



GOVERNMENT TIMES

A Newsletter for Department of Government Students and Staff

Laura Murphy: Graduate of Year 2011



On Thursday 17 November, as part of the 13th Annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture, Laura Murphy received the Richard Haslam Graduate of the Year Award. The Monahan Lecture marked the culmination of the inaugural Department of Government Showcase. See our report and picture special on pages 4-8.



Editorial Page



What a great issue with which to end 2011! It seems that every issue of *Government Times* is getting bigger and better and number 38 certainly is no exception. We give a lot of coverage to the Department of Government's enormously successful **inaugural Showcase** on 17 November and we would like to thank everyone who took part and attended on a wet and miserable day. On the evening of the 17th we held the 13th Annual **Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture** and the current Ombudsman and Freedom of Information Commissioner, **Emily O'Reilly**, delivered a memorable talk entitled 'The Perfect State'. We were also honoured that the **Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Terry Shannon**, took time out of his busy schedule to attend and to present our annual student awards. The awards have been in existence since the first year of the BSc Government (1999/2000) and the full list of winners since then is contained immediately below.

Year	Thomas Whalen Student of Year	Richard Haslam Graduate of Year	Patrick O'Sullivan Essay Winner
2000	Holly Hardwicke		
2001	Elizabeth Harrington		
2002	Peter Ryan		Andrew O'Leary – BSc Gov II
2003	Hannah Lane	Holly Hardwicke	Donal Holohan – BSc Gov II
2004	Ann-Marie Tierney	Elizabeth Harrington	John O'Sullivan – BSc Gov II
2005	Denis Twomey	Jeremiah O'Sullivan	John O'Sullivan – BSc Gov III
2006	Andrea Merrigan	Brenda Keating	Cormac Cahill – BSc Gov II
2007	Darragh Mehigan	Tim McCarthy	Ian Mawe – BSc Gov II
2008	Patrick Higgins	Matthew Ryan	Niall Duggan – Post Graduate
2009	Tracey O'Rourke	Colm Diamond	Andrew Aherne – BSc Gov II
2010	John Kenny	Neepa Sodhi	Declan Keating – BSc Gov II
2011	Pádraig Mac Consaidín	Laura Murphy	Pádraig Mac Consaidín – BSc Gov II

There are many other items of interest in this issue, including the work of **Martin Dorgan** (BSc Government IV) and **Declan Keating** (BSc Government II) in facilitating an election observation programme – see 'From Belarus to Ballinlough on pages 11-12.

On the following two pages (13-14), read all about the involvement of **Dr Clodagh Harris** at the recent Belgian Citizens' Summit. Clodagh is a respected member of the G1000 international observer team.

We also feature the first year field trip to Cork City Council and the recent presentations by **Fiona Buckley** on the issue of equal representation in Irish politics. Is it any wonder issue 38 is so jam-packed?

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

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

***Thank you to Dr Tim McCarthy's whose excellent photographs of the Showcase, Monahan Lecture and student awards feature prominently throughout this issue of *Government Times*.**



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PHILIP MONAHAN MEMORIAL LECTURE 2011

'The Perfect State' by Emily O'Reilly



Top Left: Student of the Year, Pádraig Mac Consaidín, receives his award from the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Terry Shannon.

Top Right: Members of the Government and Politics Society, Martin Dorgan, Ben English and Mark Curley with the Ombudsman and Freedom of Information Commissioner, Emily O'Reilly.

Bottom: Emily O'Reilly talks with Dr Mary O'Brien (Philip Monahan's daughter) and Councillor John Buttmer

PHILIP MONAHAN MEMORIAL LECTURE 2011

'The Pefect State' by Emily O'Reilly



Top: The three wise men enjoying the lecture – Tom O'Connor, Tadhg O'Murchu and Dr Seamus O'Tuama

Bottom: The Lord Mayor chats to Conor Keane (son of John B Keane) of the *Irish Examiner*

INAUGURAL DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT SHOWCASE – 17 NOVEMBER 2011



Above: The Head of the Irish Naval Service, Commodore Mark Mellett, and the Head of Operations at the Public Appointments Service, Pádraig Love, both addressed the crowd in the morning session. Commodore Mellett is a graduate of the Department of Government (MComm 2002).

INAUGURAL DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT SHOWCASE – 17 NOVEMBER 2011

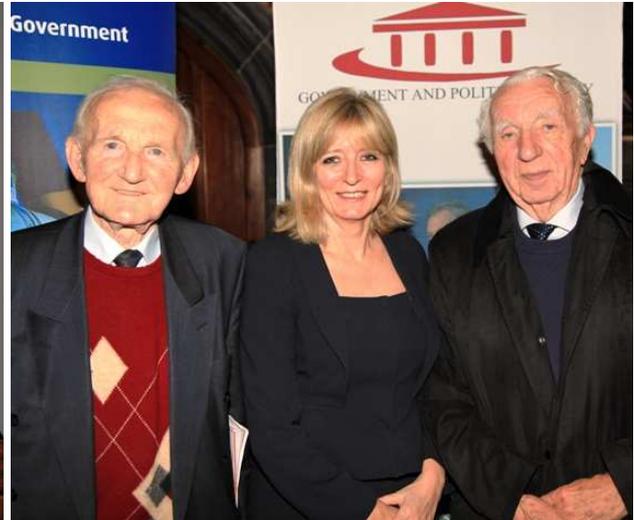


Top: Professor Neil Collins with returning BSc Government graduate speakers, Brenda Keating, Arne O'Donoghue and Seán O'Leary.

Bottom Left: Attending the Showcase and helping on the day were Dawn French, Dr Clodagh Harris, Dearbhail O'Callaghan and Margaret O'Brien.

Bottom Right: Returning BSc Government graduate speakers, Alison Donnelly, Michelle Green, Craig Conway and Niamh Hennessy.

INAUGURAL DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT SHOWCASE – 17 NOVEMBER 2011

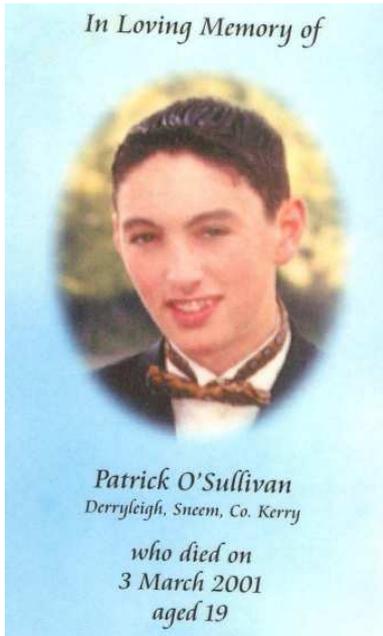


Above Left: Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan introduced the speakers;

Above Right: At the Philip Monahan Lecture, Tom O'Connor, Emily O'Reilly and Dick Haslam;

Bottom: The BSc Government II class attended the Showcase and the Philip Monahan Lecture in large numbers.

10th ANNUAL PATRICK O'SULLIVAN ESSAY COMPETITION



In Loving Memory of

Patrick O'Sullivan
Derryleigh, Sncem, Co. Kerry

who died on
3 March 2001
aged 19



THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

BY PADRAIG MAC CONSAIDIN

Ding! Ding! There're seven of them!
Dana's decided to do it again.
Election posters in your face,
they're trying to get to that Áras place.
A knuckle merchant, a dragon too,
The Constitution, holds the rules.
Martin V Miriam and the crazy VinB
One says gunman, the other says 'me?'
The telly, the radio, the internet too,
churning it out, debate poo.
Norris is up and then he gets out
Can you explain why he needs to shout?
Give me posters, showing the cronies,
Photo shopped and looking phony
Hong Kong junkets, Indian guests
English Queens visit, that makes sense

Working for citizens, better the nation
Take a lifestyle of sophistication
Make some ads, shiny and nice
Better work out, seen the price?
Never mind that, it's time for the bus,
some have 52 seats, some wheels that go bust.

When image is key in an election cycle
we'll need a box for the small poet Michael.
Wave the flag of entrepreneur boss
but wait, there's no profit, he's making a loss!
Hear far away church bells begin to ring
Holy Catholic Dana's doing her thing!
Then who do we have for entertainment?
Mario as 'everyone' on the commercial station.
Now the news has snapped to attention!
Envelopes landing at a Fianna Fáil convention.
Fuel smuggling mobster upsets the pollsters
Along with the fella who doesn't use posters.
The Frontline audience gets out of hand
its mob rule time in T.V. land.

Campaign work is hard, they sweat some more
while the sun sinks, they're banging on doors
Girl power has ruled, with no man in ages
McGuinness says he'll take an average man's wages
they're fretting they're sweating
for the job that means jetting.
You're fretting you're sweating,
where to place if you're betting.
Mary is questioned on her state board positions;
the answer's to roll out the Olympic mission.
Norris is grilled on his writing of letters
but for legal reasons, say nothing, its better.
But if bland is your thing, then Gay is your man
His posters have tractors, but no farmers tan.
As polling day nears, it's a fifteen point lead
Michael D Higgins should just concede.
But wait, here comes Martin with something to say,
another denial about the IRA?
No Sean took a cheque, he thinks, can't remember
His campaign flame dies; it's now just an ember.
Michael D Higgins, take a bow, you're the winner,

No place in the Áras for a Gay or a shinner.

(Inspired by 'The Magnificent Seven' by The Clash)

Belarus to Ballinlough: election observation - an unsung hero of democracy

International Election Observation Study for the Irish Presidential Election 27 October 2011



Above: Martin Dorgan with members of the visiting delegation at Macroom; Declan Keating with his group at Kent Station

This initiative began when a call went out from **Fiona Buckley**, Department of Government, (on behalf of Anastasiya Matchenko Project Director), for volunteers to drive election observers to polling stations on the day of the Irish Presidential election. While there would be experienced observers conducting the process, there would also be trainees in attendance. When one thinks of election observers, one might automatically think of emerging democracies, war zones or authoritarian dictatorships, not a stable beacon of democracy like Ireland. Two BSc Government students volunteered, Martin Dorgan (BSc Government IV) and Declan Keating (BSc Government II). Here are their stories:

Martin Dorgan:

Prearranged to meet the group at Kent station with a view to visit the county area polling stations for the observation study. Two groups allocated to Cork Area. Met Alena Avitstuk, Karerina Stratskevich and Alexander Banduk and went to County Sheriff office to collect details of county locations. they wanted as wide a balance of locations and we decided on a mix of rural, urban-rural and urban locations starting with Kilmurry South near Macroom and after making introductions the group observed the voting location with a set objective of covering all aspects of the voting procedure including accessibility for wheelchair bound voters and in most locations these facilities were adequate. As they moved around the various locations one pertinent observation was the absence of formal identification from voters and this was because the voters especially on rural areas were known to the presiding officer or associate issuing the voting papers.

We travelled through the following locations spending about 10 to 15 mins in each location viewing the various locations Macroom, Crookstown, Bandon (both locations) Innishannon, Kinsale, Belgooly, Riverstick and Carrigaline, ten in all which gave the team a flavour of voting operations. One incident occurred whereby a person voting left the two papers for the referenda on the shelf where the person pencilled their vote. When this was discovered by one of the observation team the supervisor was informed

and appropriate action was taken. Following the observation study completion we returned to railway station and they returned to Dublin to compile their report.

Declan Keating:

It was not a difficult decision to volunteer, the chance to meet political students from a part of Europe that I know very little about and the chance to show them my part of Ireland was very appealing. My charges were Ales, Valerie and Nadia. They arrived on the 11 o'clock train in Kent station Cork, after an exchange of pleasantries we set about our mission, similar to Martins group we would take in as many polling stations as possible in the time allotted, 11am to 6pm, before taking them back to Dublin. From the moment they arrived the group were evaluating their surroundings; proximity of propaganda (election posters) on the way to the polling station, the site of the polling station in a community centre, within the grounds of St Patricks Catholic Church, the ease of access, St Luke's national school on the very steep O'Mahoney's Hill (they were satisfied when informed that voters by reason of disability, could select an alternate polling station). The group were met with varying degrees of welcome, from "would you like a cup of tea?" to you "cannot stay here without proper authorisation" but always polite and any difficulties were soon resolved. We also visited St Patrick's Boys National School, Gardner's Hill; The City Hall, Bún Scoil Christ Rí, Evergreen Road; Our Lady of Lourdes National School, Ballinlough; St Anthony's Boys National School, Ballinlough and St Michaels GAA Club, Blackrock. When 6 o'clock came we headed for Dublin in plenty of time to get there for the close of polling, where they could observe the transportation of the ballot boxes to the count centre and observe the count, it was mentioned that they were relieved that counting would not begin until the following morning, as they were in need of rest after a long day. In general I regard the experience of meeting and engaging with our fellow students from the University of Vilnius enjoyable and rewarding, but the most lasting impression is that it was an eye-opener to the fragility of democracy in our near neighbouring European states and that people do what is within their power effect change for the better, I am left with a growing respect and admiration for the work of Belarus Watch.



Above: The intricacies of PR-STV explained to one delegate at Kinsale

Dr Clodagh Harris – international observer at innovative Belgian citizens’ summit



Above: Discussion and participation at the Belgian Citizens’ Summit

In January 2010 a group of Belgian ‘independent thinkers and doers’ which includes academics and the award winning author David van Reybrouck established the G1000 project, the country’s first citizens’ summit. Their aim is to ‘renew Belgian democracy’ through a deliberative process that will complement, not replace, the existing representational system of democracy.

On 11 November this citizens’ summit, the G1000, took place in a Brussels city centre location. Over 700 citizens of different ages, backgrounds and ethnicity came from across Belgium to discuss the challenges their democracy currently faces and to develop proposals on key topics. In keeping with deliberative best practice these citizens were randomly selected.

In parallel, citizens who had not been selected to attend the G1000 event actively participated in the deliberations either on line at home (G-homes) or at smaller events at diverse locations across the country (G-offs). Web based technology was used to feed the recommendations from the G-offs to the main event in Brussels. The innovative software *synthetron* permitted citizens to virtually deliberate with fellow citizens and put forward their proposals and recommendations from the comfort of their own homes.

The themes discussed on the day included: social security systems, wealth inequality and immigration policy. These topics had been chosen by citizens during the summer months when they were surveyed online to determine the issues of concern to them. More than 5000 suggestions were made, and ranked, by thousands of citizens. These were then clustered into 25 themes and put forward for a second round of voting. The top three were discussed at the citizens’ summit and space was also left in the programme for citizens to choose a fourth theme.

On the day, citizens gathered in tables of 10 to listen to short presentations on each topic from invited expert speakers, to deliberate on them and put forward recommendations. For each theme all of the suggestions and proposals were sent to a central desk where they were clustered into common recommendations and the citizens were invited to vote on them.

In keeping with the organisers' emphasis on 'complementarity' the seven parliamentary presidents were invited to witness the proceedings and hear the findings. They all praised the event. Ms. Emily Hoyos, President of the Walloon Parliament, referred to the collective learning opportunities provided by this type of deliberative process, stating '*we do not have the monopoly on ideas and solutions*'.

The final phase of this project will involve a smaller group (G32) of citizens. They will meet over a period of months to work with one another and experts on the proposals that came from the November 11th events and develop them into concrete recommendations. The G32 will include 20 citizens from the G1000 summit, 8 citizens from the G-homes and 4 citizens from the G-offs. The final recommendations will be presented by the citizens to the Belgian Parliament.

In the spirit of independence, the project uses crowd funding techniques where donations are welcomed but no-one is allowed to contribute more than 7% of the total budget. Individuals, companies, associations, foundations and governments have all been invited to make a donation. Most notably, a third of the cost was contributed in kind through the work of volunteers.

This Belgian project is part of a larger international trend towards more deliberative forms of democracy as witnessed in the Canadian citizens' assemblies, citizens' juries in the UK , German planning cells, the EU citizens' consultations and much closer to home our own 'We the Citizens' citizens' assembly.

Dr Clodagh Harris, Department of Government, UCC is a member of the G1000 international observer team, a member of the 'We the Citizens' international scientific advisory board.



Above: The international observer team, including Dr Clodagh Harris

BSc Government I students visit City Hall and, in turn, welcome councillors to UCC



Above: The class of 2011 – Councillors Kenneth O’Flynn, Chris O’Leary, John Buttimer and Catherine Clancy

On Monday 28 November, **Dr Aodh Quinlivan** accompanied 25 BSc Government I students to Cork City Hall. The group was met by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Terry Shannon, who spoke for 20 minutes about the history and traditions of the Lord Mayor’s office in Cork. He also presented everyone with a Cork City Council lapel badge.

The group then attended the public meeting of Cork City Council which started at 5:30pm in the historic council chamber. The meeting covered a range of issues, including:

- Report by the City Manager on the council’s *Severe Weather Plan*;
- A debate and vote on a proposed material contravention of the Cork City Development Plan;
- Motions relating to budgetary matters and the likely impact on local government

The meeting ended at 8:45pm, at which point the Lord Mayor invited students back into his office for refreshments.

On the following Wednesday (30 November) four members of Cork City Council attended the GV1210 ‘Government and Politics of Ireland’ lecture. Councillors John Buttimer (Fine Gael), Catherine Clancy (Labour Party), Kenneth O’Flynn (Fianna Fáil) and Chris O’Leary (Sinn Féin) described their experiences as local elected members and then fielded questions from students.

Presentation by Fiona Buckley to the Oirachtas Women event at Leinster House

Fiona Buckley addressed the Oireachtas Women event in Leinster House on Wednesday 9 November. This meeting was organised by Mary Mitchell O'Connor and was attended by women TDs and Senators.

Fiona also addressed a public meeting on gender quotas organised by *The 50/50 Group* on Tuesday 22 November. Other speakers on the night included Minister Kathleen Lynch, former cabinet Minister Gemma Hussey and Claire McGing, a Phd candidate in NUIM. The 50/50 Group is a single issue national advocacy group dedicated to achieving equal representation in Irish politics. It is a fully inclusive organisation and is politically non-aligned. The 50-50 Group welcomes both men and women as members. Fiona is a founding member of The 50/50 Group.



Above: Fiona Buckley and Minister Kathleen Lynch both presented speeches at the recent 50/50 meeting.