

## IT Sligo to become the first Autism Friendly Institute of Technology



Michelle Glackin (IT Sligo), Adam Harris (AsIam), Carmel O'Sullivan (Trinity College Dublin), Maureen Haran (IT Sligo) and Shelley Brady (IT Sligo) at the launch of IT Sligo's commitment to become Ireland's first Autism Friendly Institute of Technology. Photo: James Connolly

By: Maureen Haran, Asst. Access Officer, Disability Supports

### What does an Autism Friendly Campus commitment mean?

On the 7th of November, IT Sligo committed to partnering with the AsIam organisation to develop a series of principles that underpin the colleges purpose for its students with Autism, this is a three-year journey with AsIam. Colleges that attain Autism-Friendly Status are understanding of the needs of Autistic students, open to making adaptations to be more accessible and have a positive,

### celebratory culture towards Autism.

To launch this commitment, Adam Harris CEO and Founder of the AsIam organisation visited our campus in November to speak to students and other community representatives and area schools on his experience as a former third level student and on his capacity as a professional. November marked our commitment to work with AsIam to achieve the criteria objectives they put forth for accreditation.

In the 2015/16 academic year, there were 8 students with ASD that registered for supports at IT Sligo. Today IT Sligo has 32 students that have disclosed an autism diagnosis and these are only the students that have disclosed.

To assist students with autism, IT Sligo will be setting up an institution wide implementation group who will design and implement the supports that are developed in line with the principles.

*Continued on Page 2*

### FACT:

Did you know that 76 million of the world population has a diagnosis of autism? In Ireland, the study, from the National Council for Special Education, found that 1 every 65 students have an autism diagnosis.

### Sligo Science Festival



### Graduation 2018 4 Page Pull Out



### Construction Students win the National Award



### IT Sligo Open Evening



**IT SLIGO OPEN EVENING - TUESDAY 15TH JANUARY, 6-8PM**

## WHAT AM I DOING HERE?



### Staff Profile



**Your name:** Marie Moran

**Where are you from?** I'm originally from Shotts in Scotland, but I've been living in Ireland for 20 years.

**Brief Career Background:**

Prior to joining IT Sligo, I worked in Waterford IT as a lecturer and Project Manager in the School of Business. I've also worked for a number of other third level institutes in Ireland on research projects and the development of online programmes. Before moving to Ireland, I spent 12 years in business management and marketing roles in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries in the UK.

**Your job title:** Head of Department of Business

**When did you join IT Sligo?**

I have been Assistant Registrar in IT Sligo since 2016. I originally joined IT Sligo in 2010 as a lecturer in the School of Business & Social Sciences.

**Education:**

BSc, MBA. I have just completed my first year of studying in TCD for a D.Ed. looking at student expectations and outcomes in Higher Education.

**Brief Summary of what you do and where your office is located:**

I am looking forward to returning to the Department of Business in my new role, building on the very positive developments, and taking on new challenges and opportunities that are presented by a changing educational landscape. My office is in the School of Business and Social Sciences Management Suite.

# Do The Math!

## Staff & Students Raise €1,200 for Pieta House



Photo from left to right are Don Donoghue, Konrad Mulrennan, Michael Moran, Maria Moran and Kieran Hughes.

IT Sligo staff and students came together to organise a charity quiz night on October 18th. The quiz was part of the IT Sligo Maths Week Ireland events that were organised on and off campus between 13th - 21st October.

The event was also an opportunity to raise much needed funds to support the Michael Moran Memorial Walk in aid of Pieta House. In total there were

approximately 160 people in attendance on the night and €1205 was raised for the charity.

The organisers would like to extend thanks to all of the sponsors for the event who include Supermac's, AIB, the Clayton Hotel, Anderson's and IT Sligo Students' Union. The time and support given by these sponsors facilitated running the event and the prizes on the night.

## IT Sligo to become the first Autism Friendly Institute of Technology

Continued from front page

**There 8 principles of an autism-friendly campus being:**

1. Encourage and enable autistic students to transition and participate in university programmes.
2. Support and build capacity to equip autistic students to meet the academic challenges of everyday university life.
3. Support and build capacity to equip autistic students to meet the social challenges of everyday university life.
4. Seek to establish an autism-friendly operational environment;
5. Seek to combat the stigma around autism and recognise the diverse experiences of those with the condition.
6. Develop understanding and relevant knowledge and skills within the university community.
7. Establish channels so that autistic students can have a voice in various aspects of university life.
8. Increase the employability of autistic graduates through a range of initiatives that will develop their soft-skills to support their transition beyond university.

**AsIAM Autism Expo**

As part of our commitment to become an Autism Friendly

Campus, the AsIAM Autism Experience Exhibition came to IT Sligo. This exhibition was a great success and it afforded students and staff the opportunity to experience what it is like to have Autism. The Exhibition is presented in a Q&A format, which makes it accessible and engaging for visitors, be they on the autism spectrum or not. It includes an audio guide and a range of

activities to enable visitors to step into the shoes of someone living with the condition. The idea is to encourage a new way of thinking and to start the conversation about building a more inclusive campus for autistic students. For more information on the Autism Friendly Campus initiative, please contact Maureen Haran in the Access Office. [haran.maureen@itsligo.ie](mailto:haran.maureen@itsligo.ie)



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YouTube

# Landing Space Open for Business

IDA Ireland, in partnership with IT Sligo and Sligo County Council, have opened a new fast landing property solution for businesses who want to set-up in the Northwest. The establishment of IDA Ireland's first fast landing service at Embankment House, Sligo, to be known as 'The Landing Space', will provide an open plan, turnkey collaborative working environment for companies who wish to quickly and easily establish operations in the North West region. The centre offers over 60 desks of which nearly half are already taken.

Sligo is home to leading life science companies such as Phibro, Abbvie and Abbott as well as tech companies LiveTiles, Overstock and E3 Retail. These international brands help attract additional overseas companies to potentially locate to the Sligo area.

Attending the launch, Minister of State for Natural Resources, Community Affairs and Digital Development Seán Canney said: "Sligo has benefitted greatly in recent months from the arrival of global companies like Phibro, LiveTiles and E3 Retail. It's proof that everything that global companies require to establish and scale up their operations can be found here – such as talent, services and infrastructure. The addition of this new fast landing space is another strong attractor, adding greatly to what Sligo has to offer."

The availability of skilled workers and graduates in Sligo to service the North West's growing international client base has greatly benefitted the region. Commenting at the launch Dr. Brendan McCormack, President of IT Sligo said: "IT Sligo is delighted to be partnering with the IDA and Sligo County Council in providing this new facility for Sligo-based companies. This initiative will add to our on-campus incubation facility offering, which currently houses over 30 companies, allowing us to build on our extensive suite of



Official opening of the new innovation centre for Sligo with over 60 desks. John Nugent, IDA Manager, Border Region; Minister Sean Canney, Ciaran Hayes, Sligo Co. Co, CEO; Regina Moran Vodafone; Dr. Brendan McCormack, President IT Sligo; Mary Buckley, IDA CEO and John Keaney, CEO SIRO.

enterprise and entrepreneur supports. These new office facilities will provide a soft-landing base for companies establishing a permanent presence in Sligo"

IDA Ireland's Executive Director Mary Buckley said: "The collaborative work of all local stakeholders, including IT Sligo and Sligo County Council, is really important and demonstrates that creating an attractive location for investment benefits greatly from a team approach."

The location of Sligo as a destination for people in search of challenging careers and a positive work-life balance is well acknowledged as Ciaran Hayes, CEO, Sligo County Council said: "The availability of a fast Landing Space in the heart of Sligo

contributes to a much sought after quality of life where you can avail of 1 Gigabit broadband connection in an attractive urban centre, yet be only 10 minutes from surfing the Wild Atlantic Way or availing of the many mountain or coastal walks in the land of hearts desire."

## Gigabit Hub at the Landing Space

Siro and Vodafone are supporting The Landing Space with the provision of Gigabit connectivity, the most powerful broadband available in Ireland. Companies based in The Landing Space will benefit from the same level of broadband connectivity as available in leading international hubs such in locations like Tokyo and Hong Kong.



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## Welcome to the first Edition of

# IT Sligo News

I am delighted to welcome the first issue of this publication and I hope it is the first of many Newspapers we will see over the coming years.

This publication allows us to celebrate in print the achievements of staff and students of the Institute across many different domains. While we are in the digital age, a hard copy paper still resonates with many and will be tangible evidence of our activities that can be shared with the wider community.

Indeed, I hope to see many articles reported in the paper presenting examples of our extensive community collaborations.

This is one of the many steps to improve communications between staff and students and all our other stakeholders. We hope this paper will help build an engaged campus community and spread the word widely of the amazing stories IT Sligo, its students and staff have to share. This is your newspaper and we want you to be part of it.

If you have an interest in writing, photography or design, please get in contact. Also, if you have suggestions for how IT Sligo could be improved, we would like to air those views and ideas for how we can make effective changes.

Thanks to Aidan Haughey for imagining and delivering this newspaper and I look forward with interest to reading the articles. Kind Regards,

*Dr Brendan McCormack*  
President, IT Sligo



# SLIGO SCIENCE FESTIVAL



Tara McCallion-Gleeson, 3, investigates a slide under a microscope, at the AbbVie "When I Grow Up" Exhibition at the annual Sligo Science Fair as part of Science Week Ireland. Photo: James Connolly

## Science Festival Was Out of This World!

The Sligo Science Festival 2018 held recently engaged an estimated 8,000 people during Science Week. Over 1000 visitors attended the opening Science Fair in partnership with AbbVie to start off the week.

During Science Week, the Festival hosted 34 events including 12 talks, 3 shows (7 performances), 4 roadshows, 5 workshops, 3 walks, 1 exhibition, 1 STEM careers event by Abbott and the ISTA regional quiz. A fun Science Trail for kids, included the participation of 20 local businesses. Among the speakers, Irish Astronaut in training, Dr. Norah Patten from Co. Mayo, gave a talk to a young audience of future space explorers and asked young people to "reach for the stars".

The Festival was organised by the Faculty of Science at IT Sligo, with funding from IT Sligo and Science Foundation Ireland. Additional sponsorship funding was received from AbbVie. The Festival was also supported by Sligo Leader and Sligo County Libraries as Community Partners. Additional highlighted industry organisations participating in the Festival were Abbott, EPA and Arcola Energy.



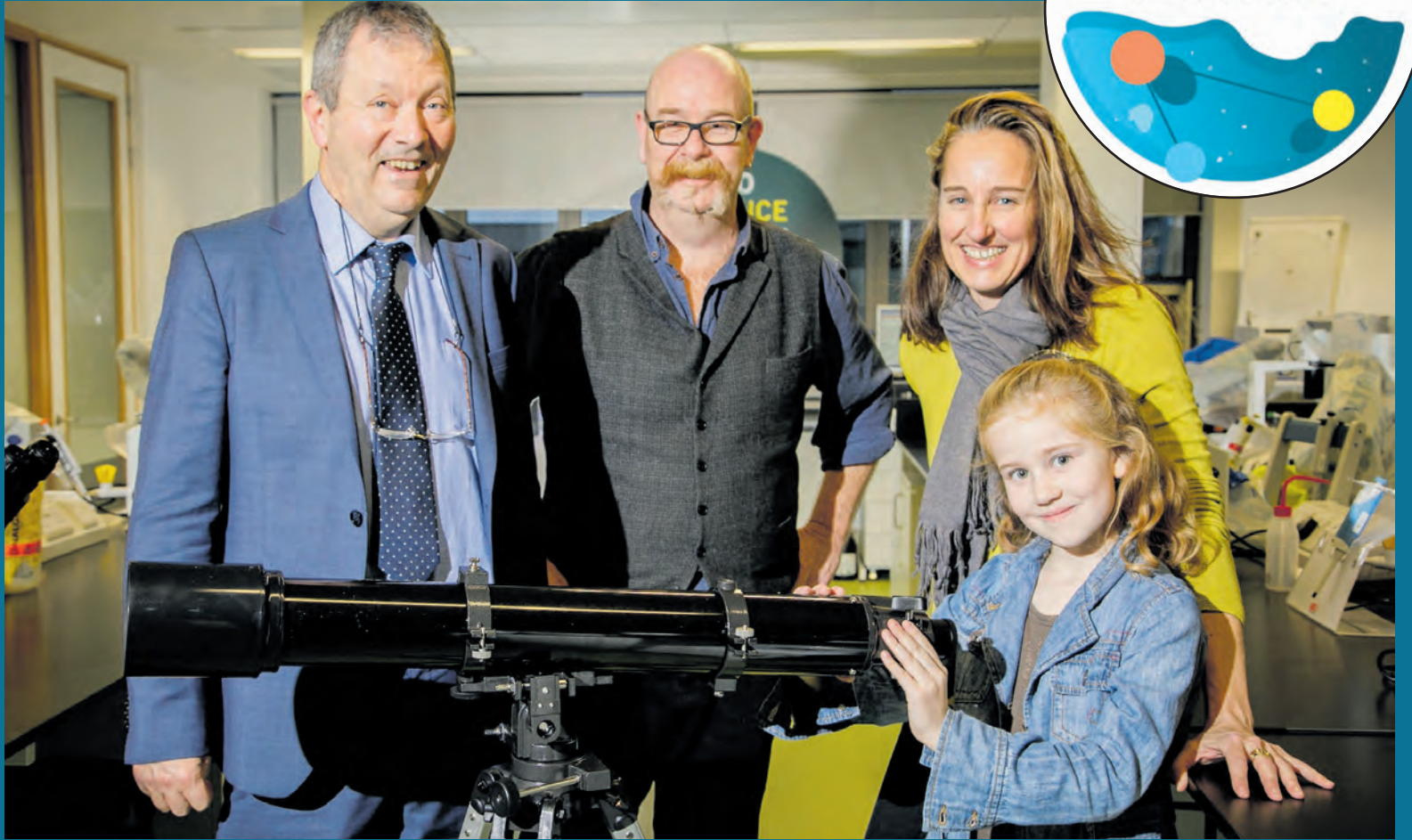
County Mayo Astronaut Norah Patten, exploring some model planets with Charlie Clay, 10, at the annual Science Fair with AbbVie as part of Science Week Ireland, in the Institute of Technology, Sligo. Photo: James Connolly



# Science Trail Winner!

The grandniece of a famous Austrian astronomer has won a telescope through a Science competition, in a twist of fate. Eight year old Saoirse Foley won the telescope after completing a Science Trail around Sligo as part of the recent Science Festival. When she came to IT Sligo to collect her prize her mother revealed she was the niece of a famous astronomer from Austria, who was a Professor at the University of Graz. Professor Hermann Haupt, was one of Europe's most respected astronomers and has had the honor of an asteroid named after him in 1981. Her mother, Susanna Haupt was delighted her daughter won a telescope and hopes she will follow in the footsteps of her famous uncle. Saoirse is a pupil of the Knocknarea Gael Scoil in Sligo.

*Pictured: Dr Jerry Bird, Head of Faculty of Science at IT Sligo and Oli Melia, Director of Sligo Science Festival present 8 year old Saoirse Foley with her prize of a telescope, having completed the Sligo Science Festival Trail with her mother, Susanna Haupt. (PHOTO: James Connolly)*



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# Standing Ovation for Stuart as over 1600 Graduate!



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Stuart Haxell receives a standing ovation when he collected his Masters in Marketing with his guide dog, Elmo at IT Sligo.

One student stood out among the 1,600 other graduates at conferring last month. Stuart Haxell from Sligo, is blind and has been a student of Marketing and Business for six years at IT Sligo. Recently he graduated with a Masters in Marketing and received a standing ovation when he collected his parchment with guide dog, Elmo.

A total of 1652 students from IT Sligo graduated in November, up by over 100 on last year. The students have graduated in 93 courses over the three faculties of Science,

Engineering & Design and Business and Social Science. Among those graduating are students from countries across the globe including; Oman, Malaysia, Romania and Canada.

The Institute also has a mother and daughter graduating together this year from the school of Business. Siobhan and Rachel Dooner who graduated in business and accountancy, respectively, were both incredibly proud of each others achievements. Daughter Rachel said; "We often would meet for lunch which was lovely and I want

to follow in her footsteps. It's been an emotional day and I'll miss parading my mum around campus."

Speaking at the graduation President of IT Sligo, Dr Brendan McCormack welcomed the graduates and their families:

"It is an honour and a pleasure to welcome each of you here. Today we are honouring your hard earned success. Your efforts have brought distinction to you personally, to the Institute and to the often unheralded and silent partners in higher education, your inspiring and supportive families and friends."

Three students were also conferred with doctoral degrees at the conferring in IT Sligo. Kelly McGuire successfully defended her PhD Thesis earlier this year. Kelly is an Honours graduate from IT Sligo's BB in Tourism and Events. Kelly will take up her new permanent post as Senior Lecturer in Tourism and Event Management at Liverpool John Moores University.

Brazilian, Thais Diniz Oliveira graduated with a PhD in the area of Carbon trading. Her research investigated the compatibility and effectiveness of linking Brazilian carbon mitigation and trading strategies with the EUETS (European Union Emissions Trading Scheme) which is the largest operational scheme in the world.

Finally, Tarha Westby received her PhD in the Investigation of The mineral profile of Fucus serratus Linneaus aqueous extracts and examination of the routes of uptake of minerals both in vivo and in vitro.



Thais Diniz Oliveira, Dr Brendan McCormack and Tarha Westby



Dr. Brendan McCormack and Dr Kelly McGuire step out in the rain at the recent graduation.



Mother and Daughter Siobhan and Rachel Dooner who graduated in business and accountancy at IT Sligo.

# IT Sligo Open Evening

IT SLIGO

## OPEN DAY

15TH JANUARY  
6.00PM - 8.00PM



Register online today [www.itsligo.ie/openevening](http://www.itsligo.ie/openevening)

The IT Sligo open evening on 15th January (6.00pm – 8.00pm) will be a great help to any new student weighing up their options for CAO 2019. This event is particularly focussed towards Leaving Certificate student and their parents and also mature students considering a return to education.

The programme includes:

- CAO Application advice and tips
- Graduate experiences
- A special talk for Parents
- CAO courses presentation by each department

Our programme will provide you with a wealth of information about IT Sligo and the CAO application process, how

we support our students, fees and grants, sports scholarships, HEAR and DARA Schemes and you will meet with staff and current students. Find out how we support our students from the transition from school to college. The CAO 2019 application deadline is 1st February, take this opportunity to learn what IT Sligo has to offer you. Make your decision early, choose the right course for you and be assured you are making the right choice by choosing IT Sligo.

#### Talks:

- 6.00pm – Graduate Stories
- 6.15pm – Course talks by each department
- 7pm – Subject Exhibition & meet staff.

7.30pm – Specialist Talks:

- Parent Talk
- Leaving Cert Talk
- Mature Student Talk

Register online today

[www.itsligo.ie/openevening](http://www.itsligo.ie/openevening)  
For further information please contact our student recruitment office on 071-91 37325 or e-mail [mcgoldrick.dara@itsligo.ie](mailto:mcgoldrick.dara@itsligo.ie)

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**You Tube**

## Launch of First 5 – Early Years Strategy, positive future for our children and ECCE graduates.

The word historic is often overused, but the 19th November 2018 did indeed

witness such an event with the launch of the first ever Whole of Government Strategy for

Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028 by a Whole of Government panel

of An Taoiseach, Minister's Katherine Zappone, Simon Harris and Mary Mitchell O'Connor. This united front from the Government focused on a number of key goals including creating strong and supportive families and communities evidenced by providing both parents with additional 7 weeks paid parental leave, ensuring access to high quality play based early learning and care experiences, nurturing healthy childhood starting from pregnancy and significantly for the future ECCE graduates a commitment to professionalise the sector by supporting employers to attract and retain staff. This imaginative but comprehensive, integrated road map was summarised by An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar saying "investment in children and in the early years of a child's life was an investment in the future".



## Meet Our Alumni

In every issue we will meet some of the thousands of IT Sligo Alumni. If you are an Alumni of IT Sligo and would like to stay in touch with us please follow IT Sligo on LinkedIn. Through our network we will be highlighting career opportunities in the region and sharing the latest news in research and innovation. In this issue we meet Sligo native, Susanne Kerins who studied Marketing at IT Sligo and is now Head of Marketing at Cora Systems in Carrick-on-Shannon.



Name: Susanne Kerins

IT Sligo Course: MSc in Marketing

Current Role: Head of Marketing at Cora Systems

"My Masters Degree added value to my subject knowledge and has made me current within my industry sector. As a result my qualifications have been instrumental in securing my current role."

Click Here to Watch Video **You Tube**

## IT Sligo Alumni becomes 27,000 member of Chartered Accountants at Dubai Event



IT Sligo Accountancy Alumni, Kahna Gilligan receives her Chartered Accountancy membership certificate from Institute President Fergal McCormack. Kahna became the 27,000th member of the institute.

Irish Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Aidan Cronin hosted a reception for members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants at his residence in Abu Dhabi on 29 October. The Institute's 27,000th member Kahna Gilligan, a former IT Sligo Accountancy student, received her Chartered Accountancy membership certificate at this momentous event.

Institute President Fergal McCormack welcomed Ms Gilligan, who studied accountancy at IT Sligo, and is currently working with FedEx in the UAE. Mr McCormack said:

"On behalf of my fellow Chartered Accountants, I am delighted to welcome Kahna and all recently conferred members to the ranks of the profession. Awarding this certificate in the UAE demonstrates how the Irish Chartered Accountancy qualification is recognised as a global passport."

The delegation also included An Ceann Comhairle Seán Ó Fearghail T.D., Senator Paudie Coffey, Mattie Mc Grath T.D., Peter Burke T.D (Chartered Accountant) and Declan Breathnach T.D.

The event was attended by over 40 Institute members based in UAE.

# Lost in Space Parade



A lantern parade, titled *Lost in Space*, lit up Rockwood Parade in Sligo on the evening of Thursday December 6th. This event showcased and celebrated the work of the Inclusive Arts module, which is available to Social Care and ECCE students in the Department of Social Sciences at IT Sligo.

The module is built around a collaborative arts project, involving students in peer-to-peer learning with a group of people from Rehabcare Sligo, a

community partnership that is now in its fifth year.

The Inclusive Arts module, inspired by a model developed by the University of Brighton, aims to equip students with theoretically-informed and experiential learning in this area. Through active participation and reflection, all participants are introduced to artistic techniques and group processes, and are encouraged to build relationships, share ideas and work together in an ethos of

equality. The parade on Thursday was the culmination of this year's project, which produced beautiful willow and paper lanterns on the theme of 'outer space' - illuminated aliens, rockets and flying saucers. Accompanied by the uplifting musical group Sabona, the group enjoyed creating some magic in Sligo, later meeting for finger food in Andersons to celebrate their achievements. Dr Susan McDonnell who facilitates the group would like to thank Dr Breda McTaggart and Dr Michael Barrett for continued support, Andersons who adopted some of the lanterns, and especially Sinead Canning in Flying Tiger/ Garavogue Bar for all her help.



## Students Clean up Our Shoreline!



Olivia Jones (Clean Coasts), Joanna Sweeney (Lecturer), Erasmus & International Students; Lucile Dubreuil, Maxime Daffos & Mark Vasey

IT Sligo BSS students teamed up with Clean Coasts to go on a local beach clean on Wednesday 14th November, they also participated in an interesting afternoon cleaning all around the Cartron Area of Sligo in collaboration with Clean Coasts.

Clean Coasts performed a marine litter research exercise to gauge the type of litter getting washed up around Sligo and target this in the future. A marine survey revealed household waste & personal care products to be the most common found.

## IT Sligo Construction Students win the National CIOB Student Challenge 2018

A team of four construction students from the department of Civil Engineering and Construction represented IT Sligo at the National Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) Student Challenge that was held at Croke Park Stadium Dublin on 22nd of November 2018. IT Sligo were delighted to have been selected as the overall winners of this prestigious national competition, open to all higher education institutes and universities.

The Sligo Team consisted of Nathan Flanagan, Michael Cunningham, Gregory Kirkpatrick, and Matthew Shaw and were mentored by lecturer Paul Donlon.

The annual event was attended by students from Institutes of Technology, Universities and colleges throughout Ireland and run by the CIOB in association with the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) and a number of sponsors, including key Construction Companies in Ireland.

The Challenge consisted of the students being given a project brief relating to a complex real life construction project, and then they were asked to produce a bid submission and presentation relating to the project within a tight time frame.

After the presentation the students were quizzed by the judges in relation to their proposal. The teams were marked then the top three were asked to attend another nail biting question and answer session in front of the judges and audience.

The Sligo team put in an outstanding performance in what was a highly testing challenge and were praised by the judges for their extensive knowledge, practicality and overall professionalism.

Along with receiving numerous prizes for the event the students will be invited to attend the Construction Manager of the

Year award (CMYA) in Dublin as well as the CIOB proposing to sponsor the team to go forward to the Global Student challenge which was held in Toronto last year.

On being awarded the winners of the CIOB Student Challenge, Trevor McSharry, Head of Department of Civil Engineering and Construction said, "This is the first time IT Sligo have won this particular competition and this accolade, putting us ahead of our peers, is a testament to the excellent teaching of our staff coupled with the quality of our students. Many of our staff teach students who are upskilling in industry through our online part time programmes. This helps to maintain a

strong connection between our department and the construction sector, which feeds into our full time programmes in terms of quality and relevance. This is the feedback we get from our graduate employers."

On conclusion, Trevor added, "we would like to thank the CIOB and CIF for arranging this important event to highlight the collaboration between stakeholders in the construction sector, celebrate the quality of Ireland's construction students. Given the huge demand from industry for graduates, we need to do everything we can to promote the rewarding construction related programmes available to CAO students."



## Design Award for IT Sligo Student



Congratulations to Ultan Rooney, year 3 Creative Design student who was commended at the annual Orangebox/W2W Student Design Award ceremony in Dublin recently.

The third year student at IT Sligo designed a user centred product which addresses the needs of the modern 'nomadic' worker.

## Building Houses out of Mud and Wood

Second Year Advanced Wood & Sustainable Building Technology students visited 'The Mud & Wood House' Screen, Co Sligo on Thursday 29th November for a workshop and presentations on Cob Walling. The students also looked at fantastic examples of 'Natural Edge' joinery & carpentry. Big thanks to our hosts Feile Butler & Colin Ritchie.



# Top Marks for IT Sligo



• Keeping under review the new organisational structure  
Dr Brendan McCormack, President, Institute of Technology Sligo said: “We welcome the QQI report and its findings, which we will use to help develop our institution even further. We are particularly pleased with the recognition of our online education to learners in work, which we have developed over the years to become the largest online campus in Ireland. The report also acknowledges our strength in engaging with all our external stakeholders. The Institute of Technology Sligo prides itself on our engagement with industries and developing courses around their needs and increasing our graduates’ employability. Staff at all levels of the institution are passionately committed to giving students a good experience and to the institution’s mission and values. We thank the QQI for their review and will use the recommendations within it, to improve our Institution as we move towards a Technological University.”

The Institute of Technology Sligo have successfully completed a quality review conducted by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), the state agency responsible for the external quality assurance of further and higher education and training in Ireland.

Every 7 years QQI carries out an external review of higher education institutions to check on the maintenance and improvement of quality. The review explores how the institution has improved its teaching, learning and research systems, and how well institutions have aligned with their own mission, quality indicators and benchmarks. IT Sligo and LYIT are the first two institutions to undergo the process in the current CINNTE cycle.

Panels of national and international education experts conducted a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the quality assurance procedures of each institution, delivering commendations on examples of good practice which were seen

to deliver impact for students and staff, and making recommendations on areas for improvement in the coming years. IT Sligo was commended on its:

- Engagement with external stakeholders and the resulting impacts of this
- National leadership role in online education, thus widening participation
- Staff commitment to and ambition for the Institute and its students
- Mechanisms to support quality enhancement
- High regard amongst employers for ‘job-ready’ graduates

**Areas identified in which IT Sligo could make improvements were:**

- Their processes for planning, managing and evaluating change
- Current HR policy and culture
- Continuing improvements within Quality Assurance delivery and processes
- The balance between dynamic responsiveness and strategic direction



## College Awareness Week



Summerhill College second years visit IT Sligo as part of the National College Awareness Week campaign.

IT Sligo celebrated College Awareness Week by holding open days for schools from the region between the 19th – 22nd November.

College Awareness Week (CAW) aims to inspire and inform all students about the importance of having a post-secondary

education plan. It advocates for students to have the choice to pursue the course best suited to their interests, abilities and dreams, whether that is a PLC qualification, an apprenticeship or a university degree.

Groups of school children from Sligo

were given talks and information packs by IT Sligo Access Officer, Linda McGloin on the importance of college education and the many paths you can take to get there. Among the school visits were a second year class from Summerhill College Sligo (Photographed).

## Make A Positive Impact Together



This is not just a newspaper but a movement towards a better community.

IT Sligo has teamed up with onestepcloser.to; a platform where staff, students and other key stakeholders to IT Sligo will be able to directly influence positive projects that IT Sligo will invest more resources into.

Over the coming six months we are hoping to highlight issues such as sustainability and climate change, health / mental health as well as innovation and entrepreneurship. Around each topic, we are looking to come up with tangible ideas and solutions to better address these challenges. This will happen both on and off campus. We will be looking for your input and feedback that we can then take action on. In recent campaigns, onestepcloser.to was used by Trinity College Dublin to let staff and students decide which sustainable products to be stocked in the Student Union Shop, or where to place new water fountains for easier refills. The new water fountains are expected to help reduce the purchases of at least 50,000 single-use plastic bottles every year. This is just one example of a student-driven campaign with an outstanding positive impact. Onestepcloser.to is a tool for collaborative and co-created change. The platform builds short engagement campaigns where students and staff find out about suggested impact projects and then vote for the change they want to see. “Big change is always achieved through many small steps. These votes become accessible taps of positive change-making” says Joanna Mulkeen, Founder and CEO of onestepcloser.to ([www.onestepcloser.to](http://www.onestepcloser.to))

We are looking forward to coming together with you all to work on inspiring projects for good in the new year.

**If you would like to get involved in any of these projects please contact our Communications Manager, Aidan Haughey via email [haughey.aidan@itsligo.ie](mailto:haughey.aidan@itsligo.ie) Together we can make a real difference.**

## BE PART OF IT SLIGO NEWS

We are looking for contributions from you, our readers. IT Sligo News is looking for:

- Photographers
- Writers
- Illustrators
- Graphic Designers
- Web Developer
- Filmmakers

**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)**

# Collaboration and Consolidation in Performing Arts

As the Performing Arts Programme moves into its maturity, this year has been marked by collaboration and consolidation.

As Declan Drohan and colleague Niall Colleary complete their training in Michael Chekov Technique, they were honoured by a visit by Suzana Nikolic of University Of Zagreb and Michael Chekov Europe (MCE). Their collaborative teaching of the technique to 1st and 4th year acting students is a rich and satisfying platform for skill sharing and professional development.

