



Issue 4, 2006

This is the fourth 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 cki@nuigalway.ie or visit our website at www.nuigalway.ie/cki

**Christina McDonald Legg,
Editor**

Inside this Issue:

Céifin Conferences	2
Interview with Mary Davis	3
Galway Volunteering Centre	4
OT students in Africa	4
VOLT Conference	5
Computer Services Draw	5
Access Programme	6-7
New Aphasia Module	6
WIMPS in Galway	8
MA in Philosophy	9
Service Learning Academy	9
Upcoming Seminars	10-11
CKI staff nominated for award	12

NUI Galway Hosts Volunteering Fair for Community and Students

Nearly 40 community organisations came together at NUI Galway for the annual Volunteering Fair, which promotes the voluntary sector, showcases community organisations and encourages volunteering opportunities.

Launched by NUI Galway's Registrar Jim Browne, V.P. Student Services Mary O'Riordan and Galway City Mayor Niall Ó Brocháin, it aimed to promote partnerships with communities locally, nationally and internationally. The Volunteer Fair brought together students and community who took the opportunity to successfully share experiences.



Students look at volunteering options at the Volunteering Fair

"Our society cannot properly function without volunteers and in my experience job satisfaction is immeasurably higher from voluntary work than from paid employment," Niall Ó Brocháin, Mayor of

Galway City said. "As for what you can achieve, the sky is the limit."

(continued on page 2)

CKI Launches New Website

The Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI) at NUI Galway has launched a new website that enables students to register for volunteering, at the same time allowing community organisations to recruit student volunteers. The amalgamation of registration for both students and community organisations will make this an effortless process.

The Online Volunteering / Service Learning Opportunities Database allows those interested in service learning or volunteering to easily browse

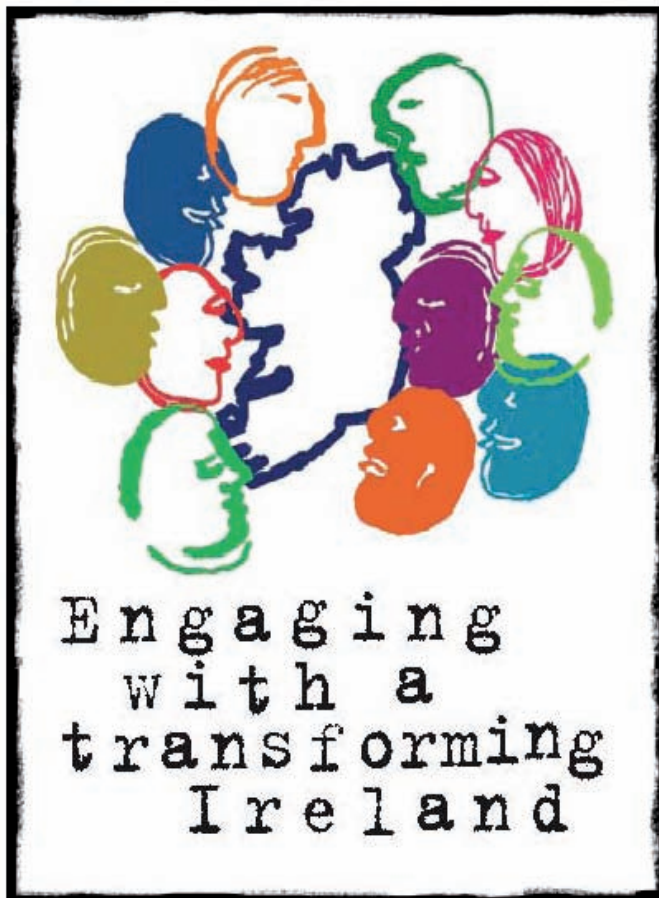
through a variety of opportunities and enables community organisations to post opportunities. At the click of a button, students can then easily register to volunteer with their chosen organisation and the organisation can recruit them.

The new website also offers educational links for research in community, volunteering, civic engagement and service learning/community based learning. In addition, it highlights video and audio webcasts that have been produced with national and international experts in the field of university-community

partnerships.

"We created a site that offers students, academics and community a gateway into volunteering and the possibilities that university-community collaboration poses in modern society; we envisage that the CKI site will enable students to volunteer and learn about their civic responsibility through community," Lorraine McIlrath, CKI Project Coordinator said.

Two Céifin Conferences to Motivate and Inspire this Year



Engaging with a Transforming Ireland: a young person's perspective

As part of its annual conference, Céifin have initiated a venture to include the voice of Ireland's future leaders. The first Céifin National Student Conference will take place on October 19th and 20th, giving students in Ireland a chance to air their views, concerns, hopes and ideas for the future.

Entitled 'Engaging with a Transforming Ireland: a young person's perspective,' this conference is supported and sponsored by the CKI and will explore topics that students face today such as suicide, drugs, alcohol, intercultural Ireland, youth participation in society, crime, education and much more.

There will be a strong focus on student speakers during this conference, including speakers from student unions as well as students working in the community. Lorraine McIlrath, Project Coordinator of the CKI, Damien Corridan, SU President, NUI Galway, Brendan Smith, DERI and Daráine Mulvihill, NUI Galway will offer an address.

Additionally, a number of high profile people from within Ireland will speak at the conference, including Alan Kerins, from the Alan Kerins African Project, Professor Tom Collins from NUI Maynooth and John Lonergan, the Governor of Mountjoy Prison.

The outcomes of the papers delivered, the breakout sessions and general discussions will go towards the 'vision' that will be compiled at the end of the conference and presented at the 9th Annual Céifin Conference in Ennis in November.

Bookings can be made by emailing kieran.omalley@gmit.ie or by going online at www.ceifin.com

NUI Galway Volunteering Fair

(continued from page 1)

The Volunteer Fair was a joint initiative between the Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI), the ALIVE programme and Student Services at NUI Galway, and was an opportunity for students to broaden their horizons beyond the sphere of academia. It addressed three main areas, volunteering within the University, volunteering with local and national organisations, and volunteering with international organisations.

Participants received a Volunteering Fair Booklet, which describes the organisations' aims and objectives and provides information to support volunteers and community organisations. Additionally, candy floss was made and distributed to all at the fair.

"The Volunteering Fair provided a space for community and students to engage and an avenue for developing mutually beneficial experiences. These experiences not only enhance academic learning and motivation but also make a very positive impact on the university, local and national community," Lorraine Tansey, Student Volunteer Coordinator of ALIVE said. "This is a great event for charging the student body with excitement for volunteering and meeting community partners."

Freedom, Licence or Liberty: Engaging with a Transforming Ireland



Four students from the new Céifin National Student Conference will present findings at the annual Céifin conference this year, highlighting the results of the student conference.

Céifin's 9th annual conference, entitled 'Freedom, Licence or Liberty: Engaging with a Transforming Ireland' will discuss the issues that society faces in a changing world and whether new found freedom is threatening the 'fabric' of our society.

With a panel of distinguished speakers, the annual Céifin conference is sure to have a lot to stimulate and give much for participants to absorb.

Bookings can be made at ceifinconference@eircom.net or www.ceifin.com

AN INTERVIEW WITH MARY DAVIS, CHAIR OF THE TASKFORCE ON ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Mary Davis, the Chair of the Taskforce on Active Citizenship talks to the Community Knowledge Initiative about community, volunteering and what it means to be an active citizen.



What are your personal views on active citizenship, what it is and why it is important?

Mary: For me I think active citizenship means two things. The rights and responsibilities that come with being an Irish citizen and the whole democratic area like elections, participating in debates, jury service and taking an active role in all those. It is also about social awareness and helping people to participate and become more involved in community and their environment.

How does it feel being chairperson of the new taskforce on active citizenship?

Mary: It's challenging but I'm looking forward to the public consultations around the country. It will be very interesting to get people's views and to see how they feel about active citizenship work in their area and their community.

What role does WIMPS (an organisation that provides young people with information on their local representatives), ALIVE and organisations like these play in active citizenship?

Mary: I think any opportunity that we can find these days that maybe are a little bit different are a very good idea. I really do see those things as being very innovative in a sense and something that would appease people and would enable and empower them to get involved as well.

Why are young people so important in the quest to pursue active citizenship?

Mary: Firstly, I think that young people do an awful lot of good already and that sometimes goes unnoticed. They often are tarnished by people thinking they are materialistic or don't have an awareness of the democratic process, but I do think that there are some young people who do and they do it very well and there are others that perhaps need a little bit more nudging or egging on to get them to respond. I don't think it's the fact that they don't want to, I think it's maybe not high up on their list of priorities and if perhaps they had an opportunity that made it easier then they would become involved. They do sometimes get caught up in their world, but I think once they're reminded you'll see some good positive results.

Is volunteering and community involvement declining, in your opinion?

Mary: Because of the experience I had with the Special Olympics in 2003, and following on from that and the number of volunteers we've had since then, it certainly gives me a sense that people are more than willing to become involved and to give of their time. I think we need to look at the approach and the training that people receive and the time that they are asked to give. Perhaps organisations should be a little bit more organised themselves and how they approach that. That's very much my personal experience, though. Time is precious now for everybody so people need to know exactly 'what it is you want me to do,' 'how will I be trained,' 'what's my time commitment' and 'will it end there?' That way they get their own sense of satisfaction but also give a lot so everybody benefits.

What is your vision as to what the Active Citizenship Taskforce will become and what it will do or change?

Mary: If I had a vision – I can't preempt the process because this will reflect the country's views – but I hope the taskforce will be a place where everybody, the state, corporations, community and voluntary sector will all play an active role together to create a better community for the people who live in that community, that would be my vision for it. It won't happen overnight; it could take a number of years. You can't do one without the other. We need corporate support, government funding and we need volunteers as well, so without one the special Olympics wouldn't be as successful as it is. It's drilling down into small communities. What are the needs in the community, who can help overcome or make it better? Do the businesses in town have a role; does local government have a role; does community have a role? I think they do, I don't think it should be left to any one group.

What do you see as the role of higher education institutions in terms of instilling in young people a sense of active citizenship?

Mary: I think it's a critical role to play and not just in higher education but all levels from primary to secondary, adult learning, all of those areas. People need to be given confidence that they can volunteer. Some may not have that confidence, but of course they are able to do it. So people need to be given the confidence that they have a role to play and they are capable of giving something very worthwhile and beneficial.

What are your views of how higher education institutions in Ireland can respond to decline in social capital, or is there a decline in social capital?

Mary: More awareness within the education system, within third level institutions. More awareness brought around the area of active citizenship and as people go through their course they should learn that's it's not just about commercialism or economy, but there's a social side to society as well and we mustn't forget that.

CKI Partners with Galway Volunteering Centre



Donncha Foley, GVC and Cllr. Niall O'Brolcháin, Galway City Mayor

The Community Knowledge Initiative is supporting the establishment of a new volunteering centre that has been established in Galway along with a host of organisations in the locality, including the Galway Youth Information Centre, the GAF and the Galway Association.

The GVC hopes to raise the profile of volunteering and enable a connection between organisations recruiting volunteers and those willing to volunteer. The Galway Volunteer

Centre (GVC) is similar to a recruitment agency, in that it matches volunteers with suitable organisations.

“A lot of people want to volunteer but don't know how to go about it,” Donncha Foley, Volunteer Coordinator for the GVC said. “It can be intimidating and a lot of times maybe people haven't thought about what they want to do exactly. The volunteering centre will be a place to ask more questions and help people decide what they want to do. Hopefully we'll be able to better match organisations and the volunteer.”

Donncha graduated with a Community Development diploma at NUI Galway and found his niche in community involvement. His research project focused on volunteering in Galway, and ascertained that there are not enough volunteers, organisations need more volunteers and it is getting harder to get them. He also learned that he had a love of promoting volunteering in community.

The GVC opened its doors officially at the beginning of July, and although the service is not being publicly started until September, there has so far been a tremendous surge of people calling and registering to volunteer through the website.

“The reaction to the idea of a dedicated public volunteer centre has been overwhelmingly positive as both organisations and individuals see that the centre will provide a much needed service in the city and county,” Donncha said.

So far, a lot of people that have signed up are visitors who are in Galway for short term visits, such as holidays or two to three month stays. According to Donncha, volunteering is a fantastic way to get involved in the community that you're in.

With a simple idea on par with that of a job agency or dating agency, the GVC is a one-stop shop for all angles of volunteering in Galway City, with a goal to expand out to Galway County in future years.

“I think it will be very successful and will probably grow a lot,” Donncha said. “Eventually I see it as being a key part of the social infrastructure in Galway and as a way to meet other people.”

For further information on the GVC, please contact Donncha Foley at donncha@volunteergalway.ie or visit the website at <http://www.volunteergalway.ie>

Students Share Experience of working in South Africa



Sinead & Fiona with children of Liefdespoort creche in South Africa

Two students from the Occupational Therapy course spent 13 weeks in Philippi, South Africa this summer, volunteering at a creche for children with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. Sinead Hynes and Fiona Birmingham came face

to face with the poverty that permeates some areas, while learning about the importance of volunteering.

They were overwhelmed when they saw that the children lived in shacks made out of cardboard or wood, with no electricity or toilets, no shoes for their feet and ragged clothing. They put their efforts into giving the children attention, cleaning and renovating the playground.

“It was full of broken glass, rubbish, broken equipment. We decided that we would spend the bulk of the money on doing up the playground and that's what

took up most of our last three weeks—digging, painting, sanding, shovelling etc,” Sinead said.

Sinead was shocked when she learned that children sniffed glue or drank alcohol on a regular basis, that they idolised the gangs in America and the violence right down the street from them.

“Up until then I had only really been thinking about the consequences of poverty being not having enough food or a house. I hadn't thought of the social issues that are there,” Sinead said. “The experience has made me do a lot of thinking. I'm questioning more what I'm doing and why and how the skills and experiences I'm learning can be used. I will definitely do it again on a more long-term basis.”

VOLT Conference to Address Leadership



The fourth annual VOLT (Volunteering Organisations Living Together) conference will be held at NUI Galway on November 6th, giving Irish volunteer coordinators a place to find peer support, share knowledge and experience about good practice and provide a voice for volunteer coordinators in Ireland.

Sponsored by the Community Knowledge Initiative and Volunteering Ireland, this conference will host a number of high profile speakers, including Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy, Life President of Focus Ireland, Susan Ellis, President of Energize, Inc. and Sean Kelly, Former GAA president, as well as a representative from the Taskforce on Active Citizenship.

The annual VOLT conference gives Irish volunteer managers the opportunity to explore issues related to coordinating volunteer programmes. It will look at the issue of leadership in volunteer management. Throughout the day, the concepts of leadership and what this means to those involved will be explored. The theme will give



Sister
Stanislaus
Kennedy

volunteer managers the opportunity to reflect on their own leadership style, how they lead within their own organisation and how they harness leadership qualities in their volunteers.

VOLT is the Irish network of volunteer coordinators and is facilitated and administered by Volunteering Ireland. The importance of having a peer support forum for those individuals in organisations with responsibility for recruiting and retaining volunteers was first raised during a 1999 training workshop entitled 'Mission Impossible?'

The network had its inaugural meeting in 2000. VOLT has a national steering committee with representatives from across Ireland. It organises national events, regional meetings and promotes other ways of networking.

To find out more contact: volt@volunteeringireland.ie

VOLT Programme

09.45 – 10.00 Welcome
Nancy Nunez, VOLT chairperson and Training Services Manager, Volunteering Ireland

10.00 – 10.15 Active Citizenship Taskforce, address by Sean Kelly

10.15 – 10.45 Inspirations of a Volunteer Leader, *Sr Stanislaus Kennedy, Life President, Focus Ireland*

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.00 Choosing the Right Style of Leadership – Right for the Organisation or Right for the Situation? Presentation followed by round table discussion on topic, *Susan Ellis, President of Energize, Inc*

12.00 – 13.00 How can we lead volunteer management in Ireland? Presentation followed by round table discussion on topic, *Susan Ellis, President of Energize, Inc*

13.00 Lunch

14.00 – 14.15 A Volunteer Led Programme in Action: Building Student Volunteer Leaders: A Partnership Case Study, *Des Mulligan, Alzheimer's Society of Ireland*

14.15 – 15.15 Encouraging and Inspiring Leadership in Volunteers
Presentation followed by round table discussion on topic, *Susan Ellis, President of Energize, Inc*

15.15 – 15.30
Coffee/Entertainment

15.30 – 16.15 Becoming an Effective Leader – The Next Steps, *Susan Ellis, President of Energize, Inc*

16.15 – 16.30 Closing Remarks
Nancy Nunez, VOLT chairperson and Training Services Manager, Volunteering Ireland

Computer Services Donates Computers to Community

The MS Society, Rehab Care, Enable Ireland and the Alzheimer's Society each won a computer in a draw organised by the Community Knowledge Initiative through Computer Services.

"The University is delighted to be able to assist such worthwhile organisations. We look forward to providing further assistance in this way on an ongoing basis," Conor McMahon, Computer Services, NUI Galway said.

These computers, along with a Windows Operating System will be used in these community organisations' local offices to assist in the important services that each provides.

"The services at the sheltered workshop and the resource centre will make great use of this computer," Sally Regan of Rehab Care said.



Clockwise from top left - Declan Madden, Sally Regan, Steven Murphy, Bridie Kelly and Joe Patter of Rehab Care

Three Generations Succeeding in Access Programme



Paula, Rory, Helen and Anna Allen

A spark of aspiration turns to the fire of ambition as three generations succeed within the Access programme at NUI Galway. Anna, Paula, Helen, and Rory, a family with dreams to attend college, to succeed, yet all facing challenges. Their dreams became reality through the Access Programme.

"I like to think that we have a positive gene that can be passed within the family," Anna, matriarch of the family said.

Offering a one year course at NUI Galway, the Access Programme aims to provide students with the opportunity to prepare for an undergraduate course.

As a previously published writer, Anna decided it was worth it to give it a try again and enrolled as a student. "The Access Programme was an answer to prayer and provided a way for me to

accomplish something. I was tired of believing it couldn't be done and this was the silver lining to match the silver in my hair," she laughs. An honours degree later and now a step away from an M.Litt in Feminist Philosophy, she admits that it was one of the best decisions of her life.

Anna's daughter Paula also dreamed of being a writer. Particularly interested in Irish history, she finally came to the Access programme. After leaving school early, Paula felt like she had missed out and yearned to fill that hole.

After traversing a long road through education, Paula has received a BA in History and English and an H-Dip in Education, receiving a double first honours and has qualified as a secondary teacher.

Seeing Anna and Paula's example, Anna's granddaughter Helen signed up for the Access programme. School wasn't easy for her and she admitted that she hated school while she was in it. And yet the support she received from the Access programme was one of the most essential parts of the course, and the aspect that she liked the most.

"I can't imagine me if I didn't do the course," Helen said. "And I'm so happy that I chose Law. You think things will be harder than they are, but the support

is so amazing," Helen said.

Helen will graduate with an LLB, and emphatically believes that the background experience provided by the Access programme is what made her capable of what she's doing now.

As the youngest grandchild, Rory encountered a somewhat different experience than the women in his family, having gone straight from leaving certification into the Access Programme.

"I wanted to do Law but didn't get the points that I needed and this was a good way to get in," Rory said.

He freely admits the programme has helped him focus more and learn better, but the best part, according to Rory, is the ability to meet with people in different departments and talk to them before making a choice.

"This family's story is a great inspiration to others who would love to come to University but didn't get the opportunity, and this programme certainly helps them overcome any barriers and show them the way," Imelda Byrne, Access Officer said.

For more information on the Access Programme, please contact Ashla Ward, ashla.ward@nuigalway.ie

Aphasia Module Promotes Students as "Conversational Partners"



Speech & Language Therapy Class, 2007

A new Service Learning module at NUI Galway will highlight the

importance of understanding those suffering from Aphasia and teach students how to communicate with them by being conversational partners.

Supported by the CKI, this module will give students the opportunity to work with people with Aphasia. This will help students put into practical use the theories they have learned throughout their course.

"This programme will give students a unique opportunity to share their knowledge and resources with local people who are living with Aphasia, and give them real life experience of communicating with people who have Aphasia," Ruth McMenamain, Lecturer in Speech and Language Therapy said.

Aphasia is the loss of the ability to use or

understand language after a stroke or brain injury. It is a neurological disorder that, while not outwardly obvious, affects those that suffer and their families in a very profound way. Each person experiences it differently. Some aren't able to speak at all, while others can't read, write or use numbers.

"Students use what is learned in the classroom and learn from the person with the disorder," Ruth said. "It's a social approach to medicine."

For more information on this programme, please contact Ruth McMenamain at ruth.mcmenamain@nuigalway.ie

Volunteers the Essence of Access Programme



Children in the Access Schools Programme at the National Centre for Laser Applications

Without the help of volunteers, many organisations that work in the community would not be able to exist. Each community organisation has a unique role in the services they bring and the activities that they do and volunteers help provide the essential ingredients that make these activities possible.

One such programme at NUI Galway that relies heavily on their volunteers is the Access Schools Programme. The Schools Programme works with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and promotes third level education, giving them an opportunity to familiarise themselves with university.

“We want to get children to think of university and start to break down barriers so they that could consider going to university. It’s mostly trying to work on attitude change,” Ashla Ward, Access School’s Coordinator said.

The Access volunteering programme has been running for six years and works with secondary and primary schools in Galway city and county. Their volunteers include staff at NUI Galway, students who have gone through the Access programme as well as traditionally enrolled students who feel like giving some of their time to something bigger than themselves.

“Student volunteers are lighthouses of hope to the youngsters that participate on Access Schools programmes because they actively demonstrate that third level education is attainable.” Ashla said.

According to Ashla Ward, volunteering is a positive experience on many levels. From helping people with career options, meeting other people, developing personal skills and building confidence, volunteering is an activity that stretches far beyond your current time and place.

“I think volunteering is taking a piece of your time and giving it into something that’s bigger than you personally. It’s a giving of oneself by giving your time, and really time is the most precious thing of all,” Ashla said.

With over 50 volunteers last year, including staff and students, volunteering for the Access programme is a popular option. Last year 20 NUI Galway staff members helped by giving lectures during the Easter and Summer camps.

The Access office would like to thank these staff members for volunteering their time and supporting the Access schools programme by delivering child centered lectures as part of the Easter and Summer camps in 2006.

THANKS TO:

Gerard O’Connor, NCLA
 Breda Kyne and Ita Murphy, REMEDI Outreach
 Kirry O’Brien, English
 Brendan Smith, DERI Outreach,
 Mary Clancy, Women’s Studies Centre
 Sarah Knight, ECI
 Lindsay Myers, Italian
 Evelyn Byrne, Centre for Nursing Studies
 Leo Quinlan, Physiology
 Daithí O Mádain, Gaeilge
 Mark Stansbury, Eric Graff and Immo Warntjes, CSHSHC
 Deirdre Byrnes, German
 Mike Hogan, Psychology
 Mary Cairns, Classics
 Zoe Popper, Botany
 Dee Quinn, Huston School of Film
 Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, History

CKI Collaboration with Access Programme

This summer, the CKI showcased its collaboration efforts in research by partnering with the Access programme. Lorraine Tansey, Student Volunteer Coordinator of CKI and Ashla Ward, of the Access Office, presented a paper at the 15th EAN Annual Conference at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

The paper, entitled ‘*Building a Partnership between Access Programmes and Student Volunteers: Exploring Challenges and Opportunities*,’ explored the relationship that exists between the Access schools programme and the ALIVE programme.

It identified the challenges and opportunities that arise in a partnership striving for best practice. The paper included feedback from the participants within the programmes: the University, the Students, and the Community. It concluded with a review of the partnership outcomes and future objectives.

Galway Students ask, WIMPS?

'Where is My Public Servant?'



Students in Northern Ireland at a WIMPS meeting

An organisation in Northern Ireland for young people wanting a say in their future will be looking to set up camp in Galway. WIMPS, 'Where Is My Public Servant', began when ten young people from across Northern Ireland developed a website run by and for young people aiming to inspire and empower them, giving them a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

The ten young people set up a website that allows others to enter their post code and receive contact details for all the MP's, MLA's and MEP's for their constituency, as well as all media contact information, connecting young people with their local, national and European public representatives and giving them a say in political debates.

"The start of WIMPS in the West will give the young people of Galway the same advantages that their northern counterparts have enjoyed and get people connected with their public

representative," Nigel Connor, the Galway WIMPS pioneer Project Coordinator said. "With Dáil elections coming up next year there has never been a more important time to get involved in politics and get our public representatives working for us."

WIMPS hopes to help create relationships between young people and the decision makers who influence their lives, as well as be informative, inspiring and un-biased, empowering young people for good in Ireland.

According to Nigel, the age limit for voting being set at 18 has left many young people feeling ignored, like there is no one to turn to with grievances on many issues, especially political ones. WIMPS hopes to break down these barriers, despite age restrictions, and put young people at the centre of debate, giving them an opportunity to have a say in their future.

"It is a common complaint that we are not being listened to by our T.D.'s and Councillors and no one feels more ignored than young people," Nigel said. "WIMPS hopes to reconnect young people with the people who are running the country in their name. Using very easy technology that most young people are comfortable with, WIMPS is reaching into the council or Dáil chamber and giving young people their say."

Those involved in the planning of WIMPS in both the North and the South are excited to break down the traditional barriers between the elected and the electorate. Giving young people the chance to have a say will hopefully increase voter turnout in the future and instill in them a sense of citizenship that will reach across generations.

"With so much controversy over dwindling voter turnouts among young people and youth disassociation with politics, WIMPS is set to turn the tide and get young people back into being involved," Nigel said.

These sorts of organisations aimed at the youth of Ireland are opportunities for students to engage and for the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and backgrounds to be celebrated while a common goal of being an active citizen is put forward.

"The CKI hopes to act as an incubator for WIMPS and is looking for people, young and old, to help pioneer a Republic of Ireland version," Lorraine McIlrath, CKI Project Coordinator said.

Galway WIMPS an Initiative for the CKI



Nigel Connor from the Community Knowledge Initiative has undertaken the task of building WIMPS in the Republic of Ireland. Nigel is from Castlebar, County Mayo and is currently working on placement with the CKI as part of his MA in Community Development.

Nigel's interests lie in social activities, drama and community. He received his ALIVE certificate last year for volunteering in Galway.

With a BA in Public and Social Policy, Nigel is set to undertake the task of pioneering WIMPS in the Republic of Ireland, and is actively involved in recruiting and promoting this new local initiative.

"WIMPS is set to turn the tide and get young people back into being involved," Nigel said.

To find out more about WIMPS, please contact Nigel Connor at nigel.connor@yahoo.ie.

Service Learning a Cognitive Tool for Philosophy



Jennifer Buckley and Heike Felzmann

A new seminar within the MA in Philosophy entitled 'Ethics, Culture and Global Change' will include a Service Learning element. This new MA will help students to think about the practical sides of 'ethics, culture and global change.'

The new course addresses philosophical issues in intercultural communication, global justice and violence/war in a global society, and also includes a service learning component for a course on professional ethics. It will take theory and apply it, rather than just discuss it.

Although the previous MA ran for 15 years, organisers felt it was a good idea to give students a bit more time to think about what these issues have to do with the real world.

"We were not satisfied with the one year theoretical course and the issue was the content," Heike Schmidt-Felzmann from the Department of Philosophy said. "When you're talking about ethics, you're talking about culture. We have to think about how this actually relates to practical issues. I've always thought ethics is about the practical. It just makes a lot of sense."

Heike will teach a course on professional ethics for the new MA, with a service learning component.

"I think Service Learning is very valuable because learning isn't just a cognitive thing, it's a personal experience," Heike said. "There is an emotional component and an action component and thinking about things in a different way, linking practical with theoretical. It adds relevance." Jennifer Buckley, a student of last

year's MA in Ethics and a current PhD student researching Service Learning thinks that adding a Service Learning component will be a valuable addition to the new MA course.

"The Service Learning component will help participants get closer," Jennifer said. "They will probably have a more shared experience throughout the year. Sometimes you can learn just as much from contact with other students. There will be much more focused work; people might feel part of something bigger. They will have stronger ties, not only with community but with each other."

But she warns of the dangers that academics might face by adding Service Learning to their programmes. While it can play an integral role in teaching, this is a tool that is relatively new in Ireland.

"We need to be cautious of how it's implemented and of our expectations," Jennifer said. "It's not a cure to all of society's ills. The more realistic we are the better we are able to get the message across about expectations."

Funding for Service Learning Academy to Continue

HEA

Higher Education Authority
An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

Funding for continuation of the Service Learning Academy was recently granted by the Higher Education Authority for the academic year 2006-2007. Following on from the success of the Service Learning Academy that was held in April 2006, funding was granted to continue development of the Service Learning Network.

Feedback from the participants showed that the event was successful in terms of raising awareness of the concept of service learning in higher education. Representatives of the partner

institutions expressed support for continuation of the project in follow up meetings.

The Service Learning Network hopes to play an important role, representing the voice of higher education practitioners during a time when the areas of active citizenship, social capital and civic responsibility have become highly topical.

