

Jim Lamb Steps Into New Role as Ireland Institute President



Jim Lamb was appointed President of the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh on December 6th, 2005.

Mr. Lamb joined the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh in January of 1992 as Director of Training. He was hired to manage the Institute's Internship Program for unemployed young adults from Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Prior to that he worked for seven years with abused and neglected youth and families at Try Again Homes, Inc. He held several positions there including Director of Foster Care and Director of Counseling Services. He also worked with disadvantaged populations at Goodwill Industries and the Northern Area Multi-Service Center.

Mr. Lamb holds a Masters of Science in Education from Duquesne University and a Bachelor of Science from Pennsylvania State University. He serves on the board of the South Hills Interfaith Ministries and the International Advisory Board of Robert Morris University.

Mr. Lamb is an advocate for reconciliation in Northern Ireland and economic development in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Western Pennsylvania. His background, working with disadvantaged populations locally and abroad, and his understanding of the ever-changing social, political, and economic challenges in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Western Pennsylvania are important elements to his work at the Ireland Institute. Mr. Lamb, his wife, Ann Burns-Lamb, and son Ciaran reside in Dormont, PA.

Spring: A Celebration of Life with Irish Scholar John O'Donohue



John O'Donohue with Ireland Institute staff & friends

Thanks to all who joined us for a spectacular lecture by Irish poet and scholar, John O'Donohue, on March 19th. John spoke of Springtime, renewal, and hope. His talk was an inspiration for all who were present.



Book signing



John O'Donohue speaks about "Spring: A Celebration of Life"

Walsh Peace Visa Continues, Offers Chance for Professional and Personal Development to Young Adults from Ireland and Northern Ireland

The Walsh Visa Hub has been particularly busy lately. As previous participants have departed back home to Ireland and Northern Ireland, a new group has arrived, and more are on the way. Group 17 arrived on Sunday, October 23rd while Group 18 arrived on Sunday, April 9th. The Ireland Institute will welcome the 19th Walsh Visa Group to Pittsburgh on June 25th, 2006.



*Samuel Dodds & Eymard Gilmartin
at farewell Dinner for Group 13*



Group 17 in Predeparture Training



Group 18 at The Point

Memorial Service Held in Armagh, Northern Ireland

Sister Michel O'Leary, who passed away on September 10, 2005, was remembered in an ecumenical service held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh on February 23rd.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette wrote the following about Sister Michele O'Leary in an obituary on September 11, 2005.:

“She was the child of an Irish immigrant, and joined the Sisters of Mercy in 1951. After joining the Sisters she was a teacher for 30 years and worked as a grade school principal, health care administrator, and directed an anti-drug program. Sr. Michele was a remarkable woman who tirelessly fought for peace and understanding between Protestants and Catholics. She will forever be remembered for her good deeds and the lives she has touched.”

Rooney Fellowship Continues its Impact

Named in honor of Daniel M. Rooney, co-founder of the Ireland Fund, the annual American Ireland Fund Rooney Fellowship is awarded each year to an outstanding student of Newry College, Northern Ireland. The fellowship provides the opportunity for a student to undertake a one-year undergraduate business program at the University of Pittsburgh or Duquesne University and to participate in an internship program with the H.J. Heinz Corporation and the Pittsburgh Steelers Football Club.

Micéal O'Neill, 2005/2006 Rooney Fellow returns to Ireland this month after what he describes as “an incredible opportunity to experience American life through study, work experiences and interaction with its people”



*Dan Rooney and Micéal pictured at
the American Ireland Fund Dinner*

The 2006/2007 Rooney Fellow has been announced. Stephen Ferris hails from Newry, Co. Down and arrives Mid-August. Stephen will conduct his studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

Launch of Website

At a reception on St. Patrick's day the IIP launched its newly-designed website www.iiopfitt.org. The website features information about the Institute including our staff, our business & training programs & initiatives along with Newsletters & the Common Ground. Interesting additions are a continuously scrolling Breaking News from Ireland section, an FAQ answering many of your questions about Ireland/Northern Ireland and a guest-book where you can leave comments. Log on to-day! It's a great way of discovering how the Institute continues in its mission and you can also find out what previous participants are doing.

Host Families Needed for 2006

In the Summer and Fall of 2006, over forty young men and women from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are expected to arrive in Pittsburgh to participate in our Wider Horizons program. These young people will receive on-the-job training, personal development, exposure to American culture, and new insights into the problems at home through conflict resolution. At the end of the eight weeks, the participants will return to Ireland, hopeful of securing employment and living in peace.

As an essential part of this program, we are looking for host families to house participants during these two separate eight-week long programs. Those of you who have hosted participants in the past have our thanks for opening your hearts and homes. No doubt you may be called upon again, but we also ask you to recruit any interested friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Host Family help is vital in providing a positive and rewarding experience for the participants.

The groups are in Pittsburgh from July 17th – September 8th and from October 6th – November 17th.

For more information on becoming a Host Family, please contact Brenda Mackin at the Ireland Institute at 412-394-3900.

Congratulations to Bridget McNamee

After 5 years with the IIP, first as an Intern and then as Associate Director for Development, Bridget McNamee has taken a new position at Chatham College. We would like to congratulate Bridget on her new job and thank her for her many years of service to the Ireland Institute

New Hope Center Progress Report

The New Hope Center in Enniskillen, Fermanagh County was officially renamed the Michele O'Leary New Hope Centre on Wednesday, February 22nd. This tribute marks the life of a beloved and dedicated advocate for peace and reconciliation.

Progress continues on the fundraising initiative for the O'Leary New Hope Centre. The amount raised to date is over \$7,000.

Donations are still being accepted. Please contact the Ireland Institute at 412-394-3900 for further information.



Teresa Stayduhar, IIP accepts a donation from Davey Kettyles, New Hope Centre

Frank McCourt Discusses *Teacher Man*



In November, the Ireland Institute partnered with Joseph Beth Booksellers to present a lecture and book signing by Irish author Frank McCourt (pictured), best known for his work *Angela's Ashes*. After an introduction by Dan Rooney, Chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Mr. McCourt read from his new work, *Teacher Man*.

Spring Semester Intern a Great Help

The Ireland Institute would like to extend our thanks to our fall semester intern, Shawna Daugherty, for all her hard work. Shawna will graduate from the University of Pittsburgh on April 29th. We wish her the best in all her future endeavors. This summer we welcome, Meg Pusateri from University of Pittsburgh and Amy Boots from Duquesne University.

Board of Directors Update

The Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh is proud to have Barbara Benner join our Board of Directors. Barbara, a Human Resources Specialist replaces Dr. Esther Barazzone, President, Chatham College. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Benner and thank Dr. Barazzone for her dedication and service.

University announces its JFK scholar for 2006 in memory of Sr. Michele

Congratulations to Megan Smith, winner of the University of Pittsburgh JFK Scholarship, in memory of Sr. Michele and sponsored by the University's Irish Nationality Room Committee. Ms. Smith, of Pittsburgh, will study politics, women's studies & emigration at the American College of Dublin this summer.



Irish Nationality Room at Pitt

Trade Mission

The Ireland Institute will lead a life sciences delegation to Dublin and Belfast, scheduled for Nov. 10-18, 2006. The delegation will be the 13th such trip organized by the Institute.

The delegation departs Friday, November 10 and returns Saturday, November 18. The program includes participation in BioIreland 2006, taking place in Dublin, Ireland Nov. 12-14. Other features of the delegation will be visits to Queens University's new Center for Cancer Research in Belfast, and various centers of excellence in science and medicine around the island of Ireland, as well as daily business matching.

Supporting the program are The University of Pittsburgh, CMU, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, the Pittsburgh Technology Council, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and various life science organizations.

Local companies that are interested in participating in the mission should contact James Lamb, President, Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh at (412) 394-3900 or jlamb@iiofpitt.org.

Don't Forget to Sign-Up for the *Common Ground*

Subscription to our monthly e-newsletter, the *Common Ground*, has been growing monthly. Don't forget to sign up – every month, you'll get lifestyle features, sports, news, and events from Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the tri-state area. Sign up by sending your email address to us at info@iiofpitt.org.

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If you would like to support the important work of the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh in its mission of reconciliation in Northern Ireland and economic development throughout all of Ireland you can do so by making gifts of time or money. For more information on how to contribute or how to become involved with our work as a volunteer or host family, please call 412-394-3900. Ask to speak to Jim Lamb or visit our website at www.iiofpitt.org.

To designate your United Way gift for the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh, please mark **4534** on your United Way pledge form.