

FOR PITTSBURGH AND IRELAND, THE FUTURE STARTS NOW

So far 2011 has brought great hardship and greater hope to people in our midst who know little else. With the termination of Osama bin Laden brought the media back to local men, women, and children who lost family on September 11, 2001, and thereafter on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. I was amazed by the capacity of these many who grieved over the past ten years. They were moving on with their lives, content in the faith that their loved ones were at peace. I was reminded of the thousands of Northern Ireland and border county inhabitants whose lives were affected by thirty years of the Troubles, yet somehow managed to keep moving forward toward peace, reconciliation, and equality.

Pittsburgh and Ireland have come a long way in a very short time. In 1985 both regions were best characterized as “tired.” With the collapse of the steel industry, unemployment and emigration were at all time highs. Whole families and communities were packing up and leaving for opportunities elsewhere. Ireland was in recession and the dirty war in the North raged on. With no other options, thousands of young Irish did what generations before had done. They left, too.

Then in the 1990s both Ireland and Pittsburgh started emerging from the doldrums. Thanks to creative thinking and long term planning, both transformed their economies. Investments in education and technology and smart public policy paid off. Ireland’s rise was miraculous. By 2002, Ireland was the envy of the world in terms of economy, culture, and public-private partnership. Jobs were plentiful. And for the first time in decades, Ireland gained more population than it lost.

In the past five years, regrettably, Ireland has fallen dramatically. The access to unlimited credit led to one of the worst financial catastrophes in world history. And in the North, while the vast majority of residents and leaders are committed to cooperation at all levels, a small dissident gang threatens peace once again.

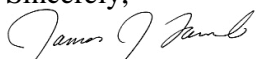
Pittsburgh, meanwhile, has grown from strength to strength. Recognized as America’s most livable city, best place to retire, best place for recent graduates, and now America’s “City of the Future,” according to fDi Magazine, we are in a position to engage, assist, and enrich communities all over the world. The readers of this newsletter have identified Ireland, North and South, as a special place deserving of our attention, our ideas, and our help. Ireland’s best and brightest are aware of the tremendous opportunities Pittsburgh and its leadership present. Thanks to the partnerships we’ve made in Ireland over many years, young people from all walks of Irish life can now come here for training, work experience, and cultural exchange. Unemployed and disadvantaged youth can still avail of our primary Wider Horizons programs. University students and graduates are welcome to our independent visa programs and the Carbon Zero Northern Ireland initiative that places smart young people with Pittsburgh’s sustainable technology and renewable energy sector companies. Reciprocal opportunities are available for Pittsburgh area students seeking experiences in Ireland.

These activities, in turn, encourage Ireland’s industry sectors to engage with Pittsburgh. A delegation this February brought eleven professionals from Northern Ireland’s clean tech sector to connect with potential partners, interview Carbon Zero participants for employment, and further engage Pittsburgh area companies, universities and students.

Many Pittsburgh individuals invest their time and their money to ensure the important and ever growing links with Ireland. In this letter we recognize one in particular—the late Anne Mullaney who passed away on Good Friday. Anne was a champion of the poor and the less fortunate. Throughout her life, Anne fought for those who couldn’t fight for themselves. She will be missed. May she rest in peace.

At this moment in history, Ireland needs help. Pittsburgh has never been in a better position to offer assistance. I encourage readers to reach out to Ireland. Take a trip. Reconnect with your roots. Host a young Irish person in your home or at your company. Support the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh and the many other organizations that work on behalf of the Pittsburgh-Ireland relationship. And thanks for many years of confidence in our efforts.

Sincerely,



James J. Lamb
President

Glantek Group: Meet the Buyers



In February, the Northern Ireland Government sponsored a delegation of sustainable technology companies to Pittsburgh. This was part of a strategy to build capacity in Northern Ireland's emerging sustainable technology and renewable energy sectors, and develop international opportunities for Pittsburgh area companies and organizations. Shortly after Pittsburgh was selected to host the September, 2009 G-20 Summit, business facilitators on both sides of the Atlantic began encouraging research and development, education and skills, business, trade, and investment in sustainable technology between the Pittsburgh region and Northern Ireland. By 2010 the Northern Ireland Government released a region-wide initiative called "Carbon Zero Northern Ireland."

The delegation heard Pittsburgh's story of transformation from heavy industry to a knowledge-based economy. The Northern Ireland companies and universities engaged with their Pittsburgh counterparts to explore opportunities of mutual interest. And the graduate engineers on placement in Pittsburgh currently also showcased their work and life experiences in Pittsburgh.

Sustainable Leadership

Through an unprecedented collaboration between Southwest College, Dungannon, Northern Ireland and the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh, Carbon Zero Northern Ireland brought ten graduate engineers to Pittsburgh in 2010 to participate in the Sustainable Leadership Program. This includes a full-time internship in sustainable technology, a "Master Class" series of biweekly workshops, tours, and seminars with Pittsburgh area leaders in sustainable practices. As an initiative of Carbon Zero Northern Ireland, this program aims to provide participants with the training and experience needed to jumpstart alternative energy efforts in Northern Ireland.



The Pittsburgh-Northern Ireland Leadership Program has seen its ten aspiring leaders settling into sustainable energy companies across the Pittsburgh area. The 2010 participants spent the year interning with local companies engaged in various fields within the green economy, including: advanced manufacturing, energy efficiency, and environmental engineering.



