

## A MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP – a message from James J. Lamb, President, IIP



Another successful year for the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh is coming to an end. In 2007, we served over 75 Wider Horizons and Walsh Visa Participants. We also hosted various events, groups, and individuals as part of our mission to promote peace & reconciliation. The items in this newsletter will detail some of that good work.

These are important activities for the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh and for the greater Pittsburgh community. Without the support of many individuals and organizations, the Institute would not function. Over 100 families have agreed to open their homes to our students. More than 700 companies and other organizations have provided them with employment or job training. Duquesne University provides visas, classroom instruction, and much more to many of these young men and women. And our elected officials, public servants, and members of the health, legal, and other professions, are called upon often to represent and serve the best interests of the Institute and its students.

Our activities to promote trade and organizational partnership between Pittsburgh and Ireland also depend on the good relationships we have with the Allegheny Conference, the Pittsburgh Technology Council, SMC Small Business, and the various other commercial associations that recognize our efforts on their behalf.

And in Ireland, North and South, the government agencies, community organizations, and companies with whom we partner to promote peace, reconciliation, and development, are integral parts of a network that has evolved over time to connect Pittsburgh and Ireland in areas of reconciliation, training, business and culture.

The Institute was formed eighteen years ago to address a serious problem. And a simple solution to that problem emerged. Peace, reconciliation, and mutually beneficial development can occur when enemies, real or conceived, are brought together, away from the battleground, to meet face-to-face, to state their positions and to hear their opponents' perspectives. As enemies engage in thoughtful exercise common ground can be reached. Participants do not have to agree with each other. But they must recognize and affirm the other's right to hold a position. Participants should be encouraged to challenge each other, to argue, to make points and counterpoints. In the right environment, enemies can move beyond the war together. A divided dysfunctional past is replaced with a shared future.

The secret to the Institute's success is this environment and the incredible network of organizations and individuals, in Pittsburgh and in Ireland, that interacts with our participants. A dedicated board, a hardworking staff, and hundreds of donors, volunteers, advisors, specialists, everyone who receives this newsletter, and others with whom we partner every day provide an environment for peace, reconciliation, and future development. Institute participants learn quickly that the entire region of Southwestern PA, its talents and other resources are available to them. They also realize that the island of Ireland's resources are likewise available when they return home.

With that I wish to thank everyone who has supported our work over the years.



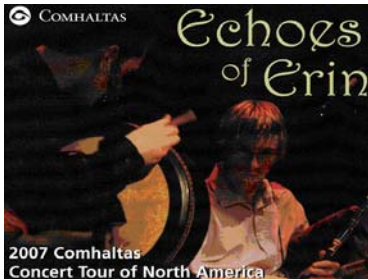
## IIP wins prestigious award

The Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh was recently awarded the prestigious Bridge Award (Community), granted by the Pittsburgh Council for International Visitors. Since our founding in 1989, the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh has been working with businesses, universities and governments 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.



IIP President Jim Lamb, receives the 2007 Bridge Award (Community)

## Echoes of Erin Event a great success



Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann's Pittsburgh Branch in association with the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh recently held a concert, Echoes of Erin, in Cefalo's Niteclub and Restaurant in Carnegie. The event was a great success and featured top class musical performers from Ireland, including many Irish Fleadh champions, displaying the highest standards and regional styles. The legendary Sean O'Sé not only introduced each act but performed also. He had a unique rapport with the audience, was a great story-teller and all-round entertainer. Along with him were 15 of Ireland's best musicians, dancers & singers. Thanks to all who attended & sponsored the event.

## Fall Interns

The IIP is delighted that Ms. Amy Boots has decided to stay with us for the Fall term. Amy, a senior from Duquesne University studying Modern Languages and Literatures is currently working on our upcoming business delegation to Ireland. She is joined by Erin Byrne, senior from Pitt studying History & Political Science. Erin has been researching new business opportunities for the organization. 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](mailto:rterney@iiofpitt.org)

## John Kirkwood R.I.P.

The Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh lost one of our long serving board members this year, John Kirkwood. John, was a successful attorney and businessman here in Pittsburgh. He was a major donor to the Ireland Institute. He was committed to peace and reconciliation in Ireland and assisted many companies in Ireland with investment, advice, and friendship. He will be missed. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilis (May his soul be on God's right side).*

## New Rooney Fellow arrives (with his own TV crew!)



Ryan Carragher (left) and his family meet Dan Rooney at Heinz Field

Ryan Carragher, 21, from Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh is our 2007/2008 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 Duquesne University. While at the Steelers, on his current internship, Ryan is working with the Marketing Department on many of their initiatives as well as assisting with corporate hospitality on game days. One of Ireland's television stations, TV3, followed Ryan to Pittsburgh to shoot some footage of him as he began his year here. The program they filmed, "Grass roots of the GAA", was focusing on Ryan's gaelic football team, Crossmaglen Rangers, as part of a series of programs featuring various Irish football clubs. The production crew were particularly interested in Ryan's journey to the United States and his internship at the Steelers. IIP staff were featured in the show that aired on Irish TV screens in September!

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.

## Walsh Visa update

With the departure of the last two Group 17 participants, Chris Haggerty and Mark Donnan, the Program has entered it's final year. The last three groups to arrive, Groups 18, 19 and 20, will complete their Programs in April, June and September 2008 respectively. Participants are looking forward to a weekend of skiing before the end of the year and with Christmas approaching, the IIP are organizing a Christmas dinner for the participants, giving them a chance to get together during a time that is often difficult for young people being away from home. The meal on offer will be a traditional Irish Christmas dinner giving them a little taste of home. With a total of 12 participants currently on the WV Program, it is time to review and assess the impact the program has had on the lives of the 292 participants who have come through Pittsburgh since May 2001. Currently there are two reviews being carried out, one on the US side and one on the Irish side. These reviews are expected to reinforce the positive impacts that the IIP staff already know from many of the past and current participants. We would like to extend our congratulations to the following participants, all of whom were inducted into the Presidents Club, an honor bestowed on any participant who completes their first year in Pittsburgh: Mark Andrews, Eunan Curran, John Donaghy, Antoinette Farrelly and William McDonagh.



William McDonagh  
receives his certificate

## Wider Horizons 2007



Monaghan and Portadown Partnership

This year the Institute welcomed three Wider Horizons groups. In May our first group, from the Monaghan and Portadown Partnership arrived for an eight-week stay. Their program known as "Options" 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 YMCA facilities, to law firms, real estate companies and radio stations. Information Technology was the focus of this groups training at Duquesne and all enjoyed a trip to Washington DC among other activities during their stay.

Arriving just in time for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities our 2<sup>nd</sup> group, from Tyrone and Donegal, spent eight weeks working in youth and community organizations throughout the region. Their program was timed to coincide with various youth camps and summer programs operated by such organizations as Parental Stress Center, Providence Family Support Center, Jewish Community Center and Gwen's Girls. The Group participated in Youth & Community Development classes, as well as a Conflict Resolution course at Duquesne University. They visited Washington DC as part of their cultural component.



Tyrone Donegal at Graduation

The Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh's 57<sup>th</sup> group, hailing from the Monaghan and Portadown Partnership spent seven weeks with us from late August until October. The focus of their program was Office Administration and placements reflecting participants specific office interests ranged from the Omni William Penn and Marriott hotels to The Carnegie Library to the Registrar of Wills offices. The participants enjoyed a trip to both Washington and Niagara Falls and pursued software courses at Duquesne University.

## Host Families Needed for 2008



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 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.

## Institute promotes trade

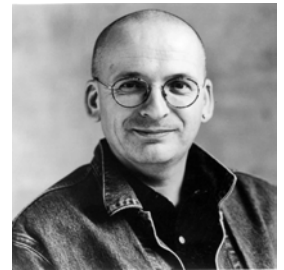
The IIP, the British American Business Council Pittsburgh Region, and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance will undertake a business development mission to Ireland from April 4 through April 12, 2008. Ireland's transformation has created a hub between the US and the EU. This mission will provide participants with:

- A unique opportunity to celebrate peace and learn how Ireland has shown the way in Europe for economic development transformation.
- A first-hand look at how Ireland has reinvented its attractions for inward investment, recognizing changes in global conditions, and building a reputation for the quality of its national capabilities and innovation.
- Leading experts' collaborations and thoughts on building a knowledge economy.
- Opportunities to promote the Pittsburgh Region as a leader in health sciences, information technology, green building, and academics for regional and business growth.
- Alliances for the benefit of fair trade.
- The Commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement on April 10, 2008.

To learn more about this delegation, itineraries, available funding, upcoming promotional events, and other details contact Jim Lamb [jlamb@iiofpitt.org](mailto:jlamb@iiofpitt.org) or (412) 394-3900.

## Coming Soon

The IIP are delighted to be presenting, in association with Pittsburgh Arts and Lectures the Drue Heinz Lecture Series, featuring the award-winning Irish author Roddy Doyle. The event takes place on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:30 PM at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland. Tickets are available now by calling 412.622.8866. Doyle's first acclaimed novel *The Commitments* was made into a popular movie directed by Alan Parker. This novel was the first in his Barrytown Trilogy of books – *The Snapper* and *The Van* soon following. *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, his fifth novel, won him the prestigious Booker prize. It promises to be a great evening's entertainment.



Irish author Roddy Doyle

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

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 to us at [info@iiofpitt.org](mailto: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](http://www.iiofpitt.org).

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