

# GOVERNMENT TIMES

The newsletter for Department of Government students and staff



Volume 5, No. 2 –Tuesday 8 October 2013 - ISSUE 49

## PhD Success for Terrific Trio of Laura, Barry, and Julie



History was made in the Department of Government recently when three doctoral students passed their Viva examinations in the space of five days, between 20-25 September. The three students (as pictured above from left to right) are Laura Sexton, Barry Healy and Julie Connelly. Well done to all.

# Editorial Page



## Mentoring is an important part of the BSc Government programme

Welcome to another very full issue of *Government Times* which is packed with stories from students and staff of our department. We lead with the brilliant success of Laura Sexton, Barry Healy and Julie Connelly who passed their Viva examinations last week. This is a tremendous achievement for the three students and also for the Department of Government which has a very strong post-graduate programme. We are delighted in this issue to have contributions from current BSc Government students, Don O'Neill and Ben English; former BSc Government students, Steven Browne and Conor Culkin; current MSc Government student, Colin Bradley; and former visiting students in the Department of Government, Gauthier and Guillemette.

One thing which we would like to emphasise in this issue is the importance of the interaction between students and staff. We will shortly hold our first Student/Staff Forum of the 2013/14 academic year and our mentoring programme is ongoing. Mentoring runs through the four years of the BSc Government but is especially important in First Year. All Bsc Government I students have been assigned an academic mentor and the first one-on-one meetings should take place before the end of October. Aodh Quinlivan is the overall mentor for the BSc Government programme and is available to you. Also, the administrative staff in the department, Niamh Kiely and Margaret O'Leary (as below) offer wonderful support and are available to help you.



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

**Lisa-Marie Sheehy**  
Auditor Government and Politics Society  
Co-editor of *Government Times*



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# COVER STORY

## THREE NEW DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT DOCTORS

The Department of Government has a long history of success with its post-graduate programmes and especially with its high PhD completion rates. **Dr Liam Weeks** (below) has recently been appointed the department's Post-Graduate Director and he will be seeking to further enhance and develop our post-graduate activities.



- The title of Laura Sexton's thesis is ***Ireland's Knowledge Economy Policy: Beliefs, Drivers and Prospects*** and she was supervised by Dr Seamus O'Tuama. Her external examiner was Professor Uday Desai (University of New Mexico, Albuquerque) and her internal examiner was Dr Aodh Quinlivan (Department of Government).
- Barry Healy's thesis is entitled, ***The Quality of Deliberation in Northern Ireland's District Police Partnerships Examined Through the Application of an Augmented Discourse Quality Index (DQI)*** and he was supervised by Dr Clodagh Harris. Barry's external examiner was Dr Stephen Elstub (University of West Scotland) and his internal examiner was Dr Seamus O'Tuama.
- Julie Connelly's thesis is ***The Ways in Which New Public Management Ideas Impact Upon the Administrative Culture of Street-Level Bureaucrats and Professionals Within Irish Social Policy***. Julie was supervised by Dr Aodh Quinlivan and Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan. Her external examiner was Professor Tony Boivard (University of Birmingham) and her internal examiner was Dr Mairead Considine (Applied Social Studies, UCC).

# STUDYING GOVERNMENT SUBJECTS AS A VISITING STUDENT

We are Gauthier and Guillemette and we are French. We attended UCC for a full year (2012-2013), but you may also choose one semester. We studied International Relations and Irish Politics at the Department of Government. There are many modules available in the Department of Government at UCC. Many international students attend UCC and Irish students are very friendly.

Lecturers in the Department of Government are friendly and very helpful. The lectures are clear and interesting and very accommodating to international students. Students are encouraged to participate in class and ask questions.

Most of the assignments involve a lot of research and work, thus you will learn a lot about international and Irish politics. Blackboard is used a lot at UCC. You will find announcements, assignments, lecture notes and marks on the website. If you have any question, don't hesitate to go to the department office, they are welcoming and very helpful. The library is also a valuable tool for researching assignments: there are a lot of books on all topics and in every language.

Cork city is a lovely city, with plenty of shops, nice cafes and there's always something going on. There are many sites to see in Ireland and Cork city. Cultural events organised by the University and by the city are always taking place. From Parnell Place, you can take a bus to travel almost anywhere in Ireland if you want to tour the country.

We hope you'll enjoy your stay at UCC as much as we did!



# DON'S DIARY: A BSc GOVERNMENT III STUDENT TELLS US ABOUT HIS TIME IN TAIPEI

By Don O'Neill, BSc Government III



**Above: A tourist hotel in Taroko Gorge, a spectacular region in Taiwan (photo by Don O'Neill)**

I was always interested in Asia; I was fascinated by the vast, faraway continent around the world. As I read and learnt more I became very interested in the politics, culture and economy of Asia. But I didn't have any real on the ground knowledge of Asia or Taiwan, which I really wanted.

My interest in Taiwan only came about because of my Taiwanese lecturer, Dr Julie Yu-Wen Chen, who introduced me to Taiwan within the context of the wider East Asian region. I went to Taiwan to attend the National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) to study Mandarin Chinese for eight weeks. I was never in Asia and I had never tried Chinese before.

What I found was an amazing country; Taiwan is beautiful with a culture that is vast and rich with history. The people were so helpful and polite. My teacher was so kind and understanding and constantly smiling, making the lessons fun and interesting. I was introduced to Wendy, who lived in the city of Tainan, which I visited for a weekend with my UK friend.

Instead of simply meeting up for lunch or a short polite meeting, we were shown around the entire city (riding on the back of motorbikes no less). While we only saw a small part of the city, it was definitely a highlight of the trip. This was only a taste of how kind and helpful Taiwanese people are. Whenever I seemed lost or confused, someone would offer to help (even if their English wasn't very good!)

I was introduced to another kind person called Sophie. She showed both Helen (my classmate) and I the real Taiwanese culture in Taipei. I owe the three of them for showing me the real Taiwan. I wasn't interested in being a tourist but in experiencing what it was like to be a Taiwan citizen. I saw the awe inspiring Taroko Gorge, the bustling night markets that are the centre of Taiwan social life, Taipei 101 and experienced a different culture.

I think in Ireland there is a lack of interest in Asia or in any part of the world outside the English speaking parts of the world. We still, for the most part, stick to the traditional countries of emigration. This I feel is changing due to the recession and globalisation. Younger people should be taught about Asia, given its economic importance and significance to the world both politically and economically.

The recent German elections dominated the news but elections in Asia hardly ever reach the news here. This is a missed opportunity. The Asian markets are growing. The USA markets are still sluggish. Taiwan represents a massive investment for Ireland, as do the majority of Asian countries. I could list all the countries Ireland should look into but I don't have the word space.

I recently attended the launch of a Taiwan-Irish alumni group to promote Taiwan to Irish students and vice versa. The hope is to organise language and cultural exchanges between our two countries. I think this is a great opportunity for Irish students to find out more about Taiwan and from Taiwan learn about Asia.

My experiences of Taiwan were spectacular. It has broadened my view of the world and helped me understand the region better. I also started to learn Chinese while over there and plan to continue. I once thought it was an impossible language, but I have found that with some persistence that Chinese is very doable. I hope to return to Taiwan and to explore the region more. It is a fascinating part of the world and I would encourage everyone to go.



**Above: The beautiful Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Park located in the centre of Taipei (photo by Don O'Neill)**

# Special Issue by Fiona Buckley and Official Launch by Miriam O'Callaghan



Along with Professor Yvonne Galligan, (Queen's University Belfast and formerly of UCC), Fiona Buckley recently co-edited a special issue of the *Irish Political Studies* journal entitled *Politics and Gender on the Island of Ireland: The Quest for Political Agency*. Published by Taylor and Francis, the volume brings together a collection of articles concerned with uncovering the experiences of women in modern politics on the island of Ireland. The volume will be officially launched by RTE's Miriam O'Callaghan at the 2013 PSAI Annual Conference in Dublin over the weekend of 18-20 October. For more information about the volume and free access to some of the articles, please see:

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/pdf/spissue/FIPS-SI.pdf>.

## VOICES OF EXPERIENCE JOIN THE DEBATE ON THE FUTURE OF THE SEANAD

On Wednesday 25 September, the Department of Government joined forces with Senator Susan O'Keefe (and former BBC journalist) to host a unique Seanad debate.

**VOICES OF EXPERIENCE** provided a platform for former politicians to make their contribution to the debate on the Seanad and political reform.

The debate was chaired by The Sunday Times columnist Justine McCarthy.

Speakers included Gemma Hussey (former Cabinet Minister), Des O'Malley (former Cabinet Minister), Liz McManus (former Minister of State), Joe O'Toole (former University Senator), Jim Glennon (former TD & Senator) and Dan Boyle (former TD & Senator)



**Above:** Fiona Buckley at the Seanad debate with Jim Glennon, Senator Susan O'Keefe and Gemma Hussey.

# Dream big and fulfil your potential

*By Colin Bradley, MSc Government student*



- Are you up for a challenge?
- Do you want to learn something new?
- Do you want to help others and your community?

If yes, Gaisce – the President's Award is for you!

Gaisce is Ireland's National Challenge Award for young people between the ages of 15 and 25. It is the country's most prestigious and respected individual award programme, and a challenge from the President of Ireland to you!

There are three awards – bronze, silver and gold. A young person agrees her/his individual challenges with a PAL (President's Award Leader). It is non-competitive, once you complete all your tasks you automatically receive the award – so the only person you'll be competing with is yourself! Each award is unique to the participants, they decide their activities in conjunction, and with the support of, their PAL.

Each award has four sections to be completed:

1. Community Involvement e.g. volunteering at a local charity
2. Personal Skill e.g. learning to play a musical instrument
3. Physical Recreation e.g. taking up a fitness class
4. Adventure Journey e.g. hiking the Wicklow Way

At Gold level, a 'residential project' also has to be undertaken.

Testimonials:

*'With the support of others and persistence you can achieve any goal you set yourself. It may take time but you get there in the end'*

*'Gaisce has pushed me to do things I would never have otherwise done and opened so many new doors in doing so'*

*'Through participating in the Gaisce Award I have gained the belief that life is a challenge and dreams are within reach'*

*'Gaisce has broadened my horizons and has given me a chance to look after others in my community. I have also developed new skills and also self confidence in myself'*

I have completed bronze and silver myself, and am currently working towards my gold award. Gaisce allows a person to explore new opportunities, to do things they never thought possible and to increase their confidence and determination to succeed.

I'm in the process of setting up a brand new UCC Gaisce Society for the coming term. As well as this, I have recently undertaken PAL training. This means that I am available to assist and support students in their pursuit of their award (bronze, silver or gold!) and I would be delighted to hear from people!

Want to hear more?

I can be contacted at: [colin.bradley@umail.ucc.ie](mailto:colin.bradley@umail.ucc.ie)

Log on to [www.gaisce.ie](http://www.gaisce.ie) to find out more about the award!

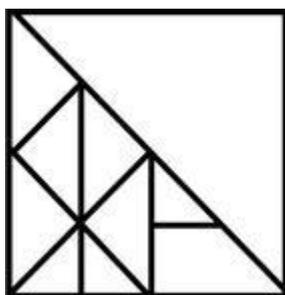


**Above:** Colin Bradley, receiving his Silver Gaisce Award from John C. Twomey, President of the International Federation of Disabled Sailing, and Paralympic Athlete, in University College Cork, November 2012, included in photo is PAL, Mariel Twomey

# Alumni Corner



Well done to **Steven Browne** (BSc Government 2013) who has started an internship in Boston City Hall as part of the Boston Redevelopment Authority. Steven's job in Boston stems from his final year research project where he examined the proposed redevelopment of Cork via the Docklands project.



Boston  
Redevelopment  
Authority



<http://www.bostonredevelopmentauthority.org/Home.aspx>



**Conor Culkin** graduated from the BSc Government programme in 2008 before completing an MA in Broadcast Journalism in the City University, London. Since then he has worked in the British and Irish media, covering some of the biggest stories in news and sport. He has worked for BBC Radio 5 Live, RTE Lyric FM, Newstalk, 96FM, C103, Red FM, Cork's *Evening Echo*, *The Irish Independent*, *The Irish Examiner* and *The Waterford News & Star*.

Conor is now embarking on a career move and has joined the communications team of Phil Prendergast MEP for next year's European Parliament elections.

We wish Conor well.



We kicked off our first event of the year successfully on 24 September when we collaborated with a number of political party societies, holding a political speed-dating event. The ratio of men to woman wasn't ideal but was expected if you consider the ratio in the Dáil today!

We achieved our aim, which was for all the political parties to bond and get to know each other before they tear each other to shreds at the Model Dáil in November. Our EGM was also a success as we elected 6 new committee members - our full committee is named below. History was made as there was a tie for one of the vacant positions which added a bit of drama to the night.

Before we get stuck into our debates this year, we have a film screening of **ARGO** on 8 October at 7pm in Boole 2 - we hope to see you there.

## **GOVERNMENT & POLITICS SOCIETY COMMITTEE 2013/2014**

Lisa Marie Sheehy	Auditor
Lorna Gardiner	Vice-Auditor
Shannon Sweeney	Secretary
Donagh Caomhánach	Finance Officer
Chris Boyle	Public Relations Officer
David Barry	Social Secretary
Nathan Ryan O'Hehir	Political Liaison Officer
Ben English	Academic Affairs Officer
Colin Bradley	Postgraduate Representative
Stephen Cunningham	First Year Representative Bsc Government
James Sheehy	OCM
Emma Walsh	OCM

# Fiona Buckley speaks at British Labour Party Event



On Saturday 14 September the Labour Women's Network (the women's section of the British Labour Party) held a one-day in Manchester at which **Fiona Buckley of the Department of Government** spoke about the recent passage of Gender Quota legislation in Ireland.

Fiona shared the platform with Senator Ivana Bacik, Claire McGing (NUIM) and Katherine Dunne (former Chair *Labour Women* (Ireland) & Labour party candidate for Syon Ward, London Borough of Hounslow).



**From l to r:** Senator Ivana Bacik; Claire McGing (NUI Maynooth); Fiona Buckley (UCC); Katherine Dunne (former Chair *Labour Women* (Ireland) & Labour party candidate for Syon Ward, London Borough of Hounslow).

## BEN ENGLISH (BSc GOVERNMENT IV) HAS SPENT THE LAST 15 MONTHS IN WASHINGTON AND MAINE .....



Above: Ben English with An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD

As the United States continues to dominate world news with a partisan stand off, Ben English (BSc Gov IV) is adjusting to life back in UCC having returned from a 15 month stint in the US. As a second year student, Ben was selected for the prestigious Washington Ireland Program (WIP), which offers 30 students from Ireland and Northern Ireland a 3 month professional development and leadership program which culminates in an 8 week internship in Washington DC. For the BSc Government Programme, it was the department's second consecutive year with a student on the Program, with Jean Fleming (BSc Gov 11) selected the year previous.

Ben joined 29 other students from the North and South who began some of public policy issues affecting their generation. Ben was part of a 10 person group that produced a White Paper on Same Sex Marriage entitled; *Redefining Marriage in the 21st Century*. The paper was presented to Minister for Education and Skills Ruairi Quinn for future consideration. Upon arriving in DC, Ben was placed in an internship in the House of Congress with US Congressman Mike Kelly (PA-3). Ben's work included social media development for the office in addition to working on legislation concerning government oversight and reform, particularly relating to *Operation Fast Furious*, an investigation into "gun walking" practices by US Attorney General Eric Holder.

Ben was also fortunate enough to have the opportunity to address members of Congress at the WIP Congressional Forum where he delivered a speech entitled *Leadership Today, Not Tomorrow*. Prior to departing for Washington, Ben received a George Mitchell Scholarship from UCC, again becoming the second consecutive BSc Government recipient after Rory Murphy (BSc Gov 2013).

The George Mitchell Scholarship is awarded to UCC students with a commitment to Service and Leadership and a recipients receive a tuition waiver to study at the University of Maine for an academic year. While attending the University of Maine, Ben took classes on topics including International Terrorism and the US Congress. In addition to his studies, Ben was fortunate to work for the Vice President of the University working on diversity policy and in his second semester, Ben worked as a legislative aide for the Republican leadership of the Maine State Senate. Ben worked for leadership on legislation to limit the number of terms that can be served within the Maine Senate in addition to working on no less than 137 gun control bills in the wake of the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary school.

In March of 2013, Ben was one of the organizers of Ireland Day 2013 at the New York Stock Exchange which gathered Irish-American political and business leaders to discuss transatlantic cooperation and initiatives to encourage job creation. In this role, Ben welcomed former US Senator George Mitchell (pictured) to the NYSE. Following the academic year in Maine, Ben returned to DC for a summer placement with Fortune 500 company Alcoa Inc, where Ben worked as part of their Government Affairs team, working on critical legislation including corporate tax reform, immigration reform, and Barack Obama's Climate Action Plan.

Applications for the Washington Ireland Program Class of 2014 will open in the coming weeks and students can register their interest at [www.wiprogram.org](http://www.wiprogram.org). All BSc Government first and second year students are eligible to apply for the George Mitchell Scholarship and more information can be found in the International Students Office or at <http://www.ucc.ie/en/international/abroad/georgejmittellpeacescholarship/>.



**Above: Ben English with George Mitchell**

# DR THERESA REIDY AT CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND IN THE MEDIA

Dr Theresa Reidy, Department of Government, addressed the Constitutional Convention on September 28-29 on the issue of voting rights for emigrants.

Her presentation is available here.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLQQgxh7970&list=UUI1XuybPHA2o6E5AqUg8wdg>

In the past ten days, Theresa has appeared on several RTE radio programmes including *The Late Debate*, *The Marian Finucane Show* and *Today with Sean O'Rourke*. Theresa has written opinion pieces for *The Irish Independent* and also provided political commentary for *The Irish Examiner*, *The Irish Times*, *Reuters* and *The Financial Times* on political reform debates and referendums in Ireland.



Above: Dr Theresa Reidy addressing the Constitutional Convention.



- @BScGovUCC is the Twitter account for the BSc Government programme
- @PolSocUCC is the Twitter account for the Government and Politics Society
- @ucceuropa is the Twitter account for the UCC Europa Society
- @diplomacy\_ucc is the Twitter account of the MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy