



Monthly Newsletter May 2005

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Letter from the President

Dear all,

Well, April has been another busy month! What with Spring Conference in Galway, an official visit from our IVP Kjersti, a Civic Reception for JCI International President, Kevin in his home town of Cobh, the closing ceremony for the successful conclusions of the Joint JCI Fingal/DCU Mentoring Programme and the JCI Galway/NUI Galway Mentoring Programme (which I was unfortunately unable to attend) and heading up the 23 member strong JCI Ireland delegation to the JCI Scotland Annual Convention it has been all go!

It was wonderful to see so many new, young and enthusiastic members in Galway for Spring Conference. Many congratulations and well done to JCI Galway for organising a very successful and creative weekend. Who will forget the 'circus training' and attempts, with various degrees of success, to juggle, the only activity known to man which actually stimulates the growth of new brain cells! It was particularly gratifying to attend the training provided by my fellow PRIME Graduates, Bernie and Anne, both relatively new members of JCI Galway, well done to you both. Many thanks and well done also to Catherine Laffey (both JCI Ireland International Director and Chairman of the Conference Organising Committee) for making us all feel so welcome and organising such a memorable weekend. I know that our IVP Kjersti also enjoyed her attendance and commended all involved for their hard work and dedication.

Congratulations also go to Orlaith, from JCI Cobh, for winning the finals of the National Public Speaking Competition. Orlaith will now go forward to represent Ireland at the European finals in Poitiers in June. Best of luck Orlaith, we will all be rooting for you.

Best of luck also to former National President, and most outstanding IVP of 2004, Graham Hanlon, who was endorsed at Spring Conference as an Irish candidate for the position of JCI Executive Vice President. We wish Graham well as he seeks election to one of only four positions of EVP to serve JCI International in 2006.

I am delighted to say that JCI Tullamore have agreed to host a National Training Day on Saturday 11th of June. There is still time to propose topics and areas of training which members would like to see included in what promises to be a very rewarding day.

Finally, many congratulations, well done and a big thank you to all members and chapters who contributed and fundraised so successfully to raise over €5,000 for Operation Hope. This money will now be transferred to JCI International and we will agree with them how it should best be spent to help alleviate the ongoing needs of the victims of the South East Asia Tsunami disaster. Remember, together we can make a difference.

James Corcoran

JCI Ireland

National President, 2005

Upcoming events:

TOYP

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all chapters that the closing date for submission of TOYP candidates for inclusion at World Conference in Vienna is the 15th of May next. I can only apologise for the lack of notice on this date and encourage you all to submit as many nominations as you can within the short time available. JCI Ireland has an excellent track record in this programme and I am always humbled by the achievements of those honoured.(James Corcoran)

JCI Conference of The Americas - TOURISM AND LEISURE – May 4th to 7th

The 2005 JCI Conference of the Americas will take place in Sao Paulo, Brazil. For further information about the Conference visit: www.jcisp.org.br/saopaulo2005/ or send an e-mail to: conferencia2005@jcisp.org.br

European Convention – June 1st to 4th –

JCI European Conference 2005, is going to be taking place in Futuroscope Poitiers (France) from 1st to 4th June 2005. For further information please see the website <http://www.ec2005.com/> . Registration costs €335. The Irish Delegation hotel is Holiday Inn Express Futuroscope.

National Training Day, Tullamore – June 11th

JCI Tullamore have agreed to host a National Training Day on Saturday 11th of June. We hope to include training on Media Management from our National PRO, Grainne, over the next few weeks, we will be finalising the agenda so that it can be tailored to meet the needs of the JCI members.

British\Irish Leadership Academy, UK, from 1st July-3rd July

Please contact Tommy Nielsen for further details.

President's day hosted by JCI Cork July-23rd

Preparations have begun in earnest in JCI Cork for President's Day in July. Information will be sent to all Chapters in May.

European Academy Gothenburg, Sweden from 29th July-2nd August

Please contact Tommy Nielsen for further details.

JCI Ireland National Convention 2005 - 7th to 9th October

National Convention 2005 will be hosted by JCI Fingal. The Venue is Clontarf Castle hotel, Dublin 3. The overall price is €295 which includes accommodation, €195 without accommodation. Early registration (before 31st July 2005 is €250).

60th World Congress 2005 – October 24th to 29th - Early Registration closes on 28th August

The 60th World Congress will take place in Vienna, Austria. For further details please see <http://www.vienna2005.com/> . Early Registration is €355 until the 28th of August, after that date it is €395. The Irish Delegation hotel is Best Western Stefanie Hotel.

Update from the Chapters

(Chapters are listed in alphabetical order)

JCI Cork

April has been a busy month for all in Junior Chamber Cork.

We recently held a social night at the dog track. While no one seemed to win very much on the night, a great time was had by all!

Some members attended the Late Late Show on Friday 14th. National President James joined us on the night. Our thanks to Gráinne Nolan, who organized the tickets for us.

Preparations have begun in earnest for President's Day in July. (Information will be sent to all Chapters in May.) **We look forward to welcoming everyone to Cork on July 23rd.** Also watch out for an update on our 50th anniversary celebrations later in the year. All roads will be leading to Cork that weekend too!

JCI Galway

Greetings from Galway

Just a quick note to invite you all to JCI Galway's Tourist Guide launch - 38th edition .

It takes place next Friday night 6th May in the Kings Head, Shop Street Galway at 7pm.

It promises to be one of the highlights of our calendar of events and the fact it is on a Friday hopefully some of you might take a trip as far as Galway to join in our celebrations.

Mark it in your diaries now.

RSVP asap

Looking forward to seeing some of you then.

Slán tamaill

Máirín O'Reilly

JCI Galway

JCI Limerick

Junior Chamber Limerick is making preparations for its annual Charity Cruise which takes place on Friday evening, 24th June 2005. This is always a very enjoyable evening which includes a boat ride, meal, entertainment. The proceeds of this year's event will be given to Multiple Sclerosis Ireland.

We will be in touch with all Chapters in the coming weeks with the details and hope to have as much representation from around the country as possible.

Chapter members went to the theatre recently to witness the "acting / chorus " skills of Deputy President, Pat Murnane, who starred in a local production of English author, Melvyn Bragg's " The Hired Man ".

Another Speaking Success for JCI-Cobh by Darragh McGann JCI-Cobh President 2005

Orlaith Mc Carthy, P.R.O. of JCI-Cobh, has won the much coveted JCI Ireland Public Speaking Competition held in Galway on Sunday.

"European Integration: The Challenge for a JCI Member" was the topic for discussion and Orlaith gave a very fine delivery filled with knowledge and conviction.

Orlaith will now travel to Poitiers, in France in June where she will represent Cobh and Ireland in JCI European Speaking Finals.

This is a remarkable double for JCI Cobh following on from the success of Darragh McGann becoming runner-up in the World Finals held in Fukouka, Japan last November.

JCI-Cobh is also proud to have as a member the current World President of JCI, Mr Kevin Cullinane.

If you would like to become a member of this winning organisation, then come along to one of our monthly meetings which are held in the Commodore Hotel on the 2nd Monday of each month at 8pm. Or check out webpage: jci-ireland.org/cobh for more details.

Well done Orlaith, we are all so proud of you.



Update from Western Regional Director Rosemary Dolan

RYAN TUBRIDY

Rosemary Dolan arranged tickets for Ryan Tubridy and Members from Castlebar, Galway, Tullamore & Athlone attended his last show of the season on Sat 16th April - a great night was had by all, its great to see new members attend these events. Members did not head away empty handed from the show as there was 'one for everyone in the audience' BBQ Summer Set - everyone headed back to Montrose Hotel for a few late night refreshments and I believe Castlebar members did not get home until late on Sunday night!!

New Branch

Rose hopes to launch a new branch in Nenagh Co Tipperary in mid May and we hope that some new faces from Tipperary will attend our National Training Day in June in Tullamore and other events been organised.

Anyone who has contacts Nenagh please contact Rose on 087 2776204.

TRAINING NIGHT IN ATHLONE ATHLONE

JCI Athlone hosted a training night on Tue. 19th April on communication - MacDara Hosty was trainer on the night and over 24 people attended. It was a great night and was supported by members from JCI Tullamore. Also some new members attended on the night and we were delighted with the positive feedback. JCI Athlone under Deirdre's leadership have a very interesting upcoming calendar of events including races in Kilbeggan, cruise on the Shannon & additional training been organised for members.

Keep up the good work in Athlone.

Invitation to a Crayfish Party in Sweden!

Dear National presidents,

I am the conference director of the 48th International Conference & Banquet in Halmstad, Sweden. I would like to invite you and members of your jaycee chambers to our conference in August. This event is well-known among jaycees internationally and we usually have about 200 delegates from 12-14 countries.

The conference will be held right by the beach in August, which is the best month in Sweden. Warm weather, golf, great speakers, get together party and a fantastic banquet is what we can offer you this weekend. If you haven't planned your summer vacation yet, this is the place to go!

You can register online at www.crayfishparty.nu

I hope you can include this invitation in your local newsletter

Welcome to Halmstad!

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JCI Halmstad
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ELVIS, WHISKEY, AND SET DANCING - A short report on Scottish National Conference by Catherine Laffey, Director of International Affairs 2005

Eight delegates set off from Galway airport last Thursday in high spirits. We were joined in Edinburgh by 15 other Irish delegates to attend the JCI SCOTLAND NATIONAL CONFERENCE, hosted by Edinburgh Junior Chamber of Commerce. It was heartening, as Director of International Affairs, to see such a good turnout from Ireland and, I'm sure the rest of the Irish delegation will agree, it was well worth the effort.

The conference team had put together an excellent programme of events for the weekend starting with the TOYP awards on Thursday evening. The welcome party on Friday evening with 'Dead Famous' fancy dress theme was a great opportunity to mix and mingle with fellow members from the UK, Scotland and further a field, although it was hard to identify those you knew among all the Elvises, Cleopatras and Hendrixes. In fact so much effort had been made by some on their costumes that I didn't even recognise our National President!

After a late night on Friday night, we had an early start on Saturday in the Edinburgh University Business School where we were addressed by keynote speakers on the theme of 'Modern Scottish Enlightenment'. This was followed by a civic drinks reception and buffet lunch at the City Chambers hosted by the Lord Provost. There were two fantastic training sessions to choose from in the afternoon - I went along to 'Houdini's Problem Solving Techniques', where we were encouraged to search for the 'elusive obvious' - the answer that is right in front of your nose if only you ask the right questions.

'Our Dynamic Earth' was an inspired venue for the banquet and ball on Saturday night. The evening kicked off with a drinks reception in a rainforest or next to a glacier, followed by a sumptuous meal and the National Awards Ceremony. Our Scottish friends taught us a few steps at the lively Ceilidh and we sampled some of the local whiskey. Anyone left standing after that, danced the remainder of the night away at the disco. One of the highlights of the night for me was the journey back to the hotel on the Club Class bus, where the singing, dancing and partying continued in the most fun bus in the world!

Unfortunately all that dancing and partying until the early hours meant that I slept through the training on Sunday. I was glad I had dragged myself out of bed in time for the farewell lunch in the Heights Restaurant, which has spectacular views of the Castle. All too soon, it was time to leave. It is easy to see why Edinburgh won Best UK City in 2004 and why Edinburgh continues to win Best Chamber in the World and I look forward to a return visit in August for the festival and hopefully, a slower paced weekend!



Invitation from NP JCI Zambia to open trade links

James

I would like you to assist me find someone who will be interested in importing African artefacts, textiles and organic honey from Zambia. I run a small company which sells African artefacts, textiles and organic honey which is in different categories and we can export according to customer specifications. We also sell any quantity and we make sure that our clients get the best quality that they will appreciate.

I will be able to give all the details once you link me up.

Nawa Mwala
National President
JCI Zambia

Please contact James Corcoran for NP Mwala's contact details.

JCI Fingal/ DCU Mentorship 2004/2005 draws to a close by Gráinne Nolan, JCI Fingal

Thursday, 14th April was a momentous date for Junior Chamber Fingal, it marked the calendar of success when 40 mentors and mentees formally "graduated" from this year's Mentorship Programme.

JCI Fingal officially launched the programme with DCU in October 2004, having piloted it there the previous year. We were delighted that JCI World President 2004, Fernando Sanchez Arias was available to speak at the event and it is evident that he inspired many of the mentees to apply to the programme. This year's programme has enabled 40 second year students to gain valuable experience from local business people and graduates, many of them JCI members or friends of the organisation.

Each mentor meets their allocated student formally six times over the course of the programme and all are encouraged to exchange ideas and mentoring by way of email/telephone/informal communication outside the prescribed programme.

Events were organised to gain maximum benefit from a social, motivational, training skills and fun perspective. One of the events was a "Motivational Speakers" evening and JCI Fingal was delighted with the support of MacDara Hosty of Hosty Consulting and Eanna McCloskey of Wealth Options who each provided very different perspectives on motivation. Mentees also gained much from the work shadow days with their mentors and presented fantastic feedback presentations that were enlightening to watch and listen to.

By participating in this programme there is definitely a "win-win" factor for all concerned – students gain an understanding of different industry and professional sectors, their confidence is increased and this automatically leads to an improvement in their presentation skills. Mentors are given an opportunity to review their own career choices, to meet and network with others on the programme and in many cases to "give something back" to the educational system.

With the work complete, the Closing Ceremony was a fitting tribute to all involved. Speaking at the event, National President James Corcoran cited the joint mentoring programme as a wonderful example of "town and gown – university and business community working together for the advantage of all." James himself had been a mentor on the 2003 Programme and he is also a graduate of DCU...some years ago! James paid tribute to JCI Fingal, the Careers Service and Alumni of DCU who were partners to the programme. He commented on his pride as National President to see the programme run with professionalism and dedication, and supported by other members of JCI Ireland.

One of the mentors, Stephen Desmond, a graduate of Communications Studies in 1987, travelled from London where he is currently lecturing, to each of the events and spoke at the closing ceremony. He commented "The Mentorship Programme is especially beneficial because it provides students with the opportunity to directly access current work practices and receive targeted career advice from an experienced person in the field. The camaraderie, career focus and optimism of the Mentorship Programme is a sheer joy for all those involved."

JCI Fingal is delighted to hear that this programme is being adopted by JCI Galway, JCI Melbourne, JCI Bucharest and JCI Croydon. We look forward to a continuing partnership with DCU and believe this programme can only improve with age and experience!

JCI announces "wild-card" entries possibility for JCI World Congress Awards Program by E-Awards Manager Helen Flatley

This week many of you are busy preparing E-award submissions for awards at European Conference in Poitiers. The current rules indicate that only winning awards from each of the Area Conferences (European in our case) are eligible to compete in the World Congress Awards program. However, we have just received the news from JCI Headquarters that there will now be an additional opportunity to get a submission into the World Congress program without going through the European Conference competition first.

The awards entry year is from January 1st 2004 to approximately 2 weeks before the European Conference (May 7th 2005). Entries from all over Europe are currently being compiled for submission. Any winners from each Area Conference Awards Program will automatically be entered in the JCI World Congress Awards program. This means that you do not have to re-enter the winning project into the system again, JCI will do that.

JCI will also be adding an additional opportunity for National Organizations to enter projects in the World Congress Awards Program this year. From July 1st 2005 – September 15th 2005, JCI will open the system to accept new entries for the JCI World Congress Awards Program. The projects entered during this time will be judged prior to the World Congress and one project from each category submitted during this time will be added as a contender with the four projects from the Area Conferences. The "wild card" entry will not be announced until the Awards Ceremony during the JCI World Congress.

For the JCI World Congress, the Awards project year is from January 1st 2004 – September 15th 2005. What this means is that projects you submit either had to be completed during this time frame or the majority of the project had to be completed during this time frame. So for each category there will be four entries (one from each area) and one "wild card". Of these five entries, one winner will be announced at the Awards Ceremony during the JCI World Congress in Vienna, Austria.

So the opportunities for World recognition of your award winning chapter or project are there for the taking. Why not throw your hat in the ring. Ireland are up there with the best of them and we deserve to be recognised as such. It's up to you.

As always, I am here for advice and encouragement. Please contact me at awards@jci-ireland.org any time.

A Day in the Life of the National President of JCI Ireland

I awoke to the alarm at 7.30 am. Friday morning and my last day of my current work mission in Vilnius Lithuania. I had been here since Sunday evening and had a workshop on EU Cohesion funds to reconvene with the staff of the Ministries of Environment, Transport and Finance at 9 am. Breakfast meeting with the team leader before that in the hotel restaurant and agreement on date of next mission.

The EU Commission has repeatedly expressed concern at the poor quality of the financial and economic evaluations of Cohesion Fund applications being received from member states. Many Cohesion Fund supported projects are for tens of millions of euro, all are large public sector construction projects (environment and transport based) and while member states have no problems identifying worthy projects to be funded, justifying them in financial and economic terms remains a challenge, especially for the new member states who are entitled to €6.5 billion euro by 2006. The purpose of my current mission is to provide practical training, support and advice in the complexities of financial and economic evaluation of large scale public projects over the course of this week. To make NPV, IRR, Cost Benefit and Multi criteria analysis interesting and sexy is a challenge, but I couldn't criticise the level of enthusiasm and interest which the officials I am working with are showing, and so I pull on my overcoat and head for the Ministry of Environment.

The training goes well. We have managed to build up a good working rapport during the week and, while the concepts and techniques are difficult to understand and master, the group has worked well and are looking forward to completing the course and putting some of their new skills to work on the four applications which wait for their review, prior to Ministerial sign off and forwarding to the EU for approval. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to work with so many bright and committed young people (the oldest participant is only 25). Lithuania, like many of the former communist countries, is changing fast and its young people, with their western orientated education, are being offered opportunities in the newly independent state which no other generation will get. It is an exciting time to be here.

We close the training at 12 pm. I thank the participants for their commitment and leave them with reference material for review before my next mission to three weeks time. This is a two year project which I will support with ten day missions once a month. We agree on the priorities for the next mission and I head back to my hotel for check out and lunch with one of my colleagues.

I have an early afternoon flight to Gatwick. It is on time and not too crowded so I get time to finalise my speech for tomorrow evening. I am on my way to Edinburgh to attend the JCI Scotland annual convention in my capacity as National President of JCI Ireland. The National President of JCI UK and I will propose the 'friendship toast' to the National President of JCI Scotland. As it is a joint toast it needs a little practicing and rewriting to get the balance between humour and sincerity, avoiding too many 'in-jokes' as the toast will be in the format of an after dinner speech during the President's gala dinner which will be attended by a few hundred members of JCI Scotland.

I spend the waiting time in Gatwick between flights reviewing my notes on the draft EU Constitution. I hope to reach a joint position with the President of JCI UK on the impact of the constitution for our JCI members (young entrepreneurs) over the weekend so that we can finalise our position in the upcoming national debate.

The connecting flight arrives on time in Edinburgh, and after a quick change into a James Dean costume, (the theme of this evenings party is Dead Famous!) it is straight into the meeting and greeting of old friends and colleagues and catching up with the large Irish Delegation in attendance.

Before I retire to bed at 1 am, I take a call to finalise my next mission, to the Ministry of Finance in Zagreb next Tuesday. It will be a flight back to Dublin on Sunday afternoon, unpack one bag and pack another, catch up on some administration and attend a gallery opening on Monday evening before catching the 6.30 am flight to Budapest on route to Zagreb on Tuesday morning. It is a hectic and challenging but hugely rewarding time but I am sure I will miss it when it all ends on December 31st.

James Corcoran is the 2005 National President of JCI Ireland. He is also an economist and public finance expert and Chartered Certified Accountant. He has his own business and works as a consultant, mainly to the EU Commission, supporting the public administrations of the new and applicant member states of the EU in the financial and economic aspects of large capital investments.

Your 2005 National Executive

National President: James Corcoran
Deputy National President: Suzanne Corcoran
Immediate Past President: Eugene Garvin
National Treasurer: Brian Egan
Director of International Affairs: Catherine Laffey
Director of Administration: Rose Ann O'Brien
Western Regional Development Officer: Rosemary Dolan
Director of Individual Development: Tommy Nielson
Public Relations Officer: Grainne Nolan
E-Awards Manager: Helen Flatley
Convention Directors: Aileen Madden & Melissa Dursley