



Monday, February 17, 2003

Explore Ireland with Alumni Association

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Coastal terrains, castles and shamrocks: what could be more spectacular than Ireland in the fall?

The **Oakland University Alumni Association** is offering OU alumni, their families and friends a unique, value-packed trip to the emerald isle from Sept. 19-27. The trip, sponsored by the OUAA and Global Holidays, will explore the delights of the ancient seaside town of Galway and the Waterford region.

"Traveling with OU alumni makes this trip very special," said Adrienne Bass, director of Alumni Relations. "You have that instant connection with people. There will be a lot of fun and conversation and by the end of the trip everyone will feel like old friends. And on a Global Holidays trip you really get to experience the fabric of a country, including the local people and cuisine."

The western port of Galway is situated on the northern shore of Galway Bay. It is one of the fastest growing cities in Europe. Conversely, its city center is home to narrow streets, carved stone windows, and low-arched doorways that represent a past of Anglo-Norman and Gaelic influences.

Waterford is located in the "sunny southeast," the region of Ireland that receives the most sunshine. Waterford also is Ireland's oldest city. The Vikings, Normans and Anglo-Irish all have left their mark on the countryside. One of the most striking features of Waterford is its mile long quayside lined with blue, yellow, pink and white houses.

Optional excursions also may be available to the Aran Islands, Blarney Castle, Blarney Woolen Mills, the Cliffs of Moher, Connemara and Moycullen, Dublin City, Kilkenny City, Lismore Castle and Cobh, Siamsa Tire, and a medieval banquet. Details will be available as the travel date approaches.

"This trip represents great value and variety," Bass said. "You'll get to see mountains and lakes, rocky beaches and peninsulas, seascapes and harbors. And Ireland is one of the few countries where you can absorb a lot of different cultures. This is a trip that people look forward to for many years, and the experience is even greater than what they expected."

Prices for the trip begin at \$1,269 per person, double occupancy, which includes round-trip air transportation, first-class and/or superior first-class hotel accommodations, a full Irish breakfast daily, transfers between airports and hotels, luggage handling and all related tipping, and an experienced and knowledgeable Irish driver/guide. Space is limited, so early reservations are encouraged.

For more information on the travel program to Ireland or to make reservations, contact Sonnie Benson of Global Holidays at (952) 918-8950 or (800) 842-9023 or visit the **Global Holidays** Web site.

SUMMARY

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