President's Report



2007•2008



National University of Ireland, Maynooth

NUI MAYNOOTH

President's Report 2007-2008

For presentation to the Governing Authority of National University of Ireland, Maynooth at its meeting on 15 December 2008.

National University of Ireland, Maynooth

Maynooth, Co. Kildare Tel: +353 1 708 6000 Fax: +353 1 628 9063



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Professor John Hughes, President

1. President's Foreword

Fast-Track to Success

The past academic year has been a year of many firsts. 2007 and 2008 have been characterised by exciting programmes in new disciplines; record amounts in research funding; novel victories in sport and academic competitions; books, studies and events in fresh fields; and new library and alumni services.

The growth statistics of NUI Maynooth over the past decade speak for themselves – an increase from 3,400 students in 1997 to 8,400 in 2007 has made it Ireland's fastest growing university. Furthermore, I believe that the increase in CAO first preferences to record double digit figures, 23% in 2007 and a further 17% for 2008, reflect the rise in the status and image of our University. At the same time, the average academic points of students admitted improved as did the number of entrance scholars who achieved over 500 points in the relevant exams. With a view to the Government's strategy of doubling the number of PhD graduates by 2011, registrations in this grouping grew by 14% in the past year, while 51 PhDs were conferred in 2007.

In order to continue promoting European integration between students, scholars, professors, universities and related organisations, we successfully applied for the new Erasmus University Charter funded through the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme 2007 to 2013. The current figure of 350 international students is set to grow substantially in coming years and we envisage the number of Chinese students in particular expanding from the present 90 to over 250 by 2010, as the full benefit of our partnerships with leading Chinese universities is realised.

In keeping with cultural traditions, the International Office hosted a New Year's reception to welcome in the 'Year of the Rat'. And the first anniversary celebrations of the Irish Studies Centre at Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) coincided with the week-long activities around St. Patrick's Day. Along with International Office staff who visited Beijing, Professor Margaret Kelleher, Director of An Foras Feasa (Institute for Research in Irish Historical and Cultural Traditions) remained at the Centre to teach for four weeks.

In a bid to build on the existing Memorandum of Understanding and to further strengthen ties, Peking University and NUI Maynooth are establishing a Sino-Irish Joint Research and Education Centre. The aim of this unique strategic collaboration is to organise joint applications on international scientific research projects, joint education and training programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, staff exchanges and training and international conferences. The initial focus of the Centre will be on research in the area of Spatial Information Science, with a view to possible collaboration in the areas of IT, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science.



At the launch of the new Law Degrees are (I-r): Dr Robert Galavan, Head of the Department of Business and Law; Attorney General, Paul Gallagher, SC; President John Hughes & Dr Neil Maddox, Lecturer in Law.

Although primarily a platform for cooperation and communication between our two institutions, the Centre shall also involve other Chinese and Irish universities and research institutes in collaboration projects where appropriate. The State Adminstration of Foreign Experts Affairs of China and the Higher Education Authority in Ireland are backing the initiative.

Programme Development

The consistent nomination of the University as a first choice by students is undoubtedly due to our continuous innovation and introduction of numerous new degree programmes, as well as the special sports scholarship schemes.

A unique degree course aimed at careers in the management side of the racing and horse industries, a strong tradition in our location, has begun thanks to the new BA in Equine Business. And from September 2008, two programmes in law will court potential students for the first time. Developed with the professional legal societies and designed as stepping stones to postgraduate qualifications, the Business and Law and Law with Arts degrees were launched by the Attorney General, Paul Gallagher SC at the end of the year. Both three year jointhonours programmes combine broad features of the business and arts elements, thus ensuring a wellrounded skill set for future employers and a wide range of career options for graduates. These three courses along with degrees in Business and Management and Finance and Venture Management are all incorporated within the newly formed Department of Business and Law. Reacting to increasing demand from students and industry, we are aspiring to rapidly develop taught and research

masters programmes and an executive MBA, under the leadership of recently appointed Head of Department, Dr Robert Galavan.

Staff from Bioinformatics and the Commercialisation Office joined International Office representatives in meeting with programme staff at the University of Kentucky-Lexington to explore the possibility of an exchange or joint Equine Business degree programme. In a similar vein and following his appointment as the new Dean of International Education in April, Professor Lawrence Taylor, Department of Anthropology, led a trip to the University of Arizona with a view to designing a collaborative teaching project and also met with race track industry program staff to discuss opportunities for exchange and collaboration on our new equine programme.

Between the €600,000 of financing and the UREKA Sites pilot programme of 2007, the SFI-UREKA undergraduate research programmes represent the largest single investment into such extra-curricular research at the University. Over a three-year period, 72 research projects will be conducted under expert guidance from the Departments of Biology and Chemistry and three research institutes, including the Institute of Immunology.

On the postgraduate front, the country's first PhD training programme in Immunology was set in motion by Mary Harney, T.D., Minister for Health and Children in November. The Health Research Board is investing €5 million to support the intake of 24 PhD students over four years. In collaboration with Trinity College Dublin and Queens University Belfast, the programme will forge new links with world-class industry partners.





Pictured with Mary Harney T.D. (centre) are the first scholars on the HRB PhD training programme in Immunology (I-r): Sreeja Varghese; Sinead Kelly; Elizabeth Hennessy; Laura Tobin; Ashwini Lakkireddy & Grace Zeng.

Also scheduled to begin in September 2008 is the Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership. Based on a national policy decision that Ireland should offer a professional development programme for prospective school leadership, the initiative was brought about by the Education Department and the Leadership Development for Schools.

Research Awards

2007 was a record year for externally won research awards – €32 million was secured and will be invested over the next three to four years. In 2007 and 2008, we won competitive capital awards of €14.5 million for dedicated research infrastructure. Developments designed to enhance the quality of our PhD programmes, by providing access to both transferable skills training and advanced courses in specific disciplines, commenced through the HEA Strategic Innovation Fund. The largest single-project grant ever awarded to the University came from Science Foundation Ireland with over €9 million awarded to Professor Stewart Fotheringham, Head of the National Centre for Geocomputation, to lead an industry-academia partnership in Advanced Geotechnologies.

€16 million in funding was granted for six research programmes under cycle 4 of the HEA Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLI). This award represents 7% of the total cycle funding and 10% of the university sector allocation, showing that we continue to punch significantly above our weight. While the capital element (€5.6 million) is earmarked for a new research building for interdisciplinary humanities, social science and science research, the remainder of the funding was allocated to the various research centres of 2007 was a record year for externally won research awards – \in 32 million was secured and will be invested over the next three to four years. In 2007 and 2008, we won competitive capital awards of \in 14.5 million for dedicated research infrastructure.



Introducing the ISSP are (I-r): Professor Robert Kitchin, Chair of ISSP Management Committee; Professor Mary Hickman, Irish Studies and Sociology, London Metropolitan University; President John Hughes; Professor Jim Walsh, Deputy President, NUI Maynooth & Eoin O'Driscoll, Chairman of Forfás.

excellence at the University, namely to An Foras Feasa, the Institute for Research in Irish Historical and Cultural Traditions; to the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis and the National Centre for Geocomputation as leading members of the Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP); and to the Hamilton Institute.

The ISSP, which was allocated €16.5 million, was formally launched in March 2008 to allow Ireland's universities and institutions to contribute to Government policy and investment decisions. It will fund 52 PhD students over the next 10 years along with 16 postdoctoral researchers and support staff. Launched a month later, the €6 million An Foras Feasa is set to create 20 research posts worth €1.5 million, including five postdoctorates and 12 PhDs.

Another new initiative brought into being in the past year was the Combat Diseases of Poverty Consortium. Managed jointly by the Department of Anthropology and Institute of Immunology, the Consortium was established with the assistance of €1.4 million from the Programme of Strategic Cooperation between Irish Aid and Higher Education and Research Institutes 2007-2011.

On the basis of these significant research rewards and with a stated strategic plan to become 'an internationally recognised research-led institution', we have designated a role of Vice-President of Research. Assuming this post is Professor Ray O'Neill, a native of Belfast who joined Maynooth in 1993. He has held positions as a postdoctoral researcher, lecturer, Dean of the Faculty of Science and most recently, since 2005, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies. As a scientist, Ray regards research in science and engineering as key to developing an innovative culture in Ireland and appreciates the contribution which leading research in the humanities and social science can make to Irish society.

Industry Collaboration

While the importance of both fundamental and applied research to Ireland is well recognised, especially in the context of promoting ourselves as a knowledge-based society, developing outputs from research through knowledge transfer and commercialisation is essential.

Over the past year, the newly formed Commercialisation Office reported sixteen patents filed in a variety of domains. It also concluded six licence deals and a number of research collaboration contracts with renowned private sector companies. In the first formal accreditation link-up between Intel's College of Engineering and any university worldwide, an innovative Master of Engineering from our University will offer advanced engineering education for a potential 86,000 staff from this multinational corporation. This exciting initiative places us at the cutting edge of university-industry collaboration in Europe.

The total granted by Enterprise Ireland to the University in commercialisation funds for the 2007-08 academic period exceeded €2 million. And almost €1 million of funding from its Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative enabled the Commercialisation Office to expand its staff, move to the Auxilia building in the North Campus, and develop a new logo, website and online newsletter.



Facilities Upgrade

Our University has embarked on a major capital spend of \in 150 million over the next three years. The plans include a \in 25 million library, a \in 16 million building for arts and social sciences and a \in 12 million mathematics and computing facility. In light of this, our Director of Corporate Services, Frank Fitzmaurice, introduced a new organisational structure for campus development and estates management, to facilitate the implementation of this ambitious capital investment programme while safeguarding the high standards of the existing campus environment and facilities.

The Departments of Sociology, Applied Social Studies and Research and Graduate Studies moved into their new home, the Auxilia building on the North Campus in time for the first semester. The major refurbishment has resulted in two new large class halls for general university use in addition to staff offices, meeting rooms and extra postgraduate space. Another facility which benefited from a significant upgrade, costing over €1.5 million, was the crèche which currently caters for 53 children. The extension was part-funded by a €1 million grant from the National Development Plan 2000-2006, in line with an EU strategy to improve the standard of childcare in Ireland.

In order to reach out and re-engage with past students of the University, we have relaunched the Alumni Office after 10 years. It has been busy developing communication tools and events to keep the alumni abreast of important developments. I hope you enjoy reading the rest of this report which hopefully gives you a flavour of our endeavours over the past academic year and details the different facets and faces which make up our University.

Professor John G. Hughes President



2. Year in Review

2.1. The Events

Open for Study

As with previous years, guidance counsellors and school principals from every corner of the country were welcomed to NUI Maynooth throughout the year. Over 120 people came in the autumn to learn more about the University's academic programmes, in particular the range of new degrees such as Law and Arts, Business and Law, Science Education and the denominated degrees in English and History, as well as the unique sports scholarships offering. In spring, the National Conference of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors sought to acknowledge the role of the modern guidance counsellor. 'Guidance Counselling – Towards Meaning and Purpose' was supported by the Department of Education and Science, Intel, NUI Maynooth and Fáilte Ireland.

As part of national Volunteer Week, at '**Give it a Swirl**' Day on September 26th, Pat Carey, Minister of State at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs officially turned the first sod in the "Garden of Nations", created on the North Campus to signify the international mix of students. The campus tours, exhibitions, demonstrations, talks, information sessions and interaction with staff and current students incorporated into the **Open Days** two months later received the highest ever level of interest from potential applicants.

A Sense of Science

Events around the theme of science took place across the year. In September, the National Centre for Geocomputation had the privilege of hosting the ninth in the series of international academic conferences in Geographic Information Science. This



Landscaping the 'Garden of Nations' are (I-r): Doreen O Byrne, Participation Officer Kildare Volunteer Bureau; Ian Russell, Student Services Officer; Professor Jim Walsh, Vice-President; Pat Carey, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs; Yvonne McKenna, National Development Officer, Volunteer Council of Ireland & Mick Power, Chief Executive, Kildare Volunteer Bureau.



Participating in the Geocomputation 2007 Conference are (I-r): Professor Stewart Fotheringham, Director, NCG; Professor Menno-Jan Kraak, ITC; Dr Urška Demšar, NCG; & Professor Kirsi Virrantaus, Helsinki University of Technology.



Attending the Music Postgraduate Conference are (I-r): Dr Lorraine Byrne Bodley; Barbara Dignam; President John Hughes; Paul Higgins; Lisa Parker & Professor Barra Boydell.

was the first time that this event, the **Geocomputation 2007 Conference**, was organised on Irish shores, signalling the increasing importance of Ireland in the GIS research world.

The University hosted Maths Week Ireland in mid-October. As a result of reports concerned about the mathematical competencies of Irish students at second level coupled with low attainment in the subject, the Department of Mathematics opened a dedicated Mathematics Support Centre on October 15th to assist students experiencing difficulties with their mathematical studies. Over 750 individual consultations were held within the first six weeks alone. A day later, the Nobel Prize winner, Professor Frank Wilczek set the pace for the 150 participants of the Hamilton Walk. Also named after the mathematical genius and aimed at promoting mathematics to second level students, the popular Hamilton Maths Challenge attracted entries to the online contest from over 30 schools in the region. And two of the top six performers in the twenty-first Irish Mathematical Olympiad trained at the University: Jack McKenna from Newbridge College in County Kildare and Nick Byrne from Coláiste Ráithín in Wicklow town competed in the international competition.

The annual **Science Week** in November broke all records in attendance figures and media exposure through a series of activities for school students and adults exploring the huge influence of science on everyday life. Sponsored by Yakult, Intel and the Institute of Physics, the hugely popular **science practicals** were held in the University's labs at the start of 2008. Over 2,900 country-wide leaving

certificate students had the chance to conduct over 20 interactive experiments in a day under expert guidance. It has proved to be a perfect occasion for pupils to revise the curriculum, gain hands-on experience and learn about university life all at once.

Performing the Arts

Various exhibitions and performances celebrated the activities in the Arts over the past year. The second **John Field Festival** presented John O'Connor and the RIAM Chamber Orchestra along with a full programme of lectures and other performances. The first post-Reformation performance of a late-medieval office for St. Patrick was given by the Scottish early music ensemble, **Canty** during the month of the saint. It coincided with the launch of a CD recording, part of a research project on source materials for the Liturgical Veneration of Irish Saints in Medieval Europe funded by the IRCHSS.

March also saw new beginnings in the Music Department as the first-ever **Music Postgraduate Conference** listened to 17 papers presented by MLitt and PhD research students and keynote speeches from the eminent musicologist, Professor Nicholas Cook (Royal Holloway, London) and Professor Eda Sagarra (TCD). The inaugural **Maynooth Musicology Postgraduate Journal** was also issued at the event. Later the same month, an international conference on '**Translation in Second Language Learning**' was hosted at the University by Dr Arnd Witte, Department of German and Professor Theo Harden of UCD. 35 speakers from 14 countries participated in productive discussions.





At the 'Agriculture in a Changing Climate' Conference are (I-r): Bernard Rice, Crop Research Centre, Teagasc; Dr Rowan Fealy, ICARUS; Margaret Irish, Conference Organiser; Alan Dukes, Director General of the Institute of European Affairs & former Minister for Agriculture; Dr John Sweeney, ICARUS; Billy Murphy, Chairperson, Kilkenny Campus Steering Committee and former Deputy CEO of Glanbia & Michael Prendergast, Kilkenny Cereals Ltd.

Over the last quarter of the year, students were encouraged to engage with councillors, TDs, business figureheads and trade union representatives experienced in how government policy is influenced, developed and implemented.

The Social Side of Science

Marking the tenth anniversary of NUI Maynooth's Kilkenny Campus, 'Agriculture in a Changing **Climate**' was the theme of a conference examining the potential impact of climate change along with risks and opportunities for the sector. Hosted at Kilkenny Castle in early October, speakers included Dr John Sweeney of ICARUS, Alan Dukes, Professor Liam Downey and Dr Rowan Fealy. Another milestone, the 70th anniversary of the adoption of Bunreacht na hEireann, was commemorated through a series of public lectures entitled 'Who's running the country?', organised by the Department of Applied Social Sciences. Over the last quarter of the year, students were encouraged to engage with councillors, TDs, business figureheads and trade union representatives experienced in how government policy is influenced, developed and implemented. The Department also gathered a cross-section of society at a seminar to exchange views and best practice on 'Religion and Belief in Changing and Diverse Societies', as part of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue and the annual National Anti-Racism and Intercultural Week in April.

Works in Print

Events at Maynooth and at the National Concert Hall accompanied the launch of **Proserpina**, Goethe's Melodrama with Music by Carl Eberwein, edited by Dr Lorraine Byrne Bodley of the Music Department. Dr Bodley discovered the unknown musical work whilst working on a translation of Goethe's letters. A volume of '**Texts and Culture in late Antiquity: Inheritance, Authority and Change**', edited by Professor David Scourfield of the



Ancient Classics Department, investigates the relationships between wide-ranging authors and texts inherited through the classical and Christian traditions.

Collaborative contributions from different Departments, namely from Seamus MacGabhann (editor), English, Dr Paul Gibson, Geography, and Professor Raymond Gillespie, History, ensured that Maynooth scholars featured prominently in **Riocht na Midhe** (2007). The 15 articles and valuable book reviews, ranging from prehistory to modern day, were launched by the Most Rev. Dr Richard Clarke, Bishop of Meath and Kildare.

Released in the new year, the 'Atlas of the Island of Ireland' provides a first-time set of full colour, detailed maps and cartograms for a range of variables across Ireland and offers a much-needed evidence base for cross-border planning. Justin Gleeson, Rob Kitchin, Brendan Bartley, Ronan Foley and Stewart Fotheringham of NIRSA and NCG were among the main authors. Another first was achieved through the introduction of 'Mortgages Law & **Practice**' by Dr Neil Maddox, law lecturer in the Department of Business and Law. Aimed at legal and financial professionals, the book is a comprehensive guide to the legislation and case law that affects mortgages in Ireland and to the available financial products in the market. 'Roger Casement: Imperialist, Rebel, Revolutionary' is the title of a book debut by Séamas Ó Síocháin from the Department of Anthropology. Guest speaker at the launch, Niall Crowley, CEO of the Equality Authority, highlighted Casement's unique contribution to a number of humanitarian causes.









Dr Bernadette Alcock, Department of Chemistry

Outreach

Reaching out to leaving certificate students and giving them an insight into the 'Maynooth Experience' continues to be a priority for the University. A number of activities were arranged throughout the past year to this end. A dedicated website called Téacs Gaeilge Beo or **TG Beo** was set up specifically to provide notes and sample questions for the Irish syllabus in order to make it more accessible and user-friendly. Students could also receive online answers to queries courtesy of the Irish Department.

In recognition of the fact that starting college can be somewhat overwhelming, especially in the few weeks before orientation, and to assist first year students and their families with the transition between school and university, a **one-stop web shop** was designed. Accessible through the main website and with all relevant information on the one page, this online resource provides quick links to all useful services and gives students a head start on where and how to find things.

2.2. The Rewards

Staff Accolades

A cross-faculty team from the University won approximately \in 1 million of funding from Atlantic Philanthropies to evaluate **The Incredible Years Ireland programme**, designed to prevent and alleviate emotional and behavioural difficulties in children. In collaboration with colleagues from other universities in Ireland and the UK, the consortium led by Dr Sinead McGilloway from the Department of Psychology hopes that the findings will influence future policy and practice. Another big award came as a result of research by Dr Bernadette Alcock into the **protection of Ireland's water resources**. This \in 770,000 was granted to the Department of Chemistry under the Developing Environmental Research Potential Scheme.

In defence of equality, Dr Aedin Doris, Professor Donal O'Neill and Dr Olive Sweetman of the Economics Department received €40,000 from the IRCHSS for '**A Study of Earnings Dynamics and**







Dr JoAnne Mancini, Department of History

Anne Gallagher, Director of the Language Centre

Inequality across European countries'. Also sponsored by the IRCHSS were the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Research Fellowships conferred on Dr Deaglán Ó Donghaile and Dr Denis Condon. Dr Ó Donghaile from the Department of English was also awarded a prestigious Clark Library Short-Term Fellowship to conduct research relating to the Irish writer, Oscar Wilde, at the University of California.

In the first such study of its kind, Dr Gavan Titley, Dr Rebecca King and Dr Alphra Kerr will conduct an 18-24 month study on '**Irish broadcasting and the** 'New Ireland'; mapping and visioning cultural diversity'. The research will engage with Polish, Chinese and Nigerian viewers and listeners. Dr Titley, Subject Leader for Media Studies, secured the project through the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland's new research funding scheme.

Recognised as "a groundbreaking and sophisticated examination of cultural change and its mechanisms in the modern era", Dr JoAnne Mancini received the **2008 Charles C. Eldredge Prize** for Distinguished Scholarship in American Art for her book on the origins of American modernism. One of the world's oldest civil awards, the **Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques**, was bestowed on Anne Gallagher, Director of the Language Centre, for her work on the promotion of plurilingualism and language education.

Student Acclaim

Outstanding performance and academic excellence by students at NUI Maynooth were lauded through a series of award ceremonies in the autumn. The annual **Prizes and Scholarship Awards** saw undergraduate and postgraduate students from A cross-faculty team from the University won approximately €1 million of funding from Atlantic Philanthropies to evaluate *The Incredible Years Ireland programme*, designed to prevent and alleviate emotional and behavioural difficulties in children.



The VVVisions team of (I-r) Brendan Moore, James Dowling & Andrew Thompson pictured with President John Hughes at the 2007 Shell Livewire All-Ireland Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.

many subjects presented with over 180 prizes, while the 89 entrance scholarships rewarded top scorers in the Leaving Certificate through financial and accommodation benefits.

Four Computer Science students comprising Team InGest were among the top six winners of the global Imagine Cup competition held in Seoul last summer. Eric McClean, Mark Clerkin, Cathal Coffey and Daniel Kelly defeated 300 other students from 55 countries with their software solution for teaching sign language. A year later, in July 2008, Team AcidRain came second in the same competition, triumphing over 200,000 students from more than 100 countries. Brian Byrne and Karl O'Dwyer along with Aodhan Coffey from the Departments of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering respectively built an optimised, embedded conversion kit which offers a novel solution to the problem of reducing carbon emissions through enabling vegetable oil powered machines. They even drove to the Paris finals in a diesel car fuelled with sunflower oil as part of their own project.

Three students of BSc Finance and Venture Management put their studies firmly into practice through their winning project pitch at the prestigious **2007 Shell Livewire All-Ireland Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards**. Assessed on their business acumen, potential and long-term viability of their business – an innovative golf towel that removes all dirt and debris from golf club heads – the VVVisions team of Brendan Moore, James Dowling and Andrew Thompson won €5,000 in prize money along with the notable accolade. The trio went on to triumph at the 2008 PGA Merchandise Show in Florida where their V-Towel Elite was voted 'Best New Product' from almost 400 entries. The company, which has signed a lucrative investment deal with a private investor and hired its first employee, currently has four products in its Vicarious Golf brand portfolio.

In a collaborative effort between the Hamilton Institute and the Departments of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering coupled with the University of Newcastle (Australia), joint robotic soccer team 'Numanoids' won the **2008 Standard Platform League (2-Legged Robot) RoboCup World Championship** in China. Under the leadership of Professor Rick Middleton of the Hamilton Institute, representatives Alexander Buckley and Shekman Tang did the University proud in its maiden entry to the competition involving 440 teams from 35 countries.

Also on winning form was Robert Kelly, Economics PhD candidate, who won the first-time prize for best paper by a young economist at the 22nd annual **Irish Economics Association Conference**. His research investigated equity returns on the London Stock Exchange and its new trading system. Claire Dormer, studying in the Department of Electronic Engineering impressed judges enough to reach the final of the **Hewlett-Packard Invent Awards** with her invention of a stroke rehabilitation device.

In keeping with the active year at the Music Department, it was only fitting that the Maynooth University Orchestra was granted an **Artistic Achievement Award** for its promotion of new music, inspired by the winning undergraduate and postgraduate entries in the Orchestra's Composers' Competition 2007.



(Front I-r): Bob Joyce; Charlie McCreevy; Dr Attracta Halpin, NUI Registrar; Dr Garret FitzGerald, NUI Chancellor; Noelle Campbell Sharp & Professor Kumpati S. Narendra. (Back I-r): President John Hughes; Dan Flinter; Professor Jim Walsh; Dr Alison Hood & Professor Robert Shorten.

A selection of students from the Faculty of Science and Engineering proved their worth through tough competition. 10 talented young researchers, intending to commence their doctoral degrees later this year, secured a share of €10.8 million within the **Irish Research Council for Science Engineering and Technology Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme**. The bright academic prospects will focus on areas such as astrophysics and computer applications in healthcare.

Honorary Conferrings

In June of 2007, Dr Garret Fitzgerald bestowed doctorates on EU Commissioner Charlie McCreevy for his contribution to Irish and European politics; Noelle Campbell Sharp, a noted Art promoter; Bob Joyce, financial industry leader and supporter of the arts, academic studies and numerous charities; and Professor Kumpati Narendra, international expert in the field of science and engineering. In September, Barry Douglas was honoured with a Doctor of Music for his varied talent, ranging from concerto performer and conductor to festival director. Joanna Crooks was in receipt of the same degree in recognition of more than two decades of teaching and promoting music to the youth of Ireland. For the first time, this honorary conferring ceremony was held in conjuction with the conferring of three PhDs and over 80 diplomas, degrees and masters in music.

In appreciation of his unique contribution as a community leader and for his services to the community, Counsellor Tony McEvoy was granted an Honorary Masters. In the same week, over 1,500 students received their BA, MA and PhD qualifications. The autumn graduation day in





Barry Douglas & Joanna Crooks with President John Hughes.



Helen Ó Murchú; Professor Munira Hamud Mutran; Lee Mallaghan & Dame Nuala O'Loan.



His Highness the Aga Khan & President John Hughes.

November awarded these degrees as well as diplomas, higher diplomas and postgraduate diplomas to over 450 students. Jim Lawlor and Joe Devine were also conferred with Masters of Arts. Later the same week, the University's Outreach Campus in Kilkenny celebrated its 10-year anniversary with degrees, diplomas, certificates and a PhD imparted to 160 graduates along with three honorary masters to locals Ned Quinn, Patrick Lydon and Maureen Hegarty.

