

# GOVERNMENT TIMES

The newsletter for Department of Government students and staff

Volume 5, No. 5 –Monday 18 November 2013 - ISSUE 52

**Who will win the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Patrick O’Sullivan Essay Competition?**



We are entering the 12<sup>th</sup> year of the Annual Patrick O’Sullivan Competition and all of the details are on page 4. Entry levels are rising year on year and we hope the trend will continue this time around. Interestingly we have not yet had a female winner of the competition – will that change in 2013? Clockwise from the top left we have 2012 winner John Somers, 2007 winner Ian Mawe, 2010 winner Declan Keating and 2006 winner Cormac Cahill.

Who will be joining the roll of honour next?

# Editorial Page



## Laugh in Spite of Yourself

Welcome to Issue 52 of **Government Times**.

As you will see, in this issue we strongly promote the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Patrick O'Sullivan Essay Competition (see pages 1, 4 and 5) and we encourage students to participate. This competition helps us to keep the memory of Patrick O'Sullivan alive and that is very important for us in the Department of Government.

Also in this issue, we wish Professor Neil Collins well for the next phase of his career in Kazakhstan (see pages 6 & 7).

On page 8 we highlight a tremendous internship opportunity with Senator Averil Power and on the next page we promote the MSc Government, one of the offerings in the Department of Government's suite of post-graduate programmes.

Page 10 invites you to the **Freedom of Cork** book launch on Thursday and we hope to see many of you there. On page 11 we describe the recent lecture delivered in the department by Tom Ferris, former Senior Economist in the Department of Transport.

In the **Alumni Corner** on page 12, we look at Mary Dalton and Conor Sheehy who are excelling in the Department of Finance and IDA Ireland respectively.

The upcoming conference about Ireland's 40 years of EU membership is featured on page 13 and this promises to be an outstanding event with an extensive programme which will be of interest to many.

Page 14 has society news with a focus on tonight's visit by the European Movement Ireland to discuss career and internship opportunities in the EU.

There is a world of possibilities so please attend. Well done to the Europa Society for organising the event.

**Aodh Quinlivan**  
Director BSc Government  
Co-editor of *Government Times*

**Lisa-Marie Sheehy**  
Auditor Government and Politics Society  
Co-editor of *Government Times*



# ISSUE 52

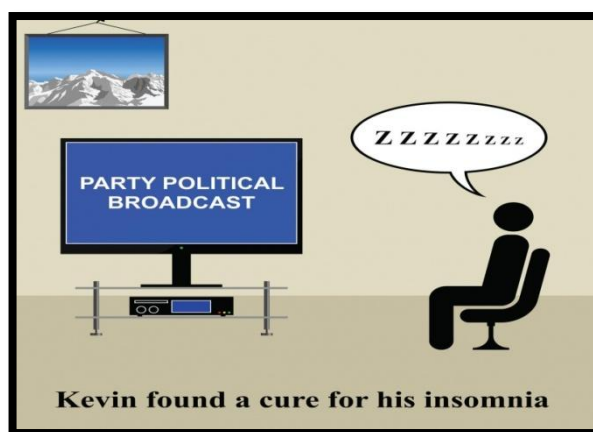
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# The 12<sup>th</sup> Patrick O'Sullivan Essay Writing Competition - 2013/2014 Academic Year

This essay writing competition celebrates the life and spirit of Patrick O' Sullivan, who tragically died on 3 March, 2001. Patrick should have been amongst our first group of students who graduated in September 2003. Patrick had a deep interest in politics and he also possessed a great sense of humour. We try to combine both of these elements in this annual essay competition.

This year's title is:-

## Laugh in Spite of Yourself: Wit and Humour in Politics



500-600 word essay.

Please supply your name and class year on a separate cover page

NO need to adhere to academic assignment guidelines re: referencing etc.

Typed or hand-written, but preferably typed! Essays can be as light-hearted and as irreverent as you wish!

Submit to:-

Aodh Quinlivan

Room 2.54, Department of Government

or electronically to [a.quinlivan@ucc.ie](mailto:a.quinlivan@ucc.ie)

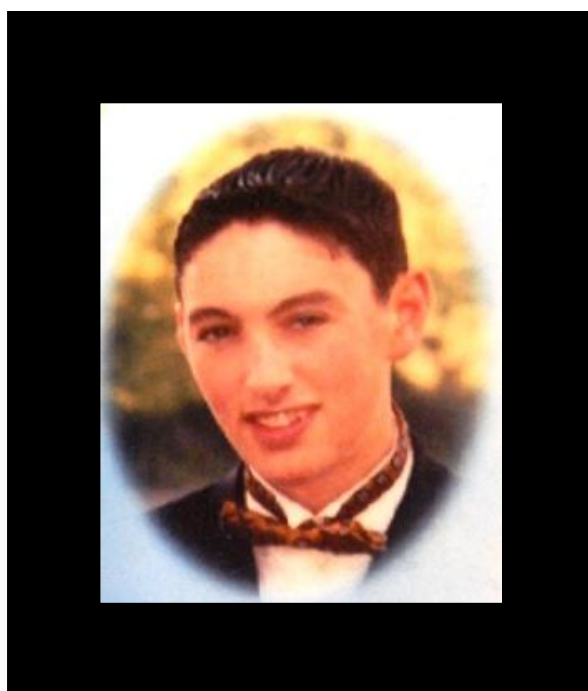
**DEADLINE: - Friday 13 December 2013**

The writer of the winning essay will receive the Patrick O' Sullivan Perpetual Shield on the night of the Annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL!

**NOTE: This competition is open to all under-graduate Government students.**

# THE PATRICK O'SULLIVAN ESSAY COMPETITION



Patrick O'Sullivan, who died on 3 March 2001, aged 19.

## PAST WINNERS

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



# From Pana to Astana



*This article appeared in the **Irish Examiner** on Monday, 11 November, 2013*

A leading Irish academic has moved from Pana to Astana to train future politicians and public servants in one of the world's most corrupt countries. The unusual transfer to Kazakhstan for Neil Collins comes after 12 years as head of University College Cork's department of government, where his research established him as a leading expert on corruption in Irish politics. After an approach earlier this year, he arrived in late October to head up the graduate school of public policy at Nazarbayev University in the capital Astana, which is only open a few years and has just over 1,000 students.

'It's the first western-style university in Kazakhstan, it was a Soviet-style education system before, meaning research was done in research institutes and universities were just teaching institutions,' he said.

The country was 133<sup>rd</sup> out of 176 in a 2012 corruption perception index, with a score of 28 out of 100 on a scale where lower scores denote higher levels of corruption. In the same index, Ireland had a score of 69 and was deemed 25th least corrupt, and Professor Collins was involved with the Irish arm of Transparency International which helped put it together. He likens the former Soviet Union-controlled nation to Ireland in the early days of independence, and said that perceptions of its corruptness were part of what attracted him to the job.

'It's a very centralised system — there's a very dominant party and the president has been in office since independence and looks like being president for some time to come. The influence of Britain was with us for a very long time and the influence of Russia is still with them here,' he explained.

He is also continuing to collaborate with colleagues at UCC on some of his ongoing research, which in the past has focused on political corruption.

‘We have a zero tolerance for anything associated with corruption here. It’s one of the things we aim to tackle, and the university is keen to be an example in terms of relations with students and outside interests,’ he said. Kazakhstan has a population of 16 million and is very dependent on wealth derived from its oil, which has seen the capital become one of the world’s most futuristic with its modern infrastructure. Despite some difficulties with the language, most other academics are also foreign — around 60% of them from the United States — and all university business is done through English.

‘Astana has a very western feel, it’s like an architect’s dream, one building is more extraordinary than the next. But I’m sure that even an hour outside the city, it’s probably very different,’ he said.

Another factor in his decision to move was the climate in higher education at home here, as funding and staffing are constantly reduced while student numbers rise.

‘[The atmosphere in Irish universities is one of cutting back and things are not likely to improve for some time, although UCC is doing its best to keep up standards,’ he said.

For now, his biggest frustration is the bureaucracy around filling vacancies, but he is glad to have the freedom to recruit academics to the growing university. And he will continue for some months to supervise students from UCC’s MBS in Asian Business, which means meeting some in Singapore and regular Skype conversations with students in Papua New Guinea and elsewhere.



# Internship Opportunity with Senator Averil Power



Senator Averil Power is offering a full-time internship opportunity for a graduate who is interested in current affairs and public policy. While it will be an unpaid position, the successful candidate will gain valuable experience and increase their knowledge of Irish public life and the day-to-day workings of the Oireachtas. The internship will be for a five month period.

Working with the Senator and her PA, the intern will assist with:

- ◆ Providing general administrative support to the Senator.
- ◆ Preparing briefing papers and speaking notes.
- ◆ Researching and drafting proposals for policy and legislative reform that will further the priorities set by the Senator.
- ◆ Supporting the Senator's communications work – including drafting press releases.
- ◆ Assisting members of the public with queries relating to public services and entitlements.
- ◆ Liaising with government agencies, NGOs and representative groups on behalf of the Senator.
- ◆ Representing the Senator at meetings and events.
- ◆ Other duties as may be reasonably assigned to him or her.

## Requirements

- ◆ A degree in a relevant discipline
- ◆ Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal
- ◆ Strong organisational skills

Note: Prior involvement in political activity is not required but the intern must have a keen interest in current affairs and public policy.

Please submit a cover letter and CV to [averil.power@oireachtas.ie](mailto:averil.power@oireachtas.ie) by 5:00pm on Friday 22 November 2013. (Applications only to this address, canvassing will disqualify). Your cover letter should include the following information:

- ◆ Why you are applying for this internship
- ◆ What you wish to gain from the internship
- ◆ What you will bring to the role
- ◆ Your areas of interest (and why these interest you)



# MSc (Government) by Research

“Research is to see what everybody has seen,  
and to think what nobody else has thought”

- *Albert Szent-Gyorgyi*

- One year full-time (or two years part-time) research programme in political science
- Thesis up to 40,000 words
- Research into all aspects of government and political science
- Geared towards those interested in pursuing theoretical and empirical research in these areas
- Possible stepping stone to PhD



CKM12 – Part time

CKM11 – Full Time

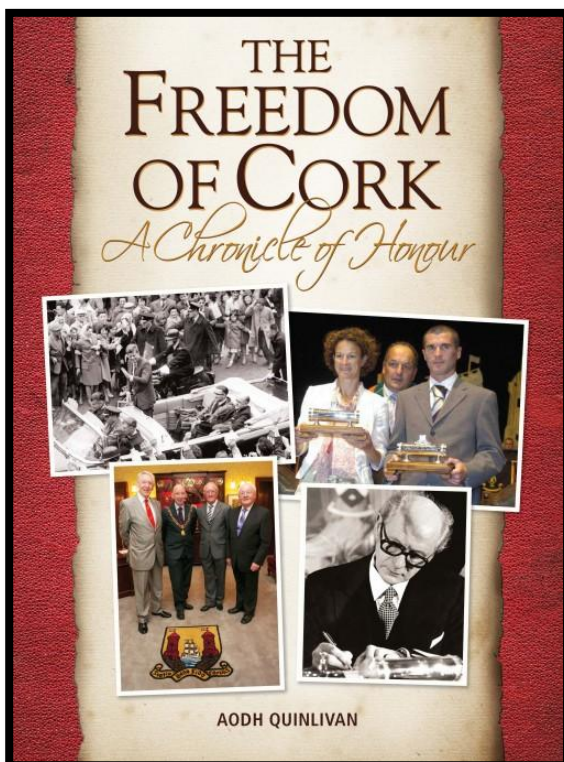
## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

*Dr Aodh Quinlivan, Director MSc Government  
Room 2.54, O’Rahilly Building  
00353-21-4903368  
a.quinlivan@ucc.ie*

# *The Freedom of Cork*

is now available in all good book-shops

Written by **Aodh Quinlivan**, Department of Government UCC, with research assistance by **Pádraig Mac Consaidín (BSc Government IV)**



Official book launch by the Lord  
Mayor of Cork,  
Councillor Catherine Clancy.

Thursday 21 November at  
6:00pm in the Council Chamber,  
City Hall

**ALL WELCOME**



# Article on innovation in *The Guardian*

[http://www.theguardian.com/local-government-network/2013/nov/13/irish-councils-cuts-jobs-innovation?CMP=tw\\_t\\_gu](http://www.theguardian.com/local-government-network/2013/nov/13/irish-councils-cuts-jobs-innovation?CMP=tw_t_gu)



We reported in Issue 50 of *Government Times* that Dr Aodh Quinlivan recently had opinion pieces on Irish local government reform published in the international print media through *Le Monde* and *The Guardian*. Due to the positive reaction to the latter article, Aodh was asked to write a follow-up article which appeared in *The Guardian* on Wednesday 13 November (see link above). In the latest article, Aodh highlights the innovative efforts of Irish local authorities to aid economic recovery despite having faced severe cuts in resources. Two of the cases cited feature Cork where collaborations between local councils, business and the university sector (referred to as the Triple Helix) are particularly strong.

## Economic Regulation Lecture



On Friday 15 November, **Tom Ferris** (above left) delivered an excellent lecture to the MBS Government class, taking the Regulatory Reform module of **Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan**. Tom Ferris is a retired Senior Economist in the Department of Transport and he currently works as a consultant for the Irish Government and the World Bank. In discussing the need for regulation, Tom differentiated between 'light' and 'heavy' regulation. He asserted that Ireland's economic regulation lies somewhere in the middle. Tom argued that there is no point in creating a system of regulation if something is already working well, i.e. regulation must add value.

For more information on the MBS Government, contact the programme director, **Dr Clodagh Harris** ([clodagh.harris@ucc.ie](mailto:clodagh.harris@ucc.ie))

# Alumni Corner



## Mary Dalton

**Assistant Principal Department of Finance**



Mary graduated with her BSc Government in 2004 and she is now Assistant Principal at the Department of Finance. Mary's third year work placement was in the Spatial Policy section of the Department of the Environment, Heritage (now Community) and Local Government. After her degree, Mary worked as a tutor in the Department of Government, UCC, and then as a visiting lecturer in the College of St. Rose, New York. She then spent 6 years in Forfás before moving to the Department of Finance.

## Conor Sheehy

**Business Development Executive at IDA Ireland**



Conor graduated with his BSc Government in 2008 and he is now a Business Development Executive at IDA Ireland. His third year work placement was in the Payroll section of Cork County Council.

# Forthcoming Conference (28/29 November): 'Reflections on 40 Years of Irish EU Membership'

**Reflections on Forty Years of Irish Membership of the EU**

A major two day multi-disciplinary event exploring the evolution of Ireland's 40 year relationship with the EU and marking the re-launch of the Irish Association for Contemporary European Studies (IACES)

28-29 November 2013  
North Wing Council Room  
University College Cork

**Keynote Speaker:**  
Prof Desmond Dinan,  
George Mason University

The conference will bring together leading figures from the worlds of academia, politics, civil society, business and the media, including: Geraldine Byrne Nason (Department of the Taoiseach), Ann Cahill (Irish Examiner), John Coakley (UCD), Bernadette Connaughton (UL), Francis Jacobs (European Parliament), Pat Ivory (IBEC), Muiris MacCarthaigh (QUB), Mary C. Murphy (UCC), John O'Brennan (NUIM), Noelle O'Connell (European Movement), Paddy Smyth (Irish Times).

Further info: [reflectionsconf2013@ucc.ie](mailto:reflectionsconf2013@ucc.ie)

Logos: IACES, UCC, Lifelong Learning Programme, NUI MAYNOOTH



This conference 'Reflections on Forty Years of Irish Membership of the European Union' marks the re-launch of the **Irish Association for Contemporary European Studies (IACES)**. IACES aims to bring together European Studies scholars and practitioners with a view to fostering collaboration, sourcing funding, and disseminating scholarly research on European Integration and Irish membership of the EU. The organisation intends to play an important role in contributing to future public and political discussion on the question of Ireland's EU membership.

The conference theme is **Reflections on 40 Years of Irish Membership of the European Union**. It brings together leading figures from the worlds of academia, politics, civil society, business and the media from across the island of Ireland and further afield. The event offers the opportunity to look back at and reflect on Ireland's membership of the EU, to examine whether and to what extent membership has been good for Ireland, and to consider the fundamental changes in policy, politics and society which European integration has wrought.

**Conference Organisers:** Dr Mary C. Murphy (UCC), Dr John O'Brennan (NUIM) and Anthony Costello (Conference Administration)

The conference organisers wish to acknowledge the support of the **European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme** and the Department of the Taoiseach's **Communicating Europe Initiative**.

For details on the conference programme, go to:

**[www.ucc.ie/en/government/events/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/government/events/)**





## EUROPA SOCIETY EVENT ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER

### Thinking of a career in the European Union?

If the answer to this question is 'yes' then you need to go to West Wing 6 at 6:00pm on Monday 18 November (i.e. today!).

The Europa Society is hosting a talk by the **European Movement Ireland** on career and internship opportunities in EU institutions.

Don't miss out!

<http://www.europeanmovement.ie/>



**Noelle O'Connell, Executive Director of European Movement Ireland (above left with Lucinda Creighton TD) will be in UCC on Monday to promote career and internship opportunities in the EU.**



- ◆ @BScGovUCC is the Twitter account for the BSc Government programme
- ◆ @PolSocUCC is the Twitter account for the Government and Politics Society
- ◆ @ucceuropa is the Twitter account for the UCC Europa Society
- ◆ @diplomacy\_ucc is the Twitter account of the MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy