



GOVERNMENT TIMES

A Newsletter for Department of Government Students and Staff

Minister Kathleen Lynch urges students to ‘get actively involved in politics’ and Fr Seán Healy argues Ireland needs to get away from ‘voodoo economics’



As you will see in this jam-packed issue of *Government Times*, the Department of Government has hosted a wide range of speakers in recent weeks, including Minister Kathleen Lynch, Fr Seán Healy, Phil Prendergast MEP, and George Hook. Today, the Department will welcome the Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore to launch the third volume of the *Government and Politics Review*.

- See Government Ball picture special, pages 9 to 11 -



Editorial Page

A fortnight is a long time in the Department of Government – Conference on Governance, Democracy and Sustainable Development, Politics Week, Government Ball and lectures by Fr Seán Healy, Minister Kathleen Lynch, George Hook and Phil Prendergast, MEP.

Whatever next?

Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore, Eamon Dunphy and Bill Cullen!

The last two weeks have been incredibly busy for the Department of Government and the Government and Politics Society. The Department has hosted a high-profile conference entitled **Governance, Democracy and Sustainable Development** (see page 12) and has welcomed a wide range of speakers including **Fr Seán Healy** (Director, Social Justice Ireland), **Ger Power** (Head of Finance, Cork County Council) and **Phil Prendergast** (Member of European Parliament).

Not to be outdone, the Society ran another very successful **Politics Week** with a launch by Minister of State **Kathleen Lynch** and a wonderful **Government Ball** in the Clarion Hotel. **Debbie Foott (BSc Government II)** deserves enormous credit for organising the ball so effectively; a great night was had by all. Politics Week continued with a comedy night on Thursday which was heavily attended.

This week has been equally full. On Monday, the Society had **George Hook** down to speak and he entertained the crowd with his no-holes-barred lecture. The following night saw the Society host the Student Union Presidential Hustings with the help of the **Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Kenneth O'Flynn**.

At the time of going to press, we are excited that the **Tánaiste** is coming this evening to launch the *Government and Politics Review*. Thanks to all the students who submitted articles and to **Pádraig Mac Consaidín (BSc Government II)** for all of his hard work as editor.

As if all of this was not enough, the Government and Politics Society is planning to end the academic year on a high with talks by **Eamon Dunphy** and **Bill Cullen** scheduled in addition to a debate on the future of the Irish language.

Aodh Quinliwan

Director BSc Government
Co-editor of *Government Times*

Ben English

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

***Thanks to Emmet Curtin for providing a lot of the pictures in today's issue, specifically those from the Government Ball. Thanks also to individual students who sent in photos.**



ISSUE 41

Page 1	COVER STORY: Minister Kathleen Lynch and Fr Seán Healy
Page 2	Editorial page: A fortnight to remember for the Department and Society
Page 3	Contents page
Page 4	Justin Fleming wins secondary school essay competition
Page 5	BSc Government students on <i>The Frontline</i> with Pat Kenny
Page 6	BSc Government graduate meets President Higgins; second staff-student forum
Page 7	Guest lectures in Department of Government
Page 8	Minister Kathleen Lynch is new Honorary President of Government and Politics Society
Page 9	Pictures from Government Ball 2012 from Clarion Hotel
Page 10	Pictures from Government Ball 2012 from Clarion Hotel
Page 11	Pictures from Government Ball 2012 from Clarion Hotel
Page 12	Report from conference: Governance, Democracy and Sustainable Development
Page 13	'My Degree' by Daniel Oosthuizen, BSc Government, 2009
Page 14	Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore TD to launch <i>Government and Politics Review</i>
Page 15	'Beyond the Ballot' Symposium
Page 16	Conference on French Presidential Election 2012

Winner of the Department of Government's inaugural essay competition for secondary schools is presented with his prize by Minister Kathleen Lynch



At the recent opening event of Politics Week 2012, **Minister Kathleen Lynch** presented an award to **Justin Fleming (Mitchelstown CBS)**, the winner of the inaugural Department of Government Secondary School Essay Competition. The competition – which was based on the title ‘My Europe, My Future’ – was supported by the Government and Politics Student Society and by the Department of Foreign Affairs through the *Communicating Europe Initiative*.

The Director of the BSc Government, Dr Aodh Quinlivan, commented, “We were delighted by the response to the first year of the competition and we hope to build on this success over the coming years. Having the Department of Foreign Affairs on Board is a great boost to the competition and Justin is a very worthy winner.”

