



Loyola Institute Newsletter

Autumn 2017



Mary Stefanazzi is the first Loyola Institute student to be awarded a PhD - an important landmark for us as well as for her.

Mary's thesis is on "The Narrative of Human Flourishing: A study of the dialogue between Victor White (Theologian) and Carl Jung (Analytical Psychology) on the frontier between theology and psychology."

Mary is photographed after graduation with Dr Bob Geldof, who received an honorary degree for his "contribution to society" at the same ceremony.

A Hunger for Depth and Meaning

On Friday September 15th and Saturday September 16th the Synge Lecture Theatre was full to capacity, the occasion being a two-day International Conference titled, 'John Main: A Hunger for Depth and Meaning.'

John Main studied Law at Trinity College (1950-1954). He became Regius Professor of Law in College (1956-1958). Thereafter he became a Benedictine monk and explored resonances of prayer and meditation in what was described as 'the universal wisdom of humankind' linked with the centuries-long Christian tradition of contemplative prayer and mystical theology. Set in the university context which helped form him, the conference explored John Main's thought and the Christian mystical theology traditions which continues to have great relevance today.

The conference demonstrated how it is that a great symphony of different voices comprises the Christian mystical tradition. Four lectures from Professor Bernard McGinn, widely regarded as the preeminent scholar of mysticism in the Western Christian

Please turn over



Neville Cox, Dean of Graduate Studies TCD, Prof Bernard McGinn, Chicago University, Dr Fainche Ryan Director of Loyola Institute TCD, Laurence Freeman OSB

Hunger for Depth and Meaning (contd)



A full house listening to Prof. Bernard McGinn



Loyola Institute students at the conference.

tradition, anchored the academic programme, amplified and enriched by several other eminent academics, including Dr Mary O'Driscoll (Catherine of Siena and Meister Eckhart), Dr Anne Marie Karlson (Thomas Merton), and Loyola Institute academics Drs Con Casey and Fáinche Ryan who spoke on the Book of Kells as a resource for contemplative prayer. Throughout Laurence Freeman, with others, wonderfully explored the thought and prayer practice of John Main Dr Neville Cox, introducing the Conference, commented on how apt it was that a University should host this exploration of 'the hunger for depth and meaning', and warmly complimented the initiative.

Dr Con Casey, Associate Director, Loyola Institute

We asked some of our staff about what they were excited about teaching this year:

Assistant Professor of Theological

Ethics Jacob Erickson writes: "I'm excited to teach Deanna Thompson's book *The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World* (Abingdon Press, 2016) for my Ethics of Embodiment module. Thompson is a brilliant theologian who writes beautifully about the trials and tribulations of everyday life with an eye to fresh theological concepts. In this book, she reflects on her journey with stage IV cancer and how she came to a different understanding of churchly life, a different sense of the theology and ethics of the "Body of Christ" in a digital age. Can virtual connectedness be an ethical tool for attending to suffering in the world? Thompson makes a compelling case for the positive power of internet community, while also acknowledging its pitfalls."



Assistant Professor in Theology in the Catholic Tradition Katie Dunne

"Elizabeth Johnson's *Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God* - a wonderful text for undergraduates considering pressing contemporary theological issues. Johnson always offers significant insight, and speaks powerfully about what it means to search for who God is...and how God acts in the world..."



Loyola Institute Lecture Series 2017/2018

Wednesday 22nd November

Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ – *Jansenism: Friend or Foe?*

Wednesday 31st January

Dr Michael Kirwan

"Stand upright and raise your head!"

Doing theology in dangerous times

Wednesday 28th February

Dr. Pat Riordan S.J. – *Does Common Good Mean Anything?*

Wednesday 28th March

Sylvie Goulard – *Brexit and Europe, a political and spiritual challenge*

Thursday 12th April

Prof Lisa Sowle-Cahill – *Title to be confirmed*

**All lectures are at 7.30 pm in
Loyola Institute, Loyola/ISE Building, TCD
Admission Free and all welcome;
See more at www.tcd.ie/loyola-institute**

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INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC WEEKLY JOURNAL

New MPhil in Christian Theology

By Dr Fáinche Ryan, Director of the Loyola Institute

The Masters in Christian Theology got off to a great start this September (2017). The students come from the United States, the United Kingdom as well as from Ireland. There is an RE teacher, a College Chaplain, a housewife, and a project manager, among the student body. This rich variety of experiences and educational backgrounds adds greatly to the classroom discussions. The explorations of theology remain lively, as students and staff grapple with key questions of our time.

