



UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies

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Inaugural Global Irish Civic Forum hosted by DFA&T and Institute at Dublin Castle

THE IRISH Abroad Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in association with the UCD Clinton Institute hosted the inaugural Global Irish Civic Forum at Dublin Castle last June 3rd/4th. It brought together over 200 participants from 17 countries, representing 140 organisations dedicated to supporting the Irish diaspora around the world.

The event, which was signposted in *Global Irish: Ireland's Diaspora Policy*, published in March this year, is a significant illustration of the evolving relationships between the State and the diaspora and within the global Irish diaspora itself. It represents a mature form of diaspora engagement that reflects both the State's commitment to dialogue with the diaspora and the collective energies and goodwill of diverse diaspora actors in advancing this dialogue. Many participants were keen to explore the possibilities of a civic forum, giving voice to diverse constituencies and perspectives, committed to open dialogue, and representing a pluralistic vision of the Irish diaspora.

Jimmy Deenihan, Minister for Diaspora Affairs, set the tone for the Forum in his opening address. Referring to the State/diaspora relationship as a "conversation", he noted that this involved "a listening and learning process" for Government and "a policy-shaping process" for the diaspora. He ended his speech with a note that all issues should "be open" to discussion at the Forum. Charles Flanagan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, echoed this in his address to the Forum on the morning of June 4th. He remarked on the promise of a post-referendum Ireland that is "a more pluralist, a more tolerant, and a more equal State," and added: "We want our people home."

There were five panels on thematic issues: Challenges Facing New Irish Emigrants; Irish Identity and Heritage; Reaching Out to Irish Citizens Abroad; Supporting the Mental Well-Being of Irish Emigrants; and Assisting Emigrants Returning to Ireland.



There were also three workshops on practical matters: Fundraising; Communications; and Governance. (Full recordings of the addresses and panels are available at <https://www.dfa.ie/global-irish/support-and-services/global-irish-civic-forum/>).

The Forum demonstrated that there is a strong desire within the diaspora to network and share knowledge and practice, and indicated ways in which the DFA&T can facilitate and support such activity. The single initiative that was most frequently mentioned by Forum participants is the creation of an online hub that would be tailored to the resource needs of organisations and others supporting the global Irish diaspora. There was also discussion of initiatives to support professional development, such as training in the use of social media.

The Forum functioned as a valuable space in which Government and diaspora representatives could enjoy open and robust discussion about many of the matters that entail the health and sustainability of State/diaspora relations. It was significant that this was the first civic forum for global organisations and agents supporting the Irish

Minister of State for Diaspora Affairs Jimmy Deenihan (left) with Jennie McShannon (Irish in Britain) and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Charles Flanagan at the inaugural Global Irish Civic Forum.

diaspora, for it materialised the energies and recognised the work – often voluntary – of organisations and individuals across the world who daily support the Irish diaspora yet only rarely, if ever, come into direct contact with each other.

Already, Minister Deenihan has announced Government support for a second Forum. This is a welcome announcement that will have great support within the diaspora, energise those who wish to contribute to it and to the shaping of diaspora policy, and provide a point of reference for further development of diaspora engagement.

The Institute worked closely with the DFA&T in creating and running the Forum and has published a report on the event. The Forum helped to establish valuable networking and research opportunities that we will follow up as we continue our work on diaspora affairs.

How the US presidential election is shaping up

Dr Jack Thompson looks at the current state of play in the Republican and Democrat races

SUMMER IS OVER and the 2016 Presidential race in the United States is now in full swing. I have spoken on Irish radio about the Republican and Democratic primary races several times in the past few months, so it seems like a propitious time to summarize the state of the race. After all, the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary are in early February 2016, which in the context of the U.S. political calendar is right around the corner!

Let us begin with the contest for the Republican nomination, which has been fascinating even by the standards of today's colorful GOP. The summer was dominated by the rise of Donald Trump to the top of the Republican field, at the expense of presumed top-tier candidates such as Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio. This has horrified Republican Party insiders, delighted Democrats, and held the political press corps in a sort of fascinated trance. "The Donald" has offered little in the way of a

policy platform and has never held elected office. However, his characteristic mixture of arrogance, media-savvy, and improbable hair has found a surprising level of support among many Republicans. Political scientists assure us that Trump's success is a product mainly of name recognition and will pass as voters begin to scrutinize him, just like Herman Cain in 2012.

In the meantime, however, party strategists are worried about the effect that Trump is having on other candidates. His promise to build a wall separating the United States and Mexico and to make Mexico pay for it, along with his assertion that Mexico is sending "some rapists and some killers and drug lords" across the border, personifies the anti-immigrant mood among the base of the party and has prompted other candidates to discuss their own plans to limit immigration to the United States.

This has undermined one of the key goals of party insiders, who had hoped to pass immigration reform—and to use less polarizing language more generally—in order to appeal to Latinos. These voters form an increasingly important constituency and more than seventy percent supported Barack Obama in 2012. It is too early to

make confident predictions, but as of now this goal looks increasingly unattainable.

To be fair, all is not rosy on the other side of the aisle. Most Democratic strategists had hoped that while Republicans waged a difficult primary, Hillary Clinton would face little trouble in winning the party's nomination and would be able to save her money and energy for the general election. Instead, she has been plagued by questions about her use of private email accounts while Secretary of State and encountered a surprisingly vigorous challenge from Bernie Sanders, the self-declared socialist Senator from Vermont.

Political scientists see little reason for Clinton to worry, given her strong lead in national polls and in most primary states, as well as the substantial advantage she enjoys in fundraising and endorsements from other elected officials. Nevertheless, there is unease among some party insiders and a recognition that, at a minimum, Clinton will have to fight for the nomination.

All in all, the 2016 election appears to be shaping up as one of the most interesting in recent history. Stay tuned, as there is no telling what will happen before all is said and done!

Focusing on Irish-American and Irish nationalist ideologies

Visiting Fellow Dr Gessica Cosi outlines the nature of her research

AS VISITING FELLOW at the Clinton Institute, I am working on a proposal for an academic monograph on the interplay between Irish and Irish American nationalist ideologies and identities between 1917 and 1921.

This project stems from my PhD (UCD, 2013) which focused on the connections between Ireland and Irish America at the time and, in particular, during the mission of Eamon de Valera to the U.S. from June 1919 to December 1920. Conceiving the 1919 campaign as a relevant case study to investigate the relationships among Irish global identities and as a catalyst to appreciate the history of the Irish in different American locations, the goal of this project will be to provide a rethinking of Irish America's ideological and geographical borders and to present new insights on Ireland's historical interaction with the diaspora in the U.S.

By looking at the evolution and internationalisation of the Irish case and the complex and plural nature of Irish America in the aftermath of the Great War, this work will conceptualise the 'comparisons' and

'contrasts' between Irish and Irish American identities and nationalist ideologies offering a new analytical framework for the study of Ireland's Atlantic connections in the road towards independence.



Dr Gessica Cosi: project aims to present new insights on Ireland's historical interaction with the diaspora in the U.S.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, October 1st:

From the Frontline: Terry McCarthy: 'Reporting on Wars'

Venue: The Royal Irish Academy, Dawson St., Dublin **Time:** 6 p.m.

October 23rd and 24th

Conference: How America Ends Wars

As the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War approaches, and the United States struggles to extricate itself from Afghanistan and Iraq, students of military history have, not surprisingly, begun to analyse how the United States ends conflicts. What impact did the wars in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan have upon American culture? What did these wars leave behind? In other words, how did it impact the society and local cultures? What implications did these wars have for long-term U.S. strategic goals? This conference will achieve two purposes: Firstly, it will link culture and strategy in discussing the ending of wars by the U.S. Secondly, it will consider the long-term consequences of recent wars fought by the United States.

Keynote speakers: Dr. Gideon Rose (Editor and Peter G. Peterson Chair, **Foreign Affairs**) and Professor Marilyn Young (Professor of History and Collegiate Professor at New York University).

Further information and registration details on www.ucdclinton.ie

ALUMNI VOICES

Building a lasting fascination with the US

Breffni Cummiskey reflects on the value of his studies at the Institute



“Don’t be seduced into thinking that that which does not make a profit is without value” - Arthur Miller

JUST LAST WEEK I was leafing through the Dublin Theatre Festival programme to pick out the productions that I’d cover for my arts blog when I spotted a familiar name, the UCD Clinton Institute. To mark the centenary of Arthur Miller’s birth The Gate Theatre and the Dublin Theatre Festival are teaming up with my alma mater to run two days of talks and interviews on October 10th and 11th. The celebration will coincide with The Gate’s staging of Miller’s play *A View from the Bridge* during the upcoming festival.

Five years ago next month I returned from working in Chicago to start an MA in American Studies at the Clinton Institute. The programme appealed to me because it combined my interest in US culture with my previous study of history, politics and the media. What the course did was cement

a lifelong interest in the States - its politics, literature and divisive past - that I now approach with a much greater understanding and enjoyment thanks to the modules, talks and people that I interacted with over the year (one of which was Bill Clinton, who might by 2016 be the First Man in The White House).

Outside of my work, my masters taught me how to analyse and read critically and this, coupled with writing to deadline, are skills I have used since to blog about arts and culture at my website.

Since graduating it has been these sorts of talks and events that have brought me back to Belfield House. I attended the Conference on American Progressivism in November 2013, which boasted Joseph Stiglitz as its keynote speaker. When I return in October it’ll be because being a part of the academic discussion interests me and the talks on Arthur Miller will provide an angle for my blog on one of the most enduring playwrights of the 20th century.

Professionally the course has stood to me in the beginnings of my media career which started when I returned from travelling in Australia. Currently I’m working just down the road in RTÉ as a Media Sales Coordinator. What I do is manage a media agency called Carat Ireland. Any issues regarding their TV clients - which include Diageo, HSE, Bank of Ireland and many more -

comes through me and I liaise with their planners and media buyers daily.

Recently I was asked to speak to the current Masters class about what I’ve done since graduating. I stressed to the students that the skills they had been using throughout the year would be applicable in all fields they go on to work in and their job is to recognise the transferable nature of everything they do for a work environment and be able to articulate that. This is even more important in the modern day because there’s no such thing as a job for life, even in RTÉ, so realising how to harness your skillset for different roles is vital to a good career.

The value of an MA in American Studies has stood to me much more than the simple outcome of a job and it will continue to do so. My advice to students would be to recognise how what you’re doing daily is applicable to what you want to do in the future while also building for yourself a lasting fascination. I have kept up my interest in the US since through a number of cultural touchpoints: a subscription to the *New Yorker* magazine, listening to “This American Life” podcast, and avidly reading writers such as Ta-Nehisi Coates on race in the United States.

Breffni Cummiskey graduated from the Clinton Institute in 2011. He works in RTÉ and blogs at breffnicummiskey.com

STUDENT INTERNSHIP

Learning the ropes in DC

Eoin Ó Cathain recalls a summer to remember

DURING JUNE 2015 I was lucky to have the opportunity to work with the McGraw Hill Government Relations office in Washington, D.C. The experience was valuable and enjoyable, with a varied and challenging workload. The work gave me a better understanding of American politics and served to teach me so much more about politics in general.

McGraw Hill is a vast and expanding company, with a particular focus on financial services. The six branches of McGraw Hill have exciting developments constantly taking place. The Washington, D.C. office is the liaison between these companies and the government, and the work is immensely interesting. The insight offered into the inner workings of American politics is remarkable.

As an example of the work I undertook, I was involved in the organisation of the McGraw Hill summer fly-in, where MHFI executives from around the U.S. and the world arrived in Washington, D.C. to directly lobby politicians on issues important to them. This included the introduction of a patent box, an improvement of taxation regulations and a move towards dynamic scoring. Not only did I learn about politics and how it works in the world’s most influential and powerful city, I also learnt more about economics which will help me in my future career.

Washington, D.C. is a friendly city, ideal for anyone with an interest in politics and business. Although one would think of D.C. having a harsh exterior, the opposite is true for the people of D.C. and for the city itself.



Some of the many interns who worked at McGraw Hill Government Relations office in Washington D.C. over the summer.

The city is clean, the people are friendly, ambitious and fun-loving, and every evening offers a new event, get-together or “happy hour” where one can network or relax. During the summer, the city fills with interns, and their energy is evident everywhere.

McGraw Hill is the perfect environment for an intern who is willing to learn: you will not spend your summer photocopying or undertaking mundane office tasks - you are given the opportunity, if not encouraged, to learn more about the company and about the political situation in the U.S.A.

New board appointments at UCD Clinton Institute

WE ARE DELIGHTED to announce that Mr. Ted Smyth has been appointed as Chairman of the Institute's Advisory Board. Ted was recently appointed Vice-Chair and Chief of Staff to Richard Edelman, president and CEO of Edelman New York. Prior to this Ted was Executive Vice-President, Corporate Affairs at McGraw Hill Financial.

He led the naming, rebranding, and marketing campaign for McGraw Hill Financial after its successful sale of McGraw-Hill Education. Prior to that, he was chief administrative officer of H.J. Heinz, where he led the development of senior talent and communications plans as Heinz expanded globally. At both McGraw Hill and Heinz, Ted helped the companies plan and execute major corporate restructurings

He served on the Board of Directors of the Hain Celestial Group from 2004 to 2008. He was a senior Irish diplomat for 15 years serving as head of Press and Information in the Embassy of Ireland in London, senior advisor to two Taoisigh of Ireland, with additional senior roles in embassies in the U.S., Portugal and Switzerland. Ted is a trustee of Glucksman Ireland House at NYU, and a trustee of Marlboro College. An honours graduate of Trinity College Dublin, he lives in New York City with his wife, the writer Mary Breasted.

Also joining the board are Mr. Terry McCarthy and Professor Robert Brigham.

Terry McCarthy was appointed President and CEO of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council in July 2012. Prior to that, he travelled the world for television and print media for 27 years, covering politics, business, military, social and environmental issues across the US, Europe, Asia and Latin America. He has managed bureaus in the US and overseas, and set up two bureaus in war zones. He speaks six languages, has won four Emmys and an Edward R. Murrow award,



The new chairman of the Advisory Board, Mr. Ted Smyth (above), and new board members Mr. Terry McCarthy (top) and Professor Robert Brigham.

including one for 'The Thundering Third' a series for CBS where he spent four months embedded with US Marines in southern Afghanistan.

Professor Robert Brigham, is The Shirley Ecker Boskey Professor of History and International Relations, at Vassar College. A specialist in U.S. foreign policy, Bob teaches a wide range of courses covering the history of U.S. diplomacy, human rights, and international relations. Along with several teaching awards, he has also earned fellowships from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for Humanities, the Smith Richardson Foundation, and the Ford Foundation. In addition, he has



been Albert Shaw Endowed Lecturer at Johns Hopkins University, Mellon Senior Visiting Scholar at Cambridge University (Clare College), visiting professor of international relations at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University, Senior Fellow at the Institute for International Relations in Vietnam, summer seminar faculty at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and Mary Ball Washington Professor of American History (Fulbright) at University College Dublin. He is also an elected member of the London-based International Institute for Security Studies, the world's leading authority on global security.

Board members of UCD Clinton

Chair - Mr. Ted Smyth (Edelman, New York)
 Mr. Kingsley Aikins (Diaspora Matters)
 Prof. Maurice Bric (UCD)
 Prof. Robert Brigham (Vassar College)
 Prof. Maeve Conrick (UCD)
 Mr. Terry McCarthy (Los Angeles World Affairs Council)
 Prof. Mary Daly (UCD)
 Prof. Donald Pease (Dartmouth College)

For further information about the Institute or this newsletter please contact **Catherine Carey**, manager
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Death of Anne Curley

We were deeply saddened to hear of the untimely passing of Anne Curley (née Redmond), class of 2014. Anne was a wonderful, considerate and hardworking individual who will be sadly missed by her classmates and all at the Institute. Our sincere condolences to her husband Ian and her children, Eoin, Aisling, Conor and Leah. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.