

UNIVERSITY NEWS



NUI MAYNOOTH
Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad

Honorary Conferings



Pictured (l-r); Joe Brosnan, Eddie O'Connor, Professor Tom Collins, President; Mary Cullen and Professor David Little.

Four distinguished individuals were recognised by NUI Maynooth at a ceremony on campus on Wednesday, 8 June.

NUI Maynooth conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Engineering on **Eddie O'Connor**, one of Ireland's most successful entrepreneurs. He is founder and Chief Executive of Mainstream Renewable Power, a global leader in wind and solar power energy which is now Europe's leading offshore wind developer. Eddie has been at the forefront of Irish business for more than a quarter of a century and was central to the deregulation of the energy market and State sector businesses in Ireland.

Mary Cullen, a local woman, conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Literature is one of the pioneers of women's history in Ireland, a strong advocate of women's rights. She is one of the first generation of Irish feminists and has published several books on the topic. Mary joined the Department of History in Maynooth in 1967 and played a key role in developing the Department into a world-class History Department until she retired in 1994.

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Maynooth Chamber Choir Celebrates 25 Years

The Maynooth Chamber Choir celebrated its silver anniversary on Sunday, 8 May with a gala concert attended by President McAleese as Guest of Honour.

The Chamber Choir, consisting of 22 students from NUI Maynooth and St Patrick's College Maynooth was conducted by Aengus Ó Maoláin, a graduate of music at the University, and President of the Maynooth Student's Union.

Speaking after the performance, President McAleese congratulated the Choir on their twenty five years and, quoting Yeats, noted that that the choir's dedication and passion for music epitomised "education not filling the pail, but lighting a fire."

Dr John O'Keefe, inaugural conductor of the Choir and current Director of Choral Groups at NUI Maynooth, noted that "membership of the choir offers students the chance of choral experience at a very high level and to date over 250 graduates of the choir have gone on take their place in many of Ireland's premier choral groups, including Anúna and the National Chamber Choir."



Mr Martin McAleese, President Mary McAleese and Professor Tom Collins, President enjoying the concert which took place in the College Chapel.

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4th Annual Alumni Ball



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Connect 2011

University Day - April 2011

This event was primarily an information day for anyone interested in University Life but on 16 April it was extra busy.



NUIM Barnhall RFC defeated Isotonians in the final game of the season in the All Ireland League on the University Rugby pitch on the North Campus.

Individual Faculties and Departments provided short sample lectures on the courses and subjects on offer. Students and Staff helped out at the 30 stands giving information on admission procedures, courses, accommodation, transport, and on the various clubs and societies that are available as well as information for mature students. There will be another University Day on Saturday, 25 June.

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to this bumper, 12 page edition of the Newsletter. Firstly I want to thank all the contributors throughout this academic year and a special word of thanks to Liam O'Brien in the Security Office who arrived on campus at 3am the morning of the 28th May to make sure he didn't miss any of the action around the bridge and its removal.

ReSearch 4 is due out this week too so look out for that as it covers some very interesting research stories here at NUI Maynooth.

The next edition of *University News* is out in October, in the meantime enjoy the summer.

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MAP Inspirational Student and Staff Awards

The NUI Maynooth Access Programme (MAP) has introduced a new award as part of its schools outreach programme in recognition of the inspirational teachers and talented young people making things happen and achieving their dreams in schools in Kildare.

18 sixth-year students were nominated by their MAP LINK school because they are inspirational, they are role models for younger students, they make a difference each day in their schools and because of their hard work and dedication to their studies.

Each student was then asked to nominate a teacher or school staff member who has served as a role model to them during their educational journey. A common theme in all the nominations was how each of these teachers had provided encouragement and through their own unique ways had helped the



students feel confident and believe that they had the abilities to achieve what they set their mind to.

The award recipients were welcomed by Martha Brandes from the Access Office and were presented with their Awards by Ann O'Brien Director of Access and Dr Gerry Jeffers of the Education Department. Dr Jeffers in his speech commended the young people on the choices they had made to date; he thanked their parents and teachers for their commitment to the young people.

John Lonergan Speaks to Retired Staff Association

John Lonergan, the recently retired governor of Mountjoy Prison, was the invited speaker at the first 'Spring Lecture' hosted by the St Patrick's College Maynooth and NUI Maynooth Retired Staff Association and held on campus on Wednesday, 30 March.



Margaret McCormack, Retired Staff Member pictured with John Lonergan.

The Association was delighted with the turn out and the warm welcome which Mr Lonergan received. Speaking without a note and in a most engaging manner, Mr Lonergan spoke of his background, his career path to governor and his experiences in that role. Aside from the details of his work in the prison service, Mr Lonergan made many references and insightful comments about perception, human nature, humanity, and the need for respect for every person, regardless of where they come from, or where they finish. He peppered his presentation with statistics regarding the geographical origins of prisoners and the incidence of drug use in prison. The second lecture in the series is scheduled for Autumn; if you would like to receive information about that event please email retired.staff@nuim.ie

Honorary Conferings *(continued from page 1)*

Professor David Little was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Education for his outstanding contribution to the field of second language education both in Ireland and abroad. David was founding director of the Centre for Language and Communication Studies, Head of the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences and Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics at Trinity College Dublin until his retirement in 2008.

Conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws, **Joe Brosnan** is known as one of Ireland's top civil servants and public affairs experts, having operated at the highest levels of public service in Ireland and Europe. He is a graduate of NUI Maynooth and was called to the Irish Bar in 1978. He served in the Department of Local Government and is a former Secretary General of the Department of Justice.

New Spin Out - Cerebeo



Professor John Lowry, Chemistry Department; Professor Tom Collins, President with Dr Jennifer Craig, Cerebeo CEO.

Cerebeo - a new company dedicated to improving the speed, efficiency and effectiveness of the €1 billion Outsourced Drug Research and Development industry was spun out from NUI Maynooth in March.

Cerebeo is a specialized outsourced research company using some of the most innovative models and techniques available in science and is the second company spun out from the research of Professor John Lowry, Head of the Chemistry Department.

Cerebeo offers drug companies bespoke testing for their drug compounds with faster feedback and early results on trial samples. Among its testing models, Cerebeo will incorporate the technology from BlueBox Sensors, which provides implantable brain sensors that give real-time readouts of chemical changes in living brain tissue.

Cerebeo has established a standalone testing facility with ready access to NUI Maynooth's expertise and equipment, with the support of the University. Commenting on the announcement, Cerebeo CEO Dr Jennifer Craig said, "This tailored research model is the future of pharmaceutical research and Ireland is ideally positioned to take a leadership position in this, given the strength of the pharma and biotech sectors here in the country. Faster results can literally mean the savings of millions of dollars in research budgets and speedier routes to market for vital lifesaving drugs."

Professor Brendan Gleeson's Inaugural Lecture

In his lecture 'An Urban World at Risk' Brendan Gleeson outlined the real, imminent global consequences and challenges created by climate change and the radical action needed by all countries, including Ireland, to minimise the forthcoming trauma.

He said while Ireland would be less physically affected by climate change than other countries it would consequentially encounter the human cost of the changes – with population shifts, demands for resources and the initiatives designed to cope.

Professor Gleeson is one of the world's leading urban geographers who has joined NUI Maynooth as Professor of Geography and Deputy Director of NIRSA from Griffith University, Australia.

Professor Gleeson said that cities, for so long considered part of the climate change problem must now be seen as part of the solution and that strong leadership, almost in a 'war-like manner' would be required to make the necessary changes.

"We have no other choice. We are an urban species, developed over 200 years of modernity. Most of us live in a relatively small number of these cities and they provide our best hope of 'lifeboats' - changing the behaviour of a lot of people very quickly. But it is going to hurt", said Prof Gleeson as he outlined what he called 'The Climate Emergency'.

This lecture was the first in a series of Professorial Lectures at NUI Maynooth, that will continue through the Autumn season.



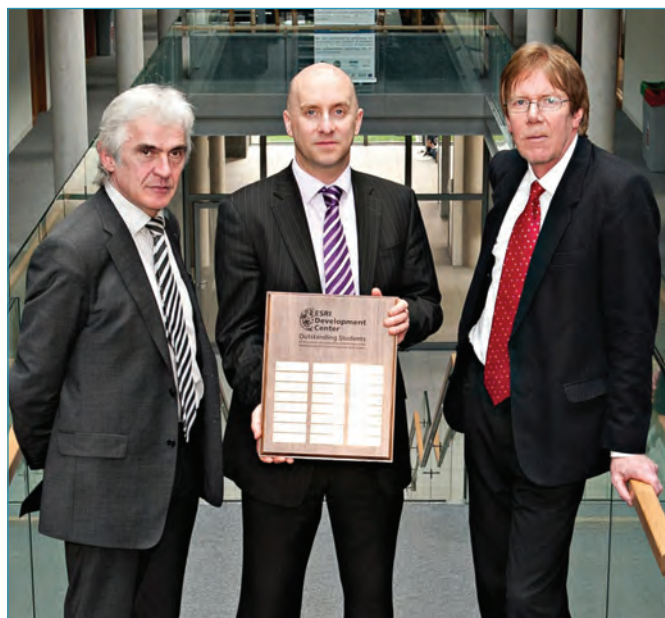
Professor Brendan Gleeson.

NCG Receives Prestigious Global Status

Esri Ireland has announced that the National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG) was awarded the status of 'Esri Development Centre' (EDC).

This award is part of a global programme which recognises universities that deliver exemplary education and research programmes in Geographic Information System (GIS). There are 26 EDCs at universities around the globe and NUI Maynooth has become the first academic institution in Ireland to be awarded the status.

Commenting on the recognition, Professor Stewart Fotheringham said that "the designation of NCG as an Esri Development Centre is a significant achievement and recognition of the work of NCG in Ireland. It also acknowledges the Centre as one of the world's leading centres of Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis. Our relationship with Esri Ireland is one we are particularly proud of and we expect to see it grow over the next few years through this award. Esri is the global leader in developing the world's leading GIS software and we are proud to be part of their development team."



Professor Tom Collins, President; Michael Byrne, Account Executive, Esri Ireland; Prof Stewart Fotheringham, Director, NCG.

Two NUI Maynooth Researchers Receive Fulbright Scholarships

The Fulbright Awards were officially announced on 9th June. The awards are jointly funded by the Irish and US governments under the Ireland-United States Commission for Educational Exchange.

Fulbright scholarships have provided Irish and US students, scholars and professionals with the opportunity to study, lecture and research at top universities and institutions in the US and Ireland respectively since 1957.

There are two successful Fulbright Candidates from NUI Maynooth this year. **Ronan Doherty** is a PhD candidate in Nua-Ghaeilge and **Lorcan Walsh** is a PhD candidate in biomedical engineering. Ronan will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana and Lorcan will pursue his research in the US at the Division of Sleep Medicine,

Harvard Medical School specialising in the development of under-mattress pressure sensing technology investigating sleeping patterns and their relation to serious life events of adults.

Ronan Doherty pictured at the 2011-2012 Fulbright Awards Ceremony being presented with his award by Una Halligan, Chairperson, Fulbright Commission.



Teresa Deevy Papers Donated to Library

The Library of NUI Maynooth has received an important donation of papers by the Irish dramatist, Teresa Deevy (1894 – 1963).



Prof Chris Morash, Head of the Department of English, NUI Maynooth and Ms Jacqui Deevy (Teresa Deevy's niece - Teresa Deevy herself died in 1963).

Born in Waterford and hearing-impaired from the age of 20 by Ménière's disease, Teresa Deevy was described as "the most important dramatist writing for the Irish theatre" by her fellow playwright and Director of the Abbey Theatre, Lennox Robinson.

The collection includes a number of playscripts, some of which have never been published. With plays like *The King of Spain's Daughter* and *Katie Roche* all produced within a few years in the mid-1930s, Deevy seemed to be the successor to Sean O'Casey and the Irish playwrights of a preceding generation. Then, in the early 1940s, she fell out of favour with the Abbey, and her star began to be eclipsed.

Recently, however, Teresa Deevy's work has received fresh recognition. In the summer of 2010, New York's Mint Theatre had an unexpected hit with a Deevy play, *Wife to James Whelan*, winning glowing reviews in the *New York Times*.

NUI Maynooth French Society Win Oral Debating Competition

NUI Maynooth French Society's recently won the 2011 "Ambassade de France - Concours Interuniversitaire de Français Oral" (French Embassy - Inter-university French Oral Debating Competition).

It is the first time NUI Maynooth received the award, which was inaugurated in 1983 but had not been awarded since 1992. NUI Maynooth French Society took on TCD French Society on the motion that 'France is the country of liberty, equality and fraternity', NUI Maynooth were opposing the motion. Representing NUI Maynooth French Society were Neil Kelly (captain), Julie Douglas, Maria-Sophie Braun and Orla McGrath, all second year students.



Pictured (l-r): Neil Kelly, Julie Douglas, Maria Braun, Orla McGrath (Photo courtesy of Annika Devitt.)

The adjudicators Annick Ferré, TCD and Julie Rodgers, lecturer, NUI Maynooth commended the arguments including a discussion on the lack of liberty, equality and fraternity in French politics, education, immigrant rights and women's rights.

