

U.C.C. GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

AUDITORS REPORT 1986/87

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

Committee:

Auditor: Bernard Dee.
Vice Auditor: Mary Foley.
Secretary: Marie Foley.
Treasurer: Noreen Walsh-Donovan

Third Year Rep: Aileen Murphy.
Second Year Rep: Michael Nagle.
First Year Reps: Olive Hegarty and Brian Fitzgerald.

Founded in 1968 to promote the study and discussion of Geography, the Geographical Society has over the years grown in popularity, scope and student participation. Today it ranks as one of the biggest and most active societies in U.C.C. The society has attained this status through a blend of academic and social activities.

It has been the aim of the society over the past academic year to bring as many visiting lecturers, covering as broad a range of topics as possible, to lecture in U.C.C. The Department also maintains such a policy and below are listed the combined fruits of last years labours.

Dr. Le Heron (University of Auckland)	'The Present State of The Dairy Industry in New Zealand and its Future Development'. Oct. 16th 1986.
Dr. H. Prince (University of London)	'Art and the Agrarian Landscape' Nov. 26th 1986.
Prof. D. Rafter (Mankato State University)	'Minneapolis, Minnesota Planning the Post-Industrial city'. Oct 30th 1986.
Mr. T. O'Byrne (Chairman Southern Branch of Irish Wildlife Federation)	'The Flora and Fauna of the Antipodes' Dec. 11th 1986.
Dr. B. Brunt (University College Cork)	'Changing Environments and Perceptions in South Carolina' Jan. 22nd 1987.
Dr. A. Simms (University College Dublin)	'Core and Periphery in Medieval Europe' Feb. 5th 1987.

Dr. R. Lawton (University of Liverpool)	'Paddies into Scousers: Aspects of Irish Migration to large British Cities in the nineteenth century'. Feb. 11th 1987.
Mr. F. Alaragi (University College Cork)	'Contemporary Geopolitics: The Iran- Iraq Conflict' Feb. 19th 1987.
Mrs D. Kelly (Living City Group Dublin)	'Housing alone is not enough' March 12th 1987.
Prof. D. Herbert (University of Swansea)	'Social Geography of Cities' April 23rd 1987.

All the lectures this year were attended by a select grouping and as usual, following 'age old tradition' 'Cissie Youngs' was the venue for intense intellectual debate (along with the odd pint) afterwards.

The first social event of the year was the Introductory First Year Cheese and Wine Party. Unfortunately the quality of the wine did not compensate for the quantity of the Students. They were the thirstiest bunch of 'Freshers' I have ever encountered.

In order to raise money for our annual Geographical Society Week-end field trip we held a disco in De Lacey House early in November. This was a hectic affair indeed and all meals and refreshments were quickly finished off. The proceeds went towards subsidising our week-end away which this year took us to Dun an Oir in the Dingle Peninsula. This field trip was led by Don Lyons and Michael O'Keeffe (two freeloading postgrads). A fantastic time was had by all (including the busdriver) and we explored many social gathering places (pubs) throughout the peninsula as well as probing the social and economic geography of the area along with it's archaeological past, before returning to Cork.

For 'Rag Week' we arranged an 'identify the Coastline Competition', which turned out was Hangmans Point, from which an ample sum was raised and donated to worthy charities via the Students Union.

The national Undergraduate Geographers Congress was held in U.C.D. this year and the Auditor was proud to represent U.C.C. with a paper entitled 'Malaria Incidence in Africa 1962-'81. It did not receive an award but new friendships were forged between the Geography Societies of U.C.C., U.C.D., T.C.D., Q.U.B., U.C.G. and St. Patricks College Maynooth which is partly what the congress is all about.

Without doubt the highlight of our social calendar was the Geography Ball which was held on the 12th of February at Jury's Hotel. The meal was superb, the band excellent and the disco exhausting - need I say more? Drs. Flanagan, Devoy and Brunt were accompanied by their wives, and represented the staff at the ball.

Rounded off by a pint in the 'Raven', after breakfast in Jury's, it was a night not to be forgotten (if one could remember it in the first place).

The inter-schools debate was won this year by a team from Mount Mercy who opposed the motion that 'Dublin is Ireland'. Congratulations must go to the winners and all who participated in this very popular and successful annual event.

The motion for the Staff-Student debate this year was 'That a Geographers previous experience determines his/her future research'. The debate was chaired by the Vice-Auditor. The staff team was led by Prof. David Rafter with Gerard Delaney and Ann Whyte and the student team led by Michael Nagle with Noelle Dowling and Evelyn Toohig. The Motion raised much humourous and lively debate on the night and a draw was declared to avoid bloodshed.

Congratulations also go to the Geog. Soc. debating team who reached the semi-finals of the Societies Debating Shield, organised by the Philosophical Society. This team consisted of Evelyn Toohig (1st yr), Michael Nagle (2nd yr) and The Auditor.

The Staff-Student mixed rugby match had to fall on one of the coldest, wettest and windiest days of the year. The referee Michael 'giggles' Nagle who had a limited knowledge of rugby rules after a thirty minute mud wrestling contest in which the only progress made was to tear a particular Post-Grads T shirt to shreds, a halt was called and we hit the showers unsure of who had won, What for and Why???

The final event of the year was the A.G.M. where the secretary composed last year's Minutes from memory (I just love surprises, don't you?) The Treasurer informed us that we had forty four pence remaining in our bank account to carry next year's committee over any financial difficulties they might encounter. Thereafter over a heated argument covering a range of issues which will be raised again at the E.G.M. (to be held no later than four weeks into the next term). The new committee was elected as follows; Michael Nagle (Auditor); Anne - Marie Forrest (Vice Auditor; Michael Power (Treasurer); Niamh Barrett (Secretary). Here's wishing them every success in the coming year. For them to be successful it will be necessary to receive support from all students at U.C.C. especially those in Geography.

Finally I wish to thank the lecturers and Staff of the Department for their help throughout the year. Special thanks go to Jim Mac Laughlin the Staff-Student liason officer (i.e. he gives out to us a bit, for our own benefit) and to Catherine Ketch the editor of this worthy and erudite Student Geographical Journal. In conclusion my heartfelt thanks to all who supported our events throughout 1986/87 and to the committee listed above.

A Society is only as good as it's members, for from it's members are drawn it's committee which in turn cannot function without strong support. It is your society, not the Committee's or the Department's so please support it in the future.

Bernard Dee
Auditor 1986/87.