

# GOVERNMENT TIMES

The newsletter for Department of Government students and staff

Volume 5, No. 6 –Monday 2 December 2013 - ISSUE 53

## Reflections on 40 Years of Irish Membership of the EU



Last week, the Department of Government hosted a major two-day multi-disciplinary conference exploring Ireland's relationship with the European Union over the 40 years since Ireland joined the community. The event was organised by **Dr Mary C. Murphy** (Department of Government, UCC) and Dr John O'Brennan (National University of Ireland, Maynooth). The conference attracted a fantastic range of speakers from the worlds of politics, the media, and academia. The above picture shows (from left to right) Dick Spring (former Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tánaiste), Alan Dukes (former Minister for Finance and Fine Gael leader), Dr John O'Brennan, Micheál Martin (former Minister for Foreign Affairs and current Fianna Fáil leader), and Dr Mary C. Murphy.

*See more on pages 2, 4 and 5*

# ***Editorial Page***



## **Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and safe Christmas**

In some ways it's hard to believe that the first semester is nearly at an end but what better way to celebrate than with a bumper 14-page issue of your favourite newsletter! Our lead story in Issue 53 is the highly successful EU conference held last week. The conference attracted a tremendous group of distinguished speakers and it was a great opportunity for Government students to hear first-hand accounts of Ireland's relationship with the EU from leading politicians and academics as well as high-profile political correspondents. Credit is due to Dr Mary C Murphy for bringing the conference to UCC and she was ably assisted by Tony Costello.

Also in this issue we have some photos from the recent launch of *The Freedom of Cork: A Chronicle of Honour* and this was another excellent Department of Government event, hosted by Cork City Council. It was heartening to see a good turnout from BSc Government students, past and present. In addition we have a strong alumni contribution in this issue, as well as a great information piece from the Government & Politics Society, and a reminder about the Patrick O'Sullivan essay competition.

With the teaching term ending on Friday, this is the final ***Government Times*** of 2013. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and healthy Christmas.

**Aodh Quinlivan**

**Director BSc Government**

**Co-editor of *Government Times***

**Lisa-Marie Sheehy**

**Auditor Government and Politics Society**

**Co-editor of *Government Times***



**Left:** Fiona Buckley with Noirin Clancy, Senator Ivana Bacik and Senator Susan O'Keeffe promoting the 50/50 Group and the Women for Election campaign at the Labour Party Annual Conference; **Right:** Professor Ursula Kilkelly, Head of the College of Business and Law, delivering the opening address at the EU Conference.

# CONTENTS!

# ISSUE 53

- Page 1** COVER STORY: Reflections on Ireland's 40 Years of EU Membership
- Page 2** Editorial page – Happy Christmas!
- Page 3** Contents page
- Page 4** Cover story continued: Ireland/EU Reflections Conference
- Page 5** Cover story continued: Ireland/EU Reflections Conference
- Page 6** Successful National Model United Nations in UCC
- Page 7** Department of Government Students Visit Dáil Éireann
- Page 8** Launch of *The Freedom of Cork: A Chronicle of Honour*
- Page 9** Launch of *The Freedom of Cork: A Chronicle of Honour*
- Page 10** Alumni Corner with Helen Egan
- Page 11** Alumni Corner with Helen Egan
- Page 12** Alumni Pictures – Steven Day, Peter Horgan and Aoife McDonnell
- Page 13** 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Patrick O'Sullivan Essay Competition
- Page 14** Government and Politics Society – Academic Affairs Officer needed

# Ireland in the EU Conference (Cover Story continued)

Congratulations to **Dr Mary Murphy** who successfully co-organised this conference with **Dr John O'Brennan** (Maynooth) and with the help of **Tony Costello** (Department of Government PhD candidate).

The conference was a major two day multi-disciplinary event with an impressive list of speakers, including: -

- Alan Dukes – former Minister for Finance
- Micheál Martin – former Minister for Foreign Affairs and current Fianna Fáil leader
- Dick Spring – former Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tánaiste



**Famous Politicians Past and Present: Alan Dukes, Dick Spring and Micheál Martin spoke on the first day of the conference.**

- Francis Jacob - Head of the European Parliament Office, Dublin
- Bobby McDonagh – Irish Ambassador to Italy
- Lt Gen Pat Nash – former Operation Commander EUFOR CHAD/RCA
- Ann Cahill – *Irish Examiner* journalist
- Paddy Smyth – *Irish Times* journalist
- Sean Whelan – former RTE Brussels correspondent
- Pat Ivory – IBEC
- David Begg – ICTU
- Noelle O'Connell – European Movement Ireland
- Tony Brown – IIEA
- Mervyn O'Driscoll – UCC
- Micheal Geary – Maastricht University and Woodrow Wilson Centre
- Michael Holmes – Liverpool Hope University
- Frank Barry – TCD
- Dan O'Brien – IIEA and UCD
- Mary P Murphy – Maynooth
- John O'Brennan – Maynooth
- John Fitzgibbon – Canterbury Christ Church University
- John Coakley – UCD
- Declan Walsh – UCC

## Ireland in the EU Conference (Cover Story continued)

- Patricia McKenna – former MEP
- Barry Desmond – former MEP and Government Minister
- John Cushnahan – former MEP
- Mary Banotti – former MEP
- Muiris Mac Carthaigh – Queen's University Belfast
- Pauline Cullen – Maynooth
- Bernadette Connaughton – UL
- Thia Hennessy – Teagasc
- Brid Quinn - UL



**Above:** Former MEPs at the conference, from left to right Barry Desmond, Mary Banotti, Patricia McKenna and John Cushnahan.

The Department of Government featured prominently at the conference. Head of Department, **Dr Andrew Cottee**, chaired the panel on 'Political Reflections'. **Dr Mary C Murphy**, as well as co-organising the event, presented a paper entitled 'Conflict, Cash and Caution: The EU Dimension to Northern Ireland Politics'. **Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** chaired the panel which examined 'Administration, Law and Identity'.

One of the high points of the two-day event was the keynote address by Professor Anthony Dinan, the Jean Monet Chair of the George Mason University. Following the address, the Irish Association for Contemporary European Studies (IACES) was formally re-launched.

# Successful National Model United Nations Conference

The UCC International Relations Society hosted its 11<sup>th</sup> National Model United Nations conference on campus recently, continuing its efforts to develop the Model UN format in secondary schools. NatMUN, which this year attracted almost 200 students from across the country, sees delegates assigned to play the roles of countries on United Nations style committees. A type of debating format, MUN is rapidly expanding in Ireland to catch up with its prevalence in the UK, where University initiatives are helping students to become involved across the educational spectrum.

The conference took its success in part from the quality of its opening and closing speakers, who drew together a theme for the weekend of critical thinking in regard to human rights. Opening the conference on the Friday, Professor Brian Burdekin of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, who advises governments internationally on the creation of Human Rights Institutions, alluded to failures by the Irish government in upholding its domestic human rights commitments and spoke of the need to develop the capacities of the Irish Human Rights Commission rather than relying on international treaties.

In closing the conference on Sunday, Lt. Gen. Pat Nash, retired from the Irish defence forces and now a UN advisor on peacekeeping and military intervention, sounded what he called a more realistic note and advised the students to think laterally about the 'dogmatic, populist' view of human rights.

**The 2013 conference was convened for the IR Soc by Jack Corbett (BSc Government II) and was chaired in part by Eileen O'Donovan (BSc Government III), who took charge of the Economic and Social Council simulation.**



# Visits to Dáil Éireann



On Wednesday 27 November, Fiona Buckley and Dr Theresa Reidy accompanied the BSc Government I class (GV1207) to Dáil Éireann. The trip was organised by Senator Susan O'Keeffe and students were addressed by both Senator O'Keeffe and Fine Gael TD, Dara Murphy.

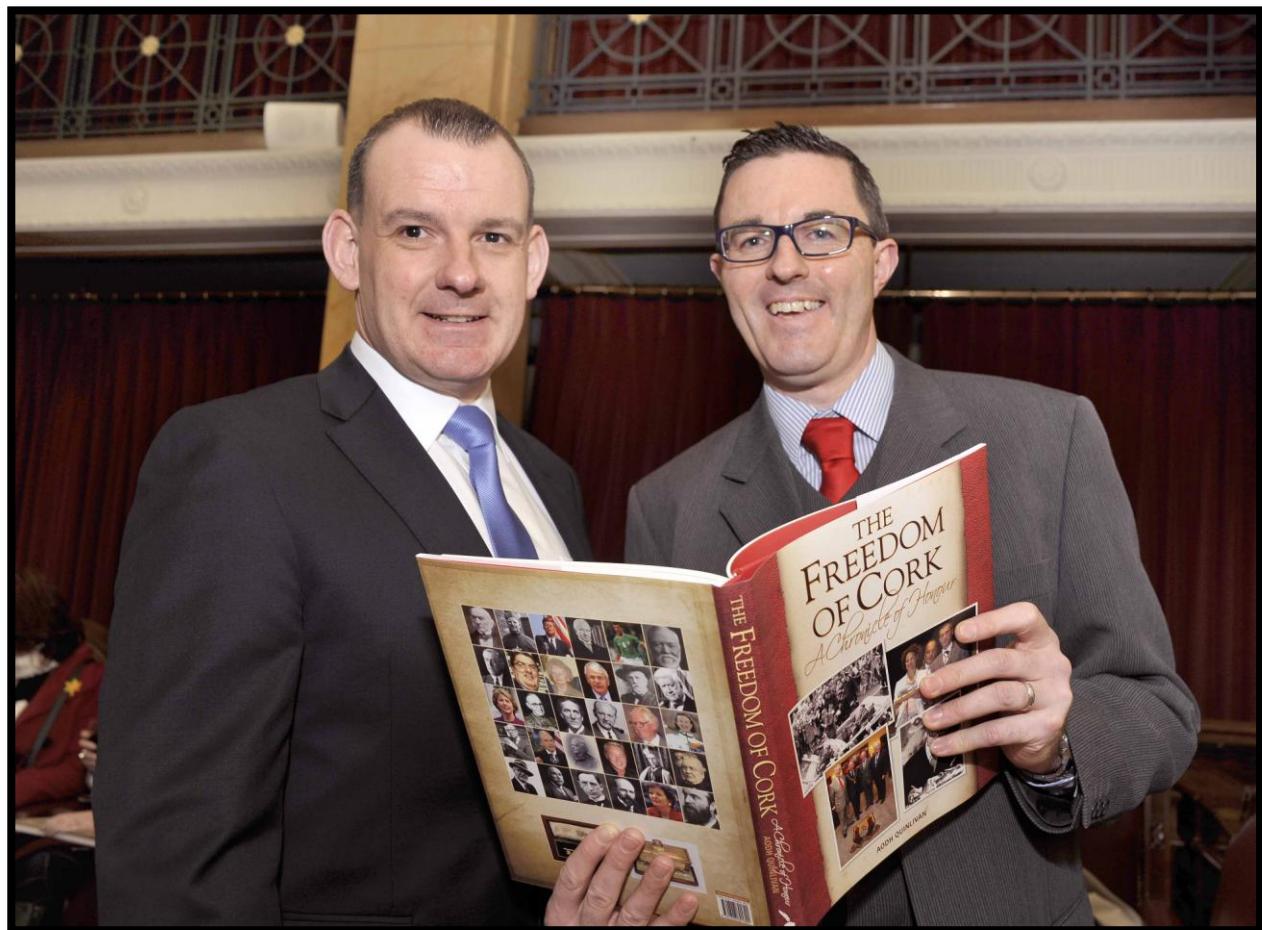


The following day, Thursday 28 November, Fiona and Theresa accompanied a second group of students to the Dáil. This group comprised students from BA1, BA2, BSc Gov IV and visiting students from the GV3103 module. Students were addressed by Senator O'Keeffe, Jonathon O'Brien TD (SF), Jerry Buttimmer TD (FG) and Catherine Murphy TD (Ind). The picture includes the picture with Susan O'Keeffe, Jerry Buttimmer, Jonathon O'Brien & Ciaran Lynch TD (Lab). After their visit to Leinster House, the students visited the European Parliament offices in Ireland where they received a lecture on the EU & Ireland by Harry O'Connor.

# Freedom of Cork Book Launch Council Chamber, City Hall, 21 November

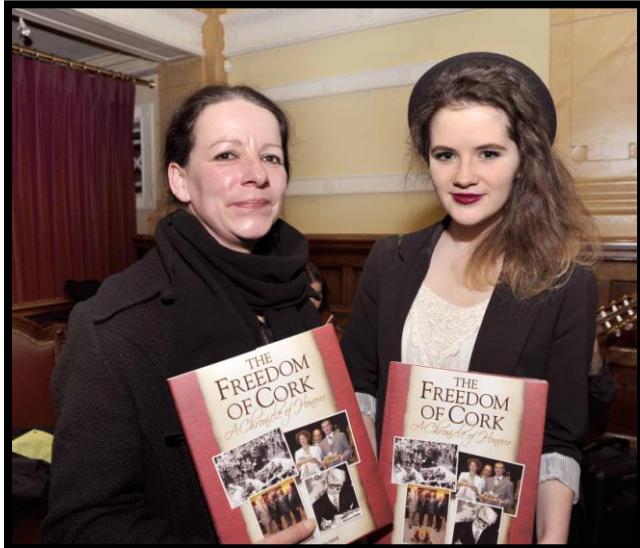


Left: Aodh signs books with Gillian Hennessy of the Collins Press; Right: Alice Quinlivan makes a break for the sausages while her Dad signs.



Above: Aodh with Pádraig Mac Consaidín (BSc Government IV) who worked as a research assistant on the book and wrote many of the profiles.

# Freedom of Cork Book Launch



**Left:** Helena Considine and Katie Burke; **Right:** Aodh with Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan and their children, Adam (5), Lucie (3) and Alice (1).



**Left:** One of Cork's newest freemen, Frank Duggan, with the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Lorraine Kingston;  
**Right:** Dr Liam Weeks and Yvonne Madden.



Tune into Cork's 103FM at 6:00pm on Wednesday as Aodh discusses the *Freedom of Cork* book and other issues during an hour-long interview.

Aodh will also present some of his musical preferences!

# Alumni Corner



## Helen Egan, BSc Government 2012 Graduate

***\*Helen currently works in London for the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). Read her story about how the BSc Government is regarded as a very attractive degree programme by the LGBCE.***

Having graduated in 2012, it was not long until I decided to move on from Ireland. I chose London on a whim and, much to my surprise, got a job very quickly. Initially when I arrived, I got a temp job as a Business Assistant for the LGBCE. This post was largely revolved around dealing with procurement, dealing with correspondence, minute-taking and general ad hoc duties.

The LGBCE has a key role in providing fair boundary arrangements for local authority elections in England and keeping the map of English local government in good repair. The Commission is an independent body set up by Parliament on 1 April 2010 by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. There are currently six Commissioners, one of whom is the Chair, Max Caller. The Commission currently has staff of around 26, based at its offices in Farringdon, London EC1. The Commission's core function is to review and make recommendations for changes to local authority electoral arrangements, including the number of councillors to be elected to an authority, the pattern and names of wards and the number of councillors to be returned from each ward. The Commission implements its recommendations through Statutory Instruments laid in Parliament. The Commission is also responsible for reviewing and making recommendations to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for changes to the administrative or external boundaries of local authorities. Finally, the Commission also has a role in providing advice, on request, to the Secretary of State on any bids he receives from local authorities for a move from two-tier to unitary local government. The Commission works closely with the local government community in England, with central Government and with Parliamentarians in both Houses.

After, a few months of temping a permanent position came up in the organisation, I jumped at the chance and was successful! Currently, I am working as a Review Assistant. My responsibilities include, but are not restricted to the following:

- To provide administrative assistance to all review team staff
- To take the lead in organising preliminary, draft recommendations and final recommendations launches
- To draft and respond responses to general enquiries and log and respond to review submissions with standard acknowledgement letters
- To maintain the Commission's website and portal, including uploading copies of submissions received during on-going reviews, ensuring data protection legislation is adhered to
- Maintain and update the log of Orders that the LGBCE holds, including electoral change Orders, related alterations, consent cases and orders made by local authorities.
- To assist colleagues in the review process, i.e. auditing; mapping and formatting generic reports
- To co-ordinate the collation of map monitoring information from the review teams
- To maintain electronic and paper filing systems, and be responsible for review team archiving, acting as the team's records officer, in accordance with the Commission's records management policy

It is very apparent that my degree was very attractive to the organisation; they had contacted me having seen my CV on a Job Seekers website. I would like to reinforce the idea that if graduates have an interest in traveling abroad, London is place that welcomes this qualification, while not being too far from home. Also, my work placement in the New York State Assembly was hugely helpful in attaining this post. I have to stress that the degree has not restricted me to this line of work, but continues to open doors.

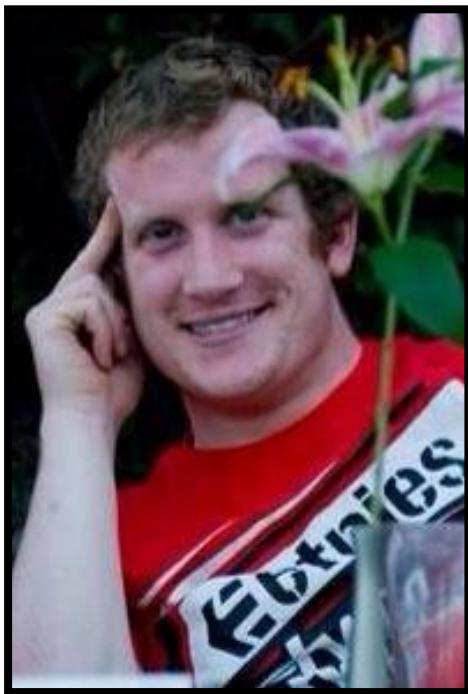
I love living in London and having a Monday to Friday 9-5 fits the lifestyle here nicely! Making a snap decision on a location will not work for everybody, however a strong CV giving relevant examples of work experience will appeal to perspective employers...anywhere. I strongly recommend getting appropriate second, third and fourth opinions on your CV and always getting feedback from interviews whether positive or negative.

\*\*\*\*\*

Read more about the work of the LGBCE at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/>.



# ALUMNI PICTURES



Left: Everyone at *Government Times* and the Department of Government wishes Steven Day (BSc Government graduate, 2007) all the very best wishes as he recovers from serious injuries sustained as a result of a recent bicycle accident.

Right: BSc Government graduate, Peter Horgan, was pictured with John Lyons TD at the Labour Party Annual Conference last weekend. Peter works as a parliamentary assistant with Minister Sean Sherlock.



Left: BSc Government graduate, Aoife McDonnell, with Spain's Ambassador to Jordan ahead of the opening of new disability services for Syrian refugees; Right: Aoife McDonnell walking and meeting Syrian refugees on the Champs Élysées (in Jordan!) with Hugh Robertson MP, the UK Minister for the Middle East.

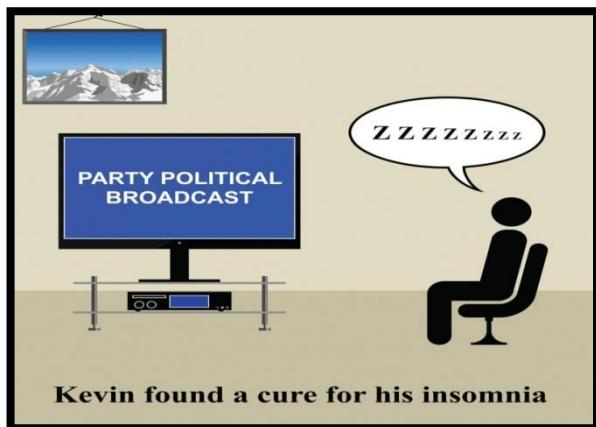
Aoife, who featured recently in *Government Times*, works for the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and is currently based in Jordan, working with Syrian refugees.

# The 12<sup>th</sup> Patrick O'Sullivan Essay Writing Competition - 2013/2014 Academic Year

This essay writing competition celebrates the life and spirit of Patrick O' Sullivan, who tragically died on 3 March, 2001. Patrick should have been amongst our first group of students who graduated in September 2003. Patrick had a deep interest in politics and he also possessed a great sense of humour. We try to combine both of these elements in this annual essay competition.

This year's title is:-

## Laugh in Spite of Yourself: Wit and Humour in Politics



500-600 word essay.

Please supply your name and class year on a separate cover page

NO need to adhere to academic assignment guidelines re: referencing etc.

Typed or hand-written, but preferably typed! Essays can be as light-hearted and as irreverent as you wish!

Submit to:-

Aodh Quinlivan

Room 2.54, Department of Government

or electronically to a.quinlivan@ucc.ie

**DEADLINE: - Friday 13 December 2013**

The writer of the winning essay will receive the Patrick O' Sullivan Perpetual Shield  
on the night of the Annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL!

**NOTE: This competition is open to all under-graduate Government students.**



## **Government and Politics Society**

■ Are you interested in becoming the Society's new Academic Affairs Officer?

■ Date of Government Ball announced – Thursday 6 February 2014

### Smoking Debate

PolSoc had a very successful debate in collaboration with the Sláinte Society on 21 November. It was based on Minister Reilly's comments on a smoke-free Ireland by 2025. There were a lot of very valid points made and things even got heated at times! We would like to thank everybody who came to the event.

### Government and Politics Review recruitment

The Government and Politics Society is currently looking for an Academic Affairs Officer. The main role of the officer is to coordinate and edit the **Government and Politics Review** which is published at the end of the second semester. The Society is looking to fill this position as soon as possible, so as to facilitate submissions to the review. Therefore applications for the position will be up to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. We will then co-opt a new member in the first week of term. Interested applicants can email the society at [politics@uccsocieties.ie](mailto:politics@uccsocieties.ie).

### Jailbreak Christmas edition (PolSoc)

Registration 12-1pm Thursday 5 Dec outside the library; People will be given 2 hours to find the most obscure location they can think of and take a picture of themselves with the PolSoc logo (which will be provided at registration) and to tweet it back to us. There will be a €2 registration charge for a team of 2 with proceeds going to Barnardos. The prize is 2 tickets to the Government Ball which will be held on Thurs 6 February 2014.



- ◆ @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