

DEAN AND STUDENTS FROM THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION VISIT MALAWI SCHOOLS IN ZOMBA

Linda Clarke and Aideen Hunter, Lecturers in Education, obtained £15,000 over three years from the Garfield Weston Trust, to enhance the global dimension within initial teacher education programmes at Ulster. The project, which offers selected student teachers the opportunity to teach in Malawi, on the theme of Local and Global citizenship, is linked to the Coleraine Borough Council twinning with the Zomba Action Group. During a recent visit by the Dean and three PGCE students, a **Memorandum of Understanding** was signed with **Chancellor College, University of Malawi** by **Professor Moran** and **Dr Banda, Dean of Education**. It is envisaged that this partnership will grow and develop during the coming years.



L to R Jenefer Waring, Ruth Magee, Helen Maybin (all PGCE Students), Dennis Mapemba, Zomba Action Project (ZAP), Mr Namagowa (visiting headteacher) Ndangopuma Primary School and Thom Malinda, Education Manager (ZAP)



The Dean lost in the crowd.



Grade 1 class in Pirimiti Girls Primary School, Malawi motivated and content in spite of having no desks, chairs or books.

Supervision Workshop

A **Postgraduate Research Student Supervision Workshop** has been arranged by Dr Jackie Reilly for **Thursday 19 June 2008** from 10.00 am - 1.30 pm in **Jordanstown**. I hope to see all supervisors at this very important event.

Social Sciences Graduation Dates

Monday	30 June	4pm	Coleraine
Thursday	3 July	11am	Waterfront (excluding School of Communication)
Friday	4 July	4pm	Waterfront School of Communication
Tuesday	8 July	11am	Magee

I would encourage as many staff as possible to attend. It is not too late to indicate that you wish to process - you have until 30 May. I look forward to seeing you all at this very important event for our students and their families.

Recognising Academic Excellence - Dean's Awards



Colm Crean, Alister McCullough, Thomas Murphy, Ashley Maybin, Julie Pattison, Danielle Pearson, Derval Tumilty, Laura Best, Ruth Cosgrave, Saite Lu, Danielle Scullion, Tanya McGarrity, Hayley Smith, Mary Ferguson, Cherelle McIlpatrick, Prof Anne Moran.

The recipients of the Faculty's prestigious 2007-08 Progression Scholarships had their achievement recognised by the Dean and senior colleagues at a special

presentation on 15 April 2008. The Progression Scholarships, worth £1,500, were awarded on the basis of highest average marks over six level 1 modules in

2006-07. These scholarships have been created as part of the University's Access Agreement with DEL, and are funded by the income from top-up fees. Also pictured is Chinese Economics student Saite Lu, whose first year performance also placed him on the 'Dean's list'. Saite's achievement was marked with a special Dean's progression Prize and a certificate. Staff and students are reminded that Progression Scholarships represent a continuing incentive for high-performing students to maintain their high standards, and there will also be further scholarships for this year's best performing year one and year two students. Full details are on the University's website at http://prospectus.ulster.ac.uk/geninfo/scholars_socsci.html

International Playground Pals

Are children's playground games the same the world over or do children from different countries play in different ways?



Barbara Skinner and Clodagh McAleer,

School of Education staff, **Barbara Skinner** and **Clodagh McAleer**, along with PGCE and PGD TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) students have just organised a unique project for local international children. Seventy children of different nationalities, took part in two workshops at the University of Ulster's Sports Centre on the Coleraine campus to play and demonstrate games from their own countries. In the first workshop, on Saturday 5 April, the children (and their parents) got together and demonstrated a range of playground games from around the world.

In the second workshop, on Saturday 12 April, local people who work with international children, such as classroom assistants, primary teachers and playgroup leaders observed and participated in the games. They were able to learn about the cultural history and language of the games in order to use them in their own working contexts.

Barbara Skinner, from the School of Education said: 'the workshops are a creative and fun way for the children to explore and view other cultures. In the past few years the number of children from other countries in our local schools has really risen and it is important to give them an opportunity to show others aspects of their own cultural heritage and, basically, to show off about their country a little bit! We had children attending from Israel, India, Poland and Spain and they all had a great time and made lots of new friends. Members of the public that attended the second workshop found it useful too, as they learnt to play a range of international games which they in turn can use in their own jobs'. A website, to be used as a teaching and learning resource, will be designed to illustrate the games. This project is funded by the University of Ulster's Cultural Development support unit in partnership with Coleraine Borough Council.

Transitional Justice Institute International Programs

The Office of International Programs at the University of Minnesota has awarded an Interdisciplinary International Institutional Partnership Grant to the "Transitional Justice Partnership" proposal made by **Professor Fionnuala Ni Aoláin** to further and deepen institutional relationships between the TJI and the University of Minnesota. The amount of the grant is \$24,900 and it will fund a number of visitor exchanges and an international interdisciplinary conference in the academic year 2008-09. It also has some provision to support the TJI LL.M. degree by having two Minnesota students on one semester exchange from the University of Minnesota to the TJI.

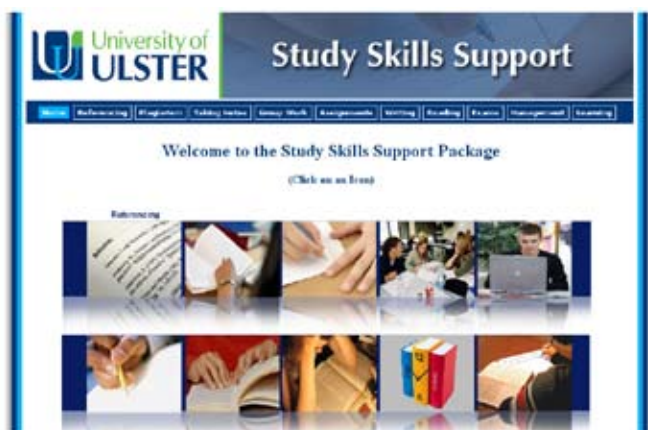
The **British Academy** has also awarded the TJI a Conference Support Grant of \$4,600 to **Professor Fionnuala Ni Aoláin** for the TJI's forthcoming symposium on "Southern Voices", taking place at Dalriada House on 25 and 26 June 2008. The symposium is being undertaken in conjunction with Professor William Twining who is in residence at the TJI on a Leverhulme Emeritus Professorial award. Attendees at the symposium will include Dr. Francis Deng, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Genocide.

Online Study Skills Package for New Students

Damien Gallagher (pictured), a student from the BSc Hons Interactive Multimedia Design programme, has been funded by the University's Student Placement Scheme to work with the Faculty of Social Sciences for one academic year from September 2007 - June 2008 on the development of an online study skills package for our undergraduate students.



To date, his work has included a survey of students to determine student views on the content of the web-based resource, and various meetings with staff to draw upon their own experiences of assessing student work and the most common study skills-related problems. This has been followed up with the production of a series of pilot 'guides' to topics such as plagiarism, essay writing skills, note taking and referencing. The guides include written information, audio information and short video clips as well as numerous self-assessed tasks.



Damien and the Project Steering group (which includes **Ruth Fee, Cathy Gormley-Heenan, Diane Patton and Kerry-Ann Porter**) are working to have the online study skills package ready for the September 2008 intake of undergraduate students within the Faculty. The package will be available to all students in their WebCT module area. The group will be in touch with all Course Directors prior to the beginning of the next academic year to ensure that details of the online study skills package are included in course handbooks and induction programmes. Information on the package is also available which module coordinators will be able to 'drop' into their module handbooks for next year.

The Steering Group plans to survey students during semester 1 of 2008/2009 to determine what they have found most useful about the project and to see if any further enhancements can be made to the package. In the meantime, if you have anything that you would like to share with the Steering Group and have posted online as part of the package, please contact one of the Steering Group and they will work with you to incorporate it all before September 2008.

Update On RAE

The results of the RAE will be published on **18 December 2008** on the RAE website (<http://www.rae.ac.uk>). The outcome publication will comprise tabulated overall quality profiles per unit of assessment (UoA) and per institution. Each quality profile will present the proportions, rounded to five per cent, of research activity in each submission judged to have met each of the quality levels from 4* to unclassified. Alongside the quality profile for each submission, the full-time equivalent (FTE) number of Category A staff included in the submission will be published.

On 5 January 2009, each funding body will release confidential feedback to each of the HEIs which will comprise, for each submission:

- three sub-profiles for research outputs, research environment and esteem indicators;
- written feedback drafted by the relevant sub-panel, summarising the reason for the quality profile awarded with reference to that sub-panel's published criteria.

New Arrangements For Disclosure Of Criminal Offences

From 1 April 2008 Access NI assumed responsibility for conducting pre-employment checks in Northern Ireland. Students will now be charged for all levels of disclosure. A basic check will cost £26. Regulated activities will require an enhanced disclosure at a cost of £30 per disclosure. Where a POCVA check was previously required, an enhanced disclosure will now be needed and should be requested specifically for activities at Ulster. The level of disclosure required will depend on the level of contact with children or vulnerable adults, as well as the type of activity involved. **'Regulated'** activities includes teaching, training, caring for, supervising and advising children and/or vulnerable adults where the activity takes place frequently or on three or more days in a 30 day period. This includes a range of activities undertaken in several disciplines across the Faculty while students are at University. **'Controlled'** activity includes ancillary support in general health, adult social care and FE settings. **'Activity'** means any form of work paid or unpaid.

It is the Faculty's responsibility to ensure that students are fully aware of the process. Further information can be found in the Guide to Access NI website: <http://www.accessni.gov.uk>

Professorial Lecture

On 9 April 2008 **Frank Geary, Professor of Economic History**, gave his inaugural professorial lecture entitled *Ireland and the Industrial Revolution: A Guided Tour*.



Frank Geary with his wife, son and daughter.

European Consortium for Political Research

Two members of the Faculty took part in the **European Consortium for Political Research** (ECPR) in April 2008. **Professor Arthur Aughey** presented a paper on The British Question to the workshop on 'National Identity and Constitutionalism in Europe'. The paper set out the preliminary questions and hypotheses which will inform his research during the tenure of his three-year Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship which begins in October 2008. Professor Aughey found that the Rennes conference provided an excellent opportunity to test ideas in discussion with experts in the area of constitutional change and national identity from across Europe and the Middle East. In particular, it was useful to encounter comparative perspectives on constitutional change in the United Kingdom and the workshop has encouraged a re-think of some of some provisional theoretical assumptions. **Dr Gordon Marnoch** gave a paper entitled 'Politics by Numbers?', which examined the extent to which performance metrics relating to public services are informing parliamentary oversight of the executive. The paper drew on data gathered in the course of the ESRC Public Services Programme Fellowship which Gordon currently holds. He took part in a workshop which brought together specialists from across Europe to test the claims made for 'Evidence Based Policy' (EBM).

Launch of the Graduate School for Professional Legal Education at Magee



Vice Chancellor Professor Richard Barnett, Mr Donald Eakin, President of the Law Society, Professor Anne Moran and Mr Thomas Murphy.

The first of two launches to mark the setting up of the Graduate School for Professional Legal Education was held at Magee on 22 April 2008.

The second was held at the **Belfast Campus** on Tuesday 6 May where a range of professionals representative of the legal profession attended.



Professor Anne Moran, Mr Donald Eakin, President of the Law Society, Mrs Amanda Zacharopoulou and Pro Chancellor Dr Gerry Burns.

Congratulations to:

Professor Vani Borooh on his Invitation to address the members of the Thirteenth Finance Commission of the Government of India on 23 June 2008 on the subject of Maoist activity in India and what steps should be taken to address it. **Professor Vani Borooh** has also been nominated by Royal Irish Academy to sit on their newly formed Committee for the Social Sciences.

Professor Colm Campbell and **Ms Catherine Turner** on the forthcoming publication in the autumn of their article entitled Utopia and the Doubters: Truth, Transition and the Law in the Journal Legal Studies.

Deirdre Heenan on being awarded an ESRC OFMDFM Researcher Placement Fellowship to carry out research into Service Delivery to Older People in Rural areas.

Dr Venkat Iyer on being formally invited to be a Law Commissioner, which is a very prestigious appointment.

Alan McCully, School of Education on achieving his doctorate.

Roisin McEvoy on the birth of her son Aodhán

Professor Henry Patterson on his newspaper article on the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, The Rise and Fall of a 'Cunning Politician'.