

UNIVERSITY NEWS



Maynooth University Honours Laura Madden with President's Medal



Laura Madden and Prof Philip Nolan

Maynooth University awarded Laura Madden the President's Medal at a special event to mark International Women's Day

President of Maynooth University, Professor Philip Nolan, paid tribute to Ms Madden for bravely coming forward to speak of her personal trauma despite the threat of retribution.

Originally from Monaghan, Ms Madden was one of the first women to speak on the record to *The New York Times* reporters Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey about the sexual predation of Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

Accepting the President's Medal, Ms Madden said: "I am so honoured to be invited to Maynooth University to receive this award. It's been an immensely difficult journey over the years and to finally be able to share my experience and feel the collective support of women and men from all walks of life has been transformative."

"Maynooth University is extremely proud to award the 2020 President's Medal to Laura Madden," said Maynooth University President, Prof Philip Nolan. "Ms Madden is an extraordinary woman who bravely decided to speak about her trauma despite facing a tremendous headwind of pressure, power, and potential retribution. Her display of courage helped shed light on industries in which overwhelming imbalances of power are exploited to perpetrate and cover up acts of violence. She, along with other women who came forward, ignited a broader global movement, inspiring women around the world to publicly share their stories under the hashtag #MeToo."

As part of this special International Women's Day event, RTÉ broadcaster Audrey Carville hosted a panel discussion with Ms Madden, Professor Linda Connolly, Director of Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI) who is a leading scholar on women's experiences with trauma in Irish history, and Dr Anne O'Brien from the Department of Media Studies at Maynooth University and author of *Women, Inequality and Media Work*.

Two MU Scientists receive SFI President of Ireland Future Research Leaders Award



Dr Eoin McNamee, Dr Joanne Masterson, President Michael D Higgins and Dr Ruth Freeman, SFI

President of Ireland Michael D Higgins, has honoured two Maynooth University scientists, Assistant Prof Joanne Masterson and Assistant Prof Eóin McNamee

Dr Masterson and Dr McNamee, who are married, started out as science undergraduates in Maynooth University over twenty years ago, specialising in the field of biology and inflammatory disease. On 4 March, they were among ten recipients of the SFI President of Ireland Future Research Leaders Award.

The SFI President of Ireland Future Research Leaders Programme recruits and retains outstanding and emerging early career research leaders with exceptional accomplishments in scientific and engineering domains.

in this issue

Maynooth University Welcomes Continued Growth in CAO Applications

New BSc in Biological and Geographical Sciences sparks particular interest. Maynooth University continues to see strong growth in applications, following the trend of recent years.

The University has seen applications rise by 1%, despite a national decline of 2% in applications for Level 8 courses through the CAO.

The Maynooth Arts degree has the highest number of applications for any course in the CAO system, reflecting the popularity of the flexible Maynooth curriculum, in which students can progressively specialise as they progress.

Several programmes at the University have seen a substantial increase in first preferences including Engineering (+40%), Psychology (+29%), Business (+19%) and Biological and Biomedical Sciences (9%).

There has also been strong interest in the new BSc in Biological and Geographical Sciences degree which offers students the opportunity to study various areas of climate change, ecosystems, landforms, and how human activity impacts on our ecosystem both locally and globally. The new BSc is offered by two academic departments of international repute.

Commenting on the figures, Professor Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, said: "We are delighted to once again see so many students choosing Maynooth University as their first preference in this year's CAO process. Our programmes provide students with excellent preparation for life and make them highly sought-after employees upon graduation."

FROM THE EDITOR

University News is published three times a year by the Maynooth University Communications and Marketing Office. For questions, or to submit stories and ideas any time of the year, contact Communications@mu.ie

President Higgins Attends Maynooth University Climate Change Conference

President of Ireland Michael D Higgins returned to Maynooth University for a conference examining the challenges of climate change and social inequality



Pictured (l-r); Prof Ian Gough, LSE; Michael D Higgins, Sabina Higgins; Dr Mary Murphy, Dept of Sociology; Dr Anna Coote, New Economics Foundation and Dr Joe Larragy, Dept of Applied Social Science.

The conference on 28 February titled, 'A Just Transition - How do we tackle heat, need and greed?' explored the intertwined challenges of climate change and social inequality. It will focus on the need for a just pathway that addresses human need while also countering the threat of climate chaos.

The conference addressed the distributional needs of people across a range of areas, including employment, income and public services and the struggle for transformational change.

"The conference responds to a recent call by President Michael D Higgins to provide 'material for rethinking, linking and addressing both climate change and social justice objectives,'" said Dr Mary Murphy, Department of Sociology at Maynooth University and co-organiser of the conference.

Such new models are evidenced in the work of other keynote speakers at the conference, including Mr David Donoghue who, in his former role as Ireland's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, played a key role in mediating the UN Sustainable Development Goals, a historic global plan to end poverty by 2030.

Promoting alternative models and approaches is the focus of the speakers Professor Ian Gough (London School of Economics), and Dr Anna Coote (New Economics Foundation).

Other speakers include Adjunct Professor Hugh Frazer, of the Department of Applied Social Studies at Maynooth University, who, in his role as Chairperson of the European Commission's European Social Policy Network, has pioneered research into a European Child Guarantee.

Ancient Classics Department Trip to Italy



During the inter-semester break (27th – 31st January), a party of 15 Maynooth classicists, led by Dr Jonathan Davies and Dr Kerry Phelan, set off on the first Ancient Classics Department study trip to Italy, to examine first-hand the impressive and highly revealing archaeological remains of Rome and the Bay of Naples. Overall, the trip was a resounding success, and of great benefit to the students, inspiring them with renewed passion for the study of the ancient world, and re-emphasize to them the vital importance of ancient classics among the humanities subjects.

MaynoothWorks John Scanlan Industry Engagement Award

Dr John Stephens of the Chemistry Department was awarded the first John Scanlan Industry Engagement Award

Dr Stephen's research is focused on the discovery and application of new technologies at the interface of Chemistry and Biology. He is currently leading an interdisciplinary collaboration with a large Irish food company. The main focus of John's research is to add value to existing and new product lines. The project is funded through an Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership.

Each year MaynoothWorks recognises excellence in the commercialisation of research at Maynooth University. We consider activity such as invention disclosures recorded, licence deals completed, new patents filed, spinout company creation and new collaborations and links with industry as key factors in bringing research to the market place.

Dr John Stephens, Dept of Chemistry, receiving the John Scanlan Industry Engagement Award, presented by Prof Ray O'Neill and supported by Dr Karen Griffin, MaynoothWorks Commercialisation Executive



Future Research Leaders Award (cont)

Dr Joanne Masterson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology and the Kathleen Lonsdale Institute for Human Health Research, where she leads the Allergy, Inflammation and Remodelling Research (AIRR) laboratory. She received an award of €1,572,600 for her research on the rapidly emerging allergic disease, Eosinophilic Oesophagitis, which is a chronic clinicopathologic allergic gastrointestinal disorder, and an increasing clinical problem. Although immense efforts have been invested in understanding the clinical course and natural history of this emerging disease, to date there is a paucity of therapeutic modalities and no cure. Her research is entitled, *Transcriptional Mechanisms Controlling Epithelial Cell Fate Determination during Allergic Esophageal Inflammation in Eosinophilic Oesophagitis*.

Dr Eóin McNamee is an Assistant Professor and the Principle Investigator of the Mucosal Immunology Research Lab in the Department of Biology and the Kathleen Lonsdale Institute. He received an award of €1,488,046 for his research on MicroRNA control of Mucosal Inflammation, which is linked to Crohn's disease & Ulcerative Colitis. The inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD; namely Crohn's disease & Ulcerative Colitis) affects 2.5 million people in Europe (up to 40,000 in Ireland), with limited treatment options and no cure.

Faculty of Science and Engineering participates in the BT Young Scientist Exhibition



Dr Sinead Barton, Department of Electronic Engineering

The interactive displays from the various Faculty Departments attracted hundreds of visitors to the stand

The postgraduate students who staffed the stand for the 3 days were inundated with queries about studying STEM at Maynooth. Many teachers of students attending the event visited the MU stand and spoke fondly about their student days in Maynooth and why they encourage their students to consider MU on their CAO applications. Speaking about the event, Ita McGuigan, MU STEM Promotion Officer concluded that the PG students were an invaluable asset and their engagement with visitors to the stand was outstanding.

Inter-County Players Graduate from the GPA Leadership Programme



Paul Flynn, CEO of the GPA

On Friday, 24 January, 31 inter-county players from all over Ireland graduated from the Jim Madden GPA Leadership Programme at a special ceremony at Maynooth University

Twenty one players representing the Gaelic Players Association (GPA) and 10 players representing the Women's Gaelic Players Association (WGPA) across 21 counties made up the Class of 2019. A further 11 GPA members and six members of the WGPA graduated from the Special Purpose Award in Professional Leadership. This is an optional accreditation pathway for those who have already completed the initial programme and is awarded by Maynooth University through the Department of Education. The Jim Madden Leadership Programme has been developed specifically with inter-county players in mind. The tailored programme sees students paired with a professional life coach with whom they work to address their individual development needs. Participants gain skills which they can draw on in their personal, sporting and professional lives.

The Annual Prizes and Awards Ceremonies



Pictured are the recipients of the Academic Award for the Madden Leadership GPA/WGPA Certificate in Professional Leadership, (l-r) Legends of Gaelic Games: Valerie Mulcahy, Cork, Clare Owens, Leitrim and Rena Buckley, Cork pictured with Prof Philip Nolan at the Prizes and Awards Ceremony on 12 February. A total of 314 departmental prizes were awarded over the two nights including the Alumni and Taught Master's Scholarships.

Maynooth University Recognised as a University of Sanctuary

Maynooth University has been officially designated as a University of Sanctuary in recognition of its initiatives to promote a culture of welcome for refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants into the community

On 20 February the University marked its designation by bringing together poets, students, academics, journalists and civil society actors to discuss the meaning of Ireland as a true place of sanctuary.

A panel discussed their experiences of Ireland as a place of sanctuary, the system of direct provision and its compatibility with the concept of sanctuary. They also examined the role of universities in promoting the inclusion of international protection applicants and refugees.

Accepting the Sanctuary Award on behalf of Maynooth University, Professor Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University said: "We are delighted to accept this designation, which recognises the ongoing commitment of staff and students to creating an inclusive and welcoming space at Maynooth for those who seek sanctuary in Ireland. This event gives us an opportunity to celebrate joining the University of Sanctuary Ireland family, but also to reflect on the role of universities in broader discussions around migration and equality."

Sanctuary universities have a demonstrated commitment to welcoming asylum seekers and refugees onto their campus through initiatives including



Pictured Dr Clíodhna Murphy, lecturer in Law, Philip Berman, Chairman of Places of Sanctuary Ireland and Prof Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University

bursary and scholarship schemes, and adopting strategies to integrate them into their community.

The Sanctuary Award is an initiative of University of Sanctuary Ireland (UoSI) to encourage and celebrate the good practice of universities, colleges and institutes welcoming refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants into their university communities and fostering a culture of inclusion for all those seeking sanctuary. The Award aims to spread this culture of welcome across the institutions of higher education all over the island.

Maynooth University partners in major project awarded €7.3 million under Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund

A research consortium that includes Maynooth University has been awarded €7.3 million under the Government's Disruptive Technologies Innovative Fund.



Dr Jiri Vala

Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys TD, together with Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Regina Doherty TD, announced 16 successful innovative projects awarded a total €65 million under the second round of the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund. The fund is administered by Enterprise Ireland.

Maynooth University is participating in a €7.3 million project, *Quantum Computing in Ireland: A Software Platform for Multiple Qubit Technologies*, which explores their potential to address challenging problems arising in areas such as financial services, logistics or drug discovery.

Dr Jiri Vala in the Department of Theoretical Physics is leading the project at Maynooth University, which represents the first large scale collaboration on quantum computing in Ireland.

The consortium comprises IBM Ireland Ltd, MasterCard Ireland, Rockley Photonics and Equal 1 Laboratories, Maynooth University, the Tyndall National Institute (Cork) and University College Dublin. The budget allocation to Maynooth University is €600,000. The project runs for three years.

Dr Vala said: "This is the beginning of very exciting times for quantum computing in Ireland and also an important milestone for quantum computing research at the Department of Theoretical Physics at Maynooth University."

Junior Cert Business Awards on Campus

On Tuesday, 4 February, students and teachers from 108 schools across Ireland gathered to celebrate excellence in junior certificate Business Studies.

The class of 2019 is the first to sit the new junior cycle syllabus comprising three interconnected strands: Personal Finance, Enterprise and Our Economy, which are designed to improve students' understanding of, interest in and engagement with the business environment.

The Department of Economics, Finance and Accounting, School of Business and Department of Law would like to congratulate all concerned and look forward to hosting the event again next year. #MUJCAwards



Professor Philip Nolan with Jolie Chang and Grace Daly from Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co Meath

Human Resource Notes

NEW APPOINTMENTS

We are pleased to announce that the following staff have been appointed to Permanent Posts in the University.

School/Departments	Appointees	School/Departments	Appointees
Adult & Community Education	Ms Maggie Noone, Senior Executive Assistant	Human Resources	Ms Meadhbh Lennon, Employee Relations Officer
Applied Social Studies	Ms Breda O'Driscoll, Senior Executive Assistant	Office of VP of Equality & Diversity	Mr Sam Blanckensee, Equality Officer
	Ms Glenda McCormack, Executive Assistant	Research Development Office	Ms Deirdre Clayton, Research Development Officer
Biology	Dr Lorna Lopez, Lecturer		Dr Kim Reilly, Research Development Officer
Communications & Marketing	Mr Rowan Morrey, Webmaster		Dr Noreen Lacey, Research Support Officer
Curriculum Office	Mr Paul Clear, Registry Policy & Process Officer		Ms Caragh Tisdall, Research Support Officer
Education	Dr Maija Salokangas, Associate Professor	Quality Office	Ms Bernie Mc Grenaghan, Executive Assistant
Experimental Physics	Dr Colm Bracken, Lecturer	School of Business	Dr Teresa Lee, Director of Quality
Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education	Ms Clodagh McDonnell, Executive Assistant		Dr Adegboyega Ojo, Associate Professor
Ground Services	Mr Jack O'Connell, General Operative	Student Support	Mr Colin Ennis, Executive Assistant
			Ms Marianne Dunne, Director of Student Services

Our best wishes to all concerned.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

The Employee Assistance Programme is a support programme provided by the University for staff members. The Programme provides a confidential counselling service, designed to assist staff members in dealing with any issue that adversely affects their health, wellbeing, personal or professional life.

If you have a problem that is troubling you, then you can get help and support.

You can avail of the service by calling the following free phone number:

1800 201 346

Details of the enhanced on-line Employee Assistance Programme can be accessed through the Staff Well-being link on the Human Resources webpage: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/staff-development/employee-assistance-programme>

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

HR Learning & Development launched a series of new initiatives for all employees, which related to the University's People and Organisation Goal, in the Strategic Plan. Following extensive consultation with colleagues across the University, our discussions have informed the development of the following:

- **Dedicated information for new employees** on the Human Resources (HR) webpage. This provides information for new employees and those responsible for inducting them into their role.
- The University **Orientation Programme for New Employees** is offered to welcome all employees who have recently joined Maynooth University. It provides participants with information on payroll, benefits, strategy, organisational structure and services across the University.
- A new **online Learning & Development Directory** has been developed, which provides an A-Z listing of all learning and development supports available across the University for employees under *MU Employee Training Courses*.
- An **Employee Wellbeing Week**, which was due to take place during March, but will be rescheduled in due course.
- The Human Resources new on-line **Learning Administration System**, to allow employees to register, track, record and manage their training through the Employee Self-Service (ESS). A **User Guide** for the Learning Administration System is available on the HR website and training courses are now available to book through this **system**.
- Human Resources (HR) have developed and are rolling out a number of leadership, management, professional development and employee wellbeing courses and seminars. Dates and course outlines are now available on the *Learning & Development webpage*. Courses can now be booked via the Employee Self-Service under Learning & Development.
- Microsoft Office training for 365 (Excel, PowerPoint and Word), which will be rolled out over the coming months. Initial priority will be given to the delivery of Microsoft Excel training.
- There is further development and design of employee related training, including the leveraging of **e-learning** platforms to support the classroom training, such as:
 - » New Employee online orientation
 - » New Recruitment Skills online

These initiatives represent a significant investment in the development and welfare of our employees, and we encourage you to avail of the training and website resources.

Contact us by e-mailing learning.development@mu.ie or by telephone on **474 7446**.

YouthWorkandYou.org Launch

The Centre for Youth Research and Development (CYRD) recently hosted the highly successful launch of youthworkandyou.org, an innovative, open-source, interactive e-learning platform designed & hosted by the Youth Work eLearning Partnership [YWeLP], an Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership funded 2017-19. YWeLP is co-ordinated by Hilary Tierney at CYRD in partnership with colleagues in Ulster University, Northern Ireland; Victoria University, Melbourne; Tallinn University, Estonia and Humak University of Applied Sciences, Finland. YWeLP is supported by the National Youth Council of Ireland, the Victorian Youth Workers' Association, Youth Action Northern Ireland, the Estonian Youth Workers' Association and the Kanuuna Network in Finland.

Pictured (left to right): Gertha Teidla Kunitson, Halliki Poldla, Ilona Evelyn Rannala (Tallinn University) Jane Hickey (Victoria University) Eeva Sinisalo Juha, Emilia Riponen, Sari Hoyla (Humak University of Applied Sciences), Saoirse Reynolds, Maurice Devlin, Hilary Tierney (Maynooth University), Trudi Cooper (Edith Cowan University), Mary Cunningham (National Youth Council of Ireland), Philip McDermott, Breda Friel (Ulster University).



Carol Service & Alumni Reception



Dr Liam McNiffe (BA 1977, PhD 1994), MAAB member John Gallagher (BA 1976, HDipEd 1977), Michael Harding (BA 1974, HDipEd 1982), Cathy Carman, Chairman of MAAB Peter Finnegan (BA 1976), and Ethna Diamond

With tickets like gold dust, the lucky applicants for the alumni Carol Service ticket lottery and reception kicked off the festive season in the splendour of the College Chapel

Delighting in the mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas bonhomie in a packed Pugin Hall, alumni (including the writer Michael Harding, the chair of the Maynooth Alumni Advisory Board (MAAB), Peter Finnegan and MU staff who are also alumni) enjoyed words of welcome from Professor Philip Nolan. Over 500 applications were received for tickets to this lottery, which once again, has proved to be a real calling card for Maynooth grads. As one alumnus put it: "Brilliant night. Service was stunning but what made it so special was meeting up with so many old friends and acquaintances."

Love Data Week

The Library hosted Love Data Week from the 10th to the 14th of February. This event seeks to raise awareness and build a community to engage on topics related to research data management. The focus was on working with students



Fiona Morley, Head of Digital Programmes and Systems and Rhoda Kerins, Head of Open Data Unit, Dept of Public Expenditure and Reform

to help them get to know the data specialists at MU, the kinds of work they do, and the data and associated issues that these data specialists engage with. A number of talks, exhibitions and information stands were held during the week all showcasing different aspects of the use and engagement with data across Maynooth University, especially open data. Students from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Hamilton Institute gave a fascinating series of data related talks over two days.

The Department of History launched the *Journal of Military History and Defence Studies*, edited by Dr Ian Speller, which is an open access journal hosted by the Library.

Library without Walls

In the current situation the Library is pleased to be able to provide a broad range of virtual services to staff and students including access to over a hundred thousand online journals, three quarters of a million ebooks, live online classes, live online consultation sessions, pre-recorded tutorials and comprehensive subject guides. Please check our website <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library> for regular updates.

Launch of FRACTURED - a family, a nation, a dream...

FRACTURED, a theatrical soap-opera set in Maynooth during the War of Independence, was officially launched in Maynooth University Library on 30th January last. Conceived by Down at Heel Productions and sponsored by Kildare County Council through a Creative Ireland Bursary, the night was hosted in the University Library, by the renowned actor, Des Nealon. The project consists of forty-eight short plays, which when put together tell the story of the fictional Barry family living in Maynooth during the years 1920 -1922.

Attendees had the opportunity to register their interest in being involved with the project and there was a great response.



Des Nealon

Peadar Ó Laoghaire Exhibition

The exhibition “Céad Blián Ar Aghaidh óna shaol féin” a celebration of the work of Father Peadar Ó Laoghaire, was launched in the Library on Monday the 9th of March. The exhibition is a collaboration between the Library and Oifig na Gaeilge. Father Peadar Ó Laoghaire was a graduate of St Patrick’s College Maynooth, and an important Irish language campaigner in the Gaelic Revival. He wrote novels and short stories and translated older literature into Irish, including the Bible. The Library holds his extensive archive.



Peadar Ó Laoghaire

Library Poetry Award

To mark the 25th anniversary of the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his eight colleagues (the Ogoni 9), the Library is running a poetry competition, which will be judged by renowned poet Jessica Traynor. Poems can be on any of the themes embodied by Ken Saro-Wiwa and the issues he and his colleagues campaigned for. These include: environmental destruction, social justice, land rights, poverty and gender, power and control.

The competition has two categories: **Adult:** Over 18 years of age. **Schools:** Transition year and above. Prizes are National Book Tokens.

Winners and shortlisted poems will be published in a winner’s anthology to be launched in Maynooth University Library on 12th November 2020. Closing date for entries is 29th May 2020.

Items from Library Archive in Major Exhibition

The “Irish Global Solidarity in 100 Objects” exhibition ran from Wednesday, 26th February to the 16th of March in Dublin. The exhibition showcased Irish engagement with global, cultural, political and social issues over the last 50 years. Letters and photographs from the Library Ken Saro-Wiwa Archive were included in the exhibition, which had over 800 visitors.



Philomena Obasi and Helen Fallon visit the exhibition

Sierra Leonean Visitors to the Library



On Thursday, 5 March, the Sierra Leone Ireland Partnership (SLIP) and the Department of International Development hosted a seminar “Strengthening Education in Sierra Leone.” The event, attended by over 60 people, was held in Renehan Hall and opened by Professor Aidan Mulkeen, Deputy President and Registrar. Bishop Henry Aruna, Bishop of Kenema Diocese, Sierra Leone and Dr Stanelea Beckley, chairperson of Sierra Leone’s Teaching Services Commission were the keynote speakers. During the visit Bishop Aruna and Dr Beckley visited the John Paul II and the Russell Libraries. Bishop Aruna is from the Mende ethnic group and was delighted to see the bible in the Mende language – dating from the 19th Century – which the Russell Library holds.

Bishop Koroma, Dr Beckley and members of SLIP

Open Access to 16 Million Publications

The Library played a leading role in securing a new agreement with the publisher Elsevier which will enhance research access and the transition to open access publishing in Ireland. The three-year agreement, the first Irish Open Access (OA) contract with a major scientific publisher means Irish researchers from 19 institutions will have continued access to 16 million publications from 2,500 journals published by Elsevier and its society partners on ScienceDirect, Elsevier's leading platform of peer-reviewed scholarly literature. Critically however, this new arrangement also facilitates a much greater shift to Open Access and will enable Irish researchers to publish more than 70% of their research open access without having to pay an Article Publishing Charge (APC).

The Library will continue to work with publisher and the scholarly community on campus to continue to transition to complete OA which will safeguard access to research from Ireland and beyond. For more information on this please contact Hugh Murphy, Head of Collections and Content in the Library Hugh.murphy@mu.ie



Maynooth Green Campus News

Maynooth Green Campus has recently re-applied to become a Fairtrade University. A Fairtrade Fortnight, a collaboration between Fairtrade Ireland and the USI took place on campus at the end of February



Solitary Bee nest making workshop held in the Library on 13 February with Maynooth Green Campus and the Grounds Team

This is a collaboration with Fairtrade Ireland and the USI (Union Students of Ireland). Our hope is to make a real connection to the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the importance of fairtrade practices.

The latest annual report on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance published by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland noted improved energy efficiency practices adopted by Maynooth University.

The report analyses the progress being made on reducing energy consumption by 354 public bodies including all Government Departments and agencies, as well as also almost 2,700 schools.

It finds that a total of €1.3 billion in energy costs has been saved by improvements in energy efficiency across the public sector since 2009.

The effect of that has been to prevent the emissions of 4.6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

The efficiency gains have been achieved through the implementation of thousands of diverse projects ranging from structured energy management, building and facility upgrades, retrofits, changes in transportation, better energy procurement, and through behavioural change in organisations.

Maynooth University improved its energy efficiency by 34% since 2009 through the implementation of energy efficient practices, plant upgrades, LED light replacements and enhanced building system design.

The university also provides a series of electric vehicle charging points to promote electric vehicle use among staff and students.

Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment Richard Bruton said: "The increase of a further three percentage points in energy efficiency across the board is to be welcomed and will help ensure we reach our 33% energy efficiency target by 2020.

John Scanlan Memorial Fun Run



Pictured are John Scanlan's wife, Elaine, presenting the cheque to Sean O'Brien of St. Francis Hospice, who provided such great care to John. The Fun run raised €1,327, far exceeding the total of previous Christmas fun run events, and a token of the esteem in which John was held. The organisers thanked all involved in the organisation of the event and the students, staff and public who supported the event.

General Election Candidates Debate the Funding of Higher Education

The Town Hall was jointly hosted by Maynooth University and MU Students' Union on Tuesday, 4 February

Candidates debated the crisis in third level funding and responded to audience questions across a range of policy issues, including how their parties would address a 40% drop in state funding per student over the past decade.

Welcoming the candidates to campus, Prof Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, said: "The Irish third level education system, which has been the driver of this nation's economic success and resilience for decades, has reached a crisis point. Student enrolment across the university grew by 21,000 students between 2008 and 2018. Here at Maynooth University, we accounted for 22% of that growth."

Prof Nolan said: "The funding shortfall is now at a critical juncture. There is a real risk that the quality of our higher education system, already showing signs of strain as represented by a fall in international rankings, will be seriously damaged. If we allow that to happen, it could take years, even decades, to recover the lost ground."



(l-r) Fine Gael Deputy Bernard Durkan (Kildare North); People Before Profit candidate Paul Mahon (Kildare North); Green Party candidate Sean McCabe (Meath East); Green Party Cllr Vincent P. Martin (Kildare North) and Fianna Fáil Deputy James Lawless (Kildare North)

Léacht Uí Chadhain 2019

Sna sála ar bhaill foirne eile ó Ollscoil Mhá Nuad in imeacht na mblianta: Aisling Ní Dhonnchadha, Máire Ní Annracháin, Tadhg Ó Dúshláine, agus Breandán Ó Doibhlin, thug an Dr Liam Mac Amhlaigh Léacht Uí Chadhain 2019 sa Choláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath Déardaoin 17 Deireadh Fómhair leis an teideal: “Tá na coiscéimeanna tar éis fillleadh arís: leanúnachas agus nua-aoiseachas san fhilíocht i rChadhach.”



An Dr Caoimhín Mac Giolla Léith, Cathaoirleach agus an tOllamh Regina Uí Chollatáin in éineacht leis an gcainteoir, an Dr Liam Mac Amhlaigh

Príomhléacht bhliantúil nualitríocht na Nua-Ghaeilge is ea Léacht Uí Chadhain a reachtálar in ómós an scríbhneora Máirtín Ó Cadhain. Labhair an Dr Mac Amhlaigh ar thréimhse lár na haoise seo caite, agus filíocht na Nua-Ghaeilge faoi bhláth ó aimsir an Direánaigh, an Ríordánaigh agus Mháire Mhac an tSaoi ar aghaidh chuig filí INNTI, agus cuid áirithe filí eile idir eatarthu. Theastaigh uaidh scrúdú a dhéanamh ar leoithe úr na hEorpa agus an Domhain ag dul i bhfeidhm ar scríbhneoirí Gaeilge na hÉireann le fáil amach ar tharla an nua-aoiseachas a bheith i dtreis i bhfilíocht na Nua-Ghaeilge an tráth sin. Áitíodh nach féidir leas a bhaint as lipéad mar fhilí nua-aoiseacha ná iar-nua-aoiseacha le ceart i gcás Davitt, Uí Mhuirthile, Rosenstock, Ní Dhomhnaill et al, ach gur gá fearas agus téarmaíocht nua chriticiúil a bhunú ar thréimhse eiseamláireach i bhfilíocht na teanga.

Pangur Bán in Áras an Uachtaráin

Tugadh cuireadh do mhuintir Roinn Sean-Ghaeilge Ollscoil Mhá Nuad chun dul go dtí Áras an Uachtaráin ar 21 Eanáir 2020 agus aithris a dhéanamh ar an dán Sean-Ghaeilge “Messe ocus Pangur Bán”. Is mar chuid de cheiliúradh a bhí sé óir bhí dealbh Imogen Stuart den scoláire agus dena chat (1976) á cur isteach i bhforhalla an Árais. Is snoiteán ollmhór i seacht bpáirt leis an ealaíontóir Gael-Ghearmánach aitheanta í an dealbh seo.



An Dr Deborah Hayden, an Dr Siobhán Barrett, Sabina Uí hUigín, Micheál D Ó hUigín, Imogen Stuart agus an tOll David Stifter in aice leis an dealbh “Pangur Bán” i bhforhalla Áras an Uachtaráin

Bhí sí coimisiúnaithe ar an gcéad lá riamh chun bheith curtha isteach in ionad siopadóireachta i nDún Laoghaire agus, ina dhiaidh sin, chaith sé blianta fada ar taispeáin sa Choláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath. Feictear sa dealbh an príomhábhar atá sa dán seo, a caomhnaíodh i lámhscríbhinn sa naoú haois ag manach Éireannach ar an Mór-Roinn agus atá faoi dhíon anois i Mainistir Naomh Pól i Lavanttal na hOstaire.

I láthair don searmanas bhí an tUachtarán Micheál D Ó hUigín agus a bhean chéile Sabina, ambasadóirí na hOstaire agus na Gearmáine go hÉirinn agus roinnt mhaith ball de theaghlach sínte Imogen Stuart. Le linn an tsearmanais féin, rinne an tOll David Stifter aithris ar an mbunleagan Sean-Ghaeilge den dán, rinne an Dr Deborah Hayden aithris ar an leagan Nua-Ghaeilge den dán a chóirigh Micheál Rhodes agus rinne an Dr Siobhán Barrett aithris ar an aistriúchán Béarla den dán a chóirigh Robin Flower.

Mar thionlacan ceoil don triúr acu bhí Eibhlís Ní Ríordáin ag seinm ar a cláirseach. Labhair an tUachtarán ar nascanna cultúrtha an dáin le hÉirinn, leis an nGearmáin agus leis an Ostair agus thug an t-ealaíontóir féin caint aisti maidir le stair na deilbhe agus leis an méid a thug inspioráid di agus í i mbun dealbhóireachta.

Gearrscannán Gaeilge in Ómós don Athair Peadar



An Dr Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh, Eoin P Ó Murchú, Muireann Ní Chorcóra agus Aodh Ó Gallchóir i mbun scéalaíochta ar champas theas Ollscoil Mhá Nuad ina radhairc sa ghearrscannán Séadna

Ar 21 Márta 2020 bhí céad bliain caite ó cailleadh an tAthair Peadar Ó Laoghaire, an feachtasóir teanga agus ceannródaí liteartha a scríobh an chéad úrscéal Gaeilge riamh, *Séadna*, i measc a ghaicé eile. I bhfad roimh don Athair Peadar clú agus cáil a bhaint amach dó féin le linn thréimhse Athbheochan na Gaeilge, chaith sé sé bliana i mbun staidéir i gclairscoil Choláiste Phádraig, Má Nuad. Mar aitheantas ar an dlúthnasc idir eisean agus Má Nuad agus chun ómós a dhéanamh dó ar ócáid an chomórtha, tháinig Gaeilgeoirí ar champas Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, idir mhic léinn agus baill foirne, le chéile chun gearrscannán a dhéanamh ina n-athinsítear *Séadna*.

Is fréamhaithe i dtraidisiún béil na hÉireann a théann i bhfad siar é *Séadna*, a cheiliúran cineáltas, ionracas agus muintearas an duine lena sceal den chomhrac idir gnáthghrásaí darb ainm Séadna agus an diabhal é féin. Bhí an gearrscannán taifeadta i Mí Feabhra na bliana seo in áiteanna eagsúla ar champas theas na hollscoile óir tuigtear go mbíodh an tAthair Peadar ag caitheamh roinnt mhaith ama iontu ar fad agus é ina scoláire le Coláiste Phádraig sna 1860í. Is léiriú ar ard-chaighdeán é mar thoradh ar rannpháirtíocht fhísghrafadóir na hollscoile Daniel Balteanu a oibríonn leis an Oifig Cumarsáide. I mbun scéalaíochta sa ghearrscannán thar cheann na foirne tá an Dr Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh ó Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge, Aodh Ó Gallchóir ó Lárionad na Gaeilge agus Brian Mac Maghnúis ó Oifig na Gaeilge agus thar cheann na mac léinn feictear beirt sa dara bliain le Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge, Máire Ní Churraoin agus Muireann Ní Chorcóra, agus mac léinn dochtúireachta de chuid na Roinne, Eoin P Ó Murchú. Ní hamháin go ndearnadar ar fad éacht ach casann Sairí Ní Dhroighneáin amhrán ar an sean-nós dár teideal “Slán le Máigh” thar na teidil chreidiúna freisin chun an scéilín brónach ach dóchasach a thabhairt chun críche go snasta. Tá an-rath ar an ngearrscannán ó eisíodh ar You Tube é don chomórthar ar chéad bliain ó cailleadh an tAthair Peadar agus is féidir breathnú air go fóill ar <https://mu.ie/seadna>

D’oscail Uachtarán Ollscoil Mhá Nuad an tOllamh Pilib Ó Nualláin Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020 ar champas Mhá Nuad agus, mar aitheantas ar a thacaíocht leanúnach don Ghaeilge in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad agus as bheith i láthair le pobal Gaelach na hollscoile an lá sin, fuair sé bronntanas ó Uachtarán Chuallacht Cholmille, Lucy Nic Aindris, atá ina bliain dheireanach faoi láthair ag déanamh staidéir ar an nGaeilge agus ar na Meáin.



Mar chuid den cheiliúradh do Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2020 thug Gaeilgeoirí Mhá Nuad faoi bhaile Mhaigh Nuad do thráth na gceist boird Gaeilge speisialta sa tigh tábhairne Brady’s Clockhouse. Bhí an-óiche de spraoi agus de stuamacht ag an slua

a ghlac páirt ann agus faoi dheireadh thiar thall bhí an bua ag Craig Mac Gabhann, Ruairí Weiner agus Saoirse Delaney agus bhronn fear an tí agus Leasuachtarán Chuallacht Cholmille Conchúr Ó Luadhóg agus a chúntóir Brian Mac Maghnúis ó Oifig na Gaeilge a gcuid duaiseanna áille seacláide orthu triúr.

Beo ar Éigean ar Champas Mhá Nuad

Bhí ríméad ar phobal Gaelach na hollscoile nuair a ghlac na phodchraoltóirí Sinéad Ní Uallacháin, Siún Ní Dhuinn agus Áine Ní Bheisleáin leis an gcuireadh chun teacht amach chugainn ar champas le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2020 agus eagrán dena bpodchraoladh Gaeilge mór le rá *Beo ar Éigean* a thaifeadh beo inár measc. Is san Ionad in Aontas na Mac Léinn a cuireadh an ócáid ar siúl agus bhí slua i láthair chun fáilte a chur rompu den chéad uair, cé gur fáilte ar ais a bhí ann do Shiún a d’inis don slua gur chaith sí tréimhse leathbhliana ag múineadh leis an Roinn Froebel don Luath agus Bhunoideachas agus tréimhse leathbhliana eile ag obair mar Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

Oibríonn an triúr ban do RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta ar réimse leathan de chláracha agus tá a bpodchraoladh ag dul ó neart go neart ó thosaíodar é dhá bhliain go leith ó shin mar chuid d’ábhar digiteach Gaeilge an chraoltóra náisiúnta. Is fíor-ghreannmhar an triúr iad agus iad lán de chaint is de cheol le linn an taifeadta ach, cé go bhfuileadar an-mheidhreach mar chomhluadar, ní bhíonn drogall orthu labhairt go hoscailte agus go hionraic ar leibhéal níos doimhne, mar a bhí soiléir an oíche úd i Má Nuad. Ba é príomhábhar an phodchraolta ná na mionrudaí neafaiseacha a chuireann as dúinn inár saolta laethúla nó “pet peeves” mar a ghlaitear orthu i mBéarla. Is féidir éisteacht siar ar an eagrán áirithe seo den phodchraoladh anseo: <https://www.rte.ie/gaeilge/beo-ar-eigean/>



Sinéad Ní Uallacháin, Siún Ní Dhuinn agus Áine Ní Bheisleáin, na podchraoltóirí ó Bheo ar Éigean, le hOifigeach Gaeilge Ollscoil Mhá Nuad Brian Mac Maghnúis

Cló Léann na Gaeilge (CLÓ)

Cuireadh tús le tionscnamh bisiúil ag deireadh na bliana seo caite a bhfuil impleachtaí tábhachtacha do Léann na Gaeilge ar fud an oileáin: bunú CLÓ, inphrionta acadúil a fhoilseoidh saothair Ghaeilge ar an gcaighdeán idirnáisiúnta is airde. Foilseoidh CLÓ taighde piarmheasta ó gach réimse de léann na Gaeilge, trí mheáin chlóite agus leictreonacha éagsúla. Beidh sé i gceist go mbeadh CLÓ mar bhonn agus mar thaca faoi thaidhe agus scoláireacht na Gaeilge.



An tOllamh Máire Ní Annracháin, Ollamh Taca le Nua-Ghaeilge in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, ag fógairt bunú Chló Léann na Gaeilge

Beidh sé mar aidhm ag CLÓ an dioscúrsa léannta a spreagadh agus a chothú trí ardán foilsitheoireachta a chur ar fáil do scoláirí ar fud na cruinne ar mian leo a gcuid taighde sa réimse thuasluaite a fhoilsiú i nGaeilge. Freagra ar an riachtanas le fearas nua foilsitheoireachta a chur i dtoll a chéile is ea CLÓ, ionas go mbeadh seachadadh scoláireacht agus taighde i Léann na Gaeilge slán sna blianta amach romhainn. Aithnítear an rannpháirtíocht ó Ollscoil Mhá Nuad agus an tOllamh Fionntán de Brún ar an gcéad bhord comhairleach idirnáisiúnta eagarthóireachta agus an Dr Liam Mac Amhlaigh ina bhall den ghrúpa maoirseachta. Togra tras-institiúideach Ollscoile is ea CLÓ i bpáirt leis an teach foilsitheoireachta COMHAR agus tá tuilleadh sonraí ar fáil ag clo.ie.

Portráidí na Scríbhneoirí Gaeilge don Bhliain 2020



An Dr Liam Mac Amhlaigh, eagarthóir, leis an bhfile Derry O'Sullivan ag seoladh na bPortráidí roimh an Nollaig

Fógraíodh an chéad ghrúpa nua phortráidí eile – Liosta 2020 – i gCÉim 2 den togra *Portráidí na Scríbhneoirí Gaeilge* (portraidi.ie) roimh an Nollaig. Tionscadal eiseamláireach is ea é a dhéanann an Scríbhneoir Gaeilge a chomóradh agus a thugann ábhar grianghrafadóireachta den scoth i láthair an phobail. Sa chéad chéim den tionscadal cuireadh an leabhar agus an láithreán ar fáil bunaithe ar an gcartlann reatha phortráidí digiteacha. Sa dara céim seo den tionscadal, cuirtear portráidí dá bhfuil ann de scríbhneoirí

eile na Gaeilge sna seánraí éagsúla leis an gcartlann seo go bliantúil chun an chartlann a iomlánú thar am. Cuirtear sraith nua d’ocht bportráidí nua/ochtar scríbhneoirí leis an mbunachar in aghaidh na bliana agus is iad Áine Durkin, Áine Uí Fhoghlú, Declan Collinge, Gary Hastings, Jackie Mac Donncha, Máirín Ní Dhonechadha, Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin, agus Seán Ó Coileáin, liosta 2020. Iarléachtóir de chuid Ollscoil Mhá Nuad é Declan Collinge, file agus scríbhneoir aistí, agus beidh torthaí na hoibre seo le cur i mbéal an phobail i mí Dheireadh Fómhair na bliana seo.

Anuas air seo, tá socruithe á chur i dtoll a chéile ábhar an bhailiúcháin a bhuanstóráil i leabharlann dhigiteach Ollscoil Mhá Nuad; go gcaomhnofaí go síoraí slán é. Ar ndóigh, is iomaí nasc a bhaineann le hOMN agus an tionscnamh seo: an Dr Liam Mac Amhlaigh (eagarthóir), an Dr Lára Ní Mhaoláin (ball den phainéal grianghrafadóireachta) agus Ronan Doherty (céimí agus comhairleoir deartha). Anuas orthu sin, feictear ceangal le neart de na portráidí áille, idir fhoireann, iarfhoireann, chéimithe na hOllscoile agus naisc thíreolaíochtúla Chill Dara; Tadhg Ó Dúshláine agus Ruairí Ó hUiginn an bheirt is deireanaí le nasc leis an Ollscoil a réitíodh portráidí díobh don chnuasach.

