St. Mary’s University College has successfully launched its campaign to gain the prestigious Fairtrade status in the College. The combined efforts of members of the Global Dimension in Education Project, the Student’s Union and several dedicated staff members from across all areas of the College, produced an exciting and enthusiastic launch pad for the campaign. The main aim of the campaign is to raise the profile of Fairtrade in the College by providing Fairtrade alternatives to as many products as possible in the College’s snack bars, vending machines and canteen.

The Fairtrade Mark is an independent consumer label which appears on products as an independent guarantee that disadvantaged producers in the developing world are getting a better deal.

The Fairtrade Foundation encourage retailers to buy commodities direct from the producer, at a fair price, which allows the producers to pay their employees a fair wage, thus providing a better standard of living. Already 767 staff and students have added their support to the campaign by voting online. This coincided with a poster campaign featuring staff and students from across the College.

The campaign kicked off recently with the ‘Fairtrade Fashions’ event. Background information and a history of Fairtrade was given by John Sharp from Oxfam, and detailed information on all available products and the free teachers education pack was given by Chris Flack from Co-Op, one of the main Fairtrade retailers.

Danny McKeown and staff provided samples of Fairtrade tea, coffee and snacks for all students and staff throughout the day. Rachel Sugeor from Pueblos on the Ormeau Road in Belfast supplied a range of ethically produced clothes, jewellery and accessories for the Fairtrade Fashion Show.

Students from all year groups and subject groups participated in the show, emphasizing the College-wide support for the campaign. Those involved included, Fiona Mulholland (Students’ Union President), Laura Doran, Katrina O’Donnell, Fiona Holland, Una Meabh Herron, Nuala Lauro, Lena Bogwald, Niall O’Reilly, Peter McAtasney, Louise Grant, Aneka McNeill, Rory McKillion, Brian McElweane and Jack Hanvey, with Steven Hughes as MC.

Fairtrade: The Newest Fashion In St. Mary’s

Special points of interest:
- http://www.dfid.gov.uk
- http://www.nosweatapparel.com
- http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- http://www.co2.org
- http://www.co-opfairtrade.co.uk/schools_pack
- http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/fairtrade
The official launch of the 3-year DfID funded project was held on Thursday 26th January 2006 in the College. The Acting Principal, Peter Finn, welcomed invited guests, college staff and students and spoke of the importance of the Global Dimension in teacher education in a rapidly changing global community. The launch coincided with the visit of Mrs Angela Miyanda the project’s first international exchange visitor, as well as the BEd4 and PGCE Global Dimension Conference. Guests attending the launch included: Wendy Young from the Centre for Global Education; Tom Stewart, Gillian Neill and pupils from Stranmillis Primary School in Belfast; Nisha Tandon from the Indian Community Centre; Ronald Vellem from NICEM (Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities); Eamon Keenan and Niall Moore from NICCY, (Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People); Jamal Iweida from the Belfast Islamic Centre; Sean McMahon an independent EAL (English as an Additional Language) teacher; Áine McMullan from the Belfast Education and Library Board; Susan Good from the South Eastern Education and Library Board; Mary Hampsey and Claire McGeeary from St Patrick’s Primary School Dungannon.

Visit From Department For International Development (DfID)

March 15th saw the first visit from representatives of DfID who are funding the project, Diana Dalton and Shirley Addies. They were here to meet with members of the project steering group to discuss the various elements of the project and to view the new Resource Office in the College. Following the meeting, where steering group members updated Diana and Shirley on our progress to date and our future plans, lunch provided the opportunity for Laura Doran, one of our students, to talk about the various campaigns currently underway in the College related to the Global Dimension. Diana and Shirley were very impressed with what the project has achieved so far and enjoyed their first visit to the College.
The conference was held in the College on Thursday 26th January 2006 and its theme was the opportunities and challenges of teaching in diverse classrooms in Northern Ireland with a specific focus on ethnic diversity and language issues. An outline of the day is presented below.

**Morning Sessions**

Dr Margaret Reynolds welcomed students and visitors to the conference. Growing numbers of children from ethnic minorities are attending schools in Northern Ireland. Teachers need to be prepared to meet their needs and maximize the benefits of increased diversity in their classrooms.

Tom Stewart, principal of Stranmillis Primary School, outlined his school’s diversity policy which focuses on respect for the individual and human rights. Year 5 pupils from the school presented the work they had done on children’s rights with the help of teacher Gillian Neill. Susan Hampsey (principal) and Claire McGarry (teacher) from St Patrick’s Primary School Dungannon then gave an account of their experience. There has been a rapid increase in the number of migrant families in the area especially from Eastern Europe. The teachers outlined some of the challenges they faced.

Susan Gosde from the South Eastern Education and Library Board followed with an account of the SEELB’s provision for children with English as an additional language.

**Workshop**

Six workshop sessions then followed: Niall Moore and Eamon Keenan from NICCY the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People used the Power Line activity to demonstrate prejudice and discrimination in society; Ronald Velllem from NICEM the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities looked at the importance of developing anti racism practices; Nisha Tandon from the Indian Community Centre in Belfast led a session; Jamal Iweida from the Belfast Islamic Centre dealt with the issue of racism and the role of the media; Áine McMullan from the Belfast Education and Library Board raised awareness of initiatives to promote international development; Sean McMahon a teacher of English as an additional language shared some ideas for working with EAL learners.

Student reporters were assigned to each group to record each of the workshop sessions and prepare an evaluation of the day.

**Afternoon Sessions**

Wendy Young from the Centre for Global Education joined the conference and project launch.

**International Exchange Visitor**

Closing remarks were given by Ms Angela Miyanda, director of Angels in Development, a Zambian organisation providing opportunities for orphaned children. She spoke to staff and students at the conference on the opportunities afforded by education. Ms Miyanda who had been visiting the College as part of the Global Dimension International Exchange programme gave a number of presentations about her work during the week. Staff and students involved in Project Zambia are involved in fundraising efforts to support related projects and will travel to Zambia later this year to see how these projects develop.

Dr Margaret Reynolds concluded the day with a summary and thanks to all involved.
Ethical Holidays

It is that time of year to start planning for the holidays. Consider these 10 action points from Tourism Concern to help you have a better holiday!

1) Be aware: Start enjoying your travels before you leave. Think about what sort of clothing is appropriate for both men and women. If the locals are covered up, what sort of messages may you be sending out by exposing acres of flesh?

2) Be open: Something may seem bizarre or odd to ‘you’, but it may be normal and just the way things are done to ‘them’. Try not to assume that the western way is right or best.

3) Our holidays - their homes: Ask before taking pictures of people, especially children, and respect their wishes. Talk to local people. What do they think about our lifestyle, clothes and customs? Find out about theirs.

4) “One school pen”: Giving to children encourages begging. A donation to a project, health centre or school is more constructive.

5) Be fair: Try to put money into local hands. If you haggle for the lowest price, your bargain may be at the seller’s expense. Even if you pay a little over the odds, does it really matter?

6) Be adventurous: Use your guidebook or hotel as a starting point, not the only source of information. Find out what’s going on by talking to locals, then have your own adventures.

7) Think before you fly: Help repair the damage you do to the environment by flying less. The more and further you fly, the more you contribute to global warming and environmental destruction. Offset the carbon dioxide you produce with one of Tourism Concern’s “offset schemes.”

8) Ask questions: Write a letter to your tour operator about their responsible tourism policy.

9) Be controversial! Enhance your image one with one of Tourism Concern’s stylish ‘Avoid Guilt Trips’ t-shirts. Designs include: Exploitation Hotel and Child Labour Villas.

10) Be happy: By taking any, some or all of these actions you are personally fighting tourism exploitation. Enjoy your guilt-free trip!

Tourism Concern is actively campaigning to fight exploitation in tourism. Central to Tourism Concern’s work is the fact that tourism often causes or exacerbates poverty. Tourism Concern has been working since 1989 to raise awareness of the negative impacts of tourism - economic, cultural, environmental and social.

Project Zambia

St Mary’s is actively involved in strengthening practical links with our partners in the developing world through the College’s Global Dimension in Education Project. Current highlights of this include an International Staff Exchange programme which encompassed a visit to Mrs Miyanda, the Old Kaweza’s Partnership Coordinator in Zambia to our Global Dimension Conference in January 2006 and the linked Christian Brothers Project Zambia. Through such activities the intention is to create a more informed and empathetic College community committed to social justice and human rights. Over the past two years staff and students in the College have been working with the organisers of Project Zambia to do some excellent fundraising in support of a range of schemes. They have assisted in a variety of projects including the Old Kaweza partnership, Kaweza, the St Mary’s College building programme and the St Mary’s educational community in Misisi Compound, Zambia. The Project Zambia group are committed to responding to the needs of the people. In July, staff and students, Teresa Cash, Colm McAindreasa, Mairead Byrne, Anne Marie Earley, Ciara Magee and Padhrine O'Donnell will be making the journey to Lusaka along with the Project Zambia group to experience what life is like in sub-Saharan Africa. They will work on the project for a two week period, during which they will visit the schools and communities in Misisi, Lusaka and Kaweza. There will be further news about this exciting St Mary’s Project in our next edition.

Light Relief

WORD LADDER

Climb the ladder using the word GLOBE in five steps, by changing only one letter at a time.

GLOBE

TRADE

WORD LADDER

T W O  S Y M B O L S

SYMBOLS

The following symbols are related to the global dimension. Do these symbols represent?

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

Hidden Countries

The names of six African countries are hidden in the story below (the letters are in consecutive order). Can you identify the countries?

A student named Ken yawned quite often during lectures, as did many other students, so the Administration decided to form a law in the University to ensure that yawns were banned during lectures, and was only permitted during time spent in the library. Yawning was something that Ken could not control and therefore he left this law to be very unreasonable to those students who supported Ken decided to go through an appeal process. Their appeal highlighted that yawning and lectures go hand-in-hand and that indeed many lecturers yawned during seminars and tutorials when students presented their work. The Administration felt it was better it reacted in a positive manner towards their appeal and therefore did not utilise this law. If you yawned while trying to figure out this puzzle, then I suggest coffee in a mug and a chocolate biscuit.