

The BRIDGE

Maynooth Alumni
Magazine 2015

*Best in
the World!*

Best in the World

Maynooth University Chamber Choir
hoists Pavarotti Trophy to win "Choir
of the World" competition

Riding the Wave

Maynooth University
and Aquamarine Power

Changing the World Through Innovation

Maynooth wins major social
entrepreneurship competition

Plus

New Eolas Building
YouTube and Shakespeare
Maynooth Going Global

CONTENTS

- 1 Words from the President**
- 2 Graduations 2015**
Highlights from this year's graduation ceremonies
- 3 Ó Dhún na nGall go dtí an Dáil**
- 4 Alumni Events**
The inaugural Maynooth Alumni Annual Reunion and our first chapter in France
- 6 Riding the Wave**
Maynooth University and Aquamarine Power accelerate wave energy
- 7 New Curriculum Starts to Take Root**
Shaking up third level education, offering students a chance to "Be More"
- 8 A Building of Consequence**
The new €20M Eolas ICT Building
- 10 The Startup Addict**
Alumni Profile: Andrew Parish
A Powerhouse for Research '91
Maynooth University leaps ahead on major research metrics
- 12 Maynooth University Professor awarded prestigious ERC grant**
Professor David Stifter wins €1.8 million in funding
- 13 How YouTube revived Shakespeare**
Mash-ups and mass appeal - a new era for study of the bard
- 14 Best in the World!**
Maynooth University Chamber Choir Hoists Pavarotti Trophy to become "Choir of the World"
- 17 New Maynooth Posts Attract Esteemed Writer and Screenwriter**



- 18 Changing the world through innovation...**
Maynooth University comes up trumps in competition for Social Entrepreneurship
- 19 Spotlight on Science**
Internet of Things, robots and biology breakthroughs
- 20 Going Global**
International activity is spreading the Maynooth name around the world
- 21 Funds Law Partnerships**
Unique partnership reaps benefits for student career prospects
- 22 Winner Alright, Winner Alright!**
Equine Business graduates win, place and shine in their post-Maynooth endeavours
- 23 Maynooth University leads the way in widening participation**
"Sometimes all you need is a chance"
- 24 Memories & Memorabilia**
A trip down memory lane
- 26 40 is the New 20**
Maynooth University Students' Union turns 40
- 27 Family Matters**
Voice of Ireland runner-up Emma Humber and her mother Frances share their Maynooth memories
- 28 University Sport**
A roundup of the sporting action from 2015
- 30 Supporting Alumni**
Four alumni scholarship recipients discuss the impact of the programme on their lives
- 31 We Remember**
'Maynooth College and 1916' exhibition one of several commemoration events planned for 2016
- 32 Class Notes**
Student memories from their time at Maynooth



A chairde,

It's my pleasure to share with you the 2015 edition of *The Bridge*, your alumni magazine. I hope you'll find the stories in the pages ahead as inspiring, illuminating, and enlightening as I have. They reflect a real step change in scholarly achievement, research and innovation—both curricular and technologically speaking—that

is taking place at the University right now. And yet, Maynooth University remains the same congenial and intimate place it ever was.

In many ways, the Alumni Office is a perfect intersection point of past and future. Our alumni are our legacy, and we feel privileged to be able to follow you on your exciting and impressive life journeys. Likewise, we hope you continue to follow us—or better yet, reconnect with us an active way through one of the many events we host each year, by engaging on our social media channels like LinkedIn, or volunteering to start a Maynooth University chapter in your city or country.

One of the most exciting new events we began this year was the first Maynooth Alumni Reunion. Held in September 2015, the event was a resounding success and one sure to become a staple in the alumni calendar for years to come. It's a great opportunity to reach out to your former classmates, plan a trip back to campus together, or simply show up and see who you bump into.

Finally, I'd like to thank Alumni Officer Karen Kelly for her yeoman's (yeowoman's?) work in keeping the Alumni Office up, running, and growing every year. For many of you, she is your first contact point as an alumnus at this University and I know you all join me in thanking her for her efforts.

Remember you can view *The Bridge* online at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/thebridge. Please share the link with your friends and former classmates, and remember to update your contact information on our online community on <https://alumni-network.maynoothuniversity.ie/> to ensure you're kept up to date on all of our events and future editions of *The Bridge* in years ahead.

Warm regards,

Rebecca Doolin

Rebecca Doolin

Director of External Relations

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Why not connect with us and be a part of the conversation?
www.alumni-network.maynoothuniversity.ie



President's Message

2015 has been a year of important developments and impressive scholarly achievement at Maynooth University.

There have been significant and very visible achievements, like the opening of our newest academic building, *Eolas*, a new European Research Council award, and the outstanding accolade of “Choir of the World” bestowed upon our Chamber Choir—all of which you’ll read about in the pages ahead.

There also has been enormous work by academic and administrative staff across the University to plan for implementation of the new Maynooth curriculum, the most significant shift in the delivery of undergraduate education in the history of the University. The new Maynooth Education also is a unique offering within the Irish higher education sector, and is one designed to offer today’s students the kind of transformational educational experience that will prepare them for the constantly changing world they will encounter upon graduation.

The public may not always appreciate the hard work needed to make such change happen, yet the staff of the University knows this very well. I am proud to say that our staff have continued to show an unwavering commitment to the students—by putting in the extra time and work required to make our shared vision for a Maynooth Education a reality.

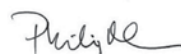
At the same time, the research of the University continues to grow in stature and impact. Throughout *The Bridge*, you’ll read about how the leading research outputs in disciplines across the University are influencing our research profile in ways that may surprise you.

As an alumnus, you can be proud of your *alma mater*. Even as we find ourselves in an era of change, we are constantly mindful that the changes only reinforce and enhance the very special and distinctive qualities that make your Maynooth education unique and authentic.

I’d like to thank Flor Madden (BA, 1988), whose term as chair of the Maynooth Alumni Advisory Board recently came to an end, for the passion and insight he brought to this role. His hard work and devotion to this institution will not be forgotten. I’d also like to welcome incoming chair Mark Greville (BA, 1996) who will no doubt bring the same enthusiasm to the board.

I hope you enjoy reading about the year, and that you stay connected with us to engage in all of the exciting developments you’ll see in the year ahead.

Le gach dea-ghuí,



Professor Philip Nolan
President, Maynooth University

Graduations 2015

Maynooth University continues to be the fastest growing university in Ireland.

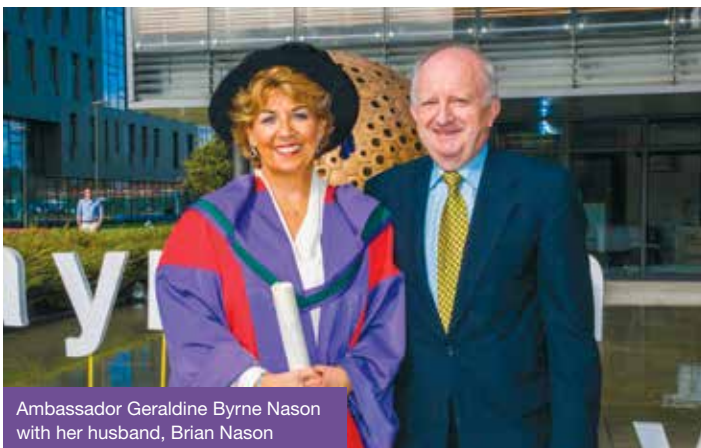
The 2015 September and October conferring ceremonies perpetuated that trend, as over 2,900 graduates received their degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including 47 PhD recipients. The events served as a fantastic culmination of the hard work and achievement of Maynooth's newest alumni. Adding to the splendor of the day was the vivid colours of the campus, enhanced by some fortuitous sunshine that most certainly reflected the energy anpride of graduates and parents alike.

Eight degrees were awarded for the first time, including the BSc in Computational Thinking; the BSc in Multimedia, Mobile and Web Development; the BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics; the BBS in Marketing; and the Higher Diploma in Legal Studies.

Maynooth awarded seven Honorary Doctorates this year, including: Irish Ambassador to France and Maynooth Alumna, Ms Geraldine Byrne Nason (BA Double Honors English & Irish 1980, MA English 1981); John Lonergan, former Governor of Mountjoy Prison; Tomi Reichental, Holocaust survivor; Ms Patricia Oliver of An Taisce; and Jim

Callery, founder of Strokestown House, Co. Roscommon; Ms Emily Logan, the first Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; and renowned philosopher William Desmond.

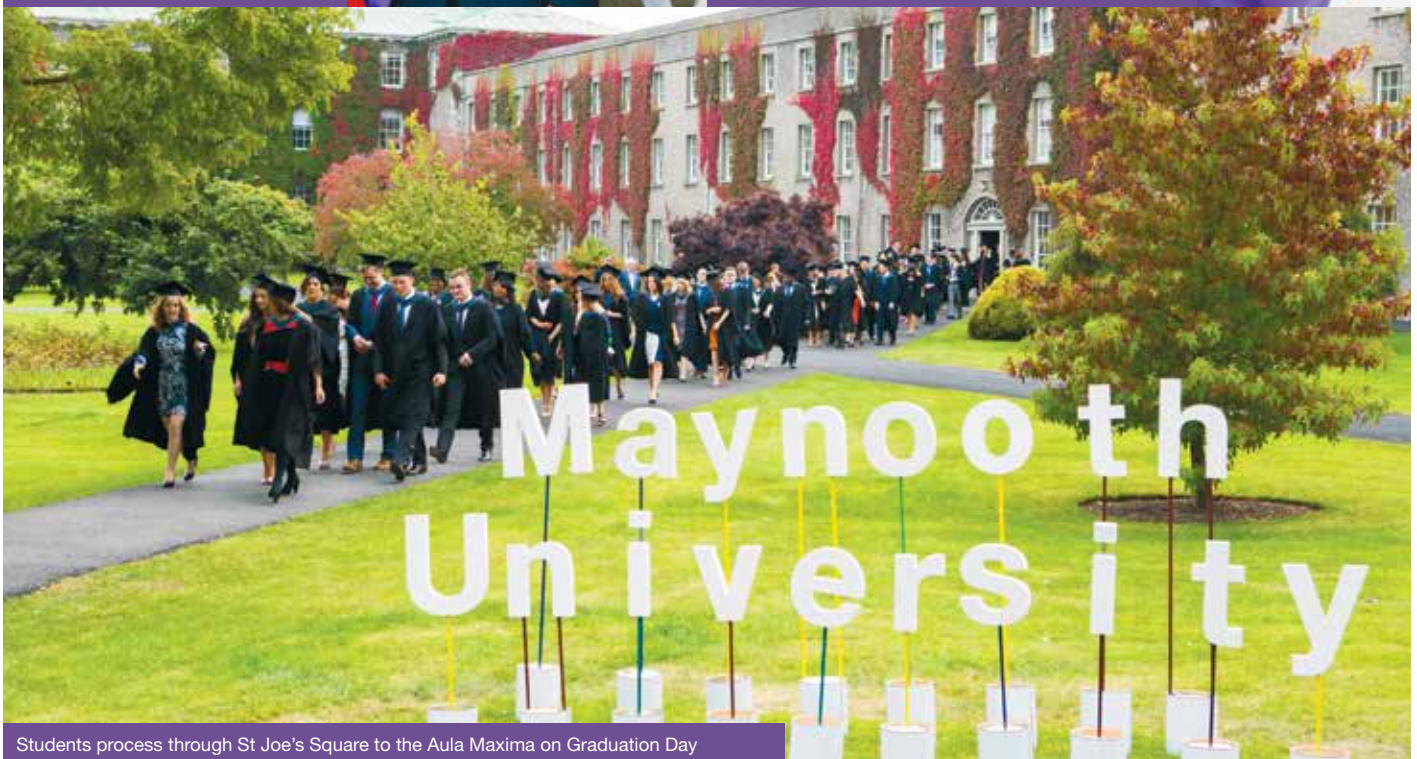
Speaking at the conferring ceremony, Maynooth University President, Professor Philip Nolan, said: "Our honorary degree recipients all were chosen for their resonance with the core values of Maynooth University. Their work on issues of importance to Ireland and the world reflect Maynooth University's ethos as an institution, and we're proud to recognise their efforts."



Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason with her husband, Brian Nason



Tomi Reichental and John Lonergan celebrate as they receive Honorary Doctorates from Maynooth University



Students process through St Joe's Square to the Aula Maxima on Graduation Day



Ó Dhún na nGall go dtí an Dáil

Toghadh céimí de chuid Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, Joe McHugh ina Aire Stáit le freagracht speisialta as cúrsaí Gaeltachta agus achmhainní nádúrtha i Mí Iúil 2014. Tá cuimhne ghlinn aige ar an tréimhse a chaith sé i Má Nuad; ‘Chuir mé aithne mhaith ar an Ollscoil agus ar mhuintir na háite fosta agus cruthaíodh atmaisféar cairdiúil nádúrtha, rud a chuidigh go mór linn nuair a bhíodh cumha orainn i ndiaidh an bhaile.

Ghlac Joe páirt ghníomhach i saol na hOllscoile ar an gcampas. Rinne sé ionadaíocht d'Ollscoil Mhá Nuad ag dhá chomórtas Collingwood (comórtais sacair) agus bhí sé mar bhall bunaidh de Dynamo Bicycle. Ghlac sé páirt sa tsraith Inmheánach agus d'éirigh lena fhoireann ‘Corn A’ a bhaint amach dhá shéasúr i ndiaidh a chéile. Ach, ní raibh Joe tógtha le spórt amháin – an cuimhne is fearr atá aige ar Aontas na Mac Léinn ná féachaint ar an mbanna ceoil ‘The Stunning’ ag seinnt i “sean-scoiból an Aontais!”

