

UNIVERSITY NEWS



Education Forum Calls for Teacher Ownership of Student Assessment



Prof Janette Elwood speaking on teacher assessment at the Forum

The fourth annual Maynooth Education Forum heard from leading international experts that Irish teachers should be given a central role in the assessment of their students at Junior and Leaving Certificate

The Forum heard that by empowering teachers to make professional judgements we can shift the culture of assessment towards a model that is tailored to each student and, significantly, promotes skills and competencies that are highly sought after by modern businesses.

For Professor Val Klenowski, Queensland University of Technology, the expertise of teacher's professional judgements need to be taken seriously to meet the learning needs of students in a changing world. The skills which are vital to thrive in the modern world such as critical thinking, problem solving, the ability to work well in groups, creativity, innovation, and communication, are being neglected by the current system of mass assessment and testing.

Speaking at the Education Forum, Professor Klenowski said: "With teachers taking an active role in designing their own assessment models based on a core syllabus you take into account the fact that different schools have different needs. It allows for a diverse range of assessment to be practised – whether that consists of in-class essays, assignments, or presentations— that not only reflect the different ways in which students can demonstrate their learning but also more successfully fosters a practical skillset which will serve them moving forward into college and into their professional lives."

Maynooth University Analysis of Historical Records Show Ireland is Prone to Drought

Recently uncovered weather records, dating back to the beginning of the 19th century, reveal that, historically, Ireland is remarkably prone to drought

According to Dr Conor Murphy, Maynooth University Department of Geography, the records show that the last 40 years have been unusual due to the absence of persistent drought events, which have occurred frequently over the last two centuries. Dr Murphy discussed the recently uncovered records in an opening keynote at the 9th ACRE Workshop and Historical Weather and Climate Data Forum on campus from 20-24 June.

The team at Maynooth is currently working on a detailed drought catalogue for Ireland stretching right back to the mid-1700s to map the spatial extent of droughts and trace their impacts using a range of documentary sources, including newspaper archives.



Pictured at the ACRE Workshop are (l-r); Rob Allan, Met office; Dr Philip Brohan, Met Office; Seamus Walsh, Met Éireann; Dr Kate Willett, Met Office; Dr Gil Compo, CIRES and Dr Conor Murphy, ICARUS and Dept of Geography, Maynooth University

Researchers at Maynooth University, in collaboration with Met Éireann and international partners, have been undertaking to rescue climate data and make use of documentary records to deepen understanding of how the Irish, European, and global climate has varied over the last 160 years and beyond. Over the last two years their research has seen the construction of long records for storminess (1871 to date), rainfall (1850 to date), flooding (1871 to date) and now droughts for the island of Ireland.

In this issue...

Professor Emeritus of Modern History Delivers Alumni Lecture

Alumnus and former head of the Department of History, Professor Comerford's lecture, entitled 'Currencies, Politics and Society in Ireland since 1847', explored the Irish public's enhanced awareness of the capacity of a country's currency to impact on its economic, social and political life



Professor Emeritus Vincent Comerford

This latest addition to the Maynooth University Alumni Lecture Series took place in Renehan Hall on Wednesday 6 April and was enjoyed by many of the professor's former students and colleagues who delighted to see him back once again at a Maynooth podium. International alumni who were unable to attend sent many warm messages on social media about Professor Comerford's dedication and commitment to his students over the years.

Photos from this event are available on <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/alumnimemories>

The next lecture in the Alumni Lecture Series is the Faculty of Science and Engineering lecture which will take place towards the end of 2016.

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@nuim.ie.

Maynooth University Academic Elected First Irish President of a UN Treaty Body

Anastasia Crickley, elected president of the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Anastasia Crickley, who is the former head of the Department of Applied Social Studies, is the first Irish person to lead a UN treaty body, which are international committees of independent experts that monitor states' implementation of international human rights treaties.

At present, there are nine treaty bodies monitoring the implementation of the eight core international human rights treaties. CERD, the first of these treaty bodies to be established, is dedicated to overseeing the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). Located in Geneva, CERD consists of 18 experts who meet twice a year for three weeks at a time. Prior to her election, Anastasia Crickley served as vice-president of the Committee. She will now serve a two-year term as its president.

Speaking after her election, Ms Crickley said: "It's an honour and privilege to be elected as president at this crucial and challenging time for all who care



Anastasia Crickley

globally about human rights, including the right to be free from racial discrimination in all its forms. While there has been improvement globally over the 50 years since the Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly, other manifestations of racism—mostly long present—have become visible."

Promoting International Exchange for Physics Students

The Department of Experimental Physics hosted a visit from colleagues at Cardiff University on 21 April with a view to establishing student exchanges between the two institutions at both undergraduate and postgraduate level

Professor Matt Griffin, Professor Carole Tucker and Dr Paul Roche from Cardiff University spent the day exploring commonality of modules at various levels with all members of the teaching staff in Experimental Physics. Dr Peter van der Burgt is the co-ordinator of international exchanges in the Department of Experimental Physics.

Alena Jurikova from Maynooth University's International Office joined the discussions and outlined the schemes available to support student exchange such as the ERASMUS programme together with details of the application process. Students must spend a minimum of one semester in the university abroad to qualify for financial support under this scheme. In addition to the ERASMUS programme, Cardiff University also supports international exchange through their Global Opportunities Budget. Possibilities for further collaboration include postgraduate student exchanges and short staff visits of up to one week.

Areas of immediate collaboration include a joint observing field trip by astrophysics students from the two universities to Observatoire Haute Provence (OHP), France in October 2016. The Department of Experimental Physics recently celebrated ten years of field trips to OHP with the publication by



Professor Anthony Murphy, Department of Experimental Physics; Professor Carole Tucker, Cardiff University; Dr Frank Mulligan, Department of Experimental Physics; Dr Paul Roche, Cardiff University; Professor Matt Griffin, Cardiff University and Dr Créidhe Ó Sullivan, Dept of Experimental Physics

Dr Créidhe Ó Sullivan of a photo album of students, staff, instruments, and pictures from the surrounding countryside over the decade. In future years, students of astrophysics from Cardiff University will join the Maynooth group as part of the collaboration. Another project for joint work will see Maynooth students join colleagues from Cardiff University making observations with the Faulkes Telescope located at Siding Spring Observatory in New South Wales, Australia.

Ireland in Danger of Replicating Failed US Prison Experiment

With Ireland's prison population having increased by over a third to just under 4,000 people since the mid-90s, policy makers must be wary of replicating the situation in the United States, says Dr Claire Hamilton, Senior Lecturer in Law at Maynooth University

Dr Hamilton was speaking in advance of the 10th annual North South Criminology Conference, at Maynooth University which saw the launch of the first of its kind Handbook of Irish Criminology, of which she is co-editor.

According to Dr Hamilton, the growth in the prison population in Ireland, albeit from a low base, is linked to the adoption of American-inspired anti-crime measures. New mandatory type sentences have been an important driver of prison population. Concerns about the extent and nature of organised crime led to a shift from a discretionary, individualised model of sentencing to a more mechanical and, often, more punitive one with presumptive mandatory minimum terms set out for serious drug and firearms offences.

The launch of the first ever *Handbook of Irish Criminology* at the conference is a seminal moment for the field in Ireland. The Handbook consists of original, comprehensive and critical reviews of theory, research, policy and practice in a wide range of subject areas, and is the first edited collection of its kind to bring together the work of leading Irish criminologists in a single volume.



Pictured (l-r); Prof Philip Nolan, President, Maynooth University; Prof Mary Bosworth, University of Oxford; Dr Claire Hamilton, Dept of Law, Maynooth University; Prof Mary Corcoran, Dept of Sociology, Maynooth University

Brexit Referendum Discussion



Pictured at Maynooth University's Brexit Referendum event, British Ambassador to Ireland Dominick Chilcott; Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Ireland Hana Mottlova; Prof Rowena Pecchenino and Prof John O'Brennan, Maynooth University

On Tuesday, 26 April, the Maynooth Centre for European and Eurasian Studies held an event to explore the implications of a potential vote in favour of a British exit from the European Union

The event took the form of a panel discussion, moderated by Irish Times Economics Editor, Arthur Beesley. There were contributions from leading scholars and practitioners including Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Ireland Hana Mottlova; British Ambassador to Ireland Dominick Chilcott; Professor Arthur Aughey, Professor of Politics, University of Ulster; Dr Mary C. Murphy, Jean Monnet Chair at UCC and President of the Irish Association for Contemporary European Studies; Dr Aedín Doris, Department of Economics and Professor John O'Brennan, Jean Monnet Chair of European Integration, Director, Centre for European and Eurasian Studies, Department of Sociology. Speaking at the event, Professor O'Brennan maintained that a vote to leave could see the return of "hard" border controls between the Republic and Northern Ireland. This could potentially result in a 3% loss of Irish GDP by 2030 and prove a significant setback for the peace process.

'Let's Talk Inclusion' Colloquium

On 13 May, the Inclusive Learning Initiative (ILI) held a colloquium at Maynooth University designed to provide a space to reflect on, and formally recognise, shared learning experiences in Inclusive Education in Maynooth University and Western Carolina University

The colloquium was participative, providing attendees with the opportunity to gain insight into various programme practices, student achievements, learning partners (mentors) and the experiences of academic and support staff. Attendees spoke about the meaningfulness of inclusive education relative to sectoral change, policy development, the impact on families and societal enrichment. They emphasised the importance of equality in experience, and formal recognition of learning, for students and learning partners on both programmes.

It is hoped that, in future, the programme provision model in higher educational institutions will disappear and going to college will become a natural part of the life cycle for all who wish to attend. For more information contact ili@nuim.ie



Attendees at the colloquium

Historical Records Show Ireland is Prone to Drought *(continued from front page)*

Understanding long-term historical climate is critical for informing current and future policy-making surrounding water resource management, flooding and agriculture. Given that long drought events have happened with regularity in the past, there is a high likelihood that they will occur again in future.

Commenting on the papers, conference organiser Professor Peter Thorne, Maynooth University Department of Geography, said: "The huge amount of

data which has not been digitised represents the great 'known unknowns' in climatology. Rescuing data from the archives, pulling together documentary sources, and making this data available to researchers will allow us to better understand the global, regional and national aspects of the climate system, refine our models for the future, and ensure that we become more resilient to both natural climate variability and human caused climate change."

Dean of Teaching and Learning Appointed

Dr Alison Hood Appointed to New Role



Dr Alison Hood

The Dean of Teaching and Learning provides leadership for the University in the development of teaching and learning and the supports for students in learning.

This includes overseeing the development of critical skills courses for first year students; a range of elective courses for undergraduate students; advisory, guidance and peer mentoring supports for students; and experiential learning and co-curricular activities, including service learning and work placements.

The Office of the Dean of Teaching and Learning supports teaching and learning across the University, coordinating the work of

- Centre for Teaching and Learning
- Career Development Centre
- Work Placement
- Experiential Learning
- Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies

while assuming direct responsibility for certain interdisciplinary courses currently under development involving multiple departments.

For further information, email dean.teachingandlearning@nuim.ie, telephone (01) 708 4796 or call to Room 1.15, Rowan House.

New Roles for School of Business Academics

Dr Olga Ryazanova has been elected by the global membership of the Academy of Management (AOM) as the Division Secretary of the Management Education and Development (MED). The MED Secretary serves for a two year term and is elected through a competitive process by the 1,800 academic and practitioner members worldwide (with the AOM having approximately 19,500 members). The MED secretary is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the records of the division, recording of division executive and membership meetings, record of decisions and ensuring that the governance regulations of the division are followed.

Dr John Cullen has recently been appointed as an Associate Editor of Journal of Management Education (JME). It follows on Dr Cullen's strong track record of making contributions to management education literature. John joins a team of Associate Editors of Journal of Management Education focusing on Research Articles, with other Associate Editors focusing on Essays (including Paul Hibbert, who will give a guest lecture on publishing in education journals on campus in August 2016), and Associate Editors for Teaching Innovations. JME is led by co-editors Jeanie Forray and Kathy Lund Dean (External Examiner for the MSc Business and Management).

Life Sciences PhD Student Wins Award

Nicola Moloney BSc, a 3rd year PhD student in the Department of Biology was awarded the prestigious Best Oral Presentation Prize at the Irish Fungal Society Meeting in March



Professor Gary Moran, President IFS presenting Nicola with her award

The international meeting was attended by more than 140 Scientists and Clinicians from throughout Europe and North America, and was held in conjunction with the British Society for Medical Mycology and the Austrian Medical Mycology Society. The winning presentation was on the topic "Dissecting and Exploiting Adaptations to Iron Starvation in *Aspergillus fumigatus*." and comprised some data recently published in the peer-reviewed, international *Journal of Proteomics*, where Nicola was joint first author, along with new information on the proteomic response of *Aspergillus* to restricted iron availability. The monetary prize was won in the face of tough competition from other excellent students from Irish Universities, and was presented to Nicola by Professor Gary Moran, Irish Fungal Society President.

Nicola is a first class honours graduate of the BSc (Biomedical Science) programme at Maynooth University (2012). She commenced her PhD studies in 2013 under the supervision of Professor Sean Doyle in the Department of Biology. Nicola's work is funded by a competitive Science Foundation Ireland Investigator award to Professor Doyle. Importantly, Nicola's molecular microbiology project is facilitated by access to the superb instrumentation infrastructure, including HPLC and protein mass spectrometry equipment, at Maynooth University. This equipment was secured by competitive funding from the Higher Education Authority and Science Foundation Ireland.

Aspergillus fumigatus can cause severe disease in immunocompromised, COPD and cystic fibrosis patients. Research in Professor Doyle's laboratory is directed towards both anti-fungal drug target identification and improved diagnosis of the infection, and is carried out in collaboration with other researchers in the Department of Biology and DCU, as well as overseas.

Schedule of Dates for Meetings in 2016-2017

FACULTY OF ARTS, CELTIC STUDIES & PHILOSOPHY at 15.00 hours (THREE EXCEPTIONS)	FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING at 15.00 hours (ONE EXCEPTION)	FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES at 15.00 hours (TWO EXCEPTIONS)	ACADEMIC COUNCIL at 15.00 hours	GOVERNING AUTHORITY at 14.30 hours
5 September 2016 (12.00) Boardroom JHB	6 September 2016 Boardroom JHB	5 September 2016 Boardroom JHB	19 September 2016 Boardroom JHB	22 September 2016 Boardroom JHB
10 October 2016 Boardroom JHB	11 October 2016 Boardroom JHB	10 October 2016 (11.00) Boardroom JHB	24 October 2016 Boardroom JHB	10 November 2016 Boardroom JHB
14 November 2016 Boardroom JHB	15 November 2016 Boardroom JHB	21 November 2016 Boardroom JHB	5 December 2016 Boardroom JHB	15 December 2016 Boardroom JHB
16 January 2017 (12.00) Boardroom JHB	17 January 2017 (12.00) Boardroom JHB	16 January 2017 Boardroom JHB	6 February 2017 Boardroom JHB	16 February 2017 Boardroom JHB
20 March 2017 Boardroom JHB	21 March 2017 Boardroom JHB	20 March 2017 (11.00) Boardroom JHB	3 April 2017 Boardroom JHB	20 April 2017 Boardroom JHB
15 May 2017 (12.00) Boardroom JHB	16 May 2017 Boardroom JHB	15 May 2017 Boardroom JHB	29 May 2017 Boardroom JHB	8 June 2017 Boardroom JHB

Maynooth University Access Programme Achievement Awards 2016

Access Programme recognises exceptional achievement of second level students and teachers

Maynooth University presented awards for exceptional achievement to over 150 second level students and 30 teachers from Kildare, Offaly, West Dublin and Kilkenny. The awards are granted by the Maynooth Access Programme (MAP), which works with second level schools to encourage under-represented groups to enter third level.

The *MAP Second Level Awards* are given to students who have shown outstanding application, dedication and progress at school, often in the face of challenging circumstances. Third year students are awarded for significant advancement in a school subject area and 6th year winners are nominated by their school. Another group of winners, *6th Year Inspirational Student Award* winners, also nominate a teacher or member of their school staff for awards that recognise their extraordinary effort ability to support and inspire students to achieve their goals.

The *MAP Alumni Award* was given to Keith Murphy, PhD Candidate in the Maynooth University Department of Adult and Community Education and FETAC tutor with National Learning Network. The *MAP Student Achievement Award* went to Nicole Chatham, 2nd Year BA Community and Youth Work student and former pupil of St. Mark's Community School, Tallaght. Chatham and Murphy were selected for their personal and academic achievements, their civic engagement and their potential to act as a role model to students.



Professor Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, Keith Murphy, Alumni Achievement Award Winner, Nicole Chatham, Student Achievement Award Winner and Rose Ryan, Director of Maynooth University Access Programme

This year MAP also recognised the outstanding contribution of the Maynooth Students' Union; St. Paul's Secondary School, Monasterevin; and Oaklands Community College, Edenderry; to College Awareness Week. All three winners hosted events to promote the benefits of going to college and were singled out by the College Awareness Week Team as national examples of good practice. Rose Ryan, Maynooth University Director of Access, said: "Maynooth University places a premium on enhancing educational participation and attainment, and the *MAP Special Awards* can have a powerful impact at a crucial point in the lives of student participants as well as recognising the important role of teachers in directing students towards third level achievement."

"The *MAP Second Level Awards* celebrate the accomplishments of 150 amazing young people in 3rd Year and 6th Year from MAP-linked schools. These awards will hopefully be the first of many awards on their path through education," she said.

Five Fulbright Scholarships Awarded

Maynooth University post-graduate students and faculty awarded scholarships to participate in the largest international US exchange program in the world

Each year, the program awards grants to Irish and EU postgraduate students, scholars, and professionals to study, research, and lecture in the United States.

The Fulbright Program was set up by Senator J William Fulbright in 1946 with the aim of increasing mutual respect and understanding between the United States and other countries through educational and cultural exchange. The Fulbright Commission in Ireland was established in 1957 and, since its formation, over 2,000 postgraduate students, scholars, professionals, and teachers have participated in the program between the U.S. and Ireland. Fulbright awards include a monetary grant, visa administration, accident and emergency insurance, and a range of cultural and professional programming.

Maynooth University Fulbright Awardees for 2016-2017 are as follows:

- **Dr Eva Barrett** is a Lecturer in Law at Maynooth University and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Trinity College Dublin. As a Fulbright Schuman awardee Eva will deliver guest-lectures and work on the research and curriculum development project 'Developing Energy Law in the EU & Comparing the Regulation and Liberalisation of Energy Markets in the US with the Regulation and Liberalisation of Electricity Markets in the EU' in Vermont Law School's Institute for Energy and the Environment.
- **Mr John Brown** is a PhD candidate at Maynooth University. He will be researching the politics of contemporary democratisation in Latin America, focusing on Bolivian and Venezuelan processes. As a Fulbright Student Awardee, John will be based at the Centre for Inter-American Policy and Research at Tulane University, New Orleans.
- **Mr Michael Dawson** is currently the Director of the Chamber Choir at Maynooth University. As a Fulbright Awardee, he will undertake a Doctor of



Pictured at the awards presentation evening are (l-r); Tadhg Ryan Charleton; Dr Eva Barrett; Prof Philip Nolan, President; John Brown; Michael Dawson and Dr Conor Meade

Music Arts Degree at the Thornton School of Music, University of Southern California.

- **Dr Conor Meade** lectures in Ecology and Bio-geography at Maynooth University. As a Fulbright Scholar to the University of Colorado, Conor will investigate the impact of climate change on alpine ecosystems in the Rocky Mountains Front Range.
- **Mr Tadhg Ryan Charleton** is a PhD Candidate at Maynooth University's School of Business. As a Fulbright-Enterprise Ireland Student Awardee, he will examine the organisational and macroeconomic drivers of innovation in knowledge-sharing alliances between competitors at the Pamplin College of Business, Virginia Tech.

Commenting on the announcement, Professor Philip Nolan, Maynooth University President, said: "It is a tremendous accomplishment for these Maynooth University students and faculty members to be selected to participate in this prestigious exercise in educational and cultural exchange. We are extremely proud of the talent and expertise we are fostering here at Maynooth, and I have no doubt that they will be outstanding ambassadors for Irish research while they are based in the United States."

Training Session for Staff Members / Seisiún Oiliúna do Bhaill Foirne

A training session for staff members on the University's obligations under the Official Languages Act and the University's Irish Language Scheme was held in the Library recently

The session was very well attended. Professor Seán Ó Riain, Chairperson of the Irish Language Committee, welcomed attendees and Colm Ó Coisdealbha, Director at the Office of the Irish Language Commissioner, delivered a comprehensive presentation. Communications with the public in Irish, bilingual signage, stationery and office voicemails were among the topics covered.

The slides from the presentation are available on the Oifig na Gaeilge website as well as an information leaflet which summarises the important information. If your office or department have any queries, please contact Oifig na Gaeilge oifig.nagaeilge@nuim.ie



Orla Bradshaw (Oifig na Gaeilge), Colm Ó Coisdealbha agus Eileen Seoighe (Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga) agus an tOllamh Aodán Ó Maolchaoin (Cláráitheoir)

Reáchtáladh seisiún oiliúna do bhaill foirne sa Leabharlann le déanaí ar dhualgais na hOllscoile faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla agus Scéim Teanga na hOllscoile

Bhí slua breá i láthair ar an lá. Chuir an tOllamh Seán Ó Riain, Cathaoirleach Choiste na Gaeilge, fáilte roimh an lucht freastail. Rinne Colm Ó Coisdealbha, Stiúrthóir, Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, cur i láthair cuimsitheach. Bhí cumarsáid i nGaeilge leis an bpobal, comharthaíocht dhátheangach, stáiseanóireacht agus glórphoist oifige i measc na n-ábhar a clúdaíodh.

Tá na sleamháin ón gcur i láthair ar fáil ar shuíomh Oifig na Gaeilge chomh maith le bileog eolais a dhéanann achoimre ar an eolas tábhachtach. Má tá ceist ag d'oifig nó ag do roinn, déan teagmháil le hOifig na Gaeilge oifig.nagaeilge@nuim.ie

Gradam d'Fheachtas Gaeilge na Bliana buaite ag Cuallacht Cholmcille

Bhronn Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn gradam d'Fheachtas Gaeilge na Bliana ar Chuallacht Cholmcille, An Cumann Gaelach in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, dá bhfeachtas 'An Dátheangachas in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad'

Bronntar an gradam seo ar aontas, ar chumann nó ar mhac léinn aonair a eagraíonn feachtas éifeachtach chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i measc phobal na hOllscoile nó sa phobal i gcoitinne. Ghlac Matt Ó Baoill, Uachtarán Aontas na Mac Léinn Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, leis an duais ar son na Cuallachta. Ba mhaith le hOifig na Gaeilge comhghairdeas a dhéanamh leis an gCuallacht.



Matt Ó Baoill, Uachtarán Aontas na Mac Léinn Ollscoil Mhá Nuad agus Aodhán Ó Deá, Stiúrthóir Forbartha Chonradh na Gaeilge

Scrúdú Gaeilge do cháilíocht TEG san Astráil



Lucht freastail Scoil Gheimhridh Sydney. Thug cuid mhór acu faoin scrúdú TEG

Tá an scrúdú bonnleibhéil don Teastas Eorpach Gaeilge (TEG) déanta ag 33 duine i Sydney na hAstráile - an chéad uair riamh gur tionóladh na scrúduithe sin an taobh sin den domhan

Bhí Éireannaigh agus Astrálaigh ó dhúchas ina measc sin a thug faoin scrúdú. Thaisit siad ó chúinní éagsúla den Astráil go Sydney don scrúdú a d'eagraigh Ollscoil Mhá Nuad. Reáchtáladh an scrúdú le linn Scoil Gheimhridh Sydney. Rinneadh tástáil ar chumas scríbhneoireachta agus ar chumas cainte na ndaoine a thug faoin scrúdú. Tá tuilleadh eolais ar fáil ag: www.teg.ie

33 people have completed the foundation level exam for the European Certificate in Irish in Sydney, Australia – this is the first time that these exams have been held on this side of the world.

Both Irish and Australians undertook the exam, travelling from the different corners of Australia to Sydney for the exam which was organised by Maynooth University. The exam was made available as part of the Sydney Winter School. Those who undertook the exam were tested on their written Irish ability as well as their spoken Irish ability. Further information is available at: www.teg.ie

Oifigigh Theanga ag Seimineár Bhord na Gaeilge



Orla Bradshaw, Oifigeach na Gaeilge Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, in éineacht le hionadaithe ó Ollscoil Bangor, Coláiste na Tríonóide, Ollscoil Luimnigh, Parlaimint na nAlban, An Coláiste Ollscoile Baile Átha Cliath, Ollscoil Dhún Éideann, Ollscoil Luimnigh, Coláiste Phádraig agus Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath, Coláiste Mhuire Gan Smál agus Ollscoil Ghlaschú. Bhailigh na hoifigigh le chéile sa Choláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath do sheimineár Bhord na Gaeilge UCD: 'Ag Fobairt agus ag Tacú le Pobail Teangacha Mionlaigh; Seimineár do Chleachtóirí Teanga san Ardoideachas ag tagairt do sonrach do Ghaeilge na hÉireann agus na hAlban.'

Duais don 'Imeacht is Fearr' Bronnta ar an gCuallacht



Bronnadh duais don 'Imeacht is Fearr' ar Chuallacht Cholmille ag Gradaim na gClubanna agus na gCumann in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad. D'oibrigh Cuallacht Cholmille le Féile Mhá Nuad agus le Cumann Gnó Ollscoil Mhá Nuad chun imeacht dátheangach 'Aonach na Nollag' a chur ar fáil don phobal.

Inaugural Huxley Lecture Focuses on the History of Maths

Dr Serafina Cuomo of the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology at Birkbeck, University of London delivered the inaugural talk on 28 April



Pictured (l-r); Professor Stephen Buckley, Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics; Rachel O'Neill, History of Mathematics Huxley Prize Winner, 2014-15; Dr Ciarán Mac an Bhaird, Department of Mathematics and Statistics; Dr Serafina Cuomo, Department of History, Classics and Archaeology at Birkbeck; Professor Anthony O'Farrell, Professor Emeritus, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

The lecture, entitled 'Numeracy in Ancient Greece and Rome,' was attended by staff and students from Maynooth University and external institutions. Dr Cuomo's talk focused on how the ancient Greeks and Romans counted, calculated, and measured, showing that standard units of measurement were not always used. She also discussed how historical studies of numeracy can help with modern concerns about numeracy and mathematical education. Dr Cuomo used this to highlight the importance to Maynooth University of the History of Mathematics module currently being taught to undergraduates. Earlier in the day Dr Cuomo visited both the Russell Library and the Mathematics Support Centre, and praised the role of staff in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Maynooth University in promoting mathematics and investigating key questions in mathematics education. Professor George Huxley, who sponsors this talk, is Adjunct Professor to both the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and the Department of Ancient Classics at Maynooth University. He received an honorary doctorate from Maynooth University in 2013.

Maynooth University Anthropologist Recognised

Maynooth University anthropologist, Dr Chandana Mathur, has been confirmed as Chair of the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA)

Dr Mathur served as Deputy Chair of the Council for the last two years. Speaking on her appointment Dr Mathur observed: "Anthropology's perspectives on human diversity are needed more than ever in today's complicated world. It will be my priority over these two years to strengthen and intensify the WCAA's network of networks and its advocacy of the voices of anthropology."

The WCAA, a network of national, regional and international associations, grew out of the "world anthropologies" movement, an intellectual challenge to the longstanding dominance of Anglo-American anthropology and the side-lining of anthropological traditions from elsewhere. Founded in 2004, the WCAA now consists of fifty-two anthropological associations from all continents, ranging from the largest professional groupings – such as the American Anthropological



Dr Chandana Mathur (seated on far right) with delegates of the World Council of Anthropological Associations

Association and European Association of Social Anthropologists – to smaller ones like the Anthropological Association of Ireland.

Key initiatives under Dr Mathur's tenure as Chair will be a research project exploring where anthropologists are employed today, and in what institutional and political contexts anthropology is being practised; and a review of anthropological fieldwork and risk in a violent world.

Maynooth University Hosts Division of Behaviour Analysis Annual Meeting



Pictured (l-r); Dr Bryan Roche, Dept of Psychology with Prof Peter Sturme, Queens College, City University of New York

On June 10 and 11 the Psychological Society of Ireland, Division of Behaviour Analysis (DBA) held its annual meeting in Maynooth University, hosted by the Department of Psychology

Three guest speakers from the USA provided workshops and addresses to a delegation of around 150 behavioural psychologists, behaviour therapists and Applied Behaviour Analysts from the UK and Ireland. These were Prof Jon Bailey of Florida State University; Prof Peter Sturme, Queens College, City University of New York; and Prof Gregory Madden of Utah State University. The speakers discussed current professional and ethical issues in the practice of Applied Behaviour Analysis for the treatment of behavioural, intellectual, and educational difficulties, as well as the application of behavioural science to effecting wide-scale social change, such as encouraging healthier eating among children.

Dr Michelle Kelly and postgraduate student Conor Nolan, along with the students on the Doctorate in Behaviour Analysis and Therapy organised the event, with the assistance of DBA member Prof Julian Leslie of the University of Ulster. The event was held in Maynooth to signify its important national role in the teaching and training of behaviour analysis specialists

1916 and the Irish Country House

The 14th Annual Historic Houses of Ireland Conference took place on campus on 9-10 May

The theme of the conference was The Country House and Landed Estate in Time of Revolution. The conference also included the launch of the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates (CSHIHE) and Maynooth University Library exhibition '1916 and the Irish Country House: Rebellion and War', launched by Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD. The exhibition was open to the public until the end of May was based in the Library.

The speakers at the conference included international visiting academics such as Annie Tindley, Senior Lecturer in History at the School of Humanities, University of Dundee; Edward Bujak, Senior Lecturer in British Studies and History at Harlaxton College, Lincolnshire, Ian d'Alton, Visiting Research Fellow in the Centre for Contemporary Irish History, TCD; Jonathan Cherry, lecturer in geography at the School of History and Geography, DCU and Olga Sinityna distinguished Russian scholar.



Prof Terry Dooley, Director CSHIHE; Prof Philip Nolan, President, Maynooth University; Dr Jacinta Prunty, Head of the Department of History Department; Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; Cathal McCauley, Librarian and Dr Ciarán Reilly, Dept of History

Maths Prizes Presented at Maynooth University

Prizes were presented to budding mathematicians who competed in the local Mathematical Olympiad Competition on the 12 March in Maynooth University

Robert Sparkes, (Wesley College, Ballinteer) who trained in Maynooth University took 1st Prize in the local contest.

The presentations were made possible by a grant from the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) to the North Kildare Maths Problem Club (NKMP). This club consists mainly of second level students together with staff and students from the Mathematics & Statistics Department of Maynooth University, although membership is open to anyone interested in problem solving. The main activity of the Club is to provide a training programme for mathematically gifted pupils preparing for the Irish Mathematical Olympiad.

Robert went on to claim 2nd place in the Irish Mathematical Olympiad Contest held in April. As one of the top six performers in the country he was invited to be part of the team to represent Ireland at the International Mathematical Olympiad in Hong Kong in July. It is a highly competitive process, with students voluntarily attending special weekly classes held in the universities in Cork, Dublin, Galway and Limerick, as well as Maynooth.



Maynooth University Irish Mathematical Olympiad trainees 2016 with Professor Stephen Buckley and Dr John Murray, Maynooth University

1916-2016 Women in Ireland, Then and Now ...through the lens of Countess Markievicz

On Thursday, 21 April, Dr Mary Murphy, Department of Sociology, organised an event entitled '1916-2016 Women in Ireland, Then and Now ...through the lens of Countess Markievicz'



Prof Myra Marx Ferree, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Dr Mary Murphy, Department of Sociology

Discussions included 'The life and legacy of Countess Markievicz' by Dr Pauline Conroy; 'Women in Ireland in 2016' by Susan McKay; and 'Reflections from abroad' by Prof Myra Marx Ferree, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Prior to this event, the same venue hosted a staging of 'Madame de Markievicz On Trial' by Ann Matthews, an amateur production by the Maynooth University Student History Society.



Pictured are the cast of 'Madame de Markievicz on Trial' by alumna, Ann Matthews. The play was presented by members of the Maynooth University Student History Society in association with the Department of History and was directed by Ryan Heerey, second year History Student and Dr Jacinta Prunty, Head of Department.

Summer Soirée 2016 – Alumni celebrate culture at Maynooth



Alumni at the Summer Soirée in the Library

Summer Soirée 2016- Alumni and their guests treated to literary and musical delights in the beautiful setting of the University Library

The annual Summer Soirée, on Thursday, 9 June saw the return of over 100 alumni and guests to campus. In true soirée style, attendees (including Governing Authority and international visitors from Quinnipiac University, Connecticut) were treated to an evening of literary and musical delights in the University Library.

Harpist Alida Loftus, second year music student, provided the background music as alumni enjoyed a wine reception before the event got underway. Alumna, Irish novelist and short story writer Evelyn Conlon (BA 1979, HDip Ed 1980) provided the literary focus of the evening and she began by sharing humorous anecdotes of her student days at Maynooth. She followed this by an often humorous recitation from a selection of her celebrated works. Evelyn signed copies of her novels for Library collections.

The evening also featured a musical extravaganza from our very own "Choir of the World". The Maynooth University Chamber Choir, captivated the audience

with their polished performance of many favourites, including a spell-binding rendition of Ragland Road, which showcased their significant talent and deserving win of the internationally acclaimed, Pavarotti Trophy. Alumni from various decades, since the 1970s attended including alumni who had travelled as far afield as Luxembourg. In his welcoming address, University President, Professor Philip Nolan highlighted the changes at Maynooth, and appealed to alumni to consider Maynooth as a research hub or to provide career/internship opportunities for our students. Returning alumni who took advantage of the Russell Library tour on offer prior to the Soirée provided by Barbara McCormack and Olive Gannon of Special Collections Archive, immersed themselves in the manuscripts and early collections displayed within the Library and enjoyed '16 Up Close' art exhibition.

Photos from the event are available on the <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/alumnimemories>

Human Resource Notes

NEW APPOINTMENTS

We are pleased to announce that the following staff have joined the University or have been appointed to a new post internally:

School/Departments	Appointees
Access Office	Ms Patricia Farren, Executive Assistant (Contract Post)
Admissions Office	Ms Jennifer Dalton, Schools' Liaison Officer (Contract Post)
	Ms Leonie Duignan, Executive Assistant (Contract Post)
	Ms Anne Marie Lyons, Schools' Liaison Officer (Contract Post)
Alumni Office	Ms Mary Larkin, Alumni Database Manager (Contract Post)
Career Development Centre	Ms Fiona Casey, Careers Advisor (Contract Post)
Centre for Teaching and Learning	Ms Gemma Middleton, Executive Assistant
Electronic Engineering	Ms Joanna O'Grady, Executive Assistant (Contract Post)
Innovation Value Institute	Dr Hugh Doyle, Lero Funding Manager (Contract Post)
International Office	Ms Margaret Noone, International Project Coordinator (Contract Post)
IT Services	Mr Patrick O'Regan, Senior Infrastructure Specialist
Library	Ms Marie Cullen, Assistant Librarian
Office of the Vice President of Strategy & Quality	Ms Siobhan Keogh, Regional Skills Forum Manager – Mid East (Contract Post)
Psychology	Dr Dearbhail Buckley, Assistant Lecturer (Contract Post)
Registrar's Office	Ms Noreen Gibson, Executive Assistant (Contract Post)
	Ms Grace Kenny, Executive Assistant (Contract Post)
Research Development Office	Dr Eilish Lynch, Research Development Officer

Our best wishes to all concerned.

SEECHANGE WORKSHOPS: MANAGING MENTAL HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE

Two half day training workshops on managing mental health in the workplace for employees who have responsibility for managing people were held on Friday 8th April and Thursday 21st April. Organised by HR, these workshops were delivered by SeeChange, a national organisation committed to removing the stigma around mental health in the workplace (<http://www.seechange.ie/>).

The workshops were designed to enable staff to understand mental health problems that employees may face and its relevance and impact on the workplace. The workshops offered practical advice on creating workplaces that are free of stigma and discrimination in relation to mental health, with the overall aim of enabling participants to create an open and supportive work environment.

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>

Maynooth Darkness Into Light Fundraising and Awareness Event



Pictured at the launch of the second annual Maynooth Darkness Into Light event on 12 April, in aid of Pieta House, are members of the Maynooth DIL Committee, including Rebecca Doolin, Maynooth University External Relations Manager; Elaine Bean, Library; Prof Bernard Mahon, Vice-President for Research; and Brendan Ashe, Health & Safety Officer with Maynooth Education Campus Students. More than 4,500 gathered at Maynooth University North Campus on the morning of Saturday, 7 May, to take part in Darkness Into Light, which began at 4:15am and ended, as the participants looped around the town of Maynooth on the 5km route, as dawn was breaking. In addition to raising much-needed funds, Darkness Into Light is also about raising awareness, solidarity and local communities.

Maynooth University Researchers on Trasna Survey

Dr Benjamin Thébaudeau and Dr Kieran Craven, both IRC postdoctoral fellows in the Department of Geography completed a transatlantic scientific expedition on board the Celtic Explorer called TRASNA for Trans-Atlantic Survey North Atlantic in May

The expedition formed part of the wider Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (AORA) between the EU, Canada and the USA which aims to eventually map the seabed of the North Atlantic Ocean. The Irish partners in Ireland for this alliance are the Marine Institute and the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) who co-lead the INFOMAR programme, the national seabed survey in Ireland. The expedition mapped the seabed, collected seismic datasets over the Porcupine Bank and also sampled the seabed over the Mid Atlantic ridge.

It also offered three students from Ireland, Canada and the USA the opportunity to learn how to collect data under the guidance of marine geologists like Benjamin and Kieran who both work on mapping the Quaternary stratigraphy of specific regions of the Irish offshore.



Researchers deploying underwater camera

3U INNOVEDIATE

Advanced Research Communication Skills Summer Institute 2016

The four-day intensive Summer Institute was aimed at PhD students and postdoctoral researchers, providing them with the skills and techniques to become effective communicators of their research and interests.

The event, which took place primarily in Maynooth University, but with activities in RCSI and DCU, featured guest speakers, intensive workshops, off-site visits and an evening social programme.

A highlight of the programme was the 3U lecture by bestselling author of 'Bad Science,' Dr Ben Goldacre, who highlighted the responsibility on researchers to perform their research with the utmost integrity and to ensure their research results are communicated accurately and fully to a wider audience.



Pictured are Dr Olga Piskareva, Honorary Lecturer and Co-ordinator, Cancer Genetics, RCSI; Dr Padraig Murphy, School of Communications, Dublin City University; Professor Philip Nolan, President, Maynooth University; Dr Alison Farrell, Teaching Development Officer, Maynooth University; Éilís Murray, Graduate Studies Office, Maynooth University and students at the 3U Innovediate communications summer school

Education Forum Calls for Teacher Ownership of Student Assessment

(continued from front page)

At the heart of the ongoing controversy over assessment is the notional fairness of the system of mass assessment. The current debate over the reform of the Junior Cycle, which involves a move towards school based assessment, centres around the ability of teachers to be objective when it comes to making judgements about their students. For Professor David Carless, University of Hong Kong, this pervasive distrust is an incredibly damaging feature of the Irish education system.

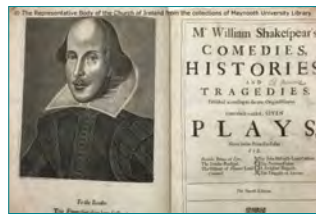
Speaking at the Education Forum, Professor Carless said: "Societies that trust teachers have significantly less need for standardised testing. In recognising that teachers are professionals and empowering them to make fair and informed judgements about a student's achievement of targets set out in the curriculum, we can create an assessment model which is far more flexible and reflective of what students take away from their learning experience."

Also speaking at the event, Professor Jannette Elwood, Queen's University Belfast, noted that "all the research on teacher assessment is actually contextualised within ongoing debates within the assessment community of how we link theories of learning with theories of assessment in order to better understand assessment practice and assessment systems. These debates are making us face our tacit assumptions about fundamental assessment practices, and the kinds of new knowledge that we will need to inform constructive and equitable practices in the future."

"Assessment can be seen as a cultural script," she continued, "with the Junior and Leaving Certificates of Ireland and their reform being pertinent examples of these scripts which have pervading consequences for the educational experiences of all young people. We need a reconsideration of assessment, what it is and how we understand it, if we are ultimately to change assessment practice for the better."

Library Events

Library acquires major collection from St Canice's Cathedral Library



Shakespeare Folio

The Library has received a unique collection of early printed books including many fine examples of woodcut illustrations, historic bindings, and manuscript fragments from St. Canice's Cathedral Library. To date, 3,152 books from the collection have been catalogued. Particular highlights of the collection include: four items of incunabula (pre-1500 printing), and a Shakespearean Fourth Folio (1685) and a Sarum Missal printed for renowned Fleet Street printer Wynkyn de Worde. This will be a very valuable resource for Maynooth University researchers.

Library supports local Men's Shed project

In April, the library donated six retired laptops to the Men's Shed in Kilcock, in keeping with our commitment to engage with the local community.



Library staff and members of the Men's Shed Project

16 Up close Art Exhibition in the Library

During the month of June, the Library hosted an exhibition of an interconnected series of portrait paintings of the 16 executed 1916 rebels by Maynooth based Dutch artist Antoon Knaap. This exhibition was open to the public.



The Exhibition in the Library Foyer

Celebrating Africa Day

The Afro-Caribbean Society, led by Maynooth University Law student Sarah Ekada, organised a celebration of African music, art, dance and food in the Library. The event was attended by dignitaries, local community and the University community.



Members of the MU Afro-Caribbean Society Project

A Winning Poster

Laura Connaughton with her award winning poster "User Experience (UX) in Maynooth University Library" at the Consortium of National and University Libraries Conference (CONUL) annual conference in Athlone on 2 June.



Sigerson Cup 40th Anniversary Celebration

On Friday, 22 April a reunion of the triumphant Sigerson Cup team of 1976 took place in the University

Organised by winning team member, Paddy McGovern (BA 1978, HDip 1979), the panel of players and spouses were joined by the 1976 team Club Chariman, Pat McHugh. Also present on the night were guest of honour, Fr Enda McDonagh, Dónal McAnallen, author of 'The Cups That Cheered: A History of the Sigerson, Fitzgibbon and Higher Education Gaelic Games' (2012), John Divilly, UCD Manager of the current Sigerson Champions and Senator John O' Mahony.

The group have met on various occasions over the intervening years and this 40th anniversary gathering was celebrated over dinner in Pugin Hall. More than 40 guests joined in the festivities and spent the evening reminiscing over old times. Mementos of the anniversary were sponsored by the Alumni and Maynooth University GAA Development Offices and the Alumni Office was presented with a copy of 'The Cups That Cheered', which was signed by the players.



Author Dónal McAnallen with Karen Kelly, Alumni Officer and Dr Frank Mulligan, Department of Experimental Physics.
Photos from this event are available on <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/alumnimemories>

Success at World University Golf Championships



Pictured at the World University Championships 2016 in Brive, France, (Back Row, l-r); Irish Women's Team (8th place finish); Sinead Sexton, Stirling University and Maynooth University Alumnus; Shannon Burke, Maynooth University, Arts; Rachel Taylor, TCD; Peter English, GUI/ILGU Team Manager. (Front Row, l-r); Irish Men's Team (spectacular team silver and individual winner); World University Champion, Robin Dawson, Maynooth University, Equine Business; Cathal Butler, Maynooth University, Law and Business; Eugene Smith, Maynooth University, Arts.

Masters in Design Innovation Wins 'Best New Course' 2016



Pictured at the gradireland Graduate Recruitment Awards 2016 are (l-r); Dr Peter Robbins, EDEN Centre and Department of Design Innovation; Trevor Vaughn, EDEN Centre and Department of Design Innovation; Dr Frank Devitt, Head of the Department of Design Innovation and EDEN Centre; and Eilís Murray, Graduate Studies Office. The MSc in Design Innovation at Maynooth University won 'Best New Course.' The first of its kind in Europe, the MSc Design Innovation is the only postgraduate programme in Ireland dedicated to leadership in design thinking and radical innovation.

Maynooth's Annual Clubs & Societies Awards

Maynooth University celebrated its 22nd Clubs & Societies Awards ceremony on Tuesday, 5 April



Capturing a 'selfie' at the Clubs and Socs Awards night

The 2016 winners are:

Pastoral Award

Red Cross Society

Best Poster (Joint Winners)

Mental Health and Trampoline

Give A Little Do A Lot

Trampoline

Best New Society

Comedy

Best Society First Year

Kevin Boushel (Drama)

Best First Year Athlete

Conor Kiely (Rowing)

Society Person of the Year

Conor Kilmartin

Clubs League

Trampoline

Societies League

Business

Club Executive of the Year

Aidan Carrig (Aquatics)

Society Event of the Year

Aonach na Nollag
(Cuallacht Cholm Cille)

Club Event of the Year

Olympic Handball Intervarsity

Athlete of the Year

Jamie Mc Grath (Soccer)

Most Improved Society

Mars Fm

Most Improved Club

Hockey

Best Society

Dance

Best Club

Golf