



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na bÉireann, Gaillimh

Ollscéala

Nuachtlitir Foirne - Staff Newsletter

Lúnasa 2005

Celebrating Druid's 30th Anniversary



Pictured from left are, Marie Reddan, James Hardiman Library with Mick Lally, Garry Hynes and Marie Mullen.

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To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the foundation of the Druid Theatre Company, the James Hardiman Library at NUI Galway is currently presenting a major exhibition of material drawn from the Theatre's archive which is housed in the Library. The archive consists of programmes, posters, photographs and press cuttings for each production from 1975 onwards.

The exhibition, which opened in July and continues to the 2nd September, is a great opportunity to trace the progress of one of Ireland's outstanding theatrical successes. Druid founders and NUI Galway graduates, Garry Hynes, Marie Mullen and Mick Lally, performed together with the University's DramSoc and subsequently founded the Druid Theatre Company. From there they have gone on to international acclaim, winning major awards and thrilling audiences worldwide.

Ón Eagarthóir

Welcome to this edition of Ollscéala! This is a time of year when the University goes into conference and summer school mode. Topics including feminism, family support, occupational therapy, service learning and the rights of people with disability have been addressed and analysed in recent weeks by internationally recognised academics including those from NUI Galway.

The annual conferring of honorary degrees is one of the most important occasions for the University and this year saw two conferring ceremonies, one on campus and one in Los Angeles (Page 3). Both events honoured distinguished individuals for their contribution to society.

Another milestone in the development of the University was the launch in April of the €35 million Irish language institute Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge which is being developed on campus and at a number of Gaeltacht centres (Page 5). A major boost for An tAcadamh came in June with the announcement of €2.5 million from Bank of Ireland to support the provision of academic programmes in An tAcadamh's Gaeltacht centres.

Many thanks as usual to all of you who submitted news items for the newsletter.

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Summer fun opens young minds to university life



Pictured: Barbara Coen, Department of Physiology NUI Galway, showing fifth class Scoil Bhríde pupil, Gary Ward, how to monitor his own lung capacity.

Fifth-class children from Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla; Holy Trinity and St Michael's, Mervue, which are part of the Access University Trail programme, attended the Access Summer Camp in NUI Galway in July. The programme aims to introduce participants to the University and open their eyes to the many possibilities that third level education offers.

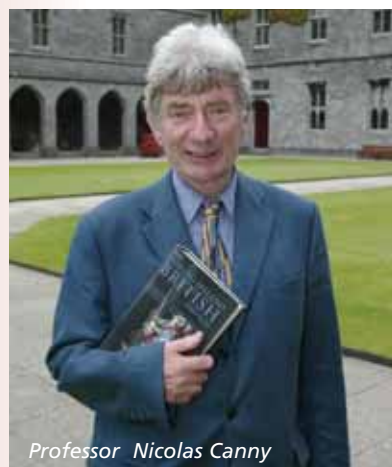
The camps provide child-centred activities and workshops to promote enthusiasm in learning and interest in subjects. Among the activities offered to the children were careers and nutrition-based workshops as well as team coaching in soccer.

The sciences were explored through the NCBES/REMEDI outreach programme, while the Physiology Department offered a dynamic workshop, which saw the children monitor their own hearts, take their pulses and check their lung capacity. Language labs provided an introduction to European languages and the children also recorded a summer camp news bulletin.

Other elements of the camp included a hands-on workshop in calligraphy from CHSHC, an ECI outdoor lesson on collecting and classifying insects, a trip to the Imbusch Observatory, a guided tour of the James Mitchell Museum and screenings of short films at the Huston School of Film and Digital Media.

The programme was interspersed with play hours where the Dance Society, the Fantasy and Science Fiction Society and the DJ Society, all gave the children a flavour of the fun side of university life.

History Professor elected to British Academy



Professor Nicolas Canny

Nicholas Canny, Professor of History and Academic Director of the Centre for the Study of Human Settlement and Historical Change, has been elected as a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy.

According to the Academy, this is the 'highest honour that the Academy is able to confer in recognition of scholarly distinction'. It is awarded each year to only seven scholars from all subjects in the humanities who may be chosen from any country in the world except the United Kingdom. Professor Canny is only the second living scholar resident in the Republic of Ireland who has been honoured in this way.

In the citation recommending Professor Canny for election, particular mention was made of his leadership role at NUI Galway that led to the establishment of the Centre for the Study of Human Settlement and Historical Change. This Centre, created by the Higher Education Authority under its Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions has recently completed its first major research programme to the highest international standard.

Conferring of Honorary Degrees at home and away



Pictured from Left to Right: Professor Alim-Louis Benabid, Mr George Clare, Ms Marian Finucane, Mr Bernard McNicholas, Mr Sean Purcell, Fr Alex Reid, and Mr Cyril Ramaphosa.

The first conferring of honorary degrees outside the University took place in May when Hollywood actress Anjelica Huston, broadcaster Merv Griffin and author Ray Bradbury were honoured for their significant contribution in the social, cultural and artistic spheres in both Ireland and the US in a special ceremony in Los Angeles.

All three honorary graduates, who have strong west of Ireland connections, were conferred by Chancellor of the NUI, Dr Garret FitzGerald.

The Honorary Conferring and the Huston Gala that followed were the centrepiece of a programme of business, cultural and

academic events during the first week of May to mark the continued growth and influence of the Huston School of Film & Digital Media. NUI Galway has raised more than \$1.2 million towards the further development of the Film School.

In Galway, on the 24th June, seven outstanding individuals were recognised for their contribution to society through social work, philanthropy, medicine, arts and culture.

Broadcaster Marian Finucane, South African politician Cyril Ramaphosa, Father Alex Reid, who played a crucial role in the Northern Ireland Peace Process, and the great Galway GAA footballer Sean Purcell

received honorary degrees. Also honoured were the pioneering neurosurgeon Professor Alim-Louis Benabid, author and journalist George Clare, who spent time in Galway when he and his mother fled the Nazi invasion of his native Vienna, and the County Mayo businessman and philanthropist Bernard McNicholas.



Pictured are from left, Anjelica Huston, Ray Bradbury and Merv Griffin.

Urgent need for brain injury services



Pictured from left are: Professor Skye McDonald, Department of Psychology, University of NSW, Sydney; Professor Agnes Shiel, Department of Occupational Therapy, NUI Galway and conference organiser; and Dr Brian McGuire, Department of Psychology, NUI Galway.

A major Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Conference, held at NUI Galway in July was attended by international delegates and addressed issues such as neuropsychological or memory rehabilitation, cognitive rehabilitation and socio-emotional functioning.

Professor Agnes Shiel of NUI Galway's Occupational Therapy Department said that treatment facilities and a proper rehabilitation service should be available in centres throughout Ireland, including Galway.

"In Ireland, specialist rehabilitation of problems such as serious brain injury is wholly inadequate," she said.

"There is only one specialist rehabilitation unit and this is based in Dublin. A successful rehabilitation programme needs to be accessible both in terms of starting as soon as possible after the injury is incurred and also in terms of location, that is, it needs to be regionally based so that the person's return to their community can be facilitated."

It is estimated that there are approximately 150 people per 100,000 in the UK who have ongoing difficulties as a result of brain injury. Professor Shiel said that accurate figures for the Irish population were not available but were possibly higher because of the higher number of road traffic accidents.

Distinguished poet appointed Adjunct Professor



Pictured are Prof. Tadhg Foley, Chairman of the Centre for Irish Studies; Dr Louis de Paor, Director of the Centre for Irish Studies; and Máire Mhac an tSaoi, Adjunct Professor of Irish Studies.

Distinguished poet Máire Mhac an tSaoi, who transformed poetry in Irish throughout the 20th century, was appointed Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Irish Studies in April.

Ms Mhac an tSaoi's poetry is particularly significant in that it anticipates the emergence of women's voices at the forefront of Irish poetry in both Irish and English during the 1970s and 80s. Her work speaks to and from the intimate experience of women at a time when women's voices were marginalized both in literature and in Irish society.

In one of her first engagements as Adjunct Professor, Ms Mhac an tSaoi delivered the annual Monsignor Pádraig de Brún Memorial Lecture at NUI Galway in June.

Entitled 'Faisnéis Bhreise ar Phiaras Feirtéar', the lecture provided a further connection between her own life and the work of her uncle, Monsignor de Brún in the poems of the great 17th century Irish chieftain, Piaras Feirtéar, whose life and work is still a part of the literary and folk tradition of the West Kerry Gaeltacht.

Monsignor de Brún, a former president of NUI Galway, was an outstanding mathematician, having received his early training in the subject from none other than Éamon de Valera. He also translated Homer, Sophocles, Dante, Corneille and Racine, into Irish.

Turkish Dams Study published



Pictured at the launch of the study are Kerim Yildaz, Executive Director, Kurdish Human Rights Projects, London and Maggie Ronayne, author of the study.

A study titled "The Cultural and Environmental Impact of Large Dams in Southeast Turkey" has been published by The Department of Archaeology, NUI Galway in association with the Kurdish Human Rights Project. The study is the result of a fact-finding mission to the region carried out by Maggie Ronayne, lecturer in the department and provides new information about hydroelectric dam projects planned by the Turkish Government for the Munzur, Tigris and Greater Zap rivers.

According to Ms Ronayne, the reservoirs would submerge hundreds of ancient sites of international importance, including evidence of our earliest origins as a species, the beginnings of agriculture, the remains of empires including those of Rome and Assyria, and the heritage of Kurds, Armenians and Assyrians

Study of Gaeltacht Schools Launched



Sa phictiúr tá ó chlé, Breandán Mac Cormaic, Cathaoirleach na Comhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta; An tAire Oideachas agus Eolaíochta, Mary Hanafin, TD; Seosamh Mac Donnacha, Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, Stiúrthóir an Taighde agus Muireann Ní Mhórain, Príomhfheidhmeannach na Comhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta

The Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin TD, launched a major new study of the current state of Gaeltacht schools in June.

The study was commissioned by an Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta, a body established in 2002 to support and promote Irish-medium education.

The study was prepared by a research team comprising of Seosamh Mac Donnacha, Aoife Ní Shéaghdha and Fiona Ní Chualáin

from Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge and Treasa Ní Mhainín from Díseart Institute of Education and Celtic Culture.

The report recommends that the Gaeltacht be dealt with as a separate educational sector and that the provisions made for the training of primary and post-primary teachers be reviewed in view of the severe difficulty that Gaeltacht schools face in attracting teachers who can teach through the medium of Irish.

Health and Safety Act

The new Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 which comes into force on 1st September 2005 has many important implications for all university managers and employees in their role in ensuring that NUI Galway is a safe workplace for all.

Some of the major actions to be implemented include: NUI Galway Safety Management Strategic Plan, the revision of NUI Galway Safety Statement Policy, preparing and updating Departments/Sections Safety Statements and the attendance of all managers and their staff at safety training to ensure competence.

Seoladh Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge



Sa phictiúr tá, Éamon Ó Cúiv TD, an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta; An Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, Uachtarán OÉ, Gaillimh agus Peadar Mac an Iomaire, Príomhfheidhmeannach an Acadaimh.

D'fhógair OÉ, Gaillimh i Mí Aibreáin go bhfuil institiúid nua teanga ar chostas €35 milliún, Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, le forbairt ar champas na hOllscoile agus i roinnt ionad sa Ghaeltacht.

Ba é Éamon Ó Cuív TD, an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta a sheol an institiúid náisiúnta.

Cuirfidh an tAcadamh, an chéad institiúid dá sórt in Éirinn, cláir ollscoile ar fáil, rachaidh sí i mbun taighde, cuirfidh sí comhairleoireacht ar fáil agus beidh sí ina hionad ardchaighdeán don taighde agus don phleanáil Ghaeilge, i gcomhar le h-institiúidí eile. I dteannta an ionaid ar

champas OÉ, Gaillimh, déanfaidh an Ollscoil tuilleadh forbartha ar na trí ionad sheachtracha atá aici sa Ghaeltacht; tá dhá ionad acu sin suite i nGaeltacht na Gaillimhe (Carna agus an Cheathrú Rua) agus ionad eile suite i nDún na nGall (Gaoth Dobhair).

Ansin i Mí an Mheithimh, d'fhógair Banc na hÉireann go dtabharfaí €2.5 milliún d'Fhondúireacht na hOllscoile mar chuid dá feachtas €50m *Daoine & Áit*.

Roghnaíodh an tAcadamh mar an togra i bPlean Stráitéiseach na hOllscoile le go dtabharfaí an tacaíocht airgid seo dó. Cuideoidh sé chun cláir acadúla a chur ar fáil sna hionaid Gaeltachta le cur ar chumas na bpobal áitiúil scileanna a fhoghlaim ar mhaithe le gilleagar eolasbhunaithe a fhorbairt. Díreoidh cláir ollscoile sna hionaid seo ar fhostaíocht inmharthana a chruthú, a thabharfaidh deis do chéimithe fanacht ina n-áit dúchais agus cur le hinfrastuchtúir teangeolaíoch agus teicneolaíoch an cheantair.

Global spotlight on Service Learning



Pictured at the conference are from left, Mark Doorley, Villanova University, Lorraine McIlraith, CELT, NUI Galway and Edward Zlotkowski Bentley College USA

Africa highlighted the potential for university and community partnerships and the difficulties of bringing the civic mission to the core of the institution, while Ed Zlotkowski of Bentley College and Campus Compact, USA, discussed active engagement and participation of students in voluntary organisations, community groups and NGOs and how this can be embedded within degree programmes.

The 'Higher Education Civic Engagement Network' (HECEN) was established as a direct result of the conference and will provide a portal in which to share work and continue communication.

Meanwhile, CELT had further success in recent weeks when researcher Elaine Keane was awarded the prestigious Dr Mary Thornton Scholarship. The annual scholarship in education is open to NUI graduates and is intended to encourage postgraduate research within NUI in the field of education. Funded by a bequest from the late Dr Thornton, the scholarship is a means of encouraging research related to Irish higher education.

The role of higher education in the current age of globalisation was addressed by delegates at the International Conference on Civic Engagement and Service Learning, hosted by NUI Galway in June. The two-day event which featured presentations, workshops, poster sessions and plenty of informal discussion and networking, was attended by professionals from Ireland, the UK, the US, Palestine, South America and South Africa. Professor Ahmed Bawa from South

Staff learn life-saving skills

Two further Occupational First Aid courses were held in the first half of the year to provide initial training to university staff from various Departments/Sections in this essential workplace and home skill.

NUI Galway now has over 200 staff trained as first-aiders, and the University acknowledges and thanks all these staff members for their time and commitment in this essential voluntary role.



Back Row: Billy Conroy (Instructor - Civil Defence), Alice Daly (Safety Office), Padraic Killilea (Buildings Office), Michelle Roche (Pharmacology), Ariella Magee (Medicine), Front Row: Valerie Leahy (Post-Graduate Admissions Officer), Sharon O'Sullivan (Safety Office - PEP Student), Prof. Jim Ward (Vice President for Physical Resources), Mairéad Watters (Accounts), Seosamh McCárthaigh (Computer Services).

Disability Rights highlighted at EU Summer School



Pictured at the conference, from left are: Professor Peter Blanck, Burton Blatt Institute, Manhattan; Professor Gerard Quinn, NUI Galway Law Faculty and Programme Director; Professor Michael Stein, Harvard Law School; and Ms Fiona Kinsman, Senior legal adviser with the European Commission's Anti-Discrimination Unit in Brussels.

The first European Summer School on Disability Discrimination Law was hosted by the Law Faculty at NUI Galway in July. Among the Summer School's highlights were a series of talks by Professor Peter Blanck, who is a leading disability rights litigator before the US Courts and Professor Christopher McCrudden from Oxford University.

The event, which was open to the public, examined a new EU Directive that offers

substantially enhanced legal protection for disabled Europeans who number at least 45 million.

NUI Galway's Professor Gerard Quinn, who directed the event, said the summer school provided people with disabilities from all over Europe, with a unique learning opportunity to find out more about their rights at a European level and to begin exercising them more forcefully.

Societies scoop two national awards

The University's Computer Society and Young Greens Society flew the flag for NUI Galway at this year's BICS societies' awards in Dublin where they picked up the Best Website and Best Fresher awards respectively.

Senator Mary O'Rourke presented the winners with their awards in a special ceremony at DCU.

Other societies who represented NUI Galway at the national awards included the Juggling Society, in the Best New Society category;

the Human Rights Society, whose Global Rights Awareness (GRÁ) event was in the running for Best Event, and member Aoife Gillespie was a contender for the Best Individual award; the Fantasy and Science Fiction Society who were up for the Best Improved Society award and the Choral Society, who competed in the Best Society category.

Pictured is Joanne Coffey of the Young Greens Society, collecting her Best Fresher award from Senator Mary O'Rourke.



Satellite systems secure Nortel Prize for Physics student



Pictured from left: Burkhard Springer, Nortel, Galway; Daniel Cregg, winner; and Professor Philip Walton, Department of Experimental Physics.

The Nortel Prize for the best final-year project in the Applied Physics and Electronics Degree at NUI Galway has been awarded to Daniel Cregg, who developed an instrument for use in land surveying using the satellite based Global Positioning System (GPS).

The surveyor presses a button at various locations on the site and the instrument calculates the area. The instrument could also measure altitude and so calculate the volume of soil that might need to be extracted.

Award-winning director opens Feminism conference



Pictured are left to right: Professor Sandra Krajewski, Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, USA; Dr Rebecca Pelan, Director of the Women's Studies Centre, NUI Galway and conference organiser; Ms Ailbhe Smyth, Director of WERRC, UCD; and Dr Katherine Side, Department of Women's Studies, Mount Saint Vincent University, Nova Scotia, Canada and currently a visiting scholar in the Women's Studies Centre, NUI Galway.

Film director Mystelle Barbee had a very productive visit to Galway in July when she attended the 'Feminisms Within and Without' International Conference organised by the Women's Studies Centre, NUI Galway.

As well as being the guest speaker at the event, Ms Barbee was awarded the Best Documentary prize at the Galway Film Fleadh for her film 'Highway Courtesans', which was screened as part of the conference. Delegates from Mongolia, New Zealand, Canada and Europe attended the conference, which addressed a variety of issues central to contemporary feminist politics and women's studies.

Papers on various elements of the social, political, academic and creative aspects of women's feminist and gender studies were presented at the conference, which brought together experts in the field as well as from related disciplines, to exchange ideas and information.

A sean-nós performance workshop, and a feminist writing for performance workshop were also included in the conference.

Meanwhile, a new book by the Director of the Women's Studies Centre, Dr Rebecca Pelan, has just been published. *Two Irelands: Literary Feminism North and South* (New York: Syracuse UP) examines the relationship between women's writing and feminism in Ireland during the contemporary period.

Bank of Ireland Fellowship Book Launch



Dr Olaoluwa Olusanya (centre) is pictured with Tom Forde, Manager, University Branch, Bank of Ireland (left) and Professor William Schabas, Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights.

Dr Olaoluwa Olusanya of the Irish Centre for Human Rights recently published his book, *Sentencing War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity under the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia*. Dr Olusanya, who was awarded the Bank of Ireland Fellowship in 2004, is currently working on a third book, *Identifying the Aggressor under International Criminal Law: A Principles Approach* (forthcoming 2006, Ashgate Press).

The Fellowship is awarded to academics from any developing country whose research output and teaching focus on the area of human rights.

Fluorescence Microscopy systems a first for NUI Galway

A state-of-the-art facility that allows scientists to probe inside living cells has been installed at the Nanoscale Biophotonics Laboratory at the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES).

The Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging Microscopy (FLIM) and Fluorescence Correlation Spectroscopy (FCS) facility is currently being used for a diverse range of research projects, which span the departments of Chemistry, Biochemistry, Earth and Ocean Sciences, Microbiology, and the NCBES.

Funded through Science Foundation Ireland and Health Research Board Equipment Grants awarded to Dr Alan G. Ryder, the equipment is the first of its kind in Ireland.

An inverted microscope system is configured for live cell research while an upright system has been specially designed for materials science and chemistry applications. Each system has a set of different laser excitation sources and precision stages configured for the specific applications. Both systems are capable of measuring and analysing the fluorescence emission at acute sensitivities down to the single molecule limit.

In brief...

Chair of Cellular Therapy

REMEDl Scientific Director Frank Barry has recently been appointed Chair of Cellular Therapy at NUI Galway. Professor Barry, an internationally renowned expert in cellular therapy with a track record in adult stem cell research, will direct research programmes at REMEDl in cellular therapies with an emphasis on clinical evaluation.

China delegation

Professor Jim Browne, Registrar and Deputy President travelled to Beijing in June where he represented the Irish Universities on a Natural Qualification Authority of Ireland (NQAI) led delegation, which finalised a draft agreement between the Ministries of Education of Ireland and China on mutual recognition of higher education qualification. Prof. Browne also delivered an invited lecture in Tsinghua University on the topic of 'Extended and Virtual Enterprises' and visited the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) where he initiated a discussion between the CAE and the Irish Academy of Engineering.

Rowers' Royal Victory

This year's Henley Royal Regatta featured two NUI Galway crews in the Visitors Challenge Cup final and the Student Coxed Fours Challenge Cup final.

The crew of John Forde, Marc Stevens, Paul Giblyn and Dave Mannion won the Visitors Challenge Cup, beating Oxford Brookes.

The crew of James Wall, Steve Keyes, Paul Murray and Evin Donnelly came second to Durham University in the Challenge Cup final.

Devising a Health Promotion Policy for the 21st Century



Pictured from left are, Biddy O'Neill, Health Promotion Advisor, Department of Health and Children; Chris Fitzgerald, Principal Officer, Department of Health and Children; Professor Margaret Barry, Department of Health Promotion, NUI Galway; and Pat Doorley, National Director of Population Health, Health Service Executive.

The 9th Annual Health Promotion Conference which took place in June, focused on navigating the new context for health promotion.

Other issues addressed included globalisation and sustainability challenges for health promotion; the marketing of unhealthy food to children in Europe; and tackling current and future health challenges.

The conference was linked to the theme of the WHO (World Health Organisation) 6th Global Conference being held in Bangkok in August at

which the Bangkok Charter for Health Promotion will be launched.

"The Charter will position health promotion to meet the current and future challenges in the rapidly changing world of the 21st century," said Professor Margaret Barry, Department of Health Promotion, NUI Galway.

"The Galway conference provided a platform for delegates to contribute to the new context for health promotion in Ireland and provided a considered response and feedback on the Charter to the Bangkok Conference."

Importance of reviewing relations between support workers and families



Pictured with Emily Logan, Ombudsman for Children, are John Canavan (left) and Dr Pat Dolan, Child & Family Research and Policy Unit, Department of Political Science and Sociology, NUI Galway.

The need for constant awareness and review by professionals of the nature of their relationship with children and parents was raised by Dr Pat Dolan ahead of a major conference on Family Support, which was held at the University in June.

Dr Dolan, of NUI Galway's Child & Family Research and Policy Unit, said care workers needed to be aware of how they relate with children and families in delicate and difficult situations.

The issue was one of several addressed at the conference which also highlighted the need for staff sensitivity when dealing with specific groups and particularly difficult situations.

Dr Dolan stressed the need for both parents and children to be included in a partnership with family support workers as the best method of reducing risk and resolving issues.

Ó Brádaigh Papers presented to the Library

An important collection of unpublished documents relating to the discussions between Irish Republican leaders and representatives of the British Government during 1974/1975, on the subject of a settlement of the Northern Ireland problem and of Anglo-Irish relations, was presented to the James Hardiman library in June.

The papers, belonging to Mr Rúairí Ó Brádaigh will provide a unique source for researchers interested in exploring the intentions, perspectives and political strategy of the Republican leadership at this particularly crucial interlude in the mid-1970s.

The papers are currently being prepared by the library archivist Mr Kieran Hoare and will soon be available for reference under normal academic and library conditions.



Pictured from left are, Kieran Hoare, Archivist, James Hardiman Library; Ruairí Ó Brádaigh; Marie Reddan, Librarian, James Hardiman Library; and Professor Robert W. White, Department of Sociology, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, who is writing a study of Mr Ó Brádaigh and the Irish Republican tradition.