

UNIVERSITY NEWS



NUI MAYNOOTH
Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad

Dublinked, opening public sector data to the business community



John Tierney, Dublin City Manager and Professor Philip Nolan, President NUI Maynooth at "Dublinked".

On Tuesday, 18 October a unique initiative was launched between Dublin's Local Authorities and NUI Maynooth.

Businesses, technologists, app developers, researchers and entrepreneurs are now invited to join "Dublinked" - a membership network to mine, exploit and utilise public data to generate new revenue streams and address regional challenges.

Dublinked, the new regional data sharing initiative sees previously unreleased public operational data being made available online for others to research or reuse. With

the initial data coming from Dublin City Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, South Dublin and Fingal County Councils, it is expected that other public and private organisations in Dublin will link up with Dublinked to share their data and invite research collaborations. The information is curated at the Callan Institute, NUI Maynooth to ensure ideas can be commercialised as easily as possible and to minimise legal or technical barriers that can be impediments for small and medium businesses (SMEs) seeking to develop and prove business ideas.

Speaking at a seminar to over 120 Dublin businesses, Dublinked Co-ordinator, Dr Ronan Farrell of the Callan Institute said businesses and entrepreneurs will use this data to develop innovative and interesting business ideas to drive job growth while also enhancing city living. Dr Tim McCarthy, NCG added Dublinked is unique in providing both open data and an additional membership zone. Members can access additional datasets in the research zone and participate in regular member events. The first event on regional water data will take place on November 24th. Further details are available on www.dublinked.ie.

Inaugural Lecture Series

Professor Marian Lyons delivered her inaugural lecture on Thursday 22 September.

The lecture, entitled 'Fashioning Irish national identity: the contribution of Irish émigrés in early modern Europe', reflected on the period of history around the Battle of Kinsale and the subsequent Flight of the Earls, and how the modern notion of Irish national identity was largely fashioned by these migrants with various cultural and political traditions.



Prof Marian Lyons at her inaugural lecture.

In her lecture, Professor Lyons analysed the varied and complex character of the Irish émigré population which reflected the politically, socially and culturally atomised and divided character of late sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century Ireland.

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BioAT University Collaboration



Congress of Celtic Studies



Making the Built Environment Work



IRCHSS Success

Open Days 2011

Friday 25 & Saturday 26th November



Student Entrepreneur Competition

Deadline to apply is 22nd November, 2011

How to apply:

- 1 Visit our website www.commercialisation.nuim.ie
- 2 Download the competition guidelines/entry form
- 3 Email your entry form before **November 22nd** to studententrepreneur@nuim.ie

Marian Lyons Inaugural Lecture

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She also traced the main processes whereby fundamentally different Old-Irish and Old-English sub-groups within the émigré population, who vigorously asserted their distinct identities at Court, in Irish Colleges and in Irish companies and regiments, gravitated towards embracing the notion of an Irish nation and one Irish identity by the middle decades of the seventeenth century.

Concert Series

The Department of Music Lunchtime Concert Series takes place at 13:10 every Thursday in Riverstown Hall.

This year it features an eclectic mix of performers and styles of music, ranging from gypsy to opera, jazz to 17th-century instrumental music. All are welcome and admission to all concerts is free.

For further details please see <http://music.nuim.ie/>

FROM THE EDITOR

Due to space restrictions my apologies to anyone who submitted an article that did not appear.

Please send any submissions for the next newsletter to communications@nuim.ie

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If you currently receive your newsletter by post and would like to receive it by email please contact the office at 01-708 6160 or email: communications@nuim.ie

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2011 Graduation Ceremonies at NUI Maynooth

Almost 1,900 students, a record high for the University graduated during three days of ceremonies on campus. 18 courses awarded graduates for the first time including the first graduates from the Bachelor of Civil Law and the Bachelor of Business Law degree.



Prof Philip Nolan, President, NUI Maynooth pictured with Vinnie Muldoon, NUI Maynooth snooker scholar, Ms Danielle McVeigh, NUI Maynooth golf scholar who both graduated with a degree in Business Management and Mr Paddy Mullins, son of Champion National Hunt trainer Willie Mullins, who graduated with a degree in Equine Business.

NUI Maynooth First and Only University outside of North America Listed in Princeton Review

Selection is based on quality of academic programme and research among students into university life.



Princeton Review.

NUI Maynooth has been listed in the Princeton Review "The Best 376 Colleges: 2012 Edition", the only international university outside of North America and Canada and the first ever Irish college to be selected for the publication since it was first published in 1992. The "Best Colleges" review, which features the top 15% of all US colleges, is internationally recognised as the key resource used by US students in finding an educational institution which suits their requirements both academically and socially.

The selection process for the publication is based on an assessment of the academic programmes offered by the universities, combined with research conducted by the Princeton Review with students attending the college, covering areas such as 'Academics', 'Student Life' and the 'Student Body'. The Princeton Review conducted surveys among 5,000 NUI Maynooth students as part of the assessment process.

Accountancy Showcase 2011

The annual NUI Maynooth Accountancy Showcase took place on Tuesday, 4 October.

There were eighteen stands at this year's event including PWC, E&Y, KPMG & Deloitte, the Irish Accounting & Taxation Institutes and companies P&G, IFS and Glanbia.

There are presently 240 students on the BA Finance & Accounting degree programme at NUI Maynooth and 40 students completing a MA in Accounting and HDip in Accounting.

The 1st year KPMG prize was presented to Maria Byrd, the 2nd year E&Y prize and the CIMA "top management accounting" prize were both presented to Luke Clarke and the 3rd year PWC prize was presented to Yi Wang.

Michael Hayden, Dept of Economics, Finance & Accounting NUI Maynooth pictured with student Rebecca Doherty.



At postgraduate level, Rebecca Doherty won both the IFS prize for the top thesis on the MACC and the KPMG prize for the top MACC student in 2011, while Ryan Doherty won the inaugural Deloitte prize for top student on the HDip in Accounting. Both Rebecca and Ryan have commenced training as Chartered Accountants with Deloitte and PWC since graduation.

NUI Maynooth Student wins Future Voices



Ciaran O'Carroll following the presentation of his prize by Ruairi Quinn TD, Minister for Education and Skills.

Ciaran O'Carroll, a graduate student at NUI Maynooth has won the inaugural DRHEA Future Voices competition.

Ciaran is currently undertaking a PhD in the Department of Chemistry. His research aims to develop new technologies to aid Ireland's flag-bearing industries - agriculture and pharmaceuticals - by developing microcapsule delivery systems that reduce waste, pollution and cost, while delivering a product that is more efficient and effective than before.

Established by the DRHEA, the aim of the competition is to demonstrate how research by Ireland's PhD students will enable national recovery. 67 submissions from students across Dublin's four universities (TCD, UCD DCU and NUI Maynooth) and four Institutes of Technology (DIT, IADT, ITB and ITT) were whittled down to ten finalists of which Ciaran was the overall winner.

'International Strategy Required to Protect against Pandemics'

On Friday, 30 September the Combat Diseases of Poverty Consortium (CDPC) at NUI Maynooth hosted Pulitzer prize-winner Laurie Garrett, Senior Fellow for Global Health at the Council on Foreign Relations (New York).

Addressing the attendees in NUI Maynooth, Laurie Garrett said "We have weakened infrastructure all over the world for health, because government is weak, and when government is weak we don't really have a way to respond. There is no point if developed countries have strategies in place for an outbreak of disease, but the developing world, where the population is growing at a larger rate, is ill-prepared. Every threat is a global threat but the problem is that we don't have global mechanisms of response."

Garrett has recently criticized ways in which aid projects sometimes inadvertently contribute to 'brain drain' in the developing world, weakening already overburdened health infrastructures. CDPC, funded through the Programme in Strategic Cooperation between Irish Aid and the Higher Education Authority, is helping to rebuild health research capacity in the developing world by training a new generation of African scientists.



Pulitzer prizewinning author Ms Laurie Garrett pictured during her talk at NUI Maynooth.

Prof Seán Ó Riain wins €1.32m ERC Grant

Prof Seán Ó Riain from the Department of Sociology and NIRSA has been awarded NUI Maynooth's first European Research Council Starting Investigator Grant for research exploring "New Deals in the New Economy: European Workplaces in an Era of Transformation".

His research will explore the transformation of European workplaces, identifying the emerging social bargains and how new workplace bargains are being shaped by the broader politics of sectors, regions and national economies.

Prof Ray O'Neill, VP for Research commented that "ERC grants are the most prestigious awards available under FP7 and are intended to support research that is both imaginative and risky, and that has the potential to significantly extend established knowledge and understanding. There is a general recognition that these awards recognise the very best potential research in Europe. In Ireland, there have been only 9 ERC awards over four years, and only 3 in the social sciences, so it is a very significant achievement, both for Sean and the University."

Pictured at Dublin's Science Gallery were European Research Council Starting Grant recipient, Prof Seán Ó Riain, NUI Maynooth and EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn.



NUI Maynooth Gain in 2011 World University Rankings



The World University Rankings, published by Thomson Reuters, show NUI Maynooth is now numbered

among the top 400 universities in the world and is the only Irish university to increase its ranking this year.

The rankings are based on 13 separate performance indicators designed to capture the full range of university activities including teaching, research volume and influence, industry income and international outlook.

Professor Philip Nolan, President of NUI Maynooth commented that "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".

BioAT Major Collaboration between DCU, NUI Maynooth and RCSI

On Monday 3 October, Minister for Education, Ruairi Quinn TD formally launched BioAT.

BioAT - a unique PhD collaboration between Dublin City University, NUI Maynooth, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and Institute of Technology Tallaght - will add strength and depth to Ireland's important biopharmaceutical and biomedical device industries. One of the first significant university collaborations in this area, BioAT (BioAnalysis and Therapeutics Structured PhD Programme) will help drive Ireland's push for cures to diseases like Alzheimer's, cystic fibrosis and cancers.

A total of 29 doctoral researchers have commenced the four year BioAnalysis and Therapeutics "BioAT" doctoral programme which will deliver multi-disciplinary PhD projects with applications to cancer, cardiovascular, respiratory, neurodegenerative and infection/immune diseases. The programme is structured to ensure the highest level of transferrable skill and knowledge between academia and the needs of industry.



Pictured at the BioAT launch at DCU, Professor Brian MacCraith, President DCU; Professor Philip Nolan, President NUI Maynooth; Minister for Education Ruairi Quinn TD; Professor Cathal Kelly, CEO/Registrar, RCSI and Dr Christine Loscher, DCU.

Ireland's First Periodic Review of our Human Rights at the UN in Geneva

On 6th October, staff and students of the Department of Applied Social Studies along with a group of Community and Youth Worker practitioners gathered in the John Hume Board room to listen to the live streaming of Ireland's First Periodic Review of our Human Rights at the United Nations in Geneva.

Alpha Connolly previous Chief Executive of the Irish Human Rights Commission led the discussion with Brian Melaugh from the Department of Applied Social Studies. Another group of students joined Anastasia Crickley in the Human Rights Council Room in Geneva to hear Alan Shatter, Minister for Justice make

his presentation on Ireland's human rights record and answer questions from other member states.



Congress of Celtic Studies

The Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn, TD, in addressing the XIV International Congress of Celtic Studies held at NUI Maynooth, called on academics to "continue with the work of propagating and popularizing Celtic Studies among students and the learned classes at large", saying "the more we understand the past the more we understand ourselves and our neighbours".



Pictured at the Celtic Studies Conference 2011 (left to right): Professor Liam Breatnach, Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies; An tOllamh Ruairí Ó hUiginn, NUI Maynooth, Dr Katharine Simms, TCD and Professor Damian McManus, TCD.

The International Congress of Celtic Studies, which covered all aspects of Celtic culture and civilization, from earliest times to the present day including Medieval and Modern Literature and Languages, Mythology, Archaeology, History, Folklore, Art and Music, was attended by 600 delegates from over 30 countries.

The Fourteenth Congress, organised by NUI Maynooth and Trinity College Dublin under the aegis of The School of Celtic Studies, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, is the largest academic gathering in its field and attracts scholars who have an interest in the many different areas of Celtic Studies.

Development Week at the School of Business



Dr Graham Heaslip demonstrates the use of clicker technology in a classroom environment during the development week 'Pedagogical Innovation' for faculty and occasional lecturers hosted by the school in August.

POSMOL 2011 Conference at NUI Maynooth



POSMOL delegates enjoying the sun in front of the Hume Building during the morning coffee break.

POSMOL is a biennial international conference on the physics of electron and positron interactions with atoms and molecules.

The XVI Workshop on Low Energy Positron and Positronium Physics covered all aspects of antiparticle (positron, positronium and antihydrogen) interactions with atoms and molecules, and the XVII Symposium on Electron-Molecule Collisions and Swarms focussed on electron interactions with molecules in both gaseous and condensed phases including studies of electron interactions with biomolecules, electron induced surface chemistry and the study of plasma processes.

Understanding the physics of electron and positron interactions with atoms and molecules is important both from a fundamental scientific perspective and from an applied perspective. Experimental tests of the fundamental processes involving these quantum particles are essential for the development of theoretical understanding of these interactions. Atomic and molecular interactions are of vital importance in many applied areas, including radiation damage and radiation therapy, processes in planetary atmospheres, pollution and climate change, astrophysics, plasmas including semiconductor processes and fusion reactors, lasers and lighting. Hosting this conference at NUI Maynooth provided a unique opportunity to bring experts from all over the world together to discuss the latest advances in theory and experiment in these important fields of physics.

