

The Peace Dividend: A Civil Society - a Message from James J. Lamb, President

Last month's historic announcement reestablishing a devolved government in Northern Ireland is one more positive step towards civil society. Seen as an intractable, unsolvable conflict only two decades ago, Northern Ireland now represents a model for building peace and reconciliation around the world.

Since 1989, over 1,600 young people from the island of Ireland, both Catholic and Protestant, have participated in the Institute's Pittsburgh-based programs. Building on that expertise and the political progress and economic development taking place in Northern Ireland, the Institute now seeks to develop similar cross-community initiatives for other regions in conflict. As the new Northern Ireland assembly convened, I was in Nicosia, Cyprus along with representatives of Intercomm Ireland, collaborating on a proposal to foster cross-border relations on that divided island.



Jim Lamb with US Ambassador to Cyprus
Ron Schlicher

Over the past 17 years, the Institute has worked to humanize enemies. Reconciliation can only occur when conflicted, polarized groups see and meet and communicate with each other. It is working in Ireland. I think it can work in Cyprus and in other conflicted areas. As Northern Ireland moves toward a more civil society, it is only appropriate that we reach out to other places in need of our help and expertise.

Rest assured, our work in Ireland will continue. The Institute still serves the disadvantaged communities of Ireland, north and south. Articles in this newsletter describe two internship programs we are managing this summer. We may also manage a third program this fall. And we expect similar programs over the next few years.



SDLP Leader
Mark Durkan

Furthermore, the Institute hosted Northern Ireland Social Democratic Labor Party leader Mark Durkan for meetings and public events on May 21. The newly devolved government's economic development agency, Invest Northern Ireland, www.investni.com engaged with Pittsburgh companies and local economic development agencies in conjunction with Mr. Durkan's visit. These meetings have planted important seeds for further transatlantic trade and other commercial opportunities.

Thanks to the vision of our board, the commitment of our staff, the enthusiasm of our many volunteers, and the support of our donors, the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh is moving forward, in pursuit of its mission for peace and reconciliation.

As Ireland emerges from a long and bloody conflict, the Institute is well positioned to tackle new challenges. Transferring our unique peace and reconciliation models to other places in conflict will bring new confidence and hope where it is desperately needed. Encouraging civil society in Ireland through successful joint research and development initiatives, and profitable trade and investment opportunities will prove that such regions can heal and prosper in peace.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim".

SDLP Leader Mark Durkin Visits Pittsburgh



Jim Lamb with breakfast panel

The Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh, in conjunction with the British American Business Council, Pittsburgh Chapter, hosted Social Democratic Labor Party Leader Mark Durkan for a business-briefing meeting on Monday, May 21. The breakfast meeting was held at the Allegheny Harvard Yale Princeton Club with over 30 business leaders from the Pittsburgh area in attendance. The panel (pictured), which included Martin Bradley, Vice President of Invest Northern Ireland; James Burnham, Murrin Chair in Economics at Duquesne University; the Honorable Mike Doyle, U.S. Congressman; and Ted Smyth, Senior Vice President of Heinz Corporation, praised the recent institution of devolved government in Northern Ireland as a critical step towards economic growth. Mr. Durkan spoke on the peace process and the further challenges and opportunities facing the new government.

“We’ve arrived at a point at which common priorities, not divisiveness and demands, will move us forward in the political arena,” said Mr. Durkan.

One of those priorities, he said, is creating private-sector growth in an economy largely funded by the public sector. Invest Northern Ireland’s Martin Bradley stressed that Northern Ireland had much to offer foreign investors: “Businesses from all over the world are creating jobs in Northern Ireland not only because of the cost of employment, but because of the quality of the workers,” he said.

Mr. Durkan visited University of Pittsburgh faculty including Chancellor Mark Nordenburg, and Dr. Alberta Sbragia, Director, European Union Center of Excellence. He met with Irish-American Community leaders at Mullaney’s Harp and Fiddle in the Strip District where he spoke of the future for Northern Ireland in light of the recent elections and devolved government. A question and answer session followed.

The day was capped with a dinner in Mark’s honor at the Duquesne Club, hosted by Ted Smyth. Guests included Dave and Pearl Figgins, Marty and Ann McGuinn, Larry and Mary Werner, Peg McCormick-Barron, the Post-Gazette’s Dan Simpson, and Ann and Jim Burnham.

The Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh would like to thank the British American Business Council for their partnership and Reed Smith for their sponsorship of the breakfast, especially Ron Frank, BABC chairman, also pictured, and Dan Gallaher, Ireland Institute chairman. The Institute also recognizes the significant contributions of board member, Ted Smyth.