BSc Government II Students on *The Frontline*



Some members of the BSc Government II class were in the audience of RTÉ's flagship current affairs programme, *The Frontline*, on Monday 20 February. Afterwards, they posed for a photograph with the show's presenter, Pat Kenny.

Well done, Lorna



Lorna Buckley (BSc Government graduate, 2011) has taken up a new position in London as the Business Development Officer at the Electoral Reform Service. After completing her degree last summer, Lorna worked for four months in Brussels as a Parliamentary Assistant to Brian Crowley MEP. She then moved to London and worked for two months on the project management team of 'Westminster Explained' before taking up her new job in February.

BSc Government Graduate Meets With President Michael D Higgins in London



BSc Government graduate, 2011, **Kevin Hiney**, met with President Michael D Higgins in London the week before last. Kevin is currently studying in the London School of Economics, specialising in political economy, international trade and European Union politics. He met with Ireland's Head of State during the President's official state visit to England. Kevin was quoted in *The Irish Times* on 22 February as follows: "It's great to see the President coming to speak in the same surroundings that so many world leaders have visited. I do feel he represents the young Irish abroad and, as a younger emigrant, it's good to feel that we're not being forgotten by our President. It's easier to believe that he could relate to my experiences since he spent some time in the UK when he was younger too."

Second Staff-Student Forum is held



The second staff/student forum of the 2011/2012 academic year took place last week and the students of BSc Government I, II and III were represented. A range of issues were discussed with Dr Jane Suiter (Convenor), Dr Philip Murphy, Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan, Fiona Buckley and Dr Aodh Quinlivan.

Visitors to Department



On Friday 3 February, **Ger Power**, Head of Finance in Cork County Council, was a guest lecturer on **Dr Aodh Quinlivan's** 'Public Sector' module as part of UCC's Executive MBA programme. Ger spoke about Public-Private Partnerships and posed the question – are they today's solution or tomorrow's problem? Ger presented a range of case studies from Ireland and the United Kingdom and argued that PPPs are not a panacea. He also asserted that Government should not choose the PPP route for the wrong reasons.

On 21 February, **Phil Prendergast MEP** spoke to **Dr Theresa Reidy's** my GV6012 class. In a wide-ranging presentation – which was well received – she discussed the Euro crisis and EU Aid.



On 24 February, Fr Sean Healy, Director of Social Justice Ireland delivered a lecture to **Dr Aodh Quinlivan's** 'Public Sector' students as part of UCC's Executive MBA programme. The discussion provoked a huge level of discussion, to the extent that the scheduled two-hour lecture was extended by the best part of an hour. Sean argued that Ireland needs to create an arena to discuss the issues of the day in an evidence-based way. He asserted that the current austerity measures in place are not working in that people are 'taking the pain, but not getting the gain.' In his opinion, we are in the midst of five crises – banking, fiscal, economic, social, and reputational. In order to get out of these crises, Sean strongly argued that we must get away from 'voodoo economics.'

Kathleen Lynch TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Disability, Older People, Equality & Mental Health, is the new Honorary President of the Government and Politics Society



Kathleen Lynch TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Disability, Older People, Equality & Mental Health, is the new Honorary President of the Government and Politics Society. She accepted the honour at the start of Politics Week 2012 and a presentation was made to her by **Ben English**, Auditor of the society. In her subsequent speech, Minister Lynch spoke of the challenges of her job as there are many different aspects to her portfolio. She stressed however that she loved her job and politics and she urged students to get politically active. She had special words of praise for Justin Fleming, winner of the Department of Government's secondary school essay competition.

Government lecturers to speak at Transparency International event

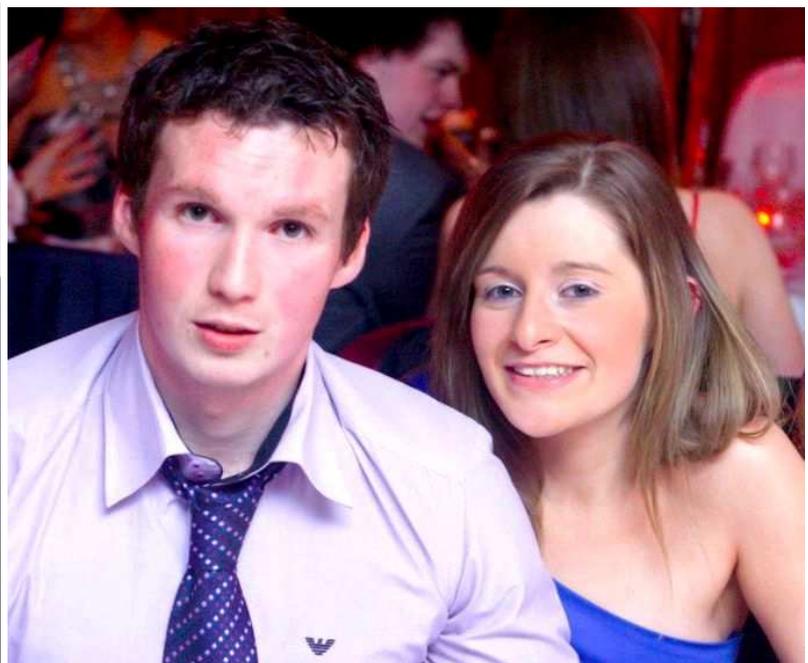


Drs Theresa Reidy, Jane Suiter, Aodh Quinlivan and Clodagh Harris have been invited to take part in a roundtable discussion in UCC next week which is organised by Transparency International Ireland. Transparency International Ireland is the Irish branch of the worldwide civil society movement against corruption.

The purpose of the meeting in UCC is to discuss recommendations for reforms aimed at enhancing integrity, accountability and transparency in Ireland's governance institutions.

GOVERNMENT BALL 2012

Clarion Hotel, 15 February



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Conference Report

Governance, Democracy and Sustainable Development



The Department of Government hosted this conference in the Aula Maxima on Thursday 9 February. The conference organiser was **Dr Theresa Reidy** and the event was sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs through Irish Aid. Students in Dr Reidy's GV3209 and GV6012 modules displayed their research in a lunch time poster session at the conference. Amongst the speakers were Bryan Rose (former Head of the External Policies Department, European Parliament); Dr Vanessa Liston (Trinity College Dublin); Dr Patrick Holden (University of Plymouth); Seamus Martin (Election monitor and former Foreign Editor of *The Irish Times*); Jim Clarken (Chief Executive of Oxfam Ireland); Rola Hamed (Department of Applied Social Studies, UCC); and Carol Ballantine (Programme Officer, Governance and Human Rights, Trócaire). The different panels were chaired by Dr Clodagh Harris, Dr Theresa Reidy and Fiona Buckley. The closing address was delivered by Professor Pat Fitzpatrick who is the Director of the Centre for Global Development in UCC.



MY DEGREE

By Daniel Oosthuizen (BSc Government, 2009)



Dan works as a Legislative Executive Budget Specialist in the Governor's Budget Office, Pennsylvania, United States of America.

The BSc Government was the logical choice for my higher education, as a person who has long had an abiding interest in matters of political science and public policy, and sought to eventually make a career in that area. My four years in the programme allowed me to cultivate a mindset that was critical, analytical, and that sought solutions to problems by thinking outside of the box. Although some students and alumni were and are concerned with how the BSc could be conceived to be quite broad, I found comfort in the wide array of subjects and topics on offer. In four years, it is possible to gain an in-depth knowledge of institutional design, quantitative analysis, economic theory, European affairs, and a host of other subjects that more than adequately prepare oneself for a career in public service, journalism, lobbying, or even the private sector. In fact, I can say with absolute certainty that were it not for the options available to me as a student in the BSc Government, I would not be working in the field today.

This, of course, could not have been accomplished neither without the diligence of the department staff, nor without the Socratic wonderment and insight provided by lunchtime debates! The most valuable experience by far was the work experience component, through which I was lucky enough to travel to New York to work at the State Assembly there. This brought me into a whole new world in terms of on-the-job political training, professional networking, and the application of theories learned in university.

Here in the United States, government as a professional science is perhaps more of a prevalent philosophy than in Ireland, and it is absolutely critical for public servants to be adequately trained in the theory and application of public policy and administration in order to better provide services on behalf of and to the public. I remain convinced that an integral part of Ireland's recovery will be the development of a professionally trained public sector, responsive to and knowledgeable of the issues of the day, and with the tenacity to pursue serious solutions to serious problems. The BSc Government provides an avenue for such development, and is critically important to the long-term success of Ireland as modern, vibrant, and free democratic society.

Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore TD to launch the third volume of the *Government and Politics Review* in UCC on 1 March



BY PÁDRAIG MAC CONSAIDÍN

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS REVIEW was established in 2010 by **Fiona Buckley** and **Dr Theresa Reidy** of the Department of Government. The journal provides a forum for undergraduate students to contribute to political debates at national and international level. All students are welcome to submit their work. In particular, students taking Department of Government modules as part of their undergraduate degrees (BA – Politics, BComm and BSc Government). The journal is published in one volume annually, is peer reviewed, and published online as an open source journal. The theme of the journal for this academic year is; *‘European Politics and Democracy in the Twenty First Century’*.

At the heart of this project is the desire to enable undergraduates to become integrated into the research culture of the academia. This journal explicitly integrates research and research related skills into the undergraduate learning experience and follows a research-based learning approach.

This year’s *Government and Politics Review*, Volume 3, will be officially launched by **the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs Eamon Gilmore T.D. in the Council Room at 4:30pm Thursday 1 March**. All are welcome to attend and no registration is required; however, places are limited.



Pádraig Mac Consaidín is the editor the third volume of the journal and he was supported by Lauren Traynor

Conference/Symposium Announcements

'Beyond the Ballot': forms of citizen engagement between democratic elections

Symposium of the

PSAI Deliberative and Participatory Democracy Specialist Group

Students are invited to attend the symposium of the PSAI deliberative and participatory democracy specialist group, which has been organised by the group's founders and convenors, **Dr Clodagh Harris (UCC)** and **Dr Gemma Carney (NUIG)**. This symposium is open to the public and there is no charge to attend. However advanced registration is recommended. Please contact clodagh.harris@ucc.ie or gemma.carney@nuigalway to register.

Date:

15 March 2012

Venue:

NUI offices, 49 Merrion Square Dublin 2

Theme:

The idea that 'people matter' is recognised by international organisations, and increasingly at the national level. In contemporary democratic systems, deliberative and participatory democratic processes as well as civic engagement is manifest in many and varied ways beyond the electoral system. Given the symposium's theme of forms of citizen participation and engagement 'beyond the ballot box', it will include panels on: deliberative experiments/innovations and civil society participatory approaches to civic engagement.

Keynote Speaker:

Professor Jurg Steiner of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will deliver the keynote speech. Entitled 'the praxis of deliberation', his presentation will be taken from his most recent book *The Foundation of Deliberative Democracy. Empirical Research and Normative Implications* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Papers:

Professor David Farrell (UCD), Dr Jane Suiter (UCC) and Dr Eoin O'Malley (DCU) 'Information, Deliberation and Opinion Change: Results of an Irish experiment in deliberative democracy'.

Professor Peter Vermeersch (KU Leuven) 'G1000: deliberative democracy in Belgium'.

Dr Gemma Carney (NUIG) and Dr Chris McInerney (UL) 'Breaking the Logjam - expanding the role of the university in promoting civic engagement'

Dr Mary P Murphy (NUIM) 'Deliberation about policy alternatives: a case study of Claiming Our Future'.

This event is jointly funded by the PSAI and the IRCHSS.

The 2012 French Presidential Election: Issues and Challenges



On **20 April 2012**, the Department of Government will run a half-day conference on the upcoming French presidential election which will take place on 22 April and 6 May. In a context of high public debt, poor competitiveness and increasing reluctance towards globalisation and Europeanisation, a range of speakers will discuss the key issues of the campaign as well as the challenges that the future president will have to face.

- **Professor Robert Elgie** from DCU will focus on campaign strategies.
- **Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** will analyse the relevance of the left/right cleavage in French political life.
- Looking at the role of women candidates in the campaign, **Dr Rainbow Murray**, from the University of London, will discuss how they have engaged in the campaign compared with men candidates.
- **Dr Nick Startin**, from University of the West of England, will examine the reasons which explain the increasing reluctance of French voters regarding globalisation and Europe.
- **Professor Patrick O'Donovan**, from the French Department in UCC, will close the conference.

Students from the BA Politics II will also exhibit their posters on a topic related to the French presidential election during the conference.

All are very welcome to attend.

Please contact e.schon@ucc.ie in order to register and for further details.

Venue: O'Rahilly Building, Room 2.44, University College Cork

Date and Time: Friday 20 April 2012, 10:00am to 1:30pm

***This conference is financially supported by the College of Business and Law in UCC.**