



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na bÉireann, Gaillimh

Ollscéala

Nuachtlitir Foirne - Staff Newsletter

Iúil 2006

Awards for Teaching Excellence



Pictured at a ceremony for the presentation of award medals from l-r: Prof. James Browne (Registrar); Doris Devilly and Keith Warnock (award winners); Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, (President); Prof. James Houghton and Dr Jerome Sheahan (award winners); and Dr Iain Mac Labhrainn (CELT).

The recently inaugurated President's Awards for Teaching Excellence recognise the outstanding efforts academic staff make to ensure that NUI Galway students receive the highest quality learning experience.

Competition for the final awards was keen and the quality of the materials submitted impressed all those on the Awards Panel. Candidates ranged from relatively new staff at the start of their academic careers to more senior colleagues.

After careful deliberation, four faculty members were selected and were presented with the first NUI Galway President's Awards for Teaching Excellence - Professor Jim Houghton and Dr Jerome Sheahan from the Science Faculty; and Keith Warnock and Doris Devilly, both from the Commerce Faculty.

The Awards Panel consisted of senior staff in the University including the President, the Registrar, Deans, the Head of Quality, the Director of CELT, the President of the Students' Union and an external colleague, Prof. Bob Matthew (Head of the Teaching & Learning Service of the University of Glasgow).

A call for nominations for the next round of President's Awards for Teaching Excellence will be made in September.

New Vice-President of Physical Resources

Keith Warnock (third from left in above photo) has been appointed Vice-President of Physical Resources at NUI Galway. Taking over from Prof. Jim Ward, he will oversee a substantial building programme, including the new Engineering School, the University Sports Centre and the Human Biology Building.

Keith is a law graduate of Dublin University. He qualified as a chartered accountant before completing a Masters degree at the University of Manchester.

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Focal ón Eagarthóir

Fáite chuig eagrán an tSamhraidh de *Ollscéala!*

Summer is in full swing and the University is coming to the end of a very busy conference season. Minority Rights and Language, International Health Promotion, Disability Law, Easter 1916 and Diversity in Teaching were just some of the topics addressed by high-level international speakers and participants.

The annual conferring of Honorary Degrees also took place recently on campus. This event saw eight outstanding individuals conferred with honorary doctorates (see page five).

Our cover story features the President's Awards for Teaching Excellence which generated huge interest around campus. Calls for nominations for the next round can be expected in September.

Finally, just a quick word of thanks to all those who have provided stories, photos and ideas for this edition of *Ollscéala*.

Ruth Hynes
Editor

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New Appointments Announced

NUI Galway has recently appointed two high-profile individuals as adjunct professors.

Michael D. Higgins, TD, Labour Party President and Galway West TD, has been appointed as Adjunct Professor at the Irish Centre for Human Rights.

Announcing the appointment, NUI Galway President, Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, said Mr Higgins's impressive record in defence of human rights made his new role at the Centre one which would further enhance his long association with the University.

The Department of Marketing has announced the appointment of Senator Feargal Quinn to the position of Adjunct Professor of Marketing.

Senator Quinn is an outstanding marketing practitioner who has set global customer service standards throughout a career that has spanned almost 40 years. He is already familiar

to MBA and MBS students at NUI Galway who have spent time with him discussing the marketing strategy of Superquinn, the supermarket chain he founded in the late 1960s.

In other news of appointments, Professor Kevin Barry has taken over as Dean of Arts. Prof. Barry is a graduate of University College Dublin and Cambridge University and was appointed Professor of English Literature at Galway in 1991.

Professor Michael Keane is the new Dean of Commerce. A graduate of NUI Galway, Prof. Keane completed his postgraduate work at Simon Fraser University, Canada.

Professor Gerard Loftus has been appointed Dean of Medicine and Health Sciences. He was appointed Professor of Paediatrics at NUI Galway in 1988 and previously served as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine from 1994 to 1997.

Local Dimensions of 1916 Examined



Ms Marie Boran, Special Collections Librarian; Dr John Cunningham, History Department; Prof. Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, History Department; and Prof. Charles Townshend, University of Keele.

'1916 - Local Dimensions', was a free two-day public seminar hosted by the History Department, looking at the 1916 Rising with regard to regional mobilisations and the impact of events on communities in Galway, Wexford, Longford, Kerry, Cork and Ulster.

The seminar generated a huge amount of interest in the press and was well attended by academics and the public.

According to Dr John Cunningham, Department of History, "To fully understand the 1916 Rising, it is necessary to take into account the various regional mobilisations and the impact of the events of Easter Week on communities throughout Ireland. A local history-based approach challenges certain established notions about the Rising."

Burren Remembers Professor Máirín de Valera



Prof. Emer Colleran and Sarah Knight of the Environmental Change Institute.

NUI Galway's newly refurbished Carron Field Station has been named in honour of the University's first Professor of Botany, the late Professor Máirín de Valera. In a special ceremony, Minister Síle de Valera unveiled a commemorative plaque

which names the field station after her aunt.

Located close to the village of Carron in the heart of the Burren, Co. Clare, the field station was established in 1975 as a teaching and research facility for the University.

Professor Emer Colleran, Director of the Environmental Change Institute (ECI) at NUI Galway said, "The naming of the refurbished Carron Field Station in honour of Professor de Valera is appropriate, given the University and ECI-stated mission to expand outreach activities, and to increase access by the external community to University learning and research programmes. The intention is that the field station is made more widely available to first, second and third-level educational Institutions, and in particular to local community groups with an interest in environmental issues."

Apart from its use as a field teaching centre for university undergraduate students, the station has facilitated a wide range of environmental research projects. One of the on-going research projects focuses on the development of sustainable land management practices for the unique range of habitats found in the Burren region. Liaising with local landowners and acknowledging their expertise is an essential element of this research, particularly in relation to developing Turlough management systems.

Renowned Folklorist Addresses Irish Studies Conference



Prof. Henry Glassie with Dr Louis De Paor, Director of the Centre for Irish Studies.

Henry Glassie, Professor of Folklore and Co-Director of Turkish Studies at Indiana University, was among the speakers at the first Galway Conference of Irish Studies. The theme of the conference was 'Orality and Modern Irish Culture', and Professor Glassie was joined by more than sixty lecturers from Ireland, Britain, Norway, America and South Africa. Also featured were Angela Bourke, author of *The Burning of Bridget Cleary*, and Gearóid Ó Cruailaoich, author of *The Book of the Cailleach: Stories of the Wisewoman Healer*.

Among the topics discussed were 'Memory and Memoir', 'Women and Oral History', 'Orality and the Sense of Place', and 'Collecting Tradition', as well as aspects of orality in modern Irish literature. Papers were presented in Irish and in English, with a simultaneous translation facility provided for material in Irish.

Technology Agreements

NUI Galway has announced a new technology commercialisation agreement with Irish company Technology from Ideas (Tfi). Collaborating with NUI Galway's Technology Transfer Office, Tfi will source certain categories of technology ideas from NUI Galway researchers for development and sale to industry.

The agreement is the first of a series which will be announced over the coming months, each of which will be for a particular area of research. The alliances will form part of an ongoing strategic initiative for the Technology Transfer Office at NUI Galway in the development, commercial exploitation, industrial partnering and spin-out of technologies under development by a number of research teams at the University.

