

# NUI MAYNOOTH PRESIDENT'S REPORT



NUI MAYNOOTH  
Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad



THE 2009 WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS, PUBLISHED LAST OCTOBER, CLASSIFIED THE UNIVERSITY AMONG THE TOP 500 IN THE WORLD, AND THE SUNDAY TIMES' IRISH UNIVERSITY RANKINGS' FOR THE SAME PERIOD REVEALED ITS STATUS AS FIRST IN RESEARCH INCOME PER ACADEMIC, AND JOINT FIRST FOR STUDENT EMPLOYMENT.

# 09/10

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# 1

## PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

### Rising in the Ranks

NUI Maynooth's position among its peers, both domestically and internationally, continued to strengthen over the past academic year. The 2009 World University Rankings published last October, classed the University among the top 500 in the world, and the Sunday Times' Irish University Rankings for the same period revealed its status as first in research income per academic and joint first for student employment. These distinctions are testimony to the calibre of teaching and research at NUI Maynooth and on the priority we place on equipping our graduates with the best possible qualifications and skills.

While overall applications to the third level sector have increased by 6%, CAO figures show that the number of students who nominated NUI Maynooth as their first choice has in fact grown by 11%. In particular, the rising demand for biotechnology, computing, and product design studies, up by 32%, 8% and 8% respectively, indicate that students are seeking to develop knowledge in the areas identified by the Irish Government for future skills and educational needs in the smart economy. The wide choice of 22 subjects within the Bachelor of Arts degree has undoubtedly contributed to its 15% surge in popularity and its requirements for the highest entry points of any university for the last two years. Indeed, this escalation in application numbers for places at the University for the third consecutive year has caused an increase in Leaving Certificate points required for entry to almost all of our courses.

2009 was also a positive year of sustained growth and international impact in the research arena, with expansion in direct outputs of research investment in terms of the volume of PhD graduations and high quality publications and citations. Externally funded research expenditure rose to €25.8 million, exceeding the target set in the University's Strategic Plan 2006–2011 two years ahead of schedule. In addition, the Graduate Studies Office welcomed a record 300 postgraduates at the start of the 2010 semester – more than twice the intake of 12 months prior. The commercialisation metrics for 2009–10 surpassed previous years, with two companies spun out of the University, nine licence deals signed, seven patents filed, over 14 industrial collaborations concluded and €600,000 in commercialisation funds secured.

These success factors are reflected in the extremely high quality faculty events, staff awards and appointments, student achievements, and activities of the International, Access, and Alumni Offices as well as the Library. For example, NUI Maynooth hosted the first ever Irish Roundtable of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and is the academic home of the first Irish woman to serve on any UN Committee as well as that of one of the select few to win a NAIRTL Award for Excellence in Teaching. The University congratulated its first graduates of the Community Work in a Changing Ireland certificate programme, the only one of its kind for migrant workers, as well as the unique Diploma in Mediation and Conflict Intervention. It also has plans to pioneer the first Irish course at a Chinese university and helped inspire a new portal for the combined output of all Irish universities' research. The sports scholars excelled in golf, swimming, snooker and GAA like never before, with notable victories at the first European Universities Golf Championship and Ladies' Open Championships across the British Isles, as well as in the major swimming and snooker varsities. And while the first inductions were made into the 'Made in Maynooth' Alumni Hall of Fame, the record 14% increase in the mature student grouping was met by preparatory summer courses, information sessions and peer mentoring to assist with the transition to life on campus.



### Programme Development

The result of a promising partnership between NUI Maynooth and the Froebel College of Education is that the University will be the only one offering the full spectrum of teacher education on an Irish campus – from primary and secondary, through to adult and community. The Froebel Department of Early Childhood and Primary Education is due to be formed when the teacher education college and its entire student body transfer to NUI Maynooth as of September 2013. The University will then award Froebel College's four-year Bachelor of Education degree, Higher Diploma in Primary Education, Masters Degree in Special and Inclusive Education, and Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Special Education, as well as working to develop new courses. This ideal match is introducing a new model of primary teacher education, which combines the rich 67 year tradition and outstanding reputation of Froebel with the multi-disciplinary opportunities which can only be obtained on a university campus. A dedicated Froebel Centre is to be built and it is envisaged that its students will share many modules with other education and arts students.

Formalising another strategic alliance, in the field of Defence Studies, NUI Maynooth and the Irish Defence Forces signed a Memorandum of Agreement following an eight year relationship. The 22 Officers at Commandant rank who received their MA degrees in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies last September has brought total graduate numbers to over 150, including officers from international forces. The University also delivers a doctoral level Certificate in Strategic Leadership for senior officers, various modules to the Infantry School at the Military College and several courses to the Cadet School. A Joint Defence Studies Academic Board has also been set up to oversee the long-term development of military education within the Forces, in association with NUI Maynooth, in order to continue building expertise for its growing role as international peacekeeper, conflict zone mediator and social regeneration architect and facilitator.

On the same theme, a new Centre for Conflict Intervention is being formed in honour of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy, whose invaluable legacy revolved around healing conflicts and achieving consensus. The Kennedy Centre for Conflict Intervention, the first of its kind in Ireland, will specialise in conflict resolution, mediation, leadership and civic engagement – all areas that were dear to Senator Kennedy throughout his political life. NUI Maynooth has pioneered a leadership position in this area in recent years, with 40 students currently completing masters and diploma courses in Mediation and Conflict Intervention through the School of Business and Law in addition to the courses for the Defence Forces.

In recognition of the quality of the law programmes on offer and of the very high standards maintained by the Department of Law, the Honorable Society of King's Inns has added NUI Maynooth's law degrees to its schedule of approved degrees to undertake the entrance examination for the Barrister-at-Law degree course. The University's BBL Law and Business, BCL Law and Arts and law through the BA degree programmes were developed in consultation with the professional legal bodies and explicitly designed to prepare students to progress to postgraduate qualifications either as barristers or solicitors.

Validation also came for the MSc programme in Immunology and Global Health which took first prize in Postgraduate Course of the Year Science and Engineering at the 2010 Grad Ireland Awards. Run through the Institute of Immunology, this unique programme represents an innovative development in higher degree options in the biological sciences and is targeted at biological and health science graduates interested in major health and development challenges and wishing to broaden their understanding of immunology. And in a first-time collaboration between the Mathematics Department and the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge, a new MSc programme in Mathematics for Education will co-instruct 19 existing school teachers whose primary qualifications are not in this subject.



### Research & Commercialisation

As part of the Government's policy to align academic expertise in support of an industry-inspired research agenda, Enterprise Ireland and the IDA granted an exceptional award of €3.8 million to the Innovation Value Institute (IVI) in December 2009 to host an industry-led Competence Centre in IT Innovation. With an objective of developing and testing new frameworks to better realise the business value of IT investments, this Centre will underpin IVI for the next five years and assist it in firmly positioning Ireland as the international leader in this rapidly developing space.

The 2010 spring-summer season brought further notable successes in securing funding from various sources. €10.5 million was set aside for seven research projects under Cycle 5 of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL), which is the basis of national research capacity building for both new facilities and graduate education. NUI Maynooth recipients include IVI, the Hamilton and Callan Institutes, the Institute of Immunology and the new institute in the area of Chemical Biology, An Foras Feasa, NIRSA and the University Library.

Dr Andrew Coogan, Department of Psychology and Dr Sinead Miggin, Department of Biology and the Institute of Immunology were among the recipients of €8.5 million for cutting-edge research projects funded through the SFI's Research Frontiers Programme, while Professor Barak Pearlmutter, researcher at the Department of Computer Science and the Hamilton Institute, had over €636,000 committed to his particular project under the SFI's Principal Investigator Programme. With a Government investment of over €4 million, a new SFI Strategic Research Cluster – the Financial Mathematics and Computation Cluster (FMC2) – is to be founded with the help of Professor Gregory Connor from the Economics Department. Along with his peers from other universities, the multi-disciplinary research centre will be created from complementary expertise in financial mathematics, financial economics and computer science and will represent a globally-leading facility to provide a critical underpinning for the future development of the international financial services sector in Ireland.



Transforming research to meet market needs are iGeotech Limited, a spin-out company from the University delivering a product based on synchronising GPS and video in a cheap and portable way, and Beemune Limited, which is commercialising a set of proprietary agents to augment honeybee health and hive strength through the prevention and treatment of widespread bee diseases. Winner of the Enterprise Ireland 'One to Watch' Award 2010 for the development of a revolutionary treatment for Tinnitus (commonly known as 'ringing in the ears') was Dr Ross O'Neill, researcher at the Hamilton Institute. Also in award-winning form in the 2009 Enterprise Ireland Lifescience and Food Commercialisation category was Professor John Lowry, Head of the Chemistry Department, who was recognised for his transferring of a decade's academic work in sensor technology to commercial reality through BlueBox Sensors.

However, in spite of all these positive indicators, funding for new awards to NUI Maynooth researchers fell by over 60% in the wake of the national economic crisis, the impact of which will be felt from the end of 2010 with a notable reduction in funded research activity projected for 2011. In response to this currently unstable climate, the University launched its new EU funding strategy in an attempt to increase income from EU sources to €3.5 million by 2011. Led by Professor Ray O'Neill, the strategy intends to improve the quantity, quality and competitiveness of submissions, increase the variety of schemes being applied for, motivate researchers to participate in consortia and offer more effective central administrative support.

↑ [Defence Forces Assistant Chief of Staff \(Operations\), Major General Pat O'Sullivan and President, Professor John Hughes pictured at the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement to formalise a strategic partnership in the field of Defence Studies.](#)

↑ [At the announcement of the €5 million IVI Competence Centre funding are President, Professor John Hughes and Martin Curley, Chairman and Director of IVI and CTO for Innovation in IT at Intel Corporation along with the Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan TD.](#)

↗ [Winner of the Enterprise Ireland 'One to Watch' Award 2010 Dr Ross O'Neill, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow based in the Hamilton Institute, with Conor Lenihan TD, Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, and Hugh Cooney, Chairman, Board of Enterprise Ireland.](#)



**Facilities**

The official launch of the Centre for Teaching and Learning last October was an important and timely initiative, particularly in the context of intensifying student diversity and participation in higher education, and highlights our commitment to excellence in teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The Centre is responsible for teaching and learning support and development at the University, both through representation on national and international organisations and expert groups in the areas of teaching, evaluation, technology and higher education research, as well as through the provision of courses, workshops and consultations with individuals and groups on teaching methods, course design, e-learning support and development, Moodle training, assessment, teaching and evaluation.

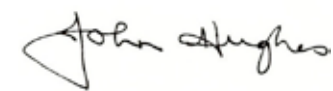
Tremendous progress was made in the implementation of our Campus Development Plan over the past year, with a total investment in all projects exceeding €20 million. Most recently, in June 2010, the new €15 million 4,600sq.m. Iontas building, positioned prominently along the new Broadwalk which will run through the heart of the North Campus, was completed. It houses the two leading research institutes of An Foras Feasa and NIRSA/NCG in addition to the School of English, Media and Theatre Studies, and provides a new 350-seat lecture theatre, as well as valuable additional social space for students. Also finished and opened was the 1,400 sq.m. Rowan House building, in which the School of Business and Law, and the Department of Anthropology are based. And I was personally pleased to see the introduction of the new Student Common Room on campus at the end of last year which provides an attractive area for social activities.

A number of other crucial construction projects were advanced, chief among these being the 6,200 sq.m. extension to the John Paul II Library on the South Campus, which was granted planning permission earlier this year. The design team have made huge strides since then, with a contract likely to be awarded later this autumn. Work began on a new state-of-the-art University Restaurant to replace the one lost to a fire at the end of 2008, with a planned opening at the start of the second semester in 2011. Significant headway has also been made on two further capital projects – a Business Innovation and Incubation Centre to support the growing level of research commercialisation activities and additional on-campus student accommodation which will provide in excess of 300 more beds in the student village. Both of these important initiatives are expected to be on-site early in 2011. Over the coming few years, capital investment will exceed a further €60 million as we strive to ensure that we continue to offer first class facilities on a modern and welcoming campus.

**Quality**

The University was gratified to receive commendations in the report on quality assurance procedures prepared by an independent international expert panel following an extensive review, and published by the Institutional Review of Irish Universities, managed by the Irish Universities Quality Board. The review team, comprising academics from the Universities of Lausanne and Lisbon among others, concluded that NUI Maynooth is 'meeting the highest national and international standards in quality assurance' and welcomed 'in particular the broad approach to quality assurance and quality enhancement that pervades all activities undertaken by the University'. Revised and new policies were also introduced in the areas of Equality and Workplace Bullying and Mobility and Traffic Management respectively.

From international strategy to domestic success, NUI Maynooth remains at the forefront of academic and research excellence while retaining the foresight to address and adapt to changing economic circumstances. On a personal note, the past academic year has been particularly memorable as it signals my last as President of this fine University. Indeed, since assuming the role in 2004, I have watched this institution double in size to over 8,000 students and increase its share of CAO first preferences by more than 50%, making it the fastest growing in the country. I am immensely proud of everything we have achieved here during my tenure and I have no doubt that this unique place of learning shall continue to thrive thanks to the passion and prowess of the staff and students within its walls.



**Professor John G. Hughes**  
President

THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING LAST OCTOBER WAS AN IMPORTANT AND TIMELY INITIATIVE, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF INTENSIFYING STUDENT DIVERSITY AND PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HIGHLIGHTS OUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AT BOTH UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE LEVELS.







## 2.1 THE EVENTS

# 2 YEAR IN REVIEW

### Humanities

The *Language Centre* had a full schedule for 2009–10, commencing the year with a three-day training course for postgraduates on their way to teach Irish at American and Canadian universities for a year. The Centre also developed a website with additional information and support for these *Foreign Language Teaching Assistants*, sponsored by the Fulbright Commission and the Ireland Canada University Foundation. A weekend immersion course in Irish language and culture featuring classes, talks, visits and a dinner was also held at NUI Maynooth for Fulbright Scholars coming to Irish universities from institutions such as the Universities of Tennessee, Southern Illinois and Massachusetts, and Boston College.

As host of the 37th Meeting of the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) entitled 'Testing lesser-used languages in a multilingual context' held in Carton House in mid-November, the Language Centre welcomed ALTE delegates from 20 countries to hear from speakers such as An Coimisinéir Teanga, Seán Ó Cuirreáin, Professors Barry O'Sullivan and David Little from the University of Roehampton and formerly of Trinity College Dublin respectively, and Paul Caffrey from the Department of Education and Skills.

President Hughes travelled to Paris in March to award NUI Certificates in Irish Language, Contemporary Irish History and Culture, and Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) to 40 students following these courses at the former Irish College. HE Paul Kavanagh, the Irish Ambassador to France, and his wife attended along with guest speaker Seán Ó Cuirreáin. Irish courses based on TEG are now available in Paris, Prague, New York, London and Cambridge, and plans are underway for the launch of the first Irish course at a Chinese university, namely Beijing Foreign Studies University, in 2011 with the support of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs.

'Neurononsense and the Soul' was the subject matter of the *Aquinas Lecture* delivered by Roger Scruton, Professor of Philosophy at Oxford University. Known to be controversial and polymathic, Professor Scruton is the author of 40 books, two operas and two novels and is the intellectual force behind the pro-hunting lobby in England.

Another acclaimed novelist, Colm Toibin was welcomed as the guest speaker at the second annual *An Foras Feasa Séathrún Céitinn Lecture*, where he spoke about 'Flann O'Brien, Borges, Pessoa: Three Writers, Three Cities'. As current chair of the national consortium aimed at developing an inter-institutional research infrastructure for the humanities, the Institute also hosted the annual *Humanities Serving Irish Society* (HSIS) two-day conference. Presentations were made by early-career researchers funded by the HSIS consortium as well as by representatives from the European Science Foundation, the Digital Humanities Observatory and An Foras Feasa.

## Social Science

Europe and migration formed a common theme across several of the activities in the Faculty of Social Science in the past academic year. The first *Irish Roundtable of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency* (FRA), entitled 'New Challenges and Old Issues for the Union and Member States' was opened by President Mary McAleese at NUI Maynooth. Delegates from the UN Human Rights Committee, Irish Council for Civil Liberties, European Network against Racism and Irish Traveller Organisations were among those in attendance. Anastasia Crickley, Head of Applied Social Studies at the University and Irish Representative and Chairperson of the FRA Management Board said that the economic downturn must not be used as an excuse to put the march towards full human dignity and equality on hold in Ireland or elsewhere.

The *Centre for the Study of Wider Europe* organised various events to investigate such topics as the future of the Western Balkans; Turkey's relationship with the EU and issues related to its membership application; and the future of the European Union, its economy and competitiveness. This latter Europe Day Conference featured a keynote address from John Bruton, former Taoiseach and EU Ambassador to the United States.

In the first programme of its kind for migrant workers, 22 foreigners from almost as many countries graduated from the NUI certificate programme *Community Work in a Changing Ireland*, run in collaboration with the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland. Also setting precedent was the first MA in Accounting class to graduate from the University, most of who are pursuing careers in chartered accounting.

Several faculty members were invited to share their expert opinions at high profile gatherings. Among them, Dr Maurice Devlin of the Department of Applied Social Studies and Damini Kumar as Director of Design and Creativity addressed the topics of working together in sport and youth work and innovation in the economy respectively at the second *North-South Consultative Conference*, jointly organised by the Department of the Taoiseach and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister. As part of its *Celebrity Thinking Series*, Professor Mary Corcoran from Sociology joined a panel hosted by the Royal Irish Academy to explore the theme 'Is thinking really good for us?' Topics ranged from the theory and practice of thinking to the challenges facing our education system in terms of promoting creative thinking. In the first event of its kind in the south-east, Professor John Sweeney of ICARUS was a keynote speaker at the *Climate Change and You Conference* hosted by Wexford County Development Board in Enniscorthy.

## Science & Engineering

The fourth *China-Ireland Information and Communications Technology Conference* came to NUI Maynooth care of the Department of Computer Science in association with Electronic Engineering, the NCG and IMWS. Delegates from 16 Chinese universities along with those from all Irish institutions learned about numerous ICT aspects, from electronics and robotics to web development and holographic television.

In an effort to develop the therapeutic value of cannabis-based drugs in the treatment of various neuroinflammatory diseases, the Institute of Immunology organised the third annual workshop on *Cannabinoid Research in Ireland* to gather country-wide research groups from the likes of Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, and NUI Galway. On another cure-seeking path, this time for *Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy*, the Department of Biology organised a workshop around the visit of Professor Steve Wilton, a world-leading gene therapy expert. The renowned researcher is collaborating with Muscular Dystrophy Ireland and Professor Kay Ohlndieck from the University specifically on 'exon skipping' gene therapy as a means of reversing muscle wasting in this most frequent inherited muscular disorder in Ireland.

