

UCD WGA REPORT TO IrFUW

APRIL 2018 to SEPTEMBER 2018

Social Events.

Snow in March caused our Annual Dinner to be postponed until April 21st and this was an enjoyable social occasion with the Naturist, Éanna Ní Lamhna as the Guest Speaker. The Public Speaking Competition was held the same afternoon in the Quinn Building, UCD and once again the young competitors impressed all present.

The Art Collection from *Ireland's Great Hunger Museum* in Quinnipiac University, Connecticut was in Dublin in April and our members enjoyed a tour by the Curator. Later in October some members attended Stephen Sondteim's *Assassins* in the Gate Theatre.

Our social calendar continued in May with an early Summer visit to the *Botanical Gardens* in Glasnevin and in June the Annual Outing was to Co. Carlow. We visited the 17th Century *Huntington Castle in Clonegal* and the 12th Century *St. Laserian's Cathedral in Old Leighin*.

A large group from UCD travelled to Rome in June for the *UWE Conference* which was a really memorable event hosted by the Italian Association. Some members went on a sightseeing tour of the city and some went on the overnight tour to the *Villas in Tivoli*.

The inaugural meeting of Graduate Women Ireland Scotland and Britain (GWISB) was attended by some members in Manchester in September. They enjoyed some interesting Talks on Saturday and a visit to the Emily Pankhurst Museum on Sunday morning.

The Autumn social programme began with a visit to the newly rebuilt Central *Bank of Ireland* in North Wall Quay, D1. This was followed by a very well attended visit to the Seamus Heaney Exhibition in the BOI Cultural Centre, College Green D2. Also well attended and very enjoyable was a visit to the Roderick O'Connor exhibition in NGI.

The Poetry group and the Film group continue to meet regularly.

Sponsorships.

An important aim of our Association is to further the development of female education and we have established a Third Level and a Primary Level Sponsorship. The Post-Graduate Masters of Education Bursary for second year students was established in 2016 and this year we will award 6 Bursaries cheques. These will be presented in UCD on 16th of October.

The UCD Outreach Lab for Primary School students has become very popular and we have sent a cheque to two DEIS Primary Schools for a group of 6th class girls to attend a Study Day there. A Strand from the Primary School Science Curriculum is explored with the aim of interesting the girls in taking Science as a subject at Second Level. Our Association sponsors

the visits to cover the cost of transport and lunch and any surplus to buy Science/ Maths equipment for the school.

Our sponsorships are made possible by the great generosity of our members who attend and/or contribute to our two main fundraising events; the Autumn Lecture and the Christmas Lunch.

The Autumn Lecture 2018 was given by Dr Úna Agnew, in the National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire. It was titled *From Shancoduff to Mossbawn: parallels and points of divergence in the work of Patrick Kavanagh and Seamus Heaney*. The Lecture was followed by some interesting contributions and a very enjoyable lunch.

Our next Bursary Fundraiser, again in the National Yacht Club, is a lecture given by Michael Grant on *Maria Callas – La Divina* with excerpts from her opera recordings. Michel's talks are always very interesting and his choice of music excerpts very apt and enjoyable.

The Christmas Lunch will be held in Barbara Mc Henry's home, Ardilea, again this year. The date is Wednesday afternoon, 5th December. Barbara prepares and hosts the lunch and it is a lovely opportunity for members to celebrate the festive season and enjoy a delicious meal together.

Date for your Diary

Ruth Negga makes her Irish debut in the Gate Production of *Hamlet* at Halloween.

Frances Patton

President UCD WGA

October 2018.