

The Ireland Fund of France—2009 Activities

THE EVE OF THE 2009 IRELAND / FRANCE RUGBY MATCH On February 6 on the eve of the Ireland/ France rugby match, The French Ambassador to Ireland H.E.M **Yvon Roé d'Albert** hosted a dinner in honour of The Ireland Fund of France at the Residence of the French Embassy in Dublin. The Ambassador introduced the new President **Áine Adès** to a group of 50 distinguished guests, including French author and academician **Michel Déon**, Ambassador **Anne Anderson**, the then Irish Ambassador to France, Mr **Alexandre Ricard**, CEO of Irish Distillers **Pernod Ricard**.



THE CORK FILM FESTIVAL The Ireland Fund of France gave a grant to the 20th edition of the Cork French Film Festival, which showed a wide audience of francophiles a interesting selection of films, including the 2009 Palme d'Or Cannes winning film *The Class*. French screenwriter **Jean-Claude Carriere** attended and gave a master class for film makers from all over Ireland.

H.E.M. Yvon Roe D'Albert, French Ambassador to Ireland; Áine Adès, President Ireland Fund of France; Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr Brian Bermingham; John X Miller, Director Cork Vision Centre and Claire Bourgeois, Director General of the Alliance Française, Irlande.



1 Pierre Joannon, Aine Adès, Kingsley Aikins, Jane Conroy, Amb. Paul Kavanagh
2 Pierre Joannon, Hilary Staunton

Franco-Irish Connections

DECEMBER, 2009 The Irish Embassy in Paris co-hosted a reception for friends of The Ireland Fund of France at which the book *Franco-Irish Connections* was launched. This 'festchrift' edited by Professor **Jane Conroy** of Galway University is a compilation of essays, memoirs and poems in honour of **Pierre Joannon** and his contribution to Franco-Irish relationships over the years. Among the many distinguished contributors to the 345 page book are **Seamus Heaney**, **Brendan Kennelly**, **John Montague**, **Garret Fitzgerald**, **David Norris**, **Lara Marlow**, and French academician **Michel Déon**, Ambassadors **Patrick Grasset** and **Patrick O'Connor**.

The Ireland Fund of France—Ongoing and Upcoming Grants

The Ireland Fund of France will continue to support flagship projects such as the Franco-Irish Literary Festival, French debating, film festivals in Ireland and selected studies/conferences/ research on Ireland in France. In addition, the The ongoing Jacques Servier scholarship will be awarded and a new scholarship Veolia Energy and University College Dublin will enable an engineering student to carry out a research project on sustainable energy. Finally, restoration will continue of the harmonium of the Irish College in Paris and a contribution will go to the upkeep of Oscar Wilde's tomb at Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris.