Dr Prince’s Secret Other Job?

(We knew he had a B.Com!)

Spotted by Professor Roche on one of his travels....

Frances Fahy visit

Frances Fahy visited Geography and the School of People Environment and Planning while on sabbatical leave in Spring 2013.

Frances is the current President of the Geography Society of Ireland and the recipient of the 2013-14 Irish Fulbright Scholar Award.

Frances writes......

Cead Mile Fáilte is a phrase we use in Ireland to welcome visitors to our shores and it means “One Hundred Thousand Welcomes!” When I arrived in Massey University, a little jet-legged after the long flights from Dublin, Ireland, I must admit, I was a little unsure about the welcome I might receive, as I am aware of how busy people are all year around with their teaching and research duties. However, the moment I set foot on the Massey Campus, I knew that I was home from home. The warm, friendly way in which I was greeted made my visit especially memorable. It also provided me with the perfect atmosphere for productive work.

My time at Massey offered me an opportunity to reach a number of my sabbatical goals, and to experience working in a vibrant kiwi workplace. …

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Mike Roche, Aisling Gallagher and Russell Prince all took time to discuss their current research with me. It was great to chat to final year students about their ideas for future research proposals. I was delighted, also, with the feedback from my seminar, Communicating Sustainability Research, which is a project I intend to work on for the forthcoming year, exploring the challenges and opportunities faced by social scientists engaged in policy-relevant research in the field of sustainability.

I have always had huge admiration and respect for the work of Juliana Mansvelt and for the last number of years I have selected her book Geographies of Consumption to be the core reading material for my third level students in NUIG. What a delight and honour it was for me to meet the author in person. She was very generous with her time, and I enjoyed discussing our current research projects and innovative methods in the field of sustainability.

Beyond Geography, Alana and all the staff at PEP could not have done more to ensure that my visit was both productive and memorable. The areas of interest to me are very much to the forefront within the School. I was particularly delighted to get the opportunity to speak with Dr Tricia Farrell's environmental anthropology group and to meet with her final year students. Tricia and Corina organised a series of "Trash Talks" in September and we all gave a great turn out at the public library and a reception afterwards on the occasion. It was great to chat with representatives from the local authority in Palmerston North after the talk. Waste issues in this area replicate the Irish experience in many ways, and one can only benefit from the sharing of experiences in both jurisdictions.

It was fantastic to observe Massey University, working alongside the local authority and the wider community to co-create solutions to problems that affect their environment. As more and more issues of sustainability come to the forefront it is essential that the major players continue to communicate with each other and to cater for the needs not just of one particular sector but for the entire community. I learned an extraordinary amount from working with my Massey colleagues and I hope to take some of this knowledge back with me to Galway.

NEW CHAIR IN FLUVIAL GEOMORPHOLOGY

Alastair and Iain have had a busy start to 2014, having successfully secured $17k of MURF funding with Mark to work on 'A new approach to managing and mitigating historical metal mining pollution in New Zealand estuaries and rivers', which focuses on assessing mining-contaminated floodplain and estuary sediments in the Coromandel. Fieldwork in February and March together with Prof Macklin took them to a range of rivers and estuaries around the peninsula, recovering sediment for geochemical analysis, which will be completed in collaboration with Aberystwyth University.

Ian also secured $20k of MURF funding with Mark to work on 'The environmental legacy and impacts of post-settlement alluvium in NZ', this involved fieldwork in the South Island in February on a hunt for post settlement alluvium, but our attention is now being focused on North Island catchments, in Northland and the Manawatu.

A new Chair in Fluvial Geomorphology: Professor Mark Macklin has been appointed to a 0.2 Chair in Fluvial Geomorphology under the auspices of the Innovative River Solutions Group. The remainder of his time (0.8) is spent as Chair of Physical Geography at Aberystwyth University. You can find out more about who he is and what he’s up to in his inaugural professorial lecture, available at: http://webcast.massey.ac.nz/Mediasite/Play/1a8362dc9fda4b7abcc24b35ede580d41d

Children gone wired!
Supported by an Early Career Researcher Award, Aisling has been out and about speaking to people in the NZ early childhood sector. Her current research focuses on the daily connections between parents, grandparents and children being fostered through innovative communication technologies in the early education setting. The development of virtual platforms through which teachers can capture and post information, images and footage about the daily learning and development of the child is something which has significantly opened the possibility for the wider Whanau to participate in the development of the child, no matter where they are located. Aisling has been spending time with the creators of this new technology and will be speaking with teachers, children and parents in the coming months about how it all works.