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GOVERNMENT TIMES

A Newsletter for Department of Government Students and Staff

Congratulations to Government Graduates 2011



Well done to the members of the BSc Government class of 2011 who graduated on Friday 9 September. We wish you all the best for bright futures. Make us proud!



Editorial Page

Welcome to the first issue of *Government Times* for the 2011/2012 academic year. An especially warm mention is issued to the new BSc Government I class. We hope you will have four happy, stimulating and fulfilling years with us. All going well, today's First Years will be gracing the cover of *Government Times* in 2015 having graduated with honours!

As well as the academic side of things, there is a tremendous social aspect to the university and we encourage all of our students to get actively involved in clubs and societies, starting of course with the Government and Politics Society!

Communication between students and the departmental staff is of primary importance so please come and see us if you have any issues to discuss. The Department of Government has an open-door policy and we will always make time for our students.

Continuing the communication theme it is imperative that all BSc Government students join the Department's internal e-mail system (SGPP-list) to receive important information and announcements. All details are below.

Enjoy the academic year!

Aodh Quinlivan
Director BSc Government
Co-editor of *Government Times*

Ben English
Auditor Government and Politics Society
Co-editor of *Government Times*

[Sign up TODAY to the Department of Government student mailing list](#)



It is compulsory for all BSc Government students to join the Department of Government internal e-mail list. It is very easy to do so - just click on the link below, hit 'Join' and follow the steps.

<http://lists.ucc.ie/archives/sgpp-l.html>

This information is also available on the Department of Government web site at:

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/government/>



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Launch of *Inside City Hall Politics*

The latest book publication by the Department of Government's Dr Aodh Quinlivan was launched by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Terry Shannon, during the summer in the historic council chamber of Cork City Hall. *Inside City Hall Politics: A Year in the Life of Cork City Council* traces the local authority for twelve months, following its highs and lows and various controversies. It sheds light on the inner workings within City Hall, including issues like controversial mayoral electoral pact, and informs the people on the day-to-day operations of the Irish Local Government system.

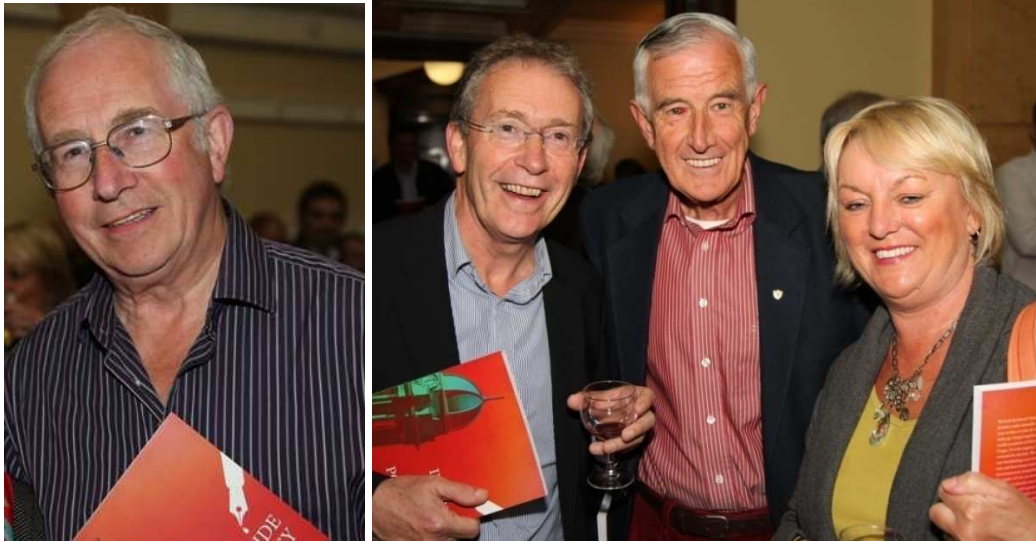


Above: Diarmuid O'Donovan (Assistant CEO, *Evening Echo*), Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Terry Shannon, and Dr Aodh Quinlivan; the Lord Mayor with Caterina who worked and studied in the Department of Government during the year.

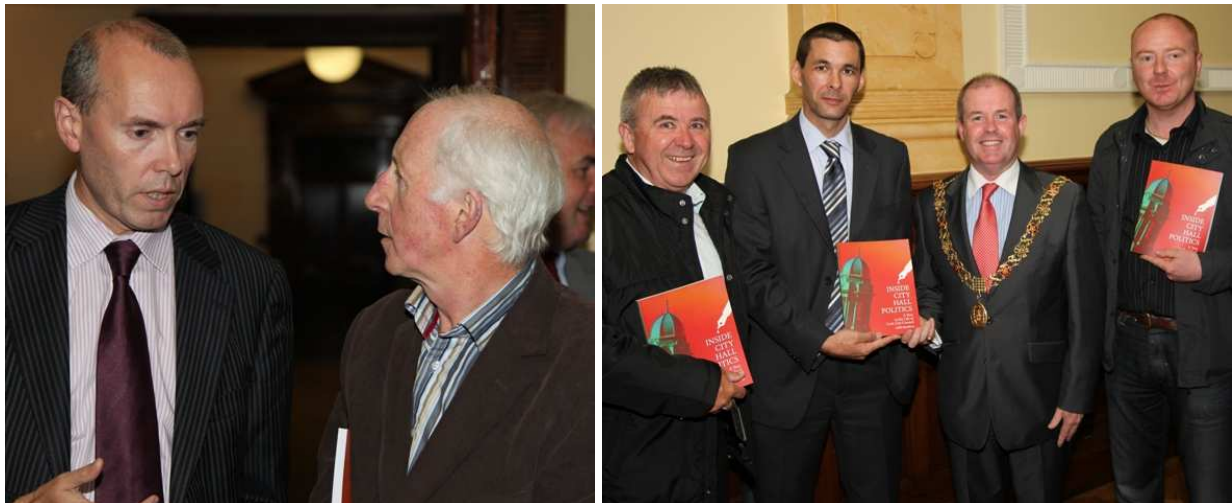


Above: Aodh Quinlivan signing copies of the book for Tadhg O'Murchu and Ciaran Lynch TD; former councillor Mairin Quill with current councillor Lorraine Kingston.

- Thanks to Dr Tim McCarthy for the photographs.



Above: Noel Brett of UCC, a former science teacher of Aodh's in Colaiste Christ Ri; Ray Foley of UCC with former Lord Mayor of Cork, Donal Counihan, and Councillor Patricia Gosch.



Above: City Manager, Tim Lucey, talks to Councillor John Kelleher; the Lord Mayor with three Sinn Féin politicians, Councillor Henry Cremin, Jonathan O'Brien TD and Councillor Mick Nugent.



Above: Philip Wallace and Margaret O'Brien; Green Party member, Dan Boyle.



Dr Theresa Reidy at Princeton University



Dr Theresa Reidy has spent the last two weeks on a research trip to the famed Princeton University in New Jersey, USA.

Department of Government lecturer presents public lecture ... and earns book commission



Cork City Council organised four public lectures in the City Hall on Thursday 8 September to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the opening of the building by Eamon de Valera on 8 September 1936. The original City Hall had been destroyed during the burning of Cork in 1920. Dr Aodh Quinlivan presented one of the talks on the subject of, 'The Freeman of Cork.' Following the talk, the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Terry Shannon, announced that the City Council was commissioning Dr Quinlivan to write a book on the history of the Freedom of Cork award. This history spans over 700 years and the award has been bestowed on John F. Kennedy, Woodrow Wilson, Dean Swift, Charles Stuart Parnell, Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese amongst others.



Head of Department meets BSc Government graduate on recent trip to Singapore



On a recent visit to Singapore, Professor Neil Collins met up with BSc Government graduate (class of 2009), Andrea Merrigan, who works with Prep Zone. Andrea was the 2006 Government Student of the Year and, after graduating in 2009, she was awarded a scholarship place on the Asia Pacific Leadership Programme based in the University of Hawaii.

Major historical exhibition destined for the Department of Government

Cork City Council is presently hosting an exhibition to mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of the 'new' City Hall. The exhibition features photographs, documents and artifacts from the last 75 years of local politics in the city. The exhibition will remain in the City Hall until 25 September, after which it is hoped that it will be housed in the social area of the Department of Government for a period of time. According to Dr Aodh Quinlivan who has been in discussions with city council officials about bringing the exhibit to UCC, "there is broad agreement that it can come to the Department of Government. This is tremendous news as the exhibit helps to bring local government, local politics and local characters to life."

On Work Placement with CORRINA O’SULLIVAN

My name is Corinna O’Sullivan and I am currently in my final year of the BSc Government degree in University College Cork. In the spring of 2011 I was an intern for the New York State Assembly as part of my third year work placement programme. Five others and I set off for New York in February to begin our placement as the Whalen Interns, a bursary internship set up by Mayor Tom Whalen in 2002 for BSc Government Students from UCC. When we arrived in New York it was a huge culture shock especially for me as it was my first time in America. We arrived in Newark, New Jersey and made our way to New York City; it was great to see the “Big Apple” for the first time. When we arrived in Albany, home of the New York State Assembly, (approximately two hours from New York City), we met our academic supervisor Ann Wilkenin; she was very welcoming and told us a bit about Albany, most importantly she brought us to where we would be living for the next four months. The friendly atmosphere of the house made it so much easier to settle into a different culture which was initially alien to us.

We arrived on a Wednesday and started work on Friday so we were all excited as we didn’t know what to expect. Once we arrived at the Capital district we were mesmerized, dwarfed by our surroundings, we could still appreciate the beautiful historic aspects of the buildings. We were welcomed by the intern officer who then proceeded to tell us which assembly members we would be assigned to; I was placed with Assemblywoman Margaret Markey. I was very happy to be placed with her as I would be the only intern in the office and I was up for the challenge of taking on all these new tasks.

When I went to Assemblywoman’s office, I met my supervisor, Rosemary Lategano, who was warmly helpful and welcoming. Rosemary gave me a tour of the Legislative Office building and the Capital. I met my Assemblywoman in the chamber and discussed her role in the Assembly and took pictures with her and other members of the chamber including Speaker Sheldon Silver and Ron Canestrari. It was overwhelming because there was so much to take in but that’s what made our first day so exhilarating and unforgettable. All six Irish interns were introduced on the New York State Assembly chamber floor which was announced by the speaker.



Above: Corinna O’Sullivan and Tony Rodgers at work in the New York State Assembly.

For the first month we were not working full weeks because we had to sit our exams in the College of Saint Rose. The Assembly and College were very accommodating to our situation and allowed us extra time to study if we needed it. We were juggling exams and work but it was surprisingly manageable as each of our office's slowly eased us into work until we finished our exams so we didn't feel under too much pressure.

After we finished our exams we were able to concentrate fully on work and enjoy the experience. The president of the Irish American Legislature; Assembly member Michael Cusick invited us to March in the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. We were all thrilled to actually be marching in the parade; one of the biggest St. Patrick's Day Parade's in the world celebrating its 250 year anniversary. We were able to see the whole of New York City while marching in the Parade; we saw Eamon Gilmore while marching and the massive crowds who came to see the parade.



Above: The six 'Whalen Interns' in New York for the annual St Patrick's Day celebrations.