Dar le Joe, is iomaí cairdeas a forbraíodh i Má Nuad thar na ceithre bliana agus nuair a fhaigheann siad an deis, ní bhíonn le déanamh acu ag leanúint ar aghaidh ón uair dheireanach a tháinig siad le chéile. “Tá an chuid is mó de mo chuid cairde ón Choláiste ina gcónaí agus ag obair in Éirinn, agus tá triúr acu thar lear sa Chéinia, sa Ghinéiv agus i Londain. Ar an drochuair, fuair duine amháin dár gcairde Ciarán bás cúpla bliain ó shin”.

Bhí tionchar iontach mór ag duine de léachtóirí Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, an tAthair Michael McGréil, ar Joe. I ndiaidh dó Ard-Diplóma a chríochnú, chaith sé trí bliana ag teagasc i meánscoil. Chinn sé tabhairt faoi fhorbairt phobail in 1996 mar gheall ar léachtaí socheolaíochta an Athar McGréil.

“Tar éis dom seal a chaitheamh ag obair mar Oibrí Óige Pobail i Leitir Ceanainn, mhothaigh mé gur chéim nádúrtha chun cinn é dul leis an pholaitíocht”.

Toghadh Joe chuig Dáil Éireann den chéad uair in olltoghchán 2007 do dháilcheantar Thoir Thuaidh Dhún na nGall agus atoghadh é sa bhliain 2011. Nuair a ceapadh é mar Aire Stáit sa Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta, bhí daoine den tuairim gur mhíbhuntáiste éagsúil é nach raibh Gaeilge líofa aige. Ghabh sé chuige an cinneadh a dhéanamh Gaeilge a fhoghlaim agus deir sé gur chuir an dúshlán seo go mór lena shaol agus d'athraigh sé an dearcadh a bhí aige i leith na teanga.

An tAire Joe McHugh TD

- Rugadh an t-Aire McHugh i gCarraig Airt, Contae Dhún nan Gall.
- D'éirigh leis Baitsiléir Ealaíne a fháil in Ollscoil na hÉireann Mhá Nuad sa bhliain 1992 chomh maith le hArd-Diplóma san Oideachas an bhliain dár gcionn, in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad freisin.
- Bhí sé mar bhall de Sheanad na hÉireann ón mbliain 2002 go dtí 2007.
- Toghadh Joe chuig Dáil Éireann den chéad uair in olltoghchán 2007 do dháilcheantar Thoir Thuaidh Dhún na nGall agus atoghadh é sa bhliain 2011.

“Mar mhac léinn, d'fhéach mé ar an teanga mar uirlis le cumarsáid a dhéanamh. Bhí an chéad sé mhí dúshlánach ach achan lá cuirtear faobhar ar mo ghoile don teanga. Chruthaigh seo san iomlán gur shaothar saoil é teanga ar bith a fhoghlaim. Tá níos mó measa agam anois ar an nGaeilge mar theanga agus conas ar féidir linn nasc a dhéanamh idir í agus ár stair, ár gcultúr agus ár n-oidhreacht, tar éis dom staidéar a dhéanamh uirthi”.

Bhí an chomhairle seo a leanas ag Joe do dhaoine fásta eile a bhfuil spéis acu an teanga a fhoghlaim nó barr feabhais a chur lena gcuid Gaeilge: “Is é an rud is tábhachtaí lena thuiscint ná go bhfuil cainteoirí Gaeilge ar fud na háite. Faigh amach cé hiad féin. Téigh chomh fada leo agus iarr orthu comhrá a dhéanamh leat i nGaeilge ó seo amach”.

Bhí an deis ag Joe filleadh ar champas Mhá Nuad arís i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2014 le seoladh a dhéanamh ar an suíomh gréasáin nua TEG (Teastas Eorpach Gaeilge). Chonaic sé na hathruithe atá tagtha ar an gcampas é féin agus creideann sé go bhfuil uathúlacht Mhá Nuad le braith ann fós. “Campas iontach éagsúil atá ann anois,” arsa Joe, “ach tá carachtar agus iomláine an bhaile agus na cliarscoile ann go fóill, rud a dhéanann áit shuntasach den Ollscoil ó thaobh na staire agus na hoidhreacht de.”

TEG – Exams and Classes

The TEG project within Maynooth University's Language Centre offers a series of exams and qualifications which are known internationally and are available to adult learners of Irish. The TEG exams offer an opportunity for applicants to gain independence in their spoken language capabilities, in reading and in written Irish.

Hundreds of learners take the TEG exams every year and currently five different levels are examined. Exams take place in ten facilities in Ireland and four abroad: New York, Paris, Prague and Ottawa. In May 2016, TEG examinations will be held in Sydney for the first time. If you would like more information regarding the TEG examinations and qualifications, please visit www.teg.ie.

Culture vultures, wise owls and social butterflies – there was something for all alumni in this year's calendar of alumni events

Alumni Events from the past year

Inaugural Maynooth Alumni Annual Reunion *September 2015*

Alumni were invited back to campus for the first **Maynooth Alumni Reunion** event to see what's changed, reconnect with old friends and enjoy an end-of-summer evening on familiar stomping grounds.

Alumni enjoyed an outdoor bbq at the Phoenix Plaza followed by an evening of entertainment. The night started off with actor, writer, comedian and 1989 alumnus, **Pat McDonnell** from *Naked Camera*, *The Savage Eye* and his role in *Father Ted* as **Eoin McLove**. Pat was followed by 2015 *Voice of Ireland* runner-up and Maynooth student, **Emma Humber**. Additional musical talent was provided by students from the University's Department of Music.

Participants were treated to tours of the newest building on campus including the state-of-the-art Eolas building, which opened in the summer. This new hub for Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) activities on campus includes a business incubation centre, MaynoothWorks, as well as laboratory, office and networking spaces.

The event was a tremendous success, drawing more than 100 alumni from a range of graduation years. Next year's date is already set for 17/9/2016, so start planning with your old classmates now.



Dr Peter J. M. van der Burgt with Dr Brian Shortt

Inaugural Alumni Faculty of Science & Engineering Lecture *November 2015*

'From Maynooth into space with the European Space Agency' was the title of the first ever Maynooth Alumni Science and Engineering Lecture. Dr. Brian Shortt (BSc 1996, PhD 2001) delivered an accessible and exciting lecture on his journey from Maynooth to his work in the Future Missions Office of the European Space Agency in Holland. Held during Science Week, this lecture appealed to many alumni – some of whom brought along their children – and to the many current Maynooth science students who delighted in a lecture which truly was 'out of this world.'



Prof John Sweeney and Prof Philip Nolan

Alumni Lecture Features Esteemed Climate Change Panel May 2015

In the second addition to the Maynooth Alumni lecture series (Faculty of Social Science), 1997 Alumnus Paul Melia, *Irish Independent* Environment Correspondent moderated a panel of experts in an enlightening discussion on climate change. The panel shed light on many of the culprits behind surface warming and discussed how urban population density leaves a carbon footprint on the local, regional and global climate. The panel also explored the need to address cultural barriers to adapting to climate change.

The panelists included Dr. Rowan Fealy, Dr Jan Rigby, Head of the Maynooth University Geography Dept, Dr Conor Murphy, Prof Peter Thorne and climate scientist and member of the 2007 Nobel Prize Winning IPCC team, Prof. John Sweeney. The night was capped-off with the announcement of our latest Alumni Taught Master's Scholarship in Climate Change, which was made possible by the generosity of our alumni partner, Bank of Ireland.



Vive la France! Maynooth Alumni Launch France Chapter at Irish Embassy January 2015

Putting another Maynooth footprint on the map, 2015 kicked off with a bang with the first ever Maynooth Alumni Chapter in France. Joining Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason (BA 1980; MA, 1981) and Professor Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, in the fabulous setting of the Embassy of Ireland in Paris were over 50 Maynooth, together with former lecturers, Erasmus students and Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) students in Paris. The group enjoyed a wonderful evening thanks to the efforts of Chapter Ambassadors, Seán Ryan (BA 1989) and Róisín Dockery (BA 1987) who were instrumental in the launch of this inaugural French chapter. Alumni had other opportunities later in the year to reconnect at guest lectures given by visiting Maynooth academics and alumni, Monsignor Brendan Devlin and Dr Thomas O'Connor in the Centre Culturel Irlandais.

Carol Service and Alumni Reception December 2014

The Alumni Office and Carol Service on 15th December welcomed the return of alumni and friends to this annual tradition. Returning Maynoothians took pleasure in the sounds of the season through the spectacular array of musical performances by the University's choirs, who were accompanied by the recently restored great organ of the College Chapel. Following the event, alumni reconnected at a mulled wine reception in Renehan Hall.

Speaking at the event, Aidan Mulkeen, Vice-President Academic/Registrar and Deputy President, addressed the audience, encouraging alumni to embrace the Maynooth alumni network and spread the word to other graduates.

Stay tuned in 2016 for more information on the Maynooth Alumni Lecture Series, the Maynooth Alumni Summer Soirée (May 2016) and the Maynooth Alumni Annual Reunion (September). Don't miss any of these fantastic events. Just register with the Maynooth Alumni Online Community on www.alumni-network.maynoothuniversity.ie

Riding the Wave

Maynooth University and Aquamarine Power to accelerate development of commercial wave energy

One of the world's leading experts on wave energy, Professor John Ringwood from the Department of Electronic Engineering at Maynooth University has been awarded EU Horizon 2020 funding to collaborate with Scottish company Aquamarine Power in the development of commercial wave energy technology.

The team has been awarded €800,000 to improve the performance of Aquamarine Power's Oyster wave energy converter. Maynooth University's role in the project is to develop computer automated systems which maximise the power capture of the Oyster device. Wave energy converters should be operational for 20 years and the research will analyse the optimum shape and maintenance interventions to maximise the economic performance of the system.

With a sea area 10 times greater than its landmass, Ireland has an abundant marine renewable energy resource. A study of European wave energy has indicated that the average wave power in Europe is highest near the west of Ireland, with an average wave power of 76kW occurring off the Irish coast. This provides a significant opportunity for wave energy to feed into Ireland's target of 40% of electricity from renewable resources by 2020.

The project, INNOWAVE, will explore ways to optimise the energy capture and economic performance of wave energy devices. Three newly recruited early-stage researchers will divide their time over the three-year project between Maynooth's Centre for Ocean Energy Research and the Aquamarine Power premises in Edinburgh and Belfast, with site visits to the European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney, where Aquamarine Power has been testing its Oyster device for the past four years.

Professor John Ringwood, Maynooth University said: "This is a very exciting project which has the potential to greatly advance the field of wave energy and progress its development as a com-

mercially viable energy source. It's a great example of academia and industry collaborating to progress research which can have a monumental impact on energy provision for future generations."

Aquamarine Power Chief Executive Officer Paddy O'Kane believes that the project has much potential: "We believe that Maynooth's research centre and team are at the very forefront of innovation in wave energy device optimisation and control, and we look forward to working with them on this exciting new research programme with very clear academic and commercial goals."

The funding for INNOWAVE was awarded as part of the EU's Horizon 2020 fund, the largest EU Research and Innovation programme with nearly €80 billion of funding, under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 676061.

The Centre for Ocean Energy Research at Maynooth University has been in existence for 15 years and is a part of the SFI-funded MaREI National Centre for Marine Renewable Energy. It is at the forefront of academic research in wave energy. On the industrial side, Aquamarine Power has been at the vanguard of commercial wave energy development for the past 10 years.



Aquamarine Power's Oyster 800 wave energy converter in operation



Minister for Education & Skills Jan O'Sullivan TD joined Professor Philip Nolan, President to launch the new curriculum

A Radically Enhanced Undergraduate Curriculum Starts to Take Root

Maynooth University shakes up Irish third level, offering students a chance to “Be More”

Change is afoot at Maynooth University, and it's the kind of change with the potential to dramatically enhance the student learning experience at Maynooth, and serve as a model for how third-level education across Ireland—and indeed globally—can evolve to better match the world today's students encounter upon graduation.

The 2015-16 academic year marked the beginning of a three-year implementation of the new undergraduate curriculum at Maynooth University, along with a flurry of activity to prepare for the majority of changes set to take effect in 2016-17.

“This is a transformative development in Irish university education. We have completely re-imagined our undergraduate learning experience to develop a radically different Maynooth model of undergraduate education which is distinctive and challenging,” said Maynooth University President, Professor Philip Nolan.

At the core of the new curriculum is an intentional effort to teach students skills like analysis, reflection, critical thinking and clear communication, which employers around the world say they're desperate to find.

The new Maynooth curriculum offers students much **greater choice and flexibility** within their degree, a **reimagined first year** that provides students with more time to explore before specialising, increased opportunities for **experiential learning** (e.g. work placement, study abroad, service learning), expanded opportunities for the study of **foreign languages**, and a **new approach to teaching and assessment** across all subject areas which challenges students to analyse, communicate and **think critically**.

As part of the change, Maynooth is reducing its number of CAO entry routes, allowing students to enter college through broader entry routes and then specialize either immediately or over time so they make the best choice for their own lives and careers.

At an event to launch the curriculum in March, Minister for Education Jan O'Sullivan TD said, “Maynooth's is a bold move that addresses learning and development, student welfare and employer needs. In prioritising critical thought and analytical skills the academic team at Maynooth have rightly identified a major new focus for learning.”

The curriculum also got an endorsement from the business community. IBEC head of education policy, Tony Donohoe, said, “Business wants young people who can be leaders, self-starters, display flexibility of thought and the ability to work in teams. Maynooth's new curriculum will help deliver in these vital areas and is an important contribution to the national offering.”

2015-16

- **Critical Skills Pilot Courses:** Options for first year students to develop the skills students need to succeed in third level and beyond. Examples include: Great ideas that changed the western world and Globalisation: Integrating worlds, as well as Universal Critical Skills.
- **Elective Stream Pilots:** Options for second years that expose students to new disciplines and new ways of approaching problems. Examples include: Law and Society, Science Communication, Entrepreneurship, Creativity & Problem Solving, and Film and Screen Studies.
- **E-Portfolio Pilot:** Students can build a digital showcase of their various skills, achievements, work experience, personal and professional development.

2016-17

- **New Approach to First Year:** Students will have more choice, flexibility and time to decide. They can specialise from the start or study up to four subjects as a way to sample as many new subjects as possible. Students will have the option to take a critical skills course as one of their first year subjects.
- **Elective streams:** Optional short courses in second year will be available in most programmes, including an expansion of language option.
- **Flexible Pathways:** At the end of first year, students will have more progression options through new flexible pathways, including more major/minor options along with double major and single major degree structures.

2017-18

- **Experiential Learning:** Significant expansion of experiential learning opportunities such as work placement, study abroad and service learning—key components in developing students' leadership skills and exposure to the work world.
- **Arts and Sciences Combinations:** More opportunities to study subjects across the arts and sciences.
- **Language Study:** More opportunities for the study of a language alongside any degree.



New €20M Eolas Building co-locates ICT world-class research and teaching with a vibrant space for innovation and entrepreneurship

On 5th October, 2015 Maynooth University officially opened its newest building on campus amid a huge crowd and guest speaker Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD. The new, €20 million, 8,000-square-metre *Eolas* building now serves as a hub for the quest, discovery and application of knowledge in the information and communications technology (ICT) disciplines across the University.

Eolas is home to the Departments of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering; two of the University's world-renowned research institutes, the Hamilton Institute, and the Innovation Value Institute (IVI); the University's business incubation centre, *MaynoothWorks*; and IT Services. It features state-of-the-art IT facilities, including a highly-available 10 Gbps internet connection, 3,000 network points and Wi-Fi capacity for more than 1,000 simultaneous users. Its modern layout is designed to facilitate interaction and spur new research and commercialisation activities, with 14 'hot desks,' 2 bio wet labs, high-tech conference rooms and classrooms, laboratories and informal conversation spaces.

Eolas has the capacity to accommodate 575 staff, including researchers and *MaynoothWorks* tenants,

and can teach 350 students in labs and classrooms at any one time. In addition, it will allow student numbers in the Departments of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering to grow from 400 to 600. Another key component is informal breakout spaces designed to support collaboration between the institutes and departments based in *Eolas*.

The latest in a series of campus development projects, Maynooth University President, Professor Philip Nolan, called *Eolas*, "the kind of smart development that will only continue to elevate the quality and impact of the research and teaching at Maynooth." Maynooth University has announced a €150 million investment to develop academic, research and residence facilities as part of its Campus Master Plan with support from the European Investment Bank (EIB) providing €76 million towards the project in addition to University financing.

"Whether it's inspiring students who pass by conversations about the latest start-up on their way to class, or it's a new company setting up shop near the students it hopes will one day fill their skills gap, *Eolas* is about facilitating connections and driving ICT innovation. This kind of magic only happens when people come together," said Prof Nolan.

The University received €1.6million in funding from Enterprise Ireland for *MaynoothWorks*, reflecting the strong role the University's Commercialisation Office plays as an engine of economic growth in Dublin and the Midlands region. Three recent Maynooth University spin-outs alone have raised more than €20 million in investment and created 50 jobs. And *between 2006 and 2014, Maynooth had 267 industry contracts, 135 invention disclosures, 52 patents filed, 56 licensing agreements, and 16 spin-outs.*

MaynoothWorks already has several client companies, including **Verifly**, which provides web and mobile applications for recreational drone users; **Accuplex Diagnostics**, an early stage diagnostics company already selling product internationally aimed at treating both

human and equine conditions; **Avectas**, which develops technology in pursuit of in-vivo diagnostic and therapeutic applications with a current focus on oncology; and **Videobot**, which allows brands and businesses to deploy tailor made videos across devices.

Enterprise Ireland's Research and Innovation Manager Gearoid Mooney said co-locating academia and industry is a proven recipe for success. "The sparks of creativity that come about when entrepreneurs have ready access to research talent and potential employees have been seen the world over. Enterprise Ireland is committed to developing campus-based incubation centres and MaynoothWorks has all the elements necessary to make a real impact."

MaynoothWorks

Videobot allows brands and businesses to deploy tailor made videos across devices. "Videobot is expanding rapidly and we need to build a highly skilled team with knowledge across different areas—from computer science, software engineering and digital media to international business, law and languages. Being located here at Maynooth University is ideal for us because we know we have access to top quality graduates across all of these - Videobot CEO Frédéric Herrera.

Avectas was co-founded by Maynooth University Senior Lecturer Dr. Shirley O'Dea, who said continuing to locate at MaynoothWorks was a 'no-brainer' for the company. "We also have offices in Dublin and in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but the culture here at Maynooth is so well disposed for start-ups that it makes a brilliant base. We made our journey from scratch through Maynooth, using SFI and Enterprise Ireland funding and then private funding sources. We gain from the superb research ongoing here at Maynooth as well as being able to draw from, and give back to, the student and research talent pool,".



Alumni Profile

Andrew Parish, BSc 1991

The Startup Addict

Entrepreneur, Mentor, Investor, Director, Connector. There are many titles that could rightfully describe Maynooth Alumnus Andrew Parish (BSc, 1991), but the most apt might very well be “Startup Addict.”

Whether it's a jet-setting tour of business incubators across the United States or nurturing the brainchild of the next budding tech genius through Enterprise Ireland's mentorship programme, Andrew is deeply embedded in Ireland's—and indeed, the global—startup scene.

He's got his hand in international venture capital, efforts to attract FDI to Ireland, and perhaps closest to his heart, helping new indigenous tech endeavours navigate the byzantine journey from concept to startup to SME to the next investor-ready industry “disruptor.”

As Vice Chairman at Startup Ireland—a new not-for-profit aimed at making Ireland “a global startup hub by 2020”—and an Inward Investment Consultant at Connect Ireland—a partnership with IDA that provides financial rewards for FDI referrals based on jobs that result from the connection—Andrew has much to say about all things related to Ireland's startup landscape. The country is slowly

dragging itself out of an uncertain economic period, he says, but Ireland's tech community has been anything but stagnant.

“Ireland is a great place to start a business, with excellent technology coming out of our universities, numerous sources of seed capital, and ambitious entrepreneurs with global mindsets,” he said.

Yet, there is much more Ireland must do to capitalise on the brilliant ideas taking root at Irish universities, incubators, labs and home offices. There's a gap to be filled in helping small companies that re-locate to Ireland connect with like-minded business and potential partners, Andrew says, and it's also still difficult to attract large scale capital within Ireland. “We need to move from being a country where it's good to start a business to a country where it's good to start, scale and succeed.”

He should know. Andrew himself has dealt with both rapid success—and precipitous demise—as an entrepreneur himself.

In 2007, having successfully founded and built a technology consulting business, Andrew found himself taking over a fledgling ocean energy business called Wavebob. The company, while founded on promising technology, was struggling with patent issues, staffing problems, and basic cash flow. Andrew came in and turned things around. Before long, he'd set up a U.S. office in Annapolis, Maryland and secured funding from Enterprise Ireland, Sustainable Energy Ireland, and the US Department of Energy. He'd also raised €15 million from blue-chip companies like Vattenfall, Abengoa, Lockheed-Martin and Chevron, as well as Irish companies ESB and Bord Gáis. The technology had been tested in Galway Bay and the sky looked to be the limit for Wavebob.

US Energy Secretary Steven Chu even visited the company's office in the Maynooth Business Park, complete with armed Secret Service officers manning the rooftops.

Then, like many a Celtic Tiger story, the collapse hit. In 2010-11, Andrew was desperately trying to raise an additional €15M, but

A Powerhouse for Research

Maynooth University leaps ahead on major research metrics

In recent years, Maynooth University has become a powerhouse of research and scholarship that is internationally recognised for its academic expertise in its priority areas – leading to the delivery of value and visible societal impact.

The University's six research priorities are built on its established strengths, address priorities on the national research agenda, and tackle major challenges that face Irish society:

1. People, Place and Environment
2. Social and Economic Transformations
3. Human Health
4. Mathematics, Communications and Computation
5. Humanities in Practice: Sources Resources and Discourses
6. Human Cultures, Experience and Creativity

it simply couldn't be found, especially in Ireland, but even around the world. He reduced his staff of more than 30 employees to just six. Eventually the company was liquidated and he frankly admits, "I lost my shirt."

Today, the story is a lesson learned that Andrew shares with the dozens of young entrepreneurs he advises and business school students he addresses. He's still got a toe dipped in the ocean energy space. He recently ran into eight former Wavebob employees while leading a major investor around a conference. The investor remarked on the calibre of Andrew's former "A Team." Andrew felt both pride ("and relief!") that the team members continue to make meaningful contributions to the development of this emerging sector.

Andrew also remains in touch with leading Maynooth ocean energy researcher Professor John Ringwood (see page 6), who recently won a €800,000 EU grant for his research in ocean energy, and a former IMI classmate, Professor Robert Galavan from the Department of Business.

After all, it was at Maynooth where Andrew made his foray into the start-up space—not quite in a business sense, mind you, but as founder of the Maynooth University Canoe and Kayak Club. Andrew admits to not exactly being focused on his academics while a student, saying he spent more time playing the trumpet and drums while rehearsing for the Maynooth Song Contest and working as a sound engineer in the SU bar than in the library. Amidst all the distractions, Andrew also made time to meet his future wife, Amelia Mullan, on campus.

"Completing a science degree in Maynooth was a wonderful experience for me. I suppose I took the Cardinal Newman view of a university education and ensured I enjoyed all that Maynooth had to offer," Andrew said. "This has stood to me well, however, and I believe that my varied interests and constant curiosity to explore

new things were honed during my time in Maynooth."

Now both of his children, Ellie, 16, and Luke, 11, are now starting to consider Maynooth—Ellie for primary teaching, and Luke for music technology.

Meanwhile, Andrew is as busy as ever in his firm, IP Activation Group—discovering new businesses with some niche technology, raising capital for scaling companies, or mingling with other investors at the Dublin Web Summit. So what is this startup addict most wired up about right now?



In addition to a fascination with all things related to the Internet of Things (See page 19), Andrew is particularly motivated by one company he's mentoring with an innovative solution to a problem facing the equine industry.

When horses—especially those in the competitive sector—don't drink enough water not only does it hinder their performance, but it can lead to colic, a condition that often requires expensive surgeries. Yet, it can be difficult for horse owners and stable managers to keep track of how much water their horses consume, particularly on large farms.

A start-up company called Hydrasure has developed a "smart" drinking trough that can measure how much an individual horse is drinking using an embedded RFID tag. Horse owners manage the information from their smartphones, with an alarm flagged if an individual horse hasn't hydrated enough. Andrews says the technology also has the potential to develop a "smart stable"—one able to measure water and air quality and or tweak medication dosages.

As a Hydrasure mentor—and like so many of the startups Andrew advises or invests in—his role really is like leading a horse to water—bringing it to life and seeing it thrive.

No.1

2nd

↑ 68%

Despite funding challenges in recent years, Maynooth has managed to make great strides in its research activity, as evidenced by widely recognised metrics for research quality.

- **Maynooth University has moved from a 5th position nationally in 2011 to become the top rated Irish University in 2012, 2013, and 2014 in the percentage of publications in the elite 1% most cited academic journals.**
- **Maynooth University is ranked second highest among the seven Irish universities in the number of PhD graduates per 10 academic staff positions.**
- **Overall research income from EU sources increased by 68% between 2011 (FP7) and 2014 (Horizon 2020).**

Some of the most notable outcomes are the prominent roles achieved by Maynooth researchers in Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) research centres such as CONNECT (networks and communications), LERO (software), iCrag (applied geosciences), MAREI (marine renewable energy) and INSIGHT (data ana-

lytics). Maynooth University also is the lead academic partner (with industry lead, Intel) in the Innovation Value Institute - an Enterprise Ireland Technology Centre.

The University also can proudly boast three staff members in the social sciences and humanities disciplines who have secured the highly prestigious European Research Council (ERC) awards, addressing challenges in urban organisation and job creation, as well as using new approaches to explore our cultural heritage. No other university in Ireland has achieved this level of success in ERC awards for Humanities/Social Science fields. Maynooth's ERC recipients include:

- Prof Rob Kitchen, Department of Geography, 'The Programmable City'
- Prof Seán O'Riain, Department of Sociology, 'New Deals in the New Economy'
- Prof David Stifter (see page 12), Department of Early Irish, 'Chronologicon Hibernicum - A Probabilistic Chronological Framework for Dating Early Irish Language Developments and Literature'

Maynooth University

Professor awarded prestigious ERC grant worth €1.8million

Prof David Stifter, Maynooth University
Department of Early Irish (Sean-Ghaeilge)

Professor David Stifter of Maynooth University earlier this year was awarded €1.8 million in funding by the European Research Council (ERC) for a project that will date a large number of 7th–10th Century Irish texts and develop innovative methodologies for dating languages that will be applicable across the world, shedding new light on medieval literature, history, and culture.

The highly prestigious award is viewed as the gold standard for research funding in Europe. Prof Stifter is one of an elite group of recipients in the Social Sciences and Humanities Consolidator grant category this year and one of only two in Ireland. In total, 516 applicants from 29 different countries competed for the funding.

Professor Stifter, Head of Maynooth University Department of Early Irish and Director of the MA Medieval Irish Studies, will lead a team of five researchers on the project known as the Chronologicon Hibernicum – A Probabilistic Chronological Framework for Dating Early Irish Language Developments and Literature. “ChronHib” will develop and use innovative methodologies and sophisticated software to perform linguistic analysis on a large body of early medieval texts. By looking for subtle changes in the language over the centuries and by applying advanced statistical methods, Prof Stifter will be able to profile language variations in texts of that period. The major result will be a ChronHib database, which will serve as the key reference point for the linguistic dating of Irish texts and will then provide a model for other old languages in Europe and beyond.

Currently, Prof Stifter is in the earliest stages of the project, having started to put together an international team comprised of colleagues from Austria (Dr. Bernhard Bauer), China (Dr. Fangzhe Qiu) and the US (Dr. Elliott Lash).

Prof Stifter said ultimately, researchers around the world will be able to use the new dating methods in a way similar to how tree-rings serve as chronological indicators in archaeology.

“Linguistic dating is about to take a huge leap forward into the technological possibilities of the 21st Century. By developing and utilising unique methodologies that help us to accurately date these fascinating medieval texts and create linguistic profiles of their language, we are linking the past with the present. Given the complexity of Old Irish, the success of this project will represent a new model for the study of other languages that researchers all over the world will want to emulate,” Prof Stifter said.

An Austrian by nationality, Prof Stifter’s fascination with Celtic languages and Maynooth University’s unique reputation internationally in the field of Irish linguistics drew him to Ireland. Professor Stifter recalls:

“Studying in Vienna, there was an adage in my department, ‘If Maynooth speaks, it is time to listen,’ so when the opportunity arose to come to Maynooth, I jumped at it.”

Maynooth University President, Prof Philip Nolan, recognised the importance of the award, said: “This award continues the long tradition of excellent research at the Department of Early Irish at Maynooth University, and I have no doubt that Professor Stifter’s work will significantly advance our understanding of some of the world’s early languages and cultures.”



How YouTube revived Shakespeare

Around 10 years ago, students started to take control of their own learning. The explosion in internet use, pushed on by sites such as YouTube, rapidly changed how students, scholars and those with an interest in literature approach canonical texts, especially those of the great playwright William Shakespeare. Desdemona and Hamlet became open to parody. Ophelia's status as an icon of female culture took new directions. Academics noticed that Shakespeare's plays were being altered, both subtly and radically, by YouTube actors.

Dr Stephen O'Neill, a lecturer in English at Maynooth University with a special interest in Shakespeare studies, is exploring how new media is reshaping our understanding of the English language's most iconic writer.

The project emerged out of O'Neill's interest in the afterlife of texts, or how they enter into popular culture. "There's a big interest in Shakespeare studies," says O'Neill. "His works are not only studied in schools, but used as a global reference point. Novelists and film-makers have continued to respond to, or rewrite, his plays. YouTube is a natural progression of this, and it is changing our view of the plays as static entities into something that can evolve and change."

YouTube users are, he says, putting their spin on the work and life of the bard.

"Popular culture is often and increasingly an entry point for students studying Shakespeare," says Dr O'Neill. "In creating YouTube videos around Shakespeare's work, they sometimes use the original text, sometimes an edited version, and sometimes abandon the original altogether in favour of a modern idiom. Many of the YouTube videos parody the language, having contemporary versions of the characters speak in this old language in a modern setting."

The Shakespearian tragedies, which tend to receive more attention in the English canon, give students a wide range of characters and emotional responses to play with, he says.

The heroine Ophelia, a major character in *Hamlet*, has long been an icon for teenage girls. YouTube has given new life to these interpretations, a theme which Dr O'Neill explores. "There are entire sites devoted to Ophelia who, in the play, takes her own life off stage. YouTube, Flickr, Tumblr and other social media sites have allowed fan responses to Ophelia, speaking to young women and with a sense that their own identities are not always within their control."

On the other hand, fan culture is sometimes less about the deeper symbolism of the play and more about how well the hugely popular British actor Benedict Cumberbatch performs the role of Hamlet.

They often take creative and playful turns. In one "mash-up" video (a video which combines clips from different pre-existing videos into something new), YouTube content creators took scenes from Luhrmann's *Romeo and Juliet* and spliced them with original material; in another paying homage to actor David Tennant's performance of *Hamlet*, they took BBC footage of his role and added their own soundtrack. All these videos are becoming objects of analysis in their own right at academic conferences.

Yet, the choices of video bloggers (vloggers) and YouTubers reflect the often difficult decisions facing anyone who seeks to bring a Shakespearian text to life, says O'Neill. "Some purists reject the idea of any altered text; they feel that the text is the ultimate authority and that the performance should be rooted in that. They question, when you start to move away from the text, whether it is Shakespearian anymore."

O'Neill suggests that these critics are ignoring the arc of Shakespeare studies to date. "It has always been good at welcoming new forms, including film and new media. This ability



to adapt to new mediums has given a vitality to Shakespeare."

In fact, he said, Shakespeare on YouTube is "changing how people teach the plays, especially if the teacher is younger, and how students engage with them. Students are creating their own performances, sharing them, having them recognised. It is possible that we are moving into a post-textual time, when you'll have a generation where the dominant register will be the visual rather than the language. It is all evolving, all changing."



Best in

the World

Maynooth University Chamber Choir Hoists Pavarotti Trophy to Become “Choir of the World”

Conductor and Alumnus Michael Dawson (BA, 2011) and two choir champions, Laura Carroll (BA, 2015) and Andrew Gallagher (3rd year), sat down with Dr Martin O’Leary from the Department of Music to reflect on winning, on the legacy of musical talent among Maynooth alumni, and on the power of music education.

To be the best in the world at anything is beyond comprehension for most people, so when the Maynooth University Chamber Choir went to Wales in July and came home with a title like “Choir of the World,” disbelief seemed to be suspended in the air somewhere between St. Joe’s Square and the Arts Block.

Not that the quality of this venerable society—one with a long tradition of outstanding vocalists and memorable choral performances—was ever in doubt. To the contrary, as many alumni know too well the annual Carol Service in the chapel is the hottest ticket in town, and many a musical talent built the foundation of the programme that exists today. But still, “Choir of the World”....?

Maynooth University was suddenly on a different kind of map, thanks to a symphony of 32 student voices and one audacious 26-year-old conductor.

An Accidental Conductor

Growing up in Malahide, Co. Dublin, Michael Dawson liked music, trying his hand at the bagpipes and doing the teenage rock band thing. Singing, though, was something he fell into quite accidentally. Dawson blames—or credits—a girl.

“I met a girl who was in the choir. I joined. She left. I stayed,” he recalled.

From there Dawson’s musical career seemed on the fast track. Still an adolescent, he joined two highly esteemed Dublin-area choirs—*Enchiriadis Chamber Choir* and *Anúna*—really cementing his love for the art. Singing alongside several Maynooth Chamber Choir alumni in the choirs also cemented his decision to come to Maynooth, and fomented his decision to become a conductor.

“Composition was always what I wanted to do. I fell into



conducting,” he said.

He watched his mentors and learned the art of gestures, but Dawson says he was drawn to the leadership nature of being a conductor.

“When people think conducting they think of them waving their hands at the front, but it’s really about leading a group of people.”

Dawson is now in his fifth year leading the Maynooth University Chamber Choir, following in the footsteps of former Choir Conductor Dr John O’Keeffe (PhD, 2008), whom both Dawson and O’Leary credited with having a “huge influence on the success of this choir.”

Historically, the position rotated nearly every year to offer new students or recent graduates the opportunity to try their hand at conducting. But after a successful US tour in 2013,



the Music Department decided to see where Dawson might take the choir with more time.

“My role was to develop the choir as a world-class ambassador for the University,” Dawson says.

With time and a bit of freedom, he instilled a focus and consistency for the choir that stressed both first-class singing but with an added emphasis on performance that choirs sometimes underestimate, he said.

For example, Dawson took away the sheet music. “Choral music needs to evolve. It’s how you sound but also how you look. Singers sing better when they’re not holding music. Their whole posture changes. They focus more on their voice and getting their message across and standing properly.”

He also started exploring the international stage, taking a group of students to an international competition in Spain, where they got a sense of what it would take to compete with the choirs of the Baltics, Scandinavia, and the US.

“Because Maynooth has such a long history of choral singing, it has been crying out for years to have the choir perform more than once or twice a year,” said Dawson, “These competitions put Maynooth University on a map the way normal marketing could never do.”

The competition in Spain, in particular, also made them hungry.

A Stage Like No Other

In July, the Choir travelled to Wales to compete in the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, one of the world’s largest cultural festivals, with more than 5,000 singers, dancers and instrumentalists from more than 50 countries performing to huge audiences in a massive open-air amphitheatre. Beginning as a much-needed vehicle for promoting peace during the 1930s, 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. In 2005, Pavarotti acknowledged its role in his career by adding his name to the Choir of the World competition.

Expectations for Maynooth were not high. It was the experience the singers were there to soak in. They use words like “shock” and “surreal” to describe just moving beyond the first round. By winning the ‘Youth Choir’ category on

“Music gives people something they can’t get in any other creative art, using the human voice--everyone has one and using it can really change people’s lives.”



Thursday they were allowed to advance to Saturday’s ‘Choir of the World’ competition.

Laura Carroll, a 2015 Music graduate from Gorey, Co. Wexford, performed a solo of Stanford’s *Bluebird* and says it felt like her voice was shaking through the first half of the song—nervousness not helped by the Oscar-like stage production of the festival, complete with roving cameras in your face and an audience of 5,000 before them.

“The feeling we had when we were finished performing is something I will never forget,” says Carroll. “It was weird because it was so exciting but also we couldn’t believe we were there. This was just pure happiness, something you definitely don’t always feel when you’re finished performing.”

As the first choir to perform, they then had to sit back and wait.

When asked if she thought they had any chance of winning, Carroll said, “It’s not like we doubted ourselves, but it’s as if we didn’t even allow ourselves to go there in terms of possibly winning. We were so happy just to be there.”

The announcement they had actually become “Choir of the World” seemed actually to allude the group for a minute, given the announcement was made in Welsh and, as Dawson said, “We didn’t know if they were announcing third place or first!”

But it was true, Dawson hoisted the Pavarotti Trophy in a made-for-tv moment that made Maynooth graduates around the world proud.

Sharing their Sound

Dawson, Carroll and fellow student Andrew Gallagher from Crossmolina in Co. Mayo point to two interesting factors in their win: their creative repertoire,

which Dawson says was “a mix of very hard, emotional and funky stuff,” as well as the gruelling process of producing a CD just prior to the competition.

The Choir’s first-ever CD, *Lorica*, which is available on iTunes or by contacting the Music Department, was recorded in St. Mary’s Chapel prior to Choir of the World and “served as great rehearsal” for the competition.

“When you’re in a place like the chapel it makes you focus on such fine detail, and by doing it over and over, it makes you realise what your job is,” Gallagher said.

Carroll agreed. “The recording experience prepared us for the Choir of the World because we were forced to really listen, listen to each other and listen to ourselves.”

Dawson said the 11-track CD, which includes pieces composed by Dr O’Leary and Maynooth alumnus Adam Cullen (BMus, 2006), is not only compelling because of its complexity (including six-part songs), but stresses “it is not removed from the real world.”

Moving Ahead

Dawson’s belief in making classical music accessible to a broader audience is one that is influencing his future career and personal goals.

Unfortunately for Maynooth, Dawson is likely to leave the University next year to pursue a PhD in conductorship in the US, but with the hope of returning to Ireland with a greater understanding of music education and how to expand access to a medium he sees as potentially life-changing.

“There is no reason why classical music should be just for people who can afford piano lessons and violin lessons. I would like to make it an opportunity that every kid in Ireland has,” he says. “There’s no reason why every school shouldn’t

have a proper choir with a proper conductor, with a proper music education programme. They don't have to make it a career out of it, but music gives people something they can't get in any other creative art, using the human voice—everyone has one and using it can really change people's lives."

Carroll and Gallagher would certainly agree.

Carroll not only talked about the mental health benefits of singing with a group like the choir, but also reflected, emotionally, on what her time in the Maynooth Chamber Choir has meant to her personally.

"When I came into first year I was extremely shy, but I auditioned and got in and it made a massive impact on my studies and socially as well," she said. "I'm going to miss it. I've made friends for life."

Gallagher, an Irish harpist who only joined the choir last year, echoed her sentiments. "Your final academic year can get quite heavy, so I think choir is something I use to get away, as a stress relief, and a great social scene. It's amazing what opens up for you when you sing in a choir like this. I came along from playing trad to this, something completely different."

It is in that offering of something completely different where Maynooth stands out. While Dr O'Leary pointed out that the Chamber Choir is really the "flagship programme of the Music Department," he also stressed that students, both trained and untrained musicians, have a total of five choirs at their disposal at Maynooth.

With one of them now boasting the "Choir of the World" title, complete with the Pavarotti name attached, they may soon have to think about doubling that number.

Maynooth Chamber Choir Conductor Alumni:

- Ciaran Brady (BA, 1994)
- Paul Brady (BA, 1993)
- Caitriona Doran (BA, 1996)
- Cathal Clinch (BA, 1999)
- David Stalling (BA, 1999)
- David Connolly (BA, 2003)
- Ruaidhrí Ó Dalaigh (BMus, 2007)
- Aengus Ó Maoláin (BMus, 2009)

New Maynooth Posts Draw Highly Acclaimed Screenwriter-in-Residence and Writer-in-Residence

In a first for Maynooth, the University has appointed two highly acclaimed individuals—Eoin McNamee and Hugh Travers—to the new posts of Writer-in-Residence and Screenwriter-in-Residence.

The writers will conduct workshops on campus and through Kildare County Libraries for the academic year 2015-16, as well as give public readings and host events for invited writers and screenwriters from Ireland and further afield. The project is a joint partnership between the Maynooth University Department of English, Kildare County Council Library and Kildare Arts Services.

The author of many novels and screenplays, Eoin McNamee's work has been nominated for many awards, including the Booker Prize. The final book in his acclaimed 'Blue' series, 'Blue is the Night,' won the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award in 2015.

As a writer of drama, comedy, animation and theatre, Hugh Travers has been the recipient of many accolades. The critically acclaimed *Lambo* won awards in 2014 for Best Radio Play, and *Green is the Colour* was an enormously successful sports documentary for RTE. Among his current projects, Travers is currently developing *Hungry*, a sitcom



Hugh Travers with Dr Oona Frawley and Eoin McNamee

commissioned by Channel 4, as well as a full-length feature, *Over the Bar*.

"Maynooth University is honoured to have Eoin McNamee and Hugh Travers join as writer and screenwriter in-residence. McNamee and Travers bring a wealth of experience and immense passion for the arts, and will inspire our students and budding writers in the local community to find their creative voices," said Dr Victor Lazzarini, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy.

Alumni are welcome to attend any of the events connected with the above and up-to-date news can be found on: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/english/news>

The first public reading of 2016 will take place on Tuesday, March 29 (time to be confirmed); Paul Muldoon will read (hosted by Writer-in-Residence Eoin McNamee).

All events are free and open to the public; enquiries can be directed to oonafrawley@nuim.ie



*“It was pure joy,”
Claire said. “We’re
Maynooth. We’re
a small campus.
We won.”*

l-r: Peter Robins, Matthew McCann, Cormac Friel, Róisín Kearney, Darren Smith, Ryan O'Neill, Caitriona Doran, Ronn Mapwata, Tereñe O'Rourke

*Changing the world
through innovation...*

Maynooth University comes up trumps in competition for Social Entrepreneurship

Sometimes, it's the routine, everyday experience that can spawn a big idea.

In the case of Matt McCann '13, it all started when he booked a hotel in London so he could attend the Special Olympics.

Matt, a third year Computer Science student who has Cerebral Palsy, was beyond frustrated to arrive at his hotel only to learn it was not quite as accessible as its website claimed. He couldn't even ascend the front entrance steps to the reception desk. The room he booked was too small to accommodate him and his walking aid, requiring him to leave it outside the room. Matt's experience crystallised a more widespread problem: accessibility information about public places is often provided by those places themselves and they often have a tendency to overstate their claims.

It was this experience that triggered Matt's concept for Access Earth, a website and soon-to-be app that gathers peer-generated content on the accessibility of buildings, including hotels, restaurants and other public places. Users write reviews aimed at helping others make informed decisions through insightful evaluations. Think Trip Advisor for the mobility impaired.

Matt began developing his idea with the Department of Computer

Science with a view to entering Microsoft's prestigious Imagine Cup.

Matt then took his idea to Maynooth University's Centre for Entrepreneurship, Design and Innovation (EDEN), and EDEN and Computer Science put together a team to advance the project for the Microsoft competition.

Access Earth was a national winner, and the team was whisked off to Microsoft HQ in Seattle at the end of 2014 for the Imagine global finals where they were awarded third place in the world citizenship category. While the Microsoft award acknowledged the idea's technical merit, it also commended it as a social innovation—an avenue that directed the team toward its next undertaking: ENACTUS.

ENACTUS is an international non-profit organisation founded on the basic principle that entrepreneurial action can be a powerful catalyst for human progress. Maynooth University's ENACTUS team immediately saw the potential of Access Earth.

Fourteen members combined their brainpower and creativity to develop the project for the national ENACTUS competition. The smaller presentation team is comprised of five recent alumni and one current undergraduate: Team Leader, Darren Smith (BBL 2015); Claire Breathnach (BA 2014, MSc 2015); Cormac Friel (BBA 2015); Matt McCann (HDip IT 2013, MSc 2015); Ryan O'Neill (BA 2014, MSc 2015); and Róisín Kearney (current student). The team looks to Matt as “the Steve Wosniak” of the project, referencing the technical visionary behind the first Apple computer.

Through trial and error, brainstorming and testing, the team members rallied around one another for support, calling and texting at all hours to work through the latest technical or strategic challenge to their project. They met with many external stakeholders,

including the Irish Wheelchair Association, Enable Ireland, and a number of NGO groups representing those with impaired mobility. In May, the team brought Access Earth to the ENACTUS National Competition—and came home with first place, knocking out seven student teams from across Ireland’s higher education sector.

“It was pure joy,” Claire said. “We’re Maynooth. We’re a small campus. We won.”

The win also meant the team would represent Ireland in the World Cup in Johannesburg, South Africa in October. The World Cup allows 3,500 student, business and academic leaders to compete on a global scale, providing teams of outstanding university students the ability to create community development projects, while developing the skills to become socially responsible business leaders of the future. The final World Cup competitors are narrowed down from 70,500 university students from 1,700 universities across 36 countries.

The sleepless nights continued until the trip, and although ultimately the Maynooth team came up short (the University of Southampton in the UK took first place for a project in Kenya that provides re-usable sanitary towels, natural soap, or toilets which convert waste into fertiliser), the team insists the experience was more than worth it.

In fact, their presentation attracted interest from a potential investor. Matt, and team mentor Dr Peter Robbins (EDEN) have since begun conversations about the future of the project with this individual, and three of the team members are actively working to commercialise the initiative—navigating the challenges of scaling up the endeavor and learning what the word “start-up” really means.

While the future of Access Earth appears bright—including a slot at this year’s Web Summit—what is most evident is the sense of achievement the team members feel for contributing to the social good.

The group credits their success in large part to the Maynooth staff who guided them along the way. In addition to Dr. Robbins, mentors included Dr Rosemary Monahan of Computer Science, Dr Gordon Delap of the Music Department, and Vivienne Murray of the Vice-President of Innovation’s Office.

Enactus Ireland is sponsored by KPMG, AIG, Arthur Cox, CarTrawler, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, The Ireland Funds, KBC Ireland, Microsoft Ireland, Musgrave Group, New Ireland Assurance, Unilever, Abbott Ireland, Bank of Ireland, Merc Partners and Willis.

Spotlight on Science

Internet of Things research at Maynooth focuses on future radio systems

Researchers from the Department of Electronic Engineering, together with the Department of Computer Science and the Hamilton Institute, are key partners in the newly formed SFI CONNECT Centre for the Internet of Things. Maynooth University’s expertise is on the radio science and related technologies that are needed to provide the infrastructure for current and future generations of mobile communications and connected things.

Maynooth researchers have been successful in developing technologies in the areas of power amplifiers, active antenna arrays and massive MIMO (multiple-input multiple-output). These technologies have been co-developed and used by a range of industry partners such as NXP, Socowave, Analog Devices and Macom. The new laboratories and research facilities will allow us to continue to support Irish-based industry, developing the community while allowing our researchers to undertake world-class research. The research is conducted with the financial support of Science Foundation Ireland.

University introduces new BSc in Robotics & Intelligent Devices

The emerging field of robotics—and the career opportunities it presents—has prompted Maynooth University to introduce a new undergraduate BSc programme in Robotics & Intelligent Devices. The programme is uniquely designed to suit students who are interested in both electronic engineering and computer science. As part of the programme, students are encouraged to compete in high-profile robot competitions and other competitive challenges and pursue work placement. Students completing the degree will acquire strong skills in systems and knowledge of how systems fit together through areas such as hardware, signal processing and system control. With such a blend of skills, students will be prepared to work in industries related to music devices, physical computer interfaces, mobile phones and health care systems.

New research brings hope for diagnosis and treatment of muscular dystrophy

New research conducted by Maynooth University, the University of Bonn, and Dublin City University has identified a previously undiscovered relationship between proteins that could have an immediate impact on the diagnosis of muscular dystrophy as well as significant implications for treatment of the disease.

This progressive muscle degenerative disorder is a genetic condition that is transmitted on the X chromosome, meaning only young males can develop the disease. Muscular dystrophy is the most common inherited neuro-muscular condition—affecting one in 3,500 Irish boys. Sufferers are usually wheelchair bound by the age of 12 and have an average life expectancy of 20 years.

The Maynooth contingent of the team includes Professor Kay Ohlendieck, Chair of the Maynooth University Department of Biology, postgraduate student Ashling Holland, and Dr Paul Dowling. Prof Ohlendieck called the research “a massive step forward for the treatment of muscular dystrophy.”

“For this research, the sensitivity of the equipment is crucial, and Maynooth University is leading the field in terms of cutting-edge technology. Every day, improving technology enables scientists to take a step closer to making diseases like muscular dystrophy, which afflict thousands worldwide, a thing of the past,” Prof Ohlendieck said.

The research, which was published recently in the prestigious biochemical journal *Proteomics*, was funded by the Irish Higher Education Authority, Muscular Dystrophy Ireland, and the German Muscular Dystrophy Association.



Going Global:

Major expansion of international activity is spreading the Maynooth University name around the world

In its *Strategic Plan 2012-17*, the University deliberately sought out an ambitious agenda in its international activities: double the number of international students on campus and double the number of domestic students spending time abroad, with the goal to create a truly intercultural and multilingual institution.

Still two years away from its deadline and the University already has met its goal to double the number of domestic students spending time abroad and is well ahead of schedule in doubling the number of international students studying at Maynooth.

Today, international students represent almost 10% of the student population, up from 5.3% in 2011/12, and students hail more than 70 countries. Meanwhile, the University has built student exchange partnerships with more than 150 universities and programmes around the world.

International students come to Maynooth for four main types of programmes: full-time undergraduate or post-graduate degrees, Erasmus exchange, semester/year abroad programmes, or short-term courses such as summer school.

While on campus, they seem to thrive. In fact, according to the 2015 StudyPortals International Student Satisfaction Awards, international students at Maynooth University reported the highest satisfaction with their international study experience in all of Europe. They cite the charming and lively campus, the close community of students, the friendliness of teachers, and small class sizes.

The International Office also is winning accolades for thinking differently in how to engage with universities abroad—by looking at their needs and responding to them. The University recently took first place for ‘Innovative New Study Abroad Program’ by GoAbroad.com for its unique First Year Spring Admit (FYSA) programme, a partnership with University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW). The two institutions worked together to create UNCW FYSA@Maynooth, which brought 31 freshmen students to Ireland for their very first semester of university. Maynooth customised the programme to cater to a study abroad new university student who would be experiencing many things at once for the first time.

So what’s on the horizon for a frenetic and ever-changing international office?

According to the Dean of International and Graduate Studies, Prof Ronan Reilly, the University will focus on building out existing relationships and continued student recruitment effort primarily in Asia, North America, Brazil and India. He and his team also are looking to build on unique partnership models that provide joint or dual degrees. An example is a 10-year relationship with Changzhou University (CCZU) in China, through which electronic engineering students spend their fourth year student in Maynooth.

Claire Doran, Interim Director of Internationalisation, said, “Along with staying on track with our goal to double the number of international students on campus, we’re very proud of our achievements in providing a real student-centred approach to international education. It’s what the Maynooth experience is all about.”

Maynooth Law Graduate Seconded to Large Publicly Traded Hedge Fund in London



Andrew Norry (LLM 2013) is pictured with Liz Grace (partner in Matheson's Asset Management and Investment Funds Group and module leader) and with Prof Michael Doherty, Head of the Maynooth University Department of Law.

Unique partnership with Matheson in Funds Law reaps benefits for student career prospects

As part of his postgraduate studies in 2013, Andrew Norry (LLM 2013) completed Maynooth University's innovative Funds Law course, which is delivered in cooperation with leading Irish law firm, Matheson. Based on his performance in the module, Andrew was awarded the prize for best overall student and was given a six-month internship at Matheson.

Following on from this internship, Andrew was offered a traineeship with the firm and is now training to become a solicitor. Recently, he was selected for secondment to one of Matheson's hedge fund clients in London.

Another classmate, Megan O'Connor (LLM 2013), also succeeded in garnering a six-month internship which has subsequently led to a traineeship offer as well.

Success stories like these were the precise aim of the partnership. In 2013 the Maynooth University Department of Law and Matheson teamed up to create the first-ever specialised Funds Law course available at an Irish university that gives graduates accelerated entry into Ireland's growing International Financial Services Sector. A unique feature of the course is that Matheson directly employs the most talented graduates from the course,

fast-tracking them into the sector.

Liz Grace, Partner in the firm's Asset Management and Investment Funds Group, is delivering the Funds Law course again this year, with an internship offered to the top performing student.

"Partnerships such as this between academia and industry are vital to develop our graduates' expertise into the future, to support our graduates' employment prospects, and to grow the skills necessary to continue the success of Ireland's international financial services sector," she said.

Professor Michael Doherty, head of Maynooth University Department of Law, added, "It is the innovative nature of the course that is important to Maynooth University and the global nature of the subject. Irish funds law is an area of law in particular that has gained huge significance not just here in Ireland but across the globe, and Ireland needs graduates who have a much broader focus and exposure to practises that go beyond the traditional university experience."

The Funds Law module is offered to students on both the LLM (Global Legal Studies) and LLM (International Business Law) programmes.



Equine Business Graduates Win, Place and Shine in their Post-Maynooth Endeavours

It's no secret that the horse industry in Ireland—be it the thoroughbred or sport horse sector—is among the best in the world. It's big business. And the owners and managers in this industry are increasingly looking for employees with business acumen, in addition to practical experience and a passion for all things horsey.

In 2007, Maynooth University responded to this need, establishing the BBS in Equine Business in collaboration with the industry. This programme provides students with a comprehensive knowledge of business concepts (marketing, management, accounting etc.) and the ability to apply this understanding to the management of equine businesses.

“In setting up the course, we talked to industry about their business management needs and we looked at the various equine programmes available at that time and developed the only degree in Ireland and England that focuses exclusively on the business

component of the equine industry,” said Niamh O’ Sullivan, Programme Director of the BBS in Equine Business.

The degree includes an opportunity to take a one-year work placement or spend third year studying in either the University of Arizona on the Racetrack Industry programme or at the University of Kentucky with the goal to help graduates stand out in a competitive job market.

Graduates of the programme are working in some of the top stud farms, trainer’s yards and equine organisations and businesses in Ireland and around the world. Some of the programme’s most well-known alumni include Patrick Mullins, the amateur champion jockey and son of champion trainer Willie Mullins, international show jumper Michael Hutchison, and Conor O’ Neill, Manager of the Limerick Racecourse. Many other alumni also have carved out exciting careers in both the thoroughbred and sport horse sectors. Read below about the experience of one graduate, Fiona Molloy.

Fiona Molloy (BBS in Equine Business, 2011)

What was the best thing about the Equine Business degree?

The Equine Business degree has given me a great foundation for my career. Not only the variety of modules covered but the opportunity to network with other people in the industry has been a hugely positive factor for me. The programme provides a great opportunity to meet with others working within the equine sector through guest speakers, work experience opportunities, visits to trainers yards, show jumping yards, veterinary hospitals, sales, stud farms and also extracurricular activities such as student race days.

Tell us about your career path to date.

I began working with Connolly’s Red Mills in April 2013 as a Marketing Assistant on a maternity cover. Thankfully, my contract was extended and I spent a number of months working within the Exports Department. As a global exporter of horse feed to over 40 countries, this gave me a chance to learn about the logistics and international business while working alongside chambers of commerce, embassies and the Department of Agriculture. In November 2014, I was offered the opportunity to relocate to

the UK to work as Marketing Executive, where I am now based since January.

What does your current role involve?

I am now responsible for the promotion, advertising and sponsorship activities of Connolly’s Red Mills within the UK. I particularly enjoy the event management aspect of my role. I attend trade shows and look after a variety of activities, attend show-jumping competitions and organise corporate hospitality at Cheltenham. There is so much variety in the tasks and with the people I get to work with that it keeps it interesting.

Do you keep in touch with friends and colleagues from the course?

The people I met throughout my three years at Maynooth are now my close friends. Whether you work in the thoroughbred or sport horse sector or both, everyone knows you; it is a small community. As a marketing executive I have been lucky enough to work on projects with former classmates also working in the industry. There are graduates of the BBS in Equine Business all over the world, and it’s great to catch up with everyone at the Dublin Horse Show in August or at Leopardstown at Christmas.

Maynooth University leads the way in widening participation

**“Sometimes all you
need is a chance”**

– Former MAP student,
Dr Andrew Hogan

Maynooth University Access Programme (MAP)

While many are probably aware of, or indeed, came to university through the Maynooth University Access Programme (MAP), which encourages under-represented populations to enter third level and provides support through their time at Maynooth, it's perhaps less well known that since its foundation in 1998, the programme made Maynooth University the national leader in widening participation in third level.

A recent survey found that among the seven universities in Ireland, Maynooth University had the highest percentage of grant recipients. The University also has expanded access to other populations of students: HEAR (Higher Education Access Route) students at Maynooth rose from just 10 in 1998 to 260 in 2015; DARE (Disability Access Route to Education) students increased from 62 to nearly 600 between 2003 and 2015. Maynooth University also has the highest participation rate among mature students in the University sector, with more than 300 mature students starting their studies at Maynooth each year.

In fact, over the last five years more than 3,500 MAP students have studied at Maynooth University. MAP students officially include students from disadvantaged backgrounds many of whom are the first in their families to go to college, mature students, students with disabilities and members of the Irish travelling community.

MAP works with second level schools to encourage under-represented groups to enter third level and at the annual MAP Awards Ceremony. The 2015 ceremony introduced the inaugural MAP Alumni Achievement Award, designed to recognise former MAP students who have progressed to successful careers and can inspire future generations of students.

The first winner of the Alumni Achievement Award was Dr Andrew Hogan (BSc 2004, PhD 2010), a former HEAR student and now an eminent scientist who spoke to a packed lecture theatre about his education and career path at the MAP awards ceremony which took place in May (see next page).

This year the University is launching the MAP Ambassadors programme, through which current and past students might share their experience as a MAP student, provide an education or career profile for the MAP website, talk to current Maynooth students about their personal experience or even visit their former primary or secondary school to encourage younger students to dream big.

If you would like to become a MAP Ambassador or you would like to nominate a Maynooth graduate for the 2016 MAP Alumni Award (closing date for nominations is Friday 12 February 2016), please visit www.maynoothuniversity.ie/alumni-office.



Prof Philip Nolan President and Dr Andrew Hogan
pictured at the annual Access Awards Ceremony

Andrew Hogan's story

In 1999, I undertook a degree in Science, throughout which the MAP gave me unwavering support and encouragement, helping me realize that I was well capable of achieving my goal of obtaining an honours degree. Sometimes all you need is a chance, and this is what the MAP does year on year for hundreds, now approaching thousands, of hard working students who otherwise may not get the chance.

After completing my degree, I went on to get a PhD in Immunology, also from Maynooth University, which led me to working on the global epidemic of obesity with Prof Donal O'Shea, Ireland's leading expert on the disease. I am currently the senior scientist with the Obesity Immunology group in St Vincent's University Hospital, a position that has brought me around the world and back. A couple of days after the MAP Alumni Awards ceremony I travelled to Boston to take up a summer sabbatical working in Harvard Medical School, all made possible by the chance given to me by MAP over 15 years ago.

Maynooth

Memories & Memorabilia

When graduates recall their time at university and the memories it conjures up, fellow classmates, former lecturers and social occasions are top of mind.



Staff and lecturers from the Geography and History departments

Back row (l-r); Proinnsias Breathnach, John Sweeney Middle row (l-r); Jim Walsh, Jim Keenan, Sheelagh Waddington, Paul Gibson, Ray Gillespie, Brendan Bartley, Colman Etchingham, Jackie Hill, Colm Lennon, Denis Pringle. Front row (l-r); Vincent Comerford, Una Ford, Mary Weld, Paddy Duffy



The Maynooth College squad that won the Sigerson Cup for the first time in 1976.

Back row (l-r); Liam Kelly; Pat Ryan; Frankie Murray; Éamonn Whelan; Martin Nugent, Stephen O'Mahony; Páraic Leydon; Michael Marren; Middle Row (l-r); John Clarke; Paddy Henry; Séan McKeon; Peter Burke; Jack Fitzgerald; Dónal Brennan; Larry Kelly; Mick McElvanney; Tom Barden; Front Row (l-r); Séan Hegarty; Pat Donnellan; John McPartland; Pat McHugh (Chairman); Rev Tomás ÓFiaich; Dan O' Mahony (Captain); Malachy O'Rourke (Manager); Tom McGuire (Treasurer); Tony O' Keeffe; Paddy McGovern; Liam Whyte. Absent; Francis Henry, Pat O'Brien (trainer).



Boca Seniors - Maynooth University Internal Soccer League Champions 2001-2002

Back row (l-r); Stephen Melody (BSc 2003, HDip Applied Physics 2008), Tom Doyle (BA 2001, HDip Ed 2002, MLitt 2005), Adrian Hayes (BA 2001, HDip IT 2002, MSc 2003), Alex Rolston (PhD Science 2004), Jason Miley (HDip IT 2002, MCSC 2003), Matthew Corbett (BA 2004). Front row (l-r); Barry Reynolds (BA 2001, MAT 2003), Martin Kerin, (BScIMS 2001, MSc 2003), Patrick Gilbride (BSc 2002, HDip Applied Physics 2003, HDip Ed 2007), Thomas Patten (BSc 2003), Ciarán Mac an Bhaird (BA 1998, MSc 2000, PhD 2007).



**SU President (1976-77)
Peter Finnegan with VP
Ailish Casey at the opening
of the SU Building**

Sincere thanks
to all alumni who have
shared their memorabilia with
The Bridge. No matter the time
of year, **keep them coming by**
emailing alumni@nuim.ie.
And if you recognise anyone
not named in these photos,
do let us know.

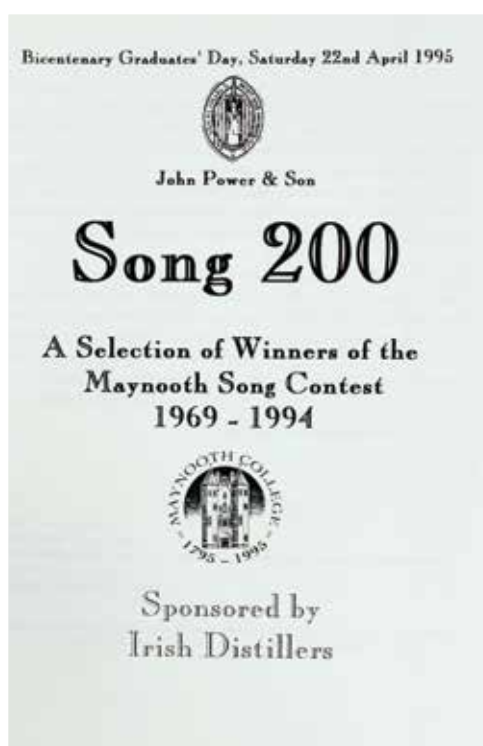


Donegal 1996

Those
Geography
fieldtrips–
recognise
anyone??



Roundstone 1983



MAYNOOTH SONG CONTEST WINNERS 1970 - 1994					
ORIGINAL SONGS					
COMPOSERS	PERFORMERS				
Hugh O'Donnell	Tom O'Garra	1982	Unavailable	Christine McDonnell	Christine McDonnell
Seamus Barry	Josephine Murphy	1983	Calling	Liam Lawton	Liam Lawton
Tan O'Connor		1984	With or Without Your Love	Maureen Purcell	Maureen Purcell
Christy Kennelly	Christy Kennelly	1985	The Make-Believer	Terry Rafferty	'Frontier' Terry Rafferty
Peter O'Reilly	Joe McCarthy			Eamon Martin	Eamon Martin
	John Cullen	1986	Ferry Sailing	Jose Azopardo	Jose Azopardo
	Michael Molloy			Barry McMillan	Barry McMillan
	Gerard Kenny	1987	Where Does That Leave You & I?	Dennis Hooper	Dennis Hooper
	Noel Korrane	1988	Macalla	Seamus MacLennan	Charm Creaner
	Jim Conboy				Seamus MacLennan
Shelia Ryan	Donal Healy	1989	Another Lonely Night	Laura Foley	Laura Foley
Shelia Ryan	Shelia Ryan			Gillian Foley	Gillian Foley
Peter O'Reilly	Joe McCarthy			Kevin Walsh	Kevin Walsh
Jim O'Brien	Jim O'Brien			Justin Kelly	Justin Kelly
Deirdre McLaughlin	Deirdre McLaughlin	1990	Can't We Try?	Laura Foley	Laura Foley
Mary Lynch	Mary Lynch			Gillian Foley	Gillian Foley
Mary Mone	Mary Mone				'Archie' Ryan
Leo Hegarty	Leo Hegarty				Malachy Dunne
Dennis O'Dea	Dennis O'Dea	1991	Touch	Gary Broderick	Kevin Walsh
Maria Maher	Maria Maher			Sinead Nic Stiofain	Sinead Nic Stiofain
Lia Deery	Lia Deery	1992	Geoffaints	Barry McMillan	Barry McMillan
Liam Lawton	Liam Lawton				
Tom Lawton	Tom Lawton	1993	Letting Go	Cathy Martin	Cathy Martin
Geraldine O'Neill	Geraldine O'Neill				
Tom Lawton	Tom Lawton	1994	I Need Someone Like You	Jonas Jonnassen	Jonas Jonnassen
Emmanuel McConnell	Emmanuel McConnell				Frances Doherty
Tim O'Brien	Tim O'Brien				
Fergus O'Connor	Fergus O'Connor				
Hugh McManus	Hugh McManus				

Maynooth
Song Contest
Remember
who sang 'Sweet
Caroline' in
1988??