Mic Léinn Mhá Nuad i nGaeltacht na Mí

Bhí fáilte is fiche curtha roimh mhic léinn Scéim Chónaithe Ollscoil Mhá Nuad nuair a thugadar na cosa leo don dara bliain as a chéile go Ráth Chairm amuigh faoin tuath i gContae na Mí, an ceantar Gaeltachta is gaire dóibh, chun an deireadh seachtaine a chaitheamh ann. Bhí aimsir na Bó Riabhaí leo nuair a thugadar faoin mbóthar tráthnóna Aoine in éineacht le hOifigeach na Gaeilge Brian Mac Maghnúis ach níor chuir sé seo as dóibh puinn agus taitneamh agus tairbhe á mbaint acu as na himeachtaí a chuir bainisteoir ChomharChumann Ráth Chairm Brídóg Ní Chonaire in eagar dóibh ó shroicheadar an áit go dtí gur fhágadar arís í.



Simon Ó Cróinín in éineacht le mic léinn ó Scéim Chónaithe Ollscoil Mhá Nuad tar éis dó caint a thabhairt dóibh ar cheird na beachaireachta in Áras Pobail Ráth Chairm

I measc na n-imeachtaí bhí caint ar cheird na beachaireachta ón mbeachaire áitiúil Simon Ó Cróinín a d’fhoilsigh leabhar ar an ábhar céanna anuraidh dár teideal “Blas Meala: An Bheachaireacht Shimplí”, ceardlann amhránaíochta ar an sean-nós leis an amhránaí aitheanta gurb as an gceantar di Nollaig Ní Laoire, a bhuaigh Corn Uí Riada sa bhliain 2010 agus léacht ar stair aonaránach agus thar a bheith spéisúil Ráth Chairm ón úrscéalaí mór lé rá agus léachtóir ócáideach in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad atá ina chónaí sa cheantar le tríocha bliana anuas, Liam Mac Cóil. Chomh maith leis sin go léir, thugamar turas ar na suíomhanna ársa Cnoc na Teamhrach agus Tlachtga, nach bhfuil i bhfad ón nGaeltacht in aon chor agus a thugann an-léargas ar thábhacht an cheantair i miotaseolaíocht agus béaloideas na hÉireann.

Annual International Student Scholarship Luncheon

The International Office was delighted to host its annual Scholarship Luncheon event in Renehan Hall on South Campus recognising the achievements of international students who have received scholarships to study at Maynooth University for the 2019/20 academic year

The prestigious event, now in its second year, was held on Thursday, February 27 and was attended by 34 students from over 15 different countries who are studying across the three Maynooth University faculties in a wide range of disciplines, ranging from Immunology to Geographic Information Systems, Social Science to Strategy & Innovation.

Maynooth University President, Professor Philip Nolan, presented each scholar with a small gift as a token of appreciation on behalf of the university and spoke of his admiration and gratitude to the role our international students play in creating a vibrant and diverse student experience on campus. Speaking during the event, Director of Internationalisation at Maynooth University Claire Doran, said that “the International Office is committed to developing and promoting scholarship opportunities for high-quality international students, and we have a strong commitment to supporting



Professor Philip Nolan presents a small token of appreciation to a selection of international students at this year's International Student Scholarship Luncheon

international students throughout their journey. This starts months before students arrive at MU and continues throughout their time on campus. But we could not do this alone. The International Office works closely with internal colleagues in Maynooth University's departments and support services and with external organisations, such as Education in Ireland, the HEA, ICOS and the IUA, amongst others.”

Each year, Maynooth University welcomes over 1,300 international students on campus from across the world studying a variety of programmes.

International Office shortlisted at the 2020 Education Awards

The International Office was honoured to be shortlisted for Best International Collaboration Project at the 2020 Education Awards



Pictured at the Education Awards ceremony at the Ballsbridge Hotel L-R: Ben Finnegan (International Officer), Andrew Meehan (Electronic Engineering), Jodi Killackey (International Officer) and Dr Joseph Timoney (Computer Science)

Now in its 4th year of existence this was the first time the International Office at Maynooth University had been shortlisted for the awards. The application for the Best International Collaboration Project, ‘The Maynooth University & Texas Tech University International Summer Programme’, was submitted by the North American Partnerships team within the IO.

In partnership with the Electronic Engineering and Computer Science Departments at Maynooth, MU has been working together with Texas Tech University (TTU) for the past four years on a bespoke collaboration that MU specifically developed, created and implemented for TTU. This collaboration

has grown steadily year on year, most particularly over the past twelve months, in which the partnership has seen significant growth resulting in new developments and collaboration through increased student enrolment, faculty engagement between both institutions, and discussions on potential research collaborations. This collaboration has led to TTU becoming one of MU's closest international partners and the fantastic students and faculty that have visited MU have enriched the campus with their creative ways of thinking and approaches to academic learning.

The application was shortlisted for the 2020 Education Awards due to the unique nature of its composition, and the resounding success of the collaborative project in the last four years. The priority for any International Office is to deliver an outstanding student experience, and the success of this project can be measured by the feedback received directly from students. Over 200 students have participated in this International Collaboration Project with each student receiving excellent grades and an once-in-a-lifetime study abroad experience. Particular thanks has to be given to both the Electronic Engineering Department and Computer Science Department as well as the Dean for Science and Engineering, Prof Ronan Farrell, with special thanks to both Dr Joseph Timoney and Mr Andrew Meehan for the excellent delivery of the academic components of this programme each year.

Alumna wins Educator of Excellence Award for Technology 2020 - BTYS



Pictured is Maynooth alumna Eva Marie Acton who was awarded the *Analog Devices Educator of Excellence Award for Technology 2020* at the BT Young Scientist in January with her students Coláiste Mhuire, CBS Mullingar from who had six projects in the competition, won a Met Éireann special award and had three projects highly commended. We are extremely proud of all our graduates who lead projects on STEM education each year in BTYS. We feel we have some small part in this wonderful event through our work in teacher education here at Maynooth University. We offer three streams of undergraduate education [MH212] where you can qualify to teach computer science, applied mathematics, mathematics, biology, chemistry and physics.