NUI Maynooth has formally opened an office in Beijing, China, and appointed a permanent representative to handle the University’s links with the country.

The initiative follows the recent 10-day visit to China by President, Professor John Hughes, who was accompanied by Professor Paddy Geary, Dean of International Education. They established the office in Beijing when visiting the country as part of the historic Irish trade delegation that included Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin.

The University hopes that the initiative will increase the number of Chinese students attending NUI Maynooth from the current level of 60 to 500 by 2010. During the trip, agreements were reached with a number of leading Chinese universities to explore research links in a variety of areas such as biotechnology. The universities include Tsing Hua University in Beijing, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Beijing Jiaotong University, Shanghai Jiaotong University and Zhejiang University.

continued on page 2

NUI MAYNOOTH OPENS CHINA OFFICE

Majer ‘Babs’ Keating, the former Tipperary hurling and football star who also managed his county to All-Ireland victories in 1989 and 1991, has been appointed Programme Co-ordinator of the MBNA/NUI Maynooth GAA Scholarship Scheme which was re-launched Thursday 9 December.

The appointment of the dual star – who won three All-Ireland senior hurling medals with Tipperary along with Railway Cup medals in both codes – is the centrepiece of the newly-revamped scheme which, in its seven years in existence, has produced stars like Marc Ó Sé (Kerry), Alan Brogan (Dublin), Ross Munnelly (Laois), John Keane (Westmeath), Karl Ennis (Kildare) and Helena Lohan (Mayo). Many All-Ireland winners and All-Stars have emerged from the scheme.

continued on page 2

‘BABS’ KEATING APPOINTMENT

Pictured are Professor John Hughes, President; Professor Zhou Ji, Chinese Minister for Education; Mary Hanafin, Minister for Education and Science; with representatives of NUI Maynooth partner institutions in China.

MBNA/NUI Maynooth GAA Scholarship winner, Pamela Doonogue, who is a PhD student at NUIM and who comes from Nurney, County Carlow, is pictured with Michael Ó Murchurthaigh, broadcaster, and Jenny Monks, Vice-President, MBNA Europe.
**from the editor**

This edition marks President, Professor John Hughes’ and Professor Paddy Geary’s historic visit to China – an event that promises to be of central importance in the annals of the University. At present, around half a million Chinese study abroad each year, with 3,000 attending Irish third-level institutions. The numbers are expected to grow dramatically in the years ahead.

With 10 million Chinese looking for access to higher education, the potential for NUI Maynooth is obvious. The visit by Professor Hughes and Professor Geary, and the opening of the University’s office in Beijing, together mark an important beginning.

Congratulations to all who were appointed to prestigious positions or who organised major conferences or events in recent months. In particular, well done to Professor Jim Walsh who appeared on both the Pat Kenny Show and Morning Ireland on RTÉ Radio 1 and also on KFM. His contributions were excellent.

The next edition of University News will be published in April.

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**UNIVERSITY NEWS**

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**MORE ON CHINA TRIP**

"We are very pleased with the trip," Professor Hughes, who visited Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong, said. "One simple statistic illustrates the potential in Chinese third-level education. At present there are 20 million students in third-level education in China but by 2008 that will grow to 50 million. And they can’t cope with the numbers.

"We would hope to substantially increase the number of students coming from China to Maynooth. At present they number about 60 but we would realistically expect to increase that to 500 by 2010."

"During our trip, we also signed three deals for collaborations including joint teaching programmes where Chinese students will complete part of their course-work here. This would normally involve them coming for their final year to NUI Maynooth. "

"We also negotiated deals to undertake exchanges at PhD level. With all that in mind, and to represent our interests in the country generally, we have appointed a local Chinese person, Luna Wu, who has a MA in Marketing from London, as our representative. She will help us develop the links we have established and will represent us permanently in China.""

**MBNA SCHOLARSHIPS CONTINUED**

The new scheme will offer eight annual GAA scholarships to full-time students who show the potential to reach a high standard in Gaelic football, ladies Gaelic football, hurling or camogie.