The Service Learning Academy hosted academics in the field of service learning to talk about their experiences and best practice around the area.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, the Service Learning Network will run a series of national seminars for the institutionalisation of Service Learning within higher education in Ireland. It will produce a set of case studies on how

service learning has been embedded and will prepare a learning pack of introductory materials to be shared with all higher education institutions in Ireland.

"We are organising this in the hope that we can address issues that are pertinent to the area of civic engagement in higher education in Ireland. The Service Learning Academy was the first step in terms of raising the profile of the role that universities and colleges can play," Lorraine McIlrath, CKI Project Coordinator said.

"Continuing that work is essential in terms of instilling in students a sense of civic engagement and democratic participation in the future of Ireland."

CKI Workshop & Seminar Events

Date	Title/Event	Facilitator
Wednesday, 11th October 3.00pm – 5.00pm Venue: SC200A	<i>Conversations with Community:</i> Youth and disadvantage	Galway Youth Information Service, Big Brother Big Sister, GAF Youth Cafe
This “Conversations with Community” seminar will discuss Youth and disadvantage. Kathy O’Malley from the Galway Youth Information Service will talk about the youth in Ireland and Galway and the barriers and opportunities facing them in the Ireland today.		
Thursday, 19th & Friday 20th October Two day event Venue: GMT	<i>Céifin National Students Conference</i> - ‘Engaging with a transforming Ireland: a young persons perspective’	Céifin Centre, Shannon supported by the Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI) <i>Open To All</i>
REGISTRATION: Please go to www.ceifin.com/conferences for registration information This year as part of its annual conference, Céifin, in partnership with the CKI, have initiated an exciting new venture to include the voice of Ireland’s future leaders. The first National Student Conference is a chance for the students of Ireland to air their concerns, problems, ideas and hopes for the future. The main theme will be explored through the papers submitted by the speakers as well as a series of breakout sessions where delegates are encouraged to discuss the topics presented and offer their own perspective on each. The outcomes of the conference will then form a major part of the annual Céifin conference.		
Friday, 3rd November 12.00pm – 2.00pm Venue: AM207, CELT Training Room	<i>The Citizenship Conjuncture: Spaces for Citizenship in Universities in the UK</i>	David Woodman, CRUCIBLE, Roehampton University, UK
David Woodman will argue that a combination of conducive and supportive circumstances have made it possible for universities in the UK to consider implementing a range of university-wide initiatives that might broadly be associated with ‘citizenship’. The concept of citizenship will be examined within the context of a programme being launched at Roehampton in the Autumn 2006 as part of its Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning – Crucible (www.crucible-cetl.ac.uk). David Woodman is Director of Crucible and is Assistant Dean in the School of Business and Social Sciences at the University, having responsibility for learning, teaching and innovation. He has particular interests in global sociology, new technologies and social justice.		
To book a place, please email Mary Bernard, mary.bernard@nuigalway.ie		

New Seminar Series to Inspire Conversations with the Community

As part of the ALIVE programme of training events this year we wish to announce a ‘Conversations with Community’ strand which will involve representatives from community coming onto campus and discussing issues effecting a particular group in society in terms of barriers and opportunities.

We envisage these sessions to be conversation orientated with opportunity for NUI Galway students and staff to analyse their role in terms of effecting change or at the very least becoming better informed. All are welcome to attend.

Throughout the year we will have these discussions with community, from the role of the hearing impaired to insights from professionals into working in the community sector. The conversation series will be held

monthly and are thematically arranged as follows:

11th October 2006 - Youth and Disadvantage in Ireland - Venue: SC200A

8th November 2006 - The Experience of Asylum Seekers in Galway - Venue: AM207

10th January 2007 - Barriers & Opportunities facing the Disabled in Ireland - Venue: AM207

7th February 2007 - Community Work in Ireland - managing poverty and injustice or working for social change? - Venue: AM207

7th March 2007 - Careers in the Community Sector - Insights from Professionals - Venue: AM207
Please see above for more information.

Should you wish to book a place on one, please indicate which date you are interested in attending in an email to mary.bernard@nuigalway.ie or access the web at www.nuigalway.ie/cki

CKI Workshop & Seminar Events

Date	Title/Event	Facilitator
Monday, 6th November All Day Event Venue: Siobhan McKenna Theatre, Arts Millennium Building	<i>VOLT Conference</i>	Lorraine Tansey, Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI) & Various Community Organisations
REGISTRATION: Please go to www.volunteerireland.ie/VOLT for registration information. The annual VOLT conference gives Irish volunteer managers the opportunity to explore issues related to co-ordinating volunteer programmes. This conference looks at the issue of leadership in volunteer management. This theme will give volunteer managers the opportunity to reflect on their own leadership style, how they lead volunteers within their own organization and how they harness leadership qualities in their volunteers. The conference will have a round table format which will encourage both discussion and sharing of ideas.		
Tuesday, 7th & Wednesday, 8th November Two Day Event Venue: West County Hotel, Ennis	<i>Céifin National Conference</i> "Freedom - Licence or Liberty?" Engaging with a transforming Ireland	Céifin Centre, Shannon Supported by the Community Knowledge Initiative <i>Open To All</i>
REGISTRATION: Please go to www.ceifin.com/news for registration information.		
Wednesday, 8th November 3.00pm – 5.00pm Venue: AM207, CELT Training Room	<i>Conversations with Community</i> The experience of Asylum Seekers in Galway	Outreach Department of DERI and members of Eglington Centre
This Conversations with Community seminar will discuss the refugee and asylum seeker situation in Ireland and Galway, the barriers and opportunities facing that community and the issues facing that community in terms of status and experience. Led by Brendan Smith, DERI, and members of the Eglington Centre at the Eglington Hotel, this will be a great opportunity for staff and students to hear about the experience of Asylum Seekers in Galway and the challenges they face.		
To book a place, please email Mary Bernard, mary.bernard@nuigalway.ie		

