

# The O'Reilly Foundation Scholarships



## Roll of Honour

**2007** Brian Appelbe, from UCC, who will study for a PhD in Nuclear Engineering, preferably in US.  
Paul Brady from UCD, University College of London and Kings Inns, will study for a Masters in Law in US.  
Rossa Fitzgerald, from UCD, is to study Masters in International Economics & Middle Eastern Studies in the John Hopkins University, Washington D.C.

**2006** David Murphy holds a First Class Honours Degree in Microelectronic Engineering from University College Cork - he has commenced his PhD in Electrical Engineering in the University of California, Los Angeles.

Francis Kieran is currently studying for an LLM at Harvard Law School. He graduated with a First Class Honours LLB and a Gold Medal from Trinity College Dublin.

Laura Bambrick holds a First Class Honours Degree in Social Policy and Sociology from Trinity College Dublin and an MSc from the University of Oxford where she is studying for a DPhil.

**2005** Mr. Patrick Kehoe holds a First Class Honours Degree in Electrical Engineering from UCD and a Masters Degree in Engineering from the University of Southern California. He is currently studying for an MBA in the University of Pennsylvania.

Julian Moore, from Limerick, is currently completing his Doctorate at Columbia University, where he is a staff member of the Science and Technology Law Review.

**2004** Michael King, from Dublin, graduated from Harvard University with a Masters in Public Administration in International Development in June.

Eoin Ó hÓgáin, from Kilkenny, graduated from the Harvard Business School in June 2006, where he was a Baker Scholar, placing in the top 5% of the graduating class.

**2003** James Ruane, from Dublin, graduated from the Harvard Business School in June 2005, where he was also a Baker Scholar.  
Caitriona Boushel from Dublin is pursuing a PhD in the area of Biomedical Engineering.

**2002** Richard O'Brien, from Cork, graduated with an MBA from Cornell University in. The focus of his studies was on entrepreneurship, manufacturing and public policy. Katherine Smyth, from Dublin, graduated with honours from Georgetown University in Washington DC with a Master of Arts in Security Studies.

**2001** Bairbre O'Neill, from Dublin, undertook a Master of Laws degree at Yale University, USA. Howard Reddy, from Carlow, graduated in May 2005 from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia with a Masters of Music summa magna cum laude.  
David Scannell, from Navan, undertook a Ph.D in Law at the University of Cambridge, graduating in May 2005.

**2000** Anita Sands, from Drogheda, graduated with highest distinction in May 2002 from Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, where she undertook a Masters in Public Policy and Management.  
Gavin Hurley, from Cork, has defended his Ph.D. thesis in Operations Research at Cornell University.

**1999** Catherine O'Sullivan, from Cork, graduated with a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley in 2002.

Ruth McGinley, from Derry, was awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Performance as a Solo Recitalist in 2002 from the Royal College of Music in London.



The O'Reilly Foundation board members at Castlemartin last December.

# 'I could not believe my luck. . . I was getting the chance to live my dream'

**John Walshe**  
Education Editor

**LAURA Bambrick's journey from Ballymun to Oxford is a remarkable story of one person's determination to overcome dyslexia and other disadvantages.**

Her first taste of higher education was when she landed a job in the Students' Union shop in Trinity College Dublin, a job she held full time for four years.

By then she had enough courage to consider applying for a place in TCD as a mature student. It was only when she started that her dyslexia became apparent - she was not aware of it previously and neither was anybody else.

It was just another problem to tackle, the main one being financial. Although she worked 57 hours a week out of term and 24 in term she still managed to get a first-class honours degree in social policy and sociology, followed by an MSc with distinction in comparative social policy.

Laura wanted to continue with her studies and was accepted by Oxford. "By that stage I had acquired the debts of a small nation and had borrowed as much as my limited collateral



Scholar Laura Bambrick and past chairman Dr Ken Whitaker.

would allow".

She was actually considering trying to negotiate paying her fees on a weekly basis from a part-time job in Oxford when suddenly she was thrown a lifeline in the form of an O'Reilly scholarship for which she had applied earlier. "I could not believe my good luck; I was getting the opportunity to go live my dream".

Reality has a way of catching up on the best dreamers and Laura admits that her first act as a scholar was to have a crisis of confidence about her capabilities as a researcher. "A number of things got me

through. I went and read every type of 'How to write a PhD in 10 easy steps' book that there is on the market. And this gave me an overview of what to expect. I was able to draw up a plan of action. And it was great comfort.

"However, what has been a big help in those dark days was looking up at my Scholarship certificate, which hangs over my research desk.

"And remembering that even if I am questioning of my abilities the very wise and knowledgeable members of the scholarship board believe that I am a

good bet.

"Being an O'Reilly scholar has done no end of good for this researcher's very delicate ego.

"On a more practical level it has enabled me to seriously reduce the number of hours I needed to work in a job."

She would like to work with an EU institution to gain a better understanding of the EU policy process. Laura would then like to return to Ireland to work with a non-governmental organisation and in the long-term act as a consultant on anti-poverty policy formation.