POSMOL 2011 was organised by Dr. Peter van der Burgt. POSMOL 2011 attracted 133 delegates, including 90 senior scientists, 36 students and 7 accompanying persons.

€15 million investment in 79 SFI projects



On Wednesday, 24 August the Minister for Research and Innovation, Mr Seán Sherlock TD, announced Government funding of €15 million.

The fund will be provided over the next four years for 79 research projects as part of Science Foundation Ireland's 2011 Research Frontiers Programme.

Making the announcement, Minister Sherlock said: "It is vital that Ireland has a robust and competitive research environment that contributes to economic recovery. "These projects are of direct relevance to our daily lives. Discoveries that can be achieved in these sectors will have an impact on computer

science, the environment, health and other important fields with the potential to create and sustain top-quality jobs in Ireland."

Amongst the successful projects to be funded were seven with an NUI Maynooth connection including Dr Alexei Pozdnoukhov, NCG, Dr Henrietta Dickinson, Dept of Maths, Dr Jennifer McManus, Dept of Chemistry, Dr Davide Pisani, Dept of Biology, Dr Jonivar Skullerud, Dept of Maths Physics, Dr James Power, Dept of Computer Science and Dr Stephen Kirkland, Hamilton Institute.

Making the Built Environment Work



Willie Penrose, TD; Dr Mary Corcoran, Department of Sociology, NUI Maynooth and Prof Tom Collins, President, NUI Maynooth.

The need to challenge silo thinking within built environment professions was highlighted at “Making the Built Environment Work”.

In the wake of the massive housing boom that took place

around the turn of the twenty-first century, and the transformation of cities, towns and villages across Ireland, public concern has been expressed about a range of physical, environmental and social issues. These include weak regulation, scarring of the rural heartland by excessive holiday home building, inappropriateness in size and scale of downtown developments, the prospects for diminution of quality of life arising for those living in ‘ghost estates’ and the fear that trends in the built environment (e.g. gated communities) may further damage civic integration.

“Making the built environment work” provided a unique opportunity to integrate the insights, processes and practices of research-based and design-based disciplines. Built environment experts from the UK, the Netherlands, France, Germany, the US and Australia worked with their Irish counterparts to generate solutions to specific problems associated with the collapse of the economic boom - such as ghost estates and incomplete developments. The Summer School also generated a new template for engaging with and re-imaging the Irish built environment over the longer term, securing a ‘sense of place’ for the next generation. A variety of papers and participant presentations can be viewed at www.nirsa.ie/events/irchsssummerschool/

Library Acquires Music Library of Major French Composer

The Library is delighted to add the music library of renowned French musician Gabriel Baille.



Gabriel Baille was at the centre of musical life in the French city of Perpignan. He composed for organ, piano, orchestra and mixed choir. His music library, of 81 volumes, contains much of interest to NUI Maynooth and St. Patricks College Maynooth, particularly with regard to 19th century French editions of instrumental methods, organ music and sacred music. For further information please contact Regina Richardson, Music Librarian, tel: (01) 708 3897

Dept of Law Welcomes Justice Maureen Harding Clark

On Friday, 30 September, Justice Maureen Harding Clark of the High Court of Ireland delivered a lecture at the Department of Law.

Justice Clark spoke about the rule of law and the negative consequences of impunity for breaches of legal obligations. She said that the recent London riots were an example of what could happen if people did not have respect for the rule of law and acted under the misguided notion that their actions had no consequences. Justice Clark referred to her experience as a judge of the International Criminal Court and posited that the creation of the ICC had ended the notion that there were no consequences for horrific crimes committed by tyrannical regimes inside state borders. She gave examples of the Nuremberg Tribunal and the trial of Milosevic as evidence that international law can hold powerful actors accountable for their actions. She cautioned students that the rule of law was a fragile concept and required constant vigilance. Justice Clark concluded by wishing the 1st year students success as they commenced their legal education and urged them to consider careers in international organizations.

OECD Highlights Need for Joined Up Government to Promote Regional Growth

Ireland needs to join up Government policies to unlock the potential of all Irish regions and build a sustainable regional economy.

Dr Chris Van Egeraat, Dept of Geography at NUI Maynooth and Chairman of the Regional Studies Association's Irish Branch noted that “while the Smart Economy Action Plan sets out a vision of structural reform focusing on export-led growth, innovation, R&D and highly skilled jobs, these jobs are increasingly concentrated in a select number of urban centers; notably Dublin, Galway and Cork. Little attention has been given to the regional aspects of this strategy and the effects on balanced regional development.”

