

NEWSLETTER



2014/2015 Fulbright Awardees at the IFAA Scholars' Dinner in Dublin Castle with Minister Joe Costello, Board members and invited guests

IFAA 19TH SCHOLARS' DINNER 2014

By Jimmy O'Brien Moran

Our annual Scholars' Dinner is, perhaps, the most important event in the IFAA calendar, where we acknowledge and celebrate the coming year's Fulbright awardees. The dinner took place on 13 July this year, once again in the elegant surroundings of the state rooms in Dublin Castle which bestowed upon it a fitting setting for the occasion.

As board members allocated table places to the attendees, IFAA President Sarah Ingle and Vice-President Jimmy O'Brien Moran

greeted the guests, welcoming them to the magnificent venue which has hosted visiting heads of state down through the years. In the Throne Room, Siobhán Armstrong entertained guests with a selection of pieces on her copy of the wire-strung Trinity harp, the same instrument on which she performed for the visit of Queen Elizabeth of England.

As the guests gathered in the historic Portrait Gallery, they were offered pre-prandial libations to help them relax and socialise and,

following a group photo of the new Fulbright awardees, they were invited to find their seats in the great St Patrick's Hall. The huge room was glittering with light from crystal chandeliers and candlelight, catching the stunning colours of the heraldic banners that hung from the walls.

Our special guests for the evening included Minister of State for Trade and Development, Joe Costello, T.D., and Susan Cleary, Director of Public Affairs at the US Embassy, Dublin. Our MC on the night was IFAA

Treasurer Anne Cleary who performed the task with ease, creating a relaxed atmosphere while keeping the proceedings running smoothly.

Having delivered a very warm and engaging speech, Minister Costello proposed a toast to the American President, Barack Obama. This was followed by a toast from Susan Cleary to the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

IFAA President Sarah Ingle delivered a welcome speech, congratulating the new awardees and acknowledging the work undertaken by the Irish Fulbright Commission led by Director Colleen Dube and the Commission Board of which Sarah is a recently appointed member. Sarah also highlighted the important role of the IFAA in keeping alumni and awardees (both Irish and US) connected. Following her address, the IFAA President and Vice-President read out citations for the awardees and gift bags were presented to them by Board members and other IFAA members. This was followed with a toast to the 2014 Fulbright Awardees by Membership Secretary Sinéad Murnane.

After the wonderful meal, Jimmy O'Brien Moran performed a selection of Irish music from the nineteenth century on the uilleann pipes, after which the proceedings were brought to a close by Anne Cleary.

The evening was an outstanding success due in no small part to the hard work and meticulous planning of our President Sarah Ingle. Our thanks are also due to the board members and other IFAA members who carried out various tasks throughout the evening to ensure that everything ran according to plan. The venue was salubrious and the catering excellent. The event was a most fitting occasion to mark the success of this year's Irish Fulbright awardees. Comhghairdeas leo go léir!



Harpist Siobhán Armstrong entertained the guests as they arrived at the Throne Room in Dublin Castle.



Board members Jimmy O'Brien Moran, Sinéad Murnane, and Sarah Ingle, awaiting guests for the Scholars' Dinner, Dublin Castle.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FULBRIGHTER

By Anne Graham Cagney

In attempting to write this article I take out the diary my daughter gave me before I left for America. The inscription on the first page (of the mostly unwritten diary) reads:“

Dear Mum,
Please document your travels in America in great depth so that we can sell this journal on e-bay when you're rich and famous. Ta. x Claire”

And therein lies the difficulty. How does one encapsulate a Fulbright experience and the community of Fulbrighters in a few short sentences? I have had the great privilege of meeting and working with Fulbright scholars from all over the world and was struck by several core characteristics they had in common: they all shared a strong academic background, many of them significant contributors to their discipline and community of practice. They were all were passionate about meeting and relating to others from different nations and cultures. Many were leaders in their communities or within their academic institutions. They were fun to be with and excited to be part of the Fulbright network of scholars. They were adaptable and flexible in pursuing their proposed Fulbright research project even when it didn't go to plan. Caring, inclusive, compassionate and fun to be around.

Situated in the south-east of Florida, the University of South Florida (USF) is in Tampa. I arrived there at the end of January 2014 after a journey of 900 miles driving from North Carolina. The car I had on loan (from my brother) was a necessity I was told, because 'without a car you're nobody in the South'. Taking the advice but thinking that it was a bit exaggerated I quickly realized that I would have to significantly show my

appreciation to my nephew for giving up his turn at the family 'castoff' car. Luckily my nephew had yet to get his full driving license so loaning it to me for the six months of my stay in the States wasn't quite the disaster for him that it could have been!

Public transport in Florida is very poor and non-existent to speak of in Tampa itself. Outside city limits in any direction you are dependent on getting to your destination by car. While in Florida I had to successfully pass my American driving license as my Irish and International one would not cover me for my total stay in the USA. Small issues like overtaking traffic on the right- AND the left-hand side became a 'normal' event rather than the hair-raising experiences prior to my realization that those manoeuvres were actually LEGAL!

I spent the first half of my Fulbright term at USF's School of Adult Education getting to meet staff and faculty, directors of research, visiting scholars, and other members of the academic community. Being a Fulbright Scholar opened doors for me across the university and I was invited to attend seminars, deliver workshops, join faculty in paired teaching sessions on their doctoral programs. Toward the end of my time in Florida I delivered a keynote address at the USF Fulbright Symposium held at the Patel Centre for Global Solutions at USF World.

Visits were arranged at USF outreach centres at Ybor City and Hillsborough Community College (HCC) where there are 48,000 students. HCC acts as a feeder college for several of the universities in Florida. The Fulbright Alumni Association in South Florida is very inclusive and proactive in bringing Scholars together during their time in Florida. One social event included a 'behind

the scenes' tour of Disneyworld.

My research project discusses a new way to understand teaching and learning in higher education which addresses the perspectives and needs of both the institution and student.

In the USA, there has been greater attention paid in recent years on a constellation of issues related to student success by State legislatures, federal agencies, and accreditation agencies. The specific hot topics of concern include undergraduate retention rates, graduation rates, and total number of credits per student. Various stakeholders in this discussion have diverse expectations, needs, demands, perspectives, and even terms to express their investment in improving metric results of student success.

A metaphor of a "leaky pipeline" can help explain the situation. One might consider higher education institutions (HEIs), their curriculum and procedures of undergraduate education as a pipeline, and the students are the water flowing through it. Furthermore, consider that each molecule of water within the pipeline represents a student. In this analogy, the students must successfully navigate the entire pathway of the pipeline during their undergraduate studies to reach graduation.

Conversely, students who discontinue their journey prior to graduation could be referred to as "leaking water" in our analogy. They are students who leave their higher education institution prior to completing their degree. They would be students who had to interrupt or end their undergraduate learning journey prematurely. The collective group of students who leave the steady flow towards graduation illustrate the hotly contested phenomenon of a "leaky pipeline."

Dr Anne Graham Cagney, WIT, &
Dr Kathleen P. King, USF.

FULBRIGHT FRINGE! AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

By Darach Turley

Friday, April 4th, 2014 saw the Irish Fulbright Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Office of Public Affairs of the US Embassy, present *Fulbright Fringe!* at the Ambassador's Residence in the Phoenix Park. The Public Affairs Office had approached the IFAA's Board to see if they could work together in hosting a social-cultural event to open and complement the TEDxFulbright event that was to take place the following day.

The resulting outcome was a memorable evening of poetry and musical performances delivered by both Irish and US Fulbright awardees to a packed audience in the Residence drawing room. After a brief welcome from both Angie Smith of the US Embassy Public Affairs Office and Sarah Ingle, President of the IFAA, the MC for the evening, Prof. Clive Lee, introduced each of the performers in turn.

Nerys Williams, the award-winning Welsh-born poet, based in UCD, recited three of her poems, *Occupy*, *Scan* and *In Which*. The first of the musical offerings came from the renowned solo cellist Gerald Peregrine who played JS Bach's Saraband from Suite No. 1 in G, followed later by Saint-Saens' *The Swan*. Nell Regan, Artistic Director of the West Cork Literary Festival, was the second poet on the programme and treated the audience to six of her own works. The evening was rounded off by internationally acclaimed pianist, Peter Tuite, who played two of Haydn's piano sonatas followed by a sparkling and exhilarating encore of his own.

Settings, surroundings, and soloists, all made for both a memorable



IFAA President Sarah Ingle (centre) with the musicians and poets who performed at the IFAA *Fulbright Fringe!* event in the US Ambassador's Residence, Phoenix Park: (from left) Peter Tuite, Nell Regan, Nerys Williams, and Gerald Peregrine.

and contrasting start to the TEDxFulbright that was to follow; the fact that it was an 'in-house' Fulbright production made it all the more so.'

Excerpts from these performances can be accessed on Youtube through links on the IFAA website www.irishfulbrightalumni.com



Colleen Dube, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission, Ireland, Susan Cleary, Director of Public Affairs, US Embassy, Dublin, Clive Lee of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, and Angie Smith, Assistant Director of Public Affairs, US Embassy, Dublin at the IFAA *Fulbright Fringe!* event in the US Ambassador's Residence, Phoenix Park.

IFAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

By Sarah Ingle

The 2014 IFAA AGM took place in Boston College, St Stephen's Green, Dublin on 8 May 2014. Following a round of introductions and welcome, the minutes of the 2013 AGM were reviewed and approved. Reports were delivered by the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Secretary, providing details of activities undertaken by the Board over the past year as well as updates on current finances and membership. Anne Cleary's sterling work on moving the IFAA's account to online banking was particularly welcomed as this will make it much easier in the future to review membership subscriptions and track payments for events. In regard to student/unemployed members, it was agreed to introduce a reduced annual

subscription following a proposal by Sinéad Murnane.

Elections to the IFAA Executive Board were then undertaken. Anne Cleary was proposed as Treasurer for another term and was duly elected. Peter Lonergan stepped down as Web-Editor but was re-elected as an ordinary Board member. Also elected as ordinary members were new recruits Nóirín Ní Laighin and Oisín Ó Doinn. Nóirín and Oisín are particularly welcome as they are the first representatives from the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) programme. The Board looks forward to their input, especially in relation to the promotion of Irish where possible.

Róisín Tiernan stepped down from the Board and her major contributions,

in particular regard to the organisation of Comhluadair outside of Dublin, were gratefully acknowledged. Nell Regan also stepped down and was thanked for her work. It was noted that Paul Donnelly's ex-officio membership is now ended. Sincere appreciation was registered by the meeting participants to Paul, in particular by his predecessor, Frank McGoldrick.

Finally a discussion took place on the proposed activities for the coming year and many IFAA members provided input and suggestions which were very welcome. Following the meeting all adjourned for a social event in Boston College. Our sincere thanks are due to Thea Gilien and Claire McGowan for making this wonderful venue available to us and for their hospitality on the day.

精彩的台灣！ / WONDERFUL TAIWAN!

By 唐保羅 / Paul Donnelly

Alas, my time in Taiwan is drawing to a close; it has been a truly wonderful year. While here, I have taken the opportunity to connect with both the Foundation for Scholarly Exchange (the Fulbright Commission) and the Taiwan Fulbright Alumni Association (TFAA). This connection led to an invitation to participate as a panellist in an Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund-sponsored TFAA forum in September. Before I get on to that, I thought some background on Fulbright in Taiwan and the TFAA would be of interest.

Fulbright in Taiwan

The history of Fulbright in Taiwan mirrors the country's evolving history.

The world's first Fulbright Commission (the "US Educational Foundation in China") was established in 1947 in Nanjing, which was then the capital of the Republic of China. However, the resumption of China's civil war in the aftermath of WW2, which eventually saw the Kuomintang-led government of the Republic of China move to Taiwan, resulted in the Foundation ceasing operations.

In 1957, the Foundation recommenced activities in Taiwan as the



(l to r) Dr Paul Donnelly (President Emeritus, IFAA), Dr Paul Chiu (President Emeritus, TFAA) and Dr William Vocke (Executive Director, Foundation for Scholarly Exchange - Fulbright Taiwan).

"US Educational Foundation in the Republic of China". The Foundation's

responsibility for the Fulbright Program was made permanent in 1964, following the signing of a new agreement between the US and Taiwan. 1979 saw the Foundation change to its current name, the “Foundation for Scholarly Exchange” (FSE).

The FSE’s Board of Directors comprises five Taiwanese and five Americans, while the Director of the American Institute in Taiwan (which functions as the US representation in Taiwan) serves as the Foundation’s Honorary Chairman and Dr William Vocke serves as its Executive Director.

Over the course of its history, Fulbright in Taiwan has evolved from an emphasis on science and technology in the 1960s, incorporating the social sciences and humanities in the 1970s, and including the arts and foreign language teaching from the 1990s.