The first findings of the Incredible Years Ireland Study in the form of the report '*Proving the Power of Positive Parenting*' were presented at the second national Archways Conference. The findings attracted considerable media attention and represented the first set of results from any of the Atlantic Philanthropies funded projects in Ireland. Barry Andrews, TD Minister for Children and Youth Affairs opened proceedings for the 220 delegates from education, health and academic backgrounds. The study, designed to alleviate emotional and behavioural difficulties in young children, is led by Dr Sinead McGilloway from the Department of Psychology.

The Faculty continued its outreach to secondary school pupils through a series of initiatives. The *Computer Science Summer School* engaged 35 young people in about 20 different activities including computer programming, graphics and mapping; robotics; web development; games programming; music technology; and film editing. The clever 'Hide and Tweet' competition challenged participants to track and catch a mystery man using satellite tracking, text messaging and GPS navigation. The annual *Science Week* welcomed almost 800 primary school students to free talks and demonstrations on diverse subjects from chemical reactions to DNA extractions. The Departments of Chemistry, Experimental Physics and Biology also opened their laboratories once again to assist with revision experiments for Leaving Certificate candidates. Over 2,500 students from across the country took part in these popular *Science Practicals*.

## Faculty Publicity

The keen insights of NUI Maynooth staff from numerous faculty departments and research institutes on various matters of the day could be heard on the airwaves and read in the print media, both domestic and foreign, through the course of the year. From topical issues such as flooding, droughts and the volcanic ashcloud to financial turmoil and austerity measures, from cultural concerns around the dangers of online dating or 'cyberia' to social rights breaches due to inadequate housing conditions, many of the University's academics contributed valuable commentary to national discussion and debate.

In the publication sphere, Dr Stephen O'Neill, Department of English, issued a collection of essays by leading domestic and international scholars exploring the responses to Shakespeare by Irish writers, in both English and Irish language, since the early twentieth century. Input was received from Dr Tadhg Ó Dúshláine (Nua-Ghaeilge) and Brian Cosgrove (English) among others to *Shakespeare and the Irish Writer*. Also addressing native output is *The Irish Contribution to European Scholastic Thought* edited by Dr Michael Dunne, Head of the Philosophy Department and Professor James McEvoy.

A joint survey conducted by Dr Alpha Kerr from the Department of Sociology and Dr Anthony Cawley from the Institute for the Study of Knowledge in Society at the University of Limerick revealed that the indigenous *computer games industry* has grown by 400% over the past seven years. A submission to the Government's National Positive Ageing Strategy was prepared by Joe Larragy from Applied Social Studies with *Older and Bolder*, an alliance of seven national organisations representing older people in the country. And *The Golden Thread* is the new newsletter containing news and articles by staff and students from the Department of Law.

Groundbreaking research by scientists at the Departments of Biology and Chemistry along with Austrian collaborators was published in *PLoS Pathogens*, the most prestigious microbiology journal. Led by Professor Sean Doyle, the researchers have discovered how a pathogenic fungus protects itself against one of the toxins it can produce to reduce our immune response and so cause infection. The fungus in question, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, can cause severe disease and death in organ transplant patients.

On behalf of her 26-strong Ambassador Group, Damini Kumar, Programme Director of Product Design, presented An Taoiseach Brian Cowen with the *EU Manifesto for Creativity and Innovation*. The deliberations produced seven commandments for achieving excellence in innovation and creativity, including promoting scientific research, life-long learning in the workplace, business innovation and user-centred tools and systems for society.

→ [Attending the national Archways Conference are \(l-r\): Ms Aileen O'Donoghue, CEO Archways, Dr Sinead McGilloway, Principal Investigator, Dept. of Psychology, and keynote speaker Professor Carolyn Webster-Stratton, University of Washington and founder of the Incredible Years Parent, Teacher and Child Training Series.](#)

→ → [Anastasia Crickley, Head of the Department of Applied Social Studies and President Mary McAleese pictured at the first Irish Roundtable of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency with President, Professor John Hughes.](#)





### Profile

**Dr Tadhg Ó Dúshláine**  
Head of School  
of Celtic Studies



From working class Cork city originally, Dr Tadhg Ó Dúshláine is the Head of the School of Celtic Studies, better known as Ceann Scoil an Léinn Cheiltigh. Admitting that he was lucky enough to be kept at school himself, Tadhg relishes his teaching role, 'I love guiding students to realise their potential; sharing the joy of insight; and being there when the lights go on.'

As one of the first generation to benefit from 'free education' in the 1960s, Tadhg takes an active role in all promotions concerning access to third level and the function of our linguistic heritage as a force for unity, identity and inspiration. It was the latter which influenced his writing of *An Eoraip agus Litríocht na Gaeilge 1600–1650* as a means of helping to define Irish culture as essentially European, specifically Baroque.

Tadhg joined the University with the radical class of 1969, after the year that rocked the world, when the Paris riots ensured that the old regime changed utterly. 'Some of our more conservative institutions, like the universities, resisted and sighed O, tempora, o mores. Those of us who embraced the cultural revolution recognised that *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*.' Apart from a year at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies and another at the University of Leuven, Tadhg has remained loyal to NUI Maynooth for four decades. He recalls his proudest moment of being appointed to the staff of Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge in 1977.

Tadhg possesses an obvious passion for technology. 'Our vocation no longer homo sapiens, nor homo faber; returns to its native homo ludens – the Irish monk who elaborately doodled to illustrate the Book of Kells, and in doing so pioneered Moodle, ensuring that the Blackbird at Belfast Lock in the 9th century continues to twitter through the poetry of Seamus Heaney. This penchant played no small part in contributing to the School's development of a technological teaching and learning package for Leaving Certificate Irish, known as *Téacs Gaeilge Beo* or *TGBeo*, which received the Technology Ireland Award for best educational initiative in 2009.

As well as continuing to develop the University's technological initiatives in his discipline, Tadhg hopes to lead efforts in prioritising spoken – rather than written – Irish. This living dimension is also evident in his motto 'Maynooth is its Students!' Long before mission statements, he felt the sense of mission at the University, and describes how the Maynooth network of students has evolved and thrived and recast itself to the challenges over the last half century. 'Conceived by the Government of this archipelago as a way of controlling the continentally-educated, revolutionary-orientated Irish Catholic clergy, the original Royal Catholic College has evolved and adapted to suit the needs of generations on this island. We have always changed in order to remain the same. *Ar scáth a chéile a mhairimid*. And long may we continue to do so.'

### Profile

**Professor Florian Krobb**  
Head of School of Modern Languages,  
Literatures & Cultures



Professor Florian Krobb has risen through the ranks of the German Department during his 19 year tenure at NUI Maynooth. Promoted from lecturer to senior lecturer and ultimately to Professor, Florian also served as the Acting Head as well as Head of the German Department for a total of nine years. In February 2010, he assumed the role of Head of the newly established School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures (SMLLC). 'In the meantime, I teach German language and literature at all undergraduate and postgraduate levels and I am the Postgraduate Coordinator of the German Department. I also contribute to interdisciplinary modules in European Studies and to the MA module 'Approaches to Translation Studies'.

Along with his colleagues, Florian is rewarded by the fact that the German Department at NUI Maynooth has developed into a nationally and internationally recognised entity. 'We have shaped our curriculum and delivery in such a way that students get the very best deal possible – the best possible instruction in the language arena and a variety of attractive choices in the areas of history and linguistics, literature and culture of the German-speaking countries.'

Florian's qualifications include an *Erstes Staatsexamen* in German and History (MA equivalent) from the Georg August University in Göttingen (Germany) and training as a Grammar School teacher before being awarded his *Zweites Staatsexamen* two years later. Latterly, he spent three years working as a lecturer at the University of Oxford while concurrently completing a PhD for his Alma Mater. His devotion to academia is underpinned by the joy he finds in teaching. 'I love to share my enthusiasm for my subject, and to show my students how exciting it is to discover new areas of knowledge and to master new skills.'

Apart from the very significant establishment of the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures in 2009, Florian is proud of his other achievements in this period, namely the completion of a major study and publication of a book on German author Wilhelm Raabe. 'I've also embarked on my next research project, a study that straddles a number of different interlinked areas: emphatic conservatism, literary avant-garde, children's and adventure literature, 'bourgeois' Catholicism and right-wing sectarianism during the Weimar and Nazi periods.'

Florian's plans for 2010 include the consolidation of the SMLLC by creating a professional and collegiate working environment; by building on existing synergies between the School's three component subjects of German, French and Spanish; and by initiating mutual projects that could benefit both these individual disciplines and the SMLLC as a whole. And he sees opportunity amidst the current climate of doom and gloom: 'NUI Maynooth could be a model of combining academic ambition and inclusivity. The University will continue to be a collegiate, welcoming and self-confident entity if we don't lose sight of what is at the core of our mission – the pursuit of learning.'



Profile

**Dr Aidan Mulkeen**  
Head of Education  
Department



As Head of the Education Department, Dr Aidan Mulkeen oversees ten different programmes catering for almost 500 students, ranging from undergraduates on the BSc in Science Education to doctoral researchers in education. 'The Department is always on the go, with daytime and evening students, links with dozens of co-operating schools, and involvement in wide-ranging education research projects.'

Aidan finds it very satisfying to see student teachers develop their skills and grow in confidence and to watch good insightful research take shape. 'I enjoy the constant contact with many different opinions – one distinguishing feature of educators is the ability to view any issue from multiple perspectives, so everything gets questioned!'

With a deep-rooted interest in education, Aidan studied Geography and History and later qualified as a secondary school teacher before gradually broadening his pursuits in the field. As such, he worked on technology in education at UCD and on grassroots education projects with Concern in Bangladesh. 'Whatever level of education you work on, the human issues remain very similar, and each job has added experience that was valuable in the next.'

Aidan's career at NUI Maynooth began in 1996, as a lecturer in education. Then from 2004 to 2009, he took leave from the University to work with the World Bank on teacher policy in Africa. 'I found this a really fascinating role as it brought me into the centre of education policy discussions in a whole range of countries with diverse systems and contexts. It was an amazing opportunity, a huge challenge, and a real privilege to have had a part in shaping policy in this way!'

The commitment to his area is also evident through Aidan's involvement in the design and development of a pioneering new course in ICT in education almost ten years ago, and he recalls the conferring of the first cohort of students at Kilkenny Castle as a memorable milestone. Another project established with Aidan's help in 1999 is 'Dissolving Boundaries' run by NUI Maynooth and the University of Ulster. Embodying over 200 schools and thousands of young people, the project brings together schools from north and south in a bid to build mutual understanding, and to help lay the foundations for a long-term sustainable peace on this island. He explains that students develop good ICT skills, do solid curricular projects and learn new competencies along the way.

Aidan believes that the personal touch is a strong asset for NUI Maynooth, and one that it has managed to preserve despite being the fastest growing University in the country. 'We like to ensure that no student can pass through one of our courses anonymously. Even in the larger classes, we endeavour to get to know each and every one – the fact that we visit them in their schools is an advantage, of course. This close knowledge helps us to provide support where it is needed and ensure that all students can develop to the best of their abilities.'

**2.2 THE REWARDS**

**Staff Successes**

Dr Bernard Mahon, Cellular Immunologist and Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering was awarded the *Dr Jacques Servier Scholarship* by the Institute Servier in conjunction with the Ireland Fund of France and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. This merit was in recognition of Dr Mahon's work on whooping cough vaccines for infants in association with Professor Camille Locht from the Institut Pasteur de Lille.

Another Francophone honour bestowed by the French Prime Minister, François Fillon personally on Dr Michael O'Dwyer, Senior Lecturer and Subject Leader at the French Department, was the prestigious title of *Chevalier dans l'ordre des Palmes académiques*. It was Dr O'Dwyer's research and teaching through his extensive writing on the 20th-century Christian novel in France and on the works of French writers such as Julien Green as well as Mauriac, Bernanos, Huysmans, Sullivan and Pascal which was deemed a worthy contribution to French Literary and Cultural Studies.

Also excelling in his field, Dr Malachy McCann was among 24 members to be admitted to the *Royal Irish Academy*, the highest academic distinction in Ireland. Dr McCann, who directs the Bio-Inorganic Laboratory within the Chemistry Department, focuses his research on synthetic coordination chemistry and assessing the therapeutic potential of complexes as metal-based drugs. He recently prepared and screened potential new drug candidates for use in the area of antimicrobial and anticancer chemotherapy.

Seamus Taylor, a lecturer at the Department of Applied Social Studies, has received a *CBE* from Queen Elizabeth II in the British Honours System for his services in promoting equality in Britain. As a former senior official with the Commission for Racial Equality and the Crown Prosecution Service, his work focused on the response to recommendations and legislation arising from the landmark Stephen Lawrence Inquiry and on preparing and implementing a new statutory code on equality affecting 42,000 public bodies. British Ambassador Julian King credited Mr Taylor with having 'helped place equality at the heart of the UK legal system.'

In another unique achievement, Dr Susan Bergin from the Department of Computer Science was one of only five recipients of the 2009 National Academy for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (*NAIRTL*) *Award for Excellence in Teaching*. Presented at Dublin Castle by President Mary McAleese, this accolade recognises Dr Bergin's enthusiasm for teaching that combines with her research expertise to create an exciting learning environment for students. Her approach involves building student confidence and self-esteem through collaborative tutoring and peer review, inspiring interest with innovative learning tools and real-world projects, and nurturing her students' personal development through collaborative work and community interaction.

The University conferred an *honorary Doctorate of Literature* on Micheál Ó Ceárna for his 60-year commitment to ensuring that the legacy of his native Blasket Island is preserved for its indelible association with the traditional Irish way of life of previous centuries. One of the last remaining islanders, characterised as a 'true living link to our heritage and tradition', Mr Ó Ceárna was honoured at the Blasket Centre he helped establish in Dun Chaoin, County Kerry. He lobbied Congressmen, Taoisigh, visiting Irish Ministers and Presidents tirelessly throughout his life for the Blasket heritage, including the move to make the Great Blasket a National Historic Park, and has been a regular visitor back to Ireland from his Massachusetts home.

→ [Professor Nicholas Canny, President of the RIA and Dr Malachy McCann.](#)

→ → [Dr Micheál Ó Ceárna and Professor Jim Walsh, Deputy President, NUI Maynooth.](#)





### Research Rewards

Professor Barak Pearlmutter, researcher at the Department of Computer Science and the Hamilton Institute, received over €636,000 for his venture entitled 'Higher-Level Efficient Numerics and Machine Learning' under the *SFI's Principal Investigator Programme*. It is one of 27 pioneering projects to be chosen for a total funding of €25 million over the next five years, announced by Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, Batt O'Keeffe TD in April 2010. Professor Pearlmutter plans to build a prototype compiler to extend and optimise numerical computing software for use in scientific and engineering applications. The resulting improvements will have industrial, commercial and scientific importance in areas ranging from systems biology and climate modelling to speech recognition and computer vision.

A month later, Minister O'Keeffe named Dr Andrew Coogan, Department of Psychology and Dr Sinead Migglin, Department of Biology and the Institute of Immunology among the recipients of €8.5 million for cutting-edge research projects funded through the *SFI's Research Frontiers Programme*. Dr Coogan's research 'Is there a role for NF-κB in the circadian clock?' seeks to understand how a molecule that signals in the brain and immune system is involved in the human body clock to better identify how it runs normally and during sickness. Dr Migglin's research 'Towards understanding the mechanisms involved in the negative regulation of Toll-like Receptor 3 signalling' aims to develop more efficacious therapies for the treatment of infectious diseases. The Minister maintains that these research areas are 'profoundly linked to our health and wellbeing and the researchers' work will generate high-value downstream jobs'.

An international consortium led by Dr Sinead McGilloway, Department of Psychology and Director of the Mental Health and Social Care Research Group, has secured funding to the tune of €600,000 from *Atlantic Philanthropies* and the *Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs*. This money is supporting a significant study to evaluate a complex community change initiative called 'youngballymun', aimed at improving the well-being and learning outcomes for those aged between 0 and 21 in the suburb.

The Broadcasting Commission of Ireland (BCI) *Media Research Funding Scheme* has selected two new research projects at NUI Maynooth. 'Funding Programmes, Sustaining Broadcasters; a jurisdictional analysis of programme making support schemes for community radio' is led by Dr Kenneth Murphy and Dr Gavan Tittley, and 'Drivers of change? An assessment of plurality within community radio in Ireland' is directed by Dr Anne O'Brien and Dr Niamh Gaynor from Dublin City University.

### Student Accolades

Parents, school principals and guidance counsellors gathered to watch 105 high-achieving Leaving Certificate students being awarded their *Entrance Scholarships* to various degree programmes across all three faculties of the University. Their diligence was rewarded with a purse of €1,000 along with a guaranteed place in one of the University's on-campus apartments. At the other end of the scholarly spectrum, over 2,200 students received their degrees and diplomas at the conferring ceremonies held throughout the year. All disciplines were represented along with first time qualifications in the BA Music Technology International, Diploma in Arts – Addiction Studies, and Diploma in Mediation and Conflict Intervention. More than 170 of these graduates won prizes in recognition of scoring top marks in their studies and carrying on the long-standing tradition of academic excellence at the University.

Benjamin Larkin and Roisin O'Flaherty, an anthropology and chemistry student respectively, were among the benefactors of the inaugural *Undergraduate Awards of Ireland*. President Mary McAleese presided over the ceremony where Mr Larkin won a gold medal for his essay 'Formal interactional structures versus the maintenance of coherence' and Ms O'Flaherty was a joint winner for 'Sea sponges cure cancer?' Gavin Armstrong in final year maths also had the right formula for an undergraduate mathematics prize presented at the Royal Irish Academy.

First, second and third places in the *HH Steward Literary Scholarship in Latin* for 2009 went to Diana Popescu, Timothy Moriarty and Chona Gillan. Dr Maurice Manning, NUI Chancellor, presented the Ancient Classics students with their rewards at a special ceremony in the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham.

Second year Arts students Sarah Davis specialising in English and Music and Sharon Hickey studying Law with English were chosen from 270 Northern Irish, Irish and British applicants to be part of the *Washington Ireland Programme 2010*. A prestigious two-month internship and intensive training course in leadership and service will allow them to gain a unique insight into America's professional and social culture.

As a student of Media Studies, Lisa Whelan's *Memories* was shortlisted for Radio Production of the Year, Arts and Features category, at the 10th anniversary *Oxygen.ie National Student Media Awards*. Over 600 students and national media personalities along with high profile judges and sponsors attended the 2010 Smedias at the Mansion House in April.

Following competitive heats at NUI Maynooth, Laura O'Toole was selected to represent the University at the annual *Science Speak* competition with her presentation on 'Solar Energy – a Shining Future'. This unique intervarsity event provides a platform for the best postgraduate science communicators from each of the seven Irish universities to present their research to a non-specialist, lay audience, testing communication skills and ability to make research accessible to all. Ms O'Toole came runner-up with her illustration of how artificial photosynthetic devices can lead to improved and more affordable solar cells.

A powerful performance of 'This Is the Moment' from the musical *Jekyll and Hyde* propelled Arts student Sean Carey to the final of *Fame: the Musical*. The Dunshaughlin teenager faced tough opposition from Ben Morris of Tallaght in the ultimate sing-off at the Helix and unfortunately the public vote saw the end of his shot at the lead male role in the hit show that is set to tour Ireland later this year. A protégé of St Mary's Musical Society in Navan and past pupil of Gaelscoil na Rithe and Dunshaughlin Community College, Mr Carey's media studies with Irish and History were on hold as he advanced through the Fame competition. Broadcast on RTÉ, the search for the stars was launched in January and 12 finalists were chosen from the thousands of applications and hundreds of performers who went on to audition at locations in Dublin, Cork, and in London's West End.

↘  
[\(l-r\): Róisín O'Flaherty, Department of Chemistry pictured with President Mary McAleese at the inaugural Undergraduate Awards of Ireland.](#)  
 ↓  
[Announcing the SFI Principal Investigator Programme awards is \(middle\) Batt O'Keeffe TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation with \(l-r\): Professor Frank Gannon, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland; and Professor Barak Pearlmutter, Dept. of Computer Science and the Hamilton Institute.](#)



### Research Rewards

Aran O'Loughlin BSc, a second year Biology PhD student working at the Animal Bioscience Centre at Teagasc in County Meath, won an award for *Best Postgraduate Poster* at the annual meeting of the Association for Veterinary Teaching and Research Work. Carla Cummins, an SFI-funded student in the Molecular Evolution and Bioinformatics Unit of the same department was the runner-up at the *11th Young Systematist's Forum* in London. Her research work is focused on developing new methods for the analysis of DNA and protein evolution.

Also representing the University, specifically the Department of Chemistry, at the *60th Lindau Nobel Laureates meeting* was Dean St Mart. His selection as one of only 650 nominees from 5,000 students and young researchers across Europe afforded him the opportunity to engage with Nobel Laureates and fellow researchers.

Anthropology student Svenja Gosen's essay 'Spoken, Not Written: Storytelling, Lament and Gossip as Performance Events' was deemed the winner of the *2010 Postgraduate Essay Prize* conferred by the Anthropological Association of Ireland.

It was final year Venture Management student, Fintan Lawlor who scooped the annual *Student Entrepreneur* title with *Bespoke Mobile Suits (BMS)*. The business initiative, which was awarded €6,000 by the Commercialisation Office, is a mobile tailoring service, providing custom-made suits for busy executives around the country.



### Profile

#### **Dr Susan Bergin**

Lecturer, Department  
of Computer Science



Dr Susan Bergin is a lecturer with personal educational history at the Department of Computer Science, having completed both a Masters and PhD in the field at NUI Maynooth. While her current remit commenced in 2007, she spent three years as a part-time Retention Officer at the Department from 2003 to 2006. This position was focused on designing innovative teaching tools to assist students learning to program and as part of this Susan ran a weekly drop-in clinic, and designed and developed both a formative assessment programming system and a dedicated 1<sup>st</sup> year portal to improve programming skills. In addition, she was heavily involved in integrating problem-based learning into the 1<sup>st</sup> year curriculum and gave talks to career guidance counselors about studying Computer Science at tertiary level.

With 17 different degree programmes possibly taking 1<sup>st</sup> year Computer Science, diverse student types and backgrounds result. 'For example, music technology, history and anthropology students, to name but a few, sit alongside hardcore CS students so we need innovative teaching using diverse media and approaches to capture the material and present it so that it is accessible to the widest audience.' In fact, Susan's PhD research was born of a 30-year global problem of the difficulties and drop-outs experienced by 1<sup>st</sup> year Computer Science students on the Introduction to Programming module (referred to as 'CS101' worldwide). 'As computer science is not a second level subject, often students don't comprehend what the course is really about and can find it difficult to grasp the underlying concepts at the start.'

A major piece of Susan's research focused on the development of a computational model to predict how students were likely to perform in the end of year exam after two weeks on an introductory programming module. By reducing 30+ factors down to three, she improved the prediction accuracy rate from previous levels of 40–50% to 85%. More recently, she has been active in a novel assessment for group-based projects and robotics for teaching programming. It was during her PhD period that the seeds were sown for her victory in the Excellence in Teaching Award presented by the National Academy for Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning. 'Juggling teaching, supervision, research and administration can be a struggle so I'm delighted with the award as recognition for my teaching efforts. The transition from second to third level is hard for students and requires patience, innovation and dedication but it's worth the investment to watch them thrive.'

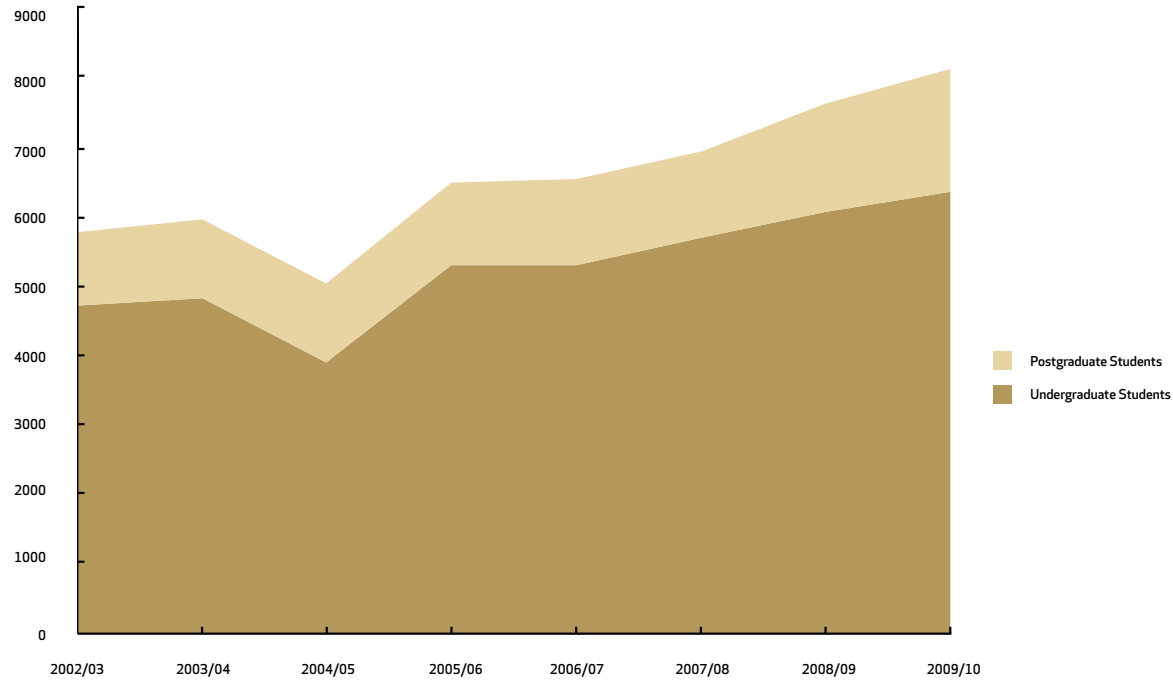
Open to all 38 higher education institutions, Susan was one of five winners – the first ever from NUI Maynooth – selected by an international judging panel and honoured by President Mary McAleese at Dublin Castle in November 2009. She was bestowed with a Fellowship to improve teaching and learning, a piece of Waterford crystal and €5,000. With a Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education under her belt, she is also officially qualified to teach at third level.

Susan runs numerous computer science competitions, summer schools and web development projects, such as CSRocks, a popular information portal describing the subject to 2<sup>nd</sup> level students and parents. 'I love working with my 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/HDip students to develop websites for the community as they are real world projects and are more engaging given the live element at the end.'

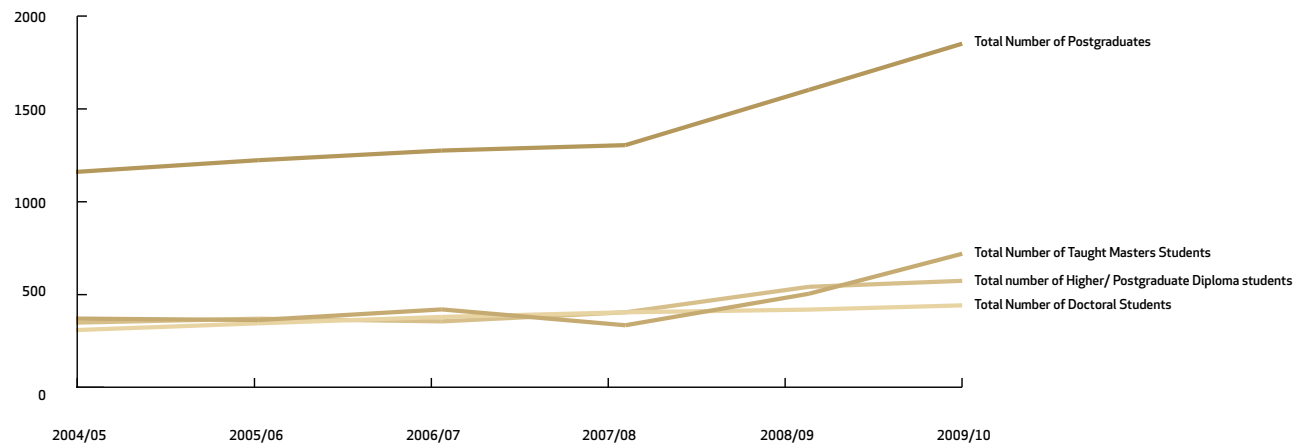


# THE YEAR IN FIGURES

Number of Students on Campus

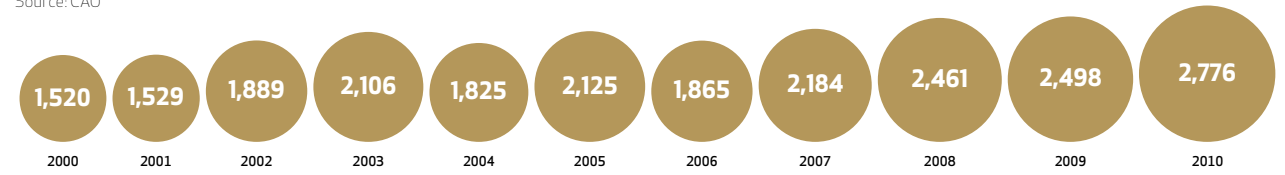


Number of Graduate Students on Campus by Type

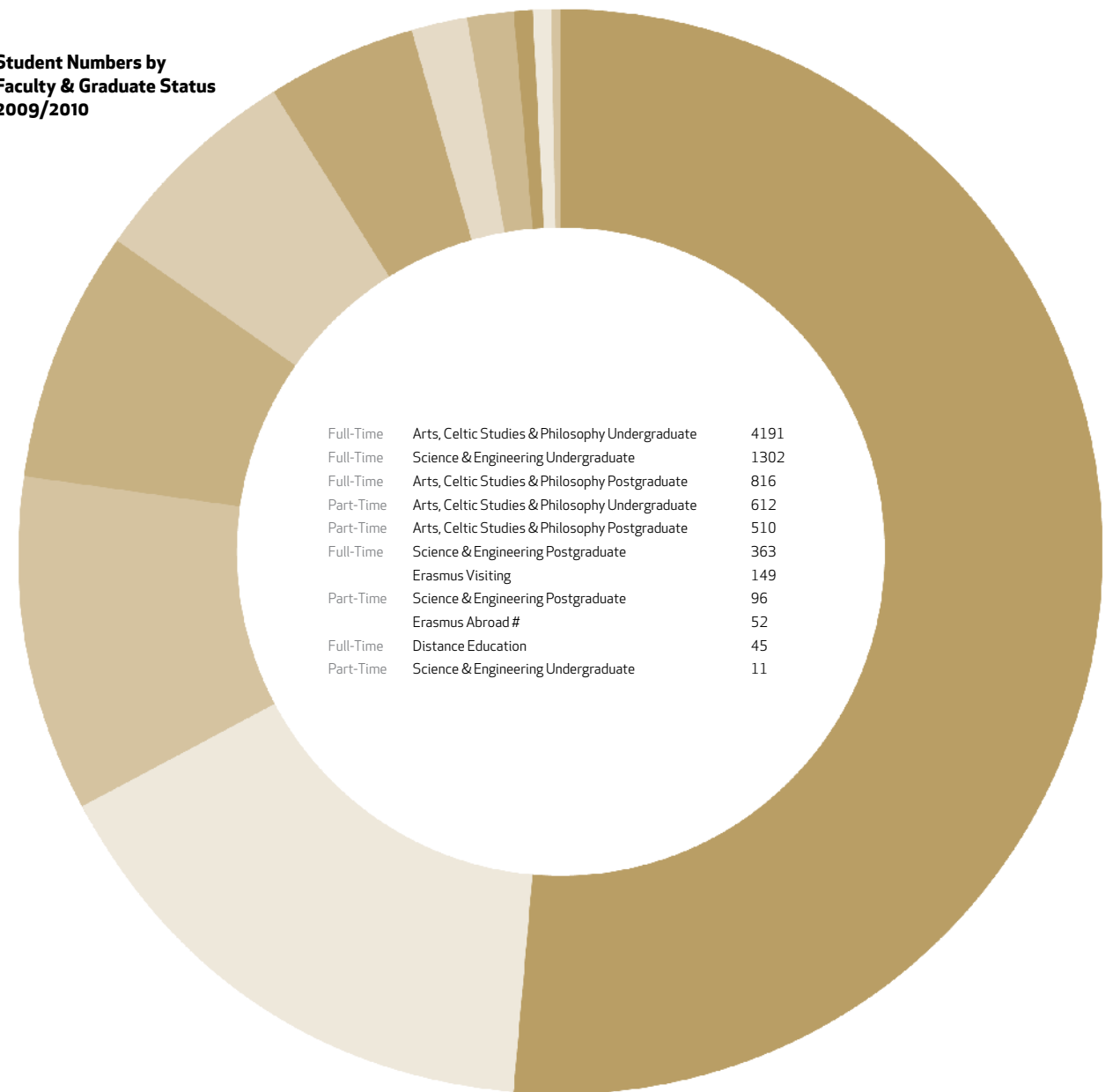


Number of Leaving Certificate Students selecting NUI Maynooth as their First Choice for University

Source: CAO



Student Numbers by Faculty & Graduate Status 2009/2010





## 2.3 THE STAFF ROOM

### External Appointments

Nominated by the Irish Government, *Anastasia Crickley*, Head of the Department of Applied Social Studies, was elected to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) for a four-year term and is the first Irish woman to serve on any UN Committee. This appointment is international recognition of the prominent role Ms Crickley has played throughout her career in tackling issues relating to racism and discrimination, and in the promotion of human rights both in Ireland and abroad. In addition to founding and chairing several national agencies, she served until very recently as the inaugural Chair of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency and previously as Chair of the EU Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia. Welcoming the announcement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin TD, said: 'I believe Anastasia Crickley will bring a wealth of expertise and practical experience to her new role and will be a very significant asset to the work of the Committee. She will also be a strong independent and impartial voice as required by the Convention.'

Vice President for Research, *Ray O'Neill*, was recruited as the Irish representative to the Research Policy Working Group (RPWG) of the European Universities Association (EUA). This former advisory body is commissioned by, and reports to, the EUA Council with membership drawn from the EUA Board and nominations received from national rectors' conferences. The main functions of the RPWG are to review European research and innovation policy development of importance to Europe's universities; to advise on the preparation of EUA positions and statements on European research policy initiatives; and to propose and promote new policy instruments to strengthen the position of Europe's universities as the main stakeholders in the European Research Area. In addition, the Group establishes and maintains a working dialogue with the European Commission and other major interest groups in research and innovation policy, including business, non-university research institutions, and national funding agencies through their respective European associations.

Minister for Energy, Communications and Natural Resources, Eamon Ryan TD, announced the appointment of *Professor Chris Morash* as Chair of the Compliance Committee of the newly created Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, the new single broadcasting content regulator. Minister Ryan commented: 'Broadcasting in Ireland is entering a period of change. New technologies are changing viewing and listening patterns but the old rule remains insofar as the quality of the content defines success. These appointees will have the requisite skills to help Irish broadcasting adapt and thrive. I hope and trust they will be strict, strong and visionary in their exciting new roles.' Professor Morash is the founder of NUI Maynooth's Centre for Media Studies and Head of the School of English, Media and Theatre Studies.

Another ministerial notification was made by Éamon Ó Cuív TD, responsible for Social Protection (previously Social and Family Affairs), that of *Dr Stuart Stamp*, Research Associate at the Department of Applied Social Studies, to the Board of the Citizens Information Board. Dr Stamp, who has published extensively on the subject of over-indebtedness and financial exclusion, assumes the five-year appointment from 2010. Also engaging with citizens, *Damini Kumar* from Product Design was part of the judging panel of 'Your Country, Your Call', a national competition to seek out and support two transformational proposals to help secure prosperity and jobs for Ireland. Each winning idea is to receive €100,000 along with a development fund of €500,000 and independent working group for their respective implementation.



### Internal Affairs

Promotions at the University saw *Professor Tom Collins* assume the role of Vice-President for External Affairs and *Professor Larry Taylor* of Vice-President for International Affairs, while *Professor Rowena Pecchenino* and *Dr Thomas O'Connor* were welcomed as the new Deans of Social Science, and Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy respectively.

Other notable appointments were those of:

**Dr Pauline Cullen**

Lecturer, Department of Sociology

**Ms Majella Dempsey**

Lecturer, Department of Education

**Dr Brian Donnellan**

Director of IVI & Professor in Business Innovation

**Dr Paul Donovan**

Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, Finance and Accounting

**Dr Amos Edelheit**

Lecturer, Department of Philosophy

**Professor Luke Gibbons**

Professor of Literary and Cultural Studies, Department of English

**Dr Sandeep Gopalan**

Professor of Law & Head of the Department of Law, School of Business and Law

### Farewell Tributes

Tributes flowed for the work of *Professor Séamus Ó Cinnéide* during his retirement colloquium due to a long legacy which began at St Patrick's College in 1980. Not only did he establish the Centre for Applied Social Studies and bring it to Departmental status, but he pioneered the education of youth and community workers and initiated a Bachelor in Social Science. Now an Emeritus Professor in the field, Ó Cinnéide has an exemplary track record in public service to his name and is regarded as pivotal in the 're-discovery' of poverty in Ireland.

The well-attended retirement party for *Dr Niall McKeith* paid deserved homage to a unique 32-year contribution to both the University and St Patrick's College, especially his enthusiastic commitment to teaching, administration and outreach activities at his Experimental Physics Department.

One of NUI Maynooth's most respected academics *Professor Vincent Comerford* was honoured at a special gathering of friends, colleagues and alumni, where he was thanked for his legendary dedication to the History Department, which he joined in 1977 and of which he was Professor and Head from 1989 to 2009. Professor Comerford's reputation also extends to his founding role in a number of research centres, including the Centre for Historic Houses and Estates, the OPW-NUI Maynooth Archive and Research Centre and An Foras Feasa. *Ireland's Polemical Past: Views of Irish History in honour of RV Comerford* edited by Dr Terry Dooley was launched at the reception.

Following 38 years of dedicated service to the University, *Professor Peter Carr* also took his well-earned retirement. Originally at the Department of Chemistry, Professor Carr then accepted the job of University Registrar and successfully performed it for 17 years. In 2000 he became the first Academic Counsellor, a remit well suited to his personality given his manner of maintaining a person's rights and dignity at the forefront of all his interactions.

Towards the end of the year, the *30-year reunion workshop and lunch* gathered around 50 University staff who are either already or soon-to-be retired along with long-serving members for an information session followed by a celebratory lunch. Around the same time, a memorial mass and tree planting ceremony was held in remembrance of *Lynne Whittaker*, who passed away peacefully on 12 December 2008 in England. She lectured in Biology from 1978 until her retirement in 2001.

The University also saluted other staff members who departed the University environs over the past year, namely:

**Ms Sallyann Alexander**

Library

**Mr Brendan Bartley**

Department of Geography

**Sr Angela Bracken**

Department of English

**Professor Ann Burnell**

Department of Biology

**Dr Ann Burns**

Registrar's Office

**Mr Stephen Byrne**

Finance Office

**Ms Lily Cannon**

Department of Computer Science

**Ms Mary Clougher**

Campus Services

**Ms Sheila Donnelly**

Department of Biology

**Professor Paddy Duffy**

Department of Geography

**Ms Lilly Fahy**

Department of Education

**Ms Connie Fitzharris**

Finance Office

**Ms Bernie Gildea**

Department of Adult and Community Education

**Ms Maura Haughney**

Department of Applied Social Studies

**Ms Loretta Jennings**

Careers Office

**Mr Seamus MacGabhann**

Department of English

**Mr Tom Madden**

Department of English

**Ms Marie McEneaney**

Access Office

**Ms Ann McStravick**

Department of English

**Ms Anne Murphy**

Department of Computer Science

**Dr Damien Ó Muirí**

Roinn na Nua Ghaeilge

**Professor Michael Peillon**

Department of Sociology

**Ms Kellyann Roche**

Access Office

**Ms Geraldine Rowan**

Roinn na Nua Ghaeilge

**Dr David Walsh**

Department of Mathematics

**Dr Wayne Waxman**

Department of Philosophy

**Professor Peter Wellstead**

The Hamilton Institute



↑  
(l-r) Dr Niall McKeith, Professor Peter Carr, and Professor Vincent Comerford.

## Profile

### **Terry Byrne**

Security Services



Terry Byrne is a long-standing member of the NUI Maynooth Security Team, having joined the detail in 1996 and witnessed the extensive development of the campus ever since. 'My role as a security officer is to provide a safe and secure environment for all who frequent the campus. My primary focus is on anticipating risks, taking action to prevent them and providing a courteous service that is responsive to staff and student needs.'

Terry's daily tasks include unlocking all campus buildings and ensuring that they are in a state of readiness for the day ahead as well as checking, securing and alarming the buildings at the close of business by guaranteeing that security systems such as intruder and fire alarms, CCTV and access control are serviceable. Additional day-to-day duties include patrolling the campus, manning the office, and attending to a diverse range of security services and requests for support and assistance from the campus population.

Expecting the unexpected, taking initiative and maintaining a common sense approach are inherent in Terry's job spec. One such example was the outbreak of a fire in the north campus restaurant, which was crowded with staff and mainly visiting secondary school students, during Open Day in November 2008. Terry describes how the event made live national media headlines. 'While the University's Emergency Plan was activated, the support and teamwork of staff, particularly the Residence Assistants from the Accommodation Office, complemented the security team in ensuring that the building was speedily evacuated and crowd control established. As a result not a single person was injured!'

While Terry enjoys his career within an environment he characterises as friendly, caring and vibrant, providing a 24-hour service throughout the year necessitates a roster system of early, late and night work shifts, which poses its own challenges. 'Shift work has an anti-social element in respect of family life and night shifts disrupt sleeping patterns.'

Terry takes a keen interest in campus sport, rugby in particular, having previously played with North Kildare Rugby Club. Indeed, his links with the county span some three decades, as he worked for this period with the sales department at Kelly's Bakery in Kilcock and spent 24 years delivering products to shops throughout North Kildare.

Terry regards events such as the graduation ceremonies, carol services and Sigerson Cup Finals as memorable and good opportunities to showcase the talents and commitment of students and staff. 'There's a great sense of satisfaction in planning, setting up and being part of the overall team to ensure that these occasions run smoothly for all who participate.' Above all, Terry's ambition is to continue guaranteeing a quality service, which will be assisted by an in-house computer course he is undertaking in the winter.

## Profile

### **Joan Galvin**

PA to the Registrar



Joan Galvin has been working behind the scenes at NUI Maynooth for some 13 years. Progressing from the Department of Mathematics to assisting the Computer Centre, Joan became the first Personal Assistant to be appointed to the Registrar in April 1999. She was therefore responsible for the establishment and development of the post in the first instance and is now in charge of the overall organisation and administration of the Registrar's Office.

The post includes a vast array of activities, ranging from day-to-day tasks such as organising the Registrar's diary by scheduling all of his appointments and making the necessary arrangements for his meetings, updating and maintaining files, and ensuring adequate stationery supplies. Joan must also deal with the many queries received via letter, email, and phone or in person. 'I evaluate each individual query and use my discretion in its distribution to other members of the Registrar's staff or to other Departments, when appropriate.' She also processes requests from students for examination checks and examination appeals and advises them on the procedures involved.

In terms of communications, Joan liaises on behalf of the Registrar with staff members of the Academic, Administrative and Service Departments at both NUI Maynooth and St Patrick's College. She interacts with the Academic Advisory Office and the Counselling Office regarding the welfare of students and maintains regular contact with outside bodies such as the Irish Universities Association, Department of Education and Science, Higher Education Authority, Central Applications Office, Teaching Council, Military College, An Garda Síochána, and other universities and institutes.

On the financial front, Joan safeguards the records of all financial transactions and monitors the accounts under the Registrar's remit as well as arranging payments of the disability scholarships. Joan thoroughly enjoys her broad job description as no two days are ever the same. 'You are dealing with persons at all levels who have different issues ranging from a simple query to a serious incident requiring immediate or perhaps delicate management.'

Joan has no shortage of prior professional experience to call on within her current post. On completing her Diploma in Secretarial Studies at the High School of Commerce, Limerick in 1976, she commenced her career at the Revenue Commissioners. After a training period at Dublin Castle, she was relocated to the Customs and Excise Training Centre in Bishop Street. Joan then embarked on a job with An Foras Taluntais (now known as Teagasc), where she worked for a total of 21 years, initially at the Kinsealy Research Centre in Malahide before transferring to the National Food Centre at Ashtown, where she also acted as secretary to an EU-funded project.

Having supervised the relocation of the Registrar's Office to its current home in Humanity House, one of her very first tasks, Joan appreciates her working environment. 'Situated on the South Campus and overlooking the magnificent gardens in St Joseph's Square, it is a beautiful location and visitors have often commented on what a wonderful place it must be to work in. I couldn't agree more!'



### Sports Scholarships

The sporting year began in total triumph as NUI Maynooth dominated the first ever *European Universities Golf Championship* held at Vale da Pinta in the Algarve (Portugal) in both the individual and team events. Played over four rounds, the Paddy Harrington Golf Scholarship students came from nine strokes behind to take the team title from tournament leaders University of Ulster with scores of nine- and four under par. James Monaghan carded a four-under-par 68 to win the individual championship while his team-mate João Carlota broke the course record with a nine-under-par 63, earning third place.

Golf scholar and student of Business and Management, Danielle McVeigh from Royal County Down finished top of the leader board at the *Stroke Play Championships* throughout the British Isles in the past year, winning the 2010 Helen Holm Scottish Open, 2009 Ladies' British Open and 2009 Welsh Ladies' Open. These impressive wins compliment her 2007 World University Games title. Ms McVeigh also represented Great Britain and Ireland at the 36th Curtis Cup match played at the Essex County Club in Massachusetts in mid-June 2010. Called a 'tower of strength' by the team captain, Ms McVeigh shone in her singles performance, overcoming reigning US women's amateur champion Jennifer Song with a 3 and 2 margin.

The future for all of these golf scholars looks promising as proven by Paul O'Hanlon, a former student from Newbridge, who shot his lowest ever final 18 round score on the pro circuit in March to secure his first professional win.

250 swimmers comprising a who's who of the sport in Ireland competed at the *Irish Swimming Varsity Championships* in Dublin in December. In spite of soaring standards imposed by certain squads comprising Swim Ireland's elite and Irish record holders, the University's men's team, who smashed two Irish varsity relay records, and the female squad, who scored strong results in the finals, combined to secure the top prize by a slim five points. It was the second overall win in three years and third consecutive win in the men's event for the successful swimming scholars.

The NUI Maynooth Devils remained in the spotlight of Irish swimming at the *Leinster Longcourse Swimming Championships*. Joseph Cassidy, Seamus Stacey, Alberto and Tadhg Gavigan won the 200-metre freestyle relay in an impressive time of 1 minute 44 seconds, while the former two scholars also won medals in the 1,500-metre freestyle and gruelling mile events.

Another male three-in-a-row conquest in both the individual and team titles was celebrated by the NUI Maynooth Snooker and Pool Club at the *2009 Intervarsity Competition*. Johnny Williams held his nerve to retain the individual championship against a challenger from Queens University, while Eamon Relis sank two superb shots on the blue and pink in the final frame to win his own match and the team trophy.

The University was proud to host the *99<sup>th</sup> Sigerson Cup*, the highlight of the Higher Education Football season. In this 2010 Cup sponsored by Ulster Bank, the home team caused a surprise upset by beating competition favourites University of Ulster Jordanstown by two points in the quarter-finals and were only narrowly defeated in the next round by overall winners Dublin City University. Other notable accolades for the University's GAA teams in 2009-10 were following:

#### Men's Senior Football

League winners

#### Men's Intermediate Football

Leinster League winners

#### Freshers Football

League & Championship winners (second year running)

#### Ladies Football

Giles Cup winners

#### Camogie

Purcell Shield semi-finalists

#### Senior Hurling

League runners-up & Ryan Cup semi-finalists

The rugby academy at NUI Maynooth has been bolstered by the strategic partnership between the University and Barnhall RFC, resulting in a re-branded club called *NUIM Barnhall RFC*. The number of rugby scholarships will increase from 22 to 40 over the next two years, and playing opportunities for local enthusiasts from age six up to All Ireland League level will open up thanks to this alliance. Dennis Bowes, former Edinburgh Rugby Captain, was also recently recruited as the Rugby Development Officer to help ensure the high caliber of scholarship nominees.

In other outreach to local schools, over 100 children between the ages of six and twelve participated in the *Leinster Rugby Summer Camp* at the University. This safe introduction to the game combined with the chance to meet new friends and Leinster players and to learn more about the game's values and the importance of physical fitness. Lifting the Heineken Cup was an added treat for the young male and female fans.

### Annual Events

The annual charity events at the University rose record funds for very worthy causes. The *23<sup>rd</sup> Galway Cycle* attracted 170 participants who braved the March elements on the 400-kilometre return route between the Student's Union and Eyre Square. €77,000 was donated to the National Breast Cancer Research Institute as a result of the endeavour by the 100 cyclists, 50 collectors and 20 support crew comprising past and present students.

Raise and Give (RAG) Week organised by the Student's Union was rebranded as *Charity Week* with the focal point being 'The Gathering', a new festival of music, dance, performance and gourmet food aimed at bringing people together to raise money for those less fortunate. The 12 hours of live music played across three stages featured industry chart toppers and award winners such as Sydney Samson and Mundy along with best newcomer nominees Saccade and Saving J. Along with other charity initiatives throughout the year such as cake sales and Clubs and Societies events, this inaugural gig contributed to a grand total of €5,079 raised for *the chosen charity, the Little Way Cancer Support Centre*. This facility in Clane, County Kildare, was set up in October 2003 to provide emotional support and practical help for cancer patients, their families and friends.

The winners of the *16th annual Clubs and Societies Awards* held at the Glenroyal Hotel in March were as follows:

#### Best Club

Cumann Peile

#### Best Society

Dance Society

#### Most Improved Club

Swimming and Waterpolo Club

#### Most Improved Society

Biology Society

#### Athlete of the Year

Lorraine McGill, Fencing Club

#### Club Executive of the Year

Darragh Quinn, Swimming and Waterpolo Club

#### First Year Athlete of the Year

Justin Cullinane, Maynooth University Canoe & Kayak (M.U.C.K.)

#### Society Event of the Year

Fashion Show, Spotlight

#### Society Person of the Year

Ann Marie O'Reilly, Play Do

#### First Year Society Person of the Year

Kieran Timmons, St Vincent De Paul

#### Best New Society

Tea Society

#### Contribution to Society Life Award

Fiach O'Neill and Gemma McGrory

#### Father Martin Loftus Cup

Lectio Divina

→  
[Golf Scholar Danielle McVeigh.](#)

→ →  
[The Ulster Bank Sigerson Cup, the highlight of the Higher Education football season, was officially launched on 9th February at the host venue NUI Maynooth. Pictured at the launch from left, John McGinnity, Assistant Registrar NUI Maynooth with current GAA students at the University, Niall Coyne, Galway, Paul Cashen, Carlow, Ger Brennan, Dublin and Joanne Leonard, Area Manager North Leinster, Ulster Bank.](#)





### Profile

#### **Aoife Collins**

Executive Assistant, Student Services



Working with students is at the very core of the job of Aoife Collins at NUI Maynooth. Since 2005 she has been the Executive Assistant at Student Services, a role which she describes as challenging and very rewarding. 'Like many of my colleagues, I consider the opportunity to work with young people from all over the country, indeed all over the world, to be a great privilege.'

More often than not, Aoife is the first port of call for students who have a wide variety of questions and queries about many aspects of campus life. She explains how she tries to steer students who come to her looking for direction or seeking help and support for one reason or another. 'I do what I can myself and am happy to refer the students to one of our many other support services at the University. I really like working with my colleagues in the various Student Services Departments as they are prepared to go the extra mile for students, especially when they are facing some sort of difficulty.'

As well as requesting straight-forward information or guidance, students often confide in Aoife about issues to do with health, personal relationships and emotional wellbeing, or money. She cites the example of acting as the contact point for students looking for financial assistance, whereby she processes their applications through the Student Aid Committee. While it can be hard to see students going through these types of problems, the hardest part of Aoife's remit is the occasional time when a student dies. 'It is a very traumatic time for the family first and foremost but also for fellow students and staff, so we do what we can in Student Services to support the bereaved parties at these times of great loss.'

Aoife's background incorporates a BA in Tourism Studies and Business from LSB College, a stint in PR and marketing within the media industry, and seven years as a supervisor at the International Air Transport Association (IATA). It is this frontline, people-focused experience which has undoubtedly strengthened the interpersonal skills necessary in her current line of work.

While thriving on the day-to-day work with the University's body of students, Aoife highlights her close involvement with the sports scholarships specifically. 'The interactions I've had in the sports arena have resulted in my sharing in many wonderful moments with individually gifted sportspeople, as well as participating in memorable social occasions such as the GAA Ball!' She also fondly remembers the 2005 Fashion Show which she co-organised with Mary MacCourt from the Students Union, an event which, along with the Maynooth Galway Cycle, raised a substantial sum of money for the Jack and Jill Foundation. She believes that it is initiatives like these along with the commitment of staff to make students' time in NUI Maynooth a special and memorable life experience which are the unique qualities of the University.

### Profile

#### **Helen Kirrane**

International Student Officer



The International Office at NUI Maynooth has had to expand in the past few years to keep pace with the growing numbers of international students at the University, now amounting to 600 young people from more than 50 countries. As International Student Officer, Helen Kirrane has been at the heart of the process to engage with this burgeoning international student body since 2006.

Her job begins with the application stage when Helen sets out to recruit international degree students, coordinate both non-EU undergraduate and postgraduate applications, and evaluate international qualifications. Once selected, she then focuses on welcoming the foreign students through pastoral care, including advice on immigration matters, and by organising their orientation. In addition, Helen is responsible for the administration of the Erasmus students and staff grants as well as liaison with the various University departments, its representative office in Beijing, international partners and external bodies such as Enterprise Ireland and the Immigration Services.

The initial recruitment phase is a hugely competitive area as NUI Maynooth contends with third level institutions from Ireland and abroad. Countries such as the UK, US, Australia and New Zealand and increasingly Germany and France who now offer undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in English with little or no fee charges, according to Helen. She therefore attends international recruitment fairs and meets partner universities fairly regularly, in order to talk to potential applicants and their parents. 'It's always interesting to see the countries and cultures that our students are coming from and gives a greater appreciation of how different Ireland can be for them when they first arrive.'

Helen graduated with a BA in English and Geography from University College Cork before assuming a variety of administrative roles at her Alma Mater. Of relevance to her current remit was the five years spent in UCC's International Education Office, firstly as Socrates (Erasmus) coordinator followed by undergraduate international admissions coordinator. While she confesses that her work as the International Officer can be demanding, Helen finds it interesting, rewarding and enjoyable overall. 'We have an open door policy for students so every day can be different and can present its own challenges. The support of colleagues in the office is very important – we're a very good team and work well together particularly during stressful periods.'

Some of the latest initiatives mentioned by Helen are the procedural changes aimed at service improvements for students and staff; the development of certain areas, including new partnerships for student and staff exchanges and joint and progression degrees with international partner universities; and a range of summer and English language programmes for international students in conjunction with the Language Centre. These moves can only enhance the positive feedback. 'Our international students tell us time and again that they really enjoy their experience at NUI Maynooth, saying that it's friendly, inclusive and very welcoming. They also appreciate the peaceful and beautiful surroundings as well as the fact that they have easy access to Dublin.'



**International Affairs**

This past year has seen major developments on the international front for NUI Maynooth that include significant contributions to improvements in the larger context of international education as well as growth in the internationalisation of all aspects of the University.

In the former category, Professor Larry Taylor, Vice President for International Affairs, has represented the Irish universities in the Government High Level Group whose recently issued report should inform policy and greatly ameliorate the national conditions for international education. Since January 2010, Professor Taylor has also served as the Chair of the Irish Universities Association (IUA) International Group and in this capacity has spearheaded a significant increase in collaborative efforts abroad among the universities. In the USA, the resulting 'Connecting Continents' events held in January and May in Washington DC and New York City brought both academic and media attention to the accomplishments and attractiveness of Irish universities. The event at the Irish Consulate in New York saw the IUA launch the Irish University Survey and EU Study on Third Level Education. Surrounded by the photographic exhibit America in Ireland by Maynooth-based photographer Maeve Hickey, representatives of all seven Irish universities welcomed leading local figures in higher education. Discussions highlighted the success of Irish universities – rated among the highest in Europe on many crucial scores – and explored the possible connections between American and Irish counterparts, from study abroad and exchange to collaborative research and degrees.

Back at home, our International Office continues in its successful strategy of securing international connections and collaborations. Not only is there a record number of foreign students on campus from places like China, India, Nigeria, Sudan, and South Africa but possible relationships are in the pipeline with universities in Vietnam and Bethlehem. Moreover, the established alliances with the US and China have gone from strength to strength. With encouragement from the Faculties, the International Office is happy to report that its campaign is paying dividends as our own students are venturing abroad as well more than ever.

PROFESSOR LARRY TAYLOR, VICE PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, HAS REPRESENTED THE IRISH UNIVERSITIES IN THE GOVERNMENT HIGH LEVEL GROUP, WHOSE RECENTLY ISSUED REPORT SHOULD INFORM POLICY AND GREATLY AMELIORATE THE NATIONAL CONDITIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION.

**Chinese Connections**

Among the new connections, an academic exchange agreement signed between NUI Maynooth and *Shanghai University* will support a small number of undergraduates to study in the partner institution and will facilitate industrial placement opportunities for our students in Shanghai. This link-up was inspired by a visit by Professor Taylor, Dr Xinyu Wu and Ms Luna Wu to the Chinese University, where they were highly impressed by the quality of the business, economics, finance, and accounting programmes offered in English.

In the presence of the Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, President Pu Xuzhong led a delegation from Jiangsu Polytechnic University (JPU) to Maynooth in February, to renew the double degree agreement and to celebrate the five-year relationship between the two institutions. Over 200 students are presently on this particular programme with 30 in final year study across three different subject areas here at home. Returning the visit, Professor Taylor was honoured to be the only foreign guest invited to speak at the gala festivities back in Changzhou, where JPU was celebrating its new status as Changzhou University.

NUI Maynooth was also represented in China, as members of a select group from a number of Irish universities invited by the State Administration of Foreign Expert to attend a two-day Research Forum in Peking University during the St Patrick's Day celebrations in Beijing. Following the launch of the Sino-Ireland Joint Research and Education Centre last year, this forum focused on further exploring mutual research opportunities. The NUI Maynooth Alumni China Chapter was inaugurated during the Irish festival, and 15 recently returned Chinese graduates were delighted to reunite with their former heads of department and professors and enjoy the St Patrick's Day parade together.

The Chinese capital was also the location of a visit by the Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin two months later. At Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) he spoke to the students about Ireland's place in the international community and of the fruitful cooperation and exchanges between BFSU and NUI Maynooth, especially the development of the Irish Studies Centre.

Following a long-term relationship with the Confucius Institute in Chinese Language Teaching at University College Cork, NUI Maynooth launched a Confucius Classroom to facilitate the teaching and learning of the Chinese language at the University. In the past academic year, more than 25 of our students from various disciplines have taken the Chinese Language modules taught at the Language Centre. In addition, a few more subjects such as Chinese Economy, Chinese Philosophy, and Chinese History are being brought into the curriculum in 2010, while Chinese Studies as a degree is due to be introduced in 2011.

**Other Highlights**

Helen Korrane and Dr Xinyu Wu represented the International Office at the *Star Education Fair* in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia early in the new year. Over 90 higher education institutions from the host country, the UK, US, Australia, and Ireland attended the exhibition and although it was our first introduction to this part of Asia, Irish higher education is familiar to local students through the excellent reputation earned by Irish medical schools over the past decade. Professor Ray O'Neil, VP for Research, spoke on behalf of the Irish Universities Association and NUI Maynooth at the one-day research seminar organised by the Irish Embassy to initiate research and postgraduate education collaborations between the two countries.

Two visits of note to the University by Americans were the group of five *Chicago High School Counsellors* who participated in very productive discussions with our Admissions, Residence and International Offices, as well as the *US Ambassador* who came for the Community Forum and a discussion about growing economic links between our two countries in order to drive growth after the current economic crisis. Networking with partners and creating new opportunities in international education was the impetus behind the International Office attending the *NAFSA Association of International Educators Annual Conference* and exhibition in Kansas City.



←  
At the NUI Maynooth Alumni China Chapter launch are (l-r): Ms Luna Wu, Director and Ms Flora Xu, Executive Assistance, Beijing Office.

During 2009–10, the NUI Maynooth Access Office remained consistent in its efforts to encourage under-represented groups to enter third level education and to provide these groups with the support they require.

## Outreach Activities

The Access Office was in full gear in terms of outreach activities over the past academic year, hosting stands and giving talks and tours during the NUI Maynooth Open Days and University Day. Staff members also delivered several in-house talks on assistive technology as part of the Library Information Skills Training initiative and the Education Department's eLearning staff training day, as well as externally at the Dublin Regional Higher Education Authority's eLearning Summer School. And Director of Access, Ann O'Brien delivered the paper 'Agents of Change: Making the Connections' at the Pathways to Education 2010 Conference at University College Cork.

*Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)*, the third level admissions scheme which broadens access opportunities for countrywide school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, extended from the 305 to all 730 secondary schools in Ireland. This expansion of the scheme, which was primarily reserved for students from DEIS schools, recognises that educational disadvantage affects a cross section of all communities and is not confined to clearly identifiable areas or regions.



Significant improvements have been made to the *Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) scheme*, a supplementary admissions initiative for school leavers with disabilities, through finance provided by the Government's Strategic Innovation Fund. As a result, DARE has a more streamlined application process through the CAO, and is more student friendly with transparent, robust criteria. The objective of the national launch last October was to raise awareness among students, schools and organisations and to ultimately encourage a greater number of applications. A dedicated website, [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie), containing full details of both the DARE and HEAR schemes has been developed to assist students in making their respective applications.

At the other end of the scale, NUI Maynooth hosted the graduation ceremony for the *Access21 2009 graduates* with President John Hughes congratulating them on achieving their certificates and emphasising the importance of graduates for the future of the Irish economy. This educational initiative, involving seven higher education institutions, aims to widen participation and promote lifelong learning across 14 counties in the border, midland, and western regions.

In September 2009, 83 incoming students under the guidance of 22 student leaders completed *Launchpad*, the residential orientation programme to help prepare students entering the University through the Maynooth Access Programme (MAP). The participants learned about the campus, struck up friendships, and worked on online video projects to explore the wide range of personal and academic skills required for student life.



The MAP website, [www.access.nuim.ie](http://www.access.nuim.ie), was redesigned this year with the expectations of visitors such as potential students, current staff and students, the sector, families and community groups foremost in mind. Improvements to the existing award-winning site include greater ease of access to interactive content such as YouTube, Flickr, Twitter and Delicious, and the integration of the student perspective through a new Access All Areas section to highlight their own success stories and to publish their reports from events or community outreach initiatives they take part in. The rationale is to provide a space where students can share their experiences and become role models for potential students who may not have thought that third level was an option for them.

## Enabling Learning

Recognising that the transition to University is a significant step with many new skills to be learned in order to be successful, a new learning initiative was made available this year to all students. This academic skills module, *Student+*, is designed to help participants become effective, confident, and independent learners who can manage their workload well, succeed in assessments and feel comfortable in the third level learning environment. The course, consisting of 20 weekly hour-long group classroom sessions with online activities and tutor support, covers topics such as academic conventions, study skills, writing techniques, using technology in learning, exam preparation, and different learning styles.

The online communication tools offer enormous potential to make this course interactive as opposed to a one-way transmission of information, and to encourage students to discuss their understanding of new materials which can uncover problem areas that need further explanation in the face-to-face context. More specifically, *Student+* is designed to develop digital literacy, promote online communication and collaboration as a valuable learning method, and reinforce material presented in the classroom while promoting personal exploration of that content. Students then create and share resources such as links, videos, wikis, tweets and more.

There was further integration of *assistive technology* into the mainstream through the addition of the 'ZoomText' screen magnification software for all public area computer rooms on campus, as well as upgrades of the existing site licences for 'TextHelp Read and Write Gold' that reads electronic text aloud and 'Inspiration', an educational mind mapping tool.

## Mature Students

The number of mature students entering NUI Maynooth increased by almost 14%, with 324 new undergraduates commencing degree studies in 2009, the majority of who attended the two-day Mature Student Orientation Programme. *Summer courses* for this incoming grouping also expanded this year through extra programmes and increased capacity. The four one-week essay writing courses gave over 150 students the opportunity to study critical writing techniques, while a new summer mathematics programme, established by the Mature Student Office in conjunction with the Mathematics Department, prepared 30 students in the fields of finance, economics, science and mathematics before commencing their first semester. These initiatives are allowing more students to engage early with the University, learn specific skills and most importantly gain insights into the academic requirements of third level study – all of which helps them in making the transition to full-time study and maximum participation.

The Mature Student Office reacted to the huge increase in the proportion of people directly affected by the economic downturn and consequently considering a return to education by running a series of eight daytime and evening *Information Sessions*. An average of 60 people who had lost jobs or were newly qualified apprentices with no work prospects took part in each meeting between October and March.

The popular and successful *Mature Student Peer Mentoring* programme continued this year with almost 75 volunteers from the University's mature student community mentoring the equivalent of first year mature students to support them in making the move to campus life.

←  
[Present at the Higher Education Access Route launch are \(l-r\): Fiona Sweeney, Access Officer UCD; Ann O'Brien, Director of Access NUI Maynooth; and Martha Brandes, Access Officer NUI Maynooth.](#)  
 ←←  
[Participating at the launch of the Higher Education Access Route are \(l-r\): Gary Gannon, 2nd Yr TCD student; President, Professor John Hughes; Grace Edge, Access Officer TCD; Maureen Dunne, IUA Access Project Manager; and Fiona Sweeney, Access Officer UCD.](#)



**Strategic Development**

Preparations for a major state-of-the-art *library extension* are ongoing, with plans for designated student spaces for social and silent study; reading rooms for groups, staff and postgraduates, and information skills training; more space for collections; and a café. The *NUI Maynooth Library Strategic Plan 2009–2011*, approved by the Academic Council and launched by the President, contains seven strategic goals which contribute to the University's many roles at local, regional, national and international levels and underpin a number of new activities and developments.

NUI Maynooth was the first university in Ireland to set up an institutional repository and over 1,700 publications are available on [www.eprints.nuim.ie](http://www.eprints.nuim.ie) which is managed by the Library. With the other Irish universities and the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) following suit, a national repository for the combined research output went live in June 2010. *RIAN* allows for simultaneous searching of research across all seven universities and the DIT and provides a worldwide gateway to that content.

**Exhibition Highlights**

The Library continued its strong tradition of creating and housing a variety of exhibitions. The annual *art exhibition* showcasing paintings and photography by university staff and students ran during Arts week in December 2009. The following month, another yearly occasion celebrated the output of the Faculty of Science and Engineering. This *publications festival* highlighted NUI Maynooth's many world-class innovations, research and publications in a range of areas of scientific and engineering interest. University colleagues, local politicians, community and school groups were in attendance.

The Russell Library exhibition, 'How we arrived at the Future: experiments, inventions and discoveries of the past' ran from *Science Week* in November until March and was featured in the *Liffey Champion*. Also centred on Science Week was the 'Women Scientist's Exhibition' and another dedicated period, *Seachtain na Gaeilge 2010*, was marked with 'An Leabhar Maisithe: decorated and illustrated Irish Books'.

Other highlights included 'The Many faces of Europe's Capitals' organised on behalf of the European Union to inform people of the richness and variety of the region's capital cities and the 'European Studies Opportunities Fair' hosted by the Library for the Centre for the Study of Wider Europe. An exhibition of correspondence from Seán O'Faolain to Munira H. Mutran, who received an honorary doctorate from NUI Maynooth in 2008, coincided with the International Association for the Study of Irish Literature (IASIL) Conference in July 2010.

**Main Collections**

Growth in both print and electronic collections continued, with the Library acquiring one of the largest and most comprehensive fulltext online historical archives, Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO), thanks to collaborative funding from a number of Departments. Covering arts, humanities, social science, science and technology and general reference publications printed in this period, with over 26 million pages of text from more than 136,000 titles, the ECCO database will enable researchers to study the Eighteenth Century afresh.

Sixteen of the University's Irish manuscripts are now accessible on the web and more will be digitised through the *Irish Script on Screen* (ISOS) initiative. The Russell Library is co-operating with An Foras Feasa and the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates on the *Morpeth Roll* project, involving the preservation and digitisation of a spectacular pre-famine paper roll from Castle Howard in Yorkshire, inscribed with c.250,000 Irish names.

The OPW-NUI Maynooth Archive and Research Centre at Castletown, jointly managed by the Library and the History Department, acquired the archive of *Stacumny Cottage* in April 2010. Through its letters, deeds, maps, account books, and photographs, the archive documents the history of the house located near Celbridge, County Kildare and the Wardell family who have lived there since 1874. It also records the social history of the area and its farming community during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and will make a very significant contribution to research at the University.

Forming the basis of her book *Outside the Glow: Protestants and Irishness in Independent Ireland*, Dr Heather Crawford made a presentation of the 97 archival interview recordings she used in her doctoral thesis to the Library.

**Library Services**

Over 900 people attended the Library Information Skills Training (LIST), a programme of short sessions on various library services offered in the early weeks of the first semester as well as throughout the academic year.

The Library played a very active role in the newly established generic skills for postgraduate programmes by running workshops on sourcing and managing information in the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities and on publishing in the sciences and engineering. Academic and support staff attended the launch of a range of online tutorials in April and were enthusiastic about incorporating the content, covering topics such as plagiarism, research methodologies and writing for publication, into their teaching practices.

New initiatives utilising Web 2.0 technologies, which complement the existing and more traditional library support services for students both on- and off campus, include an online chat service embedded in the library website where students can ask questions and get immediate answers. A blog by the Russell Library born in May 2010 is making images and details of the pre-1850 collection available worldwide, while the Library has also adopted Facebook and Twitter.

**External Contributions**

Library staff contributed to the national and international development of libraries by presenting conference papers, holding events and publishing throughout the year. A staff member won the 2009 All Ireland Society for Higher Education poster competition for her entry 'The Learning and Teaching Information Resources Toolkit', while two others received funding from the Academic and National Library Co-operative to conduct research which will be beneficial to all Irish university libraries. Three library information skills projects were highly commended in a national Information Literacy Award category which covered public, university and special libraries. They were: 'Designing and Delivering a Generic Skills Information Literacy Programme for the Faculty of Science and Engineering', 'Library Information Skills Training (LIST)', and 'Double Impact: Design and Delivery of an Accredited Module in Information Literacy Across two Campuses'.

A new partnership between the University Library and the Maynooth Post Primary Library has seen the former provide valuable advice and assistance to the school on the refurbishment of its facility, in the selection of library management systems, and on information literacy.



→ [An artist's impression of the new library extension.](#)

## 2.8 THE ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

2009–10 was the busiest year yet for reuniting NUI Maynooth alumni according to both discipline and location, from the arts to social science and from America to Asia. The Alumni Office also launched the 'Made in Maynooth' Alumni Hall of Fame to honour outstanding achievements from among the 50,000 plus who have graced the University's halls since 1966.

### Reunions

The *Alumni Geography Reunion* in April 2010 welcomed its cohort to get reacquainted and to listen to talks from former lecturers in topics such as climate change, a geographer's view of the current economic climate, the growth of the Geography Department and its renowned field trips. Also hosted at the University some months earlier, the *PhD History Reunion* gathered around 100 former students, current lecturers and a few retired staff.

A series of inaugural Alumni Reunions were staged in *New York, Boston and Beijing* over the past year. The trendy Elizabeth Restaurant in East Village was the scene for the first US occasion in October 2009. The graduates caught up over cocktail hour while President John Hughes shared exciting new developments at the University, before an enjoyable dinner in the Rose Garden. The venue the following February was Boston College Club where a similar formula proved to be a big success with the stateside students past. The Beijing reunion took place around the St Patrick's Day festivities and brought together 15 alumni for Sunday brunch at Nola's restaurant. Declan Kelleher, the Irish Ambassador to China and Michael Finneran TD also joined the group.

### Winding Back the Years

The third annual *Alumni Ball* was hosted by the Maynooth Alumni Association in June 2010 with over 150 guests in attendance. The black-tie celebration commenced with a champagne reception in the Cloisters and continued with a gala dinner in Pugin Hall, with music by the Irish Rat Pack who sang old favourites in keeping with the 'Winding Back the Years' event theme.

Two of the University's most luminous former students were honoured at the event on account of having excelled in their chosen careers and represented Ireland with distinction. Ireland's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, *Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason* received the *President's Alumni Award for 2010 in recognition of her significant achievements* for Ireland's agriculture and forestry industries and in driving the climate change agenda forward. She graduated from then St Patrick's College in 1980 with a BA in English and Irish and immediately completed an MA in English. She served as Director of the National Forum on Europe before her current post.

Described as one of Ireland's great political leaders and a 'trailblazer' for graduates, *Mary O'Rourke TD for Longford-Westmeath was the first person to be inducted into the 'Made in Maynooth' Alumni Hall of Fame*. From the first lay graduating class of St Patrick's College, completing a HDip in Education in 1967, she was first elected to Dáil Éireann in 1982 and went on to serve as Minister in the Education, Health, and Public Enterprise and Transport portfolios as well as Deputy Leader of Fianna Fáil.

←  
[Mary O'Rourke, TD,](#)  
is congratulated by  
[President Professor John](#)  
[Hughes as the inaugural](#)  
[alumnus of the 'Made in](#)  
[Maynooth' Hall of Fame.](#)

← ←  
[Her Excellency,](#)  
[Ambassador Geraldine](#)  
[Byrne Nason with](#)  
[her husband, His](#)  
[Excellency Brian Nason,](#)  
[Ambassador to Belgium.](#)

## 2.9 OIFIG NA GAELIGE AGUS OIFIG ACHT NA DTEANGACHA OIFIGIÚLA

D'éirigh le hOifigigh na Gaeilge tógáil ar an méid imeachtaí agus ranganna Gaeilge i mbliana agus suim san ábhar a choimead agus a mhúscailt i measc na foirne agus na mac léinn dúchasach agus eachtranach maraon. Soláthraíodh cabhair, eolas agus aistriúcháin do bhaill na hOllscoile. Aistríodh cáipéisí do Dhámh na nEalaíon, an Léinn Cheiltigh agus na Fealsúnachta agus chuir an Dámh féin aistriú comhuaineach ar fáil ag cruinnithe. Baineadh an-leas as Seomra na Gaeilge i mbliana, mar ionad caidrimh ag mic léinn agus baill foirne ar mian leo a gcuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh. Leanadh den nós eolas a scaipeadh tríd an ríomhphost ar imeachtaí Gaeilge san Ollscoil agus lasmuigh di, agus bhí freastal ar ócáidí dá réir.

### Scéim Teanga na hOllscoile faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla

Réitíodh an dara Scéim Teanga: faoin scéim tá méadú tagtha ar an méid cáipéisí agus seirbhísí i nGaeilge atá ar fáil. Chinntigh Oifigeach Acht na dTeangacha, Kate Fennell, go raibh scéim na hOllscoile á chur i bhfeidhm agus chabhraigh sí le haonaid agus le ranna a ndualgais faoin scéim a chomhlíonadh.

### Ranganna agus Ócáidí Gaeilge san Ollscoil

Bhí freastal maith ar na ranganna a cuireadh ar fáil do bhaill foirne na hOllscoile i mbliana. Is í Kate Fennell agus Ionad na dTeangacha a d'eagraigh na cúrsaí, le comhoibriú Oifig na Gaeilge. Reachtáileadh trí rang don fhoireann agus seisiúin chomhrá a bhí oscailte do chách. Baineadh an-leas as *Seomra na Gaeilge* i mbliana, do ghrúpaí cómhra, ranganna neamh-fhoirmiúla, cluichí Wii, cóisirí beaga, seisiúin cheoil agus amhránaíochta agus le feidhm a bhaint an áiseanna idirlín agus leictreonacha don Ghaeilge.

Bíonn imeachtaí áirithe níos súntasaí ná a chéile. Mar shampla, d'fhreastail os cionn céad ball den Ollscoil ar Chóisir na Nollag i mbliana.

Bhí dhá Sheachtain Gaeilge in OÉ Má Nuad i mbliana: an ceann náisiúnta ag tús mhí an Mhárta agus Seachtain Gaeilge na hOllscoile arna eagrú ag Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Cultúir Aontas na Mac Léinn, agus ag an gCuallacht ag deireadh na míosa. D'eagraigh na hOifigigh Ghaeilge ócáidí le Seachtain Náisiúnta na Gaeilge a chomóradh; oíche cheoil, bord Gaeilge i mBialann Pugin mar ar crochadh biachlár as Gaeilge gach lá; taispeántas leabhar i Leabharlann Eoin Pól 11; leabhair mhaisithe an téama a bhí leis agus ba iad Valerie Seymour agus Susan Durack a chuir le chéile é; rang spraoi, 'Amhráin, Beannachtaí, Mallachtaí', le Kate Fennell. Ghlac baill foirne agus go leor clubanna agus cumann páirt sna himeachtaí. Ar na himeachtaí a eagraíodh do Sheachtain Gaeilge na hOllscoile bhí: tráth na gceist; ceardlann ar chearta teanga le Conradh na Gaeilge; rang ceoil traidisiúnta; 'gumball na Gaeilge'; tóraíocht taisce; 'scóráil sciobtha'; díospóireacht agus 'Cainteán' – lón agus comhrá. Cuireadh clabhsúr ar an mbliain i mí Bealtaine le hoíche cheoil is amhránaíochta.



→  
[Mic Léinn ó OÉ Má Nuad i](#)  
[nGleann Cholm Cille.](#)



### **Modúl Matamaitice trí Ghaeilge**

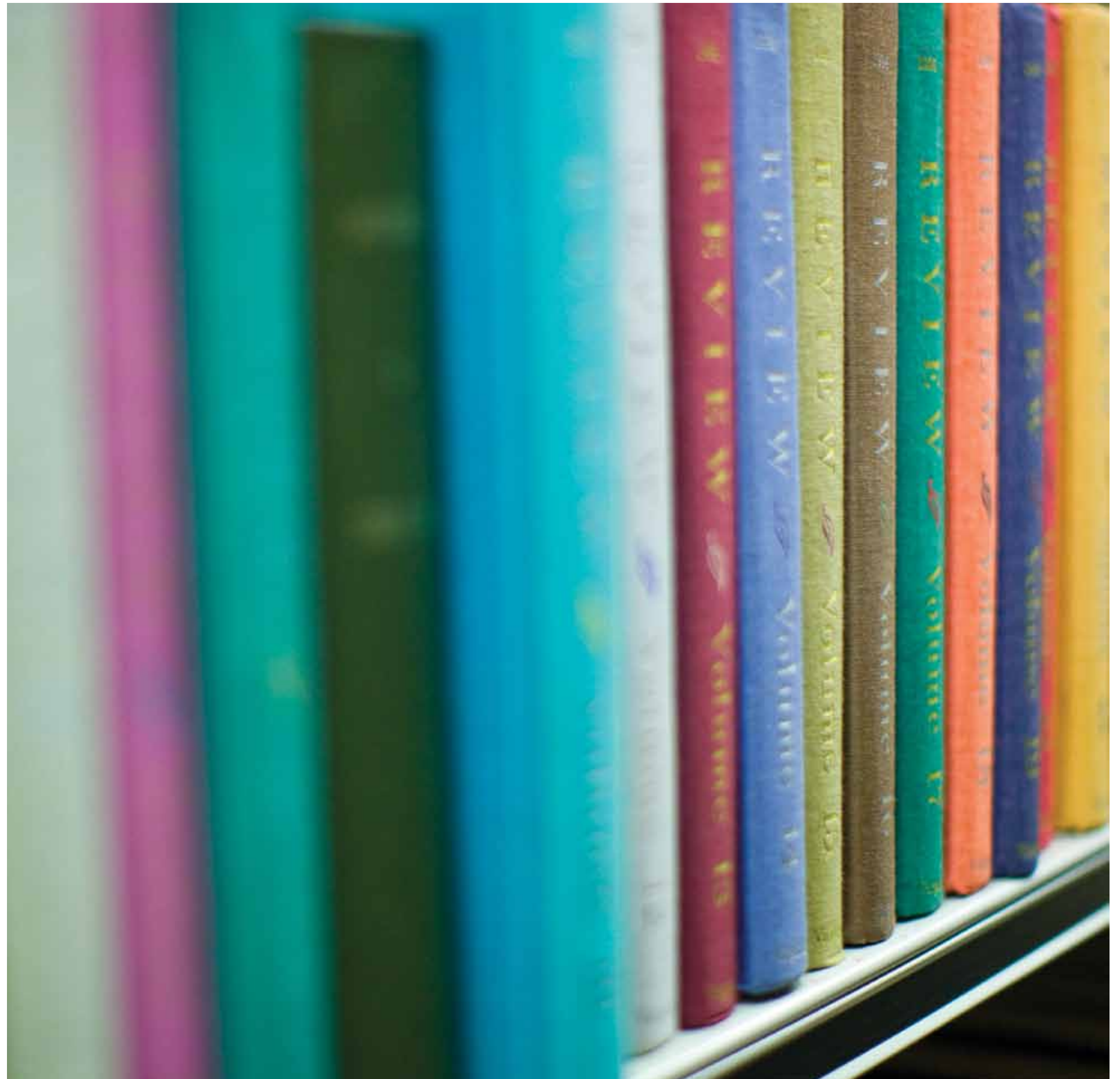
Thairg Roinn na Matamaitice an modúl MT480C, 'Codaigh agus Córais Dhinimiciúla Réadacha', mar mhodúl roghnach trí Ghaeilge do gach fochéimí i mbliain na céime. An tOllamh S. Ó Buachalla a mhúin an modúl seo, an ceathrú bhliain don Roinn modúl trí Ghaeilge a reachtáil le cabhair deontais ón HEA. Faoin Soláthar Speisialta don Ghaeilge a thugtar an deontas seo: tá Oifigeach na Gaeilge freagrach as tuairisc a thabhairt don HEA ar a ndéantar faoin scéim.

### **Teagmháil le Gaeltachtaí is le Saol na Gaeilge**

D'fhreastail na hOifigigh ar go leor imeachtaí arna n-eagrú ag na heagraíochtaí Gaeilge agus spreag siad baill na hOllscoile freastal orthu le tacú ó Oifig na Gaeilge.

Ar na himeachtaí bhí: Imram, mór-fhéile liteartha sa phríomh-chathair; Oireachtas na Gaeilge i Leitir Cheanaínn; Scoil Gheimhridh Mherriman sa Ghailimh agus Éigse na Brídeoige i nGaeltacht Uíbh Ráthach. Eagraíodh turas go dtí Ionad Ealaíon Solstice ar an Uaimh leis an stáitsiú a dhein an compántas drámaíochta 'Aisling Ghéar' ar An Béal Bocht a fheiscint. Thacaigh an Oifig le mic léinn ón gcúrsa Diplóma sa Ghaeilge le freastal ar chúrsa deireadh seachtaine i nGaeltacht na Rinne, Port Láirge. D'fhreastail scata mac léinn ar ghearr-chúrsa i nGaeltacht Ráth Chairn i mí na Nollag agus cuid mhór eile ar chúrsa deireadh seachtaine i nGaeltacht Ghleann Cholm Cille le hOideas Gael i mí Márta.

Bhí Siobhán Ní Fhoghlú, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, ina moltóir ar chomórtas liteartha de chuid Oireachtas na Gaeilge i mbliana – ábhar léitheoireachta d'fhoghlaimoirí fásta.







# 3 RESEARCH

## 3.1 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

2009 was a period of continued growth and increasing international impact on the research front at NUI Maynooth, while the strictures of the global and national economic downturn began to simultaneously take root. Direct outputs of research investment expanded with 76 PhD graduations last year, and an annual increase in the number of high quality publications and citations.

Overall externally funded research expenditure rose to €25.8 million in 2008-09, thus exceeding the target set in the University's Strategic Plan 2006-2011 two years ahead of schedule. Although research funding is a means to an end rather than a goal in itself, it is nevertheless a powerful proxy for activity without which internationally competitive research in many disciplines, especially in science and engineering, is simply impossible.

Along with the various positive indicators, funding for new awards for all national agencies was curtailed and those for NUI Maynooth researchers fell by over 60% in the wake of the national economic crisis. The impact of this will be felt from the end of 2010 with a notable reduction in research activity projected for 2011. Researchers' salaries were also cut by the Government along with those of other public servants in January 2010. The University has responded to this domestic dynamic by reinvigorating its approach to seeking funding from the EU and other international sources.

With its headline of 'the best brains in Europe solving tomorrow's problems today', the European Commission is endeavouring to ensure that its cleverest minds are connected and resourced to work together on the most serious challenges facing our society. In seeking to identify and tackle the latter through a variety of measures, the Commission takes a highly strategic approach to selecting and developing themes of research and development and facilitates networks of leading European researchers. It also aims to strengthen links between education, business, research and innovation. The European effort is presently prioritizing health and aging, climate change, and energy and resource efficiency among other topics, and some of NUI Maynooth's foremost researchers are making impressive contributions in these fields.

Dr Bernard Mahon of the Institute of Immunology is currently a Principal Investigator in 'Child Innovac', a consortium project pioneering a new vaccine for *whooping cough* which is due to enter clinical trials in late 2010. Co-ordinated by the French Institute of Health and Medical Research, the consortium comprises 10 entities, including two private companies and eight laboratories, from seven EU Member States. In recognition of his achievements and work in this regard, Dr Mahon was recently awarded the Prix de l'Institut Servier (see p.15).

In other notable successes this year, Dr Shirley O'Dea of the same Institute has secured approximately €1 million for an EU industry partnership programme for the development of *drug delivery mechanisms to the lungs* with Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and the Dolomite Centre Limited (UK). Similarly, Professor John Findlay has won over €645,000 for industry-collaborative work on *membrane proteins*, involving companies AF ChemPharm Limited (UK) and Dualsystems Biotech AG (Switzerland).

Bucking the national trend was an exceptional award of €3.8 million granted to the Innovation Value Institute (IVI) by Enterprise Ireland and the IDA in December 2009 to host an industry-led *Competence Centre in IT Innovation*. Following several years in development, the final signing of the contract was seen as a major milestone by the University community. This initiative is a crucial strategic plank of government policy to align academic expertise in support of an industry-inspired research agenda, because these strategic research alliances drive innovation and deliver a competitive advantage to Irish industry. IVI's objective is to develop and test new frameworks to better realise the business value of IT investments, and the Competence Centre will underpin it for the next five years and assist it in firmly establishing Ireland as the international leader in this rapidly developing space. Initiated as a joint venture between *Intel, NUI Maynooth and the Boston Consulting Group*, IVI now has over 30 industry partners and five blue-chip patron members engaged in its development, including *Ernst & Young, Microsoft and BP* as well as new members *Cisco and the US Air Force*. Companies which it has recently recruited include *Deutsche Post, State Street, SAP and Beaumont Hospital*, one of Ireland's largest public sector institutions.



In 2010, NUI Maynooth established an expanded research institute, the *Callan Institute*, which builds on the successes of the previous Institute for Microelectronics and Wireless Systems as well as bringing in a number of new research areas. Comprising over forty researchers the reconfigured facility carries out applied research in the application of computer and communications technology, and centralises expertise in wireless communications, data mining and knowledge extraction, image and video signal processing, cognition and intelligent systems. While the Institute continues to develop its strengths in these individual areas, it has an initial focus on exploring the convergence of these technologies, particularly within the urban environment.

#### PRTL Cycle 5

In July 2010 it was announced that NUI Maynooth was successful in securing €10.2 million in exchequer funding for seven research projects under Cycle 5 of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL), which is the basis of national research capacity building for both new facilities and graduate education.

IVI was guaranteed €1.2 million in funding by way of a contribution towards a *new research space* to house up to 35 industry and academic researchers in the development of IT frameworks. It builds on the afore-mentioned award in support of the Competence Centre in IT Innovation.

The Hamilton Institute, one of the Ireland's leading centres of excellence in applied mathematics, along with the Callan Institute for applied ICT received a total of €5.2 million. Improvements in the University's *ICT research infrastructure* will be financed by €4.5 million in capital funding and will facilitate research in the areas of high speed telecommunications, wireless systems, and breakthroughs in bottleneck mathematical issues relating to networked systems. In addition, the two Institutes have been pledged €740,000 as partners in a national telecommunications graduate education drive.

€1.6 million has been obtained by bioscience and chemistry researchers towards establishing a *structured PhD programme in Bio-Analysis and Therapeutics* in collaboration with Dublin City University (DCU), the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and the Institute of Technology, Tallaght. This significant undertaking will encompass researchers from the Institute of Immunology and the new institute in the area of Chemical Biology to bring together the excellent basic biomedical research at NUI Maynooth, the technological and bioscience expertise at DCU and the clinical capability of RCSI, to focus on education towards the translation of biomedical research to the clinic and the marketplace.

The humanities and social sciences at NUI Maynooth also featured among the worthy recipients, with €2.2 million directed at two projects of international note. An Foras Feasa, the Institute for Research in Irish Historical and Cultural Traditions, was granted funding for its part in a *structured PhD programme in Digital Arts and Humanities*, in association with TCD, University College Cork (UCC), NUI Galway and the Royal Irish Academy (RIA). This globally innovative offering will integrate advanced research in the application of new media and computer technologies within a structured arts and humanities degree and provide new professional opportunities for its graduates. A research collaboration between An Foras Feasa and NIRSA, partnering with the NUI Maynooth Library, will develop a *national audio-visual repository* in conjunction with the RIA, TCD, NUI Galway and the Dublin Institute of Technology. The consortium will build a robust, scalable, accessible and sustainable trusted digital repository and access repository for the humanities and qualitative social sciences. The University is also a stakeholder in the *SmartBay marine research* project led by DCU which has secured overall funding of €3.2 million.

The Commercialisation Office reaped the rewards of its efforts in transforming academic excellence in research to market-leading products with two companies being spun out of the University over the past academic year. The other metrics were equally impressive, namely the signing of nine license deals, filing of seven patents, conclusion of over 14 industrial collaborations and securing of €600,000 in commercialisation funds.

## 3.2 COMMERCIALISATION PURSUITS

#### Ones to Watch

*iGeotech Limited*, complete with business partner/investor, was spun out of the University in late 2009 to deliver a product based on synchronising GPS and video in a cheap and portable way. With its first products going to market in August 2010, the invention consists of a hardware encoder (plug and play) and software for viewing the end result.

To address the declining health and very high mortality rates of the world's bee population, Dr Kevin Kavanagh from the Fungal Biology research group is pioneering a breakthrough in the prevention and treatment of widespread bee diseases. With an estimated €160 billion contributed to the global economy by honeybees through honey production and crop pollination, *Beemune Limited* is commercialising a set of proprietary agents to augment bee health and hive strength and to ultimately stem the common occurrence of Colony Collapse Disorder.

Another potential commercial product close to fruition is a very low powered, wireless *security camera* for remote surveillance where there is no available power. With funding secured in July, discussions are in progress with several potential business partners and market players.

An additional company to be formed this year enables the remote *health monitoring of high value animals*, meeting a strong need determined by market research. Business partners have been identified and testing is due to start in October with opportunities for further product development down the line.

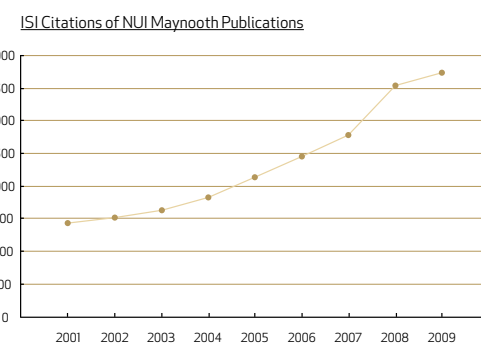
#### Winning Formulas

Several other projects were initiated as a result of funding opportunities through Enterprise Ireland, including the development of a revolutionary treatment for Tinnitus (commonly known as 'ringing in the ears') and the continued generation of small molecules for Diabetes 2. The device for the remediation of this former incurable chronic condition is being used to retrain the brain thanks to the University's expertise in complex systems and neuroscience. Dr Ross O'Neill, a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Hamilton Institute who is leading the research group, was the winner of the *Enterprise Ireland 'One to Watch' Award 2010*. This recognition was revealed by Conor Lenihan TD, Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation at the Applied Research Forum in front of 250 academic researchers. Dr O'Neill is collaborating with Brendan Conlon, a surgical Ear Nose and Throat consultant at St James' Hospital, and other clinicians and industry experts to commercialise the technology called '*MuteButton*' in order to help the millions of tinnitus sufferers (estimated to be 1 in 7 people).

Also in award-winning form in the 2009 *Enterprise Ireland Lifescience and Food Commercialisation* category was Professor John Lowry, Head of the Chemistry Department. The prestigious prize, also presented by Minister Lenihan at the Enterprise Ireland Big Ideas Showcase in Croke Park, was an endorsement of his transferring a decade's academic work in sensor technology to commercial reality through BlueBox Sensors. The company spun out from the University in July 2009 and formally launched in the US marketplace three months later.

Sponsored by steadfast supporters Bank of Ireland Maynooth and McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors, 19 teams from undergraduate and postgraduate programmes with as many different business ideas battled through three tough rounds to reach the final of the NUI Maynooth *Student Entrepreneur Competition*. Participants received valuable coaching in pitching techniques, communication and basic business skills before the friendly dragons chose the winner based on each idea's viability.

First place and €6,000 went to *Bespoke Mobile Suits* and its instigator, Fintan Lawlor, who will provide a mobile tailoring service to busy executives (the company was formally established in June 2010). MsSolutions presented by Eileen Clifford, Ursula Carragher and John Doyle came second with €3,000 prize-money; DealCube and ElectR Cycle proposed by Andrew Thompson and James Dowling, and Patrick McElhinney respectively were joint third and received €500 each.



←  
[Winner of the Enterprise Ireland Lifescience and Food Commercialisation Award Professor John Lowry, Head of the Department of Chemistry and Conor Lenihan, TD, Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation.](#)  
 →  
[Launching Beemune Ltd. are \(l-r\): President, Professor John Hughes; Mary Coughlan TD, Tánaiste; and Dr Kevin Kavanagh, Department of Biology, NUI Maynooth.](#)





## Profile

### **Carson Farmer**

National Centre for Geocomputation



Carson Farmer came to NUI Maynooth from Canada in September 2008, specifically to conduct his PhD at the National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG). Funded by the ISSP and SFI, Carson is embracing opportunities to publish his research outputs as peer-reviewed journal articles or at conferences, help on department and group-based research projects, and create and maintain linkages with the university community as well as wider academic and non-academic groupings.

His BSc honours degree in Geography from the University of Victoria focused on GIS and spatial statistics and led to an MSc on spatial-temporal analysis methods in general and on aspects of snow water equivalence in particular. Carson reveals that he would most likely be doing the same things he does at work on his own for fun so appreciates an environment with others interested in similar topics. 'I also get to pick my own research topics, choose my own schedule to an extent, and work with top notch researchers in my own and related fields day in day out. However, with these freedoms comes an expectation that I live up to this high level of research quality, which is certainly no easy task!'

Having said that, he recalls his first day on campus – and the NCG's annual Athletics Day – as the moment he knew he had chosen the right place for his PhD. 'While expecting postgraduate versus faculty softball and the like, what I witnessed instead was the head of the NCG (my new supervisor) and his NIRSA equivalent engaged in a sumo wrestling fight complete with giant rubber suits and a crowd of cheering researchers and support staff. It certainly left an impression!'

Carson has since immersed himself fully in University life. He participated as a Graduate Feedback Council member, liaising between his Department and Graduate Studies and attending meetings about graduate student funding, facilities, and experiences. He also helped to organise several events and participated in this year's Galway Cycle. In terms of extracurricular teaching activities, Carson is busy developing courses with some UK colleges that introduce open-source software for geospatial research. The goal is to convince researchers of the potential benefits of switching to open-source software, and to facilitate incorporating it into their current work-flow. 'For a lot of researchers, the open-source model works really well (particularly with tighter budgets), and I like the fact that we can show people that it's possible to do a lot of their analyses 100% cheaper, and just as easily. Three successful master classes have been held to date with a more substantial three-day workshop scheduled for September in Italy.'

Along with staging these educational events, the main aims for Carson in 2010 are to finish phases one and two of his thesis, issue at least two peer-reviewed journal publications, and if possible, present some initial findings at one or two conferences.





# 4 GOVERNING AUTHORITY



**Members of Governing Authority by Panel 2005-2010**

Pictured left to right:

**Chairman**

Mr Dan Flinter

**Ex Officio**

Professor John G. Hughes

Dr David Redmond

Mr Mike O'Malley

**Members of academic staff who are Professors or Associate Professors**

Professor Daniel M. Heffernan

Professor Anne Ryan

**Permanent or full-time members of academic staff other than Professors or Associate Professors**

Dr Deirdre Kirke

Ms Anastasia Crickley

Dr Joseph Timoney (not pictured)

Dr Richard Watson (not pictured)

**Permanent or full-time employees of the University who are not academic staff**

Mr Jim Keenan

Ms Paula Murray

**Elected officers of the Students' Union**

Mr Aengus Ó Maoláin

Ms Liz Murray

**Postgraduate student**

Mr Ciarán Reilly (not pictured)

**IBEC**

Ms Noreen Deegan (not pictured)

**ICTU**

Ms Annette Kennedy

**Nominees of the Trustees of St Patrick's College**

Reverend Professor Hugh Connolly

An tOllamh Próinséas Ní Chatháin

Vacant

**Graduates of the University**

Ms Ann Marie Brennan (not pictured)

Mr Anthony Jordan (not pictured)

**Nominees of NUI Senate**

Professor Ann Burnell (not pictured)

Professor Jim Walsh

**Minister's Nominees**

Professor John Coolahan (not pictured)

Ms Siobhan Corry

**Other External Members**

Mr Peter Cassells

Mr Richard George

Ms Anne Heraty (not pictured)

Vacant



# 5

## FINANCE, STATISTICS & SPONSORS

### 5.1 INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

|                                       | 2008/09<br>€      | 2007/08<br>€      |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                         |                   |                   |
| State Grants                          | 33,762,273        | 33,715,833        |
| Student Fees                          | 35,570,040        | 31,424,753        |
| Other Income                          | 3,256,050         | 3,724,183         |
|                                       | <b>72,588,363</b> | <b>68,864,769</b> |
| Research Grants and Projects          | 25,914,045        | 22,076,557        |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>98,502,408</b> | <b>90,941,356</b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                    |                   |                   |
| Academic Faculties and Departments    | 40,626,033        | 37,679,725        |
| Academic and Other Services           | 6,250,256         | 6,250,613         |
| Premises                              | 8,636,944         | 8,929,858         |
| Amount Allocated for Capitol Purposes | 1,232,802         | 1,626,879         |
| Central Administration and Services   | 6,709,096         | 6,275,958         |
| General Educational Expenditure       | 3,726,374         | 4,214,487         |
| Student Services                      | 3,101,368         | 2,903,373         |
| Miscellaneous Expenditure             | 916,522           | 802,106           |
|                                       | <b>71,199,395</b> | <b>68,682,999</b> |
| Research Grants and Projects          | 25,914,045        | 22,076,557        |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>97,113,440</b> | <b>90,759,556</b> |



| Students by Course & Year                       | 2009/10 | 2008/9 | 2007/8 | 2006/7 | 2005/6 | 2004/5 | 2003/4 | 2002/3 | 2001/2 |
|---|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>Degree Courses</b>                           |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Postgraduates in Arts+                          | 371     | 693    | 570    | 633    | 593    | 557    | 574    | 524    | 425    |
| Postgraduates in Social Science+                | 472     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Postgraduates in Science                        | 276     | 248    | 190    | 190    | 183    | 177    | 176    | 164    | 115    |
| Postgraduates in Engineering                    | 84      | 49     | 51     | 42     | 34     | 27     | 22     | 14     | 9      |
| MSc Software Engineering*                       | 16      | 11     | 16     | 19     | 18     | 12     | 25     | 19     | 13     |
| 4th Year Science                                | 85      | 99     | 90     | 103    | 84     | 95     | 107    | 138    | 138    |
| 3rd Year Science                                | 73      | 73     | 101    | 76     | 98     | 85     | 93     | 137    | 180    |
| 2nd Year Science                                | 91      | 79     | 76     | 119    | 89     | 102    | 93     | 98     | 144    |
| 1st Year Science                                | 127     | 117    | 109    | 104    | 132    | 107    | 110    | 118    | 116    |
| 4th Year Theoretical Physics & Computer Science | 0       | 1      | 1      | 1      | 5      | 5      |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year Theoretical Physics & Computer Science | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 1      | 5      | 8      |        |        |
| 2nd Year Theoretical Physics & Computer Science | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 1      | 1      | 6      | 9      |        |
| 1st Year Theoretical Physics & Computer Science | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 3      | 2      | 6      | 10     |
| 3rd Year Theoretical Physics & Mathematics      | 8       | 2      | 2      | 4      | 3      | 2      | 1      | 1      | 2      |
| 2nd Year Theoretical Physics & Mathematics      | 8       | 6      | 2      | 3      | 5      | 4      | 2      | 1      | 1      |
| 1st Year Theoretical Physics & Mathematics      | 7       | 7      | 7      | 2      | 3      | 6      | 4      | 2      | 1      |
| 4th Year Software Engineering                   | 20      | 18     | 20     | 27     | 37     | 47     | 46     | 64     | 28     |
| 3rd Year Software Engineering                   | 28      | 17     | 17     | 18     | 18     | 33     | 58     | 52     | 70     |
| 2nd Year Software Engineering                   | 24      | 30     | 20     | 18     | 20     | 21     | 31     | 73     | 77     |
| 1st Year Software Engineering                   | 33      | 22     | 26     | 26     | 26     | 35     | 28     | 34     | 77     |
| 4th Year Physics with Astrophysics              | 6       | 8      | 12     | 8      | 8      | 5      |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year Physics with Astrophysics              | 6       | 7      | 12     | 14     | 13     | 8      | 6      |        |        |
| 2nd Year Physics with Astrophysics              | 12      | 11     | 5      | 12     | 15     | 16     | 11     | 6      |        |
| 1st Year Physics with Astrophysics              | 12      | 10     | 12     | 4      | 13     | 15     | 17     | 11     | 7      |
| 4th Year Computational Biology & Bioinformatics | 4       | 2      | 4      | 5      | 9      | 15     |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year Computational Biology & Bioinformatics | 4       | 4      | 2      | 3      | 6      | 11     | 15     |        |        |
| 2nd Year Computational Biology & Bioinformatics | 5       | 6      | 4      | 4      | 3      | 6      | 13     | 15     |        |
| 1st Year Computational Biology & Bioinformatics | 11      | 9      | 8      | 4      | 4      | 3      | 5      | 14     | 18     |
| 4th Year Biotechnology                          | 13      | 17     | 15     | 12     | 10     | 15     | 21     | 16     | 23     |
| 3rd Year Biotechnology                          | 6       | 14     | 17     | 15     | 13     | 11     | 15     | 22     | 17     |
| 2nd Year Biotechnology                          | 7       | 9      | 14     | 19     | 22     | 16     | 14     | 18     | 26     |
| 1st Year Biotechnology                          | 15      | 12     | 24     | 20     | 22     | 27     | 21     | 22     | 17     |
| 4th Year Biological Sciences                    | 48      | 41     | 41     | 25     | 38     |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year Biological Sciences                    | 57      | 50     | 41     | 41     | 26     | 38     |        |        |        |

| Students by Course & Year                        | 2009/10 | 2008/9 | 2007/8 | 2006/7 | 2005/6 | 2004/5 | 2003/4 | 2002/3 | 2001/2 |
|--|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 2nd Year Biological Sciences                     | 63      | 63     | 57     | 45     | 44     | 33     | 40     |        |        |
| 1st Year Biological Sciences                     | 68      | 61     | 72     | 60     | 46     | 50     | 36     | 38     |        |
| 4th Year Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Chemistry | 12      | 18     | 17     | 7      |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Chemistry | 13      | 12     | 19     | 18     | 7      |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd Year Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Chemistry | 9       | 12     | 11     | 19     | 19     | 15     |        |        |        |
| 1st Year Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Chemistry | 12      | 9      | 11     | 10     | 20     | 15     | 16     |        |        |
| 2nd Year BSc Multimedia                          | 5       |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 1st Year BSc Multimedia                          | 13      | 10     | 1      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 4th Year Psychology through Science              | 17      | 22     | 12     | 18     |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year Psychology through Science              | 18      | 17     | 21     | 12     | 18     |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd Year Psychology through Science              | 20      | 19     | 21     | 20     | 16     | 18     |        |        |        |
| 1st Year Psychology through Science              | 19      | 20     | 20     | 23     | 20     | 18     | 19     |        |        |
| 4th Year Engineering                             | 24      | 20     | 18     | 17     | 19     | 20     | 25     |        |        |
| 3rd Year Engineering                             | 28      | 19     | 19     | 19     | 19     | 19     | 23     | 24     |        |
| 2nd Year Engineering                             | 14      | 25     | 19     | 17     | 17     | 21     | 20     | 28     | 28     |
| 1st Year Engineering                             | 14      | 11     | 24     | 33     | 22     | 19     | 18     | 23     | 28     |
| 3rd Year Product Design                          | 10      |        |        | 12     | 15     |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd Year Product Design                          | 18      | 10     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 1st Year Product Design                          | 25      | 21     | 12     |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd Year Science Education                       | 30      |        |        | 3      | 6      |        |        |        |        |
| 1st Year Science Education                       | 29      | 32     |        | 4      | 3      |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd BA Anthropology International                | 1       |        |        | 4      | 4      |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd BA Anthropology                              | 8       |        |        | 12     | 10     |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd BA Anthropology                              | 16      | 14     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 1st BA Anthropology                              | 21      | 19     | 18     |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year Arts                                    | 634     | 602    | 615    | 597    | 630    | 622    | 607    | 594    | 535    |
| 2nd Year Arts                                    | 874     | 734    | 688    | 728    | 745    | 733    | 695    | 674    | 625    |
| 1st Year Arts                                    | 878     | 985    | 858    | 809    | 835    | 827    | 850    | 822    | 847    |
| 3rd Year Art Single Honours                      | 30      | 12     | 45     | 37     | 39     | 36     | 45     | 34     | 34     |
| 2nd Year Art Single Honours                      | 0       | 18     | 10     | 28     | 28     | 35     | 30     | 36     | 33     |
| 4th Year BA International                        | 43      | 33     | 36     | 44     | 25     | 13     | 16     | 15     |        |
| 3rd Year BA International                        | 23      | 42     | 31     | 40     | 43     | 27     | 17     | 16     | 15     |
| 2nd Year BA English                              | 18      |        |        | 19     | 19     |        |        |        |        |
| 1st Year BA English                              | 21      | 21     |        | 10     | 20     |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd Year BA History                              | 15      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 1st Year BA History                              | 25      | 16     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd Year Law & Arts                              | 26      |        |        | 18     |        |        |        |        |        |
| 1st Year Law & Arts                              | 22      | 30     |        | 12     | 18     |        |        |        |        |
| 1st Year Business and Accounting                 | 44      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd Year Business and Law                        | 15      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 1st Year Business & Law                          | 19      | 16     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year Business Management International       | 1       |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year Business Management                     | 51      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd Year Business Management                     | 55      | 56     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 1st Year Business Management                     | 37      | 56     | 57     |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year BBA Equine Business                     | 2       |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |

| Students by Course & Year                      | 2009/10 | 2008/9 | 2007/8 | 2006/7 | 2005/6 | 2004/5 | 2003/4 | 2002/3 | 2001/2 |
|--|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 3rd Year Equine Business                       | 10      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd Year Equine Business                       | 21      | 13     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 1st Year Equine Business                       | 18      | 26     | 19     |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 4th Year BA Finance International              | 2       | 0      | 2      | 3      |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year BA Finance International              | 0       | 3      | 0      | 2      | 3      |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year BA Finance                            | 41      | 41     | 45     | 59     | 116    | 121    | 93     | 96     | 101    |
| 2nd Year BA Finance                            | 38      | 44     | 46     | 43     | 78     | 112    | 111    | 96     | 99     |
| 1st Year BA Finance                            | 60      | 58     | 53     | 67     | 73     | 104    | 127    | 124    | 119    |
| 4th Year BA Finance & Accounting International | 1       |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year BA Finance & Accounting International | 2       |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year Finance & Accounting                  | 84      | 93     | 58     |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd Year Finance & Accounting                  | 77      | 89     | 94     | 63     |        |        |        |        |        |
| 1st Year Finance & Accounting                  | 71      | 81     | 96     | 80     | 54     |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year Finance Accelerated                   | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 1      |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year BA Music                              | 32      | 33     | 27     | 35     | 26     | 35     | 31     | 29     | 27     |
| 2nd Year BA Music                              | 33      | 35     | 31     | 29     | 37     | 31     | 33     | 35     | 26     |
| 1st Year BA Music                              | 25      | 36     | 36     | 27     | 26     | 37     | 41     | 41     | 34     |
| 4th Year BA Music International                | 0       | 0      | 3      | 3      |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year BA Music International                | 1       | 1      | 0      | 2      |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year Music Technology                      | 27      | 27     | 27     |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd Year Music Technology                      | 36      | 42     | 32     | 32     |        |        |        |        |        |
| 1st Year Music Technology                      | 47      | 41     | 45     | 39     | 39     |        |        |        |        |
| 4th Year BA Music Technology International     | 3       | 3      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year BA Music Technology International     | 6       | 3      | 3      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 4th Year European Studies                      | 4       | 6      | 14     | 11     |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year European Studies                      | 16      | 5      | 8      | 16     | 8      |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd Year European Studies                      | 11      | 17     | 10     | 13     | 16     | 14     |        |        |        |
| 1st Year European Studies                      | 21      | 17     | 24     | 22     | 20     | 22     | 19     |        |        |
| 4th Year Finance & Venture Management          | 15      | 21     | 15     |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year Finance & Venture Management          | 13      | 14     | 19     | 22     |        |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd Year Finance & Venture Management          | 13      | 11     | 18     | 21     | 25     |        |        |        |        |
| 1st Year Finance & Venture Management          | 0       | 19     | 16     | 20     | 28     | 29     |        |        |        |
| 1st Year BBS Venture Management                | 41      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 4th Year French & Historical Studies           | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 1      | 2      |        |
| 3rd Year French & Historical Studies           | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 1      | 2      |
| 2nd Year French & Historical Studies           | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 1      | 0      | 0      | 2      |
| 1st Year French & Historical Studies           | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 2      | 0      |
| 4th Year German & Historical Studies           | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 2      | 0      | 6      | 0      |
| 3rd Year German & Historical Studies           | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 2      | 0      | 6      |
| 2nd Year German & Historical Studies           | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 1      | 1      | 0      |
| 1st Year German & Historical Studies           | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 3      | 2      |
| 2nd Year BA Geography                          | 26      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3rd Year BA Mathematics                        | 3       | 2      | 6      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 2nd Year BA Mathematics                        | 0       | 4      | 4      | 6      |        |        |        |        |        |
| 1st Year BA Mathematics                        | 6       | 0      | 3      | 4      | 10     |        |        |        |        |
| 4th Year BA Maths International                | 0       | 1      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |

| Students by Course & Year                | 2009/10     | 2008/9      | 2007/8      | 2006/7      | 2005/6      | 2004/5      | 2003/4      | 2002/3      | 2001/2      |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 3rd Year Media Studies                   | 30          | 32          | 31          | 30          | 38          |             |             |             |             |
| 2nd Year Media Studies                   | 28          | 36          | 34          | 34          | 35          | 39          |             |             |             |
| 1st Year Media Studies                   | 45          | 35          | 38          | 37          | 38          | 40          | 42          |             |             |
| 4th Year BA Media Studies International  | 1           | 2           | 4           |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| 3rd Year BA Media Studies International  | 2           | 1           | 1           |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| 3rd Year BA Multimedia                   | 11          |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| 2nd Year BA Multimedia                   | 11          | 12          |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| 1st Year BA Multimedia                   | 22          | 15          | 15          |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| 3rd Year BA Politics                     | 12          |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| 2nd Year BA Politics                     | 20          | 14          |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| 1st Year BA Politics                     | 25          | 26          | 22          |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| 3rd Year Psychology                      | 49          | 55          | 57          | 38          | 34          | 35          | 36          | 31          |             |
| 2nd Year Psychology                      | 56          | 53          | 54          | 57          | 36          | 35          | 38          | 37          | 34          |
| 1st Year Psychology                      | 24          | 26          | 25          | 21          | 23          | 21          | 25          | 23          | 20          |
| Applied Social Studies                   | 18          | 43          | 14          | 18          | 22          | 0           | 34          | 0           | 46          |
| 3rd Year Social Science                  | 51          | 41          | 33          | 38          | 43          | 27          |             |             |             |
| 2nd Year Social Science                  | 57          | 49          | 43          | 34          | 40          | 45          | 30          |             |             |
| 1st Year Social Science                  | 56          | 65          | 60          | 50          | 36          | 45          | 44          | 35          |             |
| 4th Year BA Social Science International | 0           | 1           |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| 3rd Year BA Social Science International | 0           | 0           | 1           |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>6591</b> | <b>6016</b> | <b>5407</b> | <b>5148</b> | <b>5069</b> | <b>4826</b> | <b>4689</b> | <b>4444</b> | <b>4177</b> |

#### Diploma Courses

|  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Ard Diploma san Aistriuchan                                | 24  | 34  | 34  | 19  |     |     |     |     |     |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Adult & Community Education        | 30  | 23  | 23  | 22  | 22  | 24  | 20  | 26  | 27  |
| H Diploma in Applied Physics*                              | 2   | 2   | 4   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 4   | 12  | 20  |
| H Diploma in Arts (Adult Guidance & Counselling)           | 22  | 22  | 19  | 14  | 20  | 18  | 12  | 9   | 10  |
| H Diploma in Arts (Applications of I.C.T. in Education)    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 33  |
| (Kilkenny & Maynooth)                                      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| H Diploma in Anthropology                                  | 2   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 5   |
| H Diploma in Arts (Civic, Social & Political Education)    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 9   |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Community Work                     | 0   | 26  | 27  | 41  | 26  | 22  | 18  | 16  | 12  |
| H Diploma in Arts (Cultural Tourism)*                      | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| H Diploma in Arts (Finance)                                | 13  | 7   | 6   | 8   | 6   | 12  | 10  | 11  | 10  |
| H Diploma in Arts (Remote Sensing)                         | 0   | 0   | 17  | 16  | 15  | 14  | 19  | 0   | 19  |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (School Guidance Counselling) | 22  | 17  | 25  | 21  | 23  | 20  | 22  | 23  | 23  |
| H Diploma in Economic Science                              | 3   | 2   | 3   | 1   | 3   | 6   | 3   | 4   | 1   |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Education                          | 148 | 159 | 151 | 141 | 170 | 160 | 161 | 156 | 160 |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Management             | 19  | 21  | 26  | 21  | 25  | 28  | 31  | 31  | 28  |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership             | 126 | 143 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Electronic Engineering             | 16  | 6   | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| H Diploma in Information Technology*                       | 37  | 6   | 5   | 6   | 6   | 10  | 9   | 16  | 55  |
| H Diploma in Innovative Teaching & Learning                | 18  | 0   | 0   | 5   | 20  |     |     |     |     |
| H Diploma in Irish History                                 | 9   | 11  | 13  | 17  | 13  | 13  | 17  | 19  | 7   |
| H Diploma in Mathematics                                   | 5   | 4   | 1   | 3   | 3   | 1   | 1   | 6   | 5   |



| Students by Course & Year                              | 2009/10     | 2008/9      | 2007/8      | 2006/7      | 2005/6      | 2004/5      | 2003/4      | 2002/3      | 2001/2      |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| H Diploma in Mathematical Science                      | 3           | 2           | 2           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 0           | 3           | 0           |
| H Diploma in Mathematical Studies                      | 9           | 1           | 3           |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Music Technology               | 3           | 7           | 3           | 3           | 2           | 0           | 5           | 0           | 2           |
| H Diploma in Philosophy                                | 19          | 9           | 12          | 11          | 10          | 12          | 8           |             |             |
| H Diploma in Software Engineering                      | 2           | 0           | 1           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 4           |
| H Diploma in Science (Computer Science)                | 4           |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| H Diploma in Statistics                                | 5           | 0           | 3           | 3           | 2           | 1           | 1           | 5           | 1           |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education               | 21          | 31          | 21          |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Diploma in Arts (Adult Guidance & Counselling)         | 7           | 3           | 15          | 21          | 14          | 16          | 25          | 26          | 26          |
| Diploma in Arts (Drama & Theatre Studies)              | 9           | 21          | 27          | 29          | 30          | 29          | 35          | 35          | 21          |
| Diploma in Addiction Studies                           | 0           | 29          | 46          |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Diploma in Church Music                                | 7           | 10          | 12          | 6           | 7           | 9           | 11          | 0           | 6           |
| Diploma in Community & Youth Work                      | 64          | 74          | 68          | 52          | 52          | 37          | 42          | 39          | 42          |
| Diploma in Continuing Education                        | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 41          | 23          |
| Diploma in Local History                               | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Diploma in Mediation & Conflict Resolution             | 20          | 13          |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Diploma in Philosophy                                  | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 1           | 7           | 7           |
| Diploma in Rural Development                           | 0           | 0           | 7           | 11          | 18          | 22          | 10          | 18          | 19          |
| Diploma sa Ghaeilge                                    | 50          | 53          | 44          | 24          | 38          | 25          | 8           |             |             |
| Postgraduate Certificate in Anthropology               | 3           | 2           | 7           | 1           | 8           |             |             |             |             |
| Professional Certificate in Teaching & Learning        | 0           | 19          | 19          |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Certificate in Sociological Teaching & Learning        | 0           | 0           | 11          |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Certificate in Adult Guidance Training of Trainers     | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 17          | 0           | 14          | 20          |
| Certificate in Culture & Society                       | 8           |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Certificate in People, Places & Heritage               | 2           |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Certificate in Science                                 | 9           | 17          | 9           | 6           | 12          | 12          | 25          | 12          |             |
| Certificate in Engineering                             | 8           | 7           | 7           | 5           | 10          | 3           |             |             |             |
| Certificate in Economics, Finance & Venture Management | 15          | 7           | 6           | 5           | 2           |             |             |             |             |
| International Foundation Certificate                   | 8           | 5           | 7           | 3           | 2           |             |             |             |             |
| Distance Education Degree                              | 45          | 73          | 124         | 118         | 117         | 124         | 133         | 131         | 121         |
| Distance Education Postgraduate Degree                 | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 19          |             |
| Degree Extension for Engineers (DEFT)                  | 10          | 15          | 15          | 21          | 17          | 12          | 9           |             |             |
| Erasmus Exchange Programme Abroad                      | 52          | 55          | 44          | 63          | 54          | 30          | 25          | 26          | 35          |
| Erasmus Exchange Programme Visiting                    | 149         | 198         | 196         | 197         | 179         | 169         | 146         | 140         | 121         |
| Occasional Students (includes Qualifiers & BATH)       | 354         | 289         | 283         | 274         | 268         | 268         | 279         | 289         | 321         |
| Teastas I Muineadh na Gaeilge d'Aosaigh                | 10          | 15          |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Teastas I Litriocht na Gaeilge                         | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 9           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1392</b> | <b>1438</b> | <b>1348</b> | <b>1190</b> | <b>1196</b> | <b>1117</b> | <b>1091</b> | <b>1134</b> | <b>1202</b> |

| Students by Course & Year   | 2009/10     | 2008/9      | 2007/8      | 2006/7      | 2005/6      | 2004/5      | 2003/4      | 2002/3      | 2001/2      |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Part-time Undergraduate Degree:<br>BA Local & Community Studies (Kilkenny & Maynooth) | 164         | 186         | 194         | 222         | 223         | 184         | 187         | 200         | 230         |
| Remote Learning Degree: BSc Rural Development   | 0           | 0           | 12          | 14          | 21          | 22          |             |             |             |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  | <b>8147</b> | <b>7640</b> | <b>6961</b> | <b>6574</b> | <b>6509</b> | <b>6149</b> | <b>5967</b> | <b>5778</b> | <b>5609</b> |

\* These courses were assisted by the European Social Fund

+ Some of the students on these courses were assisted by the European Social Fund

| Student Numbers by Faculty & Graduate Status | 2009/10     | % 2008/9  | % 2007/8    | % 2006/7  | % 2005/6    | % 2004/5  | % 2003/4    | %         |             |           |             |           |             |           |
|--|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| <b>Full-Time</b>                             |             |           |             |           |             |           |             |           |             |           |             |           |             |           |
| Arts, Celtic Studies & Philosophy Undergrad  | 4191        | 52        | 3897        | 51        | 3470        | 50        | 3192        | 49        | 3285        | 51        | 3127        | 51        | 3005        | 51        |
| Arts, Celtic Studies & Philosophy Postgrad   | 816         | 10        | 713         | 9         | 708         | 10        | 758         | 12        | 783         | 12        | 761         | 12        | 778         | 13        |
| Science & Engineering Undergrad              | 1302        | 16        | 1222        | 16        | 1200        | 17        | 1142        | 18        | 1013        | 16        | 981         | 16        | 950         | 16        |
| Science & Engineering Postgrad               | 363         | 4         | 304         | 4         | 261         | 4         | 253         | 4         | 242         | 4         | 224         | 4         | 233         | 4         |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>                             | <b>6672</b> | <b>82</b> | <b>6136</b> | <b>80</b> | <b>5639</b> | <b>81</b> | <b>5345</b> | <b>83</b> | <b>5323</b> | <b>83</b> | <b>5093</b> | <b>83</b> | <b>4966</b> | <b>84</b> |

| Part-Time                                   | 2009/10     | % 2008/9  | % 2007/8    | % 2006/7  | % 2005/6    | % 2004/5  | % 2003/4    | %         |             |           |             |           |             |           |
|---|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Arts, Celtic Studies & Philosophy Undergrad | 612         | 8         | 624         | 8         | 647         | 9         | 596         | 9         | 638         | 10        | 562         | 9         | 560         | 10        |
| Arts, Celtic Studies & Philosophy Postgrad  | 510         | 6         | 513         | 7         | 280         | 4         | 216         | 3         | 173         | 3         | 125         | 2         | 123         | 2         |
| Science & Engineering Undergrad             | 11          | 0         | 16          | 0         | 15          | 0         | 38          | 0         | 19          | 0         | 22          | 0         | 9           | 0         |
| Science & Engineering Postgrad              | 96          | 1         | 25          | 0         | 16          | 0         | 1           | 0         | 6           | 0         | 7           | 0         | 5           | 0         |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>                            | <b>1229</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>1178</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>958</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>851</b>  | <b>12</b> | <b>836</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>716</b>  | <b>11</b> | <b>697</b>  | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>7901</b> | <b>97</b> | <b>7314</b> | <b>95</b> | <b>6597</b> | <b>94</b> | <b>6196</b> | <b>95</b> | <b>6159</b> | <b>96</b> | <b>5809</b> | <b>94</b> | <b>5663</b> | <b>96</b> |

|   |             |            |             |            |             |            |             |            |             |            |             |            |             |            |
|---|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Erasmus Visiting  | 149         | 2          | 198         | 3          | 196         | 3          | 197         | 3          | 179         | 3          | 169         | 3          | 146         | 2          |
| Erasmus Abroad #  | 52          | 1          | 55          | 1          | 44          | 1          | 63          | 1          | 54          | 1          | 30          | 0          | 25          | 0          |
| NUI Certificate in Management of Adult Education Guidance | 0           | 0          | 0           | 0          | 0           | 0          | 0           | 0          | 0           | 0          | 17          | 0          | 0           | 0          |
| Distance Education  | 45          | 1          | 73          | 1          | 124         | 2          | 118         | 2          | 117         | 2          | 124         | 2          | 133         | 2          |
| <b>Total (minus the Erasmus Abroad figures above)</b>     | <b>8095</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>7585</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>6917</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>6511</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>6455</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>6119</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>5942</b> | <b>100</b> |

# Already included in Full-Time Figures above

\* These courses were assisted by the European Social Fund

+ Some of the students on these courses were assisted by the European Social Fund

An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta

Analog Devices

Aspire

Athlone Community Taskforce

Atlantic Philanthropies

Austrian Film Magazine Skip

Austrian Research Promotion Agency

Bayer Schering Pharma AG

Biosensia

Broadcasting Commission of Ireland (BCI)

Canal Communities Local Drugs Task Force

Carton House Golf Club

Central Statistics Office (CSO)

Centre for Cross Border Studies

Centre for Study of Historical Irish Houses and Estates

Centres for Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET)

Cisco Systems Inc.

Citigroup

Clondalkin Partnership Scholarship 2005

Clondalkin Partnership Ltd.

COFORD Forest Research Programme 2000-2006

Combat Poverty Agency

Commission on Nursing Hours

Connecticut Cooperative Highway Research Program (USA)

Cumas Teoranta

Crisis Pregnancy Agency

DAFRD Research Stimulus Fund

Department of Agriculture and Food

Department of Education and Science

Department of Foreign Affairs

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

DePuy Ireland

Discovery Programme

Donegal County Council

Dublin County Council

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)

Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI)

Eircom

Eli Lilly

Embark Initiative (IRCSET) Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Projects

Enterprise Ireland Advance Technologies Research Programme

Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund

Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund Proof of Concept Phase

Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund Technology Development Phase

Enterprise Ireland Feasibility Study Grant

Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership Feasibility Study

Enterprise Ireland International Collaboration Programme

Enterprise Ireland Research Innovation Fund

Enterprise Ireland Ulysses

Enterprise Ireland/IRCSET

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland (ESAI)

Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI/USA)

EPA Environmental RTDI Programme 2000-2006

EPA STRIVE Programme 2007-2013

European Union International Scientific Cooperation (INCO) Programme

European Union Cooperative Research Action for Technology (CRAFT) Initiative

European Union ERASMUS Programme

European Union ESPON Research Programme

European Union Fifth Framework Programme (FP5)

European Union Sixth Framework Programme (FP6)

European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)

European Union INTAS Initiative

European Union INTERREG Programme

European Union Leonardo da Vinci Programme (2000 -2006)

European Union Marie Curie Fellowships

European Union Research Training Network Grant

European Union Socrates Programme

European Union STREP Project

European Commission (European Year of Citizenship through Education 2005)

European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO)

European Office of Aerospace Research and Development (EOARD)

European Space Agency (ESA)

Fingal Development Board

Foras na Gaeilge

French Embassy in Ireland

Geological Survey of Ireland

GlaxoSmithKline S.p.A.

HEA Intermediary Funding

HEA North South Programme for Collaborative Research

HEA Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions (PRTL CYCLE 4)

HEA Strategic Initiatives Fund

HEA Technological Sector Research

Health Research Board (HRB)

Henkel Loctite Ireland

Heritage Council

Hewlett Packard (Manufacturing)

Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC)

HRB Cochrane Training Fellowship



HRB Equipment Grant  
 HRB Programme Grant for Research on Blood Utilisation and Hepatitis C  
 HRB Research Awards  
 HRB Research Project Grants – General  
 Intel Corporation  
 International Centre for Local & Regional Development (ICLRD)  
 International Reading Association  
 IRCHSS Post Doctoral Fellowships  
 IRCHSS Research Project Grants  
 IRCHSS Senior Research Fellowships  
 IRCSET Basic Research Award  
 IRCSET Embark Initiative  
 IRCSET Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme  
 IRCSET Ulysses Scheme  
 Ireland Canada University Foundation (ICUF)  
 Ireland Newfoundland Partnership  
 Irish Aid – Programme of Strategic Cooperation between Irish Aid and the Higher Education and Research Institute (2007–2011)  
 Irish Equine Centre  
 Irish Georgian Society  
 Irish Hospice Foundation  
 Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS)  
 Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET)  
 Irish Universities Association (IUA)  
 James and Adeline Callery  
 Joint Astronomy Centre (USA)  
 Joseph Rowntree Trust  
 Kildare VEC  
 Leverhulme Trust  
 Local Government Computing Services Board (LGCSB)  
 Marine Institute of Ireland  
 Meath County Development Board  
 Merck KGaA  
 Microsoft Ireland  
 Misean Cara – Mission Support from Ireland  
 Muscular Dystrophy Ireland (MDI)  
 NARSAD Scientific Council (USA)  
 National Academy for Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (NAIRTL)  
 National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD)  
 National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE)  
 National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI)  
 National Council for Special Education (NCSE)  
 National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA)  
 National Rosacea Society (USA)  
 National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)  
 NORFACE ERA-NET Research Programme  
 NUI Maynooth

NUI Maynooth New Researcher Award  
 NUI Maynooth Publications Grant  
 NUI Maynooth Quality Promotion Office  
 NUI Maynooth Research Enhancement Fund  
 NUI Maynooth, ITT and DIT  
 Ordnance Survey Ireland  
 Oriflame Glocal Technical Centre  
 Office of the Minister for Integration  
 Office of Public Works (OPW)  
 Office of the Houses of the Oireachtas  
 Older & Bolder  
 PLANET The Partnerships Network  
 Pro Helvetia, Arts Council of Switzerland  
 PRODEX Fund (European Space Agency)  
 Raising Performance Ltd.  
 Royal Irish Academy (RIA)  
 Science and Technology Facilities Council  
 Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)  
 Seagate Technology Media (Ireland)  
 SFI Conference and Workshop Grant  
 SFI EUREKA Award  
 SFI Industry/Research/Equipment Supplement  
 SFI Investigator Programme Grant  
 SFI President of Ireland Young Researcher Award (PIYRA)  
 SFI Principal Investigator Career Enhancement (PICA)  
 SFI Research Frontiers Programme  
 SFI Science Teacher Assistant Researchers (STAR)  
 SFI Strategic Research Cluster (SRC)  
 SFI Walton Fellowship  
 Sisters of Mercy  
 Solvay Pharmaceuticals B.V.  
 Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology  
 Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative Ltd. (TWCDI)  
 TDK Electronics Ireland Ltd.  
 Teagasc  
 Teagasc Walsh Fellowship  
 Trócaire  
 The Equality Authority  
 The Jerusalem College of Engineering  
 The NHS National R&D Programme on Forensic Mental Health (UK)  
 The Ohio State University  
 The Wellcome Trust  
 University of Glasgow  
 US Air Force  
 Youngballymun Ltd.  
 Wavebob Ltd.  
 Western Development Commission

