

www.mic.ie

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020



MIC
MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE
COLÁISTE MHIURE GAN SMÁL

BRIATHAR DÉ HO LÓCHRANN



MIC

MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE
COLÁISTE MUIRE GAN SMÁL

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
GOVERNANCE	6
EXTERNAL LANDSCAPE	8
CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT	10
PROGRAMMES	11
PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES	12
AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	16
DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL WORK	19
CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS	21
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CULTURE	23
SPORTS	25
GRADUATION NUMBERS 2017	27
ENERGY USAGE	28
ACCOUNTS	29



Introduction

In September 2019, over 2,200 new students enrolled for the first time at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at MIC, with almost 950 students enrolled in ten undergraduate programmes at the Limerick and Thurles campuses, 950 students on the LINC programme and almost 350 postgraduate students on taught and research programmes. We are very proud to state that we now have a student population of 5,000+ undergraduate and postgraduate students from all over Ireland. MIC is a truly international college with new and returning international students from America, Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Kenya, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Tanzania and Erasmus+ students from Austria, England, Finland, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland.

On 13 March 2020, in accordance with Government announcements, the physical MIC campuses at Limerick and Thurles closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme delivery for all undergraduate and postgraduate programmes went online and most of the College staff worked from home in accordance with Government advice.

A COVID-19 Response Plan was approved by Senior Management in February 2020 and a COVID-19 Response Group consisting of members of the Executive Team, other senior line managers and representatives of MISU was appointed. This Group identified key areas that needed to be addressed to ensure the continuity of College operations. An Academic Sub-Group of the COVID-19 Response Group was established to develop an Academic Response Plan.

This Academic Sub-Group was charged with developing a coherent response to the range of challenges to programme delivery and assessment posed by the COVID-19 crisis. Given the scale and extent of uncertainty facing the entire HEI system, MIC endeavoured to formulate a response that maintained the academic integrity of our programmes. Integral to this was the aim that MIC students would be able to undertake assessments and complete their studies in a timely manner and progress to the next academic year or graduation. This response was governed by two key elements, flexibility on the part of staff and students in meeting the challenges presented by the crisis and compassion in recognising and responding to the particular difficulties being faced by all members of the MIC community as we navigated our way through the pandemic.

Despite the pandemic, 2019/2020 was a year in which a number of high-profile fora, symposia and conferences took place, each contributing to MIC's vision of being an institution that offers higher level learning opportunities and research of outstanding quality. These events furthered our objective to be recognised and appreciated for making an essential contribution to the continuum of academic provision in effective and productive collaboration with our partners in the Higher Education Sector. More information on all of the above may be found further on in this report. We hope you find the information contained within interesting and informative.

Office of the President, Mary Immaculate College

This report will be translated in accordance with the Official Languages Act (2003) following approval by An tÚdarás Rialaithe.



Réamhrá

I mí Mheán Fómhair 2019, chláraigh níos mó ná 2,200 mac léinn nua don chéad uair ag leibhéal na fochéime agus na hiarchéime ag CMgS, le beagnach 950 mac léinn cláraithe i ndeich gclár fochéime ar champais Luimnigh agus Durlas, 950 mac léinn ar an gclár LINC agus beagnach 350 mac léinn iarchéime ar chláir teagaisc agus ar chláir taighde. Táimid an-bhródúil gur féidir linn a rá go bhfuil daonra mac léinn de bhreis is 5,000 mac léinn fochéime agus iarchéime againn anois ó cheann ceann na hÉireann. Is coláiste fíor-idirnáisiúnta é CMgS le mic léinn idirnáisiúnta nua agus ag filleadh ó Mheiriceá, ón Airméin, ón Astráil, ón mBrasail, ó Cheanada, ón tSín, ón Ind, ón tSeapáin, ó Chéinia, ó Libia, ó Mheicsiceo, ó Mharacó, ón Nigéir, ón bPacastáin, ón bPalaistín, ón Rúis, ón Araib Shádach agus ón Tansáin agus Mic léinn Erasmus+ ón Ostair, ó Shasana, ón bhFionlainn, ón bhFrainc, ón nGearmáin, ón Ísiltír, ón Spáinn agus ón Eilbhéis.

Ar an 13 Márta 2020, de réir fhógraí an Rialtais, dhún campais fhisiciúla CMgS i Luimneach agus i nDurlas mar thoradh ar phaindéim COVID-19. Cuireadh seachadadh clár do gach clár fochéime agus iarchéime ar líne agus d'oibrigh formhór d'fhoireann an Choláiste ón mbaile de réir chomhairle an Rialtais.

Cheadaigh an Bhainistíocht Shinsearach Plean Freagartha COVID-19 i mí Feabhra 2020 agus ceapadh Grúpa Freagartha COVID-19 le baill ón Fhoireann Feidhmiúcháin, bainisteoirí líne sinsearacha eile mar aon le hionadaithe ó Aontas na Mac Léinn. D'aithin an Grúpa seo príomhréimsí nár mhór aghaidh a thabhairt orthu chun leanúnachas na n-oibríochtaí sa Choláiste a chinntiú. Bunaíodh Foghrúpa Acadúil de Ghrúpa Freagartha COVID-19 chun Plean Freagartha Acadúil a fhorbairt.

Bhí sé de chúram ar an bhFoghrúpa Acadúil seo freagairt chomhleanúnach a fhorbairt ar réimse na ndúshlán a bhain le seachadadh agus le measúnú clár a bhí cruthaithe ag géarchéim COVID-19. I bhfianaise scála agus méid na héiginnteachta atá os comhair an chórais IAO trí chéile, rinne CMgS iarracht freagra a chruthú a thug cosaint do shláine acadúil ár gcláir. Mar chuid lárnach de seo bhí an aidhm go mbeadh mic léinn CMgS in ann measúnuithe a dhéanamh agus a gcuid staidéir a chríochnú go tráthúil ionas go mbeidis in ann dul ar aghaidh go dtí an chéad bhliain acadúil eile nó céim a bhaint amach. Bhí dhá phríomhghné ag rialú an fhreagra seo, solúbthacht na foirne agus na mac léinn maidir le freastal ar na dúshlán a bhaineann leis an ngéarchéim agus comhbhá a léiriú maidir leis na deacrachtaí áirithe atá roimh gach ball de phobal CMgS, mar aon le freagairt dóibh agus sinn ag gabháil tríd an bpaindéim.

In ainneoin na paindéime, reachtáileadh ócáidí iomráiteacha (fóraim, siompóisiamáí agus comhdhálacha) i rith na bliana 2019/2020, agus chuir gach ceann acu le fíis CMgS mar insti-tiúid a chuireann deiseanna foghlama agus taighde ardleibhéil ar fáil atá ar ardchaighdeán. Chuir na himeachtaí seo lenár gcuspóir go n-aithneofar sinn agus go léireofar meas orainn as ucht an méid atá déanta againn chun cur le contanam an tsoláthair acadúil i gcomhoibriú éifeachtach agus táirgiúil lenár gcomhpháirtithe san Earnáil Ardoideachais. Tá tuilleadh faisnéise faoina hócáidí thuasluaite le fáil sa tuarascáil seo. Tá súil againn go gceapfaidh tú go bhfuil ábhar na tuarascála suimiúil agus faisnéiseach.

