

An Cumann Gaelach celebrates 100 years

The Cumann Gaelach in UCD is a tradition that has been passed on through the generations. Fathers and mothers, sons and daughters have all been members. One hundred years of the Cumann Gaelach was celebrated this year on 27 February 2008 in St. Helen's Radisson SAS Hotel, Booterstown.

The respected auditors of the society over its hundred-year span include political figures and learned scholars with Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh, Tomás de Bhaldraithe, and Dónall Ó Móráin amongst them. The current co-auditors Andrew Ó Faoláin and Jack Ó Leocháin have achieved great success in this centenary year. The University's Seachtain na Gaeilge welcomed guests such as Des Bishop, Hector Ó hEochagáin and Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh as honorary Gaeilgeoirs. Judging by this year's success the Cumann Gaelach has safely secured its place in the University as a crucial part in both University life and in the language's future.

Alumni students and current students of the University were present at the event which added to the both nostalgic and triumphant ambiance.

Pictured (l-r) An tOllamh Mícheál Ó Dochartaigh, Cathaoireach Bord na Gaeilge, Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Oifigeach Gaeilge Bhord na Gaeilge, Jack Ó Leocháin, Comh-Reachtair an Chumann Ghaelaigh, An tAire Pobal Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta Éamonn Ó Cuív, Aindriú Ó Faoláin, Comh-reachtair an Chumainn Ghaelaigh, Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, Aodhán Ó Deá, Leas-Reachtair an Chumainn Ghaelaigh.

The commemoration of the Cumann Gaelach represents the vibrant contribution that the society has made to the University's development and evolution.

Both the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív and the sports commentator Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh were present as guest speakers at the event.

Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, in a passionate and inspiring speech made reference to the development of the Irish language and the

vital part the Cumann Gaelach has played in successfully promoting the language on campus. He also motivated the audience in their attitude towards the language in the future. He urged the audience to cultivate their passion for the language. Mr Ó Muircheartaigh praised young people who were working towards the language's revitalization and added that he had never seen the language in such bloom.

Minister Ó Cuív spoke about his own relationship with the Cumann Gaelach.

He recounted stories about his grandfather, former President of Ireland, Éamonn De Valera and the passionate interest he had in the society. He also paid tribute to certain members of the Cumann Gaelach present at this year's event, who had also celebrated the society's fifty year commemoration also.

The event was sponsored by Bord na Gaeilge, Foras na Gaeilge and Raidió na Gaeltachta.



Comóradh 100 bliain An Chumann Ghaelaigh

Traidisiún curtha ar aghaidh ó ghlúin go glúin. Athaireacha agus máithreacha, mic agus iníonacha mar bhaill ann. Rinneadh céiliúradh ar chéad bliain an Chumann Ghaelaigh i mblia na 27 Feabhra in Óstan Radisson, Baile an Bhóthair.

Ba dhaoine spéisiúla agus éifeachtacha iad iar-reachtairí an chumainn. I measc na ndaoine bhí polaiteoirí agus scoláirí ar nós Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh, Tomás de Bhaldraithe agus Dónall Ó Móráin. Bhí rath ar obair an chumainn agus Aindriú Ó Faoláin agus Jeaic Ó Leocháin mar reachtairí i mblia. D'éirigh go hiontach le Seachtain na Gaeilge na hOllscoile agus chuir an cumann fáilte roimh aionna ar nós fuirseoir le Gaeilge Des Bishop, láithreoir teilifíse Hector Ó hEochagáin agus an tUasal Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh a thácaigh le himeachtaí na seachtaine. Is soléir ón méid a baineadh amach i mblia go bhfuil ról cinntithe ag an gCumann sa gColáiste mar chuid riachtanach de shaol na hOllscoile agus de thodhchaí na teanga araon.

Bhí idir iar-mhíc léinn an choláiste agus mic léinn COBÁC i láthair ag an ócáid. Chuir sé seo le hatmaisféar maoithneach agus ceiliúrtha na hoíche.

Pictured back row (l-r): Diarmuid Bairéad, Dónal Ó Súilleabháin, Aodhán Ó Deá, Jack Ó Leocháin, Aindriú Ó Faoláin, Pól Ó Duinn, Eoghan Ó Murchada, (Front row left to right) Cian Taaffe, Aoife Breathnach, Treasa Ní Cholmáin, Louise Nic Aodh Bhuí, Gillian Ní Chuinneáin, Clár Nic Seoin, Niall Ó hUiginn, Eoin Ó Murchú. Coiste Reatha 100ú Seisiún an Chumainn Ghaelaigh, An Coláiste Ollscoile Baile Átha Cliath.

Seasann an comóradh don mhéid fhuinnimh a thug an Cumann do fheabhsú agus cur chun cinn na hollscoile.

Ba iad an tAire Ghnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus na Gaeltachta, Éamon Ó Cuív agus an tráchtair spóirt Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh na haoichainteoirí ag an ócáid.

Thug an tUasal Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh caint a bhí paiseanta chomh maith le

hinspioráideach, a rinne trácht do fheabhsú na teanga agus an ról lárnach atá ag an gCumann Gaelach an teanga a chur chun cinn ar an gcampas. Spreag sé an lucht féachana meon dearfach a thabhairt faoin teanga sa todhchaí. D'iarr sé ar mhuintir COBÁC a spéis sa teanga a shaothrú. Mhol sé na daoine óga a bhí ag obair ar son athbheochan na teanga agus thug sé faoi deara nach bhfaca sé an teanga faoin mbláth céanna riamh.

Labhair an tAire Ghnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta Éamon Ó Cuív faoin mbaint atá aige féin leis an gCumann. D'inis sé scéalta faoina sheanathair Éamonn De Valera agus an spéis a bhí aige i gcúrsaí Gaeilge na hollscoile. Thug sé omós do bhaill an Chumann Ghaelaigh a bhí i láthair ar an oíche agus ag an gcomóradh leathchéad freisin.

