

# UNIVERSITY NEWS



NUI MAYNOOTH  
Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad

## New Deputy President Appointed



Dr Aidan Mulkeen.

### Dr Aidan Mulkeen has been appointed as Vice-President Academic, Registrar and Deputy President.

Aidan, who is currently Head of the Education Department here at NUI Maynooth, will take up his new role next month.

"This is an extremely important appointment for the University, as Aidan will lead the implementation of many aspects of the University Strategic Plan 2012-17. Aidan brings a wealth of experience in educational policy and innovation, and his expertise, experience, leadership and sound judgement will be invaluable as we enter a period of change and development" stated the President, Prof Philip Nolan.

Aidan joined NUI Maynooth in 1996, and is a leading educationalist with a particular interest in the role of technology in education, and educational strategy, policy and capacity-building. He has been Head of the Education Department for the past two years, playing a leading role in the integration of Froebel College, the restructuring of existing courses and the development of new courses such as the BSc in Mathematics for Education.

## Prof Kitchin Wins Prestigious ERC Award

Professor Rob Kitchin, Director of NIRSA, has been awarded a prestigious five year European Research Council (ERC) award to analyse how software and technology influences how we live, work and operate in cities.

The project, 'The Programmable City', will analyse how information on citizens and places are captured and processed as data, how software is used to govern and manage modern cities, and how our everyday behaviour within a city is influenced by software – from traffic management systems, to restaurant review apps on our phones which influence where we dine, to logistics systems that track and trace goods from farm to fork, to background information on citizens which influences the level of security experienced at airports.



Professor Rob Kitchin.

The funding of €2.3 million will be used to recruit a specialised team of four postdoctoral researchers and four PhD students. The research will focus on Boston, ranked number one in terms of smart cities across the world with 52 universities, including Harvard and MIT, and many start-up IT companies and open government initiatives, and Dublin, one of Europe's key technology hubs and home to IBM's Smarter Cities Technology Centre.

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## European Foundation for Management Development Awards



Dr Graham Heaslip.



Dr Nuala Connolly.

Dr Graham Heaslip and Dr Nuala Connolly recently received recognition from the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) - a global membership organisation with more than 700 institutional members from academia, business and public services for excellence in the Outstanding Doctoral Research Awards.

Dr Heaslip was highly commended in the Logistics and Supply Chain Management category and Dr Connolly was highly commended in the Information Science category, two of the twelve awards presented.

### FROM THE EDITOR

Well done to all Staff (mentioned in this edition and otherwise) for their achievements. Due to space restrictions apologies to those who sent an article for submission and is has not appeared.

Please send your submissions for the next edition by Friday, 15 March.

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## New Vice-President for Research

Professor Bernard Mahon has been appointed as Vice-President for Research.

Prof Mahon is currently the Dean of Science and Engineering. He will take up his new position on Friday, 1 February. Prof Mahon is an internationally renowned immunologist, specialising in global health issues. He began his career in the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control in the UK, researching the safety of polio vaccines. He joined NUI Maynooth in 1994 and began work on new whooping cough vaccines, now entering human clinical trials. More recently, he has focused on adult stem cell research, analysing how stem cells interact with the immune system. He was Scientific Director of the Institute of Immunology and for the past seven years he has served as Dean of Science and Engineering.



Professor Bernard Mahon.

## Minister Phil Hogan TD Addresses Conference

The conference, organised by the Regional Studies Association (RSA) Irish Branch, with support of NIRSA, addressed *Action Programme for Local Government*.



Dr Chris van Egeraat, Department of Geography and Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Phil Hogan TD.

Phil Hogan TD, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government told delegates he planned to reduce the number of regional authorities and assemblies from ten to three. He hoped that the new structures would lead to better regional planning and economic development. Dr Chris van Egeraat, Department of Geography, and Chairman of the RSA, argues that that the impact of these plans on effective regional governance and development will depend on the detail of the administrative and legal underpinnings that are being ironed out over the next two months. Other speakers included representatives of regional authorities, development agencies, and academics from Ireland, England and Europe.

