Maynooth University

**13th June, 1997:**

Minister of Education
Niamh Bhreathnach signs Commencement Order for the Universities Act, establishing the National University of Ireland Maynooth as an independent university.

**2000**
- Founding of the Irish Climate Research and Analysis Units (ICARUS), the leading centre on climate change in Ireland

**2001**
- Hamilton Institute founded with initial funding from SFI

**2002**
- National Institute of Regional and Spatial Analyses (NIRSA) established as Centre of Excellence with PRTLI funding
- 30% increase in CAO first preferences in just one year

**2003**
- Department of Media Studies established

**2004**
- National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG) established with funding from SFI
- Department of Electronic Engineering established
- €18M John Hume Building opened by President Mary McAleese
- Prof John G. Hughes appointed President

**2005**
- John and Pat Hume Scholarships established, supporting 350 students to date with €1.5 million provided by MU annually
- Student Services Centre opened, providing health, counselling, budgeting advice and other services to hundreds of students every day

**2006**
- The Department of Applied Social Studies established
- Innovation Value Institute co-founded by MU and Intel
- Callan Institute founded
- NUIM China Office established in Beijing
- Paddy Harrington Golf Scholarships established, helping Ireland’s elite golf prospects stay in Ireland

**2007**
- Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including Prof John Sweeney
- Student Imagine Cup team wins national and international contests for InOCT 3D tools aimed at teaching sign language
- Department of Design Innovation established
- School of Business established

**2008**
- Fire burns down campus canteen, inspiring the name for its replacement: Phoenix
- NUIM RoboCup Soccer Team, with University of Newcastle in Australia, wins RoboCup 2008 Soccer, Standard Platform League
- Named Sunday Times “University of the Year”
- His Highness the Aga Khan receives honorary degree from NUIM

**2009**
- Department of Law established
- European Space Agency launches Herschel and Planck satellites to probe deep space with NUIM academics serving as key part of team that designed instruments on board
- Centre for Teaching and Learning established

**2010**
- Prof Tom Collins appointed Interim President
- €20M Ionias Building for the humanities and social sciences opened by Minister Mary Hanafin TD
- MU leads the university sector in establishing the structured PhD model
- School of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures established

**2011**
- Prof Philip Nolan appointed as President
- Ranked among the Top 400 universities in the world by the Times Higher Education
- Arcavas spinout based on research of Dr Shirley O’Dea that led to novel therapeutic drug delivery for diseases like lung cancer
- European Research Council (ERC) starter grant awarded to Prof Seán Ó Rionáin of the Dept of Sociology for his project: “New deals in the economy” - the first ERC award for MU
- Department of Chinese Studies established
- MU acquires death-row letters of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- “Beloved” Footbridge connecting North and South Campus comes down
- Edward M Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention established

**2012**
- New extension to John Paul II Library opens, quickly making the Library the heart of the campus
- €2.3m European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Award to Prof Rob Kitchin for research into “The Programmable City”

**2013**
- Department of International Development established
- Froebel College of Education merges with MU, establishing the Froebel Dept of Primary & Early Childhood Education
- EDEN Centre for Entrepreneurship, Design and Innovation launched
- Instruments are used to detect remnants of the Big Bang, designed by group including Prof Anthony Murphy and his team

**2014**
- Official name change to Maynooth University
- Phial space probe makes historic comet landing with Rosetta Mission and includes mission-critical hardware designed by Emeritus Professor Susan McKenna-Lawlor
- Prof David Stifter wins ERC Consolidator Grant for “Chronologicon Allerrarum: A Probabilistic Chronological Framework for Dating Early Irish Language Developments and Literature”
- MU Soccer wins Collingwood Cup
- Launch of Letters of 1916 project at MU, the digital, crowd-sourced archive called the “first public humanities project in Ireland”
- MU climate researchers publish Nature paper concluding winter 2013-14 was “stormiest on record”

**2015**
- Maynooth Chamber Choir win the coveted Pavarotti Trophy to become “Choir of the World”
- €20M Eolas Building for ICT opened by Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Enterprise Richard Bruton TD
- Business Incubator Maynooth/Works opened in Eolas with Enterprise Ireland support
- European Investment Bank invests €70M in campus expansion
- Maynooth University launches transformative new undergraduate project in Ireland
- MU climate researchers publish Nature paper concluding winter 2013-14 was “stormiest on record”
- Patent granted for Bordetella Pertussis Vaccine by Prof. Brendan Mahon, Inseem and Institute Pasteur in Liége

**2016**
- Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute established
- Maynooth University ranks #49 in THE ‘Young Universities’ list
- New Education Building opens, bringing full spectrum of teacher training under one roof
- MU plans €100m campus development
- Láirinad na Gaeilge launched by Minister of State for Gaeltacht, the Gaeltacht and the Islands Joe McHugh TD

**2017**
- Maynooth University surpasses 12,000 students
- Number of FE staff reaches 968
- An international campus: MU sees students studying abroad
- MU acquires death-row letters of Edward M. Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention established

Background photo: Maynooth University President, Prof Philip Nolan, surrounded by staff, cuts the cake to kick-off the University’s 20th birthday celebration on 16 June, 2017 – 20 years to the day from the appointment of the first NUIM President, Prof WJ “Seamus” Smith.