Prof Philip Nolan, President NUI Maynooth; Dr Chris Van Egeraat, NUI Maynooth; Prof James Walsh, Deputy President NUI Maynooth; Mr Jose Enrique Garcilazo and Joaquim Oliveira Martins.



Two speakers from the OECD - Dr Joaquim Oliveira Martins and Dr Jose Enrique Garcilazo - addressed the conference. According to the OECD, Ireland needs to design regional policies that combine bottom-up with top-down approaches designed to unlock the regional potential of all Irish regions. This requires close collaboration among actors across all levels of government, as well as the private sector and civil society. The policy design should be in line with the new paradigm shift observed in many OECD countries from redistributive subsidies to investment in regional competitive advantages and from a narrowly sectoral approach to integrated cross-sectoral projects.

Other conference speakers include representatives of IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Forfás, Shannon Development, the ESRI, Teagasc and Irish Universities.

‘Forgotten Voices’ Exhibition Launched at Castletown

An exhibition of the ‘Forgotten Voices’ of the great Irish Famine was launched at the OPW-NUI Maynooth Archive & Research Centre at Castletown.



Cathal McCauley, Librarian; Prof Jim Walsh, Vice President; Roisin Berry, Library; Prof Philip Nolan, President and Dr Terry Dooley, Department of History.

The exhibition was formally launched by Director of the National Museum of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Wallace, at a reception in Castletown House in Celbridge, County Kildare, on 16 August.

Amongst the material on display were Famine documents from Strokestown Estate in County Roscommon, including census records, emigration lists, and letters from starving tenants, highlighting the importance of estate archives as a source for local history research. The exhibition was supported by Kildare County Council.

Nuacht na Gaeilge

RECOGNITION FOR CERTIFICATION IN IRISH

The Department of Education and Skills has given official recognition to Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) Level B2 administered by the Language Centre of NUI Maynooth. This qualification now satisfies the Irish language entry requirement for undergraduate and postgraduate courses in education in the Colleges of Education in Ireland.

TEG is an examination and qualifications system for adult learners of Irish which has been offered by the Language Centre at NUI Maynooth since 2005. TEG syllabuses and exams are designed and delivered with the adult learner in mind. The Centre offers Irish classes that are open to all staff and students of the University as well as to the public.

TEG exams take place once a year, in April and in May in ten centres in Ireland and preparatory courses are run in several education centres throughout the country. The Language Centre provides teaching materials and supports free of charge to teachers and learners.

AITHEANTAS OIFIGIÚIL DO TEASTAS TEG SA GHAEILGE

Tá aitheantas oifigiúil faighte ag Ionad na dTeangacha, OÉ Má Nuad ón Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna do Leibhéal B2 Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG). Ciallaíonn sé seo go sásaíonn TEG Leibhéal B2 na critéir iontrála do chúrsaí fochéime agus iarchéime san Oideachas sna coláistí oideachais.

Is córas scrúdaithe agus cáilíochta Gaeilge do fhoghlaimoirí fásta é Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge atá á soláthar ag Ionad na dTeangacha Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad ó 2005. Tá siollabais agus scrúduithe TEG dírithe ar an bhfoghlaimoir fásta. Tairgíonn an tIonad ranganna do bhaill foirne agus mic léinn na hOllscoile agus don phobal.

Bíonn scrúduithe TEG ar siúl uair sa bhliain (Aibreán agus Bealtaine) i 10 n-ionad in Éirinn agus tá cúrsaí ullmhúcháin do scrúduithe TEG ar siúl in ionaid oideachais ar fud na tíre. Cuireann Ionad na dTeangacha ábhar teagaisc agus tacaíocht ar fáil do mhúinteoirí agus do fhoghlaimoirí saor in aisce.

New Framework for Understanding Origin and Evolution of Animal Species

An international research project led by Dr Davide Pisani, Dept of Biology NUI Maynooth, and financed by SFI and NASA, has made a fundamental breakthrough in the study of the relationships between groups of animals.

A collaboration of leading scientists from NUI Maynooth, Dartmouth College (US), The National History Museum in London, University College London, University of Montreal and the University of Modena e Reggio Emilia found that assumptions in past research concerning the relationships between some

key animal groups have been flawed. The research has been published in the latest edition of the leading scientific journal, 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America' (PNAS). Further information at <http://communications.nuim.ie/press/o60911.shtml>

Human Resource Notes

SHORTER WORKING YEAR SCHEME

Applications are now invited from staff wishing to apply for a Shorter Working Year under the above Scheme. Details of the Policy, eligibility and application form can be found on http://humanresources.nuim.ie/staff_schemes.shtml

The purpose of the shorter working year scheme is to permit staff of the University to balance their working arrangements with outside commitments, including the school holiday periods of their children. Under the terms of the scheme, special leave is available as a period of not less than 2 and not more than 13 consecutive weeks. The leave may be taken as one continuous period, or as a maximum of 3 separate periods each consisting of not less than 2 weeks and not exceeding 13 weeks in total.

The period of leave is unpaid. However, members of staff who wish to participate in the scheme may apply for special administrative arrangements for the payment of basic salary in equal amounts over twelve months from the start of the tax year. Members of staff interested in participating in the Shorter Working Year Scheme during 2012 must submit their applications to the Human Resources Office not later than **30 November 2011**.

CYCLE TO WORK SCHEME

The Cycle to Work Scheme was launched in the University in June 2010 and since its launch there has been a significant interest in the Scheme. For staff who are interested in availing of this tax incentive scheme, please read the NUIM Cycle to Work Scheme Policy http://humanresources.nuim.ie/staff_schemes.shtml, and return the completed NUIM Scheme Application Form and Agreement Form to the Human Resources Office, Riverstown Lodge, South Campus, National University of Ireland Maynooth.

TRAVEL PASS SCHEME

The Travel Pass Scheme will continue to operate in the University during 2012. To be eligible to participate in this scheme an employee must be either:

- A permanent member of staff;
- A member of staff whose contract of employment has an end date on or after 31 December 2012 and whose annual salary can be pre-determined.

The Scheme applies only to **annual** rail/bus passes issued by Iarnród Éireann, Bus Éireann and/or Dublin Bus. Members of staff interested in participating in the Travel Pass Scheme must submit their applications to the Human Resources Office not later than Friday, 11 November 2011. Details pertaining to the Travel Pass Scheme may be accessed on the Human Resources web page at http://humanresources.nuim.ie/staff_schemes.shtml

RETIREMENTS

Professor Tom Collins, President;

Sr Margaret McConalogue, Chaplain;

Dr Richard Watson, Director of Quality.

We wish them a long and happy retirement.

INTERVIEWS HELD

29 June 2011	Software Engineer, NIRSA (Two-Year Contract Post);
29 June 2011	Requirements Analyst, NIRSA (Two-Year Contract Post);
13 September 2011	Executive Assistant, Celtic Studies - Nua Ghaeilge (Two-Year Contract Post);
16 September 2011	Executive Assistant (Half-Time), Edward M. Kennedy Institute (Five-Year Contract Post);
19 September 2011	Project Manager, Edward M. Kennedy Institute (Five-Year Contract Post).

INTERVIEWS ARRANGED

11 October 2011	Research Assistant, Department of History (One-Year Contract Post);
19 October 2011	Teaching & Project Fellow, An Forsa Feasa (One-Year Contract Post.)

NEW APPOINTMENTS

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

Academic Posts:

Mr John Paul Newman, Lecturer in Modern European History, Department of History;
Mr Aidan Mooney, Assistant Lecturer in Computer Science, Department of Computer Science;
Mr Trevor Mahy, Assistant Lecturer in Ancient Classics, Department of Ancient Classics;
Ms Angela Merte-Rankin, Assistant Lecturer in German, School of Modern Languages, Literatures & Cultures;
Mr Eduardo Tasis, Assistant Lecturer in Spanish, School of Modern Languages, Literatures & Cultures;
Ms Fiona Murphy, Assistant Lecturer in Anthropology, Department of Anthropology;
Ms Audrey Halpin, Part-Time Lecturer in Education, Education Department;
Ms Catherine Mahon, Assistant Lecturer in Psychology, Department of Psychology.

Other Posts:

Mr Lar Byrne, Traffic & Travel Co-ordinator, Corporate Services;
Ms Laura Burke, Inclusive Initiative Support Facilitator, Higher Education Policy Unit;
Ms Ailish Breathnach, Senior Tutor, Language Centre;
Ms Noreen Curran, Technical Officer, Department of Biology;
Ms Rionach Day, Executive Assistant, Finance Office;
Mr John Doyle, Boilerperson, Power House;
Mr Damien Gallagher, Software Engineer, NIRSA;
Ms. Ciara Joyce, Project Archivist Research Centre, Castletown House, Library;
Ms Jennifer Kelly, Project Officer (Education & Development), An Forsa Feasa;
Ms Deirdre Lim, Executive Assistant in the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures (French);
Ms Marguerite Lohan, Administrative Officer, Finance Office;
Dr Annaleigh Margey, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Department of History;
Ms Emma Mescall, Library Assistant (Part-Time), Library;
Ms Aileen O'Carroll, Policy Manager, NIRSA;
Ms Tracy O'Flaherty, Executive Assistant, English, Media & Theatre Studies;
Ms Lisa O'Regan, Teaching & Learning Development Officer, Centre for Teaching & Learning;
Ms Aine O'Reilly, Accountant, Finance Office;
Ms Stefanie Engler-Walsh, Half-Time Executive Assistant, Chinese Studies.

Our best wishes to all concerned.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2011-2012

The Staff Development Programme is now available at: <http://staffdevelopment.nuim.ie/>. Staff members are encouraged to book places online for courses that are scheduled - or express their interest for programmes that do not yet have a date fixed.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The offices of the University will close on the evening of Wednesday, 21 December 2011 and will re-open on the morning of Tuesday, 3 January 2012.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

The Employee Assistance Programme is a support programme provided by the University for staff members. The Programme provides a confidential counselling service, designed to assist staff members in dealing with any issue that adversely affects their health, wellbeing, personal or professional life. If you have a problem that is troubling you, then you can get help and support.

You can avail of the service by calling the following free phone number: **1800 201 346**

In Praise of Science

The Second Maynooth Workshop on Quantum Information and Condensed Matter Physics was held at the Department of Mathematical Physics from September 5-9.

Participants from 10 countries, engaged in seminars, poster sessions and discussion on the latest developments in quantum condensed matter physics and its application to quantum computation. During the Workshop, there was a public lecture *In Praise of Science* at the Royal Irish Academy by renowned author and physicist Sander Bais. For more information about the workshop and lecture, see the website: http://www.thphys.nuim.ie/daqist/Workshop_2011-09/home.html



Participants at the second Maynooth Workshop on Quantum Information and Condensed Matter Physics.

Grundtvig In-service Training



NUI Maynooth representatives Kellyann Reid and Kay Loughlin from the Department of Adult and Community Education attended the Grundtvig In-service Training programme - "Team spirit" which was held in Limassol, Cyprus-Education that fosters learning and working together. This was a 5 day training workshop with participants from the following countries: Finland, Romania, Lithuania, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece and Czechoslovakia. Karolina Gladych, MS in Psychology and Silvia Braun a therapeutic Trainer were the Keynote speakers for the programme.

IRCHSS Success for NUI Maynooth

Dr Jane Gray (Sociology Dept), Prof Margaret Kelleher (An Foras Feasa) and Dr Filipe Ribeiro de Meneses (History Department) have each been awarded Senior Research Fellowships by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Each of the awards are valued at around €100,000 and run for approximately one year.

Dr Gray's project is titled "Family Rhythms: Using Archived Qualitative Data to Examine the Changing Texture of Family Life in Ireland" and aims to re-vision family change in modern Ireland in light of recent theoretical developments, through an in-depth analysis of newly available qualitative data resources held in the Irish Qualitative Data Archive.

Prof Kelleher's project is focused on the circulation of seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth-century Irish fiction from 1650 to the present. Drawing from An Foras Feasa's expertise in digital humanities, the project will provide an electronic searchable version of the Loebers' Guide to Irish Fiction, 1650-1900 and an accompanying research analysis of the distribution of early Irish fiction.



Prof Margaret Kelleher, Dr Jane Gray and Dr Felipe de Meneses.

Entitled "Defying the wind of change: Portugal, Rhodesia and South Africa, 1961-1980", Dr de Meneses' project will allow for the completion of research into the diplomatic, military, intelligence and economic links developed by those three countries as they attempted to preserve a white-rule bastion in Southern Africa. The project, which has been up and running for two years, is shared with Dr Robert McNamara, of the University of Ulster, and has also attracted the support of the British Academy and the Instituto Camões.

RoboEireann, 2011 Robocup Open Challenge Winners

RoboEireann, Ireland's Robot Soccer team from NUI Maynooth was victorious this year in the Open Challenge competition at Robocup 2011 held in Istanbul, Turkey.

The team, consisting of students and staff from the Hamilton Institute, Department of Electronic Engineering and Department of Computer Science at NUI Maynooth participated in the Standard Platform League (SPL) against 26 other teams from around the world. The Standard Platform League (SPL) uses identical fully autonomous humanoid robots allowing teams to focus on research challenges associated with developing software to enable robots to reliably perceive their environment, achieve fast stable locomotion, exhibit intelligent behaviour and coordination among team members.

RoboEireann secured victory in the Open Challenge competition with their innovative research on *autonomous robot localisation*. Thomas Whelan and Sonja Stuedli, the principal authors of this research, also presented their work at the annual Robocup symposium held in conjunction with the competition.



Team members included Seán McLoone, Thomas Whelan, Alex Buckley, Sonja Stuedli, Rudi Villing, Aodhan Coffey and Fiachra Mathews.

Data from 'Growing Up in Ireland' Lodged in the Irish Qualitative Data Archive

On Thursday, 22 September, the Irish Qualitative Data Archive participated in the launch of Qualitative Key Findings from the Growing Up in Ireland project by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald.

The launch took place the Long Room Hub, Trinity College Dublin. The event also marked the archiving and availability to researchers of the Anonymised Qualitative Data from Wave 1 of the Growing Up in Ireland Child Cohort, now lodged in the Irish Qualitative Data Archive (IQDA) at NUI Maynooth. Following the launch, Dr Aileen O'Carroll, IQDA manager, delivered a presentation on how researchers can access and use the data. Further details are available at <http://www.iqda.ie/content/growing-ireland>.



Professor Frances Ruane, Director, Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI); Professor James McWilliams, Research Professor, ESRI and Co-Director of the National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland (NLSCI - 'Growing Up in Ireland'); Dr Jane Gray, Programme Leader, Irish Qualitative Data Archive and Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, NUI Maynooth; Frances Fitzgerald, TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs; Professor Sheila Greene, AIB Professor of Childhood Research, TCD and Co-Director of NLSCI - 'Growing Up in Ireland' and Mary Doyle, Director General, Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Maynooth Rugby...the place to be!



Dennis Bowe, Rugby Development Officer pictured with..... Conor McDermott, Irish u20 and NUIM Barnhall Rugby Scholar and Prof Philip Nolan, President NUI Maynooth pictured with the Heineken Cup.

On Wednesday, 28 September NUIM Barnhall brought the Heineken Cup to the campus.

Rugby in NUIM Barnhall is thriving at the moment. An AIL division 2 club, with 270 new members, this year's crop is the best yet.

The rugby scholarship scheme which is in place for exceptional players in NUI Maynooth includes Leinster Schools players, Leinster Youths players, Irish Youth players, Leinster Colleges players, AIL players, eight Leinster U19s players, two Leinster u20's players and an Irish u20's player. For updates visit our new website www.nuimrugby.com

Second Annual Conference & AGM of the Development Studies Association Ireland (DSAI)

The conference titled "From Research to Practice" took place at NUI Maynooth on Thursday, 8 September.



Dr Chandana Mathur addresses participants at the DSAI conference.

The DSAI is a network of academics, communities and development practitioners in Ireland that aims to foster new knowledge and approaches to the study of international development.

A number of speakers from academia, Irish Aid and non-governmental organisations met to discuss and debate the issue of linking development research, policy and practice. DSAI Steering Committee member Dr Chandana Mathur of NUI Maynooth opened the event, noting that the conference theme, 'From Research to Practice', spoke to a central concern for all DSAI members since both academics and practitioners were interested in "seeing careful and critical research make its way into real life". The keynote address was delivered by Professor Lawrence Haddad, Director of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex and the current President of the Development Studies Association of the UK and Ireland.

This was followed by a number of presentations by the Irish-based academics, Nick Chisholm and Mike Fitzgibbon, UCC; Sarah Hunt UL and Andy Storey, UCD, on the conference theme. The politics of the relationship between research and policy was debated candidly in the final session by Bronagh Carr of Irish Aid, Caoimhe De Barra of Trócaire, and Peadar Kirby, UL.

Free Second Level Maths Support

The Mathematics Support Centre (MSC) at NUI Maynooth recommenced its provision of free drop-in maths support for local secondary schools on the Monday, 3 October.

This service is supported by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and the Admissions and Access Offices in NUI Maynooth.

It is available to students, from first year to leaving certificate regardless of level. Sessions will run on Monday evenings from 6-8pm in Rye Hall, North Campus, NUI Maynooth. This support is not a replacement for the classroom; rather it complements the current services provided. It has a relaxed, non-judgemental atmosphere for students so they can see maths as an approachable and accessible subject which can be discussed with their peers. Experienced tutors and trainee teachers are available to help and students can call in for as long as they want. Additional information is available at <http://supportcentre.maths.nuim.ie/secondlevel> or you can contact the Manager of the MSC, Dr. Ciarán Mac an Bhaird at ciaran.macanbhaird@nuim.ie

Traffic Management

The traffic management team would like to thank everyone for their cooperation in the successful roll-out of the traffic management initiative 2011/12.

All details and information on the initiative are available on <http://campusservices.nuim.ie/traffic/index.shtml>

As part of the sustainable travel initiatives on campus new bicycle shelters are being fitted - each caters for 32 bicycles.

