

UNIVERSITY NEWS



Maynooth University Chamber Choir win “Choir of the World 2015”



Michael Dawson, Director of Maynooth University Chamber Choir with Dr John O'Keefe, Music Department celebrate the win

The Maynooth University Chamber Choir, under the direction of Michael Dawson (BMus 2011), made history in July when it became the first Irish choir to lift the coveted Pavarotti Trophy as “Choir of the World” at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod

Having impressed the judges to win in the ‘Youth Choir’ category, the choir then progressed to Choir of the World competition, open to the winner of each category. With a sparkling performance, the Maynooth University Chamber Choir came first in a field of choirs from Singapore, the USA, Wales and England.

Speaking of the award, Professor Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, said: “While the term ‘world-class’ gets used often, the Maynooth University Chamber Choir is one entity that is truly deserving of that description, and this win clearly demonstrates that. The entire University community is extremely proud of the Chamber Choir for this impressive achievement and for its role in spreading Maynooth’s reputation for excellence around the globe.”

Maynooth Academics Enrolled as Members of RIA

Dr Lorraine Byrne Bodley, Department of Music and Professor Rob Kitchin, National Institute of Regional and Spatial Analysis, were recently admitted as members to the Royal Irish Academy (RIA)



Dr Lorraine Byrne Bodley, Prof Rob Kitchin and Prof Mary E. Daly, President of the Royal Irish Academy

They are among a group of nineteen inductees, including engineers, historians and a criminologist, who signed the Academy roll book on 29 May.

Dr Lorraine Byrne Bodley is Senior Lecturer in Musicology at Maynooth University. She is acclaimed for her research on Goethe, Schubert and Zelter. She is the author of two monographs and editor of ten other volumes, and was recently appointed to the board of the Schubert edition (Vienna). She is writing a biography of Schubert for Yale, and has edited collections forthcoming from Oxford and Cambridge.

Prof Rob Kitchin is a Professor and ERC Advanced Investigator in NIRSA. He served as Director of the Institute between 2002 and 2013. Professor Kitchin, along with co-author Martin Dodge, won the Meridian Book Award (presented by the American Association of Geographers for outstanding scholarly work in Geography) in 2011, and he was the recipient of the Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal for Social Sciences in 2013.

Speaking at the announcement Maynooth University President, Professor Philip Nolan said: “The University is delighted with this well deserved recognition of our colleagues, and we extend them our warmest congratulations on this wonderful achievement.”

Geographers Recognition

The Association of American Geographers (AAG), the largest and most respected organisation of geographers in the world, has recognised two Maynooth University academics.



Prof Rob Kitchin



Prof Gerry Kearns

The Association conferred the AAG Media Achievement Award on Professor Rob Kitchin and naming Professor Gerry Kearns as its Distinguished Historical Geographer for 2015.

Professor Rob Kitchin was awarded the AAG Media Achievement Award in recognition of his exceptional work both on media and in media, with the Association noting that rarely has a geographer engaged with media on so many levels.

Professor Gerry Kearns' achievements in the field of historical geography, society and spatial justice, were cited as "greatly enriching historical geography."

Professor Kitchin's scholarly work on media and social media has made important contributions to the field of media geography, from advancing understanding of how to comprehend space (cognitive mapping) through current and future spaces (from cyberspace to science fiction). He has published twenty-one books and over 130 articles and book chapters. He was awarded the AAG's Meridian Book Award in 2011 for his book with Martin Dodge, 'Code/Space: Software and Everyday Life.'

Professor Kearns' work is at the intersection of historical, political and medical themes in geography. His book 'Geopolitics and Empire' won the Murchison Award from the Royal Geographical Society in 2009 as the most significant contribution to geographical scholarship that year. He is currently writing about the cultural politics of AIDS for his latest book, 'Making Space for AIDS.'

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.

Innovative Funds Law Course Developed



Megan O'Connor, Maynooth University Law student; Liz Grace, Matheson Partner; Prof Michael Doherty, Head of the Department of Law and Minister Simon Harris TD

Maynooth University Department of Law has partnered with Irish law firm, Matheson, to create the first-ever specialised Funds Law course available at an Irish university

Representatives from Matheson and the Department of Law met with Simon Harris TD, Minister of State at the Department of Finance with Special Responsibility for International Financial Services, to brief him on the employment potential of this specialised Funds Law course.

A unique feature of the course is that Matheson directly employs graduates from the course, fast-tracking them into the sector. Matheson currently has two full-time employees from the first year of the course, Andrew Norry and Megan O'Connor,

both of whom were awarded six month internships at the law firm.

Professor Michael Doherty, Head of Maynooth University Law Department, said:

"This collaboration with Matheson is hugely important for us. The Funds Law course moves beyond the traditional legal curriculum to open students' experience to much broader areas of legal practise that are at the centre of Ireland's economic development and also areas where Ireland is a global player."

MAP Recognises Exceptional Achievement of Second Level Students and Teachers

Maynooth University presented awards for exceptional achievement to more than 120 second level students and 31 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



Award winners James Cawley, Bao Nguyen and Dr Andrew Hogan with Prof Aidan Mulkeen, Maynooth University Vice-President Academic/Registrar and Rose Ryan, Director of Access

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.

Experts on Climate Justice Address Major Conference at Maynooth

Leading experts on climate justice addressed a major conference, *Meeting the Challenges of Climate Justice: From Evidence to Action* on 22-23 June hosted by Maynooth University, Trócaire and St Patrick's College, Maynooth

The conference opened with a keynote address from Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and now President of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice and the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Climate Change. Other speakers included Professor Jean Pascal Van Ypersele, Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and Bill McKibben, Founder and Senior Adviser of 350.org, one of the world's most influential campaigning websites on climate change and author of *The End of Nature*. 2015 is a critical year for addressing the climate emergency and charting a



Prof Philip Nolan, President, Maynooth University and Eamonn Meehan, Executive Director of Trócaire welcome Mary Robinson to the conference

path towards a more sustainable future as world leaders prepare to make a new climate agreement at the UN Summit in Paris in December.

Maynooth University Crowned Champions of 2015 Enactus Ireland

Maynooth University were announced as the winners of the prestigious 2015 Enactus Ireland National Competition for its Access Earth project



The winning team celebrates with Peter Robbins, Maynooth University lecturer and Terence O'Rourke, Enactus Ireland

Access Earth is an app/service that allows the user to find reliable and up-to-date accessibility information about a place or business. The win builds on Access Earth's international profile following its success at Microsoft's international competition, the Imagine Cup.

The winning team led by 3rd year law student Darren Smith will now represent Ireland at the 2015 Enactus World Cup in Johannesburg, South Africa, which takes place in October.

Enactus is an international non-profit organisation founded on the basic principle that entrepreneurial action can be a powerful catalyst for human progress. Guided by educators and supported by business leaders, it provides a platform for teams of outstanding university students to create community development projects, while developing the skills to become socially responsible business leaders of the future.

The National Competition is an annual event where students come together to present the projects they have developed over the last 12 months and demonstrate how they are changing lives within their communities and enabling progress through entrepreneurial action.

Choir of the World 2015

continued from front page

The Choir of the World competition is among the world's most prestigious choral competitions, and has been won by internationally renowned choirs from around the globe. In 1955, Luciano Pavarotti and his father competed as part of a winning male voice choir.

The Choir will release its first recording in autumn 2015.

Education Forum Analyses Educational Disadvantage



Prof Deborah Youdell, University of Birmingham and Muiris O'Connor, HEA

The third annual Maynooth Education Forum heard expert international research on a critical current issue for Ireland – the provision of top quality, universal and affordable pre-school education

The theme for the 2015 Forum was *'Educational Disadvantage' - Critique, Challenges and Solutions*. The Forum heard that the elimination of education inequality for pre-school children is not only a moral imperative for modern societies such as Ireland but would also have a significantly positive long-term impact on our economy.

For Professor Kathy Sylva, Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Oxford, the best way to strive for equality within the education system—and indeed at a socio economic level—is to start with providing the youngest children in a society with access to high-quality pre-schools. This she said had proven and measurable economic benefits.

Examining the various components that lead to 'disadvantage-disorder', Professor Deborah Youdell from the University of Birmingham considered the roles of policy, institutional and professional practice, popular media, and everyday life in developing this group, and explored the consequences that follow.

Meanwhile Professor Sharon Todd, Head of the Education Department at Maynooth University, argued disadvantage is not something to be "solved" through capital investment alone. She urged policymakers not to rely solely on statistical analysis and instead drew upon autobiographical accounts from people in Ireland whose background is traditionally perceived to be disadvantaged.

Presentations are available at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/education-forum>.

Duais Ghlór na nGael bainte amach ag Cumann Gaelach Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

Tá an chéad duais i gComórtas na gCumann Gaelach Tríú Leibhéal bronnta ag Glór na nGael ar Chuallacht Cholmille, an Cumann Gaelach in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad.

Tá áit ar an ngearrliosta bainte amach ag Cuallacht Cholmille le trí bliana anuas ach ba é seo an chéad uair riamh a bhuaigh mic léinn Ollscoil Mhá Nuad an chéad duais

Táimid fíorbhródúil asainn féin tar éis an ghradaim seo a bhuaich. Caithfidh muid ár míle buíochas a gabháil le chuide dhuine a bhí páirteach linn thar na blianta; na seanchoistí, mic léinn na Gaeilge, Roinn na Gaeilge, Conradh na Gaeilge agus Aontas na Mac Léinn,” arsa urlabhraí na Cuallachta.

Tá Cuallacht Cholmille ar cheann de na cumainn is mó in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an gCuallacht an Ghaeilge a spreagadh ar bhealach taitneamhach. Bronnadh trófaí agus seic ar luach €2,000 ar Chuallacht Cholmille ag an ócáid a reáchtáladh in Óstán Chaisleán Bhaile an Bharbair, Co. Chill Dara.

Dúirt Lorcán Mac Gabhann, Ceannasaí Ghlór na nGael, gur thug na duaiseanna a bronnadh aitheantas do ghrúpaí atá ag obair go dian dícheallach thart timpeall na tíre i gcur chun cinn na teanga.



Mic léinn ó Chuallacht Cholmille, Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, in éineacht le hAogán Ó Fearghail, Uachtarán Chumann Lúchchleas Gael, Eamonn Ó hArgáin, Foras na Gaeilge, agus Pat Carey, Glór na nGael

Commitment and Contribution to Community & Youth Work Awards



Anastasia Crickley

Two national organisations - the Community Workers' Co-operative and BeLong To were recognised at this year's John O'Connell Awards

Presented by Anastasia Crickley, Head of the Department of Applied Social Studies, the awards are named after John O'Connell, the teacher, organiser and advocate for the marginalised in Ireland and globally, who died in 1999.

The Community Workers Co-operative (CWC) is the national organisation for community development, with members throughout Ireland. Over the past three decades, CWC has gained a global reputation as a leader in community work. CWC supports marginalised communities and groups, advocating with them for policies and initiatives to address exclusion, poverty and inequality and to promote human rights, including the rights of women.

BeLong To, the national organisation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people, has worked with 4,000 LGBT young people over the past decade to build self-esteem, develop an awareness of inequalities in society, and generate ideas about how to address them.

Ms Crickley's retirement from the University was also noted at the award ceremony by Prof Nolan, President, who, on behalf of the University community, thanked Ms Crickley for her years of dedication and service to Maynooth.

US Ambassador Welcomed on Campus

Less than a year into his post the US Ambassador to Ireland Kevin J. O'Malley made his second visit to Maynooth University on 24 April, this time to meet Irish and American study abroad students

Over coffee in the Library, the Ambassador heard from Irish students headed to the States on the J-1 programme or on educational exchange programmes arranged through the International Office, as well as visiting American students studying here at Maynooth. He also met several of the Students' Union officers.



In a separate meeting, the Ambassador sat down with the President, Prof Philip Nolan, and the Dean of International and Graduate Studies, Prof Ronan Reilly, and others to discuss strategic matters related to international educational exchange. The Ambassador first visited the University in December 2014 for the annual Carol Service.

Síona Cahill and Ben Finnegan, Maynooth Students' Union greet Kevin O'Malley, US Ambassador

Schedule of Dates for Meetings in 2015-2016

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
7 September 2015 (12.00) Boardroom JHB	8 September 2015 Boardroom JHB	7 September 2015 Boardroom JHB	21 September 2015 Renehan Hall	24 September 2015 Boardroom JHB
5 October 2015 Boardroom JHB	6 October 2015 Boardroom JHB	5 October 2015 (11.00) Boardroom JHB	19 October 2015 Renehan Hall	5 November 2015 Boardroom JHB
16 November 2015 Boardroom JHB	17 November 2015 Boardroom JHB	23 November 2015 Boardroom JHB	7 December 2015 Renehan Hall	10 December 2015 Boardroom JHB
18 January 2016 (12.00) Boardroom JHB	19 January 2016 (12.00) Boardroom JHB	25 January 2016 Boardroom JHB	8 February 2016 Renehan Hall	18 February 2016 Boardroom JHB
21 March 2016 Boardroom JHB	22 March 2016 Boardroom JHB	21 March 2016 (11.00) Boardroom JHB	11 April 2016 Renehan Hall	21 April 2016 Boardroom JHB
16 May 2016 (12.00) Boardroom JHB	17 May 2016 Boardroom JHB	16 May 2016 Boardroom JHB	30 May 2016 Renehan Hall	9 June 2016 Boardroom JHB

Launch of Woodman Diary

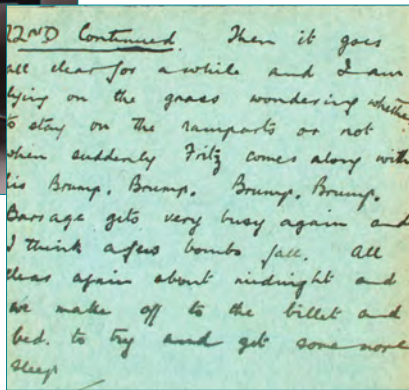
A digitised and fully transcribed version of an Irish World War One soldier's diary, offering an intimate first-hand account of life on the Western Front in 1918, was recently launched by author and historian Turtle Bunbury at Maynooth University



Albert Woodman and an extract from his diary

The diary, written by Albert Woodman, a signaller in the Royal Engineers, provides fascinating details of day-to-day life in Dunkirk, France. From January 1918 to November 1918, Woodman wrote in the diary, intended for his wife, Nellie should anything happen to him.

Woodman's meticulous entries mention the air raids from German forces, comment on his work in the Signal Office behind the front lines and numerous maps and newspaper clippings which reference various campaigns and advancements.



The interactive website of the Woodman Diary is freely available to the general public and features high-quality digital images of the diary, transcribed entries with annotations and notes, video interviews, and background information on the Woodman family. The project was developed by students enrolled in An Foras Feasa's MA in Digital Humanities under the supervision of Professor Susan Schreibman.

Woodman's granddaughter, Joyce Timms, donated the original diary to Maynooth University Library following the completion of the imaging project and it is now housed in the Special Collections & Archives, where it will be preserved for future generations.

Maynooth University Distinguished Visiting Scholar 2015

The experiences of Latin America during times of economic crisis should serve as a cautionary tale for European policy makers, warned Eduardo Silva, Professor of Political Science at Tulane University in New Orleans.



Dr Barry Cannon, Prof Eduardo Silva, Dr David Begg and Dr Mary Murphy

Professor Silva said, "In Latin America, over time, growing economic, social, and political exclusion from tenuous recoveries provided motivation for protest," noting that, "links were subsequently forged between heterogeneous groups, opening space for radical populist parties."

He delivered the remarks at the inaugural Maynooth University Visiting Scholar Lecture Series, followed by responses from Dr Mary Murphy, Department of Sociology and Dr David Begg, alumnus and former General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

Dr Mary Murphy responded that while there are lessons to be learned from the experience of Latin America, we have to be careful distilling those lessons into a different European context. "Over the Irish crisis we have seen attempts on behalf of Irish civil society to frame new alternatives and form new alliances. While these have not yet had significant impact, the Latin American experience shows that such political adjustment take time, and progress towards building a new politics of hope needs to be evaluated over decades rather than years."

Dr David Begg spoke about a significant crisis of European democracy. "One of the ways we can judge whether there has been meaningful adjustment of European markets to meet the needs of European society is the reform of the European Central Bank, so that it not only controls inflation but also promotes full employment and societal well-being."

The *Maynooth University Visiting Scholar Lecture Series* is designed with the dual purpose of building international research collaboration between distinguished international scholars and the academic community of Maynooth University, and contributing ideas and new knowledge to public debate in Ireland.

13th Annual Historic Houses of Ireland Conference

The Historic Houses of Ireland Conference was held on campus on 11-12 May

The theme of this year's conference was *'Indoors and outdoors: public and private: women and the country house'* which explored the often neglected role of women in country house life.

Opening the conference, Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD, highlighted and praised the role of the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates (CSHIHE) in promoting change of attitudes towards country house preservation. She contended that "Ireland's country houses have an important role to play in our national narrative and are a vital attraction for both domestic and international visitors."

The inter-disciplinary conference attracted a number of international speakers who discussed a variety of themes over the course of the two-day event. These included social networks, marriage, philanthropy, politics and estate management amongst others. The first day culminated in the launch of an exhibition entitled *'Lives less ordinary: the women of Airfield'*, a collaborative project sponsored by the CSHIHE, Maynooth University Library and Airfield Trust. The exhibition was co-ordinated by Dr Maeve O'Riordan.



Minister Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht with Professor Terence Dooley, Director of the CSHIHE at the 13th Annual History Houses of Ireland Conference

Maths Support Centre Celebrates 100,000th Visitor

Maynooth University's Maths Support Centre (MSC) recently celebrated its 100,000th visitor, Aishling Dunphy, a 2nd year Physics with Astrophysics student.

The MSC, which began in October 2007 to support students with mathematics, today provides 29 hours of dedicated Mathematics Learning Support per week free of charge. The MSC also provides a weekly drop in session for second level students.



Dr Ciarán Mac an Bhaird at the event celebrating the 100,000th visit to the MSC

A recent report indicated that services like the Maths Support Centre are a key element in third level institutions' retention of students in STEM courses. Dr Ciarán Mac an Bhaird, Maths Support Centre Manager, co-authored the Irish Mathematics Learning Support Network report, which surveyed over 1,600 first year students across nine higher education institutions. He said that while challenges remain, the research highlights significant success: "Mathematics Learning Support (MLS) is a critical part of the transition infrastructure from second level to third level and we want to see it embedded as part of mainstream education across all institutions. Students are telling us that MLS has a positive effect in them succeeding in their chosen course; it is having a major impact in their performance and progress as it enhances and enriches their learning experience. Our research is the first large-scale, evidence-based study of MLS in Ireland demonstrating that academic support services for students are bringing a significant return on investment."

Professor Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, speaking at the event to mark the 100,000th visitor to the Maths Support Centre, praised the range of services offered, adding that a key to the success of the Centre lay in its practice being embedded in the excellent research of Dr Mac an Bhaird, Dr Ann O'Shea and others.

Maynooth Darkness into Light



The Maynooth Darkness into Light Committee presented Pieta House with a cheque for €49,500, the amount raised by the first Darkness into Light walk in Maynooth, which took place in May. Pieta provides support for individuals affected by suicide and self-harm. Committee members (l-r) Brendan Ashe, Health and Safety Officer at Maynooth University; John Ryan, Secretary; Gwen Hobbs, Treasurer; Mary Byrne Chairperson; Brian McEvoy, Pieta House; Marie Peelo, Fundraising Coordinator, Pieta House and Rebecca Doolin, Director of External Affairs at Maynooth University.

2015 Student Entrepreneurship Challenge

Gavyn Pedley, a third year, Entrepreneurship student won first prize in the 2015 Eden Student Entrepreneurship Challenge



Pictured (l-r); Peter Robbins, Centre Manager for EDEN, presents the first prize in the 2015 Student Enterprise Competition to winner, Gavyn Pedley

The competition, which is run and managed by EDEN, university centre for entrepreneurship, design and innovation has a first prize of €5,000 and is co-sponsored by McCann Fitzgerald, Bank of Ireland and Enterprise Ireland.

The competition is designed to engage a wide cross section of the student body in developing novel, creative and promising ideas. EDEN runs a series of creative cafés to coach students in creativity including creative writing, storytelling, sketching, thinking visually and making an elevator pitch.

Gavyn's idea is for meat and dairy free vegetarian meats – 'Boss Burgers' and 'Bad Ass Bacon' (moodleymanor.com). After coming second in the final last year Eden referred him to Teagasc who helped him develop his idea and win an EI Innovation Voucher for €5000. Since, then he has won a place on the New Frontiers Programme and reached the finals for the Alltech Student Innovation Awards.

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
History	Dr Michael Potterton, Lecturer (Contract Post)
Law	Dr David Doyle, Lecturer
Admissions Office	Ms Emma Shine, Senior Executive Assistant (Contract Post)
Chemistry	Mr Walter Walsh, Technical Officer (Contract Post)
Commercialisation Office	Dr Owen Laverty, Business Incubation Centre Manager (Contract Post) Ms Sharon Comerford, Half-Time Executive Assistant, Business Incubation Centre (Contract Post)
Computer Science	Ms Clementina O'Connor, Half-Time Executive Assistant, Computer Science (Contract Post)

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**

Childhood Inequality Research Considers Influence of Childcare Arrangement

A new Study has revealed the limitations of current government policy in tackling childhood inequality

Dr Delma Byrne and Dr Catriona O'Toole, from the Department of Sociology, explored the influence of childcare arrangements where both parents work on a child's physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional development. They have called for even greater governmental focus on the provision of childcare options to address disadvantage.

The research is the first of its kind in Ireland to consider the influence of childcare arrangements, from early childhood until the age of nine, using data collected from the national longitudinal study of children, 'Growing Up in Ireland.' This

gave the researchers a nationally representative sample size of over 11,000 infants and 8,500 children.

The authors stress that children's physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional development is influenced by earlier developmental milestones, and developmental outcomes are also determined by the level of resources in the family, as well as childcare settings.

The study was commissioned in 2012 by the Family Support Agency (now Tusla, the Child and Family Agency) in collaboration with the Irish Research Council.

Digital Repository of Ireland Launches Online Treasury of Cultural and Social Content



Maynooth University staff with Damien English TD, Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation

Maynooth University has placed six collections of national importance into the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI), which was launched recently by Damien English TD, Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation

The DRI is an online, open digital repository for artefacts from the humanities, social sciences and cultural domains containing tens of thousands of high-quality, metadata-rich digital objects, including video clips, photographs, digitised manuscripts, oral histories, sound recordings, digitised paintings and museum objects, books and letters.

The user-driven design and implementation of the digital repository was led by researchers from Maynooth University, who also led the development of the policies, guidelines and procedures underpinning the DRI.

Commenting on the launch, Damien English, TD, Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation said: "Fostering collaboration in the academic sector is central to Government's Action Plan for Jobs and the launch of the Digital Repository of Ireland is indicative of the powerful outcomes which can be achieved when strategic collaborations, with support from cultural, social and industry partners, are facilitated. Together the partners involved in this project have created a valuable resource which will serve to safeguard Ireland's rich social and cultural data, benefitting research, education and the public at large."

The collections deposited into the DRI by Maynooth University are:

- » **Ken Saro-Wiwa Archive:** A collection of correspondence from the internationally acclaimed Ogoni environmental campaigner to Irish woman Sister Majella McCarron. Written in the final two years of his life, while Saro-Wiwa was held in captivity awaiting execution in Nigeria.
- » **Letters 1916:** A crowd-sourced digital collection of letters written around the time of the Easter Rising (1 November 1915 – 31 October 1916) which adds a new perspective to the events of the period, a confidential and intimate glimpse into early 20th Century life in Ireland, and an insight into how Irish politics was viewed internationally.
- » **Life Histories and Social Change Collection:** The result of work conducted by Maynooth University researchers, this collection comprises 100 qualitative life story interviews with three cohorts of Irish citizens: those born between 1916 – 1934, between 1945 - 1954, and between 1965 – 1974.
- » **New Urban Living collection:** Written by primary school children during the 'Celtic Tiger era,' this collection comprises 171 essays entitled, 'The Place Where I Live,'.
- » **World Within Walls Collection:** Consisting of oral history interviews, along with an extensive image collection relating to the histories and memories of the St. Davnet's Campus in Monaghan town, this collection covers its evolution from District Asylum in 1869, to a psychiatric hospital, and its present role as a modern community mental health services campus.
- » **Teresa Deevy Archive:** Containing published and unpublished writings by the writer, who was once described as "the most important dramatist writing for the Irish theatre" and later as "too dangerous for the Irish stage," the collection also includes correspondence to the playwright and contemporary reviews of her plays.

The repository, which can be accessed at <http://repository.dri.ie>, is the result of four years of research, software development, policy and legal framework design, and data curation by digital archivists and librarians.

Thinking and Acting Globally and Locally

The Dept of Applied Social Studies conference marks 50 years since the adoption of the United Nations International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

In bringing together national and international speakers, this conference provided an opportunity to engage with international human rights experts and CERD members in discussing and reviewing global and national progress to address racial discrimination. Guest speakers included Emily Logan, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and Aodhán Ó Ríordáin TD, Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality and Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with special responsibility for Equality, New Communities and Culture and Drugs Strategy.



Pictured (l-r) are: Emily Logan, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; Prof Aidan Mulkeen, Vice-President Academic/Registrar, Maynooth University; Aodhán Ó Ríordáin TD, Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality and Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with special responsibility for Equality, New Communities and Culture and Drugs Strategy; Anastasia Crickley, Dept of Applied Social Studies and Irina Chayee, Master of Social Science student

Maynooth University Students Receive Fulbright Awards

Minister for Diaspora Affairs, Jimmy Deenihan TD and US Ambassador to Ireland, Kevin O'Malley have announced that two Maynooth University students are among this year's Irish Fulbright Awardees



Ronan Doherty and Prof John Hegarty, Chair of Fulbright Board

Ronan Doherty is a web designer and developer, and is in the final stages of his PhD in Nua-Ghaeilge at Maynooth University. As a Fulbright-University of Notre Dame TechImpact Scholar, he will research aspects of user interface design in language learning applications with a view to producing an open-source tool that will facilitate the rapid development of interactive learning resources.

Ciaran McFadden is a PhD candidate in the Maynooth University School of Business and he will be based in the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Public Policy at UCLA Law School. His research is on the careers and workplace experiences of the transgender community.

Since 1957, the Fulbright Awards have been given annually by the Irish and US governments and provide Irish students, scholars, and professionals with the opportunity to study, lecture, and research at top universities and institutions throughout the United States.

Clubs & Societies Celebrate Another Fantastic Year

Maynooth University celebrated its 21st Clubs & Societies Awards to recognise the hard work of the students involved with the societies and clubs on campus

A joint initiative between the University and Maynooth Students' Union, the Clubs & Societies Awards are run by students for students. The clubs and societies are the lifeblood of extra-curricular activity on campus and provide opportunities to get involved in a wide and diverse range of activities.

The 2015 winners are:

SOCIETIES	
Best Society	Pride Society
Most Improved Society	Literary & Debating Society
Best New Society	Access Society
Best Society Event	The Galway Cycle (Students for Charity Society)
Best Society Individual	Sidney Harshman-Earley (Omega Society)
Best Society First Year	Deirdre Ní Chearúil (Cuallacht na Gaeilge & Business Soc.)
Best Poster	Trampoline Club
Pastoral Group Award	Mental Health Society
CLUBS	
Best Club	Archery Club
Most Improved Club	Ladies Soccer Club
Best Club Event	Rose of Maynooth (Aquatics Club)
Athlete of the Year	Gary Hurley (Golf Club)
Club Executive of the Year	Naoise Holohan (Trampoline Club)
Best First Year Athlete	Amber Barrett (Ladies Soccer Club)



Students celebrating Maynooth University success at the BICS awards

Seven Maynooth Societies went on to represent Maynooth University at the 20th Annual Board of Irish College Societies (BICS) Awards held in Athlone.

Top awards went to two Maynooth Student societies:

- » Maynooth Students for Charity, who host the annual 'Galway Cycle' won 'Best National Event'
- » Maynooth University Literary and Debating Society, claimed the nationally 'Most Improved' award

The societies shortlisted were Best Society (Pride Society), Best Event (Galway Cycle), Best New Society (Access), Most Improved (Literary & Debating), Best Inter-varsity (European Law Students' Association), Best Fresher (Deirdre Ní Chearúil), & Best Individual (Sidney Harshman Earley).

Eric Lawless, Vice-President for Clubs, Societies and Student Engagement with the Maynooth Students' Union, who has assisted the growth and development of the college societies over the last year, said "It is an incredible achievement to see so many of our societies recognised nationally for their work. The time, dedication, energy and innovation shown by Maynooth Students in volunteering and charity work is growing year on year, and awards at this level will only spur our students on."

BICS is a national organisation, constituted in 1995, dedicated to providing a national forum for the societies in Ireland's Universities, Colleges and Institutes of Education. The Board is responsible for the promotion of interest in the activities of Irish college societies and of contact and co-operation between them.

2015 Alumni Geography Lecture



Alumni gathered to hear Maynooth scholars put a forensic spotlight on climate change

Maynooth alumni gathered to hear the latest research findings from a panel of climate scientists in the University's internationally recognised Geography Department

The panel, which included Emeritus Professor John Sweeney, a member of the 2007 Nobel Prize Winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change team, addressed different implications of climate change, putting a spotlight on the culprits behind surface warming.

A central theme for the group were the myriad ways in which urban population density puts a unique human fingerprint on the local, regional and global climate and the importance of addressing cultural barriers to adapting to climate change.

Held at the Wood Quay venue of Dublin City Council, the event was led by Dr Jan Rigby, Head of Department and scholar on the impact of climate change and health, and Director of External Relations, Rebecca Doolin. The panel discussion was moderated by Irish Independent Environment Correspondent and 1997 alumnus, Paul Melia. In addition to Prof Sweeney, other speakers included Professor Peter Thorne, Dr Rowan Fealy, and Dr Conor Murphy.

Maynooth University President, Prof Philip Nolan, opened the event by announcing the creation of a €5,000 scholarship to honour Prof Sweeney. *The John Sweeney Post-Graduate Alumni Scholarship for Climate Change*, sponsored by Bank of Ireland, will support a Maynooth graduate pursuing further education in the field of climate change.