

Over 325 second level students and parents filled the Old Dining Hall on May 4th for a very special TAP Educational Achievement Awards Ceremony. The guest speaker and legendary broadcaster, Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh enraptured the audience with stories of sporting heroes, Irish poetry and words of wisdom from Irish *seanfhocail*, all of which was delivered in his unmistakable West Kerry accent. Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh remained in the Old Dining Hall chatting casually with the award recipients and their parents and posing for photos long after the ceremony ended.

The Educational Achievement Awards are given to approximately 90 Junior Cycle and Transition Year students (13 – 16 year olds) in schools linked to the Trinity Access Programmes (TAP). The awards recognise their academic excellence and hard work in school. All of the students have shown outstanding commitment and diligence and are being rewarded for the potential that they are showing as future students of Trinity College.



Provost Hegarty and guest speaker Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh with recipients of the TAP Educational Achievement Awards 2011.

Some of the projects which were selected this year are:

Scientific investigation into the correlation between physical activity and academic achievement; a research project on the work which is undertaken in dog shelters around Ireland; an illustrated fairytale; a history of the boxing club in Drimnagh; establishment of a

mini-company; a report on the history of Irish dancing; a report on Rihanna – a student's favourite singer; a collection of poetry; a history project about Australia.

In addition, 6 students have been selected as recipients of the Salters Sterling Gold Medal Award. Salters Sterling, a former staff member of TCD and a founding member of the Trinity Access Programmes, was a visionary who was committed to opening up Trinity College to a more diverse student body. The Transition Year students selected for the Salters Sterling Gold Medal Award have, similarly, shown a great sense of civic-mindedness and purposefulness in their classrooms, schools and communities. These students stand out as the leaders of tomorrow.

TAP works intensively with 20 primary and a further 20 secondary schools in the inner city and greater Dublin area, promoting academic achievement through campus based and school based activities which aim to encourage students to go to college. Each year approximately 4000 students attend events organised by TAP. There are over 500 undergraduate students now studying in TCD who have entered the college via access routes and just over 300 TAP graduates from TCD who are pursuing exciting careers, global travel opportunities and post-graduate study.



Provost Hegarty and guest speaker Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh