

CONGRATULATIONS TO BSc GOVERNMENT CLASS OF 2015



The BSc Government class of 2015 graduated on Tuesday 20 October at UCC. As ever, it was a day of celebration and pride for students, their families and their lecturers! The class of 2015 is our 13th group to come through the BSc Government, with the first conferrings taking place in 2003.

The conferring ceremony in Devere Hall was led by the Chancellor of the National University of Ireland, Dr Maurice Manning. The keynote address was delivered by Judge Rosemary Horgan, President of the District Court.

We wish the class of 2015 all the best for the future and we will be following their careers with pride.

Right: BSc Government graduate, Jennifer Bryan, tosses her graduation cap in the air following the conferring ceremony.

For more pictures from the BSc Government conferrings of 2015, turn to page 9.

*Congratulations also to the MComm (Government and Public Policy) students who graduated on the day.

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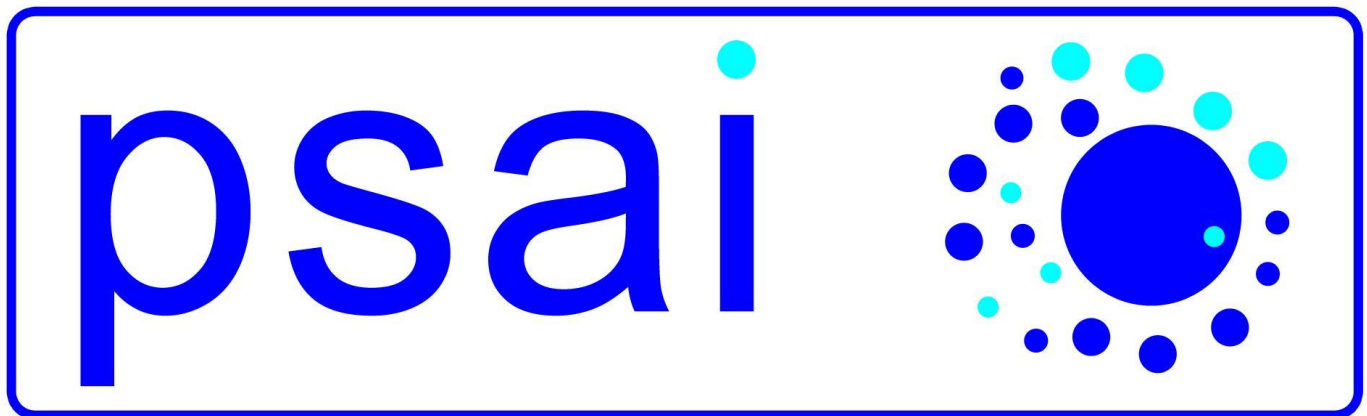
High Expectations for Monahan Lecture 2015

The Annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture, now in its 17th year, features heavily in this issue of **Government Times**. This year's lecture will be delivered by Colm O'Gorman of Amnesty International Ireland on Thursday 5 November and a full house is expected in Boole 2. As you will see on page 11, Colm joins a distinguished list of speakers who have previously delivered this prestigious lecture. The annual Department of Government student awards will also be presented and we look forward to seeing who will be crowned Student of the Year, Graduate of the Year, and the Patrick O'Sullivan essay winner. The Department of Government has been very busy since the last issue and hosted a fantastic annual conference of the Political Studies Association of Ireland (see page 4). In addition, the department scored highly in a recent UCC research quality review exercise and – building on this – four staff members received money under the university's Strategic Research Fund. As you can see on page 5, we were also heavily involved in the UCC Open Day and it was gratifying to see school students sitting in on BSc Government classes during their recent mid-term break. Students travelled from as far as Belfast and Athlone! We also had our conferring ceremony for the BSc Government class of 2015 and it was great to see students complete their undergraduate degree journey with us. This issue features a graduate profile of Rebecca Sullivan (page 8), a current student profile of Stephen Cunningham (page 17) and a placement report from Michael McCarthy (pages 18 and 19).



Aodh, Noelle, Jessica, Richard and Emily

Department of Government hosts successful PSAI Annual Conference



The 2015 annual conference of the Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI) was hosted by the Department of Government from 16-18 October. This was the biggest ever conference of the association and enormous credit is due to the local organiser, **Dr Theresa Reidy**. Department of Government staff members presented many papers over the three days of the conference, as follows:

- 'EU-China Relations: Understanding Institutionalisation' by **Dr Andrew Cottey**
- 'Ireland, the best country in the world in which to do deliberation? Deliberative quality and Ireland's Convention on the Constitution' by **Dr Clodagh Harris** with Prof David Farrell and Dr Jane Suiter
- 'The Irish Same-Sex Marriage Referendum, Democracy, and the Left' by **Dr Laurence Davis**
- 'China's New Role in Global Economic Governance' by **Dr Niall Duggan** with Dr Jörn-Carsten Gottwald
- 'Politicization of the European Commission: a historical institutionalist perspective' by **Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan**
- 'The 2015 Marriage Referendum; Constitutional Convention, Campaign and Conservative Ireland' by **Dr Theresa Reidy** with Dr Johan A Elkink, Prof David Farrell and Dr Jane Suiter
- 'High Turnover, Little Reform: How Ireland's Dáil Éireann Resisted the Forces of Change' by **Dr Mary C. Murphy**
- 'Gender and Political Representation' by **Fiona Buckley**
- 'Tracing the Trajectory of Local Government Reforms in Ireland' by **Dr Aodh Quinlivan**
- 'Women and Electoral Success in Ireland 2007-2013' by **Fiona Buckley** with Claire McGing, Prof Mack Mariani and Prof Timothy White
- 'Why Independent? A study of what influences the decision to become an independent politician in Ireland' by **Yvonne Murphy**
- 'NATO's Post 2014 Transition: The Rebuilding of an Effective Deterrence Strategy' by **Dr Niall Mulchinock**

Lots of interest in BSc Government at UCC Open Day



The recent UCC Open Day brought large numbers to the campus and it was gratifying that there was so much interest in the BSc Government programme (CK210). Director of the degree, **Dr Aodh Quinlivan**, made a series of presentations during the day and he stated, 'Demand for the BSc Government rose significantly in 2015 and, based on the numbers of students attending our talks and coming to our stand, we are very hopeful that we will see another rise in 2016. Students and parents alike appreciate the combination of politics, business and law on our programme. They also found it useful to talk to current first year students like Adaugo and Diandra (see picture on left) and Emily as well as Richard from second year. These current students made a major contribution on the day.'

Staff Recognition award for Dr Theresa Reidy



Congratulations to **Dr Theresa Reidy** of the Department of Government who has been honoured for her outstanding contribution to University life at the **Staff Recognition Awards 2015**. Affectionately dubbed the 'UCC Oscars', winners are selected across three categories – Teaching & Learning; Staff Recognition; and Research. **Dr Michael Murphy, President of UCC** praised the recipients for their dedication and outstanding contributions to UCC, and also acknowledged the considerable work of the selection committees. He also encouraged staff to consider proposing a colleague in the 2016 call for nominations. In the Teaching & Learning Awards category, there were four winners as follows (with one joint award, so five recipients in total):

- Dr Robbie Butler (School of Economics)
- Dr Claire Murray and Dr Seán Ó Conaill (School of Law)
- Dr Seamus O'Mahony (School of Food and Nutritional Science)
- Dr Theresa Reidy (Department of Government)

BSc Government students represent the Thomas F. Meagher Foundation at the NAPD annual conference in Galway

By Michael Keane
BSc Government II



From Left to Right: Michael Keane, Ronan Lucey, Minister for Education Jan O’Sullivan T.D., Darragh Healy and Michael Quinn.

On 14 October, Ronan Lucey (Kenmare), Darragh Healy (Lauragh), Michael Quinn (Cork City) and myself, Michael Keane (Kenmare), travelled up to Galway City to work for the next three days on behalf of the Thomas F. Meagher Foundation at the annual conference of the NAPD (National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals) held in the Radisson Blu Hotel.

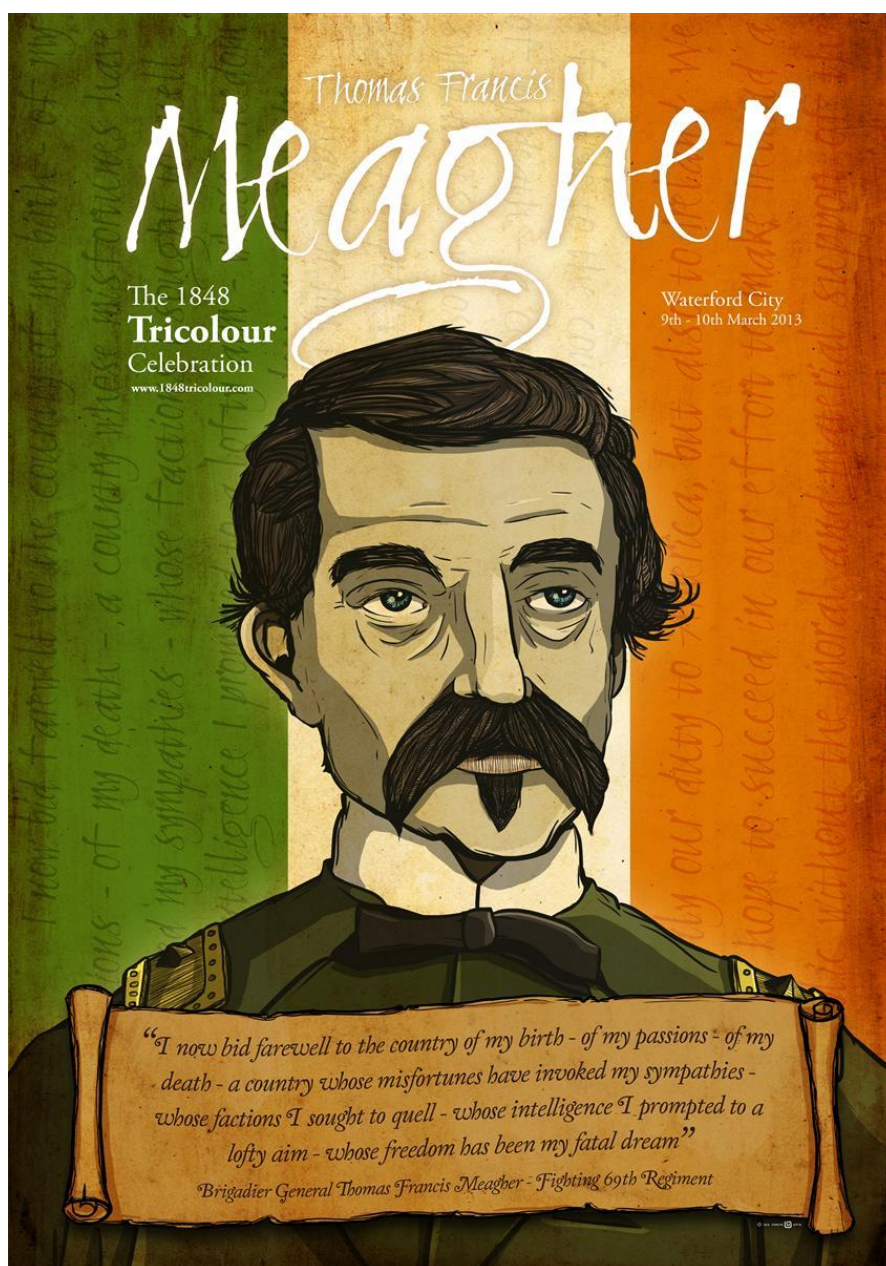
The aims of the Thomas F. Meagher Foundation are to promote pride in and respect for the Irish Flag and its meaning for peace and to encourage active citizenship through schools, awards and scholarships. Our job was to sign up secondary schools for the two upcoming events to be held by the foundation.

The first takes place on 7 March 2016 and is a schools flag presentation ceremony run in association with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, where schools in attendance will be presented with an Irish Tricolour that has been flown from 33 The Mall, Waterford City (the location the first Irish flag was flown from in 1848).

The second event to be held is Flag Week, 10-17 March 2016, where all schools will be given lapels of the Irish Tricolour to sell in their local communities to raise funds for a charity of their choosing.

The Foundation is named after Waterford man Thomas Francis Meagher, the founder of the Irish Tricolour. Meagher's life was an extraordinary one, being exiled to Australia for rebel activity, then escaping to the US. He fought for the Union in the American Civil War and eventually became Governor of Montana. Meagher's influence in American politics was so pronounced that he even shouldered the coffin of the assassinated 16th president of the United States of America, the great emancipator Abraham Lincoln.

We were all delighted to be giving such a fantastic opportunity to work for the Foundation and we would like to thank Senator Mark Daly for making all of this possible. We were received very well by all delegates at the conference, signing up in excess of 150 secondary schools. We were also given the opportunity to meet Minister for Education, Jan O'Sullivan TD, who was very interested and supportive of the work of the Foundation.



BSC GOVERNMENT GRADUATE PROFILE: REBECCA SULLIVAN



What year did you graduate? I graduated in 2012 with my BSc Government and did not pursue any post-grad options.

Where do you work? What is your job title? I work as a safeguarding policy officer for the North West England Local Safeguarding Adults and Children's Boards. My job consists of protecting vulnerable people

Where did you go on work placement? I went to Brussels and worked in an MEP's office. It was an amazing experience. I learned so much about policy. It was a really good chance to see what it is like to live away from home and become a professional.

What clubs and societies were you involved with? I held many committee positions and was involved in Young Fine Gael. I was involved in the Government and Politics Society and held a variety of positions, including secretary.

Can you give us an idea of what electives you took? What modules you were most interested in? I was not interested in the business modules and was a lot more interested in the politics side of the government degree. I took as many of these as possible.

Did you see yourself in the career you are in now? I did not see myself specifically in this area as it is hard to get into and you need to have a lot of local knowledge about demographics. However, I knew I would do something in or around public policy.

How would you sell your degree in Government to a potential employer, if that employer is not in the public sector? I think the fact that it gives you a good insight into the private sector through business modules. It develops you personally, as your class size is quite small. The mixture of politics and business is great.

Just for kicks:

Who was your favourite lecturer? Bit of a nerd and liked them all!

What was your favourite/ least favourite module? My favourite was Public Finance in 4th year. My least favourite was probably Sociology of the Environment (I believe it was called) in 4th year.

Did you ever fail a module? No.

Any funny stories for us about your time in the course? HA! I couldn't tell.

Some pictures from the BSc Government conferring ceremony – October 2015





Colm O'Gorman, Amnesty International Ireland

OUR EMERGING REPUBLIC

**How courageously facing our often troubled past
will help us to build a better future**

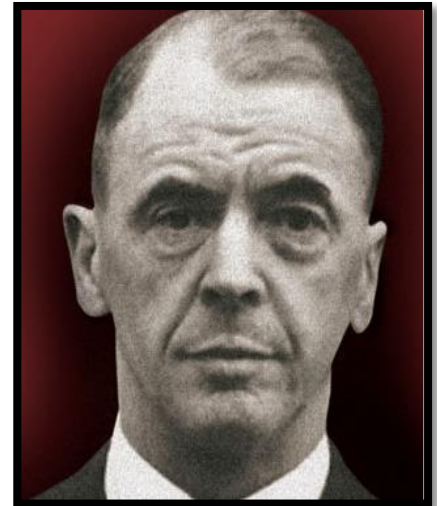
Thursday 5 November

Boole 2

6:30pm start

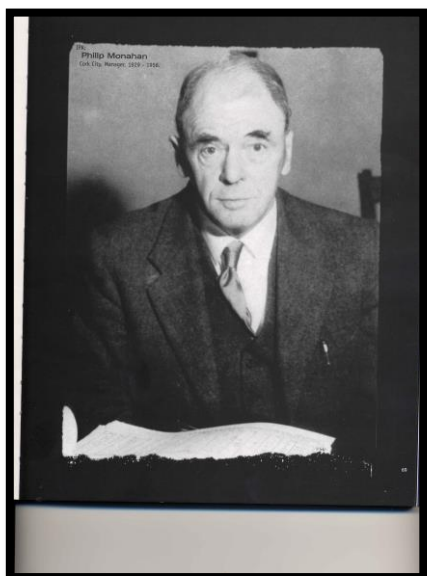
PHILIP MONAHAN LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES TO GROW

Each year the Department of Government at University College Cork hosts a prestigious public lecture to celebrate the memory of Philip Monahan. Monahan was Ireland's first local authority manager and he served as City Commissioner and then City Manager in Cork from 1924-1959. Monahan set the highest standards of probity and integrity in public administration and he defined the role of City Manager and the practice of public management in Ireland. The lecture series was inaugurated in 1997 and, as can be seen from the list below, has attracted some very distinguished speakers.



1. **Professor Tom Garvin**, Department of Politics, University College Dublin (1997)
2. **Dr John Hume**, Nobel Peace Prize Winner (1998)
3. **Francesco Rutelli**, Mayor of Rome (1999)
4. **John Dennehy**, Secretary General, Department of Education and Science (2000)
5. **Professor Robert Putnam**, Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University (2002)
6. **Dr Mary McAleese**, President of Ireland (2003)
7. **David Begg**, General Secretary, Irish Congress of Trade Unions (2005)
8. **David Norris**, member of Seanad Éireann (2006)
9. **Robert Faucher**, Deputy US Ambassador to Ireland (2007)
10. **Dermot McCarthy**, Secretary General to the Irish Government (2008)
11. **Ivana Bacik**, member of Seanad Éireann (2009)
12. **Charlie Bird**, RTÉ broadcaster (2010)
13. **Emily O'Reilly**, Ombudsman and Information Commissioner (2011)
14. **John Bercow MP**, Speaker of House of Commons (2012) *Lecture took place in February 2013
15. **Enda Kenny, TD**, Taoiseach (2013) *Lecture took place in January 2014
16. **Professor Brigid Laffan** (2014), Director of Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute, Florence

Who was Philip Monahan?



Philip Monahan *1893-1983*

Philip Monahan's life was interwoven with significant figures and events in Irish political and cultural history. Heavily involved in the Irish Volunteers and Sinn Féin, Monahan was imprisoned by the British authorities on three occasions. During his third incarceration he shared a cell with Éamon de Valera in Lincoln Jail and assisted in his escape. Following his release Monahan served as an elected representative on Drogheda Borough Corporation, where he was elected as Mayor, and on Louth County Council. He took the pro-Treaty side in the Civil War and was shot in the neck in 1922.

After recovering, he was sent to Kerry as Commissioner in 1923 by Minister Ernest Blythe to replace the dissolved county council and to administer Republican Kerry on behalf of the Irish Free State government. His final move was to Cork, where he managed the city for thirty-five years. His greatest achievements were the initiation of the Corporation's new housing programme, the eradication of the slums and the creation of the differential rent system. As Commissioner and subsequently City Manager, Monahan set high standards of probity and integrity in public administration – *suaviter in modo, fortiter in re* – flexible in method, constant in principle. He defined the role of the City Manager and the practice of public management in Ireland.

Quinlivan, Aodh (2006), *Philip Monahan – A Man Apart: The Life and Times of Ireland's First Local Authority Manager*, Dublin: Institute of Public Administration

Memories from 2014 Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture



Professor Brigid Laffan delivered a fascinating lecture on Ireland and the EU, post-Troika



The Thomas Whalen Student of the Year Award was won by Michael Lyons and the Richard Haslam Graduate of the Year Award went to Pádraig Mac Consaidín



The Patrick O'Sullivan Perpetual Shield was presented to Don O'Neill. As Auditor of the Europa Society, Michael McCarthy made a presentation to Professor Laffan.

WHO WILL WIN THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT STUDENT AWARDS 2015?

On the occasion of the 17th Annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture, three Department of Government student awards will be presented – Student of Year; Graduate of Year; Patrick O’Sullivan Essay Winner. Whose names will be added to these prestigious lists?

THOMAS WHALEN STUDENT OF YEAR AWARD



2000	Holly Hardwicke
2001	Elizabeth Harrington
2002	Peter Ryan
2003	Hannah Lane
2004	Ann-Marie Tierney
2005	Denis Twomey
2006	Andrea Merrigan
2007	Darragh Mehigan
2008	Patrick Higgins
2009	Tracey O’Rourke
2010	John Kenny
2011	Pádraig Mac Consaidín
2012	Louis O’Keeffe
2013	Jack Corbett
2014	Michael Lyons



The 2012 Student of the Year, Louis O’Keeffe, with Lord Mayor John Buttimer

**RICHARD HASLAM GRADUATE OF
YEAR AWARD**



2003	Holly Hardwicke
2004	Elizabeth Harrington
2005	Jeremiah O'Sullivan
2006	Brenda Keating
2007	Tim McCarthy
2008	Matthew Ryan
2009	Colm Diamond
2010	Neepa Sodhi
2011	Laura Murphy
2012	Tracey O'Rourke
2013	John Kenny
2014	Pádraig Mac Consaídn



The 2013 Graduate of the Year, John Kenny with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD

**PATRICK O’SULLIVAN
ESSAY WINNER**



2002	Andrew O’Leary
2003	Donal Holohan
2004	John O’Sullivan
2005	John O’Sullivan
2006	Cormac Cahill
2007	Ian Mawe
2008	Niall Duggan
2009	Andrew Aherne
2010	Declan Keating
2011	Pádraig Mac Consaidín
2012	John Somers
2013	Pádraig Mac Consaidín
2014	Don O’Neill



The 2010 Patrick O’Sullivan Essay Winner, Declan Keating, with the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Catherine Clancy

Student Profile: Stephen Cunningham (BSc Government III)

Interview by Jessica Ní Mhaoláin

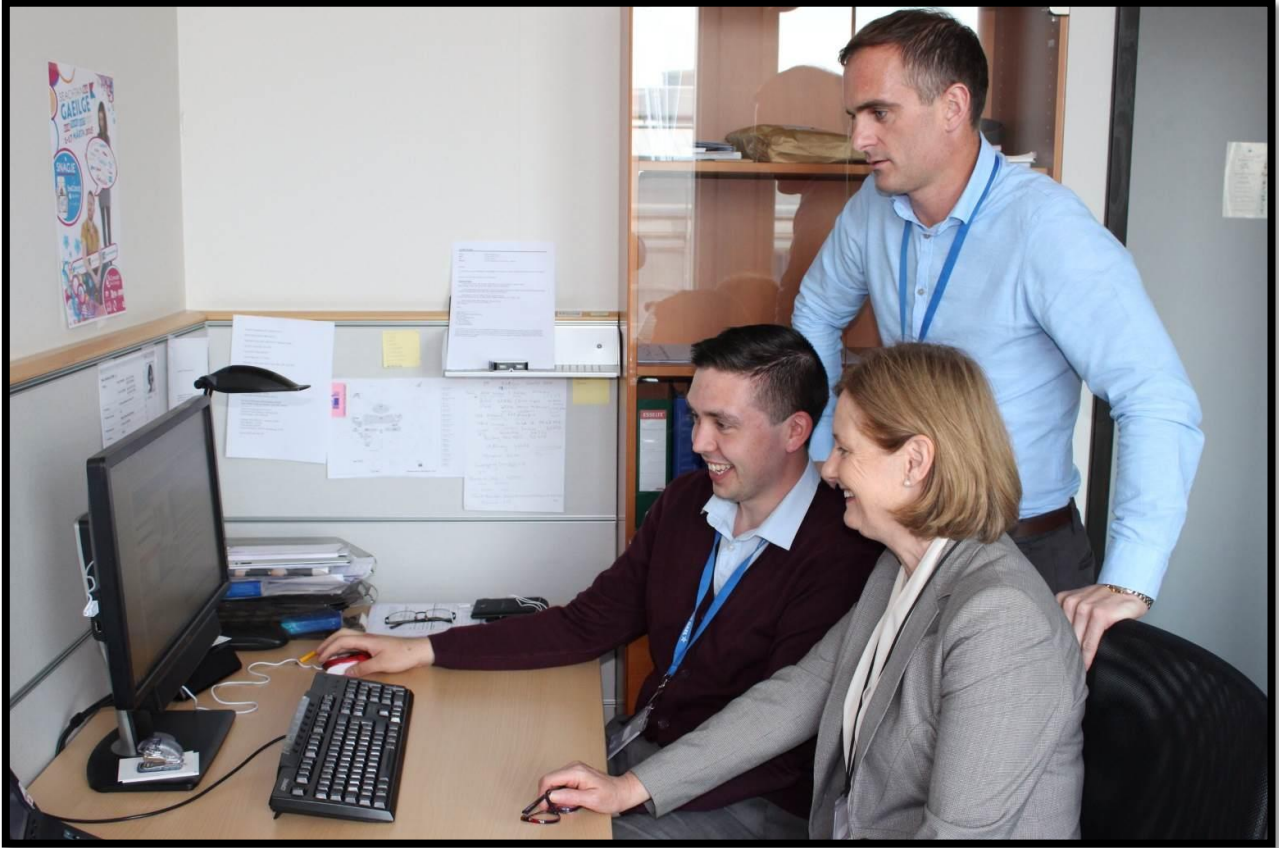


This week, I had a chat with third year BSc student Stephen Cunningham, who can regularly be found ordering a tall Americano before he heads back into the library. Many of the First Year students may also recognise him from their visit to City Hall for a City Council meeting a few weeks ago (Stephen was elected to Cork City Council at the 2014 local elections). Let's see what he had to say about his time so far on the BSc course....

Age:	22
Year:	BSc Government III
Location:	Mayfield, Cork
Part time job:	Cork City Councillor
First memory of BSc:	My first class party
Favourite lecture topic:	Conflict and Conflict Resolution
Hoping to do after BSc:	Continue to utilise my position as a public representative to give the people of my area the strongest voice possible
Party Allegiance:	Sinn Fein
Spend free time:	Canvassing, catching up with friends and binge watching <i>House of Cards</i> (multiple times!)
Favourite UCC place to eat:	Mini Rest
Funniest thing in lectures:	Having raging debates with Fine Gaelers – always good craic!
Other comments:	Choosing to do the BSc Government course is something I have never regretted. It has opened doors for me and introduced me to some incredible people. I have also learnt a lot along the way!

My Placement Experience in the European Parliament

By Michael McCarthy (BSc Government IV)



Michael McCarthy in Brussels with Deirdre Clune MEP and Francis Fitzgibbon, a former Masters student of the Department of Government

I recently spent five months over the summer working with Ireland South Fine Gael MEP, Deirdre Clune, as part of the BSc Government work placement programme. Deirdre Clune was first elected to the European Parliament in 2014, and sits as a full member on the Transport & Tourism Committee (TRAN), and acts as a substitute on the Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL).

The Parliament in Brussels is a fantastic place to work, and no two days are ever the same. Within the office my responsibilities covered a wide range of areas, from the organisation surrounding the travel arrangements for Deirdre, to engaging with the media and Ireland South constituents. I worked closely with the Fine Gael delegation in Brussels, and often got the opportunity to discuss with Brian Hayes, Mairead McGuinness, and Sean Kelly.

Deirdre is also a member of a number of Delegations in the European Parliament, and it was my duty to follow these for her, attend meetings, write briefs and speaking points, and assist Deirdre in conducting her general delegation activities. It was extremely interesting to see the workings of these groups within the Parliament, and to have the opportunity to offer my own opinions.

The largest task I had during my time with Deirdre, was to arrange a Breakfast event in the Parliament with Michael O’Leary of Ryanair. This took a substantial amount of time to organise, with almost daily contact with the Ryanair HQ in Dublin, and the Parliament services who would be arranging the room etc. On the day the event went extremely successfully, with over 30 MEPs attending, as well as representatives from the Commission, Council, DG Move, the Parliament’s Legal Service, EasyJet, IBEC, amongst others.

I was fortunate too, that Deirdre asked me to attend a plenary session in Strasbourg in June. It was a unique experience to see the so called ‘travelling circus’ first hand, as the entire parliament in Brussels packs up and boards planes, trains, and automobiles and head to Strasbourg. The plenary session is extremely busy, and the week I was there also coincided with a vote on TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), as a result I had many e-mails and calls from constituents in Ireland to respond to. Fortunately in the evenings I had some free time to explore the city, provided I could find my way out of the maze that is the Parliament building in Strasbourg.

The five months I spent in Brussels were an excellent experience and opportunity, not only to work in the Parliament and see the EU first hand, but also to travel and meet other interns and Parliament staff from across all 28 member states. Working with Deirdre, and her advisors Ross and Francis was never dull and always busy, but I enjoyed every minute of it, even the early mornings and late nights we sometimes had. Brussels was an enjoyable and rewarding experience and I would highly encourage all upcoming students to consider a placement in one of the European Institutions.



BSc Government First Years and MBA Class Visit City Hall and Meet the French Ambassador



On Monday 12 October, Dr Aodh Quinlivan brought a group of 55 students to Cork City Council. The group comprised BSc Government First Years and members of the Executive MBA programme. The students first met with the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Chris O’Leary, and the French Ambassador to Ireland, Jean-Pierre Thébault (left), before attending the full council meeting. The meeting covered a wide range of topics with a special focus on housing. Amongst the speakers on the night were Councillor Stephen Cunningham (BSc Government III) and Councillor Shane O’Shea (BSc Government graduate, 2014).

Department of Government Hosts Guest Lectures by Frank McDonald and Eddie Hobbs



As part of Dr Aodh Quinlivan’s ‘Public Sector’ module on UCC’s Executive MBA programme, guest lectures were delivered recently by Frank McDonald (former environment editor with *The Irish Times*) on 16 October and Eddie Hobbs (President of Renua Ireland) on 23 October. Both lectures were very well received.