

FACULTY BEST PRACTICE EVENT 2010 STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY

This year's Faculty Best Practice event, the 7th to be run in the Faculty, was held on Monday 13 December. Chaired by Dr Tracy Irwin, our Faculty Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator, it was very well attended. The theme of this year's event was "student employability" with guest speakers including Dr Sharon Milner, Mr Damian McGivern, Mrs Esther McGuinness and Mrs Amanda Zacharopoulou,

together with Mr David Stanbury from the University of Reading. In addition, several of our current students were also invited to participate, offering their own perspectives on the issue of employability. The students were a credit to the Faculty. Particular thanks must go to Ms Diane Patton, Mrs Wilma Smith and other business support staff for their sterling efforts in ensuring that the day went well.



Professor Paul Carmichael with Guest Speaker David Stanbury, University of Reading



Faculty Best Practice Event audience.



*The Dean with the group of students who presented their views on employability at the Best Practice Event.
Back Row: Aoifhe McNicholl, Mark Kyle, Professor Paul Carmichael, Chris Archibald
Front Row: Stephanie Walker, Laura O'Neill, Rebekah Kelly and Kelly-Ann Johnston*

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Dr Fiona Bloomer, Lecturer in Social Policy
Dr Johanne Devlin-Trew, Lecturer in Social Policy
Dr John Dinsmore, Research Associate in Communication
Dr Jennifer Hamilton, Lecturer in Social Policy
Martin Hay, Research Associate in Communication
Dr Susan Hogben, Research Associate in Communication
Adele McCloskey, Lecturer in Community Development
John McLaughlin, Lecturer in Social Work.
Heather Walker, Research Associate in Communication

Dear Colleagues

May I take this opportunity to thank you for all your great work for the Faculty and the University and for your help and support in my first year as Dean. There are few opportunities when I can express my appreciation to all the staff in our team but I do want to convey how much I really value your contribution.

I would like to wish you all a most enjoyable and restful Christmas and happy and successful New Year.

PAUL



TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE

The Role of Databases in Transitional Justice Research' project, Transitional Justice Institute

The 'Role of Databases in Transitional Justice Research' project is coordinated by **Dr Louise Mallinder** and **Dr Catherine O'Rourke** who have created the Amnesty Law Database (Mallinder) and the Peace Agreements database (Bell and O'Rourke). The project was funded by the Socio Legal Studies Association (SLSA) and a seminar took place on 26 October 2010 in Belfast involving key scholars and practitioners who have created the leading transitional justice databases. Participants included **Professor Leigh Payne** (University of Oxford), **Dr Lorena Balardini** (Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, Argentina) **Dr Leslie Vinjamuri** (SOAS, University of London), **Dr Cath Collins** (Universidad Diego Portales), **Professor Christine Bell** (TJI), **Professor Gillian Robinson** (ARK) and **Professor Brandon Hamber** (INCORE).



Participants in 'The Role of Databases in Transitional Justice Research', 26 October 2010, Belfast campus

TJI INVITATIONS

Christine Bell, Invited Participant in the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Expert Workshop on Maximizing Opportunities for Coordination between DDR Initiatives and Transitional Justice Processes (8 and 9 December in Geneva, Switzerland).

Fionnuala Ni Aolain, invited to join the Open Society (SOROS) Institute's International Women's Program Advisory Sub-Board. The Board reviews and makes recommendations on IWP strategy, programs and national foundation strategies.

BASIL CHUBB PRIZE

Dr Catherine O'Rourke, TJI Lecturer, has been awarded the Basil Chubb Prize by the Politics Studies Association of Ireland for her thesis on '*The Law and Politics of Gender in Transition: A Feminist Exploration of Transitional Justice in Chile, Northern Ireland and Colombia*'. The prestigious annual award was established to recognise the best PhD thesis (produced in an Irish university) in any field of politics, and is sponsored by Taylor and Francis.

ON LINGUISTIC INTERFACES CONFERENCE



Pictured from left to right: Dr Robert Truswell University of Edinburgh, Dr Christiane Ulbrich university of ulster, Prof John Local University of York, Dr Ricardo Bermudez Otero University of Manchester, Dr Catrin Rhys University of Ulster, Prof Heidi Harley University of Arizona, Dr Winfred Lechner University of Athens, Dr Raffaella Folli University of Ulster, Prof Elena Anagnostopoulou University of Crete, Prof Michael Wagner, McGill University, Prof Anna Papafragou, University of Delaware, Dr Christina Sevdali, University of Ulster

The second On Linguistic Interfaces Conference (OnLI II), with eight invited speakers and twenty-five peer reviewed and selected papers, took place at the Jordanstown Campus on 2-4 December 2010.

Scholars of international prominence from the US, UK, Germany, Canada, Greece, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium and Japan presented their latest work on the relationship between meaning, sound, structure and talk in context. The conference presentations delivered cutting edge research results and stimulated animated discussion amongst participants. The conference also included the launch of an Oxford University Press volume, *Interfaces in Linguistics – New Research Perspectives*, edited by **Raffaella Folli** and **Christiane Ulbrich** which contains a selection of the papers that had been presented at the first OnLI conference in 2007.

OnLI II was sponsored by a strategic fund grant, the SPRI, the School of Communication and the Linguistic Association of Great Britain.

DID YOU COME BY BOAT?

Rachel Naylor and **Michael Mahadeo** at Magee were recently involved with the Arts Council-funded play "Did you come by boat?" which toured the Playhouse Theatre and community venues in the North West. The play, produced by a company specialising in theatre exploring social issues, aimed to challenge attitudes towards race and immigration. Michael took part as an invited discussant on a post-performance panel whilst Rachel wrote the music for the production. One performance featured simultaneous translation into Polish! Undergraduates in Sociology at Magee were invited to attend a performance in the nearby North West Institute. A review of the play is available at <http://www.culturenorthernireland.org>.



From the flyer for the play "Did You Come By Boat?" (Sole Purpose Productions)

UNESCO CENTRE Children and Youth Programme - Informing, Improving, Empowering

Prof. Alan Smith, University of Ulster and Prof. Pat Dolan National University Galway were successful in their application for funding to support a Children and Youth programme. The Children and Youth Programme (CYP) is an independent collaboration between the two UNESCO Chairs in Ireland at the University of Ulster and NUI Galway.

The aim of the programme is to provide evidence to enable policy makers and practitioners to create policies and programmes that support the best interests of children in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The multi disciplinary programme will, through research synthesis, analysis of the evidence and adopting a rights-based approach, focus on six areas that are critical to the well-being of children and youth: education, health, welfare and civic, social and economic inclusion.

The main objectives of the programme are: To compile, analyse and provide critical commentary on the research evidence related to children and youth and to identify gaps and neglected areas in service provision and well being outcomes. To develop an active communications strategy for the production, dissemination and communication of accurate,

relevant data, information and evidence-based research relating to policy and practice. To develop a strategy to inform and support organisations involved in advocacy and policy change through engagement with multi disciplinary networks across a wide range of academic, statutory and voluntary organisations, as well as children, youth and parents.

Key outputs from the programme will be disseminated through a variety of media: A biennial report on key issues relating to children and youth, providing a critique of current policy, identifying gaps in current provision and assessing the implications for practice. Identification of strategies and innovations that 'work' with children and youth in policy and practice situations, with a focus on early intervention strategies, effective approaches and evidence to support advocacy. Research briefings featuring critical commentary based on a brief synthesis of relevant research findings, analysis of key statistical data and synopsis of current and planned policy provisions.

The CYP programme has created 9 jobs and is headed by programme director, Dr Tony Cassidy and supported by a multidisciplinary team of various skills such as researchers, business, IT and PhD students.

EDUCATION STUDENTS VISIT 'SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE'

A group of undergraduate students studying Education visited St Cecilia's College in Derry in November as part of a study they are doing on the role that ICT can play in 'Schools of the Future'. The students have already had contact with the school through a highly successful video-conference between Coleraine and Derry. And many of them are working closely with Jacinta Hardy, e-learning coordinator in St Cecilia's who is an on-line tutor to the students for their seminars.



Prof Roger Austin with undergraduate students in Education and pupils of St Cecilia's College in Derry.

Speaking to the students Principal Kathleen Gormley said, this new college with its facilities is a wonderful opportunity to use ICT to blur the lines between 2nd and 3rd level education and we are delighted to work with the University of Ulster. ICT plays a major part in the lives of our young people today - in our old school on this site, we had only 3 computer rooms and now we have 500 PC's with a mobile laptop trolley on each floor and 60 interactive whiteboards with not a blackboard in sight. The ICT landscape is forever changing and we will serve our students best by embracing that change and more importantly planning for it. This means an increasing part of our budget has to be spent on kit and on constant up-skilling of staff on a weekly basis.

Prof Roger Austin, the tutor at the University who is teaching the students commented; *"This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to actually see a school for the future and to explore how ICT is making a real difference to the students and staff; we are very grateful to St Cecilia's for supporting this partnership both on-line and face to face. They very much appreciate the link with Jacinta Hardy who is helping them see how ICT can give pupils access to a wider range of courses and can enhance the quality of their learning. Many of the students will be in schools later in the year on the Tutoring in Schools scheme so we want to make sure they understand how they can use ICT to help pupils".*

TEACHER EDUCATION IN SPOTLIGHT AT ULSTER

On 25 November 2010 the School of Education hosted a seminar which brought together senior staff from all of the teacher education institutions, the Chief Inspector of Schools, Mr Stanley Goudie and other senior inspectors. Mr Goudie presented findings from the Education and Training Inspectorate's (ETI) Inspection Reports on the Northern Ireland-based BEd and PGCE Programmes. In the the inspection of Ulster's PGCE programmes, the ETI found inter alia that:

The quality of the teaching by lecturers was very good or outstanding in most of the sessions observed. Working relationships between lecturers and students were excellent. Much of the teaching engages the students; they participated in high level discussion and debate on current educational issues; lecturers modelled good teaching practice; learning intentions were made clear; lecturers used skilful questioning techniques and challenged students to give more precise answers; and appropriate links were made between theory and practice.

Dr Linda Clarke also delivered a presentation in which she discussed the unique contribution of HEIs to the professional formation of teachers.

SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY, POLITICS AND SOCIAL POLICY

The 6th North/ South Irish Criminology Conference 21 -22 June 2010

The School of Criminology, Politics and Social Policy hosted the 6th North/South Irish Criminology Conference at the Belfast campus on 21 – 22 June 2010. It marked the return of this annual conference to

the north for the first time since 2005. The timing was of particular significance given the recent devolution of policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly, and the appointment of Mr David Ford as Minister for Justice. Mr Ford provided an opening address which emphasised the importance of the wide range of topics covered in conference presentations including policing, prisons, youth justice, victims and survivors of crime, restorative justice, immigration and migration, state crime, abolitionism, violent and sexual crime, law and social control, media and the arts and many more. The conference proved extremely popular with almost 200 delegates from a wide range of universities and statutory and non-statutory organisations, from Northern Ireland, Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland, Australia, the USA, Denmark and South Africa. Feedback from delegates commended the conference and conference dinner held in Belfast City Hall for the opportunities provided to hear about what research is taking place, to discuss and debate issues, and to network, work and relax with friends and colleagues. The generous support provided by Belfast City Council, the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work at Queen's University Belfast, Willan Publishing and the University of Ulster's Office of Innovation Knowledge Club, Social and Policy Research Institute, School of Criminology, Politics and Social Policy and School of Law helped to ensure the success of the conference.