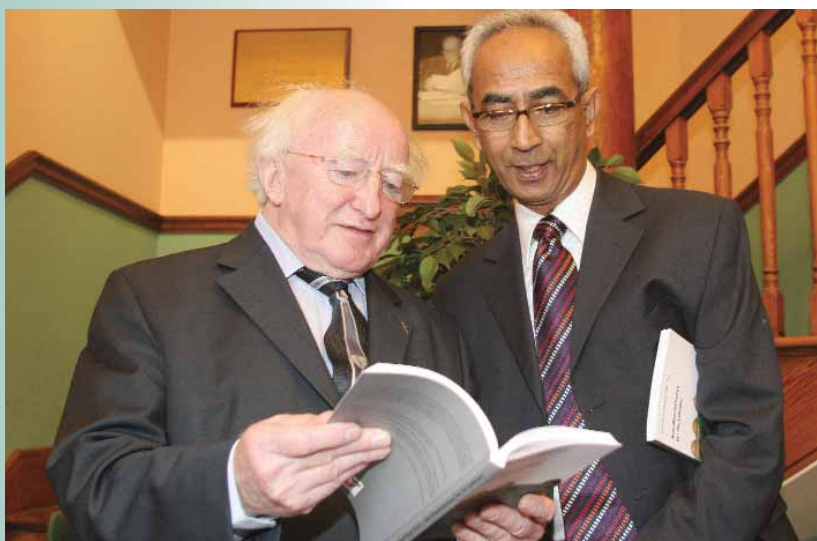
Law Faculty Lecture 2006



Judge John T. Noonan

The Law Faculty Annual Distinguished Lecture took place in the Siobhan McKenna Theatre. This year, the lecture was delivered by Judge John T. Noonan of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He spoke to a capacity attendance on the topic: 'The Letter of Religious Liberty and its Spirit' and a formal response was delivered by Professor Gerry Whyte of the School of Law, TCD.

Human Rights Centre Summer School



Michael D. Higgins TD and Dr Vinodh Jaichand, Deputy Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, at the Summer School on Minority Rights & Indigenous Peoples.

The Irish Centre for Human Rights was the location of the sixth annual Summer School on Minority Rights & Indigenous Peoples. This event is now a permanent fixture in the international human rights calendar, attracting a high level of interesting participants and a host of international speakers from a range of countries.

This year's summer school included lectures on 'Religion in International Human Rights Law' and 'Migrant

Workers in the United Arab Emirates', as well as a series of seminars on indigenous peoples and minority groups.

Two new books were also launched by the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the event. *Anti-Discrimination and the Judiciary*, co-edited by Dr Vinodh Jaichand, Deputy Director of the Centre, and *Minority Rights in Asia*, co-authored by Dr Joshua Castellino, Lecturer and Dr Elvira Domínguez Redondo, Post Doctoral Fellow.

Hot off the press

Additional books published recently around campus include:

Housing Law and Policy in Ireland by law lecturer Dr Padraic Kenna. The book, the first on housing law and policy for the Irish market, offers a timely and important contribution to this hotly debated issue in Ireland today.

Green Nation: The Irish Environmental Movement from Carnsore Point to the Rossport Five by Dr Liam Leonard, lecturer in Environmental Politics and Social Movements. *Green Nation* examines community-based campaigns over the past thirty years that have become the basis for Ireland's grassroots environmental movement.

Artful Deceptions: Verbal and Visual Trickery in French Culture / Les Supercheries Littéraires et Visuelles: La Tromperie dans la Culture Française, edited by Dr Catherine Emerson and Dr Maria Scott of the French Department.

Jean Sullivan: Libre sous le regard de Dieu by Prof. Pádraig Ó Gormaille and Dr Máire Áine Ní Mhainnín of the French Department.

Strategic Management of Technology Transfer: The New Challenge on Campus, by Dr James Cunningham and Brian Harvey, Centre for Innovation and Structural Change. In advancing a strategic approach to technology transfer, the book explores the structures, activities, and mechanisms for technology transfer, while reviewing conditioning factors that shape the parameters of technology transfer initiatives within a Higher Education Institution context.

Unique Book by Active Retirement Group



Prof Gerard Hurley, Vice-President for Strategic Initiatives & External Affairs, Deirdre Manifold, co-author of *21 - An Anthology* and Mary Surlis, Adult and Community Education Project Officer.

A unique book of short stories and poems by the Salthill/Knocknacarra Active Retirement Writers Group has been published by the Adult and Continuing Education Centre. *21 - An Anthology* is edited by well-known Irish author Michael Gorman and contains the work of twenty-one senior writers from all over Ireland who have lived, worked in or retired to Galway.

"The book encapsulates, in their own words, the vivid memories and experiences of a talented group of writers now in their senior years. It has been a precious opportunity to retrieve a rich written heritage from this talented group," commented Michael Gorman, a Programme Director at NUI Galway's International Summer School for Writers, who facilitated and compiled the book.

Conferring of Honorary Degrees



Christy O'Connor Sr and Jr give the President a golf lesson.

Eight outstanding individuals were conferred with Honorary Degrees in June. They included international golfers, Christy O'Connor Sr and Jr; Irish entrepreneurs, Senator Feargal Quinn, Dr. Ronan Lambe and Hugh Green; Irish philosopher, John Moriarty; contemporary Irish artist, James Coleman; and distinguished Italian algebraist, Professor Francesco de Giovanni.

Commenting on the honorary conferrings, Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, President of NUI Galway, said, "It is a great honour for NUI Galway to recognise the exceptional achievements of each of these individuals. This is a significant year in Ireland to honour the achievements of our golfers as we play host to the Ryder Cup. Equally, we have brought together a number of individuals from the worlds of business, philosophy and the arts who have each touched society in their own way both in Ireland and across the globe."



From left to right: Dr Ronan Lambe, Senator Feargal Quinn, Hugh Green, John Moriarty, Professor Francesco de Giovanni, and James Coleman.

Doctorate of Fine Art



From left to right: Professor Timothy Emlyn Jones, Dean of Burren College of Art; Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, President of NUI Galway; artist John Baldessari; and Mary Hawkes-Green, President Burren College of Art.

Renowned artist John Baldessari, received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Art from the National University of Ireland, as part of the Burren College of Art/NUI Galway MFA Graduation ceremony.

John Baldessari is one of the best known conceptual artists in the world and has been credited with having invented a new form of photography. The influence of his work on younger artists is far reaching and longstanding and his work may be seen in major art museums across the world.

Also in the Honours

Professor Jim Browne, Registrar and Deputy President, has been elected Vice President of Engineers Ireland. With over 21,000 members, Engineers Ireland is the country's largest professional body and is the representative body of the engineering profession in Ireland. Engineers Ireland is the operating name for the Institution of Engineers of Ireland.

United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, has appointed Professor William Schabas, Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, to the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in Human Rights.

Dr Edward Herring, Acting Head of the Department of Classics, has been elected to the Fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries of London, one of Britain's oldest learned societies.

Dr Mary Haslam, under the supervision of Professor Pádraig Ó Gormáile of the French Department, has been awarded Best Doctoral Thesis in Canadian Studies by the International Council for Canadian Studies.

At the 2006 Conference of the Mammal Society of Great Britain held at Queen's University Belfast, Professor Emeritus, James Fairley (Department of Zoology) was awarded the society's Silver Medal for outstanding services to Mammalogy and the Mammal Society.

Galway Scientists Lead Major Marine Climate Change Study



Scientists at the MAP Survey demobilisation on Galway Docks with their project leader Dr Colin O'Dowd, Experimental Physics (second from left).

A team of Irish and EU scientists, led by NUI Galway's Colin O'Dowd, demobilised recently at Galway Docks after weathering some stormy seas during the most complex and

extensive survey undertaken by the Celtic Explorer. It was the end of a four-week scientific survey aboard the research vessel Celtic Explorer as part of the Marine Aerosol Production

(MAP) project. The MAP project is one of the world's largest studies into how microscopic marine plants might affect the earth's climate and global warming through air-sea exchange processes.

An intense storm had crew and scientists enduring 30 m/s wind speeds and 10m high waves. Despite some instrument damage following a freak wave, the team were able to make a rapid recovery and continue to take measurements and gather data.

Dr Colin O'Dowd, MAP Coordinator, NUI Galway, commented, "Stormy seas are always a challenge but it is necessary to make measurements under such conditions as air-sea exchange of climatically active aerosols and gases are highest under severe storms. Despite the difficult conditions, the MAP team gathered a huge amount of unique data which will be invaluable to climate change research."

Disability Discrimination 2006



Prof. Gerard Quinn, Faculty of Law; Mr Tjueza Tjombumbi from the Prime Minister's Office, Namibia; and Prof. Peter Blanck, Syracuse University.

The second Annual Summer School on Disability Discrimination Law was recently hosted by the Law Faculty at NUI Galway and funded by the European Commission. It is the only one of its kind in Europe and attracted participants from all corners of Europe and North America.

The Summer School featured key litigators who regularly appear for persons with disabilities before the European Court of Justice (Luxembourg), the European Court

of Human Rights (Strasbourg), the US Supreme Court, the Canadian Supreme Court, the House of Lords and the Irish courts.

