

SAY “NO” TO THE KOOL-AID...BUT ENJOY THE CAKE

The late Sr. Michele O’Leary told, me shortly after I was hired, that the Institute would likely close within five years. Our success to that point, with unemployed young people returning to jobs in Ireland, and reports of greater mutual understanding among Protestants and Catholics, would ultimately make us redundant. Every year we would face challenges from funders, governments, sponsors, and of course the young people themselves who seemed to have more social and educational difficulties than the year before. And we would plow through, quietly delivering solid successful programs, year after year, anticipating calls for our closure.

It turns out that these programs had such a profound impact on the Northern Ireland Peace Process that we are now in demand to solve other problems Ireland faces.

Over the past twenty years, influential politicians, clergy, and academics on both sides of the water “talked” about theories and doctrines on conflict resolution, selling their highly publicized ideas, hosting big events, drawing significant resources, with no significant positive outcomes toward peace and reconciliation. I learned that a crafty sales person can persuade even the smartest people to support ideas that don’t work.

Instead of selling that Kool-Aid we actually demonstrated that young people from both sides of a sectarian war can live, work, and learn together, away from home. And they can apply their newfound skills back to their home communities, challenging long held attitudes on religion, community relations, and partnership.

Reconciliation in Ireland occurs among ordinary people who have developed the capacity to reach out across communities. They have developed friendships among other religions, learned to share space, find common ground, and accommodate differences. The “talkers” can talk all they want and push their ideas on how things *should* be. But people on the ground must be prepared to thoughtfully and peacefully engage with their “enemy.”

The efforts of the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh are now paying off. The dirty war is over. Our next major challenge is to help Ireland develop a diverse and sustainable economy. Of course our reconciliation programs will continue, but new initiatives to develop professional and technical skills among young people, build capacity in knowledge based industries, create partnerships between Pittsburgh and Ireland, and foster two-way trade and investment will chart a new course for the Institute. The Carbon Zero program, mentioned in this newsletter, is one of those initiatives.

Years ago I thought our successful reconciliation and training programs would ultimately lead to closure of the Institute. I imagined that we would accomplish our mission and, marveling at the beautiful “cake” we made, we would call it quits.

But our work is not done. In order to SUSTAIN the peace, young people in Ireland must have opportunities for personal and professional development. The Institute’s new programs are in response to that. We will continue to tell our story by serving young people, creating opportunities, supporting the Pittsburgh-Ireland relationship, and proving over and over again that our programs deliver.

We are fortunate to have our cake and eat it too. On this occasion we celebrate the important role we played in the Peace Process and we prepare for the daunting challenge of sustaining that peace. I hope you will continue to support our good work, based not on what I’ve sold you, but on what you have witnessed yourself.

Sincerely,



James J. Lamb
President

SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP

The Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh is pleased to welcome the first six participants of the Pittsburgh/Northern Ireland Sustainable Leadership Development Program, who will spend the year working with local companies engaged in various fields within the green sciences, including: advanced manufacturing, energy efficiency, and environmental engineering. An initiative of Carbon Zero Northern Ireland, the program aims to provide participants with the training and experience needed to jumpstart alternative energy efforts in Northern Ireland.



The six participants currently living and working in Pittsburgh will soon be joined by an additional six. Together, the group will meet regularly for a series of workshops, lectures, and networking opportunities, where they will have a chance to listen to and speak with local industry experts.

The Institute seeks help with furnishings and transportation for the participants as they arrive—please contact us if you would wish to volunteer your time and assistance. If you or your organization would like to consider hosting a participant this year or next year, please contact the IIP or visit our website (www.iiofpitt.org) to view the candidates' resumes.



The First 6

Michael Mageean – Epiphany Solar Water Systems
Mark Spence – Venture Engineering and Construction
Stephen Wilson – Advanced Manufacturing Technology Ventures
Mick O'Reilly & Michelle McAteer (Pictured) – eCap Network
Sarah Mackle – Taggart Global

Internships at the IIP

The IIP wants to thank our summer interns – Brí Richards (pictured) Coleman Lamb, and Scott Olmstead. Coleman is heading to CMU this semester to study Creative Writing and Scott returns to Pitt to study Public & International Affairs. We wish them a fond farewell and all the best in their future career. Brí will remain with us throughout the fall. If you know anyone who is interested in an internship – have him or her send a Resume and cover letter to info@iiofpitt.org.



2009/2010 Rooney Fellow Comings & Goings



Martin McGrath, our 2009/2010 Rooney Fellow, has returned home after an experience he described as the best year of his life. A native of Banbridge, Co Down, he now returns home to complete his studies at the Southern Regional College in Newry.

Marty (pictured left with Ambassador Rooney) remarked, “I didn’t know what to expect when I first arrived in Pittsburgh. The people really opened their hearts to me. I’ve made some great friends and will treasure my memories of Pittsburgh for a long time to come.” Of his experience studying at Duquesne, Marty remarked that the University is “world-class with lecturers that want their students to succeed”. After an eventful fall with the Steelers, Marty interned at Heinz in the spring, getting on so well that he was offered an internship in Ireland this summer.

We wish Marty every success on what we’re sure will be a successful future!

The 2010/2011 Rooney Fellow was announced recently. Lisa Mageean is from Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh. She arrives in Pittsburgh in a few weeks and will be based at the University of Pittsburgh.

Named in honor of Ambassador Daniel M. Rooney, the annual American Ireland Fund Rooney Fellowship is awarded each year to an outstanding student of Newry College, Northern Ireland.

United Way Appeal

It's that time of year again. The Annual United Way campaign kicks off in the next few weeks. Please remember to designate the Ireland Institute for your donation by marking **4534** on your United Way pledge form.



J1 Summer Work Travel Visa

This summer the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh welcomes a number of Irish students to Pittsburgh on our J1 Summer Work Travel Program. The program is open to students from Ireland and Northern Ireland who are currently enrolled in or have just graduated from a degree program. Students are eligible to work and travel in the U.S. for up to 4 months during their summer vacation.

Wider Horizons 2010



This year the Institute hosts two Wider Horizons groups. The Tyrone Donegal Youth & Community Program saw 18 young people visit Pittsburgh for a six-week stay in June & July. Their placements were based primarily in youth camps in the city. We would like to thank our friends at the Pittsburgh Metropolitan YMCA, Providence Family Support, United Cerebral Palsy and the Autism Society's Camp Speak, for hosting our participants. They have gained excellent experience and will be soon applying this knowledge at local youth organizations in Northern Ireland and the Republic's border counties. 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 are tentatively scheduled to return in mid-October with an Options program. This 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.

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.



The Pittsburgh Foundation

The Pittsburgh Foundation will hold a 24-hour Day of Giving on October 13, 2010. This is an online challenge for the Ireland Institute to receive matching funds from the Pittsburgh Foundation for donations made to the IIP on that day. Credit card gifts only accepted during a 24-hour period on October 13th. Go to www.pittsburghgives.org, click on Donate now, enter organization name (Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh), and then click Donate now.

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.

IIP Irish Castle Vacation Prize Raffle

We are currently selling tickets for our fantastic Prize Draw. If you are interested in purchasing some or would like to become a **seller** - please contact us.

Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh

In service to peace

The Irish Castle Vacation Prize Raffle



Ashford Castle – Galway



Dromoland Castle – Limerick



Clontarf Castle – Dublin

Return airfare for two - 6 nights accommodations - Car rental for 1 week

Donation \$20

Winning ticket will be drawn December 13, 2010 at
The Harp & Fiddle, 2329 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh PA15222

For more information, contact the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh at 412-394-3900
Cash or Check made payable to Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh

Prize Subject to availability of dates. Allow three weeks for booking.

Clontarf Castle Accommodation donated by Clontarf Castle
Car Rental courtesy of Dooley Car Rental

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**.