



Monthly Newsletter November 2005

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Letter from the President

Dear All,

What an amazing month October was. Not only did JCI Fingal host an outstanding and very enjoyable National Convention for JCI Ireland but I was also proud to lead a delegation of over 100 from Ireland to an unforgettable World Congress in Vienna. I will remember both events for ever and am very grateful to all of you for making both so special. There are highlights from both which you can read about below but I would like to single out one memory from both to share with you. The business session at National Convention when five outstanding leading women from different fields of endeavour shared their experience with us was both incisive and captivating. I felt privileged to benefit first hand from their experiences and to learn a little about their determination and self less service. I must also confess to shading a tear during World President Kevin's speech after the awards ceremony at World Congress. At that moment, more than any other I felt so proud to be Irish and to have so many members of JCI Ireland with me in Vienna. Thank you all for participating fully in both events and ensuring that they were so successful.

My congratulations go to my close friend and predecessor, both as local chapter president of JCI Fingal and National President of JCI Ireland, Graham Hanlon on his appointment as General Legal Council of JCI International. It is a great honour for JCI Ireland, and a testament to how highly we are regarded that we will hold two positions on the Executive Committee of JCI International in 2006.

I would like to especially thank Director of International Affairs, Catherine Laffey for organising the Irish Delegation so well in Vienna and the two conference directors for National Convention, Aileen Madden and Melissa Dursley for organising the highlight of my year, National Convention 2005.

I was also very privileged to be able to join JCI Cobh chapter President, Darragh in accompanying World President Kevin in his visit to meet the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. I found his holiness to be a most

gentle, sincere and genuine man who, at times appeared to be slightly overwhelmed by his recent election. It was a very moving experience and one I shall always treasure.

Finally, we shouldn't forget that there are still two months to go in 2005. I would encourage you all to use the time left to build on the good work which we have all undertaken this year and to capitalise on the successes and enthusiasm which we bring back from Clontarf and Vienna to promote Media, Membership and Marketing throughout JCI Ireland.

Remember, together we can make a difference.

James Corcoran
National President,
Junior Chamber International, Ireland

Upcoming events:

The Big Weekend incorporating National Awards, Leeds 25th – 27th November

To book on line, go to <http://www.jciuk.org.uk/events.asp> and click on The Big Weekend. Registration for the weekend is £95. Further information and accommodation details are available through the website.

JCI Ireland AGM 2006 - 28th January Commodore Hotel Cobh

JCI Ireland AGM 2006 will be hosted by JCI Cobh. The Venue will be the Commodore Hotel in Cobh.

Burns Supper – February 4th 2006

The Burns Supper 2006 will take place in Edinburgh. For further details please see <http://ejcc.org.uk/burns/>

European National Presidents Summit – February 23rd – 26th 2006

European National Presidents Summit – Vilnius, Lithuania - February 2006 23rd – 26th 2006

Spring Conference – March 24th - 26th 2006

Hosted by JCI Cork in Trabolgan Holiday Village. Details will be presented at AGM.

European Conference 2006 – June 14th to 17th 2006

The European Conference 2006 will take place in Tallinn, Estonia. For further details please see <http://www.ec2006tallinn.ee/>

Update from the Chapters

(Chapters are listed in alphabetical order)

JCI Castleknock

Over 60% of the JCI Castleknock membership are currently recovering from their first World Congress in Vienna, which all agreed was a wonderful experience! Although our delegation of 8 members arrived early on Thursday morning, all were kept very busy from the start. 6 of our members, together with 2 from JCI Dublin gave a wonderful performance of the plain set at the VIP reception in the Pillar room at the MAK Centre on Thursday evening. These members had attended Irish dance classes for the last 5 weeks in order to be ready for this event, and the hours of perspiration and agony definitely paid off as the very receptive audience in the MAK clapped their way through the dance.

On Friday, LOM President Karen had been asked by World President Kevin to propose the vote of thanks for the keynote speaker at General assembly that afternoon. Ms Gillian M Sorensen, Senior Advisor at the United Nations Foundation spoke about the role of the NGO in modern society and after the question and answer session Karen said a few words, proposed the vote of thanks and presented Ms Sorensen with a small gift.

Vienna is renowned for the 3 'W's - Waltzing, Wine and Works of Art. The Castleknock delegation enjoyed all three over the 5 days of their visit and made some new friends as well. We've already had e-mails from new acquaintances from Germany, who hope to visit Dublin soon.

Back on home turf, we are currently working on a 'new' version of the Christmas Giving Tree Appeal in conjunction with Blanchardstown Shopping Centre and hope to launch this in the coming weeks.

JCI Cobh

The past two months have indeed been very busy for JCI Cobh. On Sunday September 19th, JCI Cobh took a stand at an exhibition of Organisations and Businesses organised by Cobh and Harbour Chamber of Commerce. I am delighted to announce that we achieved the "one new member" as sought by JCI President Kevin Cullinane.

JCI Cobh has been continuing with the organising of the 10th Anniversary Gala Black Tie Dinner Dance which will also celebrate the achievements of JCI President Kevin.

On Wednesday October 19th, JCI Cobh President Darragh accompanied JCI President Kevin along with JCI Ireland President James on an official visit to the Vatican to greet Pope Benedict XVI. This was truly a very high point of the year and to witness Kevin making a presentation to His Holiness made for a very special memory for all.

JCI Cobh was well represented at the World Congress in Vienna, when three members joined President Kevin on stage to sing with St Colman's Chamber Choir at the Awards Ceremony. Those members were Cheralyn Finn, Immediate Past President, Dominic Finn, and PRO Orlaith McCarthy.

The next project for JCI Cobh will be the Gala Dinner Dance on November 18th and we will look forward to welcoming as many members of JCI Ireland as possible to the celebration.

Early booking is advised and you can e-mail me: darragh@eircom.net, or by phone 086 1598704.

JCI Cork

JCI Cork are busy planning Spring Conference 2006. This will take place on the weekend of March 24th in Trabolgan Holiday Village. Also incorporated in the weekend will be the public speaking and debating competitions. More details to follow! Make sure to mark this date in your diary!

JCI Galway

Galway branch has had an exciting month packed with lots of entertaining events; we started the month off with a celebration evening in honour of the 5 Awards we received at National Convention in Clontarf. This celebration was held at our monthly meeting and all in attendance got a chance to view the awards received and have a glass of bubbly as well!.

Ballroom Dancing lessons continued throughout the month with JCI Galway member George Conboy as tutor in preparation for the Viennese Waltz in Vienna. In addition to this we had a workshop evening where we learned how to make original designer jewellery that was showcased at World Congress. Many thanks to Emily Jean of Emily Jean Designs for showing us how to create these unique pieces.

Our biggest event of the month was the launch of Young Entrepreneur Award in association with the Galway Advertiser and Price Waterhouse Coopers. We have 14 entrants this year and the judging will start in early November. The Awards ceremony takes place on the 25th November in the Ardilaun Hotel and all are welcome to attend.

We were delighted to have 25 members of JCI Galway attend World Congress in Vienna. Everyone participated in all aspects of the conference and had a fantastic and memorable week.

Last but not least, we are delighted to confirm that our End of Year Event will be held on the 3rd December in the Corrib Great Southern Hotel here in Galway. For further information on accommodation and tickets please contact Catherine Laffey on 087 6315574 or email cat_laff@yahoo.co.uk.

JCI Limerick

Junior Chamber Limerick was delighted to receive the "Best Community Development Programme " award at the National Convention Awards Ceremony in October. This was in recognition of the Chapter's input into the organisation of this year's St. Patrick's Day festivities in the city which was, according to one onlooker, "the best parade ever".

During October, the Chapter organised a Table Quiz in aid of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Four Chapter members travelled to World Convention in Vienna.

Convention 2005 by Andrew Shortall, JCI Fingal

My first experience of a JCI National Convention was in 2004. The event was hosted by JCI Castleknock in the City West Hotel and Country Club. I thoroughly enjoyed it, caught up with some friends and met lots of interesting new people. JCI Fingal had just bid to host Convention 2005, and fortunately our bid was accepted. We looked forward to the opportunity to put on a good show, especially as our Chapter member James Corcoran had just been elected as National President 2005, and Kevin Cullinane was on the verge of being elected as the 60th JCI World President.

In late December Convention Directors Aileen Madden and Melissa Dursley started working on the planning, and in January I was asked if I would fill the position of Registrations Officer. I nervously accepted the position, as I had never done anything like this before. Before long, we were hard at work planning everything for the weekend and I attended AGM in Waterford to help begin the marketing of the event.

Initially, monthly meetings were conducted with major brainstorming, and soon the meetings were conducted twice monthly. As Convention drew nearer we were having weekly meetings and had a "reserved spot" at a bay window table in Clontarf Castle. By September, the vast majority of the weekend's events were in place and everything was coming together. Registrations were still rolling in at the last minute, and emails were flying back and forth.

Then the weekend arrived. I woke up on Friday 7th October 2005, and packed my suitcase for a weekend in the Castle. Around lunchtime delegates began arriving to register and Convention 2005 was under way.



Friday evening kicked off with a moving TOYP ceremony organised by JCI Castleknock. This was a lovely tribute to The Outstanding Young People nominated by members of JCI nationally. The Ceremony was followed by our themed event "Medieval Knights" and it was great to see that so many delegates had put a huge amount of effort into their costumes for the party. Delegates and TOYP guests dined on a delicious buffet and were entertained by a (costumed!) DJ and karaoke session. I managed to crawl into bed at 3am, (despite my best intentions!!) and dragged myself out again at 7am to prepare for Day 2 of Convention.



Saturday morning afforded the opportunity for JCI Ireland's Council to meet and while the business of JCI Ireland was being discussed, our Business Session Manager, Tommy Nielsen & I were preparing for the Business Session and our themed debate, "Enterprising Females?" We had recruited an impressive panel of speakers including Senator Mary O'Rourke, Former Minister for Justice Nora Owen, Her Honour Katherine Delahunt of the Circuit Court, Mr Brian Merriman of the Equality Authority, Ms Heather Ann McSharry, CEO of Boots Healthcare and Ms Muireann Ni Dhuigneain, Head of Careers Service at DCU. A lively and entertaining debate ensued, chaired by Graham Hanlon with much interaction that was enjoyed by all who attended.



Back row left to right

Aileen Madden JCI Fingal & Melissa Dursley JCI Fingal Conference Directors, Muireann Ni Dhuigneain - Head of Careers Service DCU, Mary O'Rourke - Leader of the Seanad, Brian Merriman - PRO Equality Agency, Katherine Delahunt - Circuit Court Judge, Graham Hanlon JCI Fingal, Heather Ann McSharry - CEO of Boots Healthcare Ireland & Nora Owen - Former Minister of Justice.

Front row Aisling Murphy President JCI Fingal, Kevin Cullinane World President JCI, James Corcoran National President JCI Ireland and Tommy Nielsen JCI Fingal.

Following the debate, we broke for the Alternate Delegates programme, which was organised by Ronan Leonard and James Nolan. Two groups went out, one going shopping and the other joining the Viking Splash tour around Dublin. With work to be done to prepare for the Gala Presidential Ball, I stayed at the Castle but by all accounts a great afternoon was had by those who participated in the Alternate Delegates programme.

Our Presidential "007" Themed Gala Ball and a highlight of the weekend took place on Saturday evening. Delegates, sponsors and guests mingled at the Cocktail Reception, sponsored by Boru Vodka and then we sat down to a sumptuous 5-course meal, during which MC for the evening, Nigel Groarke prepared us for the Awards Ceremony to follow. JCI Ireland Chapters ran a range of projects to raise funds for "Operation Hope" a charity established by WP Kevin Cullinane in an effort to relieve those who suffered as a result of the Christmas Tsunami and we were delighted to be able to show those attending a video on the JCI Operation Hope programme. After dinner, JCI UK and JCI Scotland Presidents Julia Lea and Katie Ridland toasted National President James in their Friendship Speech. It was a particularly special bonus to have WP Kevin Cullinane attend National Convention 2005 as JCI Ireland is his NOM and he spoke very highly of his pride in JCI Ireland as a member of JCI. National President James Corcoran, Chapter President Aisling Murphy and Convention Directors Aileen Madden and Melissa Dursley all spoke of their delight in hosting the Conference and paid tribute to the Conference Team who had worked hard to ensure delegates were provided with a weekend to remember. Particular thanks were recorded to our main sponsors AIB who were represented on the night.



At the Awards Ceremony, the Conference Organising Committee had decided to place great emphasis on recipients of Awards and we dressed the stage with giant Oscar statues. In keeping with our James Bond theme, we ran a theme tune quiz. As awards were announced theme tunes from James Bond movies were played and delegates were invited to 'name the movie.' It seems there are a large number of James Bond fans in JCI Ireland. The standard of answers was excellent, and it was very close at the top!!

National President James Corcoran and JCI Ireland recognised the outstanding work completed by the members during the year and awarded them accordingly. I was presented with a Seven Steps award certificate for my small contributions to JCI to date, and this year's graduates of the British Irish Leadership Academy were also recognised. A highlight of the ceremony was when JCI Ireland also recognised the outstanding contributions made by two members, people I feel particularly lucky to count among my friends. Raymond Reilly of JCI Dublin and Tommy Nielsen of JCI Fingal were awarded life long membership Senatorships for their dedication and leadership within the organisation. Both were well-deserved recipients and were very surprised to receive the awards, which made it all the more special.

JCI Galway came away with 5 awards. International Director JCI Ireland and Galway member Catherine Laffey was awarded the Most Outstanding Member. I'm proud to say that once again, JCI Fingal and DCU's Mentorship programme won an award and Fingal's own Grainne Nolan was also honoured as the Most Outstanding Member of the National Executive for her role as National PRO.



With the ceremony over and most of my work done I took the chance to 'let my hair down'. I even got up on the dance floor - something I never do!! When the party officially ended at around 2am some of us then adjourned to the residents' bar for a long "chat". I finally crawled into bed at about 5.30 when I suddenly remembered I had to be up for the Deputy President's training session at 9.30!!

To say I was feeling rather delicate in the training room on Sunday morning would be something of an understatement!! After an informative and enjoyable training session provided by our IVP Kirsty, Katie

Ridland, Graham Hanlon and Helen Flatley it was time for the Caucus and the 2006 National Executive Council elections. I had been nominated to the position of Regional Director East, and I'm extremely proud to have been elected to the role.

After the elections, it was time to close Convention 2005 with the farewell brunch. We had arranged a buffet lunch to allow delegates mix and mingle, and we were entertained by a video presentation from our Estonian friends who will proudly host European Conference 2006. Farewell speeches and "thank you's" done, delegates began to depart for home. After such a weekend, I felt more than a little emotional. The entire team, led by Convention Directors Aileen Madden and Melissa Dursley were no doubt exhausted but were proud to hear that attending delegates were very impressed with and enjoyed Convention 2005. I was proud to have been asked to help out on the Team, and despite the tiredness, I was very glad I did. Convention is such an amazing experience, and I encourage anyone who has yet to attend National Convention to be sure to do so in 2006.

See you there!

JCI President meets Irish Government MEP's & UEN Group President- by Grainne Nolan PRO 2005

Junior Chamber International (JCI) Ireland were given a unique opportunity to meet and work with a selection of Irish MEP's while participating in the recent Know How To Transfer (KHT) Program in Brussels 10th – 12th October.

Initiated and organised by JCI Germany, members of the Irish National Board of JCI were invited to come to the European Parliament for two days to "shadow" their countries MEP's. The program participants totalled 44 in number from 16 countries and included JCI World President 2005, Kevin Cullinane. Mr Cullinane, Graham Hanlon, Commissioner for Business, JCI Europe, Suzanne Corcoran, National Deputy President 2005 JCI Ireland and Gráinne Nolan, Director of Public Relations 2005, JCI Ireland, formed the Irish delegation that participated in the event.

The objective of the program was to increase JCI's visibility in Europe and this was definitely fulfilled. President of the Commission, Mr Jose Manuel Barosso welcomed us to the Parliament and explained that he saw the Commission as being the "catalyst for change." He stressed that bad economic policy leads to failure to fulfil good policy in all other areas of society, he sees "entrepreneurship as the backbone of the European economy, we need to encourage our entrepreneurs" – good news indeed for JCI as a worldwide federation of young leaders and entrepreneurs. Europe now consists of 25 "free nations" with Lithuania and Latvia also in discussion. Commissioner Barosso feels there is much value to be gained working at a European level and this was evidenced by the value gained by the participants on this KHT programme.

JCI Germany, under the stewardship of Immediate Past President, Bert Christmann had ensured there were several other keynote speakers available for the event including Mr Jens Nymand Christensen, responsible for the European Commissions Relations with Civil Society and Mr Vasco Cal who provided an insightful presentation on the Commissions financial programming and budgeting entitled "The Financial Perspectives 2007-2013 - Investing in our Future."

The JCI Ireland delegation, including Kevin Cullinane were invited by the UEN group (Union for Europe of the Nations) of MEP's to 'shadow' them and we were very privileged to be included in their meetings, briefings and plenary sessions. We got to witness, first hand, the fantastic work being carried out on our behalf as Irish citizens by this hard working group made up of Mr Brian Crowley MEP and President of the UEN group, Mr Eoin Ryan and Mr Sean O'Neachtain. They and their political advisors in the Parliament along with their Press Officer, Ms Beirni NiChuininn left no stone unturned to make us feel very welcome. They ensured that we were briefed fully on the meetings we were invited to and welcomed our comments and views. We were also introduced to MEP's from other parliamentary groups, thus increasing our JCI profile greatly.

The Know How to Transfer Programme 2005 was a wonderful initiative and a fantastic experience enhanced by the welcome and work ethic witnessed during our visit to the European Parliament and Commission.

Gráinne Nolan
Director of Public Relations 2005
JCI Ireland



The Big Weekend incorporating National Awards Leeds - 25th – 27th November 2005

The year's JCI UK National Awards Weekend will be hosted by JCI Leeds. However, the organising committee have organised a weekend that is not just about awards and is open to all members of JCI.

A full weekend is planned to give attendees a fantastic flavour of both JCI and the city of Leeds, including a champagne reception and buffet at Tiger Tiger on Friday night, a trip to the Xscape centre, and public speaking competition on Saturday afternoon followed by a celebratory dinner and dancing in the evening. You can enjoy all the planned activities over the weekend or feel free to dip in and out of the programmed events.

For further information or to book online, go to <http://www.jciuk.org.uk/events.asp> and click on The Big Weekend.

Catherine Laffey
Director of International Affairs

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the two recipient's of the First Timer's subsidy for World Congress in Vienna – Anne Healy from JCI Galway and Aine Coulter from JCI Castleknock!

A First Timer's View Of World Congress- by Anne Healy JCI Galway

The 60th JCI World Congress held in Vienna has certainly been my highlight since joining JCI Galway in January 2005. As a first-timer I really did not know what to expect, other than having a lot of fun and late nights with many new people, not just from other chapters within Ireland but also internationally. In preparation, JCI Galway member, George Conboy, did a superb job of teaching us all the basics of waltzing. We also enjoyed an Irish jewellery-making session so that we could be easily identified as being Irish while attending the World Congress.



The Opening Night Ceremony at the Vienna Conference Centre, followed by the Opening night party at the City Hall was an amazing experience. The architecture and vastness of the City Hall alone almost took my breath away. The band was superb and there is no doubt that the Irish certainly made an impression on that particular night.

I attended General Assembly on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday morning. Initially I had preconceptions of what to expect at the assembly mornings, but surprisingly I found myself to be engrossed into the intricacies of how JCI members are elected, and consequently how a team of IVP's, EVP's and of course the World President effectively run JCI at an international level. I also felt honoured to be selected as a first timer to present a gift to Jeffrey Magee, an inspirational speaker at the Saturday morning General Assembly.

There were several trainings to choose from throughout the week, and so it was a matter of choosing the most appealing on the day. On Tuesday I attended Graham Hanlon's debating training session. For a person who has never had the courage to debate in public, Graham made us all feel confident that anyone can master this skill by merely attending four training sessions! Other events that I attended such as the TOYP, the Banzi dinner, the international parties on Friday night, the Closing Ceremony, the mass service at St Stephen's Cathedral and of course not to forget the fun fair demonstrates how I certainly chose to make the most of the World Congress at Vienna.



I would have to say that the highlight of my entire week was not at the Hofburg Palace (although it was a very special night), instead, it was without a doubt the Irish party hosted at the MAK. The music, food, beers, whiskeys to mention but a few went down a treat. We all dressed up in our Irish gear, but one particular JCI Galway member, Rossa Geraghty, made an even more special effort to dress up as a leprechaun! The Irish dancing was a fun experience, not just for the guests but for the Irish also! And to top it off, several of us headed onto Moulon Rouge, and it was from there that our friendships truly developed.

Anne Healy
JCI Galway

DCU Graduate Careers Fair

Through the kind invitation of Muireann Ni Dhuigneain, Head of DCU Careers Service, JCI Ireland were offered a stand at the DCU Graduate Careers Fair held in the RDS on Tuesday 18th October last.

The stand was manned throughout the day by members of the Dublin chapters. Thousands of students visited the fair and by the end of the day we had gathered a list of forty names and email addresses of students who were interested in learning more about JCI and who had requested information.

Arising from this interest, the four Dublin chapters will host an Information Evening on November 23rd in a city centre location. The details of the venue will be confirmed next week. It is our intention to invite those forty students along with JCI guest speakers to the event. The opportunity will also be afforded for the results and findings of JCI Dublin's recent survey to be discussed.

If you are in Dublin on the evening of the 23rd, we would love to see you.

For more details please contact Mark Kelly JCI Dublin on 086 1734959

JCI 60th World Congress News- by Grainne Nolan PRO 2005

The largest ever Irish delegation has just returned from World Congress in Vienna. 74 JCI members and 25 members of St Colmans Cathedral Choir registered for the Conference and we were very proud to be led by the 2005 World President, Kevin Cullinane from JCI Cobh.

JCI Vienna had been planning this event for three years and their planning and preparation skills were very evident throughout the week. A warm welcome awaited all delegates arriving at Vienna

International Airport and the Conference Team ensured that we got off to a good start by providing a shuttle service to each of the Conference hotels. This congress is reported to have had the largest number registered for any world congress with the biggest delegations coming from Germany and Japan (in excess of 700 delegates each). In all, 98 countries participated in the event and each delegate, nearly 5000 in number, was given a nicely packaged gift bag and delegate pack. International Director, Catherine Laffey had travelled a couple of days earlier than the main delegation and had our name badges and packs organised at our hotel, a great help to us all. The information pack could only be described as award winning – it was so informative and easy to follow.

WP Kevin Cullinane opened the first General Assembly and there was much cheering from the Irish delegation when Sec Gen Edison Kodama conveyed good wishes from President Mary McAleese and An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern.

At the Opening Ceremony, delegates were treated to an outstanding piece of entertainment from the Rob Davis Entertainment Group who could possibly be described as the resident band and would certainly give that other Rob (Williams) a run for his money! There were many keynote speakers including the Austrian Minister for Economy, Mr Martin Barthenstein who focused on “the impact of globalisation and the ability of such an energetic group of young people to take away fear and uncertainty among all humans around the world”. WP Kevin was warmly welcomed to the stage and while wishing us all a happy and successful World Congress, he urged us to remember the world wide sufferings of the past year and reminded us that “service to humanity is the best work of life.”



World President Kevin then welcomed all National Presidents onto the stage and ‘our man’ JCI Ireland NP James Corcoran looked very well in his national dress, a kilt and costume kindly sponsored by **Blacktie**, with a replica of the Tara Brooch which was presented to him as a gift. I remarked to him on the night that he should consider it as an option more often!

The Vienna Boys Choir provided musical interludes and set the scene for the wonderful week that was to follow. From the Conference Centre, nearly 5000 delegates made their way to the City Hall for a fantastic opening party, with a Tyrolean theme complete with ice sculpted bars and ski huts. We made sure to fly the Tricolour from the top of the Ice Sculpture and there was plenty of green to be seen - everyone wanted to have his or her photo taken with an Irishman or woman that night. The Rob Davis group and three DJs “rocked” the Town Hall and provided an Opening Party that will surely be remembered for years to come.

Public Transport is fantastic in Vienna and our delegate badges afforded us the use of all forms of public transport free of charge, the systems are very easy to get round but just in case we got lost, conference teams were evident at underground stations for the first few days. Congress director Wolfgang Winkler told us there were 300 Congress volunteers in addition to the 68 members of the Conference Organising Committee!

The Austria Vienna Centre provided the perfect location for General Assembly, the Trade Shows and Training Seminars that happened on a daily basis. 2005 Business Commissioner for Europe and JCI Fingal member Graham Hanlon provided a fantastic training session to a packed room on the topic of Debating. Entitled “Have the last word”, attendees scrambled for space in an effort to learn how to captivate their audience whilst saying (perhaps) absolutely nothing! The seminar was so well supported that participants occupied floor space as well as the chairs provided. Many JCI Ireland members were turned away because of the lack of space ... we’ll just have to arrange a private audience!

All JCI Ireland senators, including JCI Irelands newest Senator, Mr Ray Reilly, attended the traditional senate dinner. In fact some of us were lucky enough to be invited as Guests and the venue chosen for the event was yet another spectacular spot. A pyramid glass roof enabled us to watch a fantastic fireworks display while being treated to beautiful singing from yet another young Viennese choir. That night there was a raffle supporting children’s charities and e3600 was raised. The much-coveted prizes included some leather jackets sponsored by Badener Pelzner and Colin Mealiffes (JCI Tullamore) ticket was one of those drawn. Colin feeling benevolent and generous gifted me his ticket and I am indebted to

him as the proud owner of a beautiful jacket. (Thank you Colin, I haven't forgotten my promise regarding the Liffey Valley Voucher!)



EVP Candidate Graham Hanlon was well supported by the Irish delegation when he gave his Caucus speech during the Congress. As members of JCI Ireland we are accustomed to being impressed by Graham as a speaker, a leader and an ambassador for this organisation but many of the International guests were moved to comment on how great he was following his manifesto speech. In the heel of the hunt, Graham was appointed to the role of General Legal Council, JCI. There have only ever been as many Legal Councils as there have been Presidents of JCI and Graham was proud to accept the appointment, citing that the last Irishman to hold the role was WP Kevin Cullinane! This appoints him to a full voting Executive Committee position and the highest legal position in JCI. Congratulations Graham.

On the social front, JCI Ireland was to the forefront. Under the guidance and stewardship of International Director Catherine Laffey, we participated in two joint ventures with our friends from UK, Australia, New Zealand and Scotland. The first was a dinner held in a traditional Austrian restaurant where people piled their plates from the buffet table and were entertained by songsters. A very famous JCI Ireland delegate (WP Kevin himself) gave us a rousing blast of the Cobh anthem and was ably joined by his family whose arrival was very timely! Great research had gone into the choosing of the venue and the night was a great success.



Another high note was hit for JCI Ireland on the Thursday evening when we hosted a drinks reception in the stately surroundings of the Pillar Room at the MAK Exhibition Centre. This was attended by the Irish Ambassador and provided a very stylish start to a great evening. Those who were lucky enough to have a ticket for the Philharmonic Orchestra were treated to a once in a lifetime experience, the highlight of which was The Bolero. Meanwhile back at the MAK, things were well underway at the Irish Party supported by our BANZSI partners who supplied whiskey, PIMMS, wine and beer. The Irish Stew was "gobbled up" by our International guests and they were left in no doubt that the Irish are used to throwing a party. Thanks to all who lent a hand (or two!) on the night.

As is traditional, JCI Ireland provided Congress delegates with much entertainment at the Debating Competition. We were very well represented by Rossa Geraghty and Stephen Murray (JCI Galway) and Ronan Gingles (Waterford). Unfortunately the boys were narrowly beaten in the semi final by their Australian opponents but did us proud as a delegation. Congratulations and thanks too to Joyce Sheerin (JCI Dunlaoghaire) who assisted with the adjudicating.

During the week, many of the Irish delegation were provided with a unique opportunity to 'shadow' Kevin Cullinane and Graham Hanlon. Suzanne Corcoran ran her rota with military precision thus affording everyone equal time with the lads. This exercise provided us with great insight into the hard work carried out "behind the scenes" by both Kevin and Graham and their campaign teams whilst exhibiting a JCI Ireland presence and support. I had the pleasure of working with Joyce Kelly (JCI Dunlaoghaire) and Mariella Macleod (Aide a Comm to Kevin) on a very important day. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) under which companies do



business committing them to social fairness was a big topic at this years JCI Congress and the signing of the Treaty was certainly a highlight. On Thursday 27th October, Joyce, Mariella and I accompanied Kevin when he met a host of prominent Treaty supporters, including Ms Gillian M Sorensen, Senior Advisor at the United Nations Foundation. The rules set out by the Treaty encompass general principles such as the condemnation of child labour, the violation of human rights or the causing of harm to the environment for pure profit oriented reasons. It embraces principles of doing business in a fair way while respecting rights of employees, the respect of consumer interests and the commitment to social integration. Speaking at the signing ceremony, the Austrian Federal President Mr Fischler congratulated JCI for its commitment to do business in a socially responsible way. Not surprisingly, this event attracted much media attention and featured on the Austrian 6 o'clock news.



There were many highlights during the week of World Congress but for me the one I will remember for a very long time will be the Awards Ceremony and Presidential Inauguration. Watching WP Kevin Cullinane officiate over this ceremony I remarked that Pat Kenny may watch his job – we have a budding TV presenter in our midst! Regrettably there were no JCI Ireland recipients of awards on the night but we were an extremely proud delegation who watched WP Kevin hand over the chains of office to incoming 2006 President Lars Hajsland from Denmark. Kevin then made a very moving “closing speech” and left JCI Ireland without a dry eye between us. He told us he was looking forward to going home to the town he loved so well following a year in which he had

promised to lead the JCI organisation as an Irish President who would not disappoint. I know I speak for us all in saying that we were consistently proud of “our” President. In his closing remarks he recited the words of a well-known Irish hymn “May the Road Rise to meet you”

May the road rise to meet you,

May the wind be at your back,

May the sun shine warmly on your face,

May the rain fall softly on your fields

And until we meet again, may you keep safe in the loving arms of God

At this point, the Cathedral Choir of St Colmans started to sing the song and WP Kevin left the stage only to return in his choir “costume” to join in the singing. It was a fantastic “sign off” with great choreography and the Choir received a standing ovation. Leaving the auditorium (and my Elizabeth Arden makeup on the floor) I spoke to lots of International delegates who congratulated us on “our” President and the wonderful job he has done this year.

All too soon, Saturday was upon us and it was time to prepare for the jewel in the crown of World Congress 2005. Profits in the hairdressing business in Vienna must have gone through the roof as the female delegation attending the Congress fought for space in the appointment books at the local Coiffeurs!

We were a very well turned out delegation led by National President James who rolled up to the Imperial Palace for the Presidential Viennese Ball. Dancing is like breathing to the people of Vienna, its just another part of their lives and to ensure we were sure footed on the night, Waltzing classes were available throughout the week. The Congress Team secured the full use of the Palace for the event and through every door and archway there was a sight more opulent and spectacular than the one before. Delegates dined on a buffet that never ceased and drank from an ever-flowing supply of fine wines. Entertainment was provided by Big Bands, Brass Bands, Jazz Bands and One Man Bands and unlike Cinderella we danced until 4am. For those who were weary there was even a Viennese Style Tea Room serving pastries and delicacies all through the evening. It was a very grateful group of Irish delegates who gave their feet a break and availed of this offering in the wee small hours!



Though not in bed very long, the Irish delegation turned out in great numbers to hear WP Kevin sing with St Colmans choir at 12 O'clock mass at St Stephens Cathedral on Sunday morning. This was another very proud occasion and we were delighted to be welcomed as an Irish delegation by the celebrant of the mass. It was obvious too that the choir had attracted a larger than usual group of visitors to the Cathedral that morning. Warmed by a welcome glass of gluwein following the mass we began to go our separate ways and prepare for our return home. It was a lovely end to a lovely week.

Looking back, JCI's 60th World Congress in Vienna was a fantastic experience, organised by a hard working Congress Team. It was a fitting tribute to a wonderful 2005 JCI Presidency attended by a great Irish delegation. It was my first World Congress but one I will remember forever and one I think will be difficult to follow and surpass.

Gráinne Nolan

Director of Public Relations 2005

JCI Ireland

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Deputy National President: Suzanne Corcoran

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