

UNIVERSITY NEWS



NUI MAYNOOTH
Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad

Professor Philip Nolan Appointed President

The Governing Authority of NUI Maynooth announced the appointment of Professor Philip Nolan as President of the University. He will take up the position on 15th August 2011.

Professor Nolan is currently Registrar, Deputy President and Vice-President for Academic Affairs at University College Dublin, a position he has held since 2004.

Professor Nolan said his priorities include strengthening NUI Maynooth's national and international reputation as one of Ireland's finest universities, through outstanding teaching that equips students for careers and for life, by focusing on a number of priority areas of research where NUI Maynooth can truly excel, and by fostering strong collaborations with other higher education institutions, with enterprise, and with the community.

Professor Nolan said, "I am delighted and honoured to take up this role at NUI Maynooth. The world of international academia is highly competitive and NUI Maynooth has developed tremendously under the guidance of two outstanding Presidents, Seamus Smyth and John Hughes, and the important recent leadership of Tom Collins, so that it is now an exceptional academic institution. I intend to build on this success, consolidating NUI Maynooth's distinctive and special contribution to our national system of higher education and growing its international reputation. I look forward to working with all staff and students towards this goal."



Professor Philip Nolan.

Hamilton Institute Breakthrough

Scientists at Hamilton Institute have devised a solution to what is a major challenge for cities worldwide - the provision of widespread, free, effective broadband for all their citizens.

For more than ten years, this has been a goal of cities in their drive to support the 'smart economy' but it had remained elusive due to technological limitations.

Professor Leith said broadband would be the enabler of modern communications and business and that while free broadband has always been a logical and desired goal for society, it had proven unexpectedly difficult to provide.



Professor Doug Leith.

continued on page 5

in this issue



3

President of Ireland Award



4

Law Department Host Roundtable



5

Morpeth Testimonial Roll



6

Commercialisation Award

Security Staff Development

A further seven members of the Security Staff attended a two-day training workshop in January to gain FETAC certification. This event completes a development programme that has enabled all of the NUI Maynooth Security staff to accredit their experience and further develop their skills. Pictured, back row (l-r); John Hayes, Security Officer; Ray Wheatley, Tutor, Terry Byrne; Gary Russell; Noel Stephen Ryan; Willie Moore; Lynne Budden, Staff Development Officer.

Front row (l-r); Larry Quinn, Tutor; Liam O'Brien; Simon Sweeney; Michael Wall.



FROM THE EDITOR

This edition brings important news for the University - the appointment of the new President, Professor Philip Nolan. Professor Nolan takes over from Professor Tom Collins in August. On behalf of all staff members, we would like to congratulate him on his appointment and wish him every success in the role.

Congratulations to Dr Mitic, Dr O'Connor, Dr Meneses and Cassandra Collins in their individual successes mentioned in this edition.

The next edition of the *University News* will be in May with a closing date for submissions of Friday, 29 April. I welcome updates from all Offices and Departments throughout the campus so please email your news at the address below.

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NUI Maynooth Connect Event 2011

The NUI Maynooth Commercialisation Office is hosting its 2nd Connect Event on Wednesday, 6 April in Carton House from 8:30am-1:00pm.



Connect Event, April 2009.

NUI Maynooth Connect Event 2011 is a networking forum, connecting companies with the research community at NUI Maynooth. The main aim is to highlight how NUI Maynooth can facilitate companies who want to engage research expertise and how NUI Maynooth is commercialising its research. The guest list of speakers will include industry and opinion leaders speaking on topics relevant to the knowledge economy and research commercialisation including: Niall Quinn, Xircon (ex co-founder Creganna); Richard Curran, Sunday Business Post; Jennifer Craig, CereBeo; Francis Mullany, Alcatel-Lucent; Richie Paul, Elan; Conor Mallaghan, Carton House and Ciaran Crean, Mick's Garage.

For a detailed programme or to register for the event please visit www.commercialisation.nuim.ie or contact Lorraine Kane, Commercialisation Office (01) 708 6589.

Irish Charity Book Launch

A new publication titled *Going Forward Looking Back: Reflections on two decades of Irish charity work in Central and Eastern Europe* was launched on Friday, 25 February at NUI Maynooth by Mairead McGuinness MEP. Dr Patty A Gray, Department of Anthropology, contributed to the underlying research and publication of the book.

The book shares the extraordinary story of the Irish relief efforts in Central and Eastern Europe since the early 1990s. The publication is based on interviews with 31 charity workers and volunteers who have dedicated themselves to helping the most vulnerable citizens in this region.

There are up to 100 charities still operating in the region today, 20 years after the fall of Ceausescu in Romania and 25 years after the Chernobyl accident in 1986. The interviews, some of which were carried out by Dr Gray, highlight different approaches to aid and development work over the years - the highs and lows, the success stories and the lessons learned.

Speaking about the launch of the publication, Mairead McGuinness, MEP said: *Going Forward Looking Back* is a must-read. The book does not offer simple solutions or quick fixes - there are none! It does provide invaluable insights into the slow, sometimes painful struggle that is development work."



Free Second Level Maths Support at NUI Maynooth

The Mathematics Support Centre now provides free drop-in maths support for local secondary schools.

The local schools currently involved are Maynooth Post-Primary School, Scoil Dara in Kilcock, Coláiste Chiaráin and Confey College in Leixlip, and St Wolstan's Community School and Salesian College in Celbridge. The MSC was established 2007 to provide extra support for the wide range of students studying maths at NUI Maynooth.

Dr Ciarán Mac an Bhairst, Manager of the Centre explains, "this support is not a replacement for the classroom, rather it is seen as a complement to the current services provided. It provides a relaxed, non-judgemental atmosphere for students so they can see maths as an approachable and accessible subject which can be discussed with their peers."

For additional information you can contact the MSC at supportcentre@maths.nuim.ie.



Tutor Jim McCabe talking to students in the MSC.

Dr Filipe Meneses Recognized for his Biography of Salazar



Dr Filipe Meneses.

Filipe Meneses, senior lecturer in the History Department has recently published a biography of Salazar entitled *Salazar: A Political Biography*.

The Portuguese newspaper, *Público* listed Filipe among ten Portuguese figures who made their mark in 2010 as recognition as one of the historians of reference when it comes to the Portuguese Twentieth Century. Dr de Meneses was the only academic among the list which included the Minister of Finance, the leader of the opposition, a prolific and very popular novelist, the manager of F.C. Porto.

Dr de Meneses was included because of the impact of his research, more specifically a biography, published in Portuguese earlier this year, of Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, the most significant politician of the 20th Century. An English language version of the book was published in 2009; the project was sponsored by the IRCHSS.

Dr Tom O'Connor Honoured

By order of a decree signed by the French Prime Minister, Francois Fillon, Dr Thomas O'Connor, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy at NUI Maynooth and member of the History Department, has been nominated chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques.



Dr Thomas O'Connor.

At the awarding ceremony, held in the French Embassy on 7 December, Dr O'Connor received the decoration from the French Ambassador to Ireland, Mme Emmanuelle D'Achon. The Order was established by Napoleon in 1808 and awards are made in recognition of distinguished service to culture and education.

Dr Mitic Wins President of Ireland Young Researcher Award

In December 2010 President of Ireland, Mary McAleese presented the *Science Foundation Ireland President of Ireland Young Researcher Award (PIYRA)* to Dr Natasa Mitic, Department of Chemistry, NUI Maynooth.

Now in its seventh year, PIYRA is one of Science Foundation Ireland's most prestigious accolades, acknowledging young engineers and scientists who have displayed extraordinary ability and leadership in their particular field. Dr Mitic's research will address the emergence of antibiotic resistance, a problem existing in clinical settings, having serious implications on the well-being of post surgery scenarios. Her studies will reveal regions in the target enzymes associated with antibiotic resistance that are conserved and not prone to mutation and, hence, present suitable targets for the design of new drugs with greater longevity.

Dr Mitic said "Receiving this award is a great honour for me. It will allow for the establishment of a research group at NUI Maynooth where we can build a team with extensive experience and, in turn, foster young minds. Our aim is to use a structure-based drug design and directed evolution to predict and combat resistance to a particular class of antibiotic widely used in the treatment of many bacterial infections."



Dr Natasa Mitic, SFI President of Ireland Award recipient with President Mary McAleese.

Law Department Host Roundtable

Lord Alan Rodger of the UK Supreme Court and Mr Justice Nial Fennelly of the Supreme Court of Ireland led a roundtable discussion on the use of foreign law in constitutional rights cases. Mr Brian Flanagan of the Department of Law at NUI Maynooth organized the event.

Other participants included Mr Justice Donal O'Donnell of the Supreme Court and Mr Justice John Mac Menamin of the High Court. The focus of the discussion was a survey of judges authored by NUI Maynooth Department of Law lecturer, Brian Flanagan, published in the current issue of the *International & Comparative Law Quarterly* (<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=ILQ>). The survey asked supreme court judges of ten countries about their use of foreign law.

It revealed that many supreme court judges regard their foreign counterparts as a possible source of guidance on the content of constitutional rights. The survey found that some judges see foreign law as an aid to arriving at more insightful legal interpretations, but suggests that opportunism and an interest in recognition from foreign judicial counterparts are equally important motivations.



Pictured (l-r) First row: Lord Alan Rodger, UK Supreme Court; Professor Tom Collins, President, NUI Maynooth; Mr Justice Nial Fennelly, Supreme Court of Ireland; Dr Sibho Banda, Dept of Law, NUI Maynooth. Second Row: Professor Sandeep Gopalan, Head of the Dept of Law, NUI Maynooth; Mr Brian Murray SC; Ms Justine Quinn BL, Dept of Law; Mr Justice Hugh Geoghegan, Supreme Court of Ireland (ret.); Mr Justice John Mac Menamin, High Court of Ireland; Ms Betsy Keys Farrell, Dept of Law. Third Row: Professor Colin Scott, Associate Dean of UCD School of Law; Dr Neil Maddox, Dept of Law, NUI Maynooth; Mr Brian Flanagan, Dept of Law, NUI Maynooth; Mr Justice Donal O'Donnell, Supreme Court of Ireland.

Mary Robinson Visits ICARUS



Mary Robinson pictured with the ICARUS team at NUI Maynooth.

On Tuesday, 1 February the former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson visited the Irish Climate Analysis and Research Units (ICARUS).

Mrs Robinson is currently the President of the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice (<http://www.mrfcj.org>), now based in Dublin and concerned especially with fostering leadership, education and advocacy to secure global justice for the increasing numbers of people, especially in the developing world, who are victims of climate change. Mrs Robinson has just returned to Dublin from Addis Ababa where she spoke on the theme of Gender and Climate Change at the 17th Pre-African Union Summit meeting of women leaders.

European Commission Role for IVI

With European spend on ICT expected to reach over €600 billion in 2011, the European Commission has contracted the Innovation Value Institute (IVI), housed at NUI Maynooth, to conduct a groundbreaking research project which will strengthen and further professionalize the role of the CIO (Chief Information Officer) and ICT professionals in European business, public sector and academic organisations.

The project will involve the development of a European-wide framework for ICT professionalism, with the goal of enhancing ICT practices and mobility for qualified professionals across Europe and a European Training Programme for ICT Managers to support and drive innovation and competitive advantage in the organizations they serve.

André Richier from the EC Enterprise and Industry Directorate-General said the development of the ICT profession was one of the most important challenges facing modern business and administration. "In Europe we see this as a

key enabler of economic growth, innovation and competitiveness. The development of a common framework for understanding, communicating and measuring the pivotal role played by ICT and ICT professionals is a significant priority of the European e-Skills agenda".

The Director of Intel Labs Europe, IVI Director, Professor Martin Curley, said the appointment reflected the structural shift in the European Union from a heavy industry based economy to a knowledge-based economy and an awareness of the vital role ICT plays in driving modern business.



The Morpeth Testimonial Roll Features on TG4

On 14th February the Irish testimonial roll to Lord Morpeth featured on the Nuacht on TG4. Presented to the departing chief secretary of Ireland, Lord Morpeth, in September 1841, the roll contains an estimated 275,000 signatures and is almost 412 metres in length when fully unrolled making it almost three times the length of Croke Park.



