

## GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION (GSPLE) LAUNCHED BY LORD CHIEF JUSTICE

The launch of the Graduate School of Professional Legal Education took place on 11th March. Proceedings started with the **Lord Chief Justice, the Right Honorable Sir Brian Kerr** chairing a session with the current trainees in the School's new accommodation at Magee. Recent conversion work has seen the transformation of most of the top floor of the building from the Intelligent Systems Research Centre to the Graduate School's new centre. This now includes two lecture theatres, one capable of conversion to a courtroom (complete with Judges' bench) a Boardroom for meetings, a smaller workroom, space for trainees to study or relax and a suite of offices for staff and school administrative staff. A state of the art recording system allows trainees' practical exercises to be recorded and played back for feedback and assessment.

Following his discussion with the trainees, the Lord Chief Justice was given a tour of the new premises. He then mingled with guests at a reception in the School. Guests included **Mr Gerard Diver, Mayor of the City of Derry, Professor Richard Barnett, Vice Chancellor, Mr. Barry Finlay, President of the Law Society of Northern Ireland, Professor Anne Moran, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences**. The reception also provided local members of the legal profession and of course parents and partners of the current trainees an opportunity to see the School. The party then moved to the Great Hall where the Lord Chief Justice delivered a speech entitled, "**The Role of the Legal Profession in a Devolved Northern Ireland**" during which he referred to the tradition of legal scholarship in Derry stretching back to before the time of Saint Columba. He reminded the trainees that upon qualification they would not "merely be lawyers, you will be members of a profession whose purpose is to serve the community and the concept of justice – or perhaps



From left: Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett; and Lord Chief Justice, the Right Honorable Sir Brian Kerr.

in the fuller phrase, of justice according to law." He also stressed the importance of the Human Rights Act as providing "an agreed vocabulary and structure within which to discuss the difficult value judgments at the limits of law. It is the language of rights that we now often use to clarify ambiguities and to remedy possible injustices and defects."

At the conclusion of proceedings the Lord Chief Justice officially launched the Graduate School of Professional Legal Education by unveiling a plaque to mark the occasion.

## INCORE HOSTS A LEADING UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY ORGANISATION AT MAGEE



From left: Pat Colgan (SEUPB, Special EU Programmes Body); Dr Tilman Brück (Editor of the Book); Professor John Hume; Dr Wim Naude (UNU-Wider); and Dr Brandon Hamber (Director, INCORE).

Building on its associate status with the United Nations University (UNU), INCORE (International Conflict Research Institute) collaborated with the World Institute for Development Economic Research (UNU-Wider) based in Helsinki and the Households in Conflict Network (HiCN) to host a conference at Magee. The event played host to delegates from all over the globe and explored the nature of the relationship between entrepreneurship and violent conflict, specifically exploring how entrepreneurship should be promoted for the establishment and maintenance of peace, security, and development. At the workshop the book '**Making Peace Work: The Challenges of Social and Economic Reconstruction**' edited by Tony Addison and Tilman Brück was launched by Professor John Hume. This key book draws on leading authorities on the political economy of war and peace. It has been hailed as the definitive volume on how to establish peace, participation, and prosperity in post-conflict societies.

## 'ULSTER' LAW SCHOOL MOOTERS ONLY FEMALES AT UCD MOOT



From left: Caireen McCluskey; and Mary Baxter

Law students **Mary Baxter** and **Caireen McCluskey** represented 'Ulster' at the Thomas A Finlay Moot Court Interschool Competition held over the weekend of the 27th and 28th March in Dublin. The annual competition, hosted by the UCD Law Society, is a prestigious event and attracted entries from Durham University, Inner Temple, Nottingham, Hong Kong and Northumbria as well as Irish entries but the students were quite surprised to discover that they were the only females involved in the competition! The students had the experience of being adjudicated by senior judicial figures from the Irish and British courts including Chief Justice Finlay, Lord Hutton and Justice Fidelma Macken to name a few. They mooted an intra-EU family law jurisdictional problem over the course of the weekend and fared extremely well, even managing to beat the eventual winners – Griffith College Dublin – in the round robin competition. Their performance was even more remarkable given the fact that neither has yet studied Family Law. The students were mentored by **Ciaran White**, senior lecturer in the School of Law. Unfortunately, they did not progress to the semi finals but thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

## NORTHERN IRELAND AS REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

In April two final year LLB students from the Magee campus, **Deborah Magill (PT)** and **Laura McManus (FT)** represented N Ireland as Regional champions at the Louis Brown International Client Counselling Competition at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. Nineteen countries were represented in Las Vegas including teams from Hong Kong, Russia, Ireland, The Netherlands, Australia, Nigeria and Canada. Teams were required to interview difficult 'clients' (played by professional actors) who were seeking urgent legal advice on an unseen legal problem. Judges measured skills such as teamwork, client confidentiality, relationship building, information gathering and the provision of quality legal and non-legal solutions, such as mediation with the other side. After two days of competition the team progressed to the semi-finals but were then knocked out by the Nebraskan team who ultimately went on to be declared overall champions.

## SIMULATED RISK ASSESSMENT FOR SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

**Anne Campbell, Susannah Mc Call, Emma Mc Ginnis, Ursula Donnelly, Fiona Doherty**

The undergraduate degree programme in Social Work must prepare students to deal with risk situations and to make decisions which will have a direct impact on the lives of service users who are vulnerable and / or in need. Students must be equipped with the knowledge base, professional values and practice skills required to undertake assessment, intervention, review and evaluation on a daily basis.

As part of the preparation for the first work-based placement, students are required to pass the Preparation for Practice module in year one. The module provides the students with the opportunity to practise simulated role plays with social work tutors in order to learn the communication skills and relevant value base necessary to practice in a professional manner.

Concomitantly, students must acquire knowledge and experience of risk evaluation and management using a specific social work model of risk assessment. However, it is difficult to provide a realistic opportunity within the tutor / student role play setting, which would enable students to assess risk and evaluate the information provided within the referral document. In addition, it may be problematic to permit first year social work students to become involved in risk assessment in placement, as they may be dealing with complex needs and a range of diverse issues.

The current project being undertaken aims to provide a vehicle, where students could undertake simulated risk assessments using 'real life' case scenarios in a computer generated environment.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**14 and 15 May 2009:** Reflecting on the Report of the Consultative Group on the Past (Eames/Bradley Report) co-organised by CAJ, British Irish Rights Watch, TJI and QUB Law School.

**5 June 2009:** TJI Seminar Series – Professor Nina Pillard, Georgetown University, and Visiting Scholar to TJI, will deliver a seminar at Dalriada House, Jordanstown campus on "Challenges of Transnational Legal Theory".

**8 June 2009:** TJI Seminar Series - Professor David Cole, Georgetown University, and Visiting Scholar to TJI, will deliver a seminar at Dalriada House, Jordanstown campus on "Restoring the Rule of Law: What Should President Obama Do About the Torturers and the Detainees?"

**10 June 2009:** TJI Seminar Series – Professor Eckart Klein, University of Postdam (Visiting Scholar to TJI) will deliver a seminar on "The Relationship between the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice" during his time in residence at Dalriada House, Jordanstown campus.

**12 June 2009:** Colloquium on "Transitional Justice and Public Space" (a co-sponsored event between the TJI and the University of Minnesota Law School under the auspices of the Transitional Justice Partnership), Jordanstown campus.

**15-19 June 2009:** Transitional Justice Summer School on "Negotiating Peace, Negotiating Justice", Magee campus.

**15-19 June 2009:** INCORE 10th International Summer School.

## TROCAIRE ANNUAL LECTURE

On 24 March the TJI and INCORE co-hosted the **Trocaire Annual Lecture** on "Displaced Persons" delivered by Mr John Ging (Director of Operations in Gaza for the UN Relief and Works Agency, pictured third from left) at the Magee campus.



## NEW MINOR STRAND IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AT MAGEE

During the recent revalidation of the BSc Hons Community Development degree, the staff team took the opportunity to introduce several important innovations to the programme. A proposal was provisionally accepted to deliver a **Minor Strand in Community Development on the Magee Campus, in September 2009**. In the first instance, the students majoring in Sociology will partner with

Community Development. Dr Rosemary Moreland (Acting Course Director) stated:

*"This is a very exciting opportunity, not only for ourselves but for a number of other health and social science professions offered at Magee. Increasingly those working in these professional areas need to have an understanding of community development and engaging*

*with communities. A Minor Pathway in Community Development could be a very attractive proposition to these allied areas. Initially, this will be offered on the Magee campus, but if successful, we would like to extend it to Jordanstown. I think it could be of interest to wider areas, such as **Housing, Urban Planning and Sport Studies**".*

## CENTRE FOR YOUNG MEN'S STUDIES

The **Centre for Young Men's Studies** is affiliated to the Community Youth Work department and INCORE, and works in partnership with YouthAction Northern Ireland. The aim of the Centre is to promote a culture of learning, development and excellence on a local, national and international level that will be achieved through action research with young men aged 12 – 16 living in Northern Ireland. The Centre has five key strands

- Action Research with young males aged 11 - 16 about their experiences of growing up in Northern Ireland
- Longitudinal Research in schools across Northern Ireland.
- The development of models of best practice.
- Training for teachers, youth work practitioners and support workers in order to develop new approaches to working with young males.
- Dissemination of learning

The study is investigating male underachievement, violence, conflict and safety and is funded by the Department of Education and the Northern Ireland Office. A report into young men's experiences of violence, conflict and safety from the qualitative data will be available in June 2009.

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## POLICING AND HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM: 5 March 2009 at the Belfast campus



From left: Dr D Feenan; Fiona Doherty; Mr T Murphy; Mr Justice Treacy; and Prof Dame Nuala O'Loan.

The School of Law has appointed two of Northern Ireland's leading legal figures, **Dame Nuala O'Loan** and **The Honorable Mr Justice Treacy**, as Visiting Professors. Former Police Ombudsman Dame Nuala and High Court Judge Mr Justice Treacy will hold their new posts until 2012. To mark the appointment the Professors spoke at a symposium on policing and human rights at Ulster's Belfast campus. **Fiona Doherty**, Barrister-at-Law, also participated in the symposium. **The Lord Chief Justice, Sir Brian Kerr**, was among those in attendance, which included academics and members of the statutory and non-statutory sectors.



From left: Dr N Gaynor; Dr E Barrett; and Dr G Nakabugo, Irish African Partnership Research Capacity Building.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The UNESCO Centre's *International Development Programme* (IDP) recently held an interactive Conference on "Globalising Higher Education: Universities, International Development and Social Justice", from 22-24 April, on the Coleraine campus. The IDP's External Advisory Board advised senior management within the University that engagement with internationalisation is an issue that Ulster must embrace wholeheartedly if it is to thrive and prosper in a rapidly globalising learning community.

The Conference saw presentations from the Association of African Universities (AAU), the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr Alan Gillespie, CBE (Chair of the International Financial Facility for Immunisation – IFFIm), the Irish African Partnership for Research Capacity-Building (IAPRCB), a former Ambassador to Afghanistan, the Chief Executive of Concern, and one of the UK's Charity Commissioners – as well as from academics from Ulster, Bournemouth and Brighton. The Conference also heard speeches from the Minister of State responsible for Overseas Development, **Peter Power**, the Permanent Secretary at the

Department of Employment and Learning (DEL), **Dr Aideen McGinley**, and the **Senior Advisor on Higher Education for the Department for International Development (DFID)**, as well as from the **Vice-Chancellor**. The VC expressed his conviction that many people across all sectors of the University are passionately committed to a fairer and more just world order, and that internationalisation and a broader engagement with internationalist themes would constitute important strands of the University's forthcoming Corporate Plan (2011/12 to 2016/17). Conference participants left feeling hopeful that international development will figure more prominently in more courses and across Faculty, Schools and Departments.

## WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

**Mr Liam Thornton** has joined the School of Law as a Lecturer in Law at the Magee campus. He is currently in the final stages of completing his PhD (on reception conditions for asylum seekers) at University College Cork. Liam was a part-time lecturer in law at UCC from 2006 to 2008. From 2008-9, he was the research and policy officer at the Irish Human Rights Commission. He is a member of the Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC) executive and is an Irish Reporter on the International Law in Domestic Courts online (OUP) project. Liam is the human rights reporter for the Irish Yearbook of International Law (IYIL), having previously been the Book Reviews Editor. In 2008, he co-authored a Report on the UN Migrant Workers Convention: Irish and EU law, commissioned by the IHRC. He was also a researcher on the EU Odysseus Network project, "EC Asylum Directives: Conformity Checking with Irish Law."

**Dr Chris Lamont** joined the Transitional Justice Institute as a post doctoral fellow in March 2009. Chris holds a BA in International Studies from the University of Mississippi (2002), an MSc in International and European Politics from the University of Edinburgh (2005), and a PhD in Politics from the University of Glasgow (2008). Before joining the TJI, Chris lectured in the Politics Department at the University of Glasgow. Previously Chris was a Fulbright fellow at the University of Zagreb (2002-2003), where he undertook research on post-conflict party system development in the city of Sisak, Croatia. Chris' research interests include international criminal justice with a focus on understanding compliance on the part of states and international organizations with orders and requests from international judicial bodies. He carried out extensive field research in the former Yugoslavia exploring compliance with International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia arrest orders. Currently, he is working on a project with Dr Dejan Jovic, 'Croatia after Tudjman: Dealing with Consequences of Conflict and Authoritarianism' that will be published in a special issue of the journal *Europe-Asia Studies* (2010).

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Dr P Lundy** who has been awarded a prestigious Leverhulme Trust Fellowship for 12 months to develop research on 'dealing with the past' in Northern Ireland. In April Patricia will be part of the opening of the Art of Conflict Transformation Event Series in Massachusetts University, Boston, where she will present a paper "Truth Recovery and Reconciliation in a Post-Conflict Society" with Mark McGovern.

**Professor Henry Patterson** who has been awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship (£13,806 over 18 months) to work on a project on "The Irish State and Border Security 1969-1994".

**Professor Deirdre Heenan** who has been appointed as Dean of Academic Development for the University of Ulster's Magee campus, with the task of spearheading the implementation of the recently announced Strategic Development Plan for the campus.

**Professor Colin Thain and Michael Smyth** who gave evidence on the Barnett Formula to the House of Lords Barnett Formula Select Committee, when it came to Stormont on Friday 27 March 2009. Professor Thain was added to the panel of specialist academics consulted by the House of Commons Select Committee on the Treasury on 31 March 2009. The following day he gave a presentation 'The G20 and the Financial Crisis: The Perspective of HM Treasury' at the G20 and the Financial Crisis in the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy, Queen's University of Belfast.

**Dr Victor McNair** and the **PDP Forum** for their successful **CHEP award**. They have been granted one of the first CHEP awards to develop a **PDP Toolkit**. Essentially the toolkit will be designed to assist colleagues to identify, incorporate and evaluate PDP activities, including (but not necessarily) PDS-based activities. Victor chairs the PDP Forum, which was set up in Feb 2007 to promote and support the implementation of PDP across the University. The Forum has been meeting its considerable challenges by hosting dissemination events and consultation workshops. Work on the toolkit will begin soon with the development of a project plan and set of orientating activities. They hope to have the toolkit in pilot form by September with some early examples of work by **January 2010**. The bid is seen as a means of strengthening the role of PDP in student learning and it is hoped that a strong pilot group from the Faculty will help develop the toolkit and exemplar materials.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS SUCCESSES

**Dr Dermot Feenan**, Law, on the publication of the Special Issue on 'Women and Judging' in the journal *Feminist Legal Studies*, Vol. 17(1) for which he was appointed Guest Editor.

**Lundy, P.** 'Can the Past be Policed? A Critical Analysis of the Historical Enquiries Team' will be published in *Law and Social Challenges*, Vol.11, Spring 2009.

**Hargie, O.** and Tourish, D. (eds) (2009) *Auditing Organizational Communication: A Handbook of Research, Theory and Practice*. Routledge. ISBN 978-0415414463 (Pbk); 978-0415414456 (Hbk)

**Professor Hargie, Dr McCoy and Dr Irving** from the School of Communication who have been awarded funding of €62,183 euros from EU - FP7 Communication Strategies for Public Authorities 'Counter-Terrorism Crisis Communications Strategies for Recovery and Continuity'. This award is part of a European collaborative project involving a consortium of HEIs from Germany, Bulgaria, Spain, Israel and Greece. The research aims to investigate communication strategies in the aftermath of terrorist attacks and will examine the communication activities that followed terror attacks in different countries, as well as the requirements for effective crisis communications.

**Thomas Bundschuh and Fionnuala Ni Aolain** in a book forthcoming with Syracuse University Press edited by Eileen Babbett and Ellen Lutz TJI staff make two essay contributions. One co-authored by Thomas Bundschuh (PhD Research Fellow, TJI) is entitled *Working Together for Sustainable Peace: Conflict Resolvers and Human Rights After the Revolution Progress or Backslide After the Good Friday Agreement?*

**O'Rourke, Catherine** *The Shifting Signifier of "Community" in Transitional Justice: A Feminist Analysis* published by the *Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender and Society*.

**Hamber, B and Kelly, G** (2009) *Too deep, too threatening: Understandings of reconciliation in Northern Ireland*. In H. Van der Merwe, V. Baxter & A. Chapman (Eds.), *Assessing the Impact of Transitional Justice: Challenges for Empirical Research*, Washington: United States Institute for Peace.

**Professor Christine Bell** has been awarded the Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize for her book "On the Law of Peace: Peace Agreements and the Lex Pacificatoria" (Oxford University Press, 2008). The prize is awarded annually by the SLSA for 'the most outstanding piece of scholarship' and aims to celebrate and promote the work of socio-legal academics. The prize was presented to Professor Bell at a ceremony which took place during the SLSA Annual Conference earlier this month.