



10/11



NUI MAYNOOTH PRESIDENT'S REPORT



NUI MAYNOOTH
Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad



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Between 2006-07 and 2010-11 the number of full time undergraduates and postgraduates at NUI Maynooth increased by 32%, twice the growth rate of the entire university sector in Ireland.





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President's Foreword



Strategic Steps

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2010-11 President's Report in what has been an exciting and eventful academic year at NUI Maynooth.

Our University is renowned as Ireland's fastest growing third level institution, having doubled the undergraduate and postgraduate populations since 2004 so that we now embody 8,413 and 1,830 students respectively. NUI Maynooth's rankings continue to rise and we have seen an increase in Leaving Certificate points required for entry to the majority of our courses, with the average changing from 413 to 423. The entrance points have been driven upwards by the escalating number of applications, which reached an all time high in 2010. CAO application figures released in March 2011 showed that we achieved the strongest growth rate of all universities in the country, with the percentage of first preference applications growing by 9.1%, in a year when the total number of students applying to third level remained flat.

As we face into challenging times for the education sector, we made a key appointment to help steer the strategic direction of the University going forward. Former and first Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman, Nuala O'Loan was appointed as the Chair of our Governing Authority at the close of 2010. Baroness O'Loan, an internationally respected public servant, was instrumental during the important recent history of the island of Ireland, at a time when her office played a transformative role in the public perceptions and acceptance of policing.

Research & Commercialisation

Despite economic pressures, externally funded research expenditure remained in excess of €23 million in 2010, while published items and citations were at an all-time high during this period.

European programmes are increasingly important as a sustainable funding source and, in a major success in 2011, Professor Seán O Riain from the Sociology Department secured an extremely prestigious European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant to explore *new deals in the new economy: European workplaces in an era of transformation*. In fact, all seven of the University's submissions to the Social Sciences and Humanities panel of the ERC Starting Grants 2011 surpassed the quality threshold, with two invited to the second and final evaluation stages. The European Research Council aims to fund the very best research in Europe and it is a testament to the overall quality of the humanities and social sciences at NUI Maynooth to have performed so strongly.

In a similarly prestigious award in the sciences, Dr Natasa Mitic of the Chemistry Department was awarded a Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) President of Ireland Young Researcher Award (PIYRA), which is Ireland's most prestigious award for young engineers and scientists displaying extraordinary ability and leadership in their fields. Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, formally presented the award which will facilitate Dr Mitic in establishing a research group to address the emergence of antibiotic resistance, a problem existing in clinical settings with serious implications on the well-being of post-surgery scenarios.

Over 50 other significant domestic and European awards from sources such as SFI, EU FP7, Enterprise Ireland, IRCHSS and PRTL, were granted to lead researchers in areas such as mathematical physics; chemistry; electronic engineering; wireless networking; digital arts, humanities and social sciences; and innovation and ICT.

9.1%

Increase in the numbers nominating NUI Maynooth as their first choice for third level.

Across all areas of the University over 300 high quality journal papers and books were published by our researchers in 2010. Highlight publications included a series of more than ten highly-cited journal articles related to the Heterodyne Instrument for the Far-Infrared (HIFI) that was launched onboard the European Space Agency's Herschel Space Observatory in May 2009 to examine the infra-red background radiation in interstellar space. The papers, published by various members of an international consortium that includes Professor Anthony Murphy's Experimental Physics Group, reported on the performance of the receivers and some first results of HIFI's operations, as well as on new results on abundances of water and related compounds in interstellar space. Professor Murphy's Group contributed significantly to the instrument design over a number of years and is an example of how truly pioneering research programmes must sometimes undergo lengthy development periods before reaching fruition.

The University spun out three companies during 2010-11 in the areas of medical devices, bloodstock management, and drug research and development. Mutebutton Ltd. is set to revolutionise the treatment of Tinnitus, a



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[President of Ireland, Mary McAleese and Dr. Natasa Mitic pictured at Áras an Uachtaráin.](#)
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[Pictured at the announcement of Cerebeo, the University's latest spinout company, are Professor John Lowry, Professor Tom Collins, Interim President, NUI Maynooth and Dr Jennifer Craig, Cerebeo CEO.](#)

debilitating hearing disorder; Aniscan Ltd. will enable the real-time monitoring of high value livestock; and CereBeo Ltd. is specialising in new and unique Central Nervous System research models using state-of-the-art technologies, including sensors. Planning for the development of a 1,500 sq.m. Business Incubation Centre, to house spin-out and spin-in companies across a range of disciplines, has been approved and we have a committed budget to support its construction and operation, with EI funding assistance for the former. Other metrics of success include the completion of eight licence deals, the creation of 13 new industry links and the disclosure of 13 new inventions. Our researchers continue to compete successfully for EI endorsement via their Commercialisation Fund Awards, C+ and Feasibility Support, securing €810,614 in the past academic year alone.

Campus Development

Our Campus Development Plan has been gathering pace with several new world-class facilities inaugurated over the past twelve months. The state-of-the-art Iontas building was officially opened by Minister for Tourism, Sport and Culture and NUI Maynooth alumnus, Mary Hanafin TD at the start of the academic year. It houses 200 academic staff and researchers, including those from the School of English, Media and Theatre Studies and the NCG, NIRSA and An Foras Feasa research institutes, and accommodates over 350 students. The €15 million project, which took 15 months to complete, was funded by PRTL14 and the University.

This has also been a period of scientific breakthroughs, particularly in the disciplines of ICT and bioinformatics and molecular evolution, with pioneering results published in the principal research journals. Using a new mathematical framework and special software, researchers at the Hamilton Institute have solved the decade-long conundrum of how to provide free, widespread, effective broadband for all citizens of global cities in order to support the "smart economy". A puzzle of the same longevity was pieced together by our molecular experts in Biology and Chemistry, who successfully identified the moment amounting to Nature's "Big Bang" by investigating how the first nucleus was created.

The Commercialisation Office continues to be supported by Enterprise Ireland (EI) under its Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative, and NUI Maynooth is excelling in several areas of commercialisation activity when measured against national performance, which validates the success of our current development strategy for technology transfer activity.

Construction on the 6,200 sq.m. John Paul II Library extension commenced in November 2010 and the first phase of enabling works, incorporating service diversions, roadworks, a roundabout, traffic calming, and the decommissioning of the pedestrian bridge linking the North and South campuses, has been completed. The second phase is well underway, with the piling and foundations of the main building nearing completion and the temporary entrance to the South facade of the existing library in place, allowing the facility to function as normal during the remainder of the works. The €20 million project is due for completion by the end of 2012 and will create a total space of over 10,000 sq.m., increasing book and seating capacity as well as computer availability by 130%, 216%, and 280% respectively.

As the first graduates of the four-year BSc Product Design degree donned their ceremonial garb, dedicated design studios for the 160 students of this course were commissioned. The creative innovation space, measuring nearly 200 sq.m., is located behind the Iontas building and incorporates three design studios and a prototyping workshop. Phoenix the new state-of-the-art University Restaurant, which replaces the one lost to a fire at the end of 2008, was completed in April, while a major refurbishment programme for the Arts Building, Education House and Rhetoric House is underway.



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[President Mary McAleese](#)
[and Mr Martin McAleese](#)
[with Professor Fernando](#)
[Galván, Rector of the](#)
[University of Alcala.](#)

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[Pictured at the student](#)
[launch of carsharing.ie](#)
[are Ian Russell, Student](#)
[Activities Officer and Frank](#)
[Fitzmaurice, Director of](#)
[Corporate Services with](#)
[students Ciarran Carr](#)
[and Barry Mitchell.](#)

In keeping with the intense level of campus development and as a result of real safety concerns, a sustainable travel and traffic management policy has been launched after an extensive consultation and benchmarking process. The Mobility and Traffic Management Campaign aims to reduce the volume of single occupant cars on campus, to encourage staff and students to use more sustainable forms of transport (walking, cycling, public transport, car pooling) and to enforce traffic management rules. In a related initiative of the National Transport Authority and Smarter Travel Workplaces, the carsharing.ie/nuim student launch took place in September with 285 students signing up on the day.

Programme Progress

As part of her official state visit to Spain in late March, President Mary McAleese launched the NUI Maynooth-University of Alcala Joint Diploma in Irish language, History and Culture. The result of ongoing collaboration between the two institutions, the new diploma is being delivered under the banner of the Irish College at Alcala with involvement from our Language Centre and Department of Spanish.



Building on past recognition of the B.C.L. and B.B.L. legal courses, the LL.B. Bachelor of Laws degree at NUI Maynooth has been accredited by the Honorable Society of King's Inns. The four-year, full-time undergraduate programme, which emphasises legal writing, advocacy skills and experiential learning, is the latest in the Department of Law's portfolio to warrant this endorsement.

The relationship between our University and the Froebel College of Education has become a reality, with the first Froebel Maynooth BEd students now registered. This unique alliance means that NUI Maynooth is the only institution 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, within a dedicated Froebel Centre, is due to be formed when the teacher education college and its entire student body transfer to NUI Maynooth in September 2013.

Building on our core strength and internationally recognised expertise in the subject, we introduced the latest in a long line of initiatives to support mathematics education in secondary schools, namely a sector-wide bonus points scheme for Leaving Certificate Higher Level Mathematics which will commence in 2012 for a trial period of four years. In the meantime, a professional development course for second level mathematics teachers on both the subject areas and teaching methodologies covered in the Project Maths initiative began in early 2011. The 30 places on the six-week, one-day per week course are open to our partner schools, while we expect to make the course more widely available in the future.

Our Mathematics Support Centre (MSC) provides help to our undergraduates, and also to students from local secondary schools, through a drop-in facility, group study sessions, and mentoring service. To give you a sense of scale, 600 students made over 7,000 visits in the 2010-11 academic period. Such is the success of the MSC that its manager, Dr Ciarán Mac an Bhaird, won the Sigma "Rising Star" Award 2010 for his outstanding contribution to the area of maths and statistics support in third level institutions, including the overseeing of the development of the MSC into one of the busiest centres in the UK and Ireland.

In a bid to encourage the study of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), we have partnered with the County Council, leading industry names and local education providers in Kildare. A promotional DVD and a scholarship scheme intended for second level students is hoping to attract and assimilate gifted students into the third level course choice and career in these subject areas. Full-time courses promoting STEM subjects include the specialised BSc in Science Education which prepares students to teach mathematics and science subjects in second level schools; the MSc in Mathematics for Education, in conjunction with Cambridge University, which is aimed at second level mathematics teachers who do not have a primary degree in the subject; and a new BSc in Mathematics Education, subject to Teaching Council approval, which will hopefully increase the number of teachers with a specialism in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics in the second level system.



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[Dr David Redmond, Registrar,](#)
[Mairead Bracken, Secretary](#)
[CISM Network Ireland, Mental](#)
[Health and Social Research](#)
[Unit \(MHSRU\), Department](#)
[of Psychology; John Moloney,](#)
[T.D., Minister for Disability](#)
[and Mental Health; Dr Sinead](#)
[McGilloway, Director, MHSRU,](#)
[Department of Psychology,](#)
[and Sharon Gallagher, Principal](#)
[Researcher and Research/](#)
[Education Co-ordinator of](#)
[CISM Network Ireland, MHSRU,](#)
[Department of Psychology,](#)

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[Professor Tom Collins,](#)
[Interim President, NUI](#)
[Maynooth; Paddy Rowland,](#)
[Bord na Mona; Mark](#)
[Farrell, 5th year student,](#)
[Maynooth Post Primary](#)
[School; and Dan Flinter,](#)
[Chairman, NUI Maynooth](#)
[Governing Authority.](#)



Year in Review

The University's three Faculties and eight research institutes have been extremely busy hosting high quality events and working on pioneering projects over the past year. Meteorology, critical incident stress management, and language revival movements were a few of the multiple conference themes, while books were published on Bloody Sunday and a renowned Paris Peace Conference delegate among many other hot topics. Several University staff were honoured by foreign governments and media, global organisations and prestigious domestic bodies. From Fulbright Scholarships to the Biology of Fungi, our students excelled in their chosen studies and reaped many rewards in both the academic and sporting domains.

The International and Alumni Offices were both kept occupied, with web and human resources enhanced in line with increasing activities. In August 2011, NUI Maynooth was named as one of the world's best institutions for undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review. This is the first time that any higher education institution located outside of North America will feature in the internationally recognised "best colleges" guidebook, *The Best 376 Colleges: 2012 Edition*. In a bid to help set the strategic direction of the Alumni Office and to identify ways in which alumni can benefit each other and the University, a Maynooth Alumni Advisory Board was established.

The Library and the Access Office played their parts in promoting online learning and raising the University's research profile. Under the National Digital Learning Resources (NDLR) initiative, the Access Office was awarded a project grant to contribute to the development of online digital resources. The resulting creative teaching and learning materials, aimed at raising skill levels in time management, academic writing and critical thinking among others, are an open resource for all teachers nationwide and indeed for the entire higher education sector. The launch of RIAN.ie, an online database of Irish published research, displays the content of the research repositories of the seven Irish universities and the Dublin Institute of Technology, thus demonstrating the impact of research to potential investors and significantly increasing the citations and visibility of Irish research output as well as the profile of Irish researchers globally. RIAN is among the first wave of national open access portals in the world, placing Ireland at the forefront of the movement to increase the global knowledge base, whilst NUI Maynooth was the first university in the country to set up an institutional repository of this kind.

As you can see, the 2010-11 academic period at NUI Maynooth was one of much promise and pioneering. I have no doubt that the academic accolades for this remarkable institution shall accumulate for many years to come, particularly under the stewardship of the incoming President, Professor Philip Nolan. I would like to wish him every possible success in his new position.



Professor Tom Collins
Interim President, NUI Maynooth



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Year
In Review



2.1 THE EVENTS

Faculty of Social Science

Over 1,000 papers, 115 workshops, and three plenaries were the product of the 11th biennial conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists held by the Anthropology Department in August. 1,400 academics assembled to learn more about "Crisis and Imagination" with the keynote address on "Human Atrocities, Human Rights" delivered by Professor Talad Assad of the City University of New York.

The annual conference of the Irish Meteorological Society was staged at NUI Maynooth with guest speakers covering the topics of weather forecasting, earthquakes, green initiatives, and atmospheric balance. Professor John Sweeney of the University's Irish Climate Analysis and Research Unit (ICARUS) concluded proceedings with his talk on "Climate Change Adaptation – the challenges for Ireland". In her current role as President of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, the former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner visited ICARUS in February. On the related theme of the "Climate Emergency", Professor Brendan Gleeson's inaugural lecture delved into the real, imminent global consequences and challenges created by climate change and the radical action needed by all countries to minimise the forthcoming trauma in "An Urban World at Risk". One of the world's leading urban geographers, Professor Gleeson has joined NUI Maynooth from Griffith University, Australia as Professor of Geography and Deputy Director of the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA).

Representatives from the law courts of the UK and Ireland met to discuss the findings of a survey, authored by Department of Law lecturer Brian Flanagan, of the Supreme Court judges of ten countries about their use of foreign law in constitutional rights cases. The study, published in the *International & Comparative Law Quarterly*, revealed that many supreme court judges regard their foreign counterparts as a possible source of guidance on the content of constitutional rights.

Faculty of Science & Engineering

A forum for the promotion and exchange of best practice information on Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and related standards, availability and provision of training, known as the CISM Ireland Network, was launched by John Moloney TD, Minister for Disability and Mental Health at a conference in October. Over 150 delegates were introduced to the Network's website and comprehensive booklet and heard about the importance of CISM, its application and principles throughout the emergency services. Based in the dedicated unit at the Department of Psychology, the Network is run by representatives from statutory, voluntary, emergency, military and other agencies from the north and south of Ireland.

In recognition of its "outstanding efforts to develop effective programmes to assist front line emergency services personnel throughout Ireland", the CISM team from NUI Maynooth was awarded the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) "Co-Founders" Award for collaborative outreach in the field of crisis intervention at the 11th World Congress on Stress, Trauma and Coping held in Baltimore, USA.

Scientists from the National Centre of Geocomputation (NCG) are playing a key role in the first ever European study into the next phase of the internet through the €6 million Geocrowd project. Along with colleagues in Germany, Denmark, Switzerland and Greece, the NCG will be examining how to gather, filter, interpret and use the millions of "vapour trails" users leave behind when using internet, SMS and other communications in order to enhance our state of knowledge of the world. Geocrowd is recruiting 13 PhD students across six universities including NUI Maynooth for a three-year term under an EU Marie Curie international training programme to be part of this new generation of internet experts. Irish recruits will be based in one of the European partner universities selected for their existing and complementary expertise covering areas such as network technology, geospatial data and web systems development.

Faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies & Philosophy

An Foras Feasa and the Department of English, Media and Theatre Studies organised the 34th annual conference of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures (IASIL) in 2010. The theme of the week-long gathering, in which 300 delegates from 22 countries participated, was "Irish Literatures and Culture: New and Old Knowledges". The programme included poetry readings at Castletown House, a preview of Irish films at the Irish Film Institute, and a special reception hosted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin TD, at Dublin Castle.



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[Professor Fiona Palmer,](#)
[Head of the Music](#)
[Department; Bogdan](#)
[Zdrojewski, Polish Minister](#)
[of Culture and National](#)
[Heritage; Professor](#)
[Halina Goldberg, Indiana](#)
[University; Professor](#)
[Tom Collins, Interim](#)
[President, NUI Maynooth](#)
[and Dr Antonio Cascelli.](#)

Other conferences held over the past year included An Gorta Mór (The Great Irish Famine) Symposium and the research workshop on language revival movements co-organised with the SPIN centre, University of Amsterdam. As part of the IRCHSS-funded initiative, co-sponsored by the *Fonds de recherche société et culture Québec*, An Foras Feasa hosted a bilateral workshop on "Ireland and Quebec: Representation, Memory, Identity".

To mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of musical genius, Chopin, the Music Department convened a symposium with guest speakers from the University of London, Indiana University, University College Dublin and NUI Maynooth. Along with a recital of Chopin's songs, the main focus was an exploration of the multifaceted cultural significance of the musician.

In a year when two notable Northern Ireland peace proponents were in the spotlight, namely Baroness O'Loan as the new Governing Authority Chair and alumnus and "Ireland's Greatest" John Hume, it was fitting that the first "security, peace and reconciliation exercise" took place at NUI Maynooth. A group of students from the Royal Dutch Military Academy, based in Breda, Netherlands, were welcomed by the University's Centre for Military History and Strategic Studies to focus on an examination of the Northern Ireland "troubles" and the peace process.

Faculty Publications

Continuing the theme of meaningful history within a sociology setting, Dr Brian Conway's *Commemoration and Bloody Sunday: Pathways of Memory* was published in Palgrave Macmillan's new Memory Studies book series. Investigating associations between water, health, place and culture in Ireland, Dr Ronan Foley of the Geography Department launched *Healing Waters Therapeutic Landscape in Historic and Contemporary Ireland*.

The latest addition to British publisher Haus' *Makers of the Modern World* series was launched by the Department of History. *Afonso Costa: Portugal* was written by Dr Filipe Ribeiro de Meneses and is the biography of this particular head of delegation to the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. The Audio Programming Book, co-edited by Dr Victor Lazzarini of the Department of Music and published by MIT Press, is a comprehensive handbook of mathematical and programming techniques for audio signal processing.

A large-scale study involving 11 schools, 22 teachers and 217 junior and senior infants has demonstrated, for the first time in a European context, the effectiveness and value for money of an innovative teacher classroom management programme in Irish schools. The Incredible Years Ireland Study, commissioned by Archways and led by the Mental Health and Social Research Unit of the Department of Psychology, found that teachers who had taken part in the training programme and their classes derived considerable benefits compared to the waiting list control group.

2.2 THE REWARDS

Staff Successes

Several University staff were honoured by foreign governments and media, global organisations and prestigious domestic bodies over the past year.

By order of a decree signed by French Prime Minister, François Fillon, Dr Thomas O'Connor has been decorated as a *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques*. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy and member of the History Department received the award from Mme Emmanuelle D'Achon, the French Ambassador to Ireland, in recognition of distinguished service to culture and education.



[Dr Thomas O'Connor, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy.](#)



[Dr Filipe Ribeiro de Meneses and Professor Gerard Gillen, Emeritus NUI Maynooth.](#)

To neighbouring Portugal, where Dr Filipe Ribeiro de Meneses, senior lecturer in the History Department, was listed by the newspaper *Público* as one of 10 Portuguese figures, including prominent politicians, a novelist and football club manager, who made their mark in 2010. As the only academic, Dr Meneses is seen as one of the historians of reference when it comes to the Portuguese Twentieth Century, particularly for his biography of Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, the most significant politician of that era.

On account of his professional distinction in a career that has been closely connected to Belgium over a forty-year period, Emeritus Professor of Music Gerard Gillen was awarded the "Officer of the Crown" by King Albert II. The Belgian Ambassador, Robert Devriese presented Professor Gillen with the insignia on the King's behalf. A month later, in December, the Ambassador's Austrian counterpart, Dr Walter Hagg accorded Professor Gillen his Government's "Cross of Honour for Science and Arts".



In conferring the National Academy's Annual Awards for Excellence in Teaching to Dr Ann O'Shea among others, the Honorable Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness noted the outstanding contribution of the award recipients to both teaching and research in higher education. Dr O'Shea from the Department of Mathematics, one of the five individuals honoured at the ceremony in Dublin Castle, is credited with establishing the University's Mathematics Support Centre (MSC). The Centre has received over 7,000 visits from 600 students in the last year alone. Dr O'Shea has played a key role in redesigning curricula and in developing courses and resources to enhance the teaching of mathematics both at NUI Maynooth and in second and third level institutions nationwide.

Dr Ciarán Mac an Bhaird from the same Department and Manager of the MSC was the recipient of the sigma "Rising Star" award for his outstanding contribution to the area of maths and statistics support in third level institutions. Among his many achievements, Dr Mac an Bhaird has overseen the development of the MSC into one of the busiest centres in the British Isles. He has acted as an advisor on establishing support centres and assisted in the quality review of learning support services in other third level institutions. He is also a founding and current committee member of the Irish Mathematics Support Network.

In acknowledgement of her expertise in innovation and technology, Damini Kumar, Director of Design and Creativity and EU Ambassador of Creativity and Innovation, was selected as the winner of the Microsoft WMB Woman in Technology Award at the fourth Women Mean Business (WMB) Conference and Awards. Working on the other side of the panel, Ms Kumar helped to judge the "Your Country Your Call" competition inspired by President Mary McAleese. Ms Kumar admitted that, due to the extremely high quality, it was a very tough decision to pick the final two winning ideas, which were the creation of an International Digital Services Centre and the construction of a mega green data centre.

Over the course of the past year, the University's entire 15-person Security Team attended training workshops to gain accreditation for Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) and Security Institute Ireland awards. This development programme has enabled all of the security staff to accredit their experience and advance their skills. Also on the HR development front, six members of Campus Services received their EqualSkills Certificates for proficiency in computing.

Conferrings

The 2010-11 academic year got off to a colourful start in the first week of September with a record 1,700 students graduating over a three-day period from NUI Maynooth. Furthermore, seven new degrees were awarded, including BAs in Anthropology, Politics, and Multimedia; Bachelor of Business Studies in Business and Management, Equine Business, and Venture Management; and a Doctor of Education. The graduates included 26 members of the Defence Forces (army, naval service and air corps) as well as international students from Pakistan, Germany, the US and Cyprus who received MAs in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies.



[Dr Ann O'Shea, NUI Maynooth, recipient of the National Academy's Award for Excellence in Teaching 2010, with Honorable Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, Awards Presenter, at the ceremony in Dublin Castle.](#)



[NUI Maynooth bestowed an Honorary DMus on the internationally acclaimed Polish composer, conductor and educator, Professor Krzysztof Penderecki.](#)

September also saw the honouring of three distinguished individuals. The conferring celebration of an Honorary Doctorate of Music on three-time Grammy Award winner and internationally acclaimed Polish composer, conductor and educator, Professor Krzysztof Penderecki was accompanied by his conducting of a performance of his *Benedictus* by the NUI Maynooth Chamber Choir. His work has featured on various film soundtracks, including those of *The Shining*, *The Exorcist* and *Shutter Island*.

Recognised as one of the leading technological innovators of his time and currently serving on the US National Commission on the Future of Higher Education, Nick Donofrio, former Executive Vice-President of Innovation and Technology at IBM also received an honorary doctorate. Joining him in this accomplishment was leading international Joyce scholar and editor, Professor Hans Walter Gabler, presently a Senior Research Fellow of the Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, London University and Professor Emeritus at the University of Munich.

The autumn season brought with it a series of prize-giving events, with 177 undergraduate and postgraduate students across all faculties achieving accolades at the annual NUI Maynooth Prizes and Awards ceremony on 28 October 2010. The recipients demonstrated outstanding performance and academic excellence through top marks in their studies. The following week, 100 entrance scholarships were awarded in recognition of the high points earned by students in the 2010 Leaving Certificate Exam. Five students from the Bachelor of Education (under the Froebel Department of Early Childhood and Primary Education) were included in this grouping and belong to the first cohort resulting from the alliance between NUI Maynooth and the Froebel College of Education announced in early 2010 (the teacher education college will transfer to the University from September 2013). Two weeks later, a total of 22 degrees and diplomas were conferred on graduates of the Kilkenny Campus at its annual conferring ceremony held at Kilkenny Castle. These latest alumni bring the number of awards presented to citizens of Kilkenny and surrounding counties since the establishment of the Campus in 1997 to over 1,200.

There were four more accomplished recipients of honorary doctorates in June 2011. One of Ireland's most successful entrepreneurs, Eddie O'Connor was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Engineering for his major contribution to the global renewable energy sector. Honoured alongside him at the conferral ceremony were historian and women's rights advocate Mary Cullen, former NUI Maynooth lecturer and senior public servant and legal affairs expert Joe Brosnan, and University graduate and leading linguistics academic and researcher Professor David Little.



Student Accolades

At a special ceremony at Áras an Uachtaráin, the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese presented the John O'Connell Awards to NUI Maynooth recipient Donal Bligh along with Ronnie Fay and John McCormick. Named after the teacher, organiser and advocate for the marginalised, the awards recognise outstanding individuals working to create a just, equal and inclusive society. Mr Bligh is a graduate of the Professional Diploma in Community and Youth Work; Ms Fay is the Director of Pavee Point Travellers Centre and Mr McCormick is Director of Youth Services and Deputy Chief Executive of the Youth Council for Northern Ireland.

The inaugural prize named in honour of Lt General Dermot Earley, former Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces who died in early 2010, was bestowed on Lt Colonel Patrick McDaniel for his outstanding dissertation on the Certificate in Strategic Leadership programme. According to Professor Robert Galavan, Head of the School of Business, Lt General Earley was passionately committed to education and development and it is a fitting tribute that this award honours his legacy.

NUI Maynooth's success in securing Fulbright Scholarships continued with two PhD candidates destined to conduct their research in the United States. Lorcan Walsh, a student in biomedical engineering, will pursue his research at the Division of Sleep Medicine, Harvard Medical School, specialising in the development of novel non-contact technologies to investigate the sleep and sleeping patterns of older adults. Ronan Doherty, from Nua-Ghaeilge (Modern Irish), will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. (The Fulbright Awards provide Irish and US students, scholars and professionals with the opportunity to study, lecture and research at leading universities and institutions in the respective countries.)

Second year PhD student Cassandra Collins BSc was awarded a National University of Ireland Travelling Studentship in late 2010. Based in the Department of Biology, Ms Collins' research, into the functional proteomic analysis of a fungal plant pathogen called *Armillaria mellea*, will benefit from €27,000 and allow her to undertake collaborative research in the Netherlands, Denmark and further afield. Her work is being carried out in conjunction with Dr David Fitzpatrick, a fungal bioinformaticist at NUI Maynooth and Drs Thomas Keane and Turner at the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus in the UK.

As one of ten undergraduate students to take part in the University's summer School of Molecular Evolutionary Research (SoMER) placement programme, Edgar Medina won an award for his work at the international conference on the Biology of Fungi in Edinburgh. A student of the *Universidad de Los Andes* in Bogota Columbia, Mr Medina's research was conducted in the genome evolutionary laboratory under the supervision of Dr David Fitzpatrick.

Presenting on her research into the function of highly unusual enzymes in the pathogenic fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus*, Karen O'Hanlon BSc won the Best Poster prize at the seventh Asperfest International Meeting in the Netherlands. A third year PhD student under the supervision of Professor Sean Doyle in the Biology Department, Ms O'Hanlon's work is greatly facilitated by access to the insect virulence model system which has been developed and pioneered by Dr Kevin Kavanagh. The University's research is aimed at both anti-fungal drug target identification and improved diagnosis of the *A. fumigatus* infection.



Profile

Ciarán Mac an Bhaird

Lecturer, Department
of Mathematics & Manager,
Mathematics Support Centre

Ciarán Mac an Bhaird first entered the gates of NUI Maynooth with his sister in 1994 as an undergraduate student of Mathematics and Nua-Ghaeilge. Thus began a long and fruitful relationship with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Ciarán started tutoring for the Department in 1997 in parallel to his postgraduate studies and since 2007 he has been the Manager of the Mathematics Support Centre (MSC) and has lectured for the Department. The role of MSC Manager mainly involves running the Centre in an effective manner to meet all the mathematical learning needs of students of NUI Maynooth. In his lecturing capacity, he tries to incorporate as much historical and practical information about the material as possible to give students a sense of why they are studying it and what it can be used for.

Ciarán is easily motivated to teach and talk to students. He gives talks on mathematics at NUI Maynooth Open Days and University Days and regularly visits second level schools to explain the practical applications of mathematics. "I thoroughly enjoy dealing with students and trying to help them tackle mathematical issues. The key is to show them that everybody struggles with mathematics at some stage. However, if they work hard and ask for help when they are having difficulties, then they can make progress." Another of the main challenges of Ciarán's role is to encourage students to change or adapt their study techniques and attitudes towards studying mathematics. Many students bring particular methods from school to university, but these can be very unsuitable at third level.

The Monaghan man is clearly not afraid of hard work, having helped out on the family farm (which he still does at weekends) and always finding part-time or temporary jobs in the University to pay his way as a student. He was a Senior Exam Invigilator for seven years, a Senior Mathematics Tutor, and a tutor for the Access, Disability and Mature Students' Offices. He also worked with the Records Office during student registration as well as in the John Paul II Library, and he was the Library Student Scholar in 1998-99.

It is this type of commitment that has stood to Ciarán in his efforts which have developed the MSC into one of the busiest centres of its kind in Ireland or the UK. It is even open to local post primary students one evening a week free of charge.

"The MSC is a constantly evolving and changing organism. Every year we review and evaluate our services and see if we can adapt them or introduce new initiatives, such as student mentoring and online resources, to reach a wider range of students. I've enjoyed working on developing most of these although they can be extremely time consuming and sometimes frustrating, especially given some of the associated red tape. I also enjoy the opportunity to conduct research on these initiatives but it is very difficult to find the time."

Ciarán is heavily involved in campus life, having held roles as the honorary President of the NUI Maynooth Pool and Snooker Club and of the Mathematics Society. As a student he won the Snooker Intervarsities with NUI Maynooth for the first time in 2004 and is particularly proud of his time on the Club's Committee when they helped to set up the Snooker Scholarship and to move the Club to its new state-of-the-art facility in the North Campus. "Having professionals such as Ken Doherty, Denis Taylor and Steve Davis visit the Club at NUI Maynooth and give glowing reports was very satisfying."

Speaking about memorable moments, Ciarán highlights working with Dr Pat McCarthy on various research projects as a student and getting to meet Professor Don Zagier who examined his PhD thesis. In his current remit, he was delighted to receive the sigma Rising Star Award in 2010 for his work in Mathematics Support, "The award was a reflection of the excellent tutors I have working for me and the expertise and support of my colleagues at NUI Maynooth, particularly Dr Ann O'Shea, Professor Stephen Buckley, and the administrative and technical staff in the Department who are excellent."

The MSC is moving to a dedicated space in 2011-12 and Ciarán hopes to have it running as efficiently and effectively as possible by the end of the academic year; the particular challenge is finding suitable opening hours and tutors for the wide range of student needs. Ciarán is also hoping that a pilot peer mentoring scheme will be successful, with a view to expanding it in future years. On a more personal note, he is aiming to have two long-term papers published and another book project started by summer 2012.

Appointments

Baroness Nuala O'Loan was appointed as chair to the Governing Authority on 15 December 2010. Baroness O'Loan was the first Police Ombudsman in Northern Ireland between 2000 and 2007, during which time her office played a transformative role in the public perceptions and acceptance of policing. An internationally respected public servant, she is a qualified solicitor who lectured in law and subsequently was the Jean Monnet Chair in European Law at the University of Ulster up until 2000. She has received several distinctions, including Dame Commander of the British Empire (2007), the Irish Government's first Roving Ambassador and Special Envoy for Conflict (2008), and the title of Baroness by the British House of Lords (2009). NUI Maynooth also conferred her with an Honorary Doctorate of Law in 2008.

A renowned academic and senior member of staff, Tom Collins was appointed as the President of NUI Maynooth in September 2010 on an interim basis. Professor Collins was Dean of Teaching and Learning and Head of the Education Department prior to his appointment to the role of Vice-President for External Affairs in 2009. An alumnus of the University and former Director of Dundalk Institute of Technology, Professor Collins was the Government Advisor on both the Green (1998) and White (2000) Papers on Adult Education and is currently Chair of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. He has lectured and published widely on the topic of education and is a regular columnist in the Irish Times and other national media.

Professor Philip Nolan shall be assuming the role of President in August 2011. Professor Nolan is currently Registrar, Deputy President and Vice-President for Academic Affairs at University College Dublin, a position he has held since 2004. He is a distinguished medical scientist and highly respected university teacher, who has been central to the changes and developments at UCD in recent years.

Following the retirement of Professor Emeritus Vincent Comerford, Marian Lyons has accepted the position of Professor of History and Head of the same Department. An alumnus of NUI Maynooth, Professor Lyons has extensive first-hand experience of the University through her BA, higher diploma, research Masters and doctoral studies as well as two years of lecturing in Modern History. She has published extensively on Franco-Irish relations, on Irish migration to continental Europe in the early modern period, and on various aspects of Irish history.

Retirements

The University bade farewell to a number of valued members of staff over the past year:

Professor Barra Boydell, Associate Professor, Department of Music

Dr Proinnsias Breathnach, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography

Mr Brian Cassidy, Boilerperson, Power House

Ms Ann Cresswell, Administrative Officer, Bursar's Office

Ms Jean Doolan, Senior Executive Assistant (half-time), Admissions Office

Dr Ted Fleming, Senior Lecturer, Department of Adult and Community Education

Ms Mary Keane, Executive Assistant, Student Services

Ms Mary Kearney, Head of Reader Services, Library

Dr Deirdre Kirke, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology

Mr Dave Leavey, Administrative Officer, Finance Office

Professor Colm Lennon, Associate Professor, Department of History

Ms Angela Lucas, Senior Lecturer, Department of English

Mr Ed Madden, Director of Mediation Services

Professor Kim McCone, Department of Celtic Studies

Ms Maureen Mooney, Senior Executive Assistant, Registrar's Office

Ms Gabrielle Murphy, Executive Assistant, Department of Geography

Ms Deirdre Ní Cheallaigh, Lecturer, Department of Celtic Studies

Mr Michael O'Dwyer, Senior Lecturer, Department of French

Ms Rosaleen O'Riordan, Administrative Officer, Department of Adult and Community Education

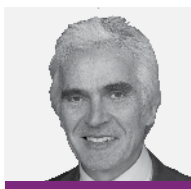
Ms Etáin Ó Síocháin, Assistant Librarian, Library

Mr John Joe O'Sullivan, Chief Technical Officer, Department of Biology

Ms Marie-Thérèse Power, Executive Assistant, Machine Room, Campus Services

Professor Dennis Pringle, Emeritus Professor, Department of Geography

Ms Valerie Seymour, Head of Collections, Library



[Baroness Nuala O'Loan and Professors Tom Collins, Interim President, NUI Maynooth, Philip Nolan & Marian Lyons.](#)



Profile

Gregory Connor

Lecturer, Department of Economics,
Finance & Accounting

Gregory Connor joined the Department of Economics, Finance and Accounting, where he is presently a professor and researcher, in September 2008. With a reputation as one of the foremost academics in the area of risk management systems and portfolio risk management, he is also responsible for running the Master's degree program in Financial and Economic Risk Analysis.

Following an undergraduate degree in economics from Georgetown University, Gregory conducted his PhD studies in this subject at Yale University. He then taught finance at both Northwestern University and the University of California, Berkeley in the USA. While taking academic leave from the latter, he came to Ireland and lectured at University College Dublin before spending 17 years at London School of Economics. Gregory was also previously the Director of Research at Barra Inc. Having experienced several international academic environments, Gregory believes that the merits of Maynooth revolve around its long, distinguished history as a centre of learning.

With his long-standing career in a lecturing capacity, Gregory explains that lecturing to undergraduates is quite difficult for the first few years but that it gets much easier after decades of practice, "Lecturing becomes quite easy and enjoyable as you get older." At the same time, he says that helping doctoral students find good quality thesis topics always remains a challenge.

Gregory currently serves on NUI Maynooth's Audit and Risk Analysis Committee, where "We try to hypothesize all possible worst-case scenarios for the University, such as fires, windstorms, financial disasters, out-of-control dorm parties, etc. and make sure that the University has taken all appropriate risk control measures to prepare for them." In his early career Gregory developed a statistical technique for estimating factor models which is still widely used. "I designed a key component of the procedure while walking in a city park along the Lake Michigan shoreline outside Chicago." Last year, he did a research paper with his departmental colleague, Tom Flavin, and a DCU academic comparing the US and Irish credit crises. "This was picked up by a famous economist, Paul Krugman, who wrote a New York Times column based upon it. This gave me my "fifteen minutes of fame" that everyone is entitled to."

Speaking about memorable moments at the University so far, Gregory highlights an event which took place a few months after the September 2008 financial crisis, where he was invited on to an NUI Maynooth discussion panel with the late Dr Garret Fitzgerald. "Dr Fitzgerald and I spoke privately together afterwards and I enjoyed meeting him and hearing his views on the crisis."

When it comes to upcoming projects, Gregory is writing two papers on financial market volatility in the Eurozone, with a focus on the recent financial crisis, in conjunction with two doctoral students. On the teaching front, he is working in his department to update its finance courses "in order to keep them relevant to our 21st century students' needs".



Profile

Eanan Strain

Career Development Centre
& Academic Advisory Office

Eanan Strain has a multitasking role at NUI Maynooth depending on the day of the week. The first two days are spent at the Academic Advisory Office while he is found at the Career Development Centre for the remainder.

The Academic Advisory office functions as a convenient first point of contact for students who wish to seek advice or assistance with their general experience of University life. The Office can provide an ombudsman-like role for students who may be encountering difficulties in their programme of study. Eanan is in constant contact with Lecturers, Department Heads, administrative staff, and frequently recommends other specialist student services such as the Medical Centre, Counselling Service, Chaplaincy, Residence Office, Student's Union, etc. "In the Academic Advisory Office I need to have a range of knowledge about all the different academic, administrative and student service departments in the University, and how they work both individually and collectively. Also, I need to be aware of important deadlines as well as university rules and policies."

The aim of the Career Development Centre is to encourage career planning and to raise awareness among the student body about the amount of work involved in this process. "It's tough work for students to figure out and articulate 'who you are' and 'what makes you tick' so that you can use these preferences and behaviours to focus on a particular type of lifestyle and job that will make you happy and successful." The Centre is developing a new website and is running a range of talks and workshops throughout the year on CVs, cover letters, interviews, career planning, working/studying abroad, preparing good applications to jobs/courses, searching for jobs, and good business etiquette. There is a 'quick query' Helpdesk available from Monday to Friday and guidance sessions with students on a one-to-one basis.

For his own part, Eanan responds to student enquiries; liaises with employers, course providers, professional bodies, academics and sometimes parents; regularly updates the careers library (involving extensive online searching); stays current with trends and events in the labour market, new policies which employers or professional bodies adopt, or any new changes made to courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level in Ireland and sometimes abroad.

"We need to be knowledgeable on what different jobs entail, the employment market, what employers and course providers want from students, and new ways to teach students to market their skill set as much as possible to potential employers."

Having graduated with a Honours BSc in Psychology, Eanan went on to complete a PgDip in Careers Guidance with professional qualification from the University of Ulster. When he qualified as a career advisor in 2007, he travelled through Northern Ireland working in this capacity with numerous groups, including the general public, second level students, and apprentice tradespeople. "But without doubt my most challenging, interesting and outright favourite cohort to work with is third level students." He then applied and accepted a position in the Career Development Centre at UCD before moving to the counterpart at NUI Maynooth after one year.

"The values I feel are fundamental to my role are empathy, unconditional positive regard, an understanding that everyone sees the world from their own perspective regardless of how broad (or narrow!) that is, and an openness to listen to and encourage people." Eanan's approach is possibly due to more than four years working with the Samaritans as a volunteer and trainer; he also helped rehabilitate offenders with a variety of mental illnesses back into society and did significant observational work in a wide range of professions. "I've seen a lot over the years, to the extent that there's little that can surprise me! I think this really helps in my present roles and at the very least I can assure students that they're not alone in the difficulties they face and that there's help at hand."

Eanan admits that his job can be tough because there aren't many constants and that the nature of student advice can be very challenging due to everyone having different needs. He works with, and learns from, students and staff who he describes as capable, interested and intelligent. "No two days are ever the same which is a fantastic quality for any job to have. I love seeing someone identify an idea that would work for them and develop a plan to achieve it." He is continually looking at new ways to approach, for example, the one-to-one guidance interview with students and wants to use existing theories to their full potential, while building on these to shape a career planning programme for the University's students that is as comprehensive and useful as possible.

Sporting Successes

The latest strand of the sports scholarship programme at NUI Maynooth was launched through the University's partnership with St Patrick's Athletic Football Club. Under 20's soccer player, Jake Carroll from Lucan will be the first scholar from the football club to undertake a three-year business degree in Venture Management. These third level scholarships allow talented students to achieve their academic and sporting potential through access to expert coaching, fitness training, sports psychology, health and nutrition advice, performance analysis and lifestyle management assistance during their degrees.

In other soccer exploits, the NUI Maynooth Freshers' team was pipped at the post for the Harding Cup by an 89th minute goal from holders University College Dublin. As hosts of the event, for the first time since 1995, the University's soccer team had defeated Dublin City University and University College Cork on their road to the final.

An exhibition match marking the 25th anniversary of the famous 1985 Final between Steve Davis and Dennis Taylor was organised by the NUI Maynooth Pool and Snooker Club. In addition to a reconstruction of the famous final black ball frame between the two popular players, which was watched by a record 18 million viewers and was ultimately won by the Northern Irishman, the University's three snooker scholars, Rob Donohoe, Vincent Muldoon and Jonathan Williams, each got to play a frame.



← [NUIM Barnhall rugby scholars.](#)

In GAA news, NUI Maynooth reached the semi-final of the 2011 Sigerson Cup for the second consecutive year, having beaten favourites Queens University Belfast in a competitive second round game and University of Limerick with its senior inter-county players and Kerry stars in the quarter-final. Despite a long injury list, the gaelic football team put up a valiant effort and was beaten by only two points against Sigerson specialists University of Ulster Jordanstown. The University had four of its players selected for Sigerson All Stars teams in 2010-11, namely Conor Brophy (Kildare), David Quinn (Dublin), Tommy Johnson and Michael Newman (both Meath). Hoping to feature in future teams, 16 students hailing from seven different counties from across Ireland were presented with MBNA GAA Scholarships in late 2010.

Presenting the awards, Bryan Kelly, Business Finance Officer, said that MBNA Ireland was proud to play its part in supporting the strong community tradition of Gaelic games and those who are ambassadors for the sport, their clubs and their counties at NUI Maynooth. Speaking at the award ceremony, Professor Tom Collins, Interim President, congratulated the sports scholars and explained how these scholarships are vitally important for the students and how the calibre of recipients reflects the intense competition they generate.

NUIM-Barnhall RFC proved its prowess on the rugby field against 17 competing teams at the Autumn Rugby 7's run by CUSAI and the IRFU, defeating Tallaght in an exciting final. The team also triumphed against Isotonians in the final game of the season in the All Ireland league.

Academic Achievements

A robot soccer team known as RoboEireann, consisting of students and staff from the University's Hamilton Institute and the Departments of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science, claimed victory in the Open Challenge Competition at Robocup 2011 held in Istanbul, Turkey. Participating in the Standard Platform League against 26 other teams from around the world, RoboEireann won the prize for 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.

Two undergraduate students, from the Departments of Computer Science and Software Engineering, along with a Music Technology postgraduate came third in the Irish finals of the 2011 Microsoft Imagine Cup Competition, the world's premier software development challenge for third level institutions. Team Savvy, made up of Mark Reilly, Nikita Skripko (both 2nd year) and Patrick McGlynn (PhD student) beat 60 other entries with Project SAV, a novel augmented reality solution for the visually impaired which enables sensory substitution through the sonification of objects.

The French Society at NUI Maynooth outperformed its Trinity College Dublin counterpart to win the 2011 French Embassy – Inter-university French Oral Debating Competition. Their arguments about the lack of liberty, equality and fraternity in French politics, education, immigrant and women's rights earned the second year students the honour. With strong support from the Department of French, the debating team comprised Neil Kelly, Julie Douglas, Maria-Sophie Braun and Orla McGrath. Displaying excellent advocacy and research skills, second year law students Clodhna Potter and Peter O'Loughlin were judged to be the best two oralists in the inaugural inter-college moot court competition, the Silken Thomas Cup, by an adjudicating panel including Justice John MacMenamin of the High Court.

Andrew Maloney from Tullamore in County Offaly, a final year student of Music and Nua-Ghaeilge (Modern Irish), was selected from over 350 applicants to participate in the Washington-Ireland Programme. A prestigious two-month internship and intensive training course in leadership and service will afford him a unique insight into America's professional and social culture.

Annual Activities

The Gathering Festival returned to Maynooth for its second run on 30 April 2011. Blessed with some glorious sunshine, the festival featured established acts such as the Coronas and the Sawdoctors, as well as fresher talents such as Ryan Sheridan and the Rubberbandits. The performers were spread across three stages in the Students' Union building and the adjacent car park, alongside carnival attractions and food vendors. Given the superb standard of music, the tickets remained very reasonably priced at €25 for students and €35 for non-students.



[Students enjoying some of the live music at the Gathering Festival.](#)

The 24th Maynooth Students for Charity Galway Cycle 2011 saw some 200 cyclists, collectors and support crew comprised of students, alumni, friends and family braving the March elements to make the 11-hour journey from the campus to the western city. Awareness- and fundraising in the run-up to the cycle focused on several events such as table quizzes, bag packs, and a tag rugby competition. This year the group of volunteers led by students raised an impressive €81,000 for Pieta House, a crisis centre for self-harm and suicide working in local communities in Dublin and Limerick.

Also at the end of March, the University celebrated its 17th Clubs and Societies Awards in the Glenroyal Hotel. Promoted as the perfect opportunity for students to get involved in a wide variety of activities, which help create a vibrant campus life, these awards are the pinnacle of the calendar where individual students and student groups are rewarded for their work throughout the academic year. The winners of the 2011 Awards were as follows:

Best Club

Snooker & Pool

Best Society

Playdo

Most Improved Club

Rovers

Most Improved Society

Christian Union

Athlete of the Year

David Lohan (Archery)

Society Person of the Year

Julie Douglas (French)

Club Executive of the Year

Aisling Goff (MUCK)

First Year Athlete of the Year

Jake Carroll (Soccer)

First Year Society Person of the Year

Dean Mac Cearáin (Cuallacht)

Club Event of the Year

The Harding Cup (Soccer)

Society Event of the Year

Dominicon (Games)

Best New Society

Mental Health

2.5 THE INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Scholarly Exchanges

Continuing the trend of strengthening international relationships and enhancing the scholarly and cultural tradition at NUI Maynooth, the University awarded Entrance Scholarships to 22 international scholars in addition to hosting both Fulbright and Mitchell Scholars over the past year. (The International Entrance Scholarships acknowledge academic excellence demonstrated by students in their prior work.)

In the presence of seven Ambassadors attending the ceremony, the top undergraduate and postgraduate awards were made to Angelique Griffith from the United States (studying for a Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish) and Ruchun Jin from China (undertaking a Masters degree in Computer Science) respectively. Also among this international cohort were two final year students from Changzhou University, China. Wei Zhang and Ming Ming Liu are set to receive honours Bachelor degrees in Applied Computer Science and Electronic Engineering upon completing their fourth year of study in Ireland, following completion of three years of study in their homeland. Many of these types of agreements exist between NUI Maynooth and Chinese educational institutions.



←
[Minister Martin Mansergh pictured as he addressed the audience on Sino-Irish relations.](#)

In a similar vein, Irish scholars are currently spending a year in Shanghai, Miami, Boston, Toronto, Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Barcelona, Ljubljana and Prague among other locations. The University actively encourages its own to avail of the opportunity to study at one of more than 100 partner institutions in Europe, Asia, Australia, South America, Canada or the USA.

Agreements to facilitate joint degree programmes, collaborative research and study abroad opportunities for international students have also been concluded between NUI Maynooth and universities in China, Korea, Brazil, USA, Canada, Russia and throughout Europe under the Erasmus programme. For example, the International Office has facilitated a collaboration between the Geography Department and City University of New York, marked by a Fulbright expert visit, an international workshop on climate change and urban sustainability, and joint publications. Exchange agreements can follow good research collaborations, as they will in this case with Hunter College (one of City University's Manhattan campuses) and in that of Fordham University, where a strong English Department collaboration on Irish theatre is under way.

In another international research project, facilitated by an IRCSET-Marie Curie International Mobility Fellowship, Dr Priscilla Mooney, a postdoctoral researcher in the Geography Department is presently working at the US National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Colorado. She is based at this leading global centre for climate research to further develop the Weather Research and Forecasting model for applications in regional climate modelling and weather forecasting. Dr Mooney will return to NUI Maynooth in 2012, having forged strong links between the University, Oxford University (where she will be seconded next) and the NCAR.

A Year of Firsts

In August 2011, National University of Ireland, Maynooth was named as one of the world's best institutions for undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review, the widely-known education services company. In an unprecedented move, The Princeton Review has chosen the University for inclusion in the forthcoming edition of its popular annual "best colleges" guidebook, The Best 376 Colleges: 2012 Edition (Random House/Princeton Review Books). This is the first time that any higher education institution located outside of North America has featured in the internationally recognised guidebook.

Said Robert Franek, Senior V.P. Publishing, The Princeton Review, "We chose National University of Ireland, Maynooth as one of our "best" undergraduate colleges based on several criteria we consider when reviewing schools for this book. First, we must have a high regard for their academic programs and other offerings. Second, our selections take into account institutional data we collect from the schools and the opinions of their students attending them whom we survey."

Professor Lawrence Taylor, Vice President for International Affairs, noted, "In the US, there are a great range of third level institutions that vary not only by quality but by size, philosophy and approach to education. In place of one size fits all, or all who can gain entry, there is the view that a given student will thrive best where he/she fits best, where the size, approach to education, community, values, and facilities best fit that student's needs. NUI Maynooth was chosen for inclusion due to its student-centred educational vision. NUI Maynooth sees itself as a learning community, where students receive not only "instruction" but also the guidance and support necessary to develop as self-directed learners".

In the first course of its kind in China, Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) has initiated an Irish language degree. Martin Mansergh TD, Minister of State; His Excellency Declan Kelleher, Irish Ambassador to China; and Professor Yulu Chen, President of BFSU presided over the ceremony, which also saw the launch of the Chinese edition of *China and the Irish* (RTÉ Radio 1 Thomas Davis Lectures series broadcast in 2008). NUI Maynooth has a long-standing relationship with BFSU, the leading foreign languages university in the country, having launched an Irish Studies Centre there in 2007.



↑

[Ms Michelle Brien, International Marketing](#)

[Officer; Mr Paul Mullally, International](#)

[Student Officer and Mr Wayne Henry,](#)

[Director of the International Office.](#)

Intensifying Internationalisation

In December 2010, Professor Taylor concluded his appointment as Chair of the International Subcommittee of the Irish Universities Association. Professor Taylor's role included representing the contribution of the universities to the Government High Level Group strategy document, *Investing in Global Relations*, which emphasises the strategic importance of internationalisation for the future development of higher education in Ireland.

As the national internationalisation strategy gains momentum, plans for the International Office are intensifying, resulting in an expanding team. Michelle Brien has assumed the role of International Marketing Officer/Student Support Coordinator, bringing with her the experience she gained as International Marketing Specialist for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, the educational publisher of K-12 print and digital learning solutions. Paul Mullally has taken on the position of International Officer/Study Abroad Coordinator, and comes from a three-year term at Griffith College Dublin, initially as Students' Union Manager and latterly as International Relations Manager. Mr Mullally was NUI Maynooth's Students' Union President in 2005-06. Wayne Henry was appointed as the new Director of International Education in February 2011. Mr Henry is benefiting the International Office with a new strategic direction and nine years of experience garnered in his previous role as International Office Manager at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England. Prior to that Mr Henry lived in Japan for nearly a decade, working at Tokyo International University.

There are some 1,000 international students presently on campus, accounting for 9% of the overall student population and representing over 25 countries such as Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, India, Japan, Nigeria, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the USA and Vietnam. Furthermore, over a third of academic staff originates from outside Ireland, making NUI Maynooth a truly international institution.

Inspirational Students and Staff

As part of its schools outreach programme in Kildare, the NUI Maynooth Access Programme (MAP) introduced a new award in recognition of the inspirational teachers and the talented young people making a real difference across the county's LINK schools. 18 sixth year students were nominated on the basis of their inspirational characters, role model status for younger students, efforts and endeavours in realising their dreams, and diligence and dedication to their studies.

Upon selection to receive the NUI Maynooth Inspirational Student Award, these final year pupils were in turn asked to choose a school teacher or staff member who had served as a force in making things happen during their educational journeys. A common characteristic in all of the nominees was how they had provided encouragement and, through their own unique ways, had helped the students to feel confident and to believe that they had the abilities to achieve whatever they set their minds to. These teachers and staff were put forward for the Inspirational Staff Awards due to their innate ability to inspire – one of the most important qualities within the profession.

The inaugural award recipients were welcomed by Martha Brandes from the Access Office and were presented with their prizes by Ann O'Brien, Director of Access and Dr Gerry Jeffers of the Education Department. In his speech, Dr Jeffers commended the students on the choices they had made to date and thanked their parents and teachers for their commitment to these youngsters. He was heartened that teachers were greatly appreciated by their pupils, as evidenced by the citations, and concluded by saying that there was great hope for the future with such high quality young people as possible leaders.

Digital Learning

Under the National Digital Learning Resources (NDLR) initiative, Simon Ahern, Educational Technology Officer and Bridget Gormley, Disability Learning Support Advisor of the Access Office were awarded a project grant of €3,000 to contribute to the development of online digital resources at NUI Maynooth. These resources were prompted by activities in Student+, a blended learning support module for first year undergraduate students who are supported by MAP. This programme assists students entering into university by providing them with the opportunity to develop their learning and academic skill sets. Student+ ultimately aims to nurture collaborative, active, independent learners who successfully transition to the demands of a third level course, thus leading to higher retention rates.

In this particular project, digital activities were generated to focus on several skill sets, based on a model of independent learning and variety which allows learners to work at their own pace, to enhance awareness of their own learning and to raise their skill levels in time management, academic writing and critical thinking.

These new creative teaching and learning materials are stored on the NDLR website with a link to the MAP website, thus supplying an open resource for all teachers nationwide and indeed for the entire higher education sector. In this digital age these transitional tools are key to student success both from the academic teaching and the student learning perspectives within an independent learning environment.

NDLR is an Irish higher education sectoral initiative to enable the sharing of digital learning content and associated teaching experience across universities, institutes of technologies and associated colleges. Funded by the Higher Education Authority, the NDLR's mission is "to promote and support higher education sector staff in the collaboration, development and sharing of digital learning resources and associate teaching practices".

Mature Student Journey

The Summer Essay Writing Course, established by the Mature Student Office in 2003, has expanded to include sessions dealing with IT, Library resources, Moodle and organisational skills in addition to the main focus which is still on critical writing. Resource material has been consolidated onto the MAP website to encourage students to enhance their IT skills while also largely eliminating the need for handouts and photocopying. The number of these courses has risen over the years to cater for the ever-increasing body of participants, from 80 students in 2006 to the 140 who registered for summer 2011.

The principle aim of the summer course is to employ early intervention techniques to facilitate equality of opportunity for mature students in terms of having the skills to participate fully at third level (a gap identified through the interview process). As such, it incorporates a wide range of study skills, particularly around academic essay writing, and gives students general familiarity with the University and, more recently, with its IT resources. In a similar vein albeit in a different subject, a separate mathematics course was introduced in July 2009 in collaboration with the Mathematics Department and the Mathematics Support Centre.

A recent survey carried out by the Mature Student Office showed how participants from the 2006 summer course fared in the first year of their degree course: 79% of these students achieved a grade 2.2 or higher. The survey also revealed the social benefits gained from course involvement such as adapting to first year more easily; maintaining social groups formed at the time; feeling more confident in dealing with academic and support staff; believing that they held an advantage by taking the course; being familiar with the campus; and belonging to the institution.

Robert Power is a good case in point. Having successfully completed the Summer Essay Writing Course for Mature Students in 2004, Mr Power commenced his BA in Anthropology, Spanish and Basque in September of that year and upon graduating, was awarded the William Wild Award for Best Thesis in Anthropology. With the help of an NUI bursary, he completed a two-year taught Masters in Anthropology in 2009 before starting a PhD, an interdisciplinary programme of study in the Anthropology and Spanish Departments. Mr Power received the John Hume Scholarship in 2009 and was awarded an IRCHSS scholarship for 2011.

Mr Power maintains that the Summer Essay Writing Course was invaluable during his undergraduate and postgraduate years: "I always kept my notes from that summer and referred to them every time I sat down to do an essay". He believes that his success both as a student and a teacher can be attributed to this course and it is undoubtedly what inspired him to become a tutor on it in 2008.

Mr Power brings his broad experience as tutor and occasional lecturer at his two Departments and as a mature student into the summer course. He works with the Mature Student Officer and with fellow tutor Anne Roundtree in course development each year, which has recently included an increased emphasis on IT resources and new sessions on learning outcomes in line with the University's learning outcome project completed in December 2010.

Made in Maynooth

Gemma Ennis, an Access Student who graduated with a BA in German and Mathematics in 2002, was inducted into the "Made in Maynooth" Hall of Fame at the Alumni Ball on 11 June 2011.

Following her studies Ms Ennis moved to London to undertake a Postgraduate Diploma in Primary Education at Brunel University before family circumstances dictated that she return. She began working in the NUI Maynooth Access Office where she assumed responsibility for the schools outreach programme and developed a series of very successful initiatives, most notably "Sowing the Seeds of Science" in partnership with the Science Faculty. This extended the outreach programme to a number of primary schools in Kildare and linked Ms Ennis to her first career ambition, namely primary school teaching.

She started studying for the primary school qualification in 2005 through the online Higher Diploma in Arts in Primary Education with Hibernia College. She graduated successfully in 2006 and later that year took up a teaching post in Kilbride NS Trim, where she is a creative and dedicated teacher of junior and senior infants on a multi-class basis. She is also presently the acting Deputy Principal of Kilbride.

Throughout her working career, Ms Ennis has espoused the values of equality of opportunity and inclusion she encountered at NUI Maynooth. She believes that all children have a right to education and that young children in particular deserve a good basic start educationally so that they can be afforded the best choices as they progress through the education system.

Ms Ennis has just successfully completed her Masters in Education and Training Management (e-learning) with Dublin City University, with her thesis focusing on school-based research in the area of children and philosophical thinking. She is taking a one-year career break in 2012 and moving to Australia to continue her research into the area of philosophy, philosophical thinking and its benefits for integration into the Irish primary school curriculum.

"Maynooth made me" said Ms Ennis in her moving acceptance speech, in which she praised the work of the Access Office and its Director, Ann O'Brien. The latter commented on how this remarkable young woman embodies the values of NUI Maynooth in both her professional and personal life. "She is also a shining example of educational opportunity realised to its fullest potential as she continues her lifelong learning journey," affirmed Ms O'Brien.

Strategic Development

The 2010-11 academic year was a very busy time for the Library at NUI Maynooth on the strategic side. On 20 October, the Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills, Mary Coughlan TD, officially launched RIAN.ie, an online database of Irish published research.

This web-based portal harvests and displays the content of the research repositories of the seven Irish universities and the Dublin Institute of Technology. The national network of institutional repositories will allow services such as enhanced searching and statistics generation to be developed using economies of scale.

This resource will demonstrate the impact of research to potential investors and funders, who recognise the value of wider research dissemination, and will significantly increase the citations and visibility of Irish research output as well as the profile of Irish researchers globally. RIAN is among the first wave of national open access portals in the world, placing Ireland at the forefront of the movement to increase the global knowledge base, whilst NUI Maynooth was the first university in the country to set up an institutional repository of this nature. Over the past year, the Library was also an active partner in projects such as the PRTL15-funded National Audio and Visual Repository. The Library's pivotal role in these initiatives is in keeping with the key objective in the University's Strategic Plan to raise its research profile by showcasing its outputs and strengths in this field.

A little over a week later, on 29 October, Minister Coughlan turned the sod to mark the commencement of construction on the state-of-the-art library extension. Due for completion in autumn 2012, this new space will more than double the library's size and capacity, providing study areas ranging from the social to the silent; rooms for groups, staff and postgraduates; a purpose-built special collections area; information literacy training rooms and a café. The building will border a Library Plaza, an ideal venue for cultural events and performances. According to Cathal McCauley, University Librarian, "This massive extension to the Library will further strengthen the University's position as a major teaching and research institution."

With funding from the National Digital Learning Resource, the Library collaborated with its counterparts in University College Dublin, Dublin City University and Dublin Institute of Technology to generate a national open access toolkit. Measuring your Research Impact, or MyRI, highlights various tools available to researchers to track citations and to support bibliometric awareness.

The package contains online tutorials, interviews, lesson plans and worksheets, which can be tailored to individual departmental needs.

In a new development, the Library and the Department of History have joined forces to design and deliver an MA in Historical Archives. Library, archives and conservation staff created and conducted a range of modules for the programme. The teaching, which takes place in the Russell Library, the John Paul II Library, the Conservation Lab, and the OPW-NUI Maynooth Archive and Research Centre at Castletown, gives students direct access to specialists and enables them to see and handle a variety of formats at first-hand.

The Library underwent a very successful quality review in late 2010, in which Library staff and services were highly commended by internal reviewers as well as those from the University of Durham and Imperial College London.

Exhibitions and Collections

Continuing its long-standing tradition, the Library hosted a variety of exciting exhibitions during 2010-11. The annual art showcase of paintings and photography by University staff and students ran during Arts Week in December 2010, while the Russell Library exhibited correspondence of Cardinal John Henry Newman to coincide with his beatification that same month.

The fourth annual Publications Festival, held in January, celebrated the output of the Faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy and St Patrick's College, Maynooth in both the print and electronic forms. Two databases with NUI Maynooth involvement were also displayed, namely *The Irish in Europe* promoting research on Irish migration to Continental Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries (www.irishineurope.ie) and *Rian* (mentioned above). A number of exhibitions were mounted in the Russell Library to coincide with the Festival, including *Pugin's legacy*; *Early Life of the Irish College of St Patrick, Salamanca*; and *Maynooth Gaelic manuscripts on screen*.

The following month, a TG4 programme featured important historical work involving the Russell Library, the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates at NUI Maynooth, Castle Howard in Yorkshire and Ancestry.com. The Morpeth Testimonial Roll project is analysing a gigantic scroll measuring 412 metres in length and containing some 275,000 signatures gathered from across Ireland. It has been variously described as a kind of pre-famine census or even the 19th century equivalent of a social network, with the potential to provide a unique insight into Irish life, society and politics from the period. Further information including a clip from the Nuacht programme is available on the Library website (www.library.nuim.ie).

The Library continued to enhance its collections in terms of print, electronic and ephemera. The former were boosted by a number of significant donations including the personal collection of the eminent Reverend Thomas Finan from the Department of Ancient Classics. In the areas of philosophy, theology and the history of science, the Library received a donation of material from the late Ernán McMullin, alumni of St Patrick's College, Maynooth and Emeritus Professor of Notre Dame University.

The Library was delighted to be the benefactor of the generous donation of the Teresa Deevy papers in summer 2011. This is a major addition to its archive and will prove invaluable in facilitating research, by Irish and international scholars, into one of Ireland's most original and challenging 20th century playwrights. This archive also contains a range of letters from such notables as Jack B. Yeats and Frank O'Connor, copies of reviews, and drafts of Ms Deevy's fictional work along with a small assortment of theatre ephemera.



←
[Professor Chris Morash,](#)
[Head of the Department of](#)
[English, NUI Maynooth and](#)
[Ms Jacqui Deevy \(Teresa](#)
[Deevy's niece - Teresa](#)
[Deevy herself died in 1963\).](#)

↘
[Mary Coughlan T.D. Tánaiste](#)
[and Minister for Education](#)
[and Skills and Professor](#)
[Tom Collins, Interim](#)
[President, NUI Maynooth](#)
[turn the sod on the €20](#)
[million library extension.](#)

Cataloguing and preservation work continued on the Strokestown Estate Archive, housed in the OPW-NUI Maynooth Archive and Research Centre at Castletown House. The Archive consists of a substantial collection of documents relating to generations of the Mahon family in Strokestown, County Roscommon, dating from the famine years up to the late 20th century.

In order to further support research and learning, the Library purchased the online database of 19th century British Newspapers. This resource contains full runs of influential national and regional broadsheets representing different political and cultural segments of British society during that era.

Library Services & Contributions

Over 1,300 people attended Library Information Skills Training (LIST), a programme of short sessions on various library and other services, offered throughout the academic year. This initiative was commended by Ruairi Quinn TD, Minister for Education and Skills, who cited LIST as an example of best practice at the Irish National and University Libraries (INULS) Conference in Trinity College Dublin in June 2011.

The Library continues to harness the benefits of online technologies and has built on previous achievements in order to offer its users as comprehensive a service as possible. The usage of Flickr, Facebook and Twitter is proving positive and this year saw the Library offer students the opportunity to free-text details from the online catalogue to their mobile phones. The use of Quick Response (QR) codes has been successfully rolled out and the launch of iPhone and Android applications is allowing users greater flexibility in how they access information and library services.

Library staff contributed to the national and international development of libraries by presenting conference papers, hosting events and publishing throughout the year. Five posters were exhibited at the INULS Conference, with first and third prizes being awarded to NUI Maynooth.

The partnership between the University Library and the Maynooth Post Primary School has further developed to include the delivery of information literacy classes for second year and Leaving Certificate students.





Profile

Mairead McQuaid

Librarian, Kilkenny
Campus Library

Mairead McQuaid is celebrating a decade at NUI Maynooth's Kilkenny campus where she is currently Campus Librarian. Her main duties include the smooth running of the campus library, along with the help of two part-time library assistants, providing information literacy training to staff and students, and developing the book collection. "In conjunction with library staff from Maynooth, I've been involved in the introduction of an accredited information literacy module to the BA Local and Community Studies degree course and presently teach two modules at different levels. This was a whole new and exciting experience for me – from librarian to lecturer!" She is also in charge of IT services and maintaining the campus website. Mairead is particularly proud of this new website, which she believes shows off the campus very well and which she worked very hard to develop (<http://kilkenny.nuim.ie>).

According to Mairead, her responsibilities are very diverse and ever changing due to the nature of the small staff cohort on the Kilkenny campus and the distance from the main Maynooth environs. The smaller scale status leads to a real sense of community where the staff pull together to help each other out when necessary even though it may not be officially within their remits. While her role on paper may be that of Librarian, at times Mairead is called upon to invigilate for exams, provide backup at campus promotional events, help out at graduations, and deal with course queries from current and prospective students. "I can also be found emptying the dishwasher in the campus canteen, setting up rooms for lectures, answering the door, and acting as receptionist as and when needed!"

The distance from the main Maynooth campus brings its own challenges, especially when it comes to technical problems in the library or trouble with the IT services. "The support staff can't simply walk across campus to help us out so I've learned to be very self sufficient and to work with the library and computer centre staff via telephone to solve these problems so that we're not waiting weeks for the solution."

Given the compact size of the campus, there is plenty of daily interaction with the students so that staff get to know them very well. Also, with the library opening until 9 p.m. most evenings and the mature students attending evening lectures, Mairead explains that the library staff are sometimes the first port of call for students when they need an ear for their problems, queries and issues. "It's great to be able to put names to faces and to follow the progress of Certificate students throughout the year as well as the journeys of the degree students, from helping out with their registrations at the start and dealing with their enquiries during the years, to assisting at their graduation ceremonies." Since 2002, campus staff have worked closely with the Conferring Office to hold the graduations at the Kilkenny Castle Parade Tower rather than join the larger graduation ceremonies at Maynooth. Mairead finds that this is a fantastic opportunity to share in the celebrations of the end of the students' journeys.

Mairead has a degree in Social Administration from University of Ulster and a Postgraduate Diploma in Information and Library Management from Northumbria University. Since graduating in 1997, she has mostly worked in academic libraries in Ireland (NUI Galway and University of Limerick) but also briefly in Australia and the UK before joining the Kilkenny Campus Library in 2001.

Getting involved in the development and teaching of an accredited module on information literacy on the BA degree course has benefited Mairead on several fronts. "Teaching for the first time and seeing the students absorb that information and knowing that they would use it to help them with the rest of the studies gave me a great sense of achievement." She has also seen the advantages of using the e-learning tool Moodle to give access to resources to students while on and off-campus, and would like to develop more information literacy skills training programmes for Certificate and Postgraduate students using this technology.

2.8 THE ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Celebrating Connections

The fourth Alumni Reunion Ball welcomed 150 guests, which included graduates from each of the last four decades, back to the University to "Celebrate and Connect". Professor Tom Collins, Interim President, himself an alumnus with nearly forty years connection to the University in a variety of roles, welcomed senior representatives from the Irish education sector along with Minister for State, Brian Hayes TD (a 1991 History and Sociology graduate) to the annual event. Two female alumni, who have represented NUI Maynooth with distinction, were honoured at the occasion held in Pugin Hall in June 2011.

Writer and poet Mary O'Donnell received the President's Alumni Award from Professor Collins, primarily for her outstanding work in poetry and prose. Ms O'Donnell entered St Patrick's College in 1974 graduating with a BA in German and Philosophy, an MA in German and a Higher Diploma in Education. Since the 1980s she has published six collections of poetry, two of short stories and three novels, and has numerous honours to her name, including the William Allingham Award and the Listowel Writers' Week, the V.S. Pritchett, and the Fish International Short Story Prizes. She is renowned as an influential drama critic, featuring on national radio and in various academic journals. Her admission to the Aosdána association is recognition of her rank among the elite of Irish writers and artists. Ms O'Donnell has also served as a member of the University's Governing Authority and as a guest lecturer of creative writing to select English students.

Gemma Ennis, acting Deputy Principal of Kilbride National School (Trim), was inducted into the "Made in Maynooth" Alumni Hall of Fame. Ms Ennis came to the University through the Maynooth Access Programme in 1999, graduating with a BA in German and Mathematics.



←
[Ms Gemma Ennis,](#)
[Professor Tom Collins,](#)
[Interim President,](#)
[NUI Maynooth](#)
[and Ms Mary O'Donnell.](#)

She worked in the University's Access Office where she developed a number of very successful school outreach programmes, in particular "Sowing the Seeds of Science", before completing a Higher Diploma in Primary Education.

Also reuniting (last August), were the Erasmus students of History and other subjects from the class of 1993-94. The participants, most of who originally came to the University through the Brussels-funded ECTS pilot scheme that pioneered the adoption of compatible module accreditation systems across European universities, travelled from Austria, Germany, Spain and Belgium. The visitors met with several Irish student contemporaries and with Professor Vincent Comerford who was the academic coordinator for ECTS at the time.

Making Maynooth Great

In a bid to help set the strategic direction of the Alumni Office and to identify ways in which alumni can benefit each other and the University, a Maynooth Alumni Advisory Board has been established. With its inaugural meeting held in February, the board is scheduled to meet at least three times a year. Acting as ambassadors for the University, the board members are:

Vincent Comerford, Emeritus Professor, NUI Maynooth

Bernadette Coyne, Managing Director, Amárach Consulting (BA 1987)

Peter Finnegan, Director, Dublin City Council (BA 1976)

Frank Fitzmaurice, Director Corporate Services, NUI Maynooth

Karen Kelly, Alumni Officer, NUI Maynooth (BA 2009)

Flor Madden, Executive Chairman, Weddings at Home (BA 1988)

Hayley McCann, Secondary Teacher, Geography and Religion (BA 2007)

Aengus Ó Maoláin, Student's Union President, NUI Maynooth (BMus 2009)

One NUI Maynooth alumnus who has greatly benefited all those living in the island of Ireland is none other than John Hume. A lifelong champion of civil rights, he was voted as the winner of RTÉ's search for the greatest person in the history of Ireland. The accolade was bestowed on Mr Hume on account of his tiresome campaigning for peace in Northern Ireland. Presenting his case, Journalist Miriam O'Callaghan said we were all reaping the benefits of his efforts. From an initial list of 40 (gained from an IPSOS/MRBI survey), public votes decided on a Top 10 which was subsequently narrowed down to five candidates including Michael Collins, Bono, Mary Robinson, and James Connolly along with the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

Born into a non-political family in 1937, John Hume was among the first wave of Catholics to receive a free secondary education. He enrolled at NUI Maynooth in 1954 under a scholarship to read French and History. He was described as a brilliant scholar and his gratitude in receiving his university education instilled in him a duty to help those who were less fortunate than himself.

Singing Maynooth's Praises

The silver anniversary of the Maynooth Chamber Choir was celebrated with a gala concert for University alumni and attended by guest of honour, President Mary McAleese. Comprised of 22 students from both the University and St Patrick's College Maynooth, the Choir was conducted by Aengus Ó Maoláin, a music graduate and Students' Union President. Following the performance President McAleese conveyed her congratulations on the milestone and quoted Yeats in noting that the choir's dedication and passion for music epitomised "education not filling the pail, but lighting a fire". Over the past 25 years, more than 250 graduates of the choir have successfully sung in many of Ireland's premier choral groups, including Anúna and the National Chamber Choir.

Other music events of the past year included the Christmas Carol Service held in December and the Choral Service in March. In a new initiative for 2010, alumni were invited to these music events as guests of the Alumni Office. With demand for tickets exceeding supply, those alumni who did attend were delighted to reconnect with their Alma Mater. As one alumnus commented about the March event, "It was a fantastic performance and the meal, far beyond expectation, was lovely. My guest, the mother of a former graduate, was lost in awe at the whole occasion. It made me proud of NUI Maynooth once again!"

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Ms Karen Kelly
Alumni Officer



2.9 OIFIG NA GAELIGE AGUS OIFIG ACHT NA DTEANGACHA OIFIGÚLA

San Ollscoil

I rith na bliana seo leanadh den fhorbairt ar thimpeallacht bháidhiúil don Ghaeilge ar an gcampas, ar eolas a scaipeadh faoi chaíonna an teanga a fhoghlaim agus a úsáid agus ar chomhoibriú le húdaráis, le ranna, le baill foirne agus le mic léinn na hOllscoile. Eagraíodh imeachtaí cultúrtha agus sóisialta; d'fhreastail baill den Ollscoil ar ócáidí Gaeilge san Ollscoil féin agus lasmuigh di. Leanadh den chomhoibriú le hOifigigh Ghaeilge in institiúidí eile agus den teagmháil le heagraíochtaí Gaeilge. Sholáthair an Oifig ábhar dílis, eolas faoin nGaeilge agus aistriúcháin d'oifigí agus do ranna éagsúla idir acadúil, riaracháin agus sheirbhíse. Rinneadh fógraíocht leanúnach ar ranganna agus ar imeachtaí Gaeilge san Ollscoil agus i saol na Gaeilge lasmuigh agus seoladh eolas amach chuig gach roinn agus aonad.

Ranganna agus Comhrá Gaeilge

Bhí freastal maith ar na ranganna a eagraíonn Ionad na dTeangacha agus Oifig na Gaeilge do bhaill foirne na hOllscoile i mblíana. Bíonn ranganna ar siúl am lóin Dé Máirt agus Dé Céadaoin. Chláraigh cúigear is daichead mac léinn nach bhfuil an Ghaeilge mar ábhar léinn acu do ranganna faoin gclár IWLP.

Seomra na Gaeilge

Bhí 'laethanta oscailte' agus seisiúin chomhrá rialta i Seomra na Gaeilge. Tá leabhair, bileoga eolais, dlúthdhioscanna agus DVDanna ann le ceadú agus tá suíomhanna gréasáin a bhaineann le gnéithe éagsúla den Ghaeilge agus den chultúr marcáilte ar an ríomhaire.



←

[Mic léinn OÉ Má Nuad](#)
[i mbun spaoi ag](#)
[Oireachtas na Gaeilge.](#)

Scéim na nÁrasán Gaeilge

Bhí cúigear déag mac léinn ina gcónaí in Árasáin Ghaoth Dobhair i mblíana – in 'Árasáin na Gaeilge'. Déardaoín, 11 Samhain, bhí teacht le chéile do na mic léinn i gColáiste na hOllscoile Baile Átha Cliath. D'fhreastail UCD, UCC, UL, TCD agus OÉ Má Nuad ar an ócáid; béile, quiz boird agus seisiún ceoil a bhí i gceist, arna eagrú ag Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Oifigeach Gaeilge UCD, agus Cumann Gaelach na hOllscoile. Bhí Oifigigh Ghaeilge na gcoláistí i láthair chomh maith.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

D'eagraigh Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Cuallacht Cholm Cille agus Oifigeach Imeachtaí Cultúrtha is Gaeilge an SU ócáidí do mhuintir na Gaeilge. Bhí ceol, litríocht, cluichí is cibéal san áireamh. Dhein foireann na Leabharlainne agus Ionad na nGairmeacha a gcion chomh maith, le taispeántais ar leith. D'eagraigh Susan Durack agus Barbara McCormack taispeántas, Pádraig Ó Duinnín: Foclóirí agus Scoláire i Leabharlann Eoin Pól 11. D'éirigh go breá le Bál na Gaeilge, arna reachtáil ag Cuallacht Cholm Cille agus Oifigeach Imeachtaí Cultúrtha agus Gaeilge an SU.

Aoiscribhneoir

Is í Biddy Jenkinson, file, drámadóir agus scríbhneoir próis an aois-scribhneoir a tháinig go dtí an Ollscoil i mblíana. Léigh sí dánta nua dá cuid, agus scéal as an leabhar is déanaí aici, Pádraig Ó Duinnín - Bleachtaire. Bhí idir bhaill foirne agus mhic léinn i láthair.

Teagmháil le Saol na Gaeilge agus le hEagraíochtaí Gaeilge

D'fhreastail an tOifigeach ar ócáidí éagsúla a reachtáil eagraíochtaí Gaeilge, ina measc An tOireachtas, seoltaí leabhar ag Foras na Gaeilge, Coiscéim agus An Gúm. D'éirigh thar barr leis an turas bliantúil go dtí Oireachtas na Samhna i gCill Áirne a d'eagraigh Oifig na Gaeilge agus Cuallacht Cholm Cille. Thug Oifig na Gaeilge tacalocht do sheachtar déag mac léinn freastal air. Bhí mic léinn as coláistí éagsúla na tíre ann.

Duais ó Ghlor na nGael

Fuair Cuallacht Cholm Cille Duais Aitheantais as a ndlograis i rith na bliana seo. siad aitheantas ó Ghlor na nGael.

Cóisir Chlabhsúir Bhliana

Cuireadh deireadh leis an mblíain acadúil le hoíche chultúrta. Oifigeach na Gaeilge i gcomhar le Rónán Ó Dochartaigh a d'eagraigh an oíche. Léigh Tadhg Ó Dúshláine dánta as a shaothar; sheinn Róisín Kelly, Donal Moran agus Caoimhghin Ó Caoláin ceol den scoth agus bhí amhráin ón bhfonnadóir Eilín Ní Bheaglaoich.

3

RESEARCH



3.1 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Promising Times

Despite economic pressures, externally funded research expenditure remained in excess of €23 million in 2010, while published items and citations were at an all-time high during this period.

In a notable success in 2011, Professor Seán O Riain from the Sociology Department secured an extremely prestigious European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant to explore *New deals in the new economy: European workplaces in an era of transformation*. This study will investigate the kinds of socio-political possibilities within the contemporary global knowledge economy and the political conditions and strategies under which more social and democratic socio-economic orders can be constructed. In fact, all seven of the University's submissions to the Social Sciences and Humanities panel of the ERC Starting Grants 2011 surpassed the quality threshold, with two invited to the second and final evaluation stages. The European Research Council aims to fund the very best ground-breaking research in Europe and it is a testament to the overall quality of humanities and social sciences at NUI Maynooth to have performed so strongly.

In a similarly prestigious award in the sciences, Dr Natasa Mitic, now of the Chemistry Department having joined from the University of Queensland in 2010, was awarded a Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) President of Ireland Young Researcher Award (PIYRA), which is Ireland's most prestigious award for young engineers and scientists displaying extraordinary ability and leadership in their fields. Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, formally presented the award which will facilitate Dr Mitic in establishing a research group to address the emergence of antibiotic resistance, a problem existing in clinical settings with serious implications on the well-being of post-surgery scenarios. Her studies will reveal regions in the target enzymes associated with antibiotic resistance that are conserved and not prone to mutation and hence present suitable targets for the design of new drugs with greater longevity.

Across all areas of the University over 300 high quality journal papers and books were published by NUI Maynooth researchers in 2010.

Highlight publications included a series of more than ten highly-cited journal articles related to the Heterodyne Instrument for the Far-Infrared (HIFI) that was launched onboard the European Space Agency's Herschel Space Observatory in May 2009 to examine the infra-red background radiation in interstellar space. The papers, published by various members of an international consortium that includes Professor Anthony Murphy's Experimental Physics Group, reported on the performance of the receivers and some first results of HIFI's operations, as well as on new results on abundances of water and related compounds in interstellar space. Professor Murphy's Group, which includes independent investigators Drs Neal Trappe and Tully Peacocke, contributed significantly to the instrument design over a number of years and is an example of how truly forefront research programmes must sometimes undergo lengthy development periods before reaching fruition. When they do, the contribution to knowledge can be intense and spectacular.

A second highlight publication was a review by Dr Martina Schroeder of the Institute of Immunology of the cellular functions of human DEAD-box RNA helicase DDX3, which has been suggested to be involved in cell cycle control and the regulation of apoptosis, and which may provide a mechanism for drug targeting of both Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis C, both of which pose major global health threats.

A third highlight was provided by an interdisciplinary Chemical Biology Group, which included authors Kevin Kavanagh, Gary Jones, John Stephens and Sean Doyle, entitled "Self-Protection against GliotoxinA Component of the Gliotoxin Biosynthetic Cluster, GliT, Completely Protects *Aspergillus fumigatus* Against Exogenous Gliotoxin". The pathogenic fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus* causes disease in immunocompromised individuals such as cancer patients and is a significant cause of mortality. In addition to the quality of the science, of particular interest is the fact that this paper was published in *PLoS Pathogens*, which is part of the Public Library of Science, the leading international open access journal. The University's publication is thus open to be read and used by anyone with an internet connection and not just subscribers. This is in line with a NUI Maynooth policy adopted in 2011 to facilitate open access to all of its research publications insofar as is possible.

Pioneering Times

The 2010-11 period has been characterised by breakthroughs for NUI Maynooth researchers, particularly in the disciplines of ICT, bioinformatics and molecular evolution, and synthetic chemistry, with a number of pioneering results published in principal research journals.

The provision of free, widespread, effective broadband for all citizens of global cities is one step closer thanks to research at the Hamilton Institute, NUI Maynooth's leading international multi-disciplinary research centre focused on the link between mathematics and disciplines such as information technology and biology. For over a decade this solution has been sought by cities in the drive to support the "smart economy" but had remained elusive due to technological limitations. Hamilton researchers have now developed a new mathematical framework to analyse the functioning and behaviour of radio signals and subsequently created software programs to enable WiFi transmitters to operate effectively. The latter have been proven in trials with large-scale demonstrations taking place in early 2011 in association with industry partners.

From the human community to the animal kingdom where the family tree of arthropods, accounting for 80% of all known animals including insects, crustaceans and spiders, has been radically redrawn following the publication of collaborative research between Bioinformatics researchers from NUI Maynooth (Davide Pisani), University College London, the Natural History Museum London, Dartmouth College and Montreal University.

This study revealed that the hypothesis, favoured for the past 15 years, suggesting that millipedes and centipedes are most closely related to chelicerates, such as spiders, is incorrect and that they are instead more akin to insects and crustaceans such as crabs and lobsters. The study of Micro RNA in non-model organisms, used in this instance, has been pioneered in Ireland by the University's Molecular Evolution and Bioinformatics Unit and these molecules are becoming the focus of advanced research in health and disease.



←
[Dr. James McInerney,](#)
[Department of Biology.](#)

Following 10 years of research, this same unit from the Department of Biology in conjunction with the world famous Sanger Institute in Cambridge have successfully identified the single most phenomenal event in the history of life on the planet, the moment which amounts to Nature's "Big Bang". It is widely known that the DNA of all species is found in the nucleus but for years it had been a puzzle as to how the first nucleus was created.

James McInerney's team established that approximately two billion years ago, two single cell biological organisms, prokaryotes, neither of which had a true nucleus, fused together to create a new entity, a eukaryote which had a nucleus. This basic building block in turn gave rise to all multi-cell organisms, primarily insects, plants, animals, and humans. The team's work has many applications in biotechnology research and the understanding of cloning technology.

The University's catalytic chemistry scientists, Dr John Stephens and John Murphy (PhD student), have developed an efficient, clean and metal-free approach to the generation of high purity chiral compounds in collaboration with partners from the University of Geneva. While these sulfones are known for their synthetic versatility and biological importance, this work has wider appeal due to its potential for application to a variety of functional groups.



→
[John Murphy, PhD student](#)
[and Dr John Stephens,](#)
[Department of Chemistry.](#)

Facilitating the medical breakthroughs of tomorrow, the Translational Research Hub (TRH) is a major strategic initiative that combines the research expertise of NUI Maynooth and Dublin City University with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the country's largest medical school, and its associated hospital-based Clinical and Translational Research Centres. The goal of the TRH is to be a leader in translational biomedical science, harnessing the combined expertise of scientists, engineers, clinicians and industry to develop new treatments and diagnostic techniques for improving human health, to train tomorrow's experts and to accelerate commercial solutions to the marketplace. The TRH will not only play a critical role in advancing biomedical science, but will also deliver key innovations to the Irish medtech industry sector which is of critical importance to the Irish economy.

Rewarding Times

Building on the high-level expertise developed under a previous PIYRA Award, an SFI Principal Investigator (PI) Award has been bestowed on Dr Jiri Vala of the Mathematical Physics Department to further the development of quantum computation. The five-year award, worth over €400,000, will examine “naturally fault-tolerant quantum information processing: from concepts to media, devices and algorithms”. Dr Vala’s research in topological quantum computing offers the prospect of a new generation of powerful quantum computers that allow the efficient solution of computation problems intractable on conventional computers and that are also naturally fault-tolerant. The project represents a new level of research in this sphere and promises both fundamental scientific results and technologically interesting applications with high impact in quantum information processing, condensed matter physics, statistical physics, material science and other areas. These may ultimately assist, for example, in the development of nanotechnology and other areas such as drug design and modeling and in national security.

In collaboration with Dr Vala, Dr Joost Slingerland from the same Department has also been PI on the SFI project “topological order, quantum computation and the fractional quantum hall effect” since 2009. His group studies materials and devices with extraordinary quantum mechanical properties and their application to the design of quantum computers. Such machines are causing a revolution in data encryption and should eventually enable efficient simulation of quantum systems like large proteins or high temperature superconductors. Research at NUI Maynooth focuses on quantum hardware which stores information in global (topological) properties of the physical medium, which are insensitive to virtually all disturbances. The group’s research has been published in leading journals, including *Physical Review*, receiving a number of Editors’ Recommendations, and was recently featured in *Physics*, the American Physical Society’s Journal which highlights exceptional papers.

Dr Gillian Hendy, a PhD graduate from the Department of Chemistry, obtained an EU FP7-Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowship for her project entitled “conducting organic materials for applications in tissue engineering”. This funding, in excess of €200,000, is allowing Dr Hendy to work with Professor Robert Langer at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As the internationally recognised leading research group in Materials, with over 100 members, 1,200 research papers, 800 patents and a hand in creating 25 companies, Dr Hendy is engaging with some of the most talented researchers in her field. She will return to Maynooth during the third year of her award, bringing new expertise, research ideas and collaborative links to the Electrochemistry and Materials Group, the return host laboratory. Dr Hendy plans on developing new biodegradable scaffold materials with drug releasing properties that can be electrically stimulated to give nerve-cell regeneration, with the potential to help millions of people throughout the world.

At the other end of the IT spectrum are wireless networks, where there have been huge advances in the last 10 to 15 years to the degree that they commonly feature in the modern home as a means of connecting laptops, desktops and even smartphones and tablets to the Internet. Despite researchers coming up with improvements for these networks, adoption has often been slow because the devices are not that flexible. While “software radio” is a more flexible solution existing for low-level signal transmission, FLAVIA, the EU FP7 Cooperation Award worth €3.6 million, aims to take the higher layers of these devices and make them more reconfigurable. In this context, the Hamilton Institute, which received €262,000, is looking at how WiFi can be more flexible and what can be done with that flexibility. FLAVIA has ten international partners including CNIT, Alvarion, NEC, Telefonica Research, Mobimesh, Ben-Gurion University, IITP, IMDEA Networks and Sequans.

Also on the digital front, An Foras Feasa was successful in securing funding for two major programmes under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions, PRTL15, namely an inter-institutional structured PhD programme in Digital Arts and Humanities (DAH) and the National Audio Visual Repository Project (NAVR). The former, with PI Professor Margaret Kelleher, is in partnership with Trinity College Dublin (TCD), the Royal Irish Academy (RIA), NUI Galway (NUIG) and University College Cork (UCC), while the latter research consortium, with PIs Dr John Keating and Professor Rob Kitchen, comprises the first three along with Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) and the National College of Art and Design; the Maynooth members are An Foras Feasa, NIRSA and the Library. Six students have been recruited to the DAH programme and work has commenced on NAVR, a four-year €5.1 million project to build a robust, scalable, accessible and sustainable Trusted Digital Repository and access repository for the humanities and qualitative social sciences, thus addressing a key deficit in Irish HSS research infrastructures.

Other PRTL15 PhD programmes which have begun the recruitment and operational phases include the Bioanalysis and Therapeutics (Bio-AT) programme which is due to start in autumn 2011 and which will eventually have eight students participating at NUI Maynooth, as well as the Telecommunications Graduate Initiative (TGI) programme, where two student positions have already been filled with two more to be filled in the autumn.

Professor Kelleher, An Foras Feasa Director, is Ireland’s representative on the European Science Foundation’s (ESF) Standing Committee for the Humanities and a member of its working group on Research Infrastructures for the Humanities. In June 2011, An Foras Feasa hosted the ESF’s Humanities Spring Workshop, a special symposium for early-career researchers, which included participants from 12 European countries. The resulting manifesto on *Changing Publication Cultures in the Humanities* will be launched later in the year.

The Electronic Engineering Department acquired two significant grant awards in 2010, as a partner in the €5.9 million SFI-funded Strategic Research Cluster on Sustainable Electrical Energy Systems (SEES) and as the lead in the Irish Centre for Manufacturing Research's (ICMR) Virtual Metrology and Predictive Maintenance research strand. Led by University College Dublin, in partnership with the Economic and Social Research Institute, TCD, and University of Limerick (UL), the SEES research cluster brings together 25 leading Irish and international companies with interests in energy and smart grid technologies. Its goal is to tackle fundamental applied research and demonstration challenges associated with the emergence of future integrated, smart and sustainable electrical energy systems. The NUI Maynooth team will be focusing on the challenges associated with achieving efficient, robust, stable, coordinated demand side management of smart loads.

The ICMR is a government funded industry-led technology centre with a mission to develop a research and development program that will deliver the breakthrough solutions required for Ireland to maintain a competitive edge in advanced manufacturing. Owing to the €422,000 grant from Enterprise Ireland and the ICMR, researchers in the Dynamics and Control Research Group are working in partnership with industry members on developing data driven virtual metrology and predictive maintenance solutions for a range of manufacturing processes using state-of-the-art machine learning and data mining techniques. Electronic Engineering researchers have licensed technology for predictive maintenance to Edwards (UK), which allows accurate prediction of remaining useful life of vacuum pumps used in the semiconductor manufacturing industry. In other news, the Department established the Centre for Ocean Energy Research, with 10 researchers, to provide a focus for research activities in wave and tidal energy.

Innovation, Industry and ICT

NUI Maynooth established the Callan Research Institute during the past year to focus on innovation and the realisation of research results by working with industry to identify and answer relevant research questions in ICT technologies and by providing access to the knowledge base and expertise of over 40 researchers in wireless communications, data mining and knowledge extraction, image and video signal processing, cognition and intelligent systems. The new Institute, which is already engaged with Intel, NXP and Alcatel Lucent Bell Labs, incorporates the Institute for Microelectronics and Wireless Systems along with researchers from the Departments of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering.

In the "Dublinked" collaboration between the University and the four Dublin Local Authorities to foster data-enabled innovation in the urban region, historical, structural and operational data about the city is being released through a unified portal donated by IBM. In addition to the initial data release in the thematic areas of traffic, environment, water, marine environment and retail, workshops, competitions and outreach events are aimed at increasing awareness and use of the data. The objective is to support the development of new products and services by small and large companies, for deployment within Dublin as a test site and for sale globally. Led by NUI Maynooth, the signing in May 2011 is the culmination of two years work by Dr Ronan Farrell (Callan Institute) and Dr Tim McCarthy (National Centre for Geocomputation) related to the SFI StratAG research project. In the same month, the SFI Centre for Telecommunications Value-chain Research (CTVR), focusing on wireless and optical access technologies and network architectures, received its second five-year funding award worth just short of €20 million. Supported by such companies as Alcatel Lucent, Xilinx and Eircom, Ireland's foremost telecommunications research centre has had a global impact in terms of achieving a top quality publication record, several successful startups, and a very high profile in the area of next generation mobile telephony, and in engaging with technology and policy decision makers around the world in its first six years of operation. Headquartered in TCD, the consortium also encompasses Dublin City University, DIT, UCC/Tyndall and UL, while research activities in radio access technologies are led by Dr Farrell.

NUI Maynooth's link with the new IBM Smarter Cities Technology Centre in Ireland is the latest aspect of a long-standing, multi-faceted relationship between the



[Dr Ronan Farrell](#),
[Callan Institute](#),
[NUI Maynooth](#).

University and the corporation in this particular area. The engagement with IBM has been strengthened through the sponsorship of PhD students and collaboration in the Dublinked and PRTL SmartBay initiatives among other mechanisms. Much of the current research collaboration is focused on sensing and predicting human generated activity within the urban environment, a complex and dynamic research challenge that has demands from multiple domains, from the geographic, societal behaviour and "big-data" technical issues.

In a move recognising the ICT profession as a key enabler of economic growth, innovation and competitiveness and its development as a significant priority of the European e-Skills agenda, the European Commission has contracted the Innovation Value Institute (IVI) to conduct a groundbreaking research project to develop a pan-European framework for ICT professionalism, which will enhance ICT practices and mobility for qualified professionals in European business, public sector and academic organisations, as well as a European Training Programme for ICT Managers (Chief Information Officers) to support and drive innovation and competitive advantage in the organisations they serve.



←
[Professor Tom Collins,](#)
[Interim President, NUI](#)
[Maynooth;](#)
[Sean Sherlock T.D.,](#)
[Minister for Jobs](#)
[and Innovation; and](#)
[Professor Martin Curley,](#)

The preliminary findings of the first ever pan-European survey of senior IT professionals, forming part of the initial data gathering phase of this European ICT Professionalism Framework and CIO Training Project, were presented at the 2011 IVI European Summer Summit. Conducted in conjunction with the Council of European Professional Informatics Societies, the survey of 370 professionals from industry, academia, government and professional bodies found that senior ICT professionals in Europe are worried that growing trends in the mobility of ICT practitioners among member states are hampered by a lack of transparency in ICT competences, certifications and qualifications, with over 1,300 ICT certification courses currently available across the region.

A few months earlier, the annual North American Summit of IVI was told that sustainable IT (SICT) has the potential to realise savings of almost €662 (US\$950) billion for global business by 2020, but left unchecked the rising cost of energy could drive a 20 to 30% increase in IT spend, equivalent to €314 billion, over the next five years.

The conference also heard of a groundbreaking benchmarking study on IVI's IT-Capability Maturity Framework (CMF) undertaken by six leading global oil and gas companies which showed that companies with a higher IT-CMF maturity were 33% more efficient than the peer average in overall IT spend and 44% more efficient in IT infrastructure spend per supported user. Recognising the importance of more efficient, green technological practices for industry, IVI has launched SICT as one of IT-CMF's critical processes. On the domestic front, IVI has been nominated to host the Enterprise Ireland/Irish Development Authority IT Innovation Competence Centre, one of six such centres tasked with achieving competitive advantage for industry in Ireland by accessing the innovative capacity of the research community. The research will focus on IVI's IT-CMF, a roadmap to help manage the complexities and trade-offs required to continuously evolve an organisation's IT capability while delivering measurable business value, as well as the areas of innovation management, services innovation and sustainable information and communications technology practice.

Spatial Analysis

The National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG) has been awarded the status of "Esri Development Centre" by Esri Ireland. NUI Maynooth is the first academic institution to be designated in Ireland and joins 26 similar centres selected to be part of a worldwide programme recognising universities that deliver exemplary education and research programmes in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Esri is the global leader in developing the world's leading GIS software and this recognition acknowledges NCG as one of the major global centres of GIS and Spatial Analysis.

The Irish Qualitative Data Archive (IQDA), a digital social science archive that acts as a repository for all non-numerical data generated by social researchers in Ireland, was launched in June as part of the Irish Social Science Platform funded under the PRTL. Housed in the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), the archive provides a vital record of contemporary Irish life as well as an important register for future social histories and will play a significant role in promoting the culture of sharing and reusing social science data in the country.

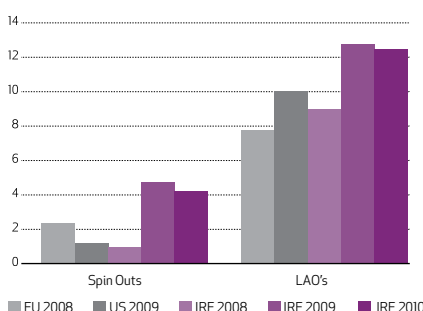
These two spatial analysis centres have been working together over the past three years to create the All Ireland Research Observatory (AIRO). Funded by PRTL4, the one-stop data and mapping portal gives planners, local and national policy makers and researchers free access to all publicly available information, and allows, for example, election candidates to rapidly and effectively analyse micro-level data relating to potential voters (population demographics, socio-economic status, etc.) and compare electoral districts within constituencies, as well as providing political parties with rich information that can revolutionise their approach to policy formation and decision making. The database also facilitates the creation, exploration and interaction with maps at all scales from local to European.

3.2 COMMERCIALISATION PURSUITS

Commercialisation Pursuits

NUI Maynooth is maintaining its position as a national leader in the commercialisation of research and this past academic year mirrored previous years' performances. The Commercialisation Office continues to be supported by Enterprise Ireland (EI) under its Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative.

EI recently completed an international comparison of data of technology transfer performance with Ireland producing strong results when compared with US and European statistics (see Figure 1). NUI Maynooth is excelling in several areas of commercialisation activity when measured against national performance, which validates the success of the University's current development strategy for technology transfer activity.



→
International Comparison
of Data of Technology
Transfer Performance

NUI Maynooth Metrics

The University's 2010-11 metrics included spinning out three companies and completing eight licence deals, along with creating 13 new industry links and disclosing the same number of new inventions. One of the spin-out companies, Mutebutton Ltd., incorporates Dr Ross O'Neill's non-invasive Tinnitus treatment device and came hot on the heels of his Enterprise Ireland "One to Watch" Award for the technology, which was developed in conjunction with Dr Paul O'Grady and Professor Barak Pearlmuter. This device is on track to revolutionise the treatment of Tinnitus, a debilitating disorder in which the sufferer perceives pathological noise, created by his/her brain in response to incomplete audio input from imperfect hearing. The company has secured investment from Enterprise Ireland and private angel investors, which will enable Mutebutton to accelerate large scale clinical trials of its Tinnitus treatment device and to secure ISO certification in advance of its regulatory approval and device manufacturing. Permanent Tinnitus is estimated to affect over 20,000 people in Ireland alone and over 40 million people globally. The new product is expected to be launched in the latter half of 2012.

Another spin-out company was founded on the basis of technology conceived by Dr Ronan Farrell and Jim Kinsella of the Callan Institute. Aniscan Ltd. has commercialised a product to enable the real-time monitoring of high value livestock (equine, beef, zoological, etc.). The research focusing on the bloodstock market was funded by an EI Commercialisation C+ Fund and trials are being carried out in stud farms in Ireland, Australia and Saudi Arabia during 2011.

Cerebeo Ltd. is a niche contract research company specialising in new and unique Central Nervous System research models using state-of-the-art technologies, including sensors. These new models allow pre-clinical to clinical translation, thereby speeding up drug discovery, which is widely accepted as an industry problem. Established by Dr Jennifer Craig and Professor John Lowry, much of the company's own research will be focussed on Schizophrenia and Alzheimer's Diseases and the development of tailor-made models to address these.

The University's researchers continue to compete successfully for EI support via their Commercialisation Fund Awards, C+ and Feasibility Support, securing €810,614 in the past academic year.

Networking

Connect 2011, a networking event hosted by the Commercialisation Office at Carton House Hotel, brought together over 250 delegates from the worlds of business and academia. The impetus behind this biennial event is to nurture symbiotic partnerships by marrying research and development with good business ideas, ultimately helping to generate employment, increase exports and raise revenue. As such, the event showcases the research expertise at NUI Maynooth and provides a networking opportunity for delegates to "connect + innovate".

The event was attended by a spread of small, medium and large companies, including enterprises such as Printpac (Dublin), Viadynamics (Waterford) and Xyea (Galway) as well as the big corporations of Alltech and Intel. Over 50 of NUI Maynooth's top researchers from its Science, Business and Engineering Departments participated at Connect 2011 by offering assistance to industry to overcome technical obstacles to enable them to bring new products and services to market.



The Connect concept is proving successful, as illustrated by the 2009 event which has allowed Shimmer Research and Tune presto to avail of NUI Maynooth expertise to develop new technologies and take their businesses to the next level. Enterprise Ireland grants are available to companies who wish to work with academic experts at the University.

Resources & Courses

In the past year the Commercialisation Office moved to a larger refurbished space in the John Hume Building on the North Campus. The team also launched a new website, which focuses on providing information for industry and the university community, and produced the first edition of its annual brochure to highlight commercialisation activity as well as a Biotech brochure outlining opportunities for business development.

During the 2010-11 period, NUI Maynooth secured planning for the development of an Innovation and Incubation Centre. The University has a committed budget to support the construction and running of the centre with funding assistance from Enterprise Ireland for the former. The facility will house spin-out and spin-in companies across a range of disciplines and will allow NUI Maynooth to both cater for its own spin-offs and attract growth companies to engage and collaborate with the University. The Centre will offer support services and mentoring to its various clients.



The Commercialisation Office continued to run its generic skills module "Innovation and Commercialisation of Research" GSE2 for PhD students and postdoctoral researchers this year. The module aims to introduce early career researchers to the culture of commercialisation of research and to equip them with the skills required to commercialise the outcome of their research, to provide them with the ability to interact with industry and to improve their skills to innovate and act with an entrepreneurial mindset.

The Reward Factor

In recognition of his success with the Mutebutton spin-out, Dr Ross O'Neill was chosen as the winner of the NUI Maynooth Commercialisation Award 2010, which acknowledges his contribution and success with his revolutionary technology to date.

The annual Student Entrepreneur Competition is known for promoting a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within the student body of the University. This year's first place, with €6,000 prize money, went to Alvaro Palomo Navarro, an electronic engineering PhD student. His company, eBitez, developed smart phone application software to lead the next generation of supermarket online shopping. Paul Kavanagh, a Masters student of software engineering, received €3,000 for his Momentum enterprise, aimed at providing an online resource for individuals to start their own personal campaigns to publicise consumer-related issues they wish to see resolved in their local area/county.



Dr Ross O'Neill presented with the [Commercialisation Award 2010 by Dr John Scanlon, Director, Commercialisation Office.](#)



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

ProDesign Embroidery, an established company offering custom embroidery for sports footwear and clothing was joint runner-up; its founders Keith Walsh and Mark Reynolds are undergraduate business students.

Sharing the spot, HorseBase is an online marketplace for quality Irish sports horses providing a one-stop-shop service. Its entrepreneurs Kevin Quinn and Martin Lonergan are studying Venture Management. Sponsors of the 2011 competition were Bank of Ireland Maynooth and McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors with the judging panel for the final comprised of their respective representatives Teresa Gorman, Manager, and Paul Lavery, Solicitor along with Conor Boyce, Patent Attorney, FRKelly and Conor Mallaghan, MD, Carton House.



Profile

Dr Stephen McLaughlin

Head of Research &
Development, IVI

Dr Stephen McLaughlin is head of Research and Development for the Innovation Value Institute (IVI), the global, open innovation consortium established in 2006 by Intel, The Boston Consulting Group and NUI Maynooth. With over 50 members around the world incorporating leading industry, consulting, not-for-profit and academic organizations, IVI has been quietly developing and testing new ways to more firmly align IT investments with bottom line business results.

Stephen describes IVI's first research output, the IT-Capability Maturity Framework (IT-CMF), as a concise roadmap to help Chief Information Officers manage the complexities and trade-offs required to continuously evolve the IT capability in an organisation while delivering measurable business value. "While IVI is currently focused on the on-going development and deployment of the IT-CMF, it is also establishing research output around cloud adoption, ICT sustainability, ICT professionalism and CIO training, with further projects due to start throughout 2011-12."

Prior to joining IVI in February 2010, Stephen was an Adam Smith Senior Research Fellow with the University of Glasgow, where his work centred on service innovation and effective knowledge transfer within complex organisations, with particular interest in supply chains/supply networks. He previously held a number of roles at IBM, the last of which was Supply Chain Optimisation Manager for EMEA.

Stephen is proud to be part of the IVI success story so far, "As a start-up R&D organisation, it has grown in leaps and bounds in the last 12 months. Getting the IT-CMF to a point where it is now being used by companies all over the world is a significant achievement for IVI, and I've enjoyed the energy and vitality which has gone hand in hand with that."

According to Stephen, the easiest thing about his job is working with well-motivated, enthusiastic, inquisitive and dedicated researchers and industry partners. The hardest thing is managing the expectation between industry and academic research as the need to be thorough and to be expeditious always brings challenges.

As he looks to the future, Stephen explains how, "Overall, with the University of Glasgow and IBM I did a lot of work around service innovation and I would be really interested to see how this research could be developed further within the IVI/NUI Maynooth context." His goals include publishing more as an individual, but even more so as an organisation. "Increasing IVI's publication output is a key objective for me. If I can personally contribute to this output I'll be very happy!" He also lectures on IT-related business courses and is presently preparing a module on 'Agile IT and Innovation' for the new Masters in IT Management.

As a relative newcomer to NUI Maynooth, Stephen believes that the University has the benefit of not having too much historical baggage, which in turn means that collaboration between departments and research institutes is open and welcoming. "The University also has excellent links with industry which have allowed for unrivalled access and consequently help ensure our [IVI's] research is relevant, current, and applicable."



Profile

Teresa Coll

**Payroll Supervisor,
Finance Office**

As the University's Payroll Supervisor, Teresa Coll is responsible for ensuring that payroll payments are processed in an accurate and timely manner and that all relevant statutory deadlines are met. With an average of 50 weekly and over 1,500 monthly salaries, this is no mean feat.

Teresa's role involves a wide variety of tasks including processing pay adjustments relating to sabbatical leave, term time, parental leave, maternity leave, travel passes and the bike to work scheme. She oversees voluntary deductions including health insurance and union subscriptions, updates tax credit certificates, and reconciles and balances payroll controls before the final processing of salaries.

The Payroll Office team consists of three members of staff, who operate an open door policy in their various interactions with the college community. "On a daily basis, I liaise with and support academic, research and administrative departments in relation to pay queries and all payroll matters." Teresa is also in regular contact with the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Social Protection regarding taxes and social insurance. "My job requires a detailed knowledge of complex employer and employee taxation and social welfare regulations that change annually so our knowledge has to be constantly updated. Also, we have tight deadlines which have to be met"

Teresa commenced her professional career as an accounts assistant before joining the Revenue Commissioners in 1981. She spent 18 years at the state agency, where she held a variety of posts including dealing with the public in the local enquiry office and working in the salaries and self-assessment taxation sections. She was subsequently employed by Bank of Ireland for a period, and then moved to Kilcock where she worked in a local opticians up until she joined NUI Maynooth's Finance Office in 2003.

In her first position at the University Teresa gained invaluable experience within the Payments Office, "At this initial stage, this job afforded me the opportunity to liaise with staff from other Departments and inevitably build a rapport which gave me an advantage when I joined Payroll." While she had amassed vast experience in payroll duties in her previous employments, she availed of the opportunity to further her education and qualified as a certified Payroll Technician in 2005.

Each year brings new challenges in the Payroll Office and with the introduction of every Government Budget it is incumbent on Teresa to ensure that all new statutory deductions are calculated correctly and that the University's payroll system is fully compliant. "This involves a range of manual checks and calculations and when we finally run the payroll each January it's an achievement when everything goes according to plan and all of the deadlines are met."

Teresa is currently involved in a working group to examine the automation of the occasional pay timesheets within the payroll system. This project has the objective to streamline the current process and make it more efficient, bringing significant improvements to the operation of the Payroll Office. Speaking about the benefits of NUI Maynooth, Teresa appreciates the friendly atmosphere and connected sense of spirit and finds herself fortunate to work in a beautiful location.

4

GOVERNING AUTHORITY

Members of Governing Authority by Panel 2010-2015

Chairman

Baroness Nuala O'Loan

Ex Officio

Professor Philip Nolan

Dr David B. Redmond

Mr Mike O'Malley (Secretary)

Members of academic staff who are Professors or Associate Professors

Professor Margaret Kelleher

Professor Mark Boyle

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

Dr Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin

Ms Anastasia Crickley

Dr Bernard Mahon

Vacant

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

Mr James Cotter

Ms Paula Murray (Deputy
Chairperson)

Elected officers of the Students' Union

Mr Rob Munnelly

Mr Fiach O'Neill

Postgraduate student

Mr Robert Dixon

IBEC

Ms Una Halligan

ICTU

Ms Annette Kennedy

Nominees of the Trustees of St Patrick's College

Mr Sean Ashe

Right Rev. Monsignor

Hugh Connolly

Vacant

Graduates of the University

Dr Una Crowley

Mr Michael Smyth

Nominees of NUI Senate

Professor Mary Corcoran

Professor Jim Walsh

Minister's Nominees

Professor Martin Curley

Ms Teresa Murray

Other External Members

Mr Peter Cassells

Mr Richard George

Dr Mary Canning

tbc

Administrative Officer

Ms Vivienne Murray





Back Row (l-r): Dr David Redmond, Registrar; Professor Mark Boyle;
Mr Richard George; Professor Margaret Kelleher; Mr Mike O'Malley;
Professor Jim Walsh; Mr Sean Ashe; Monsignor Hugh Connolly;
Dr Bernard Mahon; Mr Michael Smyth; Mr Peter Cassells; Mr Rob Munnely.

Front Row (l-r): Ms Teresa Murray; Ms Annette Kennedy; Professor Mary Corcoran;
Professor Philip Nolan, President; Baroness Nuala O'Loan; Ms Paula Murray;
Ms Anastasia Crickley; Dr Mary Canning; Mr James Cotter; Mr Fiach O'Neill.

5

FINANCE,
STATISTICS &
SPONSORS

5.1 INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

	2009/10	2008/09
	€	€
Income		
State Grants	26,535,989	33,762,273
Student Fees	41,849,908	35,570,040
Other Income	4,983,560	3,256,050
	73,369,457	72,588,363
Research Grants and Projects	23,533,462	25,914,045
Total	96,902,919	98,502,408
Expenditure		
Academic Faculties and Departments	39,935,749	40,626,033
Academic and Other Services	6,307,134	6,250,256
Premises	9,056,627	8,929,858
Amount Allocated for Capitol Purposes	3,075,570	1,232,802
Central Administration and Services	6,568,527	6,709,096
General Educational Expenditure	3,888,786	3,726,374
Student Services	3,310,429	3,101,368
Miscellaneous Expenditure	1,023,813	916,522
	73,166,635	71,199,395
Research Grants and Projects	23,533,462	25,914,045
Total	96,700,097	97,113,440

Students by Course & Year	2010/11	2009/10	2008/9	2007/8	2006/7	2005/6	2004/5	2003/4	2002/3
Degree Courses									
Postgraduates in Arts+	371	371	693	570	633	593	557	574	524
Postgraduates in Social Science+	533	472							
Postgraduates in Science	272	276	248	190	190	183	177	176	164
Postgraduates in Engineering	53	84	49	51	42	34	27	22	14
MSc Software Engineering*	13	16	11	16	19	18	12	25	19
4th Year Science	70	85	99	90	103	84	95	107	138
3rd Year Science	76	73	73	101	76	98	85	93	137
2nd Year Science	96	91	79	76	119	89	102	93	98
1st Year Science	126	127	117	109	104	132	107	110	118
4th Year BSc Honours Accelerated	1								
4th Year Theoretical Physics & Computer Science	0	0	1	1	1	5	5		
3rd Year Theoretical Physics & Computer Science	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	8	
2nd Year Theoretical Physics & Computer Science	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	9
1st Year Theoretical Physics & Computer Science	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	6
3rd Year Theoretical Physics & Mathematics	8	8	2	2	4	3	2	1	1
2nd Year Theoretical Physics & Mathematics	5	8	6	2	3	5	4	2	1
1st Year Theoretical Physics & Mathematics	3	7	7	7	2	3	6	4	2
4th Year Software Engineering	25	20	18	20	27	37	47	46	64
3rd Year Software Engineering	20	28	17	17	18	18	33	58	52
2nd Year Software Engineering	39	24	30	20	18	20	21	31	73
1st Year Software Engineering	28	33	22	26	26	26	35	28	34
4th Year Physics with Astrophysics	2	6	8	12	8	8	5		
3rd Year Physics with Astrophysics	13	6	7	12	14	13	8	6	
2nd Year Physics with Astrophysics	13	12	11	5	12	15	16	11	6
1st Year Physics with Astrophysics	10	12	10	12	4	13	15	17	11
4th Year Computational Biology & Bioinformatics	4	4	2	4	5	9	15		
3rd Year Computational Biology & Bioinformatics	5	4	4	2	3	6	11	15	
2nd Year Computational Biology & Bioinformatics	6	5	6	4	4	3	6	13	15
1st Year Computational Biology & Bioinformatics	0	11	9	8	4	4	3	5	14
4th Year Biotechnology	6	13	17	15	12	10	15	21	16
3rd Year Biotechnology	5	6	14	17	15	13	11	15	22

Students by Course & Year	2010/11	2009/10	2008/9	2007/8	2006/7	2005/6	2004/5	2003/4	2002/3
2nd Year Biotechnology	10	7	9	14	19	22	16	14	18
1st Year Biotechnology	22	15	12	24	20	22	27	21	22
3rd Year Biological Sciences Year Abroad	1								
4th Year Biological Sciences	58	48	41	41	28	38			
3rd Year Biological Sciences	57	57	50	41	41	26	38		
2nd Year Biological Sciences	67	63	63	57	45	44	33	40	
1st Year Biological Sciences	69	68	61	72	60	46	50	36	38
4th Year Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Chemistry	26	12	18	17	7				
3rd Year Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Chemistry	8	13	12	19	18	7			
2nd Year Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Chemistry	9	9	12	11	19	19	15		
1st Year Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Chemistry	25	12	9	11	10	20	15	16	
3rd Year BSc Multimedia	3								
2nd Year BSc Multimedia	9	5							
1st Year BSc Multimedia	22	13	10	1					
4th Year Psychology through Science	18	17	22	12	18				
3rd Year Psychology through Science	14	18	17	21	12	18			
2nd Year Psychology through Science	17	20	19	21	20	16	18		
1st Year Psychology through Science	25	19	20	20	23	20	18	19	
4th Year Engineering	44	24	20	18	17	19	20	25	
3rd Year Engineering	13	28	19	19	19	19	19	23	24
2nd Year Engineering	12	14	25	19	17	17	21	20	28
1st Year Engineering	21	14	11	24	33	22	19	18	23
4th Year Product Design	10								
3rd Year Product Design	16	10			12	15			
2nd Year Product Design	21	18	10						
1st Year Product Design	37	25	21	12					
3rd Year Science Education	25								
2nd Year Science Education	31	30			3	6			
1st Year Science Education	32	29	32		4	3			
4th BA Anthropology International	2								
3rd BA Anthropology International	3	1			4	4			
3rd BA Anthropology	12	8			12	10			
2nd BA Anthropology	12	16	14						
1st BA Anthropology	31	21	19	18					
3rd Year Arts	749	634	602	615	597	630	622	607	594
2nd Year Arts	729	874	734	688	728	745	733	695	674
1st Year Arts	902	878	985	858	809	835	827	850	822
3rd Year Art Single Honours	11	30	12	45	37	39	36	45	34
2nd Year Art Single Honours	2	0	18	10	28	28	35	30	36
4th Year BA International	23	43	33	36	44	25	13	16	15
3rd Year BA International	53	23	42	31	40	43	27	17	16
1st Year BA Community & Youth Work	33								
1st Year Bachelor of Education	65								
3rd Year BA English International	1								

Students by Course & Year	2010/11	2009/10	2008/9	2007/8	2006/7	2005/6	2004/5	2003/4	2002/3
3rd Year BA English	15								
2nd Year BA English	16	18			19	19			
1st Year BA English	22	21	21		10	20			
3rd Year BA History	15								
2nd Year BA History	21	15							
1st Year BA History	23	25	16						
3rd Year Law & Arts	21								
2nd Year Law & Arts	51	26			18				
1st Year Law & Arts	20	22	30		12	18			
3rd Year Law & Arts International	2								
3rd Year Law & Arts with Placement	1								
2nd Year Business & Accounting	38								
1st Year Business and Accounting	30	44							
3rd Year Business & Law	9								
2nd Year Business and Law	33	15							
1st Year Business & Law	13	19	16						
3rd Year Law & Business International	3								
3rd Year Law & Business with Placement	2								
4th Year Business & Management International	1								
3rd Year Business Management International	3	1							
4th Year BBA Business Management	1								
3rd Year BBA Business Management	2								
3rd Year Business Management	49	51							
2nd Year Business Management	81	55	56						
1st Year Business Management	39	37	56	57					
4th Year BBA Equine Business	2								
3rd Year BBA Equine Business	1	2							
3rd Year Equine Business	19	10							
2nd Year Equine Business	17	21	13						
1st Year Equine Business	20	18	26	19					
4th Year BA Finance International	0	2	0	2	3				
3rd Year BA Finance International	1	0	3	0	2	3			
3rd Year BA Finance	37	41	41	45	59	116	121	93	96
2nd Year BA Finance	47	38	44	46	43	78	112	111	96
1st Year BA Finance	41	60	58	53	67	73	104	127	124
4th Year BA Finance & Accounting International	2	1							
3rd Year BA Finance & Accounting International	1	2							
3rd Year Finance & Accounting	70	84	93	58					
2nd Year Finance & Accounting	64	77	89	94	63				
1st Year Finance & Accounting	48	71	81	96	80	54			
3rd Year Finance Accelerated	0	0	0	0	0	1			

Students by Course & Year	2010/11	2009/10	2008/9	2007/8	2006/7	2005/6	2004/5	2003/4	2002/3
1st Year BA International Finance & Economics	5								
3rd Year BA Music	29	32	33	27	35	26	35	31	29
2nd Year BA Music	27	33	35	31	29	37	31	33	35
1st Year BA Music	32	25	36	36	27	26	37	41	41
4th Year BA Music International	1	0	0	3	3				
3rd Year BA Music International	0	1	1	0	2				
3rd Year Music Technology	29	27	27	27					
2nd Year Music Technology	43	36	42	32	32				
1st Year Music Technology	45	47	41	45	39	39			
4th Year BA Music Technology International	7	3	3						
3rd Year BA Music Technology International	3	6	3	3					
4th Year European Studies	15	4	6	14	11				
3rd Year European Studies	10	16	5	8	16	8			
2nd Year European Studies	11	11	17	10	13	16	14		
1st Year European Studies	26	21	17	24	22	20	22	19	
4th Year Finance & Venture Management	11	15	21	15					
3rd Year Finance & Venture Management	9	13	14	19	22				
2nd Year Finance & Venture Management	0	13	11	18	21	25			
1st Year Finance & Venture Management	0	0	19	16	20	28	29		
2nd Year BBS Venture Management	38								
1st Year BBS Venture Management	33	41							
4th Year French & Historical Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
3rd Year French & Historical Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2nd Year French & Historical Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1st Year French & Historical Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
4th Year German & Historical Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6
3rd Year German & Historical Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
2nd Year German & Historical Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1st Year German & Historical Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
3rd Year BA Geography	21								
2nd Year BA Geography	13	26							
3rd Year BA Mathematics	0	3	2	6					
2nd Year BA Mathematics	4	0	4	4	6				
1st Year BA Mathematics	4	6	0	3	4	10			
4th Year BA Maths International	0	0	1						
3rd Year Media Studies	24	30	32	31	30	38			
2nd Year Media Studies	40	28	36	34	34	35	39		
1st Year Media Studies	39	45	35	38	37	38	40	42	
4th Year BA Media Studies International	3	1	2	4					
3rd Year BA Media Studies International	3	2	1	1					
3rd Year BA Multimedia	12	11							

Students by Course & Year	2010/11	2009/10	2008/9	2007/8	2006/7	2005/6	2004/5	2003/4	2002/3
2nd Year BA Multimedia	15	11	12						
1st Year BA Multimedia	30	22	15	15					
4th Year BA Politics International	1								
3rd Year BA Politics International	1								
3rd Year BA Politics	13	12							
2nd Year BA Politics	21	20	14						
1st Year BA Politics	23	25	26	22					
3rd Year Psychology	58	49	55	57	38	34	35	36	31
2nd Year Psychology	53	56	53	54	57	36	35	38	37
1st Year Psychology	24	24	26	25	21	23	21	25	23
1st Year BA Public Policy	5								
Applied Social Studies	27	18	43	14	18	22	0	34	0
3rd Year Social Science	52	51	41	33	38	43	27		
2nd Year Social Science	53	57	49	43	34	40	45	30	
1st Year Social Science	61	56	65	60	50	36	45	44	35
4th Year BA Social Science International	0	0	1						
3rd Year BA Social Science International	0	0	0	1					
Total	7008	6591	6016	5407	5148	5069	4826	4689	4444

Students by Course & Year	2010/11	2009/10	2008/9	2007/8	2006/7	2005/6	2004/5	2003/4	2002/3
Diploma in Rural Development	2	0	0	7	11	18	22	10	18
Diploma sa Ghaeilge	29	50	53	44	24	38	25	8	
Postgraduate Certificate in Anthropology	4	3	2	7	1	8			
Professional Certificate in Teaching & Learning	0	0	19	19					
Postgraduate Certificate in Arts in Healthcare Settings	13								
Postgraduate Certificate in Theories of Adult & Community Education	15								
Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching & Learning	13								
Certificate in Sociological Teaching & Learning	0	0	0	11					
Certificate in Adult Guidance Training of Trainers	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	14
Certificate in Culture & Society	4	8							
Certificate in Equine Business	6								
Certificate in People, Places & Heritage	2	2							
Certificate in Science	20	9	17	9	6	12	12	25	12
Certificate in Engineering	3	8	7	7	5	10	3		
Certificate in Economics, Finance & Venture Management	8	15	7	6	5	2			
International Foundation Certificate	11	8	5	7	3	2			
Distance Education Degree	32	45	73	124	118	117	124	133	131
Distance Education Postgraduate Degree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Degree Extension for Engineers (DEFT)	5	10	15	15	21	17	12	9	
Erasmus Exchange Programme Abroad	79	52	55	44	63	54	30	25	26
Erasmus Exchange Programme Visiting	160	149	198	196	197	179	169	146	140
Occasional Students (includes Qualifiers & BATH)	338	354	289	283	274	268	268	279	289
Teastas I Muineadh na Gaeilge d'Aosaigh	7	10	15						
Teastas I Litriocht na Gaeilge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1369	1392	1438	1348	1190	1196	1117	1091	1134

Students by Course & Year	2010/11	2009/10	2008/9	2007/8	2006/7	2005/6	2004/5	2003/4	2002/3
Part-time Undergraduate Degree: BA Local & Community Studies (Kilkenny & Maynooth)	147	164	186	194	222	223	184	187	200
BA Community & Youth Work	14								
Remote Learning Degree: BSc Rural Development	1	0	0	12	14	21	22		
Grand Total	8539	8147	7640	6961	6574	6509	6149	5967	5778

* 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		%	
Full-Time																
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		
Sub-Total	6672	82	6136	80	5639	81	5345	83	5323	83	5093	83	4966	84		
Part-Time																
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		
Sub-Total	1229	15	1178	15	958	13	851	12	836	13	716	11	697	12		
Total	7901	97	7314	95	6597	94	6196	95	6159	96	5809	94	5663	96		
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		
Total (minus the Erasmus Abroad figures above)	8095	100	7585	100	6917	100	6511	100	6455	100	6119	100	5942	100		

Already included in Full-Time Figures above

Research Sponsors

An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta

Analog Devices

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Athlone Community Taskforce

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Centre for Study of Historical Irish Houses and Estates

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Cumas Teoranta

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EPA Environmental RTDI Programme 2000-2006

EPA STRIVE Programme 2007-2013

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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)

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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

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Ireland Canada University Foundation (ICUF)

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Irish Aid – Programme of Strategic Cooperation between Irish Aid and the
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Irish Georgian Society

Irish Hospice Foundation

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National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI)

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NORFACE ERA-NET Research Programme

NUI Maynooth

NUI Maynooth New Researcher Award

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 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
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