

U.C.C. GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY: REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 1988-1989

Davina McLaughlin

The contribution of the 1988-89 committee to the Geographical Society will be etched in the memories of geographers for years. This journal will serve, however, as a more permanent memorial as hundreds of copies will, no doubt, survive in pillars within the Department for generations. The committee was elected as follows:

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| Auditor:      | Patrick Coleman                         |
| Vice Auditor: | Davina McLaughlin                       |
| Secretary:    | Moira Buckley replaced by Patrick Healy |
| Treasurer:    | Paul O'Brien                            |

This year a strong emphasis was placed on organising a healthy academic schedule. A programme was constructed which included lectures organised in conjunction with such societies and organisations as Earthwatch, the World Development Society, the Biological and Medical Societies, the Historical Society and the Socialist Society.

The year began with a well attended lecture which dealt with the problems posed by pollution in the Cork Harbour area. This was followed by a very interesting discussion by Colm O'Regan entitled "Land and Life in Brazil" and an intriguing account by Stuart Daltrey of the Landscapes of South Morocco. Perhaps the best attended academic event of the year was a lecture entitled "The Political and Cultural Landscapes of Northern Ireland", to which Anne Speede, Dermot Walsh and John A. Murphy contributed. Sally O'Neill gave a very informative lecture which concerned itself with aspects of development and underdevelopment in South East Asia. Jim McLaughlin, who has recently returned from a visit to Central America, teamed up with Gary McEoin to provide some interesting insights into this troubled region in a lecture entitled "Crisis in Central America". The programme concluded with a lecture from Professor Helmut Jager, "A German Perspective of Ireland".

Of course every well balanced diet should include plenty of exercise and this was provided by a variety of social activities organised by the society. The 7-a-side mixed soccer tournament was a tremendous success and was won eventually by the Postgraduates (despite the best efforts of the world's greatest living sportsmen:

Patrick J. Leahy, and Raymond O'Connor). In addition society field trips were arranged with the Geological Society and the Mountaineering Club. A weekend in Quilty, Co. Clare, led by David Storey to this day shrouded in mystery for those who were unable to travel. A further excursion to Connemara is presently being organised.

The highlight of the social calendar was, of course, the Geography Ball which was a phenomenal success. Held in Jurys Hotel, the ball was the best attended for years, the food was exquisite, the music great and the speeches were both innovative and revealing. For some, however, the high point of the night was a trip to the ladies in Bogarts. The Ball is now a firmly established tradition within the Geography Department and future committees should endeavour to maintain the present levels of success.

At the moment an employment seminar is being organised and in April the Society will celebrate the 21st anniversary of its founding. Both of these events are expected to be excellently attended.

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for the final term and nominations are currently being accepted.

The Society wishes to place on record their thanks both to the staff and postgraduates for their co-operation and support throughout the year. Also to the First, Second and Third Year Society representatives who did an excellent job of keeping the student body informed of Society activities. Finally we would like to thank all the students who participated in the Society events and remind them that it is only with their continued support that the Society can thrive and maintain this current level of success.