

Communications Experts Launched the Global Masterclass Programme In N. Ireland

Dr Diane Hazlett, Head of the School of Communication launched the first global best practice Distinguished International Visitors' Address (DIVA) programme in Northern Ireland on Friday 5 December. By inviting a series of international experts, in diverse aspects of communication, to the Ulster DIVA program over the next three years, those interested in world class communications skills will have a unique opportunity to acquire 'How To' knowledge in this specialist professional sector. Northern Irish born, Visiting Professor Tony R. Culley-Foster, President of CFCO International –The Leading Representative of UK – US Companies in Washington DC - and Stephen J. Pain - Group Corporate Affairs Director of AVIVA plc and Visiting Executive Fellow at Henley Business School – UK, conducted the DIVA Master Class and gave a luncheon speech at



Dr Diane Hazlett, School of Communication with Stephen J. Pain - Group Corporate Affairs Director of Aviva plc and Visiting Professor Tony Culley-Foster President of CFCO International at the launch of the DIVA (Distinguished International Visitors' Address) programme.

the inaugural program sponsored by the School of Communication and NI Department for Employment and Learning at Belfast's Stormont Hotel.

The focus of the DIVA Master Class was on Corporate Branding, Reputation Management and Strategic Communications.

School of Communication & FE Colleges Counselling & Training Partnership: Counselling Masterclass with Professor Colin Feltham, Professor of Critical Counselling Studies at Sheffield Hallam University - 28th November 2008

The Masterclass 'Personal Development for Counsellors: Academic and Experiential Challenges' was held in the Assembly Hall at the University of Ulster, Jordanstown on Friday 28th November and drew an excellent attendance of approximately 100 HE Diploma in Counselling students from the five regional colleges. The day opened with a keynote speech by Professor Feltham, expert practitioner, trainer and writer of international standing in the field. He addressed current issues in Personal Development and possible solutions for debate. This was followed by a brief review of Blanton's position on 'radical honesty' in counselling with breakout groups thereafter for discussion of issues arising from consideration of the use of this technique. The uptake of an opportunity to provide feedback to the organisers was high with 75% of attendees offering comments. These were very positive, with the majority requesting a similar event or series of events in the future.

Pre-Law Information Day



*l-r Lauren Quinn BL, Sarah Knott, Elliott, Duffy, Garrett (Solicitors), Ivan Topping School of Law, Lisa Pollock BL, Lauren McKimm, Robert G Sinclair & Co. (Solicitors)
l-r Thomas Murphy, Head of School of Law and Cathy Sinclair (School of Law)*

The School of Law hosted its first "Pre-Law Day" short course on Saturday 15th November. Attended by 55 Sixth Form students from across Northern Ireland the course examined the key aspects of a career in law, from initial application for undergraduate study through to practising as a solicitor or barrister. Coordinated by Mrs Kathy Sinclair from the School of Law, sessions relating to undergraduate study were led by staff from the School, while sessions relating to life in professional practice were led by practising solicitors and barristers. Culminating in a variety of interactive, skills based group exercises, the feedback was excellent and students seemed to enjoy a thoroughly productive day. The only adverse comment was that the all-day course was too short!

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and thank you for your hard work during 2008.

ANNE

School of Law - Careers Teachers Information Events



As part of a strategic marketing exercise and outreach activity on behalf of the **School of Law**, information events were organized on the Jordanstown and Magee campuses for careers teachers in November. The aim of these events

was to provide careers teachers and interested pupils with an insight into the study of law at Ulster. Attracting over 100 sixth formers and their respective careers teachers from 12 different schools these events focused, in particular, on the student experience of undergraduate LLB courses. In addition to staff contributions by Brian Collins, Alice Diver, Jeremie Gilbert, John Kennedy, Esther McGuinness, Amanda Zacharopoulou, and Paul Mageean, Director of the Graduate School for Professional Legal Education, these events were notable for the input of current LLB students including Kyle Gribben, President of the Jordanstown Student Law Society, Claire McKeegan and Laura McManus, the two joint Presidents of the Magee Student

Law Society, Rory Harrigan, Year 2 at Magee and Caireen McCluskey, recipient of a unique placement with law firm L'Estrange and Brett as the Best Performing 2nd Year Student Award at Jordanstown last year.

The student inputs provided a valuable insight into the actual experience of studying law and what they perceived as the added value of undertaking their degrees at Ulster. Both events were very well received and feedback has been extremely positive. Evaluation of the event indicates that attendees left with a realistic impression of the demands of studying law and were enthusiastic and motivated by the opportunities presented at Ulster.

The Transitional Justice Institute

The Transitional Justice Institute has been successful in its tender to the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) and British Irish Rights Watch (BIRW) to undertake a project involving the observation of the Billy Wright Inquiry, the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry, and the Robert Hamill Inquiry. The Project Coordinator **Ms Colleen Smyth**, former LLM student will oversee the project and will work with **Dr Michael Hamilton**. A team of approximately 10-15 observers will be tasked with observing and reporting on the three inquiries through to their conclusion. These observers will be drawn from past or present PhD and LLM students at the Transitional Justice Institute (TJI).

Inaugural Professorial Lecture: Deirdre Heenan



L to R Vice Chancellor, Prof Richard Barnett, Alice Diver, Mayor Gerard Diver, Prof D Heenan, and PVC and Provost, Prof Jim Allen.

Professor Heenan, at her inaugural lecture entitled **Devolution and Social Policy: More or Less Say for the Citizens of Northern Ireland** suggested that despite the rhetoric, service users still have no real influence over the decision-making process. She concluded that although devolution should have improved user participation and helped make services more patient centred, in key areas of social policy, quangos have been replaced by super quangos, largely unaccountable, remote and non-responsive.

LLM Student Awarded



Joe Doherty, LLM student at the Magee campus has been awarded the TJI/NI Human Rights Commission Dissertation Prize for his dissertation on "*Socio-Economic Development and Conflict Resolution in Northern Uganda: How Civil Society Can Use a Rights-Based Approach*" which focuses on using a top-down and bottom-up approach to create the 'legal-activist route'. Joe is a volunteer with Africa Greater Life charity in Uganda and will be using the prize money to continue his work with the charity and will travel to Uganda at the end of December.

Book Launch



Professor Christine Bell of TJI launched her recently published book: "On the Law of Peace: Peace Agreements and the Lex Pacificatoria" (OUP) on Wednesday 26 November at the Conor Lecture Theatre in Belfast campus. The launch was chaired by newly appointed co-Director of TJI, Dr Michael Hamilton and guest speakers were Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin (Co-Director, TJI) and Martin O'Brien (Atlantic Philanthropies).

Sparking the Imagination of Primary Pupils



L-R (back row) Jim Dornan, Janet Preston, Brian McHenry (Early Years Organisation), Prof A Moran, Mrs Elaine Ferris (Nettlefield PS), Mrs Heather Graham (Beechfield Primary School), Liz Weir (Storyteller), Mr David Todd (Principal, Nettlefield PS), Prof D McAlister.

L-R (front row) Mrs Maureen Blacklaw, (Principal, Beechfield PS), Caroline Woods (Project Co-ordinator), Ms Dolores Loughrey (Project Manager), Miss Aileen Brown (Acting Principal, St Matthew's PS).

Researchers and staff at the University of Ulster have been using music, art and storytelling to help develop children's self esteem in the classroom. Children from three Belfast primary schools took part in a performance of storytelling at Ulster's Jordanstown campus on 1 December as part of the two-year project entitled **Sparking the Imagination**. **Dolores Loughrey** and **Caroline Woods** from the School of Education manage this very successful project.

The project, which is intended to complement the school curriculum at the foundation stage, includes particular emphasis on the development of personal, social and emotional skills in children, through providing opportunities to engage in a range of worthwhile, challenging and enjoyable learning experiences. The first stage of the project has already provoked positive feedback from teachers and parents, who have welcomed the opportunity to nurture self-esteem amongst pupils. Over the course of the first year of the project there have been perceived changes in the pupils' behaviour. Most notably, these changes have included improvements in confidence and in social interaction. It is hoped that introducing a project such as this in the early years of primary school will provide the basis by which children might begin to appreciate their potential and carry this with them through their school years and beyond.

