

# NEWSLETTER

## IFAA THANKSGIVING 2013

*by Róisín Tiernan*

A most enjoyable and fun evening was had by all who gathered together in The Helix at Dublin City University to celebrate Thanksgiving 2013. Guests included DCU President, Professor Brian Mac Craith, and DCU Deputy President Mr. Jim Dowling and his wife Cepta. Visiting US Fulbright awardees included Dr. Robert Strong (UCD), Ms. Lily Akerman (Royal Irish Academy of Music), Ms. Lauren Agoubi (NUI Galway), and Ms. Caitlin Myron (NUI Galway). Former US Fulbright Awardee Ms. Erin Treacy joined the celebrations whilst on a return visit to Ireland.

The programme started with seasonal drinks in the Gallery foyer. DCU President, Professor Brian Mac Craith welcomed all the guests to DCU. Unfortunately, due to prior commitments, Professor Mac Craith could not spend the whole evening with us. To everyone's delight the Campus Choir, under the direction of Ms. Christina Whyte of Chamber Choir Ireland, treated the guests to 'The Last Rose of Summer' and 'Oh Shenandoah'. Dr. Bob Strong and his daughter hail from the Shenandoah Valley so this piece had added meaning for them. A surprise and a bonus for some of us was the appearance of the IFAA President Dr. Sarah Ingle singing in the Campus Choir. The only disappointment in the performance was that it was too short!

In a quick change of roles, this was then followed by the Thanksgiving



Fulbright Alumni take over Santa's cave at the Helix.



The DCU Campus Choir, under the direction of Ms. Christina Whyte

address by Sarah Ingle. We were then escorted to the Gallery Restaurant where dinner was served. The meal was excellent and guests enjoyed the traditional Thanksgiving menu of sweet potato and butternut squash soup, traditional roast breast of turkey and honey glazed baked ham, followed by a delicious dessert.

A novel, fun event took place after dinner in the form of a Thanksgiving Quiz. Competitive streaks were revealed resulting in much hilarity as people scratched those heads in an attempt to answer questions such as 'which President was the first to pardon a turkey instead of eating it?' and 'how many turkeys were raised in the US in 2012?'. Emily Strong, daughter of Dr. Bob Strong, came in first followed by IFAA Board Member, Róisín Tiernan. IFAA Vice-President, Jimmy O'Brien Moran,

closed the formal part of the evening acknowledging the importance of remembering the good and the positive in our lives. Senator Fulbright's vision of fostering understanding between people of different cultures and creeds was highlighted. The important role of the IFAA, in providing opportunities for Irish Fulbright Alumni and visiting US Fulbrighters to come together, was commended.

Following the dinner, guests retired to the bar for music, song and spontaneous entertainment, of which there was much. Jimmy played a few tunes on the pipes and various songs in Irish were performed by IFAA members Gráinne Ní Mhuirí, Nóirín Ní Laighin and Lisa Judge giving a taste of Irish music to our visitors. Some of the visitors, in turn, were encouraged to sing, bringing the successful evening to a close. Our



IFAA President Sarah Ingle addressing the guests at Thanksgiving 2013 at the Helix

thanks to Sarah Ingle for organising the Thanksgiving celebration of 2013.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Performing at the IFAA Fringe event at the American Embassy on the eve of the IUSA conference were Lillis Ó Laoire, Jimmy O'Brien Moran, and Jesse Smith.

*By Sarah Ingle*

singer Lillis Ó Laoire along with fiddler Jesse Smith wowed the assembled audience with a world premiere of tunes from Jimmy's new CD. It was a magical evening.

This edition of the IFAA newsletter expounds upon the artistic work and activities of several IFAA members including two members of the IFAA Board, Gráinne Cuffe and Mary McPartlan and President Emerita Thérèse Fahy. The next two regional IFAA *Combluadars* in Limerick and Galway respectively, also have cultural and musical themes. Finally, our very special IFAA TEDx Fulbright Fringe! Creativity in the Literary and Sonic Arts will be held in the US Ambassador's residence on 4 April, featuring Fulbright alumni in musical and literary performances. I look forward to welcoming you to one of these events.

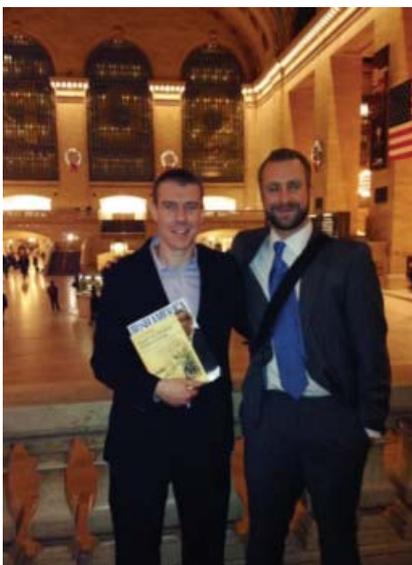
As you may know, having had the privilege of being elected President of the Irish Fulbright Alumni Association in May 2013, I planned to promote a theme of arts and culture during my two year term of office. So far this aspiration has been more successful than I could have envisaged and I want to thank the IFAA Executive Board for supporting me in this

endeavour. In particular, Vice-President Jimmy O'Brien Moran deserves a huge vote of thanks for bringing to fruition my idea of IFAA providing a traditional music event to launch the Ireland US Alumni Association (IUSA) 2014 conference. On 24 January in the Rotunda of the US Embassy, in world-class style he and Fulbright alumnus, *sean-nós*

***Brendan Cleary  
sends greetings  
from New York  
where he is  
studying at  
Columbia  
University***

While he is there he is availing of every sporting opportunity that comes his way from attending American football games, both college and professional, to playing rugby for the university. He is also enjoying meeting other Fulbrighters and FLTAs with whom he converses as gaeilge. He also reports that the studies are going well. A more detailed report has been posted on the DIT website.

Below is a photo of Brendan inside Grand Central Station with Jonathan O'Neill who is also a Fulbrighter and is teaching Irish as a Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) to mostly Irish-American students at New York University and Drew University.



***IFAA Events Calendar 2014***

The IFAA Board invites you to join us and your fellow alumni for a number of events that are planned for the coming year. Our Membership Secretary, Sinéad Murnane, will keep you electronically posted on each event as the date approaches.



22 March

**Limerick Comhluadar**



26 March

**Galway Comhluadar**

Arts in Action concert at the Aula Maxima, NUIG.



4 April

**IFAA Fulbright Fringe**

Residence of the US Ambassador, Phoenix Park, featuring Fulbright Alumni musicians and poets.



11 April

National Concert Hall – IFAA outing to hear a programme that includes music from Beethoven and Mozart.



9 April

Professor Eugene Coyle launches his book *Understanding the Global Energy Crisis*, at DIT Aungier St



8 April

**Gerald Peregrine concert performance**

National Concert Hall, Earlsfort Terrace



8 May

**IFAA Annual General Meeting**

Boston College, 42 St Stephen's Green, Dublin



17 May

**Gráinne Cuffe Solo Exhibition Launch**

Graphic Studio Gallery, Temple Bar, Dublin



*Sundays in May and June*

**Thérèse Fahy concert series**

Thérèse will be playing a series of lunchtime concerts at the Hugh Lane Gallery, Parnell Square, Dublin 1



24 June

**19th Annual IFAA Scholars' Dinner**

Dublin Castle

Don't forget to check out our website ([www.irishfulbrightalumni.com](http://www.irishfulbrightalumni.com)) and facebook page.

## MY FULBRIGHT VISIT

*By Mary McPartlan*



Jazz legend Bertha Hope and Mary McPartlan performing at the ZirZamin venue in Greenwich Village, New York

I am a teacher and Director of the Arts in Action Programme at NUI Galway. I am also a professional traditional singer and perform regularly in Ireland and abroad. I was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for 2012/2013 to teach at Lehman College (CUNY) in semester 2, 2013. As part of my scholarship, I also delivered a guest lecture series to several universities, colleges and institutions and collaborated with music artists in Kentucky and New York. My Fulbright visit offered many networking opportunities which have resulted in possible links and collaborations between NUI Galway and specific academic institutions in the US.

The guest lecture programme was a bedrock of analysis and exchange ideas for potential US student engagement in a semester abroad at NUI Galway. Artistic collaborations are leading to rich and exciting endeavours for the development of new work with Irish traditional music and song, African-American Blues, and Bluegrass music.

The outcomes of my Fulbright experience were vastly beyond my expectations and I wish to acknowledge the support of the Galway University Foundation and the Fulbright Commission (Ireland)

Among my academic duties for Spring Semester was teaching a module on the history of Irish traditional arts, Irish plays, and Irish playwrights since the 1950s, to thirty African-American and Hispanic students at Lehman College (CUNY). I was also a guest lecturer at Wellesley College, Boston, Point Park University, Pittsburgh, the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, the Irish American Historical Society, NYC, Berea College, Kentucky, St John Fisher College, Rochester, and at the Irish American Cultural Institute, New Jersey.

I also did research in various types of music including Jazz, Blues, and Bluegrass music. I collaborated in working and developing new interpretations of American Blues and Irish Folk music with the renowned Jazz pianist in New York, Ms Bertha Hope. I researched the music of Ms Jean Ritchie and the music of the Appalachian Mountains at the

Library in Berea College Kentucky. I also managed some theatre research at the Michael Chekhov Association and a collaboration with the President of the association Ms Joanna Merlin and colleagues.

I performed at several institutions and venues in New York city including Glucksman Ireland House (Folk Club), The CELL (artists without walls) AWoW, the Landmark music Venue, and a concert that was a culmination of a “work in progress” with pianist Bertha Hope at ZirZamin Greenwich Village. I also performed in Kentucky at Berea College.

During my visit to Kentucky I got to meet the great American folk singer and collector Jean Ritchie who visited Ireland and Britain on a Fulbright scholarship in the early 1950s where she and her photographer husband, the late George Pickow, documented their visit in audio recordings and photographs. Their Fulbright collection is housed in the Hardiman Library in NUI Galway.

I attended a series of Theatre and Music Performances throughout the semester in NYC. This was a great joy and privilege for me. I had a great time and a memorable experience.



Sarah with Fulbrighters Mary McPartlan and Karen Devine at the Cobalt Cafe event that Mary organised for Jazz musician Bertha Hope

## PAUL'S FAREWELL LUNCH

*By Jimmy O'Brien Moran*

Such is the camaraderie and goodwill within the IFAA Board that when former IFAA President Paul Donnelly was leaving to take up his prestigious Taiwan Fellowship, his friends at the IFAA held a lunch in his honour. Roly's Bistro, Ballsbridge, Dublin, is a busy place on a Sunday afternoon, but we gathered in our circle on November 10th and had an enjoyable farewell lunch with Paul. Among those who attended were former IFAA Newsletter Editor Aidan Kennedy and his wife Timmina, Darach Turley, Anne Cleary, Gráinne Cuffe, Sinéad Murnane, Willo Roe, Sarah Ingle and myself. At the appropriate moment, Sarah gave a short speech and recited an ode that she had composed, which reflected our sense of gratitude for the huge work Paul put in during his time on the IFAA Board. Sarah then presented Paul with a gift from his



Paul's farewell do in Roly's Bistro with IFAA Membership Secretary Sinéad Murnane

IFAA friends of a beautiful framed etching by Gráinne. Paul responded with a few farewell words, where he thanked everyone and spoke fondly about his time on the IFAA Board.

We again wish to extend our thanks to Paul for his huge contribution. You may catch up on his time in Taiwan so far in the current issue of the newsletter.

---



---

## US FULBRIGHT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013

*By Sarah Ingle*

The 2013 USFA 36th Annual Conference, 'Fulbright in Action', was held during 3-6 October 2013 in Washington DC. I was privileged to have the chance to travel to and participate in this event and would like to thank the IFAA Executive Board for supporting my attendance. I felt in advance that it would be a wonderful opportunity to meet and network with an international Fulbright community on behalf of IFAA members and alumni and this certainly proved to be the case.

The US Fulbright Association (USFA), set up in 1977, currently has about 6,000 members. As well as

these individuals, approximately 172 institutional members, including colleges, universities, and international educational organizations throughout the US, support the association. Similar to the IFAA in Ireland, the Fulbright Association in the US exists to help alumni contribute to the well-being of the Fulbright Programme, to the institutions and communities to which they return, and to the country that made possible their Fulbright experience. This aspiration is supported by the many active regional Chapters of the USFA throughout the US.

