



## THE MULCAHY SCHOLARSHIP | NEWSLETTER – FALL 2022 EDITION

### ***Mulcahy Scholarship Coordinator, Linda Croston, reflects on the 2022 Mulcahy Scholarship Program.....***

Mulcahy Scholarship Coordinator, Linda Croston, reflects on the 2022 Mulcahy Scholarship Program, where five wonderful recipients were selected to travel to Galway, Ireland for two weeks this summer to attend the Celtic Irish American Academy (CIAA).

"The selection process is always a stringent one, and this year was no different, as the applications received were extremely strong", noted Croston. The group selected consisted of Grace Moylan (Yonkers, NY), Kelly O'Neill (Queens, NY), Justyne Pereida (Leadville, CO), Ruairi Beirne (Yonkers, NY) and Seamus McEntee (Queens, NY).

The group travelled from the US to Dublin, Ireland in July, where they were met by representatives from the CIAA and transported to their generous host families in Galway, where they lived for two weeks as part of the family.

By day, the group attended classes at the CIAA, learning some "gaelige", Irish history and some GAA hurling drills, and even sampling some Irish céilí dancing. They were also treated to numerous excursions organized by the CIAA, including a visit to the Burren, Cliffs of Moher, NUI Galway, Trinity College in Dublin, Kylemore Abbey and trekked Diamond Hill, in aid of the Galway Simon Community.

By night, they got to relax and enjoy the many sights that Galway has to offer. They had the chance to enjoy some Trad on the Promenade in Salthill, take 5 dips in the Atlantic ocean, with the more adventurous taking a leap from the top tower at Blackrock. The Mulcahy Scholarship recipients were also kindly treated to a dinner at the Creamery Café on the Promenade in Salthill

by AICC board members, Kathy and Seamus Galvin, whose brother, Ronan Galvin, owns the restaurant.

They also attended some inspirational leadership talks by global communications expert, Gina London and Fintan Maher, of the Galway Simon Community. Our very own, Justyne Pereida proudly presented to the group on the history of Leadville, Colorado. Leadville, the highest city in North America is famous for its mining that saw thousands of Irish men die here in poor conditions in the late 1800s/early 1900s. A memorial commemorating these Irish immigrants in Leadville is in the final stages of construction at Evergreen Cemetery. Once complete, the memorial will honor over 1,300 individuals who were buried in their historic cemetery over a century ago.

The Mulcahy Scholarship was launched in 2018 by the Aisling Irish Community Center in Yonkers, New York, in tribute to Denis Mulcahy and his family's commitment to Project Children, a charity that for forty years, worked untiringly to change the lives of children across Northern Ireland. Project Children provided the children of Northern Ireland a 6-week summer reprieve from the violence of "the Troubles" so forty years later, the Aisling Irish Center is replicating the reverse by providing American high school students the opportunity to experience firsthand Irish culture in a fun and diverse way.

And this year did not disappoint, and "we are very proud of our young leaders that seized this wonderful opportunity and explored their Irish heritage" celebrated Croston. The program would like to extend its thanks to all our supporters, with special thanks to Brian Fahy, Director of the CIAA, Dr. Johanna Higgins and all the CIAA host families.



## Mulcahy Scholarship 2022 Recipients and the Mayor of Galway, Cllr. Clodagh Higgins at City Hall, Galway

*Grace Moylan (Yonkers, NY)*



"The Mulcahy Scholarship has brought many new experiences to me than I could have ever imagined. This Scholarship has benefited me in so many ways and aspects of life. It has shown me a different way of life and opportunity, from what I have seen. I got to explore and really further see the true history behind Ireland. This made me further realize the importance of my Irish culture and how valued it is. Not only that, but I have sprung many new friendships out of this program. I think that it was important to see other teenagers like me, from different places, experience the same thing, and see how it brought us together and become very close friends. I had the best time and enjoyed this honorable experience, which will definitely leave a good impact on me."

*Justyne Pereida (Leadville, CO)*



"I have the greatest privilege of being awarded the Mulcahy Scholarship! This scholarship gave the unbelievable opportunity of two weeks in Ireland all expenses paid. It has always been a dream of mine to travel and see and experience life outside of my small little town. Ireland was always one of the top places I wanted to visit. Living in my small town with a single mother, I had a lot of limited opportunities. Without this scholarship, there would have been no way I would be able to do this trip this early in my life. I am so incredibly grateful for Denis' generous support. This will be one of my greatest memories and experiences. The trip helped me see all the beautiful things that the world has to offer, meet amazing people, and enjoy Irish culture. This has also given me a new aspect on my hometown, knowing that a huge start and history of it is part of the Irish journey. This scholarship has been the best opportunity presented to me and will be forever grateful."



A huge thank you to Kathy and Seamus Galvin for our dinner at the Creamery Café, The Promenade, Salthill

*Kelly O'Neill (Queens, NY)*



"The Mulcahy Scholarship really was an opportunity of a lifetime. I met people from all different places such as Germany, New Mexico, Colorado and Galway. It was amazing to see that the Irish heritage has spread to all different parts of the world. We learned all about Irish culture and history in a way that felt like you weren't in school. In class in the mornings we'd learn Irish folk tales and the 1916 uprising. We'd write mini stories of how we think it would turn out if we were in the character's shoes. We traveled to county Claire to see the Cliffs of Moher which was incredibly breathtaking. We also traveled to Dublin to learn about the history behind Trinity college and places like Kilmainham Gaol. It was really an amazing experience and I truly did make friends that will last a lifetime. And the host families were so amazing and accommodating and made me feel like I was at home. We were told while being interviewed that we will make lifelong friends and contacts and I never would've thought that it would really come true."

*Ruari Beirne (Yonkers, NY)*



"The Mulcahy scholarship program was one of the best experiences I've ever participated in. I felt enriched in the culture of Galway, Dublin, and Connemara. Salthill was a beautiful seaside town that made many long-lasting memories with my newly found friends. Being able to swim in the sea and jumping off the BlackRock diving board was an adrenaline rush that I wish I could relive over again. Even the walks to the beach and near the boardwalk were fantastic. The food in Ireland was also excellent, especially the 99s and the meals my host family would cook. It was amazing being able to explore and learn about the many small crevices in Galway from the Spanish Arch to the Galway Cathedral to Eyre Square. The Cliff of Moher was beautiful, especially in the early morning. One of the biggest parts of the trip was making a bunch of new friends that come from all over America like New Mexico, Chicago, Colorado, New Jersey, and other parts of New York as well as a kid from Germany. Everybody got along together so quickly, making the trip enjoyable when we were doing activities together. Although we didn't spend too much time in, I loved the day trip to Dublin, especially going to O'Connell and Grafton street, which were beautiful in their own way. Overall, I would recommend this trip to anybody who could go, it was both eye-opening and life changing."





Denis and Miriam Mulcahy, along with some members of the Mulcahy Scholarship Board of Directors, Catherine Flood, Treasa Goodwin-Smyth, Siobhan Henry, Frank Brady, Linda Croston and the Aisling Irish Center's Executive Director, Sandra Feeney-Charles and Chairperson, Caitriona Clarke

## *Seamus McEntee (Queens, NY)*



"I was more than excited to go to Ireland when I entered this program but I don't think I realized truly how much I would get out of the experience. Who knew that in only two weeks you could get so close to a group of people. In only 14 or so days I was able to make good friends from all around the United States Ireland and even Germany and Switzerland. This scholarship program not only allowed me to meet new people but also allowed me to experience new parts of my Irish culture that I otherwise never had the opportunity to do. I got to visit the Cliffs of Moher and climb Diamond

Hill. I got to give hurling a go and even learned a bit about Irish literature and history. And even tho I wasn't excited to do it I even did a bit of Irish dancing too. At the end of these two weeks, I found myself thinking I want more time there and I think anyone eligible

should apply for this scholarship. It is an absolutely spectacular, once in a lifetime experience that allowed me to envision what life in Ireland would be like. It opened doors for me about college overseas or moving to Ireland for work potentially. I am forever grateful for everything that this scholarship has allowed me to do and I am more than happy to speak about it to others who may be interested in doing it."

## *Special Thanks*

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all of our program donors, as we would not be able to offer the scholarship without their support, and in particular:

- ◇ The Michael J. Miller Foundation
- ◇ NY Friends of Ireland
- ◇ Ladies Ancient Order of the Hiberians, Yonkers Division 19
- ◇ Denis Jr. & Heidi Mulcahy

