



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

Ollscéala

Nuachtlitr Foirne - Staff Newsletter

Nollaig 2005

JE Cairnes Graduate School of Business & Public Policy unveiled



Pictured from left; Niall FitzGerald KBE, Chairman of Reuters; Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, President; and Professor Michael Keane, Dean, Faculty of Commerce.

The €16 million JE Cairnes Graduate School of Business & Public Policy was officially launched by the Chairman of Reuters, Niall FitzGerald KBE, in early December. The Graduate School is the first of its type in Ireland, focussing on the linkages between public policy, innovation and business success, nationally and in the BMW region.

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The Cairnes Graduate School will house four centres of research excellence: Ireland's first Finance Centre; a new Centre for Social Gerontology, which will examine economics of an aging population; the Centre for Innovation & Structural Change (CISC), which examines the science, technology and innovation processes central to the development of the knowledge-based economy, and the Centre for Development of Rural Economic Space (CEDRES), which conducts internationally recognised research on rural and regional development.

Focal ón Eagarthóir

Fáilte chuig eagrán na Nollag de *Ollscéala*!

As this is my final edition as Editor of *Ollscéala*, I wish to thank all of you who have submitted material for publication through the years. The newsletter reflects life on campus and as Editor, it has been a privilege to chronicle the many developments and successes of students and staff over the last ten years. The implementation of the first and second Strategic Plans have ensured constant activity requiring promotion and publicity.

It is appropriate that this edition highlights yet another milestone in the life of the University – the launch of the JE Cairnes Graduate School of Business & Public Policy. The development of the north campus is progressing rapidly and the New Year will see the official opening of the new building opposite the Cairnes Graduate School, Áras Moyola. In due course, the new Student Centre and the School of Engineering will be located in this area of campus, completing the main infrastructural thrusts of the Strategic Plan.

The work of the Press & Information Office continues with Jacqueline Hogge Assistant Press Officer (Ext. 3543), who will compile and edit *Ollscéala* and will also be available to deal with all media-related queries.

Mo bhuíochas arís do 'chuile duine as bhúr dtacaíocht.

Nollaig shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise!

Máire Mhic Uidhir,
Editor

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Bridging the gap for graduates in the workplace



Pictured is the winning team, from left: Fiona Sheridan (Course co-ordinator), Helen O'Grady, Eoin McGuirk, Caroline Burns (TESCO Ireland), Trisha McHugh, and Anthony Barrett.

An innovative Management Skills module, which encourages students to communicate effectively and become active team members, is offered by the Department of Management in the B.Comm Degree.

The Management Skills initiative is intended to bridge the gap between the skills and abilities employers are looking for in young graduates and the traditional educational methods used by the University.

The 'grand finale' is a team presentation at the end of the programme.

Students design and deliver a presentation on a relevant business topic and the prize for the winning team is sponsored by TESCO Ireland.

Graduate awarded NUI Fellowship



Pictured: NUI Chancellor, Dr Garret FitzGerald presenting the award to Dr Jane Grogan

Dr Jane Grogan, a BA graduate from NUI Galway was awarded a prestigious NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Humanities recently, valued at €65,000 over two years. Dr Grogan obtained an M.Phil. degree in Cambridge University and a PhD at the University of London. She will now return to the Department of English, NUI Galway to take up the NUI Fellowship and to carry out research in the area of courtesy and civility in Renaissance Literature.

Classics professor celebrates successful year



Pictured from left are: Professor Jim Browne, Registrar, Professor Brian Arkins, and Stelios Mallikourtis, Greek Ambassador to Ireland.

Professor Brian Arkins of the Department of Classics has had a particularly successful year with the publication of two books and his election as Honorary President of the Classical Association of Ireland for 2005.

Hellenising Ireland: Greek and Roman Themes in Modern Irish Literature (Newbridge 2005) and *An Interpretation of the Poetry of Propertius (c.50–15 B.C.)* (Lewiston 2005) are further examples of Professor Arkins' prolific scholarship in the fields of Roman poetry and the reception of Classical themes in modern Anglo-Irish literature.

The Classical Association of Ireland was founded in 1908. It exists as a forum for those with a general interest in the civilisation of the past and those who teach Classics at second and third level. Each year it elects an Honorary President who has made a distinguished contribution to the promotion of interest in the ancient world in Ireland.

First International Scholarship Recipients on Campus



Pictured from left are, international scholarship students, Dhammica Rowel, Ahilan Sangeralingam, and Melissa Hacking.

The first three international scholars have commenced their studies on campus under the International Scholarship Programme. Ms Melissa Hacking from South Africa arrived in September to begin her LLM in International Human Rights Law. After graduation, Melissa is particularly interested in working with indigenous minorities in Africa.

Ms Dhammica Rowel from Sri Lanka is pursuing an MA in Health Promotion

and plans to return to work with the Health Education Bureau in her home country. Dhammica has a particular interest in mental health issues and working with displaced people and victims of the Tsunami. Mr Ahilan Sangeralingam, also from Sri Lanka, is studying for a Master of Applied Science in Hydrology. He plans to pursue an academic career, lecturing in environmental engineering or coastal engineering and to continue his research on his return to Sri Lanka.

NUI Galway established the International Scholarship Programme in March 2005, with the proceeds from the Gala Banquet and private philanthropic funding from over 40 individuals. This programme enables talented students from the developing world to complete their post-graduate studies in Ireland, with the ultimate goal of educating and training leaders in their home countries.

Meanwhile, NUI Galway has become the first Irish university to sign an agreement with Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul. Founded in 1398, SKK University is ranked in the top five universities in Korea and is famous for its world-renowned Samsung Medical Centre.

It is hoped to work initially on a student-exchange basis. A number of programmes at its two campuses, in the faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences and Natural Sciences, are taught through English.

The agreement is a further step in the strategy of the International Affairs Office to pursue links with world-class Universities in an effort to strengthen NUI Galway's profile internationally.

Living Scenes promoting inter-generational links

The Adult and Continuing Education Centre's Living Scenes programme promotes the sharing of culture, heritage and tradition between older and younger adults in society, by creating a platform within the mainstream education system which enables this to happen.

Mary Surlis, founder of Living Scenes, has designed, co-ordinated and implemented the project as a model of school-based intergenerational learning. Mary addressed this year's Céifin conference, which was sponsored by the Community Knowledge Initiative at the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT). Céifin is a centre for value-led change based in Shannon, County Clare.

Universities in Georgia and Montana, USA have expressed huge interest in the project as the concept of intergenerational learning catches on. Nationally, the project, which began in the Presentation Secondary School, Galway six years ago, has now begun a national dissemination programme with schools in counties Mayo, Galway, Clare, Limerick, Cork and Wexford on board from 2006. The programme is timetabled for Transition Year as a module of learning in participating schools. Each school has also allocated a programme co-ordinator who manages Living Scenes locally.

"The response to Living Scenes has been overwhelmingly positive as the schools adopting the project create room for the programme on their timetables," said Mary Surlis.

Outstanding contribution to IT recognised



Pictured from left are: Garreth O'Callaghan MC, Prof Gerard Lyons, Seamus Kilbane, Chairman ITAG, and Caroline O'Neill CEO ITAG.

Professor Gerry Lyons, Department of Information Technology has received an award from the IT Association of Galway (ITAG), in recognition of his outstanding academic contribution to the local IT industry. Prof Lyons, has over 25 years experience conducting and directing applied research in Ireland and overseas, within both public sector and industrial R&D environments. He established the Information Technology academic discipline in the University in 1991.

Fáilte rompu - new academic appointments

The University welcomes five new professors who have taken up positions in the Faculties of Arts and Medicine & Health Sciences.



Professor Peter Dockery joins the Department of Anatomy from UCC, where he was the director of the Advanced Microscopy Research Facility in the BioScience Institute. He has previously worked at the University of Sheffield and the University of Hong Kong, returning to Ireland in 2001. His primary research interest is in the area of modern anatomy in both neurobiology and reproduction.



A graduate of NUI Galway, Professor Laurence Egan joins the University as Professor of Clinical Pharmacology/Consultant Clinical Pharmacologist and Head of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. A son of Professor Ernest Egan, Department of Pathology, he spent five years at the prestigious Mayo Clinic in the US and currently lectures in a number of undergraduate Medical and Science courses. He also participates in clinical teaching at UCHG. His current research programme focuses on molecular characterisation of signalling pathways involved in intestinal epithelial cell stress, death and malignant transformation.



Colm McDonald was appointed Professor of Psychiatry in June 2005 and also holds the post of visiting Professor at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London. A graduate of UCD, his research interests have centred upon neurobiological abnormalities associated with the major psychotic disorders of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. A major focus of his research has been the use of structural and functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging to investigate the relationship between brain abnormalities and genetic liability to develop these illnesses.



Professor Bill Richardson is the new Head of the Spanish Department. Previously he was based in DCU where he established the Spanish Section of the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies. His research interests are mainly in the areas of Spanish Language and Linguistics, and his book, *Spanish Studies: An Introduction*, published in 2001, is a general guide to a range of cultural and social topics of relevance to modern Spain.



Professor Hans-Walter Schmidt-Hannisa has been appointed Professor of German. He has taught at the University of Bayreuth; Julius-Maximilians-University, Würzburg; Keimyung-University, Taegu (South Korea); and UCC, where he was Head of the German Department. His research interests include German literature and culture from the 18th to the 21st century, old and new media, literature and dream, money and culture, and the history of reading.

Inaugural graduates of distance learning Masters conferred

The first graduates of the M.Sc. in Technology Management were conferred at the Adult & Continuing Education awards ceremony in October. This innovative distance learning programme is both inter-University and interdisciplinary. Representing the combined efforts of NUI Galway, University College Cork and the University of Limerick, under the auspices of the Atlantic University Alliance (AUA), this programme is the first tri-University collaboration on an academic postgraduate programme in Ireland. The course, which is delivered using a blended learning model of independent study materials, periodic face-to-face tutorials and on-line tutors, commenced in January 2003 and has over 70 students currently studying for the Masters award across the three Universities.

In his conferring speech, the Registrar, Professor Jim Browne acknowledged the financial support which the programme received from Enterprise Ireland and the role its graduates play in promoting and supporting the management of innovation and technology transfer within Irish industry. He cited the programme as an appropriate form of response to proposals emerging from the BMW Foresight Exercise for enhanced innovation, research and entrepreneurship across the region and country.

DERI researcher wins top internet award



Pictured from left are Colm Lyon, IIA Chairman; Dr John Breslin, DERI; and David Curtin, Irish Domain Registry.

Dr John Breslin, a researcher at the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI), has been awarded the prestigious national Net Visionary Award in the area of social contribution by the Irish Internet Association (IIA). The award recognises outstanding achievements in applying Internet technology for the betterment of all segments of Irish society.

John recently set up "Wiki Ireland" (www.wiki.ie) which is an open community website intended to help preserve Irish culture and heritage. The Irish Internet Association (IIA) is the professional body for those conducting business via the Internet from Ireland.

Commitment and Dedication recognised



Honorary MA Degrees were conferred this Autumn on six outstanding individuals.

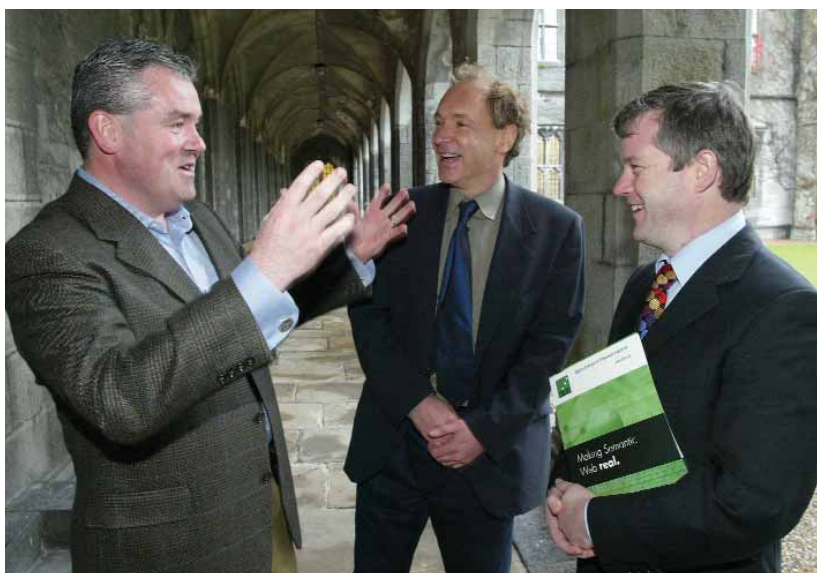
In October, PJ Curtis, broadcaster, author, record producer and lecturer, was recognised for his significant contribution to many aspects of Irish cultural life throughout a career that has spanned 30 years.

Padraic Breathnach and Ollie Jennings, who are synonymous with Galway's cultural renaissance in the last three decades were also honoured. Bronnadh Céimeanna Oinigh ar Joe Steve Ó Neachtain agus ar Sheán Ó Coistealbha, (nó Johnny Chóil Mhaidhc) as an obair éachtach atá déanta acu i measc pobail ná Gaeltachta.

Head of Operations at Computer Services, George Deacy, was also recognised for his services to the University in a career that has spanned 50 years.

Pictured from left are: PJ Curtis; Padraic Breathnach and Ollie Jennings; Johnny Chóil Mhaidhc agus Joe Steve Ó Neachtain; and George Deacy.

Internet Giants Gather in Galway



Pictured from left are: John Herlihy, Google Europe; Sir Tim Berners Lee, and Liam Ó Moráin, DERI

A conference hosted by the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) in November, which brought Sir Tim Berners Lee, the inventor of the World Wide Web and John Herlihy, Director Online Sales & Operations, Google Europe, to NUI Galway was described as having the most exciting line-up of IT speakers seen in Ireland in years. "The Information Juggernaut" event was attached to the International Semantic Web Conference 2005, also hosted by DERI, which brought 400 top researchers and industrialists to Ireland. Its aim was to inform CEOs of

blue chip companies about the future of the web and how it is going to impact their business.

The invitation-only session, supported by IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland, was unique in that it was an attempt by the academic world to involve the industrial world in the new developments in Semantic technology taking place at the University. The Semantic Web is a machine-readable version of the web, enabling more efficient searching of the internet.

Dean co-edits series of legal publications



Pictured from left to right are: Mike Milotte, journalist; Niall Crowley, CEO Equality Authority; and Donncha O'Connell, Dean of the Law Faculty, NUI Galway.

The Dean of the Law Faculty, Donncha O'Connell, has co-edited a new monograph series with RTE journalist Mike Milotte. Entitled *Justice in Controversy*, the series was recently launched by Irish Academic Press and deals with a variety of legal issues. The first book in the series, *An Ambition for Equality* by Niall Crowley, CEO of the Equality Authority, was launched in Dublin in November by the writer and film-maker, Gerry Stembridge. Two other NUI Galway academics, Dr Brendan Flynn, Department of Political Science & Sociology and Tom O'Malley, Department of Law, feature in the list of forthcoming titles.

€9.6m investment to boost pharmaceutical research



Pictured from left are: Dr Stephen Gasheru, Bristol-Meyers Squibb; Prof. Jim Browne, Registrar; Dr Alan Ryder, NCBES; Mr Cormac O'Malley, Bristol-Meyers Squibb; Dr Angela Savage, Chemistry Dept; Prof. Dermot Diamond, DCU; Prof. Terry Smith, Director, NCBES; Prof. Richard O'Kennedy DCU and Dr Kirk Leister, Bristol-Meyers Squibb.

The Registrar, Professor Jim Browne, recently hosted an event to mark the announcement of a €9.6m investment by pharmaceutical company Bristol-Meyers Squibb and IDA Ireland into Biotherapeutic research at NUI Galway, in partnership with Dublin City

University. The investment is part of a Government initiative to attract strategically important R&D to Ireland. There is a major shift in the Pharmaceutical industry towards the biological production of new drugs, known as Biotherapeutics.

