



# GOVERNMENT TIMES

*A Newsletter for Department of Government Students and Staff*

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## **BSc Government graduate, Jayne Ronayne, starts her own yearbook company**



Jayne Ronayne has just recently completed her BSc Government degree and has wasted no time in setting up her own company, [UrYearBook.com](http://UrYearBook.com), with colleague David Murray. Jayne and David are pictured above at the company's launch in UCC with Munster and Ireland rugby star, Mick O'Driscoll. See full story on page 4.

# ***Editorial Page***



## **BEST WISHES FOR THE 2012/2013 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Welcome to the first issue of *Government Times* for the 2012/2013 academic year. An especially warm mention is issued to the new First Year students. We hope your years with us will be happy, stimulating, fulfilling and rewarding.

As well as the academic side of things, there is a tremendous social aspect to the university and we encourage all of our students to get actively involved in clubs and societies, starting of course with the Government and Politics Society and the newly-formed Europa Society (see page 11).

Communication between students and the departmental staff is of primary importance so please come and see us if you have any issues to discuss. The Department of Government has an open-door policy and we will always make time for our students. Continuing the communication theme it is imperative that all BSc Government students join the Department's internal e-mail system (SGPP-list) to receive important information and announcements. All details are below.

Enjoy the academic year!

**Aodh Quinlivan**

**Director BSc Government**

**Co-editor of *Government Times***

**Luke Field**

**Auditor Government and Politics Society**

**Co-editor of *Government Times***

**[Sign up TODAY to the Department of Government student mailing list](#)**



It is compulsory for all BSc Government students to join the Department of Government internal e-mail list. It is very easy to do so – just click on the link below, hit 'Join' and follow the steps.

**<http://lists.ucc.ie/archives/sgpp-l.html>**

This information is also available on the Department of Government web site at:

**<http://www.ucc.ie/en/government/>**



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## Cover Story

### Launch of UrYearBook.com by Jayne Ronayne



"I recently just finished government in UCC and I have just started my own company along with my friend David Murray who also attended UCC studying BIS. We have also been accepted onto UCC's Ignite programme which begins in October.

Our company is UrYearBook.com which supplies yearbooks to universities around Ireland. This is a really exciting company as we are the first company to supply yearbooks to final year students in universities around Ireland. We hope to implement yearbooks into Ireland similar to the American yearbook tradition as it is quite dominant in the States. This idea originally began when both myself and David were in the Entrepreneurial & Social society and we both wanted a way to remember all of the best times that we both had in the university, but we realised that there was nothing set up to remember these memories so we decided to set something up ourselves!

Students can become involved in the yearbook by logging onto [www.uryearbook.com](http://www.uryearbook.com) to create a profile. In the profile they put in their picture and also another 10 photos which can include photos of college balls, night outs and photos with friends. Once the information is submitted it is then sent to the printers and you can purchase a hard copy of the book on the day of your graduation.

We have been granted full permission by the UCC to sell yearbooks this coming October which also happens to be our own graduation too!

Within the yearbook we will have students' profiles, letter from both the President and the Student Union President and the alumni office. I was just wondering if we had permission to use a photograph of you and your details in the yearbook as we would like to have a profile of each lecturer of their particular department."

- **Jayne Ronayne**

Please see

[www.uryearbook.com](http://www.uryearbook.com)

<http://uryearbook.blogspot.ie/2012/08/one-two-three-and-pose.html>

## Dr Clodagh Harris Wins President's Award for Research on Innovative Forms of Teaching and Learning



**Above:** Clodagh receives her award last Wednesday night from the President of UCC, Dr Micheal Murphy

The project for which Dr Clodagh Harris of the Department of Government received her award is entitled: **Linking democratic theory and practice; engaging undergraduate students in political reform through applied research.**

This project engaged undergraduate students (in GV4404) in developing solutions to the wider questions of Irish political reform, through blogging, report writing and poster presentations.

It was designed to: support student understanding of abstract theories; encourage applied research that links theory and practice; engage students with the political science community; and, facilitate student contribution to the wider public good.

At the beginning of the project, the students were introduced to democratic theories, in particular deliberative theory. They were then asked to research and recommend a specific innovation for citizen engagement as part of the public discussion on political reform in Ireland.

Over the course of the year, the students developed the material and case studies contained in the report and posters. This involved participating in in-class presentations and discussions on democratic innovations; designing group posters; drafting case studies; and, work-shopping the report's final recommendations.



This work was facilitated by the President's award which allowed for additional teaching support for the poster design sessions and covered the printing costs of the final report and posters.

The students' report 'Democratic Innovations for engaging and empowering citizens' was launched by President Michael Murphy on May 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 (see picture below). Their posters were also exhibited at this event.



The report has been posted on the PSAI (Political Studies Association of Ireland) [politicalreform.ie](http://politicalreform.ie) blog as well as the Department of Government's website. Electronic and hard copies have been requested by lecturers in other third level institutions and by Social Justice Ireland as well as community groups across the island of Ireland.

The report can be downloaded at <http://143.239.128.67/en/government/DemocraticReport.pdf>.



**Above:** Dr Clodagh Harris, Department of Government, addresses the crowd after receiving her award

# Deliberative Democracy Symposium



**Dr. Clodagh Harris**, the Department of Government with **Professor Jurg Steiner** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and **Professor Peter Vermeersch** (KU Leuven) at the PSAI participatory and deliberative democracy specialist group's recent symposium entitled '*Beyond the Ballot – forms of citizen engagement between democratic elections*'. This event which was attended by academics, practitioners and policy makers was co-convened by Dr. Clodagh Harris and Dr. Gemma Carney (NUIG) and funded by the IRCHSS and PSAI.

## BSc Government graduate appointed as Policy and Research Executive in the Cork Chamber of Commerce



Cork Chamber of Commerce has recently appointed **Aislinn Stanton** as a Policy and Research Executive. Ms. Stanton will be responsible for supporting and contributing to Cork Chamber's policy and research activities, including the Chamber's policy committees, as well as the ongoing lobbying and representation activities of the Chamber. Ms. Stanton from Cork graduated from UCC and holds a BSc. in Government and a MBS in International Public Policy & Diplomacy. Prior to joining Cork Chamber, Ms. Stanton worked with the Regional Policy Unit in the Irish Business and Employer's Confederation (IBEC) and as a legislative aide in the New York State Assembly.

# Being Young and Irish

By Dean Duke, BSc Government IV

I was one of a number of Government students, past and present, who attended President Michael D. Higgins' "Being Young and Irish" Munster regional workshop on Saturday 15 September. The workshop was one of four taking place around the country as part of the President's initiative that aims to capture the views and the vision for the future of young Irish people. In addition to these workshops, the president is taking submissions online at [www.president.ie/youngandirish/](http://www.president.ie/youngandirish/).

The workshop began with a speech from the president in which he explained the purpose and the process of the Young and Irish initiative. Following the president's speech, participants broke into seven different workshops. Over the next few hours, participants discussed three main questions in these workshops: what their vision for Ireland is; what needs to happen to realise this vision; and what young people can do towards achieving this vision.

Ideas and passion certainly were not in short supply. Throughout the day, participants seemed to relish the fact that they were being consulted on their priorities; that they were being given a voice. In line with this, the top priority identified in the Cork workshop was political reform. Young people felt that the political system as it exists does not respond to them or work in their interest. Besides political reform, participants also discussed and prioritised areas such as education, mental health, social inclusion, equality and, of course, the economy.

The focus on this latter issue was not on recreating a Celtic Tiger bubble, but on encouraging and stoking the innovation and entrepreneurship of young Irish people, so as to create a sustainable economy that is not dependent on foreign direct investment. Indeed, many young people denounced the emphasis on individualism and materialism during the Celtic Tiger and spoke of the need for a greater sense of community and togetherness in Ireland. Young people may often be portrayed as being apathetic about politics but this diverse workshop was an example of the passion and store of ideas that young people **today have for their country**.

Once the remaining regional workshops have taken place, researchers from DIT will be analysing the information gathered from these events and from the submissions made by young people online. They will compose a final report that will be considered at a seminar at Áras an Uachtaráin, where the president will be joined by a selection of young people, cabinet ministers and senior policy makers. Young people may feel let down by the political system in general, but they are being given a voice and an opportunity to be "paradigm warriors" by the president.



BSc Government students, Lauren Traynor and Dean Duke at the 'Being Young and Irish' regional workshop



## MBS Government student elected to the Fine Gael Executive Council



**Garret Kelleher (MBS Government)** was recently elected to the Fine Gael Executive Council as a representative for the Ireland South Euro constituency. Garret is a part time student on the MBS Government and currently works as a regional manager with a New Zealand based medical devices company. He has previously worked at the European Commission in Luxembourg on the Commission's taskforce on bioterrorism. He also served on the European Health Security Committee and the European Stockpiling Committee.

The **MBS in Government** provides students with an understanding of the nature, challenges and dilemmas of contemporary government and governance at national, local, regional and global levels, addressing both conceptual issues and policy debates. The programme is also designed to enable students to develop high-level research and analytical skills. The MBS in Government is suitable for graduates of Social Science, Arts, Commerce, Law or related disciplines. It may be taken one-year full-time or two-years part-time.

**For more details on the programme, contact Dr Clodagh Harris in the Department of Government or go to:**

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/government/PostgraduateStudy/MBS/>

## New Budgetary Advice Service for UCC Students



Need help  
with managing  
your money?

Contact Evan Healy,  
Budgetary Advisor:

[www.ucc.ie/en/studentbudget](http://www.ucc.ie/en/studentbudget)  
[studentbudgetingadvice@ucc.ie](mailto:studentbudgetingadvice@ucc.ie)

First floor, 1-2 Brighton Villas (located in Castlewhite apartment complex, Gaol Cross), UCC.



Europa is UCC's newest society, set up by BSc Government students with a simple, straightforward goal: to increase the promotion and awareness of European issues and culture while having a great time along the way. It is neither a pro-European or anti-European society, but aims to be a forum where the facts on Europe can be presented in a clear, unbiased and understandable fashion

We have an exciting schedule of events in place for the year ahead, from a celebration of European cinema and the Eurovision song contest; through to events commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall and of course debates on the future of the EU. We will also be providing lots of tips and insights on how to get those elusive internships in Europe and the benefits of Erasmus. Plus no European society would be complete without a trip away and you can be guaranteed that UCC Europa will not disappoint.

So if you're back for the start of another year or starting out for the first time and have a passion for all things European or just want to make some new friends then come along to our introductory night and table quiz on Wednesday October 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Electrical Engineering Building L2 to hear about our plans for the year ahead.

To find out more about the society or if you want to be involved just drop us an email at: [europa@uccsocieties.ie](mailto:europa@uccsocieties.ie), visit our website at [www.europa.uccsocieties.com](http://www.europa.uccsocieties.com), follow us on Twitter ([twitter.com/ucceuropa](https://twitter.com/ucceuropa)) or like us on Facebook ([facebook.com/ucceuropa](https://facebook.com/ucceuropa)).



# Follow the BSc Government and our Student Societies on Twitter



@BScGovUCC is the new Twitter account for the BSc Government programme

@PolSocUCC is the new Twitter account for the Government and Politics Society

@ucceuropa is the new Twitter account for the UCC Europa Society

## Research and Publications

- The second edition of *Comparative Public Administration*, edited by Jim Chandler and published by Routledge, is due out in March 2013. The 'Ireland' chapter has been written by three staff members in the Department of Government – **Professor Neil Collins**, **Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** and **Dr Aodh Quinlivan**.
- **Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** has contributed a chapter entitled 'The European Commission' to the third edition of *Environmental Policy in the EU – Actors, Institutions and Processes* edited by Andrew Jordan and Camilla Adelle. The book has recently been published (though listed as a 2013 publication) by Routledge.

