



NUI MAYNOOTH

Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad

# UNIVERSITY NEWS

STAFF NEWSLETTER – NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND MAYNOOTH

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## NUI MAYNOOTH PRESIDENT AT WHITE HOUSE

President, Professor John Hughes joined over 120 specially invited guests at a White House reception for Irish politicians, civic leaders and business executives held in Washington DC on St Patrick's Day, March 17.

Maynooth University Foundation Chief Executive, Michelle Lynch, accompanied Professor Hughes at the event. Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD and many Irish and American politicians were also in attendance.

It was a special honour for NUI Maynooth, which was the only Irish university invited to the distinguished reception.

"It was a great tribute to our University and it was a marvellous day," Professor Hughes said. "The invitation reflects the growing status of NUI Maynooth, and it gave us an opportunity to meet with some very influential people."

The reception was held at the White House throughout the morning of St Patrick's Day and included lunch. Others in attendance included the influential US Senator John McCain, the Irish and British Ambassadors to the USA and the British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Paul Murphy MP.

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*President, Professor John Hughes, pictured at the White House beneath a portrait of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.*

## ASTRONAUT PAYS VISIT

NASA astronaut, Lieutenant Colonel Rex Walheim – who has spent 259 hours in space and whose latest mission was on the 13th Shuttle to visit the International Space Station – was the special guest at the NUI Maynooth Postgraduate Research Day held on campus, Wednesday 9 March.

The astronaut, wearing a NASA flight suit, delivered a guest lecture in the John Hume Building entitled *Building a Space Station*. He also attended the Research Day, visited the Experimental Physics and Electronic Engineering facilities on campus, participated in a prize-giving reception and was the guest at a dinner hosted by President, Professor John Hughes.

*continued on page 2*



*NASA astronaut, Lieutenant Colonel Rex Walheim, US Air Force, with President, Professor John Hughes and Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Dr Jason Twamley.*

**from the editor**

Our American connections, which feature prominently in this edition of *University News*, say much about NUI Maynooth's progress in recent years. Of particular importance was our presence at the White House reception on St Patrick's Day. Likewise, the arrival of a NASA astronaut for our Postgraduate Research Day was a notable event.

Add in the recent visits of Education Minister, Mary Hanafin and Justice Minister, Michael McDowell – not to mention our recent CAO successes – and our growing stature at home and abroad becomes clear. Congratulations to all involved.

The next edition of *University News* will be issued in June. Items are welcome up to early in that month.

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**UNIVERSITY NEWS**

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Matthew Byron views the stars with NASA astronaut, Lieutenant Colonel Rex Walheim.



Pictured are Joan Buckley, Debbie Kenny, Helena Burns and pupils of the Crèche, with the astronaut.

**MORE FROM WHITE HOUSE**



Michelle Lynch, Chief Executive, Maynooth University Foundation, pictured with First Lady, Laura Bush.

**FIRST PREFERENCE APPLICATIONS RISE BY 16 PER CENT**



John McGinnity, Admissions Officer/Assistant Registrar.

A 16 per cent increase in first preference applications marks the good news for NUI Maynooth in figures released by the CAO on 8 March.

An overall rise of 10 per cent in student applications completes the highly satisfactory picture and reflects the rapidly growing popularity of NUI Maynooth with national and international students.

New courses such as Music Technology, Finance and Accounting and a new degree in Mathematics proved highly popular. A similar trend was evident with the omnibus Arts degree, Psychology, Social Science and Media Studies.

Increased interest in Science was also a feature of the application statistics, with the degrees in Science, Biological Sciences and Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Chemistry receiving high levels of demand.

"This is the highest number of first preferences that the University has ever achieved and is the largest increase for any university in the country, which is excellent news," John McGinnity, Admissions Officer/Assistant Registrar, said. ■



Astronaut, Lieutenant Colonel Rex Walheim with Marie Murphy, Valerie Bartley and Sharon Julian of the Research and Graduate Studies Office.

## NEW IRISH TEST FOR ADULTS

A testing and certification system for adult learners of Irish, which is the first of its kind, has been devised by the Language Centre, NUI Maynooth and launched by the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin TD on Wednesday 2 March.

For the first time, adult learners of Irish will be able to obtain a qualification with Europe-wide recognition.

"This system will allow learners to obtain a qualification which will be recognised across Europe and which is based on years of research and best practice in language testing", says Anna Ní Ghallachair, Director of the Language Centre.



*Pictured are Anna Ní Ghallachair, Director of the Language Centre; Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin TD; President, Professor John Hughes.*

"There are thousands of people attending Irish language classes, both in Ireland and abroad, who, until now, were denied the possibility of gaining a qualification with both national and international recognition."

The system will also benefit agencies and employers seeking to comply with the provisions of the Official Languages Act by enabling them to gauge more accurately Irish proficiency levels of prospective employees.

## STUDY OF GM CROPS



*Dr Conor Meade - co-author of GM study.*

A new study of the latest developments in genetically modified (GM) crops, which was undertaken by Dr Conor Meade of NUI Maynooth and Dr Ewen Mullins of Teagasc Oak Park, has found that significant benefits may arise from the use of the technology in Ireland.

The study surveys the most up-to-date environmental and economic data from around the world and concludes that it is not sustainable to label all GM crops as bad for the environment as many may actually have positive impacts.

The study, entitled *GM Crop Cultivation in Ireland: Ecological and Economic Considerations*, appears in the latest (March 2005) edition of *Biology and Environment*, the biological journal of the Royal Irish Academy.

Speaking at the launch of the paper, Dr Meade noted: "While all new technology must be carefully monitored, we have found clear evidence that certain GM crops allow increased control of the environmental impact of agriculture, and so in ecological terms they can be less damaging than conventional crops."

## CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The Chinese New Year was celebrated at NUI Maynooth on Tuesday 22 February, when many of the University's 50 Chinese students and invited guests attended a reception on campus.

The Chinese Ambassador, Dr Sha Hailin and Mr Jiwei Tang, First Secretary, Education Section of the Chinese Embassy, were in attendance.

President, Professor John Hughes and Dean of International Education, Professor Paddy Geary were also present.

Professor Hughes wished the students a happy and prosperous New Year. He added: "My recent visit to China demonstrated to me the close cultural and educational links between our two countries and the opportunities that exist to develop them further.

"We will continue at NUI Maynooth to recruit top-quality Chinese students and to offer them a friendly and welcoming environment."



*Pictured are (l-r): Professor John Hughes, President; Dr Sha Hailin, Chinese Ambassador; Professor Paddy Geary, Dean of International Education.*

## JUSTICE MINISTER ANNOUNCES CRÈCHE FUNDING

An allocation of €1 million for major improvements in the NUI Maynooth Crèche was announced by Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Michael McDowell TD at a reception held on campus, Friday 4 March.

The money - which is part of a strategy to bring childcare in Ireland up to a better standard - will be used by the Crèche to enlarge and expand facilities. The Crèche, which was set up in 1977, currently caters for 62 children, from babies up to after-school.



*Pictured are (l-r): President, Professor John Hughes; Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Michael McDowell TD; Crèche Supervisor, Joan Buckley.*

The money will be allocated in stages as building and development proceeds. Commenting on the development, Joan Buckley, Crèche Supervisor, said: "I'm absolutely delighted. It's three years in the happening and it's been a long haul securing the funding. I would like to thank President, Professor John Hughes, my colleague Michelle Finnegan, who is Treasurer of the Crèche Parents Committee, and everybody else associated with the Crèche."

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DAY

Two hundred and fifty second-level students from 18 local schools visited the NUI Maynooth campus on 14 March for a day of interactive and fun science activities.

The schedule for the day included:

- A highly visual lecture entitled *Rise of the Robots* by Dr Charles Markham of the Department of Computer Science, which was filled with demonstrations of working robots and of the scientific principles underlying robotics.



*Dr Shirley O'Dea with Matthew Goarke, Maynooth Post-Primary, at the Science Day.*

- Hands-on laboratory sessions dealing with the intricacies of computer music; the chemistry of fireworks; genes, proteins, cells and tissues in biology; real-world physics; robotics; and digital data encoding.

- The day ended with a hi-tech science quiz for teams of four. Prizes of book tokens were awarded to the top four teams.

b r i e f s



UPCOMING DEADLINES

**SCIENCE FOUNDATION IRELAND:  
Investigator Programme Grants**

Four-year programme grants to support fields of science and engineering that underpin biotechnology and information and communications technology. Grants normally range up to €250,000 per year for up to four years, with higher awards to exceptional recipients, funding such items as research equipment and salaries for support staff and focusing on supporting great researchers in Ireland.

**Application deadline: Open Call**  
Further details: <http://www.sfi.ie/>

**Research Professorships**

Science Foundation Ireland, through this programme, will assist research bodies in attracting outstanding scientists (SFI Fellows) to their institutions from outside the state. SFI Research Professors will be investigators of distinguished international reputations who move from other countries to the Republic of Ireland. SFI will provide funding of €500,000 per annum for five years to the host institution for support of the individual, research team and research costs.

**Application deadline: Open Call**  
Further details and application forms: <http://www.sfi.ie/>

**ENTERPRISE IRELAND:**

**The Innovation Partnerships Programme**

Applications are invited for research grants in collaboration with industry. Projects should be of real commercial value to the company and must be capable of application. Funds are provided both by Enterprise Ireland and the company. All manufacturing, processing and internationally tradable service companies, with an operating base in the Republic of Ireland, collaborating with Irish third-level institutions, are eligible to participate.

**Application deadline: Monthly Submission – Next Submissions 13 May, 17 June**  
Further details and application forms: [http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/ResearchInnovate/Companies/Innovation\\_Partnerships.htm](http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/ResearchInnovate/Companies/Innovation_Partnerships.htm)

**The Proof of Concept Programme**

Applications are invited for the above scheme focusing on a 'proof of concept' model. Individuals or small groups work on short, applied projects to develop a product concept through to a stage where a route to commercialisation is clear, either as a campus company or through licensing.

**Closing date for applications: 11 May (There will be a further deadline on 14 September)**  
Further details and application forms: [http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/ResearchInnovate/Colleges/Proof\\_of\\_Concept\\_Phase.htm](http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/ResearchInnovate/Colleges/Proof_of_Concept_Phase.htm)

**THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S OFFICE:**

**Research Scholarship Programme 2005**

Applications for the 2005 National Children's Strategy Research Scholarship Programme are now being accepted. The purpose of the National Children's Strategy Research awards is to develop research capacity in relation to children and to support research directly related to the National Children's Strategy. Masters and Doctoral awards are valued at €12,700 per annum and university fees will also be paid. These awards will be granted initially for one year but are renewable for up to two additional years.

**Closing date for applications: 12 May**  
Details and application forms can be downloaded from:  
[http://www.nco.ie/upload\\_documents/Research\\_Scholarship\\_Programme\\_Application\\_Form\\_2005-2006.pdf](http://www.nco.ie/upload_documents/Research_Scholarship_Programme_Application_Form_2005-2006.pdf)

**IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY:**

**Postgraduate Research Scholarships 2005**

The Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering & Technology is pleased to announce details of the Embark Initiative Postgraduate Research Scholarship Scheme (2005). This will fund up to 160 new-entrant Masters or Doctorate level researchers in the sciences, engineering and technology.

Applications will only be accepted via the Online Grants Applications System. Eligible candidates will be proposing to commence a research-based degree for the first time in October 2005 and will not previously have been registered for a course leading to a postgraduate research qualification. Only candidates with academic records at higher honours level are likely to be successful.

**Closing date for applications: 22 April**  
Details and application forms can be downloaded from:  
[http://www.ircset.ie/grant\\_schemes/postgrad.html](http://www.ircset.ie/grant_schemes/postgrad.html)

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:**

**Postdoctoral Scholarships 2005**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites proposals for a small number of doctoral scholarships to support environmental research leading to the award of a PhD. Applications should be submitted within one of the six themes listed on the website which have been identified as gap areas.