Physical Education



Children from Orangefield Primary School with their UU sport outreach student, Heather Whitten. L-R Walter Bleakley, Dr Joe Harris, Vice Chair of the Association of Physical Education and Sean McElhatten, member of the Association for Physical Education (NI).

The Northern Ireland Association for Physical Education has been established to promote the advancement of high quality physical education and school sport for the benefit of the education, health and development of all children and young people across Northern Ireland. The launch event which was attended by local sporting heroes such as Senior Irish Hockey International **Emma Clarke** and Senior Irish Basketball international **Gareth Maguire**, took place at Ulster's new, multi-million pound sports facility on the Jordanstown campus. Speaking at the event, **Walter Bleakley, NI Association Chairman** and senior lecturer at Ulster's School of Education, called for government and community support to ensure that the physical education needs of children here are not neglected.

Guest lecture to final year LLB students

The School of Law continues to be active in a range of knowledge transfer activities and is continuing to develop links with the legal profession for the benefit of the students. On Friday 7th November **Mr Richard Gray**, partner in the corporate/commercial department in L'Estrange & Brett delivered a guest lecture to final year LLB students taking Company Law. This provided an excellent opportunity for final year students to avail of practical legal expertise in the field of corporate governance and compliance. **Richard Gray** was named as a 'leader in the field' for banking and finance, corporate finance and PFI/PPP in Chambers UK Guide to the Legal Profession 2008.

Kazakhstan Masters Students with Professors Carmichael and Knox



A group of Kazakhstan Masters students successfully completed the first stage in the MPA programme in the School of Policy Studies. The students are in-service civil servants from various ministries working in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The School of Policy Studies has an ongoing relationship with the Academy of Civil Service in Astana which has been sending students to Ulster over a 4 year period. Professor Paul Carmichael, Head of Policy Studies, commented on their success: 'we are very proud of the achievements of these students, not least because they have successfully completed this rigorous programme in English, their third language. It is also pleasing to see how our former Kazakh graduates from this programme have risen through the ranks and now occupy senior positions in the civil service'. Leslie Carswell is Course Director for the programme.

Important Dates

Winter Graduation Ceremonies

Tues 16 December at 3.30pm Assembly Hall, Jordanstown
Wed 17 December at 3.30pm Millennium Forum, Magee

Good Practice Event:

15 December 2008
Speaker: Dr Paul Redmond, University of Liverpool.

TJI Seminar Series - Professor Bill Rolston

10 December 2008 at 12.30 pm Dalriada House, Jordanstown
Murals and the Transition to Democracy: Santiago, Chile

ARK Seminar Series - @ NICVA 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast

3 February 2009
Dr Liz Fawcett, Liz Fawcett Consulting
Childcare Matters: What the public thinks about childcare in Northern Ireland

ARK Seminar Series - @ NICVA 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast

24 February 2009
Professor Bogusia Temple, University of Central Lancashire
Language, Values, Networks and Community Cohesion: Results from Research with Polish people

ARK Seminar Series - @ NICVA 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast

24 March 2009
Professor Rob MacDonald, University of Teeside
Disconnected Youth? Young people, transitions and social exclusion.

Assessment: first year and beyond

Tues 13th January 2009 at 1.30-4.30 Coleraine campus

This seminar, which is supported by Professor David Boud, Visiting Professor in Teaching and Learning will focus on areas of assessment across all subjects and faculties.

Visit of Aldo Zammit-Borda to the School of Law



L to R Aldo Zammit-Borda, Dr Venkat Iyer

The Editor of the Commonwealth Law Bulletin (LLB), Mr Aldo Zammit-Borda, visited the School of Law on 11 November 2009 and had discussions with Dr Venkat Iyer, on a wide range of issues. Mr Zammit-Borda was particularly keen on working collaboratively with *The Commonwealth Lawyer*, edited by Dr Iyer, given that both journals have a common audience and a commitment to furthering the rule of law within the Commonwealth. The CLB is a flagship publication of the Commonwealth Secretariat and a refereed journal that provides essential reading for judges, attorneys-general, law ministers, law reform agencies, academics and private practitioners. Mr Zammit-Borda also discussed possibilities for co-operation between the Commonwealth Secretariat and the School of Law, particularly in the context of the 60th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the modern Commonwealth next year.

Congratulations to:

Dr Michael Hamilton who has been appointed as **co-Director of the Transitional Justice Institute**. Dr Hamilton graduated with an LLB from the University of Kent in 1997. He holds an MA in Irish Studies from the Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University Belfast (1998) and a PhD from the School of Law, University of Ulster (2003). His research has focused on the legal regulation of public protest, and particularly on parade disputes in Northern Ireland. He is the human rights advisor to the Strategic Review of Parading in Northern Ireland, and a member of the OSCE-ODIHR Expert Panel on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly (which recently published new Guidelines in this area). He was appointed to the Transitional Justice Institute in September 2003, and has been Course Director of the LLM in Human Rights Law programme since 2007.

Professor Christine Bell who has been awarded a **Senior Distinguished Research Fellowship Award**.

Judith Mullineux and team members **Dr Anne Campbell, Ms Emma McGinnis, Mrs Wilma Snodgrass and Ms Cathy Kelly; and Dr Victor McNair** and team members **Mrs Celia O'Hagan, Mr Fergal McCann and Mr Walter Bleakley** on being included in

the **CETL (NI): Institutional Elearning Services (CIES) Award and Recognition Scheme**.

Rosemary Moreland, Isy Hawthorne-Steele and Eilish Rooney on their being awarded a **Distinguished Teaching Fellowship Team Award**.

Professor Colin Thain on being offered a Visiting Fellowship for the Autumn term 2009-10 at All Souls College, Oxford.

Dr Nick Acheson and Brian Harvey on the publication of their book *Social Policy, Ageing and Voluntary Action* which throws light on how voluntary action among older people has developed in Ireland, north and south. The book charts strong similarities in developments on both sides of the Border and suggests that while voluntary action among and on behalf of old people is socially pervasive, until recently it has been politically weak. The research which was funded through the Royal Irish Academy, provides a unique comparative vantage point from which to examine voluntary action in the type of welfare state that exists in both parts of Ireland.

Dr Cathy Gormley Heenan on her selection by the PSA to attend the *American Political Science Association (APSA) Teaching and Learning Conference 2009 in Baltimore, Maryland*

on 6-8 February 2009. There was just one award made by PSA which includes a round-trip economy class airline ticket, accommodation, and registration at the conference.

Dr Kirk Simpson on his recently published an article on *Untold Stories: Unionist Remembrance of Political Violence and Suffering in Northern Ireland* in the current edition of *British Politics* (2008) 3, 465-489.

Alice Diver on her publication in the *Howard Journal of Criminal Justice*, out this month entitled *The Earned Privilege of Family Contact in Northern Ireland: Judicial Justification of Prisoners' Loss of Family Life* (*Howard Journal* Vol 47, No. 5, December 2008).

Professor Alison Henry, who has been awarded an *AHRC/Irish Research Council* for the Humanities and Social Sciences grant (£10,735), in partnership with Dublin City University to establish a research network in Linguistics.

Paul Hainsworth on the publication of his recent book *The Extreme Right in Western Europe* (Routledge, 2008) and on the Peace II Community Relations Council funded research project entitled *Elected Representatives/Political Parties and Minority Ethnic Communities in Northern Ireland*.

New Member of Staff: Isy Hawthorne-Steele

Isy began her career as a Physical Education Teacher, training at the Ulster College of Physical Education. She taught in Rostulla School (Jordanstown) and Everton Girls School (Belfast) before moving on to a career in Youth Work. She secured a post as lecturer at Ulster in 1995 working within Community Youth Work in both a full-time and part-time capacity. She has an active community development profile, and has founded a number of community initiatives. Her latest is a late night outreach portacabin soon to be an American Soda Bar currently being renovated from a bus. This project is sited at Greenisland Railway Station. She is also a Diocesan lay reader with the Church of Ireland and can also be found 'treading the boards' in various amateur dramatic groups. She will take up her lecturing post in **Community Development at Magee** in January 2009.

Research Colloquium on Children and Young People on 24 October 2008



Members attending the Research Colloquium on Children and Young People, organised by Professors McConkey and Moran, in the Loughview Suite on 24 October 2008, as part of the Multi-disciplinary Forum agenda.

Software Management

The Faculty has approved a new Software Management Policy, and this can be found within the 'Policies' section of the Faculty Intranet