



Issue 3, 2006

This is the third in our series of newsletters covering programmes, research, 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 areas of volunteering, civic engagement and social responsibility. 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



ALIVE STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH HONOURS

Over 11,000 hours were volunteered by students of the ALIVE programme throughout the academic year at NUI Galway. To celebrate the staggering figure of students' contribution to society, a graduation awards ceremony was held to honour these volunteers and their exceptional spirit of generosity.



Students at the ALIVE graduation ceremony

Nearly 300 students at NUI Galway attended the Awards Ceremony and were congratulated for their investment in volunteering. The ALIVE programme at NUI Galway awarded these certificates, congratulating the students for their commitment and time to

volunteering both on and off campus. part of their community.

Students at NUI Galway, through the ALIVE programme, are learning the importance of becoming a

According to Professor Jim Browne, Registrar of NUI Galway, volunteering early

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SERVICE LEARNING MODULE SENDS STUDENTS TO ZAMBIA



Doing what you do and loving what you love is what everyone aspires to in their life. And one local girl has found her desired calling in studying to be a Nurse. Siobhan Lynch, a second

year nursing student at NUI Galway has found happiness in her life by helping people through Nursing.

"I love nursing. Nursing is what I want to do," Siobhan said. "I want to work with the patients and be with the patients."

Because of Siobhan's enthusiasm and dedication to her profession throughout her schooling, she was recently awarded a scholarship from the

Community Knowledge Initiative. This scholarship awarded €2,000 to help fund her working abroad at the Ranchhod Hospice in Zambia, which cares for children and adults that are suffering from AIDS or HIV.

"It's brilliant that I get the opportunity to do this," Siobhan said. "I always wanted to work in a developing country and this scholarship..."

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SERVICE LEARNING FUNDING AWARDED

To continue the work that Service Learning modules have accomplished at NUI Galway, funding has been awarded from the CKI to a number of programmes. Service Learning gives students the opportunity to work in the community while learning practical applications of taught materials, developing links with the community and relevant institutions and giving students the opportunity to exercise social responsibility and civic engagement. Service Learning varies from discipline to discipline, but essentially it is a teaching tool that gives students the opportunity to integrate academic theory with practical work.

The CKI is delighted to be able to offer this additional funding in the hope that we will make Service Learning a key feature for courses at NUI Galway, and enable students to realise their civic potential.

“If young people get engaged in this type of activity, they’re likely to continue into their life outside and past university, so this is an important training ground to create good citizens who see this as part of their role in society to engage,” Professor Jim Browne, Registrar of NUI Galway said. “It’s a good approach for all universities. Galway is a leader in Service Learning and I think all the others will follow and should follow.”

Professional Ethics Service Learning seminar for MA in Philosophy: Ethics, Culture and Global Change

A new seminar for the MA in Philosophy will include a Service Learning element, which will enable students to integrate learning from community organisations, NGOs, etc. Increased practical focus of the programme will address conceptual and ethical problems that arise in the process of globalisation.

The Service Learning module is essential to this programme in order to enable students to integrate learning from their service experience with philosophical course material. Students will then reflect on their learning and implications for becoming an ‘ethical professional.’ Seed funding for this Service Learning module will specifically go to developing relevant links with the community, developing links with other providers of Service Learning seminars, acquiring further expertise in the area of Service Learning, acquiring knowledge in conducting research on Service Learning and inviting guest speakers to talk on the area of professional responsibility.

Students will have the opportunity to present what they learned throughout the Service Learning experience at a short “retreat” outside of Galway. This gathering will work towards production of a booklet on their experiences and the philosophical implications.

Electronic Engineering Service Learning Module

This module is taken by third year students in Electronic Engineering and Electronic & Computer Engineering and includes coverage of topics such as ethics, continued professional development (CPD), communications, health and safety and contribution to society.

Funding for this module will aid the development and delivery of a course of laboratory exercises on electronics for second level students studying physics for the Leaving Certificate.

The laboratory sessions will be held within the Department of Electronic Engineering and will be delivered by undergraduate students who will be awarded academic credit based on their performance in the course.



Philosophy & Centre of Bioethical Research and Analysis (COBRA) Research

The goal for the Service Learning project with COBRA is to provide a philosophical framework for Service Learning as an integral part of academic ethics, exploring the ethical implications of a service orientation that supplements the predominant “truth” orientation. While there is an emerging debate on these topics in educational research, there is a need to create a link between these debates and literature in philosophical ethics.

COBRA is dedicated to the exploration of different areas of ethical reflection in applied ethics. Far too little attention is usually given in professional ethics to the field of academic ethics, both in academic institutions and in philosophical reflection. Usually, professional ethics focuses on ethical problems related to scientific truth rather than the public role of teachers and the institution.

Funding from the CKI will include, bibliographical and conceptual work by a postgraduate researcher, development of entry on “Academic ethics” at COBRA website, attendance at “*The University and Civil Society: Autonomy and Responsibility*” conference and presentation of research results by lead researcher and postgraduate researcher at 11th Annual Institute of Service Learning, Campus Compact Michigan.

FUNDING TO PROGRAMMES WILL PROVIDE SERVICE LEARNING ELEMENT

Engineering in Society and Community Outreach for Students, BEng in Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering

The CAIRDE programme, a Service Learning module, has been a component of the Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering programmes at NUI Galway since 2002. To better determine if the goals of this programme are being met successfully, funding has been awarded to undertake a research project that will gauge its effect on student attitudes and determine how effectively students are able to apply engineering skills to solve problems in their community.

This project will report on how students are applying engineering skills and ways students are learning, it will collate and analyse student reflections concerning the learning process and will determine how the experience impacts students' attitudes towards community. Papers summarising the findings of this project will be submitted to journals such as *The International Journal of Service Learning in Engineering* and the *European Journal of Engineering Education*. This will provide an opportunity to present the findings at an international service learning conference.

"As a university we have a duty to engage students with the community and to create students that give to the community. We need to teach them so that we can distinguish them as different from other universities so that when they go into jobs, their CV will show that something extra," Professor Abhay Pandit said. I feel that these service learning modules are so critical. Service should be a part of what the students do."



Two students of the Mechanical Engineering course who developed a wheelchair ramp for the Irish Pilgrimage Trust.

Service Learning Research for the MA in Adult Learning and Development

The MA in Adult Learning and Development requires two academic calendar years to complete, involving completion of modules in the first year and a dissertation in the second year. The course enrolls 25 students, typically mature learners who have often had substantial professional exposure to the dynamics of teaching and learning in a community context.

Funding has been approved to help stimulate postgraduate service learning research. Specifically, it is expected that the research funding made available to selected postgraduate students pursuing the MA in Adult Learning and Development will encourage them to engage the research potential of service learning in the course of completing their research dissertation.

Successful candidates will be required to liaise closely with the relevant academic support personnel. On completion of their programme requirements they will be invited to present their findings at a scheduled CKI research seminar on Service Learning.

Aphasia Outreach Programme

Students of Speech and Language Therapy will undertake a Service Learning module that will put them into the community and help them learn from the people they are treating. Aphasia is an acquired neurological language problem and students in this module will spend 1 hour a week with a person with Aphasia, using supportive communication techniques, such as drawing, writing, gestures, etc.

Students in these modules will be 'conversation partners' in order to gain competencies of people living with aphasia in the local community. They will have the unique advantage of having a 'role reversal,' in that the person with the aphasia will be the 'expert' and will be teaching the student how to engage in social conversation.

"There's a lot of visible disabilities but aphasia's an invisible disability that's long term and so we're trying to provide communicative ramps for people," Ruth McMenamin, Lecturer for Speech and Language Therapy said. "We can become so focused on technical skills that we are moving away from basic interaction between human beings and so this is trying to get back to that."

Social Work placement within a Children First Programme – Training Trainers in Child Protection

Funding from CKI will establish a Scholarship for the Master's in Social Work, helping students of that programme to work within the community under the direction of a qualified Social Worker delivering child protection training to diverse groups such as school staff, caretakers, community groups, etc.

This placement will occur within the 2nd Year of the Masters in Social Work and would run for 14 weeks: from September until December 2006.

This is not the usual type placement for social work, but the establishment of a scholarship in this area may make it more attractive. Also, for the communities involved, it can be seen as 'bringing the University into the Community' in a relevant and exceptionally important area, given the current climate of sensitivity around child issues.

EMERGING AREAS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



Students of the Occupational Therapy module completed their service learning courses this semester, culminating in a successful and informative conference entitled *'Emerging Areas in Occupational Therapy.'* This conference aimed to share the learning experiences of the students that had worked for various organisations in the West of Ireland. These findings were then illustrated at a poster presentation at the conference.

"The students have put in a tremendous effort and the partnership with community organisations has really enhanced the learning opportunity," Sinead Vine from the Occupational Therapy course said. "The need for Service Learning is really evident because the organisations have benefited and so have the students. Hopefully this will open new horizons for emerging areas of Occupational Therapy in the West."

The BSc. (Honours) Occupational Therapy degree at NUI Galway began in 2003 as a four year programme, with the third year incorporating a Service Learning module. In 2005, CKI awarded funding to support this module, giving students the opportunity to undertake six two-hour fieldwork visits over the course of twelve weeks to assigned emerging area, as well as to observe and evaluate how concepts of "Occupation" and "Occupational Performance" might be applied to the broadening scope of practice.

Emerging areas of practice are those where there is no current or past Occupational Therapy service provided, but where a need has been identified for this type of service. Students of the Occupational Therapy course went into the community and identified where needs should be met in the Occupational Therapy areas. Fiona Mulvrey and Clare Harte (left) both undertook their service learning module at AIDS West in Galway.

"This was a great opportunity to explore and discover problems that HIV and AIDS patients encounter," Fiona said. "It was different from reading from a textbook because you get a real in depth knowledge. It was nice to share what we felt Occupational Therapy is and to advocate it."

CKI AWARDS FUNDING FOR SERVICE LEARNING RESEARCH IN THE U.S.

CKI, in partnership with the Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, has awarded Brian O'Donnachadha with funding to go to the United States and undertake research and write two chapters for a CKI Service Learning handbook.

"The CKI and Acadamh are very proud of the work that Brian has undertaken," Lorraine McIlrath, Project Coordinator of CKI said. "His year in the US will greatly enhance the profile of NUI Galway in the national and international academic worlds."

Brian was awarded this funding in order to supplement his recent awarding of the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, in which he will research and write a 'how to' handbook for the Acadamh on institutional implementation of Service

Learning. The book will be based on best practice in the United States and will be completed in September 2007.

"I believe that with Service Learning, when students are passionately engaged with what they are doing and they want to learn, they learn more and they learn deeper," Brian said. "There's the added advantage that when they're learning they're actually doing something very positive, not just for a money making corporation, but for the wider community."

Brian, during his year out, will be based in Campus Compact's San Francisco office, a national non-profit organisation that is dedicated to promoting community service, civic engagement and service learning in higher education. He will visit the Service

Learning Research & Development Centre in Berkeley, the Lowell Bennion Centre at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, North Carolina State University and Campus Compact's Head Office in Rhode Island in order to get an insight into best practice in how Service Learning can be implemented.

"I think society in general has become a little bit more selfish and the reason I think that Service Learning is going to be big is that there is a reaction to that selfishness here," Brian said. "That can be addressed by not necessarily becoming selfless, but by having an increased civic awareness and civic engagement."

NEW DEGREE HELPS STUDENTS THROUGH 'QUARTER LIFE' CRISIS



In a country where active citizenship has become very topical, NUI Galway has begun exploring how to educate its students to appreciate their society and engage in activities that make them a part of their community.

A new degree that will reflect this goal at NUI Galway is the BA in Humanities and Society. This new degree will add a fourth year to the traditional three year Arts degree, giving students an opportunity to gain skills before graduating. Piloting with 30 students in September 2006, this degree will focus on a placement, giving students skills to enhance their employability, engaging students in society, and a myriad of music, drama and film events.

"This extra year will be a blend of various things a fully rounded Arts graduate should have and may not have the opportunity to get during a typical three year degree," Declan Ashe, Arts Faculty Administrator at NUI Galway said.

This new degree will also give students the ability to study film, music and drama more in depth. Rod Stoneman, Director of the Huston School of Film & Digital Media will be in charge of film, Jane O'Leary, Director of Music for Galway will be in charge of music, and Dr. Adrian Frazier of the English department will be teaching drama.

"It is important to have a broad knowledge of the arts in our society, as creativity is a major part of life. It helps

us to reflect on our own lives and relate to others," Jane O'Leary, who will be directing the music part of the course said.

This programme has also been guided by NUI Galway Staff who will take responsibility for the civic engagement component of the programme.

They include John Hannon, Careers Services, Josephine Boland, Education Department, Su Ming Khoo and Eilis Ward, Department of Politics and Sociology and Lorraine McIlrath, CKI.

The BA in Humanities and Society will send students on an eight week placement that combines lecture, placement, post-placement reflection and a service learning conference. Students will gain civic engagement skills by working in their community with leaders of various sectors.

According to Mr. Ashe, taking this extra year will help students through what he terms the 'quarter life' crisis, whereby students graduate from college and come out with a degree but are then hit when the real life world isn't the 'oyster' that they thought it would be.

"Students feel they are armed with theoretical knowledge and find out very quickly that's not the perspective of employers," Mr. Ashe said. "I think the Service Learning element of this module gets rid of a lot of that feeling. Students will get a lot of real life skills. What's important here is what the students learn about themselves and about

society in a broad sense."

According to Mr. Ashe, this degree will produce well-rounded students that are better able to work in today's economy and will open up their experience so that they are better able to learn while engaged in practice.

"We are in an age where lifelong learning is more relevant to embrace," Mr. Ashe said. "For this degree, the theme of applied learning theory coming alive is a big part of it."

The BA in Humanities and Society initially began with work placements in mind, but evolved to include more community based learning. A Service Learning module is an option for students to put theoretical knowledge into practical use.

"The Service Learning modules taps into a wider constituency of students in Arts who want to give something back to the community," Mr. Ashe said.

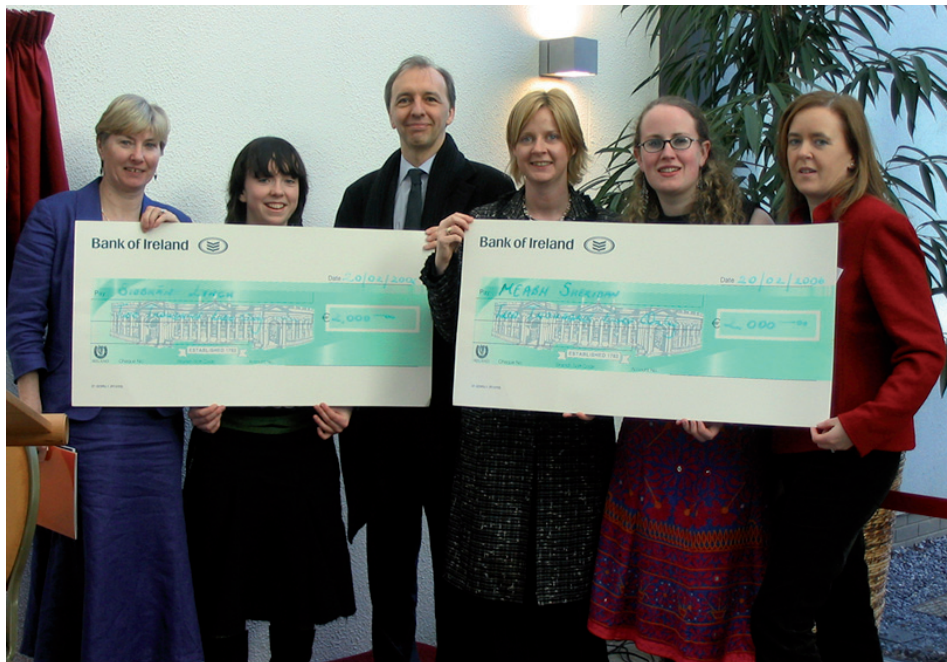
One student who is looking forward to this extra year in the BA in Humanities and Society is Michelle Smith. Michelle is currently a second year English and Psychology student who has applied for the BA in Humanities and Society. She hopes to add on this extra year to her degree in order to afford her more work experience and a better degree.

Michelle previously spent time volunteering with autistic children and with the Irish Wheelchair Association and hopes to continue actively engaging with society. According to Michelle, many students in the Arts and Humanities areas go into those degrees in order to help society and give something to their communities.

"I think a lot of people in Arts volunteer because they realise that some people aren't so looked after as you and it's nice to give back a bit," Michelle said.

In an age where the scarcest commodity is time, it seems for many that volunteering or partaking in societal activities is at the bottom of peoples' lists. But a feeling of significance, of consequence awaits those who participate in their society, for those who acknowledge that there is a society, a community, a world outside.

SERVICE LEARNING MODULE SENDS NURSING STUDENTS TO ZAMBIA



Dr. Kathy Murphy, Siobhan Lynch, Iain Mac Labhrainn, Lorraine McIlrath, Meabh Sheridan and Dympna Casey with cheques to provide Nursing trip to Zambia

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...it goes a long way to getting there. It covers our flights, insurance and what we'll need to live while there, so the rest of the money that we fundraise will go to the clinic."

Growing up with a different background than most Irish children, it's not surprising that Siobhan has chosen Nursing. She was ill as a baby and grew up in a Camphill Community here in Ireland, where her mother was a live-in volunteer. Camphill Communities were established to work with the mentally handicapped. They are 'communities' in every sense of the word, and have built a way of life for those within the community – organic farms, art classes, schools, - the idea is to create a community life for those that live there.

Children who can't live at home because of severe illnesses such as autism or cerebral palsy live in these communities. This is a vision of a community life, where each person contributes what they can towards the well being of the rest of the community according to their ability.

"So I've always had volunteers around me and had a care-orientated support system," Siobhan said.

And naturally, this care-oriented environment inspired her to go into Nursing. Although she originally

wanted to be a Doctor, Siobhan has now decided to focus on Paediatric Nursing.

"Being a Doctor doesn't have the patient contact that I want. I love nursing and it makes me so happy to be with patients and help them," Siobhan said.

Before beginning her studies in Nursing, Siobhan spent 3½ months in Peru working in a home for sick children. From malnutrition to leukaemia, these children were ill and dying and this greatly affected Siobhan's dedication to help children.

To continue her mission to help others, Siobhan will use her scholarship from NUI Galway to go abroad and work with dying victims of HIV/AIDS at the Ranchhod Hospice in Zambia. The Ranchhod Hospice opened in October 2003 with an intake of 12 patients and since then has provided care and respite for people who would otherwise live out their lives in pain, poverty and neglect. Together with classmate Meabh Sheridan, Siobhan will assist the staff at the hospice and support the patients that have been admitted there.

"There is very little pain relief over there so a lot of our time will be just being with the patients," Siobhan said. "We'll be there for support and to give them comfort."

They will be bringing over expired medicines donated from pharmaceutical

companies, as well as any medical equipment that they can carry.

"We throw away so much that is out of date which can be used, so it will be great to bring them over," Siobhan said. "It makes such a difference. I feel that the money we raise is going to the right place."

Both Meabh and Siobhan have undertaken this work as part of a Service Learning module in their Nursing course and will get academic credit as well as practical work experience in the field of Nursing.

"These two students submitted individual pieces of work and demonstrated that they would benefit from winning the scholarship," Dympna Casey from the Department for Nursing & Midwifery Studies at NUI Galway said. "Having this funding means that students can go to developing countries and participate in service learning, whereas before they might not have been able to do that."

The funding of this scholarship was generated through fees from the 2005 Annual Teaching and Learning conference at NUI Galway, and CELT hopes to continue this trend of funding Service Learning and civic engagement whenever possible in the future.

Nursing Staff to Visit Africa

Dr. Kathy Murphy and Dr. Dympna Casey, from the Nursing Studies Centre, NUI Galway, will travel to Africa at the end of July 2006 for 11 days in order to undertake a needs assessment in Kabwe Lusaka and Ortum mission hospital in Kenya. This visit will examine ways of sharing nursing knowledge and skills with nurses and health care staff and how to enhance the quality of nursing care provision.

In addition, Dr. Murphy and Dr. Casey will visit the Nursing Faculty at the University of Zambia in Lusaka to further develop links and to explore ways of working together and sharing knowledge and experience in order to develop and enhance patient care. They will also examine the potential for developing Service Learning placements for nursing students from Galway.

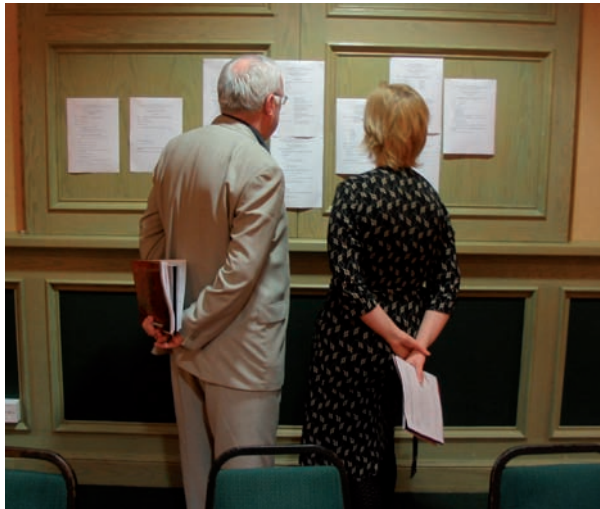
ACADEMY ADDRESSES ROLE OF SERVICE LEARNING

At the end of April 2006, over 75 academics, community representatives and staff developers from higher education institutions gathered in Athlone to discuss the civic role of higher education in Ireland and the role of Service Learning. Over the course of two days, the participants developed issues for discussion through a facilitation tool called 'Open Space Technology.'

A report on the Academy was created by the 75 participants, giving the opportunity for future actions in areas of institutionalising Service Learning/Community Based Learning. The Academy aimed to debate and prepare for a culture of civic engagement.

"The reality is a vast majority of students are disengaged," one participant commented. "We need to address this and Service Learning is one of the tools to do this."

This project was hosted by NUI Galway in collaboration with NUI Maynooth, Dublin City University and Dublin Institute of Technology and funded by the HEA. One theme that ran through the Academy was the difference between



Seamus Lillis and Lorraine McIlrath looking at the day's reflections from the Academy

volunteering and Service Learning. According to Dr. Andrew Furco, Director of Service-Learning Research and Development Centre at the University of California-Berkeley, Service Learning is different from volunteering in that we volunteer as individuals for causes we're interested in, but Service Learning is undertaken as a student and the role is to teach students about their role in society.

"This isn't about projects or short term issues, it's about building a broader agenda around institutional issues and

its commitment to society and instilling responsibility in young people," Dr. Furco said. "We underestimate what young people can do. All they need is opportunity, guidance and tools and if we provide that through Service Learning, it benefits the community and society."

The Academy brought together academics and senior managers of higher education from the island of Ireland, discussing the potential for Service Learning and Community Based Learning in higher education.

"This was an opportunity to discuss the civic purpose of higher education and resulted in a rich conversation between the participants of the Academy," Lorraine McIlrath, Project Coordinator for NUI Galway's Community Knowledge Initiative said. "We hope this will be the first of many events that will be held to help us prepare for the civic purpose of higher education."

As the Government's Civic Taskforce has recently been established, the idea of educating our students to recognise their role in society and community has become more significant.

Service Learning Academy Speakers



Marshall Welch

Marshall Welch is the Director of the Lowell Bennion Community Center at the University of Utah. The Bennion Center

fosters lifelong service and civic participation by engaging the University with the community.

Mr. Welch's topic at the Academy was 'Service-Learning as Deeper Education.' Prior to the Service Learning Academy, Mr. Welch conducted a seminar at NUI Galway entitled 'Service Learning Perspectives from the Bennion Centre at the University of Utah,' offering staff an in depth look at how Service Learning has worked for the University of Utah.



Andrew Furco

Andrew Furco is Director of the Service Learning Research and Development Centre at the University of California - Berkeley.

He has published more than thirty journal articles and book chapters and is the winner of the 2003 Award for Outstanding Contributions to Service Learning Research.

Mr Furco spoke at the Academy on 'Exploring the Indicators of Engagement and the Institutionalisation of Service Learning' and is commencing writing a chapter in the Service Learning book for CKI.



Maria Avila

Maria Avila is the Director of the Centre for Community Based Learning at Occidental College, which serves as a

resource for faculty, students and community members. Ms. Avila has about thirty years of experience working with non-profit organisations in Mexico and the US.

Ms. Avila's topic at the Service Learning Academy was 'Community Organisation Techniques as a Model to Transform Academic and Civic Culture: Building a Relational Culture.'

ALIVE CONTINUES TO DEVELOP

Student Interns

ALIVE will introduce three new members of our team next semester. These students will help promote and support a range of programmes aimed at volunteering activity amongst NUI Galway students. These Interns will have the opportunity to strengthen links with on and off campus communities, promote the annual Volunteer Fair and motivate students in volunteering activities.

Karen Walsh who will be undertaking her first year of an L.L.B. course will intern with ALIVE. Karen has previously done Public Relations for the Comedy Society and has been involved in public speaking and debate.

"I feel the internship with ALIVE offers an amazing opportunity to become involved with volunteering on campus. It will provide a fantastic opportunity for personal development, through meeting new people, facing new challenges and using my initiative," Karen said.

Jessica Tuohy hopes to undertake an MA degree in Landscape Archaeology and will also be joining the ALIVE team. Jessica worked as Auditor of the Arts Society, was the Stage Manager of a school musical and helps with the care of the elderly.

"The ALIVE programme makes me feel inspired and enthusiastic about helping other people and about encouraging more people to volunteer," Jessica said.

Avril Mollaghan is currently studying for a Corporate Law degree and is the third intern who will be joining ALIVE. She has previously been involved in the Student Connect mentoring programme and a youth initiative programme.

"I think the work ALIVE has done; raising money for charity, promoting volunteering around campus and contributing to the community, is fantastic and I really want to be a part of the programme," Avril said.

Alzheimer Society of Ireland

This spring, volunteers from NUI Galway raised nearly €4,000 for the Alzheimer Society of Ireland through a fundraiser that was undertaken by scrubbing a fire truck with toothbrushes on Galway's Shop Street. The cheque was presented to Des Mulligan, Galway/Mayo Regional Office of the Alzheimer Society Ireland from the volunteers at an informal gathering in April.

"We in the ASI think it is fantastic that young people are so willing to give their time and energy to help those with Alzheimer's and their families," Mulligan said.

Students are part of NUI Galway's ALIVE programme and received

certificates for the hours volunteered in a graduation ceremony in April.

"I want to congratulate everybody in the ALIVE programme for investing time in this very worthwhile cause," Brian Walsh, Galway Mayor said.



Volunteering Seminar: 'Everything about ALIVE you wanted to know but were afraid to ask!'

Volunteering has become an important part of society today and the ALIVE programme is helping students to recognise that. To help staff of NUI Galway know exactly what ALIVE is, we will be running a lunchtime seminar on Friday, September 8th from 1-2pm in AM207 entitled, *'Volunteering: Everything about ALIVE you wanted to know but were afraid to ask!'* We hope to give attendees a flavour of what the ALIVE programme is about and the process a student (or staff) undertakes as a volunteer.

"Encouraging people to get involved, the bottom-up approach, has been very successful," Lorraine Tansey, Student Volunteer Coordinator with ALIVE said. *"Yet the top-down approach to recruiting volunteers and raising awareness of volunteering can be just as effective."*

People are involved in volunteering through ALIVE via internal and external pathways; Internal includes volunteering for societies or clubs, the Access Programme or writing for SIN. External includes volunteering for NGO's or community organisations. Students then reflect on their experiences in a handbook.

"My student was very active and motivated. Her energy, intelligence and positive attitude brought great life to our organisation," Kathy O'Malley from the Galway Youth Information Centre said.

The impact of volunteering in the community is considerable and NUI Galway celebrates these achievements by awarding a personalised ALIVE certificate to those who complete their volunteering projects.

"Many NUI Galway students are engaged on campus and in Galway City," Lorraine said. *"ALIVE is the recognition, support and acknowledgment of this commitment to community. It is important to foster engagement and ALIVE provides an avenue for students who wish to actively volunteer within a safe, structured and supportive environment."*

To book a place on this seminar email mary.bernard@nuigalway.ie. For staff or students interested in volunteering, please contact Lorraine Tansey, 091 495346, or email her at lorraine.tansey@nuigalway.ie

VOLUNTEERING GIVES STUDENTS SENSE OF SATISFACTION

Gaisce Award

Eight students from NUI Galway will spend 10 days volunteering in Estonia with a Rural Development Scheme as part of their 'Adventure' activity of the Gold Gaisce awards. The group of all females will assist the local Estonian people with a number of building projects, including building a work shed, as well as clear a hiking trail, which will involve building a footbridge over a small river.

"This is an amazing opportunity for young people to get a first hand experience of a culture working towards a developed front," Aoife Kernan, one of the participants said.

The group is compiled of Ann Browne, Marion Slattery, Aoife Kernan, Annette McGroary, Jill Masterson, Laura Heneghan, Edel Casserly and Lourda Casserly. They are all undertaking the challenge in order to work towards a Gold award for the Gaisce awards. The Gaisce Award is Ireland's National Challenge Award, which is a challenge from the President of Ireland to young people to make a difference in their future and the future of the world.

"The Estonia Project enables us to give a bit back to the community," Aoife said. "Volunteering leaves you with an enormous sense of satisfaction, one which only comes from giving up your time to help others."

Disability Law School, 2006

The second Annual Summer School on Disability Discrimination Law will take place in the National University of Ireland, Galway, from 6-16th of June 2006. It is the only such event in Europe and is partnered by a similar Summer School on racial discrimination in the University of Maastricht. It is hosted by the Faculty of Law at the National University of Ireland, Galway, and co-financed by the European Commission. Last year it attracted participants from over 13 countries.

The main focus of the Summer School is the European Union Framework Directive on Employment which prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities (among others) in the broad employment sphere. The Summer School appeals to lawyers and legal advisers to non governmental organisations (NGOs) interested in crafting test case strategies under the Directive on the ground of disability. It also makes the information accessible to non-legal audiences and has been successful in attracting NGOs interested in using the law to advance the rights of persons with disabilities.

"The issues are interesting and varied and include topics such as medical testing and the law, the interaction of health & safety law with non-discrimination law and the vexed notion of 'reasonable accommodation,'" Professor Gerard Quinn, Director of the Programme at the National University of Ireland, Galway said.

He added that "the field is likely to grow as there is pressure on Brussels to adopt a much broader Directive covering fields such as housing and education. Indeed, the Directive has already provided the model for drafting the United Nations treaty on the rights of persons with disabilities which should be adopted by the United Nations later this year."

Further information is available from the Summer School website at: www.eusummerschool.info or email disability@eusummerschool.info

New Society Raises Funds for Shelters



Ruth Donnellan, Rotaract Society President
with Pat Donnellan, Galway Rotary President

A new society on campus will give students an outlet for volunteering at NUI Galway. Rotaract Society, a sub-society of Galway's Rotary Society, has preliminary approval as a society on campus and by September expects to be a full-fledged society.

"I find it awfully hard to find things to do that are good ways to give back to the community," Ruth Donnellan, a 1st year Corporate Law student and President of the Rotaract Society said. "This society has a load of different angles and possibilities to it, but we are still doing good for the community by volunteering."

One of the first volunteering opportunities for the Rotaract Society

was when, in partnership with Galway Rotary Society, they erected ShelterBox tents in order to raise awareness and funds to supply tents to areas in the world affected by disasters.

Both societies sold tickets for a Buster Dogs race at the Galway Greyhound Stadium, in order to raise money to send tents to Africa and Asia. These tents could provide shelter for up to 150 people in needy areas.

The day saw about 50 tickets sold to NUI Galway staff and students and another 60 to visitors to the campus. A total of 12 tents were sent around the world. An additional €1,500 was raised through non ticket sales by Rotaract and Rotary volunteers and given to Crisis Housing, Caring Support (COPE) in Galway.

This problem doesn't go away," Pat Donnellan, President of the Galway Rotary Society said. "The need doesn't go away just because we ignore it. We've provided 250,000 people worldwide with shelters, but there are 10 times more out there in the world who need this. I think society is losing touch with the world around them but I believe if the cause is just, you will succeed and I have faith that this event will succeed."

ALIVE STUDENTS HONoured FOR VOLUNTEERING TIME



Lorraine Tansey and Professor Jim Browne with students noted for their Outstanding Contribution

(continued from page 1)

in one's life is an important role in educating students.

"This aspiration to encourage students to active citizenship is realised through volunteering and is an important part of education," Professor Browne said.

Volunteering through ALIVE is a way for students to help build society and its resources and is central to many organisations. 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 as a way to build active citizenship and help students grow in their role of service to society.

"I think this could really be a hallmark of Galway students," Professor Browne said. "As a university we've always been close to community. The west of Ireland is an environment that demands that. We're in the middle of a city, we're in the middle of a very rich environment both culturally and economically. It's a very rich community and I think it's something our students can benefit greatly from."

Volunteering creates a character in which the community and the nation

take on a spirit of giving, an essence of cooperation and the strength of confidence. The ALIVE programme was established to harness the impact that students make in the Galway community and the graduation ceremony celebrated that impact.

"We're just delighted with the way that the graduation ceremony turned out; it really was a great opportunity to showcase the true spirit of volunteering," Lorraine Tansey, Student Volunteer Coordinator for the ALIVE programme said. "It's the highlight of the year."

The ALIVE graduation event also took the opportunity to present Distinguished Volunteering Awards to five individuals. Robert Healey who volunteered with Croí, Anna Cunningham who volunteered with the Galway Association and as a Student Connect Mentor, Catherine O'Shea who volunteered with Suas and Flirt FM, Laura Heneghan who volunteered with the Titus Glavee African Internship Programme, Human Rights Society and Suas, and Damien Corridan who volunteered with the Student Connect Mentor programme. These students were presented with an NUI Galway Cross pen by Professor Jim Browne.

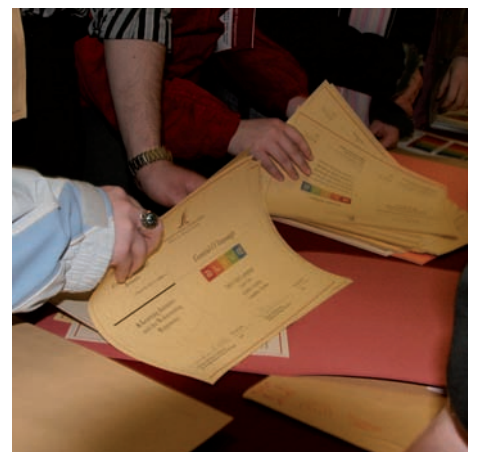
"These students contributed to the creation of a volunteering ethos on campus and have made an outstanding

contribution as volunteers with ALIVE through NUI Galway volunteering pathways and community organisations," Tansey said.

This response aptly summed up the spirit of volunteering. It is an action that people embrace, not for recognition but because this is how we find meaning in life.

As President John F. Kennedy said, "Never before has man had such a great capacity to control his own environment, to end hunger, poverty and disease, to banish illiteracy and human misery. We have the power to make the best generation of mankind in the history of the world."

The time for volunteering is now; the commitment to society is constant. For without doubt and without fear, we can embrace our society and empower the disempowered, encourage the discouraged, and change a world that is ours for the molding.



Students pick up their graduation certificates at the ALIVE ceremony

VOLT recruiting Volunteers - Looking for dedicated personnel, paid and unpaid



VOLT Seeks to Link Volunteers in Ireland

VOLT (Volunteer Organisers Linking Together) is a service of Volunteering Ireland. The VOLT network is a peer support network of managers, both voluntary and paid, who coordinate the work of volunteers.

The idea for the network was born in 2000, when Volunteering Ireland invited volunteer coordinators across Ireland to come together to discuss the joys and challenges of managing volunteers. It was agreed that there was a need for proactive peer support and that establishing a network would ensure that volunteer coordinators would have a way to share knowledge and learn from each other.

By communicating regularly and pooling resources, the network aims to provide mutual support, share knowledge and experience about good practice in volunteer management and provide a voice for the volunteer coordinator in Ireland.

NUI Galway is represented on VOLT by Lorraine Tansey, who acts as Connacht Regional Representative. NUI Galway has offered to host the Annual VOLT Conference in November 2006 on the general theme of 'Leadership and Innovation.' Dr. Padraig MacNeela, Psychology Department, NUI Galway, will offer a keynote address on his research into student volunteering and motivations.

VOLT MEMBERSHIP:

As members of VOLT, staff and students of NUI Galway can avail of the following for a nominal annual membership fee of €30:

- Priority access and a discounted rate to the annual VOLT Conference.
- Free attendance at VOLT Regional events.
- A contact list of VOLT members which is updated and distributed annually.
- Quarterly VOLT e-newsletter.
- The right to stand for the VOLT Steering Committee, giving national recognition to third level student volunteering.
- Copies of VOLT working group reports.

"The best feature of VOLT is the ability to network with others in the field." VOLT Conference 2004.

For more information on VOLT and membership, please contact:

Nancy Nuñez, VOLT, Volunteering Ireland, Coleraine House, Coleraine Street, Dublin 7, Ireland

Tel: 01 872 2622 Fax: 01 872 2623

Email: nancy@volunteeringireland.ie

Website: www.volunteeringireland.ie/volt

Occupational Therapy Students Head to Africa for Volunteering Experience

Two Occupational Therapy students, Sinead Hynes and Fiona Birmingham will head to Africa for nine weeks this summer in order to volunteer at a home for children with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Sinead and Fiona are both third year students of NUI Galway's Occupational Therapy course and hope to gain valuable work experience as well as learn from this volunteering experience.

'Sivanathi,' in Capetown, South Africa, is a home that takes care of children whose parents are either deceased or

unable to take care of them. Sinead and Fiona will care for the children and generally assist the carers in any way.

"I wanted to do something different and travel and see if I would be interested in doing something like this long term," Sinead said.

Sinead and Fiona first began to think about volunteering short term after attending a CKI seminar given by Barry Cannon from Comhlámh. The one day seminar, which was attended by staff and students of NUI Galway, was entitled, 'Options & Issues in Global

Development Work,' and 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 values that sustain them.

"I don't expect to make a huge impact in just two months but I want to help with the day-to-day work and relieve the pressure on staff," Sinead said. "It might give me a different perspective on things and I could bring new ideas back with me."

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, CKI Project Coordinator and Academic Staff Developer

Lorraine Tansey, Student Volunteer Coordinator

Mary Bernard, Administrative Assistant

Christina McDonald Legg, Communications Specialist

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

Phone: +353 (0) 91 493823

Web: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/cki>

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CKI International Advisory Board

The Community Knowledge Initiative had their first International Advisory Board meeting on the 25th and 26th of May. This meeting updated Advisory Board members on the activities of the project as well as leading to recommendations for the future of the project.

“This was a great opportunity for the CKI team to take recommendations from experts in the international and national arenas and we hope to implement these suggestions in the near future,” Lorraine McIlrath, CKI Project Coordinator said.

ADVISORY BOARD:

Rev. Bill Lies, University of Notre Dame, USA

Sr. Stan Kennedy, Focus Ireland

Prof. Ahmed Bawa, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa

Ms. Elizabeth Hollander, Campus Compact, Brown University, USA

Attending on behalf of Ms. Elizabeth Hollander - Dr. Dr. Dean McGovern from Montana Campus Compact

Prof. J. M. Monaghan, Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Trinity College Dublin

Ms. Moira Swinbank, TimeBank, UK

Ms. Elena Saraceno, The Unit of Consistency of Rural Development, in the Directorate General of Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

ALIVE Community Organisations 2005/2006

During the 2005/2006 college year, we have partnered with a variety of Galway community organisations. This has been a positive and fruitful experience for the students of NUI Galway, as well as for the community organisations, and we look forward to all of our partnerships for 2006/2007. Partnerships have included, but are not limited to:

Alzheimer Society of Ireland
Amnesty International - Galway
Ballinfoile Youth Development Project
Big Brother/Big Sister
Brainwave, The Irish Epilepsy Association
Community Workers Cooperative
Croí
Enable Ireland
GAF Youth Café
Galway Association
Galway Diocesan Youth Services
Galway Dyslexia Association
Galway Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Galway Youth Federation
Le Chéile & Ragoon Youth Group
Mind, Body and Soul Programme
MS Ireland
National Association for Deaf People
Presentation Secondary School
Rape Crisis Centre - Galway
RehabCare, Galway
Riding for the Disabled Association of Ireland
Scoil Bhríde
Simon Community - Galway
Youth Information Centre - Galway

Need Volunteers?

With over 14,000 students at NUI Galway, many of whom have a strong commitment to bettering society, why not consider partnering with the ALIVE programme? Through this we can source volunteers for your work as a registered charity or non profit organisation. If you would like more information, please contact Lorraine Tansey, Student Volunteer Coordinator, lorraine.tansey@nuigalway.ie ext 091 49 5346