

U.C.C. GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY 1985/86

Hon. Life President: Professor C. S. O'Connell.
Hon. Presidents: Professor D. W. Meinig; Dr. J. Winberry.

COMMITTEE:

Auditor: Adrian Heffernan.
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First Year Rep: Tracey Keoghan.

The U.C.C. Geographical Society (more commonly referred to as the Geog. Soc.) was founded in 1968 and since then it has grown in popularity, steadily climbing the steps of success which have placed it in the highest bracket as one of the most active societies in U.C.C. today. This report will outline the past year's academic and social activities which once again have proven to be most successful.

The Geog. Soc. has a policy of inviting visiting lecturers to U.C.C. and their lectures relate both to our courses and broaden our geographical horizons. The Department also invites lectures and their lectures are open to all students and staff in U.C.C. Below is a list of visiting lecturers and the topics they spoke on for the academic year 1985/86.

Dr. John Winberry (University of South Carolina)	"Geopolitical perspectives – U.S. Foreign Policy in Central America." October 24, 1985.
Professor John Patterson and Evangeline Patterson (University of Leicester)	"The Poet and the City." October 30, 1985.
Dr. John Sweeney (Maynooth)	"Air Pollution Problems in the Dublin Area." October 30, 1985.
Dr. Kevin Hourihan (U.C.C.)	"Istanbul – A City of Three Empires." November 28, 1985.
Dr. John Pollard (University of Ulster, Coleraine)	"The Development of Tourism in the Caribbean." January 9, 1986.
Mr. Tom Linehan (I.D.A.)	"Development in the South-West of Ireland." January 22, 1986.
Mr. Tom Barrington (Institute of Public Administration)	"Regions, Regionalism, Regionalisation and Revolution in Ireland." January 30, 1986.
Dr. Kevin Whelan (National Library of Ireland)	"The Neglected Majority: Women in Ireland, 1600 - 1900." February 20, 1986.
Professor Joy Tivy (University of Glasgow)	"Resources under Stress." (Regional Lecture of the Geographical Society of Ireland.) March 6, 1986.
Dr. Colin Williams (North Staffordshire Polytechnic)	"Towards a National Congruence." April 24, 1986.

As is traditional in the Geog. Soc., each of the above lectures was very well attended. In Cork, we take pride in the fact that our academic and social events are evenly balanced. Indeed 'Cissie Young's', a local watering hole, has become very much part of the visiting lecturers' tour (after the lecture, of course)!

Moving on to the Geog. Soc.'s social events for 1985/86, it must be noted that this year we maintained the extremely high standard which has been built up over the years. We feel that it is essential to look after the "Freshers" as there are so many of them; the Society, therefore, on October 17th, kicked off with a Wine & Cheese reception especially for them. This (the wine) went down very well and, more importantly, it introduced the First Years to the Geog. Soc., thereby ensuring their support for the year's events.

The social events of the year began on November 15th when approximately forty hardy (har) students headed towards Barleycove Beach Hotel (somewhere in West Cork) for the annual Geog. Soc. field weekend led by Prof. W. J. Smyth and the ever capable Mr. Jim MacLaughlin. We did quite a lot of work both in the field and the bar, and learned a considerable amount about the Personality of West Cork, and the personalities of our companions. Rumours that the Manager of the Hotel is now a nervous wreck are quite untrue.

After a rather hectic weekend, the Geog. Soc. decided to quieten things down a little by showing a film. On November 19th, we showed 'The Exorcist' which packed G19. After seeing it, the Secretary had a dream in which she saw herself flying around campus on a bed — the strange coincidence is that the Vice-Auditor actually saw her!!

We took a well-earned rest for the remainder of November. However, things livened up on December 4th when we held a joint disco in De Lacy House with the Archaeological Society. This proved to be a very worthwhile event as many ancient and newly-formed contours were discovered. Some very interesting inter and intra societal trends developed that night but my lips are sealed — are they?

The following week saw the arrival of the U.C.C. Rag Week in which we were encouraged to participate. We felt the most pleasant way to participate would be to float down the River Lee in the raft race — we were wrong! The water was cold, we got wet, dirty, were abused and we were very glad to eventually finish a very respectable second last. After showering in the Maltings, the Treasurer dragged us on a tour of the various public houses on the way back to U.C.C. It was a long night.

Hoorah for the Christmas break. January 1986 brought three visiting lecturers to U.C.C. so we had to wait until February 7th for the annual Staff/Student Rugby Match. A lot of scoring took place in this event, even I had a try. Thanks to the very unfair referee, a certain post-grad., the staff won.

February 13th saw the highlight of our year socially. We held the second Geography Ball in Jury's Hotel, Cork. At a very formal affair Prof. W. J. 'Twinkeltos' Smyth demonstrated the 'Tipperary Twostep' with tremendous agility. At 2 a.m. or so we proceeded to Squires, a nightclub which in turn was raided at 3 a.m. or so. This upset our plans a little, however we dispersed in search of a party. Rumour has it that the Auditor and a few companions were spotted entering the South Gate Tavern at 7 a.m. in search of a cure.

On March 11th, after recovering from the Geography Ball, the Geog. Soc. held a staff/student debate — the motion being: "Perversity is a pre-requisite in the study of Geography".

The staff proposed the motion and it was carried by an overwhelming majority. Afterwards, we ventured to the Cork Cricket Club where we held a disco which was enjoyed by all who attended — approximately sixty.

The Geog. Soc. inaugurated an inter-schools debating competition this year with sponsorship from Alderman Dan Wallace, Lord Mayor of Cork. After heated preliminary rounds — the following schools reached the final: Colaiste an Spioraid Naoimh; Scoil Mhuire; Ursuline Convent; St. Aloysius. The final was fixed for December 17th when the motion to be debated was: "That one's address determines one's destiny — All animals are equal but some more equal than others". Chaired by Mr. John Keane (Vice-Auditor), this final was a tremendous success with Colaiste an Spioraid Naoimh proposing the motion and emerging worthy winners.

This year the Geog. Soc. debating team included: Damien Riordan, Maurice Fenton, Paul Cronin. The aforementioned showed their prowess in this field by taking the coveted inter-clubs/societies debating shield organised by the Philosophical Society. It was the first time the Geog. Soc. won this event. Hopefully, it will not be the last.

Finally, I must tell you about the National Undergraduate Congress which was held in Cork on

February 21/22/23 this year. Attended by Queen's University Belfast, Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, Maynooth College, Thomond College of Education and University College Cork, it was both educationally and socially rewarding. Each college gave two papers of twenty minutes' duration which were judged by an undergraduate panel. Special thanks must go to Prof. W. J. Smyth and the department for donating prizes and giving us use of the Geography building for the weekend. Entertainment and cramped accommodation was provided for all and many cans of cheap beer (supplied by Q.U.B.) were consumed over what was considered to be a highly successful weekend. On the academic side, there was a tie for first place between Q.U.B. and T.C.D. Trinity also came second and our own Patricia Campbell came third. Again, we send our heartiest congratulations to all prizewinners.

This past year has been a very enjoyable one for me and hopefully for the majority of geographers in U.C.C. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee, listed at the beginning, for all the work they did throughout the year.

Adrian Heffernan (Auditor)