Scholarship recipients will be provided not only with a monetary award but also with specialised support services including a sports psychologist, dietician and physiotherapist, along with the use of NUIM’s new state-of-the-art playing pitches and sports facilities.

"We are delighted that ‘Babs’ Keating has become involved with the scholarships," President, Professor John Hughes said. "He is one of the great names of sport in Ireland and his knowledge and expertise will add to our investment in sport at the University. We would also like to thank MBNA for their backing."

**AWARD FOR JOHN HUME BUILDING**

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CONFERENCE AT NUI MAYNOOTH

Pictured at the Irish Universities Quality Board conference were [from left]: Dr. David Redmond, Registrar; Anastasia Crickley, Chair of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia; Professor Don McQuillan, CEO of the Irish Universities Quality Board; Professor John Hughes, President; Dr. Peter Howard, Australian Catholic University; Ken Ralph, Director of the Yalbalinga Centre at Australian Catholic University; Doug Rawlings, Director of Institutional Research, University of Maine; Judge Bryan McMahon, Chair of the Irish Universities Quality Board.

The story of Aboriginal disadvantage in Australian education was one of the highlights of the third annual international conference of the Irish Universities Quality Board, which took place at NUI Maynooth on 28 and 29 January.

Dr. Peter Howard and Ken Ralph, Australian Catholic University, recounted the long history of disadvantage facing Aborigines in Australia and the more recent efforts by both government and the universities to meet their learning needs.

The Australian academics were just two of a distinguished panel of speakers discussing the important topic of the quality of the student experience in third-level education. Other speakers arrived from as far away as New Zealand and the USA.

The conference convenor was Saranne Magennis of the Quality Promotion Office.

MAJOR STUDY ON IRISH LIVING HABITS

The average distance Irish people travel to work has doubled and the numbers travelling to work by car have also doubled throughout the 1990s, a major study by NUI Maynooth researchers has revealed.

Interestingly, the study of the 2002 Census of Population also reveals that numbers working from home have declined despite the increased availability of PCs and improved access to the internet.

In addition, over 55,000 dwellings were constructed in the open countryside between 1996 and 2002, which is more than the total for Dublin city and county along with the next four largest cities, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford, over the same period.

The study, conducted by a team of researchers led by Professor Jim Walsh and Dr. Adrian Kavanagh of the Geography Department, comprehensively analysed the Census data to establish the socio-economic geography of Ireland.

The results were considered at a major conference organised by the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at NUI Maynooth on Thursday 27 January.

COUNCIL OF STATE APPOINTMENT

Congratulations to Anastasia Crickley who, in November, was appointed to the Council of State by President Mary McAleese.

A lecturer with the Centre for Applied Social Studies at NUI Maynooth, Anastasia is currently Chairperson of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism.

Last June, she was elected Chairperson of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, which is based in Vienna.

CHAIRPERSON OF TASK FORCE

Dr. Maeve Martin, Education Department, has been appointed by Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, as Chairperson of the Task Force on Student Behaviour in Second-Level Schools. The launch took place on 3 February.

Given the growing concern over student disruption in schools, the task force has attracted considerable attention. Submissions are invited from all interested parties. The Terms of Reference for the task force are available on the website of the Department of Education and Science.

Previously, Dr. Martin conducted research in the area of school discipline for the then Education Minister, Niamh Breathnach.

HISTORIC MUSICAL EVENT

Music, which has been newly edited by Dr. Ann Buckley, Music Department, was performed for the first time since before the Reformation in a historic concert at Maynooth College Chapel on Wednesday 2 February.

The concert featured Canty, the stunning four-woman vocal ensemble from Scotland, who presented a musical homage to St Brigit in the hauntingly atmospheric environment of the College Chapel.

Their programme consisted of chant and readings from the Life of Brigit, based on a Matins office for her feast, which are preserved in two 15th Century Irish manuscripts in Trinity College, Dublin.

