

Dear Colleagues

I would like to begin this final edition of the 2005-06 Faculty Newsletter, by thanking you for your contribution during the year and for the support you have given to me as Dean of the Faculty. All our achievements during the last four years during my first term of office as Dean, have been the result of the collective efforts of all Faculty staff. I am delighted and privileged to have been appointed for a further term of office and look forward very much to continuing to take the Faculty forward and to working with all of you.

I would also like to especially thank you for the way in which the action Short of a Strike was managed. All our students now have their results thanks to the efforts of all staff, academic, administrative and clerical, all working together and with the co-operation of Dr Scott and his team.

I wish you all a very happy and enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you at graduation.

ANNE

FACULTY GRADUATIONS

The dates of Faculty graduations across the three campuses are noted below. I would strongly encourage you to attend. Details of each of the Faculty of Social Sciences' graduations are as follows.

Tuesday 4 July (Coleraine)	11.00 am
Friday 7 July (Waterfront) (School of Law only)	11.00 am
Friday 7 July (Waterfront) (excluding School of Law)	4.00 pm
Monday 10 July (Millennium Forum) (School of Law only)	3.30 pm
Tuesday 11 July (Millennium Forum) (excluding School of Law)	4.00 pm

DFID GRANT

The UNESCO Centre has been awarded a grant of £300,000, from the Development Awareness Fund, Department for International Development (DFID) over the next three years (2006-09) to raise the profile of international development amongst staff and students within the University. It also coincides with the introduction of an undergraduate Minor in International Development with the first intake of students from October 2006.

The funding will allow the UNESCO Centre to plan a number of events to mark the introduction of the Minor in International Development. Confirmed events include the acclaimed British Council NorthSouthEastWest: A 360° View of Climate Change Exhibition that will be on the Coleraine campus from the 4-30 September 2006. NorthSouthEastWest is part of the ZeroCarbonCity campaign exploring the energy challenges facing the world's greatest cities.

ESRC-TLRP Project: A Values-based Approach to Teacher Education Advisory Group Meeting

Members of the ESRC-TLRP project team met with the UK Advisory Group on 15th June 2006, to update the group on project progress and to discuss emerging research findings and future plans relating to the investigation of values underpinning different phases of teacher education in Northern Ireland. The Advisory Group is comprised of academics from higher education institutions in England, Scotland and Wales, who are involved in some measure, in teacher education. The primary role of the Advisory Group is to offer critical insight and advice to the project team and provide contrasting national and research perspectives on the issues addressed through the project. At this second meeting, rich engagement with issues concerning recruitment and selection, Initial Teacher Education and the induction process, generated interesting discussions and valuable proposals concerning the ongoing work of the project.



ESRC Advisory Group with Professors Marilyn Cochran-Smith and Larry Ludlow from Boston College

Congratulations to Dr Deirdre Heenan on being awarded a National Teaching Fellowship. We wish Deirdre every success as she embarks on her project in September 2006.

Racial Prejudice in Northern Ireland

Dr David Russell, Policy Officer, The Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education Belfast and Visiting Research Fellow, School of Education, Queen's University, was invited to present at a UNESCO Centre seminar entitled 'Promoting Shared Education' on 24 April. The seminar stimulated conversations and investigated what the educational commitment to a Shared Future in Northern Ireland might look like.

On Wed 21 July, findings of the 2005 Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) survey on Racial Prejudice in Northern Ireland which explored attitudes towards visible minorities, was launched by Dr Chris Gilligan at a seminar in Belfast, organised by the Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive (ARK). Key points to emerge from the research were that:

- the majority of respondents (68%) believed there was more racial prejudice in Northern Ireland compared to five years' ago;
- protestants (33%) were almost twice as likely as Catholics (18%) to say that they were either very or a little prejudiced;
- supporters of Unionist parties were significantly more likely to say they were prejudiced against minority ethnic communities than supporters of other parties;
- in the case of national identity, respondents who identified themselves as British (35%) or Ulster (35%) were more likely to say they were prejudiced than those who self-identified as Northern Irish (25%) or Irish (15%);
- respondents who had daily contact with someone from a minority ethnic background were much less likely to report prejudice (13%) than those who said they never had any contact (30%);
- in 2001, 39% of respondents thought that most white people in Northern Ireland would mind if a suitably qualified person of Chinese origin was appointed as their boss, and 19% said that they personally would mind. In 2004 the respective figures were 55% and 13%.

VISIT OF PROFESSOR MARILYN COCHRAN-SMITH

The UNESCO Centre and the Education research unit of assessment in the School of Education hosted a visit by Professor Marilyn Cochran-Smith and Professor Larry Ludlow from the Lynch School of Education at Boston College on 15th and 16th June 2006 at the Dunadry Inn, Templepatrick. Professor Cochran-Smith is a renowned academic in the field of teacher education having published and presented widely on issues such as diversity in teaching and teacher education, teacher learning, and teacher education policy and practice. She is also a past president of the American Educational Research Association. On the 15th June, Professor Cochran-Smith gave a seminar entitled 'The Essence of Teacher Education' to invited guests from a range of institutions and organisations involved in teacher education in Northern Ireland and on the 16th June, she facilitated a discussion forum for staff from the School of Education to explore a range of questions pertaining to this topic.

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR SOCIAL WORK TRAINING

A Good Practice Guide on Citizen Involvement in Social Work Education in Northern Ireland, aimed at improving the training of social work students in Northern Ireland, was launched on 20 June by Mr Joe Duffy, a member of the Social Work staff. The guide examines how service users and carers as citizens can be involved in the education of the students undertaking their degree course at the University.

Speaking at the launch, Joe said "*It is now compulsory for students, as part of their training, to understand the service user and carer perspective. Uniquely in the UK, students also have to demonstrate an understanding of how individuals and communities have been affected by the conflict which raged in Northern Ireland for almost 30 years.*"

What I set out to do was write a Good Practice Guide to help everyone involved in the training process including academics, students, agency partners and potential clients of the social work students - find a common approach which will deliver the best results".

Funding for the project came from the Subject Centre for Social Policy and Social Work, the Social Care Institute for Excellence and the Northern Ireland Social Care Council.