

INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM

PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS

Professor Monica McWilliams and **Professor Bill Rolston** were selected as international monitors for the recent Palestinian elections on 9 January 2005.

Professor McWilliams was with a delegation led by former President Jimmy Carter and the National Democratic Institute, along with the Carter Institute. Professor Rolston was with the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs.

Professor Bill Rolston's personal report on the Visit

This election took place at a historic point in the history of the Middle East. The death of Yasser Arafat led to the vote for his successor, and the winner, Mahmoud Abbas, can represent himself as a legitimate leader in the eyes of the international community. The hope is that this will put pressure on the Israelis and Americans to support genuine peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

It was a real honour to be there at this point in time. The elections went very smoothly, with one main exception. In East Jerusalem, the Israeli authorities permitted only 5,000 of the 200,000 Palestinians to register to vote, and then only in Israeli post offices without a polling booth.



Bill Rolston with former Irish MEP Niall Andrews at the Israeli 'security wall' in East Jerusalem.

I was sent to Nablus, a large town in the Samarian hills, 40 miles north of Jerusalem. Nothing had prepared me for the sense of being in an open prison. All but three roads into town are blocked, and the three remaining roads have checkpoints where those Palestinians judged by the military as having a good reason to enter or leave, queue often for hours on end, to be searched. These checkpoints are closed during the hours of darkness when no Palestinian leaves or enters. When we drove to the villages outside town, it was the first time in five years that our taxi driver and interpreter had been able to leave town.

I can only hope that the election of President Abbas is the first step in conflict resolution for this troubled region.

Professor Monica McWilliams's personal report on the Visit

After the first few days in Jerusalem where I got some training in the electoral law and met some of the candidates, I was posted to Gaza. Gaza is a particularly dangerous place but an unofficial ceasefire had been declared between the Israeli Defence Force and the Palestinian militant groups for the election weekend. Gaza is in terrible shape with the mortar attacks leaving their mark on the sides of houses and the middle of roads. What struck me most was the determination and the pride of the Palestinians as they exercised their right to vote. Some of the people had walked miles and many Bedouin shepherds showed me proudly their stained thumb where an ink mark had been placed to show that they had voted. The election officials were mostly school teachers and their local schools were taken over as polling centres. Watching voters by candlelight was something neither I nor they had anticipated beforehand but they carried on without a hitch. It was a privilege to observe how people went calmly about their business of voting in the midst of such poverty and deprivation. Jerusalem was the most difficult place because almost 100,000 Palestinians who live there were not permitted to register to vote inside the city. Jimmy Carter spent most of his time negotiating safe passage for these voters and attempting to ease difficult and potentially dangerous situations. He is held in high regard for challenging the authorities all through the elections to respect the right of people to exercise their franchise.



Chic Miyagi, known to her fellow students as Sunshine, flew in from her home in Okinawa in Japan to receive her MA TESOL award at the University's graduation ceremony in December 2004.

INCORE - Linking Belfast and Jerusalem

Following INCORE'S Local International Learning Project study visit to Ramallah in October 2004, two Israelis and two Palestinians from NGOs based in Jerusalem visited Belfast and Derry/Londonderry in December 2004. LILP is currently working with these representatives and Intercomm to establish a long-term programme to share, develop, research and disseminate skills and practices to help build communities, strengthen civil society and transform conflict in Jerusalem and Northern Ireland.

This programme - the Belfast-Jerusalem Civil Society Partnership (B-JCSP) - will involve a series of workshops engaging experts from a variety of backgrounds to take place in Northern Ireland and Israel/Palestine. It is expected that the programme will develop strong, long-term, working relationships between policymakers, academics and practitioners in both regions.

VISIT TO THE GAMBIA

On 12 January 2005, Dolores Loughrey and Bernie Boyle, lecturers in the School of Education, travelled to the Gambia with staff and students from Mary Immaculate College (MIC), Limerick. The purpose of this was to explore the possibility of providing Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) students with an international study experience in a developing country. The links already established by MIC, enabled us to be part of the rich, cultural and educational experience offered to their undergraduate students whilst in the Gambia. This included visiting primary schools, the teacher training college and meeting with representatives from the teachers' credit union.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

INCORE Annual International Summer School

The courses aim to reflect the state of the art in the current arena of conflict resolution, offering those involved in conflict management the opportunity to come together to improve and enhance their practice and to avail of the most up to date learning and experiences. The School provides a unique forum for policy makers, practitioners, researchers, members of the media and military to meet, thus creating a multi-disciplinary dialogue. INCORE invites participants to reflect on their own immensely varied experiences and to contribute to the collective knowledge of those attending, whilst also increasing their individual learning through the skills and insights of the facilitators.

