

## **PRESIDENT'S RESEARCH AWARDS 2010**

### **Professor Mark Morgan, Education Department, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra**

Professor Mark Morgan, of the Education Department, St Patrick's College Drumcondra, receives the 2010 President's Research Award for Humanities and Social Sciences, for his outstanding contribution not only to international research in the fields of Education Studies; but also for raising the international profile of St Patrick's College as a centre of research excellence and innovation; and for his unstinting encouragement of his colleagues' research endeavours. Mark has come to exemplify the integration of scholarly values and commitment to public service that St Patrick's College holds dear in its long history of educational leadership. And because of the close relationship between the College and the University, he has through his work also enhanced the reputation of DCU.

His success is not confined to the 43 monographs or book-length reports and chapters that he has published in his long career as lecturer, head of department and later, Dean of Education at St Patrick's College. Indeed, many of his 47 peer-reviewed articles have been published in the most prestigious journals in the world. Neither does his reputation rest solely on his tireless work building up the research capacity of his department, or on the energy he devoted to nurturing national and international collaborations, among them the Colleges of Education Research Consortium (CERC).

He has played a signal role in transforming the scope and vision of Education Studies in Ireland. His eminence is recognised in his leading research on behalf of, for example, the Irish government Departments of Health and Children, Justice, and Education and Science, and for bodies such as Combat Poverty, the Centre for Cross Border Studies and the European Monitoring Body for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The National Pilot Programme for Teacher Induction, which came about as a result of the efforts of a planning group that he chaired, now has over 400 participants, 90 mentors and six full-time staff.

Mark's scholarship can be categorized under four broad headings: motivation and job satisfaction, substance misuse and prevention, literacy, and educational disadvantage, and are derived from his training and experience as primary teacher and social psychologist. Not only are they related directly to the mission and strategic plan of St Patrick's College, but they also contribute directly to the wellbeing of Irish children (eg the Walk Tall programme); of Irish teachers (eg the challenges and rewards of a school principal); of underprivileged groups (the Prison Adult Literacy Study); and of the local community – such as the evaluation of the BITE (Ballymun Initiative for Third Level Education) programme, undertaken on behalf of Dublin City University and the Irish American Partnership.

Recognising the need for a scholarly programme tailored to meet the needs of Irish educational leaders whose fields of practice were under-researched, Mark attracted substantial funding from Atlantic Philanthropies. This enabled him to establish at St Patrick's College what has become an innovative Doctor of Education programme. It was the first of its type in Ireland and a measure of its success is that his prototype has been widely replicated throughout the Irish university sector. Already many of its graduates are following Mark in making substantial contributions to new and emerging areas of scholarship related especially to primary education.

Mark's teaching embodies an ethic of rigour and a joyous enthusiasm and belief in the humanising power of excellent teaching that he imparts to colleagues and student teachers alike. Good teaching has been both the subject and the medium of much of his and their success.

Professor Morgan's academic and research achievements are exceptional. He is an exemplar of a conscientious and insightful researcher and supportive colleague, and a very worthy winner of the 2010 President's Research Award for Humanities and Social Sciences.