14 years, Queen's University Belfast, principally in music history, theory and analysis but also in performance. A feature of the four-year BA degree is that all students will have the opportunity in their third year to undertake a music-related placement. Students will also be able to work with top musical professionals throughout their degree, notably the current Galway Musicians in Residence, the ConTempo String Quartet.



For more information on the new **BA in Music** visit [www.nuigalway.ie/artsmusic/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/artsmusic/) or watch a video about the programme at [tinyurl.com/y94p9eux](http://tinyurl.com/y94p9eux).

### NUI GALWAY LAUNCHES IRELAND ILLUSTRATED ONLINE

A new database of images has revealed how Ireland was depicted in illustrations of the country produced by travellers in the period from 1680 to 1860. Based on years of research by investigators at NUI Galway led by Professor Jane Conroy, *Ireland Illustrated* is now available to view online. *Ireland Illustrated, 1680-1860*, is a database of over 500 images of Ireland with related text, drawn from more than 50 manuscript and printed works and highlighting several neglected or rarely accessible sources. Many of the pictures in the database have rarely, if ever, been seen by the public. The collection provides an opportunity to examine how diverse representations of Ireland were created over two centuries. The online database is hosted by NUI Galway's Moore Institute and was created with the support of libraries in Ireland and abroad, in particular the National Library of Ireland and the James Hardiman Library at NUI Galway.



To visit the online portal of Ireland Illustrated, visit: [ttce.nuigalway.ie/irelandillustrated/](http://ttce.nuigalway.ie/irelandillustrated/)





## Dominican Convent donates historic library to NUI Galway

The Dominican Convent in Taylor's Hill, Galway donated its library of 2,000 volumes, built up over five centuries, to NUI Galway at an event in the University Library in May 2018. At one stage it looked like the library might be lost due to lack of storage when the convent building in which it was located was demolished. The Dominican Convent Library represents the oldest continuously used library in Galway City today. It illustrates the place of study in the life of nuns from 1644 onwards and gives testimony to the history of the education of women through the variety of books it contains.



Pictured is Sister Alberta Lally, Dominican Convent, Taylor's Hill, with John Cox, NUI Galway James Hardiman Library

## EIB €60M For NUI Galway Campus

The European Investment Bank provided €60 million towards the development of the NUI Galway campus. The first ever loan to the University from Europe's long-term lending institution will finance the construction of campus developments including new student residences and a new building for the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. At the signing, Dr Jim Browne, past President of NUI Galway said: "The University is nearing the conclusion of a 10-year capital development plan, which has transformed our campus. While philanthropic and State funding have enabled much of this expansion, the support from EIB will assist in the completion of our new Human Biology Building as well as the development of new campus student accommodation. In addition, construction of new residences for 430 students is also well underway."



## MUINTIR NA TÍRE ARCHIVE DONATED TO NUI GALWAY

NUI Galway has opened the archive of *Muintir na Tíre* (People of the Land) to scholars and the public. The archive, donated to the University in 2016, is a major resource for understanding the development of rural Ireland in the last century and is now catalogued, selectively digitised and available for use. *Muintir na Tíre* was founded as a rural renewal movement in 1931 and contains an abundance of material relating to social and economic conditions in rural Ireland, Irish rural civil society, the involvement of the Catholic clergy in local community organising and rural civil society/state relationships over a period spanning more than 80 years. Commenting on the archive, Dr Caitriona Clear, Department of History, said: "The *Muintir na Tíre* archive tells of a hidden 20th century Ireland of community effort and enterprise, of men and women coming together to try to improve the lives of the many, rather than the few. We are accustomed to seeing the history of early-twentieth-century Ireland as a narrative of failure, stagnation and repression. The story of Muintir and its members testifies to energy, optimism and sheer hard work over decades of difficulty."



The catalogue of the archive is accessible at <https://tinyurl.com/ya812fs> and two of Muintir na Tíre's journals, *The Landmark* and *Rural Ireland*, have been digitised and published online at [tinyurl.com/ya8d2vt6](https://tinyurl.com/ya8d2vt6)



A YEAR IN PICTURES



The campus under a blanket of snow.

## EXHIBITION SHOWCASES WORK OF ICONIC IRISH LANGUAGE POET

Last Spring, NUI Galway was delighted to present a special exhibition celebrating iconic Irish language poet, Máirtín Ó Direáin, 30 years after his death in March 1988. The exhibition was curated by Síobhra Aiken, a PhD researcher in the Centre for Irish Studies and drew on materials from University, State and private archives. *Máirtín Ó Direáin – Fathach File/Reluctant Modernist* was launched in the Hardiman Building by NUI Galway President, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh and ran from March to July 2018. The free exhibition offered new information on aspects of Ó Direáin's life such as the respect he earned as a young actor in An Taibhdhearc theatre, the steps he took to promote the rights of post office workers and his position as President of Cumann na Scríbhneoirí (The Writers' Association) in Dublin.

Pictured at the launch were (l-r): NUI Galway President, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh; NUI Galway researcher and exhibition curator, Síobhra Aiken; Ó Direáin's daughter, Niamh Sheridan; and Director of NUI Galway's Centre for Irish Studies, Dr Louis de Paor.



## NUI Galway Hosts Ireland's First Student-Run Energy Summit

Students from the College of Engineering and Informatics hosted Ireland's first student-run energy summit, *Galway Energy Summit 2018*, in March at NUI Galway. Themed *The Future of Energy in Ireland* and run by the University's Galway Energy Society, the event was free and open to the public. The event was founded by Chairperson and NUI Galway final year engineering student Conor Deane and was particularly timely given that Ireland is currently failing to meet EU greenhouse gas emissions targets for 2020. An 'Innovation, Energy and Careers Fair' gave students the opportunity to speak to potential future employers by bringing together energy experts, companies, start-ups, students and academics. Main sponsor of the event was ESB with supporting sponsors from Jaguar and Landrover, Ward and Burke Construction, Crowley Carbon, Bank of Ireland, NUI Galway's Blackstone LaunchPad, MaREI and the Ryan Institute.

## Work of Engineering Graduate Honoured by Exhibition and Archive

An archive of papers belonging to distinguished engineering graduate, Michael M. O'Shaughnessy (1864-1934), was the subject of an exhibition at NUI Galway entitled *Michael Maurice O'Shaughnessy (1864-1934): Engineering the Promised Land*. After studying engineering in what was then Queen's College Galway, he emigrated to America and in 1912, was appointed city engineer for San Francisco, six years after the city's devastating earthquake. For over two decades, O'Shaughnessy oversaw some of the world's most iconic engineering projects including the Golden Gate Bridge. In 2016, the archive was donated to NUI Galway by Bernadette O'Shaughnessy whose late husband was a grand-nephew of Michael O'Shaughnessy. An exhibition based on the archive has been curated in a joint project between the NUI Galway Library and the College of Engineering and Informatics.



The archive has been catalogued and digitised in its entirety and is available to view at [tinyurl.com/yde2unub](http://tinyurl.com/yde2unub)



A YEAR IN PICTURES



In February, the University held a free full day family event entitled *Engineering Our Future: Family Fun Day*, as part of Engineers Week 2018 which celebrates engineering across Ireland. The Family Fun Day provided plenty of science and engineering shows, movie screening, workshops and hands-on activities to inspire young (and older) people.





Committee members of the NUI Galway LGBT+ Network pictured l-r: Tonya Watts, Office for Equality and Diversity; Chris Noone, lecturer, School of Psychology; Cameron Keighron, Masters student in Regenerative Medicine; Dr Peter McKeown, lecturer in Botany and Plant Science; Kate Dawson, PhD Candidate School of Psychology; and Dr Declan Coogan, lecturer School of Political Science and Sociology.

### LGBT+ NETWORK CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL LGBT+ STEM DAY

Events celebrating the first ever international LGBT+ STEM Day were held at NUI Galway in June. A series of talks were organised to recognise staff and students who are members of the LGBT+ community and who contribute to the University's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) disciplines. Chris Noone, Co-chair of LGBT+ Staff Network and lecturer in the School of Psychology at NUI Galway, said: "The NUI Galway LGBT+ Staff Network is committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment for staff of all sexual identities and genders at the University and to advocate for and raise awareness of LGBT+ issues. It is well documented that staff and students within the STEM disciplines face added difficulty in being out compared to those in other disciplines and we are proud to support International LGBT+ STEM Day and House of STEM, an Irish-based network dedicated to connecting and supporting LGBT+ scientists in Ireland."

For more information about the **Office for Equality and Diversity** at NUI Galway, visit: [www.nuigalway.ie/equality/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/equality/)



A YEAR IN PICTURES



Local historian and honorary graduate **Catherine Corless**, who painstakingly researched infant mortality in Tuam, is in conversation with Caitriona Crowe in this First Thought Talk in NUI Galway as part of #GIAF18. [youtu.be/iiUTdL5fE4M](https://youtu.be/iiUTdL5fE4M)

### Primary School Students Graduate From Uni 4 U Programme

Forty local school children aged between 10 and 12 years of age this year graduated from NUI Galway's Uni 4 U programme. Entitled *Follow Your Dream*, the graduation ceremony included an inspirational talk from Connacht Rugby's sporting legend, Eric Elwood. NUI Galway's Uni 4 U is a primary schools initiative aimed at increasing participation, diversity and equality of opportunity in third level education. Under the supervision of Dr Mary Surlis and co-ordinated by Mark Dooley, this programme is funded, delivered and designed by the Access Centre in NUI Galway since 2005.

Pictured below: Natalia Wojciechowska from Holy Trinity Girls School, Mervue; Matthew Stasiak from St. Michael's School, Mervue; and Jakub Zebrowski from Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla, display a poem written by the three DEIS schools as part of the Uni 4 U programme.



Young scientists from 5th class Galway Educate Together National School presenting the Cell EXPLORERS network map with Cell EXPLORERS National coordinator Dr Claudia Fracchiolla. Cell EXPLORERS science outreach network brought its 'Fantastic DNA' national roadshow to schools during Science Week 2017. For the fifth year in a row the Cell EXPLORERS roadshow, established by NUI Galway's School of Natural Sciences, once again visited primary schools across Ireland bringing hands-on experiments to over 3,500 school children.



A YEAR IN PICTURES



Pictured is Zoe Philpott from Ada.Ada.Ada, a one woman live interactive performance that tells the story of Ada Lovelace, the world's first computer programmer, at the inaugural Innovation at Play Symposium in October 2017. Using an LED dress and wearable technology operated live on stage by performance artist and technology professional Zoe Philpott, the show aims to inspire future generations to follow in Lovelace's footsteps and push boundaries. The one day experiential symposium focused on exploring play for the purpose of innovation and featured award winning game designer, Brenda Romero and astrophysicist, Dr Iain MacLaren, Director of CELT at NUI Galway.

**Over 950 University Volunteers Recognised**

NUI Galway President, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, this year presented over 950 student volunteers with the ALIVE Certificate for Volunteering. ALIVE is the student volunteering programme at NUI Galway and students are awarded certificates to acknowledge their contribution to campus programmes and local and international community volunteering. The ceremony is an annual event to encourage volunteering and to thank all the community partners for hosting student volunteers. This year the ALIVE programme worked with higher education institutions across Ireland to successfully launch StudentVolunteer.ie, a national platform to match students to non-profits.



Pictured (l-r): Undergraduate student volunteers Charlotte Lucas, Lisa Costello; NUI Galway President, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh; student volunteer coordinator, Lorraine Tansey; and School of Business student volunteers Matthew Farrell and Laura Ledger.

**NUI GALWAY LAUNCHES SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

Launched by Senator Alice Mary Higgins at an event in November 2017, NUI Galway's Sustainability Strategy builds on its existing reputation as an environmentally-friendly and societally responsive university. The strategy illustrates an ambitious vision for the campus to become a role model for the transition to a more sustainable future. Its successful implementation will ensure that NUI Galway's reputation around the world is enhanced, that graduates are valued for their world-readiness, that research tackles societal challenges and that the campus is a role model for sustainability. NUI Galway already offers almost 200 courses covering environmental and/or sustainability issues and has won the top award for most biodiverse campus at Ireland's Interservice BioBlitz competition. Earlier this year it announced plans to divest from fossil fuel shares. Building on this momentum, the strategy identifies 20 measures for success, under six themes, which serve as indicators for much more extensive work. The strategy is the culmination of a long process of consultation with thousands of members of the NUI Galway staff and students, as well as partners such as the Saolta University Healthcare Group.



Pictured at the launch of NUI Galway's Sustainability Strategy are: Professor Pí O Dochartaigh, Registrar & Deputy President, NUI Galway; Dr Frances Fahy, School of Geography and Archaeology, NUI Galway; Senator Alice Mary Higgins, Seanad Éireann and Professor Colin Brown, Ryan Institute, NUI Galway Photo: Paul Fennell



Read about **NUI Galway's Sustainability Strategy** here [www.nuigalway.ie/sustainability/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/sustainability/)





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# NEW HORIZONS

Promoting diversity and effecting cultural change are top of Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh's wish list for 2018. NUI Galway's new President talks about his plans and ambitions for the next 10 years



Ten years sounds like a long time. In many ways it is, but for a University President that wants to effect serious change on a campus as large as NUI Galway, it's not long at all.

Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh became the 13th President of NUI Galway in January 2018. Originally hailing from Galway, Ciarán spent the majority of his working life in Dublin. Given that his best subjects in the Leaving Cert were Irish, English and French, Ciarán perhaps surprisingly ended up graduating with a BComm from NUI Galway, training as a Chartered Accountant with Arthur Andersen and qualifying with a PhD in Accounting from the University of Leeds.

The decision to leave the private sector and join the world of academia was a now or never moment. "I remember walking into work one day thinking, if I want to be an academic I have to apply now. I applied for a number of posts and was offered and took DCU," says Ciarán. An illustrious and diverse career followed; he held academic positions at both DCU and the University of Wellington in New Zealand and was Professor of Accounting and Dean of Business at UCD, leading its schools in Dublin (UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School and UCD Smurfit Executive Development) and its overseas programmes in Hong Kong, Singapore and Sri Lanka. He was also awarded a Fulbright scholarship and spent a year at Boston College.

Applying for the Presidency at NUI Galway made sense. At that stage, Ciarán had made great strides in his career. NUI Galway was his alma mater and the progress that the University had made over the previous two decades appealed to him. "It's a very different University and campus to what it was when I was there so that was very attractive. I also knew I would enjoy the people aspect of the role. That was something I had relished as Dean at UCD."

A transformation has occurred at NUI Galway since Ciarán was a student there. It has of course been extended but certain elements, like the River Corrib, now play a central role for students and faculty alike. "When I was a student, the whole north of the campus wasn't there. The river in particular gives a completely different perspective, it opens up opportunities in a way that's very fluid. I think we could make more of the canal network as well."

It's not a role without its challenges, but six months in and Ciarán is enjoying it more than he expected. "The first few months have been about setting the overall structure in place and appointing people to various roles. This is a 10-year presidency

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**"I often use a quotation from Seamus Heaney – 'We are here to develop your capacities, your destinies are your own.' That idea of students moving from us to their destiny is a really important role that the university plays."**

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and a lot of the projects I'm involved in will take that long to implement and get up and running. If you want to effect real change, I think it takes time and commitment."

There are three aspects to the role of President. One involves internal communications, another involves getting out and about and meeting people in the hinterland while the third centres around planning. "I meet the Students' Union President regularly and I make sure I meet as many students as possible on campus. I also plan to teach; I'm timetabled to teach tutorials for first year undergraduates in accounting."

Engendering a real sense of community on campus will be a priority for Ciarán throughout his 10 years as President. A new HR Director has been partly tasked with fulfilling this ambition while Ciarán will also be working to ensure both students and faculty feel a sense of belonging on campus. In a city as diverse as Galway, it's important that the University reflects that diversity and works to embrace and respect it. "That's extremely important, not just for this University but for society generally. A hallmark of a university is that we reflect a better society. That can sometimes be challenging but it's absolutely crucial."

Promoting NUI Galway as a research hub across a variety of disciplines is also part of Ciarán's ambition, as is differentiating the University internationally. "For example – medtech, IT, marine and the environment and the cultural space. We're building on these areas and really pushing them; we want to strengthen our presence



To view Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh's **All Staff Address** in October 2018 go to: [tinyurl.com/y8gvgsj5](http://tinyurl.com/y8gvgsj5)



## Mindfulness and positivity

Mindfulness and its positive effects is something the university is keen to promote. "Encouraging students to be more mindful of their place in life will be, I hope, part of our strategy for 2020. What's really nice in that context is the campus itself; it lends itself to that idea of observing the world around us. The emotional wellbeing of all our students and staff is a priority for me and will remain so," said Ciarán. NUI Galway will continue to host a series of conferences and workshops on mindfulness throughout the academic year.



Interested in finding out more about **mindfulness** at NUI Galway? [www.nuigalway.ie/mindfulness](http://www.nuigalway.ie/mindfulness)

internationally and I think we're well on the way to achieving that."

The role that university can play in a person's life shouldn't be underestimated. Quite often, universities open up new avenues for people to find interesting ways of thinking about the world. They help us to make sense of uncertainty, allow us to become discerning and help us understand that sometimes there are issues in life that need more thought and consideration. "That's important because we're not just preparing students for the world of work, we're preparing them for the world. The world needs discerning people. Understanding different ways of learning or thinking are more valuable than the content of the curriculum. I often use a quotation from Seamus Heaney – 'We are here to develop your capacities, your destinies are your own.' That idea of students moving from us to their destiny is a really important role that the university plays."

Between lecturing and getting out and about on campus, Ciarán intends to meet as many students as possible over the academic year. His advice to 1st years? "Be yourself. The best you can be is yourself. If you try

to be someone else, you'll always be second best. We have the highest proportion of students living away from home and that can be tough but it can also be a real learning experience.

"Universities offer students the chance to try something new, whether that be a sports club, society or a new module; sometimes you'll find you're really good at it and other times, you'll learn it's not for you. If it's the latter, you'll discover that the world doesn't end just because you're not good at something. Trying something new gives you great confidence."

Ciarán's vision of NUI Galway as a gateway to the rest of the world suggests boundless opportunities for students and indeed faculty at the University. "I'm keen that we not just see ourselves as a University that's in Galway and for Galway. Hinterland is something I'm very interested in; ours spreads from Letterkenny to Athlone and into Clare. Geographically, it's huge but it also links us internationally. My role is to foster that idea and ensure our strengths are considerable in the world and for that world. In that context, we need to determine how we can be distinctive internationally, drawing on our strengths of place and people."

Understanding new and different ways of learning or thinking are more valuable than the content of the curriculum.



NUI Galway is renowned for its IT-related research so it's no surprise that the new **NUI Galway Campus App** has proved such a hit with both students and staff. The newest version can be downloaded now and is available on Google Play for Android and the App Store for iPhones/iPads. Find out more at [www.nuigalway.ie/mobileapp/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/mobileapp/)





## Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe Galway City Council

Galway is a vibrant, diverse city. It is a city of learning, a city of youth, and a city of rich cultural heritage. Galway is a creative city where everybody matters. Galway is currently European Region of Gastronomy and will be European Capital of Culture in 2020.

Galway City Council aims to create a city that people aspire to live in, to study in, to work in and to visit.

Galway City Council is proud of its long association with NUI Galway working in partnership locally, regionally, nationally and internationally for the benefit of all.

Galway City Council also reaches out to those who have left Galway city and Ireland, through our Twinning programme. Galway city is twinned with US cities such as Cambridge MA, Milwaukee WI, Chicago IL, Seattle WA, St. Louis MO, and most recently Menlo Park in California. Galway is also twinned with European cities such as Bradford in England, Lorient in France and Aalborg in Denmark. Galway City Council is delighted to link with alumni of NUI Galway at home and abroad.

Is cathair bríomhar ilghnéitheach í Gaillimh. Is cathair don fhoghlaim í Gaillimh, cathair don óige agus cathair lán le hoidhreacht luachmhar cultúir. Is cathair ildánach í Gaillimh ina bhfuil meas ar chách. Tá an gradam ag Gaillimh faoi láthair mar Réigiún Gastanómachais na hEorpa agus is í Gaillimh Príomhchathair Chultúir na hEorpa in 2020.

Is mian le Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe cathair a chruthú ina mbeidh daoine ag iarraidh cónaí ann, bheith ag staidéar ann, bheith ag obair ann agus cuairt a thabhairt ann.

Tá Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe bródúil as an mbaint atá ag an gComhairle le fada an lá le hOllscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh, ag obair i gcomhpháirtíocht go háitiúil, go réigiúnach, go náisiúnach agus go hidirnáisiúnta ar mhaithe le cách.

Déanann Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe iarracht teagmháil a choimeád freisin leo sin a d'fhág Cathair na Gaillimhe agus Éirinn lena gclár Cleamhnais. Tá cleamhnas cheana féin idir Cathair na Gaillimhe agus cathracha éagsúla sna Stáit Aontaithe ina measc, Cambridge MA, Milwaukee WI, Chicago IL, Seattle WA, St. Louis MO, agus le déanaí le Menlo Park i California. Tá cleamhnas déanta freisin idir Gaillimh agus cathracha eile san Eorpach mar Bradford i Sasana, Lorient san Fhrainc agus Aalborg san Danmhairg. Tá an-ríméad ar Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe nasc a cothú le alumni in Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh in Éirinn agus thar lear.









# Cathal Cleary

## MA Drama and Theatre

2005

### FROM NUI GALWAY TO LONDON'S YOUNG VIC, AWARD-WINNING THEATRE DIRECTOR CATHAL CLEARY IS A STAR ON THE RISE

For many, thoughts of Galway city immediately conjure up images of lively pubs, buskers, students, medieval streets steeped in history and of course, the rain. It's also a city where culture finds its home, where a sense of bohemia permeates every street and artists come together. NUI Galway plays a large part in fostering the city as Ireland's cultural home and it's where several of today's most successful writers, directors and actors found their voice.

Theatre director Cathal Cleary graduated from NUI Galway in 2005 having completed an MA in Drama and Theatre and before that, an Arts Degree. It wasn't until his fourth year at the University that he truly found his niche. "I enjoyed my first three years in Galway but at that stage, I still hadn't figured out what I was about. I had applied for a screenwriting MA in the Huston Film School and didn't get it but ended up getting my second choice, which was the Drama and Theatre MA. Over that year I was introduced to theatre in a way that I hadn't been before." Cathal was 23 when he discovered theatre and found his place in life. "I had probably seen five or six plays in my life before then. I saw 20 plays over that year and that's when I realised here's my gang, my niche. It felt very right for me."

The next couple of years saw Cathal carve out a place for himself in the theatre world. In 2006, Project '06 was taking place in the city, an event that lobbied for a broader programme in the Galway Arts Festival. "Anyone who was involved in theatre at the time had something happening in that festival. I was being a bit cowardly and hadn't put anything on." A call from festival organiser, the late Mike Diskin, changed that. "Three weeks before the festival I got a call from Mike, a person I'd never spoken to before. He said, one of the directors on *The Cripple of Inishmaan*



has pulled out. He knew I was a director and the only one not doing something. He asked, could you please take over this show because we can't cancel it. He said, if you do this I'll owe you. Here was the most influential person I could think of saying they'd owe me." Cathal decided to go for it and the show was a success. He was then asked to revise the production in the Town Hall main stage in early 2007. "On the back of that I started a company and that gave me the impetus to see theatre directing as a potential career. We did five or six shows in the main space and Mike gave us the vast majority of the box office. I'm delighted I did it. I could have easily said no and be working in an office somewhere now. I really do think that was a pivotal moment in my career."

In 2009, Cathal moved to London to further his career and to learn his craft. Within a year, he was assistant director at the Young Vic and within two years, he won the prestigious JMK Award and directed Enda Walsh's *Disco Pigs*. "That gave me a big shop window as a director in London. It allowed me to start earning money and got the attention of bigger theatres." Since then, Cathal has directed plays for Druid in Galway and at Dublin's Abbey Theatre. He's also the founder and Artistic Director of MOMMO Theatre; its first production, Karen Cogan's *The Half of It*, won the First Fortnight Award at the Dublin Fringe Festival. From finding his tribe at NUI Galway to directing critically acclaimed, award-winning plays, Cathal's career is going from strength to strength. "I'd like to produce new work, specifically in Ireland, maybe one production every 18 months that I can control or write or co-write. I feel very lucky that I ended up doing the Drama and Theatre MA in NUI Galway. Things could have ended up very differently!"



### Drama and Theatre Studies MA

NUI Galway places strong emphasis on interacting with working theatre professionals, as shown by its partnerships with Druid Theatre and the Abbey Theatre. Students take workshops as part of the Druid Academy, attend workshops with visiting practitioners, have the option of carrying out an internship, and visit the theatre frequently, both in Galway and Dublin.



For more, visit [www.nuigalway.ie](http://www.nuigalway.ie)



Cathal directed *Madhouse* at the 2018 Dublin Fringe Festival, see [www.fringefest.com](http://www.fringefest.com)



PLASTIC POLLUTION

**NO WATER  
NO LIFE  
NO BLUE  
NO GREEN\***

**NUI GALWAY STUDY FINDS 73% OF DEEP WATER FISH INGESTED  
MICROPLASTICS FROM THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC OCEAN**





**A** study carried out by marine scientists at NUI Galway has found that 73% out of 233 deep water fish from the Northwest Atlantic Ocean had ingested plastic particles. The research was published in the international peer-reviewed journal *Frontiers in Marine Science*.

As part of the study, the NUI Galway scientists participated in a transatlantic crossing on-board the Marine Institute's Celtic Explorer research vessel. Over the course of this crossing, dead deep sea fish were taken from midwater trawls in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean, from a depth of up to 600m using large fishing nets. The fish were then inspected at the University's Ryan Institute for microplastics in their stomach contents.

Microplastics are small plastic fragments that commonly originate from the breakdown of larger plastic items entering our oceans. Other sources may be waste water effluents carrying plastic fibres from clothing and microbeads from personal care products.

Alina Wiczorek, lead author of the study and PhD candidate from the School of Natural Sciences and Ryan Institute at NUI Galway, said: "Deep water fish migrate to the surface at night to feed on plankton and this is most likely when they are exposed to the microplastics. One of the inspected Spotted Lanternfish, which was 4.5cm in size, had 13 microplastics extracted from its stomach contents. The identified microplastics were mostly fibres, commonly blue and black in colour. Some only measured 50 microns in length. In total, 233 fish were examined with 73% of them having microplastics in their stomachs, making it one of the highest reported frequencies of microplastic occurrence in fish worldwide."

Previous studies have shown that microplastics can be ingested by numerous marine animals including zooplankton, worms and fishes. The ingestion of microplastics by these animals may cause internal physical damage, inflammation of intestines, reduced feeding and other effects. In addition, many of these ingested microplastics have associated additives, such as colourants and flame retardants that are added to plastics during production process and/or pollutants that are absorbed onto the microplastics from the sea. There is evidence that some of these toxins on the microplastics can be transferred to animals that eat them, with potential harmful effects.

Dr Tom Doyle, a co-author of the study, said: "While there is clearly a concern that the ingestion of microplastics with associated toxins may have harmful effects on these fishes, or even the fishes that feed on them, our study highlights that these seemingly remote fish located thousands of kilometres from land and 600m down in our ocean are not isolated from our pollution. Indeed, it's worrying to think that our daily activities, such as washing our synthetic clothes in our washing machines, result in billions of microplastics entering our oceans through our waste water stream and that these may eventually end up in these deep sea fish."

The research was carried out within the PLASTOX project, a European collaborative effort to investigate impacts of microplastics on the marine environment under the JPI Oceans framework and supported by the iCrag (Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geoscience) project, funded by Science Foundation Ireland.

\*Quote attributed to Sylvia Alice Earle DSc, an American marine biologist, explorer, author, and lecturer. She has been a National Geographic explorer-in-residence since 1998. Earle was the first female chief scientist of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and was named by Time Magazine as its first Hero for the Planet in 1998. She is also part of the group Ocean Elders, which is dedicated to protecting the ocean and its wildlife.

73%  
OUT OF 233  
DEEP WATER FISH  
HAVE INGESTED PLASTIC

EVERY YEAR

8

million  
tonnes  
OF PLASTIC  
GOES INTO  
THE OCEAN



**An award-winning first novel has placed Elizabeth Reapy in the pantheon of talented young Irish writers**

**Q How did your years at NUI Galway influence your decision to become a writer?**

I always knew I wanted to be a writer but I think a creative writing poetry class I took with Moya Cannon got me more focused. That was the first time I was interacting with people who were also really interested in writing. Apart from that class, I actually wasn't the greatest student! I definitely enjoyed the social life at university but I made sure I never missed even one creative writing poetry lecture. Another student from that class works in the publishing house that brought out my novel, *Red Dirt*, and coincidentally he has also just had his first non-fiction book published.

**Q What did you do after college?**

I went on to do teacher training and taught in a secondary school in England for a while. I enjoyed teaching teenagers but I didn't really like mainstream school. Teaching now is focused on workshops and lecturing and that's something I thoroughly enjoy. I ended up leaving teaching and taking up a creative writing MA in Queen's University in Belfast.

**Q What was it like going back to University that bit older?**

It was a different experience. I definitely felt like I wanted to get the most out of it. I grew up very close to Galway so knew the University quite well whereas Queen's was completely new to me. The course was great though and I feel like I learned a lot.

**Q What's the story behind *Red Dirt*?**

I started it in 2011. I was in Australia at the time and just felt like no-one was writing about the Irish in Australia. It took four years to write it. It focuses on the misadventures of three young Irish people who move to Australia after the crash. Snippets from my history course at NUI Galway came in useful when I was writing; I took a Tudor course which I found fascinating. *Henry the VIII* gets a mention. You never know where inspiration will come from!

**Q How did you support yourself while you were writing?**

I didn't go back to teaching, I felt like it used up all my creativity. All my energy went into teaching, so much so that nothing was left over for writing. I was probably the hippy teacher, I just wanted my pupils to love reading and books and mostly, I wanted them to be happy! I did a variety of jobs, from working in restaurants to erecting an orange factory. Nothing that interfered with the creative process.

# Elizabeth Reapy

English Literature & History

2005



**Q The reception your book has received has been amazing**

It was a tough slog so I've been delighted with the book's reaction. I won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature 2017 and Newcomer of the Year at the 2016 Irish Book Awards. I'm also a Dublin UNESCO City of Literature Writer-in-Residence. It wasn't an easy journey but I'm so glad I stuck to my guns and kept pursuing my goals. I'm a professional writer now and I'll be editing my second book soon. I've moved back to Galway and the things that used to annoy me about the city – it's small and close to home – are exactly the things I love about it now.

*Red Dirt* is published by Head of Zeus




"I took this picture the first week I arrived in Ireland for my Erasmus year at Galway. It looks like the school in the Harry Potter films! Also, I couldn't believe the grass was so green! It perfectly sums up my year at NUI Galway."  
*Noemi Meulan, Business Law student at NUI Galway*



# NUI Galway 2018 THROUGH

Images of NUI Galway captured by  
staff and students

# THE LENS



"The Human Biology building with a star of the Sun was taken on August 15, 2017. It was a bright day when the new building was ready to open."  
*Chaosheng Zhang*



### Sunrise on the river

The boat on River Corrib was taken in the morning of October 6, 2017. The sky was covered by bright colours for a few minutes that morning. The rowers were on their way back to Galway City. *Chaosheng Zhang*



### Geographer & Photographer

Dr Chaosheng Zhang is Director of the International Network for Environment and Health and Head of Research Cluster of Environmental Change at Discipline of Geography, NUI Galway.







**The campus by night**

FROM TOP: The night scene of the entrance to the Quadrangle was taken on Oct. 5, 2017, with two purple lights, making the building a little mysterious; The green light on the gate of the Quadrangle was taken on May 8, 2017, World Ovarian Cancer Day. *Chaosheng Zhang*

**Something about the snow**

All the snow Images were taken on March 2, 2018. We had heavy snow on that day. The whole campus was covered by beautiful white colour. *Chaosheng Zhang*



**Serena Lawless**

'These images were shot in August 2017 as I prepared to finish my MA in Writing. The lighting reflected my mood: soft, whimsical, and nostalgic. The images were shot with an iPhone 7 and edited in the VSCO app.'

BELIEF/COMPLIANCE

# THE REALITY OF TEACHING RELIGION IN IRELAND

NEW STUDY  
FINDS ATTITUDES  
OF THOSE IN  
INITIAL TEACHER  
EDUCATION HAVE  
A TENDENCY  
TO COMPLY  
WITH, RATHER  
THAN ENDORSE  
OR REJECT  
TEACHING  
RELIGION

**T**he School of Education at NUI Galway has carried out the first ever study in Ireland that explores the religious affiliations and religiosity of applicants and entrants to undergraduate primary Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programmes in Ireland. The research explores the religious backgrounds, religious practice and attitudes towards teaching religion in primary teacher education programmes. While there has been much debate about the compatibility of publicly funded denominational schools with growing religious pluralism and secularism in Ireland, these debates have so far, mostly focused on equity of access to state-run schools and freedom of religion and conscience for children and their families. The position of teachers in a predominantly denominational primary school system has received much less attention in academic and policy discourse.

The study highlights the need to critically examine teaching and teacher education policy and practice, including access to Initial Teacher Training, the ITE curricular and pedagogical spaces, school cultures and employment legislation, from a social justice perspective that includes a religious diversity dimension.

The data gathered suggests low levels of religious practice and religiosity among ITE applicants, many of whom would prefer to teach religion using a non-confessional approach. The study raises questions regarding the experiences, constitutional rights and professional practice of increasingly secular and/or non-practicing Catholic teacher cohorts in a predominantly Catholic primary education system that has survived the trend towards the progressive 'unchurching' of Europe.





Commenting on the findings, lead authors of the study, Dr Manuela Heinz and Dr Elaine Keane from the School of Education at NUI Galway said, “We noted a high non-response rate (25%) to an open-ended question probing respondents to express their feelings about teaching religion. This may indicate that a significant proportion of ITE applicants were reluctant or felt uncomfortable to disclose their personal thoughts regarding the requirement for primary teachers to teach religion in the majority of primary schools in Ireland, even in an anonymous survey. We also noted a widespread tendency of complying with, rather than endorsing or rejecting, the teaching of religion with many respondents using language like ‘it’s no problem’, ‘part of the job’, ‘grand’, or ‘doesn’t bother me’ in their responses. It may be that enculturation into Catholic education and possibly positive experiences and memories of ‘no harm’ have led many to uncritically accept the status quo. Or, it may be that many of those considering and/or entering the teaching profession feel that they have no choice in the matter, that they need to comply and be prepared to take on the role of religion teacher if they want to succeed, even if they are not religious themselves.”

The authors concluded that the prospect and experience of entering a third level learning and future professional space that is permeated by a religious, predominantly Catholic ethos, will cause conflict between personal beliefs and professional requirements for many potential and actual Initial Teacher Education applicants and entrants. This situation will most likely result in some highly motivated and suitable individuals who are atheist, non-practicing Catholics or from a minority religious background deciding against a career in teaching.

# 25%

## NON-RESPONSE RATE

TO AN OPEN-ENDED QUESTION PROBING RESPONDENTS TO EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT TEACHING RELIGION.



To read the full study in **European Journal of Teacher Education**, visit: [tinyurl.com/ycdv84tq](https://tinyurl.com/ycdv84tq)



# Conradh na Gaeilge lena Chartlann a chur i dTaisce in OÉ Gaillimh

Tá sé aontaithe ag Conradh na Gaeilge ábhar cartlainne a bhaineann le tréimhse os cionn céad bliain a chur i dtaisce go buan san Ollscoil, rud a thabharfaidh léargas dosháraithe ar ghnéithe teangeolaíocha, cultúrtha, sóisialta agus polaitiúla a bhaineann leis an am a caitheadh in Éirinn.

Ag an ócáid ina ndearnadh sealbhú na cartlainne a fhógairt go foirmiúil, dúirt an Dr John Walsh, Léachtóir Sinsearach le Gaeilge in OÉ Gaillimh: “Cuireann an taisce seo go mór leis na bailiúcháin fhairsinge Ghaeilge atá ag OÉ Gaillimh cheana féin agus tá sé thar a bheith tábhachtach do léann na Gaeilge. Tugann cartlann an Chonartha rochtain nach raibh ar fáil cheana do thaighdeoirí ar fhoinisí príomhúla maidir le forbairt an bheartais teanga i leith na Gaeilge le breis agus céad bliain anuas. Trí staidéar a dhéanamh ar bhailiúcháin Chonradh na Gaeilge is féidir linn teacht ar thuiscint níos fearr ar ghluaiseachtaí mionteanga na hEorpa a mbaineann an oiread sin tábhachta leo fós sa lá atá inniu ann.” Tá ábhar agus comhfhreagras i gcartlann Chonradh na Gaeilge nach bhfacthas cheana a bhaineann le daoine a raibh baint acu le Conradh na Gaeilge le linn stair na

**Beidh OÉ Gaillimh ag feidhmiú mar choimeádaí ar chartlanna fairsinge Chonradh na Gaeilge, an eagraíocht Ghaeilge is ársa in Éirinn a bheidh ag ceiliúradh 125 bliain ar an bhfód an bhliain seo chugainn.**

heagraíochta cosúil le Dubhghlas de hÍde, Pádraig Mac Piarais agus Tomás Ághas. Tá cáipéisí ann chomh maith ó chraobhacha Chonradh na Gaeilge ar fud na hÉireann, gearrthóga nuachtáin agus ábhar a bhain le feachtais Ghaeilge éagsúla.

Dúirt Uachtarán OÉ Gaillimh ag an am, an Dr Jim Browne: “Is cor cinniúnach é seo don dá eagraíocht. Is onóir é do OÉ Gaillimh oibriú le Conradh na Gaeilge agus a bheith ina choimeádaí ar an gcartlann thar a bheith tábhachtach seo. Tá tábhacht i bhfad níos leithne ag baint leis an gcartlann ná an Ghaeilge féin mar go gcuimsíonn sí gnéithe sóisialta, cultúrtha agus stairiúla na hÉireann agus an fhorbairt atá déanta againn mar náisiún. Tá sé thar a bheith fóirsteanach gur in OÉ Gaillimh a bheidh an cartlann seo coinnithe, i bhfianaise thiomantas láidir na hOllscoile i leith na Gaeilge agus an cháil atá orainn mar ionad do léann na cartlannaíochta.”

Dúirt Uachtarán Chonradh na Gaeilge, an Dr Niall Comer: “In ainneoin go bhfuil staraithe, an lucht acadúil agus scoláirí ag cur spéise i gcartlann Chonradh na Gaeilge le blianta fada anuas, níorbh é go dtí le himeacht cheart aimsire gur tuigeadh go hiomlán an luach a bhí leis an

Is é Uachtarán na hÉireann, Micheál D. Ó hUiginn a thug an príomhathasc ag siompóisiam faoi Chonradh na Gaeilge agus an Athbheochan in OÉ Gaillimh Dé hAoine an 15ú Meitheamh. Is é an siompóisiam lae, ‘125 Bliain ag Fás – An Athbheochan agus Conradh na Gaeilge’, príomhócáid na hOllscoile le haghaidh Bhliain na Gaeilge a bhí ag ceiliúradh 125 bliain ó bunaíodh an Conradh. Ceiliúradh atá san ócáid seo chomh maith ar an gcinneadh a rinne Conradh na Gaeilge in 2017 a chartlann a chur i dtaisce in OÉ Gaillimh.



To listen to **Seoladh 'Ag Caint leis an Simné' le Louis de Paor** visit [tinyurl.com/yc2uuk6n](https://tinyurl.com/yc2uuk6n)  
To listen to **Podchraoltaí Gaeilge ó OÉ Gaillimh** visit [tinyurl.com/ybl6kkcy](https://tinyurl.com/ybl6kkcy)





gcartlann chéanna. Don té a chaitheann am ag breathnú trí ábhar na cartlainne, aithneoidh sé nó sí láithreach go bhfuil insint faoi leith ann ar thréimhse chinníunach i stair na tíre seo. Anois, leis na pleananna atá ag Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh maidir le catalógú agus digitíú an ábhair, beidh an tseoid seo ar fáil go forleathan.”

Coimeádfar an chartlann i Seomra Léitheoireachta na mBailiúchán Speisialta in OÉ Gaillimh áit a bhfuil scoth na n-áiseanna do thaighdeoirí. Dúirt Leabharlannaí na hOllscoile, John Cox: “Táimid ag tnúth go mór an chartlann seo a oscailt do chuspóirí taighde agus teagaisc nuair a bheidh catalógú déanta uirthi. Cuirfidh ár bhfoireann cartlainne sainchomhairle ar fáil in úsáid na cartlainne agus gheobhaidh úsáideoirí eolas ar bhailiúcháin fhairsinge Ghaeilge na hOllscoile. Áirítear orthu seo lámhscríbhinní a bhaineann le Dubhghlas de hÍde, bailiúchán Bhairéad d’fhoinsí béaloidis, agus páipéir a bhaineann le daoine mór le rá ón bhfichiú haois cosúil le Pádraig Ó Mathúna, Proinsias Mac Aonghusa agus Éamon de Buitléar.”

Faoin gcomhaontú le Conradh na Gaeilge, fostóidh OÉ Gaillimh cartlainnaí chun catalógú a dhéanamh ar an mbailiúchán agus chun cuid de a dhigitíú. D’fhonn a chinntiú go mbainfeadh an úsáid is fearr as an gcartlann, cuirfidh an Ollscoil an bailiúchán chun tosaigh i measc mac léinn agus taighdeoirí sa bhaile agus thar lear. Ina theannta sin, bunófar Grúpa Sainleasa de shaineolaithe, innmheánach agus seachtach do OÉ Gaillimh, chun forbairt ghníomhach na cartlainne a chinntiú. Mar chuid de cheiliúradh 125 bliain Chonradh na Gaeilge, reáchtálfar ócáid acadúil san Ollscoil in 2018 nuair a bheidh catalógú déanta ar chuid den ábhar.

Ard-Chraobh Chonradh na Gaeilge ar turas lae go dtí Gleann Dá Loch i 1907. Sa phictiúr, tá Seán T. Ó Ceallaigh agus Sinéad Ní Fhlannagáin.

“Is onóir é do OÉ Gaillimh oibriú le Conradh na Gaeilge agus a bheith ina choimeádaí ar an gcartlann thar a bheith tábhachtach seo.”



For detail on **networking evenings** or **classes** click here or log on to [nuigalway.ie/alumni-friends](http://nuigalway.ie/alumni-friends)

# Success stories

OVER THE PAST YEAR, BOTH STAFF AND STUDENTS HAVE EXCELLED IN THEIR CHOSEN FIELDS



The Geec team from NUI Galway receiving the Technical Innovation trophy at Shell Eco-marathon Europe 2018.

## Engineering

### EUROPEAN AWARD FOR ENGINEERING STUDENTS

A team of engineering students from NUI Galway has been awarded first place for technical innovation at Europe's premier competition for ultra-efficient vehicles, Shell Eco-marathon Europe. The Galway energy-efficient car, or Geec, is capable of travelling over 350km on one unit or kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity, which means driving from Galway to Dublin for less than 15 cents' worth of electricity. The award was given to the NUI Galway team for an effective and simple approach to lower aerodynamic undercarriage drag which was largely due to student Tom Dillon from Barna, Co. Galway.



Alicia Kinsella

## Writing

### LAUNCH OF 'FLOWER PRESS' BY MA IN WRITING STUDENT

A collection of poetry entitled *Flower Press* by Alicia Kinsella was launched in March at NUI Galway. Alicia, who was born in Dublin and raised in Claremorris, Co. Mayo, is currently studying poetry and fiction in the MA in Writing at NUI Galway. Her short collection of poems can be described as an elegiac apostrophe. In three sections – Bud, Bloom and Blood – it explores the growth of love in childhood, the loss of innocence and the fallout of that loss.



John Carney

## Media

### JOHN CARNEY APPOINTED ADJUNCT PROFESSOR AT NUI GALWAY

John Carney, one of the most acclaimed and successful contemporary Irish film directors, was appointed an Adjunct Professor with the Huston School of Film and Digital Media at NUI Galway in 2017. Mr Carney will give talks and workshops in the Huston School over the next three-years, including the forthcoming BA in Film and Digital Media and will also contribute to the increasing integration of the school's programmes with the film and audio-visual industry in Ireland and internationally. Carney's most recent film, *Sing Street*, was nominated for Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy at the 74th Golden Globes in January 2017.





Dr Elaine Toomey and Dr David Mothersill, School of Psychology, NUI Galway.

## Psychology

### DOUBLE HONOUR FOR SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCHERS

Dr Elaine Toomey and Dr David Mothersill from the School of Psychology at NUI Galway have both received prestigious awards for their specific areas of research from the Irish Canadian University Foundation and the Royal Irish Academy. Dr Toomey from the Health Behaviour Change Research Group received the 'Irish Canadian University Foundation James M Flaherty Early Career Researcher Award' which will allow her to conduct further research on the adaptation of 'Football Fans in Training' (FFIT). Dr Mothersill received the 'Royal Irish Academy Charlemont Grant' for his research in Cognitive Neuroscience, as part of the Centre for Neuroimaging and Cognitive Genomics (NICOG). This award will allow him to take the computerised test he is developing and bring it to Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, where he will receive expert feedback from Professor Christopher Bowie, a leading expert in assessment and treatment of cognitive deficits in schizophrenia.

## Languages

### RESEARCHER WINS ITALY FELLOWSHIP

An NUI Galway researcher has received funding for a Collaborative Research Fellowship in Italy for the LINCS (Language Interaction and New Communities in a Multilingual Society) project, which will look at language, the migrant experience and cultural identity. As part of the project, Dr Ciribuco will spend two of the three years of his fellowship in the field in Italy, working with Italian Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Tamat, which supports sustainable development, social enterprise, food security, gender empowerment and global citizenship.



Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Dr Andrea Ciribuco



Alumnus and President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins talks on the theme of 'Home' at GIAF [youtu.be/gdUphWutqa8](https://youtu.be/gdUphWutqa8)



## Theatre & Drama

### NUI GALWAY ACADEMIC ELECTED MEMBER OF ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY

Patrick Lonergan, Professor of Drama and Theatre Studies at NUI Galway, has been elected as a Member of the Royal Irish Academy for his contribution to Humanities and Social Sciences. Professor Lonergan is one of Ireland's foremost theatre scholars and Professor of Drama and Theatre Studies at NUI Galway. He is academic leader of the digitisation of the archives from the Abbey and Gate Theatres, the world's largest multi-media digital theatre archive collection, making possible a new era in Irish theatre scholarship, which is digitised at the James Hardiman Library in NUI Galway.

*Pictured above are Patrick Lonergan, Professor of Drama and Theatre Studies at NUI Galway and Professor Peter Kennedy, President of the Royal Irish Academy*



Pictured l-r are Neasa O'Shea, Michelle Ni Chroinin and Sheila Gorham

## Communications

### COMMUNICATIONS TEAM WINS GLOBAL PR AWARD

NUI Galway's Marketing and Communications Office scooped the *Small Communications Team* award at the US-based Ragan and PR Daily's Ace Awards 2018. The award was presented for the success of the media campaign around the visit of the Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall in 2015. The in-house team of Michelle Ni Chroinin, Press and Information Officer, Ruth Hynes, Sheila Gorham, Neasa O'Shea and Zara Sheerin were recognised alongside Microsoft News Center, Cisco Systems, The Narrative Group, Los Angeles/Chicago/New York City, and Juniper Networks at the awards.



Pictured l-r are Dr Audrey Morley, NUI Galway and BT Young Scientist winners, Kate Owens, Aibhe Briscoe and Ellie Concannon from Coláiste Iognáid, Galway

## Mentoring

### NUI GALWAY MENTORED STUDENTS WIN TWO BT YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARDS

Aibhe Briscoe, Ellie Concannon and Kate Owens, first year students at Coláiste Iognáid in Galway, won first place in the Biological and Ecological Sciences category at this year's BT Young Scientist and Technology Awards and were mentored by Dr Audrey Morley. The three young students were also presented with a special award by the Environmental Protection Agency for Best Environmental Project. For their project, the three students investigated over 40 tap water samples from 23 primary schools in County Galway for microplastic contamination. They found that 96.9% of all tested samples were contaminated with microplastics and that the level of contamination for drinking water from Galway classrooms (2.7 per 500ml) exceeded the European average of 1.9 per 500ml.

## Apps

### NUI GALWAY GRADUATE LAUNCHES TAXI APP

Flag, a new taxi app designed for students, has been created by NUI Galway graduate Richie Commins. The unique app is the only service in the world that allows a passenger to travel and pay for taxis with no phone, cash or bank card while ensuring the driver still gets paid. The app, which is available in app stores as 'Flag - The Taxi App', works by asking the user to upload a photo ID and creating a personal digit pin code to secure an account. The 'wallet-less' payment is the only taxi app in the world to provide this service.



Richie Commins





Pictured is Paul McGuire, Executive Director of Zeltiq, the Galway Allergan facility, Alan Flannery, Finance Director, Allergan and award recipient, Dr Niamh O'Halloran, NUI Galway

## Medicine

### RESEARCHER WINS ALLERGAN INNOVATION AWARD

An innovative approach to help breast cancer patients post-mastectomy has been awarded the Inaugural Allergan Innovation Award at NUI Galway. Dr Niamh O'Halloran, a researcher with the School of Medicine, received the award for her project which seeks to use the body's own cells to avoid complications with implants. Valued at €6,000, the award provides funding to accomplished scholars who want to advance their innovative research studies in the field of Life Sciences.



Sandra Divilly

## Business

### SANDRA DIVILLY WINS 30% CLUB MBA SCHOLARSHIP

Galway businesswoman Sandra Divilly fought off tough competition to win a scholarship worth in excess of €13,000 for the NUI Galway Executive MBA (Master of Business Administration) programme, run by NUI Galway in conjunction with the 30% Club. The goal of the 30% Club Ireland is to achieve better gender balance at all levels of business in Ireland. Application numbers for the 30% Club Scholarship exceeded expectation with a very high calibre of strong female applicants. The judging panel noted that while most had enormous career potential and would have been worthy recipients, ultimately the award could be made to only one individual.



For detail on **alumni networking evenings**, contact [www.nuigalway.ie/alumni-friends/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/alumni-friends/)



**10 Years On - How Ireland has changed since the Financial Crisis Conference**, Whitaker Institute: [tinyurl.com/ybjwx82j](http://tinyurl.com/ybjwx82j)



## Engineering

### NUI GALWAY RECEIVES GRAND CHALLENGES EXPLORATIONS GRANT

In 2017, NUI Galway announced that it was a Grand Challenges Explorations winner, an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr Jim Duggan from the University's College of Engineering and Informatics is now pursuing an innovative global health and development research project, titled HealthSIM. This project focuses on strengthening health systems by using computer science and analytics methods to support the design of health supply chains to enhance supply chain performance. It also looks at improving decision making to reduce disease morbidity and mortality and ensure that the right medication arrives for the right person at the right time.







# Nicola Coughlan

BA English & Classics

2008

**So far, Nicola Coughlan's hugely successful acting career has taken her from a school in Derry to a brothel in 18th century London**

Her portrayal of Clare on *Derry Girls* has been lauded by audiences and critics alike, as have West End roles in *Joe and Jess Forever* and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. It wasn't all plain sailing though. Before auditioning and landing a central role in *Joe and Jess Forever* in London's West End, acting jobs weren't easy to come by. "At that stage, I had become disheartened. There were a lot of times when I thought, what the hell am I doing?"

Nicola's acting career kicked off at an early age. Voiceover work in cartoons began when she was 14 years old. "Accents were always something that interested me. At NUI Galway, I joined the drama society and also the musical society and that opened up so many opportunities for me." Winning an ISDA acting award while still in college was the boost she needed to pursue a career in acting. "I don't think I would have gotten into drama school if I hadn't had that preparation time at NUI Galway. I always knew I wanted my career to be in acting but it seemed so unattainable. I didn't know anyone that had been to drama school or was working as an actor."

After graduating at the age of 21, Nicola applied to two drama schools in London; LAMDA and the Oxford School of Drama. "It was all extremely daunting! The LAMDA audition was a disaster, I blanked on my words and ended up in tears after it. The next one was ok and by fluke I got onto their six month foundation course." Once the course finished, Nicola returned to her day job – a secretary in a physiotherapist's office. The following year, she was accepted onto a full-time MA acting course at the Birmingham School of Acting. "I moved to London after graduation and that was



tough; it was a struggle to get auditions and it's very expensive to live there."

In 2015, Nicola was living back at home in Oranmore. A tweet from London's Old Vic proved a turning point. "They had an open call which is very rare. I applied for an audition and booked a flight. There were about 1000 actors and seven places but I got one." The play was *Jess and Joe Forever* and the rest, as they say, is history. "A company called The Orange Tree took it on for a full run the following year and that's when I signed with my agent. My first audition with them was *Derry Girls*."

Auditions for *Derry Girls* took six months. "The writers really wanted to get the right combination of actors. It was terrifying but definitely worth it." The reception the show has gotten has been overwhelming. "It's such a cliché when actors say a script is special but it really was. In saying that, I thought it would have a very small but loyal audience. Channel 4 said that if they got half a million viewers, that would be a success. We ended up getting 2.8 million."

Superbly written, three dimensional characters have made the show a hit. "I don't know if a comedy centred on young women would have been so successful even five years ago." Nicola defied the critics with her spot-on Derry accent. "I watched a lot of clips of Nadine Coyle on *Popstars!* The biggest compliment I got was through a friend of a friend from Derry who couldn't figure out who I was or who I went to school with."

Filming on the second season of *Derry Girls* is about to start while Harlots with Lesley Manville and Liv Tyler has also garnered rave reviews. "I feel so lucky at the moment. I'm working with the most amazing actors and have made friends for life."



## Dramsoc at NUI Galway

Dramsoc provides a place for students, lecturers and many others to get involved in the theatre. Each year Dramsoc takes part in the ISDA (Irish Student Drama Association) festival, an inter university event where various universities from across Ireland come together to showcase the best work of their seasons and are awarded accordingly.



For more, visit [socs.nuigalway.ie/](https://socs.nuigalway.ie/)

# MAKING CONSENT SMART

## NUI GALWAY LEADS THE WAY ON THE ISSUE OF CONSENT

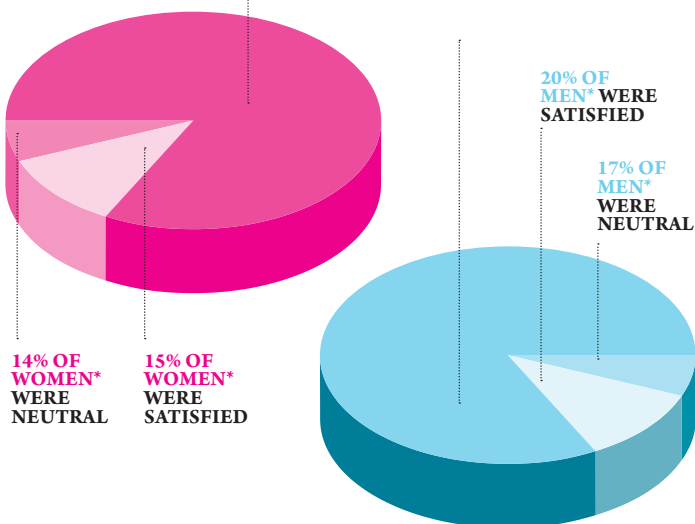
**T**he SMART Consent Research team at NUI Galway has carried out a report on sexual consent among third level students. The report, which was conducted in collaboration with the team's partners at four other universities in Ireland, includes surveys with over 3,500 students conducted at NUI Galway and consent workshops held at four colleges nationally with 761 students. Entitled 'Are Consent Workshops Sustainable and Feasible in Third Level Institutions?', the ground-breaking report also flags a new education and awareness campaign, Consent=OMFG (Ongoing, Mutual, Freely Given), which includes four short interactive films on consent.

In August 2018, the report was launched by Minister for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor with speeches on the day given by Dr Pádraig MacNeela who leads the SMART Consent initiative, Dr Siobhán O'Higgins and Kate Dawson, all from the School of Psychology along with Dr Charlotte McIvor, Drama and Theatre Studies at NUI Galway. The report builds on a programme of research since 2013 that has explored the meaning of consent among college students, tested the effectiveness of the SMART Consent workshop and surveyed students on sexual consent behaviours and attitudes.

### PERCEPTIONS OF SEX EDUCATION AT SCHOOL

**71% OF WOMEN\* WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION THEY RECEIVED AT SCHOOL**

**63% OF MEN\* WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION THEY RECEIVED AT SCHOOL**



More lesbian, gay, and bisexual students felt that their sexual health education at school did not cover the topics they are most interested in (75%), compared with heterosexual students (66%).

\*In a survey of 2,150 students nationally

The surveys included in the report shed light on important consent-related issues, including:

### SEXUAL HARASSMENT

**54%**

**OUT OF 632**

**STUDENTS SURVEYED**

of first year women students report experiencing sexual hostility or crude gender harassment at some point since starting college

**RISING TO**

**64%**

**AMONG SECOND YEAR WOMEN STUDENTS AND**

**70%**

**OF WOMEN STUDENTS IN THIRD YEAR OR A SUBSEQUENT YEAR.**

**25%**

**37%**

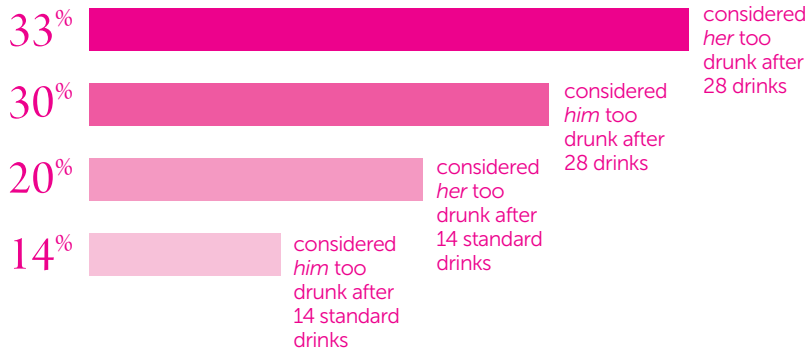
**40%**

THE COMPARABLE FIGURES FOR MEN



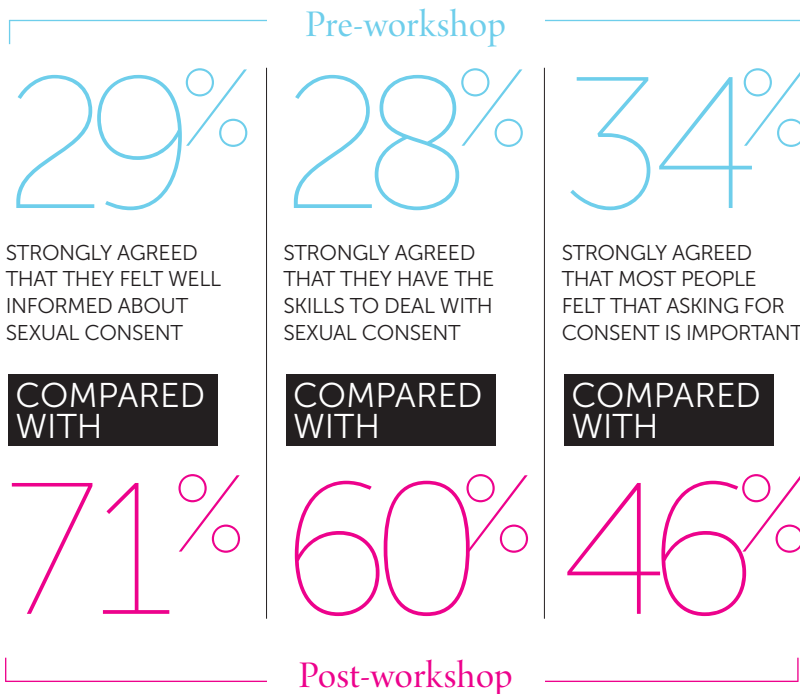
## PERCEPTIONS OF ALCOHOL AND CAPACITY TO GIVE CONSENT

In a survey, 753 students read one of two versions of a consent story where both characters were drinking.



During 2017-18, the researchers trained over 100 facilitators to lead SMART Consent workshops at NUI Galway, Queen’s University Belfast, the National College of Art and Design, Dublin City University, the University of

Limerick and Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology. The report compares pre-workshop and post-workshop attitudes of 761 of the students who took part in a workshop with those trained facilitators.



At the launch, Dr Charlotte McIvor previewed one of the four short interactive consent films that she has developed with her theatre students for a new multimedia campaign that will help address this culture change. Each interactive film gives the

viewer control over characters’ decisions at key points, leading to three possible endings to each film. The four films portray sexual encounters from heterosexual and LGBTQ perspectives, as well as long-term and casual sexual relationships.

### SEXUAL CONSENT - NO GREY AREA

In March 2017, a new legal definition of consent to a sexual act was signed into law. The new statutory definition clarifies that a person is incapable of consenting in a range of scenarios – including if they are asleep, unconscious or incapable of consenting as a result of intoxication through drugs or alcohol. The law also states that consent can be revoked at any time and that “any failure or omission on the part of a person to offer resistance to an act does not of itself constitute consent to that act.”

Alongside the new consent definition, the new act includes measures aimed at protecting children from sexual exploitation and laws criminalising the purchase of sex. The legislation introduces a specific offence outlawing the use of communications technology to target and groom children for sexual exploitation online. The new offence includes communicating with a child online for the purpose of sexual exploitation and the sending of sexually explicit material to a child. There are also new and strengthened offences relating to child pornography and sexual acts with under age children.



The first film, ‘Tom and Julie’ can be viewed at: [www.nuigalway.ie/consent=omfg/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/consent=omfg/). The other three films will be made available on the NUI Galway website and YouTube as part of the Consent=OMFG campaign. To read the full report on SMART Consent, visit: [www.nuigalway.ie/smartconsent/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/smartconsent/).

**An Arts Degree at NUI Galway in the 1980s has led to a fascinating career in journalism for Deirdre Falvey**

**Q How did you find college in 1980s Ireland?**

I grew up in Galway and went to NUI Galway, then called UCG, in the early 1980s. By international standards it's a small university – which is part of its appeal – but it was even smaller then. Ireland was pretty small too, and the 1980s were pretty grey, but I loved my time at university in Galway.

**Q Why did you choose an Arts degree?**

When I was in school, I didn't know what I wanted to do. I was interested in visual art and English and so decided an Arts degree would encompass at least some of that. Arts degrees get bad press but it's a tedious cliché to criticise humanities. In my opinion, Arts is a wonderful basis for a variety of things and can be fantastic if you approach it in the right way. I was very young when I went to University (I had a degree by the time I was 20) so I think for me, Arts was ideal. I allowed English and Sociology to change the way I thought. My real buzz at college was Dramsoc and it was totally absorbing in all sorts of ways.

**Q What was it like graduating in the 1980s when jobs were thin on the ground?**

It was a bleak time to graduate. My generation had little hope of a job, never mind a career. I did bits and bobs – some research for Autobiz, a trade magazine my father Frank founded. I lived in California for a while with friends and did some design and writing for another small magazine. Eventually, I figured out that journalism was where I was pointed. I had ink in my veins to some extent thanks to the family business. I did the postgrad in journalism at DCU (it was NIHE then). I chose the *Sunday World* for my placement and got great experience. Serendipitously, on the last day of my placement I saw an ad for the *Evening Press* and ended up working there for several years.

**Q You left to join the Irish Times at exactly the right time**

Just six weeks after I left, the *Evening Press* imploded, which was a crying shame. At the *Irish Times*, I was production editor and designer of Saturday's *Weekend Review*. Later I was made Weekend editor, my first commissioning editor job at the Times.

**Q Apart from journalism, what are some of your career highlights?**

I went to Ann Arbor in 2016 on a Knight Wallace fellowship at the University of Michigan. It's a mid-career journalism fellowship and it was a fantastic and stimulating programme. I moved there with my

# Deirdre Falvey

## BA English & Sociology

1985



family and it was an exceptional time for all of us. Being in the US for the early Trump period was fascinating.

**Q What's it like working at the Irish Times today?**

I've been at the *Irish Times* for over 20 years. As commissioning editor I have been responsible for education, Weekend and for arts – I was arts editor for eight years which nicely brought together journalism and culture for me. Commissioning editor is a juggling job – shaping our coverage in one area, bearing in mind news value, reader interest, fairness and accuracy. Since my fellowship I've been a full time features and arts writer, so I work on a great variety of stories, from heavily researched, meaty longer reads to quick turnarounds. Variety is a great spice, especially when no one knows what's around the corner and in a big news organisation, there is great scope if you have wide interests and an open mind.



### PARTNERSHIP ON AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES DEVELOPMENT

Researchers from the Lero SFI Research Centre at NUI Galway have signed an autonomous vehicles Research and Development partnership with Valeo, the major automotive supplier headquartered in Paris, France. Funding for the programme comes from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and Valeo. The research will focus on helping autonomous vehicles to better navigate in complex, real world conditions using sensor signal processing technology, which will be tested at the NUI Galway campus. A team of up to 30 Lero NUI Galway and Valeo engineers based in Tuam, Ireland, will work on the project.



(l to r) Dr Martin Glavin, Dr Ciarán Hughes and Dr Edward Downes

### New research uses stem cells to target tumours

A research study led by Dr Róisín Dwyer's research group from the Lambe Institute for Translational Research at NUI Galway has identified a novel approach that could potentially be used to treat breast cancer when it has spread to other organs. Using tiny vesicles released by adult stem cells, the study was published in the internationally renowned cancer journal, *Oncogene* and involved a multidisciplinary partnership between colleagues at NUI Galway and collaborators in UCD. It is hoped that the findings of the study could represent a safe and effective way to treat breast cancer when it has spread to other organs of the body.

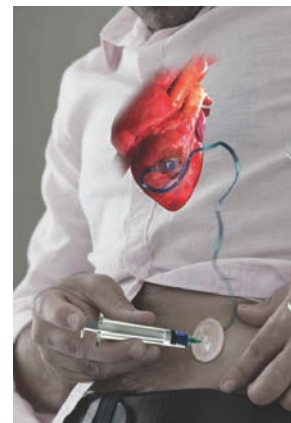


Dr Róisín Dwyer

## RESEARCH NEWS

### STRAIGHT TO THE HEART

A new study led by researchers from NUI Galway, Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology among others, has described how therapy could be delivered directly to the heart multiple times from a port under the skin. A recently-designed device called Therapi can be placed directly on the heart, comprising of a reservoir for drugs or cells that can be refilled multiple times from a port under the skin. This allows localised, refillable, heart targeted therapy delivery. The researchers showed in a pre-clinical model of myocardial infarction (heart attack) that this device can increase heart function over four weeks when stem cells are repeatedly delivered to the reservoir.



An NUI Galway study on blockchain was recently published, entitled *The adoption of Blockchain in Ireland: Examining the influence of organisational factors*, the study investigates the organisational factors that influenced Irish companies in their decisions to adopt blockchain. It found that top management support and organisational readiness are enablers for blockchain and that large companies are more likely to adopt blockchain than small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Blockchain as a topic has been introduced for students within the modules for MSc Business Analytics and MSc Information Systems Management at NUI Galway.



### NEW KID ON THE IRISH TECH BLOCK

### First Irish record of spider feeding on reptile

Researchers from the Ryan Institute at NUI Galway and the Herpetological Society of Ireland recently published the first record of a spider feeding on a reptile in Ireland. The Noble False Widow spider, which has colonised much of Ireland since first being recorded here 20 years ago, has been observed feeding on Ireland's only native terrestrial reptile, the Viviparous lizard. The report was published in the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy journal. Recorded in a private garden in Killiney, Co. Dublin in May 2017, the 8.5cm juvenile Viviparous lizard was found entangled on a web with the 3.3cm Noble False Widow spider feeding on its flesh.



For more on NUI Galway's research into the Noble False Widow Spider, click here [https://youtu.be/\\_JYzT7kFHdE](https://youtu.be/_JYzT7kFHdE)

### Study Finds Low Awareness of Early Childhood Obesity in Ireland

A study carried out by Dr Michelle Queally from the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics at NUI Galway and colleagues from the Health Research Board funded project CHERISH (Choosing Healthy Eating for Infant Health), have reported that mothers are unable to accurately identify their child's overweight/obesity status at age three and five in Ireland. The study was recently published in the International Journal of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity. Dr Queally noted that a mother's recognition of their child being overweight and obese during early childhood is one of the key determinants in achieving a healthy weight status in children. The study highlights the need for increased support in Ireland to help improve a mother's understanding of what defines a healthy body size in preschool aged children. Mothers who are unable to accurately identify their child being overweight/ obese at three years old are likely to do so again when the child is five years old.



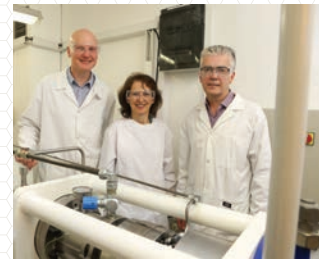
To read the full study in International Journal of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity, visit [tinyurl.com/y8wm8c6j](http://tinyurl.com/y8wm8c6j)

## EVIDENCE FOR ABRUPT CLIMATE CHANGE FOUND

A study conducted by NUI Galway and the University of Maine has found that the physical impact of abrupt climate change in Britain, Ireland and maritime Europe may be markedly different from previous perceptions of these events. The study was published in the international journal, *Paleoceanography and Paleoclimatology*. The findings raise the possibility that future weakening of warm ocean currents in the North Atlantic, which some fear will arise due to global warming and melting of the Greenland Ice Sheet, will result in a return to a highly seasonal climate in Britain and Ireland and maritime Europe, with warmer summers and colder winters.



Lead author of the study, Dr Gordon Bromley from the School of Geography and Archaeology at NUI Galway



### NEW HUB FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY OPENS

The Research Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy Ireland (MaREI) has secured an additional €4.4 million in funding from Science Foundation Ireland and industry partners under the Sustainable Energy and Fuel Efficiency (SEFE) SFI Spokes Programme, to be based at NUI Galway. This four-year collaborative programme aims to identify viable routes to increase the efficient utilisation and supply of sustainable energy and to support Ireland's ambition to meet national and EU environmental targets.

## GENCOMM LAUNCHES WHITE PAPER



A €9 million energy sustainability project, known as GenComm, delivered by NUI Galway and 10 European partners has launched the first of its White Papers on Smart Hydrogen. With 95% of all hydrogen produced from fossil resources, GenComm aims to produce Smart H<sub>2</sub>, a renewable and low-emission alternative to fossil fuels, with low impact on natural resources throughout its entire lifecycle.

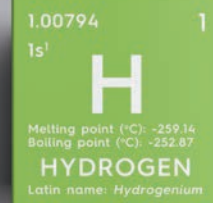




## TRANSPORT REVOLUTION AT NUI GALWAY

NUI Galway and Gas Networks Ireland have teamed up to introduce compressed natural gas (CNG) and renewable gas for trucks, vans and buses. Entitled 'Causeway', the initiative will, for the first time, see the development of a natural gas transport re-fuelling network in Ireland. The project will support an overall nationwide roll-out of 70 compressed natural gas filling stations while a renewable gas injection facility will be built in 2018. This will introduce renewable gas into the natural gas network for the first time and deliver a clean energy project for Ireland's transport sector. In doing so, the project will essentially provide a template for the rest of Europe. The work, which is undertaken in Ireland, will be monitored and documented by NUI Galway. This research will then be fed back to gas operators all over Europe and will assist in the development of similar projects across the continent.

## SHORTS



### Hydrogen used as transportation resource

NUI Galway officially launched the SEAFUEL project earlier this year, which aims to use hydrogen as a renewable resource across the Atlantic area to power the local transport fleet of cars and support the shift towards a low-carbon economy. The €3.5 million project will use the expertise and infrastructure of a group of transnational partners to demonstrate the viability of hydrogen as a fuel.

### Energise launches energy initiatives database

NUI Galway, lead coordinators of the ENERGISE project (European Network for Research, Good Practice and Innovation for Sustainable Energy), has launched an online database of best practice examples of energy initiatives from 30 European countries. The ENERGISE initiative develops and assesses options for a transformation of energy use across Europe.



## CHILD LAW PROJECT INVESTIGATES GAPS IN CHILDCARE PROCEEDINGS

The findings of a two-year research study entitled 'An Examination of Lengthy, Contested and Complex Child Protection Cases in the District Court' was published recently. The report was carried out by the Child Care Law Reporting Project (CCLRP) directed by Dr Carol Coulter, Adjunct Professor in the School of Law at NUI Galway. Prepared for the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), the report undertook research on exceptionally lengthy and complex cases which were already reported on its website to examine why some cases become highly contested, protracted and complex.



The report is available at: [www.childlawproject.ie](http://www.childlawproject.ie)

## MARIO PROJECT AMONG TOP 25 PROJECTS IN EUROPEAN COMMISSION STUDIES

A research project led by NUI Galway has established that companion robots can have a positive impact on older people living with dementia. The research, called the 'MARIO project', has been featured in a new European Commission study analysing the impact on society of EU-funded research and innovation in technology for active and healthy ageing. MARIO is a 4ft white robot with large animated eyes who can be activated by voice or by a touchscreen which he carries. This allows people with dementia to access the newspapers, listen to their favourite songs, provide reminders of upcoming events, store family photos and connect with their friends and families.



# SPIN-OUT SUCCESS STORIES 2018

ENABLING INNOVATION IN THE NEXT GENERATION MED TECH SPACE, NUI GALWAY'S BIOINNOVATE IRELAND PROGRAMME PRODUCED A HOST OF SUCCESS STORIES IN 2018

**B**ioInnovate Ireland, based at NUI Galway is a Fellowship programme designed to facilitate the collaboration and development of entrepreneurship in the Medical Technology sector. It has been established over the last five years and continues to entice fellows from diverse backgrounds in clinical medicine, biomedical engineering, business development, industrial design and project management. The fundamental basis of the programme is based on the BioDesign process which has been developed and refined at Stanford University in California. Fundamental principles of the BioDesign process are based on identifying a clinical need that may be solved with the use of medical technology. The process follows a clear outline of identification of needs, ideation of concepts surrounding that need and finally implementation and translation of a solution to the bedside. Throughout the process there is a focus on the creation of value and continuously analyzing the value proposition of the innovation undertaken. Dr Paul Anglim, Strategic Lead, BioInnovate Ireland, comments: "BioInnovate Ireland has had the pleasure of mentoring and supporting each of these spinouts at the inception phase of this journey, and is delighted to see such successful outcomes from these companies. The success of these alumni supports the model being employed in BioInnovate, and we look forward to the impact these technologies will have on patient lives." Enterprise Ireland are a co-funder of the BioInnovate programme funding the development work at the University through a Commercialisation Fund programme. The Commercialisation Fund programme is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under Ireland's European Union Structural and Investment Funds Programme 2014-2020.



## AURIGEN MEDICAL RANKS #1 IN EUROPE

NUI Galway-based medical device company, AuriGen Medical has received €2.5 million in the latest round of Horizon 2020 SME Instrument funding, which receives applications from all over Europe. Ranking number one out of 1,280 applications across all sectors, the company specialises in the treatment of persistent atrial fibrillation (irregular heartbeat) patients and is developing the first cardiac implant to treat both the stroke and heart failure risk associated with this condition. The company was established by Tony O'Halloran and Dr John Thompson. Dr Thompson, a former intensive care physician together with Mr O'Halloran, a highly experienced medical device engineer, formed AuriGen Medical after meeting in 2015 when both were selected by the BioInnovate Ireland Programme at NUI Galway. During this time, they invented the device solution to address a large unmet clinical need that they observed. Over 70% of atrial fibrillation patients have persistent or longstanding disease. However, the current treatment options including medications, cardioversion and ablation (a keyhole procedure carried out to scar or destroy tissue in the heart that is allowing incorrect electrical signals to cause an abnormal heart rhythm), only address the minority of patients with intermittent disease. AuriGen Medical believe that once approved, their medical device could help the majority of patients become free from atrial fibrillation. This funding will be used to advance product development in preparation for first in human trials in 2020. The company will initially target the 200,000 persistent atrial fibrillation patients per year who are having repeat ablations due to reoccurrence after a first failed ablation procedure. The AuriGen device is a single shot left atrial appendage implant with additional ablation and sensor technology for fast, simple and permanent electro-mechanical isolation of the Left atrial appendage, a pouch located in the upper chamber of the heart. The AuriGen technology utilises single-use sensors and software algorithms to give doctors a real-time feedback on the quality of the ablation.



For more information about AuriGen Medical, visit: [aurigenmedical.com](http://aurigenmedical.com)



l-r: AuriGen Medical Founders, Tony O'Halloran, Chief Technology Officer, and John Thompson, Chief Executive Officer, at their office in NUI Galway. Photo: Aengus McMahon



PHOTO: MICHAEL DILLON

I-r: Neurent Medical Founders, David Townley, Chief Technology Officer, and Brian Shields, Chief Executive Officer, at their office in Oranmore, Co. Galway.

## NEURENT MEDICAL FUNDING TO CREATE 25 NEW JOBS

Neurent Medical Limited, a Galway-based medical device company specialising in the treatment of rhinitis, an inflammatory disease of the nose, has raised €9.3 million in a Series A funding round. The company was established by Brian Shields and David Townley. Neurent Medical Ltd designs and develops products for treating inflammatory diseases of the nasal cavities. The initial product offering reduces the primary symptoms of rhinitis, congestion and rhinorrhoea. Funding will be used to advance product development, carry out clinical trials and prepare for US commercialisation of the device. The investment will also create up to 25 new positions in the company. The therapy being developed by Neurent Medical will offer allergic and non-allergic rhinitis patients an alternative, minimally invasive and more readily accessible treatment to alleviate the two primary symptoms of rhinitis, rhinorrhoea and nasal obstruction. The therapy will enable Ear Nose and Throat surgeons to treat rhinitis patients in an Ear Nose and Throat office setting using only local anaesthesia, removing the complications and costs associated with existing surgical procedures.



For more information about Neurent Medical, visit: [www.neurentmedical.com](http://www.neurentmedical.com)

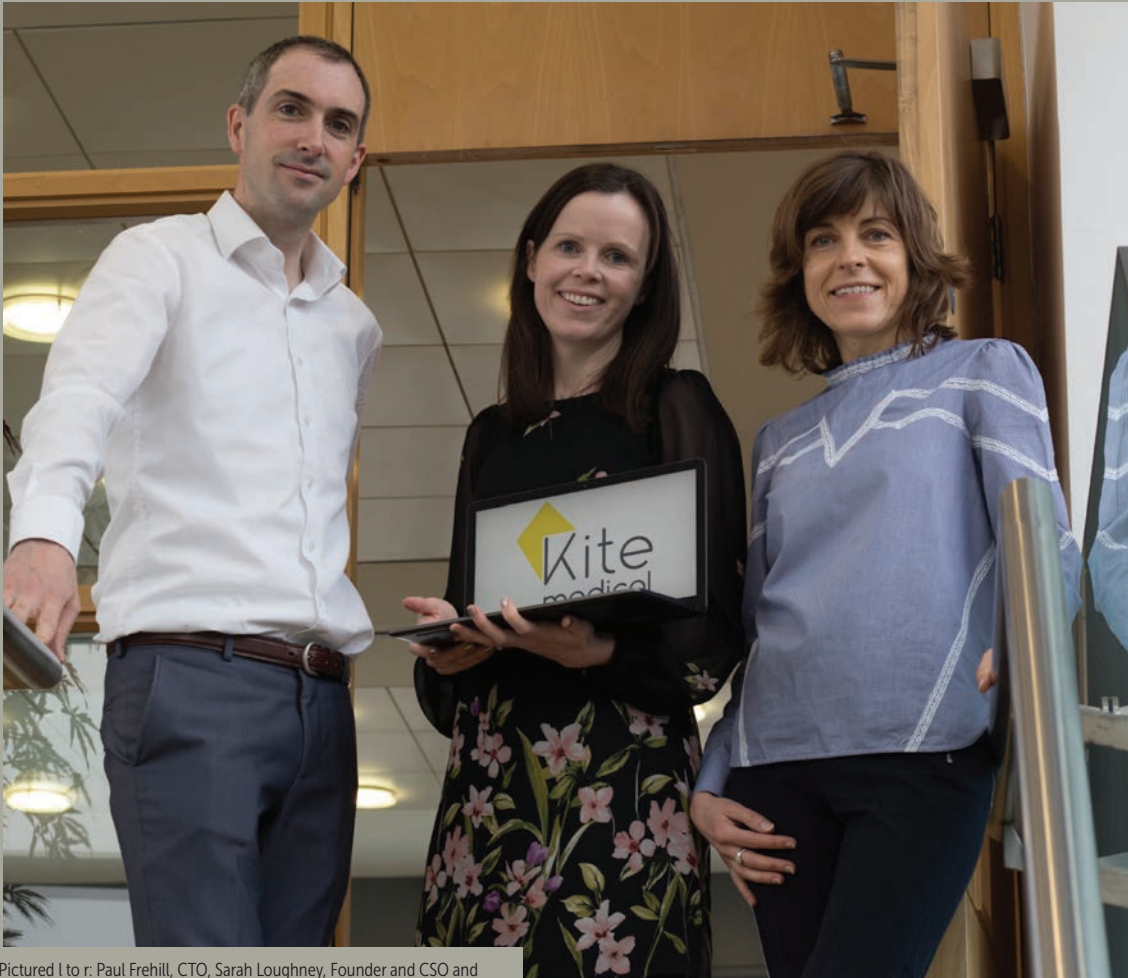
## LOCI ORTHOPAEDICS RAISES FUNDS FOR CRIPPLING JOINT CONDITION

In July 2018, NUI Galway-based medical device spin-out company, Loci Orthopaedics announced the closing of a €2.75 million seed round investment to commercialise a new orthopaedic joint implant for a common but crippling joint condition. Loci Orthopaedics is an independent leader in the development of a potentially life-changing, ergonomic and clinically evidence-based solution to address the increasing unmet need for thumb base joint arthritis. The company is developing the InDx Implant to meet this need and access a market estimated at over €550 million per annum. Arthritis of the thumb base joint causes significant functional impairment of the hand. Those with this condition are either restricted in, or often lose the ability to perform, everyday tasks such as using a mobile phone, turning keys in a door and even writing due to increasingly severe pain. This unmet clinical need was identified by the co-founders of the company, Dr Brendan Boland a clinician, and Mr Gerry Clarke, a medical device industry veteran. The Loci Orthopaedics team have been working with three of the world's leading hand surgeons and have used their most cutting-edge research as the basis for the implant design. These surgeons based in Stanford University, Brown University and KU Leuven in Belgium are key-opinion leaders in this area of orthopaedic medicine. The InDx Implant is the only implant that can fully mimic the natural but complex motions of the thumb joint as it provides two points of rotation that can move both concurrently and independently of each other while enabling the joint to move in all six degrees of freedom. Preliminary research indicates that this device design may also have clinical indications in other small joints of the hands and feet, as well as other joints with complex biomechanics such as the shoulder and elbow.



For more information about Loci Orthopaedics, visit: [www.lociorthopaedics.com](http://www.lociorthopaedics.com)





Pictured l to r: Paul Frehill, CTO, Sarah Loughney, Founder and CSO and Joan FitzPatrick, CEO of Kite Medical

## KITE MEDICAL RAISES €1.5M IN FUNDING

In April 2018, Bioinnovate Ireland medical device spin-out company, Kite Medical announced the closing of a €1.5 million seed round investment to commercialise a device that offers a pain-free, non-invasive means of detecting kidney reflux in children. Kidney reflux is prevalent in up to 2.5% of children and in 30-40% of those presenting with urinary tract infections. The condition involves reflux of urine from the bladder to the kidneys and the consequences of missed diagnosis are severe, including chronic kidney disease. The current diagnostic test requires a catheter, forced filling of the bladder and radiation exposure, resulting in pain and trauma for the children. In contrast, Kite Medical's device will be a wearable solution where the child will wear sensors to detect possible reflux over normal urination cycles. The device will be a game-changer in transferring the detection of kidney reflux from the hospital to an office-based primary care setting and can even facilitate monitoring at home. The Kite Medical device serves a market of almost \$500 million, created by the ease of use and child-friendly nature of the innovation. Kite Medical's portable device will also take advantage of the growth in digital healthcare trends.



For more information about Kite Medical visit: [www.kitemedical.ie](http://www.kitemedical.ie)



President of NUI Galway, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh with Joe Connolly, winner of the Alumni Award for Contribution to Sport at the annual awards ceremony in May 2018



## Hurling and business has defined Joe Connolly's impressive career

### Q What are your memories of UCG in the '70s?

The experience and the memories I have to this day are fantastic. I have only the happiest memories of my days in UCG, as it was then known. I was one of 10 children in my house in Ballybrit and the only one to go on to third level. I was a big curiosity for the rest of the family at home. I never regretted doing my degree; to this day, my best friends are college friends.

### Q Your hurling career had already started when you began your degree

It had but playing for the college was a big step along the way for my career and indeed playing hurling was a huge attraction in going to college. I played with all the UCG teams throughout college and we won everything there was to be won. In 1977 we won the Fitzgibbon Cup medal and there were actually three of us on the team that went on to captain All-Ireland winning teams. Hurling for UCG was a great baptism for an inter county career. Academically I didn't shine, but I was able to get through!

### Q Did you have a plan for what you'd do after college?

No, there was no big plan along the way. I did the Dip after my degree but knew at the same time I wasn't going to teach. I didn't have the patience for it. Myself and my brothers decided to start a manufacturing business called Connolly Sports. That was the stepping stone to a lifetime of business. I found my BA really helpful as a base and as a confidence boost. I was able to bring that confidence into the business.

### Q Was it difficult juggling your working life with your career in hurling?

Yes, it was difficult. Starting a business back then was very challenging. I was very unlucky in that I got a very serious injury at the age of 27 which essentially finished my career. It required major reconstructive surgery on my knee and I struggled in the following few years to recover. At the age of 31 I remember travelling back from Dublin, the radio in my car was broken so I had every chance to think about my life and where to go now. Life was very challenging – I had the business and myself and my wife Cathy had five sons by the age of 31. I remember banging on the steering wheel and saying that's it, no more trying to make it work. I had finished my career winning an All-Ireland with Galway and a Fitzgibbon with UCG. It doesn't get any better than that. I greatly regret that my career stopped at the age of 27 but it was a great way to go out.

# Joe Connolly

## BA Irish & Geography

1978



1977 UCG Fitzgibbon Cup winners



### Joe on hurling and his time at NUI Galway

<https://tinyurl.com/y9cszftc>

### Q Your brothers were also involved in hurling

Five of us played for Galway. We actually won 11 All-Ireland medals in the one year. They played a big part in my career. Another person that had a huge impact on my county and UCG hurling career was Joe McDonagh. Sadly, he passed away two years ago at the age of 62. In UCG, he was the heart and soul of everything that moved in our lives throughout our college years. Later, he was President of the GAA. He was a huge influence for a generation of UCG and Galway hurlers.

### Q Have your sons any interest in the sport?

I have five sons and all five have played for Castlegar. They've all enjoyed great careers. John, my 13 year old grandson is stone mad about it. So here we go again!



Joe with his wife and family at the NUI Galway Alumni Awards in May 2018

# SPORTS ROUND-UP

In the past year, NUI Galway students represented Ireland or Irish University teams in 10 different sports. Sports clubs won gold in 12 disciplines at the Intersivarsity level while NUI Galway team sports won All-Irelands in athletics, judo, rowing, men's basketball, women's soccer, cricket and women's rugby.



**MENS BASKETBALL** 2018 National League and Varsities champions.

## HOCKEY

Women's Hockey won the Irish Challenge Cup, the Connacht Senior Cup and the Connacht Senior League.



## GAA – GAELIC FOOTBALL

An excellent season by the college senior footballers saw them reach the Sigerson final, for the first time in 15 years, only to lose narrowly to UCD. A large number of inter county stars were on view in the final. Damien Comer was team captain. The intermediate Men's Gaelic Footballers won the Intermediate league title. The junior team also won the Connacht junior title for the third year in a row.



## SAILING

IUSA (Irish University Sailing Association) Event of the Year - NUI Galway (right) took home Event of the Year from their very successfully organised IUSA Intersiverties in Co. Clare.



## NUI Galway Individual Successes 2017-2018

### ATHLETICS

**Damien Landers**, first NUI Galway individual title in 17 years at Cross Country intersivarsity. Seven NUI Galway athletes on the Irish team.

### ARCHERY

**Roisin Mooney** competed for Ireland in Berlin in July 2018.

### BOXING

**Cian O' Shaughnessy** Elite Senior 91kg+ and **Richard Hart** Elite Senior Novice 67kg both took Silver at the 2018 Irish Athletic Third-Level Boxing Association (IATBA) Championships at the National Boxing Stadium in Dublin.

### FENCING

**Grainne O'Connor** 1st place in Women's Foil at all three national novice competitions. **Kirsten Siig Pallesen** Selected to represent Ireland at the Student 4 Nations.

### HANDBALL

**Ashling Mullin** and **Laura Finn** won the All Ireland Women's A doubles intersivarsity in Wexford. **Oisín Cusack** and **Stephen Hally**, were winners at the All Ireland Singles 40x20 Championships, Kingscourt, Co. Cavan.

### KAYAK

**Aoife Hanrahan** won 1st place at Intersiverties in Women's Sea Kayak. **Robert Kierans** won 1st in male sea kayak.



## More NUI Galway Team Successes

### WOMEN'S RUGBY

Won both the Connacht league and Connacht cup.

### ATHLETICS

Women's Relay Team won Gold at Intervarsity, setting a new NUI Galway record.



### FRISBEE

- NUI Galway Students **Ronan Fogarty, Barry O'Gorman and Georgina Nelson** are competing with the Irish Team.
- **Zoe Langsdale** selected as coach of Irish women's team.

### GAA – CAMOGIE

NUI Galway Camogie Club are Purcell Cup Champions!



### ARCHERY

- National Student Indoor Champions 2018
- 5 competed in the Indoor World Cup



### TAEKWONDO

Nine members of the club attended the Connacht Championships, resulting in seven Gold Medals, five Silver and three Bronze.

### SURF

**Samuel Moore** was selected to represent Ireland and NUI Galway in Japan at the World Surfing Games in September 2018.

### SWIM

**Killian Dooley** qualified for the European Triathlon.

### WEIGHTLIFTING

National Inter-Varsity Championships: **Neil Campbell**, Silver Medal in 94kg class.



## Rowing Heroes

Considered the Cheltenham of rowing, the picturesque Oxfordshire town of Henley-on-Thames has hosted the Royal Regatta since 1839. Held over five days, all races are two-boat matches along a one mile and 550 yards stretch of the river Thames, with only the winner progressing to the following day's racing. The NUI Galway boat was drawn against a seeded crew from Amsterdam Student Rowing Club, Nereus and against all the odds came out on top. The Galway boys were then pitted against Columbia University from New York City. Despite having led for most of the race, the Galway crew lost out in the end. Speaking afterwards, NUI Galway head coach Dave Mannion suggested that having experienced such a unique racing environment, the next challenge would be to come back bigger and better and to mount a more serious bid for silverware.

Pictured is the NUI Galway crew which competed in the Prince Albert Challenge Cup event at Henley Royal Regatta. FROM LEFT: Jack Bennett, Eoghan Whittle, Sandra Kelly (Cox), Brion O'Rourke, Oisín Nolan and Dave Mannion (Coach).

## More rowing



- Overall winners, winning nine National Championships at the National Rowing Championships of Ireland 2017.
- Victor Ludorum for best overall University at University Championship.
- Women's side won the BOI cup for the most wins in women's 8+ at University Championship.
- National Rowing Championships of Ireland 2018, with wins in Women's Senior 4 and Women's intermediate 8. (Senior 4 was made up of Fiona Murtagh, Aisling Cahill and scholarship students Nuala Landers and Sadhbh O'Connor. The intermediate 8 was made up of Sandra Kelly, Cliodhna Nolan, Roisin Cahill, Nuala Landers, Aisling Cahill, Lisa Murphy, Siuan Mannion, Sorcha O'Donnell and Alison Mooney.)





PHOTO COURTESY OF IMELDA CRIBBIN

# John (Sean) Joseph Cribbin

**Bachelor of Engineering**

**1947**

**A degree in engineering has led John Cribbin  
around the world**

To say that John (Sean) Cribbin has enjoyed an exciting and varied career would be an understatement. His eagerness to embrace new opportunities while at the same time provide for his family has led him all over the world, from South Africa, the UK and Australia. Despite several periods where work was hard to come by, he persevered and managed to build a solid, enviable career in engineering.

Sean graduated from University College Galway (as it was then known) in 1947. Apart from his engineering studies, he enjoyed being part of the soccer team and also played for the County Galway Juniors.

From September 1947 to December 1948, Sean worked in Engineering Maintenance for Galway County Council at Athenry. In the summer of 1949 he transferred to Clifden





## Department of Civil Engineering, NUI Galway

In 2017, engineering graduate John Cribbin very generously made a donation to NUI Galway's Department of Civil Engineering to mark the 70th anniversary of his graduation. The donation was used to purchase a deionising water unit for the Department's environmental engineering lab. "I'd like to encourage other engineering alumni to also make donations to the civil engineering college," said John.



For more, visit [www.nuigalway.ie](http://www.nuigalway.ie)

for survey work and following this, secured a position with the Engineering Department at Limerick City Council. It was around this time that he got married to Catherine (Kit) Hurney from Annagh which is just outside Galway on Lough Corrib, near Moycullen.

Sean enjoyed the work in Limerick, which consisted of inspecting houses under repair and those being built all over the city. "You didn't always know what you were going to see. On one occasion I walked in and saw the residents had used the brand new, varnished, wooden toilet seat as a photo frame and had it hanging on the wall!" After seeing an ad calling for young engineers in South Africa, Sean and his young family upped and left Ireland for Pietermaritzburg in 1953. It was in South Africa that his civil engineering career took off while working for the Province of Natal Highway Department in the Planning Division. "I was promoted from a Grade III engineer to a Grade IV where my salary more than doubled due to my experience."

By 1958, Sean and Kit's family included three young daughters. "Although I very much enjoyed my time in South Africa, we felt a country based on apartheid was not where we wanted to raise our family. But there was no work that winter in Ireland so I decided to try Birmingham." He secured a position with the Birmingham Corporation in roads and design but with no prospect of promotion, he investigated the possibility of working in Australia. In 1960 and with four kids now in tow, Sean and Kit once again upped sticks and left Ireland, this time to work for the South Australian Highways Department in road design. In 1965, the family moved to Melbourne. After being transferred to three locations in as many years, his family's welfare was paramount. "Changing schools was not good for the children." In 1965, he accepted an engineering position with the Board of Works in Melbourne and never looked back."

Sean retired in 1982. In 1997, he and Kit travelled to Galway for the University's 50-year class reunion. "Now, 70 years after graduating from UCG, I can honestly say that my career took me around the world and allowed me to support my wife and six children on a single salary. I retired at the age of 60 and to this day, at the age of 96, I am still only a part-pensioner." With 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, Sean is kept busy. "Sadly, Kit passed away in September 2015. We knew each other 72 years and were married for 64."

Sean's education at UCG held him in good stead throughout his whole life and it was for that reason that he



IMAGE COURTESY OF MR DOWLING, PRESENTATION ROAD, GALWAY

decided to make a donation to the Department of Civil Engineering at NUI Galway in 2017. After much deliberation, the money was used to buy a deionising water unit for the environmental engineering lab. Sean was thrilled with the decision. "I sincerely wish those who continue to teach and study there get as fulfilling a career and life as I did."



For information on engineering courses at NUI Galway, visit [www.nuigalway.ie/engineering-informatics](http://www.nuigalway.ie/engineering-informatics)

As they embark on an exciting future, meet the latest batch of NUI Galway graduates...



Ann Mary McCoy was conferred with a PhD in March 2018.



**ABOVE:** Graduates of the Bachelor of Arts with Creative Writing from the Autumn Conferring ceremony in October 2017. **BELOW:** Hazel Egan and Mary Marren were conferred with a Master of Health Sciences in November 2017.



**ABOVE:** Medical Class of 2018





**FAR LEFT:** Members of the Galway Energy-Efficient Car (GEEC) team Dylan Ryan and Jonathan Whelan were conferred with an Honours Bachelor of Engineering degree.  
**LEFT:** Lisa Cassealy, a member of Galway WFC was conferred with an Honours Bachelor of Commerce degree in October 2017.



**LEFT:** Ronan Fogarty, Jemma Barry, Cormac Dillon and Luke Kelly were conferred with an Honours Bachelor of Science degree in October 2017



**ABOVE:** Dara Bodamer, Martha Ni Fhlatharta, Vivienne Daly, Ciara Ryan and Saoirse Ni Riain who were conferred with an Honours Bachelor of Science (Occupational Therapy) in June 2018. **LEFT:** Maria Groarke and Shauna Dunleavy were conferred with an Honours Bachelor of Arts Youth & Family Studies degree in October 2017. **BELOW:** Martin Neary was conferred with a Doctor of Medicine (MD) in March 2018. Martin is pictured with his partner Meabh and son Féilim.



**BELOW:** In November 2017 (from left) Patrick Nolan and Aishlinn Carey who were conferred with a Master of Science (Digital Marketing); Conor Mangan who was conferred with a Master of Science (Marketing Management); Brian Mac Cathmhaoil who was conferred with a Master of Science (International Marketing and Exporting); Kealan Walsh who was conferred with a Master of Science (Marketing Management) and Conor Buckley who was conferred with a Master of Science (Digital Marketing).



**LEFT:** Pictured at NUI Galway's Winter Conferring Ceremonies in November 2017 were Back row (l-r): Grace Melvin, Hannah Grogan, Shauna McLoughlin and Bríd O Connor.



**LEFT:** Claire Crotty, Caoimhe Nally, Niamh Kennedy, Emily Keane, Catherine Clancy, Rianat Sobayo and Molly Bonar were conferred with an Honours Bachelor of Engineering Degree in October 2017.



# Outstanding in their field

One of the highest honours bestowed on an individual, several honorary graduates were conferred at NUI Galway during the last academic year. Previous honorees, recognised for their outstanding distinction in their chosen field, include author Margaret Atwood, former US Under Secretary for Energy, Dr Kristina M Johnson, journalist Fintan O'Toole and the late Nelson Mandela.



## JACK McCANN

### IRISH FRIENDS OF ALBANIA

A native of Rush, Jack was conferred with a Doctor of Laws honorary degree for his services to medicine and for his co-founding of charity, Irish Friends of Albania. Twice a year, Jack travels to Albania with teams of medical volunteers to work in hospitals. Since 2002 he has operated on hundreds of children and adults to improve and correct hand deformities and burn injuries.

*LEFT: Jack McCann, founder of local charity 'Irish Friends of Albania', pictured here with his family in November 2017*



View video with  
Jack McCann at  
[tinyurl.com/yaxdpbkc](https://tinyurl.com/yaxdpbkc)

## ENDA KENNY

### FORMER TAOISEACH

Former Taoiseach Enda Kenny became leader of Fine Gael in 2002 and led the party for 15 years, the longest period of any Fine Gael leader. He became Taoiseach in March 2011 and again in May 2016, the first Fine Gael leader to be re-elected as Taoiseach in successive elections.

*RIGHT: The National University of Ireland (NUI) conferred an honorary degree Doctor of Laws (LLD) on former Taoiseach Mr Enda Kenny TD in October 2017 at NUI Galway*



View video with Enda Kenny at  
[tinyurl.com/ycoodq9f](https://tinyurl.com/ycoodq9f)







**RAHM EMANUEL**  
MAYOR OF CHICAGO

Rahm Emanuel is the 55th mayor of Chicago. He has successfully enacted numerous education reforms including making Chicago the first big city in the country to offer free community college to all high school students who graduate with at least a B average. Before becoming Mayor, he was the White House Chief of Staff in the Obama administration.

*LEFT: Pictured with Mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel on the occasion of his honorary conferring in April 2018 is NUI Galway President, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh.*

 View video with **Rahm Emanuel** at [tinyurl.com/ybcoc714](http://tinyurl.com/ybcoc714)



**JOHN CRUMLISH & PAUL FAHY**

**GALWAY INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL**

Galway International Arts Festival CEO John Crumlish and Artistic Director Paul Fahy were conferred with Honorary Doctorates in recognition of their work in transforming Galway International Arts Festival. Under their leadership, the Festival has doubled in size and now has an annual attendance of over 200,000 and an impact on the local economy of €30 million.

*LEFT: Galway International Arts Festival visionaries, John Crumlish and Paul Fahy, who were both conferred with honorary Doctor of Arts degrees in November 2017.*

 View video with **John Crumlish & Paul Fahy** at [tinyurl.com/yaxdpbk](http://tinyurl.com/yaxdpbk)

 NUI Galway were proud to be **Education Partners** for the 2018 Galway International Arts Festival. [tinyurl.com/yb4ok3r2](http://tinyurl.com/yb4ok3r2)

**PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS**



**MARGARET ATWOOD, 2011**

Margaret Atwood was conferred with a Degree of Doctor of Literature (honoris causa). The Canadian author has published more than 40 books of fiction, poetry, and critical essays.



**DR KRISTINA M JOHNSON, 2017**

Currently the CEO of Cube Hydro Partners, Kristina previously held the position of Under Secretary of the United States Department of Energy.



**FINTAN O'TOOLE, 2017**

Fintan O'Toole is a columnist with The Irish Times and winner of the 2017 European Press Prize for commentary.



**NELSON MANDELA, 2003**

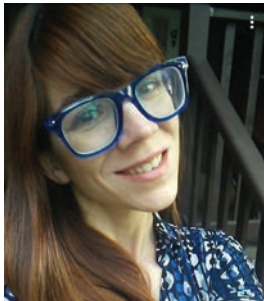
The Nobel Laureate and former President of South Africa was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws at the University.

# Class Notes

## 2010s



**Laura Kate Reilly, BSc Occupational Therapy, 2014** After graduating, Laura moved to Singapore to work as an occupational therapist. Working in a large acute hospital, she completed her rotations and enjoyed her three years there which were filled with travel and opportunity. Laura completed her Masters in Neurorehabilitation in London in 2017 and hopes to relocate to Ireland in the not so distant future!



**Sara Beth Hesel, Masters of Public Advocacy and Activism, 2015** Sara is currently working as a Deputy Field Operations Director on a political campaign for a State of Illinois Governor, where she is utilizing the campaigning and research skills she gained during her Masters. Previously, she worked for non-profits as a grant writer and most importantly, she is raising a very bright seven and a half year old, Oliver James.

**ANNA SNYDER, MA IN WRITING, 2011**

Since attending NUI Galway, Anna has travelled across five continents, living for nine months in Spain. She has published a travel guide ebook to Dublin, *24 Hours Dublin*, as well as short works of poetry and fiction for Two of Cups Press and the website The Toast. She was also a shieldmaiden extra for the series Vikings. Currently, she lives in Dublin and works as editor and staff writer for the blog Invest in Blockchain. She is finishing a novel and getting married in October.

**JEREMIAH SHEEHAN, BA COMMUNITY & FAMILY STUDIES, 2011**

Now enjoying his retirement, James loves to spend long hours driving a track machine and likens it to the enjoyment a 4 year old gets at Christmas time!

**CLAIRE RUANE, BA 2012**

After college, Claire worked in a little café across the road from NUI Galway called '37west' and enjoyed soaking up the atmosphere every day. She worked as a TEFL teacher for two and a half years in Atlantic language Galway. She intends to continue learning and growing, with a continued interest in philosophy, yoga and nature.



**JOANNA NELIUS, MA SCREENWRITING 2011**

Joanna Nelius earned her MFA in Creative Writing from Chapman University in 2017. She has written numerous articles as a freelance video game journalist, founded an interdisciplinary journal and has a publication forthcoming in the Horror Writers Association Poetry Showcase Vol. 5. She currently teaches creative writing at the Orange County School of the Arts California and is an editor for a speculative fiction magazine, Abyss & Apex.

**PREM SINGH THARU, LL.M. IN INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE DISABILITY LAW AND POLICY 2014**

Prem has been in Chiang Mai, Thailand since July 2016, working with Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact. He is very proud and happy to be connected with the University wherever he goes!

**SIMONE KETTEMANN, M.Sc. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, 2015**

After graduating, Simone left Ireland and returned to Germany. She started a job as an HR Generalist and later as a project manager for human resource development in a publishing and media company in Aalen. Discussing HR topics and considering and questioning different views were the main points she learned at NUI Galway. To encourage students to think critically, she started teaching part-time at the Cooperative State University in Stuttgart.

**ANNE BRODERICK, BA IN TRAINING AND EDUCATION, ADULT EDUCATION, 2014-2018**

Anne returned to education after working in the public sector for several years. Now a training consultant, the course provided her with not just relevant theory but with practical information that she now applies to her work. Her advice for people considering a return to education is to go for it!



## 2000s

**SIMRAT KAUR PHD, 2014** Currently an expectant mother, Simrat is staying home until her baby is born. In February 2017, she left her last job in the USA where she was hired on an O-1 VISA (given to researchers with high credentials) as an Algae Scientist. She is grateful to Prof Rhodri Ceredig from REMEDI, NUI Galway for all his support. She hopes to come back to Ireland and to NUI Galway.

**YUQING CAI, MASTER OF ECONOMIC SCIENCE, 2014** Yuqing says life at NUI Galway changed her a lot and has made her fearless in life. She recently travelled overseas to New Zealand where she tried extreme sports, finishing up with a bungy jump for the first time!

**DAVID BAXTER BAKIBINGA, LL.M IN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW, 2012** David has worked as a public prosecutor with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), Uganda for over 18 years. He is currently the Deputy Regional Officer, Nakawa ODPP Regional Office. He is also the President of the Uganda Association of Prosecutors (UAP), an umbrella body that advocates for collective rights of public prosecutors under the ODPP.

**TOM FLYNN BA 1999, HDIPED 2001**

Tom is the author of *Westports of the Western World*, published in 1985. He is a member of 'Westport Writers Group' and a member of Westport Toastmasters. He is an examiner of higher level English with the Dept. Communications and Skills and teaches dyslexic students reading, writing and communications skills.

**MONICA GALLIGAN, BA 2001** After completing a BA at NUI Galway, Monica moved to California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), where she earned a Master of Science degree in Coastal and Watershed Science and Policy. Since then, she has enjoyed 12 years lecturing in Environmental Economics and Environmental Policy at CSUMB. She also teaches Geographic Information Systems at both CSUMB and the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS).

**UINSEANN MAC THÓMAIS, MA SA PHLEANÁIL TEANGA 2008**

Is sa bhliain 2008 a shaothraigh mé an chéim mháistreachta sa phleanáil teanga, ach, ní gan dua! Ag an am ba cheannródaíthe muid, sa bhuíon bheag a thug faoi, a thug aghaidh ar eolaíocht measartha nua, agus a bhí nua mar ábhar céime ag an Ollscoil féin trí Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge. Anois agus sinn 10 mbliana chun tosaigh tá an phleanáil teanga ag teacht i réim go láidir agus ní miste sin. Tá ár nGaeltachtaí ag am an ghatair, rud atá a thuar le fada an lá agus tá lagmhisneach fairsing faoi thodhchaí na teanga. Le stuaim agus le cur chuige ceart is féidir an taoide a chasadh de bheagán ar dtús, mar a deirtear "De réir a chéile a tógar na caisleáin". Táim fíorbhuíoch as an gcoláiste, agus an fhoireann dhiograiseach a thug an deis dom an oiliúint thábhachtach seo a fháil.

**HELEN SHERIDAN, BA 2003**

Helen moved to Northern Ireland for a Masters Degree where she stayed and married. She now works as a film and TV drama editor and was in Galway for the Film Fleadh 18 where her film *The Dig* won Best Feature.

**ELIZABETH REAPY, BA 2005**

Elizabeth Reapy is an author and the recipient of the €10,000 Rooney Prize for Irish Literature 2017 for her debut novel *Red Dirt*. From Claremorris, Co Mayo, she also has a diploma in education from University College Cork and an MA in creative writing from Queen's University Belfast.



To read more go to page 22 or click on the link below:  
[www.nuigalway.ie/coiscoribe](http://www.nuigalway.ie/coiscoribe)

**CATHERINE DOYLE, MA IN LITERATURE AND PUBLISHING**

Author Catherine Doyle recently signed a six-figure deal with Bloomsbury Children's Books for her novel, *The Storm Keeper's Island*. The novel will be published in the UK and Australia in July 2018, and the US in early 2019. Catherine's writing career launched after she secured a three-book deal for her Young Adult *Blood for Blood* trilogy with the same international publisher who discovered JK Rowling, the creator of the *Harry Potter* series.

**SIOBHAN O'NEILL MELUSO, MA 2005**

Siobhan attended NUI Galway as an Erasmus student from 2002 to 2003 and returned to complete her MA in Drama and Theatre Studies from 2004 to 2005. Both years she was involved in the Choral Society and other theatre endeavours.

**PATRICK MCMENAMIN, BA 2009, PGDE 2010, MA HISTORY 2011** After 20 years in industry, Patrick returned to academia at 50 years of age and emerged six years later as a secondary school teacher, a life's dream fulfilled! Despite serious health issues, Patrick spends his time on the Galway Bay golf resort, enjoying a stream of consciousness moment with Molly Bloom's soliloquy as he hits a 2 Iron down the 14th, with the sun setting over Inis Mhor on the Atlantic horizon!

**CIARA O' HALLORAN, MSC 2010** After graduating with an MSc in Marketing in 2010, Ciara and three of her classmates travelled to Australia for a year of backpacking. More than seven years later, she is still living in Perth and about to be married to an Irish man. Ciara went on to do a second Masters in professional accounting and now teaches marketing, accounting and business management at tertiary level.

**SHEENA VAN DEN OOSTEN, BA INTERNATIONAL 2005** Sheena has been self-employed in her own business for over seven years. She is a Design Consultant who helps businesses connect with their customers, increase user engagement and become more profitable, by means of cohesive branding, graphic and website design solutions.

## 1990s



**RONAN ROONEY, BA 1990** Ronan has been studying and practising consciousness and transpersonal development for over 20 years. He has been presenting his Sirius programs since 2005 and is in the process of launching *Sirius Integration - Success Beyond Ego*. He is now an internationally acclaimed speaker, author and trainer and has presented his programs in Europe, the US and Australia. His book, *The Secret of Life*, has been sold worldwide and he is currently completing an MSc in Consciousness, Spirituality & Transpersonal Psychology.

**DR KEVIN HEANUE, BA 1989, MA 1993** Kevin is the Evaluation Officer with Teagasc. On May 12th 2018, he received an Honorary Doctor of Letters from Lourdes University, Ohio, in recognition of his contribution to the development of rural and small town communities.



**PAUL O'CONNOR, BSC 1996** Paul is currently working as a member of J.P. Morgan's Green Bonds team in London. Prior to joining the team, Paul worked in the environmental risk management team, having joined from PwC where he spent 10 years in the Sustainability & Climate Change consulting group. He attended the NUI Galway Alumni Event in the Irish Embassy, London in 2016.

**KEVIN MCDONALD, BA 1999** Kevin is currently into a two-year contract with the United Nations working as a Regional Security Officer in Bria, in the Eastern part of the Central African Republic. He studied Arts in NUI Galway as a mature student during which time he got engaged, married, moved house three times and also became a father! He has put his archaeological studies to great use in finding unrecorded sites across the world.

**DR CORA STACK, PHD 1994** Cora graduated from UCD in 1987 with a first class honours in Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics and worked in WIT and UCD lecturing mathematics. She obtained a SERC scholarship to do a PhD at the University of Reading which she completed in 1994 and worked as a lecturer in NUI Galway briefly before taking up a permanent post as a Mathematics Lecturer at Tallaght IT in 1997. Cora is married to the Deputy President of UL Limerick and has five children.

**ANDREA BAN YU-LIN, MB BCH BAO 1997** Andrea chaired the development group for the clinical practice guidelines for asthma in adults for Malaysia. After three years and 33 meetings, the CPG was launched on World Asthma Day in Hospital Serdang. Andrea is proud to have been involved along with chest physicians, emergency department physicians, pharmacists, family medicine physicians and general physicians.







**DOLORES CLEOFAS,  
MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN ENGINEERING  
HYDROLOGY, 1995**

Dolores completed a PhD in Civil Engineering at the University of the Philippines in Water Resources. She is currently working as Assistant Professor 3 at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. Research is essential in her line of work and she aims to continue to collaborate with NUI Galway.

**PRADIP RAJ PANDE, MSc**

1990 Pradip studied MSc hydrology in NUI Galway and found Galway to be a very nice place and the Irish people very friendly. He is retired from a Nepal government job since 2014 and now works as Deputy Team Leader in an Asian Development Bank funded Project (Community Managed Irrigated Agriculture Sector Project) in Kathmandu. He'd still like to visit Galway if he could find some sponsors for his air ticket!

**AOIBHEANN  
MCCANN, BA 1995,  
HDIP IN ED 2000, MA  
IN ADVOCACY AND  
ACTIVISM 2007**

Aoibheann McCann's first novel *Marina* was published by Wordsonthestreet in April 2018. Her fiction piece *One of those Women* was featured in the *Autonomy* anthology by New Binary Press. She was recently awarded the Tyrone Guthrie Residency by Galway City Council for 2018. She is currently working on her first collection of short stories to be published in 2019. Aoibheann lives in Galway with her husband and daughter.

**ANNMARIE O'CONNOR, BA 1996, MA 1997**

Annmarie O'Connor is a best-selling author, award-winning stylist and fashion editor. A self-styled 'inexpert expert' on the subject of mindfulness, her books *The Happy Closet* and *The Happy Medium* explore how considered choices can increase our sense of satisfaction, a topic which she also proposes in her TEDx talk *Enough is Enough: Deciding to Be Satisfied*.



## 1980s

**ALBIE FLANAGAN, BA 1966, HDIP  
1967, MED 1973, PHD 1984**

Albie graduated in 1966 and completed a BA, HDE, M.Ed before ending her studies in 1984 with a PhD. She worked as a primary teacher in both Ireland and Canada amidst ongoing changes in the classroom and retired in 1987. As Principal of an urban national school, Albie explored the sources and influences on the development of our primary practices and syllabi, a practice which she found helpful in her duties as Principal.

**GERALDINE MCGINTY, MD 1988**

Geraldine has been elected Chair of the American College of Radiology (ACR) board—the first woman named to the position in the history of the organisation. She is a practicing radiologist and faculty member at Weill Cornell Medicine, where she is the chief strategy officer and chief contracting officer for the Weill Cornell Physician Organisation. For the last two years she has served as the vice chair of the Board of Chancellors at ACR.



**CONCHÚR Ó BRÁDAIGH, BE 1985, MENGSC**

1987 Professor Conchúr Ó Brádaigh (BE Mech. 1985, MEngSc 1987) was recently appointed Head of the School of Engineering at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He was appointed as Chair of Materials Engineering at Edinburgh in 2015. The School of Engineering is currently celebrating the 150th Anniversary of its founding, through a Regius Chair of Engineering in 1868.

**BRID FITZPATRICK, BA 1989** Brid completed her BA degree in History and Archaeology in 1989. She is a wordsmith, writer, poet and librarian. Her writings have appeared in various journals, anthologies and online. Her two self-published books (in conjunction with Swan Press) are *The Book of the brown calf Moo-Calf* and *Poem Drops*.

## 1970s



**JOHN COOKE, BE 1977** John has been in Canada since 1981 and in Ottawa since 1989. He founded his own firm, John G Cooke & Associates Ltd, with three other partners including his wife, Mary (nee McLoughlin), a native of Sligo. The firm are recognised experts in conservation engineering across Canada and recently completed the conservation and rehabilitation of the West Block on Parliament Hill, to allow relocation of the Canadian Parliament for 15 years.

**DANNY KELLY, BCOMM 1971**

After university, Danny worked in Galway for a firm of chartered accountants. He became involved with the Luton Day Centre for the Homeless and worked with them as accountant and administrator after which he joined another homeless charity, Luton Accommodation & Move-on Project, until last year as Finance Officer. Since 2004, he has worked for a chartered accountant and insolvency practitioner in north London. Despite being a pensioner, he still works three days per week.



**GERALD DAWE, MA (ARTS) 1977** Forty years of teaching, 10 years at UCG and 30 years at Trinity College Dublin were rounded off by a sabbatical year for Gerald as a visiting scholar at Pembroke College, Cambridge. He retired from TCD last year and has had five books published including *Crossing the Sound: Poems from the West of Ireland*, a pamphlet of poems and three prose books.



**JAMES FINNEGAN, BSC 1974, MSC 1975, HDE 1977** Dublin-born James Finnegan has been highly commended in the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Competition, shortlisted in *Over The Edge New Writer of the Year* and short-listed in *The Canterbury Anthology for Poet of the Year*. James is married to Livinia and lives outside Letterkenny. His first full collection of poems, *Half-Open Door*, was launched in Listowel in June 2018.

## 1960s

**DONAL MCGOLDRICK, MB BCH BAO 1966**

Based in New York, Donal is a retired medical doctor who previously held the role of Professor of Medicine and Chair of the Nephrology Department at Albany (NY) Medical College for over 25 years. In retirement, he returned to his childhood love of tennis and has represented Ireland 44 times internationally. These championships occurred between five years of chemotherapy for multiple myeloma. Married to Victoria, they have four children and six grandchildren.

**DR THOMAS O'CONNOLLY, MB BCH BAO 1969, BSC PATH 1972**

Thomas underwent early training in anaesthetics in the city hospital of Hof, Bavaria. After further training and experience, he has also been working as a psychoanalyst for the past 15 years. Thomas hopes to retire in September 2018 at the age of 75 years old!

**MARK KENNEY BCOMM 2010 & OLIVER MULDOON BA 1971**

Last year, Mark had a meeting with an Oliver Muldoon in Hyannis Massachusetts. After chatting, they discovered that they were both Alumni of NUI Galway. Sadly, a few months later Oliver passed away. His wife, Susan, whom he married in Furbo, Co. Galway in 1971, remains not only a client but a friend of Mark's.



## 1960s

**WILFRED G. CHEN, MB BCH BAO 1963, MD 1969**

Wilfred is an ancient Galwegian and thankful for the Irish who first baptised him at St. Mary's College, Trinidad and then educated him at NUI Galway. He has been active in general medicine for the past 50 years and is also a research cancer/development scientist. A golf addict, Wilfred's life's interest has been seeking God in his research, his patients, his family life and in all the ordinary circumstances of life.

**MARTIN A. TIMONEY, BA 1969**

After retiring from teaching in 1997, Martin is attempting to retire from research archaeology. He is currently involved in archaeological editing, on Vol. 4 of *Sligo Field Club Journal*. Martin's wife, Mary, has just released her second book, *Ballintober Old and The Memorials of Co. Roscommon*.



**VINCENT BRENNAN, BE 1960** Vincent's local authority career commenced in his home county of Roscommon in 1962, with his first permanent position with Mayo County Council in 1965. He worked with Longford County for 12 years and as County Engineer in Roscommon from 1985 until he retired in 2003. In 1959 Vincent met Mary and the couple recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. Mary's passion for beautiful things and Vincent's lifelong interest in antique clocks resulted in the pair opening a gift and antique shop called 'Time Pieces' in 1992. Nowadays, he spends his time fixing clocks, playing bridge with Mary and enjoying life as a newbie 80 year old.

**RICHARD CARNEY 1969**

Richard graduated in 1969 and taught for 30 years in St Colmans College, Claremorris. He retired in 1999 and became a Commissioner for Oaths and also joined his local funeral choir. He enjoyed it so much he began singing in other churches in the Diocese and was privileged to be asked to sing at the Knock Novena. Richard also made two CDs in aid of charity called Songs of Comfort and Stand by me.

**FRANK AND PATRICIA HASSETT, MB BCH BAO 1968**

Following an internship in Galway University Hospital, Patricia and Frank emigrated to Canada in 1969 where they set up a family practice in Kitchener, Ontario. After returning to Ennis, they again started a GP practice and worked there until retirement. The opportunity to fulfil a long-standing interest in palliative/hospice care arose in 2006, when they established Hospice Jinja in Uganda. Patricia and Frank attended their 50th year reunion in May at NUI Galway.



## 1950s

**JOHN FLANAGAN, B.AGR.SC.1959** In April 1960, John was appointed to the post of Research Officer in An Foras Taluntais. In 1961 he was given a post-graduate year at the University of Edinburgh to study for the Diploma in Animal Breeding & Genetics. He was awarded the Diploma in 1962 and then invited by the University to undertake studies in animal genetics for the Degree of Ph.D. In 1973, he was appointed Head of the Animal Husbandry Department, Western Research Centre at Tuam, Co. Galway. In 1988 Teagasc was established, Belclare was closed and the research programme transferred to the Mellows Campus at Athenry. John moved to Athenry and worked there until he retired in 2005.

## 1930s

**ANNE BYRNE (NEE GANNON), B COMM 1936, BA 1937** Anne is NUI Galway's oldest graduate and received a medal from President Michael D Higgins on her 103rd birthday on July 18th, 2018. Her daughter Úna Byrne, also a graduate of NUI Galway, says Anne is still well and often talks about the great night she had in NUI Galway when she was interviewed by Dr Méabh Ní Fhuartháin from the Centre for Irish Studies in November 2016 on her life and her love of music.

# CRUNCH TIME FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

A fund created through the Galway University Foundation and supported by philanthropists is allowing 'Research Stars' time and space to conduct important research in their chosen fields

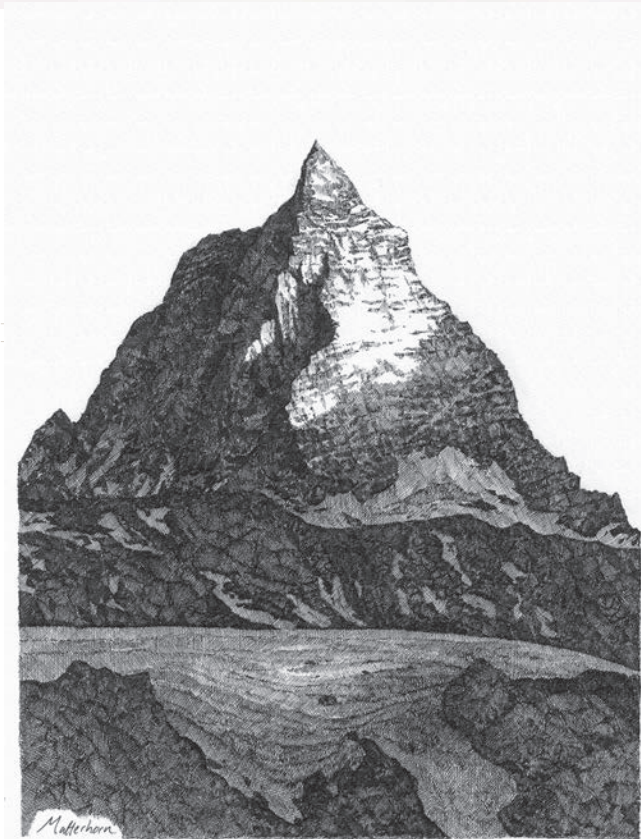


One of these 'research stars' is Gordon Bromley, an international climate change expert who has been appointed to NUI Galway as a Foundation Research Lecturer. He is also an artist and captures some of what he has seen in pen and ink drawings.

'Abrupt climate change' is a seemingly natural phenomenon with the potential to upset even our best-laid plans for a sustainable future. And while it's clear from geologic data that Earth's climate is prone to extreme, rapid shifts (typically well within a human lifespan), scientists remain unable to fully explain either the causes of abrupt climate change or its impact(s) in Ireland. Why should we care? "Because humanity is running an uncontrolled chemistry experiment with Earth's atmosphere that has been likened by climate scientists to poking a sleeping dragon with a sharp stick," says Gordon. Deciphering how our climate system works and what makes it wobble is a fundamental part of projecting how it is likely to change in the coming decades. Gordon's part in this detective story involves teasing out terrestrial records of past abrupt change. "Throughout Ireland, South America, and the polar regions, I am seeking geologic evidence for change in the form of glacial deposits: erratics boulders and 'moraine' ridges left by the repeated passage of Earth's ice sheets and glaciers. Rather than mere curiosities, these relic deposits represent the changing footprint of ice on our landscape and are a treasure trove of scientific information. For example, using the rocks left behind by Ireland's last ice sheet, I am able to reconstruct both the magnitude of atmospheric warming during, for example, the last great natural global warming event and also the pace of this change." Using that information, Gordon can then begin to piece together the story – what else was happening on Earth at this time (between 18,000 and 15,000 years ago) that might have caused the warming? Could it have been driven by rising carbon dioxide concentrations, or was there a giant burp of heat from the tropical oceans? "This is a detective story on a truly planetary scale and I feel our work, regardless of the political climate, is more pertinent now than ever."

According to Gordon, chronology is key. "We cannot say why something happened if we cannot say when, or how fast. Looking forward, if we are to make a meaningful contribution to Ireland's preparedness for climate change, it will take a concerted effort by institutions such as NUI Galway and the public that supports us to draw on our intellectual and financial resources in order to push the science forward." Gordon's priority at NUI Galway is to bring the cutting-edge technology of 'cosmogenic surface-exposure dating' to this country and apply it to real problems of abrupt climate change right here in Ireland. "More broadly, I feel it is crucial to remember that we are in this together. Both scientists and members of the community have as much to gain from a better understanding of abrupt climate change and how our environment is likely to be impacted by global warming." Gordon sees climate





change as an inevitability, something that has to happen if the laws of physics are to be obeyed and admits that it can be a gloomy picture to impart. “But we mustn’t forget that we are still in the industrial revolution and that human ingenuity, which got us into this predicament, has enormous potential to get us out of it. In this way, climate science is as much about curiosity and fascination as it is about seeking scientific solutions to our problems.”

For Gordon, art and science go together in one tidy package. One provides a much-needed break from the other and presents a different set of challenges. “Wherever I’ve had the fortune to conduct scientific field work, be it Antarctica or the tropical Andes, I have also made time to capture impressions of those places on paper. The present collection is united by the broad themes of field work and cold regions – two of my favourite things – and includes several monochromatic and subtly coloured pieces made over the last 15 years.” At times, Gordon’s choice of medium was dictated by the conditions, for example, using pencils in Antarctica where ink or watercolour paint would freeze. In others, particularly those pieces done after the fact, a more diverse palette can pick out the more ethereal aspects of a landscape, the way I remember them if not the way they truly are.”



## About Galway University Foundation

Galway University Foundation engages in generating financial support for NUI Galway’s programmes and activities from a range of private individuals and institutions. A core part of its work is in nurturing lasting relationships with donors who share NUI Galway’s vision for the future.

[www.guf.ie](http://www.guf.ie)



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh



Galway University  
FOUNDATION

# “ONLY A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS IS A LIFE WORTHWHILE”

Albert Einstein



At NUI Galway, we take the greatest pride in **YOU, our alumni**, and your achievements. We know that while we can't take all the credit, your time here certainly helped put you on the right path. Now we are asking for your help to give someone else that same start. The **Alumni Fund** at NUI Galway has been supporting Student Scholarships since its inception, giving disadvantaged but deserving talented young people the chance to reach their full potential...**please consider giving something back and change a life forever.**

**To support the Alumni Fund at NUI Galway,**

please make an online donation by visiting [www.guf.ie](http://www.guf.ie) or call +353 91 493536





# NUI Galway's Alumni Events

2018 Alumni Awards ■ NY Ball ■ Alumni Around the World





**RIGHT:** Nora Murphy and Sotirios Magoufis. **BELOW:** Professor Terry and Mary Smith



**LEFT:** Marina and Martin Hughes.

**RIGHT:** Olivia and Hugh Hamrock.

**BELOW:** Kevin and Patricia Hynes.



**BELOW:** Teresa Mannion and Dave O'Connell

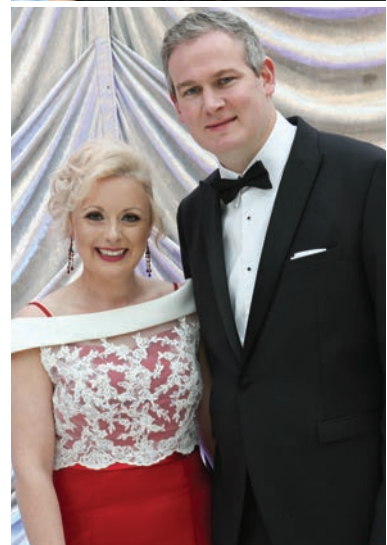
ALUMNI AWARDS

# NUI Galway's best and brightest

Graduates who have made their mark in their chosen field were honoured at the 2018 Alumni Awards, held at the Bailey Allen Hall at NUI Galway in May 2018. The Alumni Awards programme boasts an impressive roll call of outstanding graduates who have gone on to honour their alma mater including President Michael D. Higgins, Irish novelist Mike McCormack and Olympian Olive Loughnane.



**ABOVE:** Award winners (back row, l-r): Professor Declan Sugrue, Alumni Award for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences; Pat Rabbitte, Alumni Award for Law, Public Policy and Government; Gráinne McElwain, RTÉ/TG4 presenter and producer and MC for the event; Bernard McGuinness, Alumni Award for Engineering, Science and Technology; Lisa Coen, Award for Arts, Literature and Celtic Studies; and Joe Connolly, Alumni Award for Contribution to Sport. Front row, l-r: Aedhmar Hynes, Alumni Award for Business and Commerce; NUI Galway President, Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh; and Ailbhe Ni Ghearbhuigh, Gradam Alumni don Ghaeilge.



**FAR LEFT:** Bernie and Michael John Coen with Alumni Award winner Lisa Coen and Edward Mulchrone

**LEFT:** Alumni Award for Business and Commerce winner Aedhmar Hynes and family. **RIGHT:** Avril and Sean Kyne, TD.







**FAR LEFT:** Richard Pearson and Caroline Loughnane.  
**LEFT:** Rachel and Barry Houlihan.  
**RIGHT:** Award Winner Professor Declan Sugrue and Mary Sugrue



**ABOVE:** (left to right) Former NUI Galway Presidents Jim Browne, Iognaid Ó Muircheartaigh, and Pat Fottrell with current President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh. **BELOW LEFT:** Gráinne McElwain and Liz McConnell. **BELOW CENTRE:** Emma Killian and Eamonn Crosby **BELOW RIGHT:** Alma Hynes and Grainne McMorro



**ABOVE:** Caroline Murphy and Sean O'Rourke.



**ABOVE:** Gwen O'Sullivan, Michelle Ni Chróinín and Lorna Farren. **BELOW:** Alumni Award for Engineering, Science and Technology Winner, Bernard McGuinness with President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh and Adrienne Turley.







LEFT: Members of the Galway Hurling Team with Mike Brewster and the Liam McCarthy Cup.  
BELOW: Mark and Deirdre Moran



BELOW: Enda and Fionnuala Kenny with John and Lourda McHugh.



NY BALL

# NUI Galway Gala Dinner 2017

The Eleventh Annual NUI Galway Gala Dinner 2017 was held in the Metropolitan Club, New York on November 15, 2017 with honoree Bill O'Connor, Partner Thompson & Knight LLP, Guest of Honour, the former Taoiseach of Ireland, Dr. Enda Kenny and special performance from Maura O'Connell, Grammy-nominated and Irish born folk singer. Funds raised from the Dinner were directed to Sports Scholarships at the University.



ABOVE Enda Kenny and Margaret Connor.  
BELOW: Domhnal Slattery, Elaine Slattery and Enda Kenny

BELOW: Gerry Quinn, Nuala Kavanagh and Enda Kenny.







**ABOVE:** Nuala Kavanagh, Bill O'Connor and Enda Kenny  
**LEFT:** Enda Kenny, Fionnuala Kenny, Stephen Schwarzman, Maeve Browne and Dr. Jim Browne.



**LEFT:** Jim Browne, Bill O'Connor, Sean Lane and Mike Higgins.  
**BELOW:** Dr John Fitzpatrick



**BELOW:** Enda Kenny and Loretta Brennan Glucksman. **RIGHT:** Entertainer Maura O'Connell



# Celebrating NUI Galway around the world

When you're a graduate of NUI Galway, you become part of a worldwide family of 90,000 alumni. Here's a snapshot of some of the global events attended by former students and graduates in 2017



NEW YORK

## Alumni Reception 2017

The Alumni Reception in the Consulate, New York on November 14, 2017 was a wonderful opportunity for us to meet with alumni working in New York City. The event was hosted by Ciarán Madden, Consul General and alumni enjoyed reconnecting with fellow Galway alumni as well as meeting some members of the 2017 All-Ireland Senior Hurling team!



ABOVE LEFT: Tom Joyce, CEO, Galway University Foundation with Professor Pat Dolan, Director of the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, NUI Galway and Adrian Jones, US Board Member, Galway University Foundation ABOVE RIGHT: Mary Sutton, Atlantic Philanthropies, An tOllamh Nollaig Mac Congáil and Áine Brazil, NUI Galway Graduate and US Board Member, Galway University Foundation.



AWARDS

## Awards Announcement

The award sponsors of the Alumni Awards Gala Banquet gathered in the Aula Maxima, NUI Galway for the announcement of the award winners to be presented at the 18th annual Alumni Awards Gala Banquet.



L-R Ailish Gorman, Bank of Ireland, President of NUI Galway, Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Adrienne Turley, AIB. Back L-R Kenneth Deery, AIB, Hugh Hamrock, Bank of Ireland, Susan Treacy, Galway University Foundation & Pádraic Brennan, Ronan Daly Jermyn.

ABOVE: Some of NUI Galway's alumni based in New York City joining us for the Alumni Event in the Consulate, November, 2017.





ABOVE: BComm 1988 class photo

## REUNION

## BComm Class of 1988 30 year Reunion

A wonderful evening was had by the BComm Class of 1988 on September, 14 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their graduation. John McHale, Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law, NUI Galway, Keith Warnock, former Vice-President for Physical Resources, Dómhnal Slattery, Galway University Foundation Board Member, Aidan Daly, Adjunct Professor of Marketing and Orla Timon from NUI Galway were some of the 80 alumni & friends who joined us in the O'Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance.



ABOVE LEFT: Una Langford, Aidan Daly, Adjunct Professor of Marketing, Susan Fitzpatrick, Catherine Cloney and Margaret Wright, Galway University Foundation. ABOVE RIGHT: Mary Kennedy, Susan Looby and Orla Murray.



ABOVE LEFT: John Burke, David Fallon, Brendan O'Dwyer and Trevor Sherlock. ABOVE RIGHT: NUI Galway alumni including Orla Timon, Brid Toland, Angela Toland, Christine Sweeney and Una Cunningham display their Commerce & Economics Yearbook photos 30 years on! LEFT: Keith Warnock, former Vice-President for Physical Resources, David O'Dowd and John McHale, Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law, NUI Galway.



Cumann Caoga Bliain - 50 Year Event, Aula Maxima in May 2018

## REUNION

## Cumann Caoga Bliain - 50 Year Anniversary Celebration

On May 9th 2018, attendees had a wonderful day celebrating the 50th reunion with the 'Class of 1968' of NUI Galway or UCG as it was known then! Over 90 from the class from all disciplines got together for lunch in the Aula Maxima with a warm welcome from Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh, Registrar & Deputy President.



FROM LEFT: BSc Class of 1968; MB BCh BAO Class of 1968; BE Class of 1968 at the Cumann Caoga Bliain, Aula Maxima, May 2018



# Take a walk on the wild side ...

WITH THE ADVENT OF THE CAMPUS TRAIL, STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLOSE THE BOOKS, LEAVE THE LIBRARY AND TAKE A WALK AROUND THE NUI GALWAY CAMPUS, WHERE NATURE IN ALL ITS FORMS THRIVES

NUI Galway's campus trail was designed to guide visitors, students and faculty members through its natural habitats, which are often also used for teaching and research. Here's what you'll discover on your walk ...

## EGLINTON CANAL

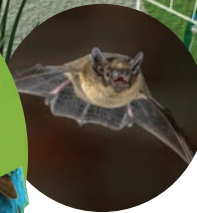
Although a man-made habitat, Eglinton Canal hosts a wide variety of flora and fauna. From the O'Shaughnessy bridge, keep an eye out for wagtails, which hunt for insects along the stone canal walls. In the water, plants provide food for aquatic insects, such as caddisfly larvae. The adult caddisflies are a food source for bats, such as Daubenton's bat. **LOCATION:** Visible by standing on the O'Shaughnessy Bridge.

**LOOK OUT FOR:** trout, kingfishers and otter



## THE RIVER CORRIB

The River Corrib is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under EU and Irish law as it contains several ecologically important habitats and species. The important species include salmon, sea lamprey and white-clawed crayfish. The River Corrib also has an extensive collection of stonewort algae. **LOCATION:** Along the river path **LOOK OUT FOR:** yellow iris and common spotted orchids in summer, mute swans and grey heron year around



## COLLEGE PARK

The College Park in front of the Quadrangle is surrounded by several species of mature ornamental trees. Although non-native, these trees provide important habitat for many insects and birds. They also provide a hunting ground for birds such as treecreepers and long-tailed tits. The insect life in these trees also attract bats. **LOCATION:** Directly in front of the main entrance to the Quadrangle building. **LOOK OUT FOR:** sycamore and horse chestnut trees, pipistrelle bats at sunset in the summer

## HERB GARDEN

The raised bed herb garden outside Moffetts Restaurant in the Orbsen building provides edible herbs, as well as flowers for pollinating insects to feed on. The most familiar pollinators are bees; but butterflies, moths, flies and beetles are also important pollinators. As no pesticides or herbicides are used in the herb garden, it is managed to benefit both pollinators and people. Why not have a taste? **LOCATION:** Outside Moffetts restaurant in the Orbsen building **LOOK OUT FOR:** bees and other pollinators visiting flowers in summer



## ENGINEERING LAWN

This lawn in front of the Alice Perry Engineering building, along with all the grounds bordering the River Corrib, is managed in a biodiversity-friendly way. Herbicides and pesticides are not used and the grassy areas are cut less regularly to allow plants, like clover, daisy and dandelions, to produce their flowers. **LOCATION:** In front of the Alice Perry Engineering Building **LOOK OUT FOR:** blackbirds and goldfinches, clover and buttercups in summer



Go to [www.nuigalway.ie/biodiversitytrail/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/biodiversitytrail/) to access an audio or video version of the trail



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