Oifig an Uachtaráin, Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál

Déanfar an tuarascáil seo a aistriú go Gaeilge de réir Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (2003) tar éis don tuarascáil a bheith faofa ag an Údarás Rialaithe



GOVERNANCE

TRUSTEES

The Trustees for this period were as follows:

- Most Rev. Brendan Leahy
- Dr Áine Lawlor
- Mr Richard Leonard
- Dr Marie Griffin
- Sr Frances Minahan RSM
- Sr Angela Hartigan RSM
- Most Rev. Kieran O'Reilly
- Most Rev. Raymond Browne
- Mr Sean Burke

The Trustees met on the following dates:

- 5 November 2019
- 17 December 2019
- 26 February 2020
- 28 April 2020
- 1 July 2020

AN tUDARÁS RIALAITHE / GOVERNING BODY

The membership of An tUdarás Rialaithe for this period was as follows:

- Most Rev. Brendan Leahy (Chair)
- Dr Áine Lawlor, (Vice Chair), Trustee nominated from their number
- Professor Eugene Wall, President
- Prof Niamh Hourigan, Vice President Academic Affairs
- Mr Michael Keane, Vice President Administration & Finance
- Ms Catherine Kelly, nominee of the Sisters of Mercy
- Mr Fachtna O'Driscoll, nominee of the Trustees
- Ms Mary Considine, nominee of Trustees
- Ms Helen O'Donnell, nominee of Trustees
- Mr Gerry Reeves, nominee of Trustees
- Ms Maedhbh Uí Chiagáin, nominee of Trustees
- Dr Marie Griffin, nominee of the Sisters of Mercy
- Mr Seán McMahon, Alumni Representative
- Ms Emma Barry, Professional Services Nominee
- Ms Áine Finucane, Professional Services Nominee
- Mr Declan Madden, nominee of Trustees
- Sr Coirle McCarthy, nominee of the Sisters of Mercy
- Dr Des Fitzgerald, President, University of Limerick
- Ms Aisling Cusack, MISU President
- Mr Padraig Murphy, MISU Vice President
- Mr Eamon Stack, nominee of Trustees
- Mr Conn Murray, nominee of Trustees
- Judge Tom O'Donnell, Senior Independent Governor, nominated by the Trustees

An tUdarás Rialaithe / Governing Body met on the following dates:

- 18 September 2019
- 11 December 2019
- 29 January 2020
- 8 April 2020
- 17 June 2020

EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Executive Team acts as an advisory group to the President for the day-to-day management of the College. The Executive Team includes members of the senior College management group, appointed directly by the President.

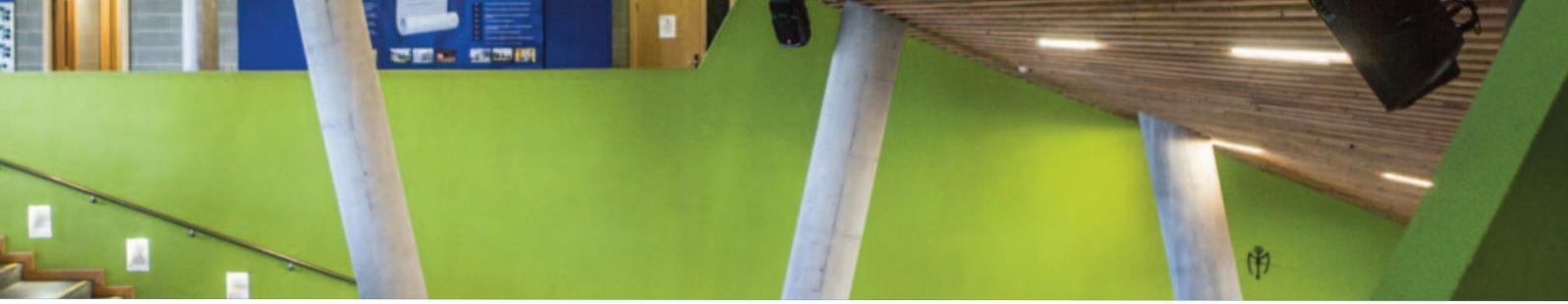
Membership

- Professor Eugene Wall, President
- Prof Niamh Hourigan, Vice-President Academic Affairs
- Mr Michael Keane, Vice-President Administration and Finance
- Professor Gary O'Brien, Vice-President Governance and Strategy
- Prof. Michael Healy, Vice-President Research
- Prof. Emer Ring, Dean of Education
- Prof. Michael Breen, Dean of Arts (On leave Sept 2019 - June 2020)
- Dr John Perry, Dean of Arts (Acting)
- Dr Orla Banks, Director of Executive Operations
- Dr Maeve Liston, Director of Enterprise and Community Engagement
- Dr Gwen Moore, Director of Teaching and Learning
- Mr Frank White, Director of Human Resources
- Dr Geraldine Brosnan, Director of Student Life

The Executive Team met on the following dates during this period:

- 12 September 2019
- 19 September 2019
- 4 October 2019
- 5 November 2019
- 28 November 2019
- 19 December 2019
- 14 January 2020
- 23 January 2020
- 20 February 2020
- 26 March 2020
- 9 April 2020
- 29 April 2020





- 28 May 2020
- 25 June 2020
- 27 August 2020

ACADEMIC COUNCIL (AN CHOMHAIRLE ACADÚIL)

Membership

- Professor Eugene Wall, President
- Prof. Niamh Hourigan, Vice-President Academic Affairs
- Prof. Gary O'Brien, Vice-President Governance and Strategy
- Prof. Michael Healy, Vice-President Research
- Prof. Emer Ring, Dean of Education
- Dr Angela Canny, Assistant Dean of Education
- Professor Michael Breen, Dean of Arts (On leave Sept 2019 - June 2020)
- Dr John Perry, Dean of Arts (Sept 2019 - June 2020)
- Dr Liam Chambers, HoD, History
- Dr Lisha O'Sullivan, HoD, Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Services
- Ms Eucharía McCarthy, Director of Curriculum Development Unit
- Dr Carol O'Sullivan, HoD, Learning, Society and Religious Education
- Ms Aisling Cusack, MISU President
- Mr Padraig Murphy, MISU Vice-President
- Professor Jim Deegan, Head of Graduate School (Retired March 2020)
- Dr Loic Guyon, HoD, French
- Dr Finn Ó Murchú, Head of School of Education (Post-Primary)
- Dr Breandán Ó Cróinín, Ceann Roinn na Gaeilge
- Dr Geraldine Brosnan, Director of Student Life
- Dr Christiane Schönfeld, HoD, German Studies
- Dr Sabine Egger, HoD, German Studies (Acting) (Jan 2020 - May 2020)
- Dr Patrick Connolly, Assistant Registrar
- Ms Aine Finucane, Librarian
- Dr John O'Shea, Course Leader, Bachelor of Education Programme
- Dr Claire Griffin, Course Leader, Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Education & Psychology Programme
- Mr Diarmuid O'Driscoll, HoD, Mathematics and Computer Studies
- Dr Catherine Kavanagh, HoD, Philosophy (Acting)
- Dr Rosemary Day, HoD Media & Communication Studies
- Uas Seán De Brun, HoD, Language, Literacy and Mathematics
- Dr Cathal de Paor, Director of Continuing & Professional Development
- Prof. Eamonn Conway, HoD, Theology & Religious Studies
- Prof. Des McCafferty, HoD, Geography
- Dr Gwen Moore, Director of Teaching and Learning
- Dr Neil Ó Conaill, Director School Placement
- Dr Aisling Leavy, HoD STEM
- Dr Gareth Cox, HoD Music Department
- Dr David Clare, HoD Drama & Theatre Studies (Acting)
- Dr Deirdre Ryan, Director of Quality
- Dr Johanna Fitzgerald, HoD, Special Education
- Dr Maurice Harmon, Acting Head of Department & Senior Lecturer
- Ms Paula Hourigan, Senior Academic Administrator, MIC Thurles
- Dr Déirdre Ní Chróinín, Arts Education & Physical Education
- Dr Eugene O'Brien, HoD English Language & Literature
- Dr Paul Collins, Nominee of Faculty of Arts
- Dr Tom Finegan, Nominee of Faculty of Arts
- Dr Mia Treacy, Nominee of Faculty of Education
- Dr Neasa Ní Chuaig, Nominee of Faculty of Education

Academic Council (An Chomhairle Acadúil) met on the following dates:

- 11 September 2019
- 6 November 2019
- 22 January 2020
- 11 March 2020
- 6 May 2020
- 24 June 2020

EXTERNAL LANDSCAPE

SHANNON CONSORTIUM

In October 2019, the Presidents of MIC, UL and LIT agreed that the Shannon Consortium was to cease to exist as an entity as current government policy in relation to higher education strongly favoured the establishment of technological universities. On 11 October 2019, it was publicly announced that the Governing Body of Limerick Institute of Technology had agreed to form a consortium with Athlone Institute of Technology with the ultimate intention of jointly becoming a technological university, thus limiting the ability for deeper structural linkages between the three higher education institutions in the region, as had previously been the wish of the Shannon Consortium Presidents.

Notwithstanding this, it was envisaged that the three institutions would continue to collaborate on a project-by-project basis. In particular, given the strategically important recommendations in the *Sahlberg II Report*, it was agreed that it was imperative that the National Institute for Studies in Education (NISE) would deliver on its agenda. MIC's existing relationship with UL, as codified under the Memorandum of Understanding between both institutions, remained unaltered.

MIC COLLEGE OF SANCTUARY



The MIC College of Sanctuary campaign to commence the process of applying for a College of Sanctuary Award was officially launched by Prof. Niamh Hourigan on 4 November 2019 at the Research Colloquium/ Lá Taighde - on the theme of Human Slavery, Asylum, Migration & Integration in Ireland, Social Justice & Inclusion Research.

Equal access to Higher Education is enshrined in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and access to education can be fundamental to a person's ability to integrate by creating opportunities to meet new people, build professional networks, gain meaningful employment at a suitable level and contribute to society. University/ College of Sanctuary Ireland (UoSI) is an initiative to encourage and celebrate the good practice of universities, colleges and institutes welcoming refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants into their university communities and fostering a culture of welcome and inclusion for all those seeking sanctuary.

COVID 19

For the period of the physical closure, the College offered the use of its facilities to the HSE should they be required.

HEA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE MEETING

The annual Budget and Strategic Dialogue meeting with the HEA was scheduled to take place on 30 March 2020. In February, the HEA provided feedback on performance as reported by the College in the self-evaluation report submitted to the HEA in October 2019. The evaluation of MIC's performance across the Key System Objectives as provided in the System Performance Framework 2018-2020 was decidedly positive.

This meeting was subsequently postponed by the HEA.

ATHENA SWAN BRONZE AWARD

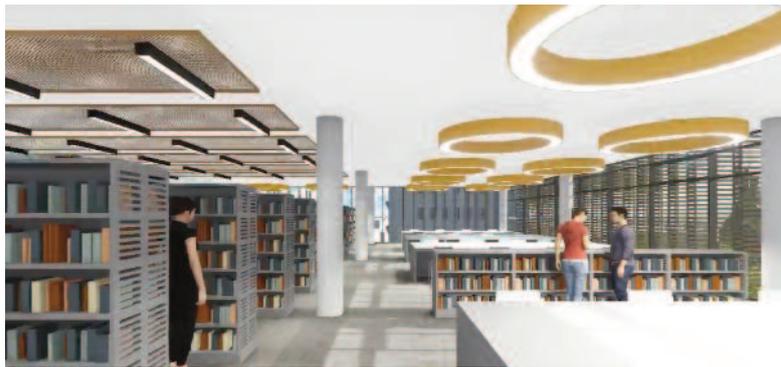
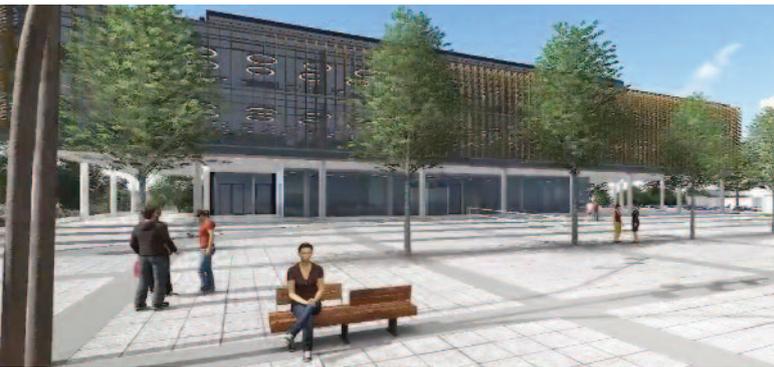


On 18 March 2020, the awardees from the November 2019 round of Athena SWAN assessment panels were announced. MIC attained the Institution Bronze award on its first attempt. There are now a total of 44 Athena SWAN holders in Ireland, 13 at institution level and 31 at department level.

Following 18 months of data-gathering, gap analysis and self-assessment, leading to the development of a strong and ambitious Action Plan, MIC is committed to implementing the four-year action plan and would work towards renewing the Bronze award in 2023 with department level awards to be submitted in the interim. Highlights of the plan include the appointment of academic merit-based promotional posts; the development and implementation of a flexible working policy; the introduction of a workload model; the delivery of EDI, unconscious bias and interview training.

MIC is deeply committed to progressing and embedding gender equality in management, academic, professional and support services and to that end, was delighted at this public recognition of our concerted efforts to address gender equality since becoming a member of the Athena SWAN Charter in 2018.

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT



LIBRARY

The HEA continued to review, in conjunction with the DES, the MIC request for funding to build a new Library/Learning Resource Centre. The College awaits feedback from the HEA on funding for this project.

PROGRAMMES

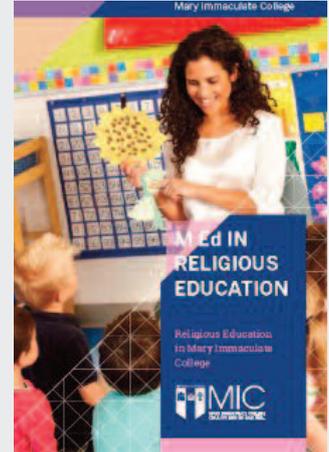
UNDERGRADUATE

A new BA in Education in Mathematics and Gaeilge was introduced at MIC Thurles in September 2019, bringing the number of MIC undergraduate programmes to 10.

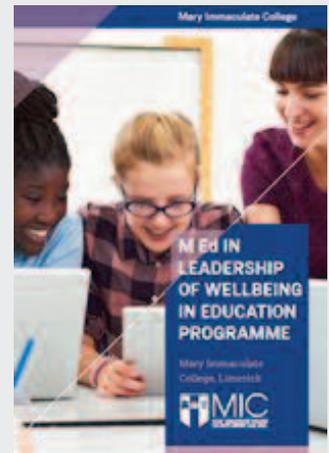
POSTGRADUATE

Two new Master of Education (M.Ed) programmes commenced in September 2019.

The M.Ed in Religious Education, which was designed for teachers and educators who wished to augment their understanding of religious education in the contemporary classroom and become religious education leaders in their schools. The programme offers a variety of experiences to build knowledge, competency and skills in religious education and is framed within the primary school context.



The M.Ed in Leadership and Wellbeing in Education programme, which was designed to provide participants with the skills to assume leadership positions in the promotion of wellbeing in educational settings and the wider community. The programme explores the variety of ways in which wellbeing can be promoted across the curriculum, recognising the impact of the hidden curriculum and the role of the many key stakeholders in education. The promotion of teacher wellbeing is also explored.



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES



Giovani Santos presenting his poster entry

MIC RESEARCH DAY 2019

MIC Research Day 2019 took place on 2 September 2019 in the John Henry Newman Campus. It brought together staff and postgraduate researchers to celebrate their work in research and explore the theme of *Developments in Doctoral Supervision Practices*.

Dr Rebekah Smith McGloin, Director of the Doctoral College and Centre for Research Capability and Development at Coventry University, UK; and Chair of the UK Council on Graduate Education (UKCGE) National Working Group on Diversity and Sustainability of Organizational Structures for Doctoral Provision, gave the keynote presentation entitled, ‘*Models, Structures and Developments in Doctoral Education*’: A UK perspective with a global framing.’



Dr Julianne Stack, Research Postgraduate Quality Manager and Ruth Bourke, Support Worker, Transforming Education through Dialogue (TED).



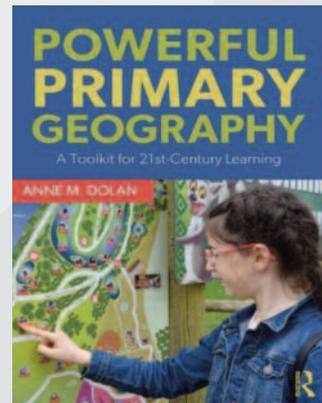
Dr Julianne Stack, Research Postgraduate Quality Manager and PhD student Deborah Tobin.



L-R: Prof. Jim Deegan (Head of Graduate School), Professor Eugene Wall (President, MIC), Dr Rebekah Smith McGloin (Director of the Doctoral College and Centre for Research Capability and Development at Coventry University, UK), and Prof. Michael Healy (VP Research).

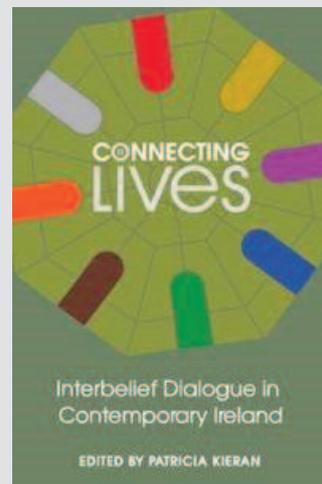
POWERFUL PRIMARY GEOGRAPHY – DR ANNE DOLAN, DEPARTMENT OF LEARNING, SOCIETY AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A new book by Dr Anne Dolan entitled *Powerful Primary Geography* a toolkit for 21st Century Learning was published by Routledge in June 2020.



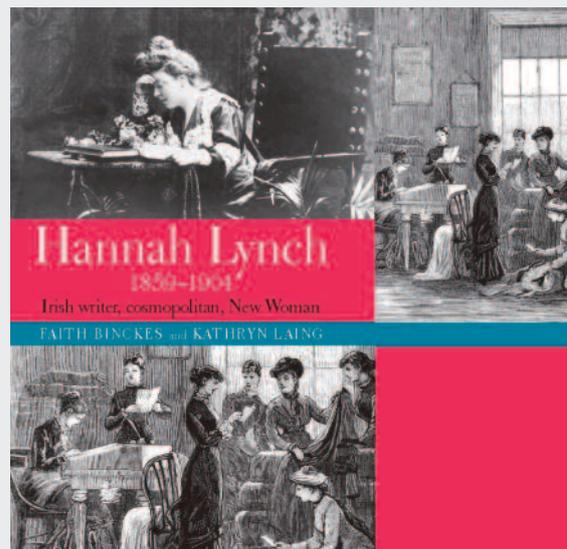
CONNECTING LIVES: INTERBELIEF DIALOGUE IN CONTEMPORARY IRELAND – DR PATRICIA KIERAN

Dr Patricia Kieran published a new book titled: *Connecting Lives: Interbelief Dialogue in Contemporary Ireland*, with Veritas Publications.



HANNAH LYNCH (1859-1904): IRISH WRITER, COSMOPOLITAN, NEW WOMAN – DR KATHRYN LAING

Dr Kathryn Laing, Lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature, MIC and Faith Binckes's book, *Hannah Lynch (1859-1904): Irish Writer, cosmopolitan, New Woman* published by Cork University Press was launched by Professor Margaret Kelleher (UCD) during the IASIL conference in July 2020. This is the first full-length critical study of author, critic and translator Hannah Lynch. It explores her writing and her life, thereby shedding new light on women's cultural and political networks in Ireland and beyond.



ISSA MEMBERSHIP

MIC joined the International STEP by STEP Association in autumn 2019. This is an international learning community powered by the leading early childhood experts in Europe and Central Asia. The ISSA unite and support professionals and partners to deliver high-quality early years services equitably. They actively challenge existing knowledge and practice and co-construct new approaches and models.



Through their work, they advocate for and support competent Early Childhood Systems for all children, especially the most vulnerable. They strive to increase awareness of the importance of Early Childhood Development and of a qualified workforce. As a leading early childhood network and learning community, they promote quality, equitable and integrated services for children, families and practitioners. We look forward to contributing, growing and learning from our participation with ISSA.

RTE'S HOME SCHOOL HUB

From 30 March 2020, RTÉ broadcast an hour of "school on TV" to support primary school children and their parents at home as part of a cross-platform teaching initiative developed by RTÉ and Macalla Teo with the support of the Department of Education and Mary Immaculate College. All content was presented by primary school teachers, modelled, and curated around the existing primary school curriculum. Professor Emer Ring, Dean of Education at MIC provided professional advice and guidance to the presenters of the programme, one of whom, Ray Cuddihy, is a graduate of MIC, which received widespread and enthusiastic commendation across the media and social media in 2020.



BRIDGE BACK TO SCHOOL

MIC together with AsIAM - the Autism Awareness Charity, and SuperValu, developed the Learning Resource Toolkit: *"Bridge Back to School"- An Autism-Friendly Learning Resource for Summer 2020*, which was available at SuperValu stores nationwide in July 2020. Dr Lisha O'Sullivan, Head of Department of Reflective Pedagogy and Early Childhood Studies, Dr Margaret Egan, Lecturer in Inclusive Education, Maria Dervan, PhD student, Niamh Moore, a Professional Doctorate in Educational Psychology (DECPsy) student and Prof. Emer Ring, Dean of Early Childhood and Teacher Education, worked with AsIAM, post-primary teacher Anne Jones and post-primary principal Billy Redmond in developing this toolkit.

CEO of AsIAM, Adam Harris (pictured right) remarked that "The superb team behind the resource has worked to create an inclusive, cross-sectoral, evidence-based tool to support children in the summer of 2020 and beyond'. Adam observed that "the 50 pages cover key topics from social skills to "my first day back in school" and are augmented by an online bank of further information and activity sheets, concluding that 'as with everything we do, autistic experience and voice has been central to our approach."



Pictured: Adam Harris

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



GRADUATION 2019

The annual conferring ceremonies took place on 24, 25 and 26 October 2019 as 1,989 students from 27 counties, 9 countries and 4 continents were conferred with academic awards across the College's 30 plus programmes. Amongst those to graduate were 18 graduands who were conferred with doctoral awards, including the first cohort to graduate with a Professional Doctorate in Educational and Child Psychology (DECPsy), a three-year, full-time professional training course for candidates interested in pursuing careers as educational psychologists.

Other firsts included those graduating from the MA in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths). Established in 2017, the two-year, part-time programme, offered a focus on integrative and innovative approaches to STEM education through exploring socially responsive teaching and research informed by national and international developments in school and education settings. The three-day event also saw the first group to graduate from the BA in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies, an innovative honours degree in drama and theatre studies as well as the first graduates from the Graduate Diploma in Christian Leadership in Education. This year's conferring session also included 887 students graduating with a Level 6 Special Purpose Award from the Leadership for INclusion in the Early Years (LINC) programme.

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

As part of the conferring ceremonies, two students were presented with an Award for Outstanding Achievement in recognition of their non-academic achievements.

Jason Reddan from Limerick City who, in addition to graduating with a BA in Liberal Arts, received the award in recognition of his creative media achievements. An up and coming writer/director and producer, Jason left secondary school early and decided to return to education as a mature student in 2013 when he embarked upon the Foundation Certificate for Mature Learners at MIC. On successful completion of the programme, he

Back row L-R: Dr Lorenzo Girardi, Dr John Perry, Dr Graham Burton, Dr Billy O'Meara, Dr Vicky Brady, Prof. Emer Ring, Dr Adele Hannon, Professor Eugene Wall, Dr Lainey Keane, Dr Maura Moriarty, Dr Ian Hickey, Prof. Niamh Hourigan, Dr Daniel O'Sullivan

Front row L-R: Dr Julianne Stack, Dr Anne O Byrne, Dr Orla Murphy, Dr Kayleigh Sheerin, Dr Aoife Olsthoorn, Dr Charlotte Carey, Dr Alison O'Keeffe, Prof. Jim Deegan.



Pictured: Professor Eugene Wall and Jason Reddan

then went on to pursue a degree in English and Media & Communication Studies (Liberal Arts degree) at MIC. Jason successfully managed his studies with a rising career in film production and his many directorial and writing credits include *Who Cares* (2015), *Streetlights* (2016) which won the world's biggest short film competition MyRodeReel, and more recently *Soviet City* which appeared at the Richard Harris International Film Festival in 2019. Jason has also won a number of national writing competitions including the Hotpress Magazine 'Write Here Write Now' short story competition in 2018 for his story 'What's on your mind' with the award being presented by the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, at the Dublin Writers Centre.

Also from Limerick was Hayleigh Kiely, a second year Primary Teaching student, who was also honoured in recognition of her sporting achievements. Hayleigh, from Moyross, is the holder of six national and international titles in kickboxing, having first commenced her training in the martial arts when she was five years of age.

Since then, she has proceeded to win many national and international titles: including the World Ring Sport Association 'Five Nations Kickboxing Champion' and the Irish Kickboxing Federation 'Irish Low Kick Champion' title in 2019; Irish Kickboxing Federation 'Five Nations Kickboxing Champion' and Unified World Championships Gold Medallist in 2018; Irish Kickboxing Federation 'K1 Champion' and Irish Kickboxing Federation 'Irish Kickboxing National Champion' in 2017.

MIC AWARDS CEREMONY 2019

On 19 November, 130 students, graduates and alumni from MIC were recognised for their academic and other notable achievements, with over €100,000 being presented in scholarships and bursaries at the annual College Awards Ceremony.

Among those receiving awards was founder and Managing Director of Supermac's, entrepreneur Pat McDonagh. Pat graduated from MIC as a primary teacher in 1973, and he was awarded the MIC Alumnus of the Year Award 2019, in recognition of his notable business achievements. Limerick author Róisín Meaney, who graduated from MIC as a primary teacher in 1980, was also an MIC Alumna of the Year awardee for 2019.

The night saw 50 CAO Undergraduate Scholarships, valued at €2000 each, awarded to first-year students on the basis of CAO points obtained in the Leaving Certificate Examinations; while Liam Lenihan, Vice-Chairman of Munster GAA, presented GAA bursaries valued at €750 to nine very deserving MIC students who excelled in their particular sport.

This year also saw the awarding of the inaugural TOMAR Trust Path Scholarship valued at €2,500. This scholarship is offered by the TOMAR Trust to support Mary Immaculate College's PATH programme, which seeks to recognise students who transfer with distinction from their Further Education programme to take up a place in MIC Thurles' teacher preparation programmes. Other awards presented on the night included the John Hayden Memorial Award, the Shellie Murtagh Memorial Bursary;



Pictured: Hayleigh Kiely, a second year Primary Teaching student and the holder of six national and international titles in kickboxing was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award at Graduation 2019.



Pictured: Pat McDonagh, Róisín Meaney, Professor Eugene Wall

Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Education academic awards; the Saint Bonaventure Trust prizes; postgraduate and LINC Programme awards.

IRC GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Tracy McCarthy, Postgraduate Researcher, Department of History, was awarded a Postgraduate Scholarship for a novel research thesis project entitled, “Politics, Disaffection and Rebellion in Connacht, 1775-1800.” Tracy’s research thesis project was supervised by Dr Liam Chambers, Head of the Department of History.

Shane O’Neill, Postgraduate Researcher, Department of Drama and Theatre Studies was awarded a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship for a novel research thesis project entitled, “Analysing Samuel Beckett’s Self-Translation Process through his Dramatic Works”. Shane’s research thesis project was supervised by Dr David Clare and Dr Michael Finneran, Department of Drama and Theatre Studies.



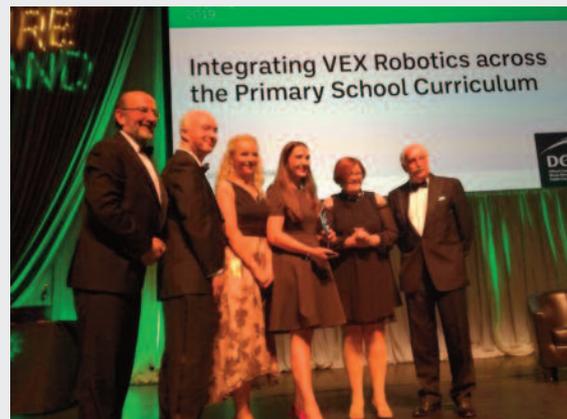
Pictured: Prof. Jim Deegan, HGS with Tracy McCarthy, Postgraduate Researcher in History



Pictured: Prof. Jim Deegan (HGS) with Shane O’Neill, Postgraduate Researcher in Drama & Theatre Studies

TEACHER INSPIRE AWARD

The MIC-Dell VEX Robotics team, led by Dr Maeve Liston, Director of Enterprise and Community Engagement and Senior Lecturer in Science Education at MIC, was awarded a Teacher Inspire Award from the Teaching Council in recognition of their efforts to integrate robotics across the primary school curriculum. The Vex Robotics programme was one of four programmes across the country to be short-listed as part of the inaugural Teachers Inspire Ireland initiative. The project scooped the Teaching Council’s Collaboration Award at the ceremony in Dublin City University (DCU) on 4 October and was chosen by the Council as an exemplar of the transformative role that teachers play in our communities and society through collaboration.



The MIC-Dell VEX Robotics team, led by Dr Maeve Liston, Director of Enterprise and Community Engagement and Senior Lecturer in Science Education at MIC with Tomás ÓRuaric, CEO, Teaching Council, Prof. Brian MacCraith, President DCU.

PSYCHOLOGY AWARDS PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Two MIC students won awards at the 2020 Psychological Society of Ireland All-Ireland Student Congress. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the conference, which was due to be held in UCC, was moved online with students from across the country submitting posters based on research conducted for their undergraduate dissertations in psychology.

Laura Phelan and Cora Howe, both final year students on the Bachelor of Education and Psychology programme at MIC, received awards for their work. Laura was one of only two overall winners in the undergraduate category, while Cora was Highly Commended for her research.

Laura, who hails from Castletown in Co. Laois, gained the award for her final year project *'I Get Knocked Down, but I Get Up Again: Exploring Sports Injury-Related Growth in GAA Athletes'*, which examined GAA athletes' levels of social support, their mental toughness, and whether they had benefitted as a result of their injury.

Cora's final year dissertation, *'Alienating Assessment: The Effects of a Label of Special Educational Needs and Vicarious Contact on Writing Assessment'*, explored assessment for students with special education needs and examined if adding a label of special educational needs onto a child's writing would change the way teachers assess that writing. In her research, Cora also questioned how the media affects teachers' intrinsic attitudes towards children with special educational needs.



Laura Phelan



Cora Howe

MIC LECTURERS RECOGNISED FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Two lecturers at MIC were shortlisted for the 2020 Mid-West Regional Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr Maeve Liston and Anne-Marie Morrin were two of seven academics to be shortlisted for the award, which aimed to showcase and champion outstanding practice in higher education teaching across the Mid-West Region.



Dr Maeve Liston, Director of Enterprise & Community Engagement



Anne-Marie Morrin, Lecturer, Dept. Arts Education and Physical Education

DR MICHAEL FINNERAN DCU WALL OF FAME

Dr Michael Finneran was added to the DCU Alumni Wall of Fame in July 2020. At a virtual event, Michael was honoured along with 10 other awardees for his distinguished contribution to the field of drama and theatre education.



Dr Michael Finneran, Head of the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL WORK



CITY CONNECTS

Following a lengthy period of exploration and discussion, the planning phase of the City Connects project commenced in the North East Inner City (NEIC) of Dublin in autumn 2019, supported by the DES, the DCYA and TUSLA. City Connects is a highly effective, school intervention project that was developed by Boston College, and it operates in six states in the US under the auspices of Boston College. Through their partnership with Boston College, MIC were instrumental in bringing the Project to Ireland and continued to be partners in the rollout of the Project in 10 inner-city Dublin schools when it moved into the implementation phase which commenced in January 2020.

Pictured: Stanton E.F. Wortham, the Charles F. Donovan, S.J. Dean of Boston Colleges Lynch School of Education, Mary Immaculate College President, Eugene Wall, and Boston College Provost and Dean of Faculties, David Quigley, at the signing of the five-year, renewable agreement.

PROF. EMER RING PRESENTATION TO THE NATIONAL TEACHERS CONFERENCE, UGANDA

The Department of Education and Skills invited Prof. Emer Ring, Dean of Education at MIC, to present at the Ugandan Teachers Conference to over 4,000 Ugandan teachers in Kampala, on 6 and 7 September 2019.



Pictured: Prof. Emer Ring pictured with the First Lady of Uganda and Minister of Education, Hon. Janet K. Museveni

MEETING WITH THE BRAZILIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Courtesy of Government of Ireland Academic Mobility funding, Professor Eugene Wall, President, accompanied by Holly Cowman, Director of International Engagement and Dr Finn Ó Murchú, Head of School, MIC Thurles, travelled to Brazil in November 2019 for a number of high-level strategic meetings including with the Brazilian Ministry of Education, the Municipal Secretariat of Education and the Secretariat of Education for the State of São Paulo. The trip also saw the President signing an MoU with the Rector of Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF). UFF is a top research university and shares MIC’s commitment to fostering inclusive education, diversity and accessibility.



Pictured: Professor Eugene Wall, Mr Carlos Lenuzza, CAPES, H.E. Ambassador Seán Hoy, Holly Cowman, Dr Sarah O’Brien, Dr Finn Ó Murchú, Andrea Oliveira, CAPES, and Declan Heery, Deputy Head of Mission, Irish Embassy, Brazil.



Pictured: Professor Eugene Wall with Prof. Antonio Claudio Lucas da Nóbrega, Rector of UFF.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL TASTER SESSIONS

Successful virtual summer school taster sessions for international students and visitors were held between 13 - 17 July 2020. Over 400 guests registered through Eventbrite from all over the USA, Latin America, China, and Europe. The International Office team were very pleased with the interest and with the interaction during the classes and in the weeks after the sessions.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION PROJECT IN IRELAND

On 1 November 2019, MIC hosted a research colloquium entitled “Human Slavery, Asylum, Migration & Integration in Ireland: Social Justice & Inclusion Research in MIC” which highlighted the issue of modern slavery and human trafficking. Based on a research project examining the scale and scope of human trafficking and exploitation on the island of Ireland, the colloquium questioned whether official statistics from Ireland and Northern Ireland underestimate the number of victims of human trafficking in both jurisdictions. It also recognised a lack of awareness in Ireland of the crime of human trafficking and highlighted the need to provide leadership and training for all sectors who might come into contact with victims of trafficking to enable them to identify and assist such victims. The Colloquium focused on the work of the Global Santa Marta Group, of which MIC is a member, and the research of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Project in Ireland (HTEPII), which is led by MIC and co-funded by An Garda Síochána, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), the Department of Justice Northern Ireland and MIC.

It also heard a report from the “Embracing Diversity, Nurturing Integration Project” (EDNIP), co-funded through the EU Asylum Migration & Integration Fund and private donors and led by Dr Ann Higgins and Áine Lyne. This project focuses on positive research-based interventions in a number of DEIS schools to support the integration of migrant communities, families and children into the school system. The colloquium concluded with Dr Ailbhe Kenny reporting on themes from a project funded by Creative Ireland involving Connecting Communities - Song Seeking in Direct Provision contexts. These two reports highlighted the positive impact of the research projects in the lives of children and families in immigrant families integrating into Irish society.

Individually and taken together, the themes of the research colloquium represent a new contribution to the College’s social justice agenda as set out in its current Strategic Plan 2023 - A Flourishing Learning Community.

MIC / HSE NATIONAL CHILDREN’S DISABILITY CONFERENCE 2019

On 6 December 2019, MIC, in partnership with the HSE, hosted a national children’s disability conference, which shared best practice, ideas and innovation with parents and health professionals, whilst also recognising the on-going challenges in meeting the demand for services. The second national Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS) Conference brought together 450 HSE staff and parents onsite at MIC Limerick with an additional 600 people joining via Webinar.

The one-day conference focused on Family Centred Practice and the benefits of this partnership approach in supporting children with a disability and their families. In the past, services had a professional-centred model where professionals were seen as the experts who determined the needs of people with a disability. In recent years there has been a steady change in approach with Family Centred Practice changing how the HSE delivers services.



Pictured: Professor Michael Breen, Dr Amy Healy, Kevin Hyland (Global Santa Marta Group and former UK Antislavery Commissioner) Professor Niamh Hourigan, Vice-President Academic Affairs and Professor Michael Healy, Vice-President Research.



Prof. Gary O'Brien, Vice-President Governance & Strategy, Dr Anne O'Bryne, Lecturer in Inclusive & Special Education and Prof. Emer Ring, Dean of Education, MIC.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CULTURE



Culture Night 2019 @ MIC Thurles

The Mary Immaculate College Thurles community invites the public to join with us and celebrate Culture Night this Friday the 20th of September between 5.30pm and 8.00pm

5.30-6pm: Tours of the campus by Ruth Talbot, MIC. Meeting at the Conference Room, just off main reception area.

6-6.30pm: Musical Performances by Students from the Presentation Secondary School Thurles. Room G05

6.30-7pm: Tours of our campus by Ruth Talbot, MIC. Meeting at the Conference Room, just off main reception area.

6.30-7pm: Lecture 'A Catholic Education for Catholic People: The Seminal role of the Synod of Thurles (1850) in the development of denominational education in Ireland' by Molly Daly, MIC. Room G09

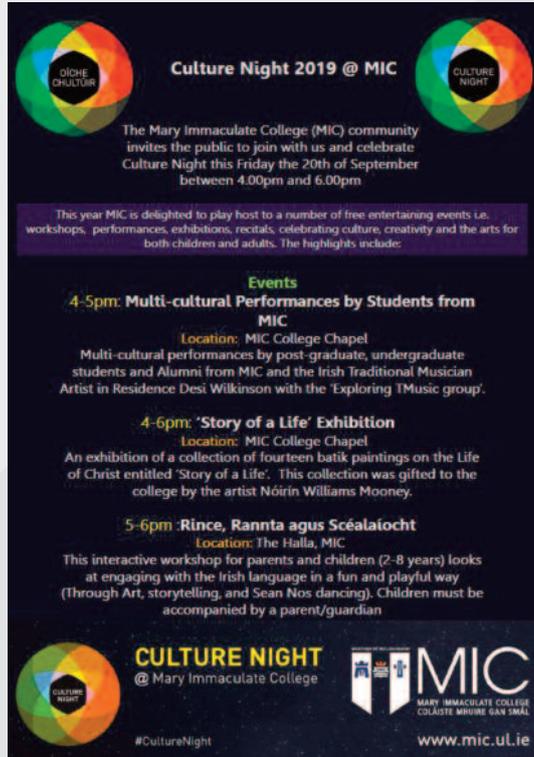
7-7.30pm: Geraldine Delaney & the First Friday Singers, a musical and singing group from Thurles. Room G05

7.30-8pm: Tours of our campus by Ruth Talbot, MIC. Meeting at the Conference Room, just off main reception area.

CULTURE NIGHT
MIC Thurles

MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE
COLAISTE MHIURÉ GAN SMÁL

#CultureNight www.mic.ul.ie



Culture Night 2019 @ MIC

The Mary Immaculate College (MIC) community invites the public to join with us and celebrate Culture Night this Friday the 20th of September between 4.00pm and 6.00pm

This year MIC is delighted to play host to a number of free entertaining events i.e. workshops, performances, exhibitions, recitals, celebrating culture, creativity and the arts for both children and adults. The highlights include:

Events

4-5pm: Multi-cultural Performances by Students from MIC
Location: MIC College Chapel
Multi-cultural performances by post-graduate, undergraduate students and Alumni from MIC and the Irish Traditional Musician Artist in Residence Desi Wilkinson with the 'Exploring TMusic group'.

4-6pm: 'Story of a Life' Exhibition
Location: MIC College Chapel
An exhibition of a collection of fourteen batik paintings on the Life of Christ entitled 'Story of a Life'. This collection was gifted to the college by the artist Nóirín Williams Mooney.

5-6pm: Rince, Rannta agus Scéalaíocht
Location: The Halla, MIC
This interactive workshop for parents and children (2-8 years) looks at engaging with the Irish language in a fun and playful way (Through Art, storytelling, and Sean Nos dancing). Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian

CULTURE NIGHT
@ Mary Immaculate College

MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE
COLAISTE MHIURÉ GAN SMÁL

#CultureNight www.mic.ul.ie

CULTURE NIGHT 2019

Mary Immaculate College opened its doors to the public on 20 September 2019 to celebrate Culture Night. This year, Culture Night at MIC was particularly special, with MIC Thurles participating Culture Night for the first time.

MIC AWARDED €350K TOWARDS NEXT-GENERATION STEAM INITIATIVE

MIC was awarded €350,000 in December 2019 towards the development of a major STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) outreach initiative which will see the establishment of a dynamic and interactive public exhibition and interactive workshop space entitled CRAFT Maker Space, allowing for the innovative fusion of creative arts and STEM education. This space will be located in the John Henry Newman Campus and will be the first of its kind to be located in the Mid-West region.

The funding was awarded by the Higher Education Authority as part of a competitive performance evaluation process to recognise the impact of Irish higher education institutions in alignment with national priorities and targets. An independent review panel took particular note of the leadership shown by MIC in recent years in the promotion of STEM education and its partnership with schools, industry and other stakeholders in fostering the development of STEM skills in children.

SPACE WEEK

MIC hosted three Space STEM workshops during Space Week (30 September to 4 October 2019) for pupils from Scoil Mháthair Dé, & St John's National School on the history of space travel and gravity as well as celebrating the 50th anniversary of the landing on the moon by Apollo 11.



MATHS WEEK

MIC hosted three events to mark Maths Week 2019 (14 – 18 October 2019).

SCIENCE WEEK

MIC made a major contribution to the Tipperary Festival of Science (TFS) which took place during Science Week 2019 (10 – 17 November 2019). This event attracted almost 4,000 people and featured a week of over 50 STEM & STEAM based activities for all ages to engage in the fascinating world of science. The theme for Science Week 2019 was Climate Change and to mark this, Coillte donated a total of 30,000 native tree saplings to festivals around the country. Unprecedented demand for the saplings saw the 3,600 saplings received by Tipperary Festival of Science distributed to members of the public in under three hours from MIC Thurles.

2019 was the fourth year that Mary Immaculate College in conjunction with LIT have run the Tipperary Festival of Science. In addition to support from the Irish American Partnership, funding for the festival is being provided by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) under their SFI Discovery Programme.





Ladies Football - Division 4 league winners

- Ladies Football** – Division 2 league finalists
- Ladies Football** – Division 4 league winners
- Intermediate hurling** – Munster and All Ireland league winners
- Ladies Basketball** – Division 3 league finalists
- Mens Senior Football** – Trench Cup finalists
- Senior Hurling** – Fitzgibbon Cup semi finalists
- Intermediate Hurling** – Munster championship winners and All Ireland finalists
- Fresher Hurling A** – All Ireland league finalists
- Martial Arts** - Hayleigh Kiely, Irish Kickboxing Champion 2019

All-Ireland Hurling Winners:

We were delighted to see so many MIC alumni on the winning All-Ireland Senior Hurling team in 2019.

Tipperary - MIC Alumni

- Ronan Maher
- Seamus Kennedy
- Alan Flynn
- David Sweeney
- Brendan Maher
- Niall O Meara

Tipperary U20 All Ireland Hurling Winners:

MIC had five current students on the Tipperary U20 All Ireland Hurling winning team.

- Craig Morgan
- Johnny Ryan
- Andy Ormond
- Ray McCormack
- Cathal Bourke



Ladies Basketball - Division 3 league finalists



Fitzgibbon Cup semi-finalists



Trench Cup finalists

GRADUATION NUMBERS 2019

COURSE	NO. GRADUATED
Bachelor of Arts	236
Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies	10
Graduate Certificate in Christian Leadership in Education	33
Graduate Diploma in Christian Leadership in Education	3
Graduate Diploma in Media Studies	1
Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics	6
Master of Arts in Christian Leadership in Education	9
Master of Arts in International Development Practice	1
Master of Arts in Media Studies	12
Master of Arts (Research & Thesis)	1
Doctor of Philosophy (Arts)	6
Graduate Certificate in Autism Studies	47
Graduate Diploma in Special Education	49
Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education	1
Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Care and Education	79
Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Practice	39
Bachelor of Education	393
Bachelor of Education in Education and Psychology	31
Graduate Diploma in Adult and Further Education	15
Master of Arts in STEM Education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)	5
Master of Arts in Education & Well-being of the Older Person	1
Doctorate in Educational and Child Psychology	9
Certificate in Education Studies (Level 7 - Minor Award)	1
Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies (Level 7)	1
Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies (Level 8)	1
Bachelor of Arts in Education, Business Studies and Accounting	1
Bachelor of Arts in Education, Business Studies and Religious Studies	1
Bachelor of Arts in Education, Gaeilge and Religious Studies	1
Professional Master of Education (Primary Teaching)	64
Master of Education	14
Master of Education in Special Education	3
Teastas san Oideachas san Oideachas Lán-Ghaeilge agus Gaeltachta	2
Máistreacht San Oideachas San Oideachas Lán-Ghaeilge	10
Graduate Diploma in Literacy Education	4
Master in Education in Educational Leadership and Management	5
Certificate in General Learning & Personal Development	2
Master of Arts in Education (Research and Thesis)	2
Doctor of Philosophy (Education)	3
Certificate in Leadership for INCLUSION in the Early Years	887
Total Graduating numbers:	1989

Energy Usage

ENERGY USAGE 2020

The complete data set for energy usage for the AY 2019-20 will not be available until the end of May 2021. This information will be inserted then.



The College confirms that fees and/or expenses paid to members of the Trustees and the Governing Authority are in accordance with the guidelines from the Department of Finance were €2791 for the year 2020 and will be presented in the College's Annual Report for the year 2020 when the audit of the 2019/2020 accounts is completed.

NOTE FOR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Capital Commitments and Enhancement of the College Campus

The College has completed significant refurbishment works to its Arts office and relocated Strategic Communications & Marketing offices to provide more welcoming and pleasant environments to staff and student users here.

The College has obtained Planning Permission to construct a new Library / Learning Resource Centre on Limerick Campus and this project awaits confirmation of funding.

The College upgraded and enhanced capacity in the "Mercy wing" lecture hall on Thurles campus to accommodate growing class sizes attending Thurles campus.





BRIATHAR DE MO LOCHRANN



MIC

MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE
COLÁISTE MUIRE GAN SMÁL