Since 1958, some 1,600 Taiwan Fulbrighters and some 1,300 US Fulbrighters have benefited from the exchange between the two countries. Taiwan’s Fulbrighters include prime ministers, ministers, chief executives, university presidents, academics, professionals, artists and social activists.

TFAA

Established in 1992, the TFAA aims to maintain an active alumni network, promote friendship, and enhance international academic and cultural exchanges. The current Board of Directors, which comprises 15 members, is chaired by the Prime Minister, Dr Jiang Yi-huah, who is serving his second two-year term.

Day-to-day, the TFAA is in the



Island v. Empire: Prof. Jieh-min Wu (Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica) and Dr Paul Donnelly.

hands of a dynamic Secretary General, Prof. Hans Tung, who is a Political Scientist at National Taiwan University (NTU). Hans, with support from FSE staff, organises all TFAA events, which in recent years have included an annual conference, workshops, policy fora, thought leader lectures, a book club, and concerts.

A Sinead a chara,

I hope this email finds you well. I am a ‘Fulbrighter’ from last year (2013–14). I have just finished my Master’s degree at NYU in Educational Leadership, Politics, Policy and Advocacy.

During the degree, last January, I began an internship in the New York Department of Education in the Office of the Senior Deputy Chancellor, and they have since hired me.

So I am going to stay in NYC until June, 2015.

My role is to build capacity in programs which promote educational equity, and expand access opportunities in traditionally underserved communities. At the moment I am working on the NYC DOE Advanced Placement Initiative, which supports more than 4,000 students!

Le gach dea-ghu, Ruth O’Grady



Sinead
 Irish Fulbright Alumni
 Association
 Dublin

TFAA Forum

Having secured AEIF funding for a project titled “Engaging Taiwan Alumni”, Hans invited me to participate in an International Experience Panel and share the IFAA and IUSA models of organising. The audience comprised TFAA alumni and board members, alumni of the International Visitor Leadership Program and Study of the US Institutes (SUSI) Program, and AIT representatives, all of whom were keenly interested in learning from the Irish experience.

I was then invited to attend a dinner, at which the TFAA launched a video celebrating the history of Fulbright in Taiwan, including the TFAA, along with honouring TFAA President Emeritus, Dr Paul Chiu. Dr Chiu, who is credited with developing Taiwan’s Monetary and Foreign Exchange Market, is a former Deputy Governor of Taiwan’s Central Bank, a former Minister for Finance, a former Deputy PM, and current Chairman of Bank SinoPac.

I was honoured by the TFAA in being seated at the top table for the dinner, along with TFAA and FSE Board members. As a result, I had an engaging chat with Dr Chiu. He told me that one of his professors at NTU was an Irish Jesuit, who related stories about Ireland amidst lectures about mathematics.

Island v. Empire

Aside from Fulbright, I was invited to participate in a number of other activities, including presenting a paper linked to my work here at an international conference – *Island v. Empire: Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Ireland in Comparative Perspective* – jointly organised by Academia Sinica’s Institutes of Taiwan History and Sociology.

Also invited to attend from Ireland were Professors Marianne Elliott (Blair Chair and Director of the



Double Tenth Day (l to r): Ambassador Larry Tseng (Director General, Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Prof. Adina Zemanek (Taiwan Fellow from Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland), Mrs Tseng and Dr Paul Donnelly.

Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool), Diane Urquhart (Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool), and Bryan Fanning (UCD). It was great getting to know them all while they were here.

In addition to continuing the personal connection, the conference participants have agreed to continue efforts to develop a joint Ireland-Taiwan research programme.

Double Tenth Day

The 10th of October – Double Tenth Day – marks Taiwan’s national day. To mark the occasion, I was invited by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador David Lin, to the state reception in Taipei Guest House. Though the rain poured, the weather

was still warm enough (equivalent to an Irish summer) for guests to mingle in the gardens beneath sturdy canopies, while enjoying the wonderful food, drink and entertainment. If there’s one thing I’ve learned about Taiwan, it’s that the Taiwanese are real foodies!

Taiwan Fellowship

Based on my own wonderful experience, I very much encourage anyone 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 opportunity afforded by the Taiwan Fellowship. You won’t regret it!

TechImpact Fulbright Award recipient Ruairí McKiernan recently completed his Fulbright research at the pioneering Citizen Engagement Lab in Berkeley, California. During his time there he worked with social movements who are creatively harnessing the web for campaigning, advocacy, and democratic engagement. You can read more about his time in Berkeley on his blog at www.ruairimckiernan.com and in his recent Huffington Post article ‘Berkeley’s Freedom Flame Kept Alive By New Generation Of Activists’



Ruairí McKiernan



CÚRSA GAEILGE DUOLINGO

le Oisín Ó Doinn

Le bliain anuas tá dochtúireacht á scríobh agam bunaithe ar an bhfoghlaim ríomhchuidithe teangacha. Le linn an ama seo táim tar éis teacht ar an oiread sin aipeanna agus clár a chuidíonn le daoine teangacha a fhoghlaim go neamhspleách agus a chuidíonn le múinteoirí cumas a gcuid mac léinn a fhorbairt sa teanga sin chomh maith. Faraor, is annamh a thagaim ar phíosa teicneolaíochta a chuidíonn le duine feabhas a chur ar a c(h)uid Gaeilge. Is trua mór é seo i mo thuairim mar is minic a chloistear daoine ag rá gur bhreá leo tabhairt faoin nGaeilge a fhoghlaim arís, i gceart (n'fheadar cad is brí leis sin), ach nach bhfuil an deis acu. Ar an dea-uair, lainséiladh cúrsa ar-líne don Ghaeilge an tseachtain seo caite chun an bhfadhb sin a réiteach ar Duolingo.com

Is ardán foghlama ar-líne den chéad scoth é Duolingo a chuireann cúrsaí teangacha saor in aisce ar fáil. D'éirigh le Duolingo an chéad áit a bhaint amach san AppStore ar iTunes anuraidh i measc na n-aipeanna saor in aisce is fearr ar an margadh. Thosaigh mé ag obair leis an dream in Duolingo i gcaitheamh na bliana i gcomhar le ceathrar eile chun cúrsa Gaeilge a chur ar fáil don phobal. Lainséil muid an cúrsa in Beta i lár Mheán Fómhair. Is éard a chiallaíonn Beta nach bhfuil sé foirfe go fóill agus go bhfuil sé á fhorbairt againn fós. Faoi láthair tá 45 míle duine cláraithe ar an gcúrsa, agus tá an figiúr seo ag dul in airde in aghaidh an lae. Freisin, is gá a rá nach as Éirinn na húsáideoirí seo uilig.

Tá a fhios agam cé chomh luachmhar is atá teicneolaíocht mar seo dóibh siúd atá ag iarraidh a sprioc-

theanga a chleachtadh ó m'am ag teagasc sna Stáit Aontaithe. Oireann an cúrsa seo do thosaítheoirí agus d'fhoghlaiméoirí idirmheánacha. Tig le duine scrúdú iontrála a dhéanamh nó tús a chur leis an teanga a fhoghlaim ón tús. Pléitear le buntús na teanga agus le nithe casta sa chúrsa, cosúil le clásal coibhneasta na copail mar shampla. D'fhéadfadh sé a bheith ina chúnamh ollmhór dóibh siúd atá ag tabhairt faoi scrúduithe stáit an bhliain seo chugainn nó dóibh siúd a theastaíonn uathu a c(h)uid Gaeilge a chleachtadh.

Ní réiteoidh an cúrsa seo na fadhbanna nó na dúshláin go léir a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge a fhoghlaim, ná aon teanga leoga, ach tá súil againn go réiteoidh sé roinnt acu. I ndeireadh na dála ní thig le duine teanga a fhoghlaim i gceart gan í a úsáid agus a labhairt go sóisialta.

DUOLINGO IRISH COURSE

By Oisín Ó Doinn

For the past year I have been pursuing a doctorate in techno-pedagogy focusing on computer-aided language learning. During this time I have come across numerous apps and computer programmes designed to help people learn a language independently, and also apps which help teachers help their students to progress in the language. Unfortunately, it is rare that I come across such technologies which are designed to help people improve their Irish. This is a shame as I often hear people say that they would love to learn the language again properly (whatever 'properly' means), but that they do not have the opportunity. This prompted me to become involved in a project to help build an online Irish language course which

was recently launched by Duolingo.com.

Duolingo is a high quality online language-learning platform which provides all of its language-learning courses for free. The website was awarded the title of best free app of the year on both the iTunes AppStore and on Google play in 2013. At the beginning of this year I began working as part of a team of five contributors with Duolingo.com to help build the Irish course. The course was launched in Beta in mid-September and it already has over 45,000 registered learners, a figure which is rising daily. The course has drawn both national and also international attention.

I know from my time teaching the

Irish language in the US how valuable a system like this is for enhancing student interaction with the language. This course is designed for beginners and intermediate learners. One can start with the basics of the language or do a placement exam to jump into the course at a level that suits them. The basics and the trickier parts of Irish grammar are covered, such as the dreaded Modh Coinníollach. I believe this course has major potential to help those who have to do a state exam in the coming year or those who simply want to brush on their Irish.

This online platform does not solve all of the problems and challenges associated with learning Irish, or indeed any language, but we hope it will solve some of them.

IFAA *WELCOME!* EVENING 2014

By Sinéad Murnane



At the October Welcome Event in Buswell's Hotel were John O'Loughlin Kennedy, Séamus Ó Cinnéide, and John Hurley.



Also at the October Welcome Event were Thérèse Fahy, Sinéad Murnane and Nóirín Ní Laighin.

My nana could often be heard singing "If you're Oirrrrrish, come into the parrrrrlour, there's a welcome there for you". She was a great woman for a party, or "a bit of an oul' hooley" as she called it, and was a big fan of the "party piece". I think, even by her exacting standards, we would have done her very proud with this year's *Welcome!* event in the Oak Room of Buswell's Hotel in Dublin.

It was a particularly miserable Friday evening in October, but twenty five

hardy souls came together in the name of their Fulbright connection to meet and greet each other. We were delighted to welcome six of this year's US visiting Fulbright Scholars and two visiting spouses, as well as three former US Fulbrighters that are back in Ireland to continue their work here. We also had the opportunity to introduce Jen McAndrew, the newly appointed Deputy Public Affairs Officer from the US Embassy who came along to meet us. And of course there was the Irish

Fulbright contingent, represented by members from across the years as well as one from Germany. A truly international exchange!

Party pieces were provided by way of a round of brief introductions and a few stories from all, which seeded a lively evening of conversation and connection. The atmosphere of warmth and high spirits chased away all thoughts of the wet and windy night outside. Looking forward to seeing everyone in the next few months again!

FULBRIGHT AWARDEES 2014–2015

Dr Colm Browning is a post-doctoral researcher at the Radio and Optical Communications laboratory in Dublin City University where he recently completed his Ph.D. Colm will be travelling to Columbia University, New York, to undertake research focused on the introduction of high speed optical communication systems to data centres.

Mr Richard Butler is a Ph.D. candidate in Architectural History at the University of Cambridge. While

on his Fulbright Student Award Richard will research the history of Irish public architecture from 1800 – 1850s, while collaborating with one of the leading scholars in Irish history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Mr Jay Calvert is a Fulbright - Marine Institute Student Awardee currently undertaking a Ph.D. in Marine Benthic Ecology at the University of Ulster, Coleraine. Jay will investigate geostatistical applications for assessing variation of

seabed habitats and commercial stock densities, while based at Alaska Pacific University and Northeastern University.

Mr Daniel Caulfield-Sriklad recently completed an M.A. in Fashion Curation at the University of the Arts, London. While on his Fulbright Student Award at Drexel University, Daniel will explore the use of innovative digital technology within the field of museum curation to enhance communication and

IFAA BOARD

The following are the 2014/2015 Board members:

◆ President:
Dr Sarah Ingle
president@irishfulbrightalumni.com

◆ Vice-President:
Dr Jimmy O'Brien Moran
vicepresident@irishfulbrightalumni.com

◆ Hon. Secretary:
Prof. Darach Turley
secretary@irishfulbrightalumni.com

◆ Membership Secretary:
Sinéad Murnane
membershipsecretary@irishfulbrightalumni.com

◆ Treasurer: Dr Anne Cleary
treasurer@irishfulbrightalumni.com

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Dr Peter Lonergan

◆ Member:
Mary McPartlan

◆ Member:
Nóirín Ní Laighin

◆ Member:
Oisín Ó Doinn

accessibility within both the physical and digital exhibition space.

Dr Gavin Collins is a lecturer in microbiology and European Research Council Fellow at NUI Galway, and a British Science Association Media Fellow at The Irish Times. As a Fulbright Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, Gavin will investigate microbial genomics in bioenergy production and enhanced oil recovery processes.

Dr Patricia Coughlan is Professor Emerita at the School of English, University College Cork. As a Fulbright Scholar she will be

researching the work of Irish-American novelist Elizabeth Cullinan and her cultural contexts, at Fordham University.

Dr Selena Daly is a postdoctoral fellow of the School of History and Archives at University College Dublin. While at the University of California, Santa Barbara, as a Fulbright Scholar, Selena will complete the first comprehensive study of the Futurist movement during the First World War, while also teaching a course on Italian literature.

Ms Treasa De Loughry is a Ph.D. candidate in English literature at University College Dublin. While on her Fulbright-National University of Ireland Student Award at the University of California, Los Angeles, Treasa will undertake research in environmental humanities and explore how contemporary global and postcolonial novels have registered world-systemic crises.

Ms Claire M. Dunne is a lecturer in Irish in Marino Institute of Education. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Centre for Language and Communication Studies, Trinity College Dublin. She will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana.

Professor Fidelma Dunne, School of Medicine, NUI Galway is a Fulbright Scholar Awardee. Fidelma will research alongside Professor Mary D'Alton, Columbia University New York. She will compare and contrast the screening for and clinical outcomes for women with Gestational Diabetes in both states to include a cost benefit analysis.

Ms Niamh Fox is a Ph.D. candidate in Chemistry at Trinity College Dublin. As a Fulbright Student Awardee, Niamh will conduct research into the optical properties of

conjugated polymers with a view to creating new commercially viable sensor devices, at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Ms Laura Frey is a Fulbright Student Awardee currently undertaking a Ph.D. in Bio-engineering at Trinity College Dublin. While at the Khademhosseini Lab in Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Laura will research the effects of incorporation of anti-inflammatory drugs and stem cells into materials on neuronal cell cultures.

Dr Claire Hamilton is a Lecturer in Criminology in Queen's University Belfast. As part of her Fulbright Schuman Scholar Award she will conduct comparative research on counter-terrorism while at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY.

Ms Marie Hyland is a Fulbright Schuman Student Awardee. As a Ph.D. candidate in Energy Economics at Trinity College Dublin, Marie will research electricity market design and explore how regulatory changes can facilitate increased levels of renewable energy sources, while at the University of Maryland.

Ms Clár Johnston works as Legislative and Planning Executive with Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge and holds a degree in Early and Modern Irish from Trinity College. Clár will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota.

Dr Felicity Kelliher is a senior lecturer in Management Studies and is co-chair of the Rikon Research Group at the Waterford Institute of Technology. As a Fulbright Scholar, Felicity will examine the role of trust in building rural tourism network engagement, while based at the University of Missouri.



Reading out the citations of the Fulbright Awardees at the Scholars' Dinner in Dublin Castle.

Dr Ailbhe Kenny is a lecturer in music education at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. As a Fulbright Scholar, Ailbhe will investigate the potential for pedagogical transformation through musician-teacher partnerships in schools to inform emerging models in Ireland. Ailbhe is hosted by New York University and Teachers College, Columbia University.

Ms Teresa Lynn is a Fulbright Enterprise Ireland Awardee currently undertaking a Ph.D. in Computational Linguistics at Dublin City University and Macquarie University, Sydney. While at Saint Louis University, Teresa will research natural language processing techniques for the development of linguistic resources and technology for the Irish language.

Mr Colm Mac Fhionnghaile is an M.A. candidate in Modern Irish at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Colm will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant in the University of Connecticut.

Ms Roe McDermott holds a Masters in Journalism from Dublin City University. Roe is a sex columnist, features writer, and art critic for a number of publications and media platforms in Ireland. As a

Fulbright Student Awardee, Roe will undertake a Masters degree in Sexuality Studies at San Francisco State University.

Mr Eoin Mc Evoy is an Irish-language tutor at University College Dublin and the founder of the first German branch of the Gaelic League. He will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at Villanova University, Philadelphia.

Mr Ruairí McKiernan is a social entrepreneur, a technology-for-change innovator, and a Member of the Council of State. As a Fulbright TechImpact Scholar, Ruairí will spend time at the Citizen Engagement Laboratory in Berkeley, California. Ruairí will explore the areas of online civic engagement, digital democracy development, and web-based citizen activism.

Dr Ian McLoughlin lectures in Computing and Mathematics at the Institute of Technology, Sligo. As a TechImpact Fulbright Scholar, Ian will travel to Stanford University to research the provision of online laboratory environments.

Dr David Monaghan is a post-doctoral researcher at the Insight centre for data analytics in Dublin

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 Sligo
- ◆ Irish Fulbright Commission
- ◆ Limerick Institute of Technology
- ◆ National University of Ireland Galway
- ◆ Maynooth University
- ◆ Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- ◆ St Patrick's College, Drumcondra
- ◆ Trinity College Dublin
- ◆ U.S. Embassy Dublin
- ◆ University of Limerick
- ◆ University College Cork
- ◆ University College Dublin



City University. During his Fulbright, as a TechImpact Scholar, David will travel to Arizona State University to research computer gaming technology and its application to physical rehabilitation adherence with particular focus on human computer interaction technology.

Dr Cal Muckley is a senior lecturer in Banking and Finance at University College Dublin. As the Fulbright CRH Scholar at Yale University, Cal will be researching the implications of firm risks for asset pricing, while assessing the wider implications for society.

Dr Emer Mulligan is Head of the School of Business and Economics at NUI Galway. As a Fulbright-CRH Scholar at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Emer's research activities will focus on (i) taxation in practice in US

multinational corporations and (ii) US tax policy and administration.

Dr Enda Murphy is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy at University College Dublin. As a Fulbright – EPA Scholar Awardee, Enda will focus on the transferability of EU best-practice approaches for strategic noise mapping and mitigation within a US context.

Ms Julanne Murphy is a secondary school teacher at Ardscoil Rís, Limerick. Julanne will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at the Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.

Dr Mary C. Murphy is a Fulbright Schuman Scholar from University College Cork. Mary will be based at George Mason University, Virginia, and will research US processes of

Congressional capacity-building. She will determine if such forms of dedicated training for national parliamentarians across Europe can contribute to a more legitimate and democratic EU legislative process.

Dr Orla Murphy is a Lecturer in the School of English, and in Digital Arts and Humanities at University College Cork. As a Fulbright TechImpact Scholar, Orla will focus on Digital Cultural Heritage, 3D model creation, immersive, interactive and augmented exhibition environments at Boston College, digitally enhancing access to the Centenary 2016 Celebration of the Irish Arts and Crafts Movement in Boston.

Ms Niamh Murray is a Fulbright Teagasc Student Awardee currently undertaking a Ph.D. in Food Science at University College Dublin. While at the University of California, Davis,

Dear Sinéad,

Many thanks for the update on IFAA events. All is well in New York.

Enjoying life here so far.

I'm attaching a photo of three NY-based Fulbrighters (Ailbhe Kenny, Colm Browning and myself) with the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny,

on his visit here recently.

*All the best,
Claire
Hamilton*



Claire Hamilton (second from left) with NY Fulbrighters Colm Browning, Ailbhe Kenny, and Taoiseach Enda Kenny in New York recently.



Sinéad
Irish Fulbright Alumni
Association
Dublin



Niamh will investigate the causes of bitterness in dairy protein hydrolysates.

Dr Jeneen Naji is the Digital Media Program Coordinator in the Department of Media Studies, Maynooth University. As a Fulbright TechImpact Scholar, Jeneen will be visiting Brown University's department of Literary Arts in order to make a multicultural digital poem in their immersive 3D CAVE.

Ms Síne Nic an Ailí graduated from the University of Limerick with a degree in Irish Studies and Spanish, and currently works as a Development Executive with Conradh na Gaeilge. Síne will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant in the University of Montana.

Ms Éilis Nic Aodhagáin is an M.A. candidate in Modern Irish at University College Dublin, where she has worked as a tutor for the past year. She will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at University of Montana.

Ms Vikki Ní Bhréin graduated from NUIG in 2009 with a degree in Irish and geography. She is a secondary school teacher in Notre Dame School, Churchtown. She will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at Elms College, Chicopee, MA.

Mr Cian Ó Concubhair is a Fulbright Student Awardee who recently completed his LL.B. in Law at Trinity College Dublin. While in the US, Cian will undertake an LL.M. at Harvard University, specialising in the role of the media and criminal law in democracy.

Mr Shane Ó Ruairc is a secondary school teacher in Coláiste Eoin, Booterstown, Co. Dublin. Shane holds a Masters in Modern Irish History and in Irish Language Journalism and Communications from University College Dublin. Shane will be a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at Drew University and New York University.

Ms Christine Ryan holds a degree in Law and Irish from University College Cork and an LL.M. degree in International Law from University College London. As Fulbright Student Awardee, Christine will undertake a Ph.D. in Judicial Science, specialising in equality law and reproductive rights.

Dr Caroline Wynne is a Fulbright EPA Scholar Awardee. While based at Michigan State University, Caroline will conduct research around landscape limnology and scale, in order to better predict the effect of anthropogenic disturbance on ecosystems.

Ms Alena Yuryna Connolly is a Fulbright NUI Student Awardee currently undertaking a Ph.D. in Information Systems Security at NUI Galway. While at the University of California, Berkeley, Alena will research socio-cultural measures that promote security-cautious behaviour of employees in organisational settings.

ENAM CONFERENCE MOLDOVA

By Sarah Ingle

Recently I travelled to Moldova to attend a very interesting and enjoyable event on behalf of the IFAA. On 9–10 October 2014, 'Globally Connected, Locally Engaged: Promoting active citizenship through international co-operation', the jointly hosted conference by the European Network for American Alumni (ENAM) and the Creative Development Association (CDA – Moldovan Alumni Association) was held in Chisinau.

The conference was a great opportunity to connect with other ENAM members from around Europe as well as American alumni

from Moldova. Along with Moldova delegates I got to meet American programme alumni from 20 countries around Europe including Macedonia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus and Estonia.

Getting there was an adventure in itself as the first flight on the journey left Dublin airport at twenty past midnight! It was good that I was travelling with IUSA Treasurer, John Kearns, so that we could look out for each other and make sure we got on the next plane to Bucharest safely, arriving in Chisinau at 9am local time. As the Irish contingent John and I acquitted ourselves well, John even

accompanying the ENAM Secretary-General, Massimo Cugusi in a rousing rendition of *O Sole Mio* during the closing dinner!

Following a welcome and introduction by Fulbright Alumna Aliona Cara, CDA President, the first day of the event was taken up with presentations from Moldovan government representatives and CDA members which provided a fascinating insight into the country and its citizens. In the evening we were honoured to be invited to attend a reception hosted by the U.S. Ambassador to Moldova, William H. Moser and his wife Marie.



IFAA President Sarah Ingle with U.S. Ambassador to Moldova, William H. Moser, and his wife Marie at his Residence in Moldova.



Sarah Ingle with Aliona Cara, CDA President, Liuba Ceban, CDA Board Member and Mariana Turcan, CDA Executive Director

There we had the opportunity to thank the Ambassador for his generous sponsorship of the ENAM conference and delegates' travel, as well as meet with the participants of the *Peace Building in Eastern Europe 2.0 U.S. International Exchange Alumni Conference*.

The next day was given over to ENAM business and welcoming remarks at the beginning were provided by Kate Bartlett, US Embassy Assistant Public Affairs Officer. The CDA Executive Director, Mariana

Turcan introduced all ENAM members present at a round-table event, where each of us gave a short presentation about our associations and our Board and member activities. This provided a very interesting insight into both the similarities and differences of American alumni organisations around Europe. In the afternoon, Secretary-General Massimo Cugusi moderated a discussion on the challenges and opportunities for the new ENAM leadership as elections are due to take place soon. Twin

challenges of identity and funding for ENAM were addressed and delegates were asked to discuss these with their members and Boards.

The day concluded with a visit to the famous Mileştii Mici underground winery and dinner in a local restaurant. Overall it was a great trip and wonderful to connect with so many American alumni from around Europe. IFAA will continue its membership of ENAM and we will keep you informed of future discussions and activities.

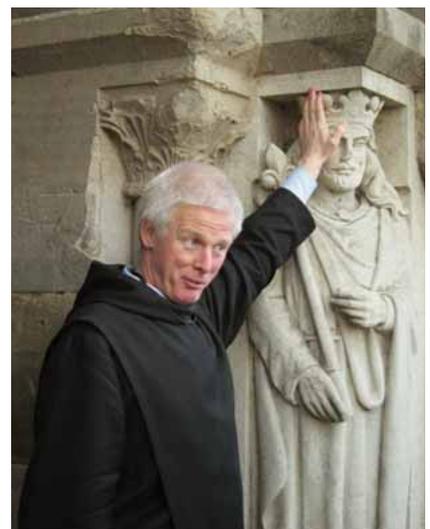
LIMERICK COMHLUADAR 2014

By Róisín Tiernan

Anticipating a request to write an article for the next IFAA newsletter on the trip to Limerick, I have pulled into the side of the road on my way home to Clonmel to put 'pen to paper' while the day is fresh in my memory. At times like this I wish I were a poet as I look out of the car window to an amazing rainbow stretching over the snow-capped Galtee mountains, rain coming down pretty heavily while at the same time the sun is shining brightly. How can one describe that scene aptly other than a typical Irish day with many seasons rolled into one.

Anyway, back to the task in hand. We had a most enjoyable day in Limerick on 22 March 2014. The Dublin contingent had an early 8 am start to be at the Hunt Museum in time for a very informative tour of the personal collection of Gertrude and John Hunt. Now housed in the historic eighteenth-century Custom House building, the collection includes a range of objects from the Stone Age up to the twentieth century, reflecting the disparate interests of the Hunts who were antique dealers and advisors to collectors.

Also on show were thirty-nine



Br Colmán Ó Clabaigh OSB, Medievalist Historian at Glenstal Abbey, who gave an enlightening and entertaining tour of Glenstal, part of the Limerick Comhluadar excursion in March.



The hardy Comhluadar group outside the Hunt Museum in Limerick

paintings from the National Gallery of Ireland which were donated by Chester Beatty in 1950. We were given the challenge of choosing the top five paintings which we would save if the gallery flooded! This is obviously a major consideration for the museum's staff, given the museum's riverside location and the fact that the River Shannon broke its banks in recent times.

A delicious lunch was enjoyed at the museum restaurant, followed by a trip to Glenstal Abbey in Murroe for the afternoon. We were given the Rolls Royce tour of Glenstal by Brother Colmán Ó Clabaigh OSB, one of Ireland's foremost scholars of Irish medieval history. The tour included the castle, a Norman Revivalist construction built for the Barrington family in the 1830s, the

new wing, the 'new new' wing, and the very impressive new school which opened its doors in September 2013. This was then followed by a visit to the church and a tour of the Icon chapel, located in the crypt below the church, where a collection of Orthodox icons are housed. Brother Colmán gave us a most informative talk on the icons on display.

An uilleann pipe recital was originally scheduled to follow the tour but our piper had unfortunately left his pipes with the security staff in the Hunt Museum earlier in the day. The day ended with tea and scones in the former coach house which is now the monastery. Cold weather and a train to catch meant we had to leave the garden tour for another day.

A quick dash was made to Limerick Junction to meet the Dublin train to enable the Dubliners to return to the big schmoke! A special mention goes to our two youngest participants, Mella and Rossa Ruadh and also to German Fulbrighter, Sebastian Reher, who joined us for the day. Looking forward to seeing you at future events!

GALWAY COMHLUADAR

By Mary McPartlan

A special Comhluadar was organised by IFAA Board member Mary McPartlan on 26 March 2014 to coincide with the culmination of the *Arts in Action* programme at NUI Galway. This event was a performance of the NUI Medical Orchestra, with special guest Frankie Gavin, at the *Aula Maxima* in the heart of the campus.

The evening's proceedings began with a reception at the Spanish Arch Hotel in Quay Street hosted by *Arts in Action*. This was attended by Galway based IFAA members along with a number of current US Fulbright Scholars. Also in attendance were our very special guests on the night, Sarah Ingle, President of the Irish Fulbright Alumni Association, and her husband Willo Roe. The reception was followed by dinner at the Vina Mara Restaurant in Middle Street and then we headed over to the university campus for the concert.



IFAA Board member Mary McPartlan introducing the NUI Medical Orchestra at the Arts in Action concert in Galway in March.

The *Aula Maxima* was packed to capacity and the orchestra gave a very eclectic mix of musical pieces all arranged by conductor Carl Hession. The NUI Galway Choral Scholars of the St. Nicholas Schola Cantorum also performed under the direction of Mark Duley and Frankie Gavin on fiddle provided several rousing tunes to great acclaim.

Sarah and Willo's presence was acknowledged and very much appreciated as our guest attendees on the night. The medical staff who attended were delighted that the medical students had worked so hard to present an original folk orchestra sound. The event was an enjoyable experience for everyone and thanks are due to all concerned.



IFAA members Sarah Ingle, Mary McPartlan, Felix Ó Murchadha and Bill Richardson and friends relaxing before the *Arts in Action* event in Galway

TEACHT LE CHÉILE MUINTIR NOTRE DAME AG ACIS AGUS CAISLÉAN BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

By Nóirín Ní Laighin



ACIS – *l to r*: Brian Ó Conchubhair (Associate Professor of Irish Language & Literature, Notre Dame, Indiana, & Vice-President ACIS), Claire Marie Dunne, Aeidín Clements (Irish Studies Librarian, Notre Dame), Nóirín Ní Laighin, Marie Darmody, Gráinne Ní Mhuirí, Rónan Doherty.



IFAA Scholars' Dinner – *l to r*: Rónan Doherty, Claire Marie Dunne, Marie Darmody, Nóirín Ní Laighin, Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin.

Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) alumni, and particularly those who spent their Fulbright at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, had a busy month in June catching up at the American Conference for Irish Studies (hosted by UCD) and the IFAA Annual Scholars' Dinner at Dublin Castle.

Go Irish!

TELL US YOUR NEWS

As a member-focused and driven association, we want to hear your Fulbright-related news and stories. Our newsletter and web editor, Dr Jimmy O'Brien Moran, is always interested in receiving stories for possible publication.

IFAA WELCOME TO US AMBASSADOR KEVIN O'MALLEY

by Sarah Ingle

IFAA Events Calendar 2014/15:



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.



November 28th 2014 Thanksgiving Dinner

IFAA Thanksgiving Dinner will take place in the Lewis Glucksman Gallery at University College Cork on Friday November 28.

Booking can be made with Nóirín Ní Laighin at tg2014cork@gmail.com no later than Thursday 20th November.



March 2015
Collaborative event with the Irish Fulbright Commission.



April 2015
National Concert Hall
Comhluadar



May 2015
IFAA Annual General Meeting



June 2015
IFAA Annual Scholars' Dinner

Don't forget to check out our website (www.irishfulbrightalumni.com) and facebook page.

