



Tuairisc an Uachtaráin – President’s Report
to An Bord Rialaithe
7th October 2015

EXTERNAL LANDSCAPE

1.0 MIC / HEA MISSION BASED PERFORMANCE COMPACT 2012-2016 & HEA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE AND PERFORMANCE FUNDING

The College Management met with the Higher Education Authority (HEA) on the 7th September 2015 to provide reflections on the performance report submitted by the College to the HEA on the 22nd June. At this meeting, the CEO of the HEA stated that the College was a ‘very highly performing institution’. At this point, in what the HEA has termed the ‘Strategic Dialogue,’ the future of MIC as an autonomous, independent institution within the higher education landscape is assured. Moreover, the College has emerged from what proved to be a most trying period in a stronger position than any it has enjoyed over its 117-year history.

It is anticipated that the results of the Regional Cluster submission for funding submitted in February 2015 will be announced by the end of November 2015.

A meeting of the Shannon Consortium Cluster and the HEA was scheduled to take place on the 1st October and the HEA postponed this meeting to November 2015.

1.1 MID-WEST REGIONAL CLUSTER / SHANNON CONSORTIUM

The Shannon Consortium Steering Group, comprised of the three Presidents of MIC, UL and LIT, chaired by Mr. Tim O’Connor met on 23rd June and 24th September.

Work is progressing on a number of key and immediate areas of collaboration including the development of NISE, the creation of a Federated Graduate School, regional academic planning and the development of an enhanced programme in the Humanities.

The Shannon Consortium External Stakeholder Forum has been established in order to build on the Limerick Charter 2013 and to enhance the relationship between the Shannon Consortium and governance and business in the region.

1.2 MIC-UL INTER-INSTITUTIONAL WORKING PARTY FOR HUMANITIES

Discussions are ongoing between the Faculty of Arts, MIC and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, UL regarding the establishment of a joint MIC/UL BA degree programme. The working groups engaged in the planning of the Joint BA are continuing their efforts towards the implementation of this programme.

1.3 INCORPORATION OF ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, THURLES

On Monday 14th September a joint statement by the College and the Minister for Education & Skills announced that in July 2016, MIC will incorporate St. Patrick's College, Thurles, adding the running of its campus to our operations and its four undergraduate degree programmes to our academic portfolio.



Pictured at the 'Higher Options 2016 Fair' at the RDS on the 14th September: Paula Hourigan, St. Patrick's College, Thurles; Minister Jan O'Sullivan, Minister for Education and Skills; Sinead Copeland, Marketing Officer, Mary Immaculate College.

There are three principle reasons why this is so significant. First, the content of the programmes at St. Patrick's College offer MIC the first opportunity in its history to enter the domain of initial teacher education for second level. The four programmes are designed to provide concurrent opportunities in academic subject areas that are unique in the Irish system and that offer graduates excellent employment prospects due to the high demand for the individual subject fluencies available and the combinations that have been created.

The four programmes are:

- BA in Education, Business Studies & Accounting;
- BA in Education, Business Studies & Religion;
- BA in Education, Irish & Religious Studies;
- BA in Education, Irish & Business Studies.

The second reason this development is so important is that it provides MIC with the chance to significantly enhance its profile as a mission-distinctive institution of considerable scale, that is multi-campus in structure, and that has a large regional foot-print. The geographic spread of MIC operations, together with a rise in student numbers, places the College into a new sphere within the higher education system. Because we have safe-guarded our status as an autonomous, Exchequer-funded institution, we now take on the mantle of largest independent HEI in the State offering the full continuum of professional education opportunities.

The third reason the imminent incorporation is important is that it provides the College with new opportunities to generate revenue that can be re-invested in our campuses – whether as capital development, academic support for students, new opportunities for academic staff in enhancing teaching and learning or for building upon our burgeoning research base. This will take time, of course, but we estimate that by 2020 – by which an infrastructure development plan at St. Patrick’s Campus will have been completed – student numbers will be approaching optimal levels and other investments in the estate will have begun to be realised allowing us to re-invest earned revenue.

INTERNAL LANDSCAPE

2.1 STUDENT INTAKE 2015

The student enrolment numbers for AY 2015/16 were: BEd 420; BA Liberal Arts 323; BA ECCE 86; BA Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies 9; BEd in Education and Psychology 34; Professional Masters in Education 64. Once again thanks to a College-wide effort, this year's Orientation was a great success as we welcomed close to 1,000 new entrants over the course of two days with 700 parents attending our Parents' Orientation Evening on the Tuesday evening. My thanks to Dr. Geraldine Brosnan, Director of Student Life, for coordinating this event and to all who contributed to its success.

2.2 MEETINGS

I have met the following people externally and attended the following events since the last meeting of *An Bord Rialaithe*:

External Examiner duties, St. Angela's College, Sligo – 11th June

Dr. Anne Taheny, President St. Angela's, Sligo – 11th June

An Bord Acadúil – 12th June

Fulbright 20th Annual Scholars Dinner – 12th June

Fr. Tom Fogarty, President, St. Patrick's College, Thurles, and Sean Burke – 13th June

Bishop Leahy – 15th June

An Bord Rialaithe – 15th June

Presentation to Limerick Rotary Club – 15th June

Review of Library Feasibility Study Report – 15th June

Presentation to PROBUS Shannon – 16th June

Strategic Planning Group – 16th June

Karole Egan - Education in Ireland representative based in NYC – 17th June

Tablet AGM – 18th June

HEA Graduate Outcomes Survey Steering Group- 19th June

Teaching Council Finance Meeting – 22nd June

Teaching Council Executive Committee Meeting 22nd June

Shannon Consortium Steering Group – 23rd June

Executive Team – 25th June

Fr. Tom Fogarty, President of St. Patrick's College, Thurles – 25th June

Foundation Board AGM – 25th June

ULGA – 26th June

Fr. Tom Fogarty & Mr Sean Burke – 29th June

Minister Michael Noonan – 29th June

CHoICE President's Meeting – 30th June

DES/CHoICE – 30th June
Board of Trustees – 30th June
Teaching Council Meeting – 06th July
Aramark Catering – 06th July
President's Roundtable – Leading International Collaboration & IFCU, Melbourne 10th – 17th July
HEA/DES Meeting – 22nd July
Board of Trustees – 10th August
UL Conferring & Lunch – 27th August
Prof. Daire Keogh, President of St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra – 27th August
Limerick's DNA Lecture, Jimmy Deenihan T.D. – 27th August
Fr. Tom Fogarty & Mr. Sean Burke – 28th August
DES/HEA – 31st August
Research Showcase – 1st September
Dr. Tom Kennedy - former VP Regis University, USA & Holly – 1st September
Parent's Orientation Session – 1st September
HEA Graduate Outcomes Survey Steering Group – 2nd September
Sr. Peggy Collins and Provincial Team of Sisters of Mercy – 2nd September
Dinner for the Association for German Studies – 2nd September
Coffee with BA CATS & BA Students – 3rd September
Coffee with International Students – 3rd September
Coffee with B.Ed Students – 3rd September
Coffee with B.Ed & Psy and B.Ed Students – 3rd September
Coffee with BA ECCE Students – 3rd September
Limerick City Art Gallery - 3rd September
Bilateral Meeting with the HEA – 7th September
Launch of the 2015-16 Garda Campus Watch - Superintendent Dave Sheahan – 8th September
Agrippina - Opera - Opening Night & opening of the Lime Tree Theatre Season – 8th September
Finance & Resource Committee Meeting – 9th September
Executive Team – 10th September
Equality Committee – 15th September
Audit & Risk Committee – 16th September
Quality Committee – 16th September
Strategic Planning Group – 17th September
Launch of 'The Studio Classroom' – 17th September
Dr. Maria Hinfelaar, President of LIT – 18th September
Higher Education Policy Event in UL with Dr. Mary Canning – 21st September

Damien Kilgannon, Patricia Carroll, HEA with Noel Stapleton and Michael Mullen, re. Library Project – 23rd September
An Bord Acadúil – 23rd September
Shannon Consortium Steering Group – 24th September
David Leahy – 24th September
Opening Mass – 24th September
Launch of UL Strategic Plan 2016-2020 – 25th September
ULGA – 25th September
St. Patrick's Campus Implementation Board – 25th September
Alumni Reunion – 26th September
Teaching Council Executive Committee – 28th September
St. Patrick's College Thurles , meeting with Staff – 29th September
Opening of Russian Consulate, Thurles – 29th September
Mayor Liam Galvin – 29th September
Executive Team – 30th September
Mayor Gerry O'Dea – 30th September
European Rectors Group, Toulouse – 2nd October
Teaching Council – 5th October

2.3 EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Executive Team has met three times since the last meeting of *An Bord Rialaithe* on the following dates:

25th June 2015 – ET 2015#08
10th September 2015 - ET 2015#09
30th September 2015 – ET 2015#10

The Executive Team have dealt with agenda items listed under the following headings at these meetings:

ET 2015#08/09/10 - AGREEMENT OF AGENDA AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- **DIARY**

ET 2015#08/09/10 – External Returns 2015
ET 2015#08/09/10 – Forthcoming Events

- **EXTERNAL RETURNS**

ET 2015#08 - Performance Funding 2015

ET 2015#08 - MIC Response to the National Forum for Teaching & Learning Mapping Professional Development Pathways

ET 2015#08 – HEA Response to Advanced Irish Language Skills Initiative

ET 2015#08 – MIC Response to DES Policy Proposals on Educational Provision in Gaeltacht Areas

ET 2015#09 - Update on HEA Bilateral Meeting 7th September 2015

ET 2015#09 -Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund – Call for Proposals 2015

ET 2015#09 - Review of gender-equality in Irish higher education institutions

ET 2015#09 - MIC Response to DES Policy Proposals on Educational Provision in Gaeltacht Areas

ET 2015#09/10 - Special Provision for the support of the Irish Language

ET 2015#09 - Budgetary Issues

ET 2015#09 - Institutional Profile 2012/13

ET 2015#09 - St. Patrick’s College, Thurles

ET 2015#09 - Independent Investigations

ET 2015#10 - QQI White Paper – Review of Higher Education Institutions

ET 2015#10 - MIC Response to the DES Survey on the response of ITE to the Literacy and Numeracy strategy

- **ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN (AOP 2014/15)**

ET 2015#08/09/10 – AOP 2014/15

ET 2015#08/09/10 – Mid West Regional Cluster / Shannon Consortium

ET 2015#08/10 – Shannon Consortium Steering Group & Implementation Group

ET 2015#08 - NISE Report

ET 2015#09 - Audit Priorities

ET 2015#09 - Dashboard Presentation

- **HUMAN RESOURCES**

ET 2015#08/09/10 - Report from Director of HR

ET 2015#08/09/10 – Policies and Procedures

ET 2015#08/09/10 – Employee Relations Matters

ET 2015#08/09/10 – Full-time Permanent Academic Appointments

ET 2015#08/09/10 – Full-Time Fixed Term/Specific Purpose Academic Appointments

ET 2015#08/09/10 – Academic Part-Time Hours

ET 2015#08/09/10 – Full-Time Permanent Professional Services Appointments

ET 2015#08/09/10 – Full-Time Fixed Term Professional Services Appointments

ET 2015#08/09/10 – Learning and Development

ET 2015#08/09/10 – Leave Applications

ET 2015#08/09/10 – Retirements and Resignations

ET 2015#08/09/10 – Update on Workloads Model

- **FINANCE ISSUES**

ET 2015#08 - Funding submission to the DES for Dormant Accounts Funding to support the expansion of the Certificate in Inclusive Care and Education

ET 2015#08 - Budget for BA ECP Tralee

ET 2015#08 - Budget for MA in Education and Well-being of the Older Person

ET 2015#08 - Budget for Certificate in General Learning & Personal Development

ET 2015#08 - Budget for BA in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies

ET 2015#08 - Changes to Travel and Subsistence Rates

ET 2015#08 - Exploring Funding Opportunities for the Certificate in General Learning and Personal Development (CGLPD)

ET 2015#09 - Junior Achievement Programme

- **ACADEMIC ISSUES**

ET 2015#08/09/10 - Faculty of Arts Departmental Criteria for College Silver Medals

ET 2015#08 - Institutional Review

ET 2015#08 - Inclusive Partnership Transition Initiative

ET 2015#09 - MOU with University of Koblenz-Landau (Germany)

ET 2015#09 - SITS Student Records System

ET 2015#09 - Refreshing the Portfolio

ET 2015#09 - Entrepreneurial / Innovation Module

ET 2015#09 - Report of School Placement Review Group

ET 2015#10 - Listing and approval of all Scholarships and Awards

- **RESEARCH**

ET 2015#08 - Research Budget 2015-2016

ET 2015#08 - Postgraduate Awards Recommendations 2015-16

ET 2015#08 – Recommendations for Sabbatical Leave 2015-2016

ET 2015#10 – Doctoral Fees Reimbursement

- **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**

ET 2015#10 - Outstanding Achievement Award

- **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

- **POLICY MATTERS**

ET 2015#09 - Protected Disclosures Policy

ET 2015#09 - Research Support Policy

ET 2015#09 - Recruitment, Selection & Appointment Policy

ET 2015#09 - Managing Attendance Policy

ET 2015#09 - Travel and Expenses / Subsistence Policy

Et 2015#10 - Code of Practice for Emergency Evacuation and Fire Safety Management

- **RISK REGISTER**

ET 2015#08/09/10 – Risk Register

- **COLLEGE COMMITTEES**

ET 2015#09 - Health & Safety Committee

ET 2015#09 - Access Committee

ET 2015#09 - Energy and Environmental Committee

ET 2015#09 - Health Promoting Committee

ET 2015#09 - Bord na Gaeilge

ET 2015#09 - Research Committee

ET 2015#09 - MIREC (Mary Immaculate College Research Ethics Committee) Report

ET 2015#09 - Arts Faculty Management Committee Report

ET 2015#09 - Education Faculty Management Committee Report

ET 2015#09 - Student Wellbeing Committee

ET 2015#09 - ICT Services Committee

ET 2015#10 - Faculty of Education Management Committee Minutes

ET 2015#10 – Faculty of Arts Management Committee Minutes

ET 2015#10 - Terms of Reference & Schedule of Meetings College Committees reporting to ET 2015/16

- **ESTATES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

ET 2015#09 - Office Allocations

ET 2015#10 - Staff Lounge and Parking Access PhD/MA Students

- **CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

ET 2015#08 – Irish Fulbright Alumni Association

ET 2015#08 - Autumn Exhibition Schedule

ET 2015#08 - Energy Everywhere Exhibition

ET 2015#08 - Standing Desks Pilot Proposal

ET 2015#08 - Art Exhibition of CGLPD student Art Work and Launch in October 2015

ET 2015#09 - Erasmus + application

ET 2015#09 - Education Matters Yearbook

ET 2015#09 - 1916 Commemorations

ET 2015#10 – Correspondence received from IMPACT branch of NEPS

2.8 STAFF INDUCTION

A staff induction programme was arranged by and delivered through the HR Office from 17th August to 20th August 2015. New and newly promoted staff were invited to attend a series of presentations in the mornings and with departmental orientation taking place in the afternoons. Presentation topics included an overview of the College including its history and its mission, strategy and goals, health and safety, various policies and procedures, data protection, ICT, finance, blended learning and academic regulations. Attendees were asked to evaluate the induction programme and a 95% satisfaction rate was recorded.

The induction process also featured a mentoring scheme, whereby a mentor was assigned to new employees to assist them to settle in and navigate their way around the College.

Induction was followed up on the 17th and 18th September with an informal get together with the College President over coffee.

2.9 STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Staff appointments made since the last meeting of *An Bord Rialaithe* are detailed in Appendix 1 (*FOI Exempt*).

2.10 STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP

The Strategic Planning Group (SPG) continue to meet, this group acts as an additional advisory group to the Executive Team and their remit is broadly concerned with coordinated development of strategy and annual operational planning (linked to the Strategic Plan and Risk Register), as well as implementation, monitoring and reporting in respect of these activities. The SPG recently conducted a review of the Risk Register and updated the Annual Operating Plan 2014/15 and I thank each member of this work and their teams for contributing to the Strategic Management function of the College.

The members of the Strategic Planning Group are: Prof. Michael Hayes – President; Prof. Eugene Wall – Vice-President Academic Affairs; Mr. John Coady – Vice-President Administration & Finance; Prof. Teresa O’Doherty - Dean of Education; Prof. Michael Breen – Dean of Arts; Prof. Michael Healy - Associate Vice-President Research; Prof. Gary O’Brien – Associate Vice-President Administration; Prof. Jim Deegan – Head of Graduate School; Dr. Anne O’Keeffe – Director of Teaching and Learning; Mr. Frank White – Director of Human Resources; Mr. Michael Keane – Director of Finance; Mr. Kieran Pearse – Director of ICT Services; Ms. Gerardine Moloney –

Librarian; Ms. Holly Cowman, Director of International Office; Dr. Patrick Connolly, Assistant Registrar, Mr. James Deegan, MISU President; Dr. Geraldine Brosnan, Director of Student Life; Dr. Maeve Liston, Director of Enterprise and Community Engagement; Ms. Ciara Ní Shuilleabháin, Director of Corporate Communications.

2.11 STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2016

The fourth quarter (Q4) report on the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) 2014/15 is on the agenda of this meeting. The Q1 AOP 2015/16 is also presented for approval at this meeting.

2.12 RISK REGISTER

The Risk Register is a rolling item on the Executive Team agenda and has come before the Audit and Risk Committee and Strategic Planning Group. The Risk Register is on the agenda of this meeting.

2.13 SAFEGUARDING

The Executive Team (ET 2015#04 Item 14.1) have approved the proposal of the External Safeguarding Advisor to the College, Mr. Ger Crowley, that the College should create a small Technical Safeguarding Group that would operate for approximately 12 months and would be convened regularly to develop and manage the critical path for the implementation phase of the Safeguarding Policy. Mr. Crowley also advised that this group should identify and specify external services required by the College. It is further proposed that this working group would explore a number of related issues ‘in the round,’ including a response to the requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012, which is likely to come into effect during 2015.

The appointees to the Technical Safeguarding Group were Prof. Eugene Wall, Vice President Academic Affairs, Mr. Frank White, Director of HR, Dr. Geraldine Brosnan, Director of Student Life and Dr. Patrick Connolly, Assistant Registrar.

2.14 DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL WORK

Our International Officer Ms. Holly Cowman and the Dean of Education, Prof. Teresa O’Doherty travelled on a mission to the USA in September to meet with a number of prestigious Colleges and Universities including Merrimack College, Boston College, University of Notre Dame, Loyola University, West Chester University, Neumann University, Teacher’s College NY, Notre Dame of Maryland University, St John’s University and Marymount University. Ms. Cowman represented MIC at the National Association for College Admission Counselling (NACAC) Conference 1-3rd October.

The International Officers of the Shannon Consortium / Mid-West Cluster will travel to China in October on a mission to explore institutional cooperation with Chinese Universities. This mission will be coordinated by Education in Ireland (a division of Enterprise Ireland) in collaboration with Chinese Educational Consultants.

2.15 LIBRARY / LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE PROJECT

Feasibility Study

The Library / Learning Resource Centre Feasibility Study Report was presented to representatives of the Building Unit of the HEA in September.



Next Steps

The College is in the process of the procurement of a Design Team, in order to progress the project through the Planning permission stage. Engagement with the HEA / Department of Education in relation to project funding will progress in parallel with the initial design and Planning Application steps.

Medium term Goals:

- Submission of a Planning Application for the project in 2015.
- Securing of funding by end of 2015 to allow progression to tendering and construction.

2.16 LAUNCH OF BA IN CONTEMPORARY AND APPLIED THEATRE STUDIES

Our new BA programme in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies will be officially launched on November 20th.



2.17 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

WIRED FM Sweep the Boards at the Community Radio Awards 2015

Congratulations to **WIRED FM** who recently took home no less than three out of a possible four awards at this year's National Community Radio Awards (CRAOL); the highest number of accolades awarded to any one radio station on the occasion. The CRAOL Achievement Awards recognise the dedication and hard work of the many people who contribute to making community radio stations a powerful alternative voice in their communities.

Awards were presented under four different categories; **Commissioned Programming, Music Programme, Speech Programme, and Special Programming**, with WIRED FM coveting the title for the latter three categories. 28 entries from 17 different Community Radio stations were shortlisted in recognition of their exceptional standards, including MIC Media & Communications student, **Jazmyn Joyce**, who won the Music Category with her programme *An Seo Ceol Gaelgach*; WIRED FM's specialist art show **Many Angles** which received the top award in the Speech Category while WIRED FM won a special award for their outside broadcast show as part of the **6th Limerick Film Festival** under the Special Programming category. Wired FM is a Student Community of Interest Radio station, licensed by the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland (as the IRTC) in 1995. The station has an active policy of facilitating access, communication and participation for all third-level students to its studios which are located in Mary Immaculate College and Limerick Institute of Technology. Over 120 students from Mary Immaculate College and Limerick Institute of Technology volunteer each week to produce and present programmes on the station.



MIC students Liese Gubbins and Sinead Butler accepting, on behalf of WIRED FM, the CRAOL Best Speech Programme award from Mary Lennon, Chair of CRAOL.

MIC student wins best variety award at Limerick's Got Talent Competition

Paul McNamara from Doon Co Limerick, a MIC BA in English and History graduate, won best variety award and best overall medal in the Limerick's Got Talent competition recently for his self-penned poem "Le Femme". The competition was held in the Lime Tree Theatre. Paul thanked the MIC Writers' Society as the group helped him to develop and hone his writing skills over the last number of years.

The MIC Writer's Society prides itself on welcoming everyone who is interested in writing from poets, novelists, songwriters, playwrights, to scriptwriters. Their yearly shows are full of original material including their Hit N Miss and 12 hour theatre shows which feature a series of originally written and performed short plays.



Pictured L-R: Paul O'Connor, Limerick's Got Talent organiser; Paul McNamara, MIC student; and judge, Nigel Mercier.

3. FACULTY OF ARTS

3.1 Scholarship & Research Activity

3.1.1 Conferences / Symposia held at MIC

European Social Survey Conference at Mary Immaculate College (MIC) – June 2015

The European Social Survey is an academically-driven social survey, conducted every two years, designed to chart and explain the interaction between Europe's changing institutions and the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of its diverse populations. It is Europe's premier social science survey and a critical part of Europe's Social Science and Humanities research infrastructure, providing a wealth of research data. It allows free access to the results of more than 300,000 completed interviews from first six survey Rounds (2002-2012), giving European, and international, social scientists and policy makers unprecedented access to a major resource on Europe's changing social conditions in the opening years of 21st century.

Delegates from Germany, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the USA attended the two day conference.

More than 30 countries have participated in at least one ESS survey round with respondents in countries ranging from teenagers to nonagenarians (15 to 90+). Researchers have responded to the availability of ESS data and to date there are in excess of 2,300 academic publications involving the use of ESS data with more than 72,000 users of the data which is freely available to everyone.



L-R: Prof. Michael Healy, Associate Vice President of Research, MIC; Prof. Michael Breen, ESS Chair and Dean of Arts, MIC; Dr. Eucharika Meehan, Director, Irish Research Council; Rory Fitzgerald, European Social Survey; Dr. Alice Ramos, University of Lisbon and Prof. David Voas, University of Essex.

78th Annual Conference of the Association for German Studies in Great Britain and Ireland took place at MIC - September 2015

The AGS was founded as the Conference of University Teachers of German in Great Britain and Ireland in 1932, with the aim of meeting annually '*to discuss matters pertaining to the study of German in all its branches, to promote the study thereof, to encourage research, and generally to foster high standards of competence among university teachers of German*'. In the intervening years the conference has held over 70 annual conferences across Great Britain and Ireland, changing its name in 2009 to the AGS in order to focus more strongly on promoting and defending the discipline of German Studies in Higher Education in Britain and Ireland.

Almost 70 delegates travelled from all major third level institutions in Great Britain and Ireland were informed of how Limerick has developed into a hub for German Studies in Ireland, with two thriving and very research-active Departments of German Studies in Mary Immaculate College and at the University of Limerick.

The theme of this year's conference was *Transnational Screen Adaptation: Cultural and Medial Hybridities* with panel discussions on such topics as History and Remembrance, Linguistics, Gender Studies, Translation, Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Studies, Boredom in German-Language Literature, Film and Discourse of the Neoliberal Present, and The War Child in the Occupied Period.



Pictured at the conference were Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of MIC; Dr Christiane Schönfeld, Head of German Studies MIC; Mr Peter Adams, First Secretary, German Embassy Dublin and President of the AGS Professor Sarah Colvin (Cambridge University).

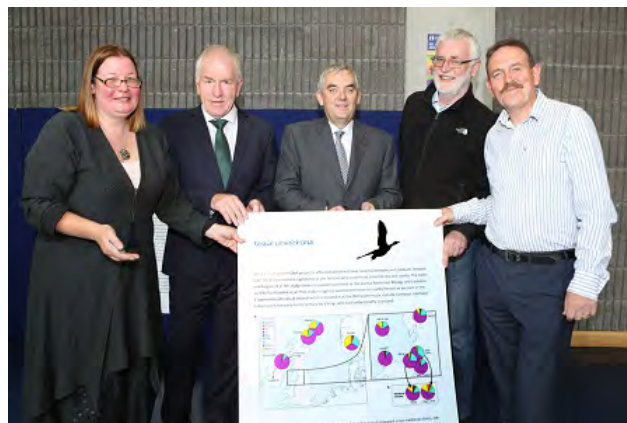
Genealogical and historical research celebrates the families of Limerick through time

Global Limerick DNA – August 2015

The Global Limerick DNA project, led by **Dr. Cathy Swift**, MIC; is the result of a collaboration between **Mary Immaculate College**, **Global Limerick**, the **Irish Ancestry Research Centre (IARC)** and **Limerick Museum**; all of whom joined forces following the very successful '*Gathering*' event, when the world's Irish diaspora assembled in Ireland to celebrate their Irish ancestry.

Minister for the Irish Diaspora, Jimmy Deenihan T.D. launched the Global DNA Project as part of Heritage Week 2015 here at the College.

The aim of the project is to bring together the historical and genealogical research already collated by the many Limerick experts in these areas, and to examine them in the context of the latest discoveries in Y-chromosome DNA in order to research the genetic history of Limerick families and communities both here and abroad. An exhibition explaining the history of family surnames in the Limerick area and the nature of genetic genealogical research and DNA analysis was on display at the event and is now available to view in the IARC offices in O'Connell Street.



Pictured at the Global Limerick DNA event which took place recently in Mary Immaculate College as part of Heritage Week were L-R: Dr. Cathy Swift, Project Collaborator, MIC; , Minister Jimmy Deenihan, Minister for Diaspora Affairs, Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of MIC; Brian Hodkinson of the Limerick Museum and John King of the Irish Ancestry Research Centre (IARC)

Resonance & Recapitulation – Echo of a Renaissance

ISSTC 2015 – August 2015

In 2011, the first Irish Sound Science and Technology Conference (ISSTC) was held in Limerick. In 2014, Limerick was the City of Culture, regenerating the diverse and exciting arts practices in the city. In 2015, the Irish Sound Science and Technology Association (ISSTA) annual convocation returned

to Limerick on August 12th and 13th. Over two days the convocation presented performances of electro-acoustic and experimental music, sound art installations, research papers on creative sound technologies and practical workshops. Events took place in various city centre locations and this project was supported by MIC and UL, in collaboration with MIC's Audio Research Centre and UL's DMARC centre for digital Arts. Keynote speakers for this event were Miller Puckette (San Diego) and Ximena Alarcon (CRISAP).

3.1.2 Lecture Series/Public Lectures

The Centre for Historical Research Seminar Series, which is organised annually by the Departments of History at Mary Immaculate College and the University of Limerick, takes place at MIC this year. The first speaker will be Dr Carole Holohan from Trinity College Dublin on September 22nd whose talk is entitled 'Conceptualising and responding to poverty: Ireland in the 1960s'.

Dr. Maura Cronin, presented a lunchtime lecture in the Hunt Museum on August 27th. The talk centred on the Ranks Flour Mill oral history project which gathered stories from ex-workers of the mill.

Dr Michael Murphy gave a paper entitled 'Soldiering On: The National Anthem and the legacy of 1916' in DIT at the symposium 'Music in Ireland: 1916 and Beyond' on April 24th.

3.1.3 Conference Presentations

Bradley Davies, H. (2015) The spatial and temporal development of a cemetery landscape: the municipal cemetery of Mount Saint Lawrence, Limerick City. The Sixteenth Colloquium on Cemeteries, Cemetery Research Group. May 15, 2015, University of York.

Bradley Davies, H. (2015) Using the Valuation Map as a teaching aid in human geography. Teaching and learning: using the Irish Historic Towns Atlas at third level. September 10, 2015 Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.

Swift, C. (2015) Paddy le carpenter and surname formation in the Mid-West. Irish conference of Medievalists, July 1-3, UCD.

Swift, C. (2015) Europe's wild west - native, incomer and colonist. Genealogy Event 21-22 August, Adare.

3.2 Awards

MIC PhD Student Nominated for Prix Europa Award

Daithi McMahon, a PhD student in the Department of Media & Communication Studies at Mary Immaculate College, has recently been nominated for a prestigious Prix Europa Award in the radio fiction category. Entitled *William Melville: The Queen's Detective*, the radio play was produced by Daithi McMahon of Henschman Productions, who also co-wrote the drama with Fred O'Connor.

PRIX EUROPA - The European Broadcasting Festival, awards the best European Television, Radio and Online productions each year with the aim of publicising them throughout Europe and supporting their continental distribution and use. This year's festival will take place in Berlin from October 17th – 24th. Daithi will travel to Berlin for the festival in October where he will also have the honour of serving as a Jury Member. This is the third nomination for '*William Melville: The Queen's Detective*' after it also was nominated for a Zebbie Award by the Writers Guild of Ireland in May and won the Gold award for Best Writing in July at the prestigious New York Festivals International Radio Awards 2015. The recent success at the New York Festivals means that McMahon and O'Connor have written the world's best radio programme two out of the last three years after their Gold for Best Writing in 2013. Daithi whose PhD thesis examines the use of social media by Irish radio stations, is an MIC alumnus having graduated in 2010 with an MA in Irish Media Studies with first class honours. He plans to lecture in radio and media studies upon completion of his PhD studies.



Daithi McMahon, from Listowel, Co. Kerry and PhD student in the Department of Media & Communication Studies at Mary Immaculate College.

PhD Award

Anna Stiepel, a student in the Department of German Studies, successfully defended her PhD thesis entitled 'Prison-Paradise? Das Internat als Entwicklungsraum im deutschsprachigen Roman nach 1968' during her viva voce on June 15th. The extern examiner was Prof Dr Stefan Neuhaus of the

University of Koblenz in Germany, the internal examiner was Dr Helmut Grugger and to Dr Gareth Cox, chaired the viva.

3.3 Book Launch

Piarsas Mac Gearailt, A Shaol agus a Shaothar

Sheol scoláire mór Chorca Dhuibhne, an Moinsíneoir Pádraig Ó Fiannachta, leabhar nua leis an **Dr Breandán Ó Cróinín** ó Roinn na Gaeilge, CMgS, ag ócáid an-taitneamhach sa Choláiste ar an Déardaoin 11 Meitheamh i seomra G08. Is é atá sa leabhar nua-fhoilsithe seo, *Piarsas Mac Gearailt, A Shaol agus a Shaothar*, eagrán nua de shaothar an fhile cháiliúil seo, a mhair in oirthear Chorcaí san ochtú haois déag, bunaithe ar na lámhscríbhinní Gaeilge a chaomhnaíonn a chuid filíochta agus cuid mhaith di óna lámhscríbhinn shuaithinseach féin atá ar coimeád i Leabharlann an Ruiséalaigh in Ollscoil na hÉireann, Má Nuad. Dar ndóigh, mar fhile Seacaibíteach scríobh an Gearaltach roinnt d'amhráin mhóra pholaitiúla na linne: 'Rosc Catha na Mumhan', 'A Mhálaí Bheag Ó', 'Sean Ó Dí' srl. ach chomh maith leis sin tá dánta aige a thugann éachtaint dúinn ar imeachtaí na Cúirte a raibh sé ina Ardsirriam uirthi, dréachtaí pearsanta a nochtann a mheon ar chúrsaí creidimh agus polaitíochta dúinn, agus i ndán clúiteach amháin dá chuid, The renowned Irish language scholar, An Moinsíneoir Pádraig Ó Fiannachta, launched a new book by **Dr Breandán Ó Cróinín** of Roinn na Gaeilge, MIC, at an enjoyable event in the College recently. This new book, *Piarsas Mac Gearailt, A Shaol agus a Shaothar*, provides a new edition of the work of the famous 18th-century poet based on surviving manuscript sources and many of the texts are edited from the poet's autograph manuscript which is housed in the Russell Library in the National University of Ireland, Maynooth.



An Dr Breandán Ó Cróinín, Roinn na Gaeilge agus An Moinsíneoir Pádraig Ó Fiannachta ag seoladh an leabhair nua, *Piarsas Mac Gearailt, A Shaol agus a Shaothar*.

Book Contributions

Swift, C., 2015. [Follow the money: the financial resources of Diarmait Mac Murchada. In: Clerics, Kings and Vikings: essays on medieval Ireland in honour of Donnchadh Ó Corráin, ed. Emer Purcell et al. Dublin: Four Courts Press.](#)

3.4 Programme Development

New BA in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies

The Faculty of Arts is delighted to welcome its first cohort of students to its exciting, new programme, the BA in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies. This is an innovative four year degree programme in the area of drama and theatre studies led by its course director, Dr. Michael Finneran, and is the first of its type in Ireland. Students of this programme will enjoy the benefits of working with leaders in the academic study of performance theory and practice, as well as the exceptional facilities available on campus in the Lime Tree Theatre. This degree will seek to give students a broadly-based education in drama and theatre, and a specific set of skills in the contemporary and applied aspects of the field.

MIC/UL Joint BA Degree

Discussions between the Faculty of Arts, MIC and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, UL regarding the establishment of a joint MIC/UL BA degree programme are ongoing with some logistical issues such as timetabling are currently being worked through.

New Online MA in Applied Linguistics

The new online MA in Applied Linguistics programme was launched at MIC in the Autumn semester. This online course model opens up access to participants on a national and international basis and allows a greater degree of flexibility and accessibility to participants.

The programme was designed specifically for those who want to integrate professional development into their professional working contexts and therefore the flexibility of the programme is ideal. Specifically, the course is aimed at experienced English Language Teachers and other English language professionals. Its main focus is on the use and teaching of the English language in a global context. The programme is a very timely response to the international need for accessible professional development, especially among teachers of English. Internationally, it is estimated that English has official or special status in at least 75 countries and that of the two billion people who use English in these countries, only 400 million are native speakers. For many countries, learning English is a mandatory component of primary and secondary education and this has created a strong demand for professional development for teachers in the area (British Council, 2014). Even in countries where English is the first language,

demographic changes and projections suggest continuous growth in the number whose first language is not English.

The MA in Applied Linguistics is the second MA offered by the English Language and Literature Department, which also offers a taught MA in English Language and Literature under the directorship of Dr Eugene O'Brien. The new online programme was conceived by Dr Anne O'Keeffe and the day-to-day running of the programme is the responsibility of Dr Joan O'Sullivan, Course Co-ordinator. Led by David Moloney, the Blended Learning Unit at MIC has played a pivotal role in the building of the online infrastructure and digital pedagogy for the delivery of asynchronous and synchronous content on the programme. As well as pre-recorded screencasts, live webinars are delivered by external lecturers including Professor Michael McCarthy (University of Nottingham), Professor Ronald Carter (University of Nottingham), Professor Steve Walsh (Newcastle University), Dr Tom Morton (University of London, University of Southampton), Geraldine Mark (Gloucestershire College), Graham Burton (University of Bolzano, Italy), Dr Ivor Timmis (Leeds Beckett University) as well as MIC-based Dr Anne O'Keeffe, Dr Brian Clancy, Justin McNamara and Dr Joan O'Sullivan.

Participants on the course come from as far afield as Canada and Singapore and as local as Limerick city. It is also MIC's privilege to have a Government of Ireland Scholarship awardee from Brazil, Giovanni Santos, on the programme. The range of nationalities and geographical locations affords an exciting dynamic to the learning process and a cultural synergy of ideas and professional experiences is manifesting itself even in these very early stages.

Plans are underway to develop the programme into a structured PhD in Applied Linguistics with the first intake in September 2016, pending approval.

3.5 External Engagement

The University Concert Hall, Limerick ran its first series of Music Appreciation talks this Spring. Dr Michael Murphy gave two lectures entitled 'Verdi's *La Traviata*' (13 April) and 'Opera in Nineteenth Century Ireland' (20 April).

Erasmus+ Higher Education Staff Mobility



Niamh Armstrong attended a workshop to test and evaluate the materials created by I Use Statistics in Education project funded by the EU Lifelong Learning programme. The workshop was held in Copenhagen and 18 Educators from Croatia, Serbia, Greece, Sweden, Czech Republic, Romania, Spain, Belgium and Ireland presented on their interactions with the software. The objective of I-Use software is to focus on teaching and learning activities considered necessary for the professional development of teachers who can support their students in becoming statistically literate people, capable of reasoning from and about information and making informed decisions based on quantitative information.



Niamh Armstrong represented the Department of Mathematics and Computer Studies at the EXCITED Digital Learning Festival in Dublin Castle. The Festival brought together students, teachers, academia, industry and ed-tech companies.

The Festival included exhibitions from former Graduate Diploma and Master in ICT students, who demonstrated how they are engaging with and embracing new and innovative ways of teaching, learning and assessment.



Conor Power; (Former MIC BA student; teacher in Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom), Niamh Armstrong (MIC) and Gerard O'Sullivan (Deputy Headmaster, Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom)

Niamh Armstrong, Department of Mathematics and Computer Studies, attended the First Annual Conference, EdTech Enabling the Knowledge Economy in the Aviva Stadium, Dublin. This event explored different aspects of EdTech in preparing a future workforce for the knowledge economy: driving workforce-readiness and transformational change in education and lifelong learning. The event provided the forum for educators and businesses to communicate and drive innovations in the development of next practice technology.

Niamh Armstrong attended the 2015 CELT Symposium in Higher Education 'Getting Real About Virtual Learning in NUIG. The Symposium on Higher Education explored the domain of virtual learning. The symposium presented research on 'teacher automation' and the 'teacherbot', Open Practices in Learning and Teaching and Open Badges. The All Aboard (<http://www.allaboardhe.org/>) project was presented which is in the process of developing a national framework of digital skills.

3.6 Mission Related Activities

Stage Production of LIMBO deepens students' understanding of pressing ethical issues in contemporary life

The MIC community, including first year B.Ed students, was provided with an unexpected insight into the everyday life of children and adults in Irish refugee centres, deepening their understanding of pressing ethical issues in contemporary life, when they recently witnessed a performance of LIMBO in the Lime Tree Theatre.

LIMBO; a collaboration between the Associate Director of the PAN PAN Theatre, Maeve Stone; dancer/choreographer Angie Smalis and musician Rory Grubb, is a gripping piece of work that responds to the direct provision system by asking questions such as *What is Direct Provision and how do we start to talk about it?* In a short piece that fuses movement, voices of asylum seekers and live music, this piece of work traces the life stories of people who may live around the corner from us but yet tend to remain invisible.

The performance at the Lime Tree Theatre was jointly organised by Dr. Sabine Egger, lecturer in German Studies, MIC and Irish Centre for Transnational Studies (ICTS); and Dr. Aislinn O'Donnell, lecturer in Philosophy of Education, MIC; in order to provide a stimulant for discussion about questions of care, dignity, responsibility, children's rights and migration, all topics relevant to the Ethics Strand of the B.Ed programme at MIC.

Mary Immaculate College Continues to Provide Vital Opportunities for Second Chance Learners.

One of the many benefits to be gained from third level education is the opportunity for self-improvement and in today's climate we are all strongly aware of the need for skills upgrading according to **Prof. Gary O'Brien**, Associate Vice President of Administration, Mary Immaculate College (MIC) who was

speaking at the Adult Education Award ceremony held on June 23rd in MIC with 27 mature learners from varying ages and cultures graduating from the two adult access programme, the Foundation Certificate Programme and the Pre-University Programme (PUP).

A leader in the development of access pathways in Ireland, MIC has been hugely successful in attracting mature or “second chance” learners from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds whose educational experiences and opportunities in their earlier years may have been limited. [The Foundation Certificate for Mature Learners Programme](#), initiated in 2001, is an access initiative coordinated by the Learner Support Unit in MIC, designed to cater for mature students who wish to continue their education, with a view to progressing to third level. The course is delivered on a part-time basis to facilitate those in employment; those with families and/or care responsibilities and those eager to sample university-level education. Since its inception in 2001, over 800 students have completed the programme with over 400 Foundation Certificate students progressing to the BA, BA ECCE, the BEd and the BEd in Education & Psychology Degrees through this route. Students from the Foundation Certificate Programme have not only gone on to excel at undergraduate level, with many students currently pursuing Masters Degrees and PhDs. This year saw 15 graduates completing the programme, proving themselves to be highly motivated, diligent and dedicated in their approach to their studies. Those who obtained a merit are offered a place on the Liberal Arts degree programme in Mary Immaculate College or University of Limerick, UL, following a formal agreement with UL last year whereby each of the Institutions’ adult education access courses are recognised for admissions purposes thereby offering a greater range of university-level study opportunities for students who complete the course.



Prof. Gary O'Brien, Associate Vice President of Administration, pictured with the students from the Foundation Certificate for Mature Learners programme.

The Pre-University Programme is a part-time access programme for mature students who wish to dip a toe in the waters of third level education. The programme is delivered off-campus, in a community setting and is designed as a stepping-stone to other access programmes such as the Foundation

Certificate. This year the programme was delivered by MIC in conjunction with Our Lady of Lourdes Community Services Group in Rosbrien and saw 12 students graduating from the programme.

This one year part-time Foundation Certificate Programme is open to all mature students who might not necessarily have completed the Junior or Leaving Certificate. The course introduces mature students to a sample of a first year university level courses, thereby equipping them with the necessary skills to participate in and benefit from a third level course.



Prof. Gary O'Brien, Associate Vice President of Administration, pictured with students from the Pre-University Programme.

4. FACULTY OF EDUCATION

4.1 SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH ACTIVITY

4.1.1 National and International Conference papers

Cregan, Á. (2015) ‘*Say the Word*: Effectively incorporating Oral Language Development into Literacy Teaching. National Association for the Teaching of English 52nd Annual Conference. *Brave New World?* Newcastle-upon-Tyne June 26.

Cregan, Á. (2015) ‘*Spread the Word!* How can the *Oral* piece of the Language and Literacy Curriculum be effectively disseminated to teachers? United Kingdom Literacy Association: Re-assessing Literacy: talking, reading and writing in the 21st Century, Nottingham, 10 July.

Daly, P., Ring, E., Egan, M., Fitzgerald, J., Griffin, C., Long, S., McCarthy, E., Moloney, M., O’Brien, T., O’Byrne, A., Ryan, M. and O’Sullivan, S. (2015). “Educational Provision for Children with Autism in Irish Schools: A National Evaluation”. Paper presented in the symposium entitled, ‘*Educational Effectiveness and Improvement*’ at the British Educational Research Association Annual Conference 2015, Belfast, 16 September

Daly, P., Ring E., Egan, M., et al. (2015). An Evaluation of Education Provision for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Republic of Ireland. BERA Annual Conference, Queens University, Belfast. September.

Egan, M. (2015). “Pull-Out” – It’s the way it’s done, it’s a tradition, a culture: The Social and Emotional Impact of how ‘Inclusion’ gets ‘done to’ our children. *ENSEC 5th International Conference*. Lisbon University, Portugal. July.

Egan, M. and Conway, P. (2015). The Geography of Opportunity and Special Educational Needs. BERA Annual Conference, Queens University, Belfast. September.

Griffin, C. P. (2015). “Fostering independence through care? A critical reflection on the role of the Special Needs Assistant in inclusive education”. *Irish Association of Teachers in Special Education 27th Annual Conference*. All Hallow’s College, Drumcondra, Dublin. 13 June.

Kenny, A. (2015) ‘Collective Music-Making as a Musical and Social Practice’. International Symposium on the Sociology of Music Education (ISSME2015), Loyola University, New Orleans, 14-17 June.

Kenny, A. (2015) 'Sounds of Belonging: Insights into learning within communities of musical practice. Invited Public Lecture, Teachers College, Columbia University, 5 May.

O'Brien, T. (2015). An Evaluation of the Views of Students with Dyslexia on Learning in a Special Primary School in Ireland. Paper presented at The International Literacy Association Conference, Klagenfurt, Austria, July.

O'Brien, T. (2015) The Imperative of Play in Promoting and Sustaining the Well-Being of Young Children with Special Needs. Paper presented at The Irish Association of Teachers of Special Education National Conference, Dublin, June.

O'Brien, T. (2015) Listening to Voices of Children with Dyslexia. Paper presented at The Discourse, Power and Resistance Conference; Creative Spaces for Collective Voices, University of Goldsmith's, London, U.K. April.

O'Donnell, A. (2015) 'Memorials, Monuments, Museums and Court Trials: Animals and Our Neighbourhood'. Workshop facilitated with Sarah Browne as part of *Our Neighbourhood* project, CCA, Derry.

O'Donnell, A. (2015) 'Securitisation, Counter-Terrorism and the Silencing of Dissent' *Critical Pedagogy*, PESGB, Liverpool, June.

O'Donnell, A. (2015) 'Creative Attention in an Age of Distraction: Returning to the Roots of Mindfulness.' AERA Symposium. Division B. Chicago, April.

O'Donnell, A. (2015) 'Philosophy and the School' Panel Discussion. Invited Speaker. University College Dublin. September.

O'Donnell, A. (2015) 'Panel discussion on EVA 2014'. Invited Speaker. Limerick City Gallery of Art, September.

O'Donnell, A. (2015) 'Education in Prison and the Question of Mass Incarceration'. Invited Speaker. *Towson University*, April.

O'Donnell, A. (2015) 'On Silence', *Hidden Voices- Cross-Border Community Project*, Dublin, March.

O’Sullivan, C. (2015). “Partnership and Collaboration in Teacher Education: A Critical Reflection”. Paper presented at the Association for Teacher Education in Europe (ATEE) 40th Annual Conference 2015: *Teacher Education through Partnerships and Collaborative Learning Communities*. 24-26 August, 2015, University of Glasgow.

O’Sullivan, C (2015). “The Professional Development of Teachers: Irish Perspectives in an International Context”. Paper presented at the Association for Teacher Education in Europe (ATEE) 40th Annual Conference 2015: *Teacher Education through Partnerships and Collaborative Learning Communities*. 24-26 August, 2015, University of Glasgow.

O’Sullivan, É. (2015) ‘By Heavens, I’m sick of Dissipation and want some serious occupation’: Ascendancy women and elementary education’ at the 13th Annual Conference of the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates, Maynooth University. 15 -16 May.

Ryan, M. C. (2015). *Looking at Bullying through a Social Psychological Lens*. Oral Presentation at the Irish Association for Teachers in Special Education IATSE Conference, All Hallows College Dublin, 12 June.

Ryan, M. C., & Brennan, C. (2015). *Creating the conditions for Assessment for Learning amongst peers: Developing creative writing skills*. Presentation at the United Kingdom Literacy Association UKLA conference in Nottingham, UK, 11 July.

Tynan, F (2015) ‘Self-perception of Anxiety in Individuals with Williams Syndrome’; conference on Anxiety in Neurodevelopmental Disorders’, University of Newcastle,. 18 September.

4.1.2 Conferences / Symposia held at MIC

Egan, M., Conway, P. and O’Keeffe B. (2015). The Geography of Opportunity. Poster Presentation at *Launch of Institute for Educational & Social Policy Studies [PRISEM]* MIC, 8 June.

Griffin, C., Parkinson, P.. & Ryan, M.C. (2015). *Reflecting, Re-conceptualising and Reviewing Pre-Service Teacher Engagement: Promoting ‘Assessment of and for Learning’ through Portfolio Methodology*. Oral presentation at the Conversations in the Consortium Series in MIC, 22 April.

Ní Chróinin, D. Physical Education, Physical Activity and Youth Sport Annual Research Forum, 2015 Cohosted by UL and MIC, Programme Committee Member.

O' Brien, T. (2015, May). An examination of the effects of a cross age peer tutoring programme on lower achieving readers in fourth class. Paper presented at The All-Ireland Research Conference on Immersion Education, MIC, Limerick.

O' Brien, T. (2015, March). Using ICT in teaching students with SEN. Workshop presented at The Irish National Teachers' Organisation National SEN Conference, MIC, Limerick.

Ó Cathasaigh, R. (2015) ‘‘Anois tánn tú ag caint,’ – seal senchais le Pádraig Ó Cathalláin (90).’ Léacht mar mhír de chlár do ‘Lá Taighde’ i gColáiste Mhuire gan Smál, 1 Meán Fómhair.

Ring, E., & Ryan, M.C. (2015). *Dissecting the Unfolding Drama of Blended Learning*. Oral presentation at the Blended Learning Special Interest Group Showcase in MIC, 21 May.

Ryan, M.C. (2015). *Facilitating a school-wide approach to data-informed school learning*. Oral presentation at MIC Research Day in MIC, 1 September.

4.1.3 Research Funding

Dr Deirdre Ní Chróinín (2015-16) SCoTENS funding: £5000 for ‘Teacher educator professional learning: Shaping the conversation of teacher education?’ Partners include Dr Melissa Parker Physical Education and Sport Sciences, UL; Ciaran Walsh, Physical Education Department St Mary’s University College, Belfast and Paul McFlynn, Physical Education, University of Ulster.

Prof Teresa O’Doherty (2015-2018) European Methodological Framework for Facilitating Collaborative Learning for Teachers (EFFeCT) was awarded funding under the recent round of Erasmus + awards. Led by the Tempus Foundation, Hungary, the partners include the University of Jyväskylä, Finland; Ministry of Education and Science, National Centre for Education, Latvia; National Institute for Continuous Professional Development, Czech Republic; the School of Education, University of Hertfordshire, and Mary Immaculate College. This award is to the value of €88,620 over a 30-month period and the MIC leaders are Prof Teresa O’Doherty and Dr Joan Stephenson, Adjunct Professor.

Transforming Education through Dialogue

TED and the Bedford Row Family Project (BRFP) secured funding (€15,000) from The St Stephen’s Green Trust to research the impact of the BRFP on the lives of families of prisoners and ex prisoners. Research began in September 2015.

TED secured funding (€15,000) from CDI Tallagh to undertake an evaluation of the Doodle Families Programme which is running in three DEIS Band 1 Primary schools in Limerick City. This research is in process and will be completed by Dec 2015.

4.1.4 Publications

Leahy, P. and Egan, M. (2015). "An Investigation into the Effectiveness of Cognitive Self-Instruction on Challenging Behaviour as part of a Whole School Positive Behaviour Support system". *Learn: The Journal of the Irish Learning Support Association*. Dublin: ILSA.

Higgins, E., Fitzgerald, J. and Howard, S. (2015). 'Literacy Lift-Off: an experimental evaluation of a reading recovery programme on literacy skills and reading self- concept'. *Educational Psychology in Practice: theory, research and practice in educational psychology*, 31(3), 247-264.

Griffin, C. P. & Ryan, M. (May, 2015). Bridging the Gap between College and Community: Psychological Theory and Research in Practice. *Irish Psychologist*, 41 (7), 174-175.

Griffin, C. P. & Murtagh, L. (2015). Increasing the sight vocabulary and reading fluency of children requiring reading support: the use of a Precision Teaching approach. *Educational Psychology in Practice: theory, research and practice in educational psychology*, 31(2), 186-209. DOI: 10.1080/02667363.2015.1022818

Kenny, A. (2015) 'Beginning a journey with music education: Voices from pre-service primary teachers'. *Music Education Research*, DOI:10.1080/14613808.2015.1077801.

Kenny, A. Finneran, M. and Mitchell, E. (2015) 'Becoming an educator in and through the arts: forming and informing emerging teachers' professional identity'. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, vol. 49, pp. 159-167.

McMullen, J., Ní Chróinín, Dr. D. Tammelin, T., Malpog, A. (in press) International Approaches to Whole-of-School Physical Activity Promotion, Quest,

Ó Ceallaigh, T.J. (2015). Inventing tomorrow: The Irish language as a cultural tool in early childhood care and education in Ireland. *An Leabhbh Óg, The OMEP Ireland Journal of Early*

O'Donnell, A. (2015) 'Creative Attention, Ethics and Education: Returning to the Roots of Mindfulness' *Journal of Philosophy of Education*. 49.2. pp. 187-202.

O'Donnell, A (2015) 'Curriculum as Conversation: Vulnerability, Violence and Pedagogy in Prison' *Educational Theory*. 65.4. pp. 475-90.

4.1.5 Book Contributions

O'Donnell, A. (2015) 'Contemplative Pedagogy and Mindfulness: Developing Creative Attention in an Age of Distraction' in *Philosophies East/West: Exploring Intersections between Educational and Contemplative Practices*. Eds. Todd S. and O. Ergas. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell.

O'Donnell, A (2015) 'Experimental Philosophy and Pedagogy', *Material Cultures of Resistance*. Eds. A. Hickey-Moody and T. Page. Kentucky: Rowman & Littlefield.

O'Donnell, A (2015) 'The Human Animal' *Between an Animal and a Wolf*. Eds. S. Browne and S. Greavu. CCA Publication. Generated as part of Sarah Browne's *Our Neighbourhood* project in CCA Derry.

O'Donnell, A (2015) Co-editor with Sharon Todd and Rachel Jones of Special Issue of *Gender and Education* 'Shifting Education's Philosophical Imaginaries: Relations, Affects, Bodies, Materialities' Forthcoming.

4.1.6 Training and Development

Cregan, Á. Supporting Teachers on the Limerick Literacy Initiative through ongoing Continuing Professional Development

Egan, M. (2015) Assessment in Language and Literacy. CPD for Teachers. Laois Education Centre. March.

Egan, M. (2015). Social Skills: Assessment and Intervention. CPD for Teachers. Laois Education Centre. May.

Ó Ceallaigh, T.J. (Lúnasa 2015). *Conas is féidir idirdhealú a dhéanamh idir na gnáthmhoilleanna a bhaineann le daltaí atá ag foghlaim trí theanga an tumoideachais agus míchumas teanga/foghlama (Distinguishing language delay from language disorder in the immersion context)*. Comhdháil Oiliúna de chuid na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Siceolaíochta Oideachais. Cill Chainnigh.

Ó Ceallaigh, T.J. (Iúil 2015). *Measúnú i dteagasc agus i bhfoghlaim na Gaeilge sa bhunscoil: Feidhmeanna agus féidearthachtaí*. Clár Oiliúna na gCigireachta, An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna (Seimineár gréasáin).

Ó Ceallaigh, T.J. and Hyland P. (2015). *Blended learning design: Critical questions and innovative responses*. Teagasc Education Staff Conference, Innovation in Teaching Practice. Kildalton College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny. June.

Reflective Practice in the Context of Development Education. CPD workshop provided by Therese Hegarty, Froebel College of Education, Maynooth University on Friday, June 12th 2015, MIC, co-ordinated by **Dr. Carol O'Sullivan**, HoD, LSRE.

Tynan, F. (2015) Presentation to the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Skills on 'Including Learners with Complex Educational Profiles', DES, September.

4.2 PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

4.2.1 Projects

MIC Children's Choir

The Department of Arts Education & Physical Education and the TED Project in Mary Immaculate College (MIC), with the assistance of Music Generation Limerick City, formed a children's Choir comprised of 100 boys and girls from the PLUS network Limerick schools. This initiative has run over the past two years and schools have currently been invited to submit their applications for involvement in the 2015-2016 academic year. Dr. Ailbhe Kenny, Music Education Lecturer, will direct the choir and mentor student teachers who will act as choral assistants to the choir. The choir's repertoire will draw from multiple genres and cultures to broaden musical awareness. Transport will be provided for participating schools. TED undertakes administration and organisation and liaison responsibilities in relation to this initiative. A research and evaluation element is built into the project from the outset to ensure the future of the project is research informed and led.

TED Literacy Project Members of the TED team met with schools that participated in the Literacy project to explore the next steps in supporting schools in their work to develop young peoples' literacy skills. A Community of Practice, led by TED, is in the process of being developed.

O'Donnell, A (2015) Audio-tour of David Lunney and Emma Donaldson exhibitions in The Lab (DCC) in collaboration with Rutland Street School. Recorded for Culture Night.

O'Donnell, A (2015) 'Art and Philosophy in the Classroom'. Series of workshops with two schools in Dublin 1 funded by Dublin City Council/The Lab.

O'Donnell, A (2015) Dublin Ships. Dublin City Council Commission. Art and Philosophy with Children workshops with five primary schools in Ringsend and Sheriff St, Dublin responding to Cliona Harmey's commission. www.dublinships.ie.

O'Donnell, A (2015) 'Studio 468: Legacy and Future'. Co-organised and facilitated workshop on the relationship between community and art in Rialto with artists and community stakeholders. Commissioned publication forthcoming.

4.2.2 Activities

Scannán faisnéise físe

R. Ó Cathasaigh agus M. Ó Deartháin (29 Iúil 2015/Féile Lios Póil) 'An Capall i dTraidisiún ár Muintire' – scannán faisnéise 50 neomat, nua-chruthaithe, go dtugamair 3 seachtainní á fhorbairt, bunaithe ar an gcapall inár bparóiste. D'éirigh go geal leis an leiriú le breis an trí fichid duine i láthair don chéad léiriú.

Léiriú drámatúil

R. Ó Cathasaigh agus R. Uí Shíthigh (4 Lúnasa 2015/Féile Lios Póil) 'Téanam' – léiriú ar mhíreanna den leabhar *Téanam go Min Aird* le focail is ceol is rince cruthaitheach – 40 neomat, nua-chruthaithe, forbartha le leanaí ardranganna ó Scoil N Eoin Baiste, Lios Póil. Dhá léiriú – an bhuai i seanaChaisleán na Min Airde ar a fhreastail c. dhá scór duine ar Lá Phátrún na Min Airde 29 Lúnasa.

The Composer Anne-Marie O'Farrell is entering her second year of residency at MIC. The residency is hosted by AEPE, in conjunction with the Arts Council and the Lime Tree Theatre, and is coordinated by Ailbhe Kenny. Anne-Marie will work with B.Ed, PME, BA and MA students during the semester as well as contribute to the overall musical life of the college through new commissions and performances.

Lego Education Summer Camps:

Over 340 innovators of the future, aged between 5 and 12 years, attended Learnit Summer Camps 2015 during the months of July and August. The camps which were supported by the Curriculum Development Unit/TED in association with ICT Education faculty, were offered both on the MIC campus and in Clare Education Centre. Children used a variety of LEGO Education products to

explore the basics of structural engineering, the complexities of robotics and the software engineering (coding) required to operate them. Through hands-on workshops children developed a wide range of skills in areas such as STEM, communication, team-work, problem solving and much more.

Similarly, 12 teachers attended week-long professional development in early July on the use of constructionism to enhance technology and learning in the Primary Curriculum. TED funded the development of this initiative.

League of Legends: June 2015

The League o' Legends is an annual event where the PLUS schools participate in a very enjoyable soccer tournament in MIC. PLUS, a TED initiative, is a network comprising all the Limerick DEIS band 1 primary schools. The League o' Legends is a wonderful highlight of the year for many of the pupils. The tournament aims to build partnerships between schools and the College and to give the pupils an opportunity to explore what a third-level campus has to offer and to utilise the sports complex. This year's league failed to disappoint as **Scoil Íosagain C.B.S., Sexton Street** retained the winner's plaque following their impressive win over the boys from **Our Lady of Lourdes N.S.** with a winning score of 4 – 1. **Our Lady of Lourdes N.S., Rosbrien** also featured in the girl's final but unfortunately for them they were beaten for a second year in a row by the mighty **Corpus Christi N.S.** team who knocked up a 4 – Nil defeat on the final score board.

Other participating Limerick city schools included: St. Munchin's CBS, St. Munchin's G.N.S., Presentation Primary, Queen of Peace N.S.; St John's Girls School; St. Anne's G.N.S; St. Joseph's N.S. Rathkeale, Co. Limerick; and St John the Baptist N.S.

Studio Classroom Project

The Studio Classroom project is a collaboration between the Transforming Education through Dialogue (TED) project, Curriculum Development Unit (Staff: Ruth Bourke and Dr. Ann Higgins) and the Visual Arts staff (Anne Marie Morrin).

The project was inspired by 'The Virtually There' exhibition by Kids Own (2014). *The Studio Classroom* is a collaborative educational, art and research project which involved three visual artists (Jean Cleary, Julie Brazil and Kate McElroy) and three PLUS Band 1 DEIS primary schools (Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Mary's N.S., Presentation Primary School) and children from first and sixth classes who developed their art practice through online residencies. The primary focus of *the Studio Classroom* was to promote innovative ways for artists, primary school teachers and pupils to engage and respond to art practice. Connecting three artists with three primary schools demonstrated the use of virtual technology to connect studio and classroom where exciting collaborative arts practice evolved.

The workshops focused on the child and imagination while promoting innovative ways in which children can respond to artists' work by working directly with artists. The workshops were multidisciplinary in nature and designed and developed in collaboration with the class teachers. The project encouraged artists, teachers and children to explore their own creativity through the challenges set by the project.



Pictured at the opening of the Studio Classroom exhibition held in Mary Immaculate College were Back Row: L-R: Dr. Ann Higgins, Coordinator of the TED Project; Eucharia McCarthy, Director of the Curriculum Development Unit, MIC; participating artist Julie Brazil, teacher Cushla Hehir from Presentation Primary School; Anne Marie Morrin, Visual Arts lecturer, MIC; Dr. Sandra Ryan, Chair of TED Project and Ruth Bourke, Ted Project.

Front Row L-R: promising artist, Leah Cosgrave aged 13, with Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of MIC and budding young artist Lianna Zidovska, age 13, also from Presentation Primary School.

4.3 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

4.3.1 Student Achievements

Departmental Assistantships

Departmental Assistantships were awarded to the following doctoral students:

Santhi Corcoran, Department of LSRE. Santhi's research is being supervised by Dr Angela Canny.

Margaret Murphy, Department of LSRE.

4.4 EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

Including work with partners locally, regionally, nationally and globally

A self-study of teacher education practices workshop organised by **Dr Déirdre Ní Chróinín** entitled 'S-STEP in Ireland, opportunities and challenges' led by Dr Tim Fletcher, Brock University, Canada was held on September 11th at MIC. This event was organised by the Teacher Educator Self-Study Initiative (TESSI) at Mary Immaculate College in association with the National Institute for Education Studies (NISE). The workshop examined the opportunities and challenges of S-STEP in Ireland.

An IRC funded launch of the Ireland-UK Self-Study Network of Physical Education and Coach Educators was held on 14 September as part of the BERA PESP SIG Invisible College. This launch event was organised by **Dr. Déirdre Ní Chróinín**.

A meeting of the National Executive of the Irish Primary Physical Education Association was held at MIC on the evening of 9 September, organised by Lima Clohessy, PhD student in AEPE and **Dr. Déirdre Ní Chróinín**.

Tá **Roibeard OCathasaigh** ag saothrú go leanúnach le Coiste Pobail Lios Póil, agus go leor fuinnimh a chur aige sa 'Straitéis Fiche Bliain don Ghaeilge' le 4 chruinniú againn ó thús na bliaina, agus forbairt shuntasach déanta idir an dá linn, agus mórán fós le déanamh – an fhorbairt i bpáirt le hOidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh.

Dr. Aine Cregan is a member of the following committees/organisations:

The Steering Committee of the Limerick Literacy Initiative

The Early Childhood and Primary Language Committee, NCCA

The Language Development Group, NCCA

The Young Ballymun Oral Language Committee

The TUSLA expert group working to inform the revision of the Guidelines on the assessment of education being provided in places other than recognised schools.

Johanna Fitzgerald has contributed to the following organisations/activities:

Established the Limerick SENCO Forum: this is a professional learning network for post- primary Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) and principals (ongoing).

Collaborates with Limerick Principals and Deputy Principals Association (LPDPA) in relation to the role of the SENCO in post- primary schools (ongoing).

Invited to speak to the Joint Managerial Board National Advisory Committee in Special Educational Needs in relation to current doctoral research exploring the role of SENCOs in post- primary schools.

Presented two sessions to the MSc in Speech and Language Therapy class, University of Limerick, on Individual Education Planning for Students with Special Educational Needs.

Has provided two one-day seminars for the Special Education Support Service on the topic of 'Enhancing the Social Skills of Students with ASD in Post- Primary'. These full-day seminars were hosted by Laois Education Centre and Limerick Education Centre.

Presented a one-day seminar to the staff of Limerick College of Further Education on 'Making Learning Accessible: Effective Instruction for Adult Learners'

Dr. Carol O'Sullivan is involved in the following organisations/activities:

Ongoing participation in SPHE Network

Involvement of MIC in consultative process in the development of Health Promoting Campuses in Ireland. MIC acknowledged by HSE as a setting where the concept is well advanced. Process facilitated by Carol O'Sullivan and the College Committee for Health Promotion.

Participation in ATEE international research project: *The Professional Development of Teachers*, co-ordinated by Professor Kay Livingston, University of Glasgow.

Establishment of links with University of Wisconsin, visit of students and staff to MIC, 23 June 2015.

Transforming Education through Dialogue – representatives sit on the following committees

BOM: St Augustine's School, St Canice's School.

School Completion Programme: STEPS and Anseo

Children and Young Peoples' Services Committee: Research Sub Committee

Quality Development of Our of School Services (QDOSS): Committee member

TED also engages in supporting schools through the provision of facilitation.

The amalgamation process on three DEIS band 1 primary schools on the north side of Limerick city, namely St Munchin's Boys, St Munchin's Girls and St Lelia's was supported by providing facilitated sessions for individual school staffs and subsequently for the combined school staff of the newly formed Thomond Primary School.

Dr. Elaine Murtagh (AEPE) was awarded sabbatical leave for semester 1 2015-16. Elaine has travelled to University of Newcastle, Australia to undertake physical activity research with the world-leading team located there. The goal of the project is to develop an international collaborate study entitled "Mothers and Daughters Active Together". The programme involves the development of an intervention to improve the health of teenage girls and their mothers by promoting walking and healthy eating.

4.5 MISSION RELATED ACTIVITIES

Maria Ryan: Engagement with the Limerick DEIS Literacy Initiative. Facilitation of two day-long sessions with teachers and principals involved in the initiative entitled: *Collaborative Enquiry and Data-Informed Action Planning*.

4.6 APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Aine Cregan has been appointed External Examiner, Ph. D. St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, November, 2015

Dr Ailbhe. Kenny has been appointed External Examiner for B.Ed (Music) degree at St Mary's College, Queens University, Belfast.

Dr Ailbhe Kenny, has been appointed to the Editorial Board of the international journal 'TOPICS for Music Education Praxis'.

4.6.1 STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Retirements

The Faculty of Education wishes to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of **Dr John Doyle**, Department of Language, Literacy and Mathematics Education who retired this summer.

We wish to acknowledge the contribution of **Alanna O’Beirne**, Bí Folláin Project, CDU, who has taken up employment with the HSE. We wish Alanna every success in her future career.

5. RESEARCH & GRADUATE SCHOOL

5.1.1 SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY

PhD Awards

MIC Doctoral Award

Lorenzo Girardi, Department of Philosophy, was this year's recipient of the MIC Doctoral Award. Lorenzo's doctoral research project, entitled *Rethinking the European Crisis of Meaning*, is supervised by Dr. Niall Keane.

MIC Doctoral Studentship

Anne Marie Brosnan, Department of History, was this year's recipient of the MIC Doctoral Studentship. Anne Marie's doctoral research project, entitled *The Education of the Freed Slaves in North Carolina, 1861-1876*, is supervised by Dr. Úna Ní Bhroiméil.

MIC Postgraduate Award

Suzanne O'Keeffe, Department of Learning, Society and Religious Education, was this year's recipient of the MIC Postgraduate Award. Suzanne is registered on the Structured PhD in Education and her research project, entitled *What are Male teachers' understandings of masculinities?*, is supervised by Prof. Jim Deegan.

Awards

Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship 2015

MIC PhD graduate (2013), Dr. Noel O'Connell, was successful in his application to the highly prestigious Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme for his project '*Belonging: An auto ethnography of a life in sign language*'. Dr. O'Connell's postdoctoral research is directed at an issue of central societal interest: how to understand and improve the quality of education and social life for deaf people. Prof. Jim Deegan, Head of Graduate School, will serve as Mentor for Dr. O'Connell.

Government of Ireland Employment-based Postgraduate Programme Award 2015

Maryanne Lowney Slattery, a graduate of MIC (BA 1999; MEd 2007) was announced a recipient of the prestigious Government of Ireland Employment-based Postgraduate Programme Award. Maryanne's PhD research thesis focuses on how mental health programmes can be created and sustained as ways of combating adolescent alienation, self-harm, attempted suicide and death by suicide. Her project is being carried out in conjunction with Mary Immaculate College and Kerry Education and Training Board, with a sample of second-level schools in County Kerry.

5.1.2 CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIA/SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

IRMSS

The fourth International Research Methods Summer School (IRMSS), organised by MIC Research and Graduate School, took place from 5th – 7th June inc., with ‘Turning Evidence into Impact’ as this year’s theme. The keynote speech was delivered by Prof. Norman K. Denzin, Distinguished Professor of Communications, College of Communications Scholar, and Research Professor of Communications, Sociology, and Humanities, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Over the course of the weekend five keynote presentation and more than twenty conference papers were presented on topics diverse as: *Thematic analysis of extra-curricular portfolios*; *Performance-centred teaching and learning*; *Troublesome knowledge in practice education*; *Mapping as a method of managing research*; and *Knowledge production and practice in urban regeneration*. Keynote speakers at the event included Prof. Alice Sullivan, Head of the Department of Quantitative Social Science at University College London (UCL) Institute of Education, whose paper was entitled *Achieving Impact with Longitudinal Data*; Prof. Emer Smyth, Research Professor and Head of the Social Research Division at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), who talked about *Reforming Second-level Education: Evidence and Policy* and highlighted the value of listening to students themselves in policy development; Prof. Paul Conway, Dept of Education and Professional Studies, University of Limerick, with his paper *Qualifying’ evidence and its relationship to impact in education: beneficial knowledge and less absolute claims?*; and Prof. Ruth Leitch, Professor of Education and Director of Research in the School of Education, Queen’s University Belfast, whose keynote was a critical self-narrative of being an educational researcher over time using the metaphor of ‘transgressing limits’ to explore her fractured sense of identity.

MIC RESEARCH DAY 2015

This year's Annual Research Day at Mary Immaculate College took place on Tuesday, 1st September, 2015 with financial assistance provided by the College through the Research Seed Funding Scheme. The day's proceedings consisted of reports on 24 different research projects funded through this scheme, including presentations on topics such as: *New Horizons in Arts Education*; *Irish Network for Gothic Studies*; *Music and Cultural Politics in North Africa*; *Global Limerick: Building capitals through global partnership: the case of the Limerick region and its diaspora*; and *An examination of self-reported stress in undergraduate and postgraduate students of education*. One of the keynote speeches was delivered by Dr. Fintan Bracken, Research Services and Bibliometrics Librarian, University of Limerick, who spoke about the rise in prominence of indicators and metrics to assess the impact of research and looked at some of the main methods of assessing research impact, including the use of bibliometrics and altmetrics. A further key part of Research Day 2015 was the roundtable session on '*Purposes and Principles of the National Framework for Doctoral Education*' led by Mr. Muiris O' Connor from the HEA.



Pictured at the MIC Research Day were, L-R: Prof. Jim Deegan, Head of Graduate School, MIC; Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of MIC; Dr. Fintan Bracken, Research Services and Bibliometrics Librarian, University of Limerick and Prof. Michael Healy, Associate Vice-President for Research, MIC.

5.1.3 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Generic and Transferrable Skills Training Day for structured PhD Students

A Generic and Transferrable Skills Training Day for structured PhD students and other Year 1 PGRs took place on 5th September. Sessions included: *Academic Writing*; *Project Managing your Research Project*; and *Research and Professional Development Planning/Training Needs Analysis*.

Advanced Research Methods: Principles and Practices of Education

The second in the graduate training weekends for structured PhDs and other Year 1 PGRs took place on 11th and 12th September, and focussed on concept and literature mapping, the literature review chapter, and mapping dissertation chapters in general.

Best Practice in Structured PhD and Traditional PhD Thesis Supervision

A seminar/workshop entitled *Best Practice in PhD Thesis Supervision* for new research thesis supervisors and those interested in refreshing their supervision skills was offered 23rd, 24th, and 25th September 23rd. This seminar followed best practice guidelines in doctoral supervision advocated by the Irish Universities Association (IUA), the Society for Research in Higher Education (SRHE) and the UK Council for Graduate Education (UKCGE). Topics related to postgraduate rules and regulations, supervisor/supervisee roles and responsibilities, student feedback and progression, and thesis submission and examination were overviewed.

Research and Professional Development Planning Seminar

The higher education research shows that early identification of training needs is correlative of timely and successful completion of research thesis projects. Towards this end and in line with best international practice, a 'Research and Professional Development Planning Seminar' for Year One MA and PhD Research Students took place on 25th September and will be repeated again on 2nd, 9th and 16th October.

Index of Acronyms

ACCU – Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

AOP – Annual Operating Plan

AIF – American Ireland Fund

BAI – Broadcasting Authority of Ireland

CBC - *Coiste Bainistíochta an Choláiste*

CCTV – Centre for Culture, Technology and Values

CDU – Curriculum Development Unit

CEPP - Career Entry Professional Programme

CICE - Church of Ireland College of Education

DES – Department of Education & Skills

DFA – Department of Foreign Affairs

ECF – Employment Control Framework

ERC – European Research Council

ET – Executive Team

FTE – Full Time Equivalent

HEA – Higher Education Authority

HE – Higher Education

HEIs – Higher Education Institutions

ICES – Catholic Institute of Higher Studies

ICRE – Irish Centre for Religious Education

ICUSTA – International Council of Universities of Saint Thomas Aquinas

IICS – Irish Institute for Catholic Studies

INSS – Irish National Student Survey

INTO – Irish National Teachers’ Organisation

ITLG – International Technology Leaders Group

IPA – Institute of Public Administration

IRCHSS –The Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences

IVACS – Inter-Varietal Applied Corpus Studies

MACLE – Master of Arts in Christian Leadership in Education

MoU- Memorandum of Understanding

NAFSA – (Originally stood for National Association of Foreign Student Advisers) Association of International Educators

NCCA – National Council for Curriculum and Assessment

NISE – National Institute for Studies in Education

PSC – Programme of Strategic Cooperation

PSI – Psychological Society of Ireland

QDOSS - Quality Development of Out of School Services Network

QUB – Queen’s University Belfast

RGS – Research and Graduate School

TED – Transforming Education through Dialogue

TES – Teacher Education Section

UN – University of Nottingham

USC – University of Southern California

ZITEP – Zambia Ireland Teacher Education Programme

Appendix 1

FOI Exempt