## Autumn Conferring Ceremonies

Almost 1,000 students graduated in November, some having completed one of the new courses including MA of Law, MA of International Business Law, MA of Engineering Renewable Energy Systems and MSc in IT Management.

Brian McGeough, IT Engineering Manager at Intel was conferred with an MSc in IT Management, a new course which is run by the Innovation Value Institute at NUI Maynooth. The course is designed to enable participants to meet the challenges faced by IT managers and it develops participants' capacity to understand the role of IT innovation to increase business value within an organisation.

Among the graduates from the MA in Applied Social Studies are a number of well-known advocates for social justice, human rights, equality and social inclusion including Siobhan O'Donoghue of Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, who completed her initial professional education in Maynooth in 1989; Ronnie Fay of Pavee Point, who has made significant contributions to social justice, rights and improvements in health and living conditions for Travellers and Roma; and Joe Donoghue, Co-ordinator of Fatima Groups United, Dublin.

Another postgraduate student conferred was Anna-Louise Coonan, who has Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus and recently completed her Masters in Sociology



Prof Philip Nolan, President and Brian McGeough, Intel.

and intends to take up a PhD in the area of disability. Anna-Louise's thesis explored 'What is it like to live with a disability in 21st Century Ireland?' and featured qualitative research with members of the Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Association of Ireland.



## Wellcome Trust Writing Prize

An essay written by Dr Richard Roche, lecturer in the Department of Psychology, was one of the entries shortlisted for the 2012 Wellcome Trust Science Writing Prize.



Dr Richard Roche.

The awards received almost 600 entries, across two categories: Category A (professional scientists of postgraduate level and above) and Category B (anyone else with a non-professional interest in science, including undergraduate students). Richard's essay was one of nine essays shortlisted in Category A.

The essay, titled "Lost in translation: The dangers of using analogies in science", discusses how using analogies to explain science can compromise communication and understanding.

## Archivium Hibernicum Centenary



Dr Tom O'Connor, Department of History and Dr Daire Keogh, President of St Patrick's College, DCU at the launch of the *Archivium Hibernicum* Centenary issue 1912-2012 in November. This book is the centenary issue of the history sources journal *Archivium Hibernicum*, one of the oldest journals edited and produced in the University.

## Prof Jim Walsh Appointed to Rural Commission

Professor Jim Walsh, Vice-President for Strategy and Quality, has been appointed by the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan TD to the recently established Commission for Economic Development of Rural Areas.

The Commission has been tasked to explore a draft strategy supporting/guiding medium-term economic development of rural areas for the period to 2025. It is expected that the preparation of the draft strategy will be completed by October 2013.

Professor Walsh was previously a member of the Rural Development Advisory Board in the mid 1990s after which he was a member of the National Economic and Social Council and the Expert Advisory Group for the National Spatial Strategy. His research publications have addressed many issues pertinent to rural and regional policy, planning and development in Ireland and more widely in Europe.

## 3U Live

Academics from across the 3U partner institutions; NUI Maynooth, DCU and RCSI gathered to hear an update on 3U activities on Thursday, 17 January.



Among other initiatives, the group heard about the 3U Pathway Programme - a joint initiative targeted at international students who wish to study at third level in Ireland but who do not meet the academic and language requirements for direct entry into the partner university programmes, the creation of a Masters in Healthcare Technologies addressing the challenges of integrating engineers and the medical profession, and the upcoming Leadership Symposium which will look at the challenges in leading change as a professional in Education and Healthcare.

The group also heard about a 50k prize for the best entry to any approved global research prize competition valued at over 1 million euro submitted by a team from across the 3U universities. The details of the prize and how to apply are available from the Vice-Presidents for Research in each institution.

## Hamilton Prize Winner 2012



Pictured at the Hamilton Lecture 2012 are (l-r): Eoghan Nolan, Google; Yuri Manin, Max Planck Institute for Mathematics; Alexei Kudryashov, NUI Maynooth and Luke Drury, Royal Irish Academy. Alexei was presented his award by the RIA as the NUI Maynooth "best" student in the penultimate year of undergraduate mathematical studies.

## Local Historians Conference Launches the Gathering at NUI Maynooth

To kick start the University's Gathering Programme, NUI Maynooth recently hosted a conference '*The Gathering: Local History, Heritage and Diaspora*', which provided information on the Morpeth Roll.

The conference called on local historians to get involved in a nationwide campaign to unlock the stories behind the pre-Famine historical manuscript. Among the speakers were Christopher Ridgway (Curator, Castle Howard, York) and Professor Terence Dooley (Centre for Historic Irish Houses & Estates).

The event also explored the global Irish family and highlighted best-practice

techniques in researching and contacting Irish diaspora, of particular interest to communities and groups organising events for *The Gathering*. The Morpeth Roll will be launched at NUI Maynooth in March 2013 and will tour the country visiting locations such as Farmleigh, Derrynane, Kilkenny, Clonmel and Belfast, before returning to NUI Maynooth where it will remain on public view.

# NUI Maynooth Welcomes Winners of Young Scientist Tanzania

The President, Professor Philip Nolan recently welcomed the winners of the first Young Scientist of Tanzania (YST) Aisha Nduku, Monica Shinina and Nengai Moses from Kibosho Girls Secondary School in Kilimanjaro to a reception on campus following their arrival in Ireland to present their project titled: *Industrial fertilisers and increased nitrites in water at the 49th BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition.*

The YST emerged from the Combat Diseases of Poverty Consortium (CDPC) at NUI Maynooth and is modelled on the Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition Ireland. The first of its kind in Tanzania, the programme aims to promote and popularize science and technology by linking these disciplines to social themes, such as active citizenship and the fight against poverty. The Exhibition exceeded the most optimistic expectations of its success in terms of both the number and quality of the projects as well as its appeal to the public. Almost 2,000 people viewed the Exhibition and listened to the students discuss their projects in the six hours the YST was open to the general public.

Her Excellency Ambassador Fionnuala Gilson, Irish Ambassador to Tanzania, Professor Tony Scott, co-founder of the Irish Exhibition, Dr Kamugisha Gosibert, Director of YST and Ronel Eloff, representing the Pearson Foundation were at the NUI Maynooth event.



Aisha Nduku, Monica Shinina and Nengai Moses from Kibosho Girls Secondary School in Kilimanjaro are honoured at NUI Maynooth.

## An Foras Feasa Seminar Series

Last year saw the introduction of the Digital Humanities Research Seminar series at An Foras Feasa.

Run on a fortnightly basis throughout the semester, the presenters featured high-profile international and Irish Digital Humanities researchers discussing issues relating to the development and promotion of Digital Humanities projects. Among the speakers were Professor John Bradley, King's College London, Professor Luc Boeva and Tom Cobbaert from ADVN (Archief Documentatie en Onderzoekscentrum) in Antwerp, Dr Sal Humphries from the University of Adelaide and Dr Justin Tonra, NUI Galway. The series is targeted at a broad range of scholars including those with little or no prior expertise of Digital Humanities as well as those more experienced, working on their own DH projects and all seminars were followed by audience discussions.

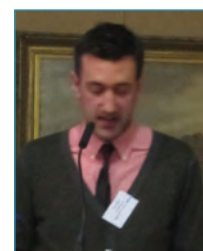


Prof Luc Boeva.

## Conference on 'New Perspectives on Family Change in Ireland'

This IQDA landmark conference on family life in Ireland took place in NUI Maynooth in December.

More than 20 papers on aspects of social change in Irish family life were presented by a range of experts working in academic and policy research including NUI Maynooth, University College Dublin, University of Limerick, the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre at NUI Galway, Trinity College Dublin, the Economic and Social Research Institute, and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The keynote address was delivered by Prof Simon Duncan, Professor of Comparative Social Policy at the University of Bradford. Representatives from the Irish Qualitative Data Archive, the Irish Social Science Data Archive and the All Island Research Observatory also introduced these publically available national data resources. The conference was funded by the Irish Research Council, as part of the project, 'Family Rhythms: The Changing Textures of Family Life in Ireland'.