The side effects of Biotherapeutics are reduced, and they remain longer in the body than chemically-produced treatments. This prolongs their effect, and they are also a more efficient treatment for many conditions than chemically-produced products. While Biotherapeutics have many advantages, the manufacturing process is currently not standardised, and this leads to losses of manufacturing batches costing companies multiples of millions of dollars every year. The research programme will improve the efficiency of the process, which should lead to more economic production of these drugs and ultimately cheaper medicines for patients. The research team at NUI Galway will be managed by the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES), and will include principal researchers Dr Alan Ryder and Dr Angela Savage of the NCBES and the Department of Chemistry, where the research will be based.

Students flock to Open Day 2005



Dr Fionuala Geraghty (centre) explains the wonders of Zoology to Orla Shine and Vali Lee, fifth year students at St Joseph's Summerhill, Athlone.

More than 7,000 prospective students from all over the country attended the University's annual Open Day earlier this month.

Academic staff, representing the University's 52 departments, were on hand to advise second-level, access and mature students and give them detailed subject and course information.

Michael Howley, NUI Galway's Schools Liaison Officer, said the event was a tremendous success and thanked all staff who contributed to the Open Day activities.

Students were given guided tours of the campus, along with the chance to attend introductory lectures and exhibition areas featuring all seven faculties, as well as information on student accommodation, sports facilities and the University's newest buildings including the J.E. Cairnes Graduate School of Business & Public Policy and Áras Moyola, which is home to the Centre for Nursing Studies, Therapies and the Department of Political Science and Sociology.

Launch of essays on British and Irish newspaper coverage



Dr Simon Potter, Department of History recently published his latest book entitled *A New Collection of Essays, Newspapers and Empire in Ireland and Britain: Reporting the British Empire, c. 1857-1921*. Dr. Potter's volume, published by Four Courts Press, looks at Irish and British newspaper coverage of events in the British Empire in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The launch performed by Dr. Mary Harris, followed a colloquium on 'Media History in Ireland, Britain and Canada.'

Supreme Court Judge appointed Adjunct Professor of Law



Pictured from left are: Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, Adjunct Professor of Law; Donncha O'Connell, Dean of the Faculty of Law; and Ms Marie McGonagle, Head of the Law Department and Director of the LL.M programme in Public Law.

The Faculty of Law at NUI Galway has announced the appointment of Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness to the position of Adjunct Professor of Law. Mrs. Justice McGuinness is a judge of the Irish Supreme Court and President of the Law Reform Commission. A former senator representing the University of Dublin, Trinity College

panel in Seanad Éireann, Mrs Justice McGuinness has also acted as the Chairperson of the Forum for Peace & Reconciliation.

"It is especially appropriate given her dynamic track record as both a judge and legislator, that Mrs Justice McGuinness will be associated with our new LL.M programme in Public Law. The students on that programme – which is the first of its kind in Ireland – will have the benefit of her extensive knowledge and experience," said Marie McGonagle, Head of the Department and Director of the LL.M in Public Law.

The Dean of Law, Donncha O'Connell, said the Faculty was honoured that a person of Mrs. Justice McGuinness's calibre had accepted the University's offer of an Adjunct Chair for a three-year period. He added that he looked forward to a fruitful period of engagement between the academic staff and student community in NUI Galway and an eminent member of the Irish judiciary.

In brief...

Free Draw for Gala

Banquet Tickets

The seventh annual Gala Banquet and Alumni Awards Ceremony will take place on Saturday, 4th March 2006 in the Radisson SAS Hotel, Galway. Two lucky members of staff will win a pair of Gala Banquet tickets each in a Free Draw to take place on Monday 9th January 2006. All staff members are invited to enter by sending their Name and Department to gala@nuigalway.ie, or by post to Betsy Egan, Gala Draw, Gate Lodge, NUI Galway. The deadline for receipt of entries is Friday 6th January. Limit of one entry per person. To book tickets for the Gala, contact Betsy Egan on ext. 5266 or at the website. Gala Banquet tickets are available for €150 each or tables of 10 for €1,500.

Equality Matters

The University's Equality Sub-Committee has embarked on its development of an Equality Strategy for the University. In the coming months staff will be asked to contribute opinions on equality issues in the University via a staff questionnaire which will be circulated by Brenda Fallon, Equality Manager. Staff participation in this survey is strongly encouraged, as it is an opportunity for staff to influence policy development in this important area of University life.

