

Digital Enterprise Research Institute, National University of Ireland, Galway



*****PRESS RELEASE***** Wednesday 23rd February 2005

Another first for the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI)

Students from Presentation College, Galway are involved in the first project that involves university personnel organising courses on web design. These courses are taught as part of the DERI Science Research Online Education Programme.

The students, with their science teacher Bernie Crawford, recently presented their interim report on Urban Foxes to Councillor Niall O'Brolchain at City Hall recently, where their project was used at the launch of the 'Inventory of Wildlife Habitats in Galway city'. The research was carried out in conjunction with Dr. Colin Lawton of the Dept. of Zoology NUI Galway. Councillor O'Brolchain is Chairperson of the Galway city Development Board's Natural Environment & Waterways committee.

Once the report is finalised, the students will undertake a web-design course with DERI staff in order to create their own website and tell the world about the urban environment of Galway.

Two other schools will also undertake web design courses as part of this programme. They are Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara, Carna, Co. Galway and Galway Community College, Galway city. Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara's website will be on the Geology of Connemara, while Galway Community College will host a website on "Weaponry and Tactics 1805 - 1918.

The students were assisted in their projects by Ronan Hennessey, Dept. of Geology, NUI Galway and Sgt. Brian Smyth, Irish Army, Renmore Barracks, Galway. Students and their mentors were only allowed to communicate over the internet.

All this activity is just one part of DERI's comprehensive education outreach programmes. These are designed to encourage the next generation of scientists and technologists who will be key to Ireland's future economic well being.



A print quality photograph is available upon request:

For further information, please contact Brian Cummins on 091 495180 or brian.cummins@deri.org

*****ENDS*****

Notes for Editors

DERI is a Science Foundation Ireland funded Centre for Science and Engineering Technology (CSET).

The Semantic Web is a machine readable version of the web. Currently when you search the web, YOU have to filter the search results and decide what is relevant. The Semantic Web will enable more efficient searching, as the computer will do this filtering for you. Additionally this baseline technology will also power the intelligent transfer, sharing and negotiation of information between computer systems.