Another highlight was the joint production of Ubu Rex with colleagues from Theatre design under the supervision of Niall Rea. Directed by Declan Drohan and Agnes Pallai, this replication of contemporary industry practice on a full staging of this politically timely piece of satire served as a model for future collaboration. Onwards and upwards !



## YouthStart European Entrepreneur of the Year Awards 2018

9th November Croke Park

Foróige recently hosted the YouthStart European Entrepreneur of the Year Awards 2018 on 9th November in Croke Park. Businesses led by young people travelled from all over Europe to take part in the event having already won the national finals in their own countries. Rachel Mc Partland, from Manorhamilton, was the

Ireland representative with her Rachel's Heavenly Bakes a gluten free baking range of delicious products who had been mentored by Sandra Dooley Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship Sligo, and Janette Gillen, The Innovation Centre .

Roisin Mc Glone, lecturer in the Department of Social Sciences who has

worked with Foróige to develop the IT Sligo/ NFTE Student Entrepreneurship Scholarship and has mentored a number of winning student groups in recent years, was invited to be the Irish judge and to deliver a key note address on the importance of student entrepreneurship. She commented on the professionalism, creativity and social inclusion aspects of each of the competitors and believed that the future of the European family is in safe hands with these young socially conscious young entrepreneurs.

A Spanish business of 4 dynamic young women branded 'Take This Way' won the overall award of an impressive trophy and cash prize. The young entrepreneurs Miriam Lidueña Rio, Carolina Del Corral Farrarós, Sara Giménez Aragón, & Miriam San José Oliva developed an app to help public transport users in Barcelona buy and verify tickets with their phones.

Sean Campbell, CEO of Foróige, said "We are immensely proud of all the participant's achievements. It was an honour to host this competition, and showcase Ireland's ability to foster greatness within the youth population".



## German Ambassador called on Sligo's youth to secure the future of EU's open society



German Ambassador Deike Potzel has called on Sligo's youth to learn languages and use their vote to secure the future of EU's open society. Speaking at the launch of IT Sligo's German Language Network, Ambassador Potzel spoke of her own experience growing up behind the Iron Curtain in East Germany and expressed the importance of everyone to use their right to vote.

Speaking about the Launch of the Language Network, the Ambassador revealed the German government is looking to create stronger relations with Ireland after Brexit and told students to learn German and other languages to secure careers:

"I visited a large multi-national tech company in Dublin and spoke with the management there. When I asked why there were so many Germans here, they said they couldn't find enough fluent speakers in Ireland and it was easier to train people in technology than it is to teach them a language."

The ambassador also described how learning a language can also improve your experiences of other cultures when travelling. Welcoming the Ambassador, President of IT Sligo, Dr. Brendan McCormack said: "IT Sligo launched the German Language Network to establish a community of German speakers, students of German, those with an interest in Germany – in its people, its culture, its language, its economy. Our students have been very actively involved in founding this Network and it is an honour to have Ambassador Potzel to officially launch the initiative."

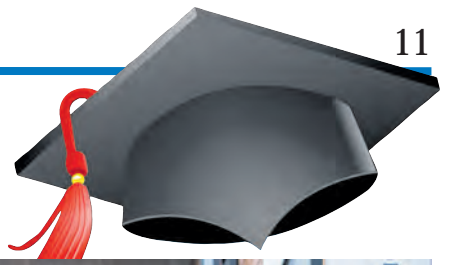
Click Here to Watch Video 

## Can some foods augment or replace chemotherapeutics?

Ms Katie Marconi (4th year Human Nutrition student) and Mr Philip Keighron (4th year Medical Biotechnology student) were invited to deliver an oral presentation at the recent Sligo University Hospital research conference. The Cellular Health and Toxicology (CHAT) research group recently secured funding from the Hospital's Research and Education Foundation to evaluate "an in vitro study of the potential of some food extracts to augment chemotherapeutics". The CHAT group hosted the students over the summer and Katie progressed the research as part of her final year research project. They found that extracts from several foods have the potential to arrest cancer growth, irrespective of conventional treatment and some foods may have the potential to accelerate growth. Their research was performed in vitro on both leukaemia, colon cancer and prostate cancer cells. However, the research is still at an early stage and additional work is on-going. This additional work will include the evaluation of the ability of these foodstuffs to retain their bioactivity post digestion and the potential effects on normal cells that would be similarly exposed. It's hoped that one or both students could carry this vital work through to postgraduate research, towards a PhD qualification.

For further information please contact Dr James Murphy, Head of the CHAT research group

# GRADUATION 2018



Ella Newrot, Sarah Carroll, Aisling Fay and Molly McGowen.



PhD Graduate, Kelly Maguire, leads the procession of award winning graduates at IT Sligo.



Niall Cawley, joyfully receives his parchment in Digital Marketing from IT Sligo President, Dr Brendan McCormack.



Christian Conway, Niall Cawley and Ryan Philips with their Degrees in Business and Digital Marketing.

# GRADUATION 2018



# GRADUATION 2018



# GRADUATION 2018



Click Here to Watch Video 

# LIVE ART EVENT

## Tackles Body Positivity and Political Climate



Gemma Marie Boyle - Allowed the public to write on her body and apply make-up to her face as part of her piece: 'What's your idea of perfect?'

IT Sligo Performing Arts presented an evening of Live Art at the Factory Arts Centre Sligo, recently. Featuring nine pieces by third year students, the work tackles social media, body positivity and the political climate through interactive installations and performance.

IT Sligo, Arts Lecturer, Una Mannion said: 'Live Art is an opportunity for students to engage with issues they care about and that directly affect them. The event allows students to direct themselves in a durational performance where they are in immediate contact with their audiences. It is a unique experience for both them and the spectator.'



Dylan Fox - Gave his audience an option to fire a pellet gun at him for his piece called "Triggered".

### IT Sligo Students Raise Money for Charity



Some of the organisers pictured: Lucile, Daff and Mark pictured with Sinead holding Sammy the Owl!

IT Sligo hosted Halloweagles, an event to raise funds for the non-profit Eagles Flying.

The event was created by students in the BB of Marketing programme as a way to get first-hand experience in marketing. On the day of the event the students sold pumpkins, a raffle where people could win a trip to Eagles Flying and do a Hawk Walk, as well as a 25-euro voucher to Lidl stores was on offer. The event also had a barn owl named Sammy who attended so people could

come and get a picture with him. Lothar from Eagles flying was available to answer any questions that people may have had about wildlife.

The event was sponsored by Lidl stores who generously supplied the pumpkins as well as the voucher for the raffle. The voucher for Lidl was won by Sligo native Ciara Lynch who is studying software development at the IT. The students who take this module combined have raised over €60,000 for charities since its inception.



Michael Bonner - Argued with strangers who sat opposite him for 'Newton third law: every action has an equal and opposite reaction'

### CHAT research group

Mr Marcus Colon (who will shortly submit his PhD thesis) has recently had a paper accepted by the Journal of Aging and Physical Activity. This is a small part of his PhD studies and the paper is "Effects of Competitive Triathlon Training on Telomere Length" The authors are Mr Marcus Colon, Dr Andrew Hodgson (Consultant in SUH), Dr Eimear Donlon and Dr James EJ Murphy

His work recruited a number of triathletes and recreational athletes from the local area. It was observed that the triathlete group had significantly longer telomeres in their cells. Telomeres are sections of DNA at the end of our chromosomes, they shorten with each cell division, and this essentially acts as an internal countdown to the end of a cells life span. So in essence longer telomeres mean greater cellular longevity in the triathlete group compared to the recreational athlete group. The group would also like to evaluate the recreational athlete versus the couch potato in further studies!

Marcus' PhD studies included a placement in

UFSC Brazil where he teamed up with a research group who were simulating training and overtraining in mice to evaluate the impact on brain function. Marcus and Dr Murphy had an interest in these mice for the impact the training had on skeletal muscle, cardiac muscle and blood borne genetic markers for evaluation in human athletes. Marcus returned to Sligo to evaluate these mice tissues and then evaluate if these markers were replicated in the human trial. Marcus's results were of significant commercial potential and an Invention Disclosure Form was lodged with the Institute's Tech Transfer office. Marcus' primary degree was in Forensic Investigation and Analysis from IT Sligo, his research was funded by an IT Sligo Presidents Bursary under the supervision of Dr James Murphy and he is currently employed by Charles River Laboratories Ballina.

For further information please contact Dr James Murphy, Head of the CHAT research group

# Sustainability at IT Sligo



Oonagh Monaghan (Food consultant and author); Ella McSweeney (Ear to the Ground, RTE); Alison Greig (Director of Education for Sustainability, Anglia Ruskin University); Ciaran Byrne (CEO Inland Fisheries Ireland); Michael Ewing (Co-ordinator of the Irish Environmental Network) and Richard Thorn, President Emeritus of IT Sligo, who chaired the event.

Two major sustainability events took place at IT Sligo during August 2018, an International Summer Academy and a conference entitled 'Education with Sustainability'.

The Summer Academy (August 13-24th) was attended by 34 international students and 13 international staff from six partner European Universities in Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands and France. The theme of this year's academy was 'Sustainable Futures' and its aim was to allow students to collaborate on one of six multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural team projects. These included 'Fight or Flight', a climate-change themed project where students had to determine, using environmental, economic and social principles, whether it is best to engineer for climate change or for the population to leave an area that is increasingly vulnerable to flooding. In another project, an underwater drone was equipped with

sensors and the students developed software to download real time water quality data. On their last day, they proudly presented their projects to their fellow students and lecturers. The event was also live-streamed and recorded so that it is available for each university to view.

CERIS Research Centre, IT Sligo, in collaboration with Mid Sweden University, hosted an International Conference entitled 'Education with Sustainability (EwS)' from 20-22nd August.

The conference focussed on the challenges facing all aspects of education, teaching for a sustainable future. The conference opened with an audience of 100 at a public event entitled 'Fake News and Impacts' where a panel of five experts presented on the Impact of Fake News.

Presentation topics at the two-day conference included sustainability aspects at preschool, second level and higher education and outreach initiatives. These

were very diverse and ranged from a talk on a Bolivian Andean community to a Swedish case study of sustainability in graphic design education.

The conference ended with workshops on Life Cycle Analysis, Corporate Social Responsibility and Design and the provocatively titled, How Unsustainable are the Sustainability Goals. Irish delegates included representatives from eight Higher Education Institutes, highlighting the national importance of the conference. 'We will produce a peer reviewed publication on Sustainability in Irish Higher Education from the conference outputs', stated Frances Lucy, Conference organiser. 'IT Sligo also intends to form a new network on sustainability via the EwS delegates. This is important in the context of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development in Education 2014-2020. We also will be working throughout 2019 on the IT Sligo Green Campus.'

## Start a Career in the Regions Booming Tech Industry

Would you like to work in the regions booming tech industry? The Sligo Leitrim Tech Cluster group which is a group comprising of various ICT companies from the region hosted their inaugural event at the Aurivo Theatre at IT Sligo recently. This took the format of an information evening for Parents, Guidance Counsellors, post-primary teachers and principals.

The purpose of the event was to inform the guests about employment, education and training opportunities in the ICT sector in the North West. The group is comprised of many of the leading ICT/FinTech employers from the region, including Overstock and Livetiles. This event is a great opportunity for all those interested in a career in the tech industry. For more information on the next event please follow IT Sligo on social media.



## Monte Loader Wins Innovation Award at National Ploughing



IT Sligo Mechanical Engineering students won the 2018 Peoples Choice Award at the National Ploughing Championship for their innovative product, Monte Loader. The Monte Loader is a Universal Rear End Loader that enables farmers to carry and move large heavy objects such as round bails, using any tractor.

Patrick Masterson, Brian Griffin, Dylan McBrearty from Mountcharles and Cormac Donnelly from Donegal Town, designed the product as part of their third year project. Congratulations to all four students and to the academic and technical staff of Mechanical Engineering Programme.

## First Grads of New Road & Transport Course



IT Sligo was delighted to confer the first graduates from the new MEng in Road and Transport Engineering. This programme was launched in 2016 in collaboration with the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and is delivered online on a part time basis.

The graduate who was the recipient of the Governing Body Medal (sponsored by LASNTG) as a result of achieving the highest overall result was Mr Alan Lowe (pictured). Alan works in Roadstone and is the Senior Technical Manager.

Further information about this and other construction related part time online programmes can be found at <https://www.itsligo.ie/onlinelearning> or phone 07191 55222.



# China and Sligo Cultural Exchange

Lecturer, Rudie Coppieters returned to IT Sligo having spent the semester lecturing in TUTE Institute in Tianjin, China. Rudie spent over 10 weeks in one of the worlds largest cities. You probably never heard of the Chinese city of Tianjin but it is the 13th largest city in the world with a population of over 15 million people. Rudie spent his time lecturing at TUTE university, a giant campus with 20,000 students. In return IT Sligo hosted two lecturers from TUTE as part of the cultural exchange. In an interview with IT Sligo News, Rudie gives a fascinating insight into life in China.

## What is the university like and how many students are there?

The university is huge, TUTE has about 18,000 students (not big for China) and they all live on campus. Including academic staff, facilities management, gardeners, security and admin staff there are close to 20,000 people on campus (about the same as the population of Sligo). The students don't tend to go home in the weekends or minor holidays as they all live 10 hours or more from Tianjin (Tianjin is the 13 biggest city in the world according to UN). Because of this they have 5 massive canteens (open from 6.30am-9.00pm and one can eat a good Chinese meal for €1.50) a big library with about 350,000 books and there are a lot of activities on campus such as; hip hop dancing, roller-blading, skateboarding, table tennis, badminton or activities on the running track. The students work on course projects during the weekends as well. The Chinese don't have much of a drinking culture so they seem to socialise through activities and food. Also the students are timetabled between 8am and 9pm so they can have classes in the evenings.

## What size are your classes?

I have 40 students in one class and I have two groups. All the work is done in a lab with a co-teacher who can help with translations and do some admin. The students are very well behaved and have real respect for the lecturer even though the mobile phone is a big distraction. I am used to students getting ready for departure when the class comes to an end. Here the students don't leave until I say class has ended. In ITS we don't have many girls doing engineering whereas here it seems about 25-30% girls.

## What is the average working day like and how does it compare to here?

My timetable is not the same every week but I have between 18 and 24 classes per week so the work load is high. This is not helped by the fact that the level of English of the students is very low, about 80 % of the students don't understand me very well. The English that I have to use is all engineering English so that makes it even more complicated. They have English lessons but they are delivered by non native speakers and they are not pitched at engineers. The reading and writing is not too bad but speaking and listening is not great. The modules are both very practical so I can teach through demonstrations and sometimes the slides have Chinese translations in them.

The last few weeks I only had four classes in the morning on Fridays so that makes the weekend a bit longer. We also had



one week holiday however the week before that everybody has to work the weekend so you have effectively three days of no work. Still, better than a kick in the teeth.

The Chinese are very punctual when it comes to start time of the lecture. If a lecturer is late, his or her name will be published on the notice board. Lecturers are also graded every year and if you are at the bottom of the pile you will be judged by a panel. The panel is made up of your colleagues so that creates a funny dynamic.

Every department has two HoD's, one for day to day operations and one from the communist party who makes sure that everybody behaves. I had to have a meeting with her where she explained what I can't do, like talk about religion in class, say things that will harm the party and not to get into a relationship with a student.

## What are you working on over there and what do you hope to achieve?

All of my work is lecturing and I'm hoping to achieve improvements on the programme. We are working on implementing better English, getting students on Moodle and automating the grading process. The last point is very important because of the large number of students and we are using continuous assessment for both modules.

## How are you and your family adjusting to Chinese culture?

We live on campus in the international building. We have two apartments, one for me and Geraldine plus my 8 year old daughter and one for the teenagers. The apartments are basic but they are very

comfortable. The international hotel houses international teaching staff and masters students. We are the only westerners in the building. It is nice to live in this small community as we are all foreigners and that creates a bond.

They found it easy to move around the city once you have your phone set up with all the relevant apps. The Chinese are very keen on using the phone and other technology like paying at McDonalds through facial recognition. Very few Chinese in Tianjin speak English.

The air pollution is very obvious, especially on days when there is no wind and in November the coal fired district heating system is switched on.

## What are the main points you will bring back with you in life and in work?

It has been very good to have a break from the ordinary and it has been an eye opener to see a totally different way of living. It has been interesting to see how hard students work here to get a good grade. And I think it would be no harm to see our students work a bit harder as well. The educational system is very competitive, in primary and secondary school students have extra classes in the weekend and the study throughout the summer and winter holidays. This also results in educational fatigue by the time they reach third level education so I think it is all about finding the balance.

The Chinese are very friendly people and the university here has made a big effort to make life for me and my family very good.

And most importantly we had three days of rain in the last ten weeks.



Chairperson of IT Sligo, Niall O'Donnellan visited TUTE in China last October. He met staff and students along with lecturer Rudie Coppieters.

## IT Sligo Engineering Students at the Plastic Die Engineering National Final



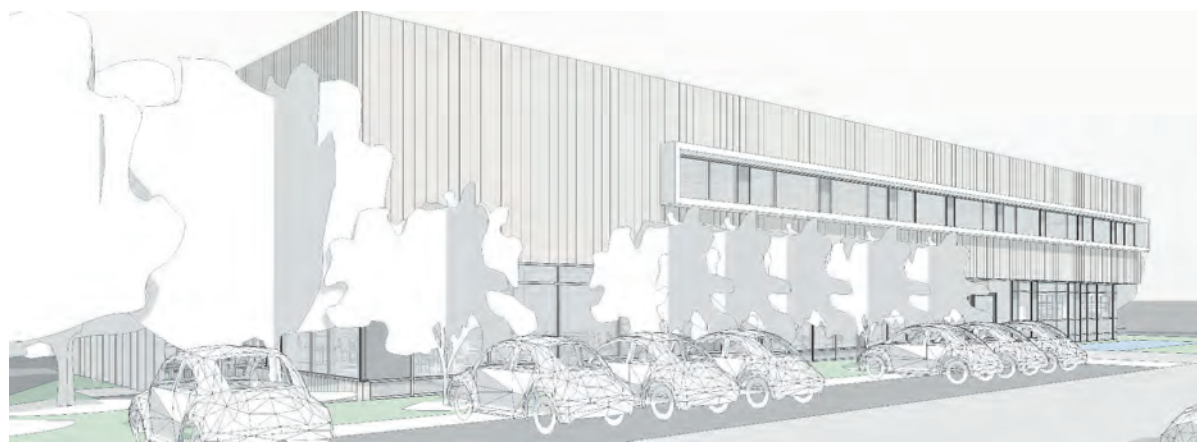
Luke Brennan

Two IT Sligo Engineering Students are in the Plastic Die Engineering National Final in association with Ireland Skills. The two students will be tested in a 14 hour exam over two days in the discipline of plastic die engineering, creating a single cavity injection mould. The students, Christopher O'Hara from Sligo and Luke Brennan from Carlow will need to demonstrate a high level of skill in many disciplines. Their work is being overseen by Armin Philips, IT Sligo.



Christopher O'Hara

# €1.9m Funding For Digital and Gaming Innovation Centre in Sligo



Sligo County Enterprise Fund welcomes announcement of funding of €1,906,640 to the company under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund administered by Enterprise Ireland. The funding is towards the development of a new 12,000 square foot campus, based alongside the company's existing enterprise and technology centre at Strandhill. The new campus will have a core focus on working with companies involved in the digital and video gaming sectors and is partnered with IT Sligo amongst others.

It will operate as a leading location in the region for entrepreneurs, businesses and start ups in this sector and provide a range of holistic enterprise and innovation supports to its clients. The funding represents 80% of the overall cost of the project which will be almost €2.5m.

Vincent Nally, Chairman of the company, welcoming the announcement said 'We wish to acknowledge the support of the Minister Business, Enterprise and Innovation Heather Humphreys TD and Enterprise Ireland in awarding this funding for the project. This is an exciting project for the company and will be our largest ever investment when completed. It will cater for up to 25 enterprises and over 100 employees working in the digital and video gaming industry. It will help to strengthen and cement the reputation of Sligo and the North West of Ireland as a leading location and hub for creative talent and enterprise. While the new campus will be located at Strandhill, this will be the hub of a much larger regional initiative where we will work with the sector across the North West region to develop it as a hub of international excellence in digital and video gaming.'

Head of Innovation at IT Sligo, Niall McEvoy welcomed the announcement:

IT Sligo promotes a regional innovation cluster which brings together the combined facilities of IT Sligo's Innovation Centre, the Building Block, the Landing Space and now the expanded Enterprise Centre in Strandhill. Each has an important role to play in promoting Sligo as a great place to start and grow a business.

The project, while lead by Sligo County Enterprise Fund is a strong regional collaboration of partners who have a remit and role in Enterprise Development and Promotion. The project partners include: Sligo County Council, Enterprise Ireland, Sligo Local Enterprise Office, Institute of Technology Sligo, South West College Enniskillen, Sligo Chamber of Commerce, the North West Regional Assembly.

## Students Visit Belfast on Tourism Fact Finding Mission

Students on the Cultural & Creative Tourism elective of the BB in Tourism programme travelled to Belfast last Thursday on an educational trip with their lecturer, Mary McGuckin. They visited the Ulster Museum and took a tour of the Parliament Buildings at Stormont, an impressive building but where no parliament currently sits! Colm Gildernew, MLA and Karen, one of the Educational Officers at Stormont gave interesting presentations to the group. The students also enjoyed a fascinating Black Taxi Tour along the Shankill and Falls roads as well as leaving all their autographs on the Peace Wall between the two roads. Visits to the colourful Christmas markets at City Hall and the Students Union at QUB made the trip a very memorable experience for all!



## Communities leading Ireland's Energy Transition!



Pictured above is the 10 kWp Solar Photovoltaic system providing renewable electricity to the Scollan's Gala Superstore in Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim producing approx 10,300 kWh/year.

The IT Sligo Contract Research Unit and Plan Energy Consulting based in the Innovation Centre work with community groups in the Border Region as part of the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) programme. We help develop skills and capacity, at community level, to become more energy efficient, plan energy upgrades and develop renewable energy projects. An example of a successful energy project involving various partnering stakeholders in the North West region is the recent Sligo SEC project. The Contract Research Unit facilitated the partnership approach and SEAI grant funding for the IT Sligo Block M LED Lighting Upgrade, Scollan's Gala Solar PV system and refrigeration upgrade,

Ophardt LED Lighting Upgrade and finally the install of Electric Vehicle charging points at AbbVie. The value of the energy savings of these projects combined were used to offset the cost of the Sligo Cancer Support Centre LED Lighting Upgrade and Energy Upgrades to a Drumshanbo home including external wall insulation, attic insulation and a solid fuel stove. This project model represents how IT Sligo is externally engaging and assisting regional community energy projects by accessing capital funding, promoting partnerships and providing technical support. We are currently seeking projects for the SEAI 2019 Communities Energy Grant from all sectors of the community. Please contact [donnely.stevie@itsligo.ie](mailto:donnely.stevie@itsligo.ie) if you are interested.

# Marketing Alumni Talks



Karen McGarty, Brand and Communications Manager with Aurivo, and Lecturer, Lisa Dunne, IT Sligo

Fourth year business students specialising in marketing had the opportunity to hear from IT Sligo graduates regarding their careers in recent weeks. The BBS Add On Marketing students heard from Gary Dolan and Karen McGarty regarding their career paths since leaving IT Sligo. Gary Dolan is the Marketing Manager of EJ's Menswear in Sligo and Karen McGarty is the Brand and Communications Manager with Aurivo, also based in Sligo. Both speakers are graduates of the School of Business and Social Sciences at IT Sligo. The two speakers took the students through their careers to date and highlighted the different roads that people may take with a Business degree qualification. It was beneficial for the students to hear from those who had been in the same position as them, only a few years ago. Gary and Karen highlighted the benefits of IT Sligo to them in their chosen careers and gave the students some valuable tips for their final year and their future professional development. Lecturer Lisa Dunne noted that the students were inspired by the speakers and found the visits very worthwhile.

## IT Sligo Early Childcare Visit

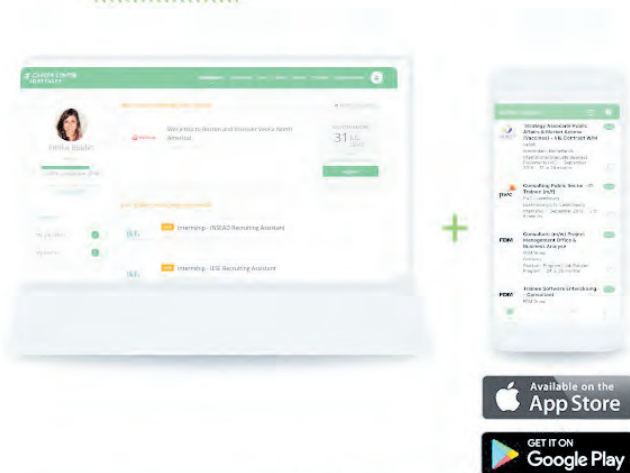


You may have noticed some extremely young students on campus recently!! The 2nd Year Early Childhood Care and Education students had a real hands on experience when children aged 2 - 4 years came to IT Sligo for a visit. The students learned a lot from these experiences and are very grateful to the children and local settings for their interest in collaborating. Community engagement is an important aspect of work in the Early Years sector and this project provided the students with real life experience of this.



## New Career Service Platform Launched

A DEDICATED CAREER PLATFORM ACCESSIBLE WHEREVER YOU ARE



Students sign up today: [itsligo.jobteaser.com](https://itsligo.jobteaser.com)

Companies can register an account here: [https://itsligo.jobteaser.com/en/company\\_account/sign\\_in](https://itsligo.jobteaser.com/en/company_account/sign_in)

ALL THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO BUILD YOUR FUTURE CAREER  
Career events, video chats with recruiters, job videos and company profiles all waiting for you

FIND INTERNSHIP AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES  
Exclusive opportunities reserved for your university, plus international public content

PREPARE FOR INTERVIEWS  
Articles and videos with advice from HR professionals



IT Sligo have launched a new online 'Careers Service' platform, in conjunction with Job Teaser.

This interactive platform facilitates meaningful communication between students/graduates and employers.

Companies create profile pages clarifying their core business functions, highlight key

events and essentially upload jobs and internships. Students/graduates can apply for positions advertised and sign up to attend events through their registered account. An additional function to book careers guidance/CV/mock interview appointments will be launched in January. Useful resources, including CV and cover

letter templates are uploaded and available to view online, in addition to articles such as 'Eight Tips to Get Spotted on LinkedIn' Students/graduates can register here: <https://itsligo.jobteaser.com> Companies can register here: [https://itsligo.jobteaser.com/en/company\\_account/sign\\_in](https://itsligo.jobteaser.com/en/company_account/sign_in)

## Sligo Christian Churches Unite at IT Sligo

Members of the Methodist Church, the Church of Ireland, The Redeemed Evangelical Mission Church and the Roman Catholic Church have joined forces to run an Alpha Course at IT Sligo. The course, which is open to students and staff of IT Sligo, is a series of sessions which explores the basics of the Christian faith. Covering topics such as 'Who is Jesus?' and 'Why and How do I Pray?', the course is aimed at those who no longer attend church or perhaps have never believed in God. The weekly session includes a short film with food and discussion. The talks are designed to encourage debate and explore Christianity in a friendly, honest and informal way. An important element of the weekly meetings is the opportunity to share food and form community.

The programme which is co-ordinated by the Pastoral Care Office at IT Sligo, began on Tuesday evening 25th September 2018, and is expected to run until February 2019. We are very fortunate to have the members of the different faith traditions working in unity like this, benefitting our students and staff.

Find us on Facebook at IT Sligo Chaplaincy

# IT SLIGO AIMS FOR UNIVERSITY STATUS

**As you may have heard, IT Sligo aims to achieve University Status over the next few years. This will be achieved by three Institutes of Technology becoming one larger Technological University.**

To achieve this the Connacht Ulster Alliance was established by IT Sligo, Letterkenny IT and Galway Mayo Institute of Technology. So what does all this mean? Boil the kettle, make a cuppa and settle down, as Ann Higgin's, TU Project Manager for IT Sligo explains;

The Technological Universities Act 2018 provides the necessary legislative framework to enable Institutes of Technology's to apply to the Minister for Education and Skills to initiate the process of being evaluated to become TU's.

The establishment of TUs reflects government strategy on higher education as articulated within the Hunt Review and more recently in the National Development Plan which stated that 'Technological Universities [will] deepen the talent pool for distinctive regional sectoral clusters and drive applied research and innovation' (National

Development Plan: Project Ireland 2040, p. 64)

In order to achieve IT Sligo's strategic ambition of achieving TU status, IT Sligo has entered into a strategic partnership known as the Connacht-Ulster Alliance (CUA). This strategic partnership is between three Institutes of Technology (IoTs) namely, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT), Institute of Technology, Sligo (ITS) and Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT).

Nationally, there are four consortia who have entered into strategic partnerships to achieve TU re-designation. On January 1st 2019 Technological University Dublin will become the first TU in Ireland, thus changing the landscape of third level education in Ireland. The CUA aim to make a submission for TU re-designation by April 2020 and hope to achieve a TU in the CUA region by no later than 2022. The CUA's proposition is to accelerate the economic, social and cultural development of the region by building a Technological University with scale, quality and impact by:

- everaging enhanced staff

expertise, more near-to-market research, institutional capacity and University status to retain more students in the region;

- building on CUA's leadership in blended/online learning to be a HE provider with national/international impact;
- attracting more international students and faculty;
- the use efficiencies and additional academic depth to enhance high quality learning options to students and support access and student success.

Based on 2017 figures, the three partners have a total student enrolment of 16,418, total staff of 1,452, total income of €18 m and cover a geographical hinterland of 26,000 sqkm – the largest dispersed region among the four consortia.

## TU Criterion

The Technological Universities Act outlines the application criteria necessary to achieve TU status. These criteria (s. 28 of the Act) include numeric targets in relation to:

- staff qualifications and research activity
- undergraduate and postgraduate

student profile

- extent of delegated authority at Level 10 (doctoral level studies)
- less specific, but still important, criteria related to governance, external links and international activity

The CUA is well advanced in meeting the key TU criteria, as outlined in the Technological Universities Act 2018, however challenges remain with regard to reaching the criteria in relation to research.

## Key Developments In Tu/Cua Project

A number of key developments have taken place during the current semester as outlined below:

- Appointment of Institute CUA PMs – Dr Sean Duffy (LYIT), Dr Shirley Wrynn (GMIT) and Ann Higgins (ITS)
- IT Sligo Communication & consultation plan approved & implemented. In order to increase awareness and stimulate dialogue among colleagues, a number of institute-wide and dedicated function session have been held. This activity will increase in 2019 and will see greater engagement

with our CUA partners and key external stakeholders

- Internal CUA/TU portal launched.
- Working groups expanding – a number of additional appointments to WGs and Sub Groups have been made. Open calls for nominees will continue in January.
- Joint meeting of three Executives to be held in IT Sligo on 19th Dec. This day long session will focus on developing discussion documents on TU Mission and Vision and Governance and Organisational Structure which will form the basis for wider stakeholder consultation from January onwards. In addition, the Joint Executives will also discuss how we can collectively achieve the TU metrics
- MTU submission imminent.

## Next Steps

Review 2018 metrics and develop action plan to ensure IT Sligo achieves the TU criteria by our planned submission date of April 2020. Increased information and consultation sessions with a particular focus on engagement with our students and joint sessions with our CUA partners and key external stakeholders.



## Connacht Ulster Alliance at World Technology Universities Congress, India



Connacht Ulster Alliance (CUA), is a collaboration between IT Sligo, Letterkenny IT and GMIT working towards bringing the three Institutes together to become a Technological University in 2021.

Two academics from the Connacht Ulster Alliance participated in the third World Technology Universities Congress, jointly hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras and the

Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science in the city of Chennai, bustling capital of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Over 100 delegates from across the world, from Canada to Indonesia to Nigeria, attended the recent three-day event that saw the membership of the WTU Network increase to 22 leading higher education institutions, including bodies such as Suranaree University of Technology (Thailand), Tampere University of Technology (Finland) and the newly established University of Africa (Nigeria).

Dr Perry Share (CUA Project Manager) and Dr Gerard McGranaghan (Assistant Lecturer in Engineering, IT Sligo) each presented at the Congress: Dr Share on entrepreneurship education across the CUA, and Dr McGranaghan on his recent research and teaching exchange visit to Tampere University of Technology – an institution that, like the CUA, is undergoing a

merger process.

Delegates at the Congress engaged in lively discussion of a number of topics that will help the network to develop its relevance and impact. Important issues discussed included how to develop entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial thinking in technology universities, and how to address the under-representation of women in technological higher education across the globe.

Dr Share expressed the value of membership of global networks such as the WTUN for the emergent technology university of the West/North-West being developed by the CUA:

'events like the Chennai congress show how similar challenges face higher education institutions across the world. The CUA can learn so much from others, especially from some of the many new universities that are being established. The CUA hopes to draw on the experiences of

some of these institutions in the years ahead to inform and benchmark its own evolution. And, hopefully, they in turn will all be able to learn useful things from the CUA as it matures into a TU'

The WTUN is a network of global technology universities committed to undertaking challenge-led, cutting-edge research

to benefit people and society, and providing education to enable the next generation to tackle global challenges. WTUN members benefit from exchanges and collaborative research and facilitated links between institutions, industry, NGOs and SMEs. The CUA is a WTUN founder member.



# Will Robots Replace Teachers & Nurses?

## IT Sligo Lead pan-European Research



Dr. John Pender, Dr. Brendan McCormack President IT Sligo and Dr. Perry Share

A recent Red C survey has found that 39% of adults in Ireland are concerned robots will take their jobs.

The survey of 1,000 adults was conducted by Red C on behalf of Lero, the Science Foundation Ireland-funded software research centre.

It found that of the 39% worried that robots or artificial intelligence will take over their work. However, the understanding of robotics is one which needs to be explored further.

The Institute of Technology, Sligo are exploring the need to train teachers and nurses how to work with robotic colleagues! This will be the focus of an ambitious pan-European research project conducted by several universities across the continent, led by academics from the Institute of Technology, Sligo.

Unlike robots used in factories and warehouses that have limited contact with humans, social robots are designed to interact directly with people and are being used to support staff in healthcare centres, schools and even US courtrooms.

The general perception of robots is one of cold, metallic functional machines incapable of human interaction. However, robots used in healthcare can be surprisingly cute and cuddly, a far cry from the B-Movie depiction of the 1950's.

Forget C3PO and think more Ewok in Star Wars terms. The

Alzheimer's association are currently using a soft doe eyed seal which will react to petting and conversation. This is a real comfort to people with Alzheimer's or autism

The main use for robots in healthcare and education is to assist workers on repetitive tasks which can often lead to workers feeling frustrated and stressed. A robot has infinite patience and can perform the same task repeatedly without getting frustrated.

Researchers are now trying to find ways to create a working environment where both humans and robots can work side-by-side. This will happen sooner than we think according to Dr John Pender, Futurist and Senior Lecturer in Politics & Social Policy at IT Sligo:

"It's not a question of if, it's a question of when. Increasingly, carers will be assisted by robots and Artificial Intelligence. There is growing evidence that the emotional intelligence possessed by social robots in the future will enable them to make a real difference to the lives of vulnerable people in society."

We are already using AI Robots through "Chatbots" on websites and virtual assistants such as iPhones Siri, which enables users to ask their smartphones questions.

The technology is already here, training staff to work with robots and AI is the hard part.

The project: "Pedagogy of

Robotics in the Social Professions in Europe" (PRoSPEro) brings together practitioners, educators, robotics experts and policy-makers to examine the impact of social robotics on education, health and social care.

Dr Pender and colleague Dr Perry Share at IT Sligo will lead a strategic educational partnership over the next three years with teams from seven universities and organisations from around Europe. They bring a broad span of expertise

in the fields of social robotics, social care, social service delivery and pedagogy. The partners are: Universiteit Twente (Netherlands), Via University College (Denmark), University De Valencia (Spain), Holstebro Municipality (Denmark), NUI Galway and the University of Lower Silesia (Poland).

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) is also involved with the project and will provide a tangible link for the academic partners with the organisation as well as providing an opportunity to work on a 'real case study' for qualitative research on the impact of social robotics on ASI's service delivery.

September. It has recently received financial backing (€344,110) from the EU Commission's 'Erasmus+ Key Action 203 - Strategic Partnerships' programme. Gerry O'Sullivan, Erasmus+ National Agency at the Higher Education Authority congratulated IT Sligo in securing the funding:

"The success of IT Sligo in securing competitive funding under the Erasmus+ Programme will not only lead to enhanced knowledge and expertise in an area of critical need but is a tangible example of how higher education benefits citizens. The approach of the Institute also demonstrates its willingness to draw from and contribute to the knowledge base in Europe with partners from five other EU member states as well as NUI Galway involved in the project. International collaborations of this type are essential to ensuring that the Irish higher education sector maintains and enhances its capacity to deliver education and training relevant to our needs."

The funding will enable the PRoSPEro group to conduct policy, ethics and regulatory research. Faced with the developments in the social robotics field, and the fundamental questions that they raise, the strategic research partnership has identified a need to establish educational and CPD supports, as well as amendments to regulatory standards.

"Increasingly robots are being developed to interact with ordinary people in wider society, not just scientists in research labs or carefully constrained environments. As a result important questions about their design, capabilities and legal status are being raised," says Dr John Pender.

"The robotic baby seal 'Paro' is one such example. It's a therapeutic companion with basic Artificial Intelligence (AI), and has proven to be effective in the care of people with dementia and children with autism. It is widely used in care settings in Denmark and Australia, and is now here in Ireland."

The new IT Sligo-led project will span three years, starting this

““

There have been significant developments in social robotics in the care sector: in particular, in elder care and the care of people with dementia, as well as in the care and education of children and young people, especially those with specific disabling conditions such as autism.”

””

- Dr Perry Share from IT Sligo.



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Watch Video

YouTube

# Over 100 Companies at Sligo Careers Fair



Over 100 companies offered careers advice and job opportunities at IT Sligo's biggest ever Careers Fair in October. Abbott, AbbVie, Amazon and Ericsson were just some of the large multi-nationals in attendance.

The event covered a range of industry sectors including Engineering, Computing, Digital Technology, Accounting and Science.

Adette Ring, Careers Officer at IT Sligo said. "This is the largest careers fair we have ever held and has over doubled in size in the last two years. This is a good indication there is a renewed confidence in the job market and this is a great opportunity for people looking to enter the job market or change careers."

Apart from the exhibitor career stands, the day provided visitors with the opportunity to enhance their CV at a free drop-in clinic.



## Estimated 1 Million Babies Born through Erasmus Met-ups!



A touring photography exhibition celebrating couples who met through the Erasmus study-abroad programme arrived at IT Sligo.

The show has travelled across the EU and was first installed in the Gare Montparnasse in Paris. It was brought to Sligo with the support of the French Embassy and the

Higher Education Authority of Ireland. The exhibition, tells the stories of 17 couples who fell in love while studying abroad during university.

The Erasmus programme has had more than nine million students take part since it was established in 1987. It is also responsible for an estimated million babies

born to couples who met through the college exchange.

One such couple is Pascal Bonnichon who met his now wife Siobhán during his year abroad studying in Sligo IT. The couple began dating 1987 when Pascal moved to Sligo on the Erasmus programme.

## Computing students 'design-think'



This semester, Year One Computing students engaged on a client informed project, courtesy of a collaboration between the Grange Armada Development Association (G.A.D.A) and the Year 1 Computing 'Design Thinking' module team. G.A.D.A's vision is to develop the prosperity of the locale by developing the tourist experience in Grange and Streedagh, Co. Sligo, focussing on its historic links with the Spanish Armada.

Unaware of this vision, one hundred computing students got on buses and experienced at first hand the Grange Spanish Armada visitor centre and its historic environs. On their return, the students embarked on a carefully crafted process which required them to empathise, define, ideate and cyclically prototype, test and pitch potential solutions which resolved identified tourist problems.

Adrian Durcan, programme chair for the new B.A. App Design and User Experience (U.X.) degree commented that "the considered addition of the 'Design Thinking' module in the first semester on all computing programmes, scaffolds a very important user centred mind and skill-set, which is required in all computing sectors."

Year 1 Computing 'Design Thinking' process findings will be presented to G.A.D.A. and Sligo County Council in late December for consideration.

## Writing & Literature Student Wins Allingham



Niamh MacCabe, second year Writing & Literature, has won the prestigious Allingham Short Fiction award, an international competition. The announcement was made at an awards ceremony in Ballyshannon last month.

Adjudicator Paul McVeigh described Niamh's confident and original voice. Her story stood apart from the others in its accomplishment, he said, adding that this is a writer we will hear more from. Niamh won for her story 'Pan on the Lean Branch.'

# Brexit's potentially disastrous impact on Irish researchers

## FUTURE OF MANUFACTURING



DR JOHN BARTLETT  
Head of Research, IT Sligo

There are over 1,000 active research collaborations between The Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. However, industry and academia see Brexit potentially derailing impact as a direct threat to their good work.

Until relatively recently, links between academic researchers and industry were often confined to internships or small-scale projects. Companies often worked with researchers on specific, short-term tasks, without necessarily taking advantage of the creativity research students could bring to their everyday work.

Several European Commission-funded projects focus on academic researchers and industry working very closely together to address technological and societal challenges. The benefits of bringing researchers closer to the industries that will shape the focus of their future research is very clear.

**IT Sligo are one of the higher education institutes forming strong links with industries working on advanced manufacturing and Industry 4.0**

**challenges.** Their Head of Research, John Bartlett, believes this level of increased collaboration stands to benefit both the companies involved and the PhD students making their first strides into industry.

"Now, the model focuses on going to industry first, discussing the needs of an organisation and then designing research projects around those needs."

NWCAM involves academic partners from Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Western Scotland and supports over 11 Post-doctorates and 13 PhDs working on advanced manufacturing research projects in collaboration with several industrial partners including Abbott and GSK in Sligo.

Innovative projects such as NWCAM require close collaboration between Northern Ireland and the Border Counties, something threatened by any Brexit deal resulting in a hard border between the two.

### A poor Brexit deal could be disastrous for us

Dr David Tormey, Academic Director of PEM Research Centre, foresees a bad Brexit deal having a disastrous impact on his project. "We have several PhD students and post doctorate researchers who travel regularly across the border to meet our NWCAM academic partners. Researcher mobility is very important for us; a bad Brexit deal has the potential to limit the impact of our research projects and inhibit PhD student development.

### 200 projects could be scrapped

IT Sligo has over 200 open collaborations into Northern Ireland, all funded by the EU. A loss of that funding could have a disastrous effect on future projects, likely to be scrapped should EU funding dry up. Bartlett believes the damage caused would

impact on relations between researchers working on both sides of the border.

"It isn't just about the money, it's what the money makes possible. It's the building of relationships and shared visions between the two countries, that could be in serious jeopardy."

The Institute's Centre for Precision for Materials and Manufacturing Research (PEM Research Centre) is funded by Enterprise Ireland to support the R&D needs of the manufacturing sector. The PEM Centre is also a partner in the I-Form Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre funded by SFI and the North West Centre for Advanced Manufacturing (NWCAM) funded by Interreg VA and SEUPB.



DR DAVID TORMEY  
Academic Director, PEM Research  
Centre, IT Sligo

Click Here  
to Watch  
Video 

## #HackAccess Launched in Sligo



Launch of Sligo's #HackAccess at the Salmon of Knowledge sculpture which was especially lit in purple to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

#HackAccess is being launched for the first time in Sligo by designers Darren Rooney and Shane Gilligan in collaboration with IT Sligo. #HackAccessSligo will see the first ever accessibility-focused hackathon outside Dublin with students, recent graduates and professionals all welcome to participate.

#HackAccessSligo is an event made up of people connected by the common goal of entrepreneurship and a willingness to collaborate to solve the meaningful challenge that is social exclusion; imposed on those with a physical, sensory or cognitive impairment, by an environment not designed with their needs in mind.

The key benefit of being involved with #HackAccessSligo is being part of addressing an important issue that is often overlooked; at least 13.5% of people in Irish society have a disability of some kind but this figure only takes into account reported disabilities. It is important to become acutely aware of the challenges and difficulties these individuals face in a world of (often unintentional) exclusion; a zebra crossing, a pothole on the footpath, difficulty utilising transport services effectively; the list goes on. In bringing so many like-minded people together with such a diverse range of skills, #HackAccessSligo will create a community of ideas and abilities that can be used to solve these problems and create opportunities.

#HackAccessSligo is spearheading this game-changing campaign in the North West in finding innovative solutions to the challenges faced when it comes to the inclusivity of individuals with varying disabilities. Sligo city and the wider county will potentially be a better place to live and visit because of the products and services generated at this event. #HackAccessSligo aims to make Sligo inclusive of people of all abilities and rich in diversity with all kinds of people offered a variety of enriching opportunities. If you would like to get involved please go to: [www.hackaccesssligo.com](http://www.hackaccesssligo.com)

## Global Applied Education Network



In November IT Sligo signed up as one of eight partners chosen by HCT (Higher College of Technology) in the United Arab Emirates to form a network to assist it in addressing the emerging higher skills needs in the UAE and Gulf Region. With 24,000 students, it is the largest HEI in the UAE.

The Global Applied Education Network (GAEN) brings together nine other institutions from around the world.

The partner institutions to the GAEN network, which was formally launched at an event in Dubai on November 1st, witnessed

by both Mary Mitchell O'Connor and the UAE Minister who is also Chancellor of HCT, are the following:

- Nottingham Trent University, UK
- University of Limerick, Ireland
- IT Sligo, Ireland
- Florida International University, USA
- Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Canada
- Swinburne Technological University, Australia
- Queensland University of Technology, Australia

- Universidad Tecmilenio, Mexico

The launch ceremony was preceded by a half-day event where there were a series of presentations about the Irish system of higher education, research and innovation, led by Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor. IT Sligo VP for Research, Innovation and Engagement, Dr. Chris O'Malley, gave the presentation on behalf of the Institutes of Technology. Also represented at this event were the HEA, SFI, Solas, Enterprise Ireland and the University of Limerick (as a "case study").

# IT Sligo News SPORT

## IT Sligo Seal Quarter Final Spot Despite 0-4 Defeat to UCD



IT Sligo knew going into this game they had sealed 4th position and a quarter final spot in the top tier of college football while UCD had already won the Northern Section of the Premier division with a perfect record of 5 wins from 5 games after tonight's 4-0 win.

The game started with UCD taking control of possession and IT Sligo sitting back to make it hard for the Airtricity 1st Division Champions to break them down.

IT Sligo then produced an excellent opportunity after some good play by Higgins who cut the ball back for Heneghan to shoot wide. UCD continued to dominate possession but with little threat in behind got a free on the edge of the box but it went just wide of the Sligo goal. IT Sligo defender's stood their ground to frustrate UCD.

### 0-0 HT

The 2nd half began with UCD continuing

their passing game but still didn't threaten Sligo's goal as they played in front of the well drilled Sligo defenders.

Sligo looked dangerous on the break when a through ball by Brennan found Higgins to outpace the UCD defenders but to find the UCD keeper in great form with an excellent save to deny Sligo.

Again Higgins and Brennan combined to create another excellent opportunity with this time Brennan going agonizingly close but for the UCD keeper denying him.

UCD then went up the other end on the counter attack to score the opening goal of the game on 68min through Dan Tobin.

That goal gave the 2017 Rustlers Premier league champions more confidence and the ex Reading and Irish underage international Conor Davis scoring a devastating hatrick in space of ten minutes.

IT Sligo then had another chance before the end to get one back but Higgins saw his shot go wide of the UCD goal.

## Hurling Roundup

The senior hurlers play UU and GMIT in the group stages of Electric Ireland Ryan Cup in 2019. The Top 2 teams play in semi-finals & finals weekend hosted by WIT on 22/23 February 2019.

The senior hurlers had a good run in the Division 2 league defeating GMIT and AIT but losing to IT Tralee, the eventual league winners. They progressed from the group to the semi-final following a win over St Mary's Belfast in the quarter-final before losing to league finalists UU in Jordanstown.

The Fresher hurling team are away to

Trinity in the Fresher 2 championship quarter-final in February 2019.



## Men's GAA Football

In the recent Higher Education GAA Championship 2019 draws at Croke Park the IT Sligo Senior football team were drawn to play Garda College away in Round 1 of Electric Ireland Sigerson Cup. The winners play Round 3 and losing team play in Round 2, providing a backdoor into Round 3 of the Sigerson Cup. The senior football team had an encouraging SFL Division 1 Relegation play-off Final result, IT Sligo 4-10 CIT 1-11 GAA Higher Education, thereby maintaining their Division 1 and Sigerson Cup status for the 2019/2020 academic season, and sending CIT to Division 2 and Trench Cup.

Our Intermediate football team play GMIT away in the Round 1 with the winners progressing to the quarter-finals.

## IT Sligo Ladies GAA Win Ladies 7's Blitz

The fresher ladies team had an excellent win in October in the blitz held in Abbotstown, capturing the Intermediate title with an impressive victory over Maynooth University after a penalty shoot-out following extra-time. The IT Sligo GAA B team Have won the HEC 7's Blitz at the Connacht GAA Centre. Both IT Sligo Ladies A and B teams reached two finals in the regional Ladies HEC 7s blitz at Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence in November. Our Ladies A team were unlucky to lose the Division 1 final to NUIG but the B side went on to win their final.

Hard luck to our Ladies A team who were defeated by Ulster University 3-16 to 1-11 in the Ladies HEC Division 2 semi-final on 15 November despite a strong second half

performance. We're very proud of the achievements of ladies GAA football teams and also the management team lead by Gavin Cawley.



### Amber wins goal of the season

IT Sligo Footballer Amber Lynch is 2017-2018 Rustlers Ireland Goal of the Season Winner! Amber was presented her trophy for her spectacular goal by Adrian Lawlor from sponsors Rustlers.

## IT Sligo Women's soccer team

IT Sligo Women's soccer team have recently qualified for the semi-final of the colleges and university premier league.

They play NUI Maynooth during the week beginning the 28th of January.



## IT Sligo Basketball Make it to Top of Division 2!

IT Sligo Basketball club men's team has acquired two Victory Scholars from America thanks to the organisation "Sports Changes Life" this year. The two Scholars are Zack Yonda who is a 6'1 point guard from Philadelphia and Connor McClenaghan who is a 6'9 Centre from Texas. They have immediately made an impact, with the men's team currently Top of Division 2! The club's top scorer being Zack Yonda who is averaging 40+ points a game followed by Connor McClenaghan and Sligo's very own Tobias Brockmann who both average 20+ points a game.

Unfortunately, the woman's team have not been as successful this season in Division 2 following their All-Ireland win last year in Division 3 their current record is 0-2 for the season. The woman's top scorers are Madeline Keane and Aine Fahey who average 10+ points a game. Hopefully their fortunes will change in the new year.



## Camogie

Our Camogie team lost to a very strong QUB team in the Division 4 league final at end of November following good wins over GMIT and UU Magee.

They play UU Magee and UU Coleraine in the group stage of the Mulligan Cup in January 2019 with the Top 2 reaching the CCAO Camogie weekend finals in February.