

## €6.6m investment under Project Ireland 2040 for Extension to IT Sligo Campus



President of IT Sligo Dr Brendan McCormack and Chairman Niall Donnellan with Minister Mary Mitchell O'Conner TD, on a recent visit to the development of Block K&L at IT Sligo which received a further 13.6m funding earlier this year.

The Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh T.D. and the Minister of State for Higher Education Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D. announced almost €6.6 million is to be invested by the Government in major building extension at IT Sligo Campus.

As part of ongoing investment in the sector through Project Ireland 2040, the funding has been approved in principle to help support additional new places for students at IT Sligo in line with the Institutes ambitious plans to increase student numbers to 10,000 by 2022 as laid out in its Strategic Plan. The announcement significantly boosts the Institutes plans to become a Technological University in partnership with GMIT and LYIT next year.

The project will include a complete rebuild of J Block with an investment of €18.58 million, turning the single floor 1970's building into a modern four storey complex that will enhance the modern state-of-the-art campus which has seen significant development over recent years.

President of IT Sligo, Dr Brendan McCormack welcomed the announcement today:

"IT Sligo would like to sincerely thank the Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh T.D. and

the Minister of State for Higher Education Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D for their announcement today. This announcement is a huge boost to the region and local economy. The funding will facilitate a significant upgrade of the last remaining section of the old campus building which has been there since the 1970's. A large section of this block houses our online educational facilities and with the upgrade and extension of this building will enable us to further develop and enhance our research and online courses which has seen dramatic growth in recent years. I would like to congratulate all our colleagues for their support in this application as this is a reflection of the high esteem this institute is held within the Government and the HEA.

The Institute will be celebrating its 50th anniversary next year and this development will help us to deliver the highest level of education as we head towards Technological University status in 2020."

Minister McHugh said the award of such significant levels of funding would significantly enhance the capacity of the sector in advancing Ireland's national and regional ambitions.

"This will have a major positive



Proposed plans for new €18.6m Extension at IT Sligo.

impact on the sector's ability to cater for significant increases in enrolments over the coming decade. We are planning and investing for the future and with that we are driving choice and increasing options for students around the country.

"Ambition is at the heart of these plans. These projects and new buildings will have an important regional and national impact but they will also enhance the competitiveness of Ireland's higher education system on the international stage."

"The projects that have been

approved in principle for funding will significantly advance the objectives of Project Ireland 2040, including in underpinning the talent pipeline that is essential to Ireland's growth as an economy and society, and in supporting regional objectives. The buildings themselves will be highly innovative and sustainable, future-proofed to support the most up-to-date approaches to teaching and learning, and designed to facilitate the multi-disciplinary engagement that is so critical to tackling the challenges of today and of the future."

### Sligo Design Graduate Makes top 4 in the World



An IT Sligo graduate has been identified as one of the top graduate designers in the world. Paul Roper, a native of Sligo, was recognised for his radical design skills by the Global undergraduate Awards. After a rigorous and lengthy judging process led by over 400 expert academics worldwide, Paul made first place in Ireland and Europe and is top 4 in the world in his category! Speaking about the award Paul said he was honoured:

*Continued on Page 4*

### CUA awarded €2m Towards Technological University



### AbbVie Announce 3 Year Partnership with Sligo Science Festival



### Student Induction 2019



### Over 1000 at IT Sligo Open Day



**13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**  
ITSLIGO, AURIVO LECTURE THEATRE

# ASPIRE

WITH ABBOTT



Aspire with ABBOTT is a bespoke event that brings parents, teachers and students together to learn and discover more about the career opportunities that exist within STEM Disciplines, hear real life employee educational and career journeys and from patients whose lives have been positively impacted by innovative healthcare technologies.

**Presented by: Daniel Browne** - Radio Personality

#### STEMtalks DELIVERED BY:

- **Kevin Nolan** - All Ireland winning footballer.
- **Colin Fowley** - IT Sligo Biochemistry Lecturer.
- **Abbott Employees** - Local employees and industry experts.

#### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

One each for students, parents and teachers to allow for open discussion on careers and educational pathways, with Abbott team members.

#### PANEL DISCUSSION

Discussion and questions on the key skills needed for the Future of Work.

#### TICKETS:

**This is a free, registration-only event!**  
Places are limited, so book your tickets now at <http://bit.ly/aspire-sligo>

#### ASPIRE with ABBOTT

**13th November 2019**  
**ITSligo, Aurivo Lecture Theatre**

6:00pm - 8:30pm  
Public Events (Suitable for Age 12+)

**Eventbrite Search:**  
"ASPIRE with ABBOTT SLIGO"

[www.ireland.abbott](http://www.ireland.abbott)

**IT Sligo**  
An Institiúid Teicneolaíochta, Sligeach



**SCIENCE WEEK**  
#scienceweek  
10-17 Nov 2019

**Abbott**

# Connacht Ulster Alliance Presidents Welcome €2 Million Towards Technological University Status

**Funding will assist work of IT Sligo, GMIT and Letterkenny IT in achieving TU status**

The Presidents of Connacht-Ulster Alliance (CUA) at IT Sligo, GMIT and Letterkenny IT, welcome the allocation of €2 million funding announced by Minister for Education Joe McHugh TD and the Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, towards the development of a Technological University in the West and North-West region.

This is part of a €4m fund allocated under the Higher Education Authority 2019 call for submissions for higher education landscape restructuring, consolidation and collaborative projects.

In a joint statement by the Presidents of the three Institutes that constitute the CUA said:

“We very much welcome this announcement by our Minister today. Collectively we continue to make significant progress towards achieving the criteria necessary to be designated as a TU and aim to submit an application in the course of the 2020/21 academic year. A governance, management and organisation framework for the new TU is in place, numerous collaborative projects are progressing across the alliance and we are in the process of establishing a union consultative forum that will assist with staff consultation and communication across each of our eight campuses. We look forward to meeting Ministers McHugh and

Mitchell O'Connor in the coming weeks and will use the opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to realise a TU for our region.”

The allocated funding will be used to target research initiatives in addition to supporting the CUA Project Office. To-date the CUA has received close to €6M and this year's allocation is an increase on the €1.8M received last year.

A further €500,000 was allocated to Letterkenny IT as part of the CUA's commitment to deepening links with the University of Ulster and North West College post Brexit.

Minister McHugh added: “I will be bringing the leadership of LYIT, GMIT and IT Sligo together to see how we can further support their ambitions as the Connacht Ulster Alliance towards creating a technological university a reality. I am also pleased to see the ongoing efforts to strengthen cross-border higher and further education and training links in the North West.”

Minister Mitchell O'Connor explained, “The emergence of the Technological University sector is the single most important development in the higher education landscape of recent years and a very significant element of the national research agenda.”

The funding allocations will be disbursed by the Higher Education Authority subject to requisite conditionality on a case by case project basis and will be subject to ongoing monitoring, reporting and evaluation by the Authority in line

with stipulated timelines and milestones.

IT Sligo's TU Project Manager, Ann Higgins, said: ‘This announcement comes at a time when IT Sligo has made significant progress in achieving the TU metrics and continues to advance

with confidence towards achieving TU designation with our CUA partners’

The announcement was also welcomed by CUA Project Manager Perry Share:

“The HEA funding has been very important in supporting the

transformational process across the CUA. This year's increased funding will allow us to build on the significant investment in development that has been made by all of the CUA partners since the TU process started a number of years ago.”



An important development in the CUA process has been the development of the CUA/TUI Industrial Relations Forum. Pictured are members of the forum at the inaugural meeting in IT Sligo on 16 October 2019 with the three presidents of the CUA, Paul Hannigan (LYIT), Dr Brendan McCormack (IT Sligo) and Dr Michael Hannon (GMIT).

## Minister Launches Fourth Insurance Apprentices Programme at IT Sligo

Minister of State for Higher Education Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D. officially launched the fourth year of the Insurance Practitioner Apprenticeship Programme at IT Sligo today. This honours degree programmes aimed at preparing insurance professionals for the world of work, delivered by IT Sligo in partnership with the Insurance

Institute and LIA, was launched in 2016 and has already enrolled over 300 apprentices across Ireland. Today, an additional 72 apprentices are being enrolled and the first cohort of students will graduate with an honours degree programme in November. This programme has been deemed a huge success by the Insurance Industry.

Speaking at the IT Sligo Student Induction Day, Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor welcomed the new recruits to the programme:

“I'm delighted to be here to welcome the 2019 students of the Insurance Practitioner Apprenticeship Programme at IT Sligo this morning. This programme has been an overwhelming success for the Insurance Industry and proves the apprentice model can be tailored to any industry with the backing of external partners. I want to congratulate the Insurance Institute and all the Insurance companies who have taken part in the programme over the past three years. IT Sligo is at the forefront of distance learning in Ireland and with their expertise they have proven a degree level education is achievable as you “Earn & Learn”. In November we will see the first graduates of this programme which is a testament to its success. I would also encourage more women to take the apprentice group and I'm delighted to see so many women on this programme”



The Bachelor of Arts in Insurance Practice was the first professionally validated level 8 programme in Higher Education using the ‘model, and has been designed and developed in close collaboration with the Insurance Industry.

The apprenticeship allows school

leavers, graduates and career changers to gain employment to one of Ireland's largest and most diverse sectors while achieving an honours degree.

Further information about this programme is available at [www.earnandlearn.ie](http://www.earnandlearn.ie)



## IT Sligo Students mark World Mental Health Week

To mark World Mental Health Week (7th – 10th of October) students of IT Sligo took part in the Lifting the Silence Campaign spearheaded by IT Sligo Students' Union Welfare Officer Tara Ní Raghallaigh and assisted by Healthy Campus coordinator Yvonne Rouche.

The aim of the Lifting the Silence Campaign was to lift the silence around mental health by "Connecting" with yourself and taking time to assess your own mental health, by "Reaching Out" and speak to others be it friends, family or a colleague and finally by "Linking Up" with services here in the Institute as well locally and nationally.

A variety of activities were ran in the college during the week such as Connect Cafés where students and staff could come and meet and chat and share a free coffee, Odd Socks Day where we encourage people to wear odd socks and raise money for North West Stop, Little Things

Campaign where student discussed the little things they do to help with their mental health in addition to physical activity sessions on the Main Concourse. During the week a large number of students participated in the 5000 steps to wellness walk to create the link between physical activity and positive mental health.

*IT Sligo Welfare Officer, Tara Ní Raghallaigh said; We all need to come together and work together to provide people with the voice and opportunity to know that they can reach out and speak up. Too many people's lives have been lost and as a welfare officer I will continue to lobby the government for more investments into the Mental Health Services in this Country but to keep spreading the message to people that it is okay not to be okay and then they can lift the silence on their mental health.*

Mental Health is such an important topic that we all should be talking about. I hope it

doesn't just stop after this week let's keep connecting with ourselves, connecting with services and lifting the silence on mental health. #LiftingTheSilence

During Mental Health Week we were delighted to support local charity "NorthwestSTOP" and their ODDSOCKS campaign. We raised €244.50 on the day for this very worthy cause. We ran a 5000 steps to Wellness walk and everyone who clocked up over 5000 steps on the day or joined us on our walk were entered into a draw for a Fitbit. The lucky winner was Helen Mc Morrow who clocked up an impressive 12,253 steps on the day.

### Useful Numbers:

**EAP IT Sligo – 1800201346**

**YourMentalHealth 24/7 Freephone 1800742444**

**Smaritans – 116123**

**MABS – 0761072000**

**North West STOP - 1850211877**



## IT Sligo Students' Union Sleep Out for Focus Ireland, Shine A Light Night

On October 16th IT Sligo Students' Union as well as 6 students from IT Sligo, 2 Students' Union Officers from St. Angela's College, Sligo and a member of the USI (Union of Students in Ireland) Executive Team slept out to raise awareness to the housing and homelessness crisis which we are currently facing in Ireland in aid of Focus Ireland, a housing and homelessness charity.

The event was ran with the aid of a former IT Sligo student Monica McElhinney to raise much needed funds for the charity as currently in Sligo there are 31 adults in emergency accommodation as well as 442 households on the social housing waiting list (Focus Ireland, 2019). There have been increases in purpose built student accommodation in Galway and Dublin at 18% and 24% respectively only in the last year and a half. Since then Students' Unions have rose their concerns through USI who have continuously fought to see that rent caps of 4% to be brought in on purpose built student accommodation in rent pressure zones, which was passed into legislation only this summer. Students Union officers have valiantly fought for better quality and affordable accommodation for students for years and now they are looking at fighting for better accommodation across the board.

All who attended the event said that it was a worthwhile experience; it made them thankful to have a roof over their heads and a comfortable place to sleep. It

has changed their perception of what it is like to spend every night on the streets. There are so many factors which can impact ones sleep, such as passersby, lighting, a toilet facility and the weather. The group were lucky that it was mild and everyone commented on how it would be if it was to be raining or snowing.

IT Sligo SU would like to thank everyone who came out and attended the event. The SU will be running a bucket collection, in the near future and thank anyone who has already donated to the worthy cause.

Laura Muldoon the Students' Union President says:

The Sleep Out was an extremely successful event, we raised people's awareness of homelessness but we also challenged our perceptions of homelessness while also raising money. The stereotypical view of what homeless people has changed. We hear of students in Galway sleeping in cars, students in Cork waiting for the colleges to close late at night to then sleep under a bridge and once the college opens again in the morning going in to have a shower. How long will it be before we hear of students in Sligo becoming homeless due to the ever increasing costs of higher education, accommodation, placement, cost of living? Students' are being priced out of education and this level of stress and lack of security has to be impacting on their mental health. IT Sligo SU will continue to lobby the government on breaking the

barriers to higher education, to ensure accommodation is affordable for all. I have already lobbied Deputy Tony McLoughlin on some of these issues and will continue to lobby all Sligo-Leitrim TD's to ensure a level playing field for all members of society.

I would like to thank Monica from Focus Ireland for all her hard work and helping to make the event a success, as well as the team in the SU especially Tara (Welfare Officer) and Jason (Education Officer). We also want to pay thanks for the support from St. Angela's SU, my counterpart Joe Redehan and Shauna (Entertainments Officer) and Marie Lyons from USI for coming out with us and attending the event.



IT Sligo Students, Members of IT Sligo and St. Angela's SU and Monica McElhinney (Focus Ireland) before the sleep out.

## Sligo Design Graduate Makes top 4

Continued from front page

"This is a great honour to receive such a prestigious global award and to be considered one of the top designers in the world is just incredible. Designing and inventing new products is a very challenging process but one I really enjoy. But has meant 18 hour days over the past few years and working as a long distance lorry driver over weekends to make ends meet."

Out of over 3,400 submissions, Paul has been selected as one of the highest performing entrants in the category of Design for the 2019 programme. This is an outstanding achievement for some of the world's brightest students, who are leading the way in top-class undergraduate research all across the world. Many of his product designs are based on people with disabilities including hidden ones. Paul was diagnosed with dyslexia a few years back and had to compete with PhD and Master's research students in the global design competition;

"I never had a problem with ideas and design but needed support in how to explain my research through writing. IT Sligo were very supportive throughout my studies there and had every possible learning assistance I needed to get my degree."

This award now puts the graduate in the top 0.03% designers in the country and is continuing to develop new ideas and is currently working on a financial software system for project management of large constructions.

This is one of many awards the design student has received during his time at IT Sligo. Earlier this year Paul was recognised by the Institute of Designers Ireland (IDI) for his redesign of the humble clothes peg.

Commenting on the design award Paul's lecturer in Creative Design at IT Sligo, Nevil Walsh said; "This is a fantastic achievement for Paul as he was up against some of the leading design graduates in the world. Paul has won a few awards before on a national level and is a great ambassador for the Institute."

Paul will graduate with a Degree in Creative Design in November from IT Sligo. He has already gained a degree in Quantity Surveying from the Institute and is currently working for Roadbridge as a Quantity Surveyor on the N4 road outside Sligo.

Shane Harte, Commercial Manager for Roadbridge praised their employees award; "We always encourage our employees to challenge themselves and participate in competitions. We are delighted Paul has done just that and has been recognised on a global level."

The graduate of Creative Design at IT Sligo has been previously recognised for his motorised tail hitch at the Enterprise Ireland Young Entrepreneur awards.

## BE PART OF IT SLIGO NEWS

If you would like to be part of IT Sligo News please contact our Communications Manager, Aidan Haughey at [haughey.aidan@itsligo.ie](mailto:haughey.aidan@itsligo.ie)

# Mabel Makes it on TV



IT Sligo student and international musician, Mabel Chah appeared on the Ray D'Arcy Show on RTE television recently with the Sligo Gospel Choir. After her performance the student of Human Resources in the Faculty of Business and Social Care, was interviewed about her extraordinary journey from Cameroon to Sligo, including her time spent in Direct Provision which she described as "lonely and depressing". Mabel has released a

single based on her experienced which was launched in The Model, Sligo to a capacity crowd. Mabel's newly released single "Zero to Hero" charts her experience from a refugee to an active member in the community.

Speaking to IT Sligo News, Mabel said: "The song Zero to Hero is a self-acclaiming song that asks for the chance to take a zero circumstance and turn it into a Hero situation.

"In search of a better and safer life, I moved to Ireland in 2013 and came to Sligo. I joined the Sligo Gospel choir and the Sligo Cathedral choir and SABONA community productions. This helped me integrate into the community and meet new people. We started a food community group for asylum seekers in Sligo called Global Kitchen."

In 2016 Mabel started studying Business in Office Administration at IT Sligo where she met Maureen Henry, a Performing Arts student. She sang "Zero to Hero" to Maureen who encouraged her to record the song. Maureen then introduced the singer to fellow student Michael Bonner, a videographer.

Mabel soon had a group of students from the IT, willing to help out; "I went to the studio, recorded the song and featured Maureen on it. We contacted other student from different departments and in the IT Sligo dance society and after listening to the song they all wanted to be part of this journey." Mabel's talents don't end with just singing. The business student will also appear in a feature length film to be released next year and has also appeared on stage. Keep an eye out for this rising star.

Mabel's single is part of a five song EP available online:

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3RDsl-vyHE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3RDsl-vyHE)  
Bandcamp: [mabelchah.bandcamp.com/releases](http://mabelchah.bandcamp.com/releases)  
Breaking Tunes [www.breakingtunes.com/mabelchah](http://www.breakingtunes.com/mabelchah)

## AbbVie Announce 3 year Partnership with Sligo Science Festival



Pictured at the announcement of the partnership between Sligo Science Festival and AbbVie were (from L-R): Darren Egan, Site Director, AbbVie Manorhamilton Road; Oil Melia, IT Sligo Festival Co-ordinator; Anju Jayakumar, Laboratory Analyst, AbbVie, Manorhamilton Road; Columba McGarvey, Site Director, AbbVie Ballytivnan; Dr Jerry Bird, Head of Faculty of Science, IT Sligo.

AbbVie has announced they will be the industry partner for the Sligo Science Festival for the next three years in partnership with Institute of Technology Sligo.

Sligo Science Festival, is a week-long programme of activities and events held each November, which aims to make science more interesting and accessible to children and adults alike. The partnership with AbbVie has allowed IT Sligo's Science Festival to become even more exciting with extra events added to the calendar!

Sligo Science Festival 2019 will run from November 10 – 17th including the Annual Sligo Science Fair on Sunday 10th November at IT Sligo. This year theme is "Climate Science, Transforming the Planet" and will explore how we can better understand climate change through workshops, events, demonstrations and talks.

AbbVie will also be holding a very special family event as part of the Science Fair on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November at IT Sligo's Hume Hall titled "Bringing the magic of STEM to life". Employees from AbbVie's

manufacturing facilities in Sligo will be joined by award-winning physicist and engineer, Phil Smyth. Phil is an experimenter, showman, writer and presenter with Ireland's national broadcaster RTÉ. Phil and the AbbVie team will deliver a number of exciting, interactive and fast-paced science focused shows throughout the day.

Columba McGarvey, Site Director, AbbVie Ballytivnan, said they were delighted to announce their long-term support for the Science Festival; "We are delighted to be continuing our support of Sligo Science Festival for the next three years. AbbVie aims to develop partnerships that contribute to the promotion of science education in our local communities and this commitment may help to identify and inspire our future scientists and engineers."

Head of Faculty of Science at IT Sligo, Dr Jerry Bird welcomed the partnership with AbbVie;

"The Institute of Technology, Sligo welcomes the announcement of AbbVie's long-term commitment as Industrial Partner to our Science Week event. AbbVie and IT Sligo have worked closely together for some time and we are delighted they have come on board to help promote science to a broader audience.

The Sligo event is organised by the School of Science at IT Sligo with events taking place at various locations and venues across the county over the seven days. The events are free and open to the public.

For information on the upcoming Science Festival, please visit [www.itsligo.ie/scienceweek](http://www.itsligo.ie/scienceweek)

## Passing of Shane Banks

IT Sligo would like to acknowledge the passing of our dear colleague, Shane Banks, who sadly passed away suddenly on the 24th of June. Shane was highly respected by colleagues and students and was an enthusiastic and dedicated lecturer in the Faculty of Engineering and Design. IT Sligo staff and students would like to extend sincere sympathies to his close friends and colleagues and especially his family, his wife Ciara and his young children; Kate, James and Ellie. He will be sadly missed by us all here at IT Sligo. We will be holding a special ceremony in the near future to fully acknowledge Shane's tragic passing at such a young age. A book of condolences is housed in the office of Department of Engineering & Design.



## German Week Tackles Climate Change

Dr Connie Nell, anthropologist, founder member of Sligo Environmental Network and German Native Speaker was the guest speaker and facilitator of the Climate Action Forum for German Learners and European Studies students at IT Sligo. Dr Nell used the UN Sustainable Goals to ask potent and relevant questions about Climate Action and how might our actions and behaviours be challenged and changed.



## IT Sligo React Against Excessive Alcohol Consumption



The students and staff of IT Sligo were recognised nationally at a recent award ceremony in Dublin for their efforts to reduce harm experienced by students from excess use of alcohol. At the inaugural presentation ceremony for the REACT (Responding to Excessive Consumption of Alcohol in Third Level) awards in Dublin City University, The Minister of State for Education Ms Mary Mitchell O'Connor congratulated the 10 institutions involved in this ground-breaking initiative.

IT Sligo's Student Health Nurse, Caroline Kennedy-Crawford on receiving the award said; Myself and the team leading the REACT project at IT Sligo are delighted to have achieved the category of Excellence, which is the highest award obtainable in the React Project."

# SLIGO SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Sligo Science Festival is back and this year it's all about Climate and how Science is transforming the planet. The event will run from November 10th – 17th and is packed with talks, performances and demonstrations that will entertain and inform all age groups.



## Sligo Science Fair at IT Sligo

Sunday 10th November, 12.00 - 5.00pm

Family event explaining science in a fun way. The Annual Science Fair at IT Sligo will include a wide range of performances, interactive displays and demonstrations for all the family to enjoy. Experiments, Discovery and lots of fun guaranteed for both children and adults. **AbbVie are Bringing the magic of STEM to life at the Sligo Science Fair in Hume Hall, IT Sligo.**

Employees from AbbVie's manufacturing

facilities in Sligo will be joined by award-winning physicist and an engineer, Phil Smyth. Phil is an experimenter, showman, writer and presenter with Ireland's national broadcaster RTÉ. Phil and the AbbVie team will deliver a number of exciting, interactive and fast-paced science-focused shows throughout the day. This is an event that parents and kids will not want to miss! Come along to IT Sligo for a great day out for all the family.



## Wednesday 13th November

### Wonderstruck Rocket Show

IT Sligo, Hume Hall

1pm & 2.30pm, Schools Invitation Event  
6.30pm, Public Event (All Ages)

The Wonderstruck Rocket Show is crammed with physics and chemistry and laced with a liberal dose of history. We are pretty sure that this is one of the most spectacular shows you're going to see. It includes a full-size working Rocket Car, gun powder, the incredibly messy Krispie Rocket, a working jet engine, the Wonderstruck Bed of Doom, more gunpowder, some very loud explosions and a 3 metre fireball.

### Green Your Life

10am - 3pm, IT Sligo Campus  
1.00pm - 2.00pm, IT Sligo,

Aurivo Lecture Theatre  
Public Event (All Ages)

'Green Your Life' will give individuals an opportunity to learn about ecological methods and how to become more eco and green in their everyday lives. Email [greenyourlife2019@gmail.com](mailto:greenyourlife2019@gmail.com) for more information.

### A Brief History of Nearly Everyone (in Ireland):

How Ancient Genomes are Revolutionizing our Understanding of the Past with Lara Cassidy

7.00pm, IT Sligo, Room A0004

Ancient DNA has uncovered three genetically distinct populations who occupied Ireland at different points in its



prehistory. We now know older ancestries were replaced during two largescale migrations at the beginning of the Neolithic and the Copper Age. This talk will introduce these three populations of Irish people – their origins, their societies, their appearance and their contribution to the modern Irish population.

### ASPIRE with ABBOTT

6.00pm - 8.30pm, IT Sligo,  
Aurivo Lecture Theatre Public Event  
(suitable to age 12 plus)

ASPIRE with ABBOTT is a bespoke event that brings parents, teachers and students together to learn & discover more about the career opportunities that exist within STEM disciplines.

On the night, attendees will hear from guest speakers, Abbott employees and patients whose lives have been impacted by innovative healthcare technologies.

If you are interested about learning how you, your child or your students can build a pathway to third level STEM education and the amazing impact that career can have on people lives, then this is an event not to be missed! Register today on Eventbrite by searching "Aspire with Abbott Sligo".

\*Limited Spaces, Online Registration only event.



## Thursday 14th November

### Overview of Forensic Autopsy Pathology with Dr. Paul Hartel, MD

8.00pm, IT Sligo, Room A0005

An engaging talk by Dr. Paul Hartel. Dr. Hartel is Consultant Histopathologist at Sligo University Hospital and Medical Director of Clinical Laboratory Medicine with Grafton City and Sistersville General Hospitals in West Virginia, USA.

### The Role of Climate in Neanderthal Social and Cultural Evolution with Rory Connolly

7.00pm, IT Sligo, Room A0004

Using research focused on the application of microscopic and molecular methods to explore the role of climate in Neanderthal social and cultural evolution.

## Friday 15th November

### The Secret Life of Crows with Ricky Whelan

8.00pm, IT Sligo, Room A0005 Public Event (All Ages)

Ricky Whelan of BirdWatch Ireland will present a talk that has been a big hit with audiences across the country. The talk covers a variety of areas from the appearance, folklore, ecology and intelligence of the crow species we find here in Ireland.



## Monday 11th of November

From Hare to There explores the movements of the Native Irish Hare looks back at how the species reached Ireland and how ancient people moved mountain hares outside its natural habitat. Alexandria Jamieson is a PhD researcher from Oxford University who last year explained how cats arrived in Ireland.

## Tuesday 12th of November

### Archaeological Walk

IT Sligo Archaeology Lecturer Sam Moore, is an expert on Carrowkeel. This year he will bring a group for an archaeological walk of the Neolithic passage tomb. To book your space contact [melia.oli@itsligo.ie](mailto:melia.oli@itsligo.ie)

### The Green Aware Sligo Film Afternoon

IT Sligo, Hume Hall  
Screening at 12.30-1.15, 1.30-2.15pm  
and 2.30-3.15pm

Public Event (All Ages)

How can you become Green Aware? How can you positively affect the environment? Come along to the Green Aware Sligo Film Afternoon and see what people all across County Sligo are doing to become Green Aware.

### Sligo Climate Wisdom

6.00pm – 7.00pm, IT Sligo, Hume Hall  
Public Event (All Ages)

Sligo Environmental Network is a voluntary community group which aims to engage people in Sligo to take climate action and encourage change on governmental levels. For Sligo

Climate Wisdom we have talked to

people in their 60s, 70s and 80s and recorded the conversations. Today's readings are materials taken verbatim from the participants' memories and stories.



### Climate Science – Transforming our Planet with Dr. Cara Augustenborg

7.30pm, Aurivo, IT Sligo  
Public Event (All Ages)

Professor Frances Lucy, Head of Environmental Science at IT Sligo hosts Dr. Cara Augustenborg. Dr. Augustenborg is an environmental scientist by training and a media pundit by passion. Image Magazine named her as one of 18 women to watch in 2018. Cara is currently co-host of the Down To Earth slot with Ivan Yates on Newstalk FM. Cara will share her experiences and in depth knowledge on our environment and how climate change is affecting and transforming our planet.

## Saturday 16th November

Saturday 16th November

Vampire Science with Dr. Kathryn Harkup  
7.30pm Court number 1

Sligo Courthouse, Teeling Street, Sligo,  
Public Event (Age 12+)

Not for the nervous!

Ever wondered if there is more to Dracula than a pale complexion and difficulties shaving? Science Communicator, Chemist and Vampiologist, Dr. Kathryn Harkup will guide you through a spooky tour of the history of vampires.

For more information on all events visit:

[www.itsligo.ie/scienceweek](http://www.itsligo.ie/scienceweek)  
[melia.oli@itsligo.ie](mailto:melia.oli@itsligo.ie)

# FEEL THE WEST - TRAVEL GUIDE By David Keane

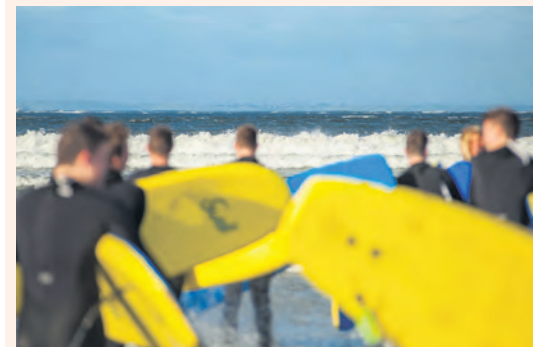
## Drumcliffe Monastery and Tea House

Five miles north of Sligo and situated on the edge of Benbulbin Mountain lies the quaint village of Drumcliffe. In the 6th Century, Drumcliffe was developed into a monastic settlement by St. Colmcille, one of the patron saints of Ireland. This monastery was evidently used prominently in the North West for almost 1000 years, with the last recorded monks to inhabit the monastery lived in the early 1500's. The round tower and the remaining remnants of old monastic life in Ireland including the High Crosses that still exist on-site give a key insight into ancient and medieval Irish life.

Drumcliffe, as well as being a key site in Irish religious history, is also the burial place of renowned Irish poet W.B. Yeats. For those culture seekers wishing to find out more about Irish history, Drumcliffe is accessible by bus from Sligo Bus Station, many buses heading north with stop in Drumcliffe. For further information on Drumcliffe, contact the local Tourist office on O'Connell Street, Sligo or check bus times on [buseireann.ie](http://buseireann.ie)



### SEEK ADVENTURE!



When you're in Sligo, the one thing that every visitor, student and resident should do is step outside their comfort zone and SEEK ADVENTURE!

Hiking, Biking, Surfing and Paddle Boarding are all incredible activities to in Sligo, given the natural surroundings and landscapes.

NorthWest Adventure Tours is a company that offers incredible experiences with hiking, trail walking, paddle boarding and many other activities like kayaking and surfing.

For anyone wishing to get out there and experience nature and adventure, check out North West Adventure Tours on Facebook or at [northwestadventuretours.ie](http://northwestadventuretours.ie)

## Atlantic Sheepdogs



A truly unique and Irish experience to be had in the North West of Ireland, Atlantic Sheepdogs, situated in the Streedagh area, is a world-class, highly reviewed experience that is unmissable! Atlantic Sheepdogs allows their visitors to come and experience Sheepdogs in their natural environment and show just how hard they work on farms and rural areas in Ireland.

Located in North Sligo, near Streedagh Beach, Atlantic Sheepdogs offers picturesque scenery while you watch the dogs at work, as well as being within proximity to Sligo Town and the Atlantic Ocean.

For more information, be sure to check their Facebook Page!

### ACT NATURAL

W.B. Yeats had a particular interest and love for County Sligo and Leitrim. In his poems he references Lough Gill, Drumcliffe and in his poem "The Stolen Child" he references Glencar Waterfall. Situated near Glencar Lake, Glencar Waterfall is a real natural beauty of the North West. Surrounded by an incredible wooded walk, it is suggested to be most beautiful on a rainy day, to take in the magnificent water spectacle.

Take time to walk or cycle to the Waterfall to take in the surrounding natural sites!



## Strandhill Peoples Market

The Strandhill People's Market takes place in the unique venue of Hangar 1 at Sligo Airport in Strandhill, just a few short minutes stroll from the beachfront, accessible by the town service buses located just outside the IT Sligo Canteen!

Every Sunday from 11am to 4pm the market opens its doors selling a dynamic selection of crafts, foods and textiles. Strandhill Peoples Market offers a platform to creators and innovators in the Sligo Region and give a place for emerging and upcoming businesses.

The market is a fusion of speciality food with stalls specialising in European and Asian cuisine.

You will also find home baked goods, fair trade coffee, freshly pressed juices, cheeses, herbs & spices, teas, and fresh meat and vegetables.

As well as the incredible selection of savoury, comes the delicious offer of treats and sweets! From baked goods to ice-cream, Strandhill Peoples Market is a great place to fill your belly!

The lively market also provides an opportunity for many craft makers and artists to showcase their talents and skills with stalls varying from jewellery, ceramics, prints, to knitwear, handmade soaps, and essential oils/creams.

Sundays at the Strandhill Peoples Market

offers live music and entertainment to make it a day out for everyone!

For more information on the market, hit up [StrandhillPeoplesMarket.ie](http://StrandhillPeoplesMarket.ie)



### Travel Tips:

1) Shop Around: When searching for your next trip, don't be afraid to shop around and find good offers! Price comparison websites offer lots of options i.e Skyscanner, Momondo

2) Best Day Prices: Stats show that the best days to book flights are between Tuesday and Thursday! Its when airlines push remaining tickets! Be on the look out!

### LOCAL LINK

With so many great activities to do in Sligo, ever wonder "How do I get there?". Local Link provides rural bus services, connecting rural and urban Ireland. Local Link Sligo picks up right outside IT Sligo and provides links to locations like Grange and Rathcormack! For more information, check out [LocalLink.ie](http://LocalLink.ie) for your local services!

### FLIPSIDE

Flipside is a contemporary spacious burger restaurant that plays great music and offers a good time for all, day and night. The burgers are seriously tasty, the cold beer satisfies, and the sides & shakes are deliciously addictive.

Winner of Best Gourmet Specialist Connaught 2019 in the National Burger Awards, Flipside was created in 2018 by two local men Paul Brennan and David Dunne who share a love for burgers and beer. Located in the heart of Sligo, Flipside offers a wide variety of delicious foods and appeals to many with their fresh ingredients and quality service.

To celebrate the one-year anniversary of Flipside, the restaurant is throwing a celebration for what they call "one hell of a year"! There will be music and food throughout the event and all proceeds spent of their craft beers will be donated to their chosen charity, Focus Ireland! It's a celebration not to be missed!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Three Spanish Naval Ships wrecked off the coast of Sligo during a failed invasion of England in the 15th Century. The wreckages were discovered in 1985 and have made for the Spanish Armada to be recognized and have an association started in the village of Grange!

Find out about the Spanish Armada and its wreckage off the coast of Sligo at the Old Court House in Grange Village!

### FRESH ON THE SCENE

Spilt Milk Festival  
Spilt Milk is a new three day festival of music, film and art which will take place in Sligo for the first time in 2019 from 22nd-24th November. The festival will bring national and international artists to perform and exhibit in intimate venues across Sligo Town alongside emerging local artists. Acts include Grave Goods, BB84 and GULPT. For more info, check out [SPILTMILKFESTIVAL.com](http://SPILTMILKFESTIVAL.com)

# Careers Fair 2019

IT Sligo welcomed in excess of 100 companies to campus on Thursday 10th October 2019 to participate in the annual Careers Fair. A number of local, national and international organisations from a diverse range of industry sectors made the trip to IT Sligo to recruit for graduate programmes, internships, full time and seasonal jobs.

For the first time visitors were able to use the IT Sligo 'online' careers service to engage in pre-event research. Information about the exhibiting organisations and details of current vacancies were made available on this platform. For post event research register/login via: <https://itsligo.jobteaser.com> and search



'Careers Fair Exhibitor' in the company field to find out more about the organisations who visited IT Sligo on the 10th October.

Recruiters staffed CV Clinics in the library for the duration of the event, providing expert advice to those who availed of this service.

A number of exhibitor talks took place. Talks ranged from 'Living and Working in Japan' - JET to 'Jameson Graduate Ambassador Programme' - Irish Distillers to 'Full-Time & Seasonal Recruitment' - Hotel Westport & Westport House Estate.

Ocean FM hosted an outside broadcast between 11am-2pm providing an opportunity for IT Sligo staff to promote their courses to the wider public.



## Virtual Graduation for Canadian Student



IT Sligo held its first virtual on-line conferring ceremony in September to Fleming College Faculty member Charlie McGee who graduated with a Bachelor of Business (Hon) Degree from IT Sligo. President of IT Sligo, Dr. Brendan McCormack conferred the Bachelor of Business (Hon) degree virtually and Dr. Tom Phillips, Fleming Vice-President - Academic, presented it to Charlie McGee with our International Manager, Patrick Lynch, representing IT Sligo at the Canadian college. The virtual Graduation was presented over Video Conference.



## IT Sligo Awarded Over €200,000 to Purchase Unique Industry Device



The PEM Technology Gateway at IT Sligo was recently successful in attaining capital equipment funding from Enterprise Ireland to purchase a new high capacity universal tensile testing machine which will hugely benefit Irish Industries.

The device will enable companies to test the strength of multiple materials.

Currently there is no commercial testing facility in Ireland that offers tensile testing services in the 400-600kN range and several companies that previously came to the PEM Gateway requiring this service

have been forced to outsource to the US.

The high capacity universal tensile testing machine will be capable of performing tensile and compression testing, as well as shear, flexure, peel, tear, cyclic and bend tests. The addition of this equipment to the PEM Gateway provides a unique service offering to enable Ireland's heavy industry in specialist areas, such as:

- Construction equipment
- Heavy equipment
- Automotive & Aerospace
- Agricultural machinery

Finola Howe, PEM Technology Gateway Manager said the equipment will help a range of companies, nationally both from a manufacturing and product development perspective in their research; "We are delighted to have received this funding, our role in the PEM Technology Gateway is to provide solutions to manufacturing industry problems and this equipment will enable us to provide a unique service to the Irish Heavy Industry sector, we look forward to supporting a broad range of companies by providing this new service nationally."

The Technology Gateway Network Programme funds interactions between local and national industry and the Institutes of Technology and aims to increase the levels of interaction between the IoTs and industry in Ireland.

The intended outcomes of the Programme include; more companies engaging in R&D, pilot manufacturing capability for new product/process development, enhanced technology validation and testing capabilities, testbed generation and enhanced training potential for key industry staff on emerging technologies. The €million fund will assist in buying capital that relates to new technologies such as augmented and virtual reality.

For more information about the testing device visit [www.pemcentre.ie](http://www.pemcentre.ie) or email [pemgateway@itsligo.ie](mailto:pemgateway@itsligo.ie).

## Heat Pump Seminar

Specification & Design of Heating Systems with Heat Pumps

### One Day Seminar

Location: Room B1201, IT Sligo

Date: 22nd November 2019 Time: 9.00am - 4.30pm

Cost: €195

CPD: The 1-day seminar is CPD accredited by Engineers Ireland and is worth 6 CPD hours.

Book your place on [tippenergy.ie](http://tippenergy.ie)

IT Sligo Contract Research Unit (CRU) are delighted to be working with Tipperary Energy Agency to bring their 1-day heat pump training seminar to Sligo. The course will take place on Friday, November 22nd in IT Sligo. The course is CPD accredited and costs €195; places are limited. The Climate Action Plan has set an ambitious target of installing 600,000 Heat Pumps (400,000 in existing buildings) as part of meeting our 2030 targets.

The seminar aims to enhance the knowledge base of the engineering sector in Ireland with respect to heat pumps in homes and commercial buildings. Engineers in Ireland have had to change their method and type of specifications and designs for heating systems from predominately high carbon heating systems to low carbon heating systems. There are a large number of different types of heat pump heating systems available with a myriad of emitters and controls that require more knowledge that heretofore in appliance selection and design as part of an integrated design of renovations and low energy buildings. For more information and to book your place see [www.tippenergy.ie/events/](http://www.tippenergy.ie/events/)



# IT Sligo Open Day

Over 1000 students from across the region visited IT Sligo Open Day on Thursday the 17th of October to discover what their options are and where it can lead them. "Discover Your Options" is a new approach to Open Day's to give secondary school students a chance to explore careers and experience life on campus. Included in the informative packed event, students had the opportunity to speak with lecturers one-to-one and take part in interactive workshops and demonstration in the Institutes hi-tech laboratories and workshops.

The event was also an opportunity for students to explore the campus, meet the Students Union and ask advice on grants, fees and scholarships.

The next open day will take place on Tuesday the 14th of January 2020.



## Verus Metrology Partners – An I.T Sligo Success Story



Michael Nugent (COO), Yvette Haughey (Group Strategy & Finance Director), Tracey Flynn (Business Development Manager), Rachel Smith (Client Marketing Officer) and Andrew Hodson (CEO)

Situated at one of Ireland's leading third-level institutions, IT Sligo's Innovation Centre has been an instrumental part of many entrepreneurial success stories. This is exactly the case for world-leading turnkey metrology solutions provider - Verus Metrology Partners.

Formally Verus Precision, the leading metrology expert company was born out of the discovery of a niche in the market for sub-contract metrology. Coming to fruition in 2008, it culminated in the establishment of the first-ever

independent metrology house solely providing sub-contract metrology. Now known as Verus Metrology Partners, the groundbreaking business idea is today a thriving metrology solution, providing metrology services to many of the world's leading MedTech and Pharmaceutical companies.

But who are the masterminds behind this revolutionary business offering? I.T Sligo graduates Andrew Hodson and Michael Nugent formulated the innovative business idea together after

noticing a gap in metrology services being provided at the time. Originally toolmakers by trade, both Andrew and Michael graduated from I.T Sligo, before furthering their expertise in their respective fields of Moldflow Analysis, Injection Mould Tool Design & Manufacture and Fixture Design, Manufacture & Assembly.

Starting as a 'Metrology Hot Desk', Verus Metrology Partners accredits the Innovation Centre as the starting point in getting their idea off the ground. Providing necessary guidance, encouragement and mentoring skills, the one-stop facility for entrepreneurs gave the business the resources it needed to bring the idea into reality. The Innovation Centre assisted Andrew and Michael in nurturing their start-up, offering practical advice on sources of funding, training opportunities, consultancy and online learning.

The start-up quickly began to accelerate during its development stage and soon more help was needed. This brought about the employment of two specialist Product Design Engineers and an expert Metrology Engineer. Yvette Haughey an I.T Sligo International Marketing & Languages graduate became the Account Administrator also. An invaluable and well-

respected asset to the company, Yvette is now the Group Strategy and Finance Director. On the marketing team today are Tracey Flynn and Rachel Smith who are graduates of the School of Business and Social Sciences. Rachel is also currently a student of the MSc. In Marketing at the Institute.

From humble beginnings at the Innovation Centre at I.T Sligo, Verus Metrology has since become a company of global status. Now with their Headquarters in Cleveragh in Sligo and a highly efficient Metrology lab in Nottingham U.K., their commitment has resulted in double

digit annual growth along with a customer base of international stature. They recently opened their Research & Development facility in Aughamore.

Verus were also recently awarded Best in Technology at the 2019 Sligo Business Awards, further giving credit to their innovative metrology fixturing solutions and sub-contract metrology services. The founders are keen to credit their success however, down to the expert team around them, twelve of whom are I.T Sligo graduates in Industrial Design, Toolmaking, Biomedical Science, Engineering, Business and Marketing.



# Allergan Innovation Award Winner Announced at IT Sligo

## Prestigious award to further ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH

Patricia Regan of the Faculty of Science at Institute of Technology Sligo has been announced as the winner of the Allergan Innovation Award. This prestigious award, with an Allergan sponsored bursary of €7,500 will go towards furthering Patricia's pioneering research into Alzheimer's disease, entitled: "Towards diagnostic and theranostic glycosylation biomarkers in Alzheimer's disease". This specialist scientific analysis will be carried out under the expert supervision of Dr. Margaret Doherty, a leading lecturer in Biomedical Science at IT Sligo.

Through a multi-disciplinary approach to glycosylation analysis, which examines unique cellular structures, the Allergan Innovation Award will allow for the combination of several complementary techniques, to provide novel insights into understanding this debilitating neurological disorder. Recognised for playing a crucial role in normal brain development, further studies of glycosylation profiles such as this aims to provide pivotal diagnostic evidence in the field of Alzheimer's research.

Speaking about the Allergan Innovation Award, Paul Coffey, Vice President and Westport Plant General Manager, Allergan Ireland, said: "We are delighted that the Allergan Innovation Award Programme will allow researchers, such as Patricia, to further advance their studies in the field of Life and Health Sciences. For a company such as Allergan, scientific research and innovation are essential to the future of our industry, so we hope that this Innovation Award will inspire the next generation of

pioneering researchers. Collaborating with a prestigious institute, such as IT Sligo, is an exciting initiative for all involved, and we look forward to the positive results and experiences it will bring for students and our industry."

Speaking about the Award, Dr Jeremy Bird, Head of the Science Faculty at IT Sligo commented: "IT Sligo is deeply appreciative of Allergan's commitment to supporting research in the region and IT Sligo's ambition to build research structures towards a regional Technical University.

We are delighted that Patricia Regan has been chosen as the recipient of this award which will allow her to further progress her research studies in Alzheimer's disease.

The Allergan Innovation Award will enhance the research project by ensuring attendance at key discipline meetings, equipment and materials purchase, and enhancing the ability to liaise with key research groups".

If you are interested in research and would like to study a Master's at IT Sligo, please visit: <https://www.itsligo.ie/masters/>



## Ireland's first online Higher Certificate in Property Services and Facilities Management a Huge Success- An IT Sligo and SCSi Collaboration



IT Sligo in formal collaboration with the Society of Chartered Surveyors of Ireland (SCSI) launched Ireland's first online part time Higher Certificate in Property Services and Facilities Management recently. As a result of regulation in the property sector, this programme addresses a national skills deficit and enables graduates apply to the Property Services Regulatory Authority (PRSA) to be granted

A, B, C and D licenses. The response from industry has been extremely positive with over 50 learners from across the country registered for its first intake.

Barrie Cox, programme chair highlighted that, 'the programme is designed for those working in the property and/or facility management profession and was developed to equip learners with knowledge of all factors affecting the property and facilities

management profession. Students will develop a keen understanding of the marketplace and a skillset that will enable them to influence and adapt to changes in industry as they arise. Graduates will also be able to ensure that the property and facilities management profession remains proactive to the fast-paced changing environment in which it operates.

Trevor McSharry, Head of Department of Civil Engineering and Construction from IT Sligo, added: 'IT Sligo is delighted to work in partnership with the SCSi. As the national leader in online learning, feedback from our students is extremely positive. Our delivery model allows full flexibility for people to upskill in their own time and place, while maintaining work and family life commitments without unnecessary travel. We are committed to the learners on these new programmes, who will be supported by lecturers via our flexible online delivery, which will allow for hands-on engagement in learning while remaining in the workplace. We are very pleased to be providing our expertise in these areas to meet the needs of the surveying industry.' Further information on this programme can be found at <https://www.itsligo.ie/courses/>

## CEF funded "eDelivery" research project

On May 1st 2018, the activities of project (Action 2017-EU-IA-0108) funded by the European Commission to upgrade the CEF eDelivery infrastructure officially started. IT Sligo was the project coordinator and other consortium members were Pagero AB, Document Centric Solutions (DCS) and Tubbercurry Software. The aim of this action was to upgrade the existing eDelivery solutions of Pagero and Document Centric Solutions (from the AS2 to AS4 profile) to comply with the requirements set in the eIDAS Regulation and to promote the cross-border exchange of electronic documents in Ireland and Sweden. However, during the analysis phase, the project partners identified several technical issues with the AS4 open source implementations available on the market, such as the lack of interoperability of the Oxalis Open Source with other systems, leading to changes in the original plans.

Following a detailed technical assessment, Pagero decided to switch to a Domibus implementation. Document Centric Solution, instead, faced challenges with the Microsoft.Net implementation, since the AS4 libraries had been deprecated.

By September 2019, both Pagero and Document Centric Solutions successfully implemented the CEF eDelivery specifications, supporting the four-corner model and dynamic discovery functionality in their existing solutions. The electronic documents exchanged were the Purchase Order and the Order Response.

### About CEF

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) in Telecom is a key EU instrument to facilitate cross-border interaction between public administrations, businesses and citizens, by deploying digital service infrastructures (DSIs) and broadband networks. Supported projects will contribute to the creation of a European ecosystem of interoperable and interconnected digital services that sustain the Digital Single Market.

### About Tubbercurry Software Ltd

Tubbercurry Software is an SME software development company based in the Sligo. They combine 40+ years' experience with innovative technologies to provide successful software solutions to businesses in all sectors and locations. With employees embedded in European standards development of eProcurement documents Tubbercurry has significantly contributed with advancement in this area both nationally and at EU level.

### About Pagero

Pagero AB based in Sweden has over 20 offices throughout the world and is an existing PEPPOL Access Point Provider. Its stated aim is to assist companies to digitise, automate, capture and interpret data so that they can connect and engage with any business partner accurately and reliably through a single connection to our cloud-based network.

### About Document Centric Solutions (DCS)

DCS is an Irish company with offices in the UK and is an existing PEPPOL Access Point Provider to the Irish Department of Education and Skills and the Irish Local Authority Sector. DCS is also providing a SAAS online Purchase To Pay solution to over 50% of the Sector. DCS has over 3,000 users in 250 schools in Ireland. In the UK, over 20 third level institutions use the DCS-E-Purchasing and the DCS-E-Payables to process purchase orders and invoices.

## Vicky Matthew Inspires from Brussels to Sligo



IT Sligo student and disability activist Vicky Matthew has had a busy start of term. In just a couple of months here at IT Sligo, Vicky has already set up a Disability Inclusion and Sports Club and has been guest speaker at national and European events. Vicky visited the European parliament in October as part of the 2019 "Freedom Drive". Freedom Drive is one of the key campaigns of the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL). It provides supporters of the Independent Living Movement with the

unique opportunity to meet MEPs and promote human rights issues, as well to share experiences and ideas with colleagues from around Europe.

Vicky met with all the Irish MEP's to discuss issues around rights for people with disabilities. She also took the opportunity to speak with MEP's from other countries and took part in a demonstration for disability rights on the streets of Brussels.

Mairead McGuinness, MEP said: "Vicky is a powerful advocate & long may that continue!"

### Make Way Day

Vicky spearheaded IT Sligo's "Make Way Day". This national awareness campaign highlights how people can unintentionally cause major inconvenience and even jeopardise the health and safety of people with disabilities through such careless actions as parking up on a pavement or leaving your bin out on the street. Photos taken by participants were shared on social media on the day with the hashtag #MakeWayDay.

## IT Sligo Disability Inclusion and Sports Club

Disability shouldn't stop people from being included and this is the very message Business with Sport student Vicky Matthew is spreading through a new club she has set up named "Disability Inclusion & Sports Club". Founder of the club, Vicky said; "The club recognises that there are lots of students who have a disability that is invisible to the people around them even to their friends. Students attending do not have to declare their disability to their peers until they are comfortable to do so. Many students without disabilities can affect someone and how it can isolate them from taking part in social and sporting events. This club wants to change this and bring about changes to ensure this becomes the most inclusive 3rd level institute in Ireland." If you would like to join this club please visit their Facebook page

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at IT Sligo



With the recent establishment of a Governing Body Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee, IT Sligo is stepping up its drive to better promote equality, diversity and inclusion across all of its activities.

Chaired by Professor Jacqueline McCormack, Vice President for Online Development (and the Executive lead for EDI), the Committee will advise the Governing Body on its statutory obligations and best practice on EDI matters.

The recently appointed EDI Manager, Tom Reilly, supported by John Gibsey (Clerical Officer), will lead the development of strategies, policies, procedures and programmes relating to EDI.

One of the early priorities will be to develop a Gender Equality Action Plan to address the under-representation of women in senior levels within IT Sligo. To this end IT Sligo has signed up to the Athena SWAN Charter, a charter established to address gender equality in higher education. Staff from across the Institute have joined the Athena SWAN Self Assessment Team (SAT), and they will identify any equality issues through a process of analysing data and conducting a staff survey. Chaired by Jackie O'Toole, Lecturer in Social Sciences, the SAT will develop a plan to address identified issues and prepare an application for an Athena SWAN award next year.

Much more will follow on this important programme of work, and anyone interested in getting involved should contact Tom Reilly (reilly.tom@itsligo.ie) or Jackie O'Toole (O'Toole.Jacqueline@itsligo.ie)

## Over 100 Sign up to New TU Master's Courses



Photo caption: Minister of State for Higher Education Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D with from Left to right: Dr Michael Barrett, Head of Faculty of Business & Social Care, Niall Donnellan (Chairman IT Sligo.) Dr Lenaord Taylor, Dr Breda McTaggart (Head of Dept), Valerie Mc Taggart and President of IT Sligo, Dr Brendan McCormack at the launch of the New Master's course in Professional Leadership.

Over 100 people have registered on Masters level courses designed to directly support innovation in the workplace. These new Master's level courses are designed to directly support innovation in the workplace, to boost the region's economy and to build personal development and career opportunities. These courses are a

strategic response to the demands from public and private sectors and NGOs to upskill the workforce and to sustain and grow businesses regionally and nationally.

The suite of ten new Master's programmes range in focus from biopharmaceutical processing to professional leadership.

While IT Sligo has already been producing graduates qualified up to Doctoral level, this new initiative represents a concerted drive to nearly treble the number of postgraduate students engaged mainly in research. It represents a critical milestone on the Institutes path to becoming part of a Technological University in 2020.

# STUDENT INDUCTION 2019



## Institute removes all plastic from Induction packs in drive towards Greener Campus

Over 800 undergraduate students gathered at IT Sligo to start their first day of college.

### NO TO PLASTIC MERCHANDISE

In the past the Institute, like most other third level colleges would hand out free pens, rulers, re-useable bottles and cups. This year IT Sligo put an end to handing out plastic “freebies” during Induction and instead will donate some of the budget used for merchandise towards environmental charities including; Amazon Conservation Association, Vincent Wildlife Trust and local charity HomeTree.

President of IT Sligo, Dr McCormack said the importance of the environment and a sustainable campus is an important issue especially among students:

“We are currently working towards achieving the Green Campus Flag for IT Sligo. We are passionate about this commitment and have just recently recruited a sustainability officer for the campus to

help us deliver a greener campus.”

The President went on to tell students this is no longer merely an ‘environmentalists’ issue. Sustainability is now an issue that transcends most careers from finance to supply chain or production to marketing, sustainability and environmental issues is now an aspect of all business:

“Our driver in this is partly a moral imperative to do the right thing. But we also have a moral commitment to our students, to prepare them in response to the demands of society for more responsible and mindful consumers, employers and leaders of the future.” Students can vote for their chosen charity via an online poll and the leading charities will be announced at a later date.

IT Sligo welcomed a further 2000 online students over the next two days (Thursday & Friday) and is on target to reach 10,000 students by 2022 by which time the Institute will become a Technological University.





The 'Salmon of Knowledge' at IT Sligo was draped in a cloak of plastic waste to highlight the need for action to mark the international day for Global Strike for Climate. First year Fine Art Students created the piece as part of the Digital Media Lens module. They were met by students and reps from the Students Union who then joined the official march in Sligo town.

# GREEN CAMPUS

## Talking About Green Campus

The Green Campus programme gives us a blueprint for environmental change but what we create is very much our own. This is important as we build our Green Campus because IT Sligo is very unique, particularly in relation to our environmental and sustainability credentials.

### Did you know at IT Sligo we:

- delivered the first Environmental Science Degree anywhere in the country?
- have world-leading sustainability expertise on campus in our Contract Research Unit?
- are one of the few campuses nationally with a bespoke Sustainability Officer role?

One of the biggest challenges we face in our Green Campus is creating sustained behavioural change. Our individual actions can seem small and insignificant but when we respond collectively as a campus community small steps can grow quickly, driving the system change needed to really make an impact. We all know that changing habits can be really hard but here are 5 Easy Steps to get you started.

**1. Talk about it.** Take sustainability into your classroom, your office, your coffee break, your clubs and societies. Talk to each other, engage in discussion and find inspiration where you can.

**2. Expect more.** One of the biggest barriers to changing our habits is our social norm. We behave a certain way when we believe our friends and peers expect it. Why not expect more?

**3. Prep your Bag.** Small changes are easier when you are prepared. Add a reusable mug and water bottle to your bag each day and make these simple changes your new norm.

**4. Green Your Life.** Drop by the 'Green Your Life' event run by 4th year Tourism with Event Management students to learn about simple ways to reduce your environmental impact. On campus Wednesday 13th November, 10am-3pm.

**5. Tell us about it and inspire others.** [greencampus@it-sligo.ie](mailto:greencampus@it-sligo.ie) #ITSgreencampus

## New Sustainability Officer @IT Sligo



Fiona Britton is IT Sligo's new Sustainability Officer who will be ensuring the institute reaches its aim to become a Green Campus. Fiona sat down with IT Sligo News to discuss how we can become a greener campus.

### What is Green Campus?

Green Campus is a national award programme, coordinated by An Taisce, which rewards a long term commitment to reducing our environmental impact. It is unique in that it is student-led, so while it is endorsed by our president, Brendan McCormack, it gives power to students to lead and deliver change. My job is to support and guide students to achieve our Green Flag and be the link between students, staff and the wider community.

### What does it involve?

To be a Green Campus we have to complete a 7-step programme, looking at how we address environmental issues right across the campus. To start we have picked two focus areas 1) Waste & Litter and 2) Energy and we will be looking to monitor and reduce our impact in these areas.

### Where are we at now?

The very beginning! We just registered for the programme last spring and have set up our Green Campus Committee. The committee is mostly student based but it is supported by our Green Campus Forum where interested staff can get involved and contribute ideas.

### What are the next steps?

We are carrying out an environmental review. This is probably the most important step in the whole process and so we are looking at it in two ways. Firstly, we need good data around waste and energy to understand what is happening on campus, identify opportunities to improve and allow us to measure our progress. Thankfully a lot of work is already underway on this through our Estates Department. Secondly we want to capture opinion on what people want in terms of change. We need to understand the culture on campus, where there might be barriers to change and how these can be overcome. For this, we are going to

host a Green Campus workshop in early November to capture some ideas and help focus our actions for the rest of the year.

### Are our students keen to get involved?

Yes, very! We have had a very strong response from students across the entire campus. They not only want to get involved, they want to see real change towards a more sustainable campus. The vast majority of students have come to us from Green Schools where they have set up lots of environmental initiatives and, at a minimum, expect this from us. This is very positive and exciting for the college, it shows the students' interest and commitment to our campus.

### Tell me one change you would like to see on campus?

I want to get people talking - to friends, peers and colleagues - about Green Campus and how they can bring sustainability into their role. It's a topic that affects everyone so we should all be thinking about what we can do.

### How can people get involved?

We are always looking for more students and staff to join Green Campus. Email us at [greencampus@it-sligo.ie](mailto:greencampus@it-sligo.ie) to get involved.

# IT Sligo lends support to Hawk's Well renovation



The Hawk's Well Theatre are delighted to announce a partnership agreement with IT Sligo for three years from 2019 to 2021, in support of the theatre's renovation plans. IT Sligo have become a Platinum Renovation Patron of the theatre. Renovating the Hawk's Well is an unprecedented opportunity to develop and secure the theatre for generations to come.

"This support from IT Sligo gives a great boost to our renovation fund. We are on target with our fundraising and look forward to sharing plans with the public." Says Jane Parsons, Fundraiser and Development Manager at Hawk's Well Theatre.

As part of the agreed partnership, the Hawk's Well Theatre will continue to collaborate with IT Sligo's Creative Practice programmes, working closely with its newly created Yeats Academy of Arts, Design & Architecture (YAADA) department.

President of IT Sligo, Dr Brendan McCormack said the partnership is part of the Institutes ongoing commitment in engaging with external partners in the creative sector;

"IT Sligo has outlined the importance of shaping and influencing economic, social and cultural development in the Northwest through its Strategic Plan. This region is rich in cultural heritage and the arts and we are delighted to partner with the Hawk's Well Theatre which will enrich our students experience and greatly contribute to the arts in Sligo."

The team at the theatre are currently fundraising to renovate the building which is in dire need of capital investment due to physical and technical challenges. Major renovations and improvements are planned at an estimated cost of €1.27 million. These plans include:

- A landmark rebuild of the theatre's

entrance and foyer space.

- Essential flood prevention measures to alleviate flooding in the auditorium.
- Installation of a lift to improve accessibility.
- Much needed seating upgrades in the auditorium.
- Long awaited hearing assistance system.
- Essential backstage and equipment upgrades.

The theatre has secured two major capital grants, €50,000 from the Department of Arts and €78,278 from Sligo LEADER Partnership. Each grant stipulates that the theatre is required to provide match funding in order to access the funds. To date €253,000 had been fundraised by the theatre. €125,000 in funding has also been pledged from Sligo County Council.

Fundraising is currently on target and the team at the theatre hope to share plans with the public in 2020.

## Sligo Sustainable Energy Community free energy audits

Sligo Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) formed in 2016 comprising Sligo CoCo, HSE North West, IT Sligo, Plan Energy, Abbott & AbbVie with an initial focus on knowledge sharing and then

energy projects including LED lighting, EV charge points, building fabric upgrades, heat recovery, staff awareness campaigns and free of charge energy upgrades to local charity buildings. The group are currently

undertaking an SEAI funded Energy Master Plan (EMP) of Sligo town involving a baseline analysis of energy consumption across homes, businesses and transport. In order to promote Sligo SEC and engage the wider community the EMP will include free domestic energy audits for 30 no. Sligo SEC staff members as well as 10 non-domestic energy audits for local businesses and community groups. The resulting EMP opportunities will then seek capital funding to implement a range of energy efficiency upgrades and develop a successful model for community energy projects. Pictured above is IT Sligo President Brendan McCormack randomly selecting the names of 5 no. IT Sligo staff/students who won free energy audits. Once the EMP is completed Sligo SEC will be hosting an energy awareness event for home owners, local businesses and charity groups.



## A welcome to Mr. Mohammadreza Kadivar from Shiraz, Iran

A welcome to Mr. Mohammadreza Kadivar from Shiraz, Iran who joined PEM in April as a new PhD Researcher. Reza will work on the Presidents Bursary funded "Additive Manufacture of Enhanced Heat Transfer (ADMEHTS) project jointly supervised by Dr. David Tormey and Dr. Gerard McGranaghan. The project seeks to utilise additive manufactured or 3D printed metals in the design and manufacture of heat transfer devices for use in applications such as electronics/CPU cooling, electric vehicle comfort cooling, battery thermal management etc. The project is currently beginning a work package with the Irish Centre for High End Computing (ICHEC) before embarking on an experimental phase.

## RED WoLF project partners visit IT Sligo



The IT Sligo Contract Research Unit (CRU) hosted project partners for the €6m Interreg North West Europe project "RED WoLF" (Rethink Electricity Distribution Without Load Following) on the 18th and 19th of September. The two-day meeting seen Universities, Colleges, housing associations, local authorities as well as training and other non-profit organisations across North-West Europe come together to tackle housing emissions, responsible for approximately 300 million tonnes of CO2/year.

### About the Project

The RED WoLF project will increase renewables' usage and reduce carbon emissions for homes with photovoltaic solar panels. Six pilots in Ireland, UK and France will fit houses with hybrid storage systems merging batteries and storage heaters. The heaters will provide heat on demand and the batteries will store output from the solar panels as well as low-carbon energy (wind/solar) drawn from the national grid at times of low demand using new 'smart' technology through which the houses hybrid storage systems will be able to communicate with the grid. This will remove the mismatch between generation and usage. Across the six pilot sites in Ireland, UK and France, there will be 100 houses which will reduce carbon emissions from their energy use by 215 tonnes/year. By the end of the project in 2022, the smart hybrid storage systems will be market-ready and prepared to be installed into NWE homes.

To find out more about the project please visit [www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/red-wolf-rethink-electricity-distribution-without-load-following/#tab-1](http://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/red-wolf-rethink-electricity-distribution-without-load-following/#tab-1)

# Centre for the Enhancement of Learning & Teaching (CELT)



Cillian O'Murchu (School of Business and Social Sciences) receives Maths Tutor Excellence Award 2019

## Dr Niamh Plunkett, Education Development Manager

The Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, otherwise known as CELT is a developing Centre to support academics and to enable them contribute to an enjoyable and fulfilling teaching and learning experience for both academics and their students. Supporting our students is of huge importance to us. Last year we officially established Maths Support and Academic Writing Centres under the remit of CELT. These Centres are available for ALL students of the Institute whether they are on-campus, online or International. Here is a synopsis of what CELT currently offers students and staff:

## Maths Support Centre

If you're a new student on campus this year, chances are you've met one of our Maths Support Tutors during induction, at a mentoring session or in one of your maths lectures during September. This semester the Maths Support Centre is better resourced than ever to provide additional support to all of our students – both online and on-campus. The Maths Support Centre provides additional tutoring to all students who are encountering difficulties with the mathematical components of their programmes. It's a free resource that students can access. Each week, in room B1086, we schedule 9 hours of contact time with our tutors. There are currently three tutors working at the Maths Support Centre: Cillian O'Murchu, a lecturer in the Department of Business; Syam Kumar, a PhD

student at the IT; and Kevin Bohan who manages the centre.

## Maths Enrichment Classes

These classes are open to all senior cycle post-primary students in the region who have an exceptionally strong interest in mathematics. More details about these free classes will be available soon at [itsligo.ie/maths](http://itsligo.ie/maths)

## Maths Week

October 12th-20th was Maths Week in Ireland and the Maths Support Centre coordinated some activities over the week. We hosted the incredible mathematician Andrew Jeffrey for a number of performances during the week. Nearly 600 primary and post-primary school students from all over Sligo and Leitrim visited us during the week for these shows. Feel free to email us any time at [maths@itsligo.ie](mailto:maths@itsligo.ie) if there's any way we can be of service to you.

## Cillian O'Murchu (School of Business and Social Sciences) receives Maths Tutor Excellence Award 2019

An international panel selected Cillian O'Murchu as one of four winners of the 2019 IMLSN (Irish Mathematics Learning Support Network) Tutor Excellence award. Congratulations to Cillian on this recognition of the excellent work he has done as a mathematics support tutor!

## Academic Writing Centre

The Academic Writing Centre offers advice and support on all aspects of academic writing to all students of IT Sligo, both on-campus and online. Based on the results of a

student & staff survey of writing needs, the centre has developed a suite of tutorial content, writing tools & techniques and online resources for students. From effective note-taking strategies and getting started on that first assignment to more complex writing functions such as literature review and critical analysis.

This semester the centre is also working in collaboration with academic staff to deliver timetabled tutorials and workshops for students to address writing issues such as literature review, critical analysis, and academic writing style. These practical workshops are designed to equip students with the tools and techniques needed to develop their academic writing skills.

## Support for First Year students in Physics & Mechanics

CELT will offer additional support for First Year students with Physics and Mechanics Tutorials for four hours per week commencing on Monday 21st October 2019. The tutorials are led by Mohamed Awad, who is a PhD Research Student, PEM Research Centre since July 2018. First year students are encouraged to attend the support tutorials to ensure progression and to instil confidence in the subjects. Please contact Mohamed for details [Mohamed.Awad@mail.itsligo.ie](mailto:Mohamed.Awad@mail.itsligo.ie)

## Post Graduate Certificate in Teaching, Learning & Assessment (Level 9)

For staff interested in pursuing an academic qualification in teaching and learning we have a Post Graduate Certificate in Teaching, Learning and Assessment at level 9 available for all those who teach and not limited to academics. The PG Cert will offer staff opportunities to plan, develop and review new teaching and learning initiatives in their own discipline.

## The Irish National Digital Experience Survey (INDEX)

The Irish National Digital Experience Survey – otherwise known as the INDEX Survey – is the first time students and all staff who teach in Ireland's higher education sector will come together to share perspectives on their digital experiences, expectations and engagement.

Contributing to the survey is quick, easy, anonymous and confidential. IT Sligo will open the survey for a 3 week period from the 4th November to the 24th November. We really want to learn about your digital experience.

## CELT Upcoming Events

(for more information please contact Niamh Plunkett @ [plunkett.niamh@itsligo.ie](mailto:plunkett.niamh@itsligo.ie))  
Wednesday 30th October 2019 – Universal Design for Learning Symposium: 10.30am – 1.30pm (D2022)

## Ms Ann Heelon, CEO AHEAD, Dublin Ireland

This interactive presentation on Universal design for Learning (UDL) will initially re-frame accessibility for IT Sligo's diverse student population. Through the underpinning principles of UDL you will learn a framework that reduces barriers for all learners, not just those with disability accommodation needs.

## Friday 8th November 2019: 11am – 12md (D1024)

IT Sligo Ethics Policy Process  
Each school needs to establish their own School Ethics Committee as well as establishing an Institute Ethics Committee. Colin McLean (Vice President Academic Affairs & Registrar) is running a training

session for staff in all schools to facilitate understanding the new Ethics Policy.

## Friday 15th November 2019: 10am – 1pm (A0006)

**Mr Barry Brophy, UCD**  
How to be a 'Natural Presenter'  
People focus on how they are speaking when they should worry more how the audience is listening. They fixate on nerves even though nerves actually make them better, not worse. Done right a presentation – with eye contact, vocal inflection, hand gestures, emotion, images, videos, stories, demonstrations, examples, analogies and audience interaction – is the most powerful communication format of all.



There are currently three tutors working at the Maths Support Centre: Cillian O'Murchu, a lecturer in the Department of Business; Kevin Bohan who manages the centre and Syam Kumar, a PhD student at the IT.

## HAWK'S WELL THEATRE STUDENT CLUB

[www.hawkswell.com](http://www.hawkswell.com) | 071 916 1518

### Student Club €5 rate on selected shows



#### Book Club

Thurs 7 Nov, 8pm  
Join book lovers Vanessa and Luke as they discuss Kevin Barry's *Night Boat to Tangier*.



#### Eggsistentism

Wed 20 Nov, 12pm & 8pm  
Joanne Ryan's acclaimed, multi award-winning show is a funny, tender and moving exploration of reproduction in 21st-Century Ireland.



#### Flann O'Brien

Rehearsed reading of a work in progress by Ciaran McCauley  
Tues 26 Nov, 8pm  
Free @ Presbyterian Hall  
Ciaran presents a work in progress on the life and work of Flann O'Brien.



OCTOBER  
> DECEMBER  
2019

[www.hawkswell.com](http://www.hawkswell.com) | 071 916 1518

# New Frontiers 2019/2020 Participants

New Frontiers is Ireland's national entrepreneur development programme that is delivered at a regional level by Sligo Institutes of Technology. It is designed to help people who have an innovative business idea, to establish and run their own companies and provides a package of supports to help accelerate business development and to equip start-ups with the skills and contacts needed to be successful future business leaders.

The New Frontiers programme is open to applications from diverse sectors including: food & consumer products, information & communications technology, engineering & electronics, medical devices, biotechnology, pharma, digital media and eligible internationally traded services.

## What does New Frontiers provide Entrepreneurs?

- Training in all areas of business including financial management, market research & validation, business process, patenting, product development, sales training.
- Mentoring from experienced business advisors and practitioners.
- Office and other business incubation facilities.
- €15,000 from Enterprise Ireland for individuals participating in Phase 2.
- Networking with other entrepreneurs and business development agencies.
- Introduction to seed and early stage

capital investment networks.

- Access to entrepreneurship best practice, both nationally and internationally.
- Peer-group learning from participants in the region and across the country.
- Access to the expertise in Enterprise Ireland's Market Research Centre.
- Expertise from the Institutes of Technology and the supportive environment of their business incubation centres.

## Meet the 2019/20 New Frontiers Participants:

**Siobhan Coyle – Sculpt Cosmetics**  
Sculpt Cosmetics runs accredited makeup training courses, and sells through a retail store and on online.

## Bernie Murphy - Bernie Murphy Textile Artist.

Bernie creates contemporary Irish fashion garments made from Donegal Tweed that is manufactured in Donegal mills and Irish Linen.

## Kevin Finn - Playmaker

Playmaker is a digital injury prevention tool headquartered along the Wild Atlantic Way. This unique product makes elite-level injury prevention solutions available to fitness and running enthusiasts as well as semi-professional and amateur athletes by monitoring their injury risk factors.

## Ruifeng Zhang

Smart parking system is the best solution meeting the requirements of local councils

## Owen Leonard – Ozone Tech

PerOxiGen is in the business of producing Electrolytic Ozone Generators. We generate ozone, a very powerful disinfectant, into water, from the water itself. We have developed a novel composite plastic that can be used to generate ozone electrolytically with Very Low CAPEX and Low OPEX.

## Conor Mc Ardle

Modern Auditor™ is an online Audit and Supplier Management platform

## Jag Gunawardana

The product is an integrated healthcare platform. It enables the building of applications that get healthcare providers working together, rather than in silos. It uses open, standardized, public cloud technology at its core

## Harry Aslam – Sideways Tiger

To radically optimise the design, development and delivery of fashion products (both physical and digital) to enable customers to purchase more of what they want at better value-for-money and with reduced environmental impact.

## Ronan Hunt – Carhunt.ie

carhunt.ie is an idea created by Ronan Hunt, Ballisodare, Co. Sligo. It is a technology based idea presented in a mobile app form, aimed at streamlining the communication between car retailers and car buyers in the Republic Of Ireland.

## Andrew Carr – HotelDesk Direct

Hotel Desk Direct is a website service that allows hotels to advertise and sell their promotions and discounts for booking direct in a consolidated online platform.

## Stephen Coyle

Our product comprises two apps, titled Fete and Vnu, which at their most basic level aim to replace brochures for festivals and venues. Customers include Belfast City Council, Titanic Quarter Trust, and Culture Night.

## Noel Mulkeen - Unicam

UNICAM is a state-of-the-art video capture solution for third level institutions that empowers staff and students to use video to enhance the learning experience.

## Prakash Kamat

Product is a Cloud-based Operational (Logistics) & Compliance Management SAAS Solution to organizations to cover Road Safety Authority/Agency (RSA, VDSA), Health & Safety Authority/Executive (HSA/HSE) as well as Agri-supply Industries Confederation

## Denise Mulvaney – Moodology

Moodology is a mental health fitness app designed to help people who consider themselves physically active. It will enable them to gain a better understanding of how they can manage stress and anxiety in their life, turning negative chatter into something positive

For more information visit:  
<http://www.newfrontiersnw.ie>

## Future of Transport explored in IT Sligo with Engineers Ireland



On Thursday evening 19 September 2019, an audience at IT Sligo in its Aurivo Theatre engaged in an open forum with industry experts, including several engineers working nationally, on the topic of the future of transport. The event which was open to the public, students, engineers and business leaders was organised by Engineers Ireland, the professional membership body for engineers in Ireland in association with its North West regional branch which covers Sligo and Leitrim. This branch is chaired by local engineer Rowan O'Callaghan.

Entitled Driving Forward: Electric and Autonomous Vehicles in a Connected Infrastructure, there was a particular emphasis on the evening on the use of the private car and the movement towards electric cars. The speakers also discussed 'driving towards driverless' and the new mobility revolution which is sweeping the globe with the introduction of connected and autonomous vehicles (or CAVs) which are compelling us to reimagine how transport is delivered.

What this all means for the future of our road network, the travel pattern of people and the movement of goods was also discussed.

Pictured on the 19th September at IT Sligo at the Engineers Ireland North West Regional Branch forum on the future of transport called Driving Forward: Electric and Autonomous Vehicles in a Connected Infrastructure are Engineers Ireland's North West committee and Marguerite Sayers, President of Engineers Ireland.

Speakers included Marguerite Sayers, President of Engineers Ireland and Chartered Engineer, Conor Faughnan, Director of Consumer Affairs at AA Ireland, Niall Hogan, Head of E-Mobility, ESB, Dr John McCarthy, Associate Director and Leader of Intelligent Mobility, ARUP, Dr James McDonald, Computational Astrophysicist, Computer-Vision Algorithm Developer & Embedded Lead, Valeo Vision Systems and Helen Hughes, Director of Professional Services at Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Eamon Dillane, an E Car Advocate.

Speaking at the opening of the Forum, Marguerite Sayers, President of Engineers Ireland, said: "This evening, you our audience, will be provided with the opportunity to learn from and engage with experts, a number of them engineers, working nationally who will talk about the exciting world of transport, something which is so essential in our daily lives. Transport helps us to connect with one another more easily and improve the distribution of goods and services over long distances."





# Government announces €960,000 capital funding to support Apprenticeship Programmes

Focus on new technologies, sustainable methods and materials and modernising traditional craft

The Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh T.D., together with the Minister of State for Higher Education Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D. and Minister of State for Training, Skills, Innovation and Research and Development John Halligan T.D. today announced capital funding of more than €7.5 million for nine Institutes of Technology and the Technological University (TU) Dublin.

IT Sligo has been awarded €60,000 for IT Sligo's craft apprenticeship programmes. Apprenticeship is a programme of structured education and training which formally combines and alternates learning in the workplace with learning in an education and training institution. IT Sligo offers training in three trade apprenticeships, one in Tool Making, one Carpentry and Joinery and one in Electrical Instrumentation.

President of IT Sligo, Dr Brendan McCormack, welcomed the announcement by Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor;

"This is a significant announcement by the Minister and shows the commitment by the government to invest in apprenticeship programmes which are growing in popularity at IT Sligo and across the country, enabling students to "Earn & Learn" simultaneously." Government's commitment, under Project Ireland 2040, to increase investment in higher and further education and training and to the modernisation of equipment available for craft apprenticeship provision.

Minister McHugh said: "The Government is deeply committed to expanding the apprenticeship system and this investment reaffirms that. "There was an 80% increase in apprenticeship registrations between 2015 and 2018. This €7.5m funding

will enable Institutes of Technology and TU Dublin to purchase new equipment and update their infrastructure.

"Apprenticeships offer fantastic opportunities and I would encourage any person looking at their career options, especially students preparing to sit exams this week, to strongly consider the many benefits of apprenticeship."

Today's announcement brings the total capital funding allocated to support the modernising of craft apprenticeship programmes in the sector since 2017 to more than €3 million.

It is being provided by the Department of Education and Skills through the Higher Education Authority (HEA).

This funding will support the roll-out of new syllabi for apprenticeships in Plumbing, Carpentry, Electrical, Brickwork, Motor Painting and Decorating, Vehicle Body Repair,



Fitting, Toolmaking and Wood Manufacturing and Finishing.

It will enable Institutes of Technology and TU Dublin to provide apprentices with training in the most up to date techniques, including sustainable and renewable technologies such as solar and wind energy and energy efficient construction methods and materials.

Minister Mitchell O'Connor said:

"I am delighted that over €7.5 million is being invested to support the modernisation of the syllabi and to purchase new equipment for our apprenticeship programmes in our IoTs and TU Dublin. It will ensure that our apprenticeships have the best possible experience, keep pace with new methods and technologies in the workplace and are trained to the highest level possible."

## Chartered Accountants Ireland Schools Event



Staff from IT Sligo and Chartered Accountants Ireland attending last year's event.

The Chartered Accountants Ireland Schools Event will be hosted by IT Sligo on Wednesday 20 November 2019. This event is open to all secondary schools to attend. Last year over 250 students attended from 10 different schools. Students are invited to take part in an interactive case study and solve business problems from a scenario provided.

IT Sligo's BA(Hons) in Accounting (code SG146) obtains maximum exemptions from the examinations of Chartered Accountants Ireland.

- New CIMA Agreement with IT Sligo
- CIMA has signed a

Memorandum of Understanding with IT Sligo.

- Graduates from the BA(Hons) in Accounting and the BB in Accounting L8 will obtain exemptions from Certificate and Operational Level examinations with CIMA.
- On completion of their honours degree in Accounting at IT Sligo, students can sit the Operational Case Study with CIMA and along with their exemptions could be awarded the Diploma in Management Accounting from CIMA.
- Obtaining two accounting qualifications before graduation,

greatly enhances employment opportunities.

- IT Sligo would pay the £20 registration fee for students who wish to avail of the opportunity. Registration with CIMA allows students free access to a variety of CIMA resources.
- The BA(Hons) in Accounting at IT Sligo obtains the following exemptions from the four professional accounting bodies:
  - Chartered Accountants Ireland: All of Chartered Accountants Proficiency 1 examinations.
  - Association of Chartered Certified Accountants: All 9 of the Applied Knowledge and Applied



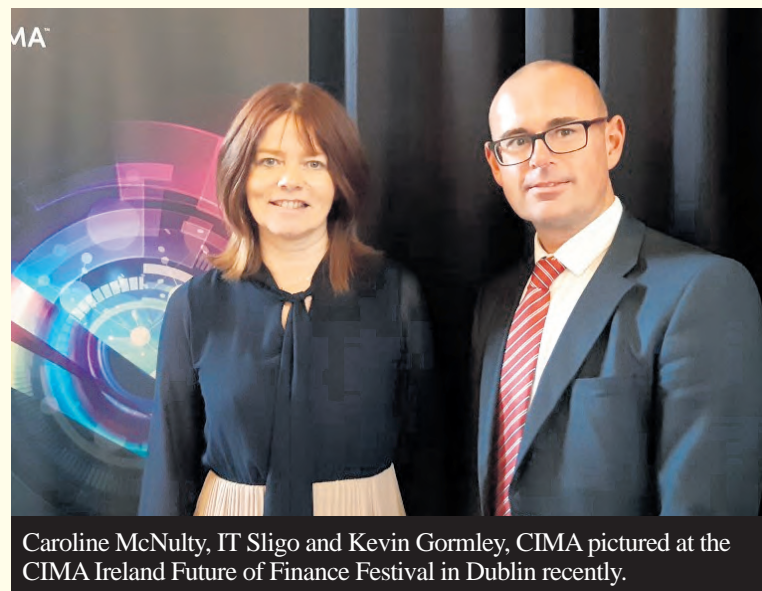
Students taking part at last year's event.

Skills papers.

- CPA Ireland: All of Formation 1 & 2 and Professional 1 Levels
- CIMA: All of Certificate Level and Operational Level with the exception of the Operational Case

Study exam.

There is currently a shortage of accounting graduates in Ireland and IT Sligo's BA(Hons) in Accounting boasts high rates of graduate employment.



Caroline McNulty, IT Sligo and Kevin Gormley, CIMA pictured at the CIMA Ireland Future of Finance Festival in Dublin recently.

## Spectroscopy in a Suitcase Workshops back on the Road!



After a very successful first year, the Spectroscopy in a Suitcase (SIAS) workshop, which is funded by the Royal

Society of Chemistry (RSC) and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) is back on the road. The team in the

Faculty of Science led by Fiona McArdle and Mary Connolly visited their first school for this academic year, The Presentation College, Athenry, Co. Galway in September.

Last year the SIAS team delivered this workshop to 251 students from 14 post primary schools in counties Sligo, Donegal, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo and Galway.

The workshops are free to the schools and all equipment and materials are provided so that students can get hands on experience with sophisticated analytical instruments. The equipment costs approximately €30,000 and includes an FTIR and UV/Vis spectrometers. We in the Faculty of Science are delighted to be able to provide this service to schools in the North West or Ireland.



## Retirements

Last month we said farewell to three of our dear colleagues, Michael Moffatt, Angela Mehegan and Dr. Maeliossa O'Brien. Michael Moffatt retires after serving nearly 41 years at IT Sligo. Angela has taught for 27 years on both the Fine Art and the Creative Design programmes while Maeliossa has taught for 22 years on both the Architecture and the Interior Architecture programmes. They will be truly missed having given so much to IT Sligo.



## IT Sligo asking YOU to Green Your Life

IT Sligo are currently addressing ecological waste issues and have teamed up with Science Week, the Green Campus Initiative & a group of 4th year BB in Tourism with Event Management Students to run an event to assist students in becoming more eco aware and to change their ways.

The idea is that students will have a day on campus where

they can access suppliers/providers of eco products thus reducing waste personally and on-campus. The event is entitled; Green Your Life & will give individuals an opportunity to learn about ecological methods and how to become more eco/ green in their everyday lives. During 'Green Your Life', students and visitors to IT Sligo alike will be able to

meet and buy from suppliers & providers of eco products at their pop up shops and in turn learn more about reducing waste personally and on-campus.

Fiona Britton, Sustainability Officer IT Sligo endorses this event & outlines; "IT Sligo Green Campus is delighted to support the Green Your Life event. One of our big challenges on campus is to rethink how we create waste. Making even one small change in our day-to-day lives can make a big difference, particularly when we act collectively as a campus community."

The event is happening on 13 November between 10am and 3pm on the campus at IT Sligo. It consists of pop up shops, which will be on the main concourse from 10am - 3pm. Here students, lecturers and anyone visiting the campus will be able to source locally, handmade, vintage & sustainable products. There will be an eco-friendly talk, which will take place in the Aurivo auditorium at 1pm. Here you will get the chance to listen to influencers and learn more about greening your life.

For more information, please get in touch by email [greenyourlife2019@gmail.com](mailto:greenyourlife2019@gmail.com) Hope to see you all there The Green Your Life team



Students involved in the Green Your Life on the 13th November 10-3pm at IT Sligo.

In the photo: Melissa Granahan, Jette Koch, Sadhbh Gavigan Lecturer: Joanna Sweeney

**Green Your Life**  
in conjunction with  
**GreenCampus and Science Week**

**13th November**  
**Eco Pop-Up Shop on concourse IT Sligo 10am-3pm**  
**John Wilmott (Us And Trees, What Can We Do) 12pm**  
**John-Paul Patton (Dún Dúlra Ecovillage) 1pm**  
**in Aurivo Auditorium**

for more information send us an email  
[greenyourlife2019@gmail.com](mailto:greenyourlife2019@gmail.com) or visit us on social media

**f** GreenYourLife  
**i** [greenyourlife2019](https://www.instagram.com/greenyourlife2019)

**IT Sligo** **Green Campus**

# Archaeological Excavation at Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery, Sligo



A team of archaeologists from IT Sligo completed a two-week archaeological excavation of a prehistoric monument in the heart of the Carrowmore megalithic complex, Sligo over the summer. Carrowmore is the largest cemetery of megalithic tombs in Ireland, with 5,500 year old passage tombs dating from 3,600 BC.

IT Sligo archaeologists Dr Marion Dowd and Dr James Bonsall directed the excavation of a site that was formerly known as a barrow. Barrows are circular earthen monuments surrounded by a circular ditch. These sites typically date to the Bronze Age and Iron Age, ranging from between 4,000 and 1,500 years old. In 2016, Dr Bonsall and IT Sligo archaeology students carried out a series of geophysical surveys at Carrowmore to see beneath the soil of this and several other monuments in the area. "This particular site turned out

to be very interesting. Our survey revealed several features that were not visible above ground. We discovered that the 'barrow' contained a central pit and a substantial circular ditch" said Dr Bonsall.

The results of the geophysical survey were one of the reasons why this particular site was chosen for investigation. "Antiquarians and archaeologists have been studying Carrowmore for over 200 years, but the focus has always been on the Neolithic megalithic tombs. We were keen to change focus and find out more about this particular 'barrow' monument, and how it related to the concentration of megalithic tombs at Carrowmore" said Dr Marion Dowd. "There are several barrows within the Carrowmore complex. These would generally be viewed as Bronze Age or Iron Age in date, coming several thousand years after the Neolithic tombs. We wanted to find out why a site that is

normally considered to be much later in date was built amongst the passage tombs."

The archaeological excavation produced quite exciting and unexpected results. Dr Dowd said "Our excavations have revealed that this monument does not appear to be a barrow at all. So far, we cannot find any parallel for it in Ireland." The team found that the circular ditch surrounded a central raised area that consisted of a thick circular layer of stone. Inside this was a sunken area with black, charcoal-rich soils. Several prehistoric tools made from a hard stone called chert were discovered within and around the monument. "We have a lovely collection of chert scrapers and blades from the monument. These would have been used for activities such as working animal hides, cutting and preparing food, basket working and bone working" said Dr. Dowd, "essentially a prehistoric tool kit".

The IT Sligo archaeologists carried out the first excavation at Carrowmore to modern scientific standards. "The excavation trench covered just 10% of the archaeological site, so the majority of it has been left completely undisturbed. We have been given a unique insight into Carrowmore and prehistoric Sligo. We collected over 350 individual artefacts from the trench, some of which were found in the ploughsoil, as well as in the prehistoric monument itself. We also excavated and examined 15 tonnes of soil from the trench. Every single grain of soil was sieved through a fine wire mesh, ensuring that we recovered every possible artefact from the trench", said Dr Bonsall.

Dr Dowd said "We are now focussed on post-excavation analyses of all the materials recovered during the excavation, and hope to have scientific dating in the next few months. At the moment what we can say is that we have quite an enigmatic prehistoric monument: something different and new."



## Integrity at Work – New Pilot Programme for IT Sligo



President of IT Sligo Dr Brendan McCormack signs IAW membership agreement.

Together with Waterford IT and Limerick IT, IT Sligo has volunteered to be part of a Department of Education and Skills sponsored pilot programme for three Institutes of Technology to join the Integrity at Work (IAW) programme, an initiative of Transparency International (TI) Ireland.

Integrity at Work is a not-for-profit initiative open to organisations that are committed to developing workplaces where people feel safe to speak up and where appropriate action is taken in response to reports of wrongdoing. Facilitated by TI Ireland, IAW presents employers with the opportunity to show leadership in creating ethical workplaces and setting a new standard for transparency and accountability. The three pilot Institutes will work with TI Ireland to evaluate existing policies and procedures and develop best practice standards for the three participating Institutes, and for the Institute of Technology sector as a whole.

For further information contact  
Kinane.Louise@itsligo.ie

## BE PART OF IT SLIGO NEWS

If you would like to be part of IT Sligo News please contact our Communications Manager, Aidan Haughey at [haughey.aidan@itsligo.ie](mailto:haughey.aidan@itsligo.ie)

# IT Sligo at National Ploughing Championships

Seán O'Connor and Dr. Ehiازه Ehimen of the Renewable Engine Project at the Institute of Technology Sligo were at year's National Ploughing Championships held in Fenagh, County Carlow. The event, now in its 88<sup>th</sup> year, saw over 250,000 visitors over the three years making it Europe's largest outdoor festival of any kind. IT Sligo's participation was part of a wider study to access the agricultural and farming community directly to evaluate the current knowledge, state of practice and potential uptake of on-farm small-scale anaerobic digestion (SSAD) plants in Ireland.

Sean's research focuses on SSAD systems, which is a promising technology for the treatment of farm and livestock waste, as it can transform organic matter into biogas (which contains energy rich methane). These systems are beneficial for improving on-site energy generation, upgrading wastes and providing a nutrient-rich fertiliser from the digester effluents, while reducing pathogenic loads, odours and greenhouse gas emissions emanating from the agricultural processes. Small-scale farming processes can further exploit the portable and flexible options made available by implementing SSAD systems, to effect on demand conversion of organic waste streams to useful heat (and potentially electricity), with significant economic benefits accruable (especially when such energy carriers are exported).

The participation in the ploughing championship afforded Sean and Ehiازه the chance to engage and get feedback from farmers and agricultural/biobased organisations around the country, on their perception on renewable energy generation and integration in their operations. The project used surveys and one on one interactions with the targeted stakeholders to get this information. Future work involves working with an industry partner to design, test and optimise a robust, modular, small-scale unit (20kW) for the Irish agriculture sector. This research has been carried out under the Renewable

Engine project, which is a cross-border initiative supported by the European Union through its INTERREG VA Programme.

The project is still looking for responses from the agricultural and farming

community, so it will be appreciated if any interested stakeholder can complete the survey which is now available online at:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/biogassurvey1](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/biogassurvey1)

The survey should only take 5 minutes.



## supportIT comes to Sligo

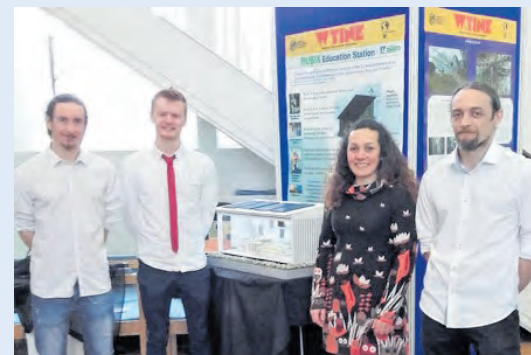


Managed IT services organisation, supportIT, has expanded operations into Sligo with the creation of a remote IT support hub that is located in the SligoIT Innovation Centre. The organisation will create 10 new IT jobs in Sligo over the next 2 years.

'This support hub is an exciting step for supportIT. Expanding to another location means that we can take advantage of the resource pool outside of Dublin, where it is challenging to find suitable candidates and where competition is high. The expansion gives us a very strong helpdesk

team in both locations, which means we can continue to provide our clients with high-quality helpdesk support services and can continue to uphold our high standards in customer care.' said Tara Doyle, Sales & Marketing Director supportIT.

## Engineers Without Borders in IT Sligo



The prize for best Poster & Prototype Display went to Jeremy Price, Jason Hood Ana Pereira and Leslie Jones, from IT Sligo for Rubix Education Centre, a converted shipping container with education resources in recognition of their impressive concept model and wind turbine display.

A team from ITSligo scooped a special award in the 2019 Engineers Without Borders competition, "Where there is no Engineer". The team comprised Jeremy Price, Jason Hood, Ana Pereira, and Leslie Jones. Their entry "Rubix" was a concept to repurpose a shipping container as a technological hub for displaced persons and refugee communities. The judges cited the high standard of their research, the thought and effort gone into their model, and the high quality of their presentation. The team were supported by ITSligo staff including Eamonn Price, Gerard McGranaghan, Sinead Barrins, and also by technical and workshop staff. The competition was held in TU Dublin on Saturday 6th March 2019.

The "Where there Is No Engineer competition", is an annual design initiative open to students which gives participants the opportunity to design creative solutions to real-life development problems. Other themes of interest include housing/shelter, sanitation, water, and renewable energy.

EWB-Ireland is a group of Irish engineers and scientists dedicated to bridging the gap between academia, industry and NGOs to give opportunities to learn about and contribute to sustainable development globally. Our mission is to partner with disadvantaged communities to improve their quality of life through education and implementation of sustainable engineering projects, while promoting global experience for engineers, engineering students, and similarly motivated non-engineers.

EWB in ITSligo hold talks/lectures and information evenings on campus throughout the year. Keep an eye out for the next events.

For further information contact Gerard McGranaghan ([McGranaghan.Gerard@itsligo.ie](mailto:McGranaghan.Gerard@itsligo.ie))



# Science and Technology undergraduate research on display at IT Sligo



This year's winners for their oral and poster presentations were; Carina Hardy (Athlone IT), Christopher Golden (IT Sligo), Emma Kane (Athlone IT), Emma Kane (Athlone IT), and Lydia Lyons (GMIT). Pictured here from left to right with staff from Sligo, Athlone and Galway/Mayo Institutes of Technology.

IT Sligo hosted the second Science Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) conference on Friday 27th September.

This national event involving nine 3rd-level education institutions across Ireland was also simultaneously held this year on the campuses of TU Dublin and IT Carlow.

Science graduates of the 2019 classes from IT Sligo, Galway Mayo IT, Letterkenny IT and Athlone IT came together to Sligo to showcase the product of their final year projects via oral and poster presentations. The science topics covered were very diverse and included among others studies on the toxicology of food-additives, the effects of parental feeding

styles on children or the fate of microplastics in water treatment plants.

Speaking at the launch of the event, Dr. Jeremy Bird, Head of the School of Science at IT Sligo, said "it is with great pleasure that we welcome students and academic staff from Letterkenny, Athlone and Galway on our vibrant campus for an exciting day of peer-to-peer exchanges and stimulating conversations on the fantastic scientific work carried out by last year's cohort of final year undergraduate students".

This year's winners for their oral and poster presentations were; Carina Hardy (Athlone IT), Christopher Golden (IT Sligo), Emma Kane (Athlone IT), Emma Kane (Athlone IT), and Lydia Lyons

(GMIT). This conference is viewed as an experience development platform for students as they continue their academic journey toward the professional work environment, honing on the modern communication skills demanded by employers in the science and technology sectors.

The conference also included a panel discussion with postgraduate students on career planning, approaches for effective preparation for interviews, how to deal with setbacks or accessing funded postgraduate research opportunities.

The SURE Network was recognised as the "best academic partnership" at the 2019 Education Awards.

## Delivering CANN Conference

A highly successful conference celebrating the excellent conservation work carried out by the "Collaborative Action for the Natura Network" project (CANN) took place recently at the idyllic setting of Corrick House Hotel and Spa.

The cross-border Interreg VA funded project aims to improve the condition of protected habitats and support priority species found within Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Scotland. This work will help these regions to meet key EU biodiversity targets and ensure the future of these internationally important habitats and species.

Entitled "Delivering CANN" the conference, attended by 100 delegates including project partners, governmental

bodies and other key stakeholders, celebrated the success of the project to date as it reaches the halfway point in delivery since its initial launch in 2017.

With eleven project partners the CANN project is playing a vitally important role in improving the environmental condition on over 3,650 hectares of designated sites (Special Areas of Conservation) across these regions.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson, Councillor Charlie Casey said "I am delighted to welcome everyone to County Tyrone today and to see so many of our partners, funders and stakeholders in attendance. Partnership working is the central component of the CANN project, and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is enjoying working closely with our ten project partners to protect species and habitats of cross border relevance".

TV presenter and Wildlife Biologist Lizzie Daly, host of the BBC Earth Unplugged YouTube channel, began proceedings by delivering the keynote address highlighting habitat loss across the globe.

Progress updates highlighting the key successes and projected targets of CANN

were then presented by a number of the partner organisations including the Institute of Technology in Sligo, Monaghan County Council, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute and Ulster Wildlife. The discovery of the Desmoulin's whorl snail by a team of specialists carrying out field surveys was singled out for special praise. The rare snail, typically less than 3mm in size, is smaller than a new-born baby's fingernail. This unique find, alongside bird surveys, foraging workshops, mapping projects and invasive species trials were all highlighted as examples of the CANN project's success.

Diana Pound from Dialogue Matters (runner up as UK Environmental Professional of the Year 2019) finished the event with her presentation on the importance of good stakeholder engagement. This project is supported by the EU's INTERREG VA programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body. Match funding for the project has been provided by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in Ireland, by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland, and by Scottish Natural Heritage in Scotland.

## Flying Swans in Healthy Voice!



ITSligo Choir the Flying Swans sang out to passing students and staff at lunchtime last Wednesday with a pop up concert to celebrate Sing Ireland National Singing Week. The week-long national programme, in association with Mental Health Ireland took place from 7th to 13th October 2019. Choral events were organised all over the country by choirs, schools and other groups to mark World Mental Health Day and to highlight the fact that choral singing is good for your mental health!

There were lots of smiles on the faces of passers-by last week as the choir sang the Elvis Presley classic 'I Can't Help Falling in Love', the 80's hit 'You're the Voice', and the beautiful 'Bridge over Troubled Water'. Ray Cotter (Chaplin and choir director) accompanied on Piano. Chairperson Aodhmar Cadogan, a lecturer in Science, says "Group singing has been scientifically proven to lower stress, relieve anxiety, and elevate endorphins. The release of these endorphins can leave you feeling completely rejuvenated". In other words, it's good clean fun and makes you feel great.

The choir will be performing during Graduation at 1-1.30pm near reception on Thursday 31st Oct and Friday 01st Nov and also appearing at the Hawkswell as part of the Sligo Sings event on 24th November.

New members are always welcome – just turn up Wednesdays 1-2pm in C1002 and/or contact [tobin.keiran@itsligo](mailto:tobin.keiran@itsligo) to have your name added to the Whatsapp group.

## Industrial Visit for Fourth Year Thermodynamics Class



Final Year Mechanical Engineering Honours Students paid a visit to two industrial sites, Lough Ree Power Station and Masonite on the 9th October. The visits were to highlight the applications of Thermodynamics and Heat Transfer in a practical industrial setting thereby supplementing the class room theoretical lectures. Students witnessed numerous thermal processes in action in both plants, and also gained an understanding of how both industrial plants could operate commercially, yet satisfy the environmental and sustainability concerns of the sensitive environment in which they operate. ITSligo would like to thank John Noonan, ESB, and Michael Conlon, Masonite as well as their staff for hosting these excellent visits.



# CUA at World Technological University Network in Taiwan



IT Sligo, through the Connacht Ulster Alliance, is a founder member of the World Technological Universities Network [WTUN]. This is a grouping of over twenty technological higher education institutions from across five continents. Membership of the WTUN provides great opportunities for students and staff of IT Sligo into the future. The network is in its early days, really only going for two years. Each year it holds a Congress for members to meet and progress the its activities. Following earlier congresses in Bradford UK and Chennai (India) – all attended by the CUA - the fourth Congress (WTUC4) took place at the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (Taiwan Tech) in Taipei from 3-5 October 2019.

Dr Perry Share, CUA Project Manager, attended WTUC4 on behalf of the alliance. Dr Katie O'Dwyer of GMIT was also scheduled to attend and speak on global water issues, but unfortunately her travel was disrupted by Typhoon Mitag in the region.

WTUC4 was attended by 49 people from 19 institutions across 15 countries. It was opened by the President of Taiwan Tech, Professor Ching-Jong Liao and Taiwan's Deputy Minister of Education Dr Mon-Chi Lo. The focus of this Congress was on the further development of the Network. Dr Share led a plenary session on Technology and its role in the transformation of higher education, where he spoke about some of the applications of data analytics in the sector and issues that may arise. Further contributors from India, Australia and Thailand discussed applications of technology in HE and industry engagement. The Congress featured a review of progress to date: including launch of a WTUN Student Competition, the potential to develop entrepreneurship activities within the Network, experiences of WTUN staff exchanges; and the foregrounding of gender equality as a priority within the Network. Parallel sessions were held on entrepreneurship education; clean water and sanitation; and sustainable cities and communities. All of these reflect the Network's

commitment to the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs). From these sessions a commitment was made to establish an interest group across the Network in the field of water and sanitation, potentially of great interest to IT Sligo given the previous and current research on water quality issues. Participants also discussed the impact of the internet of things, AI and virtual campuses; university degrees and employability; and the role of universities as place makers in the local economy.

At the Congress, additional members were welcomed from Austria, Ghana and Japan, bringing membership of the network to 22. The Congress featured fascinating displays and performances from Taiwan Tech students, tours of Taiwan Tech facilities and of the city of Taipei, and excellent Taiwanese food.

Some of the key initiatives that are emerging from the WTUN:

- The successful staff/student exchange programme is to be developed to encourage 2-way exchanges, broader exchanges and exchanges amongst professional and administrative staff
- A network for educators and researchers with an interest in water and sanitation is to be developed. This is in response to no. 6 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals: 'to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all'
- A Student Competition on 'digital creativity' has been launched, with a closing date of 17 January 2020. Teams (up to 4) of students are invited to submit proposals on 'What does "digital creativity" mean to you?' in relation to clean water/sanitation; good health/wellbeing; or sustainable cities/communities. The winning team will be selected to present



their concept as guests of WTUC5 in Germany in 2020. More information on this will be circulated soon

- A network for educators and researchers with an interest in innovation and entrepreneurship has been proposed by the Hamm-Lippstadt University of Applied Science.
- The WTUN is developing a Gender Equality pledge to express the Network's commitment in this area
- WTUC5 will take place in October 2020 in Erfurt, Germany, under the leadership of Technische

Universität Ilmenau, while WTUC6 will be at the Malaysian (Putrajaya) campus of Heriot-Watt University.

- The University of Bradford has already followed up with the CUA with an expression of interest in developing research links, and a visit to Bradford is being planned for early 2020.

For more information contact Dr Perry Share, CUA Project Manager, share.perry@cualliance.ie or 086 308 1429.

More information on the Network can be found at wtu-n.net

## Sponsored reusable cups for ExWell (formerly MedEx)



Thank you to Pat and Nicola Durkin from Wards Pharmacy who sponsored the new ExWell Medical reusable cups. Mandy Higgins from Wards Pharmacy came on Friday the 20th September to present them to the ExWell staff and participants. This was arranged by Ingrid McLoughlin (ExWell Coordinator), Joanne Regan (Lecturer in IT Sligo and academic coordinator of ExWell) and Tommy Brett (ExWell participant). ExWell Medical and IT Sligo doing their bit to support a greener environment.

Thank you to all the ExWell participants who organised and supported the 2nd annual fundraising night in the glasshouse Sligo. A massive €1,200 was raised and presented to the ExWell staff in IT Sligo. This money will go towards equipment and training in support the growth and development of the ExWell programme here in IT Sligo.

# Sweden Visit to IT Sligo



The Department of Ecotechnology and Sustainable Building Engineering from Östersund, Sweden on a recent visit to IT Sligo. The department conducts research and education in; Ecotechnology, Environmental Science, Environmental Engineering, and Building Technology. Among the delegation who visit IT Sligo were; Paul van der Brink, Anna Longueville, Jenny Zimmerman, Fredrik Bodin, Jörgen Lundberg, Tony Backlund, Linda Näsström.

## What is Social Care Practice?



‘Social Care Workers are professional practitioners engaged in the practice of social care work. Social care work is a relationship based approach to the purposeful planning and provision of care, protection, psychosocial support and advocacy in partnership with vulnerable individuals and groups who experience marginalisation, disadvantage or special needs. Principles of social justice and human rights are central to the practice of Social Care Workers.’ Social Care Workers Registration Board (2018)

IT Sligo Social Care Practice Programme seeking CORU Validation

IT Sligo are currently seeking CORU validation for the BA Hons in Social Care Practice Programme. This programme has been delivered in IT Sligo for over twenty years and we are now entering a very exciting time

in the history of social care practice. Social Care Practitioners work with Ireland's most vulnerable people. The accreditation of this programme means that the practitioner will now be acknowledged as an acting professional in the field of health and social care. The title will become a protected title whereby the practitioner must register with CORU and abide the Social Care Workers Registration Board: Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics, once the register opens.

CORU is Ireland's multi-profession health and social care regulator established under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (as amended). Their role is to protect the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct, education, training and competence through statutory registration of health and social care professionals.

*Try Yoga  
this  
Autumn!*

Mondays & Wednesdays  
8:00 - 8:50 am  
Hume Hall  
Students 4€ / Staff 6€

## Life Science Students partake in Academic Industry Workshop

A unique-Academic-Industry Workshop was run at IT Sligo on Friday 11th October in Hume Hall when Yr4 students from the Medical Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Science degree programmes came together to learn about Technical Writing in response to real-world industry events. The problem-based workshop was a collaboration between lecturers (Geraldine Duignan (Pharmaceutical), Ailish Breen & Stephen Daly (Medical Biotechnology)) from the associated programmes, the Academic Writing Support Centre at IT Sligo (Aoife Murray), and Abbott Ireland Diagnostics Division (AIDD) Sligo.

Industry Feedback from recent surveys had highlighted a need to develop the technical writing capabilities of graduates working in regulated environments. In response, IT Sligo staff approached Abbott (AIDD) and a workshop relevant to industry needs was devised. Noreen Walsh (QS Manager) AIDD kindly gave her time to provide examples of good and bad technical writing responses documenting industry events and provided real-world industry scenarios for students to technically evaluate report on.

Teams of six students mixed from both degree programmes were tasked with evaluating

information provided in relation to a real non-conformance event and reporting on the event in line with industry standards for technical writing. Guidance on

industry standards was provided and lecturers facilitated during the session. Student group's peer assessed each other's work and reflected on teamwork.



# IT Sligo Sport

## DOUBLE DANISH DENIAL



By Oisín Haran

Saturday the 12th and Sunday 13th of October saw the Knocknare Arena play host to two international football teams. The Irish and Denmark under 19 squads used the arena as a training base between both of their friendly matches which took place on Friday the 11th and Monday the 14th of October respectively.

Representatives of both national teams contacted Knocknare Arena facilities manager Gerry Dalton prior to the weekend in order to schedule a couple of light training sessions between games. The original agreement was for both teams to train on Saturday afternoon. However, the coaching staff of both squads were so happy with the condition of the pitch they were eager to have another training session on Sunday afternoon. This is a testament to the hard work the staff of the Knocknare Arena have done in order to maintain the pitch since the beginning of the semester.

Throughout the weekend, there were a number of videos and photos posted of the training session on the Knocknare Arena Instagram page. These videos were posted in conjunction with the ongoing effort made to improve upon our social media outreach within the arena.

Saturday afternoon sessions for both squads consisted of light training using resistance bands and a variety of dynamic stretching as they were focusing on recovering from the Friday night game which Denmark won 1-0. Squad numbers for both teams were lower on Saturday afternoon as there were a number of players who played a large part in Friday night's game. These players were left behind in their hotels for pool recovery and rehabilitation sessions with the team physios.

On Sunday there was more of a focus on tactical awareness and positional play in preparation for Monday afternoon's game. There were a number of local spectators down at the Knocknare Arena keen to catch a glimpse of the potential future national

stars. Unfortunately, Denmark completed the double and denied any Irish hope for victory with a convincing 2-0 win on Monday afternoon.

As a token of appreciation, both national teams designated team jerseys signed by all players and staff which will be printed and framed in the Knocknare Arena. There was also an opportunity to get into a couple of team photos as well as take a number of videos and from pitchside throughout the training session. Both sets of teams were a credit to their respective countries as they showed great professionalism and commitment throughout the weekend. We look forward to seeing them again, hopefully in the near future!

Photos / videos from the sessions are available on the Knocknare Arena Instagram page @ITSligoKnocknareArena. There will also be more photos / videos posted in the coming weeks as well as some of the usual competitions and prizes we usually run.



## Women's soccer



The IT women's soccer team began their league campaign away to Ireland's biggest university UCD.

Sligo I.T women kicked off their Premier Division campaign with a narrow defeat away to a good UCD side, losing out 5-4. Playing against a strong breeze in the first half, Sligo I.T trailed 2-0 at half time. A different Sligo team emerged in the second half and got back in the game with a goal from Katie Melly (penalty) before UCD went 3-1 up. A brilliant 15 mins spell saw Sligo go into a 4-3 lead with a further penalty from Katie Melly and a super individual goal from Amy Boyle Carr. Anita Murphy put Sligo into the lead with a few minutes left however Sligo were denied by two late UCD strikes and they held on for the victory. Next up is NUI Maynooth on Tuesday 15th at 2pm in Sligo I.T.

Team was: Kathleen McNally, Marie Donnelly, Ella McLaughlin, Emma Gibbons, Ruth Monaghan, Raisa Neill, Amy Boyle Carr, Anita Murphy, Lena Schlifski, Katie Melly and Deirdre McNally.

## Official member of the 20x20 campaign



IT Sligo is proud to announce that we are now an official member of the 20x20 campaign, demonstrating our commitment to women in sport.

## Men's Soccer A Team



IT Sligo Men's A Team began their league campaign away to TUDCC formally DIT on Monday last. What a game it was too, after 10min into the game the referee took centre stage, first he gave a penalty to the home side which they missed and two minutes later awarded IT Sligo an penalty which Mark Byrne buried on his debut for the college. Both teams were well up for this game and on 15min the referee gave a straight red card to IT Sligo player Dan Beya for an off the ball incident. Shortly after on 20min TUDCC scored after a long ball from their GK found it's way to Aaron Dobbs who finished into the bottom corner to make it 1-1. IT Sligo then had to make an early change after Darren Collins was taken out of the game by a dangerous tackle. Both sides then settled a little and it was IT Sligo who could have scored again after a great ball in from Ronan Gallagher just missed Byrne at the back post.