The IFAA sends a Céad Míle Fáilte to the new U.S. Ambassador Kevin O'Malley recently appointed by President Barack Obama. The beautiful Deerfield in the Phoenix Park is now occupied again with Ambassador O'Malley and Mrs Dena O'Malley in residence and we hope that their sons Brendan and Ryan will also be able to visit soon.

Ambassador O'Malley, an attorney, was a partner at Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C., in St. Louis, Missouri and has also been an adjunct professor both at Washington University School of Law and St. Louis University School of Law. He is a nationally recognized author of a treatise on jury instructions that is used in federal jury trials throughout the United States.



IFAA President Sarah Ingle presents the IFAA Directory and Jubilee Symposium Proceedings to the U.S. Ambassador Kevin O'Malley and Mrs Dena O'Malley (Photo courtesy of the US Embassy)

Kevin F. O'Malley was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to Ireland on September 30, 2014 and presented his credentials to President Michael D. Higgins on October 8, 2014. Ambassador O'Malley has strong Irish roots. Both of his parents were Irish and his paternal grandparents emigrated from Westport in County Mayo about a hundred years ago. He held dual citizenship with Ireland and the United States until the confirmation process for this position.

Before entering private practice Ambassador O'Malley was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in St. Louis, Missouri and a Special Attorney of the Organized Crime Section of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, California and Phoenix, Arizona.

We sincerely welcome Ambassador O'Malley to his new role in Ireland and hope he will be able to accept invitations to IFAA events in the coming year.

US Fulbrighter Jim Freemyer travelled to Ireland with his wife Patricia to take up his Fulbright Award. Jim is a professor in the Doctorate of Leadership Program at Indiana Wesleyan University and is conducting research at the University of Limerick. His work focuses on best methods for secondary educators to encourage their students to choose careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Jim writes:

*For my Fulbright experience I am located at the University of Limerick. The faculty at the University have proven to be of invaluable assistance as I conduct my research on what Ireland's best mathematics teachers call 'best practice'. I am enjoying the academic dialogue in individual interactions as well as academic seminars. My research is going very well.
Warm Regards, Jim*



Jim Freemyer at NCE-MSTL in Limerick.



Professor Jim Freemyer with Prof John O'Donoghue, former President of the National Centre for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and Learning (NCE-MSTL).

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Sarah Ingle

I hope the new academic year is going well for you all. We have another bumper newsletter this autumn, edited by IFAA Vice-President Jimmy O'Brien Moran. It has been a busy year so far with our *Fulbright Fringe!* and *Welcome!* Events and I also had the privilege of attending a European Network of American Alumni (ENAM) event in Moldova. You can read all about these in this issue, along with updates from some other regular IFAA events.

The IFAA *Fulbright Fringe!*:



Marisa Denker, IFAA President Sarah Ingle, Lisa Saladin & Erin O'Sullivan at the US Fulbright Orientation Day

Creativity in the Literary and Sonic Arts, held at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence with the support of the U.S. Embassy, was a very special evening, one which I was honoured to facilitate and assist in curating. The performances of the Fulbright poets and musicians were the highlight of the event and we very much appreciated their participation along with the guidance of our M.C. for the evening, former IFAA President Clive Lee.

At this time of year we congratulate and profile 2014/2015



US Fulbrighters gather during Orientation Day as Oscar Wilde smiles upon them

Fulbright Awardees heading to the United States, as well as welcome new U.S. Fulbright Scholars and Students to Ireland. I was delighted to meet with the U.S. Fulbright awardees and speak at their orientation organised by the Fulbright Commission earlier in the year. It was also a pleasure to meet the new U.S. Ambassador Kevin O'Malley and his wife Dena at his residence in the Phoenix Park recently.

Coming up we have our annual IFAA Thanksgiving Dinner, this year to be held on 28 November in the Lewis Glucksman Gallery on the grounds of UCC. I look forward to meeting many of you there and at other IFAA events in 2015.

TRIBUTE TO SÉAMUS CONROY

Fulbright Scholar, violinist Séamus Conroy passed away unexpectedly at home in Co. Clare, in August 2014. A former student of Una Kindlon and Adrian Petcu at the Cork School of Music, Séamus later studied at the Juilliard School with the renowned Dorothy DeLay, thanks to both a Juilliard Scholarship and a Fulbright Scholarship (1990).

As a student, Séamus won many of the major music awards in Ireland, including the String Section of the RTÉ Musician of the Future, the String Section of the Lombard and Ulster Music Foundation, and numerous prizes for solo violin and solo piano at the Dublin Feis Ceoil. He was also awarded the Fitzwilton Trust Award for Exceptional Young Talent and the IBM Musical Instrument Award.

From his first concerto performance in Cork at the age of 11, of the Mozart Violin Concerto No. 3, Séamus went on to perform many of the major violin concerti and virtuoso

showpieces with orchestras both nationally and internationally. He represented Ireland at the Eurovision Musician of the Year competition, performing the Tchaikovsky Concerto in D major with the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra. As a recitalist, he performed regularly from a young age at arts festivals throughout Ireland, and also in Spain, France, the UK, and in Pittsburgh at the American Ireland Fund Gala.

As an orchestral player, Séamus was one of the youngest members ever (aged 14) of the European Community Youth Orchestra, with which he toured Europe and Japan extensively, under the baton of eminent conductors including Leonard Bernstein, Claudio Abbado, and Antál Dorati. Numerous TV appearances in Ireland include the RTE series Music for Me and, as a student in New York, he featured on the Adrian Flannelly Show.

In more recent years, Séamus included Irish music in his repertoire,

performing as the resident violinist in Bunratty Castle, and producing a CD of his own classical arrangements of Irish airs. In his short life, Séamus brought great joy to a wide range of audiences with his extraordinary talent, musicality and virtuosity.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dlíis.



The late Séamus Conroy



Jimmy O'Brien Moran playing for the guests at the Scholars' Dinner, Dublin Castle.



Minister of State for Trade and Development, Joe Costello, T.D., with IFAA President Sarah Ingle at the IFAA Scholars' Dinner at Dublin Castle.



Greeting the 2014 Fulbright Awardees, IFAA members, and guests as they arrive at Dublin Castle.



Guests enjoying a pre-prandial libation in the salubrious surroundings of the Portrait Gallery at Dublin Castle.



IFAA Treasurer Anne Cleary, our charming MC for the evening.



The magnificent St Patrick's Hall at Dublin Castle