



Volume 1, 2005

This is the first in a series of newsletters covering programmes, communities, staff and students that have been, and are, involved in activities within the Community Knowledge Initiative. We hope this newsletter will be informative and enlightening about the area of civic engagement. For more information or comments about this newsletter, please email christina.legg@nuigalway.ie or visit our website at www.nuigalway.ie/cki

Christina McDonald Legg,
Editor



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CKI Develops Community Engagement at NUI Galway

The Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI) is a venture of NUI, Galway, which promotes partnerships with communities and instils in students a sense of civic engagement. The initiative was introduced in 2003 and has become a core priority in the university's Academic Plan.

"NUI, Galway is the only university in Ireland that underpins civic engagement activities as a core priority in teaching and learning," Lorraine McIlrath, Academic Staff Developer and the manager of CKI said.

CKI puts communities at the centre of debate and educates students for their role within



The CKI Team: Lorraine McIlrath, Christina McDonald Legg, Lorraine Tansey, Mary Bernard.

society. There are four main elements in CKI. Student Volunteering (ALIVE) helps to harness, acknowledge and support the contribution that NUI Galway students make by volunteering. Second, Research with the aim of becoming internationally recognised as

a centre for applied research on community. Third, Service Learning, which creates learning opportunities founded on civic principles. Fourth, Knowledge Sharing, which promotes the growing and sharing of the University's knowledge resource.

NUI Galway Registrar Endorses CKI



Prof Jim Browne
In a time in which the general level of engagement in community and society is apparently decreasing, NUI Galway has become a leader in renewing the civic engagement dimension in higher education through CKI, which encourages students and staff to develop a greater sense of civic purpose.

"CKI offers the possibility of personal development to be

active and effective citizens and also to learn through engaging in community," Jim Browne, Registrar of NUI Galway said.

Particularly in modern life where time and other constraints make personal time commitments even more difficult to offer, Browne endorses the mission of CKI.

Students learn from engaging with community, and these opportunities are essential for developing well

rounded students.

"Galway is a leader in service learning and I think all the other universities will and should follow," Professor Browne said

"It's a two way street, the students give back to community but they get back much, much more in terms of learning from the experience and in terms of their own personal development."

NUI Galway Research Links with India



Gerald Glynn, Jaipur Foot

As a recent graduate in Biomedical Engineering, Gerald Glynn wanted to further his knowledge of community by doing a postgraduate

degree in India, researching the Jaipur Foot. Funded by the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET) and guided by Professor Abhay Pandit from NUI, Galway, Gerald will leave for India in November of 2005, where he will begin his three year long PhD to research the Jaipur Foot. The Jaipur Foot began in India putting prosthetic feet and legs onto amputees and polio victims. Conceived, designed, and developed by Mr. Ram Chandra Sharma, it was set up in 1975 to help the disabled receive new limbs.

Initially, Gerald will assist with the prosthetics. But eventually this experience will move him into the workshop to see exactly how these prosthetics are built and how to improve them. It will also include assessing and

looking at the prosthetics from an engineering point of view, addressing the issues of improving lifetime and design of the leg, including keeping the cost at \$30, carrying out structural analysis and doing finite element analysis on the leg.

Currently, fittings of the leg are carried out by men who take a van full of prosthetic limbs to villages, fitting them as they go. Yet this leaves the receivers of the limb in the awkward position of not having a replacement limb if and when their current one stops working properly.

“Developing something within the parameters of a country’s resource and economic situation makes for more appropriate engineering and it is better for the self-esteem of a culture at one percent of the cost,” Gerald said.

With 10 million people in India suffering from disabilities and 99 percent of patients below the poverty line, the Jaipur Foot has enabled people suffering from amputations to partake in activities such as running, bicycling, and working in many capacities, in turn improving the economy in India.

“If we can increase the work force available, India will have more people working, making it good for the economy, helping it to escape the poverty stricken vicious circle it currently is in” Gerald said.

“My heart and soul is in helping disadvantaged people. Being mechanically minded has brought me to this project,” Gerald said. “The problem is that modern science and technology are so focused on progressing and moving forward that little attention is given to how present technology can be utilised to help a vast majority of less fortunate people. I want to bring simple and intuitive engineering techniques to developing parts of the world.”



Jaipur Foot Recipients in India

Students in Washington for Peace and Progress



Martina Callanan, WIP graduate

In an effort to establish sustainable peace in Northern Ireland, the Washington-Ireland Programme for Service and Leadership (WIP) was set up in 1995 in Washington DC. WIP is a six month programme that

combines service learning, community involvement and a two month stay in Washington DC working as an Intern in placement for six weeks.

The programme selects 24 promising third-level students from the island of Ireland and trains them to serve and work as an effective leadership team, ultimately challenging them to achieve professional and personal excellence. And again this year one of NUI Galway’s graduates was awarded a position.

“It really celebrates the idea of uniqueness and diversity and creating a team of people who are coming together working towards a single goal,” Martina Callanan said.

Because of the commitment to establishing peace in Northern Ireland, there is a mix from North and South and both sides of the religious divide, creating a balanced team.

Martina became interested in WIP after some friends who participated in the programme gave a glowing report.

“When somebody says that an experience has changed their life, it’s like ‘I want that,’” Martina said. “And it was probably the most amazing experience of my life.”

During six weeks of her stay in Washington DC, Martina worked in Susan Davis’ International Public Relations firm.

“It’s really given me the confidence and the encouragement to explore more options and to try different things and go beyond my comfort zone,” Martina said.

The final two weeks of her time in DC was dedicated to service learning working at a home for at-risk youth where teens could stay for up to two weeks.

*“It’s really given me the confidence and the encouragement to explore more options and to try different things and go beyond my comfort zone,”
Martina Callanan*

“DC is white marble, white people and then five blocks from the White House you’re in the ghetto and it’s really tough,” Martina said. “The whole

point of DC was to give us the experience,
(cont’d p5)

Service Learning an Aspiration for Higher Diploma in Applied Communications through Irish

One of the aims of Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge is to provide 3rd level education through Irish to the Gaeltacht regions. The Acadamh realise that third level education will help enrich and develop the Gaeltacht area.

In order to incorporate people who graduate from the Acadamh into the Gaeltacht community, the Ard-Diplóma

i gCumarsáid Fheidhmeach, (Higher Diploma in Applied Communications, through Irish, ADCF) at NUI Galway is

developing an element in students' work placements that incorporates service learning.

Begun as a pilot scheme last summer, the service learning element was found to be of great use to students that participated in it. One student in the course began working with an organisation in Galway on a scheme that coordinates adult mentors for

troubled teenagers. Since the organisation needed a publicity video for a conference, it was a perfect service learning combination.

"He was getting very good production experience, the organisation was getting their video and the university was able to cooperate with a non profit organisation in the community," Brian Ó'Donnacha, from the ADCF said.

"We're looking into... those projects being of use to the community," Brian Ó Donnachadha

This was the first experience that the Acadamh had integrating work experience with providing a service. Seeing it as a good experience for students and of good use to the community, the service

learning module option was explored further.

"We hope that when we do the work experience placement again that we will be able to give people the choice of either going into industry or into a community organisation," Brian said.

Students in the second semester of the course have a personal project that they

work on, such as producing a script, doing research, or producing a radio or television show.



Brian Ó Donnachadha, ADCF

"We're looking into the possibility of some of those projects being of use to the community, for example, public service announcements or something that would have an audience in the community," Brian said.

This one year full time higher diploma hopes to formalise the service learning element during the 2006/2007 academic year.

"Service learning is an aspiration at the moment," Brian said. "It worked very well last summer for one of our students. We would like to give the choice to students when they begin their placements."

Local Charities Benefit From IT in the Community

As each course develops and evolves in the university, course directors and organisers are finding it more and more important to implement service learning into their programmes. The Master's degree within the Department of Information Technology now, for example, has developed a service learning module.

For one semester during the 2nd year of the course, students do a project within the service learning module as a consultant in IT.

"It's something that all the students need, a link module that will put the practical into effect," Pat Byrne, Director of the Master's degree in Information Technology said.

Based on material they have already learned in the course, students were introduced to the 'IT Project.'

"We wanted to design a bridging element that would give students some

experience of the kind of things they would engage in within industry. So we designed this," Pat said.

Within a small group of 12, students are able to focus on being consultants to a charity in the local community.

"I just felt it was maybe more meaningful for the students to do their projects with a real work case," Pat said.

Students act as consultants to small, local charities in which they initially talk to the charity about how they're currently using IT and things they would want to do in the future using IT. Students then audit some of the work that has already been done in the organisation and make suggestions as to how further IT might be applied in

order to make the organisation more effective, putting their knowledge from the classroom into practice.

"We have things here that we can offer the community and if we can do it as a kind of side effect of the student's learning, that's a positive thing," Pat Byrne

In a world where competition in the workplace is intense, this project helps students prepare for the work that they will do in their

professional lives as well as raising awareness of community needs.

"I think that the university should have a contribution to make to the community and we should be building on the relationship between Galway, in particular Galway City, and the University," Pat said. "And we have things here that we can offer the community and if we can do it as a kind of side effect of the students' learning, that's a very positive thing."

ALIVE Supports Volunteering Experience

The ALIVE programme was established by the Community Knowledge Initiative as a way to support and acknowledge the contribution that NUI Galway students have made by volunteering in the community.

Since its inception in 2004, over 600 students have been involved in ALIVE. These students have been recognised for their volunteering commitment within a variety of areas, including community and non-governmental organisations, peer mentoring, and NUI Galway clubs and societies.

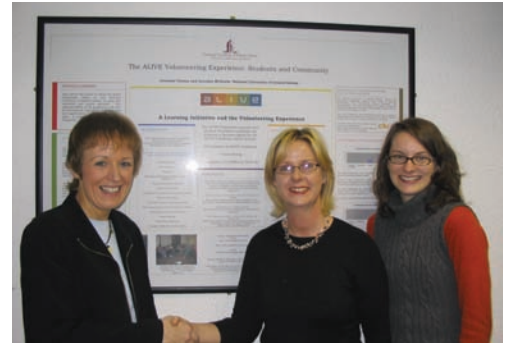
"ALIVE is the recognition, support, and acknowledgement of our commitment to community,"
Lorraine Tansey

The impact of student volunteering in the community is considerable and NUI Galway celebrates these achievements by awarding certificates to students who complete their volunteering projects.

"ALIVE is the recognition, support and acknowledgment of our commitment to community," Lorraine Tansey, Student Volunteer Coordinator for ALIVE said. "It is important to foster engagement and ALIVE pro-vides an avenue for students who wish to actively volunteer within a safe, structured and supportive environment while developing tangible and transferable skills alongside practical volunteering experiences."

ALIVE aims to not only help students on a personal basis, but to help them build work related, practical skills through their volunteering experiences. The programme enhances partnerships between the university and the community and promotes volunteering both on and off campus.

"If you are not getting enough out of your academic course and want some personal development and to become aware, then ALIVE is for you," David O'Keefe, ALIVE volunteer said.



ALIVE poster launched in NUI Galway Library

"I really feel like, 'who is benefiting who here?' The experience is all gain no loss," James Curtain, another ALIVE volunteer said.

Students are initially introduced to ALIVE in an orientation session. They then choose their volunteering path and go through a training programme that prepares them for life beyond campus. Throughout the experience, students reflect on their volunteering in a portfolio.

Law Students Pro Bono Work Through Service Learning



Larry Donnelly, Law Faculty

In an effort to integrate students into the community and to advance their knowledge in the field they study, the Faculty of Law is embarking on a commitment to Service Learning with NUI Galway's Community Knowledge Initiative. Developed and implemented by Lawrence Donnelly, NUI Galway Law Faculty, a Service Learning module will begin in spring 2007 for the Bachelor of Civil Law Degree, allowing students to offer pro bono work to NGO's in order to gain experience. The Service Learning module will enable students that are graduating from the course to be more marketable to employers.

"Because this field is so competitive, the more practical experience that can be

put on a student's CV...the better," Dr. Donnelly said.

Students will receive academic credit for these placements, as well as receiving valuable experience in "real world" placements. With the ability to enhance their CV and their job knowledge, this module is ideal for beginning in today's job market, according to Dr. Donnelly. Although not required for graduation, the skills learned during the program will be essential for practical knowledge used in the field of Law. Additionally, groups with poorer backgrounds or racial inequality will benefit from the Service Learning module's work.

"The primary goal is to give students practical experience and if possible, aid

in marginalised groups in Irish society," Dr. Donnelly said.

As Ireland's first permanent Clinical Lecturer in Law, Dr. Donnelly is eager to put this idea into effect. Based on a more advanced program, the placement will be a ten week course, incorporating an orientation, real work experience, reflective papers, and a final seminar.

With Service Learning practices in Clinical Legal Education already implemented in Continental Europe, as well as the United States, Dr. Donnelly thought it was important to begin implementing them here.

"The module in service learning will be for the student's gain in getting jobs and for professional growth,"
Larry Donnelly

"The module will be for the student's gain in getting jobs and for professional growth," Dr. Donnelly said.

Occupational Therapy Emerging in West

Occupational Therapy is a relatively newly emerging area of academic and clinical practice. Particularly in the western region of Ireland, there is a limit in numbers, and yet there is a lot that Occupational Therapy (OT) can contribute to raising services in the area.

In its third year, the staff running the OT course at NUI, Galway have decided to combine the current placement module with a service learning feature in order to put the theory of Occupational Therapy into active use in the community. This community helps place academic theory into practical context.

Under the title 'Emerging areas of practice in Occupational Therapy,' this service learning module will have third year students undertake a series of visits, assessing and evaluating the need for OT services in their community. The students will survey the area, its current services and its population in relation to OT needs.

"This module will expand their knowledge and experience of social awareness and assist them in determining the needs of clients and agencies," said Sinead Vine, Practice Educator in Occupational Therapy.



Occupational Therapy Class 2003

With the first group of students embarking on their journey in service learning in January 2006, this is a relatively new concept. But although the service learning aspect was not in place, the module was already a mandatory part of the course.

"We felt that it tied in very much with the philosophy and principles of service learning so we married the two together," Sinead said.

Students are not only raising the profile of Occupational Therapy, they are contributing to organisations that wouldn't have benefited in the past in the western region. The service learning module gives students knowledge and skills that they can use in their future. "So the students will have done the groundwork and looked at where their role would fit in," Sinead said.

Traditionally, Occupational Therapists have worked in particular services such as physical or mental health, yet there are many new areas in which Occupational Therapists' roles can be applied. Areas such as AIDS West, Refugees & Asylum Seekers and a Homeless Hostel are just a few that would benefit from the service learning module.

"These organisations will have had no Occupational Therapy input before, but they've been fighting for a long time to have it because the philosophy of Occupational Therapy looks at promoting independence," Sinead said.

Additionally, the course is hosting a conference to which services and organisations that participated in the project are invited as a way of demonstrating what the students have learned within their community during the experience.

"I think it will expand their knowledge and experience of social awareness and determine the needs of clients in those organisations," Sinead said. "It's a very important part of the learning process and we expect it to go well."

(cont'd) Students in Washington for Peace and Progress

the knowledge and the confidence, and to see new ways of creating change."

Upon arriving back home in Ireland, Martina completed her fifty hours of service learning for the programme working with Voluntary Service Abroad, a medical charity on campus.

She worked as the photographer in creating the infamous 'Naked Calendar,' to include photos of people from the Taekwondo Club, the Rowing Club, the Rugby Club, in order to help raise money for VSA.

"The whole point of the programme was to come back home and put what we learned into practice," Martina said.



Naked Calendar funds Voluntary Service Abroad

To date, more than 250 young adults have graduated from the programme. It challenges its graduates to use the skills of leadership that they learned and to achieve personal and professional excellence. It is an experience that graduates endorse, and all graduates benefit from putting their skills into practical use.

"The people that you meet and the friendships that you make and then being connected to a network of incredible people, it's an incredible community to be a part of," Martina said.

NUI Galway, through CKI, looks forward to strategically partnering WIP with students in the future, in order to form a strong and educational partnership.

The Washington-Ireland Programme for Service and Leadership, <http://www.youngleaders-usa.org/> Voluntary Services Abroad Society at NUI Galway, http://www.socs.nuigalway.ie/list_socs/viewSoc

Galway Hosts International Conference



Iain MacLabhrainn, Lorraine McIlrath, and Ed Zlotkowski at NUI Galway Conference

The 3rd Annual Teaching and Learning Conference held at NUI, Galway in June 2005 focused on issues of universities, democracy and civil society. Some 170 delegates enrolled for the event, which brought together colleagues from Ireland, including local community groups, the UK, the US and South Africa. Over two days, presentations, workshops, poster sessions and plenty of informal discussion and networking took place, leaving participants with renewed enthusiasm and inspiration. The keynotes addressed the question of the role(s) of higher education in this era of globalisation.

- From South Africa (Prof. Ahmed Bawa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of KwaZulu Natal), we learned of the potential for links between universities and community organisations, of the difficulties of bringing the civic mission to the core of the institution and the importance of developing an understanding of the complexities of the social construction of knowledge.
- From the US (Ed Zlotkowski, Campus Compact), we heard of active engagement and participation of students in voluntary organisations, community groups and NGOs and how this can be embedded within degree programmes.
- From the UK (Prof Ron Barnett, University of London; Prof Richard Taylor, University of Cambridge) we heard interesting perspectives on the contested nature of the very terms citizenship and civil society as well as exploring means of reconstituting higher education to focus on the development of 'being' rather than simply serving the perceived economic needs of the nation.

Michael Edwards (Ford Foundation, NY) provided a challenge to explore the boundaries between love and reason and in particular reiterated and developed Martin Luther King's concept of "the love that does justice." All in all, a fascinating forum that resonated strongly with the conception of university education centring on the development of citizens, able and willing to participate actively in civil society and democracy. The proceedings of the conference are currently being edited for publication in book form.

The 4th Annual Teaching & Learning Conference, 2006

The 2006 conference for teaching and learning will be on the theme of "Learner Diversity." Provisional dates are June 8th and 9th and it will take place in the Arts Millennium Building. The conference theme is broad ranging and spans issues of access, diversity and teaching methods. A detailed call for papers will be issued in Dec 2005.

NUI Galway Leads way in Service Learning

As NUI Galway leads the way in terms of addressing civic engagement within higher education in Ireland, it is clear that an institutional approach needs to be adopted to transform and embed CKI activities. To support this transformation, NUI Galway has joined Campus Compact, a consortium of nearly 1,000 colleges and universities in the U.S. who are committed to renewing the civic purpose of higher education.

Campus Compact supports the development of civic engagement within higher education through research, resource provision, training, awards programmes and funding opportunities.

Prior to the 3rd Annual Teaching and Learning Conference at NUI Galway, Campus Compact's Executive Director Elizabeth Hollander visited the President of NUIG, Registrar and project personnel of the CKI and stated,

"We are delighted to welcome (NUI Galway) as the first international member of Campus Compact."

The CKI Project, conference and conceptual issues of civic engagement and higher education in Ireland and the US were discussed in depth along with opportunities to increase collaboration.

"Campus Compact has been a tremendous resource for NUI Galway in terms of developing a civic underpinning within teaching and learning activities," Lorraine McIlrath, Academic Staff Developer said.

At the conference, Elizabeth pointed out that the key to successfully reasserting the public purpose of higher education are rigour, real world problem solving and raising awareness. In discussing each of these, Elizabeth established a sense of what needs to be considered, undertaken and challenged and how



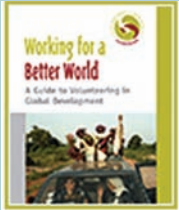
Jim Browne (NUIG Registrar), Lorraine McIlrath (CKI), Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh (NUIG President), Elizabeth Hollander (Campus Compact).

Campus Compact can support these endeavours.

"This work in higher education is about the future of our nations and our world and I welcome and commend your interest in helping to make colleges and universities... 'Agents and architects of a vital democracy,'" Elizabeth said.

<http://www.compact.org>

Comhlámh Publishes Resource for Volunteers in Global Development



Comhlámh's Volunteering Options Programme has recently published a resource book for people who are thinking about volunteering with overseas development agencies. *Working for a Better World: A Guide to Volunteering in Global Development* is the first comprehensive guide to overseas volunteering opportunities for Irish people. It provides invaluable information for anyone who is considering a voluntary work placement in a developing country. Drawing on Comhlámh's thirty years of experience of working with overseas volunteers, the guide will help you:

- Choose the best volunteering placement through a detailed directory, which includes information on over 110 organisations that arrange international volunteer placements;
- Place international volunteering within the wider context of development, so that your volunteering experience will have more impact;
- Benefit from the experiences of people who have volunteered in developing countries, through their testimonials and advice; and
- Plan the practical details of your overseas trip with lists of useful travel resources.

Unlike many guides, *Working for a Better World* also provides advice on what to do when you come home, to help ensure that your volunteering placement is a rewarding lifetime experience that does not end when you touch down in Ireland. If you would like to order a copy of *Working For a Better World*, email Richard@comhlamh.org, or go to www.volunteeringoptions.org.

Options & Issues in Global Development Work

In a recent CKI seminar for staff and students at NUI Galway, Barry Cannon from Comhlámh addressed options and issues for those considering work within a global development context.

Comhlámh is a non-governmental organisation based in Ireland that harnesses the experience, energy and interests of development workers and others interested in development, and empowers them to take effective action in volunteering.

The Volunteering Options programme was set up by Comhlámh in 2004 and was established in response to the growing interest among the Irish public in volunteering overseas in developing countries for periods of anything up to a



Participants in Options & Issues in Global Development

year. Comhlámh itself has provided advice and orientation for people interested in overseas development work for over 30 years.

The one day course 'Options & Issues in Global Development Work,' aimed to increase knowledge and understanding of issues related to volunteering. The course discussed the role and impact of local and international players in global development while identifying the wider beliefs and values that sustain them.

Participants were made aware of available resources and opportunities to take action on the themes covered throughout the course. Additionally, they were challenged and motivated to question themselves and why development and volunteer work was important to them.

"I hope that we raise more questions than answers," Barry Cannon, Project Coordinator for Volunteering Options said, asking the course participants to go out as learners, not as teachers in their development work. "It's not what you can do, but what you can learn from a global experience and what you can bring back with you," Barry said.



Astrid & Barry, Comhlámh

Many people volunteer abroad for a variety of reasons, and the course addressed these issues. From "giving something back" to "helping others," reasons are individual and personal.

"The real work starts when you come back," Barry said. "It is important to have structures here in Ireland and overseas to ensure that experience is worthwhile and people can use those experiences when they come home."

As the German geographer Penck stated, 'Knowledge is power and world knowledge is world power,' and Comhlámh believe that by undertaking volunteering and by viewing the world as a volunteer we have the potential to effect change within the world.

NUI GALWAY COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE INITIATIVE

CKI is based in CELT (the Centre for Excellence in Learning & Teaching) and its staff are:

Iain Mac Labhrainn (Director, CELT)

Lorraine McIlrath (Academic Staff Developer & Overall CKI Project Management)

Lorraine Tansey (Student Volunteer Coordinator)

Mary Bernard (Administrative Assistant)

Christina McDonald Legg (Communications Specialist)

For further information on CKI or related projects, please contact:

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Lorraine McIlrath has been appointed to oversee CKI at NUI Galway. She is an Academic Staff Developer (Service Learning) based at the *Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT)* at the National University of Ireland Galway.

Lorraine is responsible for developing and supporting the introduction of the service learning component of the Community Knowledge Initiative (supported by a generous donation from a major philanthropic trust) and management of the overall project.

Prior to her present position, Lorraine worked at the UNESCO Centre at the University of Ulster, where she helped develop and taught on an academic programme on the Northern Ireland conflict peace process. She also was involved in the development of the Northern Ireland curricula framework for 'Local and Global Citizenship' and published a Resource Directory for all schools in the North.

Her research interests include the role of education and the media in contested societies, civic engagement and higher education. Between 2002 and 2004 she supported the development of the College of Multicultural Education in Sochi, Russia through the British Council.

She has a BA in European Studies from the University of Limerick and in 1995 she was awarded a scholarship by the Institute for Peace and Development Studies to undertake a MA in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Ulster (1997).

Lorraine feels that we are at a very important time in the history of higher education in Europe and NUI Galway is leading the way towards the realisation of civic engagement within higher education.



Lorraine McIlrath
CKI Staff Developer

CKI Upcoming Events 2005 - 2006

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| Friday, 9th December 2005 12.00 – 2.00 pm Room AC203 | <i>The Theory and Practice of Service Learning</i> <i>Service Learning Lunchtime Seminar</i> | Lorraine McIlrath (CELT) assisted by other NUIG Academic Staff |
| Service learning is a pedagogical tool which encourages students to learn and explore issues vital to society, inside and outside the classroom. Students learn from engaging with communities by active participation, and academic credit is awarded based on their learning. The academic staff member guides students through this process via structured reflection and the integration of theory and practice. This session will offer an overview of the theory which unpins the practice of service learning in higher education, drawing on experience gained through a wide range of disciplines at NUIG. | | |
| COMING IN 2006 | | |
| Tuesday 17th January 2006 Room AM 207 | <i>Reflective Learning in Higher Education</i> <i>All Day Workshop</i> | Jenny Moon, Educational Consultant, Exeter University |
| This workshop aims to promote the use of "reflection" as a means of learner development, a teaching methodology and its potential for assessment of learning. In addition, participants will become aware of a variety of reflective tools such as learning journals. It is believed that such approaches can promote deep approaches to learning, stimulate the development of critical thinking and provide a more authentic means of assessment than many traditional approaches to teaching in higher education. | | |
| Thursday/Friday 30th & 31st March 2006 Two Day event Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone | <i>Service Learning Academy (in partnership with National University of Ireland, Maynooth; Dublin Institute of Technology & Dublin City University)</i> <i>Two-day Training Event</i> | Lorraine McIlrath, CELT & Irish and international facilitators |
| NUI Galway will lead a two day 'Service Learning Academy' in partnership with NUI Maynooth; DCU and DIT whereby, in a shared environment, up to 25 academic staff from all four institutions will explore the potential for embedding service learning as part of teaching and learning in higher education. Service Learning has been endorsed by the Government of Ireland and its vision is to mainstream community based activities through higher education institutions in Ireland. National and international experts in the field will lead and facilitate the event including representatives from Campus Compact and higher education institutions in the US. For further information please contact Lorraine McIlrath. | | |