This year the courses offered are -

- The Management of Peace Processes
- Track Two Approaches and Integrated Peacebuilding
- Evaluation and Impact Assessment of Peacebuilding Programmes
- Gender, Conflict and Education
- EU Policies and Activities in Peacebuilding, Crisis Management and Resolution

The 2005 Summer School will open on June 13 with a day-long introductory course Northern Ireland's history and conflict. More information on the 2005 School, including how to apply, can be found at <http://www.incore.ulster.ac.uk/courses/ss/ss05.html>

Staff Development for Service Users and Carers in Social Work

Joe Duffy and Susannah McCall, both lecturers in Social Work at Jordanstown are devising innovative ways in which service users and carers can become involved at strategic and operational levels in the University of Ulster's new degree in Social Work which commenced at the Magee campus in September 2004.

In a spirit of true partnership and social inclusion, one of the initiatives being considered and proposed by Staff Development, is the completion of the Associate HE Teacher Award by service users and carers in their contribution to students' teaching and learning in innovative ways.

NOMINATION

Professor Vani Boroovah, School of Economics and Politics, has accepted a nomination to serve on HEFCE's Development Studies Sub-Panel.

INSTITUTIONAL AUDIT DATES:

7-9 March	Briefing Visit
13 April	Preparatory Day
5-29 April	Audit Visit

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ms Sandra Griffiths on her appointment as President of the All Ireland Society for Higher Education and on her Distinguished Teacher Award from UU. Also to Dr Arthur Aughey on being awarded a Distinguished Senior Research Fellowship.

Congratulations to Philomena Grant on the birth of her baby daughter Rachel. Best wishes also to Sharon Lucas from Women's Opportunities and Dr Kerry-Ann Porter who have just gone on maternity leave and to Dr Selwyn Black who has resigned his post to take up his new responsibilities with DHSSPS.

Professor Owen Hargie takes up a Norwegian appointment with the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters, the oldest learned society in Norway, an honour bestowed as recognition of academic attainment and leadership in the field.

For the past six years Professor Hargie has been Adjunct Professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and has had his central works published in Norwegian.

Welcome to Staff

- Mr Edwin Abuya, Mr Shane Darcy, Ms Clare Dwyer, Ms Megan Fairlie, Mr Jeremie Gilbert, Dr Michael Hamilton and Ms Anne Smith, who have recently been appointed to lectureship posts in the TJI.
- Dr Lesley Abbott, Alison Montgomery, Adedayo Adekson who have been appointed as Research Officers to the UNESCO Centre.
- Gillian Clifford and Stephen Hamilton recently appointed as lecturers in the School of Communication.
- Ms Catherine O'Rourke and Ms Catherine Turner, Research Assistants in the TJI.
- Ms Sorcha McKenna and Ms Khanyisela Moyo, postgraduate fellows in the TJI.

Welcome to the new cohort of HECUA students who arrived from the USA on 4 February 2005 to undertake a programme in Democracy and Social Change and an internship. They will study in the UNESCO Centre under the guidance of Roisin McLaughlin.

Welcome back

Ruth McKeegan and Professor Fionnuala Ni Aolain following their period of maternity leave.
Dr Paul Dixon who has spent a period of time at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard.
Mr Brendan Hartop, following a period of illness.

WHO DOES WHAT AMONG THE TECHNICAL STAFF

The technical support team for Social Sciences is detailed on the structure chart below. With such a small team, and a wide range of specialist skills available, the Faculty decided at the outset to provide technical support on a Faculty rather than School basis.

This has proved to be advantageous with specialist high-level skills being available for the benefit of all academic and research staff. It has also proved beneficial to the technical staff by creating a wider range of activities, and involvement across schools.

I, as Chief Technician, have overall responsibility for this team, and have appointed campus co-ordinators at Coleraine (Barry) and Jordanstown (Joe) to assist me in delivering the technical support service. Equally with such a small team the campus co-ordinators, in addition to their co-ordination role, provide hands on additional support. For instance Barry supports off-campus conferences and staff IT while Joe provides audio/video recording and staff IT. It is however important to appreciate that all technical staff become involved in everything from Open Days, to

finance, to Audits, and the structure table only deals with the main aspects of each individual's job.

Confusion sometimes arises regarding support to IT and AV. With IT, the Faculty technical staff support all academic, research and post-graduate computer workstations and the specialist laboratories such as the Phonetics and Language laboratory. They do not provide any support for computers in ISD laboratories. They will however be willing to liaise with ISD on your behalf.

The AV requirements for teaching and research are now provided by the fixed and mobile systems in many teaching locations. These are under the control of ISD and problems with them should be reported to ISD on their helpdesk (66777).

Although the Faculty technicians have no day-to-day direct involvement with ISD areas, nevertheless if you are experiencing difficulty with either their computers or AV provision, please contact us. This will enable us to identify general or specific problems,

and have them addressed through the University committee structure, and our ISD liaison meetings.

Many of the academic and research staff travel to other campuses, and thus require support. If this support relates to equipment or resources permanently located on the remote campus, then please talk to the technical staff at that campus. Problems with personal equipment including IT workstations and laptops should first be brought to the attention of the technical staff at your base, i.e. where your main office is located.

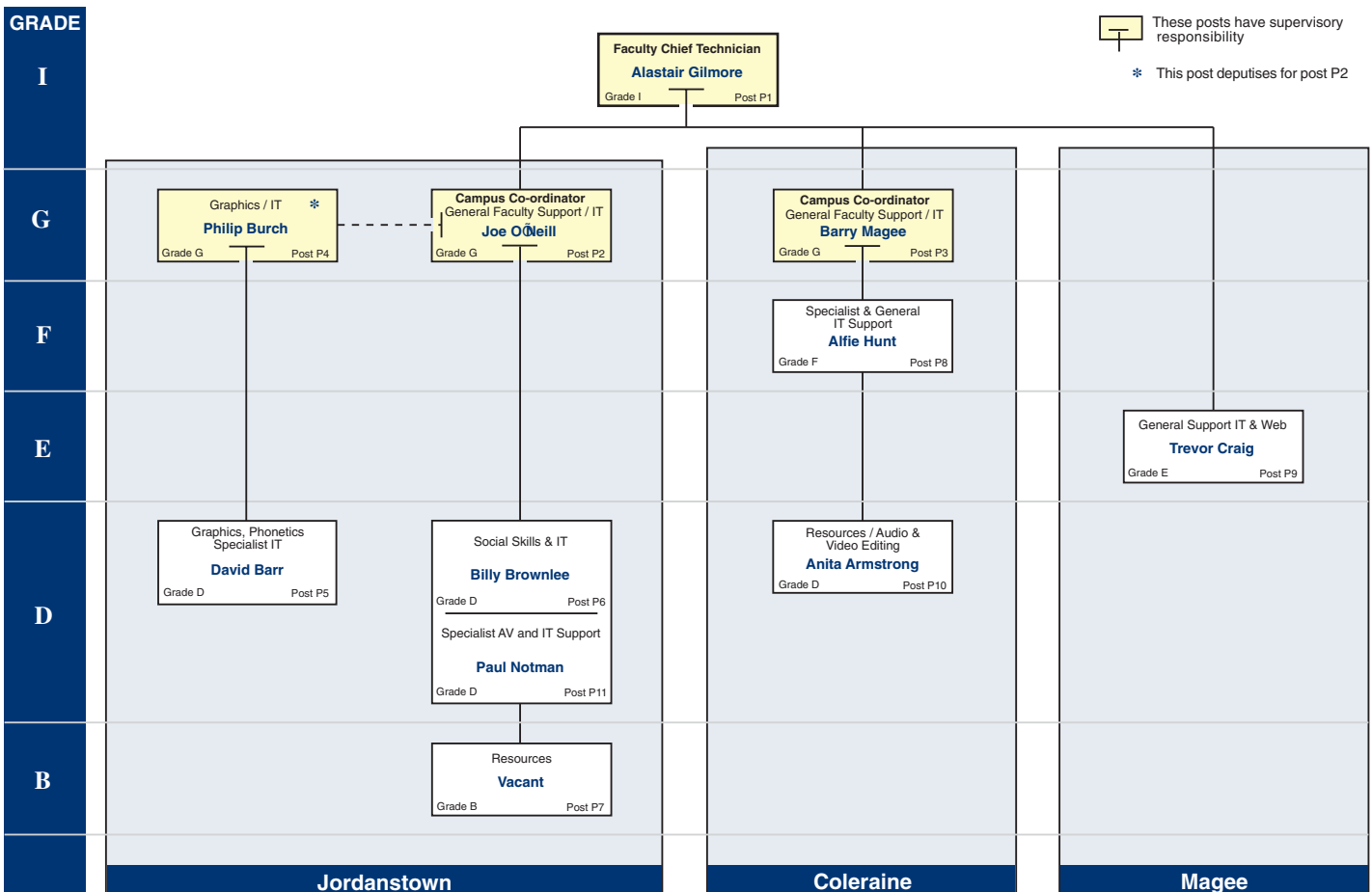
Finally, it is important to all technical staff that the level of service they provide matches, and occasionally exceeds, the expectations of our academic and research colleagues. With limitations on resources, both financial and human, this is not always possible. I would however encourage you all to identify where we fall short, and thus provide us with the opportunity to redress the situation.

Alastair Gilmore

Faculty of Social Sciences

TECHNICAL STRUCTURE

October 2004





ARK SEMINAR

Professor Sile O'Connor and Ms Goretti Horgan spoke at the recent ARK seminar on the findings from their study *Women Reconciling their Lives Inside and Outside the Home*. The study, funded by the Community Fund, through the Bogside/Brandywell Women's Group, is a partnership between the University of Ulster and the women's group.

Preliminary findings demonstrate the absence of rewarding employment opportunities and the difficulties associated with taking up any paid employment for women in disadvantaged areas who see motherhood as their primary role in life. The policy implications of these insights into the lives of women living in disadvantaged areas are currently being developed.

Recent Publications/Research Grants

Dr Tony Morgan, Dr Ken Harland and Dr Orla Muldoon have recently completed a study entitled *The Nature of Youth Work in NI*, which investigated the role of youth work in NI in addressing social inclusion.

Hazel Gordon, a researcher mentored and supported by E Rooney and R Moreland from Community Studies, was commissioned to undertake research by the Disability Action and Disability Interagency-Support Group 2005. In her findings, *The Importance of Being Inclusive*, she provides examples of Youth Work practice involving young, disabled people in NI.

Professor Gillian Robinson and Dr Frank Foley have recently published *A Research Summary: Politicians and Community Relations in NI* which gives an account of their research project documenting the perspectives of NI politicians on community relations and communal division.

Professor Alan Smith (with co-applicants Professor Anne Moran, Mr Alan McCully and Ms Linda Clarke) have been awarded an ESRC grant of £120,000 to undertake research entitled *A Values-based Approach to Teacher Education*.

Dr Anne Campbell and Mr Trevor Lindsay have been awarded £35,000 to undertake research on a longitudinal evaluation of the substance misuse programme provided by Northlands with HMP Magilligan.

Professors Campbell, Bell and Ni Aolain have received £500,000 from UK Research Councils to support post-doctoral work in the Transitional Justice Institute, as well as £2,000 from the British Academy to facilitate the participation of international speakers at a forthcoming conference in May 2005.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Speaker(s) Contributors
16.2.05	ARK Seminar Series: <i>Young People's Mental Health in NI</i> NICVA, Duncairn Gardens, Belfast at 12 noon	Prof Ed Cairns University of Ulster
17.2.05	Seminar: <i>The Use of Substitute Judges at the UN Tribunals</i> 8H09, UUU at 3pm.	Megan Fairlie, Lecturer, Transitional Justice Institute
21.2.05	TJI Seminar and Book Launch: <i>Torture: Contemporary Issues in Europe and the United States</i> - Linenhall Library, Belfast 10.00am-2pm	Prof Sanford Levinson (University of Texas Law School), Prof O Gross (University of Minnesota Law School), Prof John Parry (University of Pittsburgh Law School), Professor Fionnuala Ni Aolain (Transitional Justice Institute).
21.2.05	Research Seminar: <i>A Public View on Communication Management</i> 9F06, UUU 12.15 - 1.15 pm	Prof Betteke van Ruler, Department of Communication, University of Amsterdam.
1.3.05	TJI/ British Institute of International and Comparative Law Conference: <i>Religion, Human Rights and International Law - A Critical Examination of Islamic State Practices</i>	British Institute of International and Comparative Law (London)
9.3.05	Professorial Lecture: <i>The Law and Politics of Under-Enforcement in Transitional Societies</i> -16G42 18.30 - 19.45 pm	Prof Fionnuala Ni Aolain Transitional Justice Institute, UUU
15.3.05	Inaugural Lecture, Social and Policy Research Institute Income, <i>Inequality in Rich Countries</i> 16G42, UUU	Professor Tony Atkinson, Emeritus Professor University of Oxford.
15.3.05	ARK Seminar Series: <i>Attitudes to Disability in Northern Ireland</i> NICVA, Duncairn Gardens, Belfast at 12 noon.	Dr Nick Acheson University of Ulster
13.4.05	ARK Seminar Series: <i>Making Political Ephemera Material Available Online</i> NICVA, Duncairn Gardens, Belfast at 12 noon	Dr Martin Melaugh Dr Brendan Lynn CAIN, UU
April	CPD seminar: <i>Land Registry practice and procedure</i> Coleraine or Enniskillen	John Gibson
May	CPD seminar: Police Ombudsman's Office	Nuala O'Loan
11.5.05	ARK Seminar Series: <i>Political Attitudes in Northern Ireland</i> NICVA, Duncairn Gardens, Belfast at 12 noon	Professor Rick Wilford Queen's University, Belfast
19-20.5.05	TJI Conference: <i>Women and Human Rights: Conflict, Transformation and Change</i> . Holiday Inn, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast	