

UNIVERSITY NEWS



Minister for Education Launches New Undergraduate Curriculum



Tony Donohoe, IBEC; Prof Philip Nolan, President Maynooth University; Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O’Sullivan TD; Betty Mcaughlin, President, Institute of Guidance Counsellors; and Ben Finnegan, President, Maynooth Students’ Union

Minister for Education and Skills Jan O’Sullivan TD joined the President, Professor Philip Nolan, on Thursday 5 March to launch the University’s new undergraduate curriculum

The university-wide initiative builds on Maynooth University’s strengths as an institution equally committed to both excellent teaching and top level research and scholarship. The goal is to ensure its next generation of graduates is equipped with the critical thinking and working skills to succeed.

“This is a transformative development in Irish university education. We have completely re-imagined our undergraduate learning experience to develop a radically different Maynooth model of undergraduate education which is distinctive and challenging. Building on our strengths, we are adapting what we teach and how we teach to ensure our students graduate with the skills and qualities they need to thrive in a world where change is a given and adaptability is essential,” said the President, Professor Philip Nolan.

The new curriculum model features greatly increased flexibility, giving students the ability to specialise immediately or explore options in first year and specialise later. Among other changes, the University also is making it easier for students to combine subjects across the arts and sciences and study a modern language alongside any degree. The revisions also include a greater emphasis on experiential learning, including expanded study abroad, work placement and volunteer opportunities. The new curriculum, which will be phased in between 2015 and 2017, will be partially facilitated by a significantly reduced number of entry routes - from 50 to approximately 20. For more information see “Curriculum Initiative” on the “For Staff” webpage.

Professor Stifter Awarded ERC Grant

Professor David Stifter, Head of the Department of Early Irish, awarded €1.8 million in funding by the European Research Council (ERC)



Professor David Stifter

Prof Stifter’s project will date a large number of 7th–10th Century Irish texts and develop innovative methodologies for dating languages that will be applicable across the world, shedding new light on medieval literature, history, and culture.

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

Professor Stifter will lead a team of five researchers on the project, known as the *Chronologicon Hibernicum – A Probabilistic Chronological Framework for Dating Early Irish Language Developments and Literature “ChronHib.”* By looking for subtle changes in the language over the centuries and by applying advanced statistical methods, Prof Stifter will be able to profile language variations in texts of that period. The major result will be a *ChronHib* database, which will serve as the key reference point for the linguistic dating of Irish texts and will then provide a model for other old languages in Europe and beyond.

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Student wins Gaisce Award



3U Leadership Symposium



University Equality Update



Inaugural Smarter Travel Awards

Maynooth University Researchers Win Funding for Digital Projects

Researchers at Maynooth University will spearhead a number of newly funded projects aimed at strengthening digital capacity within Irish higher education institutions

The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning's recent funding round directed €2 million from its Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund for the initiative. Maynooth University is leading two of the 10 funded projects, and is a partner on another initiative. Discussing the funding, Professor Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, said: "It's a strong endorsement for Maynooth University to be part of three research projects to receive funding and we're very proud of the teams involved. Technology has an increasingly important role to play in higher education and I am confident these projects will make a significant impact in terms of innovation within our sector."

The projects are:

'Supporting Transition: Enhancing Feedback in First Year Using Digital Technologies.' Project Leader: Lisa O'Regan, Centre for Teaching and Learning. Award: €264,000

'Assessment for Learning: Resources for First-Year Undergraduate Mathematics Modules.' Project Leader: Ann O'Shea, Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Dr Seamus McLoone, Department of Electronic Engineering, and Dr Ciaran Mac an Bhaird, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, are also involved. Award: €274,000

Maynooth University is a partner on **'Student Success Toolbox for Flexible Learners: Supporting Transitions from Thinking About Study to the First Weeks,'** which was awarded funding of €55,000.

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.

Education and Work in 21st Century Ireland

Attendees at a Maynooth Education Forum event on 13 February heard from the CEO of SOLAS that "the [Further Education and Training] sector must modernise to keep pace with the economic recovery to ensure participants are equipped to actively contribute to the labour market and our communities"



Paul O'Toole, CEO of SOLAS

Addressing more than 100 strategists, policy makers, researchers and practitioners in education, Paul O'Toole, CEO of SOLAS, said that the opportunities presented by a renewed FET sector, if addressed in an appropriate and timely way, will result in a high-quality learner experience with better outcomes for participants and enterprises.

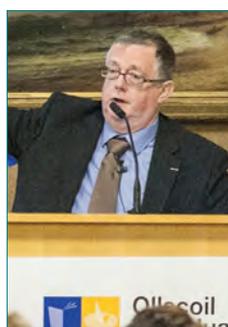
The Education Forum at Maynooth University interrogated the links between education and work. Exploring the situation in Denmark, Professor Henning Salling Olesen from Roskilde University said while we should recognise the work-oriented agenda of lifelong learning, we must learn to educate to work collaboratively, not competitively. Dr Anne B Ryan of Maynooth University said that a key aim of the political economy must be to achieve high levels of human wellbeing combined with low

energy and resource use, healthy ecosystems and deeper democracy. "A diversity of work, paid and unpaid, is essential in the cultivation of higher degrees of personal, community and national resilience. An enabling state will put structures in place that support such diversity. Progressive education, which responds to real societal needs, will also be required to contribute to that project," she said

Now in its third year, the Maynooth Education Forum has established itself as an important space where education policymakers and stakeholders come together to exchange ideas and reflect on key issues in Irish education.

The next Maynooth Education Forum will discuss *'Educational disadvantage' – Critique, Challenges and Solutions* on Friday, 27th June.

Alumni History Lecture 2015



Dr Pat Wallace speaking at the event

A lecture titled, 'The European significance of the Wood quay excavations,' was delivered by guest speaker, Dr Pat Wallace

On Wednesday, 25 March, Dr Wallace, Director of the Wood Quay Excavations and Director Emeritus of the National Museum of Ireland, captivated the audience with findings from the 1970s excavations and the lessons learned from one of the most significant archaeological finds in Ireland and Dublin in particular. A close friend for over 40 years of the late John Bradley, former staff member of the Department of History, Dr Wallace shared

his memories of John with alumni and guests in this 2015 Alumni History Lecture, which was held in memoriam to John. Attending the lecture and assisting the Alumni Office at the event were MAAB (Maynooth Alumni Advisory Board) members Flor Madden (current chairperson and alumnus from 1988) and faculty member, Dr Ciarán Mac an Bhaird (1998) from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

An appeal was made to guests to support an Alumni Office initiative to double the number of Taught Master's Alumni Scholarships this year. The Alumni Office recorded this lecture and it is available to view at <http://tinyurl.com/mayalumhistlect>

URBACT Information Day on Campus

Maynooth University hosted the first ever URBACT Information Day in Ireland, titled, 'From URBACT II to URBACT III - what support for cities?' on 5 February



The event was led by URBACT National Co-ordinator Colm Downey, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. It was co-organised and co-delivered by the URBACT secretariat, the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Regional Assemblies and the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, Maynooth University. URBACT is the European Territorial Cooperation Programme fostering sustainable integrated urban development in cities across EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland. URBACT is an instrument

of the Cohesion Policy, co-financed by the European Commission (ERDF) and Member/Partner States. URBACT enables cities to work together and develop integrated solutions to their local challenges. In URBACT networks, cities share experiences and learn from one another, draw lessons and transfer good practices to enhance their urban policies.

For presentations and an agenda please see <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/news-events/urbact-info-day-ireland>

EIB Backing Enables €150m Campus Expansion

Maynooth University has announced a €150 million investment to develop academic, research and residence facilities as part of its Campus Master Plan

The investment is backed by new support from the European Investment Bank (EIB), which will provide €76 million for the scheme, alongside financing from University resources.

Among other projects, the long-term loan from the EIB will fund: the construction of new Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Education hubs, apartment accommodation for 300 students, state-of-the-art academic and student services buildings, and sports facilities. These projects represent the first phase of the Campus Master Plan that will facilitate the University's growth to 13,000 students by 2020. The Plan will be refined through internal and external consultation processes in the immediate months.

Discussing the investment, Professor Philip Nolan, President, said: "This is a milestone for Maynooth University, with significant investment which will expand our capacity to deliver the highest quality educational experience

in Ireland for many years to come. Students, parents and staff expect and deserve world-class infrastructure for learning, research and living, and this investment will help realise our ambitious vision for Maynooth University."



Prof Philip Nolan, President, and Jonathan Taylor, Vice-President, EIB

Interfaith Prayer Service

On February 21 the Liberia Solidarity Group and the Sierra Leone Ireland Partnership held an Interfaith Service to reflect on the consequences of the Ebola Crisis in West Africa, remember the victims and those who are left behind

The attendance of more than 100 people, included Guest of Honour, President Michael D Higgins, along with his wife Sabina, members of the Liberia Solidarity Group, the Sierra Leone Ireland Partnership, people from Liberia and Sierra Leone, and others who have lived and worked in the area.

The Liberia Solidarity Group Ireland (LSG), founded by staff and students from the Department of Applied Social Studies, has worked with projects and initiatives in Liberia over the past decade. LSG is dedicated to the creation of a mutual learning partnership between Ireland and Liberia which promotes justice, peace, equality and human rights through collective action and sustainable development. It supports those working to achieve these goals through education, enterprise and community development activities, including actions that promote or enhance the status of women.



Mariatu Bah, Sierra Leone Ireland Partnership; Sabina Higgins; President Michael D Higgins; Anastasia Crickley, Head of Maynooth University Department of Applied Social Studies and Chair of Liberia Solidarity Group; Joseph Bockarie, Chair of Sierra Leone Ireland Partnership; and Irina Chayee, MU Postgrad student and Liberia Solidarity Group

Irish Narrative Inquiry Conference

The Second Irish Narrative Inquiry Conference took place in Maynooth University on 19 - 20 March



Pictured is Jackie O' Toole, IT Sligo; Prof Sharon Todd, Maynooth University; Dr Hilary Tierney, Maynooth University; Prof Jean Clandinin, University of Alberta; Prof Philip Nolan, President Maynooth University; Dr Anne Byrne, NUI Galway; and Dr Grace O'Grady, Maynooth University

The annual inter-institutional conference was hosted by Maynooth University in conjunction with IT Sligo and the NUIG. A wide range of Irish and international scholars showcased how narrative is and can be deployed in researching many aspects of Irish society. Presenters included academics, practitioners, educators, social workers, performing artists, narrative therapists, social policy makers and independent researchers.

The conference was formally opened by Professor Philip Nolan, who spoke about the continued importance of intellectual collaboration between the three institutions and of the powerful role narrative and stories play in all our lives. Dr Grace O'Grady chaired the opening ceremony, with contributions from Professor Sharon Todd, Head of the Department of Education, and Dr Jean Clandinin, University of Alberta, a world renowned narrative inquiry scholar as keynote speaker. Jean spoke about how narrative inquiry has moved from the margins and is becoming central in more dominant forms of inquiry.

Digital Repository of Ireland Winner at Ireland's E-Government Awards

DRI's 'Inspiring Ireland' project, received three awards: 'Promoting Ireland Overseas' 'Open Source' and 'Overall Winner' at Ireland's E-Government Awards recently

The project's Principal Investigator is Prof Rob Kitchin of NIRSA. Dr Jane Gray, Dept of Sociology; Prof Susan Schreibman, An Foras Feasa; and Librarian Cathal McCauley also are contributors. *Inspiring Ireland* is a collaboration with eight of Ireland's National Cultural Institutions with the Department of Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht.



The awards, presented on 29 January by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny during a gala event at Dublin Castle, were set up in 2001 to recognise

excellence and innovation by public sector bodies who are pioneering change in the delivery of eGovernment services in Ireland.

The Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) is a national trusted digital repository that preserves and provides online access to Ireland's social and cultural heritage. A consortium of six partners: Maynooth University, RIA, TCD, NUIG, DIT and NCAD – the team includes software engineers, digital archivists and librarians, legal, policy and requirements specialists, social scientists and humanities scholars. The project website is www.inspiring-ireland.ie

Seachtain na Gaeilge san Ollscoil

D'éirigh go han-mhaith leis na himeachtaí a d'éagraigh Oifig na Gaeilge do phobal na hOllscoile mar chuid de Sheachtain na Gaeilge

Chuir ócáid speisialta sa leabharlann tús spreagúil leis an gceiliúradh. Chuir mac léinn na hOllscoile, David Caulfield, agus daltaí ó Scoil Uí Riada, Cill Choca, siamsaíocht den scoth ar fáil; ceol traidisiúnta, damhsa Gaelach agus amhránaíocht. Bhí an tOllamh Seán Ó Riain, Cathaoirleach Choiste na Gaeilge, an Moinsíneoir Breandán Ó Doibhlin, Coláiste Phádraig agus Sinéad Ní Dhomhnaill, Bainisteoir Gníomhach ar Sheachtain na Gaeilge i measc na gcainteoirí. Dúirt an tOllamh Ó Riain: "An sprioc atá againn go léir ná an Ghaeilge a bheith fite fuaite trí shaol na hOllscoile. Táimid ag obair anois ar fhorbairt na Scéime Cónaithe, Seomra na Gaeilge, cúrsaí cumarsáide agus neart feachtais eile."

Ar an Máirt, ghlac baill foirne agus mic léinn páirt i léamh filíochta mar cheiliúradh ar shaothar Sheáin Mhic Fheorais, file mór Chill Dara. Reáchtáladh Aifreann Gaeilge in Aireagal Naomh Sheosaimh ar an gCéadaoin. Tugadh spreagadh do bhaill foirne a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid agus iad i mbun béile ag 'Bord na Gaeilge' i Halla Pugin. Tháinig deireadh le himeachtaí na seachtaine ar an Déardaoin le ceolchoirm iontach ó Roinn Ceoil na hOllscoile. Chuir mic léinn na Roinne ceol traidisiúnta den scoth ar fáil.



An tOllamh Aidan Mulkeen, Clárathoír, Sinéad Ní Dhomhnaill, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Orla Bradshaw, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, An tOllamh Seán Ó Riain, Cathaoirleach Choiste na Gaeilge agus Aedraen Ó Dubhghaill, Oifigeach na Gaeilge Aontas na Mac Léinn

Gabhann Oifig na Gaeilge buíochas le gach duine a bhí páirteach in imeachtaí na seachtaine.

First European Alumni Chapter

The Embassy of Ireland, Paris was the setting for the France Chapter launch in January

Hosted by alumnus, Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason (1980), and attended by Professor Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, this first ever Chapter for Maynooth Alumni in Europe was a resounding success. Thanks to the efforts and drive of Chapter Coordinators, Sean Ryan (1989) and Róisín Dockery (1987), alumni, Erasmus students and students of the Centre Culturel Irlandais enjoyed the evening, which gave everyone the opportunity to network and reconnect with Maynooth.



Guests at the launch pictured with the President, Prof Philip Nolan and Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason

Student Wins Gaisce Award



Pictured is Michelle Murphy, a second year undergraduate student in Theology and English, being presented with the Gaisce President's Gold Award by President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, and her President Award Leader (PAL) Shay Claffey, Chaplain at Maynooth University. Michelle, from Arklow, Co Wicklow completed her Gaisce (an old Irish word meaning 'a great achievement') Gold Award since coming to Maynooth. The President's Award is a challenge from the President of Ireland to young people aged 15 to 25 to achieve personal goals over a period of time, with the support and guidance of a PAL. One of Michelle's achievements was a 100km hike through the Wicklow Mountains.

40 Years of Adult and Community Education at Maynooth

2015 is a year of celebration for the Department of Adult and Community Education

Established in 1975, the Maynooth University Department of Adult and Community Education has delivered educational courses to more than 60,000 adults in outreach venues throughout Ireland. Its reputation as the leader in the professional development of adult educators and in research in adult learning has received national and international recognition. Over the past four decades the fundamental values and ideas that inform practice remain: (i) that education is a human right for everyone throughout their lives and (ii) the purpose of education is to foster people's capacities for agency and transformation. These core beliefs provide the motivational force to seek opportunities to engage in purposeful educational interventions and research that promote social inclusion, environmental awareness and active citizenship.

On Friday 6 March the Department launched a year of celebrations with an evening of reminiscences, story-telling and song with friends and colleagues. President of Maynooth, Professor Philip Nolan opened the evening with remarks recognising the Department's contribution to education and to

the University. The Kildare Youth Theatre provided an entertaining and engaging performance representing the impact of adult education on individuals, families and communities over the past four decades. Throughout the evening associate staff offered testimonials and read words from absent friends. Maeve O'Byrne entertained everyone with a song about the University's Kilkenny Campus. The evening closed with an address from Professor Tom Collins, Emeritus President and Head of Adult and Community Education for over 25 years. Tom shared his memories, insights and analysis of the Department's history and some inspiring words about its future role.



Josephine Finn

3U Leadership Symposium

Over 400 delegates attended the 3rd annual 3U Leadership Symposium on Saturday, 7 March at Maynooth University which focused on 'Leadership for Sustainable Communities'



Professor Philip Nolan, President; Professor Sharon Todd, Maynooth University Department of Education and Emeritus Professor Richard Pring

The keynote speaker was Emeritus Professor Richard Pring, University of Oxford, with other contributions from Professor Sharon Todd, Maynooth University Department of Education; Professor Finian Buckley, DCU; Professor Ciarán O'Boyle, RCSI; Professor Freddie Wood, Medical Council; and Tomás Ó Ruiric, Teaching Council.

The event celebrated the work of graduates from MSc programmes in Leadership at DCU School of Education Studies; DCU Business School (partnership programme with RCSI & Beaumont Hospital); PG Dip Educational Leadership (Tóraíocht) offered by the Maynooth University Department of Education, in partnership with PDST; & RCSI (Institute of Leadership). The event was opened by Professor Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University.

Funding for ENRICH Research



Dr Sinéad McGilloway

ENRICH (Evaluation of wRapararound in Ireland for CHildren and families) is a five-year research programme funded by the Health Research Board (€1.25m) under its new Collaborative Applied Research Grant scheme and is one of only four such awards in the country

The ENRICH programme is led by Dr Sinéad McGilloway, Director of the Mental Health and Social Research Unit, Maynooth University Department of Psychology, in collaboration with a range of community-based stakeholders and a multidisciplinary team of senior academics from York University, Queen's University Belfast, the University of Ulster, NUI Galway and the Northern Ireland Clinical Trials Unit.

ENRICH is a multi-component study involving the use of top-tier methodologies to assess the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of two new 'wraparound' models of service provision and delivery services for vulnerable children (aged 0-8 years) and their families in Ireland. This novel research comes at a time when, increasingly, national and international policy in the area of child and family welfare, is emphasising a need for evidence-based and evidence-informed services. The findings will make an important contribution to the design and implementation of innovative new interventions and services for vulnerable families, whilst also informing national and international policy and practice in the field.

Dr McGilloway also was recently awarded additional linked funding as a co-investigator on a large (£1.8m) research grant from the UK National Institute of Health Research which will investigate social and emotional learning in the early years.

Two Maynooth University Scholars Win RIA Charlemont Awards

NIRSA's Dr Patrick Bresnihan and Dr Felix Behling, Department of Sociology were among the 29 recipients of the inaugural Royal Irish Academy Charlemont Awards

Funded by the Academy, the Charlemont Grants are designed to act as a career springboard to assist scholars in strengthening their international mobility and developing international collaborative networks.

Dr Patrick Bresnihan's project is entitled: 'The Politics of Water and the Commons' and Dr Felix Behling's project is entitled: 'Creating a new class of workers. Marginal self-employment in labour market reforms.'



Dr Bresnihan's research project will involve traveling to Bolivia and Brazil to develop ongoing theoretical and empirical work on the political ecology of water and the organization of the commons. He will spend three weeks in Cochabamba,

Pictured are (l-r); Prof Mary E Daly, President, RIA; Prof Peter Kennedy, International Relations Secretary, RIA and Dr Patrick Bresnihan, Maynooth University

Bolivia, hosted by Marcela Olivera, coordinator of 'Red Vida,' a water justice network. Having resisted the privatisation of water services in 2000 and seen the rise to power of Morales on a socially and ecologically progressive policy platform, Bolivia is an interesting place to examine the changing nature of water management and the politics of the commons.

From Bolivia, he will fly to Brazil to participate in an international workshop and week-long, intensive research retreat under the general title of 'Emergent Authorities and the Making of the Common' hosted by the Universidade Federal da Paraíba, João Pessoa and co-organised by the Authority Research Network.

Dr Behling is interested in the German labour market reforms of the early 2000s specifically which meant the establishment of atypical self-employment on a wide scale, which arguably led to Germany's current economic boom. He will work closely with labour market experts at the University Duisburg-Essen and interview key stakeholders from trade unions, politics and business organisations, with a view to derive new perspectives for ongoing European labour market reforms.

IVI Spring Summit 2015

Summit hosted in New York by BNY Mellon

The event explored 'Delivering Business Performance through Capability Management' and included speakers and panellists from organisations such as TAC International, Intel, BNY Mellon, The Boston Consulting Group, SQS, DTCC and EY.

The summit was widely acclaimed as a must-attend event by more than 100 attendees representing over 30 organisations from around the world including Ireland, North America, Australia, Canada, UK and India. IVI was delighted to welcome back many familiar faces from member organisations and to meet new organisations. The summit provided attendees with the latest academic research around major business improvements through capability management and delivering capability improvement and impact. A variety of



Attendees at the Spring Summit

guest speakers, member organisations and IVI researchers provided insights and shared their experiences. Copies of presentations can be downloaded at <http://ivi.nuim.ie/news-events/ivi-spring-summit-2015-review>. The Autumn/Fall Summit will take place in Dublin the week of 21 September 2015.

Postgraduate Open Evening

The Graduate Studies Office attracted large numbers at the Postgraduate Open Evening on 24 February

The event provided direct access to staff from all Departments and SUSI representatives. Information sessions with the Careers Development Office and Graduate Studies Office ran throughout the evening. Postgraduate talks also features again this year as part of the Spring Open Day on 25 April. Further information available at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/postgradopenday



Prospective postgraduate students explore options at the Postgraduate Open Evening

Raise your IQ Supports JAAGO Foundation

Maynooth University-based company *Raise Your IQ* has made online intellectual skills training available at no cost to children of the education-focused JAAGO foundation in Bangladesh



Children of the JAAGO Foundation in their computer lab

The new system of brain training based on principles of learning rather than neuroscience called SMART (*Strengthening Mental Abilities with Relational Training*) was developed by Dr Bryan Roche and Dr Sarah Cassidy at Maynooth University in 2013. The new system has been brought to Bangladesh by Micah Amd, who is currently studying for his PhD in Psychology at Maynooth University. He has facilitated the donation of the training program and has travelled to Bangladesh to train teachers and students in the use of the online software. The JAAGO foundation is a non-profit organization which provides education to children from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Adoption Law Progresses

An adoption (Information and Identity) bill drafted by Dr Fergus Ryan of the Maynooth University Department of Law passed all remaining stages in the Oireachtas in February

The bill seeks to provide adopted people with a right to obtain their birth certificates and other personal data, following the completion of a prescribed process. The bill seeks to establish a process whereby the Adoption Authority will seek to identify and make contact with the natural parents, allowing the natural parents to express their wishes in relation to the possibility of contact with the adopted person. The bill affirms the child's right to know the identity of the natural parent and to access his or her original birth certificate, while safeguarding the contact details of the parent in cases where they do not wish to make contact with the adopted person. In particular, the bill seeks to achieve an appropriate balance between the right to identity and the right to privacy.

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
Biology	Dr Noreen Curran, Technical Officer
Electronic Engineering	Dr John Dooley, Lecturer (Contract Post)
Geography	Professor Peter Thorne, Professor of Physical Geography
History	Dr Martin Ott, Lecturer (Contract Post)
Music	Dr Patrick McGlynn, Assistant Lecturer (Contract Post)
Psychology	Dr Michelle Kelly, Lecturer (Contract Post)
School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures	Dr Mercedes Carbayo Abengózar, Lecturer
Access Office	Mr Stephen Kennedy, Disability Officer Mr Michael Maguire, Mature Student Support Worker Ms Gemma Lynch, Student Advisor
Admissions Office	Ms Judith Caffrey, Schools' Liaison Officer
Adult and Community Education	Ms Rosemary Gallagher, Senior Executive Assistant (Contract Post)
Computer Centre	Mr Mark Brennan, Systems Administrator (Contract) Mr Alan Corcoran, Systems Administrator (Contract)
Corporate Services	Mr Stephen Seaman, General Operative, Grounds (Contract Post) Mr Patrick Brereton, General Operative, Grounds (Contract Post)
Examinations & Timetabling Office	Ms Catherine O'Brien, Examinations & Timetabling Officer
Finance	Ms Audrey O'Mahony, Half-Time Executive Assistant, Payroll Office Ms Rionach Day, Executive Assistant (Payroll Office) Ms Áine O'Reilly, Professional Accountant
Graduate Studies	Ms Zoe Mulroy-Hehir, Half-Time Executive Assistant (Contract Post)
Human Resources Office	Mr Peter Miller, Senior HR Manager
Library	Ms Lorna Dodd, Senior Librarian
Office of the Vice-President for Research	Ms Valerie Bartley, Senior Executive Assistant
Office of the Vice-President for Strategy and Quality	Dr Zsuzsanna Zarka, Project Officer (Contract Post)
Placement Office	Ms Breege McBrien, Part-Time Executive Assistant (Contract Post)
Student Health Centre	Ms Aisling Quan, Nurse (Contract Post)
Student Services	Ms Maria Fahy, Senior Executive Assistant in the Residence Office (Contract Post)

Our best wishes to all concerned.

RETIREMENTS

The following staff have retired from the University:

Dr Anne B Ryan, Department of Adult and Community Education retired in December 2014 and Mr Colm Nelson, Campus Services Officer retired in January 2015.

We wish them a long and happy retirement.

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**

In Memoriam

The University is saddened by the recent loss of the following members of our community:
John Bradley, Department of History;
Dr Noel Murphy, Department of Biology and
Dr Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin, School of Celtic Studies.

Modern Foreign Language Teacher Education Conference

Saturday, 28 March heralded a new departure in modern foreign language (MFL) teacher education in Ireland

The Maynooth University Department of Education, in collaboration with the Post-Primary Languages Initiative, recently organised a conference on the use of Tablets and Apps in MFL Teaching and Learning in the Iontas Building. This was the first large-scale, non language-specific, continuous professional development (CPD) event organised for post-primary language teachers in Ireland. It brought together 200 teachers of Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Russian, Spanish and others to share their expertise. The conference centred around a bottom-up approach to CPD, with teacher-led workshops and a teach-meet, enabling teachers to share and learn from one another. For the first time, student teachers of languages from across the universities were invited to contribute and to join their experienced colleagues for professional development.

The event was supported by the PDST Technology in Education, the Association of teachers of Spanish and the Association of Teachers of Italian. The keynote speaker was Joe Dale (Network for Languages, ALL, BBC and host of TES MFL Forum). Following the welcome from Dr Céline Healy, on behalf of Maynooth University, the event was officially opened by Maria Lorigan, Senior Inspector with the Department of Education and Skills.



Anastasia Crickley Speaks at UN Human Rights Council Celebration

Anastasia Crickley, Vice President of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, spoke at a UN Human Rights Council event to mark 50 years since the adoption of the International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by the UN General Assembly

The meeting, which took place on 1 March, included talks from Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium; Karl Erjavec, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia; Fatimata Binta Victorie Dah, member of CERD (Burkina Faso); Ibrahim Salama, Director of Human Rights Treaties Division, OHCHR; and Taisuke Komatsu, International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism.

Anastasia reminded the assembled guests that the inclusive and comprehensive definition of racial discrimination of 50 years ago remains today the most relevant tool for human rights holders and duty bearers. She took the opportunity to reiterate the urgent need, in the light of widespread global rights denial, to redouble efforts to eliminate racial discrimination as a fundamental evil affecting global peace.

International Women's Day

Maynooth University celebrated International Women's Day on Friday, 6 March, in the Library with an event co-sponsored with Enterprise Ireland and Trócaire

Tánaiste Joan Burton TD officially opened the event, introducing this year's theme - *Make It Happen: Celebrate Women's Achievements, Call for Greater Equality*. A range of speakers from politics, industry, academia, social and international development delivered informative and inspiring presentations to the large numbers of staff, students and invited guests in attendance.

University Equality Update

A number of key initiatives have taken place over the last three months in support of the University's Equality Strategy and Action plan



Athena SWAN Ireland Launch: Professor Bernard Mahon, Vice President for Research; Professor Philp Nolan, President; Ruth Gilligan, Athena SWAN Ireland; Ashley O'Donoghue, HR Equality Officer; Dr Fiona Lyddy, Dean of Science & Engineering; Rosaleen McCarthy, Director of HR, David Ruebain, Chief Executive, Equality Challenge Unit; Dr Peter van der Burgt, Dept of Experimental Physics

On Thursday, 5 February, Maynooth University joined six universities, 14 institutes of technology and the Royal College of Surgeons in signing up to the **Athena SWAN** charter, committing to advancing women's academic research careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM). This national initiative is supported by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) to address gender inequality in the higher education sector. HEA figures published in December 2014 identified that only 19% of professors across Irish universities are women and this gender balance drops further in STEM disciplines. On 30 April 2015, Maynooth University will submit its Athena SWAN Bronze Institution Award Application. The application is an assessment of gender equality in the university's policies, practices and structures, and identifies specific initiatives and an action plan to attract and retain women in STEM. In 2015, the Athena SWAN charter will expand to incorporate academic research staff in arts, humanities, social science, business and law departments disciplines (AHSSBL).

International Week Against Racism was marked by an event on 12 March which reflected this year's theme *'Promote and Celebrate Equal Rights & Show your Opposition to Racism.'*

The welcome address delivered by Anastasia Crickley, Head of the Department of Applied Social Studies and member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, acknowledged diversity within the University with speakers from the Irish Traveller Movement, the University's Outreach Programme and Afro-Caribbean Society. In keeping with this year's theme, Anastasia also acknowledged the work carried out by ENAR Ireland (European Network Against Racism) who presented research on racism nationally and called for a renewed national action plan against racism.

The University's Equality Strategy 2014 – 2016 can be viewed on the Human Resources website.



Pictured at the event (l-r); Ashley O'Donoghue, Equality Officer, Maynooth University; Jean O'Sullivan, Enterprise Ireland and Dr Shirley O'Dea, Maynooth University and Professor Life Sciences

GAA Freshers Football



Pictured is the Maynooth GAA Freshers Footballers B team celebrating the Higher Education GAA Division 3 Championship following victory over Athlone IT in Athlone. They overcame DCU in the quarter final and CIT (after extra-time) in the semi-final to reach the decider, where they eventually saw off their hosts on a 0-9 to 0-5 scoreline. The Freshers A side had a good year as well, reaching the Division One League semi-final, where they fell to eventual champions UCD and making it to the Freshers A championship semi-final, only to lose out to a powerful UCC side.

Dublinked

Dublinked Innovation Network holds workshop on Data Support for Tourism



The workshop showcased tools and apps that are available for the tourism sector (Fáilte Ireland and Dublin Event Guide), in addition to data driven tourism strategies implemented by Fingal County Council. The event was part of the launch of the Personalised Linked open Tour (PLoT) project developed by the Insight Centre for Data Analytics in NUIG. Dr Ronan Farrell, Dept of Electronic Engineering and a member of the Dublinked Steering Group, took part in the event discussion and feedback session.

The primary objective of Dublinked Innovation Network events is to facilitate the exploration of innovation opportunities facing the region enabled by available data. To date, Dublinked has hosted more than 16 events on a variety of themes including Data Visualisation, Crowdsourcing, Open Innovation, Planning, Public Sector Data, Transport, Tourism, Social Enterprise, Tourism and Technical workshops. Collectively, these events attracted in excess of 850 people, with the majority originating from SME or entrepreneurial backgrounds.

Success for Women's Soccer



Maynooth University Women's Soccer team celebrates their first ever Women's Colleges & Universities Premier League win on Thursday, 26 March. Two goals from Amber Barrett gave Maynooth victory over IT Carlow and their first ever WSCAI Premier League title in a hard fought decider at Leixlip Utd.

Maynooth University Wins Inaugural Smarter Travel Award



Pictured at the National Transport Authority inaugural Smarter Travel Awards in Dublin on 26 March is Lar Byrne (centre), Campus Services, collecting the award on behalf of Maynooth University with Ken Hegarty, Smarter Travel, and Michael Aherne, National Transport Authority. Maynooth University won the category Car-sharing Campus of the Year. This award highlights the success of such schemes as the Guaranteed Lift Home scheme. Please see further details of this and other sustainable travel options on <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/location/parking-traffic-management>.

Galway Cycle 2015

Maynooth Students for Charity raise over €115,000 for Irish Guide Dogs

A group of 230 cyclists, 30 collectors and over 50 support crew left Maynooth University at 6.30am on 27 March to cycle west across the country to Galway. The group was joined by Prof Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, alongside current undergraduate students, postgraduate students, staff, alumni and friends of the University. This year marked the 28th year of the Galway Cycle. All funds raised will go directly to the Assistance Dog programme run by The Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The peloton pedalled for almost 11 hours and reached Eyre Square to rapturous applause. Following a day of busking, singing, fancy-dress, dancing and collecting with many representatives from the Irish Guide Dogs, all the bikes were lined up and ready to head home to Maynooth at 6.30am on Sunday morning.

It was a fantastic weekend and the running total of more than €115,000 was announced during a presentation on the Saturday night. The money raised will re-open the Assistance Dog programme to the people of Ireland and reduce the waiting time for families, which currently stands at three years.



The arrival into Eyre Square

Donations are being accepted at http://www.mycharity.ie/event/maynooth-students_for_charity_galway_cycle/ or by contacting president@galwaycycle.ie