

GUIDELINE

Newsletter of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors

October 2001

Introducing Our New President

Our new President Brian Mooney writes: I am still getting over the shock of the honour that you have bestowed on me in electing me president for the next two years. The last week has been a frantic one as I have consulted widely among the members of the institute and with those outside our body whose decisions affect us.



I have been deeply impressed by the quality of service provided by Anne Guilmartin in Herbert Street, ably assisted by our own Helen Ó Colmáin, who took on the role of dealing with professional issues in the spring, following on Kathleen Brennan's appointment as Inspector. I hope to be able to provide members with a full five-day service from head office in the very near future. I would ask members to assist us in providing a comprehensive service by ensuring that we have your current details, school and home address and telephone numbers, and most importantly your personal E-Mail

ID. Take five minutes now to send us this information at: igc@indigo.ie

As President my most important concern is maintaining the professional integrity of our profession. As a course coordinator in UCD I was dismayed when for complex reasons our initial training programme so ably directed by Margaret Daly since 1995 was discontinued. This decision strikes at the heart of our profession by removing the only comprehensive entry-level course for guidance in County Dublin. This is not the time for recriminations and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Benson for his support for guidance over the years. This is a time to look anew at the needs of guidance throughout Ireland, and to build a new programme within UCD, drawing on the strengths of departments across a number of faculties. Any new course would have to address the needs of members working with both adults and children, and be structured in a

way to utilise the benefits of information technology. I will endeavour to use my influence, to encourage my colleagues in UCD, to design and launch such a programme in the coming year.

I am deeply concerned about the issue of professional supervision. From discussions which I have had in recent days, it would appear to me, that if one of us got into difficulties of a legal nature, concerning the quality of our counselling work, we would not be supported by those in whose name we undertake our work. For those members whose work entails one to one counselling, it is essential that the state provides a comprehensive professional

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Two welcome initiatives from DES.

1. The Institute welcomes the School Guidance Enhancement Initiative introduced this May by the Minister for Education and Science. 50 full time posts were created and 103 schools benefited. Further details are available on the DES website: www.irlgov.ie/educ

We hope a similar scheme will operate again next Summer and in the years to come. If you applied this year and were disappointed you may

phone the Dept. to find out the criterion used and where your school ranked.

2. The Minister for Education and Science has recently announced the allocation of funding for the purchase of assessment services from suitably qualified private practitioners pending the recruitment of the full complement of psychologists to NEPS. Full details are available on Dept website: www.irlgov.ie/educ

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supervision service, to ensure that the counselling provided to the most vulnerable in our society, those under emotional and psychological distress, is of the highest standard. This is not an issue on which we can afford to compromise. Vulnerable people deserve the highest quality of counselling available and professional supervision of those providing the service is an integral part of the process. The mind boggles when one realises, that the Department of Education, is still paying the salaries, of some people, with no counselling training, who have been employed by highly irresponsible principals to carry out the work of guidance and counselling. Have they any idea of the potential legal consequences of such payments, apart from the cost in human pain and misery?

When are those in positions of power going to realise that investment in effective guidance and counselling is highly cost effective? Not providing either children or adults with effective guidance and counselling time, waste enormous resources down the line.

Looked at purely from the perspective of a Department of Finance mandarin, how can one justify, the thirty thousand pounds saved in a guidance counsellors salary by maintaining a 500 to 1 ratio, when the cost in wasted resources in third level college costs with huge drop out rates in many courses, could be ten times as high. I will not ask my imaginary mandarin, to factor in the cost in human misery, of guidance and counselling forgone, as he might have difficulty finding an appropriate column to record it in. I would call on Government to learn the lessons of the Bridget Mc Cole case, and look beyond the short term saving, to the long term costs, borne by those, in whose name, and on whose behave, you govern. Give us the tools to do our job properly. As your President over the next two years I intend to lead the fight over the issues raised above.



**INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
BLANCHARDSTOWN**

Careers Officer

Would *you* have the necessary skills to assist third level students and graduates with career choices?

Have *you* experience in the area of graduate recruitment / placement?

Do *you* have a post-graduate qualification in career / employment counselling?

If the answer is “YES”, the **Institute of Technology Blanchardstown** may have an opportunity for you.

The Institute of Technology Blanchardstown has a vacancy for the position of

Careers Officer.

This is a part-time post, to be filled on a contract basis, for the academic year 2001 / 2002 (contract ending June 2002). The person appointed will be required to work 8 hours per week in the Institute during term time.

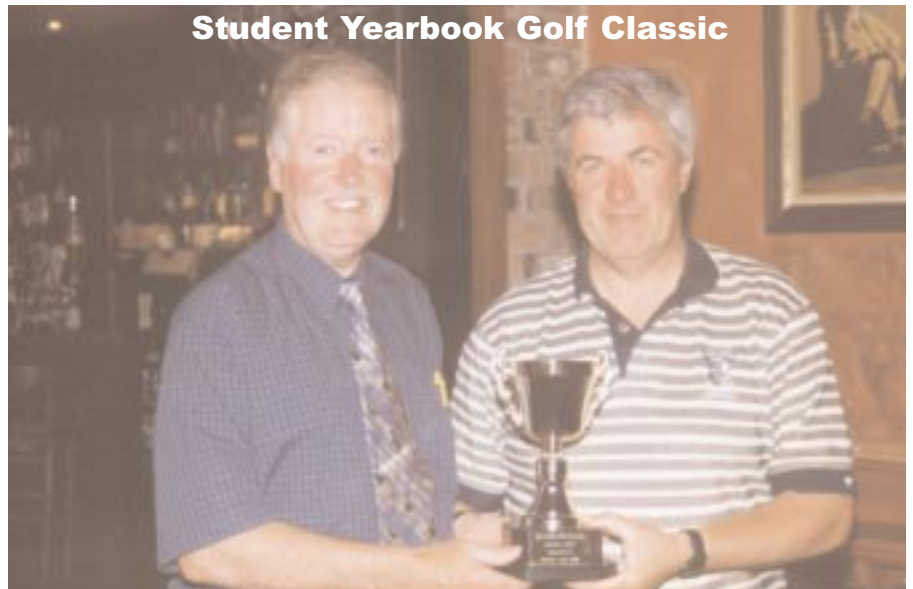
Further information and application form available from:

Lisa Whelan
Registrar's Office
Institute of Technology Blanchardstown
Blanchardstown Road North
Dublin 15

Tel: 01-8851000 Fax: 01-8851001 Email: lisa.whelan@itb.ie

Website: www.itb.ie

Student Yearbook Golf Classic



Receiving the “Student Yearbook” Golf Classic Cup from Joe Duddy, is Eamonn Gaffney of St Peter’s College Dunboyne. The annual event was again a great success due to the trojan organisation by Michael Roberts. Get your clubs shined up and bring a friend to our next outing next June 2002.

In Service Training Course for Guidance Counsellors in the North East

Following the recent allocation of 50 additional new guidance and counselling posts in second level schools by the Department of Education and Science, a special in-service training course for all the guidance counsellors who work in the second level schools throughout counties Cavan, Louth, Meath and Monaghan was held in the Glencarn Hotel, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan on Wednesday last (26th September 2001).

The main focus of this course was on how best to provide the most effective and most efficient professional guidance and counselling services to all students in our second level schools - and to their parents - in today's rapidly changing socio-economic, multi-racial and multi-cultural society where there is ready access at hand to so many different choices of educational, training and employment opportunities available to students and parents alike.

Over 40 guidance counsellors, drawn from almost every second level school in the four counties of the North East, were in attendance.

This course was jointly organised by the local branch of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors and the Guidance Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Science.

The main speakers and facilitators for this course included Ms. Kathleen Brennan (the recently appointed Inspector of Guidance), Ms. Maureen Bohan (Department of Education Psychologist), Ms. Niamh Mernagh (Adult Guidance Inspectorate), Mr. Seamus McDermott (Director, Monaghan Education Centre), and the officers of the local branch of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors - Mr. Joseph Hanratty (Chairperson) Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney, Mrs. Patricia Flynn (Course Co-ordinator) Larcy College Clones, Ms. Christina Johnston (Secretary) St. Louis Secondary School, Carrickmacross, Mrs. Rose Luby (Treasurer), Cavan College of Further Studies and Mr. Eamonn P. O'Boyle (PRO), De La Salle College, Dundalk. Monaghan Education Centre provided the secretarial back up and also sponsored the venue and costs incurred for this course.

Eamonn P. O'Boyle

Visiting Guidance Counsellors

Vivian Cassells

Ireland has become the most popular venue in Europe for visiting Guidance Counsellors. There are many reasons for this. First and foremost there is the belief that our Guidance and Counselling service is the best in Europe. The many Guidance Counsellors who have hosted visitors over the years will bear testimony to this. Equally important is the hospitality afforded by our hosts, much of it well and above the call of duty. Examples abound of visiting Guidance Counsellors being wined and dined, given conducted tours of local beauty spots and visits organised to various forms of entertainment.



would like to hear something of the work of the Guidance Counsellor in Irish schools. In order not to have them under your feet all day a visit to a local third-level/further education institution would be appreciated.

If you are prepared to host 2 Counsellors on Wednesday, November 14th please contact me without delay and I will send you details of your visitors.

Tel:01-6682880 Fax:01-6673389
Email:vcassells@esatclear.ie

Thank you for your continued support for these study visits.

Many of those who host have yet to undertake a visit to an EC country. Those who have, are affirmed in the work they are doing in their own schools on a daily basis.

The 2001/2002 season starts in November with a visit from 12 Guidance Counsellors from Denmark accompanied by two officials from their Ministry for Education. The programme arranged for them involves a visit to the Masters Programme in Guidance and Counselling at Trinity College, a day at NCGE as well as visits to FAS, Youthreach, and Aontas. But the highlight of their visit will be their visit to schools.

So I urgently need seven schools to host 2 Counsellors each on Wednesday, November 14th. They

Teen Between

Teen Between is a Counselling service based in Dublin for young people experiencing difficulties as a result of their parents' separation. After the workshop I gave at the annual Guidance Counsellors' Conference held at UCD last year, several Guidance Counsellors expressed an interest in training in this area to help them in their work in school.

We are now in a position to offer up to 16 places on a training programme that takes place over two weekends 30th November -2nd December 2001 and February 22nd -24th 2002 in our premises 81 Grafton Street Dublin 2. The cost for the training is £500

Those interested in applying please either, phone 01 6710902, or write to Teen Between 24 Grafton Street Dublin 2. for an application form.

Clare Missen

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Fred Tuite

This is the first edition of Guideline under my editorship. I take over from Michael Roberts who has moved on to higher things in becoming the National Treasurer of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors. He will still retain a central role in Guideline and certainly will be needed to ease me into the task. The excellent work he did in editing Guideline like that of Loretta Jennings before him is greatly appreciated.



making a regular donation of some of the small change of your wealth of experience. The need is great.

Send your items to Fred Tuite at Heywood Community School, Ballinakill, Co. Laois or use your computer to send it via email (if you

don't know how -ask a student!) to fredtuite@eircom.net.

This newsletter relies on its contributors and ultimately is only as good as the material that it is sent by them. Information is the lifeblood of our work and as so many of us operate as sole practitioners in a school we get relatively little opportunity to compare notes or share ideas. Using the pages of Guideline as a sounding board, a notice board or a voice of the bored is what it is all about. We encourage you to share with the readership the fruits of your knowledge, the activities of your branch, the experiments and findings of your work. So much of our work is often unseen, unnoticed and unappreciated that maybe it is time to let a larger audience know just what it is you do all day.

So we make this appeal for items. Please send what you can, however small. Perhaps you could consider

Shooting the Messenger

Gerry Tynan - Conference Administrator

Having to contact people during the week preceding the 2001 Conference & AGM to advise intending attendees that there was no room left for them, while most were very accepting some were not so pleased. In reply to those who felt we should have stated the limits I wish to make these points;

- Every conference in the past has had a limit on the numbers who could attend. It just happens that in the year 2001 this limit has been achieved and will again be achieved in the future.
- If an absolute date is defined as being a closing date then those of you who get late permission to attend from your principal would be prevented from attending even if there were spaces available. Having said that it

Guideline on the Web

As with most things nowadays, the move is towards E business and it affects us all in some way. The IGC is also travelling this road and some of you will have already seen Guideline on the Web Site. All future issues will be posted on the Web Site in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format.

Over the next few months some of the back issues will also be posted for future reference.

takes a lot of work very close to the conference to accommodate these people.

- It takes a lot of coordination with a lot of people to make large events like this happen, if early on it is seen that we may be short on spaces in workshops then the time will be available to rectify this. If the organisers are left with less than 3 weeks notice as to the numbers wishing to attend then some people are going to be dissatisfied.. (more than 90 of you gave less than one weeks notice)
- For every conference a date where a full refund will be available is published, even if you don't know that it is possible to attend, return the booking form and the correct remittance, if later you discover that it is not possible to attend then contact the indicated person and cancel the booking (no cost to you if before the first cancel date).
- If you send your booking after the Early Bird date the full conference fee will be applied without exception.
- If you have a reasonable and constructive suggestion with regard to the running of conferences, then we would be glad to hear from you.

HIGHER OPTIONS CONFERENCE

The 2001 Higher Options Conference was regarded as highly successful by students who thronged the concourse in large numbers each day. The attendance of over 20,000 demonstrated that for our students it is still a worthwhile venture. The fact that we had no problems over the three days is due, in no small measure, to the willingness of Guidance Counsellors to supervise key areas. The conference could not run efficiently without the expertise of Guidance

Counsellors in keeping a watchful eye over proceedings, especially at times when numbers attending were at their highest.

We would like to thank sincerely all those Guidance Counsellors who volunteered for a variety of roles. The safety of the students and the benefits they got from the Conference may be attributed to your co-operation.

*Many thanks
Anne Rafferty & Anne Tuffy*



NUI MAYNOOTH

Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad

Does €1000 motivate you?

NUI Maynooth believes that your efforts should be rewarded



New Scholarship Scheme

The University is introducing a new Entrance Scholarship Scheme which aims to reward students who have obtained over 500 points in their Leaving Certificate Examination (best six subjects in one sitting) or three subjects in GCE A-levels.

Successful students will be awarded €1000 during their first academic year, following their admission to the University; in addition, a place will be reserved for them in one of the new Campus Apartments for their first academic year, irrespective of their commuting distance to the University (normal charges will apply).

NUI Maynooth Degrees

MH101	Arts
MH102	Finance
MH103	Music
MH104	French & Historical Studies
MH105	German & Historical Studies
MH106	Psychology
MH201	Science
MH202	Biotechnology
MH203	Computer Science & Software Engineering
MH204	Physics with Astrophysics
MH205	Theoretical Physics & Computer Science
MH206	Theoretical Physics & Mathematics
MH207	Computational Biology & Bioinformatics
MH208	Biological Sciences
MH301	Computer Engineering
MH302	Electronic Engineering
MH303	Communications Engineering
MH304	Common Entry in Computer, Electronic and Communications Engineering

- Candidates will be selected automatically; no special application is required.
- Successful students will receive €500 on November 1st and €500 on February 1st.

For further details contact the Admissions Office:

Telephone: 01 708 3822

Fax: 01 708 4614

Email: admissions@may.ie

www.may.ie

For information on Student Accommodation contact the Residence Office at: 01 708 3826/7

Eating Disorders Association Ire.

Donna O'Connor-Hunnisett

Understanding Eating Disorders

While on the surface eating disorders appear to be about food, they are fundamentally the outward expression of deep psychological and emotional turmoil.

The person views the eating disordered behaviour as the solution to his or her problems; only when the effects of their behaviour become physically and psychologically unbearable do they realise they are trapped and the eating disorder itself has become the dominant problem.

Eating disorders can affect people of all ages however most sufferers are females between the ages of 15 and 25. The youngest case diagnosed and recorded in Ireland was a girl of 8, and her circumstances were uniquely rare. One in ten sufferers in Ireland are male.

Misconceptions

Anorexia and Bulimia are not mere "slimming diseases", nor are they attention-seeking behaviours. People with anorexia have not lost their appetite, they have lost the ability to let themselves eat; food dominates their thoughts - what they can resist and how; what they will allow themselves to eat and when, and how much exercise they will need to do to "burn off" the calories. Eating disorders are not a way of committing suicide (that is a very separate issue), they are the sufferer's way of coping with life.

Recovery

The earlier the eating disorder is recognised, diagnosed and treated the better the long-term prognosis and prevention of recidivism. The recovery period can be long and slow. Experience has shown that the family plays an important role in the process of recovery. Complete recovery is possible. Diagnosis should always be made by a medical practitioner, due to the serious physiological damage that can occur, diagnostic testing and on-going monitoring is often necessary.

The Vision and Mission of E.D.A.I are related directly to providing awareness, information, understanding and support for primary and secondary and prevention. We know that accurate information, support and hope are essential to an individual's recovery and to the family's ability to survive during a period of extended crisis. Individuals with eating disorders are often isolated and afraid. They need skills to take charge of their lives and, support at every stage of healing. Parents are often filled with sorrow, self-blame and hopelessness. They require relevant factual information, and resources for their children and a place where they can find understanding and assistance.

Our services include: a network of self-help groups for sufferers and their friends and families. These groups are run by trained facilitators. We provide an advice and helpline with extended hours (01-4126690). We also provide workshops, training sessions and lectures on the various areas and aspects of eating disordered behaviour.

Our Recovery Programme is based on Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, which is widely and extensively used in eating disorder recovery throughout North America and the U.K. and, based on reliable research studies, is the most effective approach to full and complete recovery. Our Primary and Secondary Prevention Programme and, Self-

esteem and Empowerment workshops for teenagers and young adults are based on Dr. William Glasser's Reality Therapy/Choice Theory.

We are members of the European Council on Eating Disorders, which is the relevant governing body and with their permission are organising the Irish Council on Eating Disorders, which will offer a recognised training course and diploma for qualified counsellors and psychologists in Ireland. There is a need for this training as it has been necessary for those wishing to qualify to do so in North America or the U.K. previously. The Irish Council will provide counsellors and psychologists etc. working and interested in this field, an opportunity to get together to discuss important issues, problems, and will also offer on-going professional development and supervision. Guidance Counsellors input and membership welcomed.

EDAI is run on a voluntary basis by ex-sufferers, their family members, counsellors (Trinity College placement for graduate students) and healthcare professionals. There is always a need for more. We are partly funded by the Health Board and receive many referrals from them.

Donna O'Connor-Hunnisett, M.A. Psych.
Clinical Director
donnaoc_2000@emailfast.com

Dr. Ruari O'Driscoll
Executive Director

Help/Information Tel: 01-4126690
Central Office, P.O. Box 8114, Dublin, 6.

Advertising Rates

Full A4 - £300 - €380*

1/2 A4 - £200 - €250*

1/4 A4 - £150 - €190*

Pre-printed insert rates available on request

* £25 or €35 reduction applies for camera ready copy

How Enhanced Do You Feel?

Vivian Cassells.

How did you fare in the Guidance Enhancement Stakes?

Were you one of the runners caught in a blanket finish and didn't get even a .5? Or were you one of the many left at the post going the wrong way without even an each-way bet?

One way or the other you will have to agree that it was a most innovative scheme and one that has every possibility of being repeated.

This initiative poses many questions that will exercise the minds of our Executive Committee over the next few months. It looks, for instance, that the ploy of harping back to '83 must be abandoned. If the enhancement scheme is a step in the right direction, then we must assess how it has affected the ratio in the schools concerned.

The first positive outcome of this scheme was that it challenged schools to outline in detail what they were doing with the guidance hours they already had. Every school has 8 hours, for instance, but how many schools used these hours for guidance purposes? How many schools used such hours to lighten the teaching load of post-holders?

Among the submissions from schools were some superb examples of what a guidance programme can achieve. The case these schools made for an extra provision to enhance their work further was irrefutable. They just had to get either a full post or share one with a nearby school. A note of warning to all schools that benefited from the enhancement scheme -put your plans in place as soon as possible. If this scheme is to continue it will depend on how this year's allocation was implemented, as much as financial considerations.

As enhanced hours become available in schools it once again will challenge the guidance counsellor to look at his/her role within his/her school. One of the interesting observations to come out of this year's scheme is the number of teachers straying into the

guidance area in schools. The guidance area in some schools is becoming as crowded as the late night bar at the AGM!

What, for instance is the role of the school chaplain?

I do not refer to the person who comes in to organise the occasional Religious service, but the layperson who rejoices in the same name-chaplain. There is a feeling abroad that some guidance counsellors see the appointment of a chaplain as a way of passing on their counselling role. There is an inherent danger in this mind set. The counselling role is becoming increasingly central to an effective guidance and counselling service. Guidance counsellors speak of their increasing role with First Year students, for instance. The counselling role is time consuming and demands increasing upskilling-(compliments to the Dublin Branch for their excellent on-going series on depression). So, if Guidance Counsellors decide to off-load the counselling role what will they be left

with? With increasing use of websites for career information and the CAO online services increasingly user friendly, what is the future for the prospectus, or the mound of information on courses held in a counsellor's head? Straight away I hear a chorus of 'what about the personal touch'? But how highly regarded will the 'personal touch' be among a generation of text messages and easy Internet access?

I pose the question out of a growing personal fear that in an increasingly crowded guidance/pastoral care area, that which guidance counsellors do best, will pass into less qualified and less experienced hands.

Maybe I am losing the plot as I mull over such matters in my rocking chair. But I have a feeling that there are others who share my views.

Even though the Enhancement Stakes have not been announced in the 2002 Racing Calendar - get in training so that at least you will be facing the right way when the 'OFF' is declared.

Thanks to our AGM Sponsors

The organising committee and the National Executive would like to acknowledge and thank all those companies and organisations who sponsored the National Conference and AGM 2001.

Allied Irish Bank has been a main sponsor both this year and last year and have indicated their desire for continued involvement in the future, and for this we are very grateful. IT Sligo, Enterprise Ireland, Shannon College of Hotel Management, Portobello College.

To those who took stands at the exhibition, AIB, ACCA, Best Guides, Cambridge Occupational Analysts, Cavan College of Further Studies, CERT, Dublin Business School, Dublin City University, Dun Laoghaire College of Art, Enterprise Ireland,

ETC Consult, Further Education and Training Awards Council, Greenmont College, Higher Education and Training Awards Council, Irish Banks Information Service, NCGE, National College of Ireland, NUI Maynooth, Nursing Career Centre, Organisation, Office of Civil Service & Local Appointment Commissioners, Prospects Distribution Services, Qualifax, Shannon College of Hotel Management, Tipperary Rural & Business Development Institute and Careers World.

Thanks also to Enterprise Ireland for the Conference Bags and to Teen Between for providing all members attending the Annual Conference in Dun Laoghaire with a very useful Resource Pack, 'AN EYE TO THE FUTURE'.

Science in crisis?

Billy Ryle

Because of unprecedented growth in the economy during the nineties and with its well-educated workforce, Ireland is well established in the high skills value market. Over the past few years there has been phenomenal growth in the electronics, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, computer and communications technology sectors. But despite Ireland's position at the forefront of an increasingly competitive market, the country is sorely lacking in young people who are scientifically and technologically knowledgeable.

Despite a vigorous promotion campaign by the Government during the last few years, the number of young people taking a science subject at Leaving Certificate level continues to fall. Even more alarming is the consistent decline in the number of applicants listing a science course as one of their course choices on the CAO application form. Apparently, scientific research is not flavour of the month with young people. It seems that misguided images of the Mad Scientist or the Nutty Professor still prevail. The present cohort of young people is addicted to mobile phones, Internet, Play Stations and DVD's, but it looks as if that interest is based on applying and enjoying the software rather than understanding the underlying scientific concepts that make them work.

State spending on the promotion of science and technology has increased from about £750,000 in 1996 to a whopping £1 billion last year. The Government's campaign has certainly increased awareness of scientific advancements amongst the general public. There is widespread acknowledgement that scientific and technological advancements are making life healthier, easier and more comfortable. However, it is crystal clear that the level of interest in how science evolves is not very high. The public at large is far more concerned about the manner in which it impacts on their lifestyle.

