



Owen Gallagher: His two political video recuts featuring 'Bertie Ahern on Dragons Den' and 'Enda Kenny on American Idol' became popular hits online around the time of the 2007 General Election being viewed over 200,000 between them.

# 'Bertie Ahern man on Dragons Den' off to US on scholarship

Fresh from YouTube battle with BBC and top film companies

BY SEÁN P. FEENEY

**TOMORROW (Saturday)** a Donegal based Masters graduate will be flying to the USA to begin a six-month entrepreneurial scholarship

Owen Gallagher, who lives in Letterkenny with his wife Aoife and daughter Jennifer, recently completed his Masters Degree with a First Class Honours from the University of Ulster, Derry.

Recently, under allegations of copyright infringement, he had three of his remix videos removed from YouTube.

The videos in question were created using post production editing techniques as part of a University project in which samples from copyrighted material were remixed, i.e. Dragons Den and Shrek, with video from different sources, e.g. Bertie Ahern's Ard Fheis speech.

His videos were removed from his YouTube account and his account was 'permanently disabled' as a result of three strikes against it with notifications made by BBC Worldwide, Paramount Pictures and 20th Century Fox.

Counter-notifications were filed by Gallagher for each video, which he believed were protected by Fair Use and the notifications

were passed on to the companies. Only the BBC responded, requesting evidence that the 'Bertie Ahern on Dragons Den' video was, in fact, part of a university project.

He responded with a link to his Masters research paper directing their attention to the relevant section. The BBC then approved the use of the copyrighted material, and contacted YouTube to tell them to reinstate the video.

Neither Paramount Pictures nor 20th Century Fox responded within the ten days grace period required by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) and so the other two videos were also reinstated and his YouTube account was restored to its original state.

"I would like people to know about my case and hopefully it will encourage others to do likewise and stand up for their rights to freedom of expression in the digital age."

His two political video recuts featuring 'Bertie Ahern on Dragons Den' and 'Enda Kenny on American Idol' became popular hits online around the time of the 2007 General Election being viewed over 200,000 between them.

His website TotalRecut.com, an online video remix community

dedicated to showcasing the work of video remix artists, was short-listed for the final of the Golden Spider Awards 2007, the Northern Ireland 25k Awards 2007.

It secured a place for him on the 2008 NCGE/Kauffman Fellowship for Entrepreneurship, which takes place in the United States from January to June 2008.

"I started the website as my Master's project and it has been developing further and changing since and the reason I was accepted for the scholarship was to help me turn it into a full-time business."

Magee lecturer, Anton Hutton, nominated Owen for the scholarship and he was then called for an interview in Belfast.

"The interview was based on my business plan and it was very tough going, but I was very fortunate to be chosen by the foundation," he said.

The Kauffman Foundation, based in Kansas City, is a huge organisation that funds entrepreneurial ideas and encourages people to start up their own businesses world-wide.

"Initially we'll be going to Kansas City for five weeks where we'll be staying in apartments beside the foundation."

"We will also be visiting presti-

gious universities such as Stanford in California and MIT, Cambridge and Harvard in Massachusetts to attend lectures.

"You get to meet well-known entrepreneurs as the organisation is linked with successful business people who will offer their professional advice."

He is also delighted that his newlywed wife Aoife and his nine-month-old daughter Jennifer will be flying over to spend time with him.

"Aoife will be bringing Jennifer over from Letterkenny and they'll be staying with me for three months, but the initial eight weeks will be the longest that I've been away from them."

He said that his six months in the US will hopefully be a stepping stone towards getting his own business up-and-running once he returns to Donegal.

"There will be a lot of networking going on and hopefully I'll get a lot of advice on how to make TotalRecut.com into a real business, and brush up on my business skills."

The three months of scholarship will also be spent with companies, Owen is working with a video post production company based in Kansas city.



The site of the proposed fourteen apartments to the right of the bungalow, with Iona Road on the left.

## Apartments plan for High Road house

WELL known developer PJ McDermott has applied to Letterkenny Town Council for permission to build four apartment blocks on the High Road in the town.

The proposed development will consist of the

demolition of an existing house to make way for 14 apartments in two storey and four storey blocks. If passed, the development will also make provision for a car park, landscaping and widening of the road.

## Slip lane at Port Bridge

THE possibility of creating a slip lane at the Port Bridge in an attempt to ease traffic congestion has been raised by Cllr Neil Clarke.

At Monday's Town Council meeting he tabled a motion that 'the Council seek talks with Charles Kelly Ltd. with a view to

creating a slip lane at the Port Bridge'.

"The structure of the old road is still there and I feel we could open it up again at very little cost. I think this would serve as a temporary measure to deal with the severe traffic problem out there," he said.

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### Mice and heating problems in schools

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

"While we have electric heaters in most of the classrooms affected, I am informed that these put a dangerous strain on our electrical system. School will reopen on Friday and if there continues to be a problem, information will be available to Highland radio on Friday morning," he stated.

One concerned parent said the rodent activity at the Old Boys School appeared to be limited to one end of the school site.

Pest controllers were brought in to block off the rodents' access routes to the school site and the pupils were back in their classrooms yesterday morning.

"It was a minor problem. There were a couple of mice in one of the rooms - which is not unusual at this time of year. The problem has been sorted and they're back in the room this morning," a spokesperson at the school said.

Coiste Gairmoideachais Chontae Dhún na nGall  
County Donegal Vocational Education Committee  
is delighted to announce the forthcoming

## KICK START YOUR NEW YEAR WITH THE ADULT LEARNER FAIR

Adult Education

New Year is a time for making changes; a time when we stand at the start of January with a determination that 2008 is going to be different. We make resolutions for the coming year that we hope will change our lives for the better, to make this year better than the last.

So what are you deciding to do this year? Some think of getting fit or stopping smoking but many also decide that they want to go back to education or improve their career prospects or maybe take on a part time interest or hobby. Others may be thinking of returning to education in September but know they need to start planning their next steps now. Unfortunately though, our good intentions for the New Year may fade as the kids go back to school, our busy lives pick up a pace again and our New Year resolutions become a distant memory, delaying our plans for change for yet another year. Does this sound familiar?

## Stories of Education & Inspiration...

These are stories of inspiration, motivation and transformation that Dearbhla Kelly, Guidance Counsellor with the Donegal VEC's Adult Learner Guidance Service, has gathered during the last year. We hope these inspirational stories will encourage you to visit our Adult Learner Fair in the Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny on Wednesday, 23rd January from 11am - 5pm. Returning to education is a big step however, as you will see below there can be great rewards.

### Daragh Curran's Story

Ten years ago Daragh Curran, from Ardara, never believed that one day he would be in the paper wearing a graduation gown. This is Daragh's story in his own words...

"If you had said to me five years ago that I would be tutoring in NUI Maynooth, I would have said to you I would never get that far and there's not a hope that I would stand in front of a class of students. Like many others in my area I started my career in the fishing industry in Killybegs working on the freezer boats. From there I worked in a petrol station for ten years. I was looking around me at permanent, pensionable, secure jobs with envy. Having looked into the selection process I figured it was fairly impossible to get what I wanted without a third level qualification. Then I began to look at the rest of my family who went back to college as mature students and after visiting the Donegal Adult Learner Guidance Service I realised that it could be done. History was my passion at school and I decided to go with my passion.

My first step was to do an access to education course in Maynooth. This eased me into life on the campus as it was my first time away from home. It gave me the tools to study and the structure to write essays. From there, I completed a degree in History with Honours and now I am doing a Masters in History. Really, there's no stopping me now.

The man I am today is a very different one. College has given me a broader outlook on life. In the past I would have been of the mindset 'What's the point?' and today I am an optimist. I got rid of the attitude of 'that is my lot'. Now, I know that there is no end to what is out there for me and I can keep going for as long as I want.

When I asked Daragh what advice he would give to anyone thinking of returning to education he stated, "Don't be intimidated by thinking that others are better or smarter than you. Really, everyone gets that scary feeling when they think of going back to study. If you put the work in you will reap rewards. Have the confidence to go for it and see what happens. I am really glad that I did"

### Ishmeal Annan's Story

Six years ago Ishmeal Annan left Ghana and came to Letterkenny with his family to start a new life. Here is the story of what happened next...

"When I came to Letterkenny, I faced the challenges of being in a new place, trying to fit in and adopting a new way of life. I started looking for jobs and faced the barrier of a lack of secondary school qualifications and I felt that I was getting nowhere in my search for work. I also wanted to set a good example to my children and pass on a good interest in education. I believe that education will pave the way to a secure job and will ensure security for my mind and my family. With these motives I went to the Donegal VEC Adult Education & Training Centre, in Letterkenny to study for the Irish Leaving Cert.

In the Leaving Cert programme I find the teachers to be charismatic, the way they teach is very enjoyable and to be honest I find learning to be a bit of fun. It was not all fun and games at the start as I had to cope with a new born baby, my two other children and study. However, I would say to anyone out there that it is worth it. It is worth the time and sacrifice as I believe it is the only way forward to a secure job.

I am now looking forward to doing the Accelerated Technician Programme at Letterkenny Institute of Technology and I am looking forward to life in the IT world."

### Marie O'Hara's Story

Marie O'Hara is now working as an Special Needs Assistant in Kilmacrennan National School. However, she did not always work in a school. Here is Marie's story...

"I worked in the travel industry for ten years and I took time off to care for my children when I had my third child. Deep down I realised I wanted to study childcare so when I saw the advertisement for the FETAC Level 5 in Childcare at the Adult Education & Training Centre in Milford, I felt both nervous and excited at the same time. The availability of excellent crèche facilities for my child really gave me the green light to go because without the crèche I couldn't have contemplated it.

The course was fantastic; it not only taught me so much about childcare but it also gave me an increased sense of self awareness and confidence. I got great support from the Tutor and the Guidance Service.

I just love now getting up and going to work in Kilmacrennan National School. The kids are great. I gain great satisfaction interacting with the kids and love helping them. Today, I am more aware of differing needs and developmental needs in children. Work is a joy!"

### Linda McGeady's Story

Linda McGeady is from Falcarragh and she is working in an administrative post in a Wind farm company in Letterkenny. Linda gave me an insight into how she arrived at her alternative energy post today.

These are Linda's words, "I would say to anyone out there thinking of going back to learning or developing new skills to just go for it. Don't be afraid. Don't put it off. Don't say 'I'll do it next year'. Do it now or at least go to the Fair and make enquiries. I wouldn't be where I am today if I didn't take that step.

What that step has given me goes beyond words. My whole world has opened up. My return to Education has given me confidence, the ability to speak up and speak out. No longer am I afraid to ask for anything. Now, I take chances. I try new things. For me now I see life as a one big learning curve.

I first began to consider studying when my kids all went to school and I was left alone in the house. I thought it would be a good time to do something for me. I began to think about a computer qualification as I realised how valuable computer skills are in the workplace. So I approached Sharon at the Adult Education & Training Centre in Gort a 'Choice' and enrolled on the Business Studies Programme which placed a huge emphasis on computer skills. I can still remember feeling nervous on that first day and was scared at the thought of committing to a two year course. Immediately, those feelings dissolved as I felt secure in knowing that the others in the class were no different than me. Despite that fact that we all had come from different backgrounds I felt reassured being in a group of all adults that all wanted the same thing. Little did I think on that first day that I would make strong lasting friendships in that group.

The support I received from the tutor, the skills I learnt and the interview techniques I developed have brought me to the place I am today. These days I am working on my own initiative, I am applying the course in the workplace and I am enjoying the work as a more confident person.

For those of you in West Donegal I would say, "See past the belief that there aren't many opportunities here. There is more! It is just that sometimes you have got to go further afield. I am travelling in and out to Letterkenny with a heart and hand."

### Linda Duggan's Story

"I would have been management material; however spelling held me back from a lot of work that I wanted to do. Prior to going back to education, I was working as a waitress and whilst reading wasn't a problem for me, I found that my lack of spelling ability caused me huge stress and embarrassment - even the names of wines such as Chardonnay and Sauvignon really threw me. Due to my lack of spelling ability, I'd get the orders wrong and the Chef would shout at me 'Do it right! Do it again!' This used to happen all the time and I was often anxious and panicky. I also had to bluff my way when it came to writing letters, filling out forms and writing notes for my children at school.

Then one day I decided I had enough and I didn't want my life to continue trying to cope with this difficulty that was affecting me daily. The turning point for me was a trip to the Adult Education & Training Centre in Gort a 'Choice' where I spoke to Dolores about getting help with my spelling and joined a class which really helped me. I realised I wasn't the only one with learning challenges, I didn't feel alone and I realised that we were all in the same boat. Although I was frightened of joining that first class and memories from my school days came flooding back, I was quickly comforted by the kindness and patience of the teachers. So, I wasn't afraid to ask questions and voice my opinion. Now looking back I was on a high the entire time. If it wasn't for the Learning for Living programme I wouldn't feel as confident and as brilliant as I do today."

Since that first step in her return to learning Linda developed a huge appetite for learning. She began to avail of classes in the centre during the day and night. She has completed a computer course, completed intensive classes in basic education, used the National Adult Literacy Agency resources and is now studying FETAC Level 5 Computer and Business Applications with the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) in Gort a 'Choice'. Today, Linda told me that she is off to buy her own laptop in order to put her computer skills into practice.

Linda has come a long way since that first class and has made huge progress. "I feel good about myself now and proud of myself" says Linda "and I feel I have a better chance of getting a job and I feel confident to work anywhere. It was amazing the amount of people I met through learning and that everyone was very helpful. The biggest thing that I got from education was confidence."

Her advice to anyone out there who would like to return to learning is: "Do it, go to the first class...the worst thing is taking that first step. It is not like school. You will be treated like an adult and you can start at any age." The more confident Linda ended our interview with "I'll never look back, I'll always look forward"

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An exhibition of education and training opportunities, learning supports and information ranging from adult basic education through to third level

- Do you want another chance to improve your education but are not sure how to go about it?
- Are you on a course and want to find out where to go next?
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**23RD JANUARY 2008**  
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