

Appealing For Peace – a Message from James J. Lamb, President, IIP



As 2006 draws to a close, we reflect on the outstanding achievements of the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh over the past year.

While historic progress in the Northern Ireland peace process continues, the demand for the Ireland Institute to provide turnkey overseas training services to disadvantaged young people remains robust. In the past twelve months over seventy-five participants on two Wider Horizons Programs, four Walsh Visa groups, the Rooney Fellowship and other initiatives, came to Pittsburgh to pursue tremendous opportunities not available at home.

As we continue this important work with the young people of Ireland and Northern Ireland, our models in training and reconciliation are appealing to new audiences.

In 2007, I encourage friends of the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh to support the many diverse projects of this dynamic organization.

Stay tuned!



“Give Me Your Hand”

Since our founding in 1989, the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh has been working with businesses, universities and government locally and in Ireland to build a lasting peace and to lay the groundwork for reconciliation between the Catholic and Protestant cultures in Northern Ireland. On December 2nd, Pittsburgh's Irish dance groups will unite for "Give Me Your Hand," a benefit performance in support of our work.



It will be the first time in Pittsburgh's history that the dancers of the Bell School of Irish Dance, the Burke School of Irish Dance, the Pittsburgh Ceili Club, the Pittsburgh Irish Reelers and the Shovlin Academy of Irish Dance will perform together in the same show.

The event will take place from 7-9:30 pm at the newly opened Catherine Thomas Theatre of the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh (formerly St. Benedict's Academy) located at 4530 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15229. Doors will open at 6 pm for a reception and art show. Tickets are \$25, with a special rate of \$10 for children under 12 and religious, and can be purchased by debit or electronic check by phone at: 412.394.3900 or on-line by credit card at www.iiofpitt.org.

We invite you to come and join us for an evening of the finest Irish dancing Pittsburgh has to offer and support our mission of peace.

Life Sciences Delegation, Ireland, 10th – 18th November

The Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh recently led a life sciences delegation to Dublin and Belfast. It marked the Institute's 13th business delegation to Ireland, and came on the heels of UPMC Cancer Center's recent announcement to partner with hospitals in Ireland to provide radiation treatments for cancer, beginning this year.



The delegation departed Friday, November 10 and returned Saturday, November 18. The program included participation in *BioIreland 2006*, which took place in Dublin, Ireland Nov. 12-14; visits to various centers of excellence in science and medicine around the island of Ireland, including Queens University's new Centre for Cancer Research in Belfast; and daily business matching.

Supporting the program were the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Pittsburgh Tissue Engineering Initiative, Pittsburgh Life Science Greenhouse, Pittsburgh Technology Council, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

An interesting outcome of the delegation is the partnership that has developed between Queens University, Belfast and Pittsburgh Tissue Engineering Initiative to share research and development activities.

For more information, contact Jim Lamb at jlamb@iiofpitt.org or 412.394.3900.

A Farewell To LeeAnn

Last month the IIP said a fond farewell to LeeAnn Davis who joined us in 2002 as Administrative Assistant.

LeeAnn is taking up a new position as Legal Secretary at Respiroics, a global leader in respiratory products. We wish her best of luck in the future. Thanks!



LeeAnn Davis

Board of Directors Update

The Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh is proud to announce the election of Ms. Margaret (Peg) McCormick-Barron and Judge Maureen Lally-Green to the Board of Directors. Ms. McCormick-Barron is head of Government Relations for West Penn Allegheny Health Systems, while Judge Lally-Green serves on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome both Peg and Maureen and thank Thomas Sweeney, who has left the Board, for his dedication and service. We are delighted that Tom will be a member of our Advisory Committee.

New Rooney Fellow touches down



New Rooney Fellow Stephen Ferris with Dan Rooney

Stephen Ferris, 21, from Newry Co. Down is our 2006/2007 Rooney Fellow. A student at Newry & Kilkeel Institute For Further & Higher education, he will be in Pittsburgh for both Fall and Spring terms and is studying at the University of Pittsburgh. Generally the Rooney Fellowship is offered to business students but faculty felt that Stephen, who is studying Sports Management, was the ideal candidate for this prestigious award. While at the Steelers, on his current internship, Stephen is working alongside fitness trainers and various coaches as well as corporate hospitality on game days.

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.

Final Walsh Visa group arrives



Congressman Jim Walsh

The final group of Walsh Visa participants, Group 20, arrived in Pittsburgh on the September, 2006. The group who hail from counties Down, Monaghan, Cavan & Donegal will be in Pittsburgh for the next two years, returning home in Fall 2008. The arrival of this last group brings to a close the latest chapter of this successful program named after Congressman James Walsh (R-NY) who sponsored the “Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Act”, commonly known as the Walsh Visa Program.

In conjunction with the U.S. State Department and the governments of Northern Ireland and Ireland, the Walsh Visa Program has offered unemployed people of Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland the opportunity to live and work in the Pittsburgh area for up to two years. The goals of Program are to gain new skills and enhance the participants’ future employability at home in Ireland.

Since 2001, over 300 men and women from Ireland and Northern Ireland have been provided the opportunity to live and work in Pittsburgh. The Ireland Institute secured employment, coordinated housing, provided social support and conducted conflict resolution training to all program participants.

More than 130 employers in the Greater Pittsburgh area have been designated by the U.S. State Department for participation in the Walsh Visa Program.



Walsh Visa Group 20

Wider Horizons 2006



Tyrone & Donegal Partnership participants

This year the Institute welcomed two Wider Horizons groups. In June our first group, from Tyrone & Donegal Partnership Youth Community 2006 arrived for an eight week stay. The participants, who stayed with host families throughout the Pittsburgh region, were placed in internships across the Greater Pittsburgh Area. Internships included various YMCA facilities, Parental Stress Center, Garfield Community Action Center, Providence Family Support Center, Allegheny Valley Schools and the Jewish Community Center.

The Group participated in Youth & Community Development classes, as well as a Conflict Resolution course at Duquesne University.

The group engaged in several social & cultural activities including trips to Washington DC and Grove City Outlets.

Our second group, from Monaghan and Portadown Partnership Options Program arrived in September for their six-week program. The Program known as “Options” is non-specific and gives the participants the choice of what type of internship experience they would like. This group’s interests were quite varied and placements ranged from WQED, Empire Music, United Way, Kennelly Painting, Duquesne University’s CLAY Program, Pittsburgh Cut Flowers and J. Francis Construction.

Their academic component also took place at Duquesne where they were instructed in Customer Care as well as taking Personal & Professional Development classes.



Monaghan and Portadown Partnership participants

Social activities included an NBA game, Duquesne Dukes Football, a tour of Heinz Field and a visit to the Amish country in New Wilmington.

So good we couldn't let her go!

Meg Pusateri has remained with the IIP for the Fall semester having worked alongside Amy Boots during the summer. Amy is currently in Spain studying at University in Seville while Meg is looking forward to an upcoming semester at University College Galway, next January. The Ireland Institute would like to extend our thanks to both ladies and is currently accepting applications for our Spring Internship program. Applications can be sent to rterney@iiofpitt.org.

Host Families Needed for 2007



Next Spring and Summer we are looking forward to receiving our next groups of young men and women from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland 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.

For more information on becoming a Host Family, please contact us at 412.394.3900.

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.