President's Research Award 2011/2012

Citation for:

Prof. Josef van Genabith
School of Computing

The 2011 **President's Research Award for Science and Engineering** is made to **Prof. Josef van Genabith** of the School of Computing and the Centre for Next Generation Localisation for his exceptional contribution to the field of computational linguistics and for spearheading DCU's leadership in academia-industry collaborative research.

Josef's significant research accomplishments, presented in more than 100 peer-reviewed international research publications, have not only shaped the evolution of computational linguistics worldwide; they have also helped brand DCU and Ireland as world leaders in language technology. His current interests include multi-lingual treebank-based deep grammar acquisition, statistical parsing and generation, machine translation and localisation. Although Josef is based at DCU School of Computing, his work is very much multidisciplinary and he collaborates closely with colleagues in the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies to develop novel technologies that have significant economic and societal impact.

Since 2007, Josef has been Director of the Science Foundation Ireland-funded Centre for Next Generation Localisation, a €40m academia-industry consortium comprising four Irish universities and ten industry partners. CNGL's 120 researchers are producing advances in how computers adapt and personalise digital content, products and services to different languages, cultures and individual users' needs. Among applied research centres CNGL is exceptionally focused on commercial activities and the Centre has a strong commercialisation pipeline. CNGL has become an internationally recognised centre of excellence in localisation and digital content intelligence. The establishment, development and on-going success of CNGL are testament to Josef's vision, management and motivation.

Prior to CNGL, Josef was Director of the National Centre for Language Technology between 2001-2008. Under Josef's guidance, the NCLT grew to 45 members and a

research grant income of over €4m. Josef has served as Faculty Fellow of the IBM Center for Advanced Studies in Dublin since 2005.

His strong standing internationally is reflected in his appointment to the Advisory Board of the European Association of Computational Linguistics in 2007.

Anyone who has worked with Josef will be keenly aware of the enthusiasm, energy and consistent commitment with which Josef approaches his research. Many of our future scholars and industrialists will be thankful for Josef's efforts in DCU. He has already graduated 20 PhD and Masters research students, and is currently mentoring a further 13 promising scholars. Many of his former students are now shaping the future of the language technology industry in Ireland and beyond.

In summary, Josef van Genabith's tremendous achievements in terms of graduated research students, publications history and grant income, combined with his international profile at the highest level of European research management and further afield, make him an outstanding candidate for this award. It is my great pleasure to award him the **2011/2012 President's Research Award for Science and Engineering.**