1988	Sweet Caroline	'The Drifters'
	Paul Moriarty	Gerry Campbell
	Gerard Gallagher	Andrew Parish
	Paul Nash	Tony Steele
	Catherine Morley	"Archie" Ryan
	Michelle Kennedy	Peter Deeney
	Miriam Carroll	



40 is the New 20 Maynooth Students' Union Turns 40

In 2016, the Maynooth Students' Union (MSU) hits a milestone: its 40th birthday. From MSU's first official president in 1976, Peter Finnegan (current member of the Maynooth Alumni Advisory Board), to current president Matt O'Boyle, the Union exists to engage, educate, and entertain the student body. Since its foundation, women have held the role of president nine times out of 40, though *The Bridge* imagines that might change over the next 40 years! Mary MacCourt, a stalwart of the MSU over the past three decades, shared this trip down memory lane with *The Bridge*:

"I have had many happy years here at Maynooth Students' Union and met great students and staff - many of whom I can still call friends. Mags Kirwan, the Shop Manager, was so good to me when I first started in the SU - I guess she was what I am now - the mature grey-haired lady!!

I recall many antics - some of which are unprintable! One favourite was when Paul Mullally, President in 2005, bought a Play Station online only to open it to find just a small plastic Tetris inside. He was devastated. It was an expensive laugh!

It has been wonderful watching the progress of the SU over the past three decades - from the setting-up of the Health Centre in 1990 (it was run by the Students Union then) to today, when we look forward to a new Student Centre and Sports facilities. Roll on the next 40 years!!!"

A favourite memory of Minister Joe McHugh TD (see page 3) was seeing 'The Stunning' play in "the old-shed of a union"! Another musical memory came from Niamh Madden (BA Int, 2002), who recalled "getting to see Damian Rice play for £2 in the SU! There were about 50 of us in the audience."

Part-time student President Peter Finnegan (1976-77), who now runs international relations for Dublin City Council, called his tenure "the most formative year of my life.

"At the end of the year we had weathered two major student strikes, opened the first Student Union Bar and facility in Ireland, and introduced full-time, paid officers that took effect the next year with the election of John Gallagher as the first full-time Union President--all while studying for First Theology. They were different times."

Finnegan helped persuade the College to lift the ban on political party branches. "Mary Hanafin, then a first year, started Ogra Fine Gael; with my Vice President Ailish Casey we launched Young Fine Gael; and John Gallagher, then Education Officer, started Labour Youth, but the College would only allow these three parties. It was a year of change, the end of clerical students holding the Union presidency, and a year in which we dared challenge convention—built even in crisis collaboration with the College authorities—to contribute to changes at Maynooth."

"I grew as a person through this year, and the experience shaped my life ever since."

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the MSU, in March 2016 the Alumni Office is planning an alumni event in collaboration with the Students' Union. More information will be available in the new year on www.maynoothuniversity.ie/alumni-office.

The Bridge would love to hear from any former SU officers who might like to attend this event so do contact alumni@nuim.ie

Family Matters



Last year's *Voice of Ireland* Runner-Up Emma Humber, currently a second-year at Maynooth, "followed the footsteps" of her mother, Frances Humber

Frances Humber (BA (1990), HDip Ed (1991))

From the first day I arrived in Maynooth I knew I had made the right decision. I was welcomed by an autumnal scene in Joe's Square and it felt a little less daunting. Moving away from my home in Mayo was very difficult, but the friends I met along the way made the move easier. Soon, Maynooth felt like home. Amongst the fun to be had in Maynooth was an abundance of knowledge to be learned. Many long hours were spent in the John Paul II Library studying and reading from "state-of-the-art" microfiche readers. Attending my English and Geography lectures in the Arts Block was quite the trek. To get from the library after hours of studying for my lectures in Drama with Frank McGuinness or Climatology with John Sweeney I had to cross the now sorely missed footbridge. Every year we had geographical field trips, travelling from Glendolough to The Burren to Waterford to France. The cultured English students we were made trips into the Abbey Theatre from time to time to see some of the plays being studied on our course. Since leaving Maynooth, I've become a teacher of English and Geography in St. Vincent's Secondary School in Glasnevin, Dublin, where I am trying to instil in my students the same passion for the subjects I obtained through my many wonderful lecturers in Maynooth in the early nineties. The knowledge I absorbed and the friends I made stay close to my heart, as does the beautiful university of Maynooth, which I am very happy to still have a connection to, through my daughter, Emma!

Emma Humber *current 2nd year English and History undergraduate*

All through my life I had heard how brilliant Maynooth was from my mam, and as a lover of academia I always wanted to follow in her footsteps and become a Maynooth student. In 2014, I finally walked through the archway on South Campus and thought "Hogwarts!" Yet, instead of configuration and defence against the dark arts, I was studying English and History, and my wand was a blue pen and Voldemort was my exams. First year was a very busy year for me as I was taking part in The Voice of Ireland, but I still found time to develop amazing friendships and focus on my studies. The support from the university community was overwhelming. From my friends and fellow students to my lecturers, I was supported all the way to the final. The experience showed me just how inclusive Maynooth is—the small campus is so homely and friendly and such a brilliant place to achieve your potential. This year I am focusing more so on studying and learning as much as I can from the wonderful academics I am lucky enough to call my lecturers. When I finish my third level education I hope to educate young people too and would love my career in education to lead me back to Maynooth University someday.



Emma performing in the SU at the Inaugural Maynooth Alumni Annual Reunion in September 2015

Rugby

It was another amazing year for the men's and women's rugby teams. The men's senior team made it to the semi-finals, finishing fourth out of 16 teams. The men's fresher team won the All-Ireland Championship, making this their third championship in the last 10 years. Women's rugby placed third out of eight teams and is showing great promise for next year. In addition to the on-field success, the University has 35 scholarships which assist players with a full range of supports, including physical therapy, strength and conditioning coaches, high-performance specific rugby coaching and on-campus accommodation. Rugby Development Officer Dennis Bowes says the purpose of the rugby club goes well beyond the pitch to including developing skills for life, such as teamwork, sportsmanship, hard work, and holistic coaching and advising - not to mention the life-long friendships players build along the way.

GAA

The teams under the Maynooth University GAA Club umbrella did exceptionally well this year, with over 450 students participating across 14 teams, including five men's football teams (Sigerson Senior Team, Intermediate, Junior, Fresher One and Fresher Two), three camogie teams, three ladies football teams and four hurling teams (Senior, Intermediate and two Fresher teams).

The teams represent Maynooth University GAA club in various All-Ireland university competitions under the guidance of Jenny Duffy, GAA Development Officer. Members of the teams received 57 undergraduate scholarships and nine post-graduate scholarships. The ladies Division 1 Gaelic football team participated in the O'Connor Cup Championship this year for the first time in over 10 years, while the Camogie Team won the Division 2 Purcell Shield Championship. The Hurling Team participated in the Fitzgibbon Cup (last won by St. Patrick's College Maynooth in '72, '73, and '74) and the men's fresher 2 football team won the All-Ireland Division 4 Championship.

University Sport

As you well know, the 'Maynooth Experience' is not all about the books. For many, the social and sporting aspects of college life are just as engrained in their memories. Over the years, the University has increased its investment in sport and developed key strategic partnerships in rugby (Maynooth University-Barnhall), in soccer (St Patrick's Athletic F.C.) and in golf (GUI and Carton House Golf Club). The array of sports scholarships also go a long way in assisting many students who select Maynooth as their university and sporting home.



March 2015 Amber Barrett, Maynooth University, in action against Aoife Moloney, IT Carlow v Maynooth University, Leixlip United Collinstown, Leixtown, Co Kildare. Picture credit: Matt Browne/ SPORTSFILE

Soccer

The soccer programs shined brightly this year with several points in the win column under the direction of Barry Prenderville, FAI Soccer Development Officer. Women's soccer won the Women's Soccer Colleges Association of Ireland Premier Division championship for the first time this year thanks largely to the athleticism of fresher Amber Barrett, who scored 16 goals in her first season with the club. The men's senior soccer squad also enjoyed success, reaching the Colleges & Universities Premier Division final only to fall at the last hurdle when they were beaten in a penalty shoot-out by UCD. The male fresher team showed their school spirit, winning the CUFL Cup Division 3 championship for the first time. Maynooth Soccer offers a number of male and female scholarships annually as a means to continue to grow the programme. In 2015, 32 men and 15 women benefitted from the soccer scholarships scheme through financial and other supports.

Snooker

Dr. Ciarán Mac an Bhaird (Department of Mathematics & Statistics) is honorary President of the Maynooth University Snooker Club and assists the club committee when required. An alumnus of Maynooth, he was active in the snooker club while a student here. The Snooker Club, in coordination with Maynooth University and the Republic of Ireland Billiards & Snooker Association (RIBSA), has had scholarships available each year since 2007 to nationally ranked amateur players. This was the first snooker scholarship of its kind in the world. The current scholarship is available so send along your best and brightest snooker players to join the Maynooth family.

Golf

Maynooth University golf has again set the bar for university golf in Ireland this year. Nail biter doesn't quite describe the grand showing by the men's team at the All-Ireland Senior Cup which resulted in a win over Knock Golf Club that was decided, in the final match, on the final hole, on the final green, on the final putt. In Switzerland, at the European Universities Golf Championship another men's team took the silver medal while the ladies won the bronze medal. Irish International Robin Dawson (second-year Equine Business), took top honours capturing the gold medal in the individual event.

On the alumni front, recent graduate Gary Hurley (Business & Management), has joined the professional ranks. Hurley signed off his amateur career in style by helping Great Britain and Ireland to a memorable win over the United States in the prestigious Walker Cup in September. Hurley has been one of the finest products of the Paddy Harrington Golf Scholarship programme having repre-

sented Europe in the Palmer Cup on two occasions (2012 & 2015), and in reaching a career high of No. 25 in the world amateur golf rankings. As part of a new graduate initiative, Gary will be sporting the Maynooth University logo on his apparel while competing professionally this year on the European Challenge Tour. We wish him all the best in the future!

Our golf scholars collectively had a stellar summer season winning some of the country's major golf titles. Irish International Stuart Grehan (second-year Entrepreneurship) bagged two major Irish provincial championships winning the East of Ireland and the South of Ireland. Alan Lowry (third-year Arts) bagged his first major title by winning the Mullingar Scratch Trophy and joins a list of prestigious winners including brother Shane Lowry (2008), Rory McLlroy (2006) and Pádraig Harrington (1994). Alumnus golf scholar, Kelan McDonagh won the title in 2010. Female scholar Shannen Brown was unlucky not to win a major after finishing runner-up in the three women's provincial championships, East Leinster, Mid-Leinster and Ulster.

Other performances to note is the men's team wins over the University of Notre Dame, Texas A&M and University of North Carolina, Wilmington en route to winning the Inaugural Notre Dame Invitational hosted at Waterville golf club, where James Sugrue (first-year Arts Kilkenny) took individual honours. The Senior Cup team took sixth place at the European Club Trophy in Cyprus, while at the Irish Intervarsity Championship in Rosslare, Shannon Burke became the fifth Maynooth player to win the Irish Intervarsity Ladies Championship. The men's runner-up was Stuart Grehan, who was narrowly beaten in a playoff.



Shannen Brown

Support for Alumni by Alumni



In the third year of the Alumni Scholarship Programme, Maynooth University in collaboration with the Bank of Ireland, stepped it up to fund a total of four scholarships for postgraduate study. Funded by revenues generated from the Maynooth Alumni Affinity Credit Card, graduates Anne, Conor, Eliza, and Patrick are our 2015 alumni scholarship winners.

We'd like to award even more scholarships next year so we could do with your help—by signing up for an affinity credit card. Visit www.maynoothuniversity.ie/maynooth-affinity-card to make a difference for a Maynooth graduate.

Speaking to *The Bridge*, these graduates shared the impact the scholarships have had on their lives:



Anne Mahon
Master of Arts in Postcolonial
and World Literature

Feeling inspiration from Maynooth University President Philip Nolan's statement during an awards ceremony to lend support to fellow students, Anne Mahon applied to become a Peer Tutor in the English Department. Yet, this is hardly the start of Ann's story. Anne did not immediately attend third level upon completing her leaving certificate. Instead, she completed two part-time evening diplomas with distinction before attending Maynooth as a mature student.

Anne believes receiving the Alumni Scholarship is not just a testimony to her academic performance, but also shows all mature students that they are part of the fabric of Maynooth.



Eliza Brennan
Master of Science in Climate Change

Eliza is the inaugural recipient of the John Sweeney Postgraduate Alumni Scholarship for Climate Change, sponsored by Bank of Ireland. Established in 2015, this is the first time this award has ever been awarded and it pays tribute to Professor Sweeney, the Maynooth University Emeritus Professor whose work was part of the 2007 Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Eliza, 21, is a 2015 First Class Honours graduate from Mullingar. Thanks to the scholarship, she returned to Maynooth University in September to begin a Taught Master's (MSc) in climate change and is most grateful for the opportunity to continue to learn from world-class experts in this area. She said, "This MSc will give me a solid foundation for pursuing a PhD and building a career in climate change research."



Patrick Heslin
Master of Science in
Mathematics for Education

Patrick is one of Maynooth's best and brightest by way of his academic success. He received high honors with his leaving certificate, earning him Student of the Year in Moyne, C.S., the Naughton Gold Scholar for 2012, and the Darré Exhibition

Award for Maynooth University. Most recently, he achieved the McMahon Prize in 2014, firmly establishing his status as a scholar at Maynooth.

Patrick could not be more excited for the opportunity to learn from the dedicated lecturers and alongside a tight-knit group of classmates. The awarding of the Alumni Scholarship has meant the world to him. He says, without it, "I would not be here. I just couldn't afford it." He currently works three jobs in order to pay for his postgraduate degree, so he understands the value of alumni giving and the impact it has had on his life.



Conor McManus
Professional Master of Education

Since Conor's first year at Maynooth, he wanted to pursue a career as a music and mathematics teacher. The staff and people of Maynooth inspired him through their friendly and approachable way, making Maynooth feel like his second home. It made perfect sense to him to apply for his master's degree at Maynooth and the Alumni Scholarship. He said winning the scholarship has lifted a burden from his shoulders, allowing him to focus on his studies instead of worrying so much about money.

Conor says his time at Maynooth University has been a nurturing process for him, helping him to cultivate his critical thinking skills and his ability to solve problems – key skills which he believes will make him a more successful teacher.

We Remember...

'Maynooth College and 1916' exhibition one of several commemoration events planned for 2016



The surviving 1916 veterans with the President of St Patrick's College, Maynooth Monsignor Mitchell, 1966

By Barbara McCormack (Special Collections & Archives, Maynooth University Library) and Susan Leyden (Archivist, St Patrick's College Maynooth)

Maynooth University, in partnership with the local community, will commemorate one of the most fundamental events in modern Irish social and political history – the 1916 Easter Rising – along with other poignant aspects of the decade with a variety of events during the year. See: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/commemorations for more information.

One event to note is the 'Maynooth College and 1916' exhibition running at the Russell Library from April to December which aims to tell the story of the College in the period immediately before, during and after the Rising through a display of primary and secondary documents from the historical collections of St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

At 3pm on Easter Monday 1916, Dean Malachy Eaton of Maynooth College informed local man Patrick Colgan that the Irish Volunteers had taken up arms in Dublin. What followed was a bloody conflict which lasted for six long days and resulted in the deaths of more than 250 civilians, 130 members of the crown forces and more than 60 insurgents. The exhibition 'Maynooth College and 1916' explores the role of staff and students involved in this conflict and its aftermath.

On the day of the Rising, a contingency of 15 men representing the 'Maynooth Volunteers' and led by local man Domhnall Ua Buachalla [Donal Buckley], stopped at the College hoping to receive a blessing from the President, Monsignor John F Hogan, before they travelled to Dublin and took their place in Irish history. It is alleged that President Hogan initially refused to bless the men, exclaiming that they 'were poor fools who were going to be slaughtered.' Hogan eventually relented and asked the Volunteers to kneel down before administering the blessing. John Kenny, personal servant to Hogan, was a member of the Maynooth Volunteers but failed to join the contingency in Dublin, in accordance with the wishes of the President. Oliver Ryan, indoor staff member of Maynooth College, joined the Maynooth Volunteers on Easter Monday when 'from under his overcoat he produced a .22 rifle and ammunition.'

Ryan was later arrested and detained in Frongoch internment camp before returning to Maynooth in July 1916.

Perhaps one of the most influential figures from Maynooth College at this time was Fr Thomas Fahy, who was ordained for the Diocese of Clonfert in 1912 and appointed Professor of Classics in 1915. Fr Fahy was on vacation in Esker, Co. Galway during Easter week, and assumed the role of Chaplain to the Irish Volunteers, regularly visiting the Volunteers and hearing confession. Fr Fahy later addressed the Volunteers at Lime Park, urging them to disband due to the advancement of British troops. One of the Volunteers, John Broderick, stayed with Fr Fahy for a time and later took up a position at Maynooth College. Broderick stayed working at the College until June 1917.

Alf Monahan [Ailbhe O Monachain] was also on the run following the Rising and was given work at Maynooth College, assuming the name 'Joe Maguire.' Fr Fahy also helped Frank Hynes, Captain of the Athenry Volunteers, to secure work at the College. Hynes accepted the job, working for three months at Maynooth College during which he 'was foundered from running from 6.30 a.m. till 9.30 p.m. for 61/2d. per day.'

As for the conduct of Maynooth students during the Rising, Msgr John F Hogan reported diplomatically to the Trustees that the college was otherwise quiet during Easter Week, which is in stark contrast to the personal accounts of many former students, some of which noted the tension and excitement in the College. At one stage, a drilling squad ventured into open ground in front of Rhetoric House, just as President Hogan turned the corner. The drill-sergeant had the presence of mind to step into the ranks and Hogan contended himself with saying, 'You'd be well advised to disband, gentlemen.'

Overall, Maynooth College played an important role during the Easter Rising. During the 50th Anniversary Commemorations of the Rising, the President of Maynooth College, Msgr Gerard Mitchell, invited the surviving 1916 Maynooth veterans to the College in order to officially mark and acknowledge the role they played on what was very much a national stage.



(l-r); Bernie's daughter, son, Bernie, John Keegan, husband Kieran and John's brother

Bernie Coyne (BA 1987, HDipEd 1988)

Bernie Coyne is Managing Director of Coyne Research. She managed to catch up with a Maynooth buddy, John Keegan (1986), when she and her family went to Cardiff for the Ireland v France rugby match earlier this year. "Keego graduated the year before me I think and he has lived in Cardiff for 15 years now. He's married Helen, a Welsh native."

Class Notes

The Bridge asked alumni to share a little taste of their lives today, any special Maynooth memories or people they met along the way. Here are their responses:

Pat O'Brien (MEd 1993)

In September 1991, Pat O'Brien commenced the post-graduate Master's in Education degree programme at Maynooth under Professor John Coolahan. He graduated in the fall of 1993 with first class honours. At that time the MEd degree was two years' duration, and included undertaking a major piece of research and writing up a major dissertation under the supervision of a member of the academic staff. Pat's supervisor, Dr Jim Callan, was an outstanding academic and teacher whom he called, "a brilliant teacher who had a profound influence on me."

Pat recalls the other four course participants: Catherine Cotter, Ann Gilespeie, Colette Murphy and Bernadette Hayden - all fabulous women and Pat remains friends with a couple of them today.

Pat says they were blessed in having excellent lecturers headed up by Professor John Coolahan, an outstanding academic, inspiring teacher and acknowledged expert in the history of education in Ireland. He recalls his Monday morning lectures at 9am on the dot! On a mid-winter's frosty morning, Professor Coolahan would breeze into the classroom characteristically smiling and full of energy with the greeting: "fine crisp morning" to the barely awake post-grads!

Pat went on to work work as a lecturer in Trinity College and the Royal College of Surgeons prior to retirement.

Peter McCarthy (BA 1990, HDip Ed 1991, MA 1994)

Peter McCarthy entered Maynooth in 1978 to study Arts and had a great time until dropping out in 1980, only to return in 1987 as a ("much more") mature student and graduating with a BA in 1990. Peter went on to earn his HDipEd in 1991 and then an MA in Music in 1994. He has wonderful memories of the Music Department and Messrs Gillen, Devine and Boydell and also Gerry Watson in the Classics Department.

Peter also recalls the SU and the Roost, playing for the Sex Pistols in the soccer leagues. He remembers Tom McCormack, Don Kingston, Carmel O'Shea, Mary Lynch and many others.

He has taught Classical Studies in St Columba's College in South Dublin since 1991 and is married, has three daughters and a dog (female Great Dane), all of whom he says keep him in line.

Although Peter admits to being less sociable than in his youth, he would love to hear from students of his vintage (including those owed apologies!) by contacting him at pmccarthy@staff.stcolumbas.ie.

Joe Gissane (BA 2015)

It was always Joe Gissane's ambition to be awarded a degree and in 2015 he achieved that in style earning a first class honours degree in Local Studies. Having completed his Leaving Certificate in 1971, returning to learning wasn't without its challenges; "the discipline of regular studying and the requirement to develop my writing skills were perhaps the greatest challenges. However, the many positive aspects of the course, such as studying a variety of new topics, and meeting new friends, made it a very enjoyable and most satisfying experience. Maynooth is a lovely campus and very welcoming to mature students. You are never too old to learn!"



(l-r); Karen Gissane (daughter), Dylan Gissane (grandson), Joe Gissane, Kelley Gissane (daughter)

Dermot Mulligan (BA 1995)

A history and geography graduate, Dermot has been Museum Curator of the Carlow County Museum since 2002 and has worked in the Irish heritage sector since 1996, after earning a Higher Diploma in Irish Heritage Management from UCC. Dermot coordinated the development of Ireland's newest county museum, which opened in Carlow in 2012, now Ireland's County Museum of the Year. Dermot is also the Carlow, Ireland 2016 Coordinator, a major undertaking especially considering county plans to hold more than 50 events to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. During his three years at Maynooth, Dermot stayed on the North Campus in the student accommodation operated by the Salesian Fathers. Adjoining this building was both a basketball court and a large green area. The basketball court he recalls was used mainly for five-a-side football matches. On many occasions, visiting clergy and students from abroad also stayed in this accommodation and it wasn't unusual for him and his classmates to introduce these foreign visitors to hurling on the large grass area beside the basketball court. The visitors in turn – in particular the Italians – dazzled the Irish lads with their continental football skills!

John pictured near Lake Turkana, Northern Kenya

**John Jennings (MSc 2008)**

After John completed his MSc in geophysics, he went on to work in the land surveying industry, carrying out geophysical surveys on major infrastructural projects all over Ireland. He currently works as a project manager and geophysicist for Tullow Oil, where he has worked extensively in East Africa and South America. This role has also given him the opportunity to travel all over Europe and North America.

"I will always remember my time at NUI Maynooth fondly. The skills I learned there have allowed me to have such wonderful adventures in the deserts of Turkana, the grasslands of the Rift valley, beside lake Albert in Uganda and in the jungles of Jamaica and Suriname. I have great memories of my time in the Geography Department and of the people I met. Very best wishes to you all!"

Niamh Sheridan (BA 1997)

"Some of the best and coldest days of my life were spent in a Dickensian hovel in Cluain Aoibhinn, dodging the landlord and spending as much time in the SU as possible," writes Niamh Sheridan. She went to every Bar X and wine and cheese reception regardless of fraternity and still managed to graduate with a BA in History and Geography. Niamh went to Oz with her then boyfriend (now husband) after her graduation in 1997, but the draw to Maynooth was still there and in 2000 and in 2014 she returned for further study. She is now settled in Cork where she manages a family centre in the city and has nine-year-old twins. Her husband, Dr Cormac Sheehan is a graduate of the Department of Anthropology. "Some of my fondest memories are of walking over The Bridge in Parsons Street with the autumn leaves thick on the path and another college year ahead of me."

In Memoriam

*Alumni remember lecturers and fellow students***Dr Noel Murphy** (Department of Biology)**Dr Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin** (Scoil an Léinn Cheiltigh)**Professor Liam Ryan**

Liam Ryan, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Maynooth University, Limerick man, hurler, storyteller, priest, writer and local historian passed away earlier this year. Liam's lengthy career at Maynooth coincided with the development of the University as a secular institution and the flourishing of the social sciences.

Through our Maynooth University page on LinkedIn, here are a few condolences from alumni:



Sean Cooney Proud to have been taught by Father Liam
11 days ago



Paula Nolan I'm very sorry to hear of Fr. Liam's passing. I used to enjoy his lectures. He was great! R.I.P. Fr Liam.
11 days ago



Chris D McLaughlin Great teacher, and I watched the Redskins Broncos Super Bowl with him at his place in 1988.
11 days ago



Ronan O'Flynn Great man and teacher! The odd whisker and great conversation!
11 days ago



Adrienne Hoey I remember him ditching a sociology lecture around Christmas time in favor of a carol singing session when he learned that one of his students played the piano! My favorite memory of him!
11 days ago



Máire Sogabe Ar dheas Dé go raibh a anam.
10 days ago



Dermot Luddy I hope someone tracks down the students who kidnapped Liam years ago and tried to get a dinner out of him. Liam allegedly escaped through the bathroom and used a spare key to access his car. Apparently he never mentioned it to the students in question. :) [less](#)

**Oisín Feeney (BA 2011) remembers his friend, Mary Ann O'Driscoll, who passed away in July:**

"Mary Ann was a star pupil, extremely gifted and generous. I am one of her best friends and am absolutely broken hearted about losing her. We had the most amazing friendship which was all thanks to our time spent in Maynooth University together which is why I felt it necessary to inform you of her passing."

Mary Ann was a 2011 graduate who was very active in many of the University's clubs and societies. She co-founded the Maynooth Ultimate Frisbee club and was also a very active member in St Vincent de Paul.

Her faith was always a very important aspect of her life and after graduating, she moved to Liberia with the charity Franciscan Works. In 2015, she became the director of their Liberia mission which encompassed an orphanage and a school. On Wednesday, July 15th Mary Ann lost her life in a tragic accident.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílse.

Editor's note:

If you've a class note that you'd like to share – where your career has taken you, if you got married or found a significant other, travelled someplace really interesting or just have a fun student memory to share – we'd love to hear from you. Email alumni@nuim.ie

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/alumni-office



Waggle Dance by Remco de Fouw & Rachel Joynt 2015, Maynooth University