

President Robinson Acclaims Discovering University Programme

This year marked the fourth successive year of the Discovering University Programme for Pre-Junior Certificate, Fifth/Transition year and mature students. The Programme, an NCIR/UCD joint initiative, took place as usual on campus at NCIR and UCD. It offered participants first-hand experience of what life at university is really like. The Programme covered a wide range of subject areas including; Arts, Languages, Law, Business Studies, Engineering, Social Science and Science. Participants were introduced to Study Skills, Enterprise Skills, Personal Development Skills and Marketing. The highlight of this year's Programme was the visit of participants to Áras an Uachtaráin for a reception hosted by Her Excellency, the President of Ireland, Mrs Mary Robinson. The participants were given a tour of Áras an Uachtaráin and a brief outline of its history. The President welcomed each participant individually and was very enthusiastic about the Programme. The President commented on how worthwhile it was and how she found the choice of subjects on offer most impressive. She wished the College continued success with the Programme.

Further information on the Discovering University Programme is available from Barbara Crowley, Manager, Discovering University Programme, NCIR, telephone 01 491 0651.

President Mary Robinson greets participants on the Discovering University Programme on their visit to Áras an Uachtaráin



Bernie Kirwan, Ita Meehan and Carol Wright pictured at the recent NCIR Honorary Fellows Dinner

NCIR Honours Fellows

In September of this year many of those who have been conferred with Honorary Fellowship of NCIR gathered in the College at a Dinner hosted by NCIR for Fellows and their guests. Included in the group of distinguished graduates who have been conferred with the honour are **Paddy Wright**, (Chief Operations Manager and President, Smurfit) **Christopher Kirwan**, (Chairman Fas), **Fr. Laurence Murphy SJ**, (Provincial of Society of Jesus), **Ms. Ita Meehan**, (IBEC Representative on NCIR Governing Body), **Ms. Sheila Conroy**, (President, People's College) and **Mr. Dan McAuley**, (Director, IBEC). Fellows of the College who were not present on this occasion include, Patrick Galvin and Bishop James Kavanagh. The next conferring of Honorary Fellowship of NCIR will take place on Friday 22 November during the College's conferring ceremonies. Those to be conferred with Honorary Fellows on this occasion include **Tony Barry**, **Fr. Liam McKenna SJ**, **Phil Flynn**, **Evelyn Owens** and **Norma Smurfit**.

Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to all NCIR graduates on their conferring. We wish them every success in the future and welcome their continued involvement in College life through membership of the NCIR Graduates Association.

The NCIR Bulletin is published biannually and distributed free of charge to staff, students, graduates, sponsors, donors, Corporate Members, schools, Colleges and friends of NCIR.

Queries regarding advertising and editorial content should be directed to: Cathleen Hartnett, Editor, NCIR Bulletin, National College of Industrial Relations, Sandford Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6. Tel: 01 406 0500 / 01 406 0501 Fax: 01 497 2200 Email: info@college.ncir.ie

Careers and Further Studies Information Fair

NCIR's annual Careers and Further Studies Information Fair was held in the College at the end of November. The Fair, which is designed to meet the information needs of all NCIR students, featured guest speakers and exhibitors / practising professionals with broad experience in a variety of fields. Anyone interested are invited to contact Emma Maher, Careers and Appointments Officer, telephone 01 4060526 (direct dial) or 01 4060500 (NCIR).



NCIR Information Day Enquiries - Niamh O'Kelly (Academic Affairs Office, NCIR) advises members of the public on options offered by NCIR at the College's recent series of information sessions.

Transitions and Directions for the New Millennium

NCIR has recently published 'Transitions and Directions for the New Millennium', containing papers by Professor Trevor Smith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ulster, Professor Brigid Laffan, Jean Monnet Professor of European Politics and Professor Robert Payton, Professor of Philanthropic Studies at Indiana University, outlining their vision of 'what might be' in the next millennium. The essays are based on the proceedings of the first three of a series of lectures held in NCIR which offered stimulating and uncompromising revelations of traditional responses to critical social and economic issues. Copies of the publication are available from the President's Office in NCIR. Readers who would like to attend the follow-on series of lectures are invited to add their names to the invitation list by contacting the President's Office.



Pictured at one of the lectures in the Transitions and Directions for the new Millennium series of lectures were Left to right, Joyce O'Connor (President, NCIR), John Walshe (Education Correspondent, Irish Independent), Professor Trevor Smith (Vice Chancellor, University of Ulster), Mrs Julia Smith and Dr. Brendan Goldsmith (President, DIT).

NCIR Open Days

NCIR's Open Day for secondary schools throughout the country will take place in NCIR on Wednesday 4 December from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. The programme will include presentations on full-time day courses and information on admissions procedures for NCIR. A panel of NCIR Course Directors will be on hand to discuss the courses and to answer questions from participants. A presentation on the range of student services and facilities available in NCIR will also feature on the agenda as well as an overview of career and further study options open to graduates. The College's second Open Day for potential students, graduates, lecturers, parents and interested members of the public will take on Saturday 22 March, 1997.

Further information on both the above events is available from Niamh O'Kelly in NCIR's Academic Affairs Office, telephone 01 4060502 (direct dial).

96 conferring

NCIR

NCIR Extends Academic Programme

In response to requests from students and potential students the College has arranged for a range of College Certificate and Diploma courses to be made available on Friday evenings, starting this academic year. The range of courses on offer on Friday evenings include:

- Diploma in Psychology of Criminal Behaviour
- Diploma in Management and Industrial Relations
- Diploma in First-Line Management (Supervision)

NCIR Takes Over RDS!

This year, for the first time ever, NCIR will host the annual conferring ceremonies outside the Ranelagh campus, on this occasion in the RDS. The reason for the move is to facilitate the very large number of graduands, (over 1000), who are to be conferred with primary and postgraduate Certificate, Diplomas and Degrees and NCEA ACCS Credits.

Graduates Association AGM

The second Annual General Meeting of the NCIR Graduates Association will take place on Wednesday 29 January 1997. All members and intending members are invited to attend the meeting to discuss the growth and development of the Association over the past year and to discuss the Association's plans for 1997. Developments over the past year include the launch of a brochure/application form and a members newsletter, the organisation of a number of successful events including the annual Questions and Answers Forum, a link-up with NCIR Careers and Appointments Service, the formalisation of the membership structure including credit card and direct debit payment facilities and the development of the graduates database.

Further details of the Graduates Association and its activities are available from Rhona Preston in the Graduate Liaison Office in the College, telephone 01 4060575 (direct dial).



Rhona Preston, NCIR's Graduate Liaison Assistant



Sandra Fisher, a graduate of the Class of 1993 and a member of the NCIR Graduates Association, was the winner of the dinner for two in the Grey Door Restaurant in the recent NCIR Graduates Association Members Draw.

Senior Specialists Advise NCIR

NCIR is currently at a very interesting and exciting stage of development. The College is expanding on a number of fronts, both on and off campus, and as with all such developments, this expansion brings particular challenges. In order to address these challenges, NCIR invited a group of leading trade unionists and human resource management specialists to come together to examine what the College is doing now and what it is proposing to do in the future. The first meeting of both groups took place in the College in September.



Pictured at the recent meeting of senior specialists who met with NCIR personnel in an advisory capacity were, left to right: Julie Byrne (Assistant Lecturer, Human Resource Management), Des Geraghty (National Industrial Secretary, SIPTU), Kevin Duffy (Assistant General Secretary, ICTU), Joyce O'Connor (President, NCIR), Pat Connell (Registrar, NCIR), Una Collins (Lecturer, Human Resource Management), Michael Barry (Senior Lecturer, Industrial Relations), Kay Kearns (Divisional Organiser, MANDATE), Sharon McGreevey (Assistant Lecturer, Human Resource Management), Sean Heading (Educational and Training, Services Trust).

NCIR Expands European Links

Dr. Ian McLeod of NCIR Languages Department was invited to lecture in Finland recently at NCIR's newest European partner college, the Central Ostbothnia Polytechnic. The lecturing function comprised an intensive course given to an audience of college rectors, heads of departments, and lecturing staff on presentation skills through English, and was combined with research visits to Oulu University and Jyväskylä University to make contacts and set up a new project in the field of global learning networks for foreign language study.



Pictured on a recent visit to Finland, Dr. Ian McLeod of NCIR Languages Department, discussing co-operation plans with (from left), Professor Kair Sajavaara, Professor of Applied Linguistics at Jyväskylä University, and Professor Maisa Martin, Professor of Finnish Language at Jyväskylä University.

NCIR Opens State-of-the-Art Language Laboratory

As part of its ongoing development programme and enhancement of facilities, a new state-of-the-art language laboratory was opened on campus in Ranelagh at the beginning of the 1996/97 academic year. This laboratory contains audio stations and multi-media points and is now operational for language classes. In addition to the normal student usage, a new evening programme of Italian and Spanish classes is currently being delivered in the laboratory. The laboratory is accessible to all NCIR students, studying on and off-campus but will be of particularly beneficial to students of the B.A. in European Business Studies and Languages, of which there are now over one hundred.



NCIR's newly opened state-of-the-art language laboratory.

NCIR Accredits FÁS Supervisor Programme

Details of an exciting initiative involving NCIR and FÁS were announced by the College recently. This initiative will lead to the validation and accreditation of the work carried out by supervisors under the FÁS Supervisor Development Programme and to the awarding of the NCIR Certificate in Community Workplace Management to successful participants. This FÁS Programme involves hundreds of FÁS supervisors in a wide range of community projects throughout the country. It has proved extremely successful to date, both in terms of the personal and professional development of the supervisors and workers and in the employment record of the supervisors. The validation of the Programme by NCIR will further enhance this successful programme and facilitate those conferred with the award through increased employment and educational opportunities.



NCIR is pleased to announce the appointment of Carmel Coyle BA, MA, as Director of the Centre for Educational Opportunity.



Pictured at the assessment workshop held in NCIR for FÁS trainers were, pictured left to right, back row, Yvonne Griffin, Gearóid MacEochaidh, Ellis Murray, Jim O'Keeffe, Noel Harvey (NCIR), David Kennedy, Tommy Coyle, Helen Marry, Patricia Hunt, Peter Finnegan (Manager, Programme Development, FÁS). Front row, left to right, Ken Wright, Tracey Donnery, Katherina Doherty, Phil Murphy, Sandy Palmer and Martin Colfer.

Lunchtime Lecture Series Leadership: Making Vision a Reality

NCIR has recently announced details of the 1996/1997 series of lunchtime lectures entitled 'Leadership: Making Vision a Reality'.

Speakers for the next academic year include:

1996

Tuesday, 22 October

Mr. Finbarr Flood,
Associate Professor, NCIR and Vice-Chairman, Labour Court and Chair, Shelbourne FAI.

Thursday, 28 November

Mr. Brian Patterson,
Associate Professor, NCIR and Chief Executive Officer, Waterford Wedgewood Plc.

1997

Tuesday, 14 January

Mr. Kieran Mulvey,
Associate Professor, NCIR and Chief Executive, Labour Relations Commission.

Wednesday, 26 February

Dr. Mary Redmond,
Associate Professor, NCIR and Solicitor.

Tuesday, 4 March

Mr. Peter Cassells,
Associate Professor, NCIR and General Secretary, Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

Friday, 4 April

Dr. Mary King,
Associate Professor, NCIR.



Pictured at the launch of the NCIR's Programme of Lunchtime Lectures for 1996/1997 were, left to right, Kevin Duffy, (Assistant General Secretary, ICTU), Michael Barry (Senior Lecturer, NCIR), Turlough O'Sullivan (Director, IBEC) and Professor Joyce O'Connor (President, NCIR). The title of the debate was The National Agreement - A Way Forward.



Phil Flynn, Chairman of ICC and former General Secretary of IMPACT trade union and President of ICTU being presented with a Dublin Crystal Rose Bowl by Professor Joyce O'Connor (President, NCIR) to mark his visit to NCIR to conclude the 1995/1996 series of Lunchtime Lectures.

NCIR Leads Research on Volunteering

The Organisation of Volunteering in the Republic of Ireland by Dr Helen Ruddle and Dr Freda Donoghue of NCIR's Policy Research Centre was launched in NCIR by Joan Burton T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs recently. The research, part of a pan-European study on volunteering across twelve different countries, examined the use of volunteers among voluntary organisations in the social welfare area. The report addresses issues such as the main clients of voluntary organisations, the income sources of organisations and their average annual income and expenditure. The contributions which volunteers make to the organisation, the training they receive and the kinds of problems which voluntary organisations envisage for the future are also examined. Copies of the study are available for purchase directly from the NCIR Policy Research Centre, telephone 01 4910651. The cost is £11.50 per copy including postage and packing.



Joan Burton T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, launched a report on The Organisation of Volunteering in the Republic of Ireland by Dr. Helen Ruddle and Dr. Freda Donoghue, (NCIR Policy Research Centre). Pictured, left to right, Helen Ruddle, Freda Donoghue, Joan Burton and Joyce O'Connor.

New Centres for NCIR's Off-Campus Programme

This year, NCIR, through its extensive Off-Campus Programme, is offering courses in Roscrea and Castlebar, in addition to existing locations. The College's well established Diploma in First-Line Management (Supervision) course is being run on Wednesday evenings in Roscrea and the Diploma in Management and Industrial Relations course is available in Castlebar at Galway RTC, Castlebar Campus on Tuesday evenings. Through Off-Campus Programme (previously known as the Outreach Programme), NCIR now offers a range of part-time courses at College Certificate and Diploma level, day and evening, carrying NCEA ACCS credits, in thirty locations throughout Ireland. Course on offer include:

- Foundation Studies - Cultural Studies
- Foundation Studies - Social Science
- NCEA Certificate in Business Studies in Trade Union Studies
- Diploma in Management and Industrial Relations
- Diploma in First-Line Management (Supervision)
- Diploma in Psychology of Criminal Behaviour
- National Certificate in Business Studies (Enterprise Studies)

Copies of the College's Off-Campus Prospectus, giving full details of courses and locations are available from the Off-Campus Department, telephone 01 406 0591 (direct dial).

NCIR Launches Course with Trade Unions

On Friday, 22 November leading trade unionists joined with members of NCIR's Governing Body and senior College personnel to officially launch the first nationally accredited course specifically designed to meet the educational needs of trade union activists and those interested in the trade union movement.

The primary aim of the course which is currently being delivered through the Irish Congress of Trade Union and SIPTU's training and education networks in Dublin, Donegal and Navan is to equip participants with the skills and knowledge required for the role of trade union representative or of the active ordinary member.

The development of the course, which came about as a result of a partnership between NCIR and members of ICTU's group of unions marks a major step forward in increasing access to work-related education for many who might not have had the opportunity of participating in third-level education previously. Plans are already in place to offer the course to members of other unions and to extend the course to other locations around the country in the near future.



NCIR joins forces with SIPTU and ICTU, left to right, Ron Kelly (Course Coordinator, SIPTU), Cathleen Hartnett, (Director, Off-Campus Programme), Pat Connell, (Course Director, NCIR), Des Mahon, (SIPTU), and Margaret Nolan (Course Coordinator, ICTU).

NCIR Educational Link-up with IBEC

This year, for the first time, NCIR worked in partnership with the Irish Business Employers Confederation (IBEC) in the delivery and accreditation of IBEC's Employment Law course. The course, which was delivered in IBEC to twenty students, was validated and assessed by NCIR, and through NCIR, successful participants were awarded ACCS (Accumulation of Credits and Certification of Subjects) credits by the National Council for Educational Awards. Plans are currently being drawn up for the delivery of a similar course beginning in early 1997.

NCIR Bulletin Readership Survey Questionnaire

This is the fifth NCIR Bulletin, the newsletter for students, graduates and friends of NCIR. Please take a few minutes to complete this brief survey to tell us what you think of the Bulletin and suggest how would like to see it improved.

Please return the completed survey form to us by Friday 6 December using the College's FREEPOST address -
NCIR, Sandford Road, Ranelagh, FREEPOST, Dublin 6.

For the following questions, please tick one box only:

1. Do you normally -

Read the Bulletin from cover to cover <input type="checkbox"/>	Browse through it and read the occasional article <input type="checkbox"/>
Glance at it Briefly <input type="checkbox"/>	Not read it at all <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Roughly how many people other than yourself see or read your copy?

More than 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 - 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
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3. The Bulletin comes out twice a year. Would you like to receive it:

Annually <input type="checkbox"/>	Twice / Yearly <input type="checkbox"/>	3 - 4 Times / Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Please State _____			
4. The Bulletin has twelve pages. Is this number

About right <input type="checkbox"/>	Too much <input type="checkbox"/>	Too few <input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Do you think the overall design of the Bulletin is?

Very good <input type="checkbox"/>	adequate <input type="checkbox"/>	Could be improved <input type="checkbox"/>
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6. Any other general comments on content?



Tell Us What You Think!

The NCIR Bulletin was first published over two years ago. Since it's launch the newsletter has met with a positive response and feedback to the College has been very favourable. However, we may not be getting everything right and we feel the time is right for a review. Please let us know what you think by completing and returning the enclosed Readership Survey Questionnaire. We have deliberately kept it short and simple. For every questionnaire returned to us before Friday 6 December, we will donate £1 to the Rwandan Refugee Fund.

7. Please indicate any particular likes or dislikes from this issue (No: 5)?

8. Would you like to write something for the Bulletin, or are you a photographer or artist and have material you think might be appropriate to the Bulletin? Are you a potential advertiser? Please tick the appropriate box(es):

Writer? Photographer/Artist Advertiser Other

Please detail other: _____

We would be very grateful if you could finish with the following personal questions; they will help us describe our readership profile and better analyse the replies. Thank you.

9. I am

- A former student - decade (by year of entry) 1965 - '75 1976 - '85 1986 - '96
- A current student
- A member of staff
- Other, please detail _____

10. Please tick as appropriate Male Female

Name (optional): _____

Address: _____

(if different from that on _____

Bulletin Mailing label) _____

Telephone: Home: _____ Work: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Profession / Occupation: _____

Please make sure your completed form reaches us by Friday 6 December to be included in the analysis. Thank you very much for your help and for taking the time and trouble to complete this questionnaire. **Return to: Editor, NCIR Bulletin, NCIR, Sandford Road, Ranelagh, FREEPOST, Dublin 6.**

NCIR Appoints Associate Professors

The College has recently announced the appointment of six Associate Professors; Peter Cassells, Finbarr Flood, Mary King, Kieran Mulvey, Brian Patterson and Mary Redmond. The appointments were made on the basis of the publicly recognised standards of outstanding achievement attained by these people in their respective fields and their commitment to the mission and work of NCIR. The newly appointed Associate Professors who took up office officially at the beginning of the academic year 1996/1997, will contribute to the strategic planning of the College, advise on courses, programmes, research and development and, as appropriate, act as mentors, deliver lectures and lead seminars.



Peter Cassells

Peter Cassells

Peter Cassells joined Irish Congress of Trade Union in 1973. He is General Secretary of ICTU since 1989, a member of the Executive Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation and a member of the EU Competitiveness Advisory Group.



Kieran Mulvey

Kieran Mulvey

Kieran Mulvey is the Chief Executive of the Irish Labour Relations Commission. He is a member of Independent Radio and Television Commission, a member of the Governing Body of Dublin City University and a member of the Enterprise Partnership Unit, Department of Enterprise and Employment. He was a qualified primary and secondary teacher, General Secretary of the Irish Federation of University Teachers, President of the World Federation of Secondary Teachers, a member of the Executive Council at the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, a member of the National Economic and Social Council, a member of the National Health Council, a member of the Governing Body of University College, Dublin and a member of various international education and trade union committees.



Mary Redmond

Mary Redmond

Dr. Mary Redmond is a solicitor specialising in Employment Law in Dublin. She was formally lecturer in Law in UCD and Fellow and Director of Studies in Law at Churchill College Cambridge and Fellow and Tutor at Christ's College Cambridge. She is the author of 'Dismissal Law in the Republic of Ireland (1982)', 'Redmond's Guide to Irish Labour Law (1984)' and co-author of 'Cases and Materials on the Irish Constitution (1980)'. She was a member of the Employment Equality Agency, 1987-1992 and was a member of the Higher Education Authority from 1985 to 1990. She is a member of the Labour Relations Commission since 1995. She has contributed to legal and other periodicals in Ireland, England and the United States, and is the author of two volumes on Ireland in the international Encyclopedia of Laws, where she deals with the subjects of 'Industrial Relations and Labour Law' and 'Legislation'.



Brian Patterson

Brian Patterson

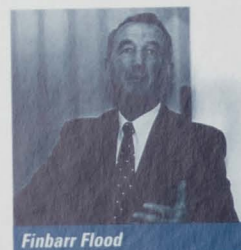
Brian Patterson is Chief Executive Officer of the Wedgwood Group - a division of Waterford Wedgwood plc. Previously, he was Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer, Waterford Crystal. Prior to joining Waterford Wedgwood in 1987, he was Director General at the Irish Management Institute. Previous to that, he spent nineteen years in different functions of the Guinness organisation, most recently as Personnel Director, Guinness (Dublin). He is a member of the Boards of Waterford Wedgwood plc, Waterford Wedgwood UK plc and Waterford Crystal Limited; a council member of the Irish Management Institute and a founder and past Chairman of the International, Crystal Federation. He has served on the boards of An Post, St. James's Hospital, Dr. Steven's Hospital, the Business Advisory Council of Dublin City University, the Board of Waterford Regional Technical College and IBEC's European Policy Committee.



Mary King

Mary King

Since joining NCIR in 1995 as a member of Associate Faculty, Dr. King, lecturer and author, has worked with the College's Foundation Studies courses which she sees as 'forward looking'. In the future, Dr. King is looking forward to helping to develop these and other programmes. Before joining NCIR, Professor King worked with the University of Bradford and is currently a member of Associate Faculty at Dartmouth College in the USA, where she is involved in developing the Irish Studies Programme. Professor King has published widely and is an internationally recognised expert on Joyce and Synge.



Finbarr Flood

Finbarr Flood

Finbarr Flood is Deputy Chairman of the Labour Court since 1994. He is Chair of Shelbourne Football Club and Former Managing Director of Guinness Dublin.

Additional College Parking Facilities

NCIR, thanks to the co-operation and facilitation of nearby Gonzaga College, is now in a position to offer free parking to all NCIR students.

NCIR Occupational Pensions Course

The next NCIR Occupational Pensions course is scheduled to commence in mid-January, 1997. Course Brochure and further details are available from Conor Heagney, Course Director, NCIR, telephone: 01 4060549 (direct dial).

NCIR Works With Partnership Initiative

NCIR has recently joined forces with Northside Partnership, one of the country's local area-based partnerships, in a programme of initiatives designed to promote ambition and encourage students to reach their full potential in education. The integrated pilot initiatives 'Excel' aims to increase the participation of local young people in education with a view to directing them to higher education. The initiatives will involve students and their parents through fifth class primary, pre-junior Certificate and first year Leaving Certificate classes.

NCIR Highlights Current Vacancies

NCIR has recently introduced a weekly newsletter highlighting current vacancies as part of its Careers Advisory Service to graduates and current students. The newsletter lists details of vacancies which are notified to the Careers Advisory Service to those seeking positions. Any reader who is currently seeking a position or seeking to fill a vacancy is invited to contact Emma Maher, NCIR's Careers and Appointment Officer, telephone 01 4060526 (direct dial).

NCIR Expands NCEA Certification Programme

In recent months NCIR's Off-Campus Programme has expanded significantly in terms of the range of courses on offer, the variety of locations and the modes of delivery. In addition to the existing Programme, which offers a range of courses in up to thirty locations throughout Ireland, the College is currently expanding its Partnership Programme and is now working with a wide range of external organisations including the Eastern Health Board, Aer Lingus, FÁS, IBEC, SIPTU, ICTU, Northside Partnership and Aontas in the organisation, delivery and validation of a range of courses carrying both NCIR and NCEA accreditation. The expansion and development of the College's Partnership Programme has come about primarily as a result of the recognition by course deliverers of the value of national and European accreditation for courses. Accreditation adds value for participants and increases both employment opportunities and opportunities for educational progression. Organisations who are currently developing their training / educational programmes to include accredited courses and who wish to discuss the area of accreditation in relation to their needs are invited to contact Cathleen Hartnett, Director of NCIR'S Off-Campus Department to arrange a meeting.

NCIR and Aontas Launch New Course

Earlier this year NCIR, in conjunction with Aontas, the National Association of Adult Education with the support of funding under the EU Now (New Opportunities for Women) programme and the Department of Social Welfare launched a specially designed NCEA - accredited course on Women's Studies and Social Development. The aim of the course, which provides two hundred hours of lectures, is to strengthen the self-confidence of women working in the field of community education and development and to prepare them for study to gain a professional qualification and paid employment in the sector. Subjects include Women's History, Feminist Theory, Sociology, Psychology, Social Analysis and Communication/Study Skills. The course is delivered on campus in NCIR in two modules over twenty-five weeks and four residential weekends. Further information is available from Anne O'Brien, Course Director, telephone 01 4910651.

NCIR Staff Publication

Dr. Freda Donoghue, Research Officer in the College's Policy Research Centre, was author of a publication entitled 'Women and Political Participation in Northern Ireland'. The publication details a study funded by the ESRI and carried out by Dr. Donoghue, Dr. Bob Millar and Dr. Rick Wilford of Queens University, Belfast, on the participation of women in politics in Northern Ireland. The study found that women were slightly less likely to join political parties than men but a high educational attainment and occupational status and a supportive partner, were stronger influencing factors than gender.

Focus On...

In future issues we will be introducing a series of articles under the heading 'Focus On...'. The aim of this series will be to inform readers of the Bulletin of the work being carried out in NCIR's various departments and units. Future issues will feature the work of Educational Opportunity, the Policy Research Centre, the Off-Campus Programme, the Graduates Association and the Postgraduate Programme.

College's New Telephone System

The College has recently installed a new telephone system, a digital system which provides direct dial in (DDI) and voicemail facilities. The new system is now operational and the College's new number is now 406.0500.

NCIR Direct-dial Telephone Numbers

President's Office	406 0592
Registrar's Office	406 0593
Course/College Info.	406 0501
Admissions Office	406 0585
Examination Office	406 0587
Library	406 0590
Off-Campus Department	406 0591
Euro Desk	406 0586
Fees Office	406 0588
Finance Office	406 0589
Accounts Office	406 0584
Students Services	406 0594

NCIR Rugby Club in South African Challenge

NCIR Rugby Club made history recently by hosting the opening match of the South African College team Border Technicon's Irish tour. Border Technicon is the first black team to represent South African third-level education abroad and their tour also included matches with College teams in Letterkenny, Derry and Limerick. The match took place in the Guinness Athletic Union Iveagh Grounds, the new venue for NCIR sports clubs matches, and the final score was 26 - 19 in favour of the Border Technicon team. Those who attended the reception following the match were rewarded with an enjoyable intercultural exchange featuring singing and dancing by the South African team and traditional Irish hospitality. Congratulations to Joe O'Reilly (Deputy President of the NCIRSU) and to all involved in this initiative. The tour was sponsored by the Tony O'Reilly Fund for South Africa, Bank of Ireland and CIE.



Border Technicon team captain, Anda Foster Macwabe, is pictured (left) scoring the final try during the Bord Technicon v NCIR game.



NCIR President Address Major Trade Union Conference

Professor Joyce O'Connor (President, NCIR) was a keynote speaker at a conference entitled 'Creating the Intelligent Island' hosted by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. Professor O'Connor's paper entitled 'Preparing Ireland for the Information Age' was delivered to an audience of over three hundred delegates representing all sectors of the trade union movement, industry, academic institutions and state and semi-state bodies.

International Expert Delivers Workshop

Professor Jim Honan, Associate Director of Programs in Professional Education and lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, visited NCIR recently to present a workshop on how to prepare, present and use case studies and case study materials in lectures/tutorials. Professor Honan is a leading international expert in this area and NCIR Faculty and Associate Faculty found the workshop extremely beneficial.

Professor Jim Honan, Associate Director of Programs in Professional Education and Lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