At Leaving Certificate level, the low take-up in Chemistry and Physics, in particular, is a cause of major concern. The number of students pursuing these subjects continues to be a source of disappointment when you consider the massive amount of money spent by the Government, in recent years, to boost the popularity of these subjects. Many

students continue to regard Chemistry and Physics as elitist subjects. They perceive these two subjects, in particular, as being difficult to understand and to study. The required laboratory work doesn't seem to arouse their sense of curiosity or experimentation. Significantly, these subjects have become associated in the minds of young people with high achievement. In other words, you steer clear of them, unless you need one or more of them for college entry. The percentage of Leaving Certificate students taking Physics has dropped from about 20% in 1987 to about 16% at present while the percentage taking Chemistry has dropped even more sharply from 19% to about 12%. Only Biology is just about holding its own with about 40% of candidates taking that subject in the examination. There are some practical reasons for that. While most schools have no difficulty in offering Biology, experienced teachers of Physics and Chemistry are more difficult to recruit. The world of industry is far more attractive to science graduates where the earning potential is far greater than it is in the teaching profession. In a deliberate attempt to boost the number of science graduates entering the teaching profession, a number of third level institutes such as University College Cork, Dublin City University and University of Limerick, are now offering science teaching degrees. Hopefully this initiative will increase the supply of science teachers, particularly in physics and chemistry. Another reason why Biology is by far the most popular of the science subjects is down to the fact that a laboratory science subject is a compulsory subject requirement for entry to the nursing profession. Female students, in particular, tend to include this subject in their package of subjects for Leaving Certificate. With the number of students sitting for the Leaving Certificate exam likely to take a downward curve during the next few years, there is now grave concern that the numbers taking the physical sciences will decline rapidly. The long-term consequences for the economy of that scenario are beyond contemplation.

No later than last Summer, IBEC, the employers' organisation, expressed concern about the minuscule increase in the number of candidates applying to the

CAO for a science/applied science course in the light of the labour shortage in this sector. Industry bosses fear that the negligible increase to 5,257 from an already very low base of 5,247 will threaten development in and expansion of science based industries. Indeed, the figures for engineering/technology will also give rise for concern as first preference applications dropped from 9,743 last year to 9,423 this year.

As was widely anticipated by Guidance Counsellors, points requirements for science courses remained at last year's relatively modest levels and, in a number of cases, fell again this year, as concern continues to grow about students' declining interest in studying science at third level. Third level science personnel are hopeful that a new curriculum in physics and chemistry will help to increase interest among second level students. They are also very anxious to tackle the causes for the small number of female students taking science at Leaving Certificate level. Despite the vigorous promotion campaign by the Government overall applications for science-based courses continue to remain at a very low base.

Introducing the sixth annual science, technology and innovation awareness program, the Minister for Education and Science made reference to the urgent need for more young people to take an interest in science. He also pointed out that science offers young people both intellectual challenge and the chance of a fulfilling life. He said that expertise in science and technology is central to industrial strategy. As well as its campaign to improve awareness of science amongst the general public, The Department of Education and Science is attempting to resolve the problem in other ways. Plans for a new science curriculum at primary level, which will help create interest in the area, are well advanced. The various science syllabi have been revised and updated, while the Government has invested £15 million in the modernisation of school laboratories. But it will be several more years before these initiatives make any real impact on the attitude to science of second level students. In the interim, the problem looks as if it might get worse before it gets better.

Billy Ryle is a Chartered member of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors

Address by Róisín A. Kelleher President, Institute of Guidance Counsellors At Annual Conference

**ROYAL MARINE HOTEL, DUN LAOGHAIRE, CO. DUBLIN.
FRIDAY 5 OCTOBER, 2001**

This is the fourth opportunity that I have had to address you as President of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors. As you know our Annual Conference was due to take place in Sligo in March of this year. We wish to thank the organising committee of the Sligo branch for the work that they put into the organising of the conference that would have taken place but for the foot and mouth outbreak at the time. I now wish to thank the organising committee consisting of National Executive Members who organised this Conference and AGM.

On this occasion I wish to give an overview of the main developments that have taken place since I was elected to lead the Institute in Kilkenny in March 1997. I would also like to refer to the current position in guidance and counselling and to take a look at future issues relating to guidance and counselling that will need ongoing attention.

Much of my time since taking up office has been spent in creating a greater awareness of the necessity of having an adequate guidance and counselling service put in place in second level schools and colleges in this country. I have also promoted the importance of having guidance and counselling at third level. In addition the provision of guidance and counselling for adults has been a priority with me.

It has taken much time and effort on the part of many people within the Institute to arrive at the point where we are now. Speaking personally, I have found it to be extremely difficult to convince various parties of the necessity and importance of having a satisfactory guidance and counselling service in this country. The parties that I refer to include: Ministers for Education, Department of Education Officials, Department of Finance, School Management, Sections of the Media, and certain other organisations.

You as guidance counsellors involved with students on a day-to-day basis, with in many instances inadequate resources, lack of support and understanding for the necessary work that you do, may find it difficult to believe that this is true. I can assure you that it has taken a major effort on my part and many of my colleagues to convince the parties already referred to that guidance and counselling is an essential part of education and should be an integral part of every school and college programme. It should also be available for adults whether they are seeking employment, further education and training, or contemplating a change of career.

The proactive approach on our part from the outset of seeking meetings with people who had the power and in some instances influence to improve the existing situation in relation to guidance and counselling is now having some positive results. Such parties would include the following:

Government Ministers, Department of Education and Science officials, other government agencies, opposition parties in the Oireachtas, the media, school management, parent representatives, trade union representatives, employer organisations, and various professional bodies.

As IGC President one can have an input into promoting guidance and counselling by participating in bodies such as: Management Committee of the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE), National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), contact with the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE).

In the past our Institute made a major contribution to the working of the Points Commission. Three members of the Commission were Guidance Counsellors, I being the one representing IGC. In addition, I have given presentations at various Conferences such as: The first CAO/UCAS Conference dealing with 'Access and Progression in Higher Education', Annual Opportunities Conferences, Institution of Engineers of Ireland Annual Conference and more recently at the World Conference of the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance in Paris. I have made regular contributions to the print media, radio and television and I have also launched publicity material for a number of organisations.

When I took up office in March 1997, there was a change of Government in June. On the announcement of a new cabinet, I immediately made contact with the Minister for Education, Micheal Martin, T.D. I put to the Minister, in forceful terms, the unsatisfactory situation that existed relating to guidance and counselling. I also suggested that the Institute of Guidance Counsellors should be represented on the Points Commission, which was about to be set up. Subsequently I was contacted, confirming my appointment to represent the IGC on this Commission. With the help of two other guidance counsellors and members of the Commission we succeeded in highlighting the importance of guidance and counselling in our education system. The Commission Report stated



that 'the guidance and counselling service in schools is an integral part of the education provision provided by guidance counsellors to enable students to develop realistic concepts of themselves and society.' The Report also recommended that a comprehensive guidance service be provided for adults and those who are disadvantaged.

The work of the Commission consisted of in excess of thirty meetings and took two years to complete. Among its key recommendations were the following: Firstly, that time allocated to guidance and counselling should be used for this purpose only. Secondly, that the ratio of 1 guidance counsellor to 250 students be restored. I believe that these recommendations are very significant because they recognise the importance of guidance and counselling and the necessity of having a proper system operating in this country.

A further important development at that time, Autumn 1998, was the coming into law of the Education Act which stated that "each student in the state should have access to guidance and counselling". More recently our present Minister for Education in reply to a Dáil question in May of this year, stated that 'schools should provide a guidance and counselling service to all their pupils which would reflect both government priorities and their pupils' needs'. I believe that these developments have helped to lay the foundation for the provision of a comprehensive guidance and counselling service in this country.

The following developments are examples of the increasing recognition by the state of the role and importance of guidance and counselling in the education system.

- (1) The allocation of eight hours minimum guidance and counselling for all second level schools within the state system.
- (2) The Audit undertaken by the Department of Education and Science to establish the true position of guidance and counselling within second level schools.
- (3) The provision of computers for all guidance counsellors within the state system and the training in the use of such computers.
- (4) The recent initiative creating 50 permanent guidance and counselling posts, which will benefit 103 second level schools this year.
- (5) The appointment of guidance counselling Inspectors. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kathleen Brennan and Niamh Mernagh who were prominent members of our Institute before taking up their new positions.
- (6) The importance and relevance of Qualifax to the work of guidance counsellors has been recognised by the secondment of Tom Farrell to work full time to develop this system further.

- (7) The Circular on Guidance and Counselling is in draft form and we hope that it will be issued in the near future.

It is worth noting that the current Minister for Education, Dr. Michael Woods T.D., in his message included in this year's Members Yearbook and Diary, stated that he would like to take the opportunity 'to commend the Institute for its efforts in ensuring that its members have opportunities to develop their professional skills and also in its continued proactive and effective role in the promotion of guidance and counselling in schools'.

As you know the theme of this Conference is 'Guidance And Counselling Towards An Inclusive Society'. In assessing the current position of guidance and counselling in this country, I believe that it is important to keep this theme in mind. We are at this point in our development, only in the early stages of achieving the objective of inclusiveness regarding guidance and counselling in Irish Society. If this objective of inclusiveness is to be achieved, the state faces a major task to rectify the many problems and inadequacies of the existing guidance and counselling system. The key findings from the Audit of Guidance Provision in Post Primary School 1999-2000 show significant under-utilisation of the allocation for guidance given by the Dept. of Education and Science. This applied to 23% of secondary schools, 25% of community and comprehensive schools and 44% of vocational and community colleges. Another startling revelation was that 78% of all schools reported that less than 30% of guidance counsellor time was spent with Junior Cycle students.

It should not surprise anyone then that 12,000 students drop out of the second level system each year before completing their Leaving Certificate. This drop out figure was given by Dr. Woods at the first meeting of the National Educational Welfare Board in June of this year. The Minister on the same occasion also stated that a significant number of students left the junior cycle before completing their Junior Cert. examination. The consequences of this situation are clearly stated in recent research undertaken by the ESRI where they show that 'early school leavers are likely to be left behind in the job market as our economy becomes more and more knowledge based'. They also state that if we do not resolve this problem, 'we run the risk of creating an increasingly polarised society, divided between those who benefit from high-skills, high-pay employment and those who are stuck in a cycle of disadvantage'. The ESRI also reported that those who left school unqualified, receive an average hourly income of £3.27. This rises to £3.45 for those with a Junior Certificate. Those who left school on completion of the Leaving Certificate were rewarded for their work with earning of over £5.00 per hour. Furthermore, significant numbers of students drop out of our third level colleges each year at high cost and inconvenience to themselves, their families and the exchequer.

In brief these Audit findings show that school management, in many instances, are not complying with Department of Education Circulars and are using guidance hours for purposes other than those intended. At this point we in the Institute wish to again ask the Minister for Education - which has already - been tabled in Dáil Eireann by an opposition spokesperson - what he intends to do with this level of non-compliance by school management. Further meetings with the Minister and his officials are planned to follow up on this issue and other matters relating to guidance and counselling which need urgent attention.

The current situation where one guidance counsellor is expected to provide a service for 500 - 799 students is completely unsatisfactory. This ratio needs to be reduced to its previous level, which existed up to 1983 of one guidance counsellor to 250 students. The main party in the present government, promised before taking up office in 1997, that this matter would be a priority for them in government. We still await the implementation of this promise. In order to illustrate the farcical situation that exists at present, at a ratio of one guidance counsellor to 799 students, each student would receive 54 minutes guidance per year. At a ratio of one guidance counsellor to 250 students each student would receive 2.94 hours guidance per year. In addition, some students at present receive zero hours guidance per year. These figures reflect the unsatisfactory state of guidance and counselling that continues to exist.

At a time when the number and variety of third level courses have increased greatly and also the numbers of students seeking further education, it would appear to be an extraordinary decision to discontinue the Diploma Training Course to qualify as a Guidance Counsellor at University College Dublin. This was the first course in the state to enable people to obtain a qualification in guidance and counselling. I now call on the relevant authorities to reconsider their decision and make this course available again. In addition the increasing numbers of people who are experiencing a variety of problems in society today, need more people with guidance and counselling skills and expertise to help them. On a positive note, I wish to draw your attention to a new M.Sc. Degree in Educational Guidance and Counselling for existing practitioners in second level schools. This worthwhile course will be available at Trinity College Dublin and should be of great benefit to guidance counsellors who wish to avail of in-service development.

As I have already stated much work has been done in creating an increased awareness of the role and function of guidance counsellors among the following: Department of Education and Science, other Government Departments, including those of the Taoiseach and Tanaiste, Government Agencies, Employer and Trade Union Organisations, Professional Bodies, Parents groups, the Media and the General Public. I believe that the foundations are being put in place, so that we as an Institute can achieve our objective of having a

comprehensive guidance and counselling service for our young people and adults.

The Press Release relating to the recent School Guidance Enhancement Initiative by the Minister for Education, acknowledged 'the critical role that guidance counsellors play in providing students with an understanding and experience of the potential of further education and the world of work'. The Minister referred to the many valuable and innovative projects that have been developed by schools and he suggested that they will provide a blueprint for the further development of support and counselling for students. This is in sharp contrast to the initial encounter that I had with the previous Minister for Education, when I asked for an improvement in the guidance and counselling provision. The reply I received was: 'you will get nothing'. This shows the amount of groundwork that had to be done to reach our current position. However, let me hasten to add that much work still needs to be done. It will take all the experience and expertise of the incoming President and Executive to move the situation forward from here to achieve the objective that I have already referred to.

The challenge of attempting to achieve an improvement in the situation that existed in 1997 motivated me to seek the office of President of the Institute. As a newly qualified guidance counsellor in the late 1980's I experienced the full brunt and frustration of the 1983 cutbacks. This prompted me to become involved with the Institute at local level initially as Branch Treasurer, PRO and Chairperson. Later in the mid 90's I became a member of the National Executive. After three years on the Executive, one of these as Vice-President, I was nominated for the Presidency of the Institute and subsequently elected in March 1997. I believe that all the experience that I gained at branch level and the National Executive helped and prepared me greatly to undertake the duties associated with the office of President.

On taking up office I had 22 hours guidance and counselling per week in a co-ed school with over 600 students. After one year I decided to reduce my hours at school to 11 hours per week. One year later, due to my increasing workload, I decided to opt out of school and put all my energies into the work of the IGC on a voluntary basis. Even though the management and members of teaching staff in my school were very supportive, I felt that it would be unfair to the students under my care to be absent on a regular basis even on IGC business. I believe that future Presidents should be seconded from their regular work and be available to lead the Institute on a full time basis. We have already sought funding for this proposed development from the Department of Education and are awaiting a reply.

A significant development that has helped greatly in the administration of the Institute and providing an improved service for members, has been the establishment of an office at 17 Herbert St., Dublin 2. We have been fortunate to have such dedicated and committed persons to staff this office. I wish to thank Anne, Denise and previous staff

members for the diligent and efficient way in which they do their work. Members' enquires and problems are dealt with in a pleasant and professional manner. The existence of such an office has received favourable comment from many organisations and individuals. The office has also helped to increase the profile and status of our Institute.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the organisations and the many people that made this conference possible. We are very grateful to AIB Bank, Institute of Technology Sligo and The Institution of Engineers of Ireland for their generous sponsorship. We thank our Exhibitors and those who took advertising space in the Conference brochure. The work of those who conduct Workshops and Seminars is greatly appreciated. We thank in particular, Professor Tom Harrington who travelled from the USA to be with us at such a difficult time. We thank the representatives of the following who are present: Department of Education and Science, National Parents Council (Post-Primary), the Media, and representatives of various institutions and organisations who have given time to be with us today.

I am very conscious of the great amount of time and effort put into the organising of the Conference that was due to take place in Sligo in March of this year. The members of the National Executive, with Helen Ó Colmáin as Chairperson who organised this Conference deserve the highest praise. The work of Gerry Tynan in taking responsibility for the data base, including conference bookings, workshop and seminar allocations and providing technical support is of immense benefit to us, is very much appreciated and plays a major role in the running of the conference.

I wish to thank all my colleagues who worked with me and gave me such great support, on the National Executive over the past four and a half years. I acknowledge the contribution that previous Presidents, National Executives, Branch Officers and Members made to keeping this Institute in existence over the years and working hard, on a voluntary basis, to achieve its objectives. I would like to pay a special tribute to the existing officers and members of the National Executive.

I am particularly appreciative of the co-operation, commitment and loyalty of our current Vice-President John O'Dowd, who has done tremendous work over the years in the cause of guidance and counselling. John has accompanied me on all occasions to meet Ministers, Department of Education Officials and representatives of various organisations. I have been fortunate to have had a person of his calibre and experience with me on such occasions. Our National Secretary, Anne Talbot has done outstanding work in this position. National Treasurer, Michael Roberts, who has edited Guideline, has contributed enormously to the working of the Institute. Marion Quinn, our National PRO, has worked persistently and effectively in promoting the Institute. She deserves special praise for co-ordinating the August Helpline with great success over a number of years. Members of the

National Executive have served on sub-committees and contributed in a major way to the running of the Institute.

I enjoyed meeting the many branch officers and members during my term in office. They have contributed greatly to keeping this Institute in existence over the years, often in difficult circumstances. I wish the new President and Executive every success and hope that our Institute will continue to move forward to achieve our objectives.

It would be remiss of me if I did not thank the Branch that gave me my introduction to administrative experience within the Institute and who were the first to nominate me for the position of President I refer, of course, to the Cork Branch. My duties have been challenging and demanding but I have enjoyed working with my colleagues within the Institute, and many people outside of it. It would not have been possible to continue for so long in this position without the help and support of Sean and other family members.

My concluding words to you are: Let us in the Institute of Guidance Counsellors continue to strive to have a guidance and counselling service made available to everyone who needs it.

*Go raibh mile maith agaibh.
Róisín A Kelleher*

William Glasser Institute Ireland



Basic Intensive Week Courses in Choice Theory, Reality Therapy and Lead Management

Autumn 2001

Mon 29th October - Fri 2nd November

Diocesan Retreat Centre, Newtownsmith, Galway

Tue 30th October - Sat 3rd November

Education Centre, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra,
Dublin 9

Choice Theory helps people take more effective control in their lives. A basic course meets the needs of anyone interested in self-development, counselling, life-coaching, and/or engaged in Education, Management, or any of the Caring Professions.

For further information contact:

Marcella Finnerty: (01) 260 0805 (086) 260 9989

Email: marcellafinnerty@eircom.net



NUI MAYNOOTH
Collegium in Officium et Honorem

NUI Maynooth Introduces New Entrance Scholarship Scheme For First Year Undergraduate Students

NUI Maynooth is introducing a new Entrance Scholarship Scheme to reward excellence in academic achievement, which will come into effect for the next academic year, September 2002. Students who achieve over 500 points in their Leaving Certificate Examination (best six subjects in any one sitting) or three subjects in GCE A-levels, will be

eligible for an award under the scheme. Details of this new scholarship are being forwarded to all secondary level schools in the country.

There are two features to this new scheme. Successful students will be awarded €1000 during their first academic year, following on their admission to the University. And in

addition, they will have a place reserved for them in one of the new University Campus Apartments for their first academic year (normal charges will apply), irrespective of their commuting distance to the University.

NUI Maynooth, located just 25 km west of Dublin, is one of four constituent Universities of the federal National University of Ireland, and is Ireland's second oldest University. The University has a population of some 5,000 students from throughout Ireland and overseas, and offers programmes from undergraduate to doctorate levels in five Faculties - Arts, Celtic Studies, Engineering, Philosophy and Science. Courses are available in a range of disciplines including the traditional Humanities, Music, Education, basic Sciences, Social Sciences, Computer and Electronic Engineering.

Further information: on the Entrance Scholarship Scheme is available from the Admissions Office, NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Contact: John McGinnity, Admissions Officer. Tel: 01-708 3822, Email: admissions@may.ie

Issued by: Communications Office, NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co Kildare.

Contact: Eileen Banks. Tel: 01-708 3363, Mobile: 086/8542425, Email: eileen.banks@may.ie

Autumn Conferences 2001

Once again these conferences provide an important meeting place for Guidance Counsellors and Admissions Officers from the Higher Education Institutions. The formal and informal mixing and mingling are a great opportunity for you to let the Admissions Officers know how you feel about the service they offer and any changes, improvements or comments you have to make on their courses, procedures or publications. As they will already have sent out the application literature you won't be able to collect that (you can save your aching arms and forget about bursting plastic bags) but you can hear at first hand what they plan to do and build important contacts for future reference. Not to mention having a sandwich courtesy of the CAO!

The format of the conferences has been revised.

As you were unhappy with the previous format it was revised. Now the event will begin at 10.30 a.m. with about half the Institutes making their presentations before lunch and half afterwards. Lunch is being served between 12.30 and 1.30 p.m. and the conference ends with an Open Forum.

If information is our lifeblood in this job then these are the meetings that you need to attend. Remember also that information is a two-way street and the Admission Officers and the CAO appreciate and apply the suggestions and feedback offered. Collaboration between second and third level happens here. Play your part.

CAO

IGC/HEI Conferences 2001

DATE	TIME	Location	Refreshments
6th Nov	10.30am	Oyster Manor Hotel, Clarinbridge, Galway	Refreshments will be provided at 10.30 am and at 1.00pm
7th Nov	10.30 am	Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo	Refreshments will be provided at 10.30 am and at 1.00pm
13th Nov	10.30 am	Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	Refreshments will be provided at 10.30 am and at 1.00pm
14th Nov	10.30 am	Fairsways Hotel, Dublin Road, Dundalk	Refreshments will be provided at 10.30 am and at 1.00pm
20th Nov	10.30 am	Blarney Park Hotel, Blarney, Co. Cork	Refreshments will be provided at 10.30 am and at 1.00pm
21st Nov	10.30 am	Hotel Kilkenny College Rd., Kilkenny	Refreshments will be provided at 10.30 am and at 1.00pm

New Admission Officer at the Pontifical University, Maynooth

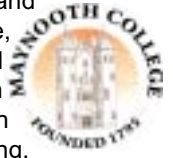
Mary Tansey

It was a crisp, cold and frosty morning in the month of January, when I took up my appointment as Admissions Officer at the Pontifical University, Maynooth. It was a feeling at once strange, yet familiar to me as I am a Maynooth graduate, only this time I was going to be working in the university.



Foot and Mouth Disease in early spring curtailed many activities on 'the circuit'. Consequently, much of my time was spent confined to the office. Although this proved to be an obstacle in my capacity as School Liaison Officer, on the positive side I was able to avail of this opportunity to enhance my knowledge of Admissions at both Undergraduate and Postgraduate levels.

Unlike previous positions that I have held, the post of Admissions Officer is a cyclical one in that it takes a full year to see the cycle of events unfold. So until this year is complete and has done the full circle, everything in my path will be new. It is that which makes my work both challenging yet rewarding, predictable yet variable.



I finished my Baccalaureate in Theology & Arts degree in 1996, and since then completed two postgraduate courses (one of which saw my return to the National University of Ireland, Maynooth in 1997). From 1998 I worked in different fields of employment and spent a year working in the United Kingdom. Upon my return to Ireland, a friend and fellow BATH graduate from the class of '96, advised me about the position advertised and strongly recommended that I apply. The rest as they say, is history.

I knew that when I accepted the post I would be on a steep learning curve. The initial four to six weeks of my employment was spent on the roads attending exhibitions nation wide. This was supplemented by a number of school visits. However the outbreak of

knowledge of Admissions at both Undergraduate and Postgraduate levels.

IT Carlow's Ambassador Program

We are introducing a new initiative this year in our visits to schools. We hope to be able to give a student perspective of our Institute and courses by bringing a past pupil to each school we visit. This will provide an opportunity for Leaving Certificate students to hear at first hand the details of what a particular course is like from the student side as well as the student's view of College life in general.

We have spoken to a number of our existing students, some leaving Certificate Students and Guidance Counsellors all of whom have been supportive of this initiative.

Information for Schools

A variety of options will be offered to schools this year to disseminate information on our courses and the Institute to suit individual circumstances. This will include

- Prospectus
- Institute video
- Website - www.itcarlow.ie
- School visits incorporating general course and Institute Information and a talk by a past pupil of the school
- Talks on specialist topics, careers or courses by an appropriate lecturer
- A manned Information Stand which we would set up at a suitable time (e.g. Lunch hour) in a school to provide information to those interested.

Open Day

We will have our normal Open Day on Friday 16th November to which we invite as many schools and 2nd level 6th year students to attend as possible.

We have placed 2 booking forms on our website "ITCarlow.ie" which Guidance Counsellors are invited to fill out in respect of our Open Day and our School visits program. These may be returned using the email on the form or posted to Mary Bates, IT Carlow, Kilkenny Road, Carlow.

We would also welcome any feedback or suggestions from guidance counsellors in relation the foregoing or any other aspect of our relationship with school. Any comments or suggestions should be forwarded to Chris Chapman, Head of Student Services- phone 0503 70437.

CANAL COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP/ CANAL LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE NETWORK

Adult Guidance Counsellor (half-time)

Canal Partnership & Local Employment Service Network (LESN) wish to recruit an adult guidance counsellor, to provide specialised guidance service to LESN clients and to other adults returning to education or work.

This service will be developed alongside relevant state and community interests. Experience / knowledge of working within a community setting with long term unemployed will be an advantage. Salary: £12 - 14,000.

Informal enquiries and further information from Brian Kenny - Tel: (01) 473 2196

Application by letter & CV to:

Adult Guidance Post,
Canal Communities Partnership,
197 Tyrconnell Road,
Inchicore,
Dublin 8.

Closing date: November 2nd 2001.

Tipperary Institute

0504 28000



TIPPERARY INSTITUTE
NENAGH ROAD, THURLES, CO. TIPPERARY

Seminar Series for Guidance Counsellors



Seminar Series for Guidance Counsellors

Tipperary Institute, Thurles campus, is pleased to welcome Guidance Counsellors to the following series of seminars, free of charge. We advise you to book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited.

For further information, please contact:
Patricia Murphy 0504 28119 or **Sinéad Collier 0504 28059**
Email: pmurphy@tippinst.ie, or, scollier@tippinst.ie
Tipperary Institute
Nenagh Road, Thurles,
Co. Tipperary

The Real Story on Careers in Business and Computing

Thursday, 15 November 2001 2:00 - 4:30

What are the real opportunities today in the fields of Business and Computing? Which skills are considered the most useful? The speakers will cover these issues within the following structure: RSVP 7th November 2001

- € General description of the current workplace in Business & Computing
- € Analysis of the work changes in these fields
- € Assessment of the real skills needs in Business & Computing
- € Question & Answer session

Life Coaching for Adult Guidance

Tuesday, 12 February 2002 2:00 - 4:30

This seminar focuses on coaching Adult Learners on how to deal with change, challenges and career choice. The topics include: RSVP 4th February 2002

- € Dealing with 'empowering' and 'self-limiting' beliefs
- € Identifying and prioritising values
- € Building self-worth
- € Looking at motivational factors
- € Establishing short, medium and long term goals
- € Developing a strategic career plan

Keeping it Local

Tuesday, 16 April 2002, 2:00 - 4:30

With a growing emphasis on local development and local government, the number of job opportunities in this field is also increasing. This seminar looks at those opportunities under the following headings: RSVP 10th April 2002

- € Profile of the type of person suited to working in local development & government
- € Opportunities in Local & Community Development
- € Opportunities in Local Government
- € Entrepreneurship
- € Tourism

Book Review by Brian Lennon

"Beyond Prozac" by Dr. Terry Lynch, published by Marino Books, 2001.

Nobody asked me to write this review! I requested the Guideline Editor to publish it as I think this book is so important. I believe that all psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, doctors, therapists, psychotherapists and counsellors should read this publication. Similarly, though for different reasons, it should be read by judges, politicians and journalists. Most important of all, it should be read by all those who are considering psychiatric help for themselves or others or who are already in reception of such services.

Although the title mentions one unfortunately well-known and highly suspect drug, the book is really about two main issues. One is the nature of so-called "mental illness" and the other is an examination of suicide. As a backdrop to both themes is the author's explanation of the danger of psychiatric drugs and "therapies" based on the notion of chemical imbalance. The book has a very supportive foreword by Dr. Tony Humphreys who is well-known to many counsellors and educators.

Terry Lynch is a medical doctor and this together with his experience gives great weight to his message. Basically what he says is that "mental illness" does not exist, that psychiatric drugs do not help human problems and that a psychiatric diagnosis is a very dangerous labelling process. Regarding suicide he rejects the notion that most of those who consider or commit suicide are "mentally ill".

I have heard people say about Dr. Peter Breggin, the American expert in psycho-pharmacology, that his ideas are too extreme to be true. The same has been said in the past about many catastrophic human nightmares. (Breggin's major work and highly recommended reading is "Toxic Psychiatry".) Dr. Lynch is essentially saying the same as Breggin but in an Irish context and with wonderful logic. If these ideas are true, if there is even the remotest chance that they are

true, then there are literally thousands of individuals for whom an already difficult life has become an even worse nightmare due to the form of "therapy" they have been offered.

When we make a referral to any other person or body, we have an ethical responsibility regarding that referral. If there is a chance that our clients are going to suffer in any way (e.g. bureaucratic abuse, addiction), we really have an obligation to know about this and to avoid it. In this context Dr. Lynch's book becomes essential reading.

There are of course many excellent psychiatrists and even those who use the chemical methods so severely criticised by Breggin and Lynch usually do so because they firmly believe in what they are doing. Good intentions do not guarantee good outcomes in this case, however. There is an ever-increasing body of opinion that challenges the research and the so-called research that supports the efficacy of psychiatric medication. If the opinions of people like Breggin and Lynch are correct, and I personally believe they are, then we must question any decision or advice that might lead a person to take such dangerous substances.

Dr. Lynch also documents many examples of good counselling practice, effective ways of really helping those whose lives have become difficult. The book is worth reading for these alone. As a reviewer I am not simply recommending this book; I am very strongly urging you to read it and then to make up your own mind.

[Sadly it is necessary to append a warning to any discussion of the use of psychiatric drugs: It is extremely dangerous and can even be fatal to stop such medication suddenly.]

Brian Lennon's notes for his Workshop at the Dun Laoghaire Conference are available to all, free of charge at;

<http://www.socc.ie/~blennon/sligo/>

Mailing List

Is your data up-to-date? If you change your address get a new email or new telephone no (North East Area especially), or any other change that may be of interest the Institute then let us know at Head Office ASAP so that we can keep our records current.

QualifaX

A full new program will be sent out to schools by the end of October. If you are part of the voluntary sector there is no charge for the program. The cost of producing QualifaX is covered by a grant from the Department of Education and Science. There are no major changes in the program, just an increase in the amount of information particularly on PLC's. The extra information is due to the hard work of Siobhan Brennan who was employed last May.

For the moment all updating by download from the Internet will stop.

As soon as more material becomes available the next update will be posted on the Internet. The website is undergoing a lot of improvements and as a result will be much easier to use. The best version of QualifaX is on your own machine for the moment.

If for some reason you are not on the Email list now is a good time to rectify that, just send a message to qualifax@iol.ie

For reasons of cost and speed most communication will be by email.

Abuse of Tests!

Marie Shortt of ETC Consult

Due to a recent incident where applicants for a particular position informed the potential employer after the aptitude testing session that they had been to a course which coached them for the particular test they had just completed it is deemed to be advisable to remind all Guidance Counsellors of the need to be very careful about the abuse of psychometric tests.

In this particular case the potential employer, who is fully dedicated to providing equal opportunities to all its employees was put in a very embarrassing position and could not use the test results for this particular competition. They lost a lot of money because of this and felt that their integrity was compromised. As a result the company is likely to look for substantial compensation.

The second issue is the breach of copyright law by photocopying the test material for distribution to the people who took the course so the publishers of the test material are also seeking compensation.

Could we remind everybody that all psychometric tests distributed by ETC Consult are copyrighted and may not

be copied by any means without specific written permission from the publishers. Of equal importance is the fact that it is wrong - professionally and ethically - for anybody to coach others in individual tests. Tests predict performance in jobs. If people are specifically schooled in them they will then score well on them and be selected to carry out tasks that they will ultimately fail at. There are then two big losers - the employer and the employee. Furthermore such activities besmirch the reputation of the members of the Institute of Career Guidance and will draw the Institute into disrepute as well as leaving individuals open to potential legal claims.

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The opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editors nor of the officers of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors.

Acceptance of advertisements does not constitute endorsement of products or services by the Institute.

Every effort has been made to ensure that information is accurate; however no responsibility can be accepted by the Editors or the Institute for omissions or errors that may have occurred.

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Communication Skills for Teachers

A new portfolio of communication workshops for both teachers and students has recently been launched by New Idiom. The workshops, many of which draw from the techniques of NLP, include: Learning Strategies, Communication Skills for Teachers, Communication Skills for Students and Interview Skills. The workshops would complement teacher

development programmes and can also be used as powerful motivational tools for students. New Idiom was founded last year by Guy Flouch who has a long experience of delivering innovative and energetic training programmes to teachers and students. For a brochure and further information, contact Guy at 045-442160 or info@newidiom.com



Leonardo da Vinci

Europe Calling



ACADEMIA EXCHANGE OF GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS

- Work Shadow European Guidance Practitioners
- Visit Education and Guidance Institutions
- See Guidance at Work 'On the Ground'
- Meet and Share Experience with Other Guidance and Education Professionals

VOLUNTEER HOSTS FOR VISITING PRACTITIONERS ALSO REQUIRED

One-week placements in Finland, France, Norway, Sweden, UK and Denmark are offered to Irish practitioners between February and May 2002.

Application forms available in mid-October from NCGE

PH: 01 8690715 Email info@ncge.ie

Details on specific programmes offered in each country will be available on the ACADEMIA website from mid-October: <http://www.ac-creteil.fr/steurop/>

Reflections on the AGM And National Conference

5th & 6th October, 2001

It was a great relief to all of us that the National Conference and AGM eventually got underway. It was a difficult assignment to undertake with just six months to complete it - and with summer holidays within the period.

I have read through the evaluation sheets returned to us and I was heartened by the generous and gracious expressions of appreciation by the vast majority of our members. Thank you. Thank you too, to all those who sought me out and indeed other members of the committee to express satisfaction.

To those who were less than satisfied - mostly in relation to lunch - a few words of explanation...

As I mentioned, a very small group of us had but six months to work on the venture. Our first task was to find a venue. None of the institutes of education could accommodate us. We then looked for a hotel on the outskirts of Dublin with conference facilities. We were much too late and even had we not been late, the workshop facilities would have been totally inadequate. In addition, the costs of some would have forced us to practically double the Conference fee. This we were reluctant to do.

We were fortunate to be able to secure accommodation in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire. Naturally, with only six conference rooms it was not ideal but we were lucky to be invited by Mr. Jack Griffin, Principal of Dun Laoghaire College of Further Education to avail of accommodation in his college. He closed the college for the half day. We are also grateful to Ms Bernadette Burns and Ms Judith Hosford of St Nicholas Montessori College and to Dun Laoghaire Bridge Club for the use of their premises.

Whilst the hotel did their best for us, lunch did pose a problem. Being a commercial organisation, the hotel could not close their restaurant and dining room for us. The compromise

was to serve a buffet lunch and leave the chairs in the ballroom. The staff could not set the room out to accommodate over four hundred (400) to sit down to lunch (the sit down capacity is 250), clear it for the Presidential Address and AGM and the clear it again for the Conference Dinner.

Soup and a roll as was suggested is impractical, have a conference bag, a bowl of hot soup, and a bread roll/sandwich, which other hand would be used for the soup spoon?

In relation to the seminars/workshops...

As you know, we bought special envelopes with red writing to alert our members to the urgency of responding in time and to underline the importance of complying with all the requests made. These were to ensure that, with the short time at our disposal, tasks would not have to be duplicated. We had a number of constraints on seminars/workshops. Some of the presenters imposed a limit on the number of participants, some presenters could only deliver one session and we had to respect the hotel's fire and safety regulations. The seminars/workshops filled up very quickly so not everyone could be given the first choice. As it happened a few members did not come but we could not re-allocate the workshops in case they came late. This did happen in a few cases. In some cases people who were allocated seminars could not attend them. They were full. Obviously some members choose to ignore their own allocation and re-assign themselves. We apologise to those who were thereby deprived. This is something we find it difficult to police. It has led to great unpleasantness and loss of dignity in the past.

It is not possible to or reasonable to expect that an application can be sent at the last minute or even approaching the Early Bird booking

date and expect that you will get your top preferences for workshops!

As I mentioned, a small group of Guidance Counsellors worked practically daily on the Conference and AGM from May until October. Anne in the office was - and is - and invaluable asset. Thanks, Anne and thank you to Denise who helped in recent times. Thanks, too, to Gerry Tynan.

Gerry has also worked tirelessly seven days a week to help us and without him it would be very difficult to run a conference or In-Service Day of the present dimensions - in or around four hundred. Unfortunately he has had to bear the brunt of expressed dissatisfaction and disappointment in what was at times a very unpleasant and hurtful way. Hopefully he will not become discouraged and will long continue to work with us in what he has described as "a labour of love".

I would again express my appreciation to all those who worked so hard for the six months, to those who helped out on the day and to all those who were so supportive.

We look forward to Waterford and wish the organisers every success.

Helen Ó Colmáin

COPY DEADLINE

The next issue of Guideline will go to press in the first week of December 2002. Articles, submissions, advertisements should be forwarded to the Editor on or before Wednesday 21st November to.

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A New Director at Institute of Technology, Sligo

From 1st June IT Sligo has had a new Director, Dr. Richard Thorn. Dr. Thorn succeeded Dr. Breandán MacConamhna who retired at the end of May. Dr. MacConamhna had been Director at the Institute since the early 1980s. Richard is no stranger to IT Sligo having worked at the College between 1982 and 1994 in a variety of positions before moving to establish the Castlebar Campus of the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology in 1994.

Having grown up in far flung places such as East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and Nigeria Richard undertook his secondary schooling at Rockwell College in Co. Tipperary between 1966 and 1974. In 1974 he entered Trinity College to undertake a degree in Natural Sciences. This was completed in 1978. Between 1978 and 1982, when he was appointed to IT Sligo, he taught in the Geography Department in TCD and also taught in DIT. He worked in the private sector in engineering site investigation and also embarked upon the study and research for a PhD in TCD. The PhD, which was in the environmental sciences, was completed in 1983 and conferred in 1984. More recently he was awarded a First Class Honours MA in Public Management through the Institute of Public Administration.

Moving to Sligo in 1982 to the post of Lecturer in Earth Sciences gave Richard the opportunity to work as an earth scientist in a multidisciplinary environment and between 1982 and his departure in 1994 he taught and undertook research and published over 100 books and periodical articles in a wide variety of environmental areas including water resources, waste management and environmental geology and supervised many MSc and PhD dissertations in these fields. During his time in Sligo he also occupied the posts of Director of Research and Head of Department of Environmental Science and held Visiting Lecturer and External Examiner positions in NUI,G, TCD, QUB and Middlesex and Coventry Universities.

In 1994 Dr. Thorn was appointed to the post of Head of the Castlebar Campus of the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology where he was responsible for directing the development of the Campus. On his departure in May of this year there were over 700 full time students studying in areas as diverse as nursing, computing, heritage studies and outdoor education. The Campus had also made



significant advances in the provision of educational opportunities for part time and adult learners; approximately 20% of the full time students were over 23 compared to 5% for the country as a whole.

Richard has been active at national level in a variety of capacities including membership of the Council of Directors ODL Committee, membership of the Technical Working Team for the development of Blanchardstown IT, former Chairperson of the Environmental Sciences Association and membership of the NCCAs LC geography syllabus committee. In 1997 Richard was a member of the Castlebar Information Age Town project team that prepared the bid that brought Castlebar to the finals of the Telecom Éireann sponsored competition. He has also been an adjudicator on the AIB Better Ireland Awards Scheme.

The move back to Sligo by Dr. Thorn comes at a very challenging time for higher education with falling school leaving numbers, increasing requirements for access and outreach, an increasing requirement to develop lifelong learning opportunities and the challenges posed by new institutional arrangements such as the establishment of the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland and its constituent Awards Councils. IT Sligo

has developed an enviable reputation for the coherence and strength of its undergraduate programmes and for its research endeavours, particularly in the Environmental Science area. Richard intends to build on these strengths while ensuring that the Institutes responsibilities to the increasingly diverse nature of Irish learners is not forgotten.

Richard is married to Suzanne and has two children, Kathryn and Fintan. He has a passion for SCUBA diving and is involved in a voluntary capacity as a Leading Instructor in the training, development and examination of Irish recreation divers. He is currently developing a code of conduct for wreck and archaeological diving for Irish divers on behalf of the Irish Underwater Council. He has also been involved in a voluntary capacity with Irish Water Safety as a swimming, water safety and resuscitation instructor.

Membership Renewals

All members were either given their Renewal Invoice with their Conference pack at Dun Laoghaire, or by now will have received it by post. Please endeavour to send it back to the office as soon as possible. To be included in the Institute's Register please return your remittance before December 14th 2001. Most schools are paying this subscription, so don't be shy about asking your principal to do likewise. Please include the detachable

Remittance Advice from the bottom of your invoice with your payment. If you are changing your grade from Student to Qualified you should get the appropriate application form from the office and submit this as soon as possible to be included in the register at the correct grade.

If you have not received your invoice then please contact Head Office and a new invoice will be issued to you. If you require a receipt then include an SAE with your return.



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