Participants in the North/South Criminology Conference, including Dr Mary O'Rawe, Matt Baggott (Chief Constable) and Dr John Topping.

SCHOOL OF SOCIOLOGY AND APPLIED SOCIAL STUDIES

Conference: Decisions, Assessment, Risk and Evidence in Social Work - Mon 28 & Tue 29 June 2010 - Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick, Northern Ireland

This conference was convened to bring together researchers, educators, policy makers and senior practitioners to share current developments and to promote collaborative research, organisation development and teaching initiatives to address issues of decision making in social work, and to improve professional knowledge and skills for the ultimate benefit of clients and families.

The keynote speakers were Professor Jill Manthorpe, Director of the Social Care Workforce Research Unit, King's College London and Mr Martin C Calder, MA, CQSW of Calder Training and Consultancy. The conference was opened by Mr Sean Holland, Chief Social Services Officer for Northern Ireland. Papers were being presented by those involved in research, education and organisation development related to decisions and risk in social work. The seventy presenters and participants were drawn from across Great Britain and Ireland.

The conference was sponsored by the Social and Policy Research Institute and thanks are due also to Professor Mary McColgan, Head of the School of Sociology and Applied Social Studies at the University of Ulster for her support. The main organisers were Dr Brian Taylor, Senior Lecturer in Social Work, and Dr Campbell Killick, Senior Social Worker (Research), South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.

Dr Paul Hainsworth was invited recently by Professor Jennifer Todd (Professor of Politics at UCD) to join the 'Patterns of Conflict' project at University College Dublin, sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs (Dublin)'s Conflict Resolution Unit and the IRHSS. In this context he was also invited to give a paper at a conference/workshop at UCD in November 2010, on the theme of Patterns of Conflict. East Timor: the Struggle for Independence from Indonesia. Additionally, Dr Hainsworth has been invited to give a follow-up paper at the International Political Science Association/ European Consortium of Political Research conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil in February, 2011 on the theme of Timor-Leste: The Transition to Peace, Democracy and Justice in the Twenty First Century. Funding towards the cost of attending the latter has been secured from the Political Studies Association (UK).

Dr Hainsworth also co-organised/co-chaired a conference in November at the Human Rights Action Centre, Amnesty International, London on the theme of 'Enforced Disappearances', with speakers from the Philippines, Libya, Chechnya and the UK - an event sponsored and supported by Amnesty International.

George Tridimas - Invited Conference Presentations

"Direct democracy and sortition: A public choice analysis of the Ancient Athenian Democracy".

Presented to the International Conference: "Economics, Politics and Ethics in the light of intellectual inheritance of Ancient Athens" – 2500 years after the Battle of Marathon, Society for Economic Research, September 2010, Delphi, Greece.

"Social welfare and collective goods coercion in public economics" (with Stanley Winer, Carleton University and Walter Hettich, California State University, Fullerton)".

Presented to: 2010 Andrew Young School of Policy Studies International Conference on: "Coercion and Social Welfare in Contemporary Public Finance", October 2010, Georgia State University, Georgia, USA.

STUDENTS HIT THE MARK

University of Ulster students' advertising campaign hits the mark for Action Cancer

Earlier this year, the Publicity Association of Northern Ireland (PANI) had once again teamed up with the University of Ulster to continue an initiative that allows students from the School of Communication and the School of Art and Design to work together under the guidance of a mentor advertising agency. This year the student teams worked on a live brief for Action Cancer to produce an advertising campaign that would create awareness about their free breast screening service offered to women who fall outside the age parameters for NHS screening. The winning team was mentored by Belfast based agency 'Navigator Blue' and the student members were: **Celina Stretz, Séan McCaffery, Dan Farnan, Jonathan Fleck, Coleen Fitzsimmons, and Rachael Lusty.**

Feedback on the second annual Publicity Association of Northern Ireland (PANI) and the University of Ulster student advertising project indicates that the student campaign for Action Cancer was an overwhelming success.

The campaign created by the students under the guidance of their mentoring agency went 'live' during the summer with their creative work appearing on posters, in national press titles,



in pubs, restaurants, and online throughout Northern Ireland. The campaign has been highly praised but more importantly, Action Cancer has reported an increase of 30% in enquiries for breast screening appointments with over 1,000 women making contact with the charity during and just after the campaign went live. Noting the impact the campaign had, a decision was taken to re-run the campaign during October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Plans are already afoot for the 2011 student workshop and **Dr. Aodheen O'Donnell** and **Fiona McMahon**, lecturers in Advertising in the School of Communication, are delighted that their second year Advertising students will also get the chance to be mentored by one of Northern Ireland's top advertising agencies on another live campaign.

<http://www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk./comms/pani.html>

'TURNING ON A LIGHT' IN LONDON

The London based charity StreetInvest invited three members of the Community Youth Work team, **Susan Morgan, Sam McCready** and **Pat Henry** to London on Nov 29th to launch 'Turning on a Light'-an evaluation of Street Work Training in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo.

It was in Nov 2009 that the Community Youth Work team was commissioned to conduct this evaluation and the final draft of the report was presented to StreetInvest in April 2010. However, the charity was so enthused by the report findings, conclusions and recommendations that it decided to formally launch the report to an audience of NGO's and funders who are involved with street children in various African countries. The NGO representatives who attended included Street Child Africa, Street Children of Sierra Leone, Afrikids and Railway Children.

StreetInvest's training of street workers was found to be of high quality, credible and professional. The voices of street children and street workers from Bukavu were well reflected in the report and the impact of the training was evident throughout. Whilst working with street children in this war-ravaged country has proved to be highly dangerous and challenging, the street workers were commended for their courage and vision. This was evidenced by a number of innovative models of practice including street mapping, head counting, neutral listening points for street children and peer education and support.

Numerous recommendations and areas for potential development were noted and in a country where families of children still have to contribute financially for primary school education the evaluators called for a radical change in government policy towards street children. A 'by Africa, for Africa' training strategy was also recommended and the need for more 'action research' methodologies was suggested. The issue of third level accreditation for street workers was one of the most interesting recommendations within the report and alongside StreetInvest, the Community Youth Work team at Ulster is already exploring the possibility of linking with other African universities to offer accreditation for street workers. It would appear that the groundwork has already been completed through 'Turning on a Light' and a number of challenging opportunities now exist for the Community Youth Work team at Ulster and it is more than willing to play its part in possible future developments.

EUROPEAN PROJECT

Professor Owen Hargie and **Dr Mairead McCoy** from the School of Communication attended a recent Consortium meeting in Tel-Aviv for their EU FP7-funded project "*Counter-Terrorism Crisis Communications: Strategies for Recovery and Continuity*". This European project, which was awarded a grant of €1.4 million euros, involves collaboration with HEIs in Israel, Germany, Bulgaria, Spain and Greece. This comparative research has investigated the efficacy of various communication strategies in the aftermath of terrorist attacks in different countries. The project is currently developing a terrorism crisis communications manual and a comprehensive training and simulation programme, including audio-visual training aids, to enable public authorities throughout Europe to develop, train and adapt their own terror crisis communication plans and incorporate them within their wider crisis plans.

RESILIENT YOUTH WORKERS GET THEIR REWARD

The first community youth work students to receive training in entrepreneurship at the University of Ulster received certificates at the Magee campus in May 2010. Magee offers a Certificate in Entrepreneurship with the BSc Honours Community Youth Work, an award which is believed to be rare in university provision anywhere. Thirteen students received certificates from **Mr John McCormick**, Director of Youth Work Services with Youth Council for Northern Ireland, who is an Associate Professor at the University of Ulster. Congratulating them and their lecturers, he said: "Now more than ever, with the prospect of severe cuts in government spending to come, we will need youth workers with drive, resilience and entrepreneurial expertise to make the most of the resources available for work with young people."

Professor Deirdre Heenan, Dean of Academic Development and Acting Provost, said: "The University's development plan for Magee foresees a major expansion in courses across a bigger campus with more students. Magee has many proud achievements in its long history but one of the most outstanding is as an educator and trainer in the caring professions, in nursing, mental health, social care, social work and other areas. Its contribution to community youth work, which often may be unseen and unsung, is in that mould and its success helps to underpin Magee as an institution that believes a confident and prosperous society amounts to nothing if it is not also a caring society. The 13 students had to describe how they had applied entrepreneurship theory, practice, skills and awareness to a specific community work project. Breda Friel said: "We define entrepreneurship as the ability to be creative and innovative, whether one is in a business or social sector. Many of the submissions were about creating social entrepreneurial activities and promoting change in the community through their entrepreneurial skills. What we are actually about in the community sector is creating social capital – that sense of improved well-being and improved life-chances in the community."



John McCormick, Youth Council for Northern Ireland, with lecturer Breda Friel, course director, Community Youth Work, Magee campus, and student speaker Chris Nicol, at the presentation of certificates in entrepreneurship at Magee.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Faculty administrative areas were recently audited by Health and Safety Services. The Faculty achieved a very good score, and the final report is available on the Faculty Intranet. Over the coming year a number of schools will also be audited and as each school develops materials such as Risk Assessments these will be made available on our Intranet. I would encourage you to familiarise yourself with the risk assessment documents relating to your area of work.

The Community Development Programme Awarded Professional Endorsement by the England Standards Board

The BSc Honours Community Development at Ulster is now the first such professionally endorsed programme on the island of Ireland. Through active marketing, the course should attract support for students from the community and statutory sectors. This qualification helps to develop community development skills, critical problem solving and reflective practice. For the pragmatic student it enhances employability and sector mobility.

Café Symposium: An Innovative Teaching Method

This was first introduced by **Dr. Rosemary Moreland**, and this is the second semester that we have used this innovative teaching method to demonstrate innovative ways to develop participatory teaching and learning.

The idea is to create a café setting to develop participatory teaching and learning. Students are given an academic article in 'newspaper format', and discuss this with their peers. This is a key factor towards increasing student retention as students develop a sound relationship with tutors and peers and feel less threatened by academic challenges.

DISCOVERING LANGUAGE

The Language and Linguistics team in the School of Communication (supported by **Julie Pattison**) welcomed a group of sixth form students into the university on 25 September for a one day schools' event: "Discovering Language".

The idea of the event was to provide a hands-on introduction to linguistics as a discipline to students considering any kind of language related course of study. Presentations included "The Two Ronnies Guide to Linguistics" and "How languages change". The students also took part in activities such as recording spectograms of their own voice; locating different accents from around the world and participating in some classic psycholinguistic experiments.

The event was well attended and feedback was very positive. The team plan to make Discovering Language an annual event.

Discovering language

A hands-on introduction to linguistics for pupils considering a degree in linguistics or a course that contains some linguistics, such as Speech Therapy or Modern Languages.

Language - Speech, Therapy, Grammar, English, Classics, French, ???
Linguistics????

Saturday September 25th 2010
10.30am till 3.30pm
University of Ulster at Jordanstown

Write your name in the International Phonetic Alphabet. See your voice in a spectrograph. Find out how to pronounce 'gher', what a hippo has in common with a feather and why there are no such things as words!

For more information, contact Dr Cathrin S. Rhys (c.s.rhys@ulster.ac.uk)
To register contact Julie Pattison (jpattison@ulster.ac.uk)

<http://www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk/comms/linguistics.html>