

'Outstanding' student Fionnuala figures highly in maths awards

NUI GALWAY Applied Mathematics student, Fionnuala Connolly, has been awarded a 2011 Hamilton Award in Mathematics by the Royal Irish Academy (RIA). Awards were presented to students of Mathematics in nine of the higher education institutions in Ireland.

Fionnuala from Knocknackarra, is currently in her final year of study for the Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics and was assessed along with all third-year students in all mathematical degrees taught in NUI Galway. She was judged to be the most outstanding candidate, based on her examination results in her mathematics courses.

Congratulating Fionnuala on the award, Professor Michel Destrade, Head of Applied Mathematics at NUI Galway, said: "We are delighted that Fionnuala won the Award this year. It was well deserved because she was indeed an exceptional student, not only in Applied Maths but also in Pure Maths.



Hamilton Prize winning NUI Galway student Fionnuala Connolly with Dr Michael Tuite, Dr Ray Ryan and Professor Ted Hurley from the School of Mathematics, Statics and Applied Mathematics at NUI Galway.

"We were also impressed that seven of the nine Hamilton awardees were female students. This reflects well on studies which show that in general girls perform better than boys in secondary school Maths, although only a minority of them choose to pursue a Degree in Mathematics, Physics, or Engineering."

The recipients of the Hamilton Award in Mathematics received a scroll presented by

Fields Medallist Professor Howard Witten from the Princeton Institute of Advanced Studies, who then delivered the 2011 Hamilton Lecture.

The announcement of the awards formed part of Hamilton Day activities at the RIA which celebrate Hamilton's life and contribution to mathematics, on the day after the anniversary of his famed 'Quaternion walk'.