



# GOVERNMENT TIMES

*A Newsletter for Department of Government Students and Staff*

## UCC's Best Political and Debating Society



Well done to the Government and Politics Society which was recently crowned the 'Best Political and Debating Society' at the UCC Society Awards. Auditor Ben English also received an award for his work over the course of the year. The outgoing Society committee has done us proud but a new team has just been elected for the next academic year. See the full story from the AGM on page 4.



## ***Editorial Page***

As we reach the end of another academic year we would like to take the opportunity to wish students ‘all the best’ for the exam season. For BSc Government III students who are currently finishing exams before starting on work placement, we hope you find the experience educational, rewarding and fulfilling. *Government Times* will continue to be produced over the coming months.

In the meantime, enjoy Issue 42!

***Aodh Quinlivan***

Director BSc Government  
Co-editor of *Government Times*

***Ben English***

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

## **Peter on the move again**



Having worked as a journalist at the Connacht Tribune and the Munster Express, BSc Government (2010) graduate, **Peter Horgan**, has recently returned to Leaside as a reporter with the *Cork Independent*. In so doing he follows in the footsteps of **Eoin Weldon**, another BSc Government graduate. We wish Peter well in his new position and look forward to reading his articles every Thursday.

## **More positive results for Department’s PhD programme**



There was more good news yesterday for the Department of Government’s highly regarded PhD programme as **Dr Damien McSweeney** passed his Viva examination. Damien’s PhD title is: ‘An examination of the Security and Protection of Vulnerable Populations in Complex Emergencies, using Dadaab Refugee camp in the North Easter Territories of Kenya as a case study’ (see issue 36 of *Government Times* for more information on Damien’s work). Congratulations to him and to his supervisor, **Dr Andrew Cottey**.



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**Pádraig Mac Consaidín and Sophie Sullivan** at the undergraduate journal launch (see page 8)

## New Auditor and Committee Elected at Society's AGM



The AGM of the award-winning Government and Politics Society was held on Monday 12 March and a new committee was elected for the 2012/2013 academic year, headed by Auditor, **Luke Field** (BA Politics). Congratulations to Luke and his committee and well done to the outgoing committee.

<b>Auditor:</b>	Luke Field
<b>Vice-Auditor:</b>	Dane Moriarty
<b>PRO:</b>	Debbie Foott
<b>Secretary:</b>	Lorna Gardiner
<b>Events:</b>	Emma Walsh
<b>Finance:</b>	Aisling O'Hagan
<b>Academic:</b>	Rory Murphy

\*Later in the same evening, BSc Government II student, **Ben English**, was elected as Auditor of UCC's Entrepreneurial and Social Society. We wish him well.

# MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy Attracts Impressive Speakers

**Veronica Cody** (Head of Division, CSDP Policy, Concepts and Capabilities, Crisis Management and Planning Directorate, EU European External Action Service) delivered a stimulating lecture entitled ‘The EU and Crisis Management: Future Perspective’ on 7 March. Veronica has worked for the EU on crisis management issues, in particular civilian aspects of crisis management since 2004. From 1999 to 2004 she was an Adviser to the Secretary General/High Representative of the Council of the European Union, Javier Solana, on Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Prior to this, she worked for the European Commission and the Irish Ministry of Finance.

On Wednesday 14 March, a lecture entitled ‘The European Security Strategy 10 Years on: Time for Grand Strategy’ was delivered by **Professor Sven Biscop**. Professor Biscop is Director of the Europe in the World Programme at Egmont – the Royal Institute for International Relations, Brussels. His research focuses on the foreign, security and defence policy of the European Union. He is a Visiting Professor for European Security at Ghent University and at the College of Europe in Bruges, a Senior Research Associate of the Centre for European Studies at the Renmin University of China (CESRUC) in Beijing, an Associate Fellow of the Austria Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES) in Baden-bei-Wien, and an Associate Fellow of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). He sits on the Executive Academic Board of the EU’s European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and is a member of the Scientific Councils of the Flemish Peace Institute (Brussels) and of the Institut d’Etudes Stratégiques de l’Ecole Militaire (IRSEM, Paris), of the Strategic Advisors Group of the Atlantic Council (Washington), and of The Next Generation Advisory Panel to SACEUR/USEUCOM (Brussels/Stuttgart). He has published widely on main aspects of European security, in particular EU security and defence strategy.



**Professor Sven Biscop, Royal Institute for International Relations, Brussels**

The following Wednesday saw **Dr Dov Lynch** (Senior Officer, Office of the Director-General, UNESCO - previously Senior Adviser, Office of the Secretary-General, OSCE) deliver a guest talk. In 2012 Ireland is chairing the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). With 56 States from Europe, Central Asia and North America, the OSCE is the world's largest regional security organisation. It offers a forum for political negotiations and decision-making in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. The OSCE has a comprehensive approach to security that encompasses politico-military, economic and environmental, and human aspects. It therefore addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental activities. The lecture introduced the OSCE, explored the various roles it plays and discussed current challenges facing the organisation.

# Government Lecturer to Debate Minister Creighton



At 7:00pm on **Tuesday 17 April**, the Little Museum of Dublin will host a public debate on the motion:

**“This House believes that Dublin needs a directly elected Lord Mayor now.”**

Proposing the motion will be Minister Lucinda Creighton and Councillor Dermot Lacey.

Opposing the motion will be **Dr Aodh Quinlivan** (UCC) and Dr Sean O’Riordain (NUI Maynooth).

For more information, contact Trevor White

[trevor@littlemuseum.ie](mailto:trevor@littlemuseum.ie)

# Guest Speakers to students of 'The Public Sector' on Executive MBA



The Department of Government has enjoyed a successful year on UCC's Executive MBA programme with a 5-credit module on the management of the public sector taught by **Dr Aodh Quinlivan**.

The two most recent lectures have been delivered by guest speakers, **John Mullins** (CEO of Bord Gáis) and **Dr Richard Boyle** (Head of Research, Institute of Public Administration).

John Mullins was appointed Chief Executive of Bord Gáis in December 2007 and was also appointed to the Board in December 2007. John is a member of the Investment/Infrastructure Committee. He has held senior management positions with Greenstar, ESB, ESB International and PricewaterhouseCoopers and was Chief Executive of Bioverda, part of the NTR plc. Group prior to joining Bord Gáis. He is a Fellow of Engineers Ireland and is a member of the UCC Governing Body. He is also President of the Cork Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of Anam Cara Charity, a Director of the COPE Foundation, and a Member of the Board of the Tyndall National Institute. Over the course of a stimulating, informative and challenging two-and-a-half hour lecture, John described the position Bord Gáis was in when he took over as CEO in December 2007 and presented the successful change management programme he has implemented since then.

Richard Boyle linked the issues of performance and pay in the Irish public sector and challenged the notion that the sector is bloated. He stated that two out of every three public servants work in health or education so any major reduction in public sector employment numbers would have to come from these areas. Richard also asserted that performance-related pay for public servants has not worked in any country in which it has been attempted.

The next lecture in the MBA Public Sector series will be delivered by **Bryan Andrews** on Friday 23 March. Bryan retired in February from his position as the Chief Executive of the Public Appointments Service.



## ***Gilmore for Government and Politics Review***

On Thursday 1 March, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Eamon Gilmore T.D.** was the guest of the Government and Politics Society to launch volume 3 of *Government and Politics Review*.

Speaking at the launch, the Tánaiste acknowledged the efforts of the Government and Politics Society in helping students engage with political issues, describing the journal as, ‘a significant and constructive way to achieve this goal’, the Tánaiste went on to say, he wished to ‘applaud

the society for its foresight in bringing out this publication’.

Tánaiste Gilmore’s address on the day also included remarks on the European Council’s jobs and growth agenda, Ireland’s Presidency of the EU in 2013 and the new ‘Fiscal Compact’ Treaty, on which a referendum was called earlier that week. The launch concluded with a questions and answers session chaired by Professor Neil Collins of the Department of Government.

This year’s journal is now available on the Department of Government website and features contributions from BSc Government students: Mark Curley, Charlotte Maguire, John Kenny, Chloe Severn, Louis O’Keeffe, Philip Jones and Graham Lynch. Colin Bradley a BA Politics student along with BComm students Edward Jones and Fearghal Lynch also feature in this year’s journal.

The outgoing editorial team of Pádraig Mac Consaidín, Sophie Sullivan and Lauren Traynor wish to thank everyone who made this year’s journal and the visit of the Tánaiste a success. The team also wish incoming editor Rory Murphy the very best of luck for the coming year and look forward to reading volume 4 of *Government and Politics Review* in 2013.



**By Pádraig Mac Consaidín (BSc Gov II)**



## FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2012: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES



*When?*

20 April 2012

*Where?*

O'Rahilly Building 2.44, UCC

*Time?*

10:00am to 1:30pm

**Speakers include: Professor Robert Elgie (DCU), Dr Rainbow Murray (University of London), Professor Grace Neville (UCC), Dr Nick Startin (University of West of England) and Professor Patrick O'Donovan (UCC)**

**The conference is free of charge and open to all but interested parties must register with Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan, Department of Government, ([e.schon@ucc.ie](mailto:e.schon@ucc.ie)) before 31 March.**

**\*This conference is kindly financed by the College of Business and Law, UCC.**

## BSc Government Graduate Speaks to Second Year Class



On Tuesday 20 March, BSc Government (and Public Policy 2007) graduate, **Steven Day** returned to UCC to give a lecture to Dr Aodh Quinlivan's BSc Government II 'Public Management' class.

Steven spoke about the concept of street-level bureaucracy, which formed the basis of his recent Master's thesis.

He also described the challenges of his day-to-day working life as the manager of a Department of Social Protection local office. His personal insights were extremely valuable to the class.

## Executive planner tells BSc Government IV students that 'Social order must be pre-eminent above the rights of the individual.'

**Niall Ó Donnabháin**, executive planner in Cork City Council, delivered a thought-provoking lecture to BSc Government IV students on the GV4408 Planning Policy module last Wednesday (21 March). He asserted that most people do not engage with planning at the strategic policy level but rather at the 'coalface' of individual planning applications.

Niall highlighted the major drop-off in planning applications in Cork city and county. In 2011, planning applications in the city were down 60% from 2008 levels; the figure for the county is 55%. According to Niall, this affords an opportunity for planners and councillors alike to take a fresh look at the planning system as the daily pressures of dealing with planning applications is not as intense as it was.

In stressing the local nature of politics and citizen involvement in Ireland, Niall noted that Cork City Council only received 170 submissions from the public during the preparation of the current Cork City Development Plan (covering the period 2009 to 2015). In contrast, the Bishopstown Local Area Plan attracted 855 submissions as people in the area were mobilised and motivated.

During his lecture, Niall argued that the importance of the city (which only constitutes 0.5% of the land area of the county) has been diluted. The city has suffered a population fall at every census since 1979. This is partly related to the lack of businesses and innovation in the city. Of the top fourteen employers in Cork city, ten are public sector bodies.

From his experience within the system, Niall claimed, "planning in Ireland is too market-led and politically driven." He stated that the public need to set the planning agenda and instruct their elected representatives to deliver it.