In the lead-up to the debate, the NUI Maynooth French Society received valuable assistance from Dr O Ciosáin and Dr Francesca Counihan of the French Department. The winning team also wished to thank Jean-Baptiste Dubin, who advised the debating team on their French pronunciation and Dr Julie Rodgers of the Department of French who helped organise the encounter.

Cism Team Receives International Award

At the 11th World Congress on Stress, Trauma and Coping (ICISF), Baltimore, USA, the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team, Department of Psychology, was awarded the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) 'Co-Founders' Award for Collaborative Outreach in the Field of Crisis Intervention'.

This was awarded in recognition of its "outstanding efforts to develop effective programmes to assist front line emergency services personnel throughout Ireland. NUI Maynooth has reached out to a wide range of organisations and universities in Europe and the United States in its efforts to enhance the world's knowledge of emergency personnel and to develop effective programs to assist front line personnel".



Prof Jeff Mitchell, Co-Founder ICISF; Ms Sharon Gallagher, Principal Investigator, Department of Psychology; Prof George Everly, Co-Founder ICISF and Mairead Bracken, Research Assistant, Department of Psychology.

The CISM team at NUI Maynooth, comprises Sharon Gallagher, Principal Investigator, Mairead Bracken, Research Assistant/Doctoral student and Dr Sinéad McGilloway, Senior Lecturer and Director, Mental Health and Social Research Unit. Sharon Gallagher received the award on behalf of the Department. The CISM Project was commissioned by the National Ambulance Service CISM Committee in 2007 with funding from the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) and the Health Services National Partnership Forum (HSNPF).

President McAleese Launches the NUI Maynooth-University of Alcala Joint Diploma

On Tuesday, 22 March, as part of her official state visit to Spain, President Mary McAleese was awarded the Gold Medal of Honour by the University of Alcala, where the inauguration of the joint diploma in Irish Language, History and Culture, was launched in conjunction with NUI Maynooth.



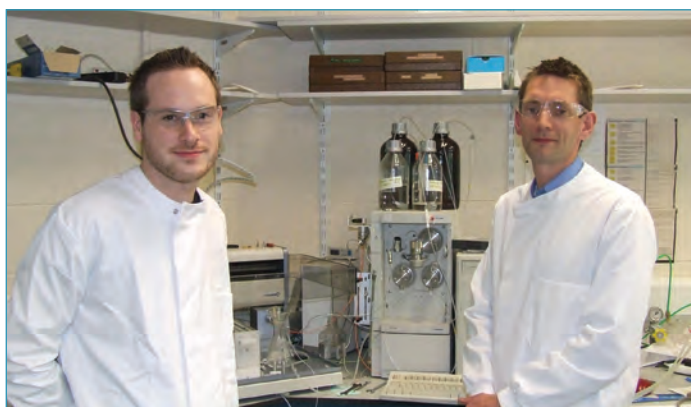
This new Diploma, co-directed by Anne Gallagher, Director of the Language Centre and Dr Marisol Morales, Head of the English Department, University of Alcala is the latest development in the collaboration between the two universities, delivered under the banner of the Irish College at Alcala and co-ordinated by Dr Morales and Dr Catherine O'Leary, Department of Spanish, NUI Maynooth.

An academic colloquium, co-organised by the two universities and supported by the Embassy of Ireland in Spain, was also part of the day's events. The participants from NUI Maynooth were Professor Tom Collins, Professor Margaret Kelleher, Dr Thomas O'Connor, Anne Gallagher and Dr Catherine O'Leary. The poet, Mary O'Donnell, alumna, gave a poetry reading.

On Monday, 21 March, Professor Tom Collins joined the Rector of the University of Alcala, Professor Fernando Galván and Irish and Spanish industry leaders at a lunch in honour of President McAleese, which was hosted by King Juan Carlos of Spain.

Professor Fernando Galván, Rector of the University of Alcala and President Mary McAleese.

Catalytic Chemistry Breakthrough



John Murphy, PhD student and Dr John Stephens, Department of Chemistry.

Scientists at the Department of Chemistry, led by Dr John Stephens and in collaboration with partners from the University of Geneva, have made a major breakthrough in the field of synthetic chemistry and the generation of high purity chiral compounds.

Dr Stephens and John Murphy have developed an efficient, clean and metal-free approach to the generation of high purity chiral sulfones. The results have just been published in the distinguished journal, *Angewandte Chemie*, which has the highest impact-factor of all general chemistry journals that publish original research. In addition, the report has been selected as a VIP (Very Important Paper) and only 5% of papers accepted for publication by *Angewandte* receive such recognition.

Dr Stephens explained, "Chemical industry has a need for new robust synthetic routes to high purity chiral compounds. What we have done is applied a robust and entirely metal-free approach to the catalytic generation of chiral sulfones. This approach has generated products in perfect chiral purity. Sulfones are known for their synthetic versatility and biological importance but our work has broader appeal due its potential for application to a variety of functional groups."

John Murphy (PhD student, IRCSET/NUI Maynooth funded), was central to the successful research programme. The programme was co-ordinated by Dr Stephens in collaboration with Prof Alexandre Alexakis and Adrien Quintard.

Dr Jiri Vala Wins SFI Award

Dr Jiri Vala, Department of Mathematical Physics, has received an SFI Principal Investigator Award of €412,000 to further the development of quantum computation.



Dr Jiri Vala.

Dr Vala's research in topological quantum computing offers the prospect of powerful quantum computers that are also naturally fault-tolerant. This latest research award is aimed at three crucial aspects of naturally fault-tolerant quantum information processing that stems from the concept of topological quantum computation. These include realisation of topological media, devices based on these media, and algorithms, originating from topological quantum computing paradigm.

This will ultimately lead to a new generation of fundamentally more powerful computers assisting, for example, in the development of nanotechnology and in other areas such as drug design and modeling and in national security. "Indeed," Dr Vala says, "when quantum technologies become widely available, they will have as great a revolutionary impact on society as the development of personal computers or lasers."

Sixth Annual Newman Lecture

On Wednesday 4 May, the sixth annual Newman lecture was delivered by Professor Eamon Duffy, Professor of the History of Christianity at University of Cambridge; and fellow and former President of Magdalene College.

The annual Newman lecture marks Cardinal Newman's many and varied associations with Maynooth, and is jointly organised by St Patrick's College Maynooth, the Education Department NUI Maynooth and An Foras Feasa in honour of Newman's work as theologian, educator and author. This year's lecture, on the topic of "Smoke and mirrors?: Newman on himself", was delivered to a packed house, with a response by Professor Emeritus Vincent Comerford, Professor Emeritus of Modern History.



Dr Aidan Mulkeen, Head of the Education Department; Prof Salvador Ryan, St Patrick's College, Maynooth; Prof Eamonn Duffy (Guest Speaker), University of Cambridge; Prof Emeritus Vincent Comerford and Prof Margaret Kelleher.

Irish Meteorological Society Conference 2011

The Irish Meteorological Society (IMS) held their annual conference in NUI Maynooth this year. Dr Aodhagan Roddy, master of ceremonies and 2010/2011 IMS President, gave the opening address.

Katie Howard was up first and gave an enthusiastic lecture about life as a weather forecaster in the UK Met Office. From phone calls from film companies, wanting to shoot summer scenes while snow still lay on the ground, to providing forecasts to Alex Ferguson's Manchester United grounds team, Katie kept the audience entertained but also impressed by the amount and variety of the work carried out by forecasters in the Met Office.



(l-r): Professor Peter Lynch, UCD; Duncan Stewart, Earth Horizons; Dr Aodhagan Roddy, President, Irish Met Society; Katie Howard, UK Met Office; Dr Emily Gleeson, Met Eireann and Secretary of the Irish Met Society; Professor John Sweeney Department of Geography, NUI Maynooth; Professor Chris Bean, UCD.

Next Professor Chris Bean from the School of Geological Sciences in UCD spoke about the hot topic of earthquakes. His presentation contained footage of the Japanese tsunami as well as computer simulations of earthquakes. Chris also brought along a small seismometer to allow the audience to generate a Maynooth mini-earthquake.

The third speaker, Duncan Stewart theme "Let's Go Green" highlighted our overdependence on fossil fuels and lack of green initiatives and gave numerous examples of minor changes to our ways which could make a huge difference. His enthusiastic talk left most people feeling that they should and could do something to make Ireland greener.

The first lecture of the afternoon session was "Balance in the Atmosphere" by Professor Peter Lynch from the UCD Meteorology and Climate Centre which discussed hydrostatic balance, geostrophic balance, ocean atmosphere balance and ice sheet balance.

The final lecture of the day was delivered by Professor John Sweeney from ICARUS on the topic "Climate Change Adaptation – the challenges for Ireland". John covered emission scenarios, the Copenhagen failure and the more positive outcome from COP16-Cancun before focusing on adaptation in key sectors such as water resource management, biodiversity, construction, coastal flooding and governance. He was accompanied by a team of six postgraduate students who presented posters on a variety of climate change research topics. The Irish Met Society's AGM followed the conference.

'Security, Peace and Reconciliation Exercise' at NUI Maynooth

On 14-15 April the Centre for Military History and Strategic Studies at NUI Maynooth hosted a group of students from the Royal Dutch Military Academy, based in Breda, Netherlands.

These students were in Maynooth to participate in a "Security, Peace and Reconciliation Exercise" focused on an examination of the Northern Ireland 'troubles' and the peace process. They were joined in the exercise by four Irish Cadets from the Military College and also by MA, MLitt and PhD students from the History Department. The exercise followed a visit to Breda by Dr David Murphy where he lectured on British counter-insurgency in Northern Ireland. The Director of the Centre, Dr Ian Speller, said that the event had been a notable success and that the staff and students from the Academy had greatly valued their time in Maynooth. He noted that plans were already being laid to repeat the exercise next year.



Students from the Royal Dutch Military Academy and Irish Cadets from the Military College pictured at a 'Security, Peace and Reconciliation Exercise' which was hosted by Dr David Murphy and Dr Ian Speller from the Centre for Military History and Strategic Studies.

4th Annual Alumni Ball

'Celebrate and Connect' was the theme of this year's annual ball held in Pugin Hall on Saturday, 11 June. Alumni from the graduating classes of 1971, 1991 and 1996 celebrated on the night. Indeed graduates from every decade since the 1960s were represented at the Ball. Minister for State, Brian Hayes TD, who is a 1991 History and Sociology graduate was guest at the President's table which also hosted representatives from across the education sector.



Gemma Ennis, Professor Tom Collins and Mary O'Donnell.

Professor Tom Collins presented two awards on the night. The President's Alumni Award this year went to writer Mary O'Donnell. Mary is a prominent writer, has published six collections of poetry, three novels and two collections of short stories. She is an influential drama critic, has presented on national radio, and has written many articles across a span of academic journals and glossy magazines. Her status has been recognised by admission to Aosdána, the elite association of Irish writers and artists. She has been recognised by numerous awards and honours including the Listowel Writers' Week prize, the William Allingham Award, the V. S. Pritchett Prize, and earlier this year, the Fish International Short Story Prize. Alongside her national and international prominence, Mary has maintained a close connection with Maynooth, serving as a member of the University's Governing Authority and as a guest lecturer of creative writing to a select stream of our English students.

Gemma Ennis was inducted into the "Made in Maynooth" Alumni Hall of Fame. Gemma, an Access Student graduated with a BA in German and Mathematics in 2002. She worked in the NUI Maynooth Access Office where she developed a number of very successful school outreach programmes, in particular "Sowing the Seeds of Science", before completing a Higher Diploma in Primary Education. She is currently acting deputy principal in Kilbride National School, Trim. In her acceptance speech Gemma commended the work of the Access Office and in particular, Ann O'Brien, Director of Access.

LL.B. Degree Accredited by the King's Inns

The Department of Law, NUI Maynooth, announced in May that the Honorable Society of King's Inns has accredited its new four-year, full-time undergraduate LL.B. Bachelor of Laws degree.

This adds to the Department's portfolio of accredited law degrees, which includes the B.C.L. (with a focus on Law & Arts) and the B.B.L. (with a focus on Law & Business).



Prof Sandeep Gopalan.

Prof Sandeep Gopalan, Head of the Department, welcomed the accreditation of the new degree: "The new LL.B. was designed to reflect recent research on what legal education does well and what it fails to do adequately. It was also tailored to reflect the needs of potential employers in highly competitive markets, including large international law firms, multinational businesses, regulatory agencies and international organisations. Accordingly, it emphasizes legal writing and advocacy skills and incorporates experiential learning wherever feasible. The King's Inns accreditation will add to the range of choices available to law students at NUI Maynooth and enhance their ability to compete internationally."

Further Success at the Imagine Cup

There was success again for the Department of Computer Science & Department of Music as Team Savy came third in this year's Irish Finals of the Microsoft Imagine Cup Competition, the world's premier software development competition for third level students.

Team Savy, which comprised of students of Computer Science & Software Engineering; Mark Reilly 2nd year, Nikita Skripko 2nd year and Music Technology postgrad, Patrick McGlynn, beat off competition from 60 entries from Irish third level institutions with Project SAV - a novel, augmented reality solution for the visually impaired which enables sensory substitution through the sonification of objects.

The team won a Lenovo Thinkpad each and were highly regarded by the judges for the technical achievement of their project. This is the fifth year that the Department of Computer Science, who won the overall competition in 2007, received one of the top prizes.



TeamSavy (l-r): Patrick McGlynn, Mark Reilly, Nikita Skripko.

Nuacht na Gaeilge

SEACHTAIN NÁISIÚNTA NA GAEILGE

Mar is iondúil, chaith Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Cuallacht Cholm Cille agus Oifigeach Imeachtaí Cultúrtha is Gaeilge an SU a ndíograis le rogha ócáidí a sholáthar do mhuintir na Gaeilge don tseachtain is mó i saol na teanga sa tír. Bhí ceol, litríocht, cluichí is cibéal san áireamh. Dhein foireann na Leabharlainne agus Ionad na nGairmeacha a gcion chomh maith, le taispeántais ar leith.

TAISPEÁNTAS SA LEABHARLANN

Comórann an Leabharlan Seachtain na Gaeilge gach bliain. I mbliana d'eagraigh Susan Durack agus Barbara McCormack taispeántas, Pádraig Ó Duinnín: Foclóirí agus Scoláire. Chomh maith le cóipeanna den mhór-fhoclóir agus de leathanaigh shamplacha, bhí go leor leabhar a chuir an Duinníneach in eagar agus eolas faoina chúla agus a shaol.

Susan Durack agus Barbara McCormack ag seoladh an Taispeántais sa Leabharlann.



AOI-SCRÍBHNEOIR

Is í Biddy Jenkinson an aoi-scríbhneoir a tháinig go dtí an Ollscoil i mbliana. File, drámadóir agus scríbhneoir próis den scoth í. Léigh sí dánta nua dá cuid, agus scéal as an leabhar is déanaí aici, Pádraig Ó Duinnín - Bleachtair. Bhí idir bhail foirne agus mhic léinn i láthair agus ba bhríomhar an plé a deindeadh ar an scríbhneoireacht tar éis an léamha.



Clive Mac Óireachtaigh, Mici Ó Sé, Biddy Jenkinson, Aisling Ní Dhonnchadha agus Helen Shackleton ag an léamh litríochta.

BÁL NA GAEILGE



Jacinta Lynch, Aisling Clarke, Tadhg agus Oisín Walsh-Peelo, John Lydon agus Jenny Ní Ruséil ag an mBál.

D'éirigh go rí-bhreá le Bál na Gaeilge ar mór-ócáid anois é i bhféilire Gaeilge na Cuallachta. In óstán an Glenroyal a bhí sé arís i mbliana. An banna ceoil 'Mo Hata Mo Gheansaí' a chuir ceol leis an scléip. Cuallacht Cholm Cille agus Oifigeach Imeachtaí Cultúrtha agus Gaeilge an SU a eagraíonn é.

DUAIS Ó GHLÓR NA NGAEL

Bhí Cuallacht Cholm Cille an-ghníomhach i rith na bliana seo. Fuair siad aitheantas ó Ghlór na nGael as a ndíograis i mí Aibreán. Bronnadh Duais Aitheantais orthu ag ócáid speisialta a tionóladh in óstán Carton.



Muintir na Cuallachta in óstán Carton ag ócáid bhronnta na Duaise.

CÓISIR CHLABHSÚIR BHLIANA



Cuid den slua ag an oíche chultúrtha.

Cuireadh deireadh leis an mbliain acadúil le hoíche chultúrta a raibh cuireadh ag mic léinn agus baill foirne chuige. Oifigeach na Gaeilge i gcomhar le Rónán Ó Dochartaigh a d'eagraigh an oíche. I gCafé Chill a tharla sé. Léigh Tadhg Ó Dúshláine dánta as a shaothar. Sheinn Róisín Kelly, Donal Moran agus Caoimhghin Ó Caoláin ceol den scoth. Dúirt Eilín Ní Bheaglaoich go leor amhrán agus spreag a raibh i láthair chun foinn.

Duaisleabhar Oireachtais Foilsithe

Foilsíodh leabhar úr le gairid dar teideal *Anois Tacht an Eala: Filí Chorcaí INNTI agus an Réabhlóid Chultúrtha*, leis an Dr Tadhg Ó Dúshláine, Scoil an Léinn Cheiltigh. Bhuaigh scríbhinn an leabhair seo duais Oireachtais sa bhliain 2008.



Staidéar criticiúil atá ann ar shaothar cheathrar de mhórfhilí ghluaiseacht INNTI, Colm Breathnach; Michael Davitt; Louis de Paor; agus Liam Ó Muirthile. Is éard a chuireann an t-údar roimhe ná éacht filíochta an cheathrair a aithní agus bheith istigh a thabhairt dóibh i gcanóin liteartha na Gaeilge.

Éiríonn leis an leabhar an méid sin a chur i gcrích lena chíoradh tuisceanach cáiríseach ar stíl agus ar ábhar a gcuid dánta, an traidisiún as a fáisceadh iad, agus an saoldearcadh ar leith a bhí ag an ghlúin eisceachtúil seo. Cabhraíonn sainphearspictíocht an údair ar chúla cathrach Corcaíoch na bhfilí agus ar mheánna na linne inar tháinig lucht *Innti* chun cinn le léargas úrnua a thabhairt ar ar bhain siad amach.

Dar le moltóirí an Oireachtais: "Is í stíl fhuinniúil spleodrach fhaobhrach an scríbhneora a iompraíonn an ghéarchúis intleachtúil agus a mhúsclaíonn athspéis an léitheora in éachtaí fileata gach duine dá bhfuil faoi scrúdú cáiríseach anseo. Cuireann a chomhbhá oilte leis na dánta go mór leis seo."

Biggest Digital School Link Up

150 schools in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland took part in a unique digital link up to celebrate the successful completion of their work in the Dissolving Boundaries programme on Thursday, 26 May.

For the first time ever, pupils in primary, special and secondary schools joined together to celebrate 'Crossing the Frontier', by linking up for video-conferences with their partner school across the border, sharing work in their 'virtual classroom' and inviting parents and others in the community for a school assembly to mark the occasion. Thursday, 26 May coincided with the release of a report from the influential National Foundation for Education research (NFER) which carried out research for the Department of Education in England on projects from around the UK that were likely to increase social cohesion. They chose Dissolving Boundaries as an outstanding example of partnership in action.

Angela Rickard, lecturer in Education Department in NUI Maynooth and Professor Roger Austin from the School of Education at the University of Ulster who direct the programme praised the work of the Dissolving Boundaries team who have worked tirelessly for the last ten years to support teachers and pupils.



Back Row, (l-r): John McFaul, DES North / South Co-operation Unit; Nigel Metcalfe, Co-ordinator Dissolving Boundaries Programme; Shauna Kelly, Kerrie Cheevers, Bridgetown Vocational College; Angela Long, DES North/South Co-operation Unit; Angela Rickard, Director Dissolving Boundaries Programme; Alma Grace, Research Officer Dissolving Boundaries Programme. Front Row, (l-r): Deante Troy, Caitlín Darling, Liam Daly, Scoil Chiarain, Glasnevin.