**Closing date for applications: 28 April**  
Details and application forms can be downloaded from:  
<http://www.epa.ie/EnvironmentalResearch/FundingAwards/FileUpload,6210,en.pdf>

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:**

**Masters Scholarships 2005**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites proposals for a small number of scholarships to support environmental research leading to the award of a masters degree (by research). Applications should be submitted under the theme of Environmental Technology.

**Closing date for applications: 28 April**  
Details and application forms can be downloaded from:  
<http://www.epa.ie/EnvironmentalResearch/FundingAwards/FileUpload,6212,en.pdf>

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER CALLS AND CLOSING DATES:**

**Science and Engineering:** [http://www.randgs.may.ie/cgi-bin/calendar/Calcium39.pl?Op=Show1&CalendarName=Faculty\\_of\\_Science\\_Engineering](http://www.randgs.may.ie/cgi-bin/calendar/Calcium39.pl?Op=Show1&CalendarName=Faculty_of_Science_Engineering)  
**Arts and Humanities:** [http://www.randgs.may.ie/cgi-bin/calendar/Calcium39.pl?Op=Show1&CalendarName=Faculty\\_of\\_Arts\\_Humanities](http://www.randgs.may.ie/cgi-bin/calendar/Calcium39.pl?Op=Show1&CalendarName=Faculty_of_Arts_Humanities)

**FOR ALL INFORMATION ON FP6 AND FP7:**

[http://www.nuim.ie/research/research\\_funding\\_support/fp6.htm](http://www.nuim.ie/research/research_funding_support/fp6.htm)

BIOLOGY SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP



Pictured are (l-r): Noel Daly, Enterprise Ireland; Laurel Fogerty, scholarship winner; Conor Savage, President, Biology Society.

At the end of March, the Biology Society held its annual Whittaker Awards and gave away a first-ever scholarship to the value of €1,000.

The €1,000 was sponsored by Enterprise Ireland and another €1,000 was secured from IRCSET to cover expenses.

The winner of the €1,000 was Laurel Fogerty.

POSTGRADUATE FAIR

Congratulations to Loretta Jennings, Careers and Appointments Officer, for her work in organising the postgradireland Fair, which took place at the RDS on 10 February.

Loretta is current Chair of the Association of Graduate Careers Services in Ireland (AGCSI), which jointly organised the event in conjunction with the publishing company, GTI (Ireland).



Lorraine Kelly, Loretta Jennings and Natasha Gallagher taking time out from their on-campus guidance activities to participate in the postgradireland Fair, which was attended by over 2,000 students including several hundred from NUI Maynooth.

The postgradireland Fair brought together over 70 providers of postgraduate programmes in Ireland and elsewhere. In addition to a range of seminars and discussion forums on various aspects of postgraduate study, careers staff from AGCSI services, including Lorraine Kelly and Natasha Gallagher from NUI Maynooth, provided assistance on the Careers Advice Desks.

## FACULTY OF ARTS NOTES

There were **69 applications in the Arts sector** for the University's John and Pat Hume Scholarships for postgraduate research, offered for the first time this year. A sub-committee of the Faculty of Arts decided on the applications over Easter, and 16 awards were made.

At undergraduate level, over 150 mature student applicants were seen in March in the first sessions of admission interviews for Arts courses. Further interviews are due to take place in May. Figures recently provided by the Registrar's Office indicate that mature students perform at least as well as the overall intake in undergraduate courses.

Fr André Kabore, a PhD student, has been named by the Ireland Fund de France as a recipient of the 2005 Lady Chryss O'Reilly award to facilitate a research period in France. Fr Kabore, from Burkina Faso, is doing comparative work on oral literature, and is being jointly supervised by Éamon Ó Ciosáin (French) and Margaret Kelleher (English).



Pictured are (l-r): Professor Brian Cosgrove, English Department; Fr André Kabore; Dr Peter Denman, Dean of Arts; an tUasal Éamon Ó Ciosáin, Department of French.

On 13 May, Professor Ruth Whelan and Bruno Tribout of the Department of French are organising a conference on autobiographical writing, *Narrating the Self in Early Modern Europe*. The Canadian Association for Irish Studies will meet here 22 –25 June; the theme of its conference is *Ireland in the Atlantic: Intercultural Contact and Conflict*. Dr Jason King of the Department of English is the conference organiser.

Recent publications from Faculty of Arts members include *Subversive Law in Ireland, 1879-1920: From Unwritten Law to the Dáil Courts*, by Heather Laird of the English Department. Publication was marked by a well-attended launch ceremony for this book and *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Irish Culture*, co-edited by Joe Cleary and noticed in the last issue.

Another colleague in English has co-edited *Nineteenth-Century Ireland: A Guide to Recent Research*. Dr Anne Lodge of Education has co-edited the book *Primary Voices: Equality, Diversity and Childhood in Irish Primary Schools*.

Dr Maeve Martin, also of the Education Department and recently appointed Chairperson of the Task Force on Student Behaviour in Second-Level Schools, was a guest on Marian Finucane's radio programme on 30 March. Dr Mary Corcoran was to be heard on RTÉ news and current affairs programmes on 7 April, talking about urban living in the West Dublin and North Kildare area.

Four members of the Faculty of Arts have been awarded Research Fellowships by the IRCHSS: Dr Barra Boydell, Dr Jacinta Prunty, Dr Filipe Ribeiro de Meneses and Professor David Scourfield.



## OUTREACH STUDENTS PAY VISIT

On 26 February, over 300 outreach students who are registered for NUI Maynooth certificate-level courses in Psychology and Community Development & Leadership, attended 'on campus' lectures for the very first time.

While lectures, workshops and discussion were the main focus of the day, the visit provided students with a chance to establish a sense of belonging and to get a flavour of campus life.

It also gave them an opportunity to meet with fellow students who are based at other centres.

The students who participated represent only a small proportion of the 1,500 students currently involved in Continuing Education programmes in local venues nationwide.

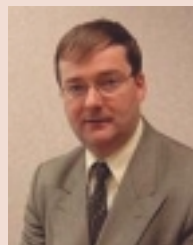


Josephine Finn, Department of Adult and Community Education, with Kellyann Reid, Continuing Education Support Officer, who co-ordinated the event.



Some of the outreach students who attended on campus.

## PENSION PLAN UPDATE



Bursar, Mike O'Malley.

A full actuarial valuation of the NUI Maynooth Pension Plan (dated 1 October 2003) was carried out by Mercer Actuarial Consulting during 2004. The valuation proved disappointing in line with most pension plans in Ireland and abroad.

As set out in the table below, the market value of the assets of the plan represented just 64 per cent of the value of accrued liabilities (with provision for expected future salary increases to retirement). The market value of the assets was €35.5M. The value of the deficit was €19.6M.

The deficit arose from two assumptions made in the year 2000 proving inaccurate, namely:

- Pay rises to staff exceeded the assumptions made in 2000 by 50 per cent
- The markets under-performed compared to the assumption in 2000 by 15 per cent

As a direct result of this poor valuation, the early retirement option where full service is achieved prior to age 65 (but not earlier than age 60) was withdrawn at the request of the Trustees to the scheme.

Following the poor valuation, the Actuary to the scheme recommended an increased contribution rate to provide for future benefits and to make up for past under-performance. The additional cost of providing the increased contribution is €2M per annum. Governing Authority agreed to provide for this payment in 2005.

The President and Bursar are attempting to secure long-term funding to underwrite the pension scheme. They are working closely with CHIU in this regard.

ACCRUED LIABILITIES	€000
Members in Service	46,164
Deferred Pensions	2,968
Pensioners	5,986
All Members	55,118
Market Value of Assets	35,473
Deficit in Fund	19,645
Funding Level	64%

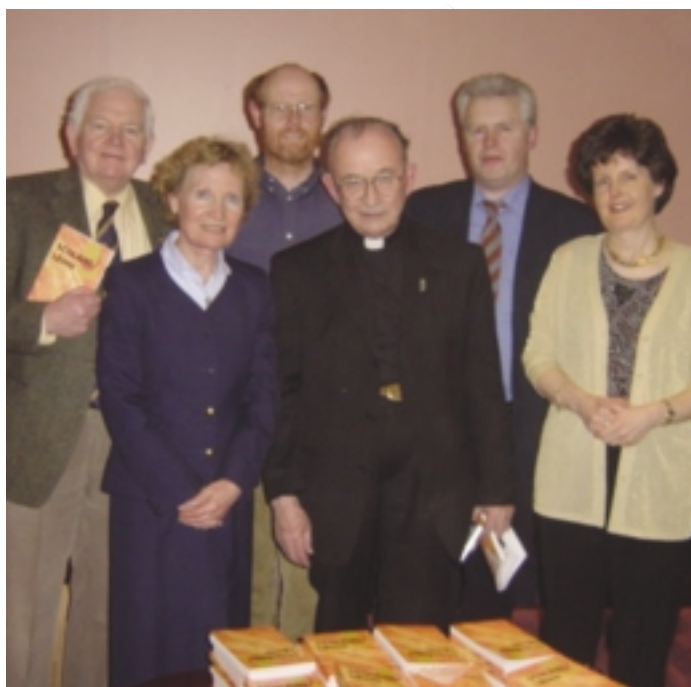
## NUAIGHT NA GAEILGE

### Léachtaí Cholm Cille

D'éirigh tharr barr le Léachtaí Cholm Cille a reachtáil Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge i bhFoigréamh Hume 1-2 Aibreán. 'An Prós Comhaimseartha' an t-ábhar a bhí ag na léachtaí i mbliana. Tugadh scríbhneoirí agus criticeoirí na Gaeilge le chéile in aontíos. Ba iad Alan Titley, Liam Mac Cóil, Máirín Nic Eoin, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Seán Ó Cearnaigh, Pádraig Ó Cíobháin, Micheál Ó Conghaile, Joe Steve Ó Neachtain agus Ré Ó Laighléis na cainteoirí.

Bhí slua breá mór a bhí i láthair. Bhí daoine an-tógtha leis na léachtaí agus leis an bplé ar fad agus leis an gclabhsúr, de réir dealraimh, mar atá, scríbhneoirí a chur ag léamh as a saothar féin. Mar is gnáthach, ócáid, chultúrtha, shóisialta agus sheolta leabhar a bhí ann. Seoladh *Léachtaí Cholm Cille XXXV, Scoláirí Léinn*, i rith na comhdhála. An Dr Brian Ó Catháin a rinne eagarthóireacht air. Mar mhaise ar an gcomhlúadar breá, bhí Anraoi Ó Braonáin, Patrún na Léachtaí agus an Msgr. Pádraig Ó Fiannachta, Foilsitheoir agus duine de bhunaitheoirí na Léachtaí, i láthair.

Rinneadh comhghairdeas croíúil leis an Dr Aisling Ní Dhonnchadha, Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge, agus Étaín Uasal Ó Siócháin, an Leabharlann, a d'eagraigh an comhdháil. ■



Ag Léachtaí Cholm Cille: Anraoi Ó Braonáin, Patrún LCC, Étaín Uas. Ó Siócháin, An Dr Brian Ó Catháin, Msgr. Pádraig Ó Fiannachta, Foilsitheoir agus duine de bhunaitheoirí LCC, (An Sagart), An tOllamh Ruairí Ó hUiginn, An Dr Aisling Ní Dhonnchadha.

## LAUNCH OF RÍOCHT NA MIDHE



At the launch of *Ríocht na Midhe 2005* (l-r): editor Séamus Mac Gabhann, English Department; Valerie Seymour, Library; historian Peter Connell, TCD, guest lecturer; Professor George Eogan, who performed the launch.

"A treasure trove of history" is the *Westmeath Examiner's* assessment of *Ríocht na Midhe 2005*, edited by Séamus Mac Gabhann of the English Department.

NUI Maynooth staff members are prominent contributors to this volume, with offerings from Dr Paul Gibson, Rebekah Breen and Professor P. J. Duffy of the Geography Department, as well as from the editor himself. ■

## PERSONNEL NEWS

### ADMINISTRATIVE RE-GRADING

We extend our congratulations to the following members of staff whose posts were re-graded under the terms of the Administrative Re-grading Procedures:

#### Candidates whose posts were re-graded to Senior Executive Assistant:

Ms Amanda Bent, *Department of English*  
 Ms Gemma Brazil, *Computer Centre*  
 Ms Áine Breen, *Department of Sociology*  
 Ms Sinéad Conlan, *Department of Spanish*  
 Mr Oliver Durack, *General Services*  
 Ms Deirdre Dunne, *Department of Anthropology*  
 Ms Audrey Fitzgerald, *Personnel Office*  
 Ms Jacqui Mullally, *Department of Anthropology*  
 Ms Barbara Peelo, *Admissions Office*

#### Candidate whose post was re-graded to Administrative Officer II:

Ms Joan Galvin, *Registrar's Office*

#### Candidate whose post was re-graded to Administrative Officer I:

Mr Chris Reid, *Campus Manager, Kilkenny Campus*

### LIBRARY PROMOTIONS

Applications are invited from eligible library staff for promotion from the grade of Assistant Librarian Grade II to the grade of Assistant Librarian Grade I. The closing date for receipt of applications at the Personnel Office is 13 May.

Copies of the procedures are available on request from the Personnel Office, Ext: 3866; e-mail: [personnel@nuim.ie](mailto:personnel@nuim.ie) This documentation is also available on the Personnel Office web page.

### NEW APPOINTMENTS

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

#### Academic Appointment:

- Mr Gavan Titley, *Junior Lecturer, Centre for Media Studies*

#### Non-Academic Appointments:

- Ms Joanne Bredin, *Senior Executive Assistant, Department of Electronic Engineering*
- Ms Shauna Busto-Gilligan, *Senior Executive Assistant, Department of Adult and Community Education*
- Ms Aoife Collins, *Executive Assistant, Student Services*
- Ms Marie Kelly, *Executive Assistant, Accounts Office*
- Ms Caterina O'Sullivan, *Executive Assistant, Department of Adult and Community Education*
- Dr John Scanlon, *Technology Transfer Executive, Office of Research and Graduate Studies*
- Mr Patrick Travers, *Tractor Driver, Buildings Office*

### Posts Advertised

Professor/Head of Adult and Community Education  
 Professor/Head of Education  
 Professor/Head of Chemistry  
 Lecturer/Junior Lecturer in English  
 Lecturer/Junior Lecturer in Human Geography (*Three-Year Contract Post*)  
 Lecturer/Junior Lecturer in Physical Geography  
 Lecturer/Junior Lecturer in Military History  
 Lecturer/Junior Lecturer in Music  
 Lecturer/Junior Lecturer in Sociology  
 Half-Time Research Technician in Confocal Microscopy, Department of Biology  
 Half-Time Research Technician in Proteomics, Department of Biology  
 User Support Staff Member, Computer Centre (*Internal Advert*)

### Interviews Held

- 15 March - International Student Officer
- 21 March - Security Officer
- 5 April - Half-Time Research Officer, Office of Research and Graduate Studies (*Three-Month Contract Post*)
- 5 April - Part-Time Counsellor
- 11 April - Executive Assistant, Office of Research and Graduate Studies (*Three-Year Contract Post*)
- 12 April - Assistant Personnel Officer
- 12 April - Full-Time Counsellor (*One-Year Contract Post*)
- 14 April - Executive Assistant, Admissions Office

## HOPKINS INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL



Announcing the Hopkins International Summer School 2005 are (l-r): Desmond Egan, Artistic Director, with his wife, Viv Egan; Professor John Hughes, President; Séamus Mac Gabhann, English Department; Dr Michael O'Dwyer, French Department.

Professor John Hughes, President, recently hosted a reception to announce details of the Hopkins International Summer School 2005. The School's Artistic Director, poet Desmond Egan, indicated that the School will run from 23-29 July.

The conference theme for 2005 is the pioneering influence of Hopkins, and already specialists from 27 countries have committed to attend. The School offers scholarships to students of NUI Maynooth and applicants should contact Séamus Mac Gabhann of the Department of English. ■

## BELFAST CONFERENCE



Pictured are (l-r): Professor Jim Walsh, NUI Maynooth; Professor Cliff Hague, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh; John Martin, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government; Dr Ken Sterrett, Head of School of Environmental Planning, Queen's University Belfast.

A major international conference on *Spatial Development in Europe's North-Western Periphery*, held at Queen's University Belfast on 22-23 February, was told by Professor Jim Walsh of NUI Maynooth that the benefits from the Common Agricultural Policy have been disproportionately concentrated in the economically-strongest regions of the EU while the poorest regions have fared less well. ■

## FIELDS MEDALLIST ON CAMPUS

Fields Medallist, Professor Vaughan Jones, recently visited NUI Maynooth and gave a talk on mathematics. The Fields Medal is the equivalent in mathematics to the Nobel Prize. Professor Jones is originally from New Zealand and now works in Berkeley. ■



Pictured are Professor Anthony G. O'Farrell, Professor Vaughan Jones and Dr Fiacre O'Cairbre.

## REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Pictured are (l-r): Cllr. Oliver Brooks, Meath County Council; Dick Roche TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government; Tom Dowling, Meath County Manager; Professor John Hughes, President.



President, Professor John Hughes outlined NUI Maynooth's important role in the economic development of the local region at the Joint Workshop for Meath, Kildare and Wicklow County Development Boards held on campus on 18 February.

Professor Hughes told the meeting that he spent a lot of time working with regional development authorities prior to being appointed at NUI Maynooth and has a particular interest in enterprise development. Supporting and promoting local enterprise, he added, is a major priority for the University in the future.

Dick Roche TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, also addressed the meeting. ■

## EQUESTRIAN CLUB SUCCESS

The NUI Maynooth Equestrian Club travelled to Galway in February to compete for the 2005 Irish University Riding Clubs Association National Championship.

The combined performance of the NUI Maynooth riders in Galway secured top prize – the Dublin Bloodstock Perpetual Trophy, dating from 1973.

NUI Maynooth's success as best overall team was its first since 1997. Maynooth College also recorded a victory in this competition in 1989.



President, Professor John Hughes pictured with members of the successful NUI Maynooth Equestrian Club, with Paul Davis, Sports Officer, in back row.

## STUDENT SERVICES CENTRE FORMALLY OPENED



On Wednesday 2 March, the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin TD officially opened the new Student Services Centre.

The Centre is designed as a one-stop-shop for students who are seeking advice or assistance. It houses services such as Counselling, the Medical Centre, Residence Office, Chaplaincy and the Co-ordinator/Director of Student Services.

The Access Office is also located in the Centre, providing support for mature entrants, students with disabilities and students from lower socio-economic groups. ■

Pictured are Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin TD and Brian Gormley, Co-ordinator/Director of Student Services.

## RETIRED STAFF OUTING



Pictured are members of the Retired Staff Association who visited Dublin Castle on 14 February. The Association undertakes regular monthly trips. Future planned outings include visits to Áras an Uachtaráin, Farmleigh, Birr Castle and Castletown House in Celbridge. ■

## LEINSTER GAA BURSARIES



Four NUI Maynooth first-year students received Bursaries from the Leinster GAA Council in Croke Park recently.

The four - Seán Cotter (Football), Ian Fleming (Hurling), Hazel Mulligan (Ladies Gaelic Football) and Bernadette Ryan (Camogie) - are pictured

with their parents, Leinster GAA officials and Tom Maher, GAA Officer, NUI Maynooth.

To date, the Leinster GAA Council has given Bursaries to 14 NUI Maynooth students. ■