



Newsletter June 2007

BA EUROPEAN STUDIES FYP PRIZE AWARDED FOR OBESITY STUDY

To help consolidate the BA European Studies in the College of Humanities, a prize is now being awarded each year for the best FYP submitted by a BA European Studies student. This year (2007) the CEUROS prize of 250 euro has been awarded to Jill Jenkinson who scored an A1 for her Project entitled Weighing in against the odds: discrimination against the obese. In a society obsessed with image, weight, and health, prejudice against overweight and obese people often centres on the assumption that they have undesirable lifestyles. They are victims of 'fat hatred' and the recently perceived 'obesity epidemic'.

There is however a growing amount of opposition to this treatment of the obese. The FYP explores the inappropriate treatment of obese people in society. In particular, it outlines the unfair policies perpetrated by employers, HR management teams, and by healthcare professionals, towards the overweight and the obese. The FYP goes on to explain the implications of this unfair treatment on the lives of the overweight. Primary research on this topic was conducted on the lives of the overweight. Research on this topic was conducted using a survey method involving over 1000 UL undergraduate students. The survey deals with characteristics popularly attributed to the obese, and the extent to which these attitudes are still prevalent in contemporary society. The FYP concludes that those who work with the obese, and the public generally, should be made aware of prejudices they unwittingly display; and that victims of obesity discrimination should know their rights, so as to minimise any adverse effects on their quality of life. Her supervisor was Dr Lee Monaghan (Dept of Sociology) .

CEUROS ORGANISES TENTH JEAN MONNET SUMMER SCHOOL

The 10th Jean Monnet Summer School (11-30 June) was specially organised by CEUROS for a group of postgraduates from Tbilisi, Georgia who will themselves be teaching European integration at the BA and MA level next year. The 36 seminars were therefore geared not only towards imparting information, but also teaching the teachers how to teach. Bibliography, small group teaching and information retrieval were included as part of the programme. Material covered in the three-week summer school included policy-making in the EU; external relations, economic

integration, and EC law. Seminars were led by: John O'Brennan (CEUROS); Esmeralda Gassie (CEUROS), Eddie Moxon-Browne (CEUROS), Annelin Andersen (CEUROS) and Marie-Luce Paris-Dobozy (School of Law UCD). The Summer school coordinator was Deirdre Kelleher (CEUROS). In addition to academic work, the group enjoyed excursions to County Clare, Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, and Galway City. The Jean Monnet Summer School is now the longest running summer school of its kind in Europe.

RESEARCH FELLOWS AT CEUROS THIS SUMMER

Two research fellows from Spain will be affiliated to CEUROS during the summer. Cesar Dominguez is Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Santiago de Compostela. He did his BA at Valencia in Spanish Philology and earned his PhD at Santiago de Compostela. in Literary Theory and Comparative Literature. Among his publications are 'Juan del Encina, el peregrino. Temas y tecnicas de la "Turibagia" (University of London:2000) and A lirica medieval no territorio de Lugo. Trobadores e xograres (Diputacion Provincial de Lugo:2002). He has travelled abroad on several occasions for research, most notably to: Bratislava, Chicago, London, Harvard and now CEUROS at Limerick. Our other visitor is: Francisco Javier Ruiz Martinez. He is based at Carlos III in Madrid, and his main research interests are: security policies; conflict resolution and electoral politics. While at CEUROS, he will look at Irish political parties in the context of the recent election. Bienvenidos!

CEUROS TO BENEFIT FROM 226,000euro GRANT FROM IRISH AID

More good news for CEUROS comes with confirmation of a grant from Irish Aid which will help with two major projects in the Republic of Georgia. One is the European Studies programme at Chavchavadze University in Tbilisi where MA and BA programmes are under way, both based on the pioneering European Studies model developed since the early 1970s at Limerick, and now emulated in many parts of the world: New Zealand, China, Mexico and Canada being recent examples. The other project, still in planning mode, is the Business School for Georgia which will eventually host programs for the entire South Caucasus region, and possibly Central Asia as well. A global panel of experts assembled by Prof Bernadette Andreosso and Dr Rita Buckley will coordinate the academic syllabus over the next three years.

FINALLY...CEUROS ON THE TENNIS COURT!

Alicia Castano Fernandez and Andro Rurua won respectively (and at 10-2 convincingly) the Ladies and Mens Plates in the UL Tennis Championship. Both are students on the MA European Integration. The 31 May Ladies Plate: The first match to start in the evening was between Sinead Reddan and Alicia Castano Fernandez (MA European Integration) from Barcelona. Alicia went in to a 8-0 lead before Sinead finally found some form by winning the 9th game. Alicia took the next but Sinead broke Alicia to love in the next game. The score was now 2-9 with Sinead serving. This was her problem all day with far too many double faults on serve. Again her serve let her down and Alicia ran out winner at 10-2. Mens Plate: Barry Hussey (CEUROS PhD student) was due to play Andro Rurua (MA European Integration) from Georgia in the Mens Plate final, but a squash court accident meant he had to drop out in favour of Tony Leddin. With his HOD responsibilities, Tony was expected to be a bit rusty. This proved to be the case, and Andro went in to a 5-0 lead despite Tony's fine lobs. Tony won the next game, but Andro replied with the next three. Tony held his serve to make it 8-2 but Andro won the next two to finish off the match with a 10-2 win.

Adapted from Gordon Lessels (our courtside reporter)