



Class 2011- WIP Update



Minister Jonathan Bell (OFMDFM, NI) and Minister Ciarán Cannon (Dept of Education, Ireland) with Siobhan Carroll and David Tansey (Class of 2011) at the launch of the WI Papers at the North South Ministerial Council.

WIPapers Sparks Debate at North South Ministerial Council

Do the history curricula in Ireland and Northern Ireland present an accurate view of our shared history? Will the proposed abolition of the Irish Senate lead to more effective Government? Is Northern Ireland ready to move beyond power-sharing and for there to be an elected opposition?

The inaugural Washington Ireland Papers were launched on Thursday, 1st September at the North South Ministerial Council, the Good Friday Agreement institution that brings together the Governments of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Drawing inspiration from the Federalist Papers, the WIPapers reflect on the governance systems in both countries and advocates for changes in the ways we are governed.

The papers were presented to Ministers of both Governments and a wide cross section of politicians and commentators from political, academic, business and community life in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The students proposals were both welcomed and challenged, with detailed responses provided by Senator Marie Louise O'Donnell (Irish Senate), Peter Sheridan (Co-operation Ireland) and Sharon Haughey (WIP Alumni, and SDLP Councillor). The students are now updating their papers, and will present them to committees in both Dail Eireann (Irish Parliament) and the Northern Ireland Assembly in the coming months.

A Successful Summer

48 Guest Speakers, 25 students, 24 Work Placements, 23 Host Families, 7 Class Debates, 3 WI Papers, 1 WIP Summer.

With the Class of 2011 graduated, this report is aimed to provide a flavor of the activities, debates and discussions that the students participated in.

Our thanks to the many Board Members, Host Families and Work Placement Supervisors who participated in and facilitated many of these special events

Emphasizing the role of the Scots-Irish (Ulster Scots)



The important influence of the Scots-Irish on US culture and history was explored by Senator Jim Webb and Dr John McCavitt. Senator Webb discussed the traits of the Scots Irish - their resilience, work ethic and independent nature. While acknowledging their significant influence on US politics through the Presidency, he drew particular focus on their impact on political ideas all the way up to the current Tea Party. ([These remarks were covered in the Washington Post](#)). Dr McCavitt, a Northern Irish Historian, highlighted the role of first generation Ulstermen on US battlefields, in particular General Ross from Rostrevor and the burning of the White House in 1812.

Business and Finance



Finance and business were a constant theme through out the summer program, with students discussing the impact of the IMF bailout on Ireland and Northern Ireland's reliance on a subsidy from the UK. Students were able to discuss these issues with many senior business leaders, including Donal Donovan (former Deputy Director, IMF), Brendan McDonagh (former CEO, HSBC North America) and Adrian Jones (Managing Director, Principal Investment Area, Goldman Sachs). We were also privileged to discuss the prospects for the Global Economy with Chad Holliday, Chairman at Bank of America.

Exploring identity



Identity, how you see yourself and how others see you, has always been a core theme within WIP. This year we structured the 'elephant in the room' conversations about British, Irish and Northern Irish identity with two extended sessions. The first (pictured to the left) was facilitated by Host Dad and Partner at Crowell and Moring, Dave O'Brien. Students from all backgrounds shared their views on what it meant to be born on the island of Ireland. With powerful personal, family and community perspectives expressed, these sessions provide an opportunity for students to understand the motivations and rationale behind their divergent views and values.

The role and future of the Union Movement



The future and function of Unions were frequently debated by the WIP Class of 2011. Jim Boland (BAC) organized a half-day session with former AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and former BAC President Jack Joyce, reflecting on both the future of the Union Movement and the role the Labor Movement had on the Northern Irish Peace Process. Cathy Feingold, the AFL-CIO's Director of International Affairs joined in the discussion, to highlight the US Union Movement's role in workers' rights globally. The Class were also hosted by Terry O'Sullivan (LiUNA) to discuss the leadership skills required in leading large membership organizations.

Celtic Cups raise over \$80,000



On August 1st and 29th our two golf fundraisers were held in Maryland and Maynooth, netting over \$80,000 for WIP. The US event returned to Lake Presidential, led by Frank Cantrell and his committee. The US event secured support from Verizon, Accenture, AT&T, Bombardier, The Corcoran Family Trust, DDC Advocacy, ING, MPAA, Nike, Targus Info and Verizon Wireless. The Irish event was played at the challenging link course at Carton House, former home of the Irish Open. Organized by Shane Carmichael, Jonathan Chesney and a team of Alumni, the event secured support from the JP McManus Foundation, Accenture, Arthur Cox, Heron Bros and the

Odyssey Trust. Both were fantastic events, bringing great credit to WIP in the professional manner in which they were delivered.

WIP Class Graduate in Armagh



Our Class of 2011 concluded on Friday 2nd September with the student's graduation. Hosted by Armagh City and District Council, in the beautiful Market Place Theatre, the event brought together the Class, their parents and WIP supporters for a celebration of the achievements and successes of this year's class. The valedictorian, Roisin Fitzpatrick, spoke passionately about the impact that WIP has had on her and her commitment to the underlying cause and values that WIP promotes. We were delighted to have two sets of Host Families join us in Armagh, and we hope they will take back the many messages of thanks and appreciation they received.