Observatory Open Nights

Public and Staff nights at the Imbusch Observatory facilitated by the Department of Experimental Physics have proved very popular, with all tickets for the remaining evenings through to March 2006 sold out.

Rectors convene

Professor Jim Browne, Registrar and Deputy President, presented an invited paper, entitled *Cross Border Higher Education*, to the EU-ASEAN University Rectors Conference held in KVLeuven, Belgium from 17th - 18th November 2005.

Capacity audience for Robert Fisk lecture



Pictured from left are: Dr Kathleen Cavanaugh, Professor William Schabas, Director Irish Centre for Human Rights, Robert Fisk, and Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, President.

Best-selling author and journalist, Robert Fisk delivered a sell-out public talk, "Into the wilderness: how to escape history in Iraq" at the University in October.

The event was a joint benefit for the Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway and Amnesty International (Ireland).

Based in Beirut as Middle East Correspondent of *The Independent*, Fisk has lived in the Middle East for almost three decades and holds more British and international journalism awards than any other foreign correspondent.

Dr Kathleen Cavanaugh, Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway said: "The role of the media in providing a fact finding mechanism and

framework through which we can better understand geo-political events is crucial. Robert Fisk consistently provides a powerful and passionate commentary, which challenges, disturbs and pricks the conscience." During his visit to the University, Fisk signed copies of his most recent book *The Great War for Civilisation: the Conquest of the Middle East*, at a special session at the Irish Centre for Human Rights. The book provides a narrative in which the bloodshed and cruelty unfolding in Iraq, Afghanistan, Algeria, Iran, Palestine and other battlefields, the carnage of September 11th, 2001, and the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's brutal regime, take on a new and frightening meaning.

Access all Areas



At the annual Access Certification ceremony in October, 66 students received certificates of completion of the Access programme 2004/05. The course prepares students to enter directly to University Faculties and is provided for school leavers and mature students in Galway city and in Gaeltacht outreach centres. A presentation of crystal was also made to each of the 36 Access students who graduated with degrees in Arts, Commerce, Science and Engineering, while 14 post-graduate students in Education, Translation Studies, Occupational Health, Community Development, Culture & Colonialism, Irish Literature and Literature & Publishing also received gifts in acknowledgement of their achievements.

Three generations of the Allen family: Paula Allen, Rory Flaherty, Helen Walsh and Anna Allen have all graduated from the Access programme

Arts Faculty hosts Christy Townley Biennial Lecture



Professor Kevin Barry, Department of English, presented the third annual Cumann Céimithe na Gaillimhe, Christy Townley Biennial Lecture, entitled *Money in the Arts; or Shylock's Revenge*, in November.

Established in 2001 the CCG, Christy Townley Biennial Lecture recognises and acknowledges the contributions of Cumann Céimithe na Gaillimhe to the University Community. The Alumni Association has developed from CCG. Every two years a different University Faculty hosts the Lecture.

The Alumni Association serves 49,367 alumni worldwide with an extensive range of programmes administered by the Alumni Office. Information on all Alumni Association programmes are listed on the alumni website www.nuigalway.ie/alumni

Pictured after the lecture, are, from left, back row: Mr Don O'Donovan, Mr John Coll and Prof Ger Hurlley, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives & External Affairs. Front row: Ms Delo Collier and Mrs Deirdre O'Connor (née Townley).

Commerce Faculty's scholarly donation to Africa



Staff members in the Faculty of Commerce, along with the charitable organisation Book Aid International, recently organised for a pallet of 1,500 academic books to be sent to Universities in Africa, which suffer from a shortage of textbooks.

Dr. Willie Golden, Vice-Dean for Development and Promotion in the Faculty, was one of the initiators of the project.

"The idea to ship the books came as a result of a visit I had from a professor in a South African University two years ago, who commented that due to financial constraints, she had no access to text books. Staff in the Faculty of Commerce donated textbooks that they did not require, most of which they had received as sample copies from publishers," he said.

Pictured: Dr Willie Golden, Faculty of Commerce, with some of the textbooks bound for African universities.