William Taylor, playing a reconstructed medieval wire-strung Irish harp, which is plucked with the fingernails in traditional manner, accompanied the readings.

Pictured are: Dr. Adrian Kavanagh (extreme left) and Professor Jim Walsh (extreme right), Geography Department, who led the team of researchers, along with Dr. Rob Kitchin, Director of NIRSA, and Professor John Hughes.

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Anastasia Crickley (back row, second from right) pictured with President Mary McAleese and other new appointees to the Council of State.

Music Department, with harpist William Taylor and Canty members Lorna Stephens, Rebecca Tavener, Libby Crabtree and Anne Lewis.

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The Faculty of Science Research Report 2003 has recently been published. The report documents research areas, publications, grant support and scholarly activities by staff in the core disciplines of Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Psychology, Mathematics and Experimental and Mathematical Physics.

The report also documents the work of four specialist research centres – the multi-disciplinary Hamilton Institute, the Institute of Bioengineering & Agroecology, the Institute of Immunology and the NUI Maynooth component of the National Institute for Cellular Biology.

### Lectures for Leaving Cert Science Students

Up to mid-May, a series of public lectures has been scheduled at NUI Maynooth aimed primarily at Leaving Certificate students studying science.

It is hoped the lectures, which began in January, will stimulate interest in science and provide a wider context for the material the students will encounter on the Leaving Cert syllabus. Topics include nuclear power, cancer, the Big Bang, stem cells, DNA and a final lecture scheduled for 19 May entitled *Einstein's Century of Physics*.

The series was devised in conjunction with science teachers, who identified the kind of topics that might be of interest to students. The lectures are being delivered by working scientists from NUI Maynooth and elsewhere.

Admission is free, and all lectures are scheduled from 7.30-8.30pm.

Further details from Nuala Travers at Ext. 3638 or email at science.dean@nuim.ie
PSYCHOLOGY PLACES EXPAND

A major expansion in the number of places open to Arts students who wish to study Psychology at NUI Maynooth was announced in January.

In response to the popularity of Psychology among prospective students and the huge demand for places, the University decided to substantially increase the number of places on offer.

From September 2005, all first-year Arts students will have the option of taking Psychology as part of their studies. In addition, double the number, from 15 to 30, will be allowed, from their second-year on, to specialise in Psychology for the remainder of their degree.

"This is a major development for the University," John McGinnity, Admissions Officer/Assistant Registrar, said.

The number of places in the denominated Psychology degree and the Psychology through Science degree will remain unchanged.

REVIEW PUBLISHED

The Department of Adult and Community Education has recently published a review of Departmental activities during the academic year 2003-2004.

The Academic Year Review 2003-2004 details the full range of Departmental courses and makes specific comments on a number of courses that held particular significance in the year in question, such as the BSc in Rural Development by Distance Learning, a new collaborative venture involving the four NUI universities. The co-ordination of the course, writing of course materials and the development of e-learning resources were located within the Department.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the review, contact Breda Gibney at Ext. 3757 or breda.gibney@nuim.ie

JOHN AND PAT HUME SCHOLARSHIPS

The first of the John and Pat Hume Scholarships went on offer to prospective post-graduate students at the end of January.

Thirty of the annual research scholarships are being offered. The awards will comprise of payment of fees at EU level plus a maintenance sum of €5,000 per year for a maximum of three years.

Applicants should possess, or expect to possess, a first or upper second-class honours primary degree (or equivalent) from Ireland, the EU or from any overseas university and intend to pursue a PhD degree.

The closing date for applications is 14 March.

Details and application forms are available from the Graduate Studies Office.

STUDENT TEACHERS TRAVEL NORTH

In the run-up to Christmas, student teachers from the Education Departments at NUI Maynooth and Queen’s University Belfast assembled in Rostrevor, County Down, as part of Co-operation Ireland’s Civic-Link Pre-service Teacher Exchange Programme.

The initiative aims to promote positive relationships between pre-service educators from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

It also hopes to expose educators to innovative teaching methods in the areas of diversity, citizenship and reconciliation.

Gerry Jeffers, Education Department, helped recruit and co-ordinate the seven students who travelled.
NUAHT NA GAELGE

Oscailt Oifigiúil agus Seoladh Leabhar i Siopa Leabhar na hOllscoile

Ócáid bhruiomhach thatneachadh a bhi ní oscailt oifigiúil Shiopa Leabhar na hOllscoile ina látair nua in Áras John Hume 26 Samhain. Bhi sliabh bréag i látair, an Tuachtarán John Hughes agus an leas Uachtarán Hugh Connolly san áireamh agus go leor baill den Ollscoil. Labhair John Byrne féin go lóra foasna ghaímrse san Ollscoil ó thosaigh sé ag obair do mhuíntir Kerry nuair a bhí a rachtaí i. Ba féidir an t-ardmhíthe atá ag baill foirne agus mic léinn air féin agus ar a fhíorann chumasach agus gach éinne a bhí rath ortu san áireamh nuair a Chuluiathas dhá theanga oifigiúla na tine ar an n-áirítear leasadh an leabhair, Exempla na Gaeilge, leis an Dr Íde Ní Uallacháin ag an ócáid; Tráchtadh dochtúireachta an Dr Íde Ní Uallacháin is bonn leis an leabhar – scéilí, eiseamhnaíochta a d’insíodh sagart mar chuid dá gcuíd seanmóithí iad na hExempla agus ba féidir le na samplaí a léadh nach aon ábhar leath iad. Is é an Íde Mhícheall Ó Doibhlin a sheol le leabhar agus chuir sé i látair go binn é. Tá an Dr Íde Ní Uallacháin ar fiannachta in oireamh le bheith i látair ag an leasadh. Bhi a fear céile, Tadhg Ó ÓSs na Gaeilge.

An Íde Mhícheal Ó Doibhlin.

PERSONNEL NEWS

ADMINISTRATIVE RE-GRADING

Under the terms of the Administrative Re-Grading Procedures, applications for re-grading are now invited from Executive Assistant, Senior Executive Assistant and Administrative Officer II staff.

In accordance with the terms of the scheme, the closing date for receipt of applications is 28 February 2005.

Written details of the scheme, and application forms, are available on request from the Personnel Office, Ext. 3866; e-mail: personnel@nuim.ie

This documentation is also available on the Personnel Office web page.

TECHNICAL STAFF PROMOTION SCHEME

Subject to the terms of the above scheme, Technical Staff are eligible to apply for promotion when they reach the top point of the salary scale of the grade immediately below the promotional grade, except that Trainee Technicians may apply for promotion after three years in that grade.

Applications are now invited from eligible staff, in accordance with the terms of the scheme, the closing date for receipt of applications is 28 February 2005.

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PROCEDURES FOR PROMOTION OF COMPUTER CENTRE STAFF

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NEW APPOINTMENTS

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

Academic Posts:
- Ms Monika Ziebach, Language Assistant in the Department of Spanish (Nine-Month Contract Post)
- Dr Mark Fitzgerald, Post-Doctoral Fellow in Music (Four-Year Contract Post)
- Dr Deirdre Desmond, Junior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology (Three-Year Contract Post)
- Dr Richard Roche, Junior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology

Non-Academic Posts:
- Ms Loretta Fady, Executive Assistant in the Fees and Grants Office
- Ms Linda Finnerty, Half-Time Executive Assistant in the Examinations/Student Records Office (Three-Year Contract Post)
- Ms Rosaleen O’Donovan, Support Officer for Part-Time Evening Degree Programmes (One-Year Contract Post)
- Ms Kellyann Reid, Support Officer for Continuing Education (One-Year Contract Post)
- Ms Carolyn Wilson, Trainee Teacher in the Department of Biology

Posts Advertised

Vice-President for Research
Assistant Personnel Officer
Part-Time Counsellor
Full-Time Counsellor (One-Year Contract Post)
International Student Officer (Five-Year Contract Post)
Technology Transfer Executive, Office of Research and Graduate Studies (Three-Year Contract Post)
Senior Executive Assistant in the Department of Electronic Engineering (Two-Year Contract Post)
Executive Assistant in the Personnel Office (Seven-Year Contract Post)
Half-Time Executive Assistant in the Centre for Media Studies (Five-Year Contract Post)
Half-Time Research Officer, Office of Research and Graduate Studies (Three-Year Contract Post)
Tractor Driver, Buildings Office (Three-Year Contract Post)

Interviews Held
26 January - Executive Assistant in the Accounts Office (One-Year Contract Post)

Interviews Arranged
9 February - Executive Assistant in the Department of Adult and Community Education (One-Year Contract Post)
10 February - Security Officer
14 February - Senior Executive Assistant in the Department of Electronic Engineering
16 February - Senior Executive Assistant in the Department of Adult and Community Education (One-Year Contract Post)

LATE KATHLEEN GILTON FUND

Thanks to the generosity of staff in NUI Maynooth and St Patrick’s College, Maynooth, a sum of €27,000 has been lodged to the late Kathleen Gilton Fund. This fund will now be used for the purposes for which it was established.

CHILDREN’S HOUR

A big ‘thank you’ to all those members of staff who supported Children’s Hour through a contribution from their December salary. The President recently forwarded a cheque to the value of €5,000 to the Irish Youth Foundation.

EASTER HOLIDAYS

University offices will close on the evening of Friday 18 March and will re-open on the morning of Tuesday 29 March.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ELENA CORTES, Language Assistant in the Department of Modern Languages and Literature, who was appointed as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Music by the Department of Music and Dance in the area of ethnomusicology, will be available for research in the Department of Music and Dance from 1 March 2005.

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EASTER HOLIDAYS

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It remains the policy of the University that all staff receive at least the statutory minimum rates of pay for the relevant grades. In accordance with the terms of the above scheme, the closing date for receipt of applications is 28 February 2005. Written details of the scheme are available on request from the Personnel Office, Ext. 3866; e-mail: personnel@nuim.ie

This documentation is also available on the Personnel Office web page.
The initiative to increase university awareness among secondary-school pupils continued in February, when speakers from the Faculty of Arts travelled to Longford to speak to 150 fifth-year and transition-year students from three schools in the area. The talks took place in the Backstage Theatre, Longford on 8 February.

Dr Eamonn Slater (Sociology) talked about the significance of the changing appearances of Irish housing; Dr Catherine O’Leary (Spanish) spoke on issues surrounding censorship; Dr Michael Clarke (Ancient Classics) outlined language history, using a number of recorded examples on tape; and Professor Gerry Boyle (Economics) introduced issues of debt and global development. The session concluded with a short presentation on NUI Maynooth by Tony Healy from the Admissions Office.

Faculty personnel heard or seen on the media recently include Proinnsias Breathnach on Radio na Gaeltachta talking about planning issues following the decision to permit IKEA to build a store in Dublin; Professor Jim Walsh on the Pat Kenny Show discussing NIRSA’s analysis of recent census figures, and on RTÉ again later that week being interviewed on Morning Ireland about Laois County Council’s proposal to rezone certain areas throughout the county; Dr Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin was seen speaking on Ardán (TG4) and on Questions and Answers in relation to the proposed motorway through County Meath; and Jim O’Leary of the Economics Department had a thought-provoking column on Irish education in the Irish Times on 4 February.

The Sunday Times of 16 January carried a news item on an “incredibly flexible” historical database being developed by Tom O’Connor (Modern History) and John Keating (Computer Science).

Tom O’Connor gave the annual O’Donnell Lecture, which this year was delivered at NUI Maynooth on 3 February. Entitled An Irish Jansenist in Seventeenth-Century France, it was about John O’Callaghan. Publication will follow.

Recent publications from Faculty of Arts members include Political Censorship and the Democratic State: The Irish Broadcasting Ban, which has Mary Corcoran of the Department of Sociology as one of its editors. Joe Cleary (English) has co-edited The Cambridge Companion to Modern Irish Culture, while Anne Ryan and Tony Walsh of the Adult Education Department have edited Unsettling the Horses: Interrogating Adult Education Perspectives.

The Spanish Embassy is to sponsor a prize for students in the Department of Spanish.

Professor David Scourfield has been nominated as the NUI Maynooth representative on the RIA Committee for Greek and Latin Studies.

The next meeting of the Faculty of Arts will take place on Monday 28 February.

2005 has been declared International Year of Physics by the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization (UNO). The launch conference for the year, entitled Physics for Tomorrow, took place in Paris, 13-15 January, under the aegis of UNO, UNESCO, IUPAP and EPS.

Ireland was represented by (l-r): Dr Aine Allen (Institute of Technology, Tallaght), Stephen McMahon (student at Queen’s University Belfast), Eoin Butler (student at NUI Maynooth), Robert Clancy (student at Trinity College, Dublin) and Paul Nugent (St Dominic’s High School, Santa Sabena, Dublin). The Institute of Physics has adopted Einstein Year as Ireland’s and the UK’s contribution to International Year of Physics. More information at http://ireland.iop.org/wyp/.
A CAO Advisory Evening was held at the University on the evening of Wednesday 12 January. The event was organised for Leaving Certificate applicants and their parents, mature students and non-standard applicants, and provided an opportunity for them to have their questions answered in relation to college entry.

In addition to focusing on issues relating to the CAO applications process, the evening also included talks and discussions on NUI Maynooth’s programmes in Arts, Engineering, Finance/Business and Science, as well as career choices. There was a session on the mature-student experience.

Students raise €35,000 for charity
Since our last issue, NUI Maynooth students have presented a cheque for €35,000 to the Irish Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus. The money was raised in 2004 through the annual Galway Cycle, which has grown into a major fundraising event in the University’s calendar.

This remarkable annual cycle from Maynooth to Galway was established by a small group of enthusiastic students in 1987. Every year, students, both past and present, voluntarily give of their time and energy to the event, which has successfully helped numerous worthy charities with a special interest in supporting children. In excess of €300,000 has been raised to date.

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President, Professor John Hughes with participants at the MBNA/NUI Maynooth GAA Scholarships Awards night, Thursday 9 December, NUI Maynooth (see further details earlier in this issue).

Barbara Peelo, Admissions Office, who helped organise the CAO Advisory Evening.

The new Student Services Centre has recently opened on the North Campus. The Centre is located at the rear of the John Hume Building, in what was previously known as Kiltegan House.

The following offices have relocated to the Student Services Centre: Counselling, Chaplaincy, Residence Office, Access Office (including the Learning Centre) and the Medical Centre.

Brian Gormley, the Co-ordinator/Director of Student Services who has also moved to the new building, notes that: “The aim of the new building is to create a one-stop-shop for students who need assistance or who have queries.”

It should be noted that the Academic Advisory Office, the Careers and Appointments Office, the Crèche and the Sports Office remain in their original offices.

A student seeks advice at the Student Services Centre from Marie McEneaney, Access Office (sitting); Clair Greene, Residence Office (back); Sister Margaret McConalogue, Chaplain (left).

 MAJOR SNOOKER SUCCESS
The NUI Maynooth snooker team were crowned intervarsity champions in early December, following victory over Queen’s ‘A’ team in the final of the tournament in Celbridge.

Furthermore, the ‘B’ team reached the Plate final only to narrowly lose out to DCU’s ‘A’ team 6-5. The University also had two players reaching the semi-finals of the individual event.

The highest break of the weekend went to first-year student Tom McKeown, who knocked in a fantastic 96. Tom is one of the best amateur players in the country and is expected to challenge for the Irish amateur title over the next few years.

This is the third intervarsity title secured by the University in the past five years.

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