Connect 2011

NUI Maynooth welcomed over 250 Irish SME executives and entrepreneurs to its biannual business networking event, *Connect* at Carton House, on Wednesday, 6 April. Offered as an opportunity to 'connect and innovate', *Connect* provides an opportunity for Irish companies to link up with the University's researchers, establish new partnerships, network with other SMEs and seek vital funding.

Led by the Commercialisation Office, over 50 of NUI Maynooth's top researchers from its science, business and engineering departments were present at the event to help businesses overcome technical obstacles to enable them to bring new products and services to market. Enterprise Ireland grants of between €5,000 and €250,000 and tax breaks are available to companies who wish to work with NUI Maynooth academics.



Kieran Daly, VP of Business Development at Shimmer Research and Dr Tomás Ward of Electronic Engineering Department. Shimmer designs and develops a wearable sensor platform (Dr Ward is holding sample), which reads signals from the body and transmits them wirelessly to other computers or handheld devices.

Among the other speakers were Jennifer Craig, CEO of CereBeo; Richard Curran, Journalist, Sunday Business Post and Niall Quinn, Co-founder of Creganna. The event in 2009 led to over 15 companies working with NUI Maynooth including Shimmer Research and Tunepresto.com.

Library Participates in National Project to Measure Research Impact



The Library at NUI Maynooth, in collaboration with the libraries of UCD, DCU, and DIT and funded by the NDLR (National Digital Learning Resource) has developed an open access online toolkit.

Its aim is to highlight the various tools available to researchers to track who is citing their research and also to support bibliometric awareness.

MyRI contains online tutorials, interviews, lesson plans and worksheets. Material tailored to the needs of the Department of Geography was developed with the help of Dr Ronan Foley. MyRI also features an interview with Professor Ray O'Neill, Vice-President for Research, NUI Maynooth. It can be accessed at <http://www.ndlr.ie/myri/index.html>. For further information contact Ciarán Quinn at ciarann.quinn@nuim.ie or telephone 01-708615.

Obair Ionad na dTeangacha Curtha i Láthair sa Bhruiséal

Mar chuid d'imeachtaí Sheachtain na Gaeilge, thug Coimisinéir Taighde na hEorpa, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, agus Buanionadaíocht na hÉireann sa Bhruiséal, cuireadh do Ionad na dTeangacha cuid den obair atá idir lámha acu a léiríonn ceangal idir an Ghaeilge agus na nua-theicneolaíochtaí a chur i láthair.

I dteannta an Choimisinéara, bhí an tAmbasadóir Geraldine Byrne Nason, iar-iníon léinn de chuid na hOllscoile, Ceannasaí na Buanionadaíochta, an tAmbasadóir Rory Montgomery agus Ambasadóir nua na hÉireann chun na



Pictured (l-r): Micheál Ó Conchúir, Secretary-General, European Alliance Group; Eoin O'Shea, Irish Member of the European Court of Auditors; Seán Ó Ceallaigh, MEP; Ambassador Rory Montgomery, Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative; Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research; Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason, Deputy Permanent Representative; Anna Ní Ghallachair and Ambassador Tom Hanney, Irish Ambassador to Brussels.

Beilge, Tom Hanney. Rinneadh cur síos ar Theastas Eorpach na Gaeilge, ar Vifax don Ghaeilge agus ar an Dioplóma Iarchéime san Aistriúchán agus san Eagarthóireacht (ar líne). D'fhreastail céimithe ón chúrsa sin atá anois ag obair mar aistriúchóir sa Bhruiséal ar an ócáid, chomh maith le haistriúchóirí atá ag tabhairt faoin chúrsa agus iad lonnaithe sa Bhruiséal. Dúirt an Coimisinéir gur cúis áthais di féin an pobal mór Gaeilgeoirí atá sa Bhruiséal faoi láthair.

As part of Seachtain na Gaeilge activities in Brussels, the Language Centre was invited by the European Commissioner for Research, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, and the Permanent Representation of Ireland in Brussels to present aspects of its work on the Irish language involving new technologies.

The Director of the Language Centre, Anna Ní Ghallachair, who was introduced, by the Deputy Head of the Permanent Representation, Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason, a NUIM alumna, spoke about *Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge, Vifax don Ghaeilge* and The Postgraduate Diploma in Translation and Editing (online). The event was attended by about sixty people, including the Commissioner, Head of the Permanent Representation, Ambassador Rory Montgomery and the new Irish Ambassador to Belgium, Tom Hanney. Several graduates of the Diploma, who are currently working as translators with the Commission, and two translators who are current students of the course, also attended. Language Centre technician, Éamann Ó hÉigeartaigh gave demonstrations on how the courses operate online.

Academic Council - Schedule of Meetings in 2011-2012

FACULTY OF ARTS, CELTIC STUDIES & PHILOSOPHY at 15.00 hours	FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING at 15.00 hours	FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES at 15.00 hours	ACADEMIC COUNCIL* at 15.00 hours
5 September 2011 (12.00) Boardroom JHB	Thursday 1 September 2011 (12.00) Boardroom JHB	5 September 2011 Boardroom JHB	Tuesday 20 September 2011 Renehan Hall
3 October 2011 Boardroom JHB	4 October 2011 Boardroom JHB	10 October 2011 Boardroom JHB	24 October 2011 Renehan Hall
14 November 2011 Boardroom JHB	15 November 2011 Boardroom JHB	21 November 2011 Boardroom JHB	5 December 2011 Renehan Hall
9 January 2012 (12.00) Boardroom JHB	10 January 2012 (12.00) Boardroom JHB	16 January 2012 Boardroom JHB	6 February 2012 Renehan Hall
5 March 2012 Boardroom JHB	6 March 2012 Boardroom JHB	12 March 2012 Boardroom JHB	26 March 2012 Renehan Hall
7 May 2012 Boardroom JHB	8 May 2012 Boardroom JHB	14 May 2012 Boardroom JHB	28 May 2012 Renehan Hall

* All business for Academic Council should be submitted at least 12 days prior to the meeting. 31 May 2011

Human Resource Notes

PRESIDENTIAL RETIREMENT LUNCH

The Presidential Lunch, hosted by Professor Thomas Collins, President, National University of Ireland, Maynooth was held in Renehan Hall on Wednesday 25 May 2011.

The lunch marked the recent retirements of the following from the staff of the University/College:

Dr Barra Boydell, Department of Music;
 Professor Prionnsias Breathnach, Department of Geography;
 Mr Brian Cassidy, Power House;
 Ms Deirdre Ní Cheallaigh, Roinn na Nua Ghaeilge;
 Ms Ann Cresswell, Bursar's Office;
 Ms Jean Doolan, Admissions Office;
 Ms Connie Fitzharris, Payroll Office;
 Dr Ted Fleming, Adult and Community Education;
 Ms Mary Keane, Student Services;
 Ms Mary Kearney, Library;
 Dr Deirdre Kirke, Department of Sociology;
 Mr Dave Leavey, Finance Office;
 Professor Colm Lennon, Department of History;
 Ms Angela Lucas, Department of English;
 Mr Ed Madden, Mediation Services;
 Ms Maureen Mooney, Registrar's Office;
 Ms Anne Murphy, Department of Computer Science;
 Ms Gabrielle Murphy, Department of Geography;
 Professor Kim McCone, Sean Ghaeilge;
 Mr Michael O'Dwyer, Department of French
 Ms Rosaleen O'Riordan, Department of Adult and Community Education
 Ms Etáin Ó Siocháin, Library;
 Mr John Joe O'Sullivan, Department of Biology;
 Ms Marie-Thérèse Power, Machine Room, North Campus;
 Professor Dennis Pringle, Department of Geography;
 Ms Valerie Seymour, Library.

The lunch was also to celebrate colleagues with 25 years service in the University:

Dr Brian Dolan, Department of Mathematical Physics;
 Ms Dervilla McKeith, Computer Centre;
 Ms Brigitte McNeely, Language Centre;
 Ms Joan O'Riordan, Fees and Grants Office.



Pictured (l-r) front row: Ms Valerie Seymour, Ms Marie Thérèse Power, Dr Deirdre Kirke, Professor Tom Collins, President, Ms Dervilla McKeith, Ms Mary Kearney and Ms Etáin Ó Siocháin. Pictured (l-r) back row: Ms Joan O'Riordan, Professor Dennis Pringle, Mr Brian Cassidy, Professor Colm Lennon, Ms Jean Doolan, Professor Barra Boydell, Ms Connie Fitzharris, Professor Prionnsias Breathnach, Ms Mary Keane, Mr Dave Leavey, Ms Brigitte McNeely, Mr Brian Dolan and Ms Maureen Mooney.

PROMOTION SCHEMES

Professor Thomas Collins, President launched a number of Promotion Schemes effective 1 June 2011. Please refer to the Human Resources webpage for further information and closing dates on these schemes.

INTERVIEWS HELD

29 March 2011 Mature Student Support Worker (Half-Time), Access Office (Three-Year Contract Post);
 12 May 2011 Executive Assistant, Payroll Office (Three-Year Contract Post);
 13 May 2011 Research Accountant, Research Administration Office (Three-Year Contract Post);
 13 May 2011 Technical Officer (Job-share), Department of Biology (Two-Year Contract Post);
 18 May 2011 Administrative Officer II, Bursar's Office (Three-Year Contract Post);
 27 May 2011 Project Archivist Research Centre, Castletown House (Two-Year Contract Post).

INTERVIEWS ARRANGED

03 June 2011 Assistant Lecturer – Ancient Classics, Department of Ancient Classics (Nine-Month Contract Post);
 08 June 2011 Boilerperson, Power House, (Three-Year Contract Post);
 09 June 2011 Traffic & Travel Co-ordinator, Corporate Services (Three-Year Contract Post);
 14 June 2011 Executive Assistant Half-Time, Student Services (One-Month Contract Post).

POSTS ADVERTISED

Lecturer in Modern European History, Department of History (One-Year Contract Post);
 Assistant Lecturer in Psychology, Department of Psychology (Seven-Month Contract Post);
 Teaching & Learning Development Officer, Centre for Teaching & Learning (One-Year Contract Post);
 Software Engineer x 2, NIRSA/National Audio-Visual Repository (NAVR)/An Forsa Feasa (Two & Four Year Contract Posts);
 Requirements Analyst, NIRSA/National Audio-Visual Repository (NAVR)/An Forsa Feasa (Two Year Contract Post);
 Policy Manager, NIRSA/ National Audio-Visual Repository (NAVR)/An Forsa Feasa (Two Year Contract Post).

NEW APPOINTMENTS

We are pleased to announce that the following have accepted appointment to contract posts in the University:

Peter Robbins, Lecturer in Innovation Management, School of Business;
 Michael Hayden, Assistant Lecturer in Accounting, Department of Economics, Finance & Accounting;
 Kinga Byrne, Half-Time Executive Assistant, Department of Law;
 Paul Lu, Assistant Lecturer - Chinese Studies, School of Modern Languages;
 Louise Kennefick, Lecturer in Law, Department of Law;
 Seth Tillman, Lecturer in Law, Department of Law.
 Margaret Keating, Lecturer in Education, Department of Education;
Our best wishes to all concerned

CONTACT PERSONS (PREVENTION OF BULLYING AND HARASSMENT)

Six additional staff have been appointed by the President to become Contact Persons in support of the University's Policy on the Prevention of Bullying and Harassment, have undertaken a comprehensive training programme for the role.

Contact Persons provide informal and confidential support to members of staff or students who believe that they have been the subject of bullying or harassment. Their names and phone numbers can be found in the phone directory or at:

<http://humanresources.nuim.ie/ContactPersons.shtml>

EURAXESS IRELAND OFFICE

The EURAXESS Ireland Office (formally known as the Researcher Mobility Office) made a presentation in the John Hume Conference Room, 3rd Floor, John Hume Building, on Friday 6th of May 2011 at 11.30 am, on the services they provide. This presentation was aimed at a wide ranging audience including researchers and people within the University who deal with research staff on a day-to-day basis.

The presentation included the following information:

- The services provided by the EURAXESS Ireland Office and European Network;
- An overview of the www.euraxess.ie portal - outlining the recent developments and improved functionality of the portal;
- Developments in the section of the portal relating to advertising and searching for job opportunities;
- Updates relating to the Hosting Agreement Scheme.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

The Employee Assistance Programme is a support programme provided by the University for staff members.

The Programme provides a confidential counselling service, designed to assist staff members in dealing with any issue that adversely affects their health, wellbeing, personal or professional life.

If you have a problem that is troubling you, then you can get help and support. You can avail of the service by calling the following free phone number: **1800 201 346**

Moot Court Competition

Clíodhna Potter and Peter O'Loughlin, 2nd year law students at NUI Maynooth, were adjudged winners of the Silken Thomas Cup - NUI Maynooth's inaugural inter-collegiate moot court competition.

The event which took place in April saw the Maynooth team defeat Griffith College - represented by Ms Esho and Mr Durrani. The finals were judged by a panel chaired by Justice John MacMenamin of the High Court. The other judges were Professor Sandeep Gopalan and Anna Hickey, Solicitor from Matheson Ormsby Prentice. Clíodhna Potter was the best oralist and Peter O'Loughlin finished second.



Anna Hickey, Matheson Ormsby Prentice presents the cup to Clíodhna Potter and Peter O'Loughlin.

Justice John MacMenamin commended the participants for their advocacy and research skills and for their ability to survive tough questioning from the judges. Ms Hickey distributed the prizes on behalf of Matheson Ormsby Prentice, which offered generous sponsorship for the event.

Mathematical Olympiad Training



Niall Kelly, from Woodville Lawns, Lucan Community College, a budding mathematician who hopes to represent Ireland in the International Mathematical Olympiad to be held in the Netherlands in July 2011 pictured with Sean Ashe, CEO of Kildare VEC who provided a grant for the prizes.

2011 Student Entrepreneur Competition

Alvaro Palomo Navarro, founder of eBitez, a company that will develop smart phone application software to lead the next generation of supermarket online shopping, has won the 2011 Student Entrepreneur Competition.

Alvaro, a final year PhD student in Electronic Engineering, won the top prize of €6,000 which will help bring his business idea, an innovative way of producing budget-conscious meals in line with the individual's requirements.

The aim of the competition, which is run by the Commercialisation Department, is to hone students' entrepreneurial skills and develop their business acumen. "Going head to head with other students and answering tough questions about their business to our judges helps competitors improve their pitch skills and enhance their ability to communicate the value proposition of their business ideas" said Owen Laverty, Commercialisation Executive.

18 submissions whittled down to four finalists where each of them had to pitch their business plan to four external judges; Conor Boyce, patent attorney with FRKelly, Teresa Gorman, Manager of the Bank of Ireland in Maynooth, solicitor Paul Laverty, partner with solicitors McCann FitzGerald and Conor Mallaghan, Carton House.



The winners and judges of the Student Entrepreneur Competition with Owen Laverty, Commercialisation Office.

Migration and Transnationalism Symposium



Symposium presenters: Dr Mary P. Corcoran, Dr Rebecca King-O'Riain and Dr Mark Maguire of NUI Maynooth with Professor David Fitzgerald, University of California.

On 28 April, the Department of Sociology NUI Maynooth in association with NIRSA and the Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP) presented a one day symposium on Migration and Transnationalism:

An interdisciplinary research symposium.

Emigrant remittances played a vital role in sustaining the economy of the fledgling Irish state in the twentieth century, and may well do so again as Ireland steers a course through an unprecedented economic crisis. Ireland could potentially reap significant rewards if the country were to adapt a robust diaspora strategy. These are some of the observations that were made at the research symposium.

The event featured presentations by NUI Maynooth staff and postgraduate students. The symposium closed with a keynote address by Prof David Fitzgerald of the University of California who is a specialist on Mexican immigration.

The total available prize of €10,000 is provided by Bank of Ireland and McCann FitzGerald. Runner-up in the competition was Momentum, which provides an online opportunity for individuals to start their own campaigns to publicise consumer related issues. Joint 3rd Prize of €500 went to Pro-Design Embroidery, providing custom embroidery on sports footwear and clothing and HorseBase; an online marketplace for the best sports horses in Ireland providing a one-stop-shop service.

The Annual Clubs and Societies Awards 2011

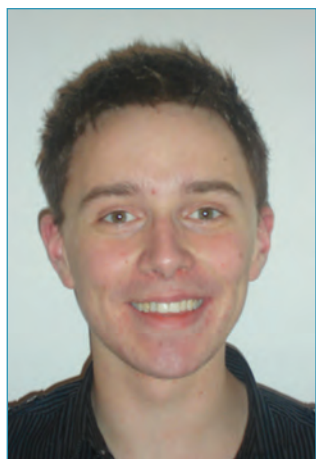


On Tuesday, 29 March, the annual Clubs and Societies Awards were held in the Glenroyal hotel.

Professor Jim Walsh, Deputy President and Aengus Ó Maoláin, Students' Union President presided over the event. The best Club Award went to the Snooker & Pool Club and Playdo won the Best Society award. Among the other awards was the Best New Society which went to Mental Health Society.

Pictured is the winner of the Best Club Event - the Harding Cup Soccer Club (l-r): Cormac O'Malley, Trevor Screeney, Keith Walsh, Barry Prenderville, Soccer Development Officer, NUI Maynooth; Paddy Broughan and Mark Foraker.

WIP Student



Andrew Maloney, from Tullamore, Co. Offaly who is a final year student of Music and Nua-Ghaeilge at NUI Maynooth, was selected from more than 350 applicants to participate in the Washington Ireland Program (WIP).

MAP Host Junior Achievement Ireland Event

On March 15th the NUI Maynooth Access Programme hosted 100 transition year students as well as Junior Achievement Ireland representatives and Merrill Lynch Bank of America representatives.

This is the first year that NUI Maynooth has been part of this event which marked an expansion of this programme into Kildare. The NUI Maynooth Access Programme was approached by Junior Achievement



Transition Year students from Colaiste Chiarain, Leixlip and Confeigh College, Leixlip at the event.

Ireland and asked to host the two events as part their Merrill Lynch Bank of America Bank Your Future project for transition year students. The programme covers such issues as the value of your education in addition to your earning potential, balancing your own personal budget, credit cards and stocks and shares. As well as a six-module programme, students also visit a 3rd level institution to get a first-hand feel for college life. Martha Brandes, Outreach Project Office with the Access Office organised a guided tour of the college facilities and faculties and set up workshops, facilitated by business volunteers for the students.

Footbridge Decommissioned!

As part of the contract to build a new 6,200m² extension to the John Paul 11 Library, the footbridge over the Kilcock Rd was closed and was decommissioned on Friday, 27 May.

The decision to remove the footbridge is the result of an exhaustive consultation with the University Master Plan architects throughout 2007 and collaboration with the staff and students of both NUI Maynooth and St Patrick's College, the local community and Kildare County council.

The footbridge structure was constructed by St Patrick's College in the early 1970s, quite a while before the current Health and Safety legislation and the introduction of the building regulations became law in 1992. This relatively narrow footbridge was originally designed to cater for the occasional and infrequent foot travel of a maximum 500 students across what was the Main Dublin to Galway road. Up until recently, it was in constant daily use by 8,500 students and staff at the University.

With the road carriageways now narrowed, cycle lanes and pathways introduced and extended out to the new roundabout at the entrance to the



Photo taken from the South Campus, early on Saturday morning by Liam O'Brien, Security Officer, NUI Maynooth.

North Campus, this section of the Kilcock Road is now regarded as a town street rather than a section of a national route as it was previously. The signalled pedestrian crossing currently installed will eventually become a 'Super-crossing' which will be a wider raised and paved area across the Kilcock Road. The University hopes to have this work and the Library Extension project completed by late Autumn 2012.