

UNIVERSITY NEWS



NUI MAYNOOTH
Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad

Graduations 2013



BA Double Honours graduates; Fiona Hartley, Kilkenny; Aoife Lennon, Longford and Catherine Fagan, Co Meath singing in the rain.

Over 2,900 students were conferred with a range of degrees at BA, MA and PhD levels, from each Faculty at the graduation ceremonies held in September and October.

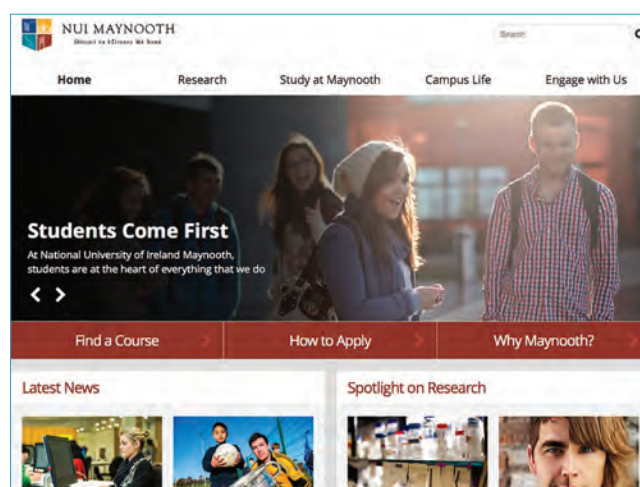
September graduation ceremonies saw over 1,850 students conferred over three days. Included this year for the first time were graduates from the BA in Public Policy, BA in Multimedia International, BBA in Business and Accounting, BBS in Business and Accounting International, BBS in Equine Business International, as well as the Diploma in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies for members of the Defence Forces and An Dioplóma i Múineadh na Gaeilge.

1,025 graduates were conferred in October during which three new qualifications were awarded; Honours Degree Bachelor of Arts (Community and Youth Work) from the Department of Applied Social Studies; Higher Diploma in Further Education from the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education and the Bachelor of Science (Biological and Biomedical Science International).

New Website Launched

NUI Maynooth launched a new website, www.nuim.ie, to showcase the University, its research, programmes, academia and facilities.

The website is constructed around four central pillars; **Research, Study at Maynooth, Campus Life** and **Engage with Us**, making it easier for both prospective collaborators to explore the University, and for prospective students to learn about the University's courses, services and facilities. NUIM.ie has been designed using responsive technology to improve the accessibility of information and ensure the best possible user experience, regardless of the device from which the website is accessed.



Speaking at the launch of the new website, Prof Philip Nolan, President said: "At NUI Maynooth we boast a vast array of research and courses that set us apart as a thriving research enterprise and a vibrant and exciting place to learn. Our new website makes it easier for visitors to access this information and find out more about the University, our research and what we offer for students' education and campus life in Ireland's only university town."

This is the first phase of a 'three phase' website upgrade scheduled to 'go live' over the coming months. Work on Phase 2 of the website, Administrative and Support Units, will commence in the New Year, with Phase 3, Research Institutes commencing in April 2014.

in this issue



RTÉ's Big Music Week



Inaugural Edward M Kennedy Lecture



3U Partnership with IKEA



SU's Community Engagement Week

RTÉ's Big Music Week Comes to Maynooth



Dr Alison Hood Music Dept, Éimear Quinn and Sebastien Petiet, NUI Maynooth Chamber Orchestra conductor.

As part of the RTÉ Radio 1's Big Music Week, the Ronan Collins Show was broadcast live from the Aula Maxima Friday, 4 October.

As well as guests of RTÉ, students, staff and alumni enjoyed what was an engaging and delightful hour of music at Maynooth. The show featured performances by the University Chamber Orchestra, Éimear Quinn, alumnus (BA Music 2003), The Heathers (made up of twin sisters Ellie and Louise Mac Namara, alumnus (BA Music Technology, 2011), The Lost Brothers and Gavin James.

FROM THE EDITOR

It's been the busiest term we've had and I'm delighted to have got this newsletter out on schedule. There has been a huge volume of events on campus and to top it all off we launched a brand new University website. Thanks to all those who have helped along the way and there are many of you and also a big thanks to those who contributed to this edition.

Enjoy the festivities and look forward to hearing from you in the New Year!

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Alumni Reunion

The Alumni Office hosted a reunion for the ECTS group from 1993.



Pictured (l-r); Prof Marian Lyons, Pedro J Oiarzabal, Karin Leithner, Eva Keunecke, Marisol Garcia Montoya, Thomas Leipnitz, Line Verselder, Peter Miller, Prof Colm Lennon, Cristina Sanchez, Caitriona Whelan.

The **ECTS, European Credit Transfer System**, is a credit system first introduced in Europe in 1989 within the educational exchange programme Erasmus which facilitates student mobility within Europe. This particular group, celebrating the 20 year anniversary from their time in Maynooth invited back Prof Vincent Comerford and Prof Colm Lennon,

who both facilitated the Course in its early years at Maynooth. The group were treated to a tour of the new library, kindly facilitated by fellow alumnus and Deputy Librarian, Helen Fallon before the reception. Some of the group had returned from Austria, Germany and Spain for a busy schedule over the weekend of 16 August.

Entrance Scholarship Presentation Night



Mairead Whelan, Maria Bridges, Keryn Duggan and Jennifer Quinn pictured with Prof Philip Nolan, President of NUI Maynooth at 2013 Entrance Scholarship Presentation Night held on campus on Tuesday, 5 November. Mairead who is studying for a Bachelor of Education is a former student of F.C.J. Secondary School in Buncloody. Maria is studying Science and is a former student of CBS Secondary School, New Ross. Keryn is studying Computer Science and Software Engineering and is a former student of St. Mary's Secondary School, New Ross. Jennifer Quinn who is studying for a Bachelor of Education (Froebel) degree is a former student of F.C.J. Secondary School in Buncloody. A total of 113 scholarships were awarded on the night.

Funding Sustainable Food Production

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Simon Coveney TD visited the campus in September as part of COST ACTION Urban Agriculture Europe initiative.

He examined urban agriculture and its potentials for sustainable development at the event which attracted policy makers, civil society stakeholders and leading academics from more than 20 European countries.

Speaking at the seminar, Minister Coveney said, "The focus of the policy has shifted from providing subsidies to promoting sustainable food production. Urban agricultural initiatives that can contribute to sustainable food production have the potential to shift the policy agenda further and draw down European funds."

Prof Mary Corcoran, Department of Sociology, NUI Maynooth, added, "As one of the country's leading



Pictured (l-r, back row); Professor Frank Lohrberg, Anthony Lawlor TD, (l-r, front row) Patricia Kettle PhD student, Minister Simon Coveney and Professor Mary P Corcoran.

academic institutions in the field of research, NUI Maynooth is delighted to facilitate this COST ACTION Urban Agriculture Europe meeting. The series of meetings, seminars and workshops which are scheduled to take place over a four-year period will provide a valuable opportunity to share knowledge and help shape European urban agriculture policy."

NUI Maynooth Sets Out Plan for EU funding

A targeted plan to generate over €20m in research income from the EU has been announced.

The plan comes in advance of the next framework of EU funding, Horizon 2020. At an event on Thursday, 28 November in the National Science Museum at Maynooth, Vice-President for Research Professor Bernard Mahon launched NUI Maynooth's strategy for boosting the research income at the University through EU funding over the next seven years. Earlier in the year, NUI Maynooth identified six priority areas in which we are national leaders and that address the grand challenges of the 21st century. The plan also aligns with the broad research prospects in Horizon 2020 and the Research Support Office is encouraging and supporting the teams to seize this opportunity."



Dr Imelda Lambkin, Director of the National Support Network for Horizon 2020; Aoife Shanley, Research Support Office; Majella Dempsey, Education Department; Prof Bernard Mahon, Vice-President for Research.

NUI Maynooth is no stranger to capturing European funds. Previously funded projects have led to new vaccines, new scientific methods of crop pest control, improved wireless communications and social sciences infrastructures, but this list will need to grow if the ambitious targets are to be met.

Horizon 2020 takes over from the current set-up, Framework Programme 7 and formally launched on the 11th December 2013, running from 2014 – 2020.

NUI Awards Ceremony



Dr Maurice Manning, Chancellor, NUI, Kevin Hargaden, Áine Rickard and Prof Jim Walsh, Vice-President for Strategy and Quality.

The Chancellor of the NUI Dr Maurice Manning, presented NUI Scholarships and Awards valued in the region of €800,000 to students and graduates of NUI institutions.

Some of the highest achieving students from across the NUI's constituent universities and recognised colleges competed for awards in a wide range of disciplines. The NUI Maynooth award winners included Travelling Studentships awarded in the Humanities and Social Sciences to Kevin Hargaden, MA Theology and Religious Studies and Áine Rickard, MA Geography and Development Studies. Three Dr H H Stewart Literary Scholarships and Prizes went to Anne Mahon (English); Carla H Eckhorst (French) and Ann M Ryan (Latin). Also announced were prizes to Alan Smyth, John Killeen, Ruth Endicott, Ken Patterson and Jonathon Doyle.

Kilkenny Campus Welcomes First Full-Time Arts Students

On Tuesday, 12 November the President of NUI Maynooth, Prof Philip Nolan, and Brian Cody, County Hurling Manager officially launched the First Arts Project at the Kilkenny Campus of NUI Maynooth.

For the first time, full-time students are completing the first year of an undergraduate Arts Degree in Kilkenny before progressing to the main Campus in Maynooth for second and third year.

In his launch speech, Prof Philip Nolan noted that this unique initiative which represents a "very important development for the University and for the students on the program" is only possible because it builds on the sixteen years of experience of NUI Maynooth in the Kilkenny campus and relationship that has already been founded with the City.

Brian Cody, Kilkenny Hurling Manager speaking at the launch with Prof Philip Nolan in the background.



The IVI Summit, "The CIO: Endangered Species or Innovative Leader"

Pictured at the IVI summit in September (l-r); Prof Philip Nolan, President, NUI Maynooth; Martin Delaney, Technology Leader, IVI; John Thorp, President, The Thorp Network; Dr Gerry McCartney, VP of IT and CIO, Purdue University.

As one of the speakers Dr McCartney argued that in proving their technical and strategic value to businesses, CIOs needed to adopt greater political and imaginative skills. "The best CIO is very imaginative, spotting new opportunities and not always pushing the process argument." Martin Curley, Intel Vice-President and director of Intel Labs Europe said that CIOs have an increasingly significant and strategic role to play within successful organisations, and are becoming more influential within the hierarchy of the senior management team.

Accountancy Showcase 2013

The annual NUI Maynooth Accountancy Showcase took place on Monday, 7 October with all the leading professional firms including PWC, E&Y, KPMG and Deloitte in attendance as well as the Irish Accounting & Taxation Institutes, Glanbia and IFS.

This was an opportunity for the students to learn more about a career in Accountancy whilst also showcasing NUI Maynooth students to the Accounting profession. There are presently over 250 students on the BA Accounting & Finance, the BA Business & Accounting degree and Accounting through Arts programmes at NUI Maynooth with 40 students completing either an MA in Accounting or a Higher Diploma in Accounting at postgraduate level.

As usual, the accounting academic prizes were presented by representatives of the awarding firms in a ceremony at the event: The 1st year KPMG accounting prize was presented to Bokan Yang. In 2nd year there were three prizes awarded: E&Y prize for top accounting student on the BA A&F was presented to Garvan Dowling, the RBK prize for Financial Accounting was presented to James Fitzpatrick and the CIMA Management Accounting prize was presented to Daniel Ryan. The 3rd year PWC prize was presented to Luke Clarke.



Daniel Ryan, winner of the *NUIM/CIMA 2nd year Management Accounting prize*; Olanike Adeniran, the *NUIM/IFS prize for the Top Thesis on the MA in Accounting*; Damian Byrne, *PWC* and Bokan Yang, *1st year KPMG accounting prize*.

In addition a number of prizes were presented at postgraduate level: Feargal Keegan won the KPMG prize for 1st place on the MA in Accounting. Olanike Adeniran was presented with the IFS prize for best thesis on the MA in Accounting while George Fox was presented with the Deloitte prize for the top student on the Higher Diploma in Professional Accounting.

Ted Kennedy Jnr Delivers Inaugural Lecture

Ted Kennedy Jnr, son of the late Senator Edward M Kennedy was in Ireland in September to deliver the Inaugural Edward M Kennedy Lecture.



Peter Cassells, Director of the Kennedy Centre for Conflict Intervention and Ted Kennedy Jnr.

Ted Jnr spoke on 'Today with Sean O'Rourke' on RTÉ Radio One, about the gratitude of his family for the establishment of the Kennedy Institute at NUI Maynooth, to honour his late father. The lecture at the Kennedy Summer School in New Ross was hosted by the Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention and Minister for Education, Ruairi Quinn, TD provided a response to Ted Jnr's address.

Prizes and Scholarships Night



Recipients of the new Alumni Scholarships pictured at a ceremony held on 6 November (l-r); Sarah Ryan, Tara McDonald and Alan Clarke with Prof Ronan Reilly, Dean of International and Graduate Studies. The new scholarship is open to graduates of the University who are continuing their study at NUI Maynooth. Sarah is studying for an MA in Mathematics, Tara an MA in Digital Humanities and Alan a MSocSc in Social Science (Rights and Social Policy). Funded by revenues earned from the Maynooth Alumni Affinity Card, the scholarships were launched at the Graduate Studies Open Evening in March.

Book & Audio Archive Marks Ken Saro-Wiwa's 18th Anniversary

A book of letters and poems written by Nigerian environmental and human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Ken Saro-Wiwa, was launched on November 8 by his brother, Dr Owens Wiwa.



Dr Íde Corley, Helen Fallon and Dr Laurence Cox of NUI Maynooth with Dr Owens Wiwa.

The book, *'Silence Would be Treason, last writings of Ken Saro-Wiwa'* features the private letters written by Ken Saro-Wiwa to Irish missionary nun Sister Majella McCarron (OLA) while he was on death row, as well as a selection of his poems. The book was edited by Dr Íde Corley, Helen Fallon and Dr Laurence Cox of NUI Maynooth.

The letters document Ken's painful transition from political activist to political prisoner, his courageous efforts to protect the Niger Delta, and an enduring friendship with Sister Majella. The letters also address the growing political instability in Nigeria, the writer's hopes for peace in Northern Ireland and his passion for peace and justice throughout the world.

At the launch, the University also unveiled a new Ken Saro-Wiwa Audio Archive in the Library. The audio archive, a joint initiative between NUI Maynooth Library and Kairos Communications, features a collection of recordings including extensive interviews with Sister Majella, speaking of her childhood in County Fermanagh, her decision to join a religious order, working in Nigeria and meeting Ken Saro-Wiwa, and her efforts to save his life and the lives of the Ogoni Nine.

The web-based audio archive is on open access at <http://library.nuim.ie/electronic-resources/ken-saro-wiwa-audio-archive>

Investment Funds Industry Offers Job Opportunities for Graduates



Andrew Norry, Winner Matheson Funds Law Intern 2013, Liz Grace, Matheson, Visiting Professor in Funds Law and Prof Michael Doherty, Head of NUI Maynooth Law School.

Two NUI Maynooth students have won awards for their work during an innovative new funds law course taught at the University.

Andrew Norry and Tomás Nolan were presented with their awards

on 30 September at the offices of Dublin law firm Matheson. Andrew Norry won the prize for best overall student, winning a six-month internship at Matheson. NUI Maynooth partnered with Matheson to create the first funds law module available at an Irish university earlier this year. In a unique collaboration between academia and industry, Liz Grace of Matheson designed the course and taught the students at Matheson's docklands headquarters every week. She is Visiting Professor in Funds Law at NUI Maynooth. The Funds Law module formed part of the Master of Laws Degree and the Master of International Business Law Degree offered by NUI Maynooth.

Communiversality



Graduates of Communiversality on campus with Dr Derek Barter (centre front), Department of Adult and Community Education.

Over 30 students were awarded certificates of participation on Monday, 18 November as part of the second pilot phase of the Communiversality.

The Dept of Adult and Community Education in partnership with the Libraries Development, Local Government Management Agency, the Irish Local Development Network and Northside Partnership and Kildare Leader Partnership Company is working on the University's Library initiative. They have built on four new modules in Economics, Politics, Geography and Philosophy to add to previous modules in local studies and community studies.

The Communiversality is a first point of contact pre-access programme where people can attend higher education courses in the familiar surroundings of their local libraries. This year Monaghan Integrated Development has joined the Communiversality.

3U Partnership with IKEA



Prof Philip Nolan, President, DCU pictured at IKEA, where a novel way to reach the estimated 30,000 Irish people with undiagnosed diabetes, and those at risk of developing diabetes was launched earlier this year. Academics from the Partnership found that people are unaware of their waist sizes, an indicator of risk for Type 2 diabetes and IKEA has come together with them to provide free tape measures.

3U Master Class Series in Leadership and Management



Emily Logan.

The Series began in September with attendees from the business, financial and research sectors and the 3U partner Institutions.

In his opening address Prof Philip Nolan, President of NUI Maynooth commented on the importance of leadership and management skills for those currently in or aspiring to, senior roles across the public and private sector.

MC and event organiser, Paula Kinnarney from the Education Department explained the rationale for the series and welcomed the special guest speaker for the day, Gavin Duffy, business mentor and investor on RTÉ's *Dragon's Den*. Gavin entertained, challenged and provoked the audience with his presentation, 'From Commander to Coach'.

On Friday, 18 October, the second Master Class in the series was led by Dr Don Thornhill and his lecture on '*Leadership Qualities in Troubled Times*' was highly lauded by all in attendance.

Most recently, on Friday, 6 December the Ombudsman for Children, Emily Logan led wide-ranging and engaging discussions on '*Leadership Styles for a Modern Ireland*' with Tomás Ó Ruairc, Director of the Teaching Council in the role of chair. Full details of future classes are available on <http://www.3upartnership.ie/about/news/3u-news>

3U MSc in Humanitarian Logistics & Emergency Management Launch



Programme Directors Dr Graham Heaslip and Dr Caroline McMullan with Minister Joe Costello TD (centre front) Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with responsibility for Trade and Development pictured with students of the course at the official launch of the 3U MSc in Humanitarian Logistics and Emergency Management.

The post graduate programme is the first collaboration of the 3U partners, NUI Maynooth, Dublin City University and the Royal College of Surgeons and is the first step in creating richer educational opportunities for students.

International Commission for the History of Representative and Parliamentary Institutions Conference

For the first time in 50 years, the ICHRPI visited Ireland for its 64th conference.

The commission was assembled at the invitation of Seanad Éireann and the Northern Ireland Assembly and was organised by Dr Coleman Dennehy, a legal and constitutional historian at the Department of History.

More than 60 papers were presented at sessions held at the old House of Lords in College Green, the National Library of Ireland, the Royal Irish Academy, the Seanad chamber in Leinster House, and the old Senate chamber in Stormont. The primary focus of the conference was 'parliaments and the colonial experience' and 'parliaments, lawyers and the law'. Historians, political scientists, parliamentary officers and legal academics participated from parliaments and universities across the world.



Pictured (l-r); Brid McGrath of TCD, Seth Barrett Tillman, Dept of Law, NUI Maynooth and also Marcel Rodriguez-Ferrere of the University of Otago in New Zealand. The picture was taken in the House of Lords chamber, at the Bank of Ireland, College Green.

European Centre of Excellence for Youth Research

The Centre for Youth Research and Development (CYRD) in the Department of Applied Social Studies at NUI Maynooth has been designated a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence by the European Commission.

This builds on the award of a Jean Monnet Chair in 2012 to the Director of CYRD, Dr Maurice Devlin. The Centre of Excellence award comes with funding of €75,000 over three years and will enable Professor Devlin and his colleagues in CYRD and the Department of Applied Social Studies to work on a project focusing on European dimensions in youth work education and training ('EDYKET'). The

project will involve close collaboration with other universities in Ireland and internationally, as well as with prominent civil society organisations including the National Youth Council of Ireland. This is only the third time a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence has been awarded in Ireland, and the first since 1999.

Human Resource Notes

NEW APPOINTMENTS

We are pleased to announce the following appointments:

School/Departments	Appointees
Department of Adult & Community Education	Dr Fergal Finnegan, Lecturer Ms Irene Morris, Executive Assistant (Kilkenny Campus)
Department of Anthropology	Ms Denise Erdmann, Senior Executive Assistant
Department of Applied Social Studies	Dr Kathryn McGarry, Lecturer Dr Oonagh McArdle, Lecturer Dr Ciara Bradley, Lecturer
Department of Biology	Dr Ozgur Bayram, Lecturer Dr James Carolan, Lecturer Dr Paul Dowling, Lecturer Dr Emmanuelle Graciet, Lecturer Dr Fiona Walsh, Lecturer Dr Gemma Kinsella, Lecturer Mr John Paul Dunbar, Laboratory Attendant
Departments of Biology/ Chemistry / Psychology	Ms Gillian O'Meara, Technical Officer
School of Celtic Studies	Dr Elizabeth Boyle, Lecturer Dr Eoghan O'Raghallaigh, Lecturer Ms Mairead Uí Fhlatharta, Executive Assistant
Department of Computer Science	Dr Guillaume Gales, Lecturer Ms Phil Dully, Executive Assistant
Design Innovation	Dr Peter Robbins, Centre Manager, EDEN Ms Marianna Kane, Technical Officer, EDEN
Education Department	Dr Majella Dempsey, Lecturer Dr Celine Healy, Lecturer Dr Caitriona O'Toole, Lecturer
Department of English, Media & Theatre Studies	Professor Maria Pramaggiore, Professor of Media Studies and Head of the Centre for Media Studies Dr Jeneen Naji, Lecturer Dr Oona Frawley, Lecturer
Fröebel: Primary and Early Childhood Education	Ms Rebecca Boyle, Administrative Officer Ms Vera Timmons, School Placement Administrator
Department of Geography	Dr Tom Matthews, Lecturer Ms Jennifer Lloyd Hughes, Executive Assistant
Department of History	Dr David Murphy, Lecturer Dr John Paul Newman, Lecturer Dr Jennifer Redmond, Lecturer
Department of Law	Professor Michael Doherty, Professor of Law & Head of Department Dr Louise Kennefick, Lecturer Dr Brian Flanagan, Lecturer Mr Seth Tillman, Lecturer Dr Fergus Ryan, Lecturer Dr John Reynolds, Lecturer Ms Eva Nagle, Lecturer Dr Maria Murphy, Lecturer

School of Modern Languages, Literatures & Cultures	Professor Anthony Lappin, Professor of Spanish Dr Hongling Liang, Assistant Lecturer Dr Ricki O'Rawe, Assistant Lecturer
Department of Music	Professor Christopher Morris, Professor of Music Dr Ryan Molloy, Lecturer
Department of Philosophy	Dr Susi Gottloeber, Lecturer Dr Simon Nolan, Lecturer
Department of Psychology	Dr Patricia Gough, Lecturer
Department of Sociology	Dr Barry Cannon, Lecturer
Department of Sociology & Education Department	Dr Delma Byrne, Lecturer
International Development Centre	Ms Maria Heneghan, Executive Assistant
NCG	Professor Christopher Brunsdon, Professor of Geocomputation
Access Office	Mr Gerard Gallagher, Disability Advisor Mr Brendan McGuigan, Assistive Technology Tutor
Admissions Office	Ms Emer Crooke, Executive Assistant
Campus Planning and Development Office	Ms Anne Hamilton Black, Executive Assistant
Centre for Teaching & Learning	Ms Margaret Keane, Administrative Officer II
Graduate Studies Office	Ms Eilis Murray, Graduate Studies Development Officer Mr Conor Wilkinson, Executive Assistant
International Office	Ms Claire Doran, International Officer Mr Paul Mullally, International Officer Ms Jodi Killackey, Executive Assistant Ms Angelina Wilde, Executive Assistant
Security	Mr Niall Mulvihill, Security Officer
Student Services	Ms Nuala Downes, Executive Assistant

Our best wishes to all concerned

RETIREMENTS

The following people recently retired from the staff of the University:
Professor Peter Denman, Department of English, Media & Theatre Studies
Professor Jacqueline Hill, Department of History
Ms Siobhán Ní Fhoghlú, Oifigeach na Gaeilge
Mr Eddie Power, Security Officer, Corporate Services
Ms Margaret Tolan, Switchboard Operative, Corporate Services

We wish them a long and happy retirement.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Very best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas to all our colleagues on Campus from the staff in the Human Resources Office.

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: **1890 252 718**

All Island School Choir Competition Regional Finals on Campus

Organised by Co-operation Ireland, in association with RTÉ, the All Island School Choir Competition, formed a television series celebrating the tradition of choral music in second-level schools throughout Ireland.

In October two of the four regional finals were staged in The College Chapel here at Maynooth with the other two regional events held in the Curtis Auditorium at the Cork School of Music and the Braid Theatre, Ballymena. All four regional finals were then broadcast on Sunday evenings on RTÉ One. The competition saw entries from schools all over the island of Ireland, with 20 schools chosen to perform at regional finals. The NUI Maynooth Gregorian Chant group 'Schola Gregoriana' performed at the first Regional Final and the Maynooth Chamber Choir performed at the second.



Blackrock College, winners of the first of the Regional Finals held on campus with Anne Cassin, RTÉ.

Presentation Secondary School in Ballyphehane were announced as winners of the All Island School Choir Competition 2013 which took place at Titanic Belfast on Sunday 24 November.

Disabilities Studies Certificates

Dr Derek Barter congratulated the Disability Studies students who received their awards on Saturday, 7 December.



Students of Disability Studies from Dublin and Donegal with Dr Derek Barter and Paul Fagan, Dept of Adult & Community Education.

The ceremony was attended by President Philip Nolan and Catherine Murphy, Independent TD for north Kildare. Professor Nolan welcomed the students and their families, carers and personal assistants and acknowledged the work that the Centre for Independent Living (CIL) Carmichael House has played in developing the programme in partnership with the Department of Adult and Community Education.

The approach adopted by the Partners means the course is firmly grounded in the concept of social justice and the experiences and concerns of people with disabilities are central to both programme design and delivery. This approach is unique in Ireland and makes this particular course attractive to both disabled and non-disabled students.

Paul Fagan, course tutor has recently been appointed to the board of the European Network on Independent Living. A disability activist for over thirty years and vice-chair of CIL Carmichael House, he is on the board of Donegal CIL. As a consequence of the success of the Certificate in Disability Studies and the desire from students to continue their study in this area, it is hoped to develop a Diploma in Disability Studies in the near future.

Hamilton Walk

The Annual Hamilton Walk took place on Wednesday, 16 October.

Some staff and students from the Dept of Mathematics and Statistics and members of the general public walked along the banks of the Royal Canal to commemorate a famous day in the history of Mathematics and Science.



Professor A.G. O'Farrell speaking at Broombridge during the Hamilton walk.

On this day in 1843, Ireland's greatest mathematician, William Rowan Hamilton, created new strange numbers called Quaternions in a flash of inspiration while out walking. About 120 people participated in the annual walk. Sir Roger Penrose, internationally recognized mathematical physicist launched the walk at Dunsink Observatory and the walkers then headed south to meet the Royal Canal before going east along the canal to end up at Broombridge where Hamilton scratched his formulas for the Quaternions on the bridge. Quaternions now have many important applications in many areas including space navigation, computer games and special effects in movies.

Newman Lecture

The eight Annual Cardinal Newman/Maynooth Lecture took place on Wednesday, 9 October.

The 2013 lecture was delivered by Professor Terrence Merrigan, Professor of Systematic Theology at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven, who spoke on the topic of 'Is a Catholic University a Good "Idea"? Reflections on Higher Education from a Newmanian Perspective'.

The response was delivered by Tom Boland, Chief Executive, Higher Education Authority. The aim of the lecture series, arising from Cardinal Newman's historic relations with Maynooth, is to examine the diversity of his religious, educational, literary and historical writings in relation to issues relevant to the modern university. The lecture was jointly sponsored by SPCM, Dept of Education, AFF and NUI Maynooth.

3U Pathways Programme First Graduation Ceremony



On Friday, 6 September, 3U Partnership held its first graduation ceremony with nine postgraduate students graduating from a pre-session English language programme to prepare them for postgraduate study at NUI, Maynooth and DCU.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, 3U Director, Dr Ruth Davis, said '3U Partnership brings together three distinctive and leading higher education institutions to deliver exciting world-class education and research opportunities to both Irish and international students. Today's graduates are the first of many international students who will complete a 3U Pathway Programme to prepare them for effective study in the partner universities'.

The Rise of Rugby



NUIM Barnhall lift the Leinster Shield for the first time.

The first Historic Colours Game took place on the rugby pitch on the North Campus on Saturday, 30 November with a victory for NUIM Barnhall against Univesity College Cork, 17-14.

This was the first NUIM Barnhall rugby team to represent NUI Maynooth in the All Ireland League. This comes after the success of NUIM Barnhall in the Leinster Senior Shield Final which took place in November in Donnybrook. The Blue Bulls defeated Naas RFC 13-6 which was a fantastic result – well done to all concerned.

On Wednesday, 6 November NUI Maynooth Rugby hosted a Q&A session with some of the Samoan management team; Darryl Suasua, Greg Smith and Hugh Galvan. The event entitled 'The Rise of the Manu' described the success achieved by the Samoan team over the past two years. Being crowned Pacific Nations Champions in June 2012 and success against Six Nations Champions, Wales in November 2012 has established Samoa as a genuine contender for the 2015 Rugby World Cup.



Community Work Conference

The Dept of Applied Social Studies, in association with the Community Workers Co-operative, hosted the NUI Maynooth Annual Community Work Conference on Thursday, 14 November.

The theme of the conference, 'Community Development: Principles, Policies & Perspectives' was very well received, attracting a number of leading local, national and international guest speakers. Over 160 participants attended the conference which provided a unique and valuable dialogue space for academics and practitioners working in and with disadvantaged and marginalised communities. Stimulating and inspiring talks by international and Irish practitioners presented perspectives on principles in community work practice.

The day addressed significant issues currently presenting challenges and opportunities to disadvantaged communities and those working to tackle those challenges. In conjunction with workshops the day provided a useful and timely opportunity for those involved in community work to reflect upon the value of and contribution of community work to transformative change.

SU's Community Engagement Week

NUI Maynooth's Students Union celebrated Community Engagement Week at the Students Union from 2nd to 6th December.

As part of Community Engagement Week, students are conducting activities ranging from a GAA blitz, hosted by the University's GAA Scholars and attended by over 300 children from local primary schools, to chess, break-dancing and banter tutorials for the residents of TLC Nursing Home in Maynooth.



Michael Darragh McAuley, Dublin Senior County Player, Player of the Year and All Star with Jomarie Padilla (aged 10) from St Mary's Boys National School, Maynooth.

The NUI Maynooth GAA Club invited 3rd & 4th class primary school pupils from local primary schools to participate in blitz games, each team was assigned a NUI GAA hero as their team leader. The highlight of this event was the presence of all four winning trophies, the Sam Maguire (Football), Liam McCarthy (Hurling), Mary Quinn (Ladies Football Intermediate) and the Kay Mills Cup (Camogie Premier Junior).

The 2013 All Ireland Hurling & Football Finals saw a number of NUI Maynooth students representing their respective counties in September. NUI Maynooth students David McInerney (Clare Senior Hurling), Michael Darragh McAuley, Eric Lowdnes and Emmet O'Conghaile (Dublin Senior Football) were all part of the All Ireland winning teams which included other former GAA Scholarship students Bernard Brogan, Alan Brogan and Ger Brennan (Dublin).

Online Archive of Spoken Irish from the 1920s and 30s



Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Royal Irish Academy Librarian, Professor Luke Drury, Royal Irish Academy President and Dr Eoghan Ó Raghallaigh, Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge at the launch of www.doegen.ie, named after Dr Wilhelm Doegen who made a record of spoken Irish over 80 years ago. Academics from NUI Maynooth have been working with the Royal Irish Academy, to put this unique record of the sounds of Irish as it was spoken throughout Ireland in the 1920s and '30s online.