During the conference I met with

members of the Fulbright Commission Board, including President John Vogel who was a Fulbright Scholar in Brussels during 1968, where he was a stagiaire at the European Union and served as an assistant to the EU's chief legal counsel. I was delighted to make the acquaintance of Mrs Harriet Mayor Fulbright and also had the opportunity to speak, on a number of occasions, to the Executive Director of the Fulbright Association Stephen Reilly. Steve, who completed a Masters Degree while on a Fulbright award in Sweden, took on this role in January 2013. Previously Steve was an active member and leader with the National

Capital Area Chapter of the Fulbright Association during 2008- 2012.

The conference itself began with an opening reception with poster presentations and was an informal opportunity to mingle with the international delegates, all with a Fulbright affiliation, from 36 countries around the world! One of these delegates was Gary Fair, the Chair of the British Fulbright Scholars Association (BFSA) who members of the IFAA have met on a number of occasions in Dublin and Northern Ireland. It was great to have the chance to catch up with Gary as well as exchange and share views and experiences of the conference.

During the following two days, conference presentations were organised into five themes, demonstrating how Fulbrighters worldwide are taking action to address issues of the day: Business and Entrepreneurship; Human Rights and Social Justice; Science and Technology; Arts and Humanities; and Global Public Health. Fulbright academics, medical doctors, actuaries, artists, researchers, chemists, students and scholars, among many others, all connected around the crucial goal of turning the Fulbright experience into a lifelong commitment. Local Congressman Jim Moran gave a plenary address on the importance of international exchange, reminding delegates that they are an important group and should be powerful advocates for the Fulbright programme and for meaningful US engagement abroad. David Bradley took up this message on the evening of the second day from a more personal angle recounting, in the State Department's stunning diplomatic reception rooms, how his Fulbright year in the Philippines led to a consistent commitment to projects in that country.

Other conference panels touched on themes that resonated with



Sarah with Past President of the US Fulbright Association Dick T. Arndt and current President John Vogel



Sarah with Executive Director of the US Fulbright Association, Stephen Reilly

attendees across a variety of disciplines. Participants were particularly inspired by Alice Blumenfeld's *Selma Jeanne Cohen* lecture: an interactive investigation into the true roots of flamenco, seeking to go beyond its commercial and politically fabricated origin stories. Two lunchtime presentations proved even more provocative: Civil Rights icon James Meredith delivered an impassioned message about educating today's youth guided by his faith in God, and the gender equality lunch, introduced by *Lean In's* Sheryl

Sandberg, opened a fruitful discussion about the "Missing Voice" of men in the gender debate.

Other presentations included a discussion on the relevance of a liberal arts education in the twenty-first-century economy with Pitzer College President Laura Trombley, George Mason University's President Angel Cabrera and Gallup Education's Brandon Busted. Panel discussions also took place on "The Challenges of Healthcare in Africa," "The Global Challenge in Cybersecurity" and "Achieving

Diversity in the Fulbright program” to name but a few. The conference closed with the screening of two documentaries by Fulbrighters: Kristin Pichaske’s *Zulu Hoops* and Jeremy Xido’s *Death Metal Angola*, that spoke to the huge and important impact of cultural exchange, whether through basketball or heavy metal music. The screening of these documentaries highlighted a point raised throughout the conference,

that one way Fulbright Alumni Associations can make a difference is by providing a platform for Fulbright artists who help to keep alumni connected to an international community and each other through the power of their work.

The conference was a great success and a wonderful opportunity to network with the worldwide Fulbright community. Although, unfortunately, the US Government

shutdown was in place at the time, I was still able to explore the wonderful city of Washington DC, and in fact got to several places that I wouldn’t have thought of visiting if the shutdown had not been in place. Highlights included the National Museum of Women in the Arts, The Phillips Collection – a private modern art museum, the Washington National Cathedral, and the sophisticated suburb of Georgetown.

## GEORGIA ON MY MIND...

*By Thomas O’Toole (Waterford IT)*

As I write this piece, Atlanta and the state of Georgia are experiencing freezing weather which they are most certainly not used to. While I was there from April – September 2013, it was its usual hot self with temperatures averaging around 32°C and with humid conditions. However, many complained of the summer rain which they said was more frequent than usual. Perhaps it followed me from Ireland! It was the first time that I experienced the American South in a more in-depth way. I was privileged to have a Fulbright Scholarship to undertake research at the J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University. I was based in the Business School’s Department of Marketing which is among the top ranked in the US. The staff were warm and friendly and provided a supportive environment for my research and made their contacts and expertise readily available to me while I was there. Indeed, a collaboration was started which will continue with a professor at Georgia State and one at the University of Alabama.

My research is in the business-to-business marketing and strategy fields and in particular, addresses how firms collaborate to create value. The main

research project that I worked on in Atlanta was in regard to how high technology entrepreneurial firms grow their ability to connect to resources available from partnering firms or other agencies such as university incubators or governmental supports. Currently, the team and I are ploughing through the data we collected and looking forward to a

long stream of publications from it, as well as fine-tuning the lessons for Ireland’s entrepreneurs. One of the huge benefits of the Fulbright Scholarship is that everyone was agreeable to meet and provide access to their organisations.

Atlanta is a hotbed for entrepreneurship and home to many US Fortune 500 firms. For example,



Left to right: Professor Naveen Donthu, Head of the Department of Marketing, Professor Wesley J. Johnston, CBIM RoundTable Professor of Marketing, Dr. Thomas O’Toole, Fulbright Scholar, Head of School of Business, Waterford Institute of Technology, and Professor H. Fenwick Huss, Dean of the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, Georgia State University.

for the research project I visited 19 organisations that support entrepreneurs in a variety of ways in the city. There are more! An interesting angle from an Irish perspective is the number of private sector networks that support nascent entrepreneurial firms of which we do not have an equivalent. My research colleagues and I presented papers and gave lectures during my period there and I managed to visit Georgia Tech, Emory, and the Universities of Georgia and Alabama.

Five months was a relatively short time but it did ignite a passion for understanding southern culture. The stereotypes are true, they are extremely hospitable and the food is great. But of course there are many more layers to the culture of the South than I can relate in this piece. The 50th anniversary of Martin

Luther King's 'I have a Dream' speech took place in 2013. Atlanta was also at the confluence of the American Civil War. There is so much history to absorb which helps comprehend the multicultural nation at the heart of America.

Unusually, I used public transport while I was there and sometimes walked, which is not done by most, and I was often asked what it was like! The city is quite spread out with three major groups of skyscrapers marking out the territory at downtown, at midtown and in Buckhead. Hence, the car is king!

Atlanta is a great place for families and kids with Coca Cola, the Georgia Aquarium, Stone Mountain, the water jets of Olympic Park, but for me the beautiful Piedmont Park in the middle of the city was a major highlight as was the grand design of

the High (Museum of Art). As luck would have it, and it must be Irish, I connected with a first cousin of mine who works for UPS, so it was great to be able to spend some time with him and his family as I have many generations of relatives who are US natives and only meet them on occasion. Ireland has a Consul office in Atlanta which does a fine job of presenting us in a part of America that is open to finding out more. The region has six million people and is an attractive place to go and begin business for the entire South.

My only wish would have been to have more time to spend in the 'land of Peachtree'. Believe me, there are a lot of streets and roads named Peachtree something or other, however a little bit of confusion is good for the visitor and leaves you smiling, with Georgia on your mind...

---

---

## IUSA CONFERENCE

*By Darach Turley*

The Stephen's Green Hibernia Club was the venue for the Ireland United States Alumni Association (IUSA) third annual conference on January 25th 2014. The conference had opened the previous evening with a traditional musical event organised by the IFAA held at the US Embassy. Jimmy O'Brien Moran along with sean-nós singer Lillis Ó Laoire and fiddler Jesse Smith provided stellar entertainment during which you could hear a pin drop.

The conference programme during the following day was divided into four major sessions, three of which comprised three-person panels with each panelist making a short presentation followed by a general discussion. As IFAA membership includes automatic IUSA membership, Fulbright alumni were well

represented among the attendees.

The first panel, chaired by IUSA Board member and Fulbrighter Denise Ferran, focused on contrasting and comparative analyses of funding the arts during a time of financial stringency on both sides of the Atlantic. Robert Lynch, President/CEO of Americans for the Arts, recounted his experiences from a US perspective, a viewpoint that was complemented by Patrick Murphy's account of being an Irishman promoting artistic events, some of them controversial and provocative, to US audiences. Patrick currently serves as Director of the Royal Hibernian Academy. The third panelist for this opening session was Fiach Mac Conghail, Director of the Abbey Theatre, who emphasised the critical role that US tours have played

over the years in both sustaining and developing the Abbey repertoire.

The next session centred on matters economic. All three panelists chose to highlight the pivotal role of management personnel in Ireland's economic growth. Professor John Fitzgerald of the ESRI pointed out how many of the current cohort of senior managers in both US multinationals and indigenous companies here had accrued valuable international experience prior to returning to Ireland, a factor that may explain why the Irish economy has registered growth while much of Europe has not. On a similar note, John Kiernan, CEO of Quintiles, stressed that continued economic growth here will be predicated less on tax considerations than on the education, experience, and creativity

of the Irish workforce. Madeleine Quirk of the Wexford Chamber of Commerce drew attention to the need for senior, experienced managers to serve as mentors to SME entrepreneurs who often balk at the formidable challenges involved in exporting to the US.

The role and survival of the 'Fourth Estate' (journalistic media) was the focus of the third session. Professor Roy Greenslade of City University London saw a continuing and much-

needed role for vibrant and robust investigative institutions that can hold the political establishment to account. Interestingly, he also noted how the Fourth Estate itself is now increasingly being held to account by social media. Diane Brace of National Public Radio in the US drew attention to the need to guard the editorial firewall between the funding office in NPR and its newsroom. With heavy reliance on corporate donors this issue is both central and

sensitive for any media organisation wishing to maintain editorial independence while soliciting commercial support.

The fourth and final session of the day took a distinctly political turn and featured detailed and contrasting perspectives on US-EU relationships from both sides of the Atlantic given by Stuart Dwyer, Chargé d'Affaires, US Embassy and Geraldine Byrne Nason, Secretary General at the Department of the Taoiseach.

## HANDPRINT

*By Sarah Ingle*



IFAA President Emerita Thérèse Fahy after her performance of *Handprint* at the National Concert Hall on 8 March 2014, with her parents Frank and Kathleen Fahy

The last six months have been very busy for IFAA President Emerita, concert pianist Thérèse Fahy. In 2013 she commissioned and curated a special collection of piano pieces, designed specifically for smaller hands, entitled *Handprint*. With the support of the Arts Council, six Irish composers; Bill Whelan, Siobhán Cleary, Michael Holohan, Gráinne Mulvey, Benjamin Dwyer, and Raymond Deane each composed a piece of work for Thérèse to curate and perform.

The overall project has three key strands: in January and February a number of workshops were held for an audience of composers and pianists, co-hosted by the Contemporary Music Centre. These explored the background and creative process of each piece, from both compositional and pianistic viewpoints. The second strand was the world premiere performance of the *Handprint* collection at the New Music Dublin festival where Thérèse gave a 50 minute recital performing the six new

pieces in the Kevin Barry room of the National Concert Hall. Five of the composers were in attendance and, as an audience member, I was enthralled and impressed by both the intricacy and power of the works and the depth of performance that Thérèse brought to them.

Finally, in May and June of 2014, each of the works will be integrated into a three-part, free, concert series at the Dublin City Gallery which promise to be wonderful events. I hope to see you there. The IFAA sends many congratulations to Thérèse on this great initiative.

*Handprint: Before and Beyond*  
Thérèse Fahy, piano

Sundays@Noon, Dublin City  
Gallery, The Hugh Lane

4 May 2014:

Ravel/Whelan/Scarlatti/Dwyer/  
Granados

1 June 2014:

Mozart/Schoenberg/Scriabin/  
Deane/Mulvey/Debussy/Messiaen

29 June 2014:

Debussy/Holohan/Ravel/Cleary,  
with poems by Séamus Heaney and  
WB Yeats read by Donal Kelly

## GRÁINNE CUFFE, ARTIST PROFILE MARCH 2014

By Sarah Ingle



Gráinne in full flow explaining her work at the Graphic Studio Gallery

### Background and Training

IFAA Board member Gráinne Cuffe is an Irish artist and printmaker of international renown. Dublin born, she graduated in Fine Art from the

Dun Laoghaire College of Art and Design in 1979. Her full portfolio of work can be described as being 'loosely botanical', being influenced and inspired by a number of sources, including a visual consideration of flowers, Bauhaus principles, the work of Georgia O'Keeffe, and Japanese prints such as those at the Chester Beatty Library. Written work which has also been influential includes: *Berger on Drawing* by John Berger (2007) and *The Naming of Names: The Search for Order in the World of Plants* by Anna Pavord (2005).

In 1986 Gráinne continued her artistic training by winning an Italian government scholarship to study etching under Giorgio Upiglio in Milan. She followed this by further academic work, completing a post-graduate degree in etching awarded in

1989 by Central St. Martin's, University of the Arts, London, where she studied under Professor Norman Ackroyd. In 1995 she received an Irish Arts award to work and lecture in Vastervik, Sweden. More recent accolades include an invitation by the French cultural attaché to exhibit her work during August 2012 at the *Festival Interceltique de Lorient*.

### Fulbright Experience

Gráinne's Fulbright Award in 1984 was spent at the Tamarind Institute, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque undertaking a Master Printmaker course in lithography. While at Tamarind she was exposed to many different aspects of stone and plate lithography techniques and a lifetime's passion was ignited. Following successful completion of

*Hi all*

*I want to thank Fulbright for giving me the opportunity to carry out my Fulbright scholarship at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego. I honestly had the best experience there, both professionally and personally, and enjoyed every minute of it. Even though it was only a relatively short stay in the US I feel it has given me so much confidence to advance in my research career in Ireland and teach fellow marine scientists the skills I have learned. I met some wonderful people and even feel that it made me a better person too!*

*I've been meaning to email since I came home at Christmas but I was working out at sea in January (which you can imagine was unpleasant in the storms we've had!). I'm back at the Marine Institute now working as a post doctorate and missing the sun and surf from La Jolla.*

*Thanks again for all your help and support; I hope we will cross paths in the near future!*

*Warm regards, Triona McGrath*



Sinéad  
 Irish Fulbright Alumni  
 Association  
 Dublin

the three month programme, Gráinne subsequently undertook two internships, one in Grey Arrow Press, Santa Barbara, California and one at Editions Limited, San Francisco, bringing her total stay in the US to six months.

There were many cultural and other shocks in store for Gráinne throughout her stay in New Mexico. Her roommate, part American-Indian, was unaware of where Ireland was geographically located and knew nothing about the country. A potted version of Irish history provided by Gráinne, subsequently resulted in feelings of empathy towards her as an Irish woman and an invitation to attend a special festival in a Navajo Indian reservation. This was her first experience of being referred to as 'white' and she was the only non-native American at the festival.

### *Etchings Inspiration*

Two other significant events around that time, along with the formal structured Fulbright experience, were to dramatically change Gráinne's work as an artist. When first travelling to New Mexico, as there were no direct flights to Albuquerque from New York, she flew to Los Angeles to stay with a friend for a couple of nights. Curiosity led her to a print studio, 'Gemini Editions', where she viewed a David Hockney etching more than one metre square, a single energised line drawing of a silhouetted head. Shockingly simple, beautifully big, it made a huge impression and she fell in love with it. Looking back, Gráinne has since realised that this was the first major influence on her to begin the journey of starting to create large etchings four years later.

The second significant event occurred six months after the Hockney incident. Gráinne's route home to Ireland included a couple of days on the East Coast of America

where a visit to the Boston Museum of Fine Art introduced her to the etchings of James McNeill Whistler, complete with stage proofs. Inspired by this work, and her whole Fulbright experience, she began making etchings for the first time in Ireland.

### *Works and Demonstrations*

Gráinne exhibits regularly in group shows at Graphic Studio Gallery, Dublin. She is a frequent exhibitor at the Royal Hibernian Academy Summer Show, and the Royal Academy Summer Show, Picadilly, London. Gráinne's work has also been collected by: Office of Public Works, Dublin; Arts Council of Ireland; Chester Beatty Library; Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Dublin; Dublin City University; University College Dublin; University of Limerick; University of Santa Cruz, California; Electricity Supply Board Ireland HQ; Bank of Ireland; Mater Hospital, Dublin; St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin; St. James' Hospital, Dublin; Hastings Hotels Group; Childrens' Court, Smithfield; B.P. Oil, Brussels; Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago.

During 2013 Gráinne exhibited work at a number of shows including: The Mermaid Open Show, curated by Patrick Murphy, RHA; RHA Summer Show; Open Studio, Glasnamullan, Calary, Bray, Co. Dublin; Greenacres, Selkar, Wexford and *Bloom* Botanical Art Exhibition. As part of the latter exhibition in the Phoenix Park, the Irish Society of Botanic Artists invited non members to exhibit with them in a curated show. Other showings during 2013 included; the Watercolour Society of Ireland who have a section for etchings, and run a yearly show, exhibiting at the County Hall, Dun Laoghaire; Graphic Studio Gallery, Dublin: *Variations on a Theme*, 5 artists working in series and the *Winter Show*.

## SPONSORS OF THE IRISH FULBRIGHT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*IFAA gratefully acknowledges the generous sponsorship/assistance of:*

- ◆ Athlone Institute of Technology  
.....
- ◆ Department of Foreign Affairs  
and Trade  
.....
- ◆ Dublin City University  
.....
- ◆ Dublin Institute of Technology  
.....
- ◆ Galway-Mayo Institute of  
Technology  
.....
- ◆ Institute of Technology Tallaght  
.....
- ◆ Irish Fulbright Commission  
.....
- ◆ Limerick Institute of  
Technology  
.....
- ◆ National College of Ireland,  
Dublin  
.....
- ◆ National University of Ireland,  
Galway  
.....
- ◆ National University of Ireland,  
Maynooth  
.....
- ◆ Newpark Music Centre, Dublin  
.....
- ◆ Royal College of Surgeons  
in Ireland  
.....
- ◆ St. Patrick's College,  
Drumcondra  
.....
- ◆ Trinity College Dublin  
.....
- ◆ US Embassy Dublin  
.....
- ◆ University College Dublin  
.....
- ◆ University College Cork  
.....
- ◆ University of Limerick  
.....
- ◆ Waterford Institute of  
Technology  
.....



Sarah with Gráinne at the Botanic Gardens *A Natural Selection*, with Gráinne's print for the exhibition, *Clematis Orientalis* in the background which was subsequently presented to IFAA President Emeritus Paul Donnelly at his farewell lunch

Gráinne's last piece to be exhibited in 2013, *Clematis Orientalis*, was at the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin. She was one of the organisers of the exhibition in the gardens, *A Natural Selection*, which was a fund raising show for Graphic Studio Dublin. For this event, a hundred national and international printmakers were invited to make a print, inspired by the gardens, with a limited edition of 100.

Over the years, Gráinne has presented many very well received talk and demonstrations about her work and the print making techniques that she utilises. In 2013 alone she gave three general talks at the Graphic Studio Dublin in the early autumn and also presented on her large format drawings in the National Botanic Gardens later in the year.

#### *Life and Work in 2014*

Gráinne now works both in her studio at home in Wicklow, and also in the Graphic Studio Dublin on North Circular Road. She lives with her husband Brien Vahey, painter and set designer, and their two teenage children. Inspiration still comes from many sources but one of the most

important for Gráinne is the adherence to her mother's aesthetic of putting a beautiful flower or two from the garden on the table every day throughout the year.

There is a very clear process to Gráinne's work, visual, artistic and technical. Sketches are first undertaken to create the piece of art and the final drawing is created. The drawing is then etched onto the plate and can often take a while to settle, visually and aesthetically. Gráinne works through the expected possibilities, artistically, technically and in terms of colour. This process cannot be rushed, or the time required anticipated. It can many days longer than originally planned to arrive at the perfect solution for the final image using a number of coloured inks.

Far from the dusty plains of New Mexico but still inspired by her time there, Gráinne is currently very busy working on 20 new limited editions for a major solo exhibition to be launched in the Graphic Studio Gallery in Temple Bar, Dublin on 17 May 2014. Included in the exhibition will be several new large etchings including *Clematis Orientalis* and

*Primula Candellabra* and a range of suites / series of new smaller sized prints including dianthus, fritillary, tulip, roses and cowslip. The preparatory drawings for these etchings were completed over a two year period. Clematis studies have been an annual occurrence over the last six years and on-going tulip drawings from Gráinne and her friends' gardens as well as the National Botanic Gardens are undertaken every year. This heavily anticipated show is shaping up to be a significant and very special event. All of us in the IFAA wish Gráinne very well for the success of the exhibition and in the completion of the work.

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

## IFAA BOARD

The following are the current Board members:

- ◆ President:  
Dr Sarah Ingle  
[president@irishfulbrightalumni.com](mailto:president@irishfulbrightalumni.com)
- ◆ Vice-President:  
Dr Jimmy O'Brien Moran  
[vicepresident@irishfulbrightalumni.com](mailto:vicepresident@irishfulbrightalumni.com)
- ◆ Hon. Secretary:  
Prof. Darach Turley  
[secretary@irishfulbrightalumni.com](mailto:secretary@irishfulbrightalumni.com)
- ◆ Membership Secretary:  
Ms Sinéad Murnane  
[membershipsecretary@irishfulbrightalumni.com](mailto:membershipsecretary@irishfulbrightalumni.com)
- ◆ Treasurer:  
Dr Anne Cleary  
[treasurer@irishfulbrightalumni.com](mailto:treasurer@irishfulbrightalumni.com)
- ◆ Website Editor:  
Dr. Peter Lonergan  
[webmaster@irishfulbrightalumni.com](mailto:webmaster@irishfulbrightalumni.com)
- ◆ Members:  
Ms Róisín Tiernan; Ms Gráinne Cuffe; Ms Nell Regan; Ms Mary McPartlan
- ◆ Ex Officio Board Member:  
Dr. Paul Donnelly

## 問候來自台灣 / GREETINGS FROM TAIWAN!

By 唐保羅 / Paul Donnelly

Thanks to a Taiwan Fellowship, awarded by the Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and facilitated by a Research Fellowship from DIT's College of Business, I am now in Taiwan researching the country's path to economic/industrial development. Already here coming on four months, and thoroughly enjoying every minute, my stay is also an opportunity for immersion in the life, language and culture of the country. I strongly encourage any scholars or experts with an interest in Taiwan, Cross-Strait relations, Sinology or the Asia-Pacific region, and wishing to conduct advanced research at universities or academic institutions in Taiwan, to avail of the opportunities afforded by a Taiwan Fellowship.

For those of us of a certain age, perhaps our awareness of Taiwan came through three words: "Made in Taiwan". But, we needn't feel too guilty about not knowing much about the country, for Ireland is not too familiar to the Taiwanese either. Here we are, two small islands, former colonies, both with very rich cultures and friendly peoples, both with outward-looking economies, and we know little about one another. And that's where I hope to make my own small, but tangible, contribution to increase mutual understanding between the peoples of Taiwan and Ireland.

Never having visited Taiwan before, and not speaking the language, I wondered if I was somewhat nuts altogether to be moving there for a year. But, whatever little doubts I had have long since disappeared. My impression is of a warm and friendly people, who will leave you get on with things, but

who are more than happy for you to call on them for help when needed. Indeed, Dr. Harry Tseng, Taiwan's Ambassador to Ireland, along with his embassy colleague Kathy Ko and her husband Thijs Velema have been a wonderful support. I met regularly with Harry and Kathy before leaving, and Thijs very kindly helped me find my apartment and invited me, amongst other things, to celebrate the arrival of 2014 with him and his friends – there's nothing like seeing the Taipei 101 fireworks in person!

### *Forming Impressions*

With a population of around 23 million people, and an area about two-fifths the size of Ireland, Taiwan is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Christened 'Ilha Formosa' (beautiful island) by Portuguese sailors in the sixteenth century, and also fondly known as 'The Kingdom of the Corals', this sweet-potato-shaped island straddling the Tropic of Cancer is 394km long and 144km wide, with a mountain range comprising some 286 summits over 3,000m – Mount Yushan, at 3,952m, is the tallest in East Asia – running the length of its eastern spine. Taiwan has the 20th largest economy and is the 22nd largest exporter in the world.

Taipei is such an easy city to get around in, thanks in big part to its subway, the MRT. All station signage is in Chinese and English, while all station announcements are in Chinese, Taiwanese (spoken by about 70 per cent), Hakka (spoken by about 15 per cent) and English. Even though Taipei is very user-friendly for English-speakers, I'm availing of a Taiwan Fellowship benefit to learn (traditional) Chinese, which is

proving quite fun. We are 10 in the class, hailing from Ecuador, Iran, Japan, the Netherlands, South Korea, and the US. Classes are pretty intensive (15 hours a week) and we also get homework!

Courtesy of the online edition of the *Taipei Times*, I've been following stories with recurring themes. Proposed changes affecting over a third of the history curriculum have been hotly disputed. Indeed, issues of historical "fact" are very much alive throughout East Asia at the moment, albeit educationalists and historians from the ASEAN group of countries are working on an ambitious common history textbook for South East Asia. Another theme is the lot of the average Taiwanese as it relates to the "three highs, one low" of high unemployment (currently 4.24 per cent), high commodity prices, high housing prices (up 275 per cent since 2003) and low salaries (adjusted for inflation, the average salary of US\$17,750 is the same as it was 15 years ago). The government's recent interest in a "little happiness in hand" would seem welcome.

What most intrigues me, however, is Taiwan's status – referred to differently as the Republic of China (official name), Taiwan (more commonly known name) and Chinese Taipei (name agreed between Taiwan and [the People's Republic of] China for Taiwan's participation in some international organisations and almost all sporting events) – and sovereignty, and the relationship between Taiwan and the Republic of China. While self-identifying as a nation state, internationally, there is a question mark over Taiwan's status due to it losing its membership/recognition in the United Nations in

1971 and its lack of wide (official) diplomatic recognition, along with China claiming the country as its 23rd province and denying its status and existence as a sovereign state. That said, while Taiwan maintains official diplomatic relations with 21 UN member states and the Holy See, informal relations are maintained with many others through *de facto* embassies and consulates.

Here in Taiwan, surveys over the past decade have shown that Taiwanese identity and the people's aspiration for a truly independent and sovereign country have risen to 80 per cent. A recent article in *The National Interest* ("Say Goodbye to Taiwan" by John Mearsheimer) notes: "[M]ost Taiwanese would like their country to gain *de jure* independence and become a legitimate sovereign state in the international system. This outcome is especially attractive because a strong Taiwanese identity — separate from a Chinese identity — has blossomed in Taiwan over the past sixty-five years."

And then there are the little things, such as: so far, I've been woken from sleep by two (magnitude 4 and 5.4) earthquakes (living on the 18th floor, I get rocked back to sleep!); the pedestrian crossings where the "little green man", wearing a cap, is animated to walk and then walk faster as the time to cross nears an end; scooters, scooters everywhere (14 million registered!); ubiquitous convenience stores (one for about every 2,500 people); the classical music played on loudspeaker as children arrive for school; and the Beethoven-playing garbage trucks, which call people, pied-piper style, to come dump their rubbish at the exact same time and spot each day. On that score, Taiwan has the highest recycling rate in the world. The streets are spotless and there's absolutely no eating or drinking allowed on the MRT!

### *Making Connections*

For the purposes of my research, I'm being hosted by the Institute of Sociology at Academia Sinica (the country's pre-eminent research institution). Prof. Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao, the Institute's Director, along with all of the research fellows, assistants, staff and visiting scholars, have been very welcoming. A Fulbrighter himself, Michael has invited me to present at an international conference, titled "Islands and Empires: Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Ireland in Comparative Perspective", jointly organised by the Institutes of Sociology and Taiwan History. I've also participated in a number of Institute social events, including a very enjoyable Chinese New Year dinner, which included a karaoke competition; I didn't sing!

I'm also being hosted by the College of Management at National Taiwan University (the country's top-ranked university and a *Times Higher Education* Top 100 World University), where I've been very warmly welcomed by Professors Ruey-Shan Andy Guo (College Dean), Chan-Jane Lin (Vice Dean of Global Affairs and Global MBA CEO) and Shing-yang Hu (Vice Dean of Administration), and all the team. I was Andy's guest at the College's Chinese New Year lunch, which was most enjoyable, and Chan-Jane has invited me to teach a module on the College's Global MBA.

I meet with other Taiwan Fellows at research talks by Fellows and at social events, such as the Chinese New Year lunch hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Central Library. In addition, I meet regularly with a number of Fellows to share experiences of Taiwan, our research and life in general.

I made a point of connecting with Dr. William Vocke and the team (Lisa, Sam, Clarence and Stephanie)

at Fulbright Taiwan. William kindly invited me to join the three-day mid-year conference for all 75 visiting US Fulbrighters, where I learned about the scholars' research and the work of the English Teaching Assistants (ETAs), along with learning about Taiwan through their experiences. I also connected with the professors mentoring the ETAs, which has led to invitations to their universities to give talks on Ireland, something I'm quite looking forward to.

I've also met with Dr. Hans Tung, Secretary General of the Taiwan Fulbright Alumni Association (TFAA), who has kindly invited me to participate as a panellist in an Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund-sponsored forum he is organising later in the year. The Prime Minister, Dr. Jiang Yi-huah, also happens to be TFAA President, while Taiwan's President, Dr. Ma Ying-jeou, is an IVLP alumnus.

### *Come Explore!*

I'm looking forward to venturing outside Taipei in due course, all the more as the New York Times ranks Taiwan 11th in its "Top 52 Places to Go in 2014", noting "[t]he traveler who wants to do it all should consider Taiwan". Meanwhile, Taipei is ranked a top destination for solo travellers along with being a top-20 destination city for international visitors..

I could go on, but I hope what I've written gives you a sense of this island nation, enough to pique your interest further.

---

---

## NEWS

Congratulations to IFAA President Sarah Ingle on her recent appointment to the Board of the Irish Fulbright Commission. Sarah was nominated and appointed by Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Mr. Eamon Gilmore for a two year period.

## ANNE DRISCOLL - VISITING US FULBRIGHTER

As a 2013–2014 US Fulbright visiting scholar, this past year has exceeded my expectations professionally in nearly every regard. I am a longtime journalist and, since September, I have been extremely fortunate to be working with the Irish Innocence Project at Griffith College Dublin (GCD). The aim of my proposal was to lecture law and journalism students at GCD about wrongful convictions, as well as to teach journalistic skills – such as investigating and interviewing – to the twelve law students from GCD, Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City University who are caseworkers on the Irish Innocence Project, in order to better progress their cases before the courts. That would have been satisfying enough, but then a funny thing happened on my way through my Fulbright.

David Langwallner, Dean of Law at GCD, barrister and lecturer at King's Inns, and founding director of the Irish Innocence Project, has always been very wary of journalists for a variety of reasons. He received me with a certain degree of scepticism, particularly in regard to what role journalists might play in innocence work. So it was a very sweet achievement when I convinced David and the other supervising attorneys on the project that the Irish Innocence Project should expand its model to include journalism students, as well as law students, in order to enhance the efficacy of the Innocence Project work. Of the nearly 70 Innocence Network projects in the world – including almost 60 in the US – the Irish Innocence Project is now only the second project with an integrated model of having both law and journalism students working as caseworkers, the Montana Innocence Project being the other. This development has inspired me to want to spread the word, both in the US and beyond, about the benefits of law and



Anne Driscoll

journalism working shoulder to shoulder in this way. To that end, David and I will be giving a talk at the annual Innocence Network conference in Portland, Oregon, called 'Enemies No More: The Synergy Between Law and Journalism in Innocence Work, A Story of The Odd Couple'.

So yes, I have found great career satisfaction in my Fulbright experience, but I have found personal satisfaction even beyond measure. Six months ago I first set foot on Irish soil and the steps I have taken since then amaze me. Highlights include:

- ◆ Taking Irish lessons and being interviewed in Irish about my Fulbright work on *Raidió Na Life's* 'Fada Is Fairsing'.
- ◆ Joining a *currach* team at East Wall Water Sports Centre and, while rowing in these traditional Irish boats, making friends of my teammates that will surely be lifelong
- ◆ Escorting the SS Hare in *currachs* down the Liffey during a reenactment to commemorate the food relief to the striking workers during the 1913 Lockout

- ◆ Celebrating Celtic holidays by making a Brigid's cross with reeds I pulled up from the canal outside my door, and a holly crown which I wore in a solstice procession down along the quays of the Liffey
- ◆ Exploring Achill by wandering the ruins of a famine village, climbing a steep incline to a 5,000 year old megalithic tomb, and happening upon some Irishmen rolling round bales of hay down to *currachs* at the shore
- ◆ Being taken into the tunnels of a faerie fort and a hurling match in the same week
- ◆ Being proposed to by a farmer at Lisdoonvarna
- ◆ Attending a production of James Joyce's *The Dead* in the house on Usher's Quay where it was set, and moving about the rooms with the 19 actors as if I was part of the party scene and dinner, not part of the audience.
- ◆ In the same day, climbing the 1250 foot Spinc ridge and the 800 foot Bray Head. The day before that I biked 50K through Phoenix Park and along the Royal Canal during gale force winds.
- ◆ Meeting a meteorologist who cares little about the weather (if it rains, wear a raincoat and, anyway, you'll dry eventually) but is devoted to yoga, a quarryman who admired my legs, and the only state pathologist in all of Ireland.

I understand now that conversation is a currency more valuable here than money, and that every conversation – whether it be at a staff meeting or in a pub – is laced with wit, humour and fun. I am lost to a culture that loves storytelling as much as I do. I am lost to Ireland. That is to say, I love Ireland. And I am grateful to the Fulbright Commission for introducing me to her.



Professor Brian Mac Craith, President of DCU, addressing the guests at the IFAA Thanksgiving Dinner at the Helix



Sarah with Mrs Harriet Mayor Fulbright at the USFA 36th Annual Conference



Paul's farewell do in Roly's Bistro with Sarah Ingle



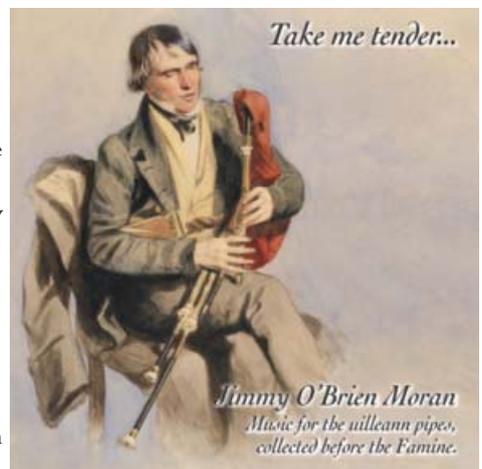
Thanksgiving Singsong: Lisa Nic an Bhreithimh and Nóirín Ní Laighin singing a song in Irish at the IFAA Thanksgiving Dinner at the Helix (with lyrics provided by Google) watched by Róisín Tiernan



Current Irish Fulbright student to DC Kieran McCarthy and friend at the USFA 36th Annual Conference

Congratulations to our Vice-President Jimmy O'Brien Moran on the release of his new piping CD *Take me Tender*. The CD features some of the repertoire of blind pre-famine piper Paddy Conneely (d.1851). Conneely's portrait, painted by FW Burton, adorns the cover and the CD has already received great critical acclaim.

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





Sarah at the British Fulbright Scholars' Association Thanksgiving Dinner, Bangor on 28 November 2013. Included in the photo is Gary Fair (right of Sarah), Chair of BFSA, his wife Claire Fair, Eileen Sung BFSA NI Chapter convener, Penny Holloway and Janet Armstrong the host.

---



Some of the Thanksgiving guests enjoying the performance of the Campus Choir at the IFAA Thanksgiving Dinner at the Helix: Erin Treacy, Emily Strong, PJ Smyth, Bob Strong, Brien Vahey, Gráinne Cuffe and Karen Devine

---



Hilda Green, Artist, US Fulbrighter to the Netherlands at the USFA 36th Annual Conference

---



Gráinne with some of her prints at the Graphic Studio Gallery

---



Foyer of State Department, Washington DC, where a networking reception for the USFA 36th Annual Conference was held

---