

BRIATHAR DÉ MO LÓCHRANN



MIC

MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE
COLÁISTE MUIRE GAN SMÁL

ANNUAL REPORT



14-15

www.mic.ul.ie



CONTENTS

Introduction from President	2
Introduction from the Chairman	3
Governance	4
External Landscape	6
Campus Development	8
Highlights	9
• Programmes	9
• Projects & Activities	10
• Awards & Achievements	13
• International Work	15
• Conferences	16
• Community Engagement & Culture	17
• Sports	20
• Conferring Ceremonies	21
Graduation Numbers	23
Student Numbers	24
Energy Usage	25
Organisational Chart	26
Accounts	27

Amharclann Chrann Teile - Lime Tree Theatre

Introduction

Professor Michael A Hayes
President



Welcome to the Annual Report 2014-2015 for Mary Immaculate College.

Once again 2014-2015 has proved a remarkably productive and successful year for Mary Immaculate College as we continue to successfully reach the targets as outlined in our Strategic Plan 2012-2016.

Students who ranked amongst the top 4% of CAO point earners this year chose MIC as their number one college of choice. Our four undergraduate programmes witnessed a 13% increase in applications, coupled with a 16% increase in students who chose MIC as their first-preferred higher level destination. Our Liberal Arts Degree alone witnessed a remarkable 52% increase in first preferences resulting in the decision to increase the number of places available on the programme to 325. As a result, the academic year 2014/2015 saw our highest intake of new entrants to first year as we welcomed over 850 first year students in September during Orientation Week. We also welcomed the first cohort of students on the Professional Masters in Education (Primary Teaching) – or PME – programme, with a total of 100 students embarking on this two-year course. September also saw the launch of our new part-time blended learning Level 7 BA in Early Childhood Practice, to be jointly delivered over four semesters by the Faculty of Education here at MIC and the Department of Social Sciences at the Institute of Technology, Tralee.

MIC remains committed to making a positive difference in our community and to that end we were delighted to open up our beautiful campus to our families, neighbours and friends when we hosted our first Family Open Day in October. We also continued to strengthen our connections with the wider community through MIC's weighty contribution to the Limerick City of Culture 2014 programme. Many events such as 'A Year with Saint John's Bible' brought thousands of visitors to the College attending art and calligraphy workshops, public lectures and meditations on the illuminations in the Bible. The Lime Tree Theatre (LTT) housed in MIC, also played a pivotal role in the success of Limerick's 2014 National City of Culture programme hosting a number of high profile events, resulting in the LTT deservedly being announced as the 2014 Limerick Chamber Regional Business Award Winner in the Sport, Art & Culture Category.

This year also saw the continuation of the very positive spirit of partnership within the Shannon Consortium as substantial progress was made on the development of the National Institute for Studies in Education (NISE), the creation of a Federated Graduate School, regional academic planning and the development of a 'Limerick BA' programme in the Humanities.

A number of high profile fora, symposia and conferences took place in the College this year, each contributing to MIC's vision of being an institution that offers higher level learning opportunities and research of outstanding quality. These events furthered our objective to be recognised and appreciated for making an essential contribution to the continuum of academic provision in effective and productive collaboration with its partners in the higher education sector.

More information on all of the above may be found further on in this report. I hope you find the information contained within interesting and informative as we work towards meeting the goals and targets of our Strategic Plan 2012-2016.

Professor Michael A Hayes
President

Foreword

Bishop Brendan Leahy
Chairman of An Bord Rialaithe



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the MIC Annual Report 2014-2015.

The high level of achievements recorded in this report reflect MIC's level of commitment to academic distinction and the high quality whole-student experience that is our most prominent hallmark.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all members of the College community for continuing to distinguish this College as a place where individual passions fuel collective purpose. While it is true that we place the students at the centre of all that we do, it is our staff, both academic and professional services, that is our treasured resource. It is because of this commitment to collaboration, creativity and innovation, that 2014-15 has been filled with many noteworthy achievements.

I am confident that the next year will continue in this vein, as we continue to strengthen MIC's culture of high-quality teaching and learning and excellence in the workplace through a spirit of partnership, unity of resolve and open dialogue.

It is my privilege, as Chairman of An Bord Rialaithe, to commend this Annual Report.

† Brendan Leahy
Chairman of An Bord Rialaithe

GOVERNANCE

TRUSTEES

The Trustees for this period were as follows:

- Bishop Brendan Leahy
- Archbishop Dermot Clifford (retired January 2015)
- Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly (commenced February 2015)
- Bishop Raymond Browne
- Very Rev. Fr Tony Mullins
- Sr Thomasina Finn
- Ms Margaret O'Brien
- Mr John Hayden (RIP June 2015)
- Ms Maedhbh Uí Chiagáin

The Trustees met on the following dates:

11 November 2014
20 January 2015
28 April 2015
30 June 2015
10 August 2015

AN BORD RIALAITHE / GOVERNING BODY

The membership of An Bord Rialaithe for this period was as follows:

- Bishop Brendan Leahy (Chair)
- Professor Michael A Hayes
- Professor Eugene Wall
- Mr John Coady
- Ms Cairtriona Breathnach
- Ms Mairéad Horan
- Ms Catherine Kelly
- Ms Áine Lawlor
- Mr Declan Madden
- Rev. Tony Mullins
- Mr Conn Murray
- Mr Seán McMahon
- Ms Margaret O'Brien
- Dr Nicholas O'Brien
- Judge Tom O'Donnell
- Mr Fachtna O'Driscoll
- Sr Michele O'Kelly
- Mr Eamon Stack
- Mr Niall Carmody*
- Mr Jack Daly*

* Appointed as Student Representatives, the MISU President & Vice President change in accordance with the MISU Annual Elections.

AN BORD RIALAITHE / GOVERNING BODY met on the following dates:

8 October 2014 (where they were joined by the Strategic Planning Group to review the process to date of the SP

2012-2016)

17 December 2014
18 March 2015
10 June 2015

EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Executive Team acts as an advisory group to the President for the day-to-day management of the College. The Executive Team includes members of the senior College management group, appointed directly by the President.

Membership

- Professor Michael A Hayes, President
- Professor Eugene Wall, Vice-President Academic Affairs
- Mr John Coady, Vice-President Administration & Finance
- Professor Teresa O'Doherty, Dean of Education
- Professor Michael Breen, Dean of Arts
- Professor Michael Healy, Associate Vice-President Research
- Professor Gary O'Brien, Associate Vice-President Administration

The Executive Team met on the following dates during this period:

11 September 2014
29 September 2014
22 October 2014
14 November 2014
3 December 2014
23 January 2015
12 February 2015
6 March 2015
26 March 2015
23 April 2015
14 May 2015
5 June 2015
25 June 2015

ACADEMIC COUNCIL (AN BORD ACADÚIL - BA)

Membership

- Professor Michael A Hayes, President
- Professor Eugene Wall, Vice-President Academic Affairs
- Professor Teresa O'Doherty, Dean of Education
- Professor Michael Breen, Dean of Arts
- Professor Michael Healy, Associate Vice-President Research
- Professor Gary O'Brien, Associate Vice-President Administration

- Dr Patrick Connolly, Assistant Registrar
- Professor Jim Deegan, Head of Graduate School
- Dr Eugene O'Brien – HoD, English Language & Literature
- Dr Lóic Guyon – HoD, French
- Ms Maire Ní Neachtain – Ceann Roinn na Gaeilge
- Professor Des McCafferty – HoD, Geography
- Dr Christiane Schönfeld - HoD of German Studies
- Dr Liam Chambers – HoD, History
- Mr Diarmuid O'Driscoll – HoD, Mathematics and Computer Studies
- Dr Rosemary Day – HoD, Media & Communication Studies
- Dr Gareth Cox – HoD, Music
- Dr Kerry Greer, Acting HoD, Psychology
- Dr Niall Keane – HoD, Philosophy
- Professor Eamonn Conway – HoD, Theology & Religious Studies
- Dr Angela Canny, Assistant Dean of Education
- Dr Deirdre Ní Chrómin - Acting HoD, Arts Education and Physical Education
- Uas Sean De Brun - HoD, Language, Literacy, and Mathematics
- Dr Carol O'Sullivan - HoD, Learning, Society, and Religious Education
- Dr Emer Ring – HoD, Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies
- Dr Patricia Daly – HoD, Special Education
- Dr Cathal de Paor - Director of Continuing & Professional Development
- Mr Neil Ó Conaill - Director of School Placement
- Mr Rory McGann, Acting Director, Curriculum Development Unit
- Dr Anne O'Keeffe – Director of Teaching and Learning
- Ms Marie Ryan - Course Coordinator, B Ed in Education and Psychology
- Dr John O'Shea – Course Coordinator, Bachelor of Education programme
- Dr Eugene Duffy – Lecturer, Theology and Religious Studies
- Mr Des Carswell – Lecturer, Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies
- Ms Gerardine Moloney - Librarian
- Mr Niall Carmody*
- Mr Jack Daly*
- Mr Olivier Ernest*

* Appointed as Student Representatives, the MISU President, Vice President and Postgraduate Officer change in accordance with the MISU Annual Elections.

Academic council (An Bord Acadúil - BA) met on the following dates:

24 September 2014
26 November 2014
21 January 2015
25 March 2015
12 June 2015

STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP

On a quarterly basis, the President convenes a Strategic Planning Advisory Group with wider membership, including senior managers representing a range of functional responsibilities within the College. The purpose of this group is to advise the President on the status of implementation of the current Strategic Plan (2012-16) through the Annual Operational Plans (AOPs), as well as to support the President in the shaping of a new strategic vision for the post-2016 period.

Membership

- Professor Michael A Hayes, President
- Professor Eugene Wall, Vice-President Academic Affairs
- Mr John Coady, Vice-President Administration & Finance
- Professor Teresa O'Doherty, Dean of Education
- Professor Michael Healy, Associate Vice-President Research
- Professor Gary O'Brien, Associate Vice-President Administration
- Dr Patrick Connolly, Assistant Registrar
- Professor 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 Holly Cowman, Director of International Office
- Dr Geraldine Brosnan, Director of Student Life
- Dr Maeve Liston, Director of Enterprise and Community Engagement
- Ms Gerardine Moloney, Librarian
- Mr Niall Carmody, MISU President

The Strategic Planning Advisory Group met on the following dates:

18 & 23 September 2014
8 October 2014
3 December 2014
26 February 2015
5 May 2015

EXTERNAL LANDSCAPE

The MIC / HEA Mission Based Performance Compact 2012-2016 was agreed with the HEA, committing MIC to a set of targets until 2016. MIC's targets are now included in the College Annual Operating Plan (AOP) and performance is monitored against them on a quarterly basis.

In June 2015, MIC submitted a self-evaluation report setting out a review of its performance against the first interim targets, as at year-end 2014 and a reviewed iteration of the 2016/17 MIC profile published under the first cycle.

The Shannon Consortium / Mid-West Cluster (comprising of Mary Immaculate College, Limerick Institute of Technology and the University of Limerick) continued to work together to support the achievement of key objectives for regional higher education cluster activity in line with Government policy, resulting in it being seen as a leading exemplar of what the Government calls 'regional clustering' of higher education institutions. During this period the consortium continued to make progress on priority goals as agreed with the HEA, which included:

- The development of the National Institute for Studies in Education
- The establishment of the Federated Limerick Graduate School
- The establishment of a Joint BA (MIC/UL)
- A mapping report on Cluster undergraduate provision

The Shannon Consortium Steering Group appointed Mr Seán Burke as the Chairperson of the National Institute for Studies in Education (NISE) and the Board held its inaugural meeting on the 26 September 2014.

The Shannon Consortium / Mid-West Cluster made two submissions under two separate funding calls by the HEA. The first call was for funding for collaborations and €2 million was available for this call, under which the Cluster was awarded €50,000. The second call was for submissions from regional clusters for funding support, which saw the Mid-Western Regional Cluster being awarded €65,100.

Discussions continued 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. MIC commissioned a Feasibility Study to be conducted on the proposed joint academic programme, the objective of which was to examine the impact of the proposed new programme on existing College structures and arrangements and to establish whether the proposed concept is viable from a market, organisational, technical and financial perspective.

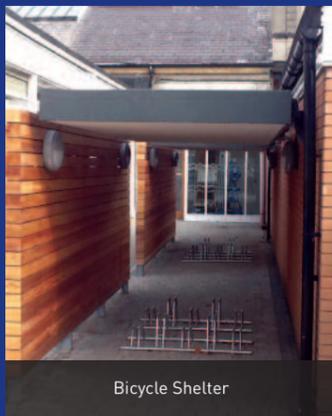
Work also progressed on the establishment of the Shannon Consortium External Stakeholder Forum in order to build on the Limerick Charter 2013 and to enhance the relationship between the Shannon Consortium and governance and business in the region.



CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT



O'Dwyer House



Bicycle Shelter



Halla Stone Cladding



Library Reception



International Office



Playing pitch upgrade



Playing pitch upgrade



Electrical upgrade



Library Development Project

Over the summer months much refurbishment work took place around the campus including the completion of the stone cladding surrounding the Halla building and installation of large double glazed windows.

Other refurbishment projects included improvements to the physical infrastructure of classroom facilities, offices, toilets and corridors.

New additions to the campus were a fully sheltered, secure cycle parking facility and a dedicated carpark space with link up to an electrical charging unit. The two playing pitches were upgraded.

June saw the official opening of O'Dwyer House - an International Student Residence - named after the Bishop of Limerick who, along with the Sisters of Mercy, founded Mary Immaculate College in 1898. The house was refurbished as a high-specification residence for international students with eight bedrooms, three bathrooms, and a communal kitchen/dining area.

The Library Development Project progressed well during this period following the establishment of a Library Advisory Group. Working with the Project Manager, the group helped formulate the design brief for the tendering process to appoint architects. An architect-led team from Building Design Partnership was commissioned to conduct a Feasibility Study and the final report arising from the study was presented in June 2015.

14-15 HIGHLIGHTS PROGRAMMES



Pictured at the launch of the new Level 7 BA in Early Childhood Practice were Dr Emer Ring, Head of Department of Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies at MIC; Deirdre Breatnach, Programme Co-Ordinator, Department of Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies, MIC; Aisling Sharkey, Department of Social Sciences, IT Tralee and Dr Oliver Murphy, President of IT, Tralee.

September 2014 saw the launch of the new part-time blended learning Level 7 BA in Early Childhood Practice, to be jointly delivered over four semesters by the Faculty of Education, MIC and the Department of Social Sciences, Institute of Technology, Tralee. The BA in Early Childhood Practice has been designed specifically to upskill staff currently working in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) field, who have a Level 6

The first cohort of students on the new Professional Master in Education (PME) registered in September, with a total of 100 students embarking on the two-year course. This newly-designed graduate programme of initial teacher education has been submitted to the Teaching Council for accreditation.



The first group of participants pursuing the new M Ed in Educational Leadership and Management programme. Pictured is the group with one of the course lecturers, primary teacher and barrister, Anne McElduff (third from right) and course coordinators John O'Shea (L) and Eilís O'Sullivan (R)

The Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Management Programme enrolled its first cohort of students with 15 students from both primary and post-primary sectors undertaking the programme.

The Graduate Diploma in Adult and Further Education, a teacher education programme for teachers in Further Education, commenced this year with a cohort of 23 students.



Pictured at the launch of MIC's Pre-University Programme in conjunction with Our Lady of Lourdes Community Services Group were L-R: Prof. Gary O'Brien (Associate Vice President Administration, MIC); Lee-Ann Purcell (CEO, OLOL SCG); Dr Geraldine Brosnan (Director of Student Life, MIC); Dr Brian Clancy (Academic Learning Centre, MIC); Robert Graham (Limerick Youth Service); Gillian Jonker (Adult Education Co-ordinator, OLOL SCG).

This academic year also witnessed the relaunch of MIC's pre-University Programme (PUP), an access programme delivered in the community, designed to bridge the gap between community-based education initiatives and third level education through the upskilling of a participant cohort that have been identified by our community education partner. MIC has previously delivered the programme in both Newcastle West and Kilmallock, in conjunction with County Limerick VEC, and Ennis, in conjunction with County Clare VEC. The current programme is being delivered in partnership with Our Lady of Lourdes Community Services Group, a community group located in the heart of Ballinacurra Weston -one of Ireland's most socio-economically disadvantaged communities.

14-15 HIGHLIGHTS

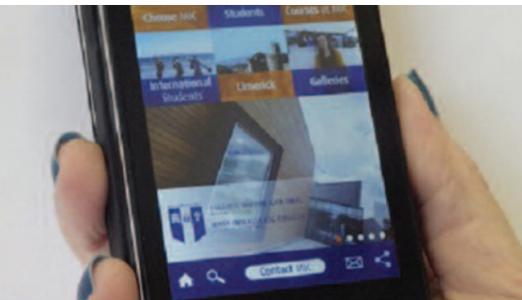
PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES



Pictured following the QUAKE announcements were: L-R: Dr Emer Ring, Head of the Department of Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies; Dr Cathal de Paor, Director of Continuous Professional Development and who was responsible for spearheading the proposal; Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of MIC and Prof. Teresa O'Doherty, Dean of Education at MIC.

QUAKE

MIC was awarded European funding of over €350,000 to undertake a project in the professional development of teachers in Further Education. The project, funded under Erasmus Plus (the new EU programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport for 2014-2020) is managed in Ireland by Léargas on behalf of the European Commission. The work will involve a strategic partnership over three years, comprising seven partners from five different countries. MIC will lead the project, entitled QUAKE (Qualification Knowledge ECVET), reporting to Léargas and the European Commission and coordinating the various activities. The consortium, which includes Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board as a project partner, brings together three Government ministries, two higher education institutions, and two providers of further education and training. MIC's Strategic Plan 2012 – 2016 commits to making a positive difference in our community, locally, regionally, nationally and globally and this project further assists MIC in achieving its goal of greater integration and more visible recognition within local and regional economic, social, cultural, civic and governance fora.



App

MIC launched its first digital app, providing a mobile gateway to College-related information, news and resources. The free App, which is available for both Apple and Android phones, provides all the latest news and information on MIC courses, facilities, news and events at a touch of a button. According to MIC's Strategic Plan 2012-2016 the College has committed to "significantly enhance student communications" and this App goes a long way in achieving this goal as it will allow students instant access to information pertinent to them at all times.



Pictured at the launch of the Institute for Irish Studies at Mary Immaculate College in February were Back Row L-R: Dr Eugene O'Brien, Director of the Institute for Irish Studies, MIC; Prof. Michael Healy, Vice President of Research, MIC; Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of Mary Immaculate College; Jim Rogers, University of St Thomas, Minnesota and Prof. Michael Breen, Dean of Arts, MIC. Front Row L-R: Roibeard Ó Cathasaigh, MIC; Prof. Anne Fogarty, James Joyce Studies, University College Dublin and Prof. Brian Ó Conchubhair, University of Notre Dame.

IIS

The Institute for Irish Studies (IIS) at MIC, with Dr Eugene O'Brien as Director, was launched in February 2015 by Professor Brian Ó Conchubhair, Fellow of the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies in the University of Notre Dame, President of the American Conference of Irish Studies in addition to being a proud alumnus of MIC. The aim of the institute is to create a constellation of scholars, academics and teachers, which will establish MIC as a locus for a distinctive style of Irish Studies which is differentiated from other programmes in the area.



Pictured at the presentation of their research findings in Cambridge were researcher Dr Anne O'Keeffe, MIC; Ben Knight, Director of Language Research and Consultancy, Cambridge University Press and Geraldine Mark, researcher and Academic Manager, Gloucestershire College.

The English Profile

Also in February Dr Anne O'Keeffe, Director of Teaching and Learning, along with co-researcher Geraldine Mark, Academic Manager, Gloucestershire College; launched the findings of their four-year empirical research study as part of a large-scale University of Cambridge project called 'The English Profile'. The project is a collaborative programme endorsed by the Council of Europe, designed to create a profile or set of Reference Level Descriptions for English. Their findings will have a global impact and could potentially bring about a recalibration of English grammar syllabi across the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for Languages.



Pictured at the launch of the Children's Independent Mobility report, which took place in March, were Professor Michael A Hayes, President of MIC; Alanna O'Beirne, MIC, co-author of the report; Minister for Education & Skills, Jan O'Sullivan and Dr Brendan O'Keeffe, MIC, co-author of the report.

Children's Mobility in Ireland

This represented the first Irish study to be undertaken to assess the level of freedom children have to make journeys on their own - their mobility licence. The study formed part of an international research initiative across 16 countries, with MIC being selected to undertake the research for Ireland, and all efforts being coordinated by the Policy Studies Institute (PSI) in London. Children and parents from 25 schools across the whole of Ireland participated in the study with 2,228 children and young people, between the ages of seven and 15, completed a survey questionnaire that explored their travel patterns and levels of personal autonomy. In addition, 1,695 of their parents or guardians completed an accompanying questionnaire about similar issues.

The Studio Classroom

The TED Project [Transforming Education through Dialogue] MIC, in collaboration with Anne-Marie Morrin, Visual Arts Education, MIC, delivered a pilot six-week blended learning art initiative in three PLUS network schools from February to April 2015. The schools involved were: Our Lady of Lourdes NS, Presentation Primary School and St Mary's NS. The aim of the initiative was to develop a blended learning experience in DEIS schools, focusing on the teaching and learning experience of artists, children and teachers through online residencies.



Pictured at the launch of Institute for Educational & Social Policy Studies [PRISEM] at MIC were L-R: Prof. Gary O'Brien, Associate Vice President of Administration; Prof. James Williams, Research Professor at the Economic and Social Research Institute; Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of MIC; Dr Aisling Leavy, lecturer in Mathematics Education and Dr Brendan O'Keeffe, Geography Department.

PRISEM

In accordance with MIC's Strategic Plan 2012 – 2016, whereby the College committed to establishing a number of research institutes, the Institute for Educational & Social Policy Studies [PRISEM] was established in order to advance research about current educational and social policy, to foster knowledge and best-practice, to promote social inclusion and the delivery of excellence in education.



Dr Elaine Murtagh

Stay Active

A major research report entitled 'Stay Active', led by Dr Elaine Murtagh, lecturer in Physical Education at MIC, and funded by the Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland, was launched in June. The study, using data from 12,333 adults aged 60+, examined the relationship between health and physical activity among older people.

14-15 HIGHLIGHTS



Pictured: 25 adult tutors participated in the Little Voices Adult Education project and received their certificates at a presentation ceremony held in MIC on 26 November.

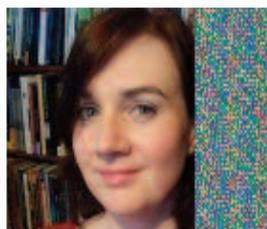
Little Voices Adult Education Project

As part of the Little Voices Adult Education Project, a series of workshops was developed by the Centre for Early Childhood Research at MIC (CERAMIC) under the leadership of Deirdre Breathnach, MIC, and delivered over a six-week period on a 'pro bono' basis to 25 participants. Little Voices is part of an innovative Family Learning Project, with an overall objective of developing a demonstration project to improve outcomes in oral language development and pre-literacy among children, aged 0 – 4, in the north side of Limerick City. The CERAMIC workshops focused on providing adult-learning tutors, from the Limerick Adult Education Service (LAES), with input on strategies to support parents in developing their children's oral language skills in the early years.



Science Week

To celebrate Science Week 2014 MIC hosted interactive science workshops for 260 primary school children over a period of two weeks from 12-21 November. The objective of Science Week each year is to promote the relevance of science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) in our everyday lives and to demonstrate their importance to the future of Irish society and to the economy. This year's theme was the 'Power of Science'.



Dr Suzanne Egan

ESS

A new study by researchers from the economic and Social Research Institute, led by MIC psychology lecturer, Dr Suzanne Egan, found when investigating the effects of various language-based interactions between parents and their infants that chatting to your baby is better for communications skills than reading to babies.



Professor Michael A Hayes (centre) pictured with Bua na Cainte authors Seán de Brún and Martina Ní Fhátharta.

Bua na Cainte

June saw the launch of an interactive online Irish language programme entitled Bua na Cainte. Written by MIC lecturers Martina Ní Fhátharta and Seán de Brún (Department of Language, Literacy & Mathematics, Mary Immaculate College) Bua na Cainte is the only fully interactive Irish language programme, using innovative digital resources, for primary school children in Ireland. This new approach to Irish learning contains child-centric digital activities and games, a comprehensive range of songs, poems and stories to match each theme, interactive daily lessons and animations to bring both the learning and the teaching of Irish to life.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Pictured L-R: President of USI, Laura Harmon; Minister for Education & Skills Ms Jan O'Sullivan TD; Teaching Hero Award recipients, Dr Mary Moloney, Department of Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies, MIC and Diarmuid O'Driscoll, Head of Mathematics and Computer Studies, MIC; National Forum Patron, Prof. Mary McAleese and Chair of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Prof. Sarah Moore.

Dr Mary Moloney, Department of Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies and Diarmuid O'Driscoll, Head of Mathematics and Computer Studies, MIC, were announced as the 2014 MIC Teaching Hero Award Winners. The National Teaching Hero Awards were established by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education in partnership with the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and other student bodies. This new award system explores students' own perspectives on what great teaching means to them and is the first of its kind in higher education in Ireland.



Dr Ailbhe Kenny

Dr Ailbhe Kenny, lecturer in Music Education, was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship for the Academic Year 2014-15, at New York University and Teachers College, Columbia University. Her research project was entitled 'Examining musician-teacher partnerships in schools as sites of dialogic practice and pedagogic transformation'. Dr Kenny was also awarded the inaugural President's Staff Bursary for Outstanding Academic Achievement.



Dr Catherine Kavanagh

Dr Catherine Kavanagh, Philosophy Department, was offered a semester's Fellowship at the Notre Dame Institute of Advanced Studies (August 2014 to December 2014), with the title of Distinguished Fellow of the Notre Dame Institute of Advanced Studies.



Dr Rosemary Day

Dr Rosemary Day, Head of Media & Communication Studies, was appointed to the board of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI). Established in 2009, the BAI is charged with the oversight of public service broadcasters as outlined in the Broadcasting Act 2009.



Prof. Michael Breen

Prof. Michael Breen, Dean of Arts, was elected as Chair of the General Assembly, European Social Survey, for a period of four years. He was also elected as Chair of the General Assembly, European Values Study, for a period of four years.



Prof. Teresa O'Doherty

Prof. Teresa O'Doherty, Dean of Education, was appointed by the Minister of Education & Skills, to the Board of State Examinations Commission (SEC). The SEC is a statutory body, separate from the Department of Education and Skills, responsible for the operation of the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate.

14-15 HIGHLIGHTS



Dr Michael Finneran

The Minister of Education & Skills appointed Dr Michael Finneran, Senior Lecturer in Drama, to the High Level Implementation Group for the Arts in Education Charter. The Charter for the Arts in Education - jointly produced in 2013 by the Department of Education & Skills and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht - firmly states its commitment to placing the arts alongside other subjects at the core of the education system. The High Level Implementation Group was appointed to promote the achievement of the commitments and objectives set out in the Charter.



Dr Anne Dolan

Dr Anne Dolan, lecturer in Primary Geography, was awarded the Geographical Association Publishers' Silver Award 2015 for the publication of her book *You, Me and Diversity: Picturebooks for teaching development and intercultural education*. The book was also shortlisted for the prestigious United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA) Academic Book Award 2015.



Dr Jennifer Pope



Niamh Armstrong

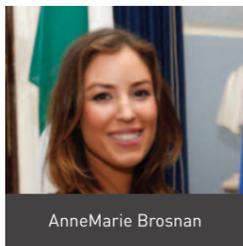
Dr Jennifer Pope, lecturer in Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies and Ms Niamh Armstrong of the Department of Mathematics & Computer Studies, were honoured for their excellence in teaching at the 2015 Shannon Consortium Regional Teaching Excellence Awards.



Dr Noel O'Connell

PhD graduate, 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'; representing the first time that the College has been successful in this prominent competition.

PhD research student, Maryanne Lowney, was awarded a Government of Ireland Scholarship to undertake research in the area of mental health promotion in schools.



AnneMarie Brosnan

AnneMarie Brosnan, a history doctoral student, was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to travel to North Carolina, where she conducted archival research at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, to investigate the growth and development of African American education in North Carolina during the period 1861-1876.



L-R: Cathal Treacy, President of Limerick Chamber of Commerce; Louise Donlon, General Manager of the Lime Tree Theatre; Clive Bellows, Northern Trust; and Gillian Fenton, Marketing Manager of the Lime Tree Theatre.

The Lime Tree Theatre, housed in MIC, was the 2014 Limerick Chamber Regional Business Award winner in the Sport, Art & Culture category. This is a remarkable achievement for a company that first opened its doors just under two years ago.

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL WORK



Bishop of Limerick, Rev. Brendan Leahy, cuts the ribbon to officially open O'Dwyer House, a residence for international students at MIC.

MIC's International Office continues to thrive as the College develops Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with a number of prestigious institutions across the world including several states in Brazil, which are very keen to collaborate with MIC across a range of research and teaching initiatives. These included the Pontifical Catholic University of Sao Paulo and the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande de Sul. MIC responded to a call for proposals to host Government of Ireland scholars from Brazil for one year and expressed interest in hosting Brazilian teachers of STEM and English language teachers for short upskilling courses as part of a Brazilian Government-funded initiative.

MIC also signed MOUs with several strategically important universities in the USA including St Peter's University, New Jersey; Salve Regina University, Rhode Island and St Thomas Aquinas College, New York.

Mary Immaculate College, the University of Limerick and Trinity College Dublin were selected by the European Higher Education Roadshow to visit eight universities in Brazil with the HEA and Enterprise Ireland in May 2015. Ms Holly Cowman, Director of the International Office, Dr Maeve Liston, Director of Enterprise and Community Engagement and Prof. Jim Deegan, Head of Graduate School, took part in the roadshow and subsequently visited several high profile Brazilian universities to discuss various collaborations. The International Office also attended the NAFSA Conference in Boston at the end of May 2015. NAFSA is the Association of International Educators and is the largest association of professionals committed exclusively to advancing international higher education in the world.

The International Office organised faculty-led summer programmes for US universities, including an education/counselling group from University of Louisville, Kentucky, community engagement/service learning groups from Seton Hall University, New Jersey and Gannon University and a Media & Communication Studies group from West Chester University, Pennsylvania.



International students Mauricio Jardim, Fred Nesti Lopes (Brazil), Victor Walzebeck (USA), Tainá Maciel, Pedro Quesada, Paulo Oliveira (Brazil) settling into O'Dwyer House.

O'Dwyer House, a fully refurbished eight-bedroom house on Ashbourne Avenue dedicated to international student accommodation was officially opened during the year. All of the first residents of the house were from Brazil, studying at MIC on 'Science without Borders' scholarships, an initiative funded by the Brazilian government agency, CAPES.

This period also saw MIC being awarded the Outstanding International Student Satisfaction 2014 Award and a Gold Medal by StudyPortals, a website which is the International Study Choice platform where international degree programmes can be found and compared on an international level.



The awards are based on thousands of reviews and opinions from international students studying in Europe. Among the Irish third level institutions that received sufficient reviews to be eligible for the awards, a total of five received ratings ranging from 'excellent' (at least 9 out of 10) to 'outstanding' (at least 9.5 out of 10) with Mary Immaculate College receiving the highest ranking in Ireland.

14-15 HIGHLIGHTS

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

The College hosted several national and international conferences, seminars and public lectures throughout the year including:

- Artbeat - Showcasing the innovative work of Artists-in-Residence at MIC
- Centre for Historical Research Seminar Series
- Conversations on the Consortium Autumn Series
- Convocation of Irish Sound Science and Technology (jointly hosted with UL)
- Embodied Perception and the Human World Conference
- Ethics, Politics, and Health Symposium
- European Social Survey Conference
- Global Limerick DNA
- Inclusive Higher Education Teaching and Learning Forum
- Improving Early Grade Literacy of Children in the Poorest Countries
- International Research Methods Summer School
- Irish Institute for Catholic Studies inaugural lecture; On Holy Ground: The Theory and Practice of Religious Education
- Irish Institute for Irish Studies Lunchtime Lecture Series
- Irish Geometry Conference 2015
- Irish Sound Science and technology Conference (ISSTC)
- Limerick Postgraduate Research Conference
- Literature of Loss
- Locating the Gothic
- McAuley Conference: Education in Crisis
- MIC Research Showcase
- National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning seminar: Building an evidence base for enhanced digital pedagogy for online learning
- National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning seminar: Understanding and Supporting Access Transitions in Higher Education
- Open Dialogue Series - Active Citizenship: What can I do to contribute to my country?
- The Psychology of Education
- TRS Public Lecture Series: Human Life: Gift or Commodity
- Tumoideachas – First Cross Border Research Conference on Immersion Education
- Virtually There Symposium – Are we on the road to meaningful arts experiences with children in schools?



From top Left:
Artbeat; Literature of Loss; Open Dialogue;
Irish Geometry Conference 2015 ; Tumoideachas; McAuley
Conference; Postgraduate Conference and ESS.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CULTURE



Pictured with President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabine are Anne-Marie Morrin, Visual Arts Lecturer, MIC; Laura McNamara, Caherdavin Primary School and Kieran McDonnell, Limerick School Project.

Mary Immaculate College continued to make a weighty contribution to the Limerick City of Culture programme 2014 with many notable projects including 'A Year with Saint John's Bible'. Over the course of the year hundreds visited the College to view the bible, attend art and calligraphy workshops, public lectures and meditations on the illuminations in the Bible.

'Particles or Waves', a multi-faceted project which was produced by Anne Marie Morrin and Niall Quinn (MIC) in collaboration with the Limerick School of Art and Design and artists Cleary and Connolly continued to attract thousands to view the illuminating artwork on display in Limerick's lanes. A prominent visitor was President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins.



Minister for Education & Skills, Jan O'Sullivan T.D. at the recent launch of Bualadh Bos held at Mary Immaculate College, pictured with children's author Emma Fisher, Aoiife Doyle, from Limerick's Project National School and Fidget Feet's Ashlene McFadden dressed as one of the elves from 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'.

The Lime Tree Theatre, housed in MIC, played a pivotal role in the success of Limerick's 2014 National City of Culture programme as it hosted a number of high profile events such as Druid's production of *The Colleen Bawn*; Sadler's Well / Russell Maliphants' breath-taking production of *Still Current*; the Abbey's production of *Sive* by John B Keane, the world premieres of *The Unlucky Cabin Boy* and *The Oldest Woman in Limerick* to name but a few. The Lime Tree Theatre also played host to Limerick's first ever children's theatre festival, Bualadh Bos. A total of 3,324 children participated and engaged in the festival, which was launched by Minister of Education & Skills, Jan O'Sullivan, and took place throughout the month of October. Previously, festivals like this were only available in Dublin and Galway and such was the success of Bualadh Bos 2014 that it will continue on in 2015.



Pictured at the 'Locating the Gothic' launch were Prof. Michael A Hayes, President; Dr Maria Beville (MIC; Conference and Festival co-organiser) Dr Maria Hinfelaar, President of LIT and Dr Tracey Fahey (LIT; Conference and Festival co-organiser).

'Locating the Gothic' was a large and ambitious collaboration between MIC and Limerick School of Art and Design sponsored by Limerick City of Culture. The four-day event offered a range of exciting cultural events and also hosted a conference by the same name with 70 international delegates in attendance from New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Mexico, the US, the UK, Italy, Spain, Croatia, Denmark, Poland and Germany.



Family Open day

MIC hosted its first Family Open Day in October opening up the campus to families, neighbours and friends. Activities over the course of the afternoon included live music, art exhibitions, puppet-making workshops, circus entertainment, artisan food markets and campus tours.

14-15 HIGHLIGHTS



Virtually There exhibition

In October MIC hosted the 'Virtually There' exhibition, a national touring exhibition of work by artists, children and teachers created through online residencies.



CODE Week

As part of Code Week (11-17 October), an EU initiative to promote and encourage coding in Europe, Ms Niamh Armstrong and Dr Ronan Flatley, Department of Mathematics & Computer Studies, hosted a series of workshops in coding through play and fun for local primary school children.



Alliance Française de Limerick, in partnership with the Department of French Studies at MIC, celebrated its 70th anniversary in MIC in October.

Pictured L-R: Philippe Milloux, Director, Alliance Française in Ireland; His Excellency, Mr Jean-Pierre Thebault, French Ambassador to Ireland; Prof. Michael A Hayes, MIC President; Kate Fleming, President of Alliance Française de Limerick; Cllr. Michael Sheahan, Mayor of Limerick and Dr Loic Guyon, Head of the Department of French Studies, MIC.



Prof. Michael A Hayes pictured with Nóirín Williams Mooney and her husband Brian Mooney.

Clare-based artist, Nóirín Williams Mooney, gifted a collection of 14 batik paintings on the Life of Christ entitled 'Story of a Life' to the College. The collection, which took over two years to complete, covers some of the main events, parables and miracles in Christ's life. The magnificent collection went on public display in December and is now part of the permanent Art Collection of the College.

A number of events were held in celebration of College Foundation Day (8 December) including the premiere of our College Anthem 'Rosca Catha an Choláiste', performed in the College chapel by third year B Ed students. The original lyrics of this piece were given to MIC Composer-in-Residence, Anne-Marie O'Farrell, who then composed the melody, descant, bass line and accompaniment.



MIDAS (Mary Immaculate Dramatic Arts Society) once again wowed their audiences with their mesmerising production of *Les Misérables* - performed to sold-out audiences in the Lime Tree Theatre.



Pictured L-R: Páidí Ó Lionáird, TG4 and Chairman MIC Foundation Board, Sean McMahon, President of INTO, Cllr. Michael Sheahan, Mayor of the Metropolitan district of Limerick and Prof. Michael A Hayes, President of MIC.

The second Mary Immaculate College Foundation Gala Dinner, which took place on Saturday, 7th March (2015) in the Strand Hotel, Limerick saw over 200 of MIC's business and civic partners gather in support and celebration of developments at the College.



Pictured at the launch of Limerick's Lifelong Learning Festival were Grace Cameron, Corporate Communications, MIC; Prof. Gary O'Brien, Associate Vice President and Yvonne Lane, Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival Coordinator.

Limerick's Lifelong Learning Festival returned for the fifth year, from 23 - 29 March, with 'Learning for Positive Living' as its theme. MIC was once again delighted to be a part of this innovative festival hosting a variety of free events such as theatre workshops, film screenings, speed-learning, an art symposium and psychology workshops.

SPORTS



Camogie
 Winners of Division 2 League
 Winners of the Purcell Cup (Division 2 Championship)
 Winners of the Intermediate Championship

Men's Football
 Winners of Rory O'Connor Cup (Fresher's Division 2 Championship)

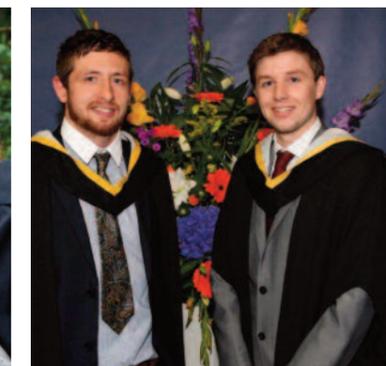
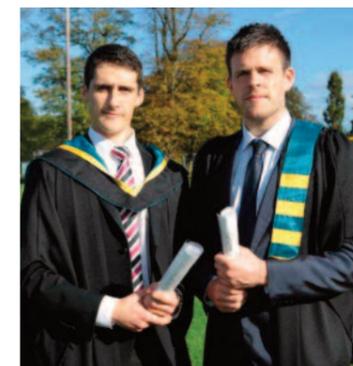
Ladies Basketball
 Winners of Division 3 All Ireland

Men's Soccer
 Winners of Spillane Cup



14-15 HIGHLIGHTS

CONFERRING CEREMONIES



The quality of advanced scholarship in Mary Immaculate College this year was evident as close to 1,000 students from 23 counties and 3 continents were conferred with academic awards across the College's 27 programmes (not including individual research at MA and PhD level) illustrating the diverse academic fields of study on offer at the College.

Not only were students conferred with awards on the College's four Undergraduate programmes, diploma, graduate diploma and masters programmes - including the first cohort of the Master of Arts in International Development Practice - but this year saw 13 students being conferred with PhD awards.

Amongst those graduating was the last ever cohort of the three year B Ed (Primary Teaching) programme as following a review by the Teaching Council of Ireland a reconceptualisation of the B Ed programme was established with the degree moving from a three-year to a four-year programme in 2012.

Among those graduating on the College's undergraduate programmes and Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching) programme, 61 students received First Class Honours. In recognition of their stellar academic success in accomplishing this, each student was granted a Mary Immaculate College President's Postgraduate Scholarship for the Academic Year 2014 - 2015 enabling him or her to pursue postgraduate study at MIC at Graduate Diploma, Taught Masters or Research Masters level.



Bishop of Limerick, Rev. Brendan Leahy pictured with Mairéad Farrell.

Of particular note was Mairéad Farrell from Longford, who received no less than seven awards for her remarkable achievements including College Medal for first place in Psychology; College Medal for achieving first place in the Bachelor of Education in Education & Psychology programme; the Carlisle & Blake prize, presented by the Department of Education and Skills to the graduate who is awarded first place in Education, Theory and Practice; the Bonn Vere Foster award, presented by the INTO for first place in Teaching Practice and Curriculum Education; the Certificate in Religious Education medal, presented by Bishop Brendan Leahy, on behalf of the Diocese of Limerick for achieving first place in the Certificate in Religious Education; the Kieran Burke Fellowship and the Frostburg Scholarship (presented by the College's Faculty of Education in conjunction with Frostburg State University in Maryland, USA).



B Ed graduate Jamie Wall pictured with some of his classmates.

B Ed graduate Jamie Wall lost the power of both legs following a sudden illness that saw him wake up one morning unable to move his legs. A promising Cork footballer, hurler and member of the MIC Fitzgibbon Team 2013 he remains undefeated and determined to walk again.



Eight former Limerick College of Further Education (LCFE) students graduated from the BA in Liberal Arts programme this October. Having studied Journalism with LCFE for only one academic year they succeeded in gaining entry to the Liberal Arts Programme as they had achieved a Full Fetac /QQI award with at least four distinctions from a prescribed list of modules. This agreement was the culmination of a significant collaborative process between LCFE and MIC.

Pictured Back Row L-R: Prof. Eugene Wall, Vice-President of Academic Affairs, MIC; Carmel Ronan, Guidance Counsellor LCFE; Arlene Douglas, LCFE Assistant Director of Adult Education / Head of Media; Pat Maunsell Director LCFE; Ivan Coughlan, Aiveen O'Shea and Jennifer Wall, LCFE. Front Row L-R: Mary Margaret O'Dea; Jennifer Levey; Seamus Hogan; Stephanie Ryan; Cllr. Michael Sheahan, Mayor of Limerick; Mary Elizabeth Sheehan and Ann Nix.



GRADUATION NUMBERS FOR 2014

COURSE	NO. GRADUATED
Bachelor of Arts	196
Bachelor of Education	416
Bachelor of Education in Education and Psychology	27
Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Care and Education	65
Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies	1
Master of Arts Christian Leadership	1
Master of Arts Modern English Language and Literature	10
Master of Arts in International Development Practice	3
Master of Arts in History	8
Master of Arts in Media Studies	2
Master of Arts in Educational Psychology	11
Master of Arts in Theological Studies	6
Master of Arts in Research and Thesis	5
Master of Education (Professional Studies in Education)	4
Master of Education	14
Master of Education in Adult and Further Education	2
Master of Education in Information & Communication Technologies in Primary Education	8
Master of Education in Special Education Needs	3
MA in Education Research and Thesis	1
MA in Education and the Arts	4
Graduate Diploma in Special Education Needs	49
Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching)	63
Graduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education	1
Graduate Diploma in Education and the Arts	1
Graduate Diploma in Professional Studies in Education	4
Graduate Diploma in Adult and Further Education	10
Graduate Diploma in Professional Studies in Education	10
Certificate in Inclusive Care & Education	23
Doctor of Philosophy (Arts)	10
Doctor of Philosophy (Education)	3
Total Graduates	961

STUDENT NUMBERS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2014-15

Type	Full-time	Part-time	Total
UNDERGRADUATE			
Certificate	0	39	39
Honours Degree (L8)	2579	0	2579
Total Undergraduate	2579	39	2618
POSTGRADUATE			
Certificate	0	6	6
Diploma	150	6	156
Masters Taught	187	94	281
Masters Research	19	0	19
PhD	93	1	94
Occasional	0	0	0
Professional Training Qualification	0	0	0
Total Postgraduate	449	107	556

ENERGY USAGE

Overview of Energy Usage in 2014-2015

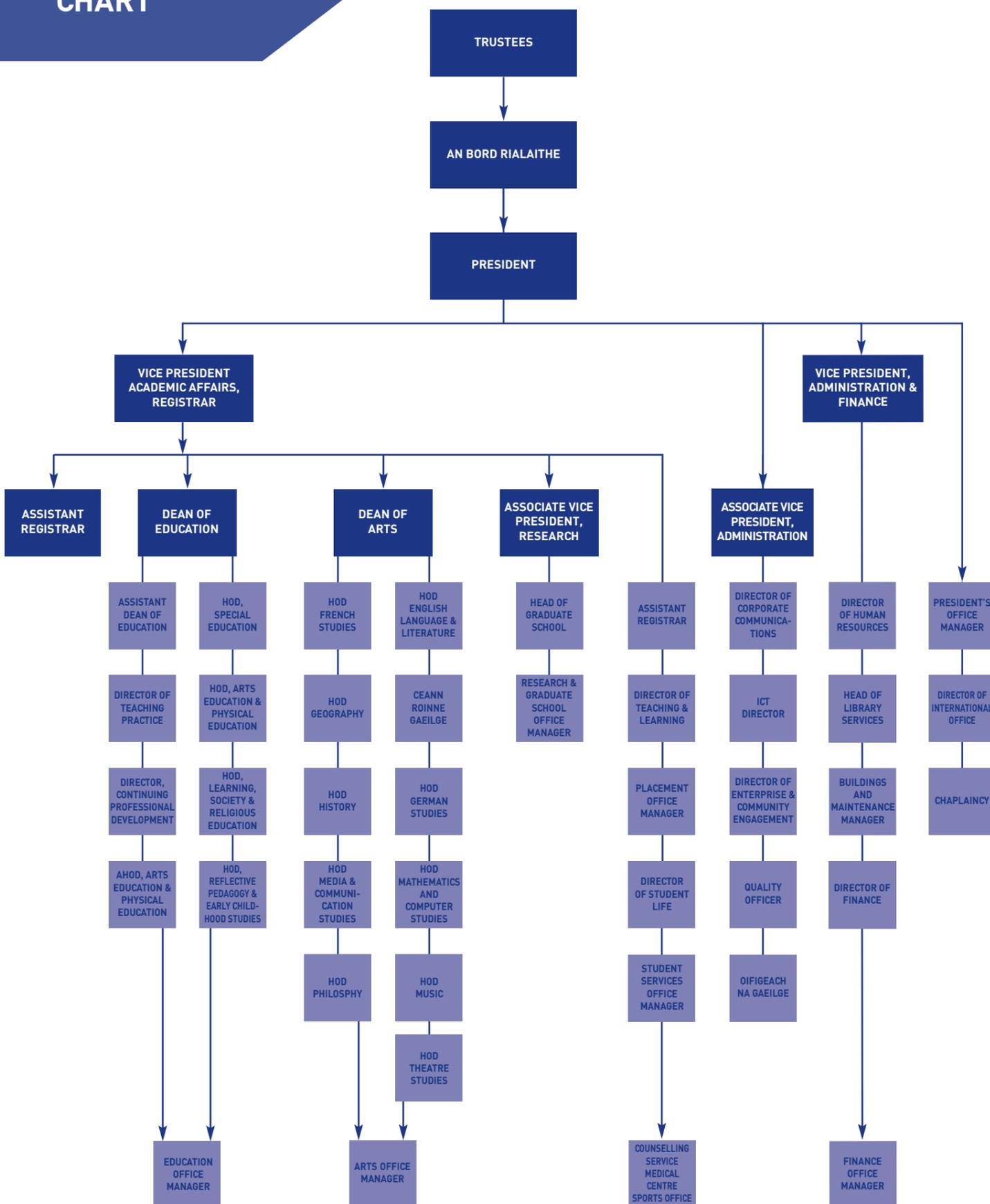
With the continued rise in the number of students, staff, space and events and the ongoing success of the Lime Tree Theatre, the energy team and its energy management system are proving very worthwhile and the overall energy usage at Mary Immaculate College (MIC) continues to fall.

During 2015, MIC consumed 6,063 MWh of energy consisting of:

- 1,993 MWh of electricity,
- 4,070 MWh* of natural gas,
- 4.5 MWh of transport fuels (diesel)

*Note that these figures include estimates of gas usage as a faulty main gas skid/flowmeter produced spurious data for June - August 2015. Gas usage was estimated, using empirical data, during that period. The main gas skid was replaced by Bord Gáis in 2016.

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



ACCOUNTS

Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál
Ollscoil Luimnigh

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

	Note	2015 Euro	2014 Euro
INCOME			
Grants	1	8,760,978	7,357,202
Student Fees	2	16,044,370	14,920,194
Release of Deferred Income	8	52,407	28,454
Other Income	3	1,921,456	1,995,322
Research and Self-Funding Programmes	8(c-d)	2,566,402	2,651,376
Non Deferred funding for Pensions	14(b)	6,394,082	6,311,334
Total Income		35,739,695	33,263,882
Transfer from Capital Account	9	1,514,062	1,667,637
		<u>37,253,757</u>	<u>34,931,519</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Operating Expenditure	4	(25,482,428)	(25,864,620)
Pension Costs	14(c)	(8,049,493)	(7,890,567)
Research and Self-Funding Programmes	8(c-d)	(2,566,402)	(2,651,376)
Total Expenditure		(36,098,323)	(36,406,563)
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus for the year		1,155,434	(1,475,044)
RESERVES			
Transfer from/(to) Development Reserve	10	(711,774)	10,850
Transfer (to) Accommodation Reserve	11	(156,323)	(78,596)
Transfer (to) Library Development Reserve	12	(30,146)	(14,015)
Transfer from/(to) Academic/Research Reserve	13	(52,407)	73,022
		(950,650)	(8,739)
Overall (Deficit) for year		204,784	(1,483,783)
Accumulated Reserve Surplus		1,899,733	3,383,516
Accumulated Reserve Surplus at 30 September 2015		<u>2,104,517</u>	<u>1,899,733</u>

On behalf of An tÚdarás Rialaithe

Bishop Brendan Leahy

Bishop Brendan Leahy
Cathaoirleach
Date: 11 Nov 2016

John Coady

Mr John Coady
Vice President Administration & Finance

BRIATHAR DÉ HO LÓCHRANN



MIC

MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE
COLÁISTE MUIRE GAN SMÁL