



**Ollscoil
Mhá Nuad**
Ollscoil na hÉireann
Má Nuad

1997 – 2017

MAYNOOTH WEEK 2018

UNIVERSITY NEWS - SPECIAL EDITION

Inaugural Maynooth Week Celebrates Staff and Students



The first ever Maynooth Week took place on 14 – 20 April and featured a wide range of activities, including lectures, musical recitals, and exhibitions. The aim of Maynooth Week was to celebrate the University's staff, students and its diverse community, all of whom embody the spirit of the institution through their intellectual contributions, their commitment to innovation in teaching and research, and their commitment to creating an exceptional learning environment.

The week also shone a spotlight on the University's partnership with the local Maynooth community, celebrating the unique and mutually beneficial relationship between the institution and the town.

Maynooth Week is part of the year-long celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of Maynooth University as an independent university on 16 June, 1997.

Commenting on Maynooth Week, President of Maynooth University Professor Philip Nolan, said: "Through this

academic year, Maynooth University has since celebrated the 20th anniversary of our founding as an independent university. In those two decades the University has grown into a dynamic, research-intensive university that is providing an exceptional educational experience for 12,500 students from around the world."

"Maynooth Week is our chance to celebrate all of the staff, students, alumni and the local Maynooth community that have made this university the outstanding place it is today."

Inspiring Maynooth University Students Recognised at Access Programme Achievement Awards

The Maynooth University Access Programme Achievement Awards celebrated success in the field of education inclusivity.

Among the winners of this year's awards are alumnus Claire Shorten (BA, 2017), the first- ever fully blind student to study for her Professional Master of Education (PME), receiving the 2018 Alumni Award; and Krista Dooley, a third-year undergraduate in Law who is a Maynooth Access Programme (MAP) School Outreach Ambassador, receiving the 2018 Student Achievement Award.

In addition to those awards, Maynooth University honoured 150 inspirational 3rd and 6th year students from a number of secondary schools throughout Kildare, Dublin, Offaly and Kilkenny that participate in various Access Programme schemes.



Saturday 14 April

Rose Ryan, Director of Access; Prof Philip Nolan and Claire Shorten

Saturday 14 April



Festival of Food Sovereignty

Prof Saturnino 'Jun' Borrás from the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague opened the Festival of Food Sovereignty event with a public lecture. University staff from the Departments of Geography, Sociology, Anthropology, Education, Froebel, Adult Education, International Development, and Biology hosted talks, presentations and activities. Other contributions from civil society organisations, included Trocaire, Dublin Food Co-op, Edible Landscape Project based in Westport, Irish Seed Savers Association, and Community Supported Agriculture Network Ireland. The Festival builds on Maynooth University's vibrant community of food, development, and community action researchers. The event was part of a global calendar of activities, recognising the 'International Day of Peasant Struggle' on 17 April, which highlights the persecution and violence suffered by peasants and farmers around the world.

Staff vs. Students Football Match

Tony Waldon, Dept of Maths, and Denis Buckley, Dept of Electronic Engineering, co-ordinated the staff team, and Darragh Moran from the SU co-ordinated the student team. The student team won 3:0; with all goals coming in a strong, first-half display. The staff team were much improved and held their own in the second half with both teams creating good opportunities. This event was a fun-packed event that allowed faculty, staff and students to let loose and enjoy themselves!



Monday 16 April

Pictured (back row, l-r); Denis Buckley, Jack McDonnell, Dr Niall Finnerty, James Lockwood, Dr Aidan Mooney, Dr Paul Lewis, Dr Gama Theophile Gnahre, Dr Marcin Gradziel, Tony Waldron; (front Row) l-r: Darragh Millar, Dr Robert Elmes, Dr Mark Walsh, Stephen McGuire, Dr John Reynolds, Louis Gallagher. Not in photo – Dr Caroline Brophy

Monday 16 April



Prof Jane Gray

Inaugural Professorial Lecture Series

"Things that go on inside families are at the heart of the reproduction of class, but to date, sociologists tend to treat family structures and dynamics as outcomes, rather than causes, of social change," according to Professor Jane Gray, Maynooth University Department of Sociology.

Professor Gray was exploring the theme of family and class in her inaugural professorial lecture 'Lineages of class and community: How Irish family practices create social change,' delivered as part of the first Maynooth Week 2018.

Prof Gray's research has long explored the role of family in Irish society, and the relationship between family dynamics and class formation. She has sought to re-examine this theme, treating family processes and dynamics as giving rise to social change, rather than asking how larger social trends lead to changes in family life.

Monday 16 April



Prof Tim Kuhner, Professor of Law at the University of Auckland, and Prof Michael Doherty, Dept of Law

American Kleptocracy: Explaining Trump

Prof Timothy Kuhner's talk was wide-ranging and provocative, drawing on insights from law, political science, economics, and psychology, to explain the underlying reasons for President Trump's rise to power in the US. In a lively discussion with staff and students, Prof Kuhner warned against complacency amongst those who object to the US President's brand of populism, and urged grassroots activism to protect liberal democratic values. He also highlighted the need for legal reform of the regulation of political campaigns.



Monday 16 April

Emeritus Professor Vincent Comerford; Dr Alison Hood; Prof Jim Walsh

Maynooth 1960-2010: An Institutional Bildungsroman

Current and retired staff listened intently as Professor Emeritus Vincent Comerford discussed over half a century of remarkable change at Maynooth University, including the crisis of institutional status in the 1960s and early 1970s, and the evolution of the student academic and social experience over the decades.

Voice in Writing

Writers-in-Residence for 2017/18 Rob Doyle and Sarah Maria Griffin offered workshops open to the public on 'Voice in Writing' and 'Travel Writing'. Rob's own work has been particularly interested in voice and the prominence of character that can come through different types of narration. Sarah's interest in evoking place through her work – whether the invented world of her novel; *Spare and Found Parts*, or place, as newly discovered by an emigrant – informed a workshop on the ways in which place shapes identity. Both workshops are the culmination of Rob and Sarah's work with students and the wider Kildare community for this academic year.

Readings by Acclaimed Writer and Screenwriter

Former Screenwriter-in-Residence, Lindsay J. Sedgwick, and former Writer-in-Residence, Eoin McNamee returned to Maynooth as part of Maynooth Week. Lindsay, who has just published 'Write That Script and Write it Now!', read from her recently published novel 'The Angelica Touch,' while Eoin read from his Booker Prize-nominated 'Blue' trilogy. The discussion that followed ranged over the difficulty of writing historical novels, and the ways in which personal experience can push writers in particular directions.



Tuesday 17 April

Critical Skills Poster Session

The Critical Skills programme hosted a showcase to celebrate the 'greatest hits' from last year, the inaugural year of Critical Skills. The winning teams from last year's Critical Skills Poster Symposium were invited back to present their posters in the library. This was a great opportunity for staff and current students to view the work from last year and chat to the winners. It was also a chance for this year's Critical Skills students to see examples of outstanding work in advance of their own Critical Skills Poster Symposium.

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Thomas Burke, Retail Ireland and Prof Philip Nolan

Alumni Brexit Breakfast

The Development and Alumni Relations Office held a city-centre breakfast briefing with alumnus Thomas Burke (MA '05, BA '04), Director of Retail Ireland at Ibec, on the hot topic of *Retail & Brexit - Just what will Brexit mean for Irish retail?* The discussion was chaired by Prof Peter McNamara, Head of Maynooth University School of Business.

The Future of Fake News

Maynooth University and RTÉ *Brainstorm* collaborated to delve feet first into one of the most complex challenges to democracy in this modern, digital age: Fake News. A panel of experts explored whether the media giants are responding adequately to reassess their technologies, their business models, and their ethical responsibilities around the potential of their platforms to be exploited, and even weaponised.



Tuesday 17 April

Prof Rob Kitchen, MUSSI; Dervilla Mullan, Chief Product Officer at NewsWhip; Dr Maria Murphy, Dept of Law; Rebecca Doolin, Director of External Relations.

Dé Máirt 17 Aibreán



Na mic léinn ón ngrúpa scríbhneoireachta 'An Ciorcal': Eimear Ní Chairbre, Katie Ní Fhaoiláin, Miriam Nic Shiomóin, Róisín Starr, Grace Ní Chinnéide agus Mairéad Ní Neachtain.

Iris an Chiorcail seolta

Na mic léinn ó Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge, ón ngrúpa nua scríbhneoireachta agus léitheoireachta 'An Ciorcal', a chuir an foilseachán *Measca Mhá Nuad I* in eagar. Seoladh an cnuasach ag an Ollamh Fiontán de Brún ag ócáid speisialta sa Leabharlann mar chuid de Sheachtain na hOllscoile. Shocraigh an grúpa ar an téama 'Dúil' don chéad 'Mheasca' agus léigh na mic léinn cuid den ábhar os ard ag an ócáid. Idir na dánta, na píosaí próis agus na hailt nuachta, creideann na mic léinn ón ngrúpa scríbhneoireachta go léiríonn an foilseachán seo bua agus éagsúlacht mhuintir Mhá Nuad.

Inaugural Professorial Lecture Series

Philipp Rosemann, Professor of Philosophy at Maynooth University, reflected the curious phenomenon that is the immense popularity of



Wednesday 18 April

Prof Philipp Rosemann

an artist whose songs sound like prayers, whose voice seems to belong to an Old Testament prophet, and whose preferred topics include failure and guilt – Leonard Cohen.

According to Prof Rosemann: “Cohen’s writing and singing came from the depths of a troubled soul. His art reflects his life-long struggle to find meaning, love, and peace. His work brilliantly encompasses the highest and the lowest desires of the soul, often in the same song.”



Wednesday 18 April

Prof Amelia Hadfield, Canterbury Christ Church University

Brexit: “Quo Vadis?”

The Maynooth Centre for European and Eurasian Studies hosted a panel discussion on Brexit, which examined how the Brexit negotiations were progressing in Dublin, Brussels and London and the likelihood of a deal being secured by the deadline of October 2018. The panel was chaired by Prof Colin Graham, Department of English, and featured contributions from Prof Amelia Hadfield, Canterbury Christ Church University, Dr Paul Gillespie, UCD/The Irish Times, Dr Joachim Fischer, University of Limerick, and Prof Lee McGowan, Queen’s University Belfast. The discussion ranged widely on issues such as higher education, constitutional orders, identities and generational divides opened up by Brexit. The discussion was the latest in a series of Brexit events hosted by the Centre since the referendum in June 2016.

‘Turn To Teaching’ Initiative to Encourage Diversity in Education Launched

Maynooth University launched *Turn To Teaching*, a unique new programme that will support more than 100 students from marginalised backgrounds over three years in studying to become teachers. The programme is funded through a €750,000 award from the Higher Education Authority, with an additional €600,000 from Maynooth University.

Turn To Teaching will address the barriers faced by marginalised students in entering the teaching profession, such as those from the Traveller community, migrants, mature students, lone parents and students coming from schools listed under the Department of Education’s Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) programme.



Audrey Kinch, speaking at the event

Launch of North Kildare Biodiversity Group

Group members include local and organisations interested in promoting biodiversity, including Intel Ireland (Leixlip Campus), Maynooth University, Carton House and Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge Tidy Towns. The event was followed by a guided walk and talk, which visited some biodiversity hotspots across the campus.

Wednesday 18 April



Biodiversity Walk and Talk around campus grounds

Wednesday 18 April



Dr Katriona O'Sullivan from *Turn To Teaching* engages with the audience

‘On Active Service’: Maynooth College, Chaplains & the Anti-Conscription Crisis Exhibition

The exhibition, which explored the themes of army chaplaincy recruitment and resistance to conscription in Ireland during World War I, was on display in the Russell Library through May 2018. Prof Marian Lyons and Barbara McCormack curated the exhibition which was sponsored by the Decade of Commemorations Committee

The exhibition commemorated the centenary of a landmark meeting at Maynooth College among members of the Mansion House Conference to oppose conscription and the Irish Catholic hierarchy.

Women and the Country House in Ireland and Britain

Maynooth University Department of History and the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates (CSHIHE) celebrated the launch of the book 'Women and the Country House in Ireland and Britain' and the opening of the international exhibition; The Country House Revived; curated by Professors Terence Dooley and Christopher Ridgway.

In her opening of the exhibition in the University Library, Prof Marian Lyons noted that it is the first to take a wider European perspective. The CSHIHE has now formed a European forum to devise a working network for country house studies.



Thursday 19 April

Prof Marian Lyons

Prof Terence Dooley with
Sammy Leslie of Castle Leslie



Speed Networking Your Research

The Research Development office successfully hosted an event called **Speed Networking your Research** in Renehan Hall.

This fun event was designed to promote researchers' profiles to the wider Maynooth University research community and to facilitate networking and potential collaborations.

Researchers took part in one to one four-minute conversations quickly moving around the room until everyone had a chance to interact with other researchers about their work and areas of interest. The Research Development office plans to run a similar event in the future.

Academics engaging in a relaxed format

Thursday 19 April



Music Recital

Dr Anne-Marie O'Farrell, alumnus, presented a recital on lever and pedal harps in Riverstown Hall with two world premieres, one Irish premiere and one harp premiere! Composers represented were John McLachlan, Dr Martin O'Leary, Ailbhe Kehoe, Ailís Ní Riain, Bach and Parish Alvars. In addition to the concert, O'Farrell provided a harp masterclass.

Rath ar an gcéad 'Pop-Up Oireachtas' in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

Tugadh an deis do phobal na hOllscoile na healaíona dúchasacha Gaeilge a bhlaiseadh ag an 'Pop-Up Oireachtas'. Seoladh *Rí Thorai – Ó Chathair go Creig / The King of Tory – From City to Crag*, an leabhar nua atá curtha in eagar agus aistrithe ag an Dr Art Hughes (Ollscoil Uladh). Cuireadh sraith de cheardlanna gearra ar fáil ina dhiaidh sin – seisiún scéalaíochta le Seanán Mac Aoidh (Ollscoil Uladh) chomh maith le ceardlann amhránaíochta ar an sean-nós le Sailí Ní Dhróighneáin (Lárionad na Gaeilge). Bhain mic léinn triail as cúpla steip ag an gceardlann rince ar an sean-nós le Caoimhe Ní Mhaolagáin (ar dheis). Gabhaimid buíochas le Foras na Gaeilge as cabhrú linn an ócáid seo a chur ar fáil.

An tOllamh Fionntán de Brún (ar dheis) agus an Dr Art Hughes (ar chlé) lena leabhar nua *Rí Thorai – Ó Chathair go Creig*



Déardaoin 19 Aibreán



Experiential Learning Expo

Friday 20 April



Dr Aisling Flynn hosted the Experiential Learning Expo in the Library foyer attended by the President, Professor Philip Nolan, and the Dean of Teaching and Learning, Dr Alison Hood, among others. The Expo showcased the hugely successful Experiential Learning initiatives to date including the SPUR Programme, Skills for Success Module, MUSE Awards, and Community Based Service Learning. The Expo highlighted best practice, as well as providing a network and resources for pursuing future Experiential Learning endeavours. The event incorporated the launch of StudentVolunteer.ie – an online tool to harness, acknowledge, and support students to volunteer in their communities.

Dr Alison Hood, Dr Aisling Flynn and Professor Philip Nolan

Friday 20 April

Maynooth University Celebrates with Staff Awards



Prof Philip Nolan; Stephen Seaman and Bernie Farrell, both Grounds Staff and Rosaleen McCarthy



Prof Philip Nolan with the Library Innovation Group: Lorna Dodd; Carole Connolly; Fiona Tuohy, Elaine Bean with Rosaleen McCarthy and Prof Ray O'Neill. Missing from the photo are Laura Connaughton and Patricia Harkin



Michelle Finnegan, Dept of Biology - President's Award for Service Excellence winner and Rosaleen McCarthy, Director of HR

Maynooth University recognised outstanding achievement by both research and administrative staff at the first ever Maynooth Staff Awards event. Both sets of awards were presented at a special staff barbeque to mark the end of the first Maynooth Week.

Staff Recognition Awards

The **President's Awards for Service Excellence** went to Elaine Bean, Library; Michelle Finnegan, Dept of Biology; Elizabeth Murphy, Library; Gemma Middleton, Office of The Dean of Teaching and Learning; Catherine Heslin & Ann Donoghue, both Dept of History; the Grounds Staff.

The **President's Award for Service Innovation** went to Catriona Mc Grattan and the Library Innovation Group.

Research Awards

Early Career Research Achievement Awards:

Arts, Humanities, Celtic Studies and Philosophy – Dr Deborah Hayden, School of Celtic Studies
Social Sciences – Dr Conor Murphy, Department of Geography
Science and Engineering – Dr Karen English, Department of Biology

Research Achievement Awards:

Arts, Humanities, Celtic Studies and Philosophy – Prof David Stifter, School of Celtic Studies
Science and Engineering – Prof Paul Moynagh, Department of Biology and MU Human Health Research Institute
Social Sciences – Prof Rob Kitchin, Department of Geography and MU Social Sciences Institute.



Prof Rob Kitchin, Department of Geography and MU Social Sciences Institute receives a Research Achievement Award: Social Sciences from Prof Philip Nolan. Rob was nominated by Prof Linda Connolly. He is pictured with Prof Ray O'Neill and Rosaleen McCarthy



Caitriona McGrattan, Programme Advisory Office- President's Award for Service Innovation winner with Prof Philip Nolan and Rosaleen McCarthy



Prof Philip Nolan; Ann Donoghue, Catherine Heslin, both History Dept and President's Award for Service Excellence winners; and Rosaleen McCarthy, Director of HR



Elaine Bean, Library - President's Award for Service Excellence winner with Prof Philip Nolan, President and Rosaleen McCarthy, Director of HR



Elizabeth Murphy, Library - President's Award for Service Excellence winner with Prof Philip Nolan, President and Rosaleen McCarthy, Director of HR



Gemma Middleton, Office of The Dean of Teaching and Learning, President's Award for Service Excellence winner with Prof Philip Nolan, President



Dr Conor Murphy, Department of Geography receives the Early Career Research Achievement Award: Social Sciences from Prof Philip Nolan. Conor was nominated by Prof Peter Thorne



Prof David Stifter, School of Celtic Studies receives his Research Achievement Award: Arts, Humanities, Celtic Studies and Philosophy from Prof Philip Nolan. David was nominated by Dr Elizabeth Boyle



Prof Philip Nolan; Dr Karen English, Prof Ray O'Neill and Rosaleen McCarthy. Karen receives the Early Career Research Achievement award: and was nominated by Dr Shirley O'Dea



Prof Paul Moynagh, Department of Biology and MU Human Health Research Institute, receives his Research Achievement Award: Science and Engineering from Philip Nolan. Paul was nominated by Prof Bernard Mahon



Dr Deborah Hayden, School of Celtic Studies receives the Early Career Research Achievement award: Arts, Humanities, Celtic Studies and Philosophy from Prof Philip Nolan. Deborah was nominated by Prof David Stifter