CKI Funds 'Wish List' Keynote Speakers Series for Staff at NUI Galway

The Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI), will host a Keynote Speaker Series on themes related to civic engagement and education, service/community based learning, volunteering, social capital and active citizenship between October 2006 and June 2008.

This Keynote Speakers Series will be an opportunity for staff to see high profile people speak around the areas of civic engagement and active citizenship in Ireland today.

We will be sure to advertise adequately before the seminars occur to ensure all staff and those in the community that are interested are able to attend.

Speakers for this series were chosen previously by staff who submitted ideas to the CKI of the people in their fields that they would be most interested in seeing in Galway.

The CKI has now invited 20 high profile people to attend and has received confirmation from the following:

13th November 2006 - Dr. Garret Fitzgerald, Chancellor of NUI

25th January 2007 - Alan Kerins, Alan Kerins African Projects

22nd February 2007 – Mary Davis, Chair of the Taskforce on Active Citizenship

19th April 2007 - Maurice Mullard, University of Hull

27th September 2007 - Caroline Casey, Aisling Foundation and O2 Ability Awards

Date TBA - Mr. Christopher Lydon, Open Source Radio

Date TBA - Mr. Cameron Sinclair, Architecture for Humanity

For more information about the series, please email the CKI Administrative Assistant, Mary Bernard at mary.bernard@nuigalway.ie. Please access the website at www.nuigalway.ie/cki

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 the CKI or related projects, please contact:

Phone: +353 (0) 91 493823

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

E-mail: cki@nuigalway.ie

Gold Badge Nominee for CKI Staff



Lorraine Tansey from the CKI has been nominated for a Gold Badge Volunteer Award by Enable Ireland, as part of their Action Week 2006. Student Volunteer Coordinator for the ALIVE programme, Lorraine works tirelessly in her goal to raise awareness in volunteering on campus and in Galway City.

“We recognise the effort that she makes to help people volunteer and to encourage people to volunteer, as well as volunteering herself,” Joanne Murphy, Fundraising Coordinator (West), Enable Ireland said. “We’re recognising her level of commitment, support and encouragement to students to volunteer, either with ourselves or with other charities.”

Action Week on Disability is a dual campaign creating much needed awareness of the services provided by Enable Ireland whilst raising money for ongoing local projects. All money raised during Action Week 2006 in Galway will go towards the funding of the Hydrotherapy Treatment Pool facility at the Child Development Centre in Galway.



National University of Ireland,
Galway
University Road
Galway
Ireland

ALIVE Community Organisations 2005/2006

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

Community Partners

Non-Governmental Organisations and Community groups at local, national and international levels:

Alzheimer Society of Ireland
Amnesty International - Galway
Ballinfolle Youth Development Project
Big Brother/Big Sister
Brainwave, The Irish Epilepsy Association
Croí
Enable Ireland
GAF Youth Café
Galway Association
Galway Diocesan Youth Services
Galway Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Galway Youth Federation
Le Chéile & Rahoon Youth Group
Mercy Convent
MS Ireland
National Association for Deaf People

Presentation Secondary School
Rape Crisis Centre - Galway
Riding for the Disabled Association of Ireland
Scoil Bhríde
Simon Community - Galway
St. Vincent de Paul
Youth Information Centre - Galway

New Partners:

Beachwatch
Bodywhys
Bohermore Youth Project
Brothers of Charity
Childline
Class Representatives- NUI Galway
Collairbawn House Athenry
Community Workers Co-op
Corrach Bui Community Centre
Craic- NUI Galway Health Promotion volunteers
EIL Intercultural Learning
Galway Scouts

Galway Refugee Support Group
Goal
Habitat for Humanity
Positive Mental Health
Rainbows
Rehab Care
REMEDI/NCBES Schools Outreach Programme
Rotaract
SPARK
Special Olympics Ireland
SpunOut - Youth information, health and media website
The Friends Club
Wimps
NUI Galway Access Programme
NUI Galway Societies and Clubs
NUI Galway Student Newspaper
NUI Galway Student Radio Station
NUI Galway Student Connect Mentor programme

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, studentvolunteering@nuigalway.ie, or visit our website at www.nuigalway.ie/cki