2019 IFAA SCHOLARS’ DINNER: THE 24TH ANNUAL IFAA SCHOLARS’ DINNER AT DUBLIN CASTLE

BY LISA NIC AN BHREITHIMH, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, IFAA BOARD

On 14th June 2019, the 24th Annual IFAA Scholars’ Dinner was held in the picturesque Portrait Gallery of Dublin Castle. Fulbright scholars – Irish and U.S. alike – alumni and friends gathered once again for what is always a highlight of the IFAA social calendar, our Annual Scholars’ Dinner. Among the 2018-2019 cohort of Irish Fulbright awardees were a mix of students, scholars and FLTAs, bound for a variety of institutions across the U.S. this year to undertake invaluable research, teaching or studies, or for some, all three! The dinner itself was delicious, provided this year for the first time by Vinny Hanlon Catering Ltd.

Fulbright alumni gathered, as they often do at this time each year, to reminisce of their own Fulbrights to the US, or to Ireland in some cases, and to welcome the new cohort of 2019-2020 Irish Fulbright scholars to the community of alumni based all around Ireland. The dinner also provides a

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chance to bid a fond farewell to U.S. Fulbright scholars as they finish up their scholarships in Ireland. Scholars and alumni were joined at the Dinner by distinguished guests including representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Ireland. Speaking at the Dinner, President of the IFAA, Sinéad Murnane spoke about the importance of Fulbright and of educational exchange. She concluded by toasting the 2019-2020 Fulbright Awardees, wishing them well on their upcoming Fulbright scholarships and presenting each awardee with a special IFAA pin. Awardee citations were read aloud telling of the broad variety of interesting and important research and teaching the awardees will undertake in the U.S. The night was an enjoyable one as always and the Irish Fulbright Alumni Association wishes to thank all of this year’s third level Sponsors, the staff of Dublin Castle, Caterers, the Fulbright Commission, the U.S. Embassy, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, each of whom contributed greatly to the night, as well as the awardees, alumni community and all guests who made the 2019 24th Annual IFAA Scholars’ Dinner an engaging, inspiring and utterly enjoyable night.

For more on the night’s celebrations see #IFAAScholars19 on social media or if you’d like to see more photos from the night contact the IFAA via our social media platforms (see page 23) or by email at communications@irishfulbrightalumni.com.

LETTER FROM THE IFAA PRESIDENT

BY SINÉAD MURNANE

A chairde,

At the start of each new academic year, I am always conscious of how many new beginnings are playing out around us. New students starting their studies, new graduates heading out into the world, new Fulbright Awardees preparing to take up their scholarships. Strains of Semisonic’s Closing Time echo in my mind: “Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end”.

Speaking personally, I am rapidly approaching the end of something that began during my Fulbright year. I will be leaving the job that I interviewed for over Skype from the 16th floor of a skyscraper in Salt Lake City by the end of the year. And so, I find myself contemplating beginnings and endings, and what they mean.

I remember the last time that I lost my job. It was in 2009, right at the beginning of the financial collapse and recession and I was afraid of all the implications that went with being out of work. Ten years later, I have a few more grey hairs, deeper laughter lines, and a way more positive outlook. So what’s the difference between 2009-me and 2019-me?

Perspective, but not just any perspective. Fulbright perspective. 2009-me was afraid; 2019-me is excited. 2009-me applied for a Fulbright scholarship from a place of fear; 2019-me is applying what I learned about myself on my Fulbright scholarship to shape my life the way I want it.

It is something of a cliché to say that a Fulbright scholarship is “a life changing opportunity” but the banality of that statement cannot negate the enormity of its truth. ‘Life changing’ means something different to everyone, but that doesn’t mean that your life change is any more or less exceptional than someone else’s. Based on the advertising, I had expected ‘life changing’ to mean winning a Nobel Prize, or a Pulitzer, leading a government, or becoming the CEO of a global empire. Not necessarily! My life change is pretty modest by those standards, but that does not make it any less extraordinary.

Recently, I have been trying to articulate what this ‘life changing opportunity’ has meant to me. I’ve found it surprisingly difficult to put into words. What I’ve come to realise is that there wasn’t a single pivotal life-changing moment. Rather, it’s been a personal change to how I respond to the world around me, the opportunities and the setbacks, and my attitude towards them. It culminates in my Top Tip for New Awardees: “Say YES to everything!” Take every opportunity, chance, meeting, introduction, invitation that comes your way and go with it. Throw open every door and window into your life and even knock down a few walls to create new spaces. This was the attitude I brought with me to Salt Lake City and took home with me.

I have a stronger sense of positivity, optimism, and opportunity beckoning. I am resilient and accomplished. I am not afraid of uncertainty – I welcome it for the possibilities it brings. I am ready for my next page, my
MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

BY DR. TOM CURRAN

A chairde,
As the incoming IFAA Newsletter Editor, I am pleased to be able to contribute in a small way to the Fulbright Alumni community. It has presented an opportunity for me to learn skills in putting news items together. In this regard, I would like to thank the outgoing Editor, Dr. Teresa Lynn, for her excellent guidance on the layout and compilation of articles. I would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the IFAA Board and all the contributors.

Following an IFAA Twitter Poll, it was decided to focus on a musical theme for this issue. This proved to be a timely choice as we congratulate Dr. Thérèse Fahy, a former President of the IFAA, on receiving the honour of Chevalier dans 'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French Government for services to French culture. Thérèse writes about "Ireland’s Tombeau to Debussy" in this issue. We also hear about the musical experiences of Marie Louise Bowe, Jimmy O’Brien Moran, Patrick Egan, and Matthew Jacobson.

On the IFAA events front, we have updates from the Scholars’ Dinner in June and the Welcome Home in September. The IUSA Service Day to create a sensory garden for Child Vision is also highlighted.

A new feature, "An Cúinne Gaeilge", is being introduced in this issue to promote the Irish language. Thanks to John Prendergast for being the first guest author of this column. Many Fulbrighters have done great work in the US as Foreign Language Teaching Assistants, so it is a chance here in this newsletter for alumni to engage further.

During my Fulbright TechImpact study in North Carolina in 2018, I was impressed at how a group of people from Raleigh GAA Club decided to meet on a regular basis to speak Irish. Although I did not get an opportunity to attend on those occasions, I hope I can make a better effort to practice in the future, particularly with the help of the Fulbright community. Like many people, I have not written anything in Irish since my Leaving Certificate, so I am going to give it a try here now!

Scíobh mé cúpla líne anseo as Gaeilge - an chéad uair ó mo Ardeistiméireacht. Is deis domsa mar Eagarthóir ar an Nuachtítir mo chuid Gaeilge a chur chun cinn. Labhair mé mar chaptaen ar fhoireann peile uair amhain..."Tá an-áthas orm an corn seo a glacadh". Ní raibh mé i bPáirc an Chrócaigh an t-am sin ach ba dheis é cúpla focal a rá. Tá súil agam go spreagfaidh "An Cúinne Gaeilge" daoine chun níos mó Gaeilge a chleachtadh. Bain triail as!

JOIN FULBRIGHTER! THE ONLINE NETWORKING PLATFORM FOR FULBRIGHT ALUMNI & GRANTEES

Fulbrighter is an exclusive online networking platform for Fulbright alumni and grantees. The platform allows you to connect, network, engage and collaborate with the global community of Fulbrighters. This is particularly useful for alumni who may have changed their email addresses and are no longer receiving updates about news and events.

You can discover the dynamic research and practice going on around the world, and join networks of like-minded thinkers, practitioners and professionals.

To join the platform, visit the Fulbrighter site https://fulbrighternetwork.com and click ‘Register Now’.

next chapter, my next book (or peer-reviewed article in a 4-star journal!). I am so thankful for the many positive influences and encounters with Fulbright alumni and friends I have made because of that experience. So, here I stand at a cross-roads, saluting the end of one thing and turning to face the beginning of the next with a confident smile and a sincere wish that you, too, find yourself amazed by the countless ways your life continues to be enriched by your Fulbright adventures.

During my Fulbright TechImpact study in North Carolina in 2018, I was impressed at how a group of people from Raleigh GAA Club decided to meet on a regular basis to speak Irish. Although I did not get an opportunity to attend on those occasions, I hope I can make a better effort to practice in the future, particularly with the help of the Fulbright community. Like many people, I have not written anything in Irish since my Leaving Certificate, so I am going to give it a try here now!
IRELAND’S TOMBEAU TO DEBUSSY

BY PROF. THÉRÈSE FAHY

A few years ago, I discovered the existence of a remarkable collection of pieces, written in homage to the French composer, Claude Debussy. Two years after his death in March 1918, the Revue Musicale of Henry Prunières dedicated its second issue to Debussy - with studies of his works and an analysis of his influence. A supplement was added, grouping under the title Tombeau de Claude Debussy, compositions especially written by composers Paul Dukas, Florent Schmitt, Albert Roussel, Gian Francesco Malipiero, Eugene Goossens, Béla Bartók, Igor Stravinsky, Maurice Ravel, Manuel de Falla, and Erik Satie. The frontispiece of the original collection was illustrated by the French painter Raoul Dufy; and, remarkably, I discovered that, in 1952, Dufy had actually painted a work entitled Hommage à Debussy, which (with permission from the Musée de l’Art Moderne, Le Havre), I selected as the visual identity of this special year-long festival. In the midst of the first world conflict of the 20th century, Claude Debussy opened a window onto a new musical era. It was therefore, in my opinion, fitting, that Ireland should pay tribute with its very own 21st century Tombeau to Debussy.

Along with these two series, I was deeply honoured, as an Irish pianist, to have been invited to give the centenary commemorative recital at Debussy’s birthplace on 25th March, 2018, the exact date of the 100th anniversary of his death.

The Ireland’s Tombeau to Debussy commemorative year mainly featured the late works of Debussy, his death and legacy, and explored his themes of water, childhood and spirituality. It also highlighted his passionate interest in Celtic legend, Spain (though he only spent one day there!), Italy and the Greek muses. Above all, it showed his deep love for the piano, and its infinite sonic potential to display his extraordinary imagination. In addition, there was the magical honour of giving the first Irish performance of Debussy’s piece for solo piano, his Les soirs illuminés par l’ardeur du charbon, which was only discovered at the beginning of this century. This première took place at Dublin’s National Concert Hall on May 31st, 2018.

CHEVALIER DANS L’ORDRE DES ARTS ET DES LETTRES AWARDED TO THÉRÈSE FAHY

In November 2019, for services to French culture, the French Government bestowed on Thérèse Fahy the honour of Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. Thérèse’s deep cultural connection to France began when she won a French Government scholarship to study piano in Paris in 1984-1985. Since then, as the only professional Irish pianist to specialise in the performance of French music, she has performed the complete works for solo piano by Debussy at Dublin’s Hugh Lane Gallery. She has also recorded a documentary, ‘The Snow is Dancing’, on his life and piano music for Ireland’s national broadcasting station, RTE Lyric FM. In her concert tours throughout Europe and the United States, many of her programmes feature the music of Claude Debussy.
DISCOVERING MUSICAL TREASURES AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

BY DR. PATRICK EGAN

As a 2018 Fulbright scholar I was based at the Library of Congress in Washington DC. My research was focused on the potential for revealing and uniting hidden audio recordings of Irish traditional music at the American Folklife Center. The Center holds a treasure trove of music that was collected throughout North America and beyond from the early 1900s right up to the present day.

Before I took up my Tech Impact award at the Library, I had finished my PhD in Digital Humanities with Ethnomusicology at University College Cork. My PhD studies focused on a special collection, the Seán Ó Riada Collection, where I engaged with digital practices in order to understand the ways in which technology can be embedded in humanities fields such as ethnomusicology. At the Library of Congress I diversified my network of collaborators to work with staff from The American Folklife Center, the John W. Kluge Center and the Digital Labs team. The Fulbright programme provided me the opportunity to work with experts from digital studies, folklife and ethnomusicology to enable a better understanding about the impact and most recent trends that are occurring with digital technology within digital humanities, ethnomusicology and archival science.

At the Library of Congress I acquired specialist knowledge in nascent technologies such as Linked Open Data, which explore the possibilities for linking audio files using the Library’s own digital resources and how staff there are envisioning the future of linking library materials both inside the institution and with resources on the World Wide Web. The experience was transformative for my own research, moving my focus towards broader understandings about how the field is changing and the role of researchers in this area.

During my Techimpact award, I also reached out to diaspora communities, delivering lectures on my research in cities such as New York, Baltimore and at the Library of Congress in Washington DC. I also gathered survey responses from hundreds of performers across North America in order to understand how they use audio recordings on the World Wide Web.

These experiences have enabled my research to bring staff from within the Library and people from American diaspora communities together. For me, the highlight of this research experience was on the 29th of August 2019, when I gathered digital experts, folklorists, ethnomusicologists, and performers from all over DC together at the Library. The event became a wide ranging discussion about the impact of digital technology and the ways that audio material is shared between institutions and the public. This was definitely a highlight in my Fulbright experience, as the event reflected ways that interdisciplinary research can be fruitful with fascinating interaction between diverse groups of people. We finished that event with a performance of Irish traditional music at the Library featuring eleven musicians from DC and Maryland. The Fulbright experience facilitated the development of these meaningful exchanges, linking people in ways that can be unimaginable in everyday life.
Starting September 2013, I spent nine months in Brooklyn, New York as a Fulbright Scholar, ‘exploring the area between improvisation and composition’. As a musician, I had always been drawn to the city and after several shorter trips I realised I would need to go for a longer stint to truly integrate myself into and learn from its unique creative music scene. During a chance meeting with an Irish Fulbrighter, it was suggested that a Fulbright award would be the perfect way to facilitate such a period. After completing all appropriate paperwork, receiving agreement from home (Newpark Music Centre) and host (School for Improvisational Music) institutions and successfully completing the application process I was given the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go exactly where I wanted to go, to do exactly what I wanted to do.

The nine months were invaluable to me as a musician, composer, educator and human being. With regard to the kind of improvised music I have always been drawn to, New York, and more specifically Brooklyn, is undoubtedly its spiritual home. I had spent years listening to albums by - and occasionally hearing live while on European tours - artists such as Tim Berne, Jim Black, Tom Rainey, Mary Halvorson, Craig Taborn and Tony Malaby. The common thread throughout each of their respective musical endeavours is their ability to both compose with their own unique artistic voices and also develop this material improvisationally with a great level of spontaneity, interactivity and creativity, often to the point where it can be difficult to determine where the composition ends and the improvisation begins and vice-versa.

"To be put in a situation where I could see and hear these musicians and their peers on a nightly basis gave me levels of inspiration that I had simply never experienced before and could not have experienced anywhere else."

To be put in a situation where I could see and hear these musicians and their peers on a nightly basis gave me levels of inspiration that I had simply never experienced before and could not have experienced anywhere else. On top of that, the relatively small, warm and welcoming nature of this musical community meant that it did not take long to gain opportunities to perform with some of its members myself, allowing me to experiment with the vocabulary I was developing as a drummer, improviser and composer in such a vibrant and motivating scenario.

Of course the nine months flew by, and I had barely scratched the surface of what one can achieve in such musical contexts, but the depth of understanding that my Fulbright afforded me has allowed me to continue my artistic development since returning to Ireland. This has taken place both through sharing my experiences and musical learnings with my own peers in Ireland and Europe and also in continuing relationships with collaborators forged during that period, through tours and recordings all over the world.
EXPLORING MUSIC EDUCATION AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

BY DR. MARIE LOUISE BOWE

Having just turned the big “30” at the time, buried my dear father, while serendipitously meeting my now husband, a kaleidoscope of mixed feelings draped over my shoulders, as I stared through the rain-smudged windows at Dublin Airport, waiting to board the plane to New York. With a certain degree of “imposter-syndrome” yet obvious excitement, I questioned my sanity of rupturing the familiarity and comforts of home as well as the security of my secondary school teaching job at Belvedere College, Dublin to embark on this new chapter of my life. Little did I know, the following four years as a Fulbright Scholar in Music Education at Columbia University would offer me the golden ticket to explore and unearth unknown versions of myself, while exploring unchartered territories, in all sense of the expression.

While there’s no sugar coating the challenges and obstacles involved in negotiating the structures and systems involved in a Doctoral Program, at the mention of being a Fulbright Scholar, I was instantly enveloped in a microcosm of opportunity and networks. While working officially as the “Assistant to the Program Director” (which involved me to liaise with prospective Doctoral candidate and also supervise student teachers on the Masters Program), I inhaled the opportunity to study with world class scholars, while carrying out my research in Ireland, titled Post-Primary Music Education in Ireland: Principals’ Perspectives. There’s no doubt that New York, the cultural trove that it is, greatly enhanced my spirit with a variety of artistic experiences. I immersed myself in numerous community outreach projects including the Young People’s Concerts with the New York Philharmonic at the Lincoln Center while soaking up every chance to perform as a violist with various chamber groups, piano accompanist and an Irish fiddler – even to feature annually at the Mayor’s Residence for the “St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast” and perform in the Millbank Theatre, the Irish Arts Center, Symphony Space and at regular Bord Fáilte Events for visiting dignitaries.

As a resident of the renowned, International House on Riverside Drive, a hub of cultural, social interaction and mutual exchange, I engaged with fellow Fulbrighters and a range of like-minded people from around the world with common interests and motivations. From these affordances, I embraced not only the differences but the existing and mutual synergies between Irish, American and the diverse cultures that typify life in New York city. Leaving an indelible imprint on both my personal and professional trajectories, life-long friendships and professional symbiotic relationships have been forged and continue to flourish to this day across the water.

As I reflect from my office desk here at the Institute of Education, in Dublin City University, where I now work as Assistant Professor of Music Education, I am indebted to the Fulbright Commission for believing in me and for granting me the experience, which can only be described as transformative and life-altering.
A request to write about my Fulbright experience from a musical perspective gives me an opportunity to remember my time at Boston College where I was Fulbright/Culture Ireland Visiting Professor in Irish Studies for five months. My main instrument is the Irish or uilleann pipes and, over the years, I have made many musical acquaintances from Boston. On the weekend I arrived in Boston, the Cambridge Folk Festival was happening. It was quite an introduction and, despite a bit of jet-lag, I managed to attend a few events and meet some fellow pipers, paving the way for future musical interaction during the months that seemed to stretch ahead.

Despite the wonderful title of my award, I had very few teaching duties at Boston College, which left me free to pursue my research project involving a mid-nineteenth century manuscript collection of Irish music at the Boston Public Library. It was my great privilege and pleasure to share an office with fiddle legend Séamus Connolly in the beautiful (coincidentally named) Connolly House on the Boston College campus. Séamus and his late wife Sandy ran the very successful Celtic Roots Festival for many years. Séamus is a virtuoso fiddle player, well known and respected throughout the traditional world, and has received many awards during his career including the National Endowment for the Arts award (2013). Séamus and I performed at several events in Connolly House during my visit. The office next to Séamus was that of Professor Joe Nugent, originally of Mullingar. Joe, a renowned Joycean scholar, teaches on the Irish Studies programme which also makes demands on his Irish language skills. Joe was very welcoming and invited me to join his Finnegans Wake reading group which is ongoing, and which is called ‘Raidin’ the Wake’. This was (and I’m sure still is) a very enjoyable and entertaining discussion group where the complexities of notorious books are teased out and occasionally unravelled. Our friendship has endured and we meet annually or more often, as the opportunity allows.

Boston has a thriving Irish music scene although it is much changed since my time there. There were many sessions, both beginners (a ‘slow’ session where the tunes are played at a pace more suitable to newcomers) and regular and there were frequent visitors passing through town. Venues I remember include The Green Briar in Brighton (near where I had an apartment) which has since closed down, the Druid in Cambridge, and Matt Murphy’s pub in Brookline where the Sunday morning session was magical, with fiddler Tina Lech and her husband Teddy Davis on flute and guitar. And the breakfast that followed (after 2pm) was legendary. The Burren pub in Somerville has been building a reputation for itself for many years. Run by Clare fiddle player Tommy McCarthy and his wife Louise, the Burren is an important venue for many diverse events.

Other musical activities included attending the Boston Pipers’ Club, founded by Frank Gibbons and Fulbrighter Molly Hester, which entailed an occasional piping lesson.
and a night of socialising. This club is still going strong and continues the teaching and the socialising (I am reliably informed).

While I was in Boston I was surprised to find myself feeling homesick. I have a very good friend Seth Gallagher who lives in Cold Spring NY and who invited me to visit on several occasions one of which coincided with the Robbie Burns night, an annual event celebrated on January 25th – all over the world. I performed a few rousing tunes and cracked my best Scottish jokes which, sadly, were lost in translation, but it was a very enjoyable occasion.

When pipers get together for a weekend it is called a Tionól. These happen all over the world and one such event was taking place in Seattle during my stay. The organiser contacted me and asked if I would be willing to travel to Seattle for the weekend. He was most surprised when I enthusiastically agreed. Of course, I hadn’t realised that it was a plane journey of two and a half thousand miles and almost seven hours by plane – longer than flying to Dublin. Although I felt a bit jetlagged it was a great experience and I was warmly received. Closer to Boston was the Tionól in Minneapolis, a mere three and a half hours away, where I met up with a number of friends and we had lunch with F. Scott Fitzgerald – or at least in the company of his statue.

My son came over from Ireland to visit for St Patrick’s Day and nothing would do him but to go to New York. Again, I prevailed upon Seth’s hospitality as he only lives an hour away from the Big Apple by train. As it happened, Seth’s pipe band had been invited to play in Carnegie Hall with the Chieftains, so our visit culminated with the experience of hanging out backstage with Paddy Moloney and the band which was very exciting.

As my stay was drawing to a close, I was invited to the Chris Langan Piping Tionól in Toronto. Chris was originally from Skerries and was a great promoter of pipes and piping in Canada. I was due to return to Ireland on the Thursday after the tionól and happily made my way to Toronto where we enjoyed a very successful weekend. As I was checking in to return to Boston, the US customs officer informed me that, as the holder of a J1 visa, I was not permitted to leave the US during my stay. I was stunned as, in my naiveté, it hadn’t occurred to me that I was leaving the US to go to Toronto. Thankfully, I was able to convince the officer that I was leaving the US for good on the following Thursday, and he let me board the flight.

AN CÚINNE GAEILGE - FAN LE PIÓBAIREACHT AGUS GHEOBHAIR Í...

LE JOHN PRENDERGAST

Nach difiriúil is binn a bhíonn ceol na n-éan i dtíortha eile agus tú ar aistiúg a bhfuaimrú a bhíonn an cheoil Ghaeilge agus tú i Stáit, biónn na haon cúrfa, buille is fonn ábhairín éagsúil ar iomaí bealach ...

Ag féachaint siar dom ar fhíseáin a bhí curtha sa taisceádán cuimhne digiteach agam (an iFón), meabhraíodh dom ar an dtábhacht a bhíleis an bhfuaimriain a aibhligh an bhliain a chaitheas ag teagasc na Gaelainne le Roinn Teanga agus Litríocht na Gaeilge in Ollscoil Notre Dame, Iowa. Biodh le rá agam go dtugann na hamhraháin mhóra úd síar ar bhothairín na smaointe mé na haon uair, agus is le cion agus le bród a fhéachaim siar ar an seal a bhí agam thall.

Cá mbeimís gan an ceol? Cuisle na tíre, blaiseadh an chultúir agus guth na ndaoine is ea é. Nochtann an ceol smaointí fochoisiachta ionat nach dtugann tú fé ndeara uaireanta go ceann tamaillín eile.
On Friday, 6th September 2019, the IFAA held their annual 'Welcome Home Event' in the Workshop on George's Quay in Dublin to welcome back returning Irish Fulbright awardees and to meet newly arrived U.S. Fulbrighters, who are spending the months ahead in third level institutions around Ireland. Each year, the IFAA holds this reunion event to provide an opportunity for U.S. and Irish alumni to come together and meet both newcomers and board members of the IFAA.

As with any event that provides refreshments and food, the event was a great success with over 30 Fulbright awardees and alumni turning up! The night was filled with laughs and Fulbright stories, the meeting of old friends and the making of new ones. The IFAA sends its warmest thanks to all awardees, alumni and guests who joined us on the night.

Find more about the event on social media under the hashtag #IFAA #WelcomeHome19. We look forward to seeing you at the next great IFAA gathering - #IFAAThanksgiving on Friday November 29th in the University of Limerick!
A FEAST FOR THE SENSES -
IUSA SERVICE DAY TO CREATE A
SENSORY GARDEN FOR CHILD VISION,
OCTOBER 2019

BY LISA NIC AN BHREITHIMH,
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, IFAA BOARD

On 5 October 2019 the IUSA held another of its excellent service days, this time with Child Vision, the national education centre for children who are blind or visually impaired and supported by Localise.

Child Vision, as described by the IUSA is "The only place in Ireland totally dedicated to the education and therapy needs of blind and multi-disabled children."

Volunteers from the IUSA, the IFAA, the US Embassy in Ireland and the US Youth Council worked together through rainshowers to create a 'sensory garden' for the children and teenagers Child Vision works with. Together, the team weeded and gardened, painted fences in an array of bright colours - something that people who are less visually impaired can see, planted herbs of many varieties and filled the garden with a variety of treats for the senses - the concept being to offer the young people an interesting and vibrant environment that they could have as a special place to enjoy, learn and experience.

Take a look at the photos here or follow the IFAA on social media to see more!
Kate Bermingham is a PhD candidate at UCD, where she previously completed a BSc in Human Nutrition and a MSc through research in Nutrition and Metabolomics. Kate was awarded an Irish Research Council Scholarship for her PhD studies, which focus on investigating longitudinal variation in dietary, anthropometric and metabolic phenotypes using a classic twin design. As a Fulbright-Teagasc Awardee, she will visit the USDA ARS Western Human Nutrition Research Centre, Davis California where she will continue her research, performing novel lipid profiling techniques to determine the impact of genetic and environmental factors on variation in human metabolomic profiles.

Ellen Corbett is from County Tyrone and is currently completing her BA International with German and Léann an Aistriúcháin at NUIG. As part of her degree, Ellen attended Universität Leipzig in Germany where she had the opportunity to teach Irish to fellow students. She has a great interest in translation - one of her translations from German to Irish will shortly be published in An Reiviú academic journal, she will be the first ever undergraduate to be included. Ellen is a student ambassador for NUIG, contributing to the student newspaper, radio station, clubs and teaching an Irish language course for international students. She is also completing an Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge with Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, OÉ Gaillimh. She will be a Fulbright Irish FLTA to the University of Montana.

Yvonne De Faoite has been teaching in Gaelscoil Inse Chór, Dublin for the past 10 years. She attained her primary teaching degree from Froebel College of Education in 2008. In 2012, she spent a year in Perth, Australia where she gained valuable international teaching experience. Recently she completed a Masters in Irish Immersion Education from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. Prior to this, she completed a Diploma in Educational Leadership in University College Dublin. Yvonne has a keen interest in international peace and cooperation.
immersion education and second language acquisition. As a Fulbright Irish FLTA, she will teach the Irish language and take classes at Elms College, Chicopee in Massachusetts.

**Oisín Kavanagh** is a PhD student in the Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC), based in the Bernal Institute at the University of Limerick. He is a qualified pharmacist, graduating from the University of Ulster in 2016 with First class honours where he also received the Gold Medal of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland. Oisín will visit the lab of Professor Náir Rodríguez-Hornedo at the University of Michigan. There he will continue his research in crystal engineering to unlock the potential of new and old medicines in novel therapeutic contexts.

**Siobhan Grayson** is a PhD candidate at the Insight Centre for Data Analytics, and the School of Computer Science, University College Dublin. Her research focuses on aligning temporal networks extracted from online discussion forums in order to study quantitatively how participant behaviour changes over time. As a Fulbright Student to Harvard University, Siobhan will undertake research at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society where she will explore the dynamics of deliberation when instigated simultaneously across offline and pseudonymous online discourse spaces.

**Dr John Greaney** lectures and tutors in University College Dublin and Maynooth University. His research interests include modernist studies, Irish studies, critical theory and continental philosophy. His work has been featured in *Irish Studies Review* and *Textual Practice*, and he is co-editing *Irish Modernisms: Gaps, Conjectures Possibilities* with Tamara Radak and Paul Fagan. As a Fulbright-NUI postdoctoral fellow to the University of Pennsylvania, he will undertake research for his monograph – *The Distance of Irish Modernism* – which investigates the paradox through which the Irish modernist novel becomes both a container for national history and a mode of world literature.

**Jonathan Hourihane** has been Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health in UCC since 2005. He graduated from TCD in 1987 and undertook his higher training in Southampton and London, UK. His primary area of clinical and research interest is in paediatric food allergy and anaphylaxis. He is co-Principal Investigator of the BASELINE, Ireland’s only birth cohort study (www.baselinestudy.net.) and the INFANT Research Centre in UCC. He is a Board member of the National Children’s Research Centre, Ireland, a founding Board member of the Clemens von Pirquet Foundation, and of the Irish Food Allergy Network (www.ifan.ie), and current President of the Irish Association of Allergy and Immunology. He will be a Fulbright HRB-HealthImpact Scholar to the University of Colorado, Denver, School of Medicine and Childrens Hospital.

**Dr Brendan Kelly** is a Radiology Specialist Registrar at St Vincent's University Hospital and an ICAT Fellow at UCD. The Wellcome – Health Research Board Irish Clinical Academic Training (ICAT) Programme is a unique all Ireland cross-institutional, comprehensive national programme for Clinician Scientists based at six major Irish universities and their affiliated hospital groups. A UCD graduate of Radiography in 2011 and of Medicine in 2015, Brendan received his Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons in 2016, and MSc in Radiology from NUI Galway in 2017. His research interests are in the clinical application of Artificial Intelligence to radiology. As a Fulbright-HRB HealthImpact Scholar Brendan will visit the Stanford Department of Radiology and the Stanford Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and Imaging to investigate potential novel applications of AI to radiology, with the goal of establishing collaborations to achieve cutting edge clinical
developments both in Ireland and the US.

Patricia Kenny is a second year PhD candidate in UCD. In 2015 she received her BSc in Archaeology & Geology, a degree which fuelled an interest in how past communities perceived and explained unusual aspects of their natural landscape. She then undertook an MA in Archaeology, where she pursued this passion. Her current research, funded by the Irish Research Council, and the National University of Ireland Travelling Studentship prize, focuses upon the use of unusual stone in European prehistoric societies. As a recipient of a Fulbright-Creative Ireland Museum Fellowship, she will research this topic on an international scale in the Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC.

Ruairí McCourt is a final year PhD research student in the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute School of Chemistry. Ruairí graduated with a B.A. in Medicinal Chemistry from TCD in 2015. His research focuses on the development of novel radical reactions, with a particular interest in the synthesis of sulfur-containing compounds and the optimisation of new initiation and cyclization strategies. As a Fulbright student in The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) California Ruairí will work on transition-metal mediated radical reactions.

Professor Kevin McDonnell has a joint appointment across Crops Science & Biosystems Engineering at UCD. His specialist interdisciplinary area of Agricultural Systems Technology addresses the sustainable use of bio-resources with a global perspective, including agri-based bio-energy systems and the agri-food based bio-economy. His Precision Agricultural research area, supported by EU, SFI and Department of Agriculture research grants, is enabling the development of a digital agricultural platform, which will be a key technology for Irish agriculture in the development of profitable sustainable farming practices over the coming years. Precision agriculture requires data collection, analysis and implementation for it to work successfully. As a Fulbright-TechImpact Scholar, Prof McDonnell will work with the Ohio State University eFields team on digital data collection and analysis and will be able to use this work in conjunction with his own platforms to develop robust protocols for digital agricultural data collection, analysis and use in Ireland.

Dr Brenda McNally is a Research Fellow at the Department of Geography, TCD studying citizens’ views and media use around climate actions in Ireland. Her research sheds light on the political, ethical and cultural dimensions of climate change and contributes to communications practice aimed at building a just transition. As a Fulbright-GSI Scholar, Dr McNally will visit the Centre for Science and Imagination at Arizona State University and the Centre for Science and Technology Policy Research at University of Colorado Boulder to learn more about socio-ecological imaginaries and how they can be used to reinvigorate public engagement with climate and energy policy in Ireland. Upon returning to Ireland, she will continue her work on climate imaginaries by investigating the production and circulation of ideas about energy transition and new forms of promotion in digital media and popular culture.

David Monahan is a PhD student at the NUIG. He received his BSc in Biomedical Science double majoring in Cellular Pathology and Clinical Biochemistry from Dublin Institute of Technology in 2016. He then worked as a Medical Scientist before starting his PhD in February 2017. His research focuses on the development of minimally invasive delivery strategies incorporating medical devices, biomaterials, and drugs to treat heart disease. Through the Fulbright programme David will visit the Therapeutic Technology, Design, & Development lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2019. He then worked as a Medical Scientist before starting his PhD in February 2017. His research focuses on the development of minimally invasive delivery strategies incorporating medical devices, biomaterials, and drugs to treat heart disease. Through the Fulbright programme David will visit the Therapeutic Technology, Design, & Development lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). While at MIT he will develop a smart medical device containing a responsive biomaterial that will release drugs in response to heart damage and aims to help patients suffering from heart disease as a result of cancer therapy.

Rosemary Mulvey completed a BA in Psychology in TCD and the Higher Diploma in Primary Education at Marino Institute of Education. She has worked in events and cultural management with The Heritage Council of Ireland, Kilkenny Arts Festival, Savour Kilkenny and Kilkenny Tradfest. Rosemary currently teaches in Gaelscoil Osraí, Kilkenny and is this year’s Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at Davidson Community College, North Carolina.

Deirdre Murphy is a Primary school teacher in Temple
Caroline Ní Ghallchobhair is from the Erris Gaeltacht in County Mayo. She has a BA (International) in Irish and English from St. Patrick’s College, Dublin City University, and spent a year studying communications and media in the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. She also has a First Class Honours M.A. in Scriobh agus Cumarsáid na Gaeilge (Writing and Communications) from University College Dublin, where she tutored Irish to undergraduate students. Caroline has since worked with Gaelchultúr as a teacher and administrative executive. As a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant, she will teach the Irish language and attend classes at Idaho State University.

Iseult Ní Chonchúir is a past pupil of Coláiste Íde, an Irish language boarding school in the west Kerry Gaeltacht Corca Dhuibhne. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in Irish and Music at University College Dublin (UCD), where she was awarded Bonn Óir an Chumainn Ghaelaithe and received the Bord na Gaeilge scholarship for two consecutive years. Following this, she completed a Professional Masters of Education in Trinity College Dublin, finishing with first class honours. Iseult teaches Irish, Music and Social, Personal and Health Education at Coláiste Cois Life, an Irish-language secondary school in west Dublin. She has also worked as a tutor with Bord na Gaeilge and Gaelchultúr, teaching foundational Irish to the staff and students of UCD. She is temporarily residing in Perth, Western Australia, playing music and teaching Irish privately. During her Fulbright FLTA Award, she will teach the Irish language and attend classes at the University of Notre Dame.

Cecily Ní Loinsigh is from the Gaeltacht village of Béal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh in County Cork. She developed a strong passion for Gaeilge from an early age due to being immersed through her education and her Irish speaking family and community. In 2011, Cecily graduated from St Angela’s College, Sligo with an honours degree in Gaeilge and Home Economics. Since then Cecily has taught in many
different second level educational settings where she thoroughly enjoyed instilling her love of our native both inside and outside the classroom. She is currently studying an Advanced Diploma in Personal, Life and Executive Coaching in Kingstown College, Dublin. As a Fulbright Irish FLTA she will further her studies and teach Gaeilge in the University of Montana.

Matthew O’Brien is a Ph.D. candidate based at the School of History at UCD. He received his B.A. in Literature and Media from Dublin Business School and earned his M.A. in American History at UCD. His doctoral research focuses on black power grassroots activism in Chicago from 1968-1983 through a lens of political education and is funded by the Irish Research Council. As a Fulbright student to the University of Illinois at Chicago, Matthew will conduct primary research concerning community groups and organisations who embodied black empowerment and progression in the turbulent 1970s. While at UIC, he will also orchestrate a series of oral history interviews that will further enrich the research topic.

Dr Mary Louise O’Donnell is a musicologist and musician. Her research focuses on the diverse ways in which the Irish harp has been used in the construction of identity in Ireland and among Irish emigrants. As a Fulbright Scholar, Mary Louise will use the resources of the Falvey Memorial Library at Villanova University to investigate the significance of the Irish harp as a political and cultural emblem of identification among Irish emigrants in the United States from 1780 to 1930. The fruits of her research on the employment of the harp as a visual symbol, literary trope and musical instrument will be incorporated into a book on the history of the Irish harp symbol from its earliest use as a colonial symbol up to the present day. The book will be published in 2022 to mark the centenary of the foundation of the Irish Free State and the adoption of the Irish harp as its official emblem.

Helen O’Donoghue is the Head of Engagement & Learning programme at the Irish Museum of Modern Art and a core philosophy in all her work is to create opportunities for people to access and participate in arts and culture. As a Fulbright Scholar Helen O’Donoghue will spend three months embedded in the Education department at the MoMA in New York to learn about current archival strategies relating to their education programme, along with shadowing a new live programme - The Platform, that will be launched later this year. She will work closely with Wendy Woon, the Edward John Noble Foundation Deputy Director for Education and her team of researchers to share knowledge and strategies as part of the first experiment The People’s Studio: Collective Imagination, which draws on MoMA’s history as a laboratory for experimentation with contemporary art and art pedagogy. This will inform her thinking for future programming and the new Collections and Learning Centre planned for IMMA.

Alene O’Malley graduated from Mary Immaculate College (MIC) with an honours Bachelor of Education degree and subsequently a First Class honours Masters Degree in Educational Leadership and Management. During her time in MIC, she was chairperson of the Cumann Gaelach and is a past pupil of Coláiste Cnoc na Labhras in Limerick. She has presented her research on many occasions including at the Limerick Post-graduate Conference. She also has a minor degree and DELF certification in French. Alene has 10 years’ teaching experience and is currently teaching in Limerick City. She has a particular interest in educational leadership and mentoring newly qualified teachers. Alene will be the Fulbright Irish FLTA for Villanova University.

Conor Quinn is a Senior Cyber Security Consultant, specialising in Digital Forensic and Cybersecurity management with Deloitte Ireland. His work centres on investigating cybersecurity incidents to determine how they happened and to recommend improvements to increase security of organisations. As the Fulbright-TechImpact Scholar to Boston College, Mr Quinn will visit the Woods College of Advancing Studies to partake in the Cybersecurity Policy and Governance Masters programme. He will examine new methods to implement cyber security strategies to help bridge the communication gap between information technology security professionals and key business stakeholders. Upon returning to Ireland, he will continue his work to improve the communication and leadership skills of cyber professionals and the effectiveness of cyber security functions for organisations in Ireland.

Fernando Sanchez-Migallon Cano is a Government of
He received a BA in Theoretical Physics from Trinity College Dublin and a MSc in Non-Equilibrium Systems from King’s College London. As a Fulbright student, Evan will carry out research on next generation materials for smart technology applications at the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr Suja Somanadhan is an Assistant Professor in Children's Nursing at the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems. She is an emerging leader in the field of health care provision for rare diseases in Ireland with a number of publications and ongoing research programmes. She is spearheading rare disease research partnership model called “RAinDROP” to shape the future of research studies that have been chosen with a life course perspective in mind. As a Fulbright-HRB HealthImpact Scholar, she will examine the integrated care and services for the children, young people and their families living with Rare Diseases at the Center for Rare Disease Therapy at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. She will be using this analysis to compare and improve the provision of integrated care and support services for the person and their families living with Rare Diseases in Ireland and US. She will also explore the programme of work used to engage the Rare Disease patient community throughout the translational science process at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Dr Caroline Sheedy is a lecturer in Computing Science and Mathematics in Dundalk Institute of Technology. Her research focus aims to measure, address, and provide new insights towards ameliorating the gender imbalance in technical fields and the resulting impact of technology’s footprint on society. As a Fulbright-TechImpact Scholar, Dr Sheedy will visit the Department of Statistics at University of California, Berkeley, to capture and analyse data on the daily experiences of both students and staff working in technological degree programmes. Upon returning to Ireland, she will continue working towards identifying the position of third level institutions in engendering an understanding of the societal responsibility of those they are educating to work in technical fields with respect to equality, diversity and inclusion.

John Sheppard is a lecturer in cybersecurity and digital forensics in the Department of Computing and Mathematics at Waterford Institute of Technology. As the first Fulbright-TechImpact Cybersecurity Scholar to visit Georgetown University in Washington D.C., John will conduct research into wearable technologies and will investigate the ethical implications of data associated with such devices.

Evan Sheridan is a PhD candidate at King’s College London. He received a BA in Theoretical Physics from Trinity College Dublin and a MSc in Non-Equilibrium Systems from King’s College London. As a Fulbright student, Evan will carry out research on next generation materials for smart technology applications at the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr Suja Somanadhan is an Assistant Professor in Children's Nursing at the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems. She is an emerging leader in the field of health care provision for rare diseases in Ireland with a number of publications and ongoing research programmes. She is spearheading rare disease research partnership model called “RAinDROP” to shape the future of research studies that have been chosen with a life course perspective in mind. As a Fulbright-HRB HealthImpact Scholar, she will examine the integrated care and services for the children, young people and their families living with Rare Diseases at the Center for Rare Disease Therapy at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. She will be using this analysis to compare and improve the provision of integrated care and support services for the person and their families living with Rare Diseases in Ireland and US. She will also explore the programme of work used to engage the Rare Disease patient community throughout the translational science process at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Francis Ward is a music educator and ethnomusicologist based in the School of Arts Education and Movement at DCU Institute of Education. His research interests include innovative music pedagogies, music education and social inclusion, Irish traditional music and dance, and educational technology. Funded by the Irish Research Council, his PhD interrogated evolving modes of transmission in Irish traditional music. As a Fulbright Scholar, Francis will work on the publication of a book entitled Approaching a Virtual Orality: Changing Processes of Transmission in Traditional Music while also teaching seminars in ethnomusicology, music education and Irish traditional music and dance studies at the University of Washington. As Francis has been involved in the development of a curriculum in socially inclusive music education at DCU IoE, he will also engage with outreach programmes facilitated by the University of Washington music education faculty to inform future
contributions to curriculum development upon his return to Ireland.

2019-2020 FULBRIGHT US AWARDEES

Claire Barrett is graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a joint PhD in Educational Psychology and Human Ecology. Her work utilizes community-based participatory evaluation and research methods to study child and family well-being, particularly through the transformation of school and community food systems. Her teaching and research interests are in the areas of prevention science and health promotion, school and community food systems, civic development across the lifespan, and family, school and community partnerships. Claire also studies the development of college students’ civic dispositions through participation in engaged learning opportunities. As a Fulbright Awardee to NUI Galway’s Health Promotion Research Centre, Claire will use community-based participatory research methods to study stakeholder involvement in the transition to the new Irish school meal standards.

Marit Bovbjerg is an Assistant Professor of epidemiology at Oregon State University. Her research focuses on maternity care in the US, with an emphasis on midwifery care and community birth. Globally, there is abundant evidence suggesting that planned community birth is as safe or safer than planned hospital birth for low-risk women; however, there is currently no consensus about which pregnancies qualify as “low-risk.” Dr Bovbjerg and her colleagues have recently been exploring this issue with funding from the US Health Resources and Services Administration and the US National Institutes of Health. She earned her PhD in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an MS in Health Evaluation Sciences as well as a BA in chemistry and music from the University of Virginia. As a Fulbright Scholar she will work with investigators from the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre, University College Cork, on various projects related to maternity care in Ireland.

Rosanne Burson is an Associate Professor at the University of Detroit Mercy focusing on graduate education and the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Coordinator. She is a certified diabetes educator, nurse educator and clinical nurse specialist with extensive experience in chronic disease management. She was elected as a Fellow of the American Association of Diabetes Educators in 2014. She has published in the area of self-management and diabetes, as well as the topic of the DNP project and practice scholarship. Rosanne completed her doctorate at Madonna University, MSN in Adult Health from Oakland University, Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University and her BSN from Nazareth College. The Fulbright scholarship will focus on collaborating with Dublin City University’s Centre for eIntegrated Care to address the need for self-management in chronic disease utilizing informatics and integrative models of care in Ireland.

Isabel Cabezas is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where she studied art history and anthropology. Her thesis centered on Impressionism, so she looks forward to engaging with modern art at Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane. Through her Fulbright award, she will strengthen relationships between the Gallery and Dublin’s communities by developing educational programs. Isabel is delighted to return to the art world of Ireland; previously, she interned at the National Gallery of Ireland, curated an exhibit of Imogen Staurt’s sculpture at Kylemore Abbey, and volunteered at the Clifden Arts Festival in Connemara. Before receiving this award, Isabel worked at Notre Dame’s Keough School of Global Affairs in its Washington, D.C. office.

Nicole Childress is a graduate of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY where she received her B.S. in Strategic Marketing. She will attend Trinity College Dublin where she will earn a M.Sc. Marketing. While at Trinity, Nicole will study the relationship between brands and national identity. She will specifically research the Guinness brand as it relates to Irish culture as a case study for how brands and culture shape one another. For her honors thesis, Nicole studied student perceptions of Western Kentucky University’s brand. Her research at Trinity will expand on her undergraduate research and promote a better understanding of the implications of branding a business around a culture.

Dr. Vicki Collet is an Associate Professor of Elementary
Dr Tracy D. Frank is a professor and the Schultz Chair in Stratigraphy in the Department Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is a sedimentologist and geochemist who uses chemical and textural signatures in ancient sedimentary rocks to reconstruct past variations in Earth’s climate, environment, and oceanography over a broad range of temporal and spatial scales. She is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and currently serves as a Vice President of the International Association of Sedimentologists. As a Fulbright Scholar, she will deliver several guest lectures on conditions surrounding mass extinctions in Earth’s past, serve as a guest instructor on a geology field trip, and collaborate on research with staff at NUI Galway, the GSI, iCRAG, and the Burren Geopark.

Dr Bill Flack is Professor and Co-Chair in the Department of Psychology at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, where he has taught critical clinical and community psychologies, and conducted research on gender-based violence and psychological trauma, for 19 years. He has a B.A. from the University of Maine, a M.A. from Wesleyan University, and a Ph.D. from Clark University, all in psychology, and he held a postdoctoral fellowship in the National Center for PTSD at the Boston VA Medical Center. He is a member of the Administrator-Researcher Campus Climate Collaborative (ARC3) in the U.S., and he co-founded the U.K.-Ireland RESPECT (Research for Safe Relationships: Education, Collaboration, and Training) Network during a previous Fulbright at Ulster University in Northern Ireland. He will be collaborating in teaching and research on gender-based violence among university students during the current Fulbright at NUI Galway.

Nana Gletsu Miller is currently an Associate Professor of Nutrition Science at Purdue University. She obtained a PhD in Nutrition and Metabolism from University of Alberta. The vision of her research program, called Nutrition Interventions Targeting Obesity “The NITO Lab”, is to evaluate nutritional solutions to promote the health of individuals undergoing clinical management of obesity and diabetes. Her current studies involve investigating the mechanisms responsible for iron deficiency after bariatric surgery as well as identifying effective and safe treatment strategies. Her laboratory also collaborates with colleagues

Dianne Conrad is an Associate Professor at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan; also practicing as a Family Nurse Practitioner in rural primary care, with a Board Certification in Advanced Diabetes Management. She is a recognized and published authority in the Doctor of Nursing Practice education and practice. She has co-authored a DNP textbook, “The DNP Scholarly Project: A Framework for Success”, with a third edition released Spring of 2019. She was elected to the National Academies of Practice as a Distinguished Practitioner & Fellow in 2014. She received the DNP degree from Madonna University, a post-master’s certificate at Michigan State University and a masters and bachelor nursing degrees from Northern Illinois University. The Fulbright scholarship will focus on collaborating with Dublin City University’s Centre for Integrated Care to assess advanced nursing informatics competencies in achieving integrative models of care to address chronic disease management in Ireland.

Alexandra Corcoran will graduate from Haverford College this spring with a degree in Political Science and Spanish. She is passionate about building inclusive social safety net programs. During her time in Ireland, she will explore the connections between gender, public policy, and democratic citizenship by pursuing a masters’ in Philosophy and Public Affairs at University College Dublin. She also hopes to volunteer with local food security programs in Dublin.
Patrick Mahony is a Caspersen Fellow at Drew University. He was awarded the Tadhg Foley Fellowship from the NUI Galway, where he completed his MA in Irish Studies (2013). His book ‘From a Land Beyond the Wave’: Connecticut’s Irish Rebels, 1798-1916 (2017) won the Connecticut League of History Organizations’ Publication Prize (2018). His research focuses primarily on the interactions between Irish-American nationalists, indigenous peoples, and other ethno-political groups in the North American Borderlands and the Caribbean during the mid-nineteenth century. He has published widely in both Irish and English through various academic and popular platforms. As a Fulbright scholar in the archives at NUI Galway, Patrick will conduct research on the writings of nineteenth century Irish emigrant Eoin Ua Cathail, and explore the newly acquired Conradh na Gaeilge [Gaelic League] Archive.

Timothy J. Meagher recently retired from his positions as Associate Professor of History and Archivist and Curator of the American Catholic History Collections at Catholic University. He taught courses in and American immigration history and worked with several graduate students there. He has written a number of articles on American immigration and ethnic history and written or edited five books on Irish American history. They include two that won the James Donnelly Prize for the best book in Irish and Irish American history awarded by the American Conference of Irish Studies: The New York Irish edited with Ronald Bayor and Inventing Irish America. He studied and taught in Ireland on a Fulbright Fellowship in 2011-2012. On this Fulbright fellowship, he will teach at University College Dublin and will conduct research into Irish perceptions of Irish Americans in the second half of the twentieth century.

Matthew T. Mullarkey is the Director of the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) Program for the USF Muma College of Business and an Instructor in the Information Systems and Decision Sciences (ISDS) Department. His areas of research interest include design science research and action research in the evaluation and creation of Information systems, smart cities, IoT, healthcare, social networking, and data science. He teaches using case based discussions that engage Doctoral, MBA and MIS undergraduates in complex business decisions. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the USF Muma Case Review, the 2018
recipient of the USF Faculty Externship Award, the 2017 recipient of the USF Muma College of Business Outstanding Faculty Community Engagement Award, and the 2015-2016 ISDS Undergraduate Teacher of the Year Award. Mullarkey actively supports entrepreneurship and university to industry tech-transfer through his roles as a Co-Principal Investigator on the 2018-2021 NSF I-Corps Site Grant, as a 2016 recipient of the NSF I-Corps National grant in his role as mentor, as a member of the USF I-Corps Site Committee, and as a USF I-Corps Site instructor.

**Meta Newhouse** is an award-winning designer, design educator and filmmaker with 30+ years of experience in the visual communication industry. Her work is published in 40+ professional design books and annuals, including Communication Arts, Graphis, PRINT, and NOVUM. She is a Professor in Graphic Design and the Director of DSEL (the Design Sandbox for Engaged Learning) at Montana State University. Her MFA in Communication Design is from the University of North Texas. Recently, one of her posters about climate change was added to the permanent collections of the V&A Museum (London); Les Arts Decoratifs de Paris (in the Louvre, Paris); Stedelijk Museum Breda (The Netherlands); Lahti Poster Museum (Finland) and Designmuseum Danmark. As a Fulbright Scholar, she will teach a graduate workshop in Guerrilla Advertising techniques in order to facilitate research dissemination at the University College Cork. She will also continue her research on her Guerrilla Advertising book entitled Guerrillantics.

**Frani O’Toole** is a recent graduate of Yale University, where she studied art history and English. At University College Cork she will pursue a degree in Creative Writing, advancing her thesis work at Yale which consisted of short fiction in ekphrastic response to experimental video. Interested in art and writing, she hopes to use the Fulbright as an opportunity to find new ways to collaborate.

**Dr Sam Paustian-Underdahl** is a professor, researcher, and consultant whose work is dedicated to enhancing employee and organizational well-being and effectiveness. She holds a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Georgia, as well as a M.A. in Organizational Psychology and a PhD in Organizational Science from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She joined Florida State University as an Assistant Professor of Management in 2018. Previously, she was employed at Florida International University (FIU) as an Assistant Professor of Management, where she was named a Top Scholar in 2015, and was awarded Best Professor and Best Course teaching awards by FIU MBA students in 2017 and 2018. As a Fulbright Scholar she will conduct research at Dublin City University examining the effects of flexible working arrangements for Irish employees and organizations.

**Augustus Pendleton** graduated from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities in 2019 with an undergraduate degree in Microbiology. Through his undergraduate work he participated in diverse research projects including bacterial extracellular electron transfer, coral reproduction, and cetacean fungal pathogens at host institutions including the UMN, the UMaine Darling Marine Center and the NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center. Interested in how aquaculture can be a sustainable complement to terrestrial agriculture, Augustus will undertake his M.Sc. in Geography at NUI Galway, researching community member’s attitudes concerning sea plant harvesting along the west coast of Ireland.

**William Phillips**, MD, MPH, is a family doctor and Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health at the University of Washington in Seattle. A specialist in family medicine and preventive medicine, he is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, where he led the research and clinical policies commission. Following two decades of practice in the community, he now teaches medical and other health professions learners primary care, communication and research. He directed an interdisciplinary fellowship in primary care research. Dr Phillips has served as president of the North American Primary Care Research Group and member of the US Preventive Services Task Force and other major medical policy panels. He is editor of the Annals of Family Medicine. As a Fulbright Scholar, he will research and develop simulation training in shared decision-making between doctors and patients at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland medical school in Dublin.

**Kimberly Reyes** holds a Master of Arts with a concentration in Psychology from the University of Georgia, as well as a Master of Science in Experimental Psychology from Florida International University. She is a recipient of the USF Faculty Externship Award, the 2017 recipient of the USF Muma College of Business Outstanding Faculty Community Engagement Award, and the 2015-2016 ISDS Undergraduate Teacher of the Year Award. Mullarkey actively supports entrepreneurship and university to industry tech-transfer through his roles as a Co-Principal Investigator on the 2018-2021 NSF I-Corps Site Grant, as a 2016 recipient of the NSF I-Corps National grant in his role as mentor, as a member of the USF I-Corps Site Committee, and as a USF I-Corps Site instructor.
in Arts & Culture from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, and most recently completed a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing with a concentration in Poetry from San Francisco State University. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism at Lehigh University. She is the author of three books: Warning Coloration (dancing girl press 2018), Life During Wartime (Fourteen Hills, 2018), and Running to Stand Still (Omnidawn, 2019). She is thrilled to continue her investigations of race, class and society at University College Cork, where she will complete a Master of Arts in Irish Writing and Film, focusing on Performative Postcolonial Identity.

**Jane Rigler** flutist, composer, improviser and educator is known for her innovations in new flute performance, techniques and unusual musical vocabulary. She is a featured performer in contemporary music festivals throughout the U.S. and Europe as a soloist and chamber player. Jane’s compositions include solo acoustic pieces inspired by language to complex interactive electronic works that pay homage to communities, language and the sounds of the environment. Jane is a Deep Listening® Certificate holder and offers exploratory listening workshops for all people. She is a Japan-US Friendship commission winner (2009-10), and in 2016 her five-country European solo tour was supported by Composers Now, NewMusicUSA and other granting foundations. You can hear Jane on various labels such Neuma, Tzadik, Porter, DewDrop, Sachimay, etc. As an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS) in the VAPA interdisciplinary arts department, she teaches flute, composition, improvisation, sound art, computer music and listening.

**Chayla Rowley** is a U.S. citizen of European and Choctaw (indigenous) descent, Chayla Rowley grew up abroad before finding her way to the University of Colorado at Boulder. There she completed a concurrent BS and MS in Civil Engineering with a focus on developing communities. She then worked for the U.S. Government in the Colorado Rockies to conserve natural resources and to promote civil rights. In her spare time, she engages young women in leadership & self-confidence building activities, volunteers for immigrant & refugee organizations, and promotes & encourages American Indians in the STEM fields. As a Fulbright Awardee, she will complete a MA in Refugee Integration from Dublin City University. While there, she will unite her passions by researching the integration of refugee children via STEM-based activities.

**Kevin Scannell** is Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Saint Louis University. He works with language communities around the world to develop computing resources that help them use their native language online. He is particularly interested in Irish and the other Celtic languages; he has developed an Irish spell checker, grammar checker, and thesaurus, as well as dictionaries and translation engines that support Irish, Scottish, and Manx Gaelic. He is also a member of the team that provides Irish localisations of a number of important software products including Gmail, Twitter, and WhatsApp. As a Fulbright Scholar, he will apply recent advances in deep learning and neural networks to the development of language technologies for Irish, working in collaboration with researchers at Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge in Carna, Co. Galway, in the Conamara Gaeltacht.

**Abigail Severance** is Faculty in the School of Film/Video at CalArts, where she was Associate Dean from 2012-2016. She holds an MFA in Film Directing from UCLA and a BA in Cultural Studies from Hampshire College. Her films investigate history and landscape with an emphasis on identity and the contradictions of nostalgia, and have screened widely: MOCA LA, The Broad, Sundance, Wexner Center, Los Angeles Film Festival, REDCAT, Ann Arbor, Studio Museum Harlem, Mix LBGT Festival and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, among others. She has received Film Independent and Wasserman Fellowships, and her feature project The Summer We Drowned was a Sundance Producers project. As a Fulbright Scholar, Abigail will be in residence at Film and Screen Media, University College Cork, where she’ll undertake research and production of an essay film on Irish stone walls, their anthropocene histories and contemporary questions of borders, migration and imagination.

**Professor Lonny Simonian** is an instructor in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design at Cal Poly. He holds an M.S. in Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Cal Poly.
Professor Simonian is a licensed Professional Electrical Engineering the State of California and a Project Management Institute certified Project Management Professional. His Cal Poly courses have included Building Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing Systems, Management of the Construction Firm, and Construction Project Management. Prior research includes grants from the Fire Protection Research Foundation, ELECTRI International, and an NSF/DOE fellowship.

Dr Kamini Singha is the Ben Fryrear Endowed Professor for Innovation and Excellence at the Colorado School of Mines. Her research interests are focused in hydrogeology and environmental geophysics. Dr. Singha is an award-winning teacher, is the recipient of a U.S. National Science Foundation CAREER award and the Early Career Award from the Society of Environmental and Engineering Geophysics, served as the National Groundwater Association's Darcy Lecturer and is a Geological Society of America Fellow. She earned her B.S. in geophysics from the University of Connecticut and her Ph.D., in hydrogeology, from Stanford University. As a Fulbright Scholar she will collaborate on research with staff at University College Cork.

Dr Patrick Wadden is an Associate Professor of History at Belmont Abbey College, North Carolina, where he teaches a range of courses on medieval topics. He studied at Trinity College, Dublin and Oxford University and has previously taught in the Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University. He has published on a variety of topics related to the history and culture of early Ireland, in both history and Celtic studies journals. He is also currently the president of the Celtic Studies Association of North America. As a Fulbright Scholar, he will continue his research into conceptions of Irish identity in the early medieval period at the School of Celtic Studies in the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.

Dr Devon Wootten is a faculty member at Whitman College. He holds a Masters of Fine Arts in poetry from the University of Montana and a PhD in Comparative from the University of Iowa. His poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in Best American Experimental Writing, Fence, and LIT, among many others. During his time as a Fulbright Scholar, Dr Wootten will teach a poetry course at NUI Galway and begin a manuscript of place-based poems.

KEE IN TOUCH WITH THE IFAA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The IFAA continues to connect to Fulbright alumni both in Ireland and overseas through social media. We see our online accounts as a meeting place for all keep up with the goings on of our current awardees and alumni scattered across the globe, as well as a platform to help promote our regular social activities. We’re linking in more and more with other Fulbright alumni associations and Fulbright chapters and are noticing a growing Fulbright alum network online. To date, the IFAA has over 1,100 followers on Twitter! We continue to connect with alumni on Facebook (225 followers!) and we’ve also joined Instagram. We will be sharing photos and stories from our events throughout the year.

Bímid ag túiteáil, ag thithúiteáil agus ag roinnt póstálacha as Gaeilge freisin, déan teagmháil linn! Connect with us on social media to share your stories with us and Fulbright communities around the world!

You'll find us on Twitter at @IFAA_eire, on Facebook at @IrishFulbrightAlumni and Instagram at irishfulbrightalumni.

Tag your posts using the hashtag #IFAA
2019 IFAA SCHOLARS’ DINNER PHOTO GALLERY 1

CONOR QUINN, OISÍN BYRNE AND EVAN SHERIDAN

PATRICIA KENNY AND DAVID STONE

KEVIN MCDONNELL AND MIRIAM RYAN

MARGARET KELLEHER AND ALENE O’MALLEY

LIAM CARR, TERESA LYNN, SINÉAD MURNANE AND RÉAMONN MAC RÉAMOINN

JOHN GREANEY AND DARA FITZGERALD
2019 IFAA SCHOLARS’ DINNER PHOTO GALLERY 2

SIOBHÁN GRAYSON

PAULA MELVIN AND SARA WEST

MEMBERS OF THE IFAA BOARD HAVING A LAUGH!

PAUL CAREY, DOLORES O’RIORDAN AND OISÍN BYRNE

PORTRAIT GALLERY, DUBLIN CASTLE

PORTRAIT GALLERY, DUBLIN CASTLE
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