

Digital Enterprise Research Institute, National University of Ireland, Galway



\*\*\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*\*\*Thursday 3 February 2005

HEADLINE: Galway School WINS National Media Award

St Patrick's in Lombard Street has won a prestigious national Digital Media Award for a film documentary on the History of Communication. The Digital Media Awards were held at a black tie event in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin, last night (Wednesday).

The documentary was one of the highlights of St Patrick's Golden Jubilee celebrations. The film was made under the technical direction of Brother Niall Coll, and starred the pupils of 6th class.

The project was made as part of the Digital Enterprise Research Institute's (DERI) Schools Outreach Programme and were made in collaboration with the Galway Education Centre(GEC), and the Fionn Primary School Science project.

DERI is a Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) sponsored research centre on the NUI Galway campus which is developing the next generation of internet technology - the Semantic Web.

The plot followed the changing face of communications in the classroom – from the inkpot to the internet – over the 50 years that the school has been in existence.

Pupils had to re-create the school ambiance of the time, modelling the hair styles and fashion statements through the decades, as well as source all the old equipment such as ink wells, 1950's payphones, gestetners, manual typewriters, slide and film projectors.

Collecting the award last night (Wednesday) school principal Noel Cunningham said,

“This is a wonderful way to round off our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The pupils, Brother Niall, and Brendan Smith who oversaw the project have really done us proud.”

According to Brendan Smith, the DERI Education Outreach Officer,

“This is an incredible result for the pupils. You have big companies like the BBC and the big banks nominated in their respective categories, so the pupils have done an amazing job.”

For further details please contact Brian Cummins at 091 – 495180, or at [brian.cummins@deri.org](mailto:brian.cummins@deri.org) or visit [www.deri.ie](http://www.deri.ie) where a copy of the film will soon be available for viewing.

Photographs from the event will also be available soon.

\*\*\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*\*\*