In April, we felt really settled in at work and at the college of saint rose as we befriended people in our house and other interns at work. As our internship progressed we were delegated more tasks as my supervisor felt confident to give me more work. As part of my job I was responsible for: tracking member's legislation, moving members bills out of committee by filing a form 99 petition, maintaining records of members who wish to co sponsor legislation, signing a member onto another members resolution or legislation at members request, keeping a file of memos and letters of support/opposition to all legislation introduced in the assembly, bringing sponsorship forms to the index clerk and together with my supervisor I met with lobbyists and listened to their issues. In addition I was responsible for answering telephone calls and dealing with constituents' issues. I completed a large amount of research to support my Assemblywoman's bills when they were being debated on the floor. Research like this is an important aspect of my job and it can help her bill pass but if there are not strong enough facts to support the bill it can become a dead bill. It was fascinating to be a part of this process.

This internship was one of the best experiences I have had so far; I saw a lot happen over those four months. I bore witness to an extraordinary movement watching the same sex marriage bill being signed into law by Governor Cuomo. I understand a lot more about American politics now, practical elements which is not apparent in literature. I bonded with so many people and made lifelong friends that I will definitely see again. I was inspired by my supervisor and Assemblywoman to work really hard for what you are passionate about, which they do every day. One example of this was the passing of an important bill, *The Child Victim Act*. I was integral to this campaign, helping my Assemblywoman in the lead up to her press conference on the bill where victims came to the Assembly to talk about their abusers.

I also feel that each office tried to encourage us to do as much travelling as possible, this internship allowed us to do that; we saw New York City, Montreal, Boston, San Francisco and Las Vegas. I never thought I would have had the chance to work in the New York State Assembly and see so many events happen there like same sex marriage, Cuomo making all his promises a reality etc. I loved my time in Albany. There were so many free events during the summer that we took advantage of such as the Tulip festival, Alive at Five and the Pride Festival.

If I had to pick a different placement I can honestly say I would never change it or pick anything else; this placement has definitely led me in the right direction and has helped me in deciding what I want to do in the future. I feel more confident in my work abilities and know that I am able to do any task that is set in front of me. I would recommend everyone to do this placement as it is an opportunity that does not come around very often.



Above: The assembly of the New York State Legislature in Albany, New York.

BSc Government IV class of 2011: Pictures from end-of-year party and graduation day



SOCIETY CORNER

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS SOCIETY

The UCC Government and Politics Society would like to welcome everyone back to the start of a new university year, especially to those who are just starting for the first time. As BSc Government students, you are automatically members of the society and we look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks and months ahead. Make sure to pop along to our stand at Societies Day in Devere Hall this **Wednesday 21st September** where you will be able to meet members of the current committee, sign up to our mailing list and text alert systems and purchase tickets for the upcoming mystery tour which takes place on **Wednesday 12th October**.

Other events throughout the year will include annual favourites such as the Model Dáil, the Government Cup soccer tournament and the Government Ball, as well as a number of talks and debates featuring prominent political figures. For anyone interested in taking an active part in the society, there are vacancies within the committee for the positions of First Year Representative and Academic Affairs Officer which will both be filled during an EGM in early October.

For further information about the society and/or its events you can contact us at politics@uccsocieties.ie or become a friend on Facebook at www.facebook.com/govpol

WEDNESDAY 12th OCTOBER



Where will the mystery tour go?

Local Government Book Bundle

The BSc Government first year text book for the local government is *All Politics is Local* by Aodh Quinlivan and Liam Weeks (2009). This book is available from JP Quinn in the UCC Visitors' Centre at a very attractive price. Students who purchase the book there will receive a free UCC pen and will be entered into a draw for a UCC hoodie and other goodies!

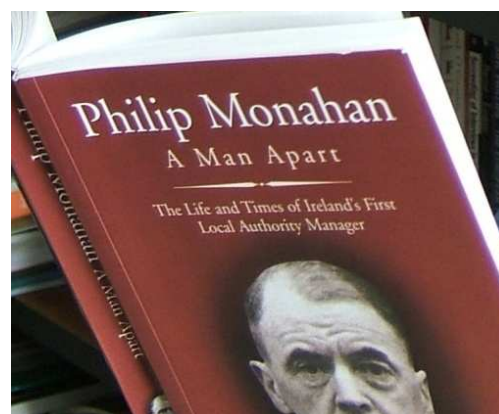
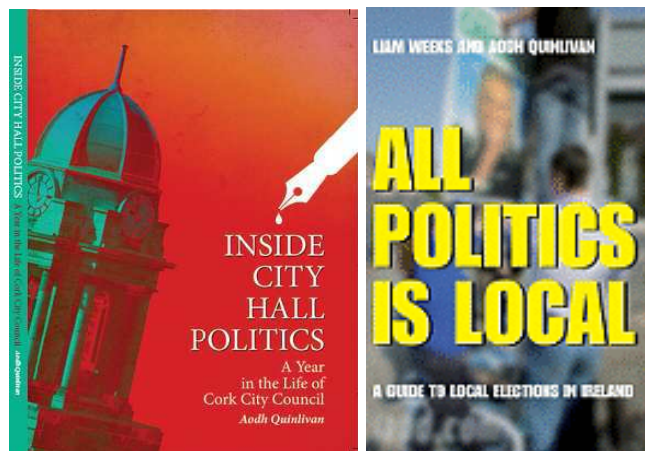
Alternatively, the book can be purchased independently, or as part of a bundle, in the **John Smith & Son bookshop** in Áras na Mac Léinn. The bundle offer is an excellent one as it puts the text book with two other local government books on the GV1210 reading list for a total price of €45 (a saving of €11.99).

Local Government Book Bundle (€45)

Quinlivan, A. (2011), *Inside City Hall Politics: A Year in the Life of Cork City Council*, Cork: Echo Publications

Quinlivan, A. and Weeks, L. (2009), *All Politics is Local: A Guide to Local Elections in Ireland*, Cork: The Collins Press

Quinlivan, A. (2006), *Philip Monahan, A Man Apart: The Life and Times of Ireland's First Local Authority Manager*, Dublin: Institute of Public Administration



Snippets

- **Dr Monica O'Mullane** and **Dr Aodh Quinlivan** have had an article accepted in the respected international academic journal, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*. The article is entitled 'Health Impact Assessment (HIA) in Ireland and the role of local government'. Monica is a graduate of the Department of Government in UCC (BSc and PhD) and she works currently as a lecturer in the Department of Public Health, Trnava University, Slovakia.
- **Dr Eimear O'Leary**, who recently graduated with her PhD through the Department of Government, has had an article published in the latest issue of *Irish Political Studies* (Vol. 26, No. 3, pp. 329-343). The article, entitled 'The Constituency Orientation of Modern TDs' both dispels and enhances many long-held perceptions regarding Ireland's national parliamentarians.
- **Professor Neil Collins** and **Dr Aodh Quinlivan** have recently submitted their chapter on Ireland for the second edition of *Comparative Public Administration*, edited by Professor Jim Chandler and published by Routledge.
- The article about her placement experience (see pages 8-10) by **Corinna O'Sullivan** also features in the current issue of the UCC magazine, *Connect* (Issue 6, pp. 14-15).
- The aforementioned issue of *Connect* also features BSc Government graduate (class of 2011), **Jean Fleming** (page 31). Jean has been awarded a prestigious internship on the Washington-Ireland Programme (WIP), the cross-community charity offering young leaders from Ireland and Northern Ireland the opportunity to live and work in DC while completing leadership training and public service projects. Three UCC students were selected from over 350 applicants.
- Congratulations to **John Mulhall**, BSc Government graduate (class of 2009) who was part of the Kilkenny senior hurling panel which reclaimed the Liam McCarthy Cup at the start of September. John was introduced as a second half substitute and performed well as the Cats triumphed.
- **Fiona Buckley** has had an article published in the July/August issue of *Public Affairs Ireland* on the topic of 'Gender Quotas and Ireland.'
- **Dr Aodh Quinlivan** is speaking at the La Touche Legacy Seminar in Greystones, County Wicklow on Saturday 1 October on the subject, 'The Future of Local Government in Ireland'.