



National College of Ireland

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volume 1 | number 14 | November 2002

New Campus Opening

The 9th of September 2002 marked a very special day for National College of Ireland. This date represented a major milestone in NCI history, as it marked the beginning of the new academic year and the day on which the College welcomed its full-time students to the new campus for the first time.

At the opening, attended by Mr. Denis O'Brien, Chairman of NCI's Governing Body, An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern T.D., described NCI as "a new kind of university". NCI President, Prof. Joyce O'Connor said "this is an exciting time for NCI. Our new 80m campus is six times the size of the college's old home in Ranelagh. This relocation heralds the next step in harnessing the colleges' mission of access, opportunity and excellence in education nationally".



NCI Opening 2002

Left to right: Mr. Denis O'Brien, Chairman of NCI's Governing Body, Prof. Joyce O'Connor, NCI President, An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, TD.



NCI's New State-Of-The-Art Facilities

National College of Ireland has moved on to a new stage in implementing its mission of Access, Opportunity and Excellence in education and now our state-of-the-art campus in Dublin's International Financial Services Centre provides the hub for an innovative and unique programme of work in academic development, teaching and research. Through our campus in the IFSC, our network of 40 off-campus centres, on-site educational hubs within industry, and our online programme, we in NCI are committed to enabling learners to avail of leading-edge programmes in Business, Management, Financial Services, Human Resource Management, Informatics, Humanities, and related fields, in a flexible and accessible manner that meets their needs.

Scholars Restaurant



Library, Community Information and Meeting Room Facilities

Gym and Wellness Centre



Lecture Theatre



Atrium



Student Apartments



Restaurant



National College of Ireland's new state-of-the-art campus, a "campus without walls", comprises three integrated elements:

The College - is a hub for 8,000 students, studying full-time, part-time, at 40 off-campus centres, in community-based groups, in business and through distance and online learning facilities.

The Student Residences - provide guaranteed accommodation for first year students and offers on-campus accommodation to all full-time students.

The Research Foundation - comprises the Early Learning Centre, the Centre for Learning and Teaching, the Centre for Corporate Responsibility and the Policy Research Centre. The Research Foundation serves to nurture an environment where companies will work together in incubator units and help to create the businesses of the future.

Campus Features

- A large 270 seater lecture theatre for college and public activities
- State-of-the-art computer laboratories and large studio classrooms
- Extensive lecture hall space with tiered lecture theatres
- Large modern library with excellent IT facilities. It also includes seminar rooms, public access information area for students, local community and local business
- Network connection points and wireless connectivity throughout the campus
- Excellent restaurant and student catering facilities
- Student recreation and meeting room facilities
- A Gym and Wellness Centre
- An Early Learning Centre (with creche facilities)
- Digital Learning Centre and Community Learning Hub



National College of Ireland and the International Centre for Alcohol Policies - "Alcohol, Ethics & Society" International Conference



Left to right: Mr. Marcus Grant, President, ICAP, USA, Prof. Joyce O'Connor, NCI President and Mr. Michael McDowell TD, Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform

National College of Ireland and the International Centre for Alcohol Policies (ICAP) hosted a global conference in October on the role of alcohol in society. The conference entitled, "Alcohol, Ethics & Society" was opened on October 16th by Michael McDowell TD, Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

Chaired jointly by Professor Joyce O'Connor, President of NCI and Mr Marcus Grant, President of ICAP, the conference featured leading representatives of Ireland's social partners as well as international leaders from government, health and business. The two-day conference, which was held at NCI's new campus in the IFSC, was brought to a close by Pat Cox MEP, on October 18th.

The conference was the first major initiative of NCI's Centre for Corporate Responsibility, which focuses on providing leadership in developing and supporting corporate responsibility for the benefit of companies and the society of which they are citizens.

Key international speakers at the conference included Leanne Riley, a scientist with the World Health Organisation, who discussed the topic of marketing and promotion of alcohol to young people; Peter Coors, Chairman of Coors Brewing Company, who spoke on corporate social responsibility and Prof Hurst Hannum, Professor of International Law, Tufts University, USA.

A full report on the ICAP Conference is available at website: <http://www.icap.org>



Above: Fergus Barry, Head of the School of Business & Humanities, Declan Kelly, Head of the School of Informatics (Acting) and Alan Sharkey, Academic Registrar.



Above: Maurice Pratt, President of IBEC addressing the issue of "Aligning Business Interests and Corporate Social Responsibility."

Right: Senator Joe O'Toole, President, Irish Congress of Trade Unions





Perspectives on the Middle East - Robert Fisk Evening

National College of Ireland was delighted to welcome internationally recognised journalist and author Robert Fisk to the college on the 10th of October for a stimulating and insightful account of recent developments in the Middle East.

Mr. Fisk's in-depth reports on the region have provided a much-needed contrast to official doctrine and have enlightened readers all over the world. He writes for the Independent (of London) and is a regular contributor to many other newspapers including the Irish Times. Based in the Middle East for the last 25 years, Mr. Fisk has an unparalleled knowledge and understanding of the Middle East conflicts and as a measure of his profile in the region, he is the only western journalist to have interviewed Osama bin Laden three times.

Mr. Fisk flew in from Beirut at the request of the Dublin branch of Queen's University Alumni Association. The Palestinian Ambassador, Mr. Ali A. Halimeh, also attended on the evening to hear what Robert Fisk had to say.



Centre: Robert Fisk
Inset: Palestinian Ambassador, Mr. Ali A. Halimeh and Professor Joyce O'Connor



Dr. Chris Horn "Thriving in Turbulent Times" at National College of Ireland



Dr. Chris Horn speaking at National College of Ireland

Dr Chris Horn, founder of Iona Technologies, presented a special breakfast briefing at National College of Ireland on October 9th.

Dr Horn spoke about the history, success and future of a company that has grabbed the country's attention since its inception in 1991. Iona Technologies, one of the first Irish IT companies to gain international recognition is best known for developing Orbix software for the middleware market.

During his presentation to representatives from several leading Irish IT companies and National College of Ireland informatics students, Dr. Horn said that the future of the IT industry in Ireland lay in research & development not in manufacturing - and it was critical that additional investment and focus be brought to bear to develop our R&D capabilities.



Harvard Professor Visits NCI

NCI was delighted to have Professor Pedro Noguera of Harvard Graduate School visit the college in early October.

The purpose of Professor Noguera's visit to NCI was to advise the college's Centre for Educational Opportunity (CEO) on school models operating in the U.S. Discussion focused on how the effectiveness of these models, in dealing with retention and aspiration attainment levels in low-income urban environments, could be applied to the Docklands and Ballymun areas of Dublin.

Professor Noguera also gave a presentation where he outlined the Dudley Street Neighbourhood Initiative. This initiative involved the rejuvenation of one of Boston's most impoverished community areas showing how effective organising reinforces neighbourhood leadership, encourages grass roots power and leads to successful public-private partnerships and comprehensive community development. The presentation was attended by representatives from the local community and school Principals from inner city Dublin.

Professor Noguera is also working with the NCI team to develop two integrated educational strategies for the Dublin Docklands Development Authority and the Ballymun Partnership.

Professor Noguera holds a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, and his research focuses on schools' responses to social and economic forces within the urban environment. He has published and lectured on topics such as youth violence, race relations within schools, the potential impact of school choice and issues resulting from desegregation in public schools.



Professor Pedro Noguera visiting the National College of Ireland and Professor Joyce O'Connor

CIPD Launch - Programme of Events 2002

The Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD) launched their Annual Programme of Events 2002-2003 at National College of Ireland on 7th October 2002.

Members of the Institute attended a special reception hosted by Professor Joyce O'Connor with guest of honour, Mr Finbarr Flood, Chairman of the Labour Court.

CIPD Awards

On the evening, CIPD Ireland bestowed its highest award to Labour Court Chairman, Finbarr Flood, by granting him Companionship status in recognition of his outstanding commitment to people management and development.

The Institute also awarded its first ever Irish Honorary Fellowship to Prof. Joyce O'Connor, President, National College of Ireland.



Above: (Left to right) Mr. Mike McDonnell, Director CIPD Ireland, Mr. Finbarr Flood, Labour Court Chairman and Mr. Pat Lunny, Chairman CIPD Ireland



Right: Mr. Mike McDonnell, Prof. Joyce O'Connor and Mr. Pat Lunny

Student Life at NCI - Clubs and Societies Ball



Students enjoying the ball at Clontarf Castle

National College of Ireland Clubs & Societies Awards 2002 were held in Clontarf Castle in Dublin. The event recognised the achievements of NCI's clubs and societies and also the contributions of particular students involved in the organisation and running of the clubs and societies. Over 150 staff and students attended the event.

A total of 9 awards were presented, including Club of the Year, Society Individual of the Year, Fresher of the Year and Athlete of the Year. A special award, the President's Award, was given collectively to seven students – three NCI students who were selected to represent Ireland on the Irish Colleges Snooker team and the four students who represented Ireland and National College of Ireland on the Irish Colleges Hockey Team.



NCI Society Event of the Year - Socrates - Trip to Galway



NCI Club of the Year - GAA



The awards were followed by the Annual Student Ball which was held in the Great Hall in Clontarf Castle. Over 300 students danced the night away to the sounds of the resident DJ.

National College of Ireland encourages all students to take an active interest in Clubs and Societies and recognises that this is an important part of students academic and social development.



IFSC "Yes to Nice" forum at NCI

On October 4th, National College of Ireland was pleased to welcome Minister for Finance, Charlie McCreevy TD and former EU Commissioner and Irish Attorney General, Mr Peter Sutherland to the College, for a lively discussion on the Nice Treaty.

Introduced by Mr Willie Slattery, CEO of Deutsche International (Ireland) Limited, Minister McCreevy and Mr Sutherland both addressed the merits of a Yes vote in the Nice campaign. This event was held in National College of Ireland's largest lecture theatre to a packed audience of over 270 members of the business community, students and the general public.



Above: Professor Joyce O'Connor and Minister Charlie McCreevy, TD
Right: Minister Charlie McCreevy TD and Mr. Peter Sutherland



New Qualifax CD for schools launched at NCI



Above: Mr. Tom Farrell, Director of Qualifax speaking to a Career Guidance Counsellor

NCI was delighted to host a special reception for Career Guidance Counsellors on the 9th of October. This event was held to enable Guidance Counsellors coming from schools all over the country to view the impressive range of facilities at NCI's new campus. Approximately 80 Guidance Counsellors attended the lunch reception.

Mr Tom Farrell, Director of Qualifax launched the latest version of the Qualifax CD. Qualifax is a computer assisted guidance software package published by the Institute of Guidance Counsellors (IGC) and is available on the web and on CD. The software is the most comprehensive source of information on courses currently available for school leavers.



Left: Ms. Breda Mann, Presentation Secondary School, Killina, Tullamore.





Parents in Education Programme - Celebrating Achievement



Above: NCI's Parents in Education Programme participants

Right: Participants with Programme Co-ordinator Barbara Crowley and facilitator Mary McNeill

National College of Ireland's Parents in Education programme fosters a working partnership between parents and schools, so that both may co-operate in creating an environment which supports, encourages and motivates young people in their educational development. The Parents in Education programme is run by NCI in 15 locations around Dublin City.

This year's presentations by the programme participants covered a wide range of subjects. Some of the year one groups

concentrated on personal development, describing the positive impact the programme had on their confidence and self-esteem.

Programme Co-ordinator, Barbara Crowley said "the Parents in Education participants are to be congratulated on their excellent presentations. The amount of research, commitment and sheer professionalism was most impressive. Our sincere congratulations also, to their excellent facilitators who worked so well with the groups throughout the year".

A report on the Parents in Education programme presentation is available from the CEO - Barbara Crowley, (01) 406 0602 email: bcrowley@ncirl.ie.



Special Community Initiatives at NCI



Open Days for the local community were held in October, to introduce members of the local community and community representative groups to the college and to enable them to view the extensive range of facilities available for community uses. These include, the library, restaurant, Community Learning Hub - (with learning and teaching facilities and seminar rooms) and a Digital Learning Centre.



NCI Policy Research Centre Report Launch

On October 10th, the Policy Research Centre's most recent report, "Meeting the Health, Social Care and Welfare Services Information Needs of Older People in Ireland" was launched at a conference opened by Mr. Ivor Callely TD, Minister for Services for Older People at the Department of Health and Children.

The report outlines the kinds of information older people need at key transition times in their lives, for example, retirement/reaching pension age, the onset of illness or disability, moving from home for increased care and bereavement.

