

# UNIVERSITY NEWS



## Highest Ever Level of First Preference Applicants with 9% Year on Year Growth

Maynooth University has received more than 4,000 first preference applications from the CAO for the first time



4,037 students applied to the University this year, representing a nine percent increase on first preference applications from last year.

This is the highest percentage increase of all Irish universities between 2016 and 2017. With overall applications to the CAO remaining static, this represents a significant achievement and continues the strong upward trend for the University that has been driven by its new undergraduate curriculum. The new curriculum, launched in 2015, is designed in response to the needs of today's students, offering increased flexibility in when they choose to specialise, first-year critical skills modules, and opportunities to study across disciplines that are unique among Irish universities.

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## Migrant Students at Risk of Being Left Behind by Irish Policymakers, Says Education Expert

Migrant students are at risk of being left behind if no action is taken by Irish education policymakers, according to Dr Victoria Showunmi, Maynooth University Department of Education



Dr Victoria Showunmi, Maynooth University Dept of Education welcoming delegates

Speaking at the fifth annual Maynooth Education Forum, Dr Showunmi called on Irish policymakers to learn from the experience of the United Kingdom over the past decades and do more to help integrate migrants.

Immigration is a relatively new phenomenon in Ireland. According to the most recent report conducted by the OECD, 10% of students in primary schools and about 8% of students in post-primary schools have immigrant backgrounds. Unlike most other OECD countries, first-generation immigrant students in Ireland were found to, on average, achieve education outcomes similar to their Irish-born peers.

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## Migrant Students

(continued)

Dr Showunmi points to the role the English language has played in the integration of migrants in the United Kingdom: “English language courses are considered an important part of the integration process, but many are unable to gain access to these classes due to availability issues or lack of resources. Providing access to opportunities is very different from stating that opportunities are available for all to take.”

Dr Showunmi continued: “The onus is typically placed on the person coming into the country to assimilate, but many migrants feel that they lose part of their identity through this process. Those in charge of education policy should look to meet migrant students half-way by placing an emphasis on integrating different viewpoints into the classroom.”

Professor Francis McGinnity, ESRI, observed disparities across key performance indicators between students born outside of Ireland and their Irish-born peers. Crucially, for students where a language other than English are primarily spoken at home, the data shows a 16.6 point difference in mathematical performance in second class and a 25.5 point difference in sixth class.

The Education Forum also heard how differing expectations from teachers plays a role in determining the performance of migrant students. Professor Irena Kogan, University of Mannheim, pointed to a 2016 study from Germany, which shows teachers expect lower performances from their Turkish students in German and Mathematics. Students from better off backgrounds are typically expected to perform better.

Professor Kogan said: “There is an element of self-fulfilling prophecy in this situation. Students perform in accordance with their teachers’ expectations. Positive expectations lead to better academic performance. Education is a two-sided process, and teachers need to be wary of pre-empting student competence and capabilities.”

This is reflected in a story told by Dr Zelia Gregoriou, University of Cyprus, who presented on political attitudes to integration: “Students are keenly aware when they are viewed differently. While speaking to a migrant child at a multicultural school about her trajectory through school, she interrupted me to ask if I went to other schools and whether they use the same book in physics. She wanted to know then if they were on the same chapter and solved the same problems. She was concerned that her class might have been taught easier things, because they are multicultural.”

### FROM THE EDITOR

University News is published three times a year by the Maynooth University Communications and Marketing Office. For questions, or to submit stories and ideas any time of the year, contact [Communications@nuim.ie](mailto:Communications@nuim.ie).

## Celebrations to Mark the 20th Anniversary

On 16 June, 2017, staff gathered at lunchtime in the Library to formally mark the 20th anniversary of the foundation of Maynooth University as an autonomous public university



President Nolan cuts the 20th anniversary cake

Candles were blown, the cake cut and photos taken to mark this significant milestone in the University's development. Special guests were those members of staff who were in the University at its establishment in 1997, and were also present on its 20th anniversary.

Speaking at the event, Maynooth University President, Prof Philip Nolan, said: “This is an opportunity for the university community to celebrate our successes and achievements and to raise public awareness of our strengths and activities.” The formal programme for the year will be launched in September.



Emeritus Prof Daniel Heffernan, Department of Theoretical Physics and Prof Stephen Buckley, Department of Mathematics

## Continued Growth (continued)

The level of first preference applications the University received this year demonstrates the appeal of the new curriculum across every field. Total applications to Maynooth University courses have risen 12% since last year, with increased interest in courses across all major fields, including Arts, Law, Business, Biotechnology and Engineering.

Commenting on the figures Professor Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, said: “Maynooth University has recently marked 20 years since its foundation, and this is another significant milestone in this anniversary year. Maynooth University has tremendous momentum as an institution, and our success allows us to continue to attract world-class researchers and highly motivated students to the University.”



# Maynooth University Academic Enrolled as Member of RIA

## Maynooth University's Professor Filipe Ribeiro de Meneses from the Department of History was admitted as a member to the Royal Irish Academy (RIA)

Prof de Meneses is among a group of 18 distinguished academics, including scientists, journalists and a cryptographer, who signed the Academy Roll Book on Friday, 26 May.

There are now 580 members and 85 honorary members of the Academy in disciplines from the sciences, humanities and social sciences.

Prof de Meneses, who is Portuguese, drew praise from the President of Portugal, Dr Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa: "Upon learning that Filipe Ribeiro de Meneses has been admitted as a member of the prestigious Royal Irish Academy, I wish to congratulate heartily this excellent Portuguese researcher."

"Although young, historian Filipe Ribeiro de Meneses has already a remarkable record as a researcher and lecturer of Contemporary History, and is the author of decisive works about Salazarism and Portugal's participation in the Great War – works which deservedly attracted the attention and interest of the public at large."

Speaking on the announcement Maynooth University President, Professor Philip Nolan, said: "The University is delighted with this well-deserved recognition of Professor de Meneses as a world-class researcher in his field. On behalf of his colleagues here at Maynooth University, we extend our warmest congratulations on this wonderful achievement."



Professor Peter Kennedy, President of the Royal Irish Academy and Professor Filipe Ribeiro de Meneses, Maynooth University

# Students & Academics Awarded Fulbright Scholarships

## Four Maynooth University post-graduate students and faculty members were awarded scholarships to participate in the exchange programme



Pictured (l-r); Marian Crowley-Henry, Órla NicThaidhg, Aoife Delaney and Aoife Cartwright

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

This year the Fulbright Program celebrates 60 years of educational and cultural exchange between Ireland and the US. Since 1957, the Program has provided Irish and European citizens with the opportunity to study, research, or lecture in America, and supported US citizens to do the same in Ireland.

Maynooth University Fulbright Awardees for 2017-18 are as follows:

**Aoife Cartwright** is a PhD candidate in the Maynooth University Department of Psychology. As a Fulbright-NUI Student Awardee, she aims to better understand the psychological risk factors for sexual assault in young men. During a visit to the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Indiana University, Aoife will research psychophysiological arousal patterns in the context of sexual consent, focusing in particular on scenarios where the consent is resistant or ambiguous.

**Dr Marian Crowley-Henry** is a Lecturer in Human Resource Management at Maynooth University School of Business. As a Fulbright-Enterprise Ireland Scholar, Marian will research the careers of international employees in

multinational corporations at Northern Illinois University's Management Department.

**Aoife Delaney** is a PhD candidate on 'The Programmable City' project at Maynooth University, Ireland. As a Fulbright-NUI Student Awardee based at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, she will research the transformative potential of smart technology for emergency management systems.

**Órla Nic Thaidhg** completed a BA in Irish and Music at Maynooth University and went on to complete a Masters in Education through Irish at the NUIG. Órla has a keen interest in music of all styles and has been a professional tutor of Irish traditional music for the past six years. She is currently the head of the music department in Coláiste Oiriall. As a Fulbright FLTA she will teach the Irish language and takes courses at University of Montana.

Commenting on the announcement, former Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charles Flanagan TD said: "I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to the Irish Fulbright Awardees for 2017 – 18. The Fulbright Commission plays an important role in providing reciprocal opportunities for Irish and US scholars and academics to study, work and experience life in each other's countries."

# Maynooth University Froebel Students on Placement in Kolkata

Maynooth University Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education will, next year, celebrate 10 years since their partnership with the Hope Foundation was founded

The Hope Foundation was set up in 1999 to work with children from street and slum communities in Kolkata, India. In 2008 the Froebel Department / HOPE Foundation Teacher Education Partnership was established to strengthen teacher education in HOPE-supported education projects in Kolkata, through workshops on and modelling of Froebelian child-centred teaching methodologies, and to broaden Newly Qualified Irish Teachers' (NQTs) development and intercultural education through teaching alongside their Indian counterparts.

More than 230 Froebel NQTs have taught with Indian teachers in HOPE-supported Education centres and Bengali State Schools in Kolkata for five-week periods. Froebel NQTs reinforce and model child-centred methodologies, which



Final Year Maynooth University Froebel Students on placement in Kolkata

have been demonstrated in workshops. This year 23 Froebel BEd and PMEd students spent five weeks on placement in Kolkata following their final exams.

## Biodiversity Day

On Friday, 26 May, Maynooth Green Campus hosted the 2nd annual Maynooth University Biodiversity Day

The focus of this year's event was the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) and its implementation across the University and wider community. The AIPP provides guidelines and actions to help protect important pollinating insect species and reverse the dramatic declines observed in the numbers of our native bee species over the past decades. The guidelines are tailored specifically for different sectors including schools, tidy towns, businesses, county councils etc. and representatives from each of these sectors were present on the day to describe their initiatives.

A number of Maynooth University staff and students presented on the day including Dr Jim Carolan, Biology Dept; Stephen Seamen, Campus Services; Dr Gail Maher, Biology Dept; Dr Joe Larragy, Applied Social Studies Dept; and two undergraduate students - Daire Delaney and Alison Creevey. Each of them described various biodiversity projects and initiatives currently taking place across the campus.

The Biodiversity Day was held in partnership with Kildare County Council as part of Kildare Biodiversity Week.



Pictured (l-r); Dr Joe Larragy, Maynooth University Green Campus; Prof Jane Stout, TCD; Dr Jim Carolan, Maynooth University Dept of Biology; Teresa O'Brien, Intel Ireland; and Bridget Loughlin, Kildare County Council (Image credit Maura Boyle)

## Ceramics Skills and Design Programme Receives Royal Visit

The Design and Crafts Council of Ireland's (DCCol) Ceramics Skills and Design programme, received a Royal visit from the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall on 11 May



Pictured (l-r); Gus Mabelson, Course Director; HRH The Prince of Wales, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall; and student Jin O'Sullivan

The programme, in Thomastown, Co Kilkenny, is a linked and accredited Diploma to the Maynooth University Department of Adult and Community Education. Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, were given a tour of the facilities by course director Gus Mabelson.

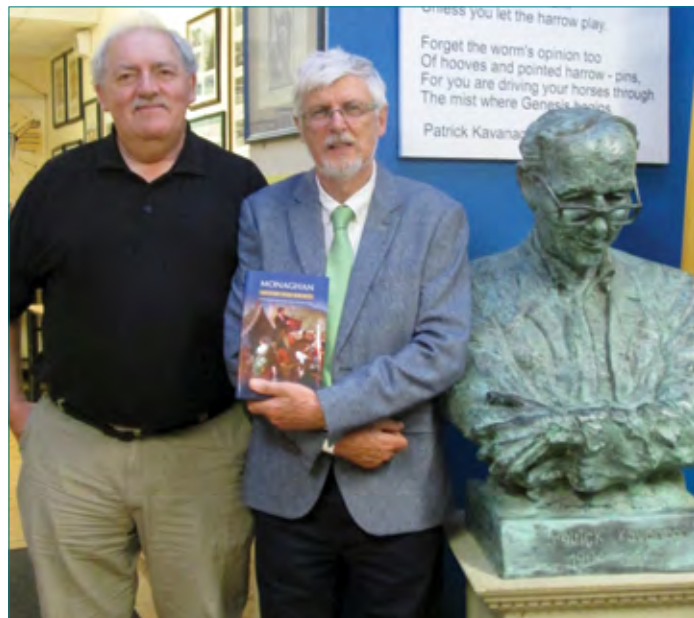
The students gave demonstrations of all aspects of ceramic production and the Royal couple's interest was evident as they expressed admiration for the work on display and spoke to every student and tutor. The Prince is patron of the Prince's Regeneration Trust, which provides a building in Stoke-on-Trent that will house a new skills-focused course based on the DCCol's course in Thomastown. The course will start in September 2017.

The visit highlighted the innovative course to a range of agencies including the British Council, the British Embassy and the Department of Foreign Affairs.



## Maynooth Academics Contribute to Book on Monaghan

On Monday, 19 June, 'Monaghan, History and Society: Interdisciplinary Essays on the History of an Irish County' was launched in St McCartan's College in Monaghan Town



Dr Proinnsias Breathnach and Prof Paddy Duffy at the launch

The well-attended event was chaired by RTE's Audrey Carville. The book which runs to 925 pages, was edited by Prof Paddy Duffy, Emeritus Professor at the Maynooth University Department of Geography, who himself also contributed three of the 36 chapters in this book.

A number of other Maynooth University people also contributed to this book, including Prof Terrence Dooley, Professor in the Department of History; Dr Proinnsias Breathnach, Senior Emeritus Lecturer in the Department of Geography, and Dr Adrian Kavanagh, Lecturer in the Department of Geography. The book is published by Geography Publications.

## Second Annual Huxley Lecture

Professor Annette Imhausen from the Goethe University, Frankfurt, delivered the second annual Huxley Lecture on 24 April



Pictured (l-r); Professor Annette Imhausen, Goethe University, Frankfurt; Dr Ciaran Mac an Bhaird, Maynooth University Department of Mathematics and Statistics; Natalie Curtis, International Student, Boston College

The lecture title was 'Mathematics and Mathematicians in ancient Egypt' and was attended by staff and students across a range of faculties from Maynooth University, and staff from external institutions.

Professor Imhausen's talk focused on about half a dozen mathematical texts mostly dating from the Middle Kingdom, when royal tombs were still built in the form of pyramids. Through these texts, she explained both the techniques that were used to handle numeric data and the context in which mathematical concepts and techniques were developed in ancient Egypt.

Prior to the talk, the Russell Library also facilitated a tour of the library and a viewing of some of their most significant mathematical texts.

Professor George Huxley, who sponsors this talk, is Adjunct Professor to both the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and the Department of Ancient Classics at Maynooth University. He received an honorary doctorate from Maynooth University in 2013.

## AIRO Transition Year 'Data for Decisions' Workshops

The All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) in the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute has successfully piloted a new open-source mapping workshop with Transition Year (TY) students with two schools – Colaiste Muire in Ennis and Hartstown Community School in Dublin.

This is based on the very successful 'Data for Decisions' mapping workshop that AIRO regularly run for professional planners, sociologists, economists and researchers from both the public and private sector.

Working with the Colaiste Muire in Ennis, AIRO has developed an eight-week mapping module that TY and Geography teachers can run from their own schools using open-source mapping software with accompanying datasets and mapping files prepared by AIRO. The task for students is to develop a series of mapped outputs (census, crime, tourism, environment etc) that would form a key part of an evidence baseline for a local economic and community plan within a local authority.

AIRO will be demonstrating this module at the TY Expo 2017 in September and plan to make the module available to all post-primary schools from October. Participating schools will initially take part in a one-day workshop for TY and Geography teachers at the AIRO headquarters and then deliver the module for the following eight-week period from their own school.



The Geography teacher working with students in Colaiste Muire in Ennis

## Gradam de chuid Ghlór na nGael buaite ag Cuallacht Cholm Cille

Bhronn Uachtarán na hÉireann, Micheál D. Ó hUiginn, gradam de chuid Ghlór na nGael ar Chuallacht Cholm Cille ar an 23 Aibreán

Bronntar Gradaim Ghlór na nGael mar aitheantas ar an obair dheonach ar son na teanga atá ar siúl i measc an phobail ag coistí agus ag eagraíochtaí éagsúla.

D'éirigh le Cuallacht Cholm Cille, Cumann Gaelach na hOllscoile, an tríú háit a bhaint amach sa chomórtas d'institiúidí tríú leibhéal. Tá beagnach 300 ball ag Cuallacht Cholm Cille. Eagraíonn siad ócáidí éagsúla i rith na bliana.

Bronnadh seic ar luach €1,500 ar Kevin Boushel, Uachtarán na Cuallachta, ar an oíche. Dúirt Kevin: "Ba mhór an onóir é ainmniúchán a fháil. Tá áthas an domhain ar an gCuallacht go bhfuil an duais seo bainte amach againn."



Cathaoirleach Ghlór na nGael, Pat Carey; Uachtarán na hÉireann, Micheál D. Ó hUiginn; agus Uachtarán Chuallacht Cholm Cille, Kevin Boushel, ag an ócáid speisialta in Óstán Carton House, Maigh Nuad.

## Scrúduithe TEG ar ais in Sydney na hAstráile



Anna Ní Ghallachair, Stiúrthóir Lárionad na Gaeilge agus príomhscrúdaitheoir ionad TEG na hAstráile

In 2016, thug 33 duine faoi scrúdú Bhonleibhéal 1 (A1) den Teastas Eorpach Gaeilge (TEG) in Sydney na hAstráile

Ba é seo an chéad uair riamh a cuireadh scrúduithe TEG ar siúl san Astráil. I mbliana thug grúpa iarrthóirí faoin gcéad chéim scrúdaithe eile. Reáchtáladh Bonnleibhéal 2 (A2) in Sydney i mí an Mheithimh agus cuireadh scrúdú Bhonleibhéal 1 (A1) ar siúl do ghrúpa nua glantosaithoirí.

Ba í stiúrthóir Lárionad na Gaeilge, Anna Ní Ghallachair, príomhscrúdaitheoir ionad TEG na hAstráile. Aitheanta go hidirnáisiúnta, agus ina bhall de ALTE (Association of Language Testing in Europe), leagann TEG spriocanna cinnte foghlama amach don Ghaeilge.

Scrúdaítear inniúlachtaí teanga na n-iarrthóirí, idir labhairt agus scríobh. Tá scrúduithe TEG oscailte ní amháin d'fhoghlaiméoirí na hÉireann ach d'fhoghlaiméoirí na Gaeilge go hidirnáisiúnta. Ba chúis áthais don Lárionad na scrúduithe seo a chur ar bun arís in Sydney agus tá sé i gceist scrúduithe TEG a leathnú amach anseo go hionaid eile go náisiúnta agus ar fud an domhain.

Is ag cúig leibhéal éagsúla a chuirtear scrúduithe TEG ar fáil faoi láthair (Bonnleibhéal 1(A1) - Ardleibhéal 1(C1)) agus is féidir le haon duine cur isteach ar na scrúduithe seo. Aithnítear an cháilíocht i gcomhthéacsanna oideachasúla agus gairmiúla. Mar shampla, úsáidtear na scrúduithe seo chun caighdeán Gaeilge múinteoirí ionchasacha agus cáilithe a mheas i réimsí an bhunoideachais, meánoideachais agus aosoideachais. Reáchtálfar scrúduithe Mheánleibhéal 2 (B2) agus Ardleibhéal 1 (C1) in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad i mí Lúnasa i mbliana.

Más spéis leat tabhairt faoi scrúdú, téigh go [www.teg.ie](http://www.teg.ie) chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil.

## Rath ar Léachtaí Cholm Cille XLVIII

Deireadh seachtaine den scoth a bhí ann ag Léachtaí Cholm Cille XLVIII ar an 21 agus 22 Aibreán i nDaingean Uí Chúis

Bhí an ghrian ag scoilteadh na gcloch an deireadh seachtaine ar fad, agus ceiliúradh agus comóradh á dhéanamh ar fhear uasal a d'imigh ar shlí na firinne i mí Iúil na bliana seo caite, an Moinsíneoir Pádraig Ó Fiannachta.

Bhí idir mhuintir Chorca Dhuibhne agus lucht na hOllscolaíochta i láthair agus léachtaí bríomhara á dtabhairt ar Oidhreacht Uí Fhiannachta. Toisc an spéis ollmhór áitiúil san ábhar, bheartaigh RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta na cainteanna a thaifeadadh, taifeadadh a chuirfear ar fáil amach anseo i bhfoirm sraithe ar an stáisiún.



Ghlac an Dr Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh, príomheagraí na comhdhála, buíochas ó chroí lena comhghleacaithe i Scoil an Léinn Cheiltigh, lena hiar-chomhghleacaí, an Dr Tadhg Ó Dúshláine, agus le muintir an Dísirt sa Daingean a chuir fearadh na fáilte rompu.

An Dr Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh, príomheagraí na comhdhála, ag labhairt ag an ócáid

Ceapachán Nua i Lárionad na Gaeilge Cuireann Oifig na Gaeilge fáilte roimh Sheán Mac Risteaird atá ceaptha ina Oifigeach Forbartha TEG agus atá lonnaithe i Lárionad na Gaeilge



Seán Mac Risteaird, Oifigeach Forbartha TEG

Tá sé i gceist ag an Oifigeach Forbartha córas TEG a leathnú, comhpháirtíochtaí a bhunú agus tacú le páirtithe leasmhara, lena n-áirítear foghlaiméoirí, múinteoirí, fostóirí, taighdeoirí agus comhlachtaí earcaíochta. Beidh ról gníomhach aige in eagrúchán na scrúduithe.



# Communiversality Awards

The four groups involved in Maynooth University's Communiversality programme came on campus on Thursday, 29 June, to receive their awards

This was the first time that the groups from Ballyfermot, Coolock, Dolphin's Barn and Walkinstown Libraries had a chance to meet and share their experiences with one another. The awards were presented by Rose Ryan, Director of the Maynooth Access Programme. Representatives from the three partners involved

in the programme: Maynooth University Department of Adult and Community Education, Local Area Partnership Companies, and Dublin City Council Public Libraries, along with the course tutors were on hand to celebrate this occasion of Community and University collaboration.



Graduates of the 2017 Communiversality programme with Dr Derek Barter, Dept of Adult and Community Education

## Froebel's Dance Artist-in-Residence

Lisa Cahill's term as Dance Artist in Residence culminated with the performance of *Unfolding* at the Maynooth University School of Education Building

The fifth and final performance of the residency drew inspiration from the rich natural living environment of the University campus. As part of the overarching residency theme of Transitions, *Unfolding* explored the relationship between body and place. The solo dance was informed by intermittent artistic engagements with students across the BEd and PMEd programmes, as they used the media of dance and visual art with Lisa, supported by staff within the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education.

The Arts Council residency, aimed at initial teacher education providers, afforded the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood this opportunity to partner with Kildare Arts Service.



Lisa Cahill, Froebel's Dance Artist-in-Residence

## IT Services Official Launch of ITIL

On Friday, 9 June, IT Services staff held an official launch for the implementation of ITIL on campus



Dearbhla O Reilly, Deirdre Reilly, Eberhard Albrecht, Chris Hyland and Brian Carolan at the launch

ITIL (Information Technology Infrastructure Library) is a set of detailed practices for IT Service Management that focuses on aligning IT Services with the needs of the customers and the business.

IT Services staff have now completed ITIL training and certification.

Deirdre Reilly, Maynooth University IT Services, spoke of the need for change in the approach to IT Service Management saying: "Change should always lead to continuous improvements that benefit our staff and students."

Staff in IT Services are currently working on processes which will lead to improved service delivery and better working relationships with University colleagues.



## Library Hosts ERASMUS Visitors

On Thursday, 29 June, 17 librarians from 10 European countries visited Maynooth University Library as part of a new co-operative ERASMUS scheme for university libraries in the Greater Dublin Area. Following a tour of the John Paul II Library, the librarians participated in a short seminar and visited the Russell Library, the Chapel and the Castle.



Cathal McCauley, University Librarian; and European guests

## LibQual Survey Prizewinner



Laura Connaughton, Assistant Librarian, Library Information Services; and Christina Wall

Congratulations to third year Mathematics and Education student Christina Wall, who won an iPad Mini in the Library raffle for those who completed our LibQual survey. Thanks to all staff and students for taking the time to complete the Library survey thus helping us to ensure the quality of our service.

## Russell Library Hosts Jacobite Risings Exhibition Launch

On Friday, 30 June, Maynooth University President, Professor Philip Nolan, launched an exhibition featuring material from both St. Patrick's College and the St. Canice's Cathedral Library collection. The event is the first formal exhibition from St. Canice's Cathedral Library since it was relocated from Kilkenny to Maynooth University in 2015. Now on long-term loan to Maynooth University from the Representative Church Body, the exhibition contains books, pamphlets and manuscripts dating from 1679 to the mid-19th century.

## Spanish Ambassador Visits Russell Library



Pictured on a visit to the University on Monday 24 April are (l-r); Spanish Ambassador Don José María Rodríguez Coso; Dr Mercedes Carbayo-Abengozar, Maynooth University School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures; Susan Leydon, Archivist, St Patrick's College, Maynooth; and Adolfo Carbon, Educational Advisor to the Spanish Embassy. The visit included a tour of the Russell Library where a range of items from the Salamanca archive were on display.

## Irish Accountancy Awards 2017 Winners

Maynooth University Department of Economics, Finance and Accounting was among the winners of the Irish Accountancy Awards 2017, announced on Thursday, 18 May

The Department's Accounting Group were declared *Winners of the Excellence in Education and Training* category. The award recognises excellence in the delivery and development of knowledge or skills in the Accountancy Profession. The Judging Panel were particularly impressed with the holistic approach in supporting career development in accountancy with a strong focus on innovation and the ability to enrich development through cross disciplinary collaboration. They also noted the established curriculum with industry ties and academic rigour, providing students with 'vast resources for career development.' Inclusion of accountancy as part of the Arts degree was also highlighted as a very attractive proposition to students.



Aodhán Casey, Dept of Economics, Finance and Accounting receives the award from John McCarrick, Institute of Incorporated Public Accountants

## Award for Former Librarian

Dr Thomas Kabdebó, University Librarian from 1984-1999, received the 2017 'Laurel of Hungary' literary award

The accolade is one of the highest in Hungary and comes with a prize of €10,000. Dr Kabdebó received his award at a function in Budapest in April. The Prime Minister of Hungary, Viktor Orbán, presented the award and commended Dr Kabdebó as the greatest living Hungarian writer of prose. His trilogy, 'Danubius Danubia,' was described as one best six novels written in the past fifty years.

Dr Kabdebó has published more than forty books, including novels, poetry and biography. He has also translated into Hungarian the work of numerous Irish writers.



# Alarm to Detect Deadly Gases on Farms Wins Student Enterprise Competition

Maynooth University's annual Student Enterprise Competition has been won by an alarm calibrated to detect the deadly gases that occur when farmers mix or agitate slurry



Conor Cogan, Shane Mulligan and Victoria Anderson

The alarm was designed by Shane Mulligan, BSc Product Design (Marketing and Innovation), who won the €5,000 first prize.

Shane's alarm, *H2Sense*, has a sensor capable of detecting hydrogen sulphate, which is responsible for 30% of all farm deaths. At high levels, a single breath of hydrogen sulphate can be fatal. The alarm, which resembles a traffic light beacon, has a circular light at the top which changes colour as the level of the gas gets beyond the normal, tolerable range.

The judging panel was impressed with Shane's idea. Patent Attorney, Nikki Dwyer, could see the potential for this product: "Shane has found a serious problem that affects millions of people around the world, and he's come up with a creative, workable, and very clever solution—it's a wonderful idea."

The Maynooth University Student Enterprise Competition, one of the first of its kind, was originally launched almost a decade ago by the University's Commercialisation Office and is now the most established and well-funded student innovation competition in the country. With the support of the Kildare

Local Enterprise Board, students with original ideas participate in meetings and workshops to help progress their ideas into market-ready concepts and create prototypes.

The second-place prize of €3,000 went to, design student and amateur photographer, Victoria Anderson who developed a solution to prevent specks of dust getting on to camera lenses. This is a particular concern for photographers working outdoors with the resulting specks requiring countless hours of photoshopping to correct.

In third place was Conor Cogan who has developed a range of specialty wooden household, hipster goods, like bottle openers, pizza slicers, and coasters. Conor is already trading under *The Bearded Man*, and his products are available in gift stores such as Kilkenny Design and Carrolls.

The Maynooth University Student Enterprise Competition is jointly sponsored by Kildare Local Enterprise Board and McCann Fitzgerald with additional support from Enterprise Ireland.

## Cell EXPLORERS - New Science Outreach Programme for Schools

The Departments of Biology and Chemistry have established a new science outreach programme, **Cell EXPLORERS** Maynooth University, for primary and post-primary schools in the area

The first visit of the programme took place at the Presentation Girls National School in Maynooth on Tuesday 16 May. The programme is free for participating schools and is run in partnership with an existing Cell EXPLORERS programme based in NUI Galway ([www.cellexplorers.com](http://www.cellexplorers.com)) with funding from a Science Foundation Ireland Discover Award.

As part of this programme, Dr Sinead Miggin, Lecturer in the Department of Biology, and Dr Elisa Fadda, Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry will be running the 'Fantastic DNA' School Roadshow in the run up to National Science Week in November.

Teachers who like would like their school to participate in the programme, can email [cellexplorersnuim@gmail.com](mailto:cellexplorersnuim@gmail.com) for further details. To find out more about Cell EXPLORERS activities and the 'Fantastic DNA' school roadshow, visit [www.cellexplorers.com](http://www.cellexplorers.com) or follow Cell EXPLORERS on Facebook or Twitter.



Primary School Children building DNA in their classroom

# Human Resource Notes

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

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

School/Departments	Appointees	School/Departments	Appointees
Access Office	Ms Grace Edge, Administrative Officer I (Contract Post)	International Office	Ms Jana Hetenyiova, Senior Executive Assistant (Contract Post)
Adult & Community Education	Dr Camilla Fitzsimons, Lecturer	Law	Ms Anna Rourke, Executive Assistant (Contract Post)
Bursar	Ms Shirley McClean, Senior Executive Assistant	Library	Ms Nicola Kelly, Assistant Librarian – Grade I
	Ms Neisha Hanley, Executive Assistant	Psychology	Professor Malcolm MacLachlan, Professor (Contract Post)
Computer Science	Dr Edgar Galvan-Lopez, Lecturer	Research Development Office	Dr Paul Huddie, Senior Executive Assistant (Contract Post)
Geography	Ms Corinne Voces, Administrative Officer II (Contract Post)	School of Celtic Studies	Dr Seán Mac Risteaird, Administrative Officer II (Contract Post)
Human Resources	Ms Catriona Shovlin, Administrative Officer II	Student Records Office	Ms Leona Leonard, Executive Assistant
	Ms Eimear Wilkinson, Administrative Officer II		Mr Paul Rothwell, Executive Assistant

*Our best wishes to all concerned.*

## EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

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

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

You can avail of the service by calling the following free phone number: **1800 201 346**

Details of the enhanced on-line Employee Assistance Programme can be accessed through the Staff Well-being link on the Human Resources webpage:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/staff-development/employee-assistance-programme>

## Retired Staff Travels



Pictured are members of the Retired Staff Association, who travelled to Lisbon in April, where they cruised the River Tagus, visited the Gulbenkian Museum, the Lisboa Story Centre and Oceanário.

The Association also organised a three-day visit to Sligo and a day trip to the Battle of the Boyne site.

## Graduates of Traveller Mediation and Conflict Training Programme



Pictured are Christina Joyce, Caroline Nevin, Mary McDonagh, Lily Kavanagh, Frank Kavanagh and Mary McInerney, participants in the Traveller Mediation and Conflict Training Programme, at the graduation ceremony on campus in May. The programme is a partnership initiative between the Midlands Traveller Conflict Mediation Initiative, the Edward Kennedy Institute, Maynooth University, and Kildare/Wicklow Education and Training Board. The course took place over a one-year period, and consisted of an accredited QQI Level 5 course in Conflict Resolution & Intercultural Studies, and a Mediators Institute of Ireland accredited Mediation Training Programme.



## Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education Recognised at the 2017 Education Awards

Maynooth Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, part of the LINC consortium, was named one of the 12 winners at the Education Awards

The LINC consortium consists of the Froebel Department with Mary Immaculate College and Early Childhood Ireland won the category of Best Online Experience Award at the Education Awards.

The awards recognise, encourage and celebrate excellence in the third level education sector on the island of Ireland from both State and privately funded institutions. The award categories are designed to highlight the key areas that impact upon student performance and provide opportunities for educational institutions, their employees and contributors to have their achievements recognised across the various important facets of their operations.

The award for LINC was accepted on the night by Fintan Breen, National Programme Coordinator for the Level 6 Special Purpose Award (Higher Education) programme on behalf of the consortium members. In receiving the award Fintan said; "I am delighted to have accepted the Best Online Learning Experience Award for the LINC Programme which recognises the positive effects of the collaboration between all three members of the consortium. It is a testament to the work of the full team – from our programme designers to our tutors and support staff who have brought a wide range of academic, instructional design, ICT, and student support expertise to the programme."

Professor Marie Mc Loughlin, Head of the Maynooth University Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, commented: "The award acknowledges the contribution the Consortium has made to enhancing the quality of early childhood education in Ireland. It also demonstrates the benefits of drawing together the combined knowledge and expertise of a number of organisations, each deeply committed to contributing to the betterment of care and education for children in the early years."

## Maynooth University Achievement Awards Ceremony 2017

More than 127 students and 32 teachers were presented with awards for exceptional achievement on 6 May

Prof Philip Nolan, President, and Rose Ryan, Director of the Maynooth University Access Programme, presented the awards at this annual event which recognises students who have shown outstanding application, dedication and progress at school, often in the face of challenging circumstances. Maynooth University places a premium on enhancing educational participation and attainment and to this end has developed links with second level schools in Kildare, Offaly, West Dublin and Kilkenny.

Two inspirational Maynooth University students received the 2017 Student Achievement Awards and one outstanding Alumnus won the 2017 Alumni Achievement Award. These award winners were selected because of their personal and academic achievements, their civic engagement with the university and their local community, and their potential to act as a role model to students.



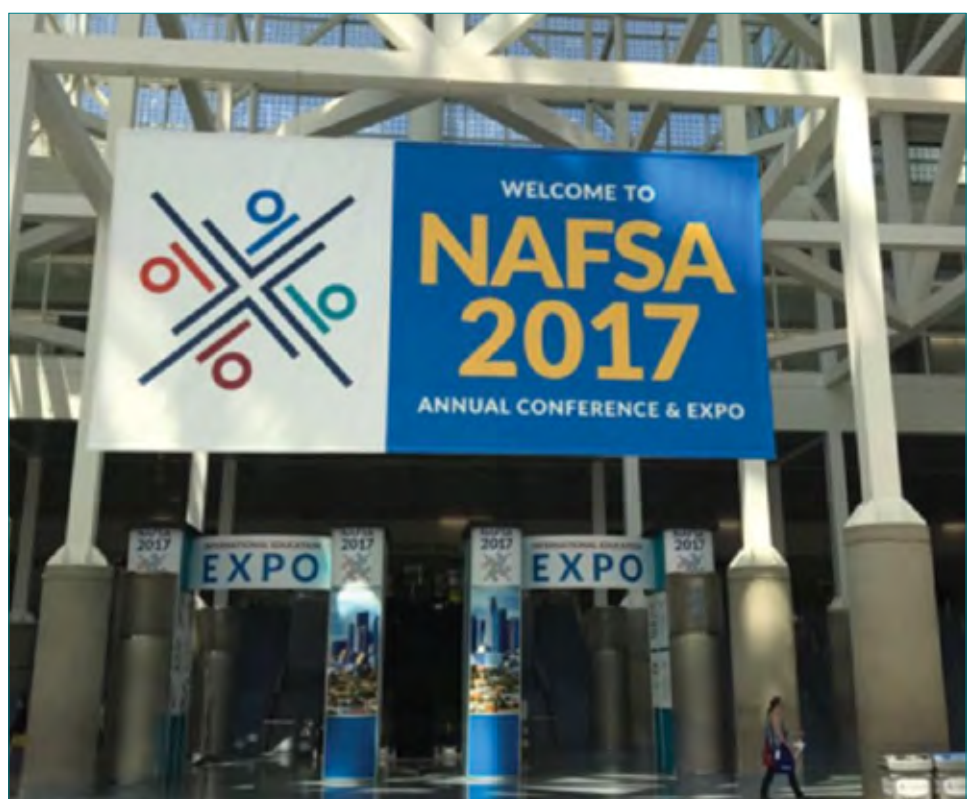
Rose Ryan, Director of Maynooth University Access Programme; Saoirse De Paor, Student Achievement Award Winner; Dr Melissa Conroy, Alumni Achievement Award Winner; Kathleen Lawrence, Student Achievement Award Winner and Professor Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University

## International Office Attends NAFSA 2017

Staff from Maynooth University International Office recently attended NAFSA 2017, the world's largest conference dedicated to international education

Hosted in Los Angeles, this year NAFSA brought together approximately 9,000 educators, administrators and leaders. This year for the first time, Maynooth University exhibited at its own booth, which was ideally located in the centre of the exhibition hall. This marked a bold departure for Maynooth University and cemented the University's place in the North American and international markets. Well-received by existing and potential new partners alike, the booth was an active hub over five days of networking and meetings. In addition, International Office staff also participated in evening receptions and events hosted throughout the city.

Over the course of the week, representatives from Maynooth University met with partners from the USA, Canada, Chile, Spain, China, Italy, France, Korea and Japan, amongst others, as well as with the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.



## Summer Soirée 2017 Brought Cinema to Maynooth

The Alumni Office invited graduates to celebrate the University's 20th anniversary at its annual Maynooth Alumni Summer Soirée on June 8

On that evening the University Library was transformed into the intimate confines of a golden age movie theatre as *Irish film* was the theme for this year's Soirée. The premier cultural event for Alumni was opened by Prof Philip Nolan, President, and Rebecca Doolin, Director of External Relations.

Prof Maria Pramaggiore from the Department of Media Studies gave a special commemorative talk on 'Cinema and the Three Ages of Maynooth: 1795, 1910 and 1997,' with clips and context about the state of Irish cinema at each of these Maynooth milestones.

This was followed by guest alumnus Denis Clohessy (Class of '95), an award-winning composer of film and theatre music presenting his memories of Maynooth and some of his compositions.

Finally the night was capped off with a stellar performance by international soprano and alumna Rachel Croash (Class of '09), who regaled all in attendance, accompanied by Aileen Cahill from Maynooth's Department of Music on the piano. Ambient music was provided by Bernadette Nic Gabhann (Class of '98). The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance and the Alumni Office now looks forward to organising the annual Alumni Reunion this coming September.

Rachel Croash performing at the Soirée, accompanied by Aileen Cahill



## Maynooth University Alumni Survey 2017

On 27 May, the Alumni Office launched an online survey to graduates of the University.

Over the course of four weeks, 23,000 alumni received the survey via email while others were targeted via a boosted social media campaign. The first-ever survey issued by the Alumni Office, its aims to create an expanded range of alumni programmes to better serve and connect our rapidly growing network across the globe. It also seeks to support and aid the development of Maynooth University fundraising plans and to ensure Alumni Office compliance with the

new GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) which comes into force in May 2018. Two Amazon gift cards, worth €250, along with university merchandise were on offer to incentivise alumni to complete the survey. The consolidated findings from the survey will be shared internally and with our alumni, and will provide insightful and actionable information to Departments and Offices alike.

## Maynooth University Joins Elite Network Producing the Next Generation of Risk Analysts

Maynooth University announced on 30 May that it has joined a network of the world's top risk practitioners and academics

The Global Association of Risk Professionals (GARP), the world's leading association for risk practitioners, has selected Maynooth University's Department of Economics, Finance and Accounting as an academic partner.

This partnership will positively impact Maynooth University's MSc in Economic and Financial Risk Analysis, which provides students with the necessary skills to thrive in the financial sector. The degree focuses on Financial Risk Analysis, Derivatives, Investments and Econometrics with an emphasis on the cutting edge quantitative and modelling techniques necessary for the next generation of risk analysts. The decision by GARP to choose Maynooth University for its Academic Partnership Program is a testament to the quality of its offering. Other universities selected include NYU Stern, The University of Hong Kong, and Queen's University Belfast.

Maynooth University will now benefit from GARP's expertise. GARP's academic partners receive practitioner-driven insights that help them to shape their curricula to ensure that students are prepared for the latest demands of the global financial industry.

## Maynooth Darkness into Light Presents Cheque to Pieta House



Pictured; Front Row (l-r); John Ryan; Aishling McNeill; Ger Breslin; Melanie Oliver; Mary MacCourt; Elaine Bean; Brian McEvoy, Pieta House. Back Row (l-r); Brendan Ashe; John McElligott; John McCarthy