TG4's Catherine Ní Ghuairim prepares to interview NUI Maynooth staff about the Morpeth Testimonial Roll in the Russell Library.

Whether looked at as a pre-Famine census substitute, a family heirloom, a genealogy resource or a politically motivated document in its own right, it has the potential to provide a unique insight into Irish life, society and politics. As a pre-Famine census substitute it is unparalleled and its importance is multiplied by the scarcity of census material from this period.

For many years the testimonial roll has remained hidden away in a basement at Castle Howard, Yorkshire, but it is now on loan at NUI Maynooth where it is the focus of an exciting collaborative project involving the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates (CSHIHE), the Department of History and the Russell Library. Ancestry.com, the world's largest online resource for family history documents, has recently agreed to transcribe and digitise the roll.

Hamilton Breakthrough *(continued from page 1)*

Professor Leith and colleagues Ken Duffy and David Malone, developed a new mathematical framework to analyse the functioning and behaviour of radio signals in these situations, and from this new perspective have developed software programmes which circumvent the Interference and Fairness issues meaning the WiFi transmitters operate effectively. The software has been proven in trials and the Hamilton team is currently preparing for large scale demonstrations, in association with industry partners. They plan to bring the software to market later this year.

Library Festival 2011

The Library Festival 2011, which was launched by President Tom Collins on Tuesday, 25 January, this year celebrated the publications of the Faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy at NUI at Maynooth and the publications of St. Patrick's College Maynooth.

Two major new databases - which NUI Maynooth has played a key role in developing - were launched on the day. The Irish in Europe (<http://www.irishineurope.ie>) promotes research on Irish migration to Continental Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries, while Rian (<http://rian.ie>) makes NUI Maynooth research available internationally free of charge.



Dr Jennifer Wood, Department of Spanish presenting Professor Tom Collins, President with a copy of her book, entitled *Beyond the Back Room*.

Now in its fourth year, the Festival included lunchtime lectures, visits to the Russell Library, the OPW - NUI Maynooth Archive and Research Centre at Castletown House. The event showcases the work of both Faculty and College, in the Library and online via the Library website.

John O'Connell Awards 2010

President of Ireland, Mary McAleese has received the NUI Maynooth, John O'Connell Award recipients; Donal Bligh, Ronnie Fay and John McCormick, at a special ceremony in Áras an Uachtaráin.



Anastasia Crickley, Head of Department of Applied Social Studies congratulates Donal Bligh, Ronnie Fay and John McCormick, recipients of the John O'Connell Awards with President Mary McAleese.

The John O'Connell Awards recognise outstanding individuals working to create a just, equal and inclusive society. The Awards are named for John O'Connell, teacher, organiser and advocate for the marginalized in Ireland and throughout the world, who died in 1999.

This year's award winners are Donal Bligh, a graduate of the Professional Diploma in Community and Youth work; Ronnie Fay, Director Pavee Point Travellers Centre and John McCormick, Director of Youth Services and Deputy Chief Executive, Youth Council for Northern Ireland.

Commercialisation Award 2010

The Commercialisation Office recently awarded Dr Ross O'Neill the Commercialisation Award 2010. The award recognises excellence in the commercialisation of research at NUI Maynooth.



Pictured (l-r): Dr Ross O'Neill being presented with the Commercialisation Award by Dr John Scanlan, Director, Commercialisation Office.

Ross, formerly of the Hamilton Institute, founded Mutebutton Limited to commercialise technology developed by him, Dr Paul O'Grady and Prof Barak Pearlmuter. The technology is set to revolutionise the treatment of Tinnitus, a debilitating disorder in which the sufferer perceives pathological noise, created by the sufferer's brain in response to incomplete audio input from imperfect hearing. The Mutebutton device uses patent pending sensory substitution technology to augment the sufferer's hearing via taste and touch receptors. Initial first-in-man proof-of-concept trials were very

successful. Mutebutton recently completed a successful angel investment which will fund the company to complete medical device certification and expects to launch the new product in the latter half of 2012. Ross was also the recipient of the 2010 Enterprise Ireland "one-to-watch" award.

Centre of Teaching and Learning Publication

The Centre of Teaching and Learning's publication, 'Large group teaching - the local context: reflections on practice in the National University of Ireland, Maynooth', was launched by Professor Tom Collins, President, on Friday, 18 February.

The publication of case studies, representing the results of work of innovative pedagogy, carried out by staff members of NUI Maynooth, reveals the wide variety of approaches to teaching and learning which are used within the University. The reflections of the contributors on the experiences of their students and on their own work in teaching represent part of the on-going commitment of the University and its staff to providing the best possible learning environment for students.



Pictured (l-r): Dr Shelagh Waddington (co-editor), Geography Department; Prof Jim Walsh, Vice-President for Innovation and Strategic Affairs; Dr Una Crowley, Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning and Conor McCaffery (co-editor), Geography Department.

Research Information System Workshops

The Research Support Office are hosting training workshops for the Research Information System (RIS).

The RIS is the NUI Maynooth repository for research outputs and activities of academic staff, including publications and the categories reported on in the annual President's report. Selected information from the RIS profile is exported to the externally-accessible NUI Maynooth Researcher Profile Directory (RPD) (www.nuim.ie/rpd/).

RIS training for Departmental Administrators: Monday 14th March 10-11:30am and Monday 28th March 10-11:30am, both in John Hume Conference room, 3rd floor, John Hume Building - The workshop will introduce administrators to the RIS and demonstrate how to:

1. Log in to the RIS departmental profile
2. Input publication information

3. Report on publication information for their department
4. Report on research funding for their department

RIS Training for Academic Staff: Monday 21st March 10-11:30AM, John Hume Conference room, 3rd floor, John Hume Building - The workshop will introduce the academic staff member to the RIS and demonstrate how to:

1. Log in to their RIS profile
2. Input publication information
3. Input/update their contact details, research interests for export to the RPD
4. View and edit proposal details for research funding applications

Please sign up via: <http://staffdevelopment.nuim.ie/Prog1011.shtml>
Additional training workshops will be announced in due course.

Human Resource Notes

MARY KELLY MOVING TO MEDIATION SERVICES

Mary Kelly, Deputy Director of Human Resources was recently appointed to the post of Director of Mediation in the University. We wish Mary every success in her new role and we would like to thank her for her contribution to the Department over the last 19 years.

INTERVIEWS HELD

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 6 Dec 2010 | Assistant Health & Safety Officer Health & Safety Office (Three-Year Contract Post); |
| 2 Febr 2011 | Assistant Lecturer/Lecturer in Innovation, Department of Business (Three-Year Contract); |
| 18 Feb 2011 | Assistant Lecturer/Lecturer in Accounting, Department of Economics (Three-Year Contract). |

INTERVIEWS ARRANGED

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 7 April 2011 | Assistant Lecturer - Chinese Studies, School of Modern Languages (Three-Year Contract Post). |
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POSTS ADVERTISED

Lecturer in Law, School of Law (Three-Year Contract Post).

NEW APPOINTMENTS

We are pleased to announce that the following have accepted appointment to posts in the University:
Ms Melissa Barbier, Executive Assistant, Graduate Studies Office;
Mr Derek Barter, Continuing Education Academic Co-ordinator, Department of Adult & Community Education;
Ms Lynn Conlon, Executive Assistant, Payments Office;

Ms Denise Erdmann, Senior Executive Assistant Half-Time, Anthropology;
Ms Patricia Farren, Residence Officer, Residence Office;
Mr Noel Gavin, Technical Officer, Department of Biology;
Mr John Keane, Deputy Head of Security, Security Office;
Ms Gretta Keogh, Senior Executive Assistant, Registrars Office;
Ms Ina Olohan, Disability Advisor, Access Office;
Ms Kirsten Paterson, Executive Assistant, Office of Vice President of Research.
We wish all concerned every success in their new positions.

STAFF WELLBEING WEEK

During January a collaborative project between Human Resources, Staff Development, the Health Centre and Sports Office offered a menu of 12 learning activities for staff on Wellbeing. Some 76 staff members participated and gave an enthusiastic rating for the topics covered, which included stress management, HR supports, individual fitness assessments, health checks, staying positive in difficult times, Layman's Guide to the Budget, a briefing on the Employee Assistance Programme and the role of Heads in Staff Wellbeing.

SECURITY STAFF DEVELOPMENT

A further seven members of the Security Staff attended a training workshop to gain FETAC certification in January. This completes a development programme that has enabled all of the NUI Maynooth Security staff to accredit their experience and further develop their skills.

EASTER HOLIDAYS

In general terms, the offices of the University will close on the evening of Friday, 15 April 2011 and will re-open on the morning of Tuesday, 26 April 2011.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

The Employee Assistance Programme is a support programme provided by the University for staff members. The Programme provides a confidential counselling service, designed to assist staff members in dealing with any issue that adversely affects their health, wellbeing, personal or professional life. If you have a problem that is troubling you, then you can get help and support. You can avail of the service by calling the following free phone number: **1800 201 346**

Airo Provides Access to Constituency Information



Rob Kitchin.

The All Island Research Observatory (AIRO) is providing general election candidates and political parties with free access to an online socio-economic mapping portal with rich information that can revolutionise their approach to policy formation, decision making and campaign planning.

The portal allows election candidates to quickly analyse data for all 43 constituencies relating to potential voters; population demographics; socio-economic status; deprivation indexes; economic status; housing; transport; social class; marital status; religion; industry; households; and education.

The system also allows political strategists to analyse and compare electoral districts within their constituencies in drawing up manifestos, and provides up to date information such as the fluctuations in Live Register data at social welfare office level, and localised information on unfinished housing estates, planning permissions and housing development. It allows election candidates to access micro-level data on their constituencies while on the canvass trail for the 166 seats in the Dáil. NUI Maynooth contacted all political parties with information on the AIRO system.

Professor Rob Kitchin, Director of NIRSA is editor in chief of the International Encyclopedia of Human Geography. *The International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, a 2009 academic reference work covering human geography has been awarded a 'CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title 2010' award in the Social and Behavioural Sciences category.

NUI Travelling Studentship Award

Cassandra Collins BSc, a second year PhD student in the Department of Biology, was awarded a National University of Ireland Travelling Studentship in November 2010. The award, €27,000, will greatly facilitate Cassandra undertaking collaborate research in both the Netherlands and Denmark in 2011 and beyond.



Cassandra Collins, Department of Biology receiving her award from Dr Maurice Manning, Chancellor of the National University of Ireland.

Cassandra is undertaking her PhD on the functional proteomic analysis of a fungal plant pathogen called *Armillaria mellea*. Although the work is in part aimed at understanding the molecular basis of fungal virulence, *A. mellea* is a rich source of biocatalysts (enzymes) which have significant biotechnological potential. Cassandra's research is carried out in collaboration with Dr David Fitzpatrick, a fungal bioinformaticist at NUI Maynooth, and Dr Thomas Keane and Dr Dan Turner at the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Cambridge, UK.

Cassandra has already presented aspects of her work at the Irish Plant Pathologists meeting earlier this year and at the International Mycological Congress held at Edinburgh, Scotland in 2010.

Adult and Community Education Annual Psychology Seminar

Adult and Community Education Department had its Annual Psychology Seminar day on Saturday, 19 February. Guest speaker Olivia Carr delivered a talk entitled "Introduction to Attachment Theory".

90 students from ten Outreach Centres attended the seminar. The students were given an insight to the University experience in the afternoon where they attended workshops facilitated by outreach tutors which varied from Birth Order, Emotional Intelligence, Freud & Jokes, Socialisation & Applied Behavioural Analysis for children with autism. The next seminar for students on the certificate for Addiction Studies will take place on Saturday, 5 March and will explore the theme of the role of adult education in recovery and rehabilitation, the main speaker will be Martin Keane of the Health Research Board.



Pictured (l-r): Kay Loughlin, Continuing Education, NUI Maynooth; Josephine Finn, Head of the Department of Adult and Community Education, NUI Maynooth; Derek Barter, Academic Co-ordinator of Continuing Education, NUI Maynooth; Olivia Carr, guest speaker and Kellyann Reid, Continuing Education Support Officer, Department of Adult and Community Education, NUI Maynooth.

Maynooth Alumni Advisory Board

The Maynooth Alumni Advisory Board (MAAB) had its inaugural meeting on 3 February 2011. Acting as Ambassadors for Maynooth, this advisory board will help to set the strategic direction of the alumni office, identify ways in which alumni can benefit other alumni and how alumni can help the University.

The board members are

- Emeritus Professor Vincent Comerford, NUI Maynooth
- Bernadette Coyne, Managing Director, Amáarach Consulting, (BA 1987)
- Peter Finnegan, Director, Dublin City Council, (BA 1976)
- Frank Fitzmaurice, Director Corporate Services, NUI Maynooth
- Karen Kelly, NUI Maynooth Alumni Officer, (BA 2009)
- Flor Madden, Executive Chairman, Weddings at Home, (BA 1988)
- Hayley McCann, Secondary Teacher, Geography and Religion, (BA 2007)
- Aengus O'Maoláin, Maynooth Student Union President, (BMus 2009)



Pictured (l-r, clockwise); Frank Fitzmaurice, Bernadette Coyne, Aengus O'Maoláin, Karen Kelly, Professor Vincent Comerford, Hayley McCann, Flor Madden.

The MAAB will meet a minimum of three times a year. For further information on the MAAB or if you would like to participate on the Board, please contact Karen at the Alumni Office; 01-7086492 or alumni.office@nuim.ie.

As a further initiative Karen met with some alumni in Boston to follow-up on the Chapter that took place there last year. These alumni will assist NUI Maynooth explore opportunities in the education arena that will ultimately benefit the University.

Study: 'Positive Classrooms, Positive Children', Launch

A large scale Irish study - commissioned by Archways and led by NUI Maynooth - involving 11 schools, 217 children and 22 teachers, has proven, for the first time in a European context, the effectiveness and value for money of an innovative teacher classroom management programme in Irish schools.



The study was carried out in 2009/2010 among Junior and Senior Infant classrooms in the Limerick area. It found that teachers who had taken part in the TCM programme (the intervention group) and their classes, derived considerable benefits when compared to those who had not yet received the training (waiting list control group).

Dr Sinéad McGilloway, Principal Investigator of the *Incredible Years Ireland Study* and Director of the Mental Health and Social Research Unit in the Department of Psychology, said that the monetary value of the TCM programme to Irish education was exceptional at an average training cost of approximately €100 per child.

Launching the report, NUI Maynooth President Tom Collins said that the earliest years of a child's education were critical in shaping their future academic and life achievements and problems identified at an early stage

were resolved much easier. "Primary school is where many children get to first have their academic abilities identified and nurtured. For other children, school may be the only structure in their lives, and if they appear to be disruptive and unruly, the correct interventions can make a huge difference to their lives. This study strongly suggests that by introducing TCM training for teachers across the board, we can give both pupils and teachers the best possible chance in our educational system".

The Incredible Years Parent, Teacher and Child training Series, was first developed over 30 years ago by Professor Carolyn Webster-Stratton, Director of the Parenting Clinic at the University of Washington. In Ireland, the programme is managed through Archways (www.archways.ie), which commissioned the *Incredible Years Ireland Study* with financial support from the Atlantic Philanthropies and the Dormant Accounts Fund.

NUI Maynooth Host Harding Cup



Jake Carroll, soccer Scholar in action against UCC in the semi-finals.

NUI Maynooth Freshers soccer team were denied a historic home victory by UCD in the final of the Harding Cup on Saturday, 13 February.

Hosting the event for the first time since 1995, NUI Maynooth defeated DCU in the quarter-final after extra-time, before getting the better of a strong UCC team in the semi-final 1-0. Unfortunately a first victory in the competition since 1976 was just out of reach, as holders UCD struck for an 89th minute winner in an enthralling final which kept the large North Campus crowd entertained throughout.

Leaving Cert Practicals 2011



James Kenny from Moyne Community School taking part in the Physics Leaving Cert Practicals that took place throughout the month of January. The science practicals, now in their 11th year offer students the chance to conduct over 20 interactive experiments, over the course of a day, giving them access to laboratories and equipment in order to conduct experiments from the Leaving Certificate Curriculum. Since its initiation over 2,800 Leaving Certificate students from second - level schools around the country have benefited from the science practicals held in NUI Maynooth labs each January.