The action plan developed from the findings outlines a framework for considering the information needs of older people, structures for addressing those information needs – one for independent older information seekers and one for older people who need assistance in meeting their needs; and a set of principles to govern the relationship between information seeker and information provider.

Copies of the report are available from the National Council on Ageing and Older People at a cost of €16.00.



HRM Masterclass - Prof. Bill Bigoness



Above: Professor Joyce O'Connor, Professor Bill Bigoness and Fergus Barry.

One of the first events to be held at National College of Ireland's new campus in the IFSC took place on September 6th.

Distinguished Professor Bill Bigoness Ph.D., Assistant Dean of Executive Education at Babson College, Boston, conducted a special breakfast Masterclass entitled "Advanced Leadership and Leading Change". The Masterclass was attended by senior practitioners in the field of Human Resource Management.



Above: Delegates enjoying the Masterclass

Babson College is the leading US business school in the area of entrepreneurship and the Financial Times ranks it 12th in the world as a provider of executive education. It is also one of the most prestigious providers of customised executive programmes for major organisations.

Voluntary Sector Study

Dr. Helen Ruddle, Adjunct Professor and Chair of NCI Policy Research Centre and her colleagues were recently thanked for their work concerning the voluntary sector in Ireland. NCI participated in the transnational non-profit comparative project of the John Hopkins University, which provided quantitative measures of the size and contribution of the voluntary sector in Ireland according to international standards. In a report by Brian Harvey commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust 2002 entitled "Rights and Justice Work in Ireland; A new base line", the PRC was attributed with improving the international knowledge-base of the voluntary sector in Ireland.



Dr. Helen Ruddle

eLearning at NCI



National College of Ireland sees Information Communications and Technology (ICT) as offering great potential in realising the college mission of broadening access to education and increasing opportunity. The key to realising this potential is through the provision of excellent programmes that engage the learner, while addressing the needs of the marketplace.

Following extensive consultation with industry, the School of Informatics at NCI has expanded its course offerings to include a new Graduate Diploma in eLearning. The School of Informatics is also offering an alternative course delivery option for its established full-time day course, the BSc in Software Systems.

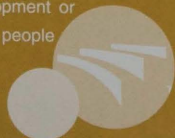
Postgraduate Diploma in eLearning

The overall aim of this programme is to provide participants with the practical skills and theoretical framework needed to integrate eLearning related technologies in the instructional process. It is designed to support those who wish to deepen their knowledge of instructional design and eLearning and who wish to become familiar with state-of-the-art computer-based teaching aids and novel learning environments.

The course is targeted towards graduates working in training or education, either in course delivery or in a programme management and /or development role. Accredited by HETAC, the Graduate Diploma in eLearning is taught over one year on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

BSc in Software Systems

The School of Informatics is now offering the BSc in Software Systems as a part-time evening course that is taught over four years on two evenings per week plus Saturdays. The aim of this course is to produce graduates with the requisite technical, business and interpersonal skills required to pursue a career in software development or engineering. The course is targeted towards people already working in IT or IT related fields.



For more information on any NCI courses, please visit our website <http://www.nciri.ie>



New MA in Human Resource Management at NCI

NCI was delighted to launch its new programme, the MA in Human Resource Management earlier this year. The central objective of this course is to enable Human Resource professionals to enhance their skills and develop their career prospects in the area of strategic Human Resource Management. This course combines a thorough study of the relevant core business disciplines together with an intensive grounding in the theories, policies and skills specific to the human resource function.

The course is designed to provide participants with a conceptual framework and cutting-edge insights into contemporary developments in the area of strategic Human Resource Management. On completion, participants will be equipped to operate as strategic partners in their business and integrate the Human Resource function and processes with the company's strategic objectives.

Accredited by HETAC, the course is for graduates with 4 years relevant work experience that includes responsibility for managing people.

The course runs over 2 years on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings.



NCI's First Family Student Profile

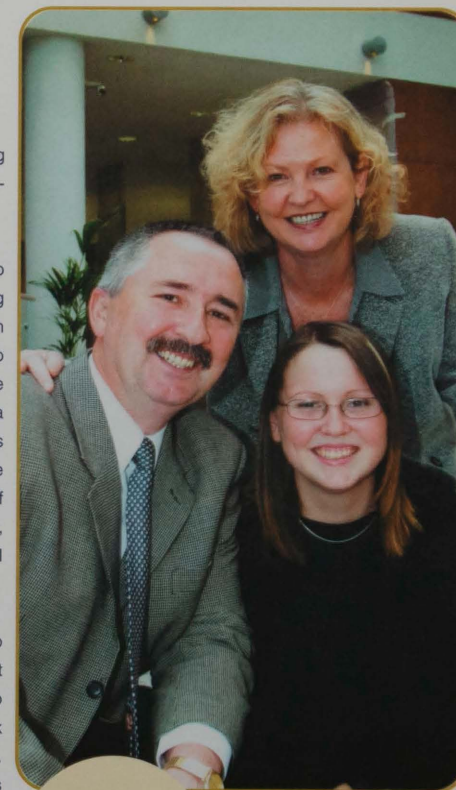
The Doherty family from Donaghmede in Dublin are living examples of National College of Ireland's mission in practice - access to education for all.

Gerry was the first of the Doherty's to take the plunge back into education in 2000 when he signed up for a part-time evening management course at NCI's off-campus centre in Donaghmede. Gerry decided to do this course in order to enhance his own personal development and to help advance his career in the Civil Service. Graduating this year with a Diploma in First-Line Management (Supervision), Gerry is continuing his part-time studies at NCI, this time at the College's new campus in the IFSC. Currently in year one of the BA in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management, Gerry says "once I took the first step back into education, I wanted to keep going."

Encouraged by her husband's success in getting back to education, Helen decided to undertake the same management course in NCI's Donaghmede Off-Campus centre. She also wanted something just for herself outside of home and work now that her children are grown-up. Helen works for the Dept. of Foreign Affairs in the IT and Telecommunications Department in a customer service capacity. She feels that the course helps her in work in terms of her day-to-day role and also in relation to promotional opportunities. Now in year two of the course, Helen has found the practical nature of the programme invaluable, particularly the public speaking and presentation skills module.

Both Helen and Gerry are delighted to be back in Education and are finding it enormously fulfilling. They particularly like the fact that their classes were made up of people with similar educational backgrounds and age range to themselves. Last but not least their daughter, Jennifer Doherty (18) joined NCI this year as a full-time day student on the National Certificate in Business Studies (Industrial Relations/Human Resource Management).

We wish the Doherty family well in their studies at National College of Ireland.



Gerry, Helen and Jennifer Doherty



Off-Campus Report

For the 2002/2003 academic year, National College of Ireland off-campus centres have seen an overall increase in popularity and student numbers. Off-campus students now comprise 50% of NCI's student body. Courses including the NCI Diploma in Management and Employee Relations and the NCI Diploma in First Line Management (Supervision) are offered in various NCI off-campus locations throughout Ireland and three new centres in Portlaoise, Waterford and Wexford have been introduced this year.

In keeping with National College of Ireland quality standards, Centre Representatives have been appointed for the off-campus centres, to ensure that students continue to receive the highest standards of service and facilities.



Located in the IFSC &
40 Off Campus Centres

Enterprising Venture for NCI Graduate



Above: Minister for Finance, Mr. Charlie McCreevy with Stephen McLarnon

Stephen McLarnon started his BA in Accounting and Human Resource Management in October 1994 and has never looked back.

On graduating, Stephen joined the HR Department in Irish Life Insurance plc. However, in December 1997 he was recruited by BDO Simpson Xavier where his task was to establish an Accountancy & Finance Division in Dublin, under the name DLA Recruitment Consultants. By 2000 Stephen had been promoted to Manager in BDO Simpson Xavier.

In 2000, Stephen identified a gap in the market for a specialised accountancy recruitment website. Accountantsjobs.com, now Ireland's premier Accountancy Recruitment website, was launched by the Minister for Finance, Charlie McCreevy in May 2001 and was an instant success. Since then, the site has partnered with 3 international companies in the US, Australia and UK and has joined forces with the specialised Accountancy division of jobsinireland.ie - jobsinaccountancy.ie. "This is an exciting development for Accountantsjobs.com and gives us scope in Finance and Banking as well as pure Accountancy recruitment advertising", commented Stephen.

Stephen has said, "Up until recently I never realised how diverse and extensive the network of Alumni from NCI is, every corner I turn or door I open, there is an NCI graduate standing there. Maintaining these contacts has proved invaluable for me".