

## Spring Newsletter



### Welcome

Spring has finally arrived, and with it comes brighter mornings, longer evenings, and that welcome sense that summer is just around the corner. After the darker months, it's always refreshing to see the days getting longer again and to feel the renewed energy this time of year brings.

We've had a busy start to the year behind the scenes, and we're excited about everything that's taking shape. Over the coming months we have lots of plans, initiatives, and events in the works, and we're really looking forward to sharing them with you!

For now, we hope you enjoy the latest edition of our newsletter. As always, please keep in touch with us on our socials, website, and via email.

Best wishes,

All Ireland Scholars Executive Committee

### 2025 Winners & Upcoming Awards Ceremony

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our 2025 winners to the All Ireland Scholars Association. We are looking forward to celebrating your wonderful achievements at the awards ceremony on Easter Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> of April. We are delighted to announce that Kellie Harrington, Double Olympian, will be joining us as Guest of Honour.

If you have not done so already, please RSVP to [ceremony@allirelandships.com](mailto:ceremony@allirelandships.com) by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Please note, you must RSVP regardless of if you are attending or not.

We will be hosting a short online intro session for first years **this Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** via Zoom which includes an overview of the upcoming ceremony, our activity programme, and membership campaign. Join the meeting [HERE](#). All 2025 winners are expected to attend.

## Event for UCD Scholars



**Save the Date** for *An Evening with UCD President Professor Orla Feely - Meet, Connect, Network.*

We are hosting an event for current undergraduate University College Dublin scholars in The Club in UCD on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> of April**. President of UCD, Professor Orla Feely will welcome AIS Scholars, the All Ireland Scholarships Trust, and All Ireland Scholars Executive Committee. Limerick Senior Hurling Manager and AIS Trustee, John Kiely will also make an address. Hot food and drinks will be served for all guests.

Please keep an eye on your inbox over the next two weeks for your official invitation from the President of UCD, Professor Orla Feely. Please get in touch if you don't receive this invitation by the end of March – email [alumni@allirelandscholarships.com](mailto:alumni@allirelandscholarships.com). All UCD current undergraduate students are expected to make every effort to attend.

## Creative Writing Competition Update



We are delighted to share the shortlists of our Creative Writing Competition 2026. Thank you to everyone who entered, the judges were very impressed by the quality and diversity of this year's submissions.

Winners will be announced next week – keep an eye on our socials and website! We will contact all winners directly with details for the awards ceremony on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April**.

Congratulations to our shortlisted candidates! Please note, shortlists are in alphabetical order and all submissions were anonymous for the judging panel.

### **Poetry**

*A Hard Frost* by Emma Corcoran

*A Sunny Afternoon in Phoenix Park* by Sharon Morrissey

*After The Last Box* by Grace Carthy

*Autumn* by Laura Reynolds

*Calling Back* by Ross Gallagher

*News Recycle* by Emmet Harrison

*The Conservatory* by Brian Dixon

*The Heavens Opened* by Ally Hilliard

### **Prose**

*A Half Decent Bottle of Wine* by Chris McGrillen

*A Lesser Dancer* by Laura Reynolds

*An Stad Deireanch* by Daniela Rana

*Hangover* by Rosemary O' Dowd

*Late* by Emma Corcoran

*Primordial Soup* by Holly Langan

*The Boy at the Line* by Paddy Falvey

*The Pledge* by Peter Silke

## Scholar in the Spotlight - Joe Kinvi



For this edition of our newsletter, we spoke to Joe Kinvi, a 2008 All Ireland Scholar and Co-Founder of investment platform Borderless...

*“I received a letter about the All Ireland Scholarship in September 2008, as I had just started university at DIT (now TUD). At the time, I was considering taking a year out to support my family, but the scholarship helped me continue my university studies during that time.*

*“I studied Accounting and Finance and graduated with a 2:1. I joined a training programme at Ernst & Young in 2011 and qualified as a chartered accountant in 2014. After a short stint in banking, I moved into tech in 2017, working as a CFO at an Irish startup that was later acquired by Stripe, the company founded by Patrick and John Collison.*

*“While I was living in Ireland, I helped establish the African Professional Network of Ireland in 2016, a not-for-profit organisation that supports African professionals in advancing their careers in Ireland. The scholarship made it possible for me to complete university comfortably and earn good grades, which helped me build a successful career across consultancy, banking, and tech.*

*“I now live in London, where I’m building an investment technology startup that enables individuals to invest across multiple asset classes globally.*

*“I’m grateful to be a recipient of the All Ireland Scholarship and to be part of such a thriving alumni community.”*

Joe was recently interviewed by the Irish Independent, you can read the article [HERE](#). Thanks for your time, Joe and wishing you all the best in your future endeavours!

Scholars - do you have a story to share? Please get in touch and let us know how you are getting on.

## Mentorship Programme Update



We were blown away by the response from our scholar community to this year's AIS Mentorship Programme and are delighted to share that all successful applicants have been paired up with their mentor/mentee.

We hope that all our mentors and mentees have reached out to each other by now and a gentle reminder to participants that what you put into the programme is what you get out of it! We hope that this is a valuable, worthwhile experience for all participants. We will be sending out feedback surveys to see how you're getting on.

Thank you to everyone who applied to take part in the programme. We received many strong applications and, unfortunately, were unable to offer places to everyone this year. We truly appreciate your interest and encourage you to apply again for our next intake.

As always, if you have any queries, concerns, or questions, please get in touch with us – [alumni@allirelandscholarships.com](mailto:alumni@allirelandscholarships.com)

## AIS AGM Update

The All Ireland Scholars Association hosted its Annual General Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February. It was an informative session, and we covered the below topics:

- 2025 Report of Activity
- Financial overview
- Confirmation of committee members
- Key plans for 2026

Thank you to those who attended.

## **Summer Event - Save The Date**

Our annual Summer Social takes place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> of July in Dublin City Centre. Our summer event is a great way to meet fellow scholars in a fun, informal setting. More details to follow!

## **Mini Social Events**



We kicked off our second mini socials series with a trip to the National Gallery on the 21st of February. With attendees of all ages, careers, and college courses, the event sparked many interesting conversations against the backdrop of the beautiful art. Afterwards, it was time for a coffee and a chat.

The mini-socials series aims to bring people from different backgrounds to learn more about the scholarship, the various initiatives throughout the year, and the stories of our Association. It is the perfect opportunity to become more involved with the Association and meet new people.

Our next mini social will take place on the 19th of March when we will be going to Busker's on the Ball. To learn more, make sure to join our WhatsApp group here and follow us on our socials.

**All Ireland Scholars Membership Campaign**



Building on the vision and generosity of our **Sponsor, Mr. JP McManus**, we are asking you to join the All Ireland Scholars Association and contribute to the future success of your Alumni through a modest annual membership fee.

**Sign up to become a member [HERE](#).**

Together, we will ensure that the All Ireland Scholarships continue to change lives for years to come. As valued members of this unique network, we expect all All Ireland Scholars to take part and contribute to supporting the next generation.

Your membership will:

1. Fund a new All Ireland Scholarship, sponsored entirely by the Alumni Association
2. Support scholar networking and social events
3. Enable scholar mentorship and professional development programmes