The Director of the programme, Professor Gerard Quinn said, "The School has helped establish our reputation at NUI Galway as one of the premier sites in Europe for disability legal research. We were especially delighted to welcome a representative of the Prime Minister's Office in Namibia."

Call for UNESCO Protection



Seosamh Mac Donnacha, Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge; Džnana Hadžimerovic, Legal Advisor to the High Commissioner on National Minorities, OSCE; and Dr Joseph Turi, Secretary General, IALL (International Association of Linguistic Law).

The 'Galway Declaration' was passed unanimously by attendees at Language Law and Language Rights. The declaration at the trilingual (English, French and Irish) conference in NUI Galway, organised by Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge and the Irish Centre for Human Rights, called for the protection of language diversity around the world.

Delegates from over 20 countries supported the call on UNESCO to protect the world's linguistic diversity.

Seosamh Mac Donnacha, Academic Coordinator of Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge said, "This is a very important step. Once UNESCO calls for the protection of linguistic diversity, the countries of the world will have to focus on supporting languages and their speakers within their borders. Linguistic diversity ensures cultural diversity."

The Challenge of Diversity



Dr Mary-Liz Trant, the Head of the National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education

The topic of NUI Galway's 4th Annual Conference on Teaching & Learning in Higher Education was 'The Challenge of Diversity: Teaching, Support & Student Learning.'

The conference was hosted by the Centre for Excellence in Learning & Teaching (CELT), NUI Galway. Speakers from around the world participated in person or through video links, in front of an audience of

over 250 people. Keynote speaker, Dr Mary-Liz Trant, the Head of the National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education, updated attendees on a major funding initiative to support student diversity.

The focus was on the key issue of student diversity and how approaches to teaching, learning and assessment can take into account an increasingly varied student population. The emphasis was on practical, real world solutions and included an examination of international experience and best practice.

"The needs of non-traditional students are different to those of the traditional student body and teaching methods must adapt to provide the best level of education possible," according to CELT's Director, Dr Iain Mac Labhrainn.

International Health Experts Debate



Dr Tang Kwok-Cho, World Health Organisation; Dr Claude Rocan, Public Health Agency of Canada; and Margaret Barry, Professor of Health Promotion and Public Health

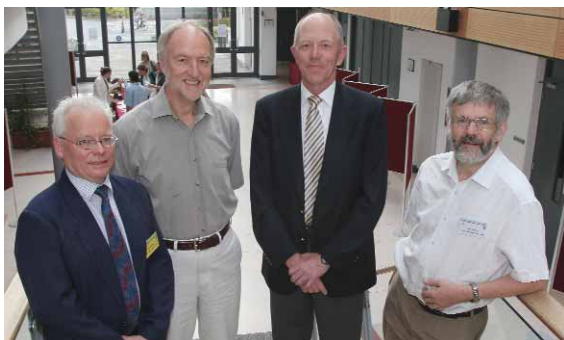
NUI Galway's Department of Health Promotion hosted the 10th Annual Health Promotion Conference. The event brought together an

international group of health promotion practitioners, academics and policy makers to debate the future of health promotion in Ireland.

Margaret Barry, Professor of Health Promotion and Public Health at NUI Galway, commented, "This was an exciting opportunity to learn about international developments in health promotion and to debate the best way forward for Ireland."

One of the key-note speakers, Dr Tang Kwok-Cho from the World Health Organisation, focused on the Bangkok Charter for Health Promotion in a Globalised World. Dr Claude Rocan, Public Health Agency of Canada, discussed how the environments in which we live are as important to our health as our lifestyles.

Statistical Modelling



Pictured at the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling were Professor John Hinde, Department of Mathematics; Professor Byron Morgan, University of Kent; Dr Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, President; and Professor John Haslett, Trinity College, Dublin.

In brief...

Irish Plant Scientists' Meeting

The Irish Plant Scientists' Association Meeting, which is an annual event bringing together young and established researchers from all over Ireland, was hosted this year by the Department of Botany. Specialist sessions were organised on topics including invasive species and biodiversity, impacts of global and general environment on plants, crop improvement, genomic diversity and development, plant management, and ecology.

Exploring Electronics

As part of a cross-departmental initiative, Fergal O'Malley, Engineering Department and Veronica McCauley, Education Department provided student science teachers with an insight into electronics and engineering. Fergal, with the support of his technical staff (Sean Porter & Martin Burke) offered practical sessions which provided an introduction into electronics for the Leaving Certificate Physics curriculum.

Workshop on Group Theory

The 2006 Groups in Galway meeting was recently hosted by the Mathematics Department. This workshop was first held in 1978 and has since become an established annual fixture on the international mathematical calendar. This year's event had a particularly international flavour, with participants hailing from Ireland, England, Scotland, France, Italy, Germany and the United States.

Business Logistics Students Success

NUI Galway students have won three of five awards in the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Ireland Ideas of the Year national competition. The three first prizes were achieved by students from Commerce, Erasmus and Industrial Engineering. The competition attracts entries from third level institutions in Ireland and from the general public.

Language Trip Win

The German Department has involved students in a poster competition initiated by four Austrian Exchange Lecturers in Ireland in collaboration with the Austrian Embassy, Austrian language schools and Austrian Airlines. Rachel O'Toole, a First Year student of German at NUI Galway, scooped one of four language trips to Austria.

Best in the Country

NUI Galway Societies won three major national titles at the Board of Irish College Societies National Awards. Best Society went to the Juggling Society, Best New Society went to the Business Society while Best Society Individual went to Donna Cummins, second year medical student.

Addition to Rare Collections

James Hardiman Library has taken custody of approximately 4,500 volumes which form the Henry Library. The books, which were collected by The Reverend Joseph Henry D.D and bequeathed to the Tuam Diocese on his death in 1885, are a unique collection of books from the 16th to 19th century.

An agreement has been signed by NUI Galway and Bishop Richard Henderson, Bishop of Tuam, Killala & Achonry, which allows for the transfer of the books from Galway's St Nicholas's Collegiate Church to the University on long-term loan.

The Reverend Joseph Henry was born in 1821 and came from a distinguished family in Tuam, Co. Galway. He was son of Hugh Robert Henry of Toghermore House and of Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Langrishe, Baronet. A graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, he was ordained in 1852 and served in Keady, Co. Mayo before going to Lima, Peru where he spent the next 20 years as Consular Chaplain. From 1876, until he died in 1885, Dr Henry served the Church of All Saints in Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

His collection is a great example of a late Victorian library. As well as examples of Bibles in several languages, Biblical commentaries and theology, there are books on history, geography, topography, classical civilisation, literature and travel. The majority of the books are of the 18th and 19th centuries, but the 16th and 17th centuries are also represented.

Pictured with some of the volumes from the Henry Joseph Library are Patricia Eriksson, who is the great grand niece of Henry Joseph, and Marie Reddan, Librarian.



IT Innovation Event

The IFIP Working Group 8.6 Conference on Transfer and Diffusion of IT for Organisational Resilience took place at NUI Galway. The conference focused on how IT innovation can contribute to making organisations more resilient.

Issues such as IT organisational design, social networking, diversity, improvisation, and rich media were discussed in the context of understanding resilience and an organisation's need to sustain innovation.

The conference was hosted by the University's Commerce Faculty.

Pictured at the event were Prof. Michael Keane, Dean of Commerce; Prof. James Browne, Registrar; and Karlheinz Kautz, chairman of IFIP.

Italy Win World Cup

In a prelude to what happened on the world stage, Italy scooped the NUI Galway staff soccer World Cup from Mexico. After being all square at full time, a strong Italian side held their nerve and were victorious after penalties.

The NUI Galway World Cup ran over three days and was open to all staff. Teams were drawn out of a hat to help make the focus of the event as social as possible, with over 80 staff members taking part. Each team was assigned a 'country' and wore the colours accordingly.

Pictured is the victorious Italian team. Back row (l-r): Lorraine McIlrath, CELT; Aideen Henry, Department of Physiology; Eric Mortimer, Computer Services; Brian Ensor, Computer Services; Seamus Kellehan, Department of Chemistry; Joe O'Connell, Information Technology. Front row (l-r): Matthew Moran, DERI; Pamela Devaney, Accounts Office; Christen Ensor, DERI.

