



# GOVERNMENT TIMES

*A Newsletter for Department of Government Students and Staff*

## Viva Success for Doctor Phil



Congratulations to **Philip Murphy** (second from left) who recently passed his PhD Viva with flying colours. Philip was part of the first BSc Government (and Public Policy) class and he is now on the teaching staff in the Department. Congratulations also to Philip's supervisor, **Dr Clodagh Harris**. Philip's external examiner was **Professor Jeffrey Karp** (far left) from the Department of Political Science, University of Exeter. Professor Karp specialises in research on public opinion, elections and political behaviour. **Professor Neil Collins**, Head of Department of Government, was the internal examiner.

*Story continued on next page*



## *Editorial Page*

# RIP Willy Pedrazinni

While we celebrate the success of one of our PhD cohort, **Philip Murphy**, in this issue of *Government Times* we also pause and reflect on the recent tragic passing of one of our other doctoral students, **Willy Pedrazinni**, who died of a heart attack last Saturday. Willy came to us from Italy and he quickly became very popular due to his energy, humour, humanity and intelligence. He will be sadly missed.

Willy was a good man to socialise so I am sure he would have appreciated the programme of events planned for **Politics Week** which runs from 13-16 February. The draft programme is on page 5 and includes the traditional Government Cup and Government Ball.

*Aodh Quinlivan*

Director BSc Government  
Co-editor of *Government Times*

*Ben English*

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

## **Cover story continued: Viva Success for Doctor Phil**

Philip's research focuses on the relationship between socialisation environments (family, school, and social) and internal and external political efficacy. The project involved a quantitative approach, with the survey of over 1,000 post-primary students on the threshold of electoral entitlement. Research findings indicate the positive effect of non-political learning and participative opportunities on both efficacy dimensions.

Publications from the research relate to the following topics: Pre-adult political efficacy measurement; the socialisation of political attitudes in Ireland and; educating for political efficacy. The research will contribute to ongoing discussions on the proposed expansion of political education to senior cycle in Ireland, and the proposed lowering of the voting age in Ireland.



- Page 1** COVER STORY: Viva success for Philip Murphy
- Page 2** Editorial page; RIP Willy Pedrazinni
- Page 3** Contents page
- Page 4** MBA Public Sector speakers
- Page 5** Politics Week 2012, 13-16 February
- Page 6** Keeping an eye on BSc Government graduates
- Page 7** Minister appoints Department of Government lecturer
- Page 8** Winner of secondary school essay competition announced
- Page 9** Local government symposium
- Page 10** 'My Degree' by Rebecca Spillane

## THE GOVERNMENT BALL IS COMING UP!



# Exciting speakers lined up for MBA Public Sector module



Fr Sean Healy



John Mullins



Ger Power (left)



Dr Richard Boyle

**Dr Aodh Quinlivan** has been teaching the 'Public Sector' module on UCC's Executive MBA degree since 1998 and the module has traditionally attracted some interesting guest speakers. Among the speakers lined up for 2012 are the following:

**3 February** – Public Private Partnerships in Ireland – Ger Power, Head of Finance, Cork County Council

**24 February** – Social Issues Facing Modern Ireland – Fr Seán Healy, Director, Social Justice Ireland

**9 March** – Managing Change in a Large Semi State Body – John Mullins, CEO, Bord Gais

**16 March** – Performance Verification and Public Service Pay – Dr Richard Boyle, Head of Research, Institute of Public Administration

# POLITICS WEEK 2012

## Draft Programme

**Monday 13 February** - Official Launch with Honorary President- 7pm venue TBC

**Tuesday 14 February** - Government Cup - Mardyke Arena - 10am-4pm

**Wednesday 15 February** - Government Ball, Clarion Hotel, Reception at 7.30

**Thursday 16 February** - Comedian Abie-Philip Bowman in New Bar UCC, 7pm



Ben English, Simon Coveney TD, Rebecca O'Sullivan and Ciarán Lynch TD at the launch of last year's Politics Week.



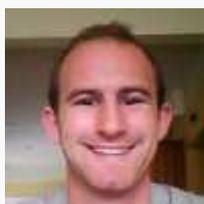
Students and staff at last year's Government Ball.

# Keeping an eye on some BSc Government Graduates - CK210



**Diarmuid Angland (2007)**

Stewardship and Communications Officer at London School of Economics (London)



**Darragh Mehigan (2010)**

Operations Analyst at Clear Task (San Francisco)



**Paddy Stapleton (2004)**

Assistant Tax Manager at Ernst and Young (Dublin)



**Elizabeth Sheeran (2006)**

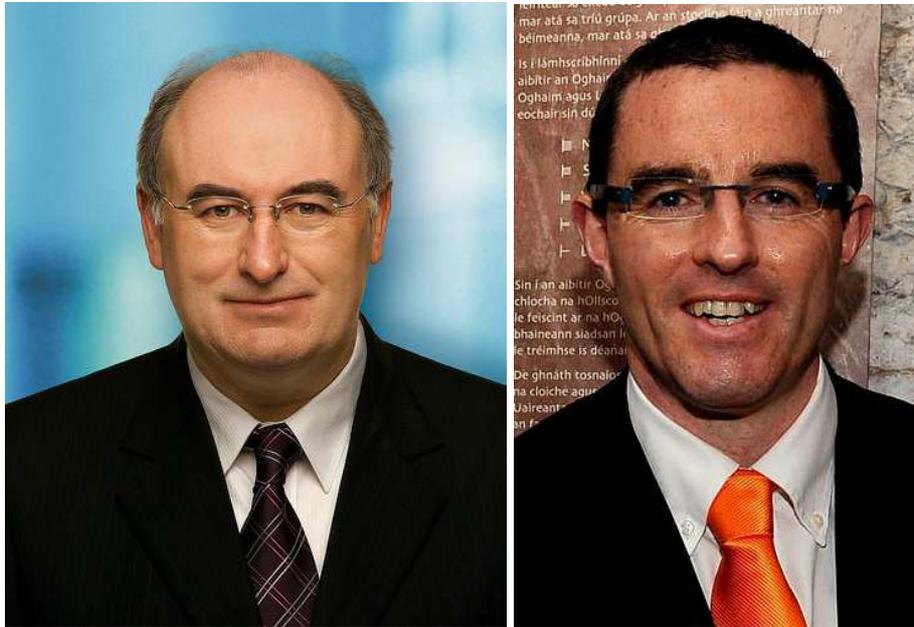
Design Lead at Global Oil & Gas Company (London)



**Roy Scannell (2007)**

Project, Bid and Tender Coordinator at Bid Management Services (Dublin)

# Minister Hogan appoints Government lecturer to Independent Review Group



Phil Hogan TD, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, has appointed UCC's **Dr Aodh Quinlivan** to an independent review group. The remit of the group is to examine the staffing complement and number of senior managers within the local government system.

The review follows on from the recommendations of the Local Government Efficiency Group with a particular emphasis on the number of senior managers.

The group has been asked to consider:

- The necessity to maintain a focus on the delivery of essential front line services to the public;
- The delivery of services in the most efficient and effective manner;
- The scope of sharing services and collaboration among the Cork local authorities and with the other local authorities and other public bodies in terms of service delivery and in reducing costs;
- Any emerging/identified issues with respect to staffing in local authorities;
- Government policy regarding public service reform;
- Government policy in restoring the national finances

The other members of the group are:

*Pat McLoughlin* – Chief Executive, Irish Payments Services Organisation

*Alf Smiddy*, Chairman, Granite Consulting, Cork

*Anne O'Keeffe*, Former Director, Office of Local Authority Management

*Des Dowling* – Assistant Secretary, Local Government Division, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

The group has been given six months to produce its report for the Minister.

# Announcing the winner of the Department of Government's inaugural essay competition for secondary schools



## *My Europe, My Future*

**Justin Fleming**

**Mitchelstown CBS**

“This is the first year we have run the competition and – while we did not publicise it as much as we might have – we were very pleased with both the quantity and quality of entries. Justin is a very deserving winner of the Canon Ixus digital camera for his excellent essay. We hope to build on a successful first year of the competition and expand it next time around. I would like to acknowledge the support of the Government and Politics Society and the Communicating Europe Initiative for making this happen” – **Dr Aodh Quinlivan, Director, BSc Government, CK210**



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM: MYTH OR REALITY?

The Local Government Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI) – in conjunction with the Irish Branch of the Regional Studies Association - has organised a one-day symposium in Renehan Hall, NUI Maynooth on Thursday 8 March. The Specialist Group was founded in 2010 by **Dr Aodh Quinlivan** and members include academics, councillors and local government practitioners. The Department of Government's **Dr Clodagh Harris** is a member of the group and she will be speaking at the symposium.

The programme for the day is as follows:

**10:00-10:15 Registration and coffee**

**10:15-10:30 Welcome**

Professor Jim Walsh, Vice-President, NUIM

Dr Chris van Egeraat, NUIM, Chairman RSA – Irish Branch

**10:30-10:45 Overview and Chair**

Dr Sean O'Riordain, RSA and Public Policy Advisors' Network

**10:45-11:30 Bigger is better?**

Dr Mark Callanan, IPA; Dr Aodh Quinlivan, UCC; Dr Proinnsias Breathnach, NUIM

**11:30-12:15 Local Government Reform – A European Perspective**

Frank Gensler, Deputy Mayor and City Manager, Neuss, Germany

**12:15-1:00 Meeting the Democratic Deficit – Building on Participation**

Cllr Dermot Lacey, Dublin City Council; Cllr Ted Howlin, Chairman, AMAI; Dr Clodagh Harris, UCC

**1:00-1:45 Lunch**

**Overview and Chair**

Joe Mulholland

**1:45-2:15 Local Government in a Place-Shaping Role: An International Perspective**

Professor Robin Hambleton, Professor of City Leadership, University of the West of England, Bristol

**2:15-3:15 Returning to Barrington: Time for Real Change?**

Dr Ruth Barrington; Dr Brid Quinn, UL; Carmel Fox, Chief Executive Ballyhoura Development Ltd.; Dr Pat Gallagher, County Manager, Offaly County Council

**3:15-16:00 Panel Discussion**

**Chair:** Dr Deiric O'Broin, DCU, Local Government Specialist Group, PSAI

# My Degree – CK210

By Rebecca Spillane (2003 Graduate)



**Above:** *Rebecca is pictured here with Arun Gandhi, the fifth grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. Arun Gandhi recently visited East Lothian as part of a programme of events to celebrate 'Black History Month' locally.*

It's hard to believe that it has been over 10 years since I walked into my first lecture in Government and Public Policy!

Over the next four years, I had the privilege of developing numerous academic skills and making friends for life. Work experience in the Scottish Parliament was my first opportunity to see the policy development process, and political wrangling, manifest itself into decisions that had a direct impact in the community and on individuals' lives.

Finding the right balance between the community viewpoint, service providers and politicians wasn't just something to read about in library books. After graduating from UCC, I studied for an MSc in Urban Regeneration at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, where I continued my interest in partnership working and community engagement.

This led me to work with the Edinburgh Partnership and the City of Edinburgh Council to improve the voice of the community in decision making. In 2006, I joined East Lothian Council to develop their work on poverty and regeneration and to lead their approach to equality and diversity. It's a challenging and varied role. The range of individuals and characters that I meet through each day are challenging and inspirational! Two days are never the same!

I look back with great respect for my lecturers and peers in UCC and congratulate them on the continuing success of the BSc degree.