

Speech given at the launch of the 16<sup>th</sup> issue of the Geographical  
Journal “**CHIMERA**” by the head editor, *Xoán M. Paredes*  
6<sup>th</sup> November 2001, Dept. of Geography, University College Cork

Attending: Prof. Gerard Wrixon (President, UCC), Prof. William Smyth (Dept. of Geography, Head), Prof. Patrick O'Flanagan (Dept. of Geography), a number of staff from the Dept. of Geography, the CHIMERA 2001 editorial team/committee, a number of postgraduate and undergraduate Geography students, a number of published authors in CHIMERA 2001, representatives from the Dept. of Hispanic Studies (UCC), family and friends.

President Wrixon, fellow geographers and friends, all of you gathered here today. On the behalf of the Chimera committee, I want to welcome and thank you for joining us in this event.

We are proud to celebrate the launch of the sixteenth edition of our geography department journal, Chimera. Since 1986, this publication has overcome all kind of adversities, including financial problems, but a constant effort and determination from the school of postgraduates has kept this unique project in Ireland alive. I say Chimera is an unique feature not just at the Irish scale - where it constitutes the only publication of its type - but also in a broader sense. In my experience in three different universities - and contacts with a number of research centres and groups - I could not find a thing such as Chimera, a scientific geographical journal where the research of students and professionals is integrated, a journal that expresses the realities and current controversies in our science, an open publication to anyone who has something to express in a geographical way. And

this year we introduce a novelty, the Chimera website, making Chimera more accessible to the larger public.

It finally arrived, this sixteenth issue, and for that I want to thank everybody involved in it. I want to thank the Chimera team, who worked so hard: David, Joanne, Maeve, Kieran, Mark – none of this would have been possible without *ye*, and *ye* know it; also thanks to all the postgrads who helped out when it was necessary; thanks to the department of geography, UCC, thanks Helen – you made those machines work when necessary and when we were all losing our heads, thanks Rose – your never-fading smile was a beacon for us all! I also want to thank those who I call “anonymous sufferers”, those who did not want to appear on the credits, but who were always around ready to lend a hand, and sure they did. Obviously, a special thanks to all the contributors in the journal – this year mainly current and former postgrads here - those who shared part of their vast geographical knowledge and submitted an article to this Chimera’s edition. Thanks also to our sponsors, without whom Chimera would not have been possible at all.

To conclude, thank you very much again for coming here today. Thank you President Wrixon. It is important that the official UCC

geographical journal be acknowledged by the college administration, and we look forward to a closer relationship. Who knows if this will pave the way for a solid, trouble-free future for our journal, where we will not have to worry that much about the logistics, but simply the science.

I hope we all enjoy the rest of the evening as I enjoyed being part of this adventure, and I have to say that I enjoyed it immensely.

Thank you. It has been a privilege.