Dr Paul Ryan, Dept of Sociology, NUI Maynooth.

## Applied Social Studies Conference

The Department of Applied Social Studies held their Annual Conference on the Thursday, 29 November in Renehan Hall, in association with the Community Workers Co-operative.



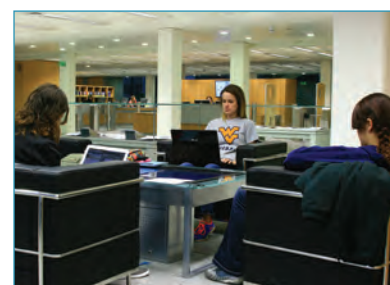
Attended by over 150 people the conference provided a space to explore how community work principles can be protected and embedded in future community work practice and in a national community development policy. Keynote addresses from experienced practitioners in the community development field in Ireland and senior officials from the Department of Environment Community and Local Government, Pobal and Cavan County Council set the tone for fruitful debate, discussion and dialogue amongst participants and speakers alike. Breakout

sessions held in the morning and afternoon provided a timely opportunity for all concerned with community work and development in Ireland to discuss issues and challenges facing community development practice and policy and strategies to address these challenges.

## Library Extension Opens

The new extension opened on Monday, 3 December.

In the first six weeks, there were 49,732 entries to the Library. The Library is now open until midnight during the week and until 2 am during exam times. Between 10pm and 12am there is on average 233 people in the Library.



Pictured (l-r) Kirstin Vines, Sara Heldmann and Chris Minter, International Students in the new Foyer at a touch table.

The six group study rooms are also extremely popular – they all include high-tech AV equipment which assists students engaged in collaborative learning with their presentations and demonstrations. The Library has four training rooms specifically set up for learning i.e. the PC monitor sits underneath the desk, allowing for contact between teacher and student.

There are various learning places for students such as the flexible learning room which also has beanbags – by far the most popular (from students point of view!) aspect of the new Library!



# NUI Maynooth Students Awarded JP McManus All-Ireland Scholarships

The 2012 All-Ireland Scholarships were presented at a ceremony in November to the top performing students on the island of Ireland.

Former US President Bill Clinton, guest of honour told the 125 students receiving bursaries at the JP McManus All Ireland Scholarship awards that they were receiving a “priceless opportunity” and that they should “not underestimate the gift you have been given and the power of education”.

Three NUI Maynooth students were presented with the Scholarship last year; Michelle Bridgett, First year Maths Education student who attended Presentation De La Salle in Carlow; Diarmuid O Connor who attended St Jarlath's College studying Mathematics Education and Ryan Hughes from St Gerald's College studying Theoretical Physics and Mathematics. Katie Curran who attended Maynooth Post Primary School and is now at Froebel College of Education also received one. Each of these students also received an Entrance Scholarship from NUI Maynooth.

The scholarships were established in 2008, with JP McManus contributing a total of €32 million to the scheme, from which over 1,300 students will benefit.



JP McManus; Michelle Bridgett, Scholarship recipient; Bill Clinton and Marian Walsh, Year Head in Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown.

## Prizes and Awards Ceremony 2012



Pictured at the Prizes Ceremony are some of the Irish Research Council Scholarship recipients (l-r); Justine O'Sullivan (Chemistry); Threase Finnegan (Anthropology); Prof Philip Nolan, President; Michelle Doran (Chemistry); Karen Herdman (Chemistry) and Prof Honor Fagan, Dean of Graduate Studies.

## FP7 DASISH Qualitative Data Workshop



Pictured are participants at the DASISH Qualitative Data Workshop at NUI Maynooth on 21st November. The IQDA and the Digital Repository of Ireland co-hosted the workshop as part of the FP7 Infrastructures Project, DASISH (dasish.eu) with the purpose of examining the contribution that qualitative social science researchers and archivists can make to DASISH and to encourage their cooperation and involvement. Representatives from 10 European countries were in attendance.

## Chinese Studies Donated Books

Chinese Studies has recently received a donation of 100 books and DVDs from the Chinese Embassy in Dublin.

An official donation ceremony was held in November to mark the occasion. Mr Wu Xiaochuang, Secretary of Education of the Chinese Embassy made the donation from on behalf of the Chinese Embassy, with a speech reflecting on the development of Chinese Studies in Ireland and the impact of such development for the strengthening of links between the two nations. Mr Wu presented a

## Law Department's Model Parliament 2012

The controversial Children's Bill was the subject of this year's Model Parliament hosted by the Department of Law.

On Monday, 12 November 60 school students from around Ireland took part in the event which was chaired by An Ceann Comhairle, Mr Seán Barrett TD.

NUI Maynooth Law: Model Parliament 2012 simulated a sitting of the Dáil, at which students played the roles of backbench TDs, Taoiseach and Leader of the Opposition. It is designed to inspire and encourage young parliamentarians to develop their interest in assembly politics and to engage them in the workings of collective decision-making processes.



Dr Louise Kennefick, Department of Law presents certificate to Alexa Ennis, St Paul's Secondary School.

Having been elected Taoiseach by his fellow parliamentarians at a preliminary meeting in October Félim O Maolmhána of Coláiste Cois Life, Lucan, presented a draft bill to amend the Constitution to recognise explicitly the rights of the child. Each parliamentarian submitted a research brief to their elected party leaders. Following a spirited floor debate, a vote called by the Ceann Comhairle ended in defeat for the Bill. The award for best research paper was made to Alexa Ennis, St Paul's Secondary School, Greenhills, Dublin, with Stephen Leo, Opposition Leader, Cistercian College, Tipperary, taking the award for best floor contribution. The award for overall best school went to Mount Sackville, Chapelizod, Dublin.

An Ceann Comhairle congratulated the students on the high standard of their contributions, and spoke of the importance of collective debate in the decision-making process.



group of Chinese Studies students with emblematic gifts, acknowledging their individual achievements over the past year and their future enhancement in such significant links.

# Human Resource Notes

The Human Resources Office would like to avail of the opportunity to wish all our colleagues a very Happy New Year.

## INTERVIEWS HELD

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 30 October 2012  | Assistant Disability Officer, Access Office (Contract Post);                |
| 27 November 2012 | Library Assistant, Library (Permanent Post);                                |
| 28 November 2012 | Residence Officer, Student Services (Contract Post)                         |
| 4 December 2012  | Schools' Liaison & Digital Media Officer, Admission Office (Contract Post); |
| 13 December 2012 | Assistant Lecturer, Department of Design Innovation (Contract Post);        |
| 18 December 2012 | Financial Accountant - Half-Time, Finance Office (Maternity Cover).         |

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

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

| School/Departments     | Appointees                                 |
|------------------------|--|
| Admissions Office      | Ms Loretta Mulvihill, Executive Assistant  |
| Language Centre        | Ms Caitlin Neachtain, Cúntóir Riaracháin   |
| Finance Office         | Mr Donal O'Reilly, Financial Accountant    |
|                        | Ms Yvonne Doherty, Financial Accountant    |
| Kilkenny Campus        | Ms Fiona Byrne, Executive Assistant        |
| Office of VP Research  | Ms Aoife Shanley, Research Support Officer |
| Electronic Engineering | Dr Alvaro Paloma, Lecturer                 |
| Department of Spanish  | Ms Kate Crofton, Executive Assistant       |
| Music                  | Mr Paul Keegan, Technical Officer          |
| Institutes             | Appointees                                 |
| An Foras Feasa         | Ms Deirdre Quinn, Executive Assistant      |
| Library                | Appointees                                 |
| An Foras Feasa         | Ms Fiona Tuohy, Library Assistant          |

Our best wishes to all concerned.

