

# Hunt underway to replace Virginia

■ Dr Downer leads the tributes as Virginia Teehan leaves museum

Alan Owens

THE HUNT Museum has announced that Virginia Teehan is to resign from her position as director of the museum at the end of September.

Ms Teehan has led the museum for over six years and is leaving "to pursue other challenges in the third-level sector".

"My time at the museum has been immensely stimulating and rewarding and, having achieved the goals for the organisation that I had agreed with the board, it is now time to move on," said Ms Teehan.

"In the past six years, the museum has evolved and changed to reflect the needs of the society in which it is placed. Through all of these exciting changes, initiatives and developments, the Hunt Museum has benefited from a dedicated, professional staff with whom I am privileged to have worked," she added.

Ms Teehan is credited with



New challenges: Outgoing Hunt Museum director Virginia Teehan

playing a critical role in establishing the Hunt Museum's financial viability while also achieving considerable success in fundraising and increasing the profile of the museum.

"Virginia Teehan has led the Hunt Museum with integrity and professionalism in difficult circumstances," said Dr Roger Downer, chair of the Hunt Museum.

"Under her leadership, the Hunt Museum has developed con-

siderably and is now recognised as an institution of international prominence, which serves a valuable role in the Irish cultural landscape, bringing works of international importance to national and regional audiences," added Dr Downer.

Ms Teehan guided the Hunt Museum through the bitter public controversy which arose from allegations made by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in 2004 regarding the origins of the Hunt Col-

lection.

They alleged that items contained in the Hunt Collection may have been looted during the Holocaust, a claim that was never supported by evidence from the centre. Ms Teehan's role in dispelling these allegations was crucial, with the Hunt director personally travelling abroad to research the unfounded claims.

She was also active in expanding the museum's successful summer temporary exhibitions, managing to persuade leading private collectors to lend their works.

It was confirmed that Ms Teehan will remain associated with the museum, overseeing the provenance research project and will remain as director of the Hunt Museum until September 30 to ensure a smooth transition.

The position as director is sure to attract considerable interest in the arts world and Dr Downer confirmed that "a subcommittee of the board had been established to recruit a new director and to oversee the museum through the transition phase".



Project officer Sarah Hayes with Dr George McClelland, director of National Centre for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and Learning at UL

## UL seeks solution to boost numbers in maths, science

Anne Sheridan

THE University of Limerick wants to reverse the worrying trend of students dropping maths and science subjects.

Education Minister Batt O'Keeffe visited the campus last week to open the National Centre for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and Learning.

Speaking at the official

opening of the centre, president Don Barry said Ireland's success as a knowledge economy requires larger numbers of students to follow courses in science, technology and engineering.

"However, the number of students taking mathematics remains worryingly low," he said.

"If the number of students studying mathematics and science at the appropriate levels does not increase, then Ireland will face extreme difficulties in establishing itself as a knowledge economy," said President Barry.

He said this national centre will promote and develop mathematics and science teaching and

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