In June 2008, honorary doctorates went to former Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan, distinguished businessman and proprietor of Carton House Lee Mallahgan, South American Irish Studies leader Munira Hamud Mutran and Irish language scholar Helen Ó Múrchú. Ending the year's conferrings was an honorary law doctorate bestowed on His Highness the Aga Khan. Having dedicated his life to addressing serious issues in the developing world, the Aga Khan was cited for "outstanding contributions to the elimination of global poverty, the advancement of women, the promotion of Islamic culture and the furthering of pluralistic values in society."



Professor Tom Collins, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences



Anastasia Crickley, Head of the Department of Applied Social Studies



Professor Jacqueline Hill, Department of History

2.3. The Staff Room

Appointments

There were several external appointments of University staff to key domestic and international positions. Professor Tom Collins, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences was chosen to chair the new Commission on Nurses' Working Hours in order to examine international best practice in working arrangements for the profession. Head of the Department of Applied Social Studies, Anastasia Crickley was nominated to the same role for the Management Board of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. As a tribute to her contribution to Irish history through numerous publications on 18th and 19th century Ireland, Professor Jacqueline Hill has been admitted as a member of the Royal Irish Academy. This is acknowledged as the highest accolade in Ireland for exceptional scholars in the Sciences and Humanities. In a bid to create a cosmopolitan community of young scholars and provide an intellectual infrastructure for scholarly collaboration on Irish studies, Professor Joe Cleary of the English Department has adopted the mantle of Director of the Keough Naughton Notre Dame Irish Seminar. On the sporting stage, Paul Davis, Sports Officer, was selected to serve as the Head of Delegation at the World University Games in Thailand late last summer

In-House assignments across faculties and functions were also numerous. **Professor Mark Boyle**, **Professor Fiona Palmer** and **Professor Rowena Pecchenino** joined as the new Heads of Geography, Music and Economics respectively. Seven new professorships were announced early in the new

Seven new

professorships were announced early in the new year in recognition of the candidates' leading edge research and key contributions to their areas of expertise.



year in recognition of the candidates' leading edge research and key contributions to their areas of expertise. **Barra Boydell**, **Joe Cleary** and **Peter Denman** became professors in the Arts Faculty; **Mary Corcoran**, **Dennis Pringle** and **John Sweeney** in Social Sciences; and **Carmel Breslin** in Science and Engineering.

Responsible for marketing, advertising, media relations and corporate identity, **Deirdre Watters** was brought on board at the start of the academic year as Marketing and Communications Manager. Also appointed to a promotional role, namely for the Irish language, was **Kate Fennell** who took up the reins as Official Languages Act Officer. **Brendan Baker** was named as the new Director of Human Resources.

Fond Farewells

The University community saw some treasured staff retire over the past year. Surrounded by over 300 colleagues and former students paying tribute to his devotion to developing music scholarship at the University, Professor Gerard Gillen retired as Head of the Music Department. Since his arrival at Maynooth in 1985, Professor Gillen was responsible for the successful evolution of the Department: establishing the specialist chamber choir and orchestra, expanding the programmes into a uniquely broad-based suite, introducing a state-ofthe-art Music Technology Laboratory, and overseeing a tenfold increase in music students during his tenure. As Head of Music and Director of the University Choral Society, he managed the highly acclaimed annual Choral Concerts and Carol Services on campus. In the last year, Professor Gillen





has been honoured by the French Government through the 'Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres' for his contribution to French music in Ireland and abroad, and has been made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, a rare award.

Dan O'Shea, Information Systems Manager and Deputy Director of the Computer Centre also left on a high note. In keeping with his reputation for running, participants took part in a charity run/walk in his honour. A reception and public lecture on 'The Politics of Markets and Standards in Education' marked the retirement of **Jim Callan**. A member of the Education Department for 25 years, he lectured in Curriculum Studies and was known for his work in engaging directly with schools and teachers as well as his involvement in several major research projects.

The untimely death of **Thomas Kelly**, Professor of Philosophy in February was mourned by many

colleagues and friends from Ireland and abroad. Characterised as an energetic and energising presence, Tom began on the staff of St. Patrick's College and became the first layman in 200 years to hold the Chair of Philosophy at the University. His achievements and academic interests were vast and varied and he will be sadly missed. **Patrick Commins** was an Adjunct Professor in the Geography Department and NIRSA since 2002 and a respected authority on rural development and the rural economy. He was conferred with an Honorary Doctor of Literature degree in March in recognition of his internationally acclaimed academic contributions. He died peacefully shortly afterwards.

In a project by the Retired Staff Association aimed at capturing the essence of university life as far back as the 1940s through a series of personal stories, Mary O'Rourke TD and graduate opened the first phase of the **Maynooth Life History Archive** in June.





Professor Tom Kelly

PROFILE: Dr Mary Murphy, **Department of Sociology**





Teaching about Irish society and politics, Mary Murphy is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology. Working primarily in the field of political sociology, her research interests include globalisation and welfare states, political mediation of social policy reform, local governance, gender, social security and welfare to work.

Mary's background is a real reflection of her passion in these topics. She was the National Social Policy Officer in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (1998-2001) as well as Assistant General Secretary of the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (1991-1998). In these organisations, she campaigned and lobbied for equality and social progress through national policy institutions including national social partnership processes, the National Economic and Social Council, the National Economic and Social Forum and other national antipoverty processes. "It was a privilege to work with others on various campaigns that helped reshape the boundaries of civil society organisations' involvement in policy-making." Mary was also a Dublin City Councillor representing the Labour Party in the Finglas area, where she chaired the Dublin City Council Housing and Social Affairs Committee as well as the Social Inclusion Group and Migration Committee. "These experiences combined with my academic work means I have much to offer students of politics and society!"

What Mary most enjoys about her role is passing on ideas and concepts that enable people to think critically and make better sense of the world. The

challenge for her is to find the time to develop her own research and to write and publish same. As a relative newcomer to the University, joining in September 2007, Mary is impressed by how much the University recognises and encourages staff to contribute to wider society. "I hope I'm making a contribution to the University's public engagement through my voluntary work in a number of local and national civil society organisations."

Mary has been busy contributing to the development of the first year of the politics degree. "It's such an exciting opportunity to be involved in defining such a uniquely oriented politics degree which goes 'beyond politics as usual' and examines how power is so unequally shared in society and how groups try in so many different ways to influence decisions." Mary has other big ideas too, including contributing to the development of political sociology masters programmes, completing a governance research project in conjunction with researchers in 17 other countries to compare respective local government structures, and embarking on a qualitative research project about 'women in politics'.

One the things that most impresses Mary about the University is how many of the academic staff in Maynooth are very publicly engaged in their fields of research and are making very active and relevant contributions to national debate. "This level of commitment, interest and relevance translates into a quality learning environment for students and postgraduates.'

Dr Frank Devitt, Head of Department of Electronic Engineering





Frank Devitt is Senior Lecturer and has been Head of the Department of Electronic Engineering for the past three years. Frank has lectured in various engineering subjects including electromagnetics, electromechanics, project management and general management. Currently he lectures mostly on the topic of entrepreneurship to Engineering, Product Design, Business and most recently Science and Engineering research students. Having spent six years at the University, Frank relishes the opportunity to influence development, growth and change, and acknowledges the challenge of dealing with multiple administrative duties and still reserving time for more strategic activities.

Along with previous roles in lecturing and as an Academic Council member, Frank has been regularly involved with various University functions such as the Academic Staffing and Appointments Committee and the Working Group on University Governance. He has also been engaged in ongoing research and development into eLearning and Technology Education topics. "We created MyVLE in our Department five years ago as a precursor to Moodle, in order to serve the growing number of distance education students and also to act as a research base for eLearning projects. We've also developed a system of video lecture creation and delivery where lectures are made available over the internet or internal network and class contact time is reserved for quality discussions and tutorials. In a separate project, we're focused on investigating the requirements of technology educated students in our modern economy."

Following a PhD in Engineering from UCD and prior to returning to academia, Frank was engaged in the business world for over 20 years, migrating from an engineering role to a management remit and ultimately founding four companies in the technology domain. "The growing of a company from scratch to the status of an international business and concluding a successful international sale within five years would have to be one of my proudest achievements." Frank is also particularly pleased with the launch of the new degree in Product Design (Marketing and Innovation) last year. "The first intake of 11 students looks set to be more than doubled in the coming year, with 39 first preferences in the latest CAO figures."

Plans for the future include consolidating the growth of the Masters in Engineering and Product Design programmes as it will take a couple of years to nurture and help mature these relatively new courses. Another goal is the introduction of a Master of Science in Design and Innovation, possibly in September 2009. "If we want to have a substantial Design activity at the University, then it needs to be at different levels. We already have the undergraduate base so the postgraduate and research stages follow on naturally." This process involves both the administrative side, covering the submission and internal review by the Academic Programmes Committee, as well as a comprehensive market analysis to identify the desired course structure, content and supply methodologies. "We're hoping that this programme will appeal to people already employed in industry in design and product development roles who wish to undertake further specific training in these fields."



Attending the President's reception for the winners of the Ryan Cup Hurling Championship 2008 are (I-r): Cathal Fenton, Coach; Eddie Costello, Captain; Professor Jim Walsh, Deputy President; Tom Maher, GAA Officer & Dan Broderick, Team Manager.

2.4. The Student Experience

Sporting Successes

In order to engage graduates with students and to raise funds towards the rugby scholarship scheme, the **Rugby Boot Cup** held in October saw past friends triumph over present for the second year in a row. Also spurring interaction, the **RBS 6 Nations Trophy** was proudly paraded by the University's Career Development Centre in order to introduce students to the Ulster Bank Group's graduate recruitment drive.

Snooker superstars Steve Davis and Ken Doherty set the frame for the **first snooker scholarship** earned by Jonathan Williams. From Carrickmacross, County Monaghan, Jonathan is currently ranked twelfth in Ireland amongst senior amateurs and will benefit from expert coaching and challenging practice games at the World Snooker Academy in Sheffield. The new state-of-the-art snooker venue in the basement of Rye Hall on the North Campus also opened for play that November evening.

The first of March was also a first for the Maynooth hurling team as it defeated Tipperary Institute to win the final of the **Ryan Cup Hurling Championship**. Sponsored by the MBNA, the long-standing **GAA Scholarships** for exceptional achievements in gaelic games welcomed the latest 11 additions hailing from seven counties at a reception hosted by An tUsual Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh.

Less than two years after the introduction of the swimming scholarship scheme, the NUI Maynooth swim team claimed victory at the **Irish Intervarsity Swimming Championships** held in Sligo in spring. Not only was this the first win of its kind but the team broke two National University records in the 50m backstroke and the 4x50m freestyle and dominated the races overall with wins or placings in





Announcing the Snooker Scholarships are (I-r): Steve Davis; President John Hughes; Jonathan Williams & Ken Doherty.





Members of the Maynooth Economic & Finance Society (MEFSOC) receiving the Best New Society Award are (I-r): Sinead O'Kane; Leona Nally, Students' Union; Jason O'Brien; Alan Murphy & Paddy Casement.

the top five. Six of the University's swimmers have been selected to represent Ireland at the Celtic Intervarsities.

Acknowledging Padraig Harrington's successes in the Irish and British Opens, JP McManus generously donated €2 million to the **golf scholarship programme**. Named in honour of Padraig's late father, Paddy Harrington, seven males and four females are currently enrolled. Sponsor Oceanico Developments hosted some of the scholars for warm-weather training in the Algarve during their January study week. Eight of the group also received a Royal and Ancient Golf Scholarship Award.

Annual Affairs

With a 21% increase in funding to clubs and societies over the past two years, competition at the annual **Clubs and Societies Awards** night was keener than ever. Rewarding the hard work invested by students to maximise the "Maynooth Experience", the worthy winners were as follows:

Best New Society: Maynooth Economic & Finance Society

Best Society: Gay Lesbian & Bisexual Society (GLB)

Best Event: 70's Charity Night for the Marie Keating Foundation

Most Improved Society: Music Society

Best Society Person: Paul Donnelly (Drama Society) Less than two years after the introduction of the swimming scholarship scheme, the NUI Maynooth swim team claimed victory at the Irish Intervarsity Swimming Championships held in Sligo in spring.



Best 1st Year for a Society:

Lydia Farrell (Amnesty Society)

Best Website Trampolining Club

Athlete of the Year: Cian Curley (Golf Club)

Most Improved Club: Snooker & Pool Club

Best 1st Year for a Club: Darragh Quinn (Swimming & Waterpolo Club) Best Club:

Hurling Club

Club Executive of the Year: Catherine McGowan (Equestrian Club)

The winning continued at the **2008 Board of Irish College Societies (BICS) Awards** where Lydia Farrell was nominated as Best Fresher; Paul Donnelly as Best Individual and the GLB Society as Best Society.

The **21st Galway Cycle** took over 130 participants on the 12-hour route from the University to the City of the Tribes. Since its inception the event has raised the modern-day equivalent of €300,000 for charities dealing with children and young people. This year's cycle did not disappoint as it donated over €78,000 to Headstrong, a centre for youth mental health.

The Student's Union **Raise and Give (RAG)** Week raised almost €10,000 for the nominated charity, Pieta House (a centre for the prevention of suicide and self-harm). Highlights included performances by musician Cathy Davey and comedian Michael Winslow as well as a Casino Night.

Alumni Activities

The inaugural black tie **Alumni Ball** welcomed over 180 graduates back to their Alma Mater on June 21st. After a champagne reception in the Bicentennial Gardens, the guests were treated to a five-course meal and lively entertainment in Pugin Hall. Professor John Hughes presented the President's Alumni Award to Paul Mullally and Gary Hoctor, who have organised the Galway Charity Cycle in recent years.

The summer event coincided with the relaunch of the **Alumni magazine**, 'The Bridge', aimed at keeping graduates abreast of developments at the University and encouraging more interaction between the two. It details the new library membership scheme and discount on the sports facilities for graduates as well as seasonal alumni events and the ongoing Visa credit card offer developed by the Maynooth Alumni Association.

The Alumni Office is continuing to work on the website to ensure that all NUI Maynooth alumni are kept up to date with the latest news and can interact with the University (http://alumni.nuim.ie).

Five scholarship alumni were selected as **2007 GAA All-Stars** signalling the fact that these football players have reached the highest level of the game – they are Marc O Sé (Kerry), Alan Brogan (Dublin), Barry Cahill (Dublin), Brianne Leahy (Kildare) and Sarah McLoughlin (Leitrim). Ciarán Brady, Alumni Student



Ciarán Brady with wife Martina Burgoyne; Professor Gerard Gillen & brother Paul Brady prior to Verdi's Requiem performed by the Maynooth University Choral Society in April 2008.

Now Managing Director of the Academy of Music in Tullamore, Ciarán Brady graduated with an MA in Music in 1996 following a BA Honours. Ciarán was enticed to study at Maynooth not only by the available courses and performance module specifically, but also due to his prior contacts with Music Department figureheads. Former professor, Gerard Gillen's role as the titular organist for Dublin's Pro Cathedral, where Ciarán sang with the Palestrina Choir from a young age and was a junior organ scholar played a part. As did John O'Keefe, then a student and now a lecturer, with whom Ciarán and his brother Paul studied piano.

Maynooth holds a host of special memories for Ciarán, including meeting fellow student and wife Martina Burgoyne and directing and conducting the University Chamber Choir who won the international competition at the Limerick Choral Festival in 1996. A nostalgic family occasion was heralded at the recent performance of the University Choir's "Verdi's Requiem", when Ciarán's brother was flown home from the Oldenburg Opera House in Germany to perform as the baritone soloist. He recalls, "I was in the audience with Martina – both of us had sung this particular piece as members of the Choir at Maynooth so it was a wonderful trip down memory lane."

Ciarán is a staunch supporter of the Music Department's activities. Among other visits of late, he attended the Chamber Choir concert with his Father, enjoying a performance of Durufle's Requiem that Ciarán had also conducted as Director of the Choir and retracing his steps on a walk of the Graf, visiting the graves of Fr. Tom Marsh and Tommy Kelly, two great choral supporters and friends.

Ciarán views the University as a place that presents great opportunities and attributes this to the excellent acumen and achievements of the graduates. "There's something truly unique about a Maynooth graduate. The possibility to study quality courses in such an exceptional campus within a small town creates a melting pot that brings about a special bond amongst graduates that stems worldwide." Ciarán believes so strongly in the caliber and well-rounded nature of its students that he takes a lot of applications for teaching positions at the Academy from Maynooth in particular.

Ciarán relishes the role of Director of an Academy of Music. "The Academy is a project that we like to treat as a performance – it's the hard work that we're collectively putting in at present that will culminate in our student's successes. Our motto speaks of "nurturing talent" which I believe is the mantra for my job which is a very responsible, challenging and privileged one." His tasks range from developing choices of courses and instruments to maintaining high quality content and managing human resources. He is currently also the singing teacher for advanced students and conducts the Chamber and Youth Choirs. Ciarán has ambitious plans for the future, "Over the coming years, we're focusing on sustaining growth in student numbers and expanding the Academy across the midland regions."

OFILE: Mary MacCourt, Students' Union Secretary





The role and responsibilities of Secretary of the Students' Union (SU) at the University are vast and varied. Presiding over this remit, Mary MacCourt tends to consider herself as an office manager of sorts given her different duties. She is in charge of a lot of the services which the Students' Union offers, such as arranging photocoping, binding, travel cards etc., along with administrative work and event organisation.

From Maynooth originally, Mary has never strayed far as she considers it to be a great place. So much so that she has dedicated two decades to the SU. Starting in the Registrar's Office as a summer job in 1986, she worked in Sociology, Experimental Physics and Machine Rooms on and off for a short while. She returned in 1988 to work in the Chaplaincy/Counselling Service for nine months before coming to her current position. For Mary, working with students every day keeps her young and enthusiastic, "They're so full of energy that it rubs off on me." The changing of Students' Union Sabbatical Officers each year can be difficult at times: "Some years it's so heartbreaking to say goodbye to a crew that you've befriended and worked so well with. When they go, you've to get to know a new group and start all over again. But I've made great friends and maintained contact with a lot of students over the years."

The Clubs and Societies Awards Night stands out as a very successful event from the past year. Mary describes it as a prestigious event where students

are rewarded for all of their time and effort invested with the various clubs and societies. Although officially outside of Mary's remit, she has also been heavily involved with the organising of three Fashion Shows, one of the largest University events. "They can be guite time consuming and hard work but very enjoyable nevertheless." Another memorable occasion for Mary was when the Students' Union celebrated 30 years, "We had a reunion of past Sabbatical Officers as far back as 1977!"

Mary has seen a good degree of evolution during her time with the SU. "It's been wonderful to be involved in watching things progress, such as the transformation of the SU from a prefab to the new Students' Union Centre." This facility is now complete with several offices, meeting rooms, rehearsal rooms, a Clubs and Societies room, a bar and coffee shop.

One of Mary's goals is to get more involved with clubs and societies, encouraged by the University's significant successes at the National Society Awards held in Dundalk I.T. this year. Honours bestowed included 'Best Society', 'Best Fresher' and 'Society Person'. "We have some very talented people here and I think we need to help all clubs and societies reach their potential during their time at the University." Even though Mary has witnessed huge growth at Maynooth in recent years, in the sense of more buildings and students, she is pleased that it still retains "that personal touch".

PROFILE: Tom Maher, GAA Development Officer





In working with five clubs, namely hurling, men's football, ladies' football, camogie and handball, Tom's job focuses on dealing with the governing bodies for each sport, as well as planning, finance, managing the GAA sports scholarship schemes, recruiting coaches, trainers and support personnel for each team and generally looking after club committees and teams. As he admits himself, "There's never a dull moment!"

The past ten years have witnessed over thirty competition wins by the NUI Maynooth GAA clubs between them. In selecting some of the most impressive moments, Tom cites the following accolades: (hurling) winners of the Ryan Cup 2008, Fergal Maher Cup 2003, Freshers League 2000, runners-up in the Ryan Cup 2006 and the Senior League 2007; (ladies' football) winners of the Lynch Cup 2001 and 2002, Curran Cup 1998 and 2001 and Harney Cup 2004 and finalists in the O'Connor Cup 2003 and Shield 2004; (camogie) winners of the Purcell Shield 2004 and 2008, the Division 2 League 2002 and the Fr. Gerry Meagher Shield 2003, Semi-Finalists in the Purcell Cup 2006 and 2007; (men's football) winners of the Freshers League 2004, Kildare Under 21 Championships 2001 and 2002, and getting to the Sigerson Cup semi-final in Cork in 2003; and finally, Anna Wrynne winning the All-Ireland ladies senior "A" singles in handball in 1999. Looking to future achievements, Tom hopes that, "the GAA teams will build upon the successes of this year and maybe the football teams will bring some silverware to Maynooth in 2009."

In speaking of significant projects at the University, two have been crucial. "Negotiating the MBNA scholarship scheme - it has been running for 10 years now and we're currently renegotiating its extension for another three years." Over 150 students from 26 counties have received scholarships through the scheme to date. Tom is proud of the fact that many of these athletes have gone on to achieve great success with their counties. Well-known names include Marc Ó Sé (Kerry), Alan and Bernard Brogan (Dublin), Barry Cahill (Dublin), Helena Lohan (Mayo), Alan Dillon (Mayo), Mary Kirwan (Laois) and Sarah McLoughlin (Leitrim). Another major initiative has been the development of the current sports facilities which Tom believes are on a par with the best in the country. "Our intention is to continue developing our facilities and the support services for the players."

There is no doubt in Tom's mind that Maynooth is unique. "Great camaraderie develops amongst the students because of the size of the university and town, whereas the bigger universities have lost this vital aspect of student life. The team spirit enables NUI Maynooth teams to punch above their weight in intervarsity competitions where we compete very strongly against colleges with much bigger resources and player numbers."





Secondary students participating in the Biology Practical Day as part of the MAP Outreach Programme.

Access students now comprise 4% of the undergraduate population, a further 3% are registered with a disability and mature student enrollment stands at 11%.

2.5. The Access Office

Strength in Numbers

The NUI Maynooth Access Office reported a productive and progressive 2007-08 academic year, a fact reflected by the significant increase in the number of students attending the University from all its target groups. Access students now comprise 4% of the undergraduate population, a further 3% are registered with a disability and mature student enrollment stands at 11%.

The Access team implemented a number of initiatives to embed widening participation into the campus culture. To this end, the **seminar series learning support programme** was made available to the full undergraduate student population, and close cooperation with the Library facilitated the development of sessions targeted at postgraduates involved in research.

Seven new staff joined the team to bring new energy and creativity to the supports and outreach activities. The appointment of Access Student Advisor, **Maeve McCaldin**, made student support and retention a top priority for 2008. Maeve coordinates the provision of supports for all students entering the University through the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) as well as second, third and fourth year students with disabilities. **Martha Brandes**, the new Outreach Project Officer, has invigorated the MAP outreach programme, hosting a series of successful events for young people both on and off campus. Martha also organises the HEAR for leaving certificate students.



Among the first graduates of the NUI Certificate in Science receiving their BSc degrees in September 2007 are (I-r): Gail Maguire, Theresa Hughes and Paula Clinton pictured with Emer Sheerin, Mature Students' Officer, President John Hughes & Dr Niall McKeith, Department of Experimental Physics.

The Maynooth Access Programme continues to play its part in shaping national policy. This year Ann O'Brien, Director of Access, was appointed **Chair of Access Made Accessible** (AMA), a national network of Higher Education Access Officers. Through this role, Ann worked closely with the National Access Office to create a professional development course for access personnel commencing in autumn 2008. Ann also represents the Access Programme as a member of the HEA National Access Office Advisory Group and Adult Education Guidance Initiative Advisory Group.

In April 2008, Ann delivered a paper to a joint conference between the European Access Network and the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation at the Institute for Learning in Toronto. Her paper, 'Tackling Educational Disadvantage to Higher Education in Ireland: the Push/Pull Principle' traces the development of policy on widening participation in Ireland. It highlights the initiatives, institutional policies and practices, partnerships and strategic alliances that have emerged as well as the tension between current policy development and operational practice.

Strong Foundations for Mature Students

The **NUI Certificate in Science programmes** celebrated an exciting milestone as the first intake of students (2002-03) graduated with Science degrees in September, with three students attaining First Class Honours.

As part of the **AONTAS Adult Learners' Festival** the Mature Students Society hosted an information seminar in the Student's Union in February 2008 promoting the NUI Cert in Science, Engineering, Finance, Economics and Business. In addition, a new summer Mathematics course for mature students entering onto these programmes was launched. The University has joined forces with NUI Galway and Athlone IT in a SIF1 project providing access courses for disadvantaged school-leavers and mature students in the Midlands region. The courses are part-time and staff from the three institutions work on the programme which brings a new diversity to this outreach provision. Students who successfully complete the course are guaranteed places on general courses in the partner institution of their choice. Currently, five mature students from the Midlands Portlaoise course have successfully completed their first year at Maynooth. A further fourteen applicants, nine mature and five younger people, from the Tullamore course have nominated NUI Maynooth in their CAO choices for entry in 2008-09.

The **Kildare Into Tertiary Education** (KITE) programme, already established as an outreach initiative primarily aimed at second level pupils, this year broadened its scope to include mature students. The KITE Media Project in collaboration with the Newbridge Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (adult education centre) produced a DVD on their experiences on returning to education.

Anne Mooney joined the Access Office in May as the Mature Student Support Worker and is developing a mentoring programme for the everincreasing mature student undergraduates at the University.



New Resources for Disability Office

New products, processes and people have been introduced throughout the past year to bolster the learning support for students registered with the Disability Office. The new **Learning and Academic Needs report** improves information being provided to the academic departments; a **screening process** for students who feel that they may have a specific learning difficulty encourages a proactive environment; and the introduction of the **Supplementary Entry Programme** widens participation primarily for students with disabilities.

Bridget Gormley, Learning Support Advisor, was appointed to coordinate learning supports for students with specific learning difficulties, while a further important addition to the team is **Deborah Walsh**, Educational Psychologist. Her remit is also to assess the individual learning needs of students, to advise on appropriate supports for students with specific learning difficulties including those with Aspergers Syndrome and ADD/ADHD, and to establish best practice for the office.

The **Disability Awareness Programme**, developed jointly with the Quality Promotion Office, creates an understanding of students with disabilities among faculty staff through a series of lunchtime seminars. Another recent initiative of note includes the **examinations policy**, whereby the Access Office has built on the existing good relations with the Examinations Office and Computer Centre to establish a sustainable and scaleable model of good practice in the delivery of examination accommodation for students with disabilities. NUI Maynooth's Disability Officer, Rose Ryan was appointed **Chair of the national Disability Advisors Working Network** (DAWN), tasked with advancing a national policy on exams for students with disabilities in higher education institutes. Rose has been engaged in developing a new process to accommodate students with disabilities taking examinations that require the use of technology, a significant element of the national template.

Two more key positions on the team have allowed the Access Office to continue developing learning supports to enable students from the target groups to become independent learners and engage fully in the life of the University. **Simon Ahern**, Assistive Technology Tutor, provides individual assistive/educational technology training and support to learners, and **Kelly Anne Roche**, Project Support Administrator, supplies administrative support for Access and Disability projects.



Sinead Kelly is a first year PhD research student from County Kildare. Prior to academia, this Leixlip lady spent a number of years working in London before returning home to work within the area's expanding computer industry. "Initially I enjoyed the challenge and responsibility which my job offered but eventually the twelve hour shift pattern proved too disruptive and prompted me to search for a more fulfilling career!"

A mature student in her sixth year at the University, Sinead points out that her route to postgraduate status has proven to be somewhat unconventional. Funded by the Higher Education Authority (HEA), the one-year Certificate in Science course at NUI Maynooth was the first of its kind in the country and specifically targeted mature students with an interest in science. On successful completion, the course students were automatically offered a place in the University's Bachelor of Science, honours degree programme. "I noticed the ad in the paper and given my long-standing interest in science, realised that this was the perfect opportunity to explore that interest and determine if I had the ability to forge a career in the area."

Passing the certificate with distinction, Sinead began her science degree in September 2003. During the course of these studies, she was fortunate to receive a number of research scholarships which afforded her the chance to work within the University's laboratories during the summer months. "These summer positions represented invaluable experience and gave me a true insight into scientific research." Sinead highlights one particular aspect of NUI Maynooth that has made her experience so special and meant a great deal to her, namely the constant support and encouragement afforded her by the University's leading researchers. After four years and along with three fellow students, Sinead was thrilled to graduate with first class honours.

At that juncture and after careful consideration, Sinead decided to pursue postgraduate research and set her sights on a PhD. With a particular interest in the area of pathogen interactions with the immune system, a leaning towards the field of immunology was natural. Then in 2007, the Health Research Board invested \in 5 million in a new PhD training programme in immunology. Providing the successful applicants with funding for four years and the opportunity to undertake dedicated research in one of twenty laboratories across three universities, Sinead applied and was fortunate enough to be offered a place.

Tuberculosis and how it evades the immune response was the specific subject that captured Sinead's imagination. She believes that although it is considered by many to be dead and gone, that this bacterial disease is still a very real threat. "I hope that as I progress through my PhD I remain focused on the prospect that one day my research may provide new insights into old foes and that I never lose sight of the fact that in the microbial world, bigger is not necessarily better." Whatever Sinead's future holds, she is grateful that NUI Maynooth has played a vital role in shaping it.



President John Hughes & Monsignor Hugh Connolly, President of St Patrick's College, Maynooth pictured with Library staff at the Humanities Festival.

2.6. The Library

Exhibitions

The new year was heralded with a celebration of the extensive publication output of the Faculty of Arts, Philosophy and Celtic Studies. Organised and hosted by the Library, over seventy staff and students from across the University attended the Humanities Festival held in the John Paul II Library. At the launch, President John Hughes paid tribute to the volume and guality of the research output of this particular faculty - over 200 print items including journal papers, review articles, music compositions, book chapters and books. "An additional element of this exhibition is that it highlights the online availability of a significant percentage of this work through the ePrint archive," commented Professor Hughes. The Library is at the forefront of this initiative in introducing the first ever ePrint archive in Ireland.

'Cast in type: Ireland in the early books of Europe' was a major exhibition in the Russell Library which ran from September to March and attracted visitors from as far afield as Hungary and Japan. It was part of a series of events in Ireland and Belgium commemorating a 400-year-old Irish scholarly presence in Louvain.

'Traces of Mozart in Vienna' was an exhibition produced by the Wiener Stadt und Landesarchiv (Vienna city and country archive) and presented in the John Paul II Library. This initiative was facilitated by the Austrian Embassy in co-operation with the Music Department. The Library also participated in Science Week, exhibiting a large number of books named by the editors of *Discover magazine* as "the top 25 Science Books ever written".

Regular annual events were once again arranged, namely 'Two centuries of Mathematics' for **Maths Week Ireland** and Taispeántas Ilmheán entitled 'Sorcha Ní Ghuairim: an tÉireannach' for **Seachtain na Gaeilge**.

Collections

Electronic collections continued to grow with current holdings standing at 25,000 electronic journals and 150,000 electronic books. These resources can be accessed by the University community 24/7. **Programmes in information skills training** are being offered to undergraduates and postgraduates to support these technological developments and by their nature are helping to position Maynooth at the forefront of research. A generic skills module in information literacy was provided for PhD students of science and engineering as a pilot programme and part of the University project to develop postgraduate generic skills. This was very well received by the students, with the result that it is hoped to extend this to all faculties.

With the expansion of the **Russell Library Cataloguing Project**, details of one third of the impressive collection of early printed books have now been added to the catalogue so that they can be searched by scholars across the world. Many of these books are rare, some unique to Maynooth. Access to all library resources was enhanced through a new-look web page. And an upgrade to the Library Management System gave additional features such as the "virtual e-shelf" to the library catalogue.



Library staff with President John Hughes celebrating the Open Access Project.

Important **donations** were received from the Columban Fathers, Oblate of Mary Immaculate, Holy Faith Sisters and the substantial library of the late Fr. Denis Faul. Further materials were received from Professor Howard Gillette. Donations outward included a large collection sent to the Catholic Seminary in Gbarnga, Liberia and the Pastoral Centre in Monrovia, Liberia, while the Parliamentary Papers collection was moved to Carton House.

Services

Roving support was introduced as a new service throughout the Library. Support is now offered at the point-of-need rather than library users having to approach staff at the traditional desks – this was made possible by the development of self-service borrowing and returning. Staff are now able to handle enquiries in a more proactive manner and ultimately be more responsive to students' needs. Initial feedback has been positive and it is intended to develop this service over the coming years.

The student experience of social learning has been greatly enhanced by the opening of a **coffee bar** on the ground floor. This facility was introduced in direct response to requests from students via surveys and other feedback. It has also contributed to existing amenities on the South Campus.

Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) funding was secured by the University Library in collaboration with the Quality Promotion Office to initiate a **Core Text Project** which will make essential reading available electronically, thereby facilitating greater access for all students. According to Professor Sean O'Riain from the Sociology Department: "Easy and open access to essential readings will greatly improve With the expansion of the Russell Library Cataloguing Project, details of one third of the impressive collection of early printed books have now been added to the catalogue so that they can be searched by scholars across the world.



lecturers' ability to design innovative courses and will provide students with a greater range of readings and of ways to get access to them. The Core Text Project is an important part of the central role of the University in creating an open community of teaching and learning."

Web2.0 developments such as wikis, blogs, and RSS feeds formed part of a library staff training programme which will be further developed for students and staff. Wireless clinics were facilitated by the Computer Centre and helped with the transition to an increasingly wireless environment, while the innovative laptop borrowing service increased in popularity.

Open Access

On May 16, President John Hughes along with university and library staff attended the celebration of the **IReL-Open project** hosted by the Irish Universities Association (IUA). The project builds online, open access institutional repositories in all seven Irish universities and links these together through a National Research Portal. The Library Institutional Repository Manager at Maynooth made a presentation to the gathering on the first Irish institutional repository, making publications of the University staff available electronically worldwide.

Staff News

In early April, University Librarian Agnes Neligan retired after over 30 years of dedicated service to NUI Maynooth and St. Patrick's College Maynooth. Agnes held a variety of library posts over the years, culminating in her appointment as University Librarian in 1999. She contributed very actively to the development of the Library from a small manual based service to a vibrant electronic and print resource. Agnes' professional participation extended far beyond the Library - she was a very active member and chair of a range of national groups including the Consortium of National and University Libraries and the Irish University Association Librarians' Group, as well as being a founding member of the Academic and National Library Training Co-operative. Agnes was presented with a painting by library staff member and artist Emma Boyce and thanks for her tremendous commitment to the University was offered by President John Hughes at a meeting of the Academic Council.


PROFILE: Penny Woods, Russell Library





As Librarian of the Russell Library, Penny Woods is in charge of early books and manuscripts. She explains that the Library is often compared to a church or oasis. "Readers find the tranquility, vast upper space and leather-bound books sitting comfortably, conducive to reading and reflection."

Penny cites the most satisfying aspects of her job as witnessing the collections opening up and becoming better known through the new catalogue; teaching the history of the book *in situ* surrounded by examples; advising researchers; searching booksellers' catalogues for new gems; watching fragile Irish manuscripts being restored to new life, working with a great team and researching the collections. "Not to mention seeing faces light up at the sight of a copy of Copernicus or the 18thcentury rules of cricket." Most challenging for Penny is seeking to convert goodwill into action, "Despite its beauty, this is a library crying out to be refurbished and badly needing to be brought into the present century."

Penny is an active member of the Maynooth Medieval and Renaissance Forum and enjoys singing in the University Choir. From County Down, she has been at Maynooth since 1976, when the Russell Library (or the 'Gun' as it was called by generations of students) was the main library, used by all and managed by a staff of five. Before coming to Maynooth, she worked at the Royal Irish Academy and the Franciscan House of Studies in Killiney.

Maynooth has welcomed famous visitors during Penny's time, among them Pope John Paul II, the

King and Queen of Spain and President Francesco Cossiga of Italy. One of the most memorable visits to the Library itself was that of the Grolier Club, an exclusive society of American bibliophiles, who flew into Dublin in 1997 and lost no time in visiting Maynooth for a special exhibition though their body clocks read four in the morning. "This particular group seemed to thrive on a punishingly busy itinerary, inviting all their hosts to dinner at Luttrellstown Castle as a finale." Many distinguished academics have visited the Library, but Penny remembers a particularly moving occasion when "Dr Anna Aba from Nigeria was overwhelmed to discover that the local language of her birth, Idoma, which she believed had never been written down, was in print in a translation of the Gospels here in the Bible collection."

In 2007, the Library mounted an exhibition as part of celebrations in Ireland and Louvain of a long Irish connection with that city. It traced the first mentions of Ireland in the printed books of the European continent, which began in the 15th century with passing snippets from Ptolemy and expanded to whole books on Irish topics by the 17th century. "It was hugely satisfying to piece the picture together and show just how richly endowed the Library is on this subject, as on so many."

In the coming year there is the prospect of making the archives more accessible and carrying out further digitisation from the collections. Of particular importance to Penny as a bibliographer is the promotion of Irish book history which she describes as a wide and beckoning field.



Louis de Paor le baill Chuallacht Cholm Cille.

2.7.0ifig na Gaeilge agus Oifig na dTeangacha Oifigiúla

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. Rinneadh dul chun cinn i gcúrsaí Gaeilge agus dátheangachais.

Ceapadh Kate Fennell mar Oifigeach na dTeangacha Oifigiúla i mí Dheireadh Fómhair. Tá dhá oifig ag feidhmiú ar son na Gaeilge san Ollscoil mar sin, cé nach ionann cúram dóibh. Dhein Oifig na dTeangacha Oifigiúla aistriú de réir mar atá leagtha síos sa scéim trí bliana agus lean Oifig na Gaeilge den aistriú deonach, mar shampla ar cháipéisí oifigiúla Dhámh na nEalaíon. Eagraíodh go leor ócáidí cúltúrtha 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 go gach roinn agus aonad tríd an ríomhphost.

San Ollscoil

Ceapadh **Oifigeach Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla** i mí Dheireadh Fómhair. Tá cúram uirthi scéim teanga na hOllscoile faoin Acht a chur i bhfeidhm. Tá deireadh ag teacht leis an gcéad scéim teanga trí bliana i Méan Fómhair 2008 agus tá an dara scéim, a mhairfidh ar feadh trí bliana eile, á hullmhú. Is é an phríomh-aidhm ná méadú ar an méid seirbhisí atá ar fáil trí Ghaeilge agus níos mó Gaeilge a bheith á usáid ar an gCampas ag ócáidí oifigiúla agus i ngnáthshaol na hOllscoile. Chomh maith le bheith ag cur an scéim teanga i bhfeidhm

tacaíonn sí leis na hoifigí a bhíonn ag plé go díreach leis an teanga, go mór mhór Oifig na Gaeilge. Tá comh-oibriú torthúil ar siúl eatarthu agus súil acu méadú air amach anseo.

Bhí **Seomra na Gaeilge** in úsáid mar láthair chomhrá agus teacht le chéile i rith na bliana. Sa bhFómhar agus san Earrach reachtáileadh bun-rang neamh-fhoirmiúil foghraíochta Gaeilge, *Coping with Irish Words*, am lóin. D'fhreastail baill foirne ó ranna agus aonaid éagsúla san Ollscoil air. Bhí an Seomra ar oscailt le haghaidh tae, caife agus comhrá chomh maith; bhain lucht an Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge agus baill na Cuallachta feidhm as go rialta.

D'fhreastail thart ar chéad duine ar oíche cheoil agus **cóisir Nollag**; d'éirigh thar barr leis mar ócáid shóisialta do dhreamanna éagsúla as pobal Gaeilge na hOllscoile.

Tionóladh an chomhdháil bhliantúil, '**Maidin na nDaltaí**' le craobh Chill Dara de Chomhar na Múinteoirí Gaeilge i gcomhar le Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge agus le hOifig na Gaeilge san Ollscoil Dé Sathairn 2 Feabhra le léachtaí speisialta a thabhairt



do dhaltaí Ardteistiméireachta. Tháinig suas le céad dalta le chéile don ócáid i mbliana, ó naoi gcinn de scoileanna agus múinteoirí ina dteannta.

Bhí clár leathan imeachtaí do **Sheachtain na** Gaeilge 2008 san Ollscoil arna heagrú le comhpháirtíocht Oifig na Gaeilge, Oifigeach Acht na dTeangacha agus Chuallacht Cholm Cille. Mar oscailt oifigiúil chuir an láithreoir teilifíse is raidió, Páraic Breathnach agallamh poiblí ar an Dr. Deasún Fennell. Ar aíonna eile na seachtaine bhí Louis de Paor a dhein léamh filíochta; Sinéad Ní Churnáin a stiúraigh seisiún 'Scóráil Sciobtha'; Máire Áine Ní Iarnáin a mhúin ceardlann rince ar an sean-nós agus Pat O'Shea a sheol an DVD, Slí an Bhaireora. Cuireadh imeachtaí ar siúl gach lá, ina measc seisiúin cheoil, ranganna agus comhrá am lóin, cluiche sacair Mic Léinn i gcoinne Bhaill Foirne, oíche cheoil, céilí, agus taispeántas den scannán Poitín. Bhí taispeántas leabhar i Leabharlann Eoin Pól, agus lón le Gaeilge i Halla Pugin ar feadh na seachtaine.

D'eagraigh Oifigeach Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 'Gairmeacha le Gaeilge: Oíche Eolais' i gcomhar le Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge, Ionad Forbartha Gairmeacha, Ionad na dTeangacha, agus Oifig na Gaeilge. Labhair ceathrar cainteoir ar dheiseanna fostaíochta dóibh siúd a bhfuil Gaeilge acu. Ba iad Tom Fitzpatrick, bunaitheoir Litríocht.com; Tadhg Mac Dhonnagáin, ceoltóir agus scríbhneoir; Irial Mac Murchú, stiúrthóir an chomhlachta léirithe teilifíse Nemeton, agus Anna Ní Ghallchóir, stiúrthóir Ionad na dTeangacha in OÉ Má Nuad, a bhí mar aoichainteoirí ar an oíche.

Teangmháil le hEagraíochtaí agus le Saol na Gaeilge

D'fhreastail na hOifigigh ar ócáidí éagsúla a reachtáil eagraíochtaí Gaeilge, ina measc An tOireachtas, Scoil Gheimhridh Mherriman, seoltaí leabhar ag Foras na Gaeilge agus An Gúm.

D'éirigh thar barr leis an turas bliantúil go dtí Oireachtas na Samhna i gCathair na Mart a d'eagraigh Oifig na Gaeilge agus Cuallacht Cholm Cille. D'fhreastail scata mór mac léinn ar an bhféile.

D'eagraigh Oifig na Gaeilge cuairt ar an taispeántas, 'Stair na hÉireann á taifeadadh: saol agus saíocht na gCeithre Máistrí', sa tSean-Leabharlann i gColáiste na Tríonóide i mí na Nollag. Cuid den chomóradh 400 bliain ó Imeacht na nIarlaí a bhí sa taispeántas, arna chomheagrú ag Coláiste na Tríonóide, Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann, An Coláiste Ollscoile. Baile Átha Cliath, agus Ord na bProinsiasach, faoi choimirce Louvain 400.

I mí Aibreáin thug slua eile de mhuintir na Gaeilge san Ollscoil cuairt ar an bpríomhchathair le chéile chun freastal ar Faoi Dheireadh Thiar. dráma nua le Joe Steve Ó Neachtain. Taidhbhearc na Gaillimhe a léirigh an dráma. Caoi bhreá a bhí ann do mhuintir na Gaeilge san Ollscoil bualadh lena macasamhla ó shaol na Gaeilge go ginearálta.

Bhí cruinnithe ag Coiste Stiúrthóirí agus Oifigigh Ghaeilge na nOllscoileanna in Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Bhaile Átha Cliath i mí na Nollag agus in Ollscoil na hÉireann, Má Nuad i mí Aibreáin.



3. Research Highlights

2007 was a year of several notable successes on the research front at NUI Maynooth and a period in which the expansion of research activities continued apace. Overall, externally funded research expenditure rose to \in 17.5 million in 2006-07 and at the same time, new research awards of over \in 32 million were secured – a record figure for the University. In addition, in 2007 and 2008, competitive capital awards of \in 14.5 million were won for the development of infrastructure for research and innovation. Research is an expensive activity, but these funding achievements will provide a firm platform for the evolution of the University's research base over the next three to four years.

In line with Government targets, the University has set itself the goal of doubling the number of PhD graduates by 2011. Between March 2007 and 2008, PhD registrations grew from 348 to 397 (a 14% increase), while 51 new PhDs were conferred in 2007. The drive towards increased PhD numbers remains an ambitious and challenging one, but the recent growth is extremely encouraging. Just as importantly, significant developments, which began in 2007 under the HEA Strategic Innovation Fund, are designed to enhance the quality of the University's PhD programmes by providing access to both transferable skills training and advanced courses in specific disciplines.

Advancing Geotechnology

In November, Professor Stewart Fotheringham, head of the National Centre for Geocomputation, was awarded over €9 million by Science Foundation Ireland to lead an industry-academia partnership in Advanced Geotechnologies. This Strategic Research Cluster will bring together over thirty researchers and build new partnerships with scientists and engineers in NUI Maynooth, TCD, UCD and DIT. It is supported by such significant industry players as ESRI (Ireland) and eSpatial, among others, and is the largest single-project grant ever awarded to the University. Another novelty in this domain came with the conferral of the first PhD in Geocomputation to Dr Seamus Coveney.

Geocomputation is a recent term coined to encompass the new and rapidly expanding research areas tied together by their interests in spatial data. Many forms of information used by both businesses and government are inherently spatial, for example: the location of population; the effects of pollution; transportation impacts; the spread and distribution of disease; the incidence of crime; the efficient operation of services; disaster management; the monitoring of environmental issues such as flooding and the processing of satellite imagery. According to a recent study by the Department of Labor in the United States of America, the capture, display, and analysis of spatial data has become one of the three most important evolving employment fields, along with biotechnology and nanotechnology. Advanced Geotechnologies combines geocomputation expertise with advanced sensor and visualisation technologies to provide an integrated approach to geospatial sensing and analysis. NUI Maynooth is now clearly established as one of the leading European research centres in this key area.

PRTLI Success

In August 2007, the University was fortunate in



At the launch of An Foras Feasa are (I-r): Professor Margaret Kelleher, Director of An Foras Feasa; Mary Hanafin T.D., Minister for Education and Science & President John Hughes.

obtaining €16 million in funding for six research programmes under cycle 4 of the HEA Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLI). This programme is designed to foster key research infrastructure and research capacity across all disciplines and to provide a platform for further national and international research investments. As such, this is a crucial element for the progression of research at NUI Maynooth.

The €16 million award is made up of €5.6 million in capital funding and €10.3 million in recurrent funding. The amount represents 7% of the total cycle 4 financing and 10% of the university sector allocation. On this basis, the University clearly continues to punch significantly above its weight, and is without doubt one of the major PRTLI winners. The capital part of the award will provide for a new research building for interdisciplinary humanities, social science and science research. Construction is scheduled to start in autumn 2008 and completion is due in early 2010.

The PRTLI4 award will support major programmes in science and technology, the humanities and social sciences through collaborations between NUI Maynooth and all eight other Irish universities, both north and south, and with several institutes of technology. All programmes will contribute significantly to the development of research-based graduate education in support of the development of a knowledge-based society and economy. PRTLI awards are made on the basis of competitive peer review judged against international standards of research excellence, and the success of the University's researchers in this programme is a significant testament to the quality of research across the full range of disciplines. Recognised

strengths in the humanities and social sciences were strongly reflected in two major PRTLI awards.

The National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis and the National Centre for Geocomputation were awarded €6.3 million as a leading member of the **Irish Social Sciences Platform** (ISSP) focused on 'Knowledge, Information, Society and Space'. This will examine issues around the social, cultural and societal transformations shaping contemporary Ireland, acting as a key resource for Irish and European policymakers in the 21st century. The ISSP was formally inaugurated at Maynooth in March 2008.

An Foras Feasa is the Institute for Research in Irish Historical and Cultural Traditions, involving partners in DCU, St. Patrick's Drumcondra and Dundalk Institute of Technology. €5.8 million was awarded to the Institute as part of a national programme of 'Humanities Serving Irish Society'. The national consortium received approximately €28 million, which will enable a major change in the scope and capacity for humanities research, teaching and training in Ireland, with researchers in the humanities disciplines in all higher education institutions coming together in a common forum for the first time. An Foras Feasa was officially opened by the Minister for Education, Mary Hanafin TD, in April 2008.

PRTLI awards were also made for research in **bioinformatics**, as part of a national initiative in high performance computing, and for a national graduate programme in **environment and climate change**, an area in which NUI Maynooth is a national leader through the work of ICARUS. Head of this group, Professor John Sweeney was also one



of the contributing authors and review editors of the recently published Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the body that was awarded a share of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for its ground-breaking efforts to build up and disseminate knowledge about man's effects on the earth's climate.

PRTLI funding of €3.2 million was granted to the Hamilton Institute to head up a collaborative programme with TCD in 'Network Mathematics', and also partner in the 'National Biophotonics and Imaging Platform'. Since its foundation in 2001, the Hamilton Institute, led by Professors Doug Leith and Robert Shorten, has established itself as a national leader and significant presence on the international stage in the area of applied mathematics. An important focus for the Institute is to provide a genuinely world-class graduate education programme that draws on national and international partnerships to provide the best possible educational experience for the student. Also in 2007, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) awarded €2.7 million to Leith and Shorten to continue their research into Next Generation Communication Networks.

Immunology Initiatives

Another key area of research at the University is Immunology. The **Institute of Immunology** is a flagship research and education institute based on campus but with collaborators stretching across the globe. The Institute has built up a reputation for cutting-edge research in the discipline and is Ireland's representative to the European Network of Immunology Institutes (ENII). In housing state-of-theart facilities and a number of key technology platforms, scientists have been allowed to make significant advances in the fields of signaling in innate and adaptive immunity, stem cell research, asthma, parasitology, and immunity to infectious diseases such as B. pertussis, mumps, influenza, hepatitis C and HIV.

In a major initiative in 2007, the Institute of Immunology was awarded €5 million by the Health Research Board to spearhead a structured PhD programme in partnership with Trinity College Dublin and Queen's University Belfast. Students on this innovative programme will undertake advanced courses in immunology and laboratory rotations in year one, before focusing on a particular PhD topic in year two and beyond. In addition, Professor Paul Moynagh, Director of the Institute, received a SFI principal investigator award of over €2 million to examine human toll-like receptors. Professor Moynagh is also a partner in a consortium with immunologists at Trinity College Dublin that received funding of €7.5 million from Science Foundation Ireland in late 2007.

Combating Diseases of Poverty

A generous grant of €1.4 million under the Programme of Strategic Cooperation between Irish Aid and Higher Education and Research Institutes (2007-2011) has enabled the establishment of the **Combat Diseases of Poverty Consortium**, led jointly by the Department of Anthropology and Institute of Immunology. The consortium represents a unique cluster of scientific, academic and NGO professional expertise, along with partners in the private sector, all working together to build educational capacities for combating diseases of poverty. With the initial focus on east Africa, consortium partners include Makerere University,



Uganda; Trinity College Dublin; Concern; Trócaire; the University of Nairobi; and biopharmaceutical companies Biotrin, the Enfer Group, Tridelta Development and GeneMedix. The Consortium will offer training in interdisciplinary approaches to dealing with diseases of poverty to trainees based in both Africa and Ireland. It is tasked with promoting South-South collaboration on these issues and a South-South training programme. It also has a public educational mandate to develop a greater understanding and interest in such diseases (and development issues broadly) through a public lecture and master class series.

3.2. Commercialisation Activities

Boom time for Commercialisation

Business has been booming at the Commercialisation Office over the past academic year with unprecedented levels of activity, enhancement of resources and adoption of a revitalised branding and communications approach.

Sixteen patents were filed in a variety of domains, including a protein labeling technology, a device for drug delivery to the lungs, a sensor for measuring chemical analytes in brain tissue and a method for providing a text messaging service. The Commercialisation Office was also proud to report six licence deals, which includes the license of an IMWS invented method (patent and know-how) for antenna array calibration to an Irish start-up founded by an ex-Motorola executive, the license of a Hamilton Institute patent on software appliance anomaly detection to a large global telecoms company, and the license of Geographically Weighted Regression software, created by the National Centre of Geocomputation, to both an American corporation and university.

In terms of research grants, applications made for fourteen Enterprise Ireland commercialisation-related funds had an impressive 78% success rate. The total bestowed on the University in **commercialisation funds** from Enterprise Ireland for the 2007-08 academic period exceeded €2 million. Those technologies regarded as having strong market potential were a medical device for the treatment of genetic lung disease and lung cancer, biosensors for CNS drug discovery and the antenna array calibration among others.

Another barometer of success on the commercialisation front has been the number of **research collaboration contracts** concluded with renowned private sector companies. Agreements have been made with the likes of Bayer Schering Pharma, Ad Astra, Intel, TDK, Biosensia, Compass Informatics, Butler Manufacturing Systems, Solvay Pharmaceuticals and Eli Lilly. Examples of this cooperation is the support of Sun Microsystems in designing, coding and testing of a "configuration portal" for Sun's Content Delivery Server™ product as well as the strengthening of Cisco's link with the Hamilton Institute through its donation of significant amounts to research in network and buffer technologies.

As a result of the partnership between NUI Maynooth and Alcatel Lucent, Ireland's first **mobile WiMAX network** has hit the airwaves. Installed and operated by the Institute of Microelectronics and Wireless Systems, this network uses state of the





Judges of the Student Entrepreneur Competition (back I-r): [Finalist] Cormac Moore (Institute of Success/4th); Owen Laverty, Commercialisation Office; Paul Lavery, McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors; Peter O'Reilly, Manager BOI Maynooth; Dennis Jennings, 4th Level Ventures & Damian Callaghan, Intel Capital pictured with finalists (front I-r): Giedre & Zaneta Visockaite (Czars/3rd); Hans Stam; Andrew Gaynor; Mahendranath Kumar Gangah & Tina Chen (Sentiment/2nd) & Nicole Holmes & Aida Ennis (Lingua Franca/1st).



NUIM OFFICE OF

The logo design, based on the Chinese tangram puzzle and bearing the University colours, with the tagline "connecting expertise and industry" depicts the role of the Office in linking industry with the University's research skills, IP protection and resulting commercialisation opportunities.

art wireless technologies to deliver broadband data and voice services throughout the campus and adjoining town.

With all of this escalated activity and owing to almost €1 million of funding from Enterprise Ireland under the Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative, the Commercialisation Office has expanded. Owen Laverty and Siobhan Dixon have joined as the new Commercialisation Executive and Executive Assistant respectively and the whole team has moved to the Auxilia building in the North Campus. Befitting this increasing identity, 2008 heralded a new image and set of communication tools for the Office. The logo design, based on the Chinese tangram puzzle and bearing the University colours, with the tagline "connecting expertise and industry" depicts the role of the Office in linking industry with the University's research skills, IP protection and resulting commercialisation opportunities. The launch of a dedicated website at www.commercialisation.nuim.ie and quarterly online newsletter also reflect the growing importance and volume of activity in this area.

The Student Entrepreneur Competition attracted 20 teams vying to win the €10,000 prize in a Dragon's Den style pitch by demonstrating that they could meet the challenges in establishing their own businesses. Sponsored by Bank of Ireland, McCann Fitzgerald and F.R. Kelly, it was a truly international affair with over half of the finalists coming from outside of Ireland. Nicole Holmes and Aida Ennis of Lingua Franca eventually won the title. Also in triumphant mode, Dr. Sean Doyle was selected from tough competition as the beneficiary of the first annual Commercialisation Award (2007) for his successful pursuits in the commercialisation arena.

Dr Caroline Ang, Research Support Officer





Caroline Ang joined the University in July 2007 as Research Support Officer in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Her responsibilities include assisting researchers with grant preparation, identifying and publicising sources of funding, and providing other support services to encourage and help with obtaining research grants.

Caroline grew up in Toronto where she did a BSc in Molecular Biology at the University of Toronto followed by an MSc at the University of Ottawa and finally a PhD in Neurobiology at the Rockefeller University in New York. She met her Irish husbandto-be in the latter location and moved to Ireland when he got a position at TCD. Caroline's roles prior to Maynooth were Programme Officer at Science Foundation Ireland, Head of Education and Outreach at the Centre for Human Proteomics in the RCSI and Programmes Manager at the Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre.

Caroline enjoys meeting the researchers and learning more about their initiatives, "There are a lot of interesting and novel projects being carried out here." She acknowledges that a more challenging aspect is to keep track of the many grants and grant deadlines and to communicate effectively with the researchers so as not to overwhelm them with information. "It's also disappointing not being able to find appropriate grants or hearing that a proposal wasn't funded."

Working at Maynooth has provided Caroline with opportunities to become involved in other interesting activities not directly related to her job. For example, taking part in a brainstorming session with the Alumni Office on how to reach out to its audience more effectively, and working with the Communications Office to help promote the University by contributing information on successful grants and researchers to profile. "I also go running (somewhat) regularly with some people in the Chemistry Department."

Caroline recently aided researchers in the Faculty of Science and Engineering with grants to fund undergraduate research programmes, of which two out of three submissions were successful. Together with the Summer Programme in Undergraduate Research (SPUR), these activities will bring about 70 students from all over the world to work with researchers across the University. "These programmes are a powerful recruiting tool for bringing talented undergraduates from Ireland and abroad to Maynooth. I hope we'll have even more success securing additional funding for these programmes in the future."

Her ambitions range from encouraging more academics to apply for external grants and assisting applicants with grant writing to finding more sources of funding to apply for. "All the while trying not to drive everyone in the office crazy with my absentmindedness!" Comparing the University to several other academic institutions of note, Caroline was struck by its friendliness and accessibility. "There's also a lot of pioneering research being conducted here, and together with the huge changes and expansion occurring in the Irish third level academic sector, it makes for a very exciting time to be at Maynooth."

Dr Ronan Foley, Geography Department, NIRSA & NCG





Before coming to the University in 2003, Ronan Foley worked as a Research Fellow in the School of the Environment at the University of Brighton for almost fifteen years. Coupled with a Masters in Geography from UCC, it was a natural progression to his current role of lecturer in the Geography Department and Research Associate at NIRSA and the NCG. "I primarily teach courses on Geographic Information Systems and Geographies of Health but also work with students on a whole range of projects, fieldwork and transferable skills." Ronan describes his department as a very warm and supportive place to work, where everyone looks out for each other. Also, as a member of the research centres which have links with other departments, he finds it easy to get to know lots of other staff on both a social and work basis. One of the more difficult parts of his job is trying to deal with increasing numbers of students while still finding the time to be as supportive to them as possible.

Ronan is excited by the opportunities of being part of wider academia and refers to the hosting of a recent workshop by the NCG on the Future of GI Science for one. He also appreciates when knowledge, especially in applied areas like critical spatial data, is transferred to the outside world through workshops and presentations. Not to mention the privilege of attending international conferences and interacting with global colleagues. "Since coming to Maynooth, I've been fortunate to attend conferences in places as diverse as Seoul, San Francisco, Bonn, Fort Worth and...Dundalk!" One of Ronan's favourite past projects was on mapping access to mental health advocacy services in London. "It actually felt like geography mattered and could be used to provide some help and support in the real world." His current pet topic is in the area of therapeutic landscapes and healing waters. "I'm writing a book proposal on the healing waters of Ireland which will take a therapeutic landscape approach to how people use water for healing in a number of settings including holy wells, Turkish baths, sea-bathing, spas and sweat houses."

Ronan has secured a sabbatical for 2008-09, during which time he hopes to work on his book and possibly accept an invite from the University of Auckland to visit for a few months. "I also think the joy of getting a break from teaching is to actually have the time to read and write and to think about my current teaching and research properly." Ronan perceives many positive selling points at Maynooth. "We've been lucky in the past few years to get some very dynamic and active new staff. And in the area of geography we seem to be increasingly well known in the national and international arenas. We've also a good deal of freedom to make our own choices about how to do our teaching and research. In a world where neo-liberal models seem to be creeping into all activities of life, let's hope that we keep that academic and personal freedom and trust our staff to carry on doing what they already do well."



Back (I-r): Ms Emma White; Ms Sarah McEvoy; Ms Noreen Deegan; Professor Daniel M. Heffernan; Dr Richard O. Watson & Dr David B. Redmond. Centre (I-r): Dr Catherine Comiskey; Professor Anne Ryan; Mr Richard George; Mr Jim Keenan; Ms Amanda O'Hara; Monsignor Dermot Farrell; Mr Mike O'Malley; Mr Frank Fitzmaurice (Secretary) & Professor Ann Burnell. Front (I-r): Professor John Coolahan; Ms Ann Marie Brennan; Ms Annette Kenndy; Mr Dan Flinter (Chairman); Professor John G. Hughes (President); Professor Jim Walsh (Deputy President); Ms Anastasia Crickley & Ms Paula Murray. Additional members not included in the photograph: Mr Peter Cassells; Ms Siobhan Corry; Bishop Jim Moriarty; Mr Anthony Jordan; Ms Anne Heraty; An tOllamh Próinséas Ni Chatháin & Dr Joseph Timoney.

4. Governing Authority

LIST OF MEMBERS OF GOVERNING AUTHORITY BY PANEL 2005 - 2010

The Governing Authority is the supreme decision making body of the University. It is composed of 30 members from both inside and outside the institution and usually meets six times per year. The term of office of the present Authority extends from 30 October 2005 to 29 October 2010.

Chairman	Mr Dan Flinter
Ex Officio	Professor John G. Hughes Dr David Redmond Mr Mike O'Malley
Members of academic staff who are Professors or Associate Professors	Professor Daniel M. Heffernan Professor Anne Ryan
Permanent or full-time members of academic staff other than Professors or Associate Professors	Dr Catherine Comiskey Ms Anastasia Crickley Dr Joseph Timoney Dr Richard Watson
Permanent or full-time employees of the University who are not academic staff	Mr Jim Keenan Ms Paula Murray
Elected officers of the Students' Union	Ms Máirín Condon Ms Ciara Kelly
Postgraduate student	Mr Gerard Healy
IBEC ICTU	Ms Noreen Deegan Ms Annette Kennedy
Nominees of the Trustees of St Patrick's College	Rev Professor Hugh Connolly Bishop Jim Moriarty An tOllamh Próinséas Ní Chatháin
Graduates of the University	Ms Ann Marie Brennan Mr Anthony Jordan
Nominees of NUI Senate	Professor Ann Burnell Professor Jim Walsh
Minister's Nominees	Professor John Coolahan Ms Siobhan Corry
Other External Members	Mr Peter Cassells Mr Richard George Ms Anne Heraty Vacant



5. Finance, Statistics & Sponsors

5.1. Income & Expenditure Accounts

	2006/07		2005/06			
	€	%	€	%		
		Γ1		40		
State Grants	32,673,662	51	26,491,940	48		
Student Fees Other Income	28,168,121	44 5	26,228,949	47 5		
	3,237,577	C	2,988,134	С		
	64,079,360	100	55,709,023	100		
Research Grants and Projects	16,935,349		14,301,509			
	81,014,709		70,010,532			
EXPENDITURE						
Academic Faculties and Departments	35,414,235	56	31,707,981	57		
Academic and Other Services	6,378,777	10	5,388,252	10		
Premises	7,797,304	12	7,392,234	13		
Amount Allocated for Capital Purposes	2,083,505	3	244,154	1		
Central Administration and Services	5,555,579	9	5,019,344	9 5		
General Educational Expenditure Student Services	2,713,499 2,828,206	4 5	2,832,826 2,659,026	э 4		
Miscellaneous Expenditure	656,744	1	515,454	4		
	050,744		515,454	1		
	63,427,849	100	55,759,271	100		
Research Grants and Projects	17,577,349		14,301,509			
	81,005,198		70,060,780			



5.2. Student Statistics

Students by Course and Year

Degree Courses:	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-00
Postgraduates in Arts+	570	633	593	557	574	524	425	347	347
Postgraduates in Science+	190	190	183	177	176	164	115	111	84
Postgraduates in Engineering	51	42	34	27	22	14	9	4	
MSc Software Engineering*	16	19	18	12	25	19	13	5	9
4th Year Science	90	103	84	95	107	138	138	96	138
3rd Year Science	101	76	98	85	93	137	180	203	197
2nd Year Science	76	119	89	102	93	98	144	188	229
1st Year Science	109	104	132	107	110	118	116	174	232
4th Year Theoretical Physics & Computer Science	1	1	5	5					
3rd Year Theoretical Physics & Computer Science	0	0	1	5	8				
2nd Year Theoretical Physics & Computer Science	0	0	1	1	6	9			
1st Year Theoretical Physics & Computer Science	0	0	0	3	2	6	10		
3rd Year Theoretical Physics & Mathematics	2	4	3	2	1	1	2		
2nd Year Theoretical Physics & Mathematics	2	3	5	4	2	1	1		
1st Year Theoretical Physics & Mathematics	7	2	3	6	4	2	1		
4th Year Software Engineering	20	27	37	47	46	64	28		
3rd Year Software Engineering	17	18	18	33	58	52	70	30	
2nd Year Software Engineering	20	18	20	21	31	73	77	78	45
1st Year Software Engineering	26	26	26	35	28	34	77	83	100
4th Year Physics with Astrophysics	12	8	8	5					
3rd Year Physics with Astrophysics	12	14	13	8	6				
2nd Year Physics with Astrophysics	5	12	15	16	11	6			
1st Year Physics with Astrophysics	12	4	13	15	17	11	7		
4th Year Computational Biology & Bioinformatics	4	5	9	15					
3rd Year Computational Biology & Bioinformatics	2	3	6	11	15				
2nd Year Computational Biology & Bioinformatics	4	4	3	6	13	15			
1st Year Computational Biology & Bioinformatics	8	4	4	3	5	14	18		
4th Year Biotechnology	15	12	10	15	21	16	23	16	11

Degree Courses:	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-00
3rd Year Biotechnology	17	15	13	11	15	22	17	25	18
2nd Year Biotechnology	14	19	22	16	14	18	26	20	23
1st Year Biotechnology	24	20	22	27	21	22	17	24	23
4th Year Biological Sciences	41	25	38						
3rd Year Biological Sciences	41	41	26	38					
2nd Year Biological Sciences	57	45	44	33	40				
1st Year Biological Sciences	72	60	46	50	36	38			
4th Year Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Chemistry	17	7							
3rd Year Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Chemistry	19	18	7						
2nd Year Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Chemistry	11	19	19	15					
1st Year Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Chemistry	11	10	20	15	16				
1st Year BSc Multimedia	1								
4th Year Psychology through Science	12	18							
3rd Year Psychology through Science	21	12	18						
2nd Year Psychology through Science	21	20	16	18					
1st Year Psychology through Science	20	23	20	18	19				
4th Year Engineering	18	17	19	20	25				
3rd Year Engineering	19	19	19	19	23	24			
2nd Year Engineering	19	17	17	21	20	28	28		
1st Year Engineering	24	33	22	19	18	23	28	30	
1st Year Product Design	12								
1st BA Anthropology	18								
3rd Year Arts	615	597	630	622	607	594	535	526	489
2nd Year Arts	688	728	745	733	695	674	625	624	567
1st Year Arts	858	809	835	827	850	822	847	800	738
3rd Year Art Single Honours	45	37	39	36	45	34	34		
2nd Year Art Single Honours	10	28	28	35	30	36	33		
4th Year BA International	36	44	25	13	16	15			
3rd Year BA International	31	40	43	27	17	16	15		
1st Year Business Management	57								
1st Year Equine Business	19								
4th Year BA Finance International	2	3							
3rd Year BA Finance International	0	2	3						
3rd Year BA Finance	45	59	116	121	93	96	101	60	75
2nd Year BA Finance	46	43	78	112	111	96	99	86	84
1st Year BA Finance	53	67	73	104	127	124	119	111	124
3rd Year Finance & Accounting	58								
2nd Year Finance & Accounting	94	63							
1st Year Finance & Accounting	96	80	54						
3rd Year Finance Accelerated	0	0	1						
3rd Year BA Music	27	35	26	35	31	29	27	26	29
2nd Year BA Music	31	29	37	31	33	35	26	24	24
1st Year BA Music	36	27	26	37	41	41	34	29	27

Degree Courses:	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-00
4th Year BA Music International	3	3							
3rd Year BA Music International	0	2							
3rd Year Music Technology	27								
2nd Year Music Technology	32	32							
1st Year Music Technology	45	39	39						
4th Year BA Music Technology International									
3rd Year BA Music Technology International	3								
4th Year European Studies	14	11							
3rd Year European Studies	8	16	8						
2nd Year European Studies	10	13	16	14					
1st Year European Studies	24	22	20	22	19				
4th Year Finance & Venture Management	15								
3rd Year Finance & Venture Management	19	22							
2nd Year Finance & Venture Management	18	21	25						
1st Year Finance & Venture Management	16	20	28	29					
4th Year French & Historical Studies	0	0	0	0	1	2			
3rd Year French & Historical Studies	0	0	0	0	0	1	2		
2nd Year French & Historical Studies	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	
1st Year French & Historical Studies	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	5
4th Year German & Historical Studies	0	0	0	2	0	6	0	1	
3rd Year German & Historical Studies	0	0	0	0	2	0	6		
2nd Year German & Historical Studies	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	6	
1st Year German & Historical Studies	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	3	7
3rd Year BA Mathematics	6								
2nd Year BA Mathematics	4	6							
1st Year BA Mathematics	3	4	10						
3rd Year Media Studies	31	30	38						
2nd Year Media Studies	34	34	35	39					
1st Year Media Studies	38	37	38	40	42				
4th Year BA Media Studies International	4								
3rd Year BA Media Studies International	1								
1st Year BA Multimedia	15								
1st Year BA Politics	22								
3rd Year Psychology	57	38	34	35	36	31			
2nd Year Psychology	54	57	36	35	38	37	34		
1st Year Psychology	25	21	23	21	25	23	20	16	
Applied Social Studies	14	18	22	0	34	0	46	47	25
3rd Year Social Science	33	38	43	27					
2nd Year Social Science	43	34	40	45	30				
1st Year Social Science	60	50	36	45	44	35			
4th Year BA Social Science International									
3rd Year BA Social Science International	1								
Total	5407	5148	5069	4826	4689	4444	4177	3799	3650

Diploma Courses:	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-00
Ard Dioploma san Aistriuchan	34	19							
H Diploma in Adult & Community Education	23	22	22	24	20	26	27	45	36
H Diploma in Applied Physics*	4	1	1	2	4	12	20	31	34
H Diploma in Arts (Adult Guidance & Counselling)	19	14	20	18	12	9	10	11	7
H Diploma in Arts (Applications of I.C.T. in Education)	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	12	29
(Kilkenny & Maynooth)									
H Diploma in Anthropology	1	0	0	0	1	0	5	7	
H Diploma in Arts (Civic, Social & Political Education)	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	13
H Diploma in Community Work	27	41	26	22	18	16	12	16	21
H Diploma in Arts (Cultural Tourism)*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
H Diploma in Arts (Finance)	6	8	6	12	10	11	10	4	1
H Diploma in Arts (Remote Sensing)	17	16	15	14	19	0	19	16	14
H Diploma in Arts (School Guidance Counselling)	25	21	23	20	22	23	23	24	22
H Diploma in Economic Science	3	1	3	6	3	4	1	1	-
H Diploma in Education	151	141	170	160	161	156	160	169	154
H Diploma in Educational Management	26	21	25	28	31	31	28	26	28
H Diploma in Electronic Engineering	1								
H Diploma in Information Technology*	5	6	6	10	9	16	55	107	148
H Diploma in Innovative Teaching & Learning	0	5	20						
H Diploma in Irish History	13	17	13	13	17	19	7	7	4
H Diploma in Mathematics	1	3	3	1	1	6	5	4	5
H Diploma in Mathematical Science	2	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	-
H Diploma in Mathematical Studies	3								
H Diploma in Music Technology	3	3	2	0	5	0	2	9	11
H Diploma in Philosophy	12	11	10	12	8				
H Diploma in Software Engineering	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	1
H Diploma in Statistics	3	3	2	1	1	5	1		
Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education	21								
Diploma in Arts (Adult Guidance & Counselling)	15	21	14	16	25	26	26	25	22
Diploma in Arts (Drama & Theatre Studies)	27	29	30	29	35	35	21	19	17
Diploma in Addiction Studies	46								
Diploma in Church Music	12	6	7	9	11	0	6	23	17
Diploma in Community & Youth Work	68	52	52	37	42	39	42	48	50
Diploma in Continuing Education	0	0	0	0	0	41	23	18	25
Diploma in Local History	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Diploma in Philosophy	0	0	0	0	1	7	7	7	5
Diploma in Rural Development	7	11	18	22	10	18	19	20	17
Diploma sa Ghaeilge	44	24	38	25	8				
Postgraduate Certificate in Anthropology	7	1	8						
Professional Certificate in Teaching & Learning	19								
Certificate in Sociological Teaching & Learning	11								
Certificate in Adult Guidance Training of Trainers	0	0	0	17	0	14	20	16	-
Certificate in Science	9	6	12	12	25	12			

Diploma Courses:	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-00
Certificate in Engineering	7	5	10	3					
Certificate in Economics, finance & Venture Management	6	5	2						
International Foundation Certificate	7	3	2						
Distance Education Degree	124	118	117	124	133	131	121	122	107
Distance Education Postgraduate Degree	0	0	0	0	0	19			
Degree Extension for Engineers (DEFT)	15	21	17	12	9				
Erasmus Exchange Programme Abroad	44	63	54	30	25	26	35	8	13
Erasmus Exchange Programme Visiting	196	197	179	169	146	140	121	89	94
Occasional Students (includes Qualifiers & BATh)	283	274	268	268	279	289	321	306	331
Teastas I Litriocht na Gaeilge	0	0	0	0	0	0	9		
Total	1348	1190	1196	1117	1091	1134	1202	1193	1227

Part-time Undergraduate Degree:	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-00
BA Local & Community Studies (Kilkenny & Maynooth)	194	222	223	184	187	200	230	189	173
Remote Learning Degree:	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-00
BSc Rural Development	12	14	21	22					

* 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 and Graduate Status

	2007-08	%	2006-07	%	2005-06	%	2004-05	%	2003-04	%	2002-03	%
Full-Time												
Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy U/G	3470	50	3192	49	3285	51	3127	51	3005	51	2803	49
Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy P/G	708	10	758	12	783	12	761	12	778	13	694	12
Engineering and Science U/G	1200	17	1142	18	1013	16	981	16	950	16	984	17
Engineering and Science P/G	261	4	253	4	242	4	224	4	233	4	226	4
Sub-Total	5639	81	5345	83	5323	83	5093	83	4966	84	4707	82
Part-Time												
Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy U/G	647	9	596	9	638	10	562	9	560	10	601	10
Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy P/G	280	4	216	3	173	3	125	2	123	2	126	2
Engineering and Science U/G	15	0	38	0	19	0	22	0	9	0	0	0
Engineering and Science P/G	16	0	1	0	6	0	7	0	5	0	14	0
Sub-Total	958	13	851	12	836	13	716	11	697	12	741	12
Total	6597	94	6196	95	6159	96	5809	94	5663	96	5448	94
Erasmus Visiting	196	3	197	3	179	3	169	3	146	2	140	3
Erasmus Abroad	44	1	63	1	54	1	30	0	25	0	26	0
NUI Certificate in Management of Adult												
Education Guidance	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	14	0
Distance Education	124	2	118	2	117	2	124	2	133	2	150	3
Total	6917	100	6511	100	6455	100	6119	100	5942	100	5752	100



5.3. Research Sponsors

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Projects Enterprise Ireland Advance Technologies Research Programme Enterprise Ireland Basic Research Grants Scheme Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund Proof of Concept Phase Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund Technology Development Phase Enterprise Ireland Feasibility Study Grant Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership Feasibility Study Enterprise Ireland International Collaboration Programme Enterprise Ireland Research Innovation Fund Enterprise Ireland Ulysses Enterprise Ireland/IRCSET Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland (ESAI) Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI/USA) EPA Environmental RTDI Programme 2000-2006 EPA STRIVE Programme 2007 -2013 European Union International Scientific Cooperation (INCO) Programme European Union Cooperative Research Action for Technology (CRAFT) Initiative European Union ERASMUS Programme European Union ESPON Research Programme European Union Fifth Framework Programme (FP5) European Union Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) **European Union INTAS Initiative** European Union INTERREG Programme European Union Leonardo da Vinci Programme (2000 – 2006) European Union Marie Curie Fellowships European Union Research Training Network Grant European Union Socrates Programme European Union STREP Project European Commission (European Year of Citizenship through Education 2005) European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) European Office of Aerospace Research and Development (EOARD) European Space Agency (ESA) Fingal Development Board Foras na Gaeilge French Embassy in Ireland HEA Intermediary Funding HEA North South Programme for Collaborative Research HEA Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions (PRTLI CYCLE 4) HEA Strategic Initiatives Fund HEA Technological Sector Research HEA/Media Lab Europe Health Research Board (HRB) Henkel Loctite Ireland

Heritage Council Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) **HRB** Equipment Grant HRB Programme Grant for Research on Blood Utilisation and Hepatitis C HRB Research Awards HRB Research Project Grants - General Intel Corporation International Centre for Local & Regional Development (ICLRD) International Reading Association **IRCHSS** Post Doctoral Fellowships **IRCHSS Research Project Grants IRCHSS Senior Research Fellowships IRCSET Basic Research Award IRCSET Embark Initiative** IRCSET Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme Ireland Canada University Foundation (ICUF) Ireland Newfoundland Partnership Irish Aid- Programme of Strategic Cooperation between Irish Aid & the Higher Education & Research Institute (2007 - 2011)Irish Equine Centre Irish Georgian Society Irish Hospice Foundation Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET) James and Adeline Callery Joint Astronomy Centre (USA) Joseph Rowntree Trust Kildare VEC Leverhulme Trust Local Government Computing Services Board (LGCSB) Marine Institute Meath County Development Board Microsoft Ireland Muscular Dystrophy Ireland (MDI) National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) National Council for Special Education (NCSE) National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) National Rosacea Society (USA) NORFACE ERA-NET Research Programme NUI Maynooth NUI Maynooth New Researcher Award NUI Maynooth Publications Grant NUI Maynooth Quality Promotion Office NUI Maynooth Research Enhancement Fund

NUI Maynooth, ITT and DIT Ordnance Survey Ireland Oriflame Glocal Technical Centre Office of the Minister for Integration Office of Public Works (OPW) Office of the Houses of the Oireachtas PLANET The Partnerships Network Pro Helvetia, Arts Council of Switzerland PRODEX Fund (European Space Agency) Raising Performance Ltd. Royal Irish Academy (RIA) Science and Technology Facilities Council Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Seagate Technology Media (Ireland) SFI Basic Research Grant 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 (STARs) SFI Strategic Research Cluster (SRC) SFI Walton Fellowship SOLVAY PHARMACEUTICALS B.V. Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology TDK Electronics Ireland Ltd Teagasc Teagasc Walsh Fellowship TROCAIRE The Equality Authority The Irish Missionary Resource Centre The Jerusalem College of Engineering The NHS National R&D Programme on Forensic Mental Health (UK) The Ohio State University The Wellcome Trust University of Glasgow US Air Force Western Development Commission