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## Proposal for Faculty Grant for International Connections

Faculty Member: Catherine Ridings  
Associate Professor  
Management Department  
College of Business and Economics

Date: February 14, 2010

Trip Destination: National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI-Galway)

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**Professional Goals for Trip:** I will conduct both teaching and research activities on this trip. A memorandum of understand (MOU) between NUI-Galway and Lehigh was executed on 10/13/2010. This MOU established a student exchange program between Lehigh's CBE and NUI-Galway's J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics. Thus I will conduct several teaching activities to further strengthen this exchange program. In addition, I will make research connections with faculty at NUI-Galway.

### **Expected Outcomes:**

- **Preparation for Lehigh Exchange Students:** The student exchange program was established to give Business Information Systems (BIS) majors an opportunity to earn up to six elective credits abroad in their major (one of the few study abroad programs that allow CBE students to earn major credits abroad). I will observe courses that Lehigh students are expected to take in the exchange program, and meet with the NUI-Galway faculty that teach these courses. I have been invited to give guest lectures in the undergraduate courses. As the BIS Program director, it will be helpful to have firsthand knowledge of the courses that Lehigh students would take abroad, as well as firsthand experience with the NUI-Galway facilities and campus.
- **Preparation for Galway Exchange Students:** The student exchange program was also established to give NUI-Galway students an opportunity to come to Lehigh, and take BIS courses (among other Lehigh courses). By observing the Galway classes, meeting the students and faculty, and having firsthand knowledge of the Galway atmosphere, I would be better prepared to select appropriate BIS courses for the Galway students to take at Lehigh. In addition, I would be able to identify any transitional issues for future Galway students.
- **Lehigh BIS Curriculum Development:** The NUI-Galway BIS program is much more extensive than Lehigh's program since NUI-Galway does not require students to take any classes outside of the business school, and thus NUI-Galway can afford to have much more program depth. In addition, the NUI-Galway program is successful in placing students both in Ireland but also in the global marketplace. I can meet with the faculty about the different courses and the structure of the program, which will yield information valuable in improving Lehigh's program, particularly in making sure our BIS program is globally focused.
- **Research Connections Development:** The J.E. Cairnes Business School houses The Centre for Innovation and Structural Change (CISC), an interdisciplinary research institute. My main research streams are (1) online behavior/social networking in virtual communities and (2) the use of information technology in local food systems. Both of these streams are interdisciplinary and fit into CISC's focus on innovation and structural change. Please see the attached invitation from Professor Willie Golden, Dean, College of Business, Public Policy, and Law formally inviting me to campus for a visit and to give a guest research lecture to the staff of the center and masters students. Additional NUI-Galway faculty that have research related to my streams are: Dr. James Cunningham (Management), Dr. Tom Van Resburg (Economics), and Dr. Christine Domegan (Marketing).

**Professional Contact:**

Martin Hughes  
Lecturer in Business Information Systems,  
J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics,  
National University of Ireland Galway,  
Galway, Ireland  
<http://www.bis.ie>  
<http://ie.linkedin.com/in/martinhughes>

**Trip Preparation:** Faculty members Tom Acton and Martin Hughes from NUI-Galway visited Lehigh on May 25, 2010 and met with both Sue Sherer and me to discuss the student exchange program at length. I have continued the relationship with Martin since the meeting via email and phone/Skype video calls. We continue to discuss the possible trip, including logistics as well as research and teaching outcomes.

**Proposed Date of Trip:**

- First choice: For Spring Semester 2011, the NUI-Galway class schedule ends on April 1st. As I am on sabbatical for Spring 2011, and as it is most beneficial to go when Irish classes are in session, it would be best to travel the end of March 2011. Thus I could attend NUI-Galway classes and not have to interfere with Lehigh classes.
- Second choice: If March 2011 travel is not possible, an alternative is to travel when NUI-Galway classes are in session (but not Lehigh classes) in early January 2012 or spring break 2012.

**Proposal Budget:**

Item	Amount (USD)
Airfare	\$ 800
- Newark-Shannon round-trip economy class	
- March 2011 travel timeframe	
Airport Parking in U.S. (for 2 weeks)	\$ 132
Transportation to Newark Airport in U.S. (round trip)	\$ 65
- 128 miles round trip @ 51 cents per mils	
Lodging	\$1,950
- Single room at Inn in downtown Galway	
- for 13 nights at approximately \$150/night	
- includes breakfast	
Ground Transportation in Ireland	\$ 300
- to/from Shannon airport to Galway	
Occasional taxi for transportation	\$ 150
Meals	\$ 700
- \$50/day for 14 days	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 4,097</b>

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**Attachment – Email Invitation from NUI- Galway**

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Subject: FW: letter of support for your proposed visit to NUI Galway  
From: Willie Golden <willie.golden@nuigalway.ie>  
Date: Thu, 10 Feb 2011 16:52:09 +0000  
To: <cmr4@lehigh.edu>, Martin Hughes <martin.hughes@nuigalway.ie>

Dear Cathy,

I am just sending this short email to say that we would very much like to have you come visit us here at NUI Galway.

I believe your visit would result in benefits for both Lehigh and NUI Galway. Specifically, it would be great to have you come and give a guest lecture or two to our students on the Bsc Business Information Systems programme. The sharing of your expertise and knowledge with our students would be of enormous value to them.

With respect to your primary areas of research - 1) online behaviour in virtual communities and social networking 2) local food, specifically how information technology can help local food systems (I have started a new research project involving the supply chain management/IT and local food), it would be very beneficial to us if you could give a research seminar at our Centre for Innovation and Structural Change ([www.nuigalway.ie/cisc/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/cisc/)) on one of these topics to our staff and masters students. I believe there are also excellent opportunities for you to collaborate with members of faculty here who are conducting research in the same/or similar areas to yourself.

Your travelling over here will help to build and develop the strategic relationship between our respective Universities and more specifically our two business schools. If collaborations are to work effectively they need people to build those bridges and thus your visit over here would really help with this.

Regards  
Willie

Professor Willie Golden,  
Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy & Law,  
NUI Galway