



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

Ollsceála

Nuachtlitir Foirne - Staff Newsletter

Feabhra 2006

Huston School workshop for African filmmakers



Rebecca O'Flanagan with the students of the week-long screenwriting workshop at the Imagine Film School, Burkina Faso

Rod Stoneman and Rebecca O'Flanagan from the Huston School of Film & Digital Media have recently returned from Burkina Faso, Western Africa where they facilitated a workshop for screenwriters at Imagine, a new film school in Ouagadougou.

Imagine was established by leading African filmmaker Gaston Kabore in March 2005. Eleven students from Nigeria and Burkina Faso participated in the week-long workshop which adapted elements from the MA in Screenwriting at the Huston School.

The range of stories and the preoccupations of the students differed greatly from those of Irish storytellers. Their alternative world view showed the potential of these stories to have a wider appeal if they are presented to a new audience.

It is hoped the trip, which was supported by the University's Community Knowledge Initiative at CELT, will lead to longer term sustainable institutional links between the two film schools.

Inside:
Page 3: New €60m School of Engineering
Page 5: Campus comes alive with Muscailt '06
Page 7: Academic excellence of first year students honoured

Focal ón Eagarthóir

Welcome to the Spring edition of *Ollsceala!*

The new year sees several exciting developments on campus with funding secured for the University's largest capital project, the €60 million School of Engineering. The biggest ever Postgraduate Studies Fair in the west of Ireland was held recently in the University. The inaugural NUI Galway Buy-A-Book Day will take place next month, details of which are on page 3.

Further afield, staff at the Huston School of Film and Digital Media travelled to West Africa where they hosted a screenwriting workshop with the students of the Imagine Film School in Burkina Faso.

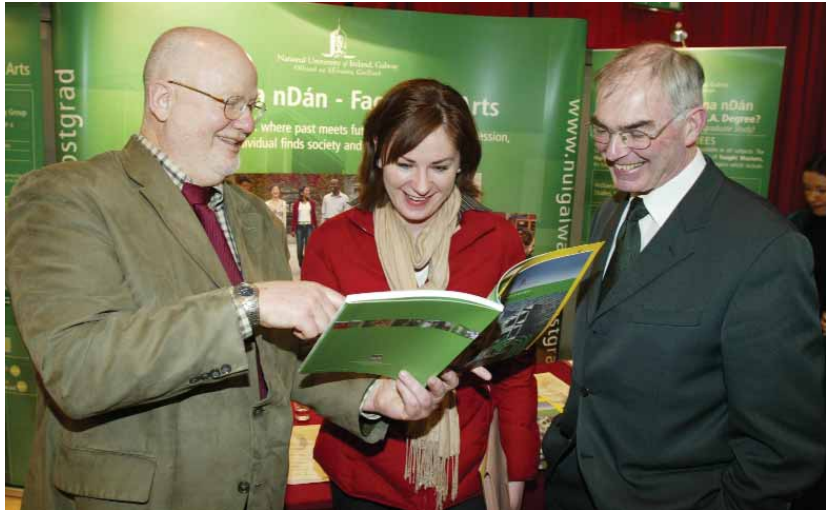
The academic success of first year students who received Entrance scholarships is celebrated on page 7, while we extend a warm welcome to the new Director of Alumni Relations, JB Terrins, who joins the University from one of China's leading international schools (page 5).

Many thanks to all who have submitted material to this issue of the newsletter.

Jacqueline Hogge
Editor

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Biggest ever Postgraduate Studies Fair



Dean of Arts, Professor John Marshall goes through the options with Anita Bowes from Tipperary and Declan Ashe, Arts Faculty.

Up to 2,000 prospective postgraduate students attended this year's annual Postgraduate Studies Fair at Áras na Mac Léinn, making it the biggest ever event of its kind in the west of Ireland. Staff at almost 70 stands from the University and other third level institutions throughout Ireland provided information on the various postgraduate programmes available. A series of seminars ran throughout the day in the Bank of Ireland theatre, with a presentation on research and funding opportunities given by Dr Maura Hiney from the Research Office proving very popular. Other talks were given by local journalist Kernan Andrews, John

Hannon from the Careers Service, and Postgraduate Admissions Officer, Valerie Leahy.

This year's fair also gave details of the first online applications system at the University for postgraduate Arts programmes. Further information on the Postgraduate Applications Centre (PAC) can be found at www.pac.ie. The University offers over 100 taught programmes and over 50 programmes which can be completed by research. A number of postgraduate courses taught through Irish are also available as is online distance learning in certain disciplines.

VSA receive donation from United Charities Group



Róisín Nee, from the Voluntary Services Abroad charity receives a cheque for €500 from Mary O'Riordan, Vice President for Student Services and Human Resources

Vice President Mary O'Riordan recently presented a cheque for €500 to the Voluntary Services Abroad charity from donations received through the United Charities Group. Formed in 2004, UCG consolidates the efforts of the three University-based charitable committees: the Third World Appeal Committee, the IFUT Charitable Committee and Medicus Mundi.

Staff are encouraged to make a contribution via a Payroll Deduction Request form which can be found at: http://www.nuigalway.ie/administration_services/financial_accounting/forms.html. For further information or to make a single donation, please contact Dr. Dom Colbert, Ms. Mary O' Riordan, Mr. Gearóid Ó Broin, Dr. Catherine Emerson, or Dr. Mary Cawley.

New €60m home for School of Engineering



Pictured from left: Dr Iognáid Ó Muirheartaigh, Professor Con Cunnane, Department of Hydrology and Professor Padraic O'Donoghue, Dean of Engineering at a reception to mark the new School of Engineering.

Architects are at an advanced stage of designing the new €60 million School of Engineering, which is the largest capital project to be undertaken to date at National University of Ireland Galway. Following the announcement of €25 million government funding earmarked for the project in the Kelly report, plans

are progressing well for the new school which will bring the University's five engineering departments under one roof.

With an area of c.14,000 square metres, the new state-of-the-art building will be located adjacent to the new €16 million

J.E. Cairnes Graduate School of Business & Public Policy.

Almost 1,500 students are currently studying across the Departments of Civil, Electronic, Industrial, Engineering Hydrology and Mechanical & Biomedical Engineering at NUI Galway, with demand for places in all disciplines remaining consistently high. Professor Pádraic O'Donoghue, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, said: "NUI Galway has a long and distinguished tradition of quality and excellence across all its Engineering disciplines and the new School of Engineering will underpin the professional education we provide."

The School of Engineering will provide undergraduate and postgraduate student accommodation including engineering laboratories, project rooms, research facilities, workshops, computer suites, lecture theatres and classrooms, faculty office accommodation and departmental staff accommodation. Additional significant funding for the project has been contributed by private donors, while the balance will be covered from the University's own resources.

Donations sought for inaugural Buy-a-Book Day

One of the more novel ideas to emanate from Úrsmainte – the University's Staff Suggestion Scheme – is to be realised next month with the inaugural NUI Galway Buy-A-Book Day. Staff, students and the general public will be able to purchase books from an exciting and diverse range of material, with a special section devoted to rare and signed copies by leading Irish authors.

Buy-A-Book Day will take place at the Aula Maxima on Thursday 9th March 2006 from 10.30am to 7.00pm.

The proceeds from the event will be donated to international, national and local charities through the University's United Charities Group, with a portion of the total amount raised being used to purchase an item of interest for the Special Collections Department at the James Hardiman Library.

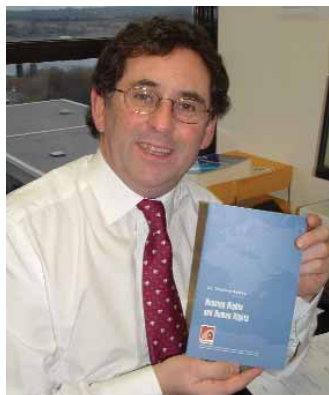
To make this event a success, staff, students and alumni are asked to donate books through any member of the organising committee. All types of books, in good condition, ranging from academic to children's, will be accepted at the collection point in the Aula Maxima from Friday 3rd March to Tuesday 7th March, from 10.00am to 6.00pm.

An end-of-day bargain sale will be held on the day to ensure that all stock is cleared, with any remaining stock being donated to local charity shops.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with either the book collection or on the day itself can contact Ann Mitchell (ext. 2738) or Anne Whelan (ext. 3071).

Further details on 'Buy-a-Book Day' can be obtained from: Marie Reddan (co-ordinator), Marie Boran, Jim Duggan, Ann-Marie Forde, Evelyn Flanagan, Jacqueline Hogge, Ann Mitchell, Liz McConnell, Lynne O'Flaherty, Sr. Avril O'Regan, or Anne Whelan.

Parisian launch for law lecturer's latest book



Dr Padraic Kenna with a copy of Housing Rights and Human Rights

Dr Padraic Kenna of the Law Faculty launched his most recent book, *Housing Rights and Human Rights*, at a reception in the Hotel de Ville, Paris.

The book, which examines the origins and extent of contemporary housing rights in Europe, was published by FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless.

Housing Rights and Human Rights provides a valuable guide to understanding the origins and extent of contemporary human rights and housing rights instruments.

The book examines the development and current status of housing rights, as they are defined, monitored and implemented in line with various obligations of States. FEANTSA was established in 1989 as a European non-governmental organisation and has some 100 member organisations in 29 European countries.

Education Department launches first student blogs



Brendan Smyth, DERI; Bonnie Long, Education Technology co-ordinator; Prof. Keith Sullivan, Dept of Education; and Jim Lenaghan, chief technician watch as students Tanya Desjardins and Regina Manly log on to the Blogs.

The Education Department has become the first department at the University to implement the use of student weblogs or 'Blogs', as part of their regular academic studies.

Blogs are the easiest-to-use websites in existence. Based on a diary date structure, there is no technical language to learn and text entries (postings) are done via a wordprocessing format.

Updates appear almost instantaneously on the web.

"This initiative was developed by the department's Education Technology staff as part of a process of encouraging the students to utilise websites in their daily learning activities," explained Bonnie Long, Education Technology co-ordinator.

"It will also form the first step in widening and promoting the use of the latest state-of-the-art internet tools and services within the environment of their assigned schools."

The course was designed and taught in conjunction with Brendan Smyth, Educational Outreach Officer with the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI).

The Weblogs are one element in the students' ongoing technology training that includes online social networks and e-learning activities such as creating their own WebQuests for use in the classroom. Along with 'podcasting', blogs represents the fastest growth on the Internet and are particularly popular with young people.

Tickets for seventh Gala banquet sold out

For the second year in a row, tickets for the annual NUI Galway Gala Banquet have sold out weeks ahead of the event which has become the highlight of the city's social calendar.

This year's Banquet will celebrate the inaugural year of the University's International Scholarship Programme. The first recipients of the scholarships will be at the banquet which will focus on the University's role as an international force for change in improving educational opportunities

for students from developing countries.

The centrepiece of the Gala, which is now in its seventh year, is the presentation of the Alumni Awards, to seven graduates who have distinguished themselves in their chosen careers. The annual awards celebrate the life-long value of an NUI Galway education and recognise individual excellence and achievements among the more than 50,000 graduates worldwide.

This year's recipients are: Judge Mary Faherty, Circuit Court Judge; Maria Mahon, CEO of IrishJobs.ie; Prof Donald McDonnell, Professor of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology at Duke University Medical Centre; Prof Frank Gannon, Director of European Molecular Biology Organisation; Máire Mhic Uidhir, Former Press and Information Officer, NUI Galway; and Noel Fogarty, Vice President of Operations with Boston Scientific Ireland.

Classics department revives Margaret Heavey Memorial lecture



Dr Edward Herring, Acting Head of the Dept of Classics, Prof. Tim Cornell, University of London, and Suzie Young, auditor of the NUI Galway Classics Society.

The Department of Classics and the Classics Society has revived the annual Margaret Heavey Memorial Lecture. The event honours Professor Margaret Heavey, a Professor of Classics and Dean of Arts during her 46 years of service to the University from 1931 to 1977.

Professor Heavey was renowned for her support and pastoral care of students. Professor Tim Cornell, one of the world's leading authorities on early Rome delivered the 2006 lecture

which attracted an audience of more than 120 people. Prof Cornell, who is the Director of the Institute of Classical Studies, University of London, the UK's premier institution for postgraduate research in the Classics, did not disappoint with his lecture on "History, Biography and Memoirs in Ancient Rome".

Professor Cornell was presented with an engraved vase, generously donated by Galway Irish Crystal, as a memento of the occasion.

Campus comes alive with Múscailt '06



A fantasy parade by Mac Teo opened NUI Galway's annual Springtime Arts Festival Múscailt, earlier this month, which saw the campus come alive with concerts, theatre, dance, exhibitions, readings, film and live performances. 'Múscailt' means to awaken/inspire/celebrate.

Highlights of this year's festival included an original dance piece by Tanya McCrory to music by Alec Roth, performed by Con Tempo, Ensemble in residence; a talk by the renowned performance artist Nigel Rolfe; a two-day film festival in a mobile cinema; a concert by Emer Mayock, flautist and piper, with guests; a performance by sound artist, Danny McCarthy; 10 original one-act plays; and an abundance of new and exciting art on view, indoors and outdoors.

This year's musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, was performed in the Black Box Theatre by the Galway University Musical Society (GUMS) as part of the festival.

Múscailt '06 is supported by Galway University Foundation, the Arts Council, AIB and the Arts Office.

The Man-Eating plant gets to grips with the Ronettes, stars of this year's Múscailt musical Little Shop of Horrors

University welcomes Director of Alumni Relations



*JB Terrins,
Director of Alumni Relations*

NUI Galway's first Director of Alumni Relations has been appointed. JB Terrins, a native of Armagh, is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, and a MBA graduate from the China Europe International Business School in Shanghai.

Mr Terrins joins the University from the Western Academy of Beijing (WAB), one of China's leading international schools, where he was Director of Admissions, with responsibility for alumni relations, for four years.

In the coming months, Mr Terrins hopes to develop a strategic plan for the future development of the Alumni Office.

"NUI Galway Alumni are already very active and we will be aiming to build on this tradition as well as on the tremendous goodwill and affection that alumni and staff feel for the University," he said.

"This job is all about people and I'm keen to get out there and meet the staff, students and alumni. We need to get as much input and feedback as possible from the University's stakeholders. This is the only way we can raise the bar on existing programmes and build on our successes in a meaningful way."

Minister launches rural living study

An extensive study into life in rural Ireland, which covers a wide range of economic, environmental and social issues, was launched by the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Mr Éamon Ó Cuív at a special reception hosted by the Department of Economics.

The "Rural Living: An Analysis of 1,249 Households in the Republic of Ireland" survey was conducted by students of the Rural Development programme at the four NUI constituent universities; University College Dublin, University College Cork, NUI Galway and NUI Maynooth. Its findings offer a contribution to the debate on the future of life in rural Ireland whose population today faces the challenges associated with the decline in full-time farming as a way of life, the expansion of part-time farming, increased urbanization and the rise in commuter towns and villages.

Minister Ó Cuív said the study was a valuable contribution to our understanding of the changes and pressures being experienced by rural communities in a time of radical change.

The original Rural Development programme, introduced at diploma level in 1996, was expanded in 2004 to include a Bachelor of Science Degree in Rural Development. The students benefit from the combined expertise of the four participating universities who offer the courses by distance education.

The programmes for mature students contribute to the attainment of national policy objectives for higher education in expanding access to higher education and providing opportunities for lifelong learning.

Student volunteers staff teddy bear hospital



The NUI Galway branch of the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA) recently organised a hugely successful 'teddy bear hospital' on campus. Hundreds of children from primary schools throughout the city brought their teddy bears to the campus where the students aimed to reduce their fears about doctors and hospitals and teach them about medical equipment. Many of the students involved are part of the ALIVE programme, a Community Knowledge Initiative, which encourages students to undertake volunteering in their community, as well as at college. With more than 500 students participating in ALIVE both on and off campus since its inception in 2003, it has become a permanent fixture in

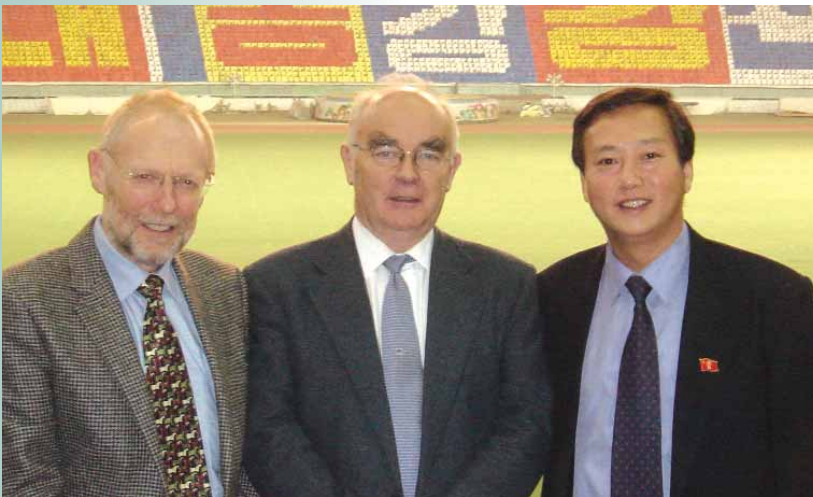
CKI, giving students an opportunity to gain professional skills as well as life lessons in social and community awareness.

Professor Jim Browne, Registrar, said: "It's a two way street, the students give to the community but they get back much, much more in terms of learning from the experience and in terms of their own personal development."

Nuala Kane a member of IFMSA who organised the event said: "I know students are accused of being apathetic a lot of the time but when you see an event like this where people are really getting involved and giving up their time to help it's really encouraging. It's all about volunteering and giving to the community."

Primary school children from across Galway brought their teddies to the special hospital at Aras na Mac Léinn for treatment.

Economics professor addresses North Korean ministers



Pictured at the Arirang Festival are from left: Professor Michael Cuddy, NUI Galway, Conor Murphy, Irish Ambassador to South Korea and Mr Kim Yong Guk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, North Korea.

Professor Michael Cuddy, Department of Economics, was among a group of EU economic experts who addressed a workshop on the development of economic relations in North Korea recently.

Almost 100 officials from the country's economy-related ministries and institutions attended the four-day workshop in Pyongyang. The workshop covered some of the alternative models and processes,

which might be followed in moving from a centrally planned economy to one that is more market-oriented, while maintaining the capacity to achieve the desired social objectives. Economic experiences in Russia, Central Europe and China have shown that there are enormous challenges in this transition but there are, also, significant rewards. North Korean delegates updated the European participants on measures taken by the Pyongyang government to modernise its economy, including a description of measures taken to modernise state-owned enterprises and delegate new responsibilities to managers over the last three years.

The EU delegation also attended the Arirang festival, an extraordinary display of dance, acrobatics, organisation and colour, where thousands of participants moved in breathtaking harmony and design. This is supposed to illustrate how "the people can work together to achieve anything they desire."

In Sympathy

It is with great sadness that we learned of the deaths of staff and students in recent weeks. We extend our deep sympathies to the families, friends and colleagues of: John Mulqueen, Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering; Patrick (Paddy) Diviney Snr, an electrician with the Buildings Office; Áine Ní Chonghaile, a first year Arts student; and Taryn King, a visiting student from Maine, USA. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anam.

Academic excellence of first year students honoured



Entrance Scholarship winners with the President and members of academic staff.

Academic excellence among the entering class of 2005/6 at the University has been recognised with a special ceremony to honour the 59 recipients of Entrance Scholarships at the University. The students, from throughout the country, were honoured by the President, Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh who presented each student with a cheque for €1,450 and a specially designed scroll to mark their achievement. The winners are drawn from 11 counties from Meath to Mayo and from Donegal to Carlow, including 34 scholars from County Galway.

The scholarships have been awarded to students from 39 individual schools highlighting the fact that academic talent is to be found in a wide range of schools, large and small, through-out the country. Entrance scholarships are guaranteed to all new entrants who reach 560 points (or 590 in Medicine and Health Sciences) in the Leaving Certificate examination. Fourteen students of programmes in Arts, Commerce, Law, Engineering and Medical & Health Sciences, achieved the maximum 600 points.

Digital archive a unique source of Irish language



Patsy Nic Fhlanncha, Philip Ó Cribin, Galway VEC, Seán Mac Íomhar, and Séamus Mac Mathúna at the presentation of the Scoil Éigse material to the James Hardiman Library.

A unique collection of audio recordings that charts the use of the Irish language in Galway over the past 50 years was recently presented to the James Hardiman library by An Teanglann. During the 1950s, the County Galway Vocational Education Committee began an education scheme, Scoil Éigse agus Seanchas, to encourage the use of Irish in the local community. Participants worked on short stories, poetry, songs, ballads, agallaimh beirte and discussions throughout the winter months. Those involved would meet in the early summer and present their work to the public.

Recordings of these meetings by An tOllamh Liam O'Buachalla and Seán Mac Íomhar were carried on into the 1990s by Seán and Patsy Nic Fhlanncha. Last summer, Máirín Mhic Lochlainn undertook the process of transferring the original material from audio tape onto CD. She also created a searchable database giving details of each item on the CDs. These 110 CDs, comprising of over 100 hours of audio material, provide a unique resource in the study of the use of the Irish language in County Galway, and is now available for consultation in the James Hardiman Library.

In brief...

EMBO Award

The European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) invites entries for its 4th Award for Communication in the Life Sciences.

The €5,000 annual award is presented to a practising life scientist in Europe who has made significant contributions to public understanding of science. Launched in 2002, the award highlights the exceptional efforts made by many scientists to combine science communication activities with a full-time research career. Winners of the EMBO Communications Award are also nominated by EMBO for the European Commission's Descartes Prize for Science Communication. Closing date for entries is 31st March 2006. Further information and applications are available at: <http://www.embo.org/awards/entries.html>

Poetry Collection

Dolores Stewart, Department of Education, has launched her fourth poetry collection *Presence of Mind*. Published by the Dedalus Press, *Presence of Mind* explores aspects of consciousness in the light of modern philosophy, revolving around the Heideggerean notion of language mediated through the early Greek concept of aletheia i.e. as that which 'lets things be'.

Gala ticket winners

Congratulations to John Healy - Audio Visual Department and Dr Des Chambers - Information Technology Department who are the winners of two tickets to the Seventh Annual NUI Galway Gala Banquet and Alumni Awards Ceremony to be held on 4th March 2006 in the Radisson SAS Hotel, Galway.

TV wildlife star delivers ECI public lecture



Pictured at the ECI public lecture are Prof Emer Colleran, ECI director, and Eanna Ní Lamhna, An Taisce.

Eanna Ní Lamhna, a presenter on RTE's "Mooney Goes Wild" nature programme delivered a public lecture on sustainable development at the Environmental Change Institute recently.

The well-known environmentalist, and current president of An Taisce, was invited to the University by ECI Director Professor Emer Colleran. Ms Ní Lamhna's talk was the third in a series of lectures hosted by the Institute.

The lecture focused on how we can reconcile the growing prosperity in Ireland and the development this brings, with conserving our environmental heritage and countryside.

She raised several issues such as 'one off' housing which is increasing with the rise in second homes or holiday homes throughout the country. She also discussed the insufficient service infrastructure currently in place to cope with the amount of new developments, particularly in rural areas. She also highlighted the role of people in designating areas of natural beauty or special areas of conservation. The Environmental Change Institute (ECI) brings together the knowledge, skills and experience of researchers from a wide variety of relevant disciplines across the University.

Student receives maths prize from Nobel laureate



Pictured from left are: Professor Steven Weinberg, Patrick Farrell, and Michael Deeney, Managing Director of DEPFA Bank

Patrick Farrell, a final year honours mathematics student at NUI Galway, recently received a prestigious Hamilton prize for the best mathematics student at an Irish University in their penultimate year. Patrick, from Woodquay, Galway, was presented with his prize by Nobel laureate Professor Steven Weinberg, at a reception at the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin.

The awards, which are sponsored by investment bank DEPFA, recognise the growing demand for mathematics graduates in financial services.

Dean launches monograph of French prose poetry



Mme Morwena Denis, Dr Maria Scott, and Professor John Marshall at the launch of Baudelaire's Le Spleen de Paris.

Dr Maria Scott, Lecturer in the Department of French, recently launched her book *Baudelaire's Le Spleen de Paris* at a reception in the Centre for the Study of Human Settlement and Historical Change.

The book is a monograph on the subject of nineteenth-century French prose poetry and was officially launched by Professor John Marshall, Dean of Arts and Mme Morwena Denis, Department of French.

Cairnes school hosts leadership seminar



Dr James Cunningham, EMBA Programme Director; Professor Bob De Wit, Maastricht School of Management; and Eoin Daly, McKinsey & Company.

A seminar on the theme of "Strategy as Practice: Linking Strategy and Leadership" was recently held in the newly opened J.E. Cairnes Graduate School of Business and Public Policy. The seminar examined how strategy and leadership intersect and how practicing managers can better understand and resolve strategic issues.

Keynote speakers included Professor Bob De Wit, Maastricht School of Management; Dr James Cunningham, EMBA Programme Director; Eoin Daly, McKinsey & Company, London; and Ray Nolan, CEO and co-founder of Web Reservations International. This was the 14th seminar run by the MBA Association of Ireland aimed at senior management and company CEOs.