

FABULOUS FEBRUARY

**POLITICS WEEK WILL TAKE
PLACE FROM 8-11 FEBRUARY**

As ever, the Government Ball will be a big part of Politics Week!



**CENTRE FOR LOCAL
AND REGIONAL
GOVERNANCE WILL BE
LAUNCHED ON 25
FEBRUARY**

H'Angus the Monkey, the former Mayor of Hartlepool (aka Stuart Drummond) will be speaking at the launch of the CLRG.



***ENJOY ISSUE 67 OF
GOVERNMENT
TIMES!***

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SUPPORT POLITICS WEEK 2016

Politics Week is a key part of the academic year for BSc Government students. As you will see on page 5, the Government and Politics Society has put together a tremendous programme of events for next week. Students and staff alike always greatly look forward to the Government Cup (on Wednesday) and the Government Ball (on Thursday). The theme for the Ball this year is 'Mad Men' so we expect some great style with skinny suits, hostess dresses, plaids and high heels (and that is just the guys). We would encourage students to attend and take part in the other events as well, including the 'Women in Politics' debate on Tuesday and the opening ceremony at 7:00pm on Monday in West Wing 5.



There is a lot for you to enjoy in this issue of *Government Times* and the launch of the Centre for Local and Regional Governance (CLRG) on Thursday 25 February features prominently. In particular, we look forward to welcoming Stuart Drummond, aka H'Angus the Monkey, the three-times directly elected mayor of Hartlepool.

Aodh, Noelle, Jessica, Richard and Emily

Distinguished Guests Visit Department



In the lead-up to Christmas we had the privilege of welcoming some high profile guests to the Department of Government to deliver stimulating lectures. Former Taoiseach, **Brian Cowen** (top left) spent two hours with the Executive MBA class as part of Dr Aodh Quinlivan's Public Sector module and he openly answered a vast array of questions about government, public policy and public management. As you know, **Colm O'Gorman** (top right) delivered the 17th annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture (see page 14) and, based on feedback, it was one of the best Monahan lectures we have ever run.

Leader of Fianna Fáil, **Micheál Martin** (bottom left) gave a lecture on our International Public Policy and Diplomacy masters programme to an appreciative audience. The programme is run by Dr Niall Duggan. **Robert Watt** (bottom right), Secretary General at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform presented to the Executive MBA class and it proved to be a highlight of the year as he spoke candidly on the public sector reform challenges in Ireland.

POLITICS WEEK

FEB 8 - FEB 11



FEB 8- MONDAY

Opening Ceremony and
Social
7 pm , West Wing 5

FEB 9- Tuesday

UCC Jailbreak
Sign up between 10-12pm
Outside Boole's Library

'Women in Politics'
Panel of Guest Speakers
7:30 pm Kane Building
G19

FEB 10- Wednesday

Government Cup and
Social
11-2pm, Mardyke Arena
Social @8pm, Abbey Tavern

Feb 11- Thursday

'Mad Men' Politics
Annual Ball
The Imperial Hotel,
South Mall

 facebook.com/PolSocUCC

 <https://twitter.com/PolSocUCC>

LAUNCH OF CENTRE FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNANCE



A new research centre in the Department of Government – Centre for Local and Regional Governance (CLRG) - will be officially launched in UCC on **Thursday 25 February**. The remit of the CLRG is to foster innovative research in the areas of local and regional governance. It is hoped that the research initiatives of the centre will help to open a constructive dialogue about sub-national government at home and abroad and will help drive change at the level of local and regional government. The CLRG will also provide a platform where a wide variety of stakeholders including politicians, practitioners, business interests, civic society and academics can collaborate on innovative research projects.

The main launch event is the inaugural lectures series on the theme, **The Future of Local Government: Opportunities and Threats**. The lectures will take place in West Wing 5 and we have an exciting line-up of speakers, as follows:

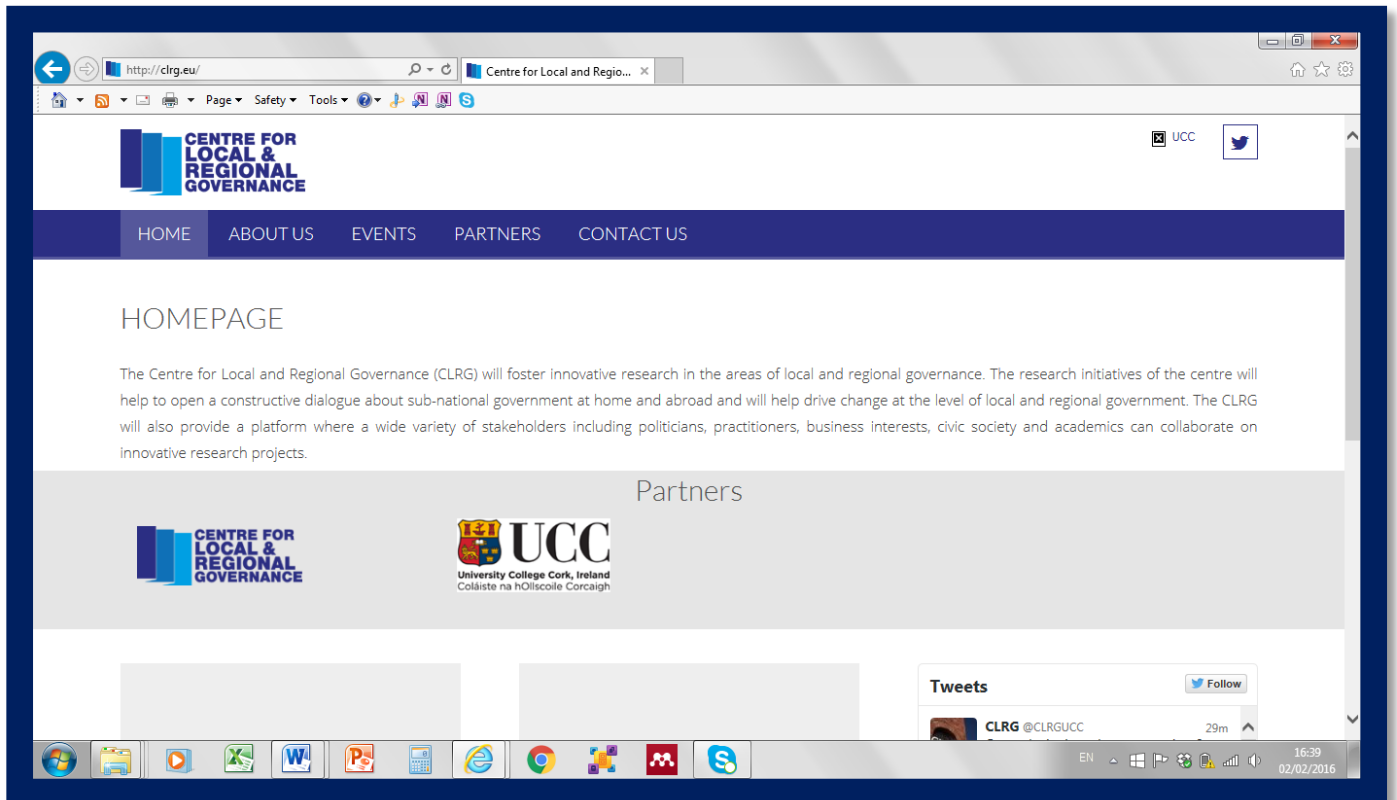
- **Danny McLoughlin**, Chief Executive, South Dublin County Council
- **Professor Colin Copus** – Professor of Local Politics at De Montfort University, Leicester and Head of the Local Governance Research Unit.
- **Karen Smyth** – Head of Policy, Northern Ireland Local Government Association
- **Stuart Drummond** – First Independent directly elected mayor in the UK; former Mayor of Hartlepool (aka H'Angus the Monkey)

The session will be chaired by broadcaster, **Deirdre O'Shaughnessy**.

After the lectures, there is a drinks reception in the O'Rahilly Building (Second Floor, Block B) at which the CLRG will be officially launched by Professor Colin Copus and Professor Anita Maguire, Vice-President for Research and Innovation, UCC.

Director of the CLRG, Dr Aodh Quinlivan, says, 'We have a really exciting panel of speakers lined up, each of whom has an excellent reputation in the field of local government. I am especially looking forward to Stuart Drummond as I have been mentioning him in my lectures for a long time! He shot to fame in 2002 when he was elected Mayor of Hartlepool as an independent candidate dressed in a monkey suit as H'Angus the Monkey. Stuart was a successful and innovative mayor and was re-elected in 2005 and 2009. However, in 2012, the people of Hartlepool (on an 18% turnout) voted to abolish the office of directly elected mayor and Stuart's term came to an end the following year. I am sure Stuart will have an interesting story to tell.'

Places are limited for the CLRG lectures series and launch but – if you are interested in attending – please e-mail Dr Aodh Quinlivan by Monday 22 February at a.quinlivan@ucc.ie



<http://clrg.eu/>

The CLRG webs site is currently under construction but it will be live for 25 February at the above address.

All our latest news and details of our upcoming events will be on the site.

*25 February 2016,
6:00pm, West Wing 5,
UCC*

The Future of Local Government

- Ⓢ **DANNY McLOUGHLIN** – Chief Executive, South Dublin County Council
- Ⓢ **KAREN SMYTH** – Head of Policy, NI Local Government Association
- Ⓢ **PROFESSOR COLIN COPUS** – De Montfort University, Leicester
- Ⓢ **STUART DRUMMOND** – Former Mayor of Hartlepool



**Chaired by
DEIRDRE O'SHAUGHNESSY**



After the lectures, there will be a reception in the O'Rahilly Building (2nd Floor, Block B) to officially launch the Centre for Local and Regional Governance (CLRG). The CLRG will be launched by Professor Colin Copus and by Professor Anita Maguire.

Places are limited, but if you would like to attend, please e-mail Dr Aodh Quinlivan at: a.quinlivan@ucc.ie

BSC GOVERNMENT GRADUATE PROFILE: DR MATTHEW RYAN (2008)

Interview by Richard Creedon (BSc Government II)



Where do you work?

University of Southampton, UK.

What is your job title?

Lecturer in Governance and Public Policy

What year did you graduate with a BSc Government?

2008

Did you do any post-grad?

I came to Southampton in 2008 and never left. They gave me an MSc in Citizenship and Democracy in 2010 and a PhD in 2015, and a job at some point in between.

Where did you go on work placement? What can you tell us about the experience?

I went to the New York State Assembly and worked with Assemblyman Mike Cusick – I think I was his first Irish intern but there have been a few since I'm sure. He and his Chief of staff, Sharon, gave me tons of responsibility and I learned shedloads. I've been trying to modify our curriculum here in Southampton to

involve a similar experience because it did a lot for me. I also was the only male out of the six students sent over that year- living with five girls provided another sort of learning experience! We still have a beer when we're in Cork.

Were you involved in any clubs or societies? Did you hold any committee positions?

I was in the Government and Politics Society around the time the Government Society merged with the Politics Society. I had some position that I can't remember and then was the auditor/president the next year- is it still called auditor? I never really understood that.

What modules interested you the most?

I took a lot of public health electives and really enjoyed them. I also liked modules on devolution/modern states, and on Europe. The modules on democratic theory and innovation had a big influence on my choice of MSc programme.

Did you see yourself in the career you are in now?

Hmm, maybe a bit towards the end of my BSc. In my final year I just kind of thought - I enjoy this; I think I'll keep doing it for a while - and I still think that.

Did you do any internships?

Kind of - the public service sent out a bunch of calls for short-term 10-week posts around the time I was finishing up. I turned down one for the Dept of Agriculture and went to work for the Revenue Commissioners in Blackpool between finishing the BSc and Starting the MSc. It was good to add the experience of civil servant to the legislative assistant one I got in New York.

Just for kicks:

Who was your favourite lecturer? Why?

Haha – I'm not one for sitting on the fence but I meet some of these people at conferences so that could be awkward. Actually they were all excellent in different ways, and I probably mimic some of their traits in my job now.

What was your favourite/least favourite module?

My favourite module was called Dynamics of State Politics. It focused on devolution and I wanted to follow a masters looking more closely at that but there was nothing suitable available at the time. I still have my eye on getting some funding to do some comparative analysis on devolution in Europe. I disliked theories and methods which is amusing because my PhD turned me into a complete methodology-wonk; I teach the equivalent module now in Southampton and am writing a chapter for the next edition of the textbook I so hated. Undergrads generally don't like them but methodology classes are the most important classes you will take- those skills are your ticket to a good job – trust me!

Did you ever fail a module?

No but I failed components of economics classes which helped me realise I needed to un-lazy myself.

Any funny stories about the time on your course?

Loads! We had a right eccentric group in our year. Without going into too much embarrassing detail, I'm thinking of some rather odd student presentations, some hilarious moments from class mystery tours, a trip to Brussels and the yearly ball – and I don't just mean the lecturers' dancing.

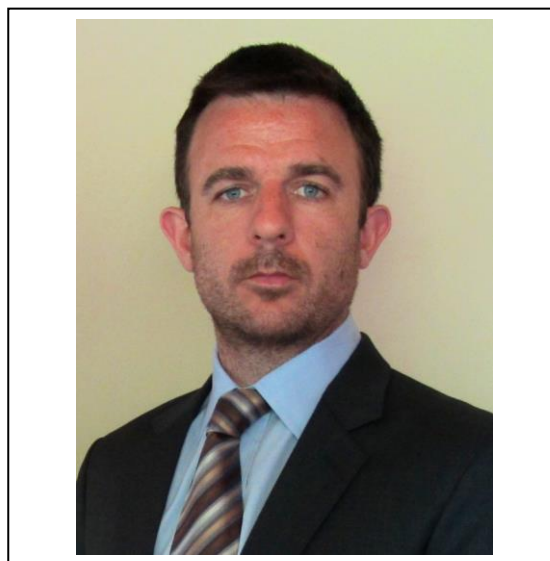
Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan completes 'Professional Skills for Research Leaders' course



Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan recently completed a certificate programme in UCC on 'Professional Skills for Research Leaders'. The picture above shows her receiving her award from Professor Anita Maguire, Vice-President for Research and Innovation.

Publications by Dr Liam Weeks

On Wednesday 20 January, Noel Whelan's *The Tallyman's Campaign Handbook- Election 2016* was launched in Dublin. The prestigious publication features a chapter on Independents by **Dr Liam Weeks** of the Department of Government. In it, Liam predicts 20 seats for Independents at General Election 2016 (not including the 'others'). Liam was on *Morning Ireland* the following day talking about the publication and the role of Independents. Liam will be contributing a chapter on the same topic for *How Ireland Voted 2016*, a book that has a strong Department of Government presence with other chapters by **Dr Mary Murphy**, **Dr Fiona Buckley** and **Dr Theresa Reidy**.



The Government Gathering 2016



On Friday 15 January we ran the inaugural GOVERNMENT GATHERING and it was a huge success with school students braving the weather conditions to come to UCC and hear about the BSc Government programme. After a welcoming address by the Head of Department, Dr Andrew Cottey, details of the programme were provided by Dr Aodh Quinlivan. He was followed by Dearbhail O'Callaghan who described the third year placement programme.

After this, we heard graduate stories for six of our former students who completed the BSc Government between 2004 and 2015. The graduates who spoke were – Paul Kennedy (top left), Steven Browne (top right), Shane O'Shea (bottom left), Alison Donnelly (bottom right), Peter Horgan (see next page) and Callum Donnelly (see next page).

The graduates have enjoyed varied career paths in the public sector, the private sector and the media and each stressed the importance of the transferable skills they received on the BSc Government. They also praised the support they received through the Department of Government and the 'open door' policy which was on offer.

Before the lunch break, we had an entertaining debate on gender quotas with one of our current Masters students, Karen Fitzgerald, delivering arguments on both sides of the debate! Students then voted 2:1 against gender quotas.

GOVERNMENT GATHERING



Peter Horgan (left) and Callum Donnelly (right)

After the lunch-break, Dr Philip Murphy (himself a BSc Government graduate) ran a workshop on **WHY POLITICS MATTERS**. Philip had designed a series of interactive exercises which really engaged students on a wide variety of topics.

The feedback provided by students at the end of the day was really positive and encourages us to make the Government Gathering an annual event.

Much of the organisation for the day expertly handled by the Student Recruitment Officer for the College of Business and Law, Anne Wallace – also a BSc Government graduate!



During the day, we shot a promotional video for the BSc Government. Thanks to the current students (like Emily Burns above) and graduates who took part.

Pictures from the 17th Annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture by Colm O’Gorman

Our Emerging Republic

How courageously facing our often troubled past will help us build a better future



Congratulations to our three student award winners –

STUDENT OF THE YEAR – Richard Creedon

GRADUATE OF THE YEAR – Jack Barry

PATRICK O’SULLIVAN ESSAY COMPETITION – Luke Foley

Pat Ruane wins Philip Monahan Bursary at CLRG

One of the first initiatives of the Centre for Local and Regional Governance (CLRG) was to establish an educational partnership with Cork City Council. With the support of Chief Executive, Ann Doherty, the City Council offered a bursary for a member of its staff to undertake a local government masters at UCC, under the supervision of Dr Aodh Quinlivan. Following a competitive process, the bursary was awarded to Pat Ruane. Pat is undertaking his masters on a two-year basis, commencing in January 2016, examining the identification, significance and management of maritime heritage in Atlantic port cities. Pat is studying six port cities in Ireland (Cork), Portugal, Spain, Canada, Brazil and Argentina.

According to the Director of the CLRG, Dr Aodh Quinlivan, 'I was delighted with the quality of the applications for this bursary but Pat's stood out. His proposal is very ambitious in scope – six port cities – but I am confident that he will do a great job and I am sure his research will be a worthwhile addition to the literature in the area. We are naming the bursary after Ireland's first City Manager, Philip Monahan, and I hope it will become an annual award. I am very grateful to Cork City Council for coming on board and supporting innovative local government research.'



From left to right: Michael Burke (Director of Service, Cork City Council), Ann Doherty (Chief Executive, Cork City Council), Pat Ruane (Philip Monahan Bursary winner), Aodh Quinlivan (Director, CLRG), and Sean Crowley (Training and Development, Cork City Council)



Congratulations to BSc Government graduate, Jennifer Goggin Walsh, on winning the East Cork Cross Country Championship in difficult conditions.



Well done to BSc Government I student, Jake Smith, on his articles in the *Evening Echo* and *Cork Independent* about local democracy.



Congratulations to Dr Mary C Murphy on her Jean Monnet award.



It's official! Delighted to have been awarded a Jean Monnet Chair by European Comm. Erasmus+ prog @UCC @UCCResearch



CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO:

- **Dr Theresa Reidy** on her Conference Ambassador Award for the successful hosting of the 2015 PSAI Annual Conference in Cork;
- **Jayne Ronayne** and her company KonnectAgain on winning the Best Start-Up Award at the prestigious DBFA awards ceremony. Jayne is a BSc Government graduate.
- **Dr Fiona Buckley** on her strong defence of gender quotas during two days of questioning at the High Court as part of the case taken by Brian Mohan (his challenge was ultimately dismissed).