## PROMOTIONS

We extend our congratulations to the following Academic, Technical & Computer Centre staff who were promoted in accordance with the following schemes:

### 2011 Promotion/Appointment Scheme to Grade of Professor

| Department/Institute | Grade of Professor (B)      |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Biology              | Professor Bernard Mahon     |
| Biology              | Professor James McInerney   |
| History              | Professor Filipe de Meneses |
| History              | Professor Terence Dooley    |
| Sociology            | Professor Honor Fagan       |

### 2011 Promotion Scheme to Grade of Senior Lecturer

| Department/Institute | Grade of Senior Lecturer |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Biology              | Dr Gary Jones            |
| Biology              | Dr Shirley O'Dea         |
| English              | Dr Colin Graham          |
| Experimental Physics | Dr Neil Trappe           |
| Geography            | Dr Mary Gilmartin        |
| Geography            | Dr Karen Till            |

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Hamilton Institute   | Dr Ken Duffy             |
| History              | Dr JoAnne Mancini        |
| History              | Dr Ian Speller           |
| Mathematical Physics | Dr Jiri Vala             |
| Music                | Dr Lorraine Byrne Bodley |
| Philosophy           | Dr Michael Dunne         |
| Psychology           | Dr Andrew Coogan         |
| Sociology            | Dr Aphra Kerr            |
| Spanish              | Dr Catherine O'Leary     |

### 2011 Promotion Scheme to Grade of Lecturer

| Department/Institute | Grade of Lecturer |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Computer Science     | Dr Phil Maguire   |
| English              | Dr Íde Corley     |

### Technical Staff Promotions

| Department/Institute   | Grade of Senior Technical Officer |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Biology                | Ms Deirdre Daly                   |
| Biology                | Mr Noel Gavin                     |
| Electronic Engineering | Mr Denis Buckley                  |

### 2011 Promotion Scheme of Computer Staff

| Department/Institute | Staff Name      |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Computer Centre      | Mr Thomas Ryan  |
| Computer Centre      | Mr James Conroy |
| Computer Centre      | Ms Aileen Leacy |

## REGRADING

We extend our congratulations to the following members of staff whose posts were re-graded in accordance with **2011 Administrative Re-Grading Procedures**:

| Department/Institute                   | Grade of Administrative Officer I |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Chemistry                              | Ms Maryanne Dalton                |
| Academic Council Office                | Ms Margaret Critchley             |
| Corporate Services\Governing Authority | Ms Vivienne Murray                |

| Department/Institute                         | Grade of Administrative Officer II |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Access Office                                | Mr Simon Ahern                     |
| Campus Services                              | Mr Andrew Moloney                  |
| Vice-President for Strategy & Quality Office | Ms Helen Berry                     |

| Department/Institute              | Grade of Senior Executive Assistant |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| School of Business                | Ms Grainne Mooney                   |
| Examinations Office               | Ms Rebecca Boyle                    |
| Health & Safety Office            | Ms Mary O'Leary                     |
| Human Resources Office            | Ms Sue Crofton                      |
| Marketing & Communications Office | Ms Ciara Farrelly                   |
| Registrar's Office                | Ms Brenda Wilson                    |
| Residence Office                  | Ms Niamh Banks                      |

## EASTER HOLIDAYS

The offices of the University will close on the evening of Friday, 22 March 2013 and will re-open on the morning of Tuesday, 2 April 2013.

## 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**

## Entrance Scholarships 2012

Since its introduction in 2001 the Entrance Scholarship Scheme has grown significantly with the number of students awarded last year up to 211.

21 of these students are students of Froebel College of Education. The most popular courses these students have undertaken here are Psychology, Law, Media and Engineering. The Scholarship recognises students who achieve 525 points (from September 2013) or more in the Leaving Certificate examination.



Pictured are Scholarship recipients Sam Pearson and Claire Ryan (both BSc Science Education) with Professor Philip Nolan, President.

## Researchers to Showcase HRB-Funded Research

A study undertaken by psychologists in the *Mental Health and Social Research Unit*, NUI Maynooth, was one of only seven projects selected by the Health Research Board to showcase the outstanding achievements of HRB-funded researchers in 2012.

The research involved a substantial Cochrane review, which included a study of over 16,000 papers, and found that group-based parenting programmes are effective and cost-effective in reducing childhood conduct problems and antisocial behaviour. The lead author of the review - **Mairead Furlong** - a doctoral fellow within the Department of Psychology - was invited to present the work at the launch, by the Minister for Health, of the HRB's 'A Picture of Health 2012' in December.

**Andy Cochrane**, a former PhD student and Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Psychology, has recently secured a Cochrane Fellowship awarded by the Health Research Board. The aim of the Cochrane Fellowship scheme is to provide support for a systematic review to assess the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of re-ablement as an innovative approach to helping older adults live independently at home.



## NUI Certificate in Crisis Pregnancy Counselling



Recipients of the NUI Certificate in Crisis Pregnancy Counselling Skills with Mary B Ryan, Anne McCarthy and David McCormack of the Department of Adult and Community Education.

The graduation for the participants of the NUI Certificate in Counselling Skills took place on Monday, 10 December.

The Department of Adult and Community Education in partnership with the HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme designed the level eight in-service course for professionals providing counselling and support to those experiencing unplanned pregnancies. This year a number of midwives based in the main maternity hospitals, completed the course. There was also some health care practitioners from the Woman's Health Service and the Addiction Services. In addition to the further development of the participants own skills and knowledge, professional networks have evolved which enhance the service to the clients. The course has facilitated the development of dialogue, tolerance and an appreciation of the different positions in relation to unplanned pregnancy in Ireland. It provides a valuable opportunity for professionals to explore the complex ethical, legal and professional issues in crisis pregnancy counselling.

## NUI Maynooth Hosts Workshop on Multinationals, Trade and Innovation

The Department of Economics, Finance and Accounting hosted an International Workshop on Multinational Firms, Trade and Innovation in October.

The conference grew from ties between economists at NUI Maynooth and at the Leuven Centre for Irish Studies, part of University of Leuven and housed in the Irish College.

Like the multinational firms they study, researchers in international trade and economic globalization recognise the importance of cultivating new and cementing existing international links, especially among young researchers eager to propose innovative ideas. The workshop facilitated the creation and reinforcement of such international links, by bringing together young researchers in Ireland and from across Europe with several leading established experts in the fields of international trade, innovation and multinationals, in particular Ron Davies (University College Dublin), Peter Egger (ETH Zurich) and Peter Neary (University of Oxford). The workshop was co-organised by NUI Maynooth, the Leuven Centre for Irish Studies (LCIS)



Rowena Pecchenino, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences with keynote speakers Peter Neary, Oxford (left) and Peter Egger, Zurich (right) and the International Network for Economic Research (INFER).

## First Geography Awareness Week

The first Geography Awareness Week took place in November as part of a global event organised to inform students and the wider public about the opportunities and diversity of topics available when studying Geography.

To coincide with the week, the Department of Geography ran a number of events; tours of University facilities, field trips on campus, a table quiz and a seminar. Local secondary school students also had the opportunity to upload their photos, based on the theme 'Living Spaces'.



Kieran Flood, NUI Maynooth with Maynooth Post Primary School students; Sean Flanagan and Michael Moyles; Stephen Flood, NUI Maynooth and Adrian Dalton, Geography Teacher, Maynooth Post Primary School.

## Conference on Lebor na hUidre

A conference, organised jointly by the Library of the Royal Irish Academy and by NUI Maynooth in November marked the centenary of Best's ground-breaking study of LU.



Pages from Lebor na hUidre.

The conference looked not only afresh at the history, content and composition of the manuscript itself, but also to examine the cultural, intellectual and political world into which it came into existence.

Lebor na hUidre (LU) is the oldest manuscript that is written entirely in the Irish language. It contains the earliest versions to have been transmitted to us of some of the most celebrated Old Irish sagas: *Táin Bó Cuailnge*, *Togail Bruidne Da Derga*, *Fled Bricrenn*, *Mesca Ulad*, *Tochmarc Emere* and several others, in addition to much material of a historical or religious nature. Included in the latter is *Amra Choluim Chille*, believed by many to have been written shortly after the Saint's death and therefore would be the oldest continuous text we have in Irish. The speakers included Ruairí Ó hUiginn from NUI Maynooth.



## Colm “Gooch” Cooper Trains Ladies Football Team



Colm “The Gooch” Cooper, Kerry All-star GAA footballer taking the NUI Maynooth Ladies Footballers for a training session on Tuesday, 11 December on the North Campus GAA field. As well as advising on attitude and diet, he passed on some technique tips, did some shooting practice and even joined in on a match. This was organised through the Ladies Football Club and the AIB Bank on campus.

## Gary Hurley Wins GUI Inter varsity Championship

Congratulations to Gary Hurley second year Paddy Harrington Golf Scholar at NUI Maynooth on winning the 2012 GUI Inter varsity Championship at Tramore Golf Club in October.



Gary Hurley.

Hurley shot a solid closing round of 71 (1 under par) to finish with an impressive three round total of 210 (-4) in very testing conditions. The nearest challenger came in his teammate and current NUI Maynooth team captain Conor O'Rourke who finished six back on 216 for the Championship.

Gary's win is the first ever Individual Inter varsity title by a NUI Maynooth player since the launch of the Paddy Harrington Golf Scholarship in 2007. NUI Maynooth have won the Men's Team event at the Inter varsities over the past three years and have had three runners-up which include, Conor O'Rourke (2011), Kelan McDonagh (2010) and Tommy McGowan (2009).

## Books to Sierra Leone Project

The Library recently organised a shipment of books to the University of Makeni in Sierra Leone.



Students using the Library, University of Makeni.

Approximately 300 titles were donated by a recently-retired lecturer from the anthropology department, members of staff in the education and adult education departments and individual university staff.

The University of Makeni - established in 2005 - offers certificate, diploma and degree courses in social sciences, philosophy/divinity, education, agriculture, business studies and health sciences. There is a strong focus on training and capacity building in civil society organisations - including a community outreach programme - in the aftermath of civil war (1991-2002).

Books are in short supply in Sierra Leone. With the average income between €160 and €200 per year, the vast majority of Sierra Leoneans are unlikely to ever own a book.

The university continues to develop its programmes and Library in very challenging circumstances. If you have books in any of the following areas - development studies, education, adult education, geography or agriculture and are interested in donating them, please contact Helen Fallon or Roxanne Paul. (Helen.b.fallon@nuim.ie, Roxanne.paul@nuim.ie)

## Alumni Enjoying the Carol Service



Pictured are Ciaran Connolly, Natalie Lough (BA '07), Louise Mooney (BMus '07) and Stephen McGovern as they joined 70 alumni and friends, as guests of the Alumni Office, who attended the first of the annual Carol Services in the College Chapel. A mulled wine and mince pies reception was enjoyed by all afterwards in Renehan Hall. For some alumni this was their first visit back to campus in over 20 years.

## Science Week 2012



Prof Seán Doyle, Biology Department has the full attention of Diarmuid Murnane and Rian Doyle, pupils from Gael Scoil Uí Fhiach, Maynooth.

The Faculty of Science and Engineering organised a range of events on campus as part of Science Week.

A series of open lectures held each evening challenged the public to see how research at NUI Maynooth affects everyday life. Computer scientist Dr Charles Markham arranged a spectacular show for 800 primary school children but the highlight of the week was open laboratory evening “Everyday experimenting in Maynooth”. The evening was a great success but also a major logistical exercise involving technical staff, academics and students. Hundreds of children, their parents and even local TDs got a chance to try on white coats and discover their inner scientist. Professor Mahon, Dean of Science and Engineering said “It really was an incredible evening; we had people queuing for half an hour to get into the Chemistry, Biology and Forensics demonstrations. I thank everyone who helped make it happen”.