The programme is designed in such a way that people working full-time can complete the required six taught modules in the evenings (Mondays and Thursdays). In addition, for those who are free, or who work flexible hours, there are one or two optional modules offered during day time.



Leslie Flores has won the Dominic Barberi Studentship. Scholarship funded by Passionist Provinces of Britain and Ireland (St Joseph's Province and St Patrick's Province) & presented by Fr James Sweeney CP

King David according to Bertolt Brecht

Largely forgotten, even by those familiar with his work, Brecht's theatrical fragments of a life of David flowed from his pen just after the Great War but just prior to the arrival of the Kleist Prize in 1922 and the acclaim that would launch his extraordinary career. His own diaries from the time offer a vivid picture of the young Brecht shuttling between Munich and the family home in Augsburg, surrounded by friends, torn between women, desperate for success, and all the while with 'David on the brain'. It is this David, alluded to in the diaries and exhumed from Brecht's notebooks, which Drs David Shepherd (Loyola Institute) and Nicholas Johnson (TCD Drama) adapted for the stage for the first time in English, and offered to audiences in Dublin (Beckett Theatre) and London (Greenwood Theatre) this past July as *The David Fragments*. Drawing on theatrical experiments with an ensemble, the play offers new insights into the early Brecht: a writer entranced but not enchanted by the biblical David and utterly committed to translating the biblical tradition into his own evolving theatrical idiom.



Beverley Collins & Edith O'Nuallain winners of Sean O'Riordan Scholarships sponsored by the Redemptorists. Beverley and Edith are photographed with Fr Dan Baragry CSsR, Provincial of the Irish Redemptorists.

As well as helping people who wish to pursue further study in theology, or those who wish to seek employment in church work, this MPhil is proving attractive to people who simply want to know more about God, and to those who want to explore what the rich Christian traditions may have to offer in discussion, and indeed often in confrontation, with the major and often very menacing issues of today. Our hope is that, having had a good start this year, we will build on this in the years ahead.



The Loyola Trust sponsored a scholarship specifically to encourage religious education teachers to study theology. Rionach Donlon of the Loyola Trust with the winner Eoin Walshe. Eoin is RE teacher in Le Chéile Secondary School – Secondary School in Tyrrelstown.



A year in Göttingen

By Alun Morton Thomas,
2nd year PhD candidate, Loyola Institute.

'Situated near the scenic Harz region, Göttingen is a historic university city close to the geographical centre of Germany. Boasting a long tradition of German biblical scholarship, Göttingen has nurtured such luminaries as Julius Wellhausen, Alfred Rahlfs and Walther Zimmerli. It continues to be an important centre for biblical research, being the home of the *Septuaginta-Unternehmen* and new research areas such as the Hebrew-Aramaic Lexicon project and the *Scripta Qumranica Electronica*. Having been awarded a one-year DAAD (*Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst*) scholarship based on the promise of my doctoral studies at the Loyola Institute, Göttingen seemed a natural place to spend my time in Germany.

During my stay, I was under the supervision of Prof Reinhard Kratz (Theologikum, Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities) who directed my ongoing investigation of the translation technique(s) of the earliest known Aramaic and Greek translations of the Book of Job. I was invited to present a paper on an aspect of my research at the *Seminar für Altes Testament Doktorandenkolloquium* (Old Testament Seminar) which was an intense yet stimulating experience. I was also able to explore fields not strictly within my domain such as taking a course in a South Semitic language - Classical Ethiopic (Ge'ez). While the intellectual benefits were substantial, it was also a personally enriching experience, allowing me to meet new colleagues and friends from around the world. Living in Germany really helped me to improve my German, to try kayaking, and most importantly of all - taste some excellent *Bratwurst*!



The Theologikum Göttingen where Loyola PhD student Alun Morton Thomas spent a year.



Colm Fitzpatrick, who has just entered 4th year of the Loyola CTS degree spent part of this summer as an intern in the *Irish Catholic*. Here he is photographed with the *Irish Catholic* Editor Michael Kelly.



The Loyola Institute

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

is dedicated to education and research in theology
in the broad Catholic tradition and offers degrees at
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