

## To Be Continued

A message from James J. Lamb, President, IIP

The Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh closes the book on another successful year providing training and personal development to scores of young people from Ireland and Northern Ireland. In 2008, our 19th year, we served nearly sixty young people on three International Fund for Ireland Wider Horizons Programs, and we bade farewell to the last remaining participants of the Walsh Visa Program.

Our Rooney Fellows, Ryan Carragher who finished at Duquesne in May, and Claire Dinsmore, who began at Pitt in September, represent proof of the scholarship's continued success. And our new Summer Work Travel Program provided two exceptional students, Fiona Hunt and Natasha McShane, with excellent experiences in Pittsburgh and beyond.

The Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh is as committed as ever to promoting peace, reconciliation and economic regeneration in Ireland. We will take time in 2009 to celebrate our 20th year, highlighting the many achievements of our 1500+ alumni, the leadership of past and current board members, the work of our tireless staff, and the contributions of our donors, volunteers, and others. And then we will get back to the work at hand.

The current financial crisis notwithstanding, Ireland has emerged as one of the world's most dynamic and diverse economies. No longer the poor recipient of foreign aid from the US and Europe, Ireland can contribute, financially and otherwise, to address problems at home and abroad. With this emergence, Ireland has redefined the evolving important Irish American relationship. There has been a groundswell of support among Ireland's political, cultural and business leaders and their Irish American counterparts to engage the Irish diaspora.

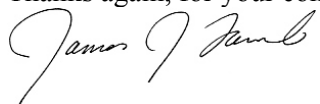
In Northern Ireland, the functioning Stormont Assembly deals with partisan disagreements on devolution of justice and policing, education policy, and Irish language. Dissidents, both loyalist and republican, still make ugly headlines. But by and large, there is a true sense among the people there that a return to violence is not an option. The war is over.

Some have asked me, now that Northern Ireland is at peace and the island prospers, what's next for the Institute. Well, I believe peace is taking root, but reconciliation is just beginning. Government authorities and community leaders in Ireland, North and South, have asked the Ireland Institute to continue engaging their young people, to continue promoting transatlantic business opportunities, and to continue fostering good relationships between the Pittsburgh region and Ireland.

Meanwhile, training organizations in Pittsburgh, having recognized the positive outcomes of Ireland Institute programs, are collaborating with the Institute to develop international opportunities for their disadvantaged communities. Imagine young people from Pittsburgh traveling to Ireland to gain work and life experience. Why not!

With help from people like you, the Institute will continue to serve.

Thanks again, for your continued support of our good work.



James J. Lamb  
President



## Fall Intern

The IIP is delighted to welcome Ms. Nicole Werner our Fall 2008 intern. Nicole, a senior at Duquesne University, is studying a degree in Public Relations with a Minor in Psychology. Nicole is currently researching new business opportunities, working on our Common Ground Ezine, assisting with administration and other projects. If you are interested in an internship experience at the Ireland Institute, please forward your resume to [rtierney@iiofpitt.org](mailto:rtierney@iiofpitt.org).



## Visitors to Pittsburgh

The Ireland Institute was involved in various visits of Ireland-based companies and other organizations to Pittsburgh over the last several months. John Samuel, managing director of Applied Silicate Technologies, based in Belfast, visited the region's coal producers and processors to discuss a technology to capture coal dust. Brendan O'Caollai, Irish Deputy Consul General was our guest twice in September. He joined us at the 2009 Bridge Awards and represented Ireland at our third IFI Wider Horizons Program Graduation at Duquesne University.

## Irish Reconciliation Committee

Ireland Institute President, Jim Lamb was invited to New York in June by the Irish Reconciliation Committee to discuss Job training programs for disadvantaged young people from Belfast. The committee is comprised of Irish Americans looking to engage Belfast community leaders and their young people in meaningful training and economic empowerment. Mr. Lamb was joined by former AOH National President Ned McGinley, Irish Consulate Niall Burgess, and others in discussion around these important issues.

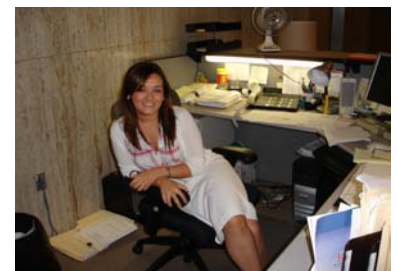
## 2008 Rooney Fellow – Claire Dinsmore

Claire Dinsmore, 20, from Warrenpoint, Co. Down is our 2008/2009 Rooney Fellow. A student at Southern Regional College (formerly Newry & Kilkeel Institute For Further & Higher Education), she is in Pittsburgh for both Fall and Spring terms and is studying at the University of Pittsburgh. While at the Steelers, on her current internship, Claire is working with the Marketing Department on many of their initiatives as well as assisting with corporate hospitality on game days. She will commence an internship with Heinz North America in January.

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 the Southern Regional College. 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.

## J1 Summer Work Travel Program – A Great Success

In our first year of offering the visa, two young women from Armagh ventured to Pittsburgh this past summer: Natasha McShane (pictured, right), an Environmental Planning undergrad at Queen's University, Belfast, and Fiona Hunt (pictured below), an Urban Planning and Property Development undergrad at the University of Ulster, Jordanstown.



While in Pittsburgh, Natasha interned at the Allegheny Co. Department of Economic Development, while Fiona interned at Southside Local Company. Both girls also worked at the Claddagh Irish Pub in Southside Works.

But it wasn't all work for our two intrepid visitors - Natasha and Fiona also visited some of the areas top attractions including trips out-of-town to Washington DC and Niagara Falls. Upon completion of the work phase of their experience, they headed west on a whirlwind tour visiting San Francisco, Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, and Los Angeles.



The J-1 Summer Work Travel Visa is issued for 4 months during students' summer holidays. The purpose of the Pittsburgh-based program is to provide Irish and Northern Irish post-secondary students, enrolled in and actively pursuing a degree or a full-time course of study at an accredited educational institution, an opportunity to live and work in Pittsburgh for a period up to four months during their summer vacation and travel within the United States. If you know of anyone that might be interested, have them log-on to our website [www.iiofpitt.org](http://www.iiofpitt.org) for more information.

## Wider Horizons 2008

This year saw the landmark 60<sup>th</sup> Group of Wider Horizons participants arrive in Pittsburgh.



The Wider Horizons Program targets disadvantaged unemployed people between the ages of 18 and 28 in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The aim of the program is to promote mutual understanding and reconciliation between the two traditions in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

The programme is funded by the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) and is managed jointly by FÁS (the state training agency in the Republic of Ireland) and the Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland's state training agency.

The Wider Horizons program runs for an average period of 20 weeks including a period of eight weeks overseas. It comprises of 21 participants selected equally from the two traditions in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The program involves training and work experience both at home and abroad; overseas locations include USA, Canada, Spain, South Africa and Cyprus. It is designed to provide participants with the personal and practical skills, experiences, and qualifications that will enable them to progress to mainstream training and/or employment.

Projects cover a broad range of industry sectors and include areas such as tourism and hospitality, business administration, multimedia, creative technology and web design, media skills, property management and community development. In addition to the training aspects, all projects address the areas of mutual understanding and peace and reconciliation, which are central principles of the program.

Since the Wider Horizons first began in 1989, the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh has played a pivotal role in managing the overseas phase of the program. We have hosted over 1100 participants and this Summer welcomed our landmark 60<sup>th</sup> group.

Arriving in late July, our 59<sup>th</sup> group from Tyrone and Donegal (pictured right), 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 many of Pittsburgh's YMCA's. The Group participated in Youth & Community Development classes, as well as a Conflict Resolution course at Duquesne University. They visited Niagara Falls & Washington DC as part of their cultural component and many local tourist attractions.



The 60<sup>th</sup> program (pictured above left) hailed from the Monaghan and Portadown Partnership encompassing participants from Co. Armagh, Co. Down, Co. Louth, and Co. Monaghan. The focus of their program was Information Technology and placements, reflecting participant's specific IT interests, ranged from Game Development at Schell Games and Computer Repair at Goodwill Industries to Graphic Design at Wall-to-Wall Studios and exhibit management at Carnegie Science Center. The participants enjoyed a trip to Washington and pursued software courses at Duquesne University.

## Thank You

We would like to express our gratitude to the many host families, placements and volunteers that helped us throughout the year. If you are interested in assisting us in our 2009 programming, please contact us at the number below. We expect to host three groups of young people on our Wider Horizons program and will need host families and placements willing to open their hearts and doors to help offer our young people an opportunity.

## **Help support the work of the Ireland Institute**

The Ireland Institute relies on its donor and volunteer network to continue its mission of mutual reconciliation and economic development. Your generosity is kindly appreciated.

The Ireland Institute is available to accept donations through the United Way. Please remember our code for the United Way Campaign of Southwestern Pennsylvania: **4534**. We are also listed as a non-Profit under the Combined Federal Campaign. Our number is: **12438**. A third option is to donate through the local Federal campaign. This number is: **9016**.

If you prefer, a tax-deductible donation can also be made directly to the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh. The Ireland Institute also appreciates in-kind donations of furniture, housewares, event tickets etc. that we can then distribute to our participants (contact us to find out specific needs).

For further information or questions about how you can donate, please contact us at 412-394-3900.

## **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 us at [info@iiofpitt.org](mailto:info@iiofpitt.org)

## **IIP Website**

Check out our website [www.iiofpitt.org](http://www.iiofpitt.org) for more information on the work of the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh.

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