An Evening with Hugo O’Neill

Hugo O’Neill, Chief of the O’Neill Clan worldwide and president of the Standing Council of Irish Clans, spoke on March 16 at the Double Tree Hotel Downtown. Attendees learned not only about their ancestral roots in the ancient Irish past, but also the Flight of the Earls. In September 1607, after years of armed conflict with English militias, the Earl of Tyrone, Hugh O’Neill, led several Irish clan chiefs on a ship bound for exile in Spain. Known as ‘The Flight of the Earls,’ this single event is widely recognized as one of the most enigmatic and monumental events in Irish history.



Jim Lamb with Hugo O’Neill at the recent St. Patrick’s Day parade

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the Flight of the Earls, and presents a unique opportunity to acknowledge the people of Ireland, North and South, Protestant and Catholic, their tumultuous history, their sufferings and hardships from starvation, immigration, and prejudice, at home and abroad.

Jim Lamb named 2007 Grand Marshall

Jim Lamb was chosen by the Pittsburgh Saint Patrick’s Day Parade Committee to be this year’s Grand Marshall. Accompanying him at the head of the parade were his son Ciaran and his wife, Ann Burns Lamb. A crowd of 100,000 gathered along the parade route for the celebration on March 17.

“Give Me Your Hand”



Pittsburgh's Irish Dancers together on one stage

"Give Me Your Hand" was a celebration of peace, reconciliation, and friendship, featuring the dancers of the Bell School, Burke School, Ceili Club, Irish Reelers and Shovlin Academy together in one show for the first time. The performance was held in the Catherine Thomas Theater at St. Benedict Hall on December 2, 2006. Proceeds from the ticket sales benefited the works of the Ireland Institute.

Farewell to Stephen Ferris

We said goodbye to Stephen Ferris, our 13th Rooney Fellow, in April. Stephen made the most of the opportunity given to him by the Rooney Fellow Program. Studying at the University of Pittsburgh, Stephen excelled in both his business and sports science classes and engaged in two terrific internships provided by Heinz North America and the Pittsburgh Steelers. Differing from the marketing experiences of other Rooney Fellows, Stephen worked alongside Steelers Head Athletic Trainer John Norwig during his time at their Southside facility. “My internships have not only been enjoyable but have provided me with valuable work experience”, said Stephen. Such has been his performance at Heinz that he is currently working for them this summer at their offices in Dundalk, Co. Louth.



Stephen Ferris with Dan Rooney

Meanwhile, our new Rooney Fellow for 2007/08 has been announced. Ryan Carragher from Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh will arrive in Pittsburgh in August and will undertake studies at Duquesne University. Ryan, an All-Ireland Senior Club Champion in Gaelic Football is looking forward to experiencing the city of champions!

Walsh Visa Program Enters Its Final Year

After six years of continuous success, the Walsh Visa Program in Pittsburgh is entering its final phase. At this time, there are 21 young people from Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland living and working here in Pittsburgh. Come September 2008, they will all have returned to their homes, better prepared and better equipped, to pursue their careers and dreams.

The success of the Walsh Visa Program is attributable to the generosity and dedication of the whole Pittsburgh Community. The IIP recognizes the significant contribution from the many companies in the area that provide the opportunity to these young people to gain the work skills and experience to succeed. There are also the many members of the local community who befriended them and made them feel welcome.

A total of 293 young people will have participated in the Program. Those that have already returned are making significant contributions to life back home in Ireland. David Miller, Program Coordinator in Ireland, confirms that of those already returned, “The vast majority have had a very fulfilling experience and we, in FAS, are very pleased with the outcomes of the Program.” With 21 soon to return, we expect no less for them.

Wider Horizons 2007



MAPP group at Duquesne University

then we welcome 21 participants from Tyrone and Donegal Partnership in early July.

It's been a busy summer so far with the arrival of our Wider Horizons group from Monaghan and Portadown Partnership (MAPP). The theme of the program is Information Technology, with Internships located throughout the city at YMCA's, Goodwill Industries, City/County Building, WQED, and WYEP. The group attend Duquesne University on Fridays where they are learning both PowerPoint and Photoshop skills as well as engaging in Conflict Resolution and Personal & Professional Development classes. The participants, who are staying with host families throughout the Pittsburgh area, are making the most of the good weather and are getting to experience all that the Pittsburgh has to offer. Sandcastle, Kennywood, Pirates baseball and a trip to the Zoo have been the most popular so far. Our MAPP group will depart on 26th June and

Host Families Needed for July/August 2007



This July we are looking forward to receiving our next group 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 the eight-week long program. 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. Host Families provide a separate bedroom for participants, meals as per the family schedule' and general support. They should be close to public transport. Host families receive a weekly stipend from the program to offset the extra cost of food and utilities.

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.