2010 Participants

Michael Mageean – Epiphany Solar Water Systems
Mark Spence – Venture Engineering and Construction
Stephen Wilson – Advanced Manufacturing Technology Ventures
Mick O'Reilly & Michelle McAteer – eCap Network
Sarah Mackle – Catalyst Connections
Paul Quinn – Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
Ross Towers – ALCOSAN (Allegheny County Sanitary Authority)
Paul Brogan – Vox Energy Solutions
Conor Magee – UPMC Corporate Construction

The Institute is currently making preparations for the second year of the program and the next twelve candidates. If you or your organization would like to consider providing an internship or becoming a host family for a participant this year, please contact the IIP or visit our website (www.iiofpitt.org) to view the candidates' resumes. The Ireland Institute would like to thank Matt Brind'Amour and Howard Elbert for becoming host families for the last two participants to arrive.

Teresa Stayduhar's Retirement



The Ireland Institute staff would like to congratulate Teresa Stayduhar on her retirement. Prior to coming to IIP, she was the Acting Executive Director at Chemical People Institute, an organization devoted to helping people with chemical dependence. Teresa worked as the Executive Vice President at the Ireland Institute since 1990, overseeing the Institute's finances. Over the last twenty years she has been a tremendous asset at the Institute. We wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement. She will be greatly missed.

Honorary Consul of Ireland



The Ireland Institute would like to congratulate Jim Lamb on being installed as the Honorary Consul of Ireland to Pittsburgh on behalf of his Excellency Michael Collins, Irish Ambassador to the United States, and the Honorable Noel Kilkenny, Irish Consul General on Friday, January 21, 2011. The Irish Government, seeking to expand the network of Irish diaspora across the world, identified Pittsburgh, among other cities in which Ireland must develop and enhance greater links for trade and investment, culture, education, research, and community development. As Honorary Consul, Jim is responsible for representing the Irish government in the region and being the face of Ireland at events and encourage networking between Pittsburgh and Ireland, facilitating business opportunities and cultural exchange.

Commenting on the appointment, Micael Martin, Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs said, "Pittsburgh represents a terrific opportunity for Ireland. First class universities, a diverse knowledge-based economy, and a vibrant Irish-American community are compelling factors for good partnerships. Jim has proven, over many years of service to Ireland and to Pittsburgh, his ability to direct activities and realize goals of mutual interest to Ireland and to Western Pennsylvania."

Remembering Anne Mullaney



The Pittsburgh Irish community lost one of its angels with the passing of Anne Mullaney on Friday, April 22, 2011. At the age of 54, Anne lost her second battle with cancer and passed away in the hospice she raised money to build. Anne was a member of the Ireland Institute's Board of Directors and a partner at the Law Firm of Thorp Reed & Armstrong, but she was best known as the owner of Mullaney's Harp and Fiddle Pub in The Strip. Our deepest condolences go out to the Mullaney family and remembrances may be made to Partners in Progress (Building a School in Haiti-CIJ School- A.Mullaney Fund) www.piphaiti.org or Family Hospice & Palliative Care www.familyhospice.com

IIP Irish Castle Vacation Prize Raffle Winner

Congrats to our 2010 Irish Castle Vacation Prize Raffle Winner, Deborah Powell, who won a six nights stay at three Irish Castles - Ashford in Galway, Dromoland in Limerick, and Clontarf in Dublin - plus return airfare for two and one week's car rental. Ms. Powell and her family will be travelling to Ireland this May. This was a successful fundraiser and we would like to thank all of our sellers and donors.

Wider Horizons 2011



In 2010 the Institute hosted two Wider Horizons groups. The Tyrone Donegal Youth & Community Program saw 35 young people visit Pittsburgh for a six-week stay in June and October. Their placements were based primarily in youth camps in the city. Once again Duquesne University and Strueber & Associates provided the formal part of the program. Many of our young people will never have the opportunity to go to college so having a university like Duquesne partner with us is very beneficial. As usual Pittsburghers opened their hearts and homes to the young people and the Institute is very lucky to have such caring and nurturing host families. Their dedication to helping our young people and providing a home away from home is much appreciated.

Tyrone Donegal is scheduled to return June 13-July 22 with a Youth and Community Program and in mid-October with an Options program. The Options Program allows the participants the 'option' to explore an area of work they are interested in. If you are interested in providing an internship or becoming a host family - please contact us at 412-394-3900.

IIP in Cyberspace

Don't forget to sign up to our free monthly e-newsletter, the *Common Ground*. You'll get lifestyle features, sports, news, and events from Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the tri-state area. To sign up email us at info@iiofpitt.org. You can also follow the IIP on Facebook and Twitter. On Facebook search *Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh* and 'become a fan' to find out the latest news about our visitors or upcoming events. On Twitter, follow *jlamb1410*. Our website is www.iiofpitt.org.

Irish Language On-Line

The Ireland Institute is offering you an opportunity to learn the Irish Language with its new on-line Irish Language Program. The program, which is available to purchase through our website (www.iiofpitt.org), provides students with a basic introductory guide to the Irish Language (Level 1). It is fully interactive and features recorded video of an Irish teacher, vocabulary, quizzes and more. Purchasing the program also entitles you to attend classes held at our offices with a qualified Irish teacher that offers additional support. We also offer Level 2 to those of you that have completed Level 1 or who feel they are ready to jump ahead.



J1 Intern and Summer Work Travel Visas

The Ireland Institute is proud to offer the opportunity to work and travel in the US for up to one year. The Ireland Institute has been authorized by the US State Department to issue 2 types of J1 Visa to Irish and UK citizens – the Intern visa and Summer Work Travel Visa. Both are limited to current students or recent graduates. For more information on both of these visa programs, go to <http://www.iiofpitt.org/index.cfm/area/information/page/J-1SummerVisa>.

Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh
Regional Enterprise Tower
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1410
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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.

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

We have also been designated a member of the National Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Anyone interested in donating through CFC, please use **12